

DKG MD Virtual Society Workshop Great Information from Great Speakers

Sally Nazelrod, DKG MD Second Vice President

DKG Maryland Organization held a Virtual State Society Workshop on November 7, 2020. **Dr. Lace Marie Brogden**, International First Vice President, spoke on leadership. **Michelle Saville, Eta**, and **Suzi Plaut, Alpha Gamma**, gave presentations on teaching online.



Dr. Lace Brogden

Her research interests include language teacher education, negotiating subjectivities, social justice in education, and autoethnography. A member of DKG for 25 years, she has served in a variety of Society leadership roles, including as Chair of the International Scholarship and International Speakers Fund Committee. She is currently serving her fourth term on the administrative board, having served previously in the role of Area Representative - Canada (2010-2012), Northwest Regional Director (2012-2014), and International Second Vice President (2018-2020).

During her talk, *Leading from When: Creativity and Context*, Dr. Brogden spoke to workshop participants about their leadership journey and encouraged members to travel their own leadership path. She suggested that members lead from where they are and move forward, being aware of possibilities and entanglements and how these will affect various leadership situations.

Dr. Brogden focused on four words:

Observe
Ponder
Engage
Notice

She challenged us to be aware of our surroundings and observe the settings from where we live and operate. Dr. Brogden believes that it is important to ponder things that apply to change and recognize that sometimes, it may be less than what we want; sometimes, more.

Dr. Brogden applied change to our organization, explaining that there is often a tough balance between tradition and moving forward. When it comes to engaging with one another, kindness, inclusiveness, respect, faith, truthfulness, and responsiveness play a significant role for all of us. As we grow, it is important to take notice of those who are with us on our leadership path - some are mentors, some are mentees. Together we must remain positive, open-minded, and flexible.



Suzi Plaut

a chapter member's house. Suzi is part of the Leadership Development Committee and is past president of Alpha Gamma Chapter in Howard County, Maryland.

Suzi's presentation was specifically for those members who are no longer teaching and wanted to share what the Zoom classroom looks like for both the teacher and her students. She teaches Math to 7th and 8th grade students.

She began her presentation with a review of relevant vocabulary. *Synchronous* teaching is direct instruction by the teacher. *Asynchronous* is the independent work that is assigned by the teacher and students work on their own to complete assignments and tasks.

Participants played icebreaker games, learned about a learning system called Pear Deck, and navigated, with direct help from Suzi, many of the options that are available to teachers and students.

To hold students accountable, assignments are given weekly and students must post their work. Learning is definitely occurring and the workshop members witnessed how Suzi is able to collect and grade assignments.

She pointed out that very few students have their cameras on during instructional time. In Howard County, students may use avatars when cameras are off. This helps Suzi gain some insights into individual personalities. Teaching virtually is definitely challenging, but Suzi is positive and continues to make a difference in the lives of her students.

Read more about the Society Workshop on page 4.

The President Speaks

What Has COVID Wrought?

I have always loved nature. Even as a young child and college student, I would always find time to escape the goings-on around me and find a place, whether on a bench, or on the lawn at Dillard University, and just enjoy the peace and quiet and my wandering thoughts in solitude. Not a whole lot changed in my communication with nature; although the moments to get away somehow diminished, and my escape to nature became less available as I became an adult concerned with life's activities, marriage, work, child-rearing, and a multitude of other commitments that somehow did not lend themselves to sitting under a tree and communicating with nature alone. But, alas, all was not lost! COVID-19 paid a visit to the world and provided more time than I ever imagined for communicating with nature, albeit, in a much more restricted sense with only immediate family members in a "social distancing" arena. Many days now, I find myself looking out of the bedroom window and drinking in the dancing leaves overflowing with active squirrels chasing each other across the tree limbs, hearing an occasional serenading bird, and always watching the falling leaves, my favorite view, especially at this time of the year.

Yes, COVID has made quite a difference in our lives since it appeared in March of this year. The visit continues and will perhaps extend into a larger block of time than originally anticipated. But, COVID has brought many changes that may be with us for years to come, as well as the knowledge of how much we value each other and the reoccurrence of some lost arts.

Remember how we couldn't wait to be invited to lunch or some other outing with family and friends? Remember how we could read another person's face and actions and discern the validity of a response? Now we must rely on eyes that don't communicate too much information. Remember how you had a long

list of people you not only contacted, but kept in contact with over the years? Many people find themselves consciously limiting their interactions with many others, because they have discovered the importance of relating more closely with those near and dear to us. Time has taken on a completely new meaning. Remember how we sent emails and texts to several people on a regular basis and now find ourselves able to actually sit down and write a nice note or letter to someone we hold dear? What has COVID wrought? It has wrought many changes in the way we live, work, communicate, teach and attend classes, and a multitude of other activities that we are continuously attempting to navigate and make sense of since March. Whoever heard of a drive-by birthday party? Anniversary? Graduation? Wedding? Assembling a choir from the individual homes of the membership? Attending meetings exclusively on Zoom?

COVID has wrought many deadly changes into our lives. The virus has caused sudden illness. Loved ones have been lost; we mourn their loss and wonder if it could have been avoided. People continue to get sick because of exposure to the virus. "Safe distancing," hand-washing, masks, disinfectants and a whole new string of phrases have become meaningful to us as we try to survive in the midst of this pandemic. But, we continue to learn that COVID could have been worse.

What has COVID wrought? COVID has wrought a season of thanksgiving for those who understand the precious gift of life that we still enjoy. It is a time of reflection as we look back on our lives and appreciate all that we have experienced and given to family, friends, and community. It is a time when we can look forward to creating other means of interacting in spite of the restrictions that have been imposed on us for our own good. It is a time to slow down, enjoy this new found existence and be grateful that we are still able to visit with each other via Zoom, Facetime, and



Lorraine Williams Johnson,
DKG Maryland State President

a multitude of other technological methods that were not handy before March. It is a time to smell the roses and let the fragrance travel through our bodies with appreciation and delight as we witness all that is still available to us during COVID.

This is a message of hope. DKG Maryland State Organization continues to move ahead in spite of COVID. The membership still finds ways to communicate and interact. We still conduct the business of the organization, welcome new members, meet for lunch, visit museums, and participate in other community activities. We are still giving to help others survive during this time of confusion, uncertainty, regret, anticipation, and pain. The holiday season is upon us. We will learn how to celebrate in non-intrusive ways, celebrate our gifts and successes, cheer each other onward and upward, and enjoy the changes wrought by COVID.

Happy Holidays! My wish for you is that 2021 will bring those gifts to you that will make your life the biggest and best season of all.

Lorraine Williams Johnson
President
DKG Maryland State Organization

Join DKG

by **Mary Lee Makinen**, Alpha Delta

Come together in DKG
Spread the word for all to see
Don your DKG attire
Let your speech ignite the fire.

We stand together today
To share the message and the way
They will come if we but dare
Speak the words and journey share

We recognize women strong
We share this gift in our song
Bring our friends to share the cheer
The joy we share is sincere.

Leading, teaching, on toward
Paying forward our reward
Just to see a sister's smile
Makes the effort well worthwhile.

Just One

Author Unknown

(Submitted by **Dawn Ray**, Epsilon)

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.
One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul,
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.
One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room
One candle wipes out darkness
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One step must start each journey.
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits.
One touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true.
One life can make a difference.
You see, it's up to you!

Welcome to New Members

DKG Maryland State Organization welcomes the following recent inductees:

Omega Chapter
Keri Allen

Alpha Beta Chapter
Erin Beyer
Shana Brickner
Crystal Hill
Ethel Smith

Alpha Gamma
Diana Sargeant
Emily Fradkin

Save the Date for the State Convention

The **DKG Maryland Virtual State Convention** will be held on **Saturday, April 17, 2021**.

“Adapting to Change in a Changing Society” is the theme selected by President Lorraine Johnson.

In the best interest of the health and safety of our members, we will meet virtually for a day of celebration, recognition, personal and professional growth, and special activities.

New officers will be elected and installed. We will honor our sisters who have passed with a Celebration of Life.

Mark Your Calendars Now!
More information to follow!



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Visit our website at

<https://www.dkgmd.org>

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DKG MD Virtual Society Workshop

Michelle's Instructional Tech Tips for the Busy Teacher

Dr. Terri Showers, Lambda Chapter President

Imagine yourself preparing to teach in a virtual environment. How will you become acquainted with your students and begin to build relationships with them? How will your students learn about you? Do you know what technology is available at your school or how to set up a virtual classroom? Most importantly, would you be prepared to teach virtually? If you find yourself doubting your preparedness to teach in a virtual environment, then Michelle Saville's presentation, "Instructional Tech Tips for the Busy Teacher," offered numerous insights on the utility of technology to support teachers in a virtual classroom, addressed the essence of these issues, and more. Three areas Saville focused on were:

1. Communicating virtually with families
2. Creating a virtual classroom, and
3. Instructional strategies to support virtual and hybrid learning.

These three areas are very significant to educating students whether in a virtual environment or in a school's classroom environment.

Saville stated, "Communication is essential to building relationships both with children and their families." Earlier in the school year, she surveyed her parents to determine their preference for communication. Most parents preferred emails and texting. Another insightful way for teachers to develop a relationship with children and their families is through videos. Saville created a **Virtual Meet the Teacher** video on **Screencastify**, a web-based platform, for her students to see her and to learn about her. Besides using a picture of herself in the video, she also included an emoji which helped to reveal her personality to students. Other types of technologies emphasized during her presentation were using **Schoology**, a Learning Management



Michelle Saville, Eta, shared strategies for creating productive virtual learning environments.

System (LMS). She conducted virtual conferences using **Google Meet**. Most importantly, Saville stressed the importance of setting boundaries when communicating with parents by letting them know your work hours.

Teaching in a virtual environment requires both imagination and reality. According to Saville, "teachers need to capitalize on making their virtual environment a positive experience for their students." At home, children can still sit on a rug and read as they would in a classroom. Conversely, Saville made it clear, "teachers also need to confront reality, understand they are not in their classrooms, and create the best productive learning environment as possible."

Saville offered three strategies for creating a virtual classroom. Teachers should be knowledgeable of their school's LMS, establish a system for organizing information weekly for students, and keep instructions simple, i.e., use clickable buttons and create simple tutorial videos. Other supportive resources to use are Bitmoji Classrooms, YouTube how-to videos, Facebook, and Instagram.

Similarly, various instructional strategies are used in both a virtual classroom as well as in a school's classroom. In a virtual classroom, Saville mentioned time appears to move faster; therefore, teachers ought to plan to keep instruction moving, be prepared to share their screen, use a document camera, and show slide presentations. Saville recommends that teachers could use props, songs, and take brain breaks to keep students from experiencing fatigue after looking at a screen for extended periods of time. To control how a student responds verbally in a virtual class, she suggests keeping students muted and when it's time for them to respond, unmute them. Routines are important during students' formative years and accordingly, teachers should

try to mimic, in person, the desired routines and expectations. Lastly, Saville suggests to supply students with take home kits for keeping students engaged.

DKG participants had an opportunity to view a virtual classroom and a virtual class schedule. Using My Schoology Virtual Classroom, participants viewed a video of Saville's virtual classroom while she shared information about various aspects of her classroom and responded to their questions. She also led a brief discussion about her virtual class schedule which included numerous virtual family website resources.

Although the "normal way" education existed and aspects of the practice of teaching has currently changed, the implementation of a virtual environment provides a platform for both to occur outside the school's classroom, thus maintaining student learning.

Michelle Saville's presentation was very appropriate for the current state of teaching and educating our students. First time virtual classroom teachers would have been encouraged by her presentation and it would have allowed them to make the connections among the many practices they employ. Experienced virtual classroom teachers would have found her presentation enlightening and might have discovered new strategies or resources. Saville's presentation was definitely inspirational and opens your mind to many possibilities to educate students virtually!

DKG MD Virtual Society Workshop

Suzi's Sneak Peak into a 2020 Virtual Classroom

Dr. Marilyn Keane, DKG MD First Vice President

The November Virtual Society Workshop focused on student understanding and learning in this new virtual world. The workshop, *A Sneak Peak into the 2020 Virtual Classroom*, presented by **Suzi Plaut, Alpha Gamma**, provided a look at technologies teachers currently utilize in the virtual classroom. This session, specifically designed for chapter members who are not currently teaching, provided a peek into the virtual learning classroom.

Suzi introduced members to the programs *Pear Deck* and *Kahoot*, present-

ed the multiple ways students can show understanding, reviewed the *Canvas* classroom platform, demonstrated how students submit classwork, and her experiences related to teacher-student interactions while using online classroom platforms. The participants walked through a typical lesson using the features of the *Pear Deck* program such as written responses, multiple choice, sharing student responses with the class, and teacher or student-led lessons. Members learned and participated in a *Kahoot* competition and were provided with examples of a teacher's view of the students within class.

The session ended with an active discussion about student engagement, thoughts and questions related to students and turning on cameras, planning time, and different ways teachers are able to get to know their students without actually "seeing" their students. The short and long term impact of virtual learning is up to debate. Regardless of your thoughts (the good and bad), teaching and learning has drastically changed. Thank you Suzi for an interactive and thought provoking session!



Around 40 members attended the DKG MD Virtual Society Workshop held on November 7, 2020.

State Activities

Tea Time with DKG MD

Janette Bell, Theta

On Saturday, December 12, 2020, State President **Lorraine Johnson** invited state officers and committee chairs to a virtual noon tea. We had an opportunity to sit and discuss the progress of the state during the first half of the biennium. President Johnson opened with introductions and a review of the responsibilities of the chairs.

Due to COVID 19, we have had to operate virtually. However, the members of DKG Maryland have continued to do the work of the Society. There have been several successful workshops and trainings including training for new chapter presidents. Plans are continuing for the April 17th State Convention led by Second Vice President

Sally Nazelrod. **Dr. Terri Showers** and the Bylaws Committee have reviewed state bylaws and completed most of the work on the bylaws from the chapters. **Sharon Darling** has advised all chapters of the criteria for recognition by the Chapter Support Committee. **Dr. Janet Cornick** is seeking nominations for our next slate of officers. If interested in serving, please contact Janet. **Jean Marie Hofstetter** has announced that scholarship applications are due by January 15, 2021. Information about scholarships is available on the DKG MD website. Please use the website for information on World Fellowship and the various society funds to which we contribute.

Gwen Cooley updated us on the work of her office. She noted important dates, March 6, 2021, State Executive Board meeting and April 17, 2021, DKG Maryland Convention. She will notify chairs when their final reports will be due prior to the March board meeting. Gwen has a new phone number 240-997-5863. The number in the directory is no longer functioning. We are waiting on information from International on the status of scheduled conferences. COVID 19 will continue to impact our organization.

State President **Lorraine Johnson** closed our tea by thanking all in attendance and wishing them a wonderful holiday season. She encouraged all to stay safe and healthy.

Chapter Presidents' Training Held

Yvonne Stone, Theta Chapter President

On Saturday, December 12, 2020, DKG Maryland held its first Zoom Chapter Presidents' Training for 30 chapter leaders. This event was led by two members of Alpha Delta Chapter, **Mary Lee Makinen** and **Weezie Carey**. Both of them stated that organizational leadership is a management approach in which chapter presidents help set strategic goals, mission and expectations for their chapters, while motivating members to successfully carry out the works in service to these goals.

First, there is the chapter, which is defined as "a group of sisters organized to work towards the same goals, mission and expectations for their chapter." Then, there is the leader, the Chapter President, who is responsible for directing or guiding the chapter.

The role of a president is "to structure in a way that the input of chapter sisters is combined to produce the chapter's output." (Leadership Quarterly Magazine) According to **Mary Lee Makinen**, the key difference is

that DKG Presidents are leaders who combine business understanding with their roles as "future visionaries and forward-thinkers who lead broad initiatives using integrity and ethics." A DKG President must lead with a sisterly approach in which she helps to set strategic mission, goals, and expectations for the chapter, while motivating her chapter sisters to successfully carry out the chapter's programs.

My personal reflection from today's training is that we, as Chapter Presidents, must be "sister-centered." Similar to teaching, when we speak of having child-centered classrooms, we must empower our chapters to give input and make decisions about chapter goals and programs. Additionally, we must create and maintain an environment that naturally encourages our chapters to explore, so they feel comfortable with bringing new ideas and programs into the chapter.

In other words, the chapter president is a facilitator of the work. She leads in a way that develops the members'

leadership skills and talents. Hence, there has to be ongoing collaboration between leadership and membership, in order for chapters to do the following:

- Find solutions to issues
- Come to consensus on issues
- Have effective communications between each other
- Build relationship teams in order to develop future leaders for our chapter
- Identify future reorganizations and opportunities for our chapters
- Think strategically, systematically, and remember we have a tri-organizational structure: International, State and local chapters.

Always remember to spread the Vision, Mission, and Goals of DKG Society International.

DKG MD Webinars Get Started with Zoom

Dr. Minnie Young, Eta

DKG Maryland offered two zoom webinars on Saturday, October 24, 2020 with Dr. Minnie Young, Eta. At 10:00 am, 36 participants attended **Get Started with Zoom**. In this workshop, participants learned how to join a meeting, check audio, adjust video, use chat, and show a response. They also learned how to set up their own Zoom meetings and send out invitations.

A second webinar, **Share Books on Zoom**, followed attended by 12 participants. In this workshop, additional features of Zoom were covered such as sharing computer sound and using annotations.

Yvonne Stone, Theta Chapter President, attended both webinars. In an email to Theta Chapter, she wrote, "Even though, being a teacher and having to Zoom meet everyday with my Kindergarten class, I was able to gain new insights into the Zoom meeting process. The information she gave us will enable me to be more personable and engaging with my students and their parents. She showed us two new Reading Literacy platforms: Epic and Unite for Literacy. Both are free to teachers. She has also promised to produce additional Zoom experiences for us. If you were not able to attend this morning's Zoom presentation, I sincerely hope you will be able to attend her next workshop. Remember, you can always gain new knowledge."

Teaching Online Are You Web Camera Ready?

Dr. Minnie Young, Eta

Lights! Camera! Action! There's a reason why they check these three when filming a movie. Similarly, when you conduct real-time online sessions, you are actually performing on camera. Here are pointers for consideration:

1. Light Source

Be sure that you have a good light source. Make sure also that the light is shining on your face and not shining from behind you. For this reason, do not sit with the window at your back. If you want to move it up a notch, you might consider investing in a "ring lamp" for a more flattering look.

2. Location

Pick an appropriate place where you will have your meeting. Consider the room. Consider your background. What will others see? For example, I recommend strongly that they should not see an open door to your bathroom. The best background is a plain wall. This way, your au-

dience can focus on you. Having a curtain behind you will also be okay. Another acceptable background will be a bookshelf. Check what items are on the bookshelf to make sure everything looks professional.

3. Camera Angle

We look prettier when the camera is at eye level or higher rather than when the camera is below our nose. One trick of the trade is to place your laptop on a laptop stand. In the absence of a laptop stand, you can place it on top of a very thick book, around 3 inches thick. That gives the camera a boost in terms of height.

When using the phone, beware that the phone may be too close to you. A camera stand can help keep it at the right height and distance. It's also not a good idea to be holding the telephone because your hands are important for making gestures which will make you look more alive over

Hosting on Zoom

Gwen Cooley, DKG MD Executive Secretary

On December 5, 2020, **Dr. Minnie Young, Eta**, provided members with an interactive webinar on how to host a Zoom meeting. She covered the following Target Skills:

1. Sharing videos and documents on screen
2. Creating a Breakout Room
3. Keeping attendees engaged
4. Securing your meeting

Those members who attended the webinar learned the importance of preparing documents for sharing with attendees before the meeting. One can keep attendees engaged by using Zoom options 'Reactions' and/or 'Chat'. There are many ways to secure a Zoom meeting using muting and disabling options. After we all had a chance to use these skills and options, four members stayed online with Minnie to practice their skills further. After our Zoom meeting, Minnie emailed her slideshow presentation so that we could refer to her suggestions. DKG MD is fortunate to have members who are so well versed in technology. I am sure Minnie would be willing to send her slideshow to any member. She has often said to members that she is willing to help and answer questions about using technology. You just have to ask.



During a web conference, it helps to place your laptop on a stand for a better camera angle. A ring light behind may also have a flattering effect.

the Internet. Holding the telephone also leads to shaking. The camera will be more stable when placed on a stand. If you do not have a stand, you can make one with items you can find at home.

For more tips on how to look good on a webcam, watch <https://youtu.be/FMex-9FyljU>

Smile! And get ready for your next web session!

Committee News

World Fellowship

Laura McClelland, World Fellowship Committee Chair

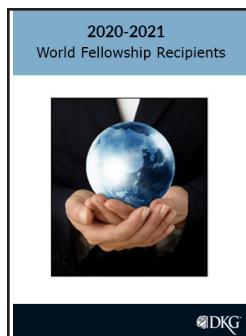
Many thanks to the chapters and individuals who continue to contribute to the World Fellowship Fund during the first half of this biennium. According to **Bernice Rodriguez**, Accounts Receivable Specialist for Delta Kappa Gamma International, DKG Maryland State Organization contributed **\$4,086.56** from July 1, 2019 to November 5, 2020. We realize that chapters are meeting virtually. That could be a fun time to have an auction to raise money for the World Fellowship Fund. Individuals can also contribute using Form 43 found under the header, "Forms" on the DKG Website.

The 2020-2021 current World Fellowship recipients are located in the Recipient Brochure under World Fellowship committee on the International website. There are a total of 24 recipients, 12 are receiving extensions. As a result of COVID -19, some students had to drop from their programs. Others are starting virtually from their home countries. Some are hopefully starting next semester. As information becomes available, International will update the list. Since we are not able to leave personal information at meetings or list personal information on chapter

or state organization websites, we can all look into the International Website. Take a moment to write to one or two of these recipients.

1. Sign in to dkg.org
2. Click **About Us**
3. Click **Committees**
4. Click **World Fellowship**
5. At the bottom of the page, click **2019-2020 Recipients**.

Look for 2020-2021 recipients image that looks like this:



Click and Voila! You found the recipients. They would love to hear from you.

On a personal note, our World Fellowship committee is missing a dear friend, **Sharon Hilty, Delta**. After many dedicated years to World Fellow-



Sharon Hilty's dedication to World Fellowship remains to be an inspiration for everyone.

ship, Sharon made the difficult decision to step down from this position. Sharon was the one who inspired me to get involved with World Fellowship. Because of her efforts, I met one of the World Fellowship recipients at a convention. It was at that time that I realized the impact that these scholarships are having in the lives of these young women. Sharon recently said, "World Fellowship will always be my most favorite DKG program opportunity."

Thank you, Sharon, for all you have done to make a difference in the lives of these recipients.

Scholarships Available

Jean Marie Hofstetter, Scholarship Committee Chair

Three sisters from DKG MD - **Joan Wiggins, Cheryl Townshend** and **Gloria Petit Clair** each received \$200 Mini-Grants to pursue personal endeavors this month. The next Mini-Grant deadline is February 1, 2021. Applications are found on the DKG MD website.

DKG MD Scholarships totaling **\$6,000.00** are available again this year. Four different scholarships each worth \$1,500 are offered to experi-

enced DKG members. Please see the DKG MD website for scholarship details. Applications are due on or before **January 15, 2021**.

DKG MD has included the Scholarship Committee in the Strategic Action Plan. Specifically, we are to invite to state functions those who have been awarded scholarships from chapters and school systems to present how the scholarship enhanced their lives and invite non-members into membership.

The Scholarship Committee needs your help now in identifying members from your chapter and non-members from your school district who have recently been awarded scholarships. Please send names and contact information plus scholarship details to jeanmariehofstetter@gmail.com

Nominations Open

Dr. Janet Cornick,
Nominations Committee Chair

Calling All DKG MD Sisters! Do you want to make a difference? Would YOU be willing to share your talents and leadership skills? We need YOU to assure the continuation of strong and active leadership in our state society. It takes just ONE...YOU can make a difference!

The Nominations Committee is seeking candidates for the following leadership roles. Needed are:

- Second Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Nominations Committee (2): Region 1 (Zeta, Tau, Alpha Theta Chapters) and Region 3 (Iota and Upsilon Chapters)
- Strategic Action Committee (3)
- Review Committee for Executive Secretary (1)

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact **Dr. Janet Cornick**, Nominations Committee Chair.

Dr. Janet Cornick
9502 Deerfoot Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046
jcornick@aol.com
1-301-490-8060

Please fill out the recent survey created by the Nominations Committee which can be obtained from your chapter president or from Janet. Return the form with the leadership role you are interested in.

Thank you for your continued loyalty and support!



2021 List of Things to Do:

1. Relax with music and a warm drink
2. Attend an International Conference
3. Read a good book

Ready... Set ... 2021... Let's Go!!

Sally Nazelrod, DKG MD Second Vice President

As we begin each new year, we often resolve to change something in our lives. Yes, they are "New Year's Resolutions" and whether we have been successful in prior years, we are compelled to set new goals as each new year begins. Since 2020 was such a challenge for all of us, I looked for some ways to renew our spirits, enjoy ourselves, and in doing so, make the world a better place. I came across an article written by **Janine Ripper**. Janine is a mental health advocate, freelance writer and blogger. Her words of wisdom may be useful to you, too. I hope that you will find something in the list below that you can try in 2021. Or at the very least, make you think or make you smile!

Janine wrote to **always**:

1. Surround yourself with people who lift you up
2. Focus on the positive
3. Learn to live in the now

4. If you're not in love with your life, start changing it
5. Laugh often
6. Have fun
7. Practice gratitude often
8. Love beyond words
9. Make self-care your priority
10. Learn something new
11. Release anger
12. Love yourself more
13. Own your age
14. Slow down
15. Celebrate the small things as you slow down
16. Don't be so judgmental / needy / irritable / [insert bad habit here]
17. Forgive
18. Spend time with people who make your heart sing

For additional inspiration, visit Janine's blog at <https://reflectionsfromaredhead.com>

Join a 2021 DKG International Conference

Lorraine Johnson DKG MD State President

DKG International will be holding two international conferences in 2021. The first one will be held in Portland, Oregon on July 7 - 10 with the theme "A World of Opportunities, Contributions and Impact." The second one will be held in San Antonio, Texas on July 21 - 24 with the theme "DKG Opportunities, Contributions, and Impact." Consider joining one or both of these conferences and find new ways of making an impact. These are great opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Registration Fee (prior to 30 days from Conference) - \$160.00
Registration Fee (30 days or less from Conference -\$240.00
One day Registration Fee (choose one day) Friday or Saturday - \$80.00
Non-Member Registration Fee - \$180.00
Non-Member Registration Fee 30 days or less from Conference - \$270.00
Family Member/Medical Companion Fee - \$25.00
(All fees apply to Face-to-Face or Virtual Settings)

Book Recommendations

The Will to Govern Well by Glenn H. Tecker, Paul D. Meyer, Leigh Wintz, CAE and Bud Crouch is a research study on "developing strategies for change in governance." It is suggested reading for DKG leaders by our DKG International President **Becky Sadowski**.

Mentoring Beginning Teachers: Guiding, Reflecting, Coaching, second edition, by Jean Boreen, Mary K. Johnson, Donna Niday and Joe Potts is great for teacher leaders and supervisors. **Donna Niday** is a member of DKG Iowa State.

Chapter News

Alpha Gamma

Lynn Mattingly, Alpha Gamma Chapter President

On Wednesday, October 7th, Alpha Gamma gathered a small group of members to initiate 2 new members **Diana Sargeant** and **Emily Fradkin**. We met at an open-air pavilion in Centennial Park in Ellicott City where the weather was beautiful and masks were worn by all.

It was good to get together and share some conversation in person and refreshments after the induction.



Alpha Beta

Carol Howard, Alpha Beta Chapter President

On a slightly windy yet sunny September Sunday afternoon, Alpha Beta was finally able to meet in person at fellow sister **Sue Hammonds** backyard after seven long months. In keeping with the COVID 19 times, we socially distanced between desks, had wrapped snacks (including red rose cookies) and drinks, installed officers, and inducted four new members. As a sign of the times, each officer and new initiate received red rose embroidered face masks handcrafted by our hostess. We are happy to have **Erin Beyer**, **Shana Brickner**, **Crystal Hill**, and **Ethel Smith** join our society. Erin and Shana both teach high school. Crystal is a middle school media specialist. Ethel is newly retired. A fun time was had by all while we also were able to raise \$50 for World Fellowship in our 50-50 raffle!

On November 8, Alpha Beta held our second meeting of the year via Zoom. Although we were not able to conduct our annual holiday auction that provides funding for our scholarship winners at that time, each person wrote a

check to help defray the costs for this year. One topic on our agenda was our membership theme: **Each One, Reach One**. Deadlines for considering prospective members were announced and sisters were also asked to look at our inactive list to see what corrections and updates are needed to be made, taking into consideration members who may be interested in rejoining our society. First Vice President **Jeanette Gionfriddo** read to us one of Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story," a series about Ann Sullivan. She was a visually impaired woman who was once an uncontrollable, abused, wild child who lived in an abandoned children's orphanage and who later became the extraordinary teacher of Helen Keller. Our meeting ended with "Good News" and "Blessings" (a topical addition for these times) that allowed us to not only celebrate special happenings, but also be reflective of those things for which we are truly thankful amidst this pandemic.



*Alpha Beta Chapter welcomed new members **Erin Beyer**, **Shana Brickner**, **Crystal Hill**, and **Ethel Smith**.*



Mu Chapter Moves Right Along

Patty Simon, Mu Chapter President

As teachers, we know the importance of being resourceful and having a back-up plan. Those of us who are retired remember when the overhead project bulb burned out, or the filmstrip ended up in several pieces. Those who are teaching now know what it's like to have a computer glitch. The importance of Plan B carries through to all aspects of our lives, including how to still have chapter meetings and activities in the time of COVID.

Despite the pandemic, Mu Chapter has managed to move right along. At our October meeting, we had two guest speakers: **Marcy Hotchkiss'** cousin Suzanne, a first grade teacher in North Carolina, and **Rhonda Bailey's** friend Joelle, a high school teacher in Florida. It was very interesting to hear about their teaching experiences and compare them to the way Maryland schools are dealing with the COVID crisis. Also in October, seven Mu Chapter members met at the Cromwell Valley Park for a **jigsaw puzzle exchange**.



Matisse's *The Yellow Dress*
Image Source: WikiArt

Alpha, Mu, and Xi, the three Baltimore County chapters, meet several times a year, the main purpose being to plan their Tri-Chapter Holiday Celebration. This year's activity will be held virtually, and it promises to be enjoyable. Members are encouraged to wear and model their holiday attire, and recipes will be shared. MD State President **Lorraine Johnson** will do a special reading. Music will be provided remotely by students from Towson High School, and the chapters will have a sing-along with "The 12 Months of COVID."

As long as we choose to see the current world situation as a challenge rather than a liability, we can use our creativity and knowledge of technology to continue our activities.

12 Months of COVID

Patty Simon, Mu Chapter President

In the first month of COVID, my sisters gave to me a large pack of toilet paper.

In the second month of COVID, my sisters gave to me two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the third month of COVID, my sisters gave to me three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the fourth month of COVID, my sisters gave to me four new recipes, three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the fifth month of COVID, my sisters gave to me five DVDs, four new recipes, three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the sixth month of COVID, my sisters gave to me six bags of groceries, five DVDs, four new recipes, three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the seventh month of COVID, my sisters gave to me seven jigsaw puzzles, six bags of groceries, five DVDs, four new recipes, three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the eighth month of COVID, my sisters gave to me eight haircut coupons, seven jigsaw puzzles, six bags of groceries, five DVDs, four new recipes, three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the ninth month of COVID, my sisters gave to me nine mystery novels, eight haircut coupons, seven jigsaw puzzles, six bags of groceries, five DVDs, four new recipes, three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the tenth month of COVID, my sisters gave to me ten wines for tasting, nine mystery novels, eight haircut coupons, seven jigsaw puzzles, six bags of groceries, five DVDs, four new recipes, three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the eleventh month of COVID, my sisters gave to me eleven TV dinners, ten wines for tasting, nine mystery novels, eight haircut coupons, seven jigsaw puzzles, six bags of groceries, five DVDs, four new recipes, three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.

In the twelfth month of COVID, my sisters gave to me twelve Zooming meetings, eleven TV dinners, ten wines for tasting, nine mystery novels, eight haircut coupons, seven jigsaw puzzles, six bags of groceries, five DVDs, four new recipes, three face masks, two Lysol wipes, and a large pack of toilet paper.



DKG Maryland State News

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting
March 6, 2021

DKG Maryland State Convention
April 17, 2021

DKG International Conferences:
Portland, Oregon **July 7-10, 2021**
San Antonio, Texas **July 21 - 24, 2021**
Finland **2023**

Save the Date!!! **Saturday, April 17, 2021** **The DKG Maryland Virtual State Convention**

“Adapting to Change in a Changing Society” is the theme selected by **President Lorraine Johnson**.

In the best interest of the health and safety of our members, we will meet virtually for a day of celebration, recognition, personal and professional growth, and special activities.

New officers will be elected and installed. We will honor our sisters who have passed with a Celebration of Life.

**Mark Your Calendars Now!
More information to follow!**