

DKG MD State Virtual Convention

Adapting to Change in a Changing Society

Michelle Saville, Eta Chapter President and Sally Nazelrod, Xi Chapter President and DKG MD Second Vice-President

The DKG Maryland State Organization's State Convention Committee invites you to join a one-day virtual convention on Saturday, April 17, 2021. It will be unusual, historic, and enjoyable in nature. It is an activity planned by the committee encompassing many of the key components of our usual convention activities, but will be vastly different because of the COVID-19 impact.

Convention Chair **Sally Nazelrod** and her committee have carefully planned activities that will whet our appetites and provide our palates with a variety of events that will encourage, delight, and pique our interests and attention.

Adapting to Change in a Changing Society is the theme chosen by State President **Lorraine W. Johnson** for the 2021 DKG Maryland State Convention. We have had to adapt to significant changes in all of our activities since March of 2020. Even so, we know that our organization is adaptable and our membership will remain strong.

On Saturday, April 17, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the State Convention will take place via Zoom. Registration for this event opened on March 6 and can be completed electronically. All chapter presidents have been sent registration information for distribution to their membership. The event is free for members of DKG Maryland to attend.

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Debbie LeBlanc**, Northeast Regional Director, will be the keynote speaker. She will provide an administrative update from International to our membership from 12 noon to 12:40 p.m. She will also present a workshop.

There will be four workshops for participants to choose from. Two of these will be presented by members of DKG Maryland.

Workshop 1: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Your Stress will be presented by **Beverly Elaine Eanes**, *Omega Chapter*, Ph.D.,RN, CHP.

We all experience acute stress due to tense situations. Now, we are in unprecedented times due to the ongoing pandemic, racial discord, and political unrest, resulting in chronic stress. Laughter helps us to lighten our load by decreasing our stress hormones, increasing our immune response, and increasing our memory and problem-solving abilities. Join us as we play, let in the light, and spread joy.



Dr. Debbie LeBlanc, DKG Northeast Regional Director 2020-2022, will be the keynote speaker.

Workshop 2: DKG Top Ten Strategies for a Post Pandemic World will be presented by **Dr. Debbie LeBlanc**, Northeast Regional Director.

Come join Debbie for a new workshop created by DKG International. During this workshop, we will gain ideas and inspirations to combat COVID and Pre-COVID Chapter engagement. This is a timely and useful workshop for all.

Workshop 3: The Challenges of Teaching Online will be presented by **Janissa Davis**, *Lambda Chapter*.

Do you find yourself wondering why your students are quiet and perhaps just staring at you? Are all of your students attending class regularly? How do you



communicate with your parents? Or, do you struggle with technology issues? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this workshop is for you. It will enlighten you about great strategies to implement to address these and other online instruction concerns.

Workshop 4: Managing COVID-19 Stressors as a Classroom Teacher will be presented by **Joanna Durham**, LCSW-C.

COVID-19 has increased many life stressors. Individuals are experiencing the psychological and emotional impact brought on by the pandemic. How are you managing the challenges of teaching and the challenges of maintaining home and family? This workshop is designed to help teachers identify stressors and offer coping mechanisms to help maintain wellness and well-being.

Participants may sign in at 8:30 am to view a panorama of photos with chapter and member activities and listen to music. The Business Meeting will be held from 9:00 - 11:20 a.m. In addition to the concurrent workshops, other activities include recognition of chapter presidents, presentation of scholarship recipients, election and installation of officers for 2021-2023, remarks from outgoing president, passing of the gavel, acceptance remarks from the newly installed president, and the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma Song. We look forward to seeing you on April 17!

The President Speaks

A Backwards Glance

It's been a year since life as we know it changed so drastically. Our usual way of life. . . travel, communication, interaction, hobbies, and other avenues of activities and expression, no longer exist. And whether we like what has happened to us in just one year, or even accept it peacefully, we know that nothing will ever be the same since COVID-19 paid the world an unexpected visit and seems content with its arrival and continuous visitation like an uninvited guest who stays too long.

Our society has always speculated about what the future would hold. Across the centuries, we have envisioned activities, predicted mode of dress, space travel, intergalactic activities, and wondered whether any of them would occur. And many of these activities have become a part of our daily lives. We have survived many illnesses, diseases, fevers, etc., that we were finally able to overcome or treat with the assistance of medical and physical science and research.

But our latest visitor has not been kind or conquered, as yet. And we continue to strive to locate the answer on how to overcome the wrath of COVID-19. And we continue to persevere in spite of the devastation that is occurring around us. We seem to be losing our humanity . . . the little normalities that make us human. How do we overcome that?

We did not know that the day would arrive when we would intentionally put space between us, our relatives and friends. We did not know that touching each other could prove fatal without masking and hand washing. We did not know that we would be forced to speak through mouths covered exclusively by masks less we inhale air particles that might prove fatal.

And, we did not know that we would be relegated to waving at a loved one from a distance; talking to each other from a distance, and either vacating or avoiding those places that added to our existence, like movie theaters, football games, restaurants, shopping malls, and parks.

I remember when COVID-19 began to creep into our presence after our March 2020 Executive Board meeting. I remember how elated we were to have seen, hugged, conversed, and enjoyed a meal together before lockdown began. These activities are now memories and we have no clue as to when we will be able to resume them or how they will manifest themselves when we do.

As you know, DKG Maryland has been affected by this virus. We communicate solely by Zoom and FaceTime, and a multitude of other technological mediums that we had not used before COVID-19. Nevertheless, we have managed to keep DKG Maryland afloat and conduct the business of the organization.

Our society has changed abruptly with no prior notification. We must continue to adjust if we are to go forward. All of us are taxed with the responsibility of creating an atmosphere of survival. We are to make changes to the way we live and work and play. We must not ease up in supporting and encouraging each other as we go forward to reach our larger goal.

A new biennium is on the horizon. New leadership will accept the gavel. New ideas and activities will abound. And, a new way of getting tasks accomplished and holding meetings over technology will change the way we do business.



Lorraine Williams Johnson
DKG Maryland State President

DKG Maryland will hold its first virtual convention on Saturday, April 17, 2021 via Zoom. Chair **Sally Nazelrod**, DKG MD Second Vice-President, and her committee are planning activities around the theme, **“Adapting to Change in a Changing Society.”** New officers will be elected and installed. Our featured speaker is Northeast Regional Director, **Dr. Debra LeBlanc**.

The continued success of DKG Maryland State Organization rests with each of us. We know that our organization merits the time we have invested in it and that it is more than worthwhile. It serves many purposes. As such, we will do all we can to make certain that it thrives.

We hope that you will join us in the comfort of your home as we look forward to continuing our great work in the next biennium.

Lorraine Williams Johnson
President
DKG Maryland State Organization

Member News

Congratulations to Dr. Wanda L. Robinson



Dr. Wanda L. Robinson

Wanda L. Robinson, *Theta Chapter*, was conferred with the Doctor of Education degree on February 28, 2021. She is grateful to Delta Kappa Gamma International Society of Key Women Educators for their monetary and emotional support.

Susan Ricci Rogel in Concert



Susan Ricci Rogel

Susan Ricci Rogel, *Theta Chapter*, was the featured pianist in a special Black History Program presented by the St. Louis Catholic Church in Clarksville, Maryland on Sunday, February 21, 2021.

Susan is a highly sought-after collaborative pianist, teacher and vocal coach in the Washington, D.C. area. She has collaborated in concerts held at Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall (Carnegie Hall) in NYC, the Chautauqua Institute, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, DAR Constitution Hall, Strathmore Hall, the Barns of Wolf Trap, the Lyceum in Alexandria and the Arts Club of Washington.

The Black History program, presented on YouTube, featured an impressive list of artists, including Aundi Marie Moore, Met Opera Soprano from Chesapeake, Virginia, and the possessor of a voice of “clarion beauty,” (The Washington Post); Duane Moody, tenor, and special guest, whose humble beginnings occurred in Southeast Washington; and Michael Bowie who recently assumed the Bass Tech teacher position at the Duke Ellington School for The Arts in Washington, DC.

DKG Gallery of Fine Arts Features MD Members

DKG Press Release

The Arts and Humanities Jury of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is pleased to announce the publication of the following in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts, an online gallery of works of art and letters at <http://dkggallery.dkg.org>. These works will be featured in mid-April.

- **Motivation**, a poem by MD State President **Lorraine Johnson**, *Theta*
- **My Girl, Abby**, colored pencil artwork by **Wendy Happel**, *Mu*

DKG is a professional honor society for women educators with more than 69,000 members. Established in 17 member countries around the world, the Society defines its mission as promoting professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Society headquarters is in Austin, Texas, where Dr. Annie Webb Blanton founded the Society on May 11, 1929.

If you wish to submit your work for the Fall Gallery, the submission dates are August 15-September 15.

Alpha, Mu and Xi Chapters to Host a Zoom Presentation by Gail Goolsby



Gail Goolsby is the 2020 DKG Educators Book Award recipient.

On Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom, *Alpha, Mu* and *Xi Chapters* are happy to host a presentation by **Gail Wettstone Goolsby**, the 2020 DKG Educators Book Award recipient and author of *Unveiled Truth, Lessons I Learned Leading the International School of Kabul*.

Gail Goolsby, a member of Beta Rho Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Kansas State Organization, holds master's degrees in Professional Counseling and Educational Leadership. She has over 25 years' educational experience as a teacher, school counselor, and principal, including the K-12 American School in Afghanistan.

As a counselor and ICF certified life coach, Gail helps clients learn to live well. Gail and her husband, who is a pastor, have been married 42 years and have three grown children, two sons-in-law, and four granddaughters. They live where the wind blows over the prairie in south-central Kansas.



Meet the Candidates

Sue Capron, Member, Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is fortunate to introduce such a highly qualified slate of candidates for executive office in DKG MD for the 2021-2023 Biennium.

2021-2023 Slate of Officers DKG Maryland State Organization

President

Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon

First Vice-President

Sally Nazelrod, Xi

Second Vice-President

Janey Snyder, Alpha

Recording Secretary

Dr. Terri Showers, Lambda

Voting will take place via Zoom this year at the state convention business meeting on Saturday, April 17, 2021. You must be registered for the convention to vote. Nominations will be accepted from the floor during the convention business meeting. If you wish to nominate someone, please seek the candidate's approval beforehand and be prepared to present a brief biography of the candidate.



Dr. Marilyn Keane

Candidate for President:

Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon Chapter
DKG Membership – 12 Years

Current Position: First Vice-President of DKG Maryland

Professional Experience: Dr. Keane is in her 27th year of teaching Physical Education and Health for Montgomery County Public Schools. She is the Content Specialist for Physical Education, Health, Arts, and Technology. Her professional experience also includes seven years as Online Adjunct Professor for Concordia University in Portland where she taught the following courses: Character and Ethics of Leadership, Character in the Curriculum, Community or Leaders, and the Thesis.

Educational Background: B.S. in Physical Education/Minor in Elementary Education, Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, and Doctorate in Education from George Washington University in Educational Administration and Policy Studies.

DKG Experience: Upsilon Chapter, Recording Secretary, First Vice-President, and President, which were all two-year terms. DKG Maryland State: one two-year term each as Recording Secretary, Second Vice-President, and First Vice-President. Dr. Keane also served as the Convention Committee Chair for the DKG MD Convention in 2019 in Hunt Valley. She has attended numerous November Workshops and State Conventions during her 12 years as a DKG member.



Sally Nazelrod

Candidate for First Vice-President:

Sally Nazelrod, Xi Chapter
DKG Membership – 11 Years

Current Position: Second Vice-President of DKG Maryland

Professional Experience: 42 years in Baltimore County Public Schools: Teacher, Assistant. Principal, Specialist, Supervisor. Retired as Coordinator of Health and Physical Education

Educational Background: Master's Degree in Education plus 60.

DKG Experience: President of Xi Chapter for two terms. MD State Committees: Educational Excellence, Leadership Development Present Position: State Second Vice-President, 2019-2021; State Convention Planning Committee Chair 2021

Regular attendance at all state workshops, conferences, and conventions. Attended DKG International- Asheville- 2019. Presenter at State Workshops- The Colors of Leadership, Fitness Workshops. Presentations at other chapters throughout the state.



Janey Snyder

Candidate for Second Vice-President:
Janey Snyder, Alpha
DKG Membership – 32 Years

Current Position: Chair of DKG MD Finance Committee

Professional Experience: Janey taught High School Mathematics in Baltimore County Public Schools from 1974-2005. She also taught Mathematics at The Catholic High School of Baltimore from 2005-2010.

Educational Background: B.S. in Secondary Education, M. Ed., 60+ Credits Continuing Education.

DKG Experience: Alpha Chapter President for a total of 7 years (not served consecutively). Janey was also Vice-President, Finance Chair, and currently is Treasurer. DKG MD – Recording Secretary 2007-2011, Treasurer 2011-2017. Janey has been on the Leadership Development Committee since 2007. She also served on the Convention Committee while Treasurer. Janey was a member of the Steering Committee for the 2015 Northeast Regional Conference from 2013-2015. She has been on the Finance Committee for many years, serving as Chair from 2003-2007 and from 2018-2021. Janey has enjoyed attending numerous Society Workshops, State Conventions, Leadership Development Conferences, Northeast Regional Conferences (Hershey, Burlington, Portland, and Baltimore), and International Conventions (San Diego, Chicago).



Dr. Terri Showers

Candidate for Recording Secretary:
Dr. Terri T. Showers, Lambda
DKG Membership – 8 Years

Current Positions: President of Lambda Chapter and Chair of the Bylaws Committee

Professional Experience: Taught at the middle and high school levels in Prince George's County Public Schools and Howard County Public School System; served as a Secondary Science Resource Teacher in Howard County Public School System and Anne Arundel County Public Schools; served as a Middle School Administrator and worked on Special Assignments for the Deputy Superintendent in Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Current Role: Educative Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) Program Coordinator and a Field Intern Supervisor, Bowie State University

Educational Background: Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Administration I and II License, Master of Science in Community Health Science. B.S. in Biology.

DKG Experience: State: Chair, Bylaws Committee; Member, Educational Excellence and Strategic Action Committees; Local: President, Lambda Chapter; Chair, Scholarship Committee; Member, Standing Rules, Historical Records, World Fellowship, Communications, and Personal Growth and Services Committees. Presented at a state workshop as well as attended state workshops, presented at a regional conference (Iceland), attended regional conferences, and attended International Conventions.



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Chapter News

Memorable Moments for Mu Members

Patty Simon, Mu Chapter

All people like to celebrate their birthdays, but some birthdays are particularly worth noting. This past February was a major month for two members of Mu Chapter. **Dottie Anderson** turned 90, and **Jean Berner** turned 100!

Dottie Anderson is a warm, thoughtful, intelligent, and hardworking lady. Born Dorothy Elizabeth Schaeffer, she was the third child of Hilda and Charles Albert Schaeffer, Jr. She attended elementary and high school in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County. After graduating from Glen Burnie High in 1948, Dottie entered Towson State Teachers College.

In 1952, she graduated from Towson with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education, married A. Warner (Bud) Anderson, and began teaching at Arbutus Elementary School. After teaching for several years, Dottie became a stay-at-home mom for her daughter, Nancy, and son, Gary. In 1966, she returned to teaching. Over the years, she taught at Edmondson Heights Elementary, Johnny Cake Jr. High, and Lansdowne Elementary. While teaching, Dottie went back to school and, in 1974, earned her M. Ed. Degree at Johns Hopkins University. She retired in 1990 after thirty years as an educator.

During Dottie's last year of teaching, **Dr. Edna May Merson**, the principal of Lansdowne Elementary, invited Dottie to join Delta Kappa Gamma. On September 28, 1989, she was inducted into Mu Chapter. Over the years, Dottie has served Mu Chapter in a number of capacities including Recording Secretary, 1st V.P., 2nd V.P., Chairman of the Program Committee, member of the Ways and Means Committee, Communications Committee, Co-Editor of Mu's News (the Mu Chapter Newsletter), and Registrar for the Alpha Beta State Convention in 2003. In recent years at Mu meetings, she has been doing a segment called "In a Mu Minute," during which she shares information about the founding women of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Over the years, Dottie has enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, working on her family's

genealogy, and traveling. She and her late husband went to a number of places, including Massachusetts, Florida, Tennessee, Louisiana, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and the Caribbean. In addition, she has traveled to various destinations, such as Maine, for DKG conferences and conventions.

To celebrate Dottie's 90th birthday, some members of Mu Chapter drove to Dottie's house, presented her with a bouquet of flowers, and sang "Happy Birthday" to her as they stood in her driveway. Despite the pandemic, she has managed to keep busy and maintain her sunny disposition. Dottie Anderson is an amazing 90-year-old and an inspiration to all who know her.

Another incredible lady from Mu Chapter is **Jean Berner**. Born Jean Smallwood Linzey, she is a descendent of Major General William Smallwood, the fourth governor of Maryland. She was baptized in St. John's Church, in Huntingdon, where she has been a life-long member.

Jean attended School #51, Clifton Park Jr. High, and Eastern High (an all-girls school) in Baltimore City. She then went to State Teachers College (now Towson University) and graduated in 1941. She began her teaching career in September of that year and taught elementary school in Baltimore City until she retired in June of 1973. Most of her career was spent teaching first grade at School #13.

In 1945, Jean married Frank Lee, a teacher, coach, and athletic director. Jean and Frank both loved to travel. During their marriage, they traveled across the United States three times, went on a Grand Tour of Europe, and went on the maiden around-the-world voyage of the Queen Elizabeth II. After Frank passed away in 1982, Jean continued to travel. In 1986, on her way home from Europe, Jean met Henri Berner, the widower who would become her second husband in 1987. Since Henri was Danish and had children and grandchildren from his previous marriage, he and Jean spent time in both the United States and Denmark. They also enjoyed traveling together until



*This photo was taken years ago when Mu Chapter was celebrating our members' February birthdays. **Dottie Anderson** is wearing a blue sweater, and **Jean Berner** is wearing the red outfit and black hat.*

Henri's death in 2001. Jean continued traveling on her own, and in 2005, went to Antarctica, enabling her to share stories about her adventures on all seven continents. In addition, Jean went every year to see her extended family in Denmark until she was in her early nineties.

On April 23, 1955, Mu Chapter was founded, and **Jean Berner** was among the first women to be inducted. She is the only current member to have been in Mu Chapter since its beginning. Jean was an active member of her chapter until recent years. She was treasurer for seventeen years, after which she became chair of the Finance Committee. In 1978, she became chair of the World Fellowship Committee, and held that post for thirty-seven years. Due to her interest in DKG and her love of travel, Jean attended the International Convention in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1997.

In addition to being an original member of Mu Chapter and a world traveler, Jean is known for her love of singing and dancing. She will burst into song when a comment or situation triggers a memory. She is also known for her hats and stylish attire. Unfortunately, due to health concerns exacerbated by the pandemic, Mu Chapter members were unable to wish Jean "Happy Birthday" in person. Instead, members sent her cards and flowers to commemorate her 100th birthday.

Both **Dottie Anderson** and **Jean Berner** are beloved members of Mu Chapter. Their contributions are greatly appreciated and their lives are shining examples for all who know them.

Alpha Beta

Carol Howard, Alpha Beta Chapter President

Alpha Beta Chapter prepared for the winter holidays in an unusual way during these pandemic times by having an electronic cookie exchange. Unlike a traditional cookie swap, sisters did NOT have to leave the comforts of their homes, nor bake 27 dozens of a favorite recipe to share, so it was a win-win for all! Everyone received wonderful cookie recipes to bake either for the upcoming holiday or whenever they needed or wanted to try a new recipe.

In a more usual way during the holidays, sisters were reminded of a time in history when a retired teacher helped children and adults through another difficult health crisis that impacted not only the US but the world, much like how COVID-19 is impacting us now. **Eleanor Abbott** developed a game perfect for children who couldn't read as a way to pass time while being quarantined for polio. The profits for selling the rights to that game to Milton Bradley were then used to purchase

school supplies for local children. That game still sells over 1 million copies each year and has brought pleasure to generations of families for more than 70 years. That game? **Candy Land!**

In January, we had a Zoom Executive Board meeting. We discussed updates on the 2021 Recruitment Grant for high school seniors, our Literacy Grant recommendations, and reminders of upcoming DKG dates. For the Literacy Grant, we will be granting money to Reading Camp Calvert to further their literacy work in our community. We also kicked around ideas for an upcoming service project which we eventually decided should be discussed next time. We did not want the business meeting to cut short our craft event so sisters could just have some fun.

On January 29, we created polymer clay crafts including pins and earrings for Valentine's Day for our **Wine and Design** activity. The Zoom event, sponsored by our World Fellowship

and Nominations committees, allowed sisters to craft at home while being skillfully assisted by **Lorrain Humphries**, a high school art teacher in Calvert County. All could indulge in whatever drink they preferred to partake while we all maintained our social distancing. We concluded our event with **Good News** to benefit the World Fellowship Fund.

In February, sisters were given the link to the month's **Action for Happiness** calendar which was mentioned in DKG NEWS Jan/Feb edition, page 5. On the website, they stressed focusing on reaching out to connect with others. To that end, Valentine's cards were mailed to every member as an act of kindness during these stressful times!



Alpha Alpha Chapter Plans May Induction

Cindy Downton, Alpha Alpha Past President, Membership Chair

Alpha Alpha Chapter will induct **Kimberly Collins** and **Lisa Carr** at its May meeting.

Kimberly Collins has 30 years of teaching experience. Kim has taught Pre-K to 4th grade. She currently works as a reading intervention teacher at Grantsville Elementary School. Kim has her Master's Degree. She is very involved with children's literature and attends the **Children's Literature Festival** at Frostburg State University every year. She received the **Betty Roemmelmeyer Advocate Award in 2011** which is awarded to an individual who displays a love of children's literature and shares it with others. She also serves on the Children's Literature Center Book Award Committee and has had this role since 2012. Kim enjoys reading, scrapbooking and has an extensive library of children's books.

Lisa Carr has 29 years of teaching experience in education. She currently teaches 6th grade Social Studies at Northern Middle School in Accident, although she had previously taught Special Education for many years. Lisa was recognized as **Walmart Teacher of the Year** in 2003 and was given the Digital Learning MSDE Showcase Award in 2017-18. She was a team leader at Northern Middle from 2000-2015. She has also been the Northern High School Cheer Coach since 1992 and is the Garrett Baseball Mom's Club President. Lisa is very involved in the Garrett County Relay for Life.

Alpha Alpha Chapter is very pleased to welcome our two new members, **Kimberly Collins** and **Lisa Carr**.

Alpha Chapter Supported Student Service Project

Janey Snyder, Alpha

This year, Alpha Chapter chose to support the Student Service Project in Baltimore County as the chapter's community service project. The Network partners with school staff to assist students in need to improve their lives and support their education through the provision of food, clothing, educational supplies, feminine hygiene supplies and other critical items. To date, more than half of Alpha members contributed grocery gift cards and monetary donations for feminine hygiene packets totaling over \$1,000.00. The response from our members has been overwhelming and gratifying. For more information, go to www.studentsupportnetwork.org

Chapter News

The Baby Turns 30

Joan Wiggins, Alpha Theta Chapter President

Who is the baby? It is the chapter that is always at the back of the DKG MD State Directory, the one that is called last in the roll call and the one that was founded 30 years ago on April 12, 1991. If you don't have a clue what I am talking about, it's Alpha Theta Chapter of DKG Maryland. When I heard the statement that we are the baby chapter, I welcomed that title but thought that we wouldn't hold on to it very long. Alpha Theta lost the "baby" title for a while when Alpha Iota was founded but we gained it back when that chapter dissolved.

On April 12, 1991, 12 members from Tau Chapter formed the newest Maryland chapter, Alpha Theta from Harford County. The 12 charter members initiated nine additional new women on that date at the Maryland Golf and Country Club so Alpha Theta began with 21 key women educators as members. Currently, only one member from that original group remains a member of the organization, and she is an honorary member. Like many chapters, Alpha Theta has seen its share of membership fluctuations. At one time, we had 53 members. Many were public school educators and included a large number of administrators. Sadly, our membership has dwindled. However, we have a goal to rebuild our membership numbers.



Alpha Theta induction ceremony

Early in Alpha Theta's development, we established annual events that defined the purpose of the chapter. Every year, the chapter sponsored a GED candidate at Harford Community College, held the Book and Vino meeting/social event in the winter and recognized a student at Prospect Mill Elementary for the Mary Boni Patriot Award. Mary Boni was a member of our chapter who created the Patriot Program for Harford County Schools and we initiated this award in her memory. Knowing that we needed to move beyond the local level, our leadership encouraged us to participate in State and International activities. Members of Alpha Theta have received State Scholarships and Mini Grants, participated in state and international conferences and conventions, served on state committees and one became the State President of the Maryland State Organization.



A student at Prospect Mill Elementary received the Mary Boni Patriot Award initiated by Alpha Theta.

During the 2003 State Convention, Alpha Theta was given the responsibility of the Hospitality Room. The chapter decided to step up its game and created special aprons to wear in the hospitality room. The aprons were a hit along with the delicious snacks we served in that gathering area.



Alpha Theta created special aprons for the Hospitality Room at the 2003 Maryland State Convention.



Alpha Theta Chapter organized several community events including **Dress for Success** which provided professional clothes for those seeking employment.

In more recent years, the chapter held several community events including organizing a Dress for Success Day to provide professional clothing for those seeking employment, sponsoring a family at Christmas with items on their wish lists, conducting a Mid-Year School Supply Event, and supporting local elementary school projects. Our current members have a variety of educational experiences including serving as directors of community non-profit organizations and managing an online educational service. Alpha Theta is continuing to seek members from private schools and include educators from other educational settings. Although our 30th anniversary celebration will take place on Zoom this year, we will have an in-person commemoration in 2022 inviting many of our former members to observe this milestone with us.

Xi Supports Education and Community Outreach During COVID-19 Pandemic

Sue Capron, Xi Chapter

Even though we haven't been able to meet face to face, our chapter still made numerous donations to help others via votes at meetings and personal contributions.

In June, \$250 was sent to the Student Support Network of Baltimore County which several times a week makes school supplies, food, clothing and other needs available to students and families.

In November, a check for \$1,200 was given to Sheppard Pratt School for the purpose of much needed physical education equipment so students could remain active during the pandemic.

A check in the amount of \$2,000 was sent in December to the R.I.S.E. program which is part of the Baltimore County Education Foundation. Many thanks to Janice Krach who familiarized the chapter with this wonderful program! Relief In Securing Education enables teachers and

administrators to supply specific materials for students while schools are not in regular session.

Cheryl Riisager, Finance Chair, delivered a check to St. Vincent's School in January in the amount of \$500. The money was needed so the staff could purchase items still on the December "wish list" such as art supplies, games, outdoor equipment, and rewards for the students.

The following organizations were greatly appreciative of donations by members in late January:

Marian House – 11 very large bags of food were given to support women transitioning with their children to independent housing.

Suited for Success – 9 huge bins and boxes of professional clothing were delivered for the benefit of unemployed women striving to return to the workforce.

Theta Chapter's Community Outreach

Yvonne Stone, Theta Chapter President

Theta Chapter has been contributing clothing to **The Training Source** for over ten years. Our Theta sisters drop off clothing at every February chapter meeting of the year. These slightly used garments are picked up by The Training Source for their **Dress for Success** Program.

The Training Source is an award-winning 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive employment training and job placement assistance for unemployed or economically disadvantaged people in the Suburban Maryland and Washington, DC area. They also provide youth programs, employer staffing and training services, and community outreach and assistance. Their mission is to provide education, training and services that promote positive economic mobility. Their goal is to develop not only the skills needed for success, but also the motivation to succeed.



Theta Chapter collects clothes during their February chapter meetings for donation to The Training Source. Yvonne Stone and Dorothy Clowers are with Evelyn Kim Rhim, Founder and Director of The Training Source. Photo courtesy of Dr. Annette Blake.

Spring Brings New Opportunities for Chapters

Patty Simon Mu Chapter

Hosted by Xi Chapter, members of Alpha and Mu were invited to attend a Zoom presentation of tips for spring planting "The flowers that bloom in the spring, tra la..." provided some of the inspiration for this joint chapter activity.

Carrie Engle, who has worked for Valley View Farms since 1972, shared helpful hints in a presentation entitled "Spring Is Here: 2021—A Year of Hope." During the pandemic, many people sought solace in gardening, and she believes that the joy of planting and watching things grow will carry into this year. For those who like to start with bulbs, she recommended daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips. Want a flower that can withstand cooler weather? Try pansies or violas. Want to attract butterflies and humming birds? Plant coneflowers. Have a lot of shade or need a house plant? Go with begonias. Don't want to deal with downey mildew? Beacon and imara impatiens are for you.

In addition to flowers, Carrie Engle also spoke about vegetables, especially since some people take pride in growing their own. Broccoli, lettuce, tomatoes, cabbage, and kale are particularly popular. Peppers provide one with a lot of choices since there are thirty-five varieties. Growing herbs can help spice up a meal. Along with the interesting information, Carrie Engle's slide show provided her audience with lovely pictures of each plant being discussed. She concluded by inviting everyone to check out the offerings at Valley View Farms, and encouraging her audience to enjoy the beauty of Longwood Gardens, Ladew Gardens, and Rawlings Conservatory.

Not only did this activity enable the attendees to learn more about gardening, it also allowed members of the three chapters to get to know each other better. Many thanks to Xi Chapter for organizing this activity.



White Roses



Dr. Edna May Merson, Mu

Dr. Edna May Merson, one of the last original members of Mu Chapter, passed away on March 16, 2021, at the age of 96. She was the daughter of Joseph Wilbert Merson and Ida May Merson. Her sister, Norma Lee, was one year her junior. The family lived in Lansdowne, and Edna May attended Lansdowne Elementary, the same school her father had attended. After graduating from Catonsville Senior High School, she entered Towson State and graduated in 1945 with a B.S. degree.

Although Edna May could have been an engineer, such job opportunities were not open to women at that time. One of her high school instructors suggested that Edna May go into teaching. Edna May did so and had an illustrious career that spanned 41 years. She began her career as a teacher at Baltimore Highlands Elementary School. After five years there, she spent four years as a teaching vice principal at Lansdowne Elementary. She then spent two years as a non-teaching vice principal at Campfield Elementary. Afterward, she was promoted to principal and held that position for ten years at Arbutus Elementary, eleven years at Woodmoor Elementary, and nine years at Lansdowne Elementary, completing her career at the school where she had once been a student.

During her time as an elementary school educator, Edna May also taught evening classes at Goucher College, Towson State, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Maryland College Park, where

she earned her M.A. in 1949 and her Ed. D. in 1961.

On April 23, 1955, Edna May was among the first educators to be initiated into the newly formed Mu Chapter, thanks to her sponsor, *Ms. Sedwick* of Alpha Chapter, the group which organized and founded Mu. Over the years, Edna May was responsible for adding a number of members to her chapter. In addition, she took on various responsibilities and served as secretary, 2nd V.P., 1st V.P., and president of Mu. She was also 1st V.P. and president of Alpha Beta State and served on and chaired various committees on the State level. Beyond that, Edna May was **Northeast Regional Director** and served on International committees.

Edna May was the ultimate example of what it means to be dedicated to education. She served as a judge for the National Blue Ribbon Schools and for the Maryland Teacher of the Year, a panelist for the U.S. Forum on A Nation at Risk, a member of the National Committee on Excellence in Educational Administration and the National Drug Task Force, and an instructor for the National Principals Academy. In 1961, she was given life-time membership in the Maryland PTA, and in 1963, she received the same from the National PTA, having served on its Executive Board. Edna May was Executive Director of the Council of Educational Administrative and Supervisory Organizations of Maryland (CEASOM). She was also president of the following organizations: the Baltimore County Association of Elementary School Administrators, the Towson State Alumni Association, the Maryland Department of Elementary School Principals, Women Educators of Baltimore County, and the Maryland Retired Teachers Association. In addition, she was president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. As a result, she had speaking engagements in 34 states, and she was assigned by the U.S. Department of Education to work with principals of American schools in the Far East. Another position that involved travel and education was her job of directing three tours through Alaska for the NEA.

In addition to her interest in education, Edna May was politically minded. As a result, she participated in the First Amendment Congress Meeting, the National

Governors' Conference, the AARP and Maryland Retired Teachers Association Legislative Committees, and the Eighth Forum of the U.S. Department of Education in Philadelphia.

Edna May was also the leader of a Girl Scout Trailblazer Troop. In fact, a weekend camping trip happened to coincide with her initiation into Mu Chapter. Determined to participate in both activities so as not to let down her scouts, Edna May took her gown and high heels with her on the camping trip. After an afternoon of hiking, she got dressed up, went to the DKG initiation, returned to the park, and, by flashlight, found the campsite where the girls were toasting marshmallows. In 1977, she was awarded the Girl Scout Unsung Heroine Award.

Many more awards followed that one. In 1983, she received the Channel 13 Award. She was named the National Distinguished Principal for Maryland in 1986, Sorooptimist Woman of the Year in 1990, Distinguished Alumna of Towson University in 1993, and Outstanding Volunteer in 1995. In addition, Edna May was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame and received the "Geri" Award in 2004. In recognition of her devotion to the community where she lived and taught for many years, the Lansdowne Improvement Association dedicated a bench in the library in her honor. Moreover, CEASOM, the Towson University Alumni Association, and the University of Maryland College Park annually present scholarships in her name. There is also a scholarship given in her name to a Plum Creek employee who is working towards a nursing degree.

Dr. Edna May Merson was an amazingly accomplished woman who spent her life in service to others. All of us in Mu Chapter are extremely grateful for her many contributions to our chapter and to DKG in general. She will be remembered for her generosity, warmth, intelligence, and humor. We will forever treasure her friendship and recall her stories about her many experiences both in and out of school. Dr. Edna May Merson was an inspiration to all of us, and she will be greatly missed.

- *Patty Simon, Mu Chapter*

White Roses



Jane Murray, Xi

Xi Chapter is saddened by the passing of **Jane Murray**. Jane, age 93, passed away on February 15 at the Ellicott City Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center. Jane was inducted into DKG in 1979 and was a Xi member until her passing. She was active on chapter committees, particularly those which dealt with Women in the Arts.

Jane was born in Baltimore on July 17, 1927 to Edward and Sara Murray, and grew up in the Waverly area of the city. She graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Jane taught art education

in high schools in both Baltimore City and Baltimore County Public Schools. In addition, Jane taught art in the Notre Dame of Maryland University Renaissance Institute for several years and was one of its founders.

Jane lived in the Towson area for many years before moving to Mercy Ridge in Timonium at retirement. She was a long-time member of The Church of the Redeemer in Towson. Jane enjoyed art and theater and travelled extensively, especially to beach locations. She is survived by eight great nieces and nephews in Severna Park and Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Her long-time caregiver and friend, Michelle Bollino of Perry Hall, shared these thoughts:

“Jane had a smile and laugh that would light up this world! She touched my heart the same way I touched hers! I was very honored to have known Jane and cared for her for many years.”

Sarajane Quinn is an active member of Xi Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma. She wrote:

Jane was my favorite teacher at Edmondson High. She was patient, kind, and caring. Although not her favorite student, she took

me under her wing and made sure I came to school every day. Her class was the only reason I came to school. In the summer I would see her relaxing on a bench on the OC boardwalk at 9th Street.

Odd coincidence, I was named after my great grandmother Sarah Jane Murray and her husband was Edward Murray. Although Jane's parents Sara and Edward are not my grandparents, I will need to dig deeper into my genealogy out of curiosity.

I'm so happy that I connected with Jane through our Xi Chapter and had the opportunity to tell what a positive influence she was in my life. Jane Murray made a difference.

My heartfelt condolences to her loving family.

*Fondly,
Sarajane Quinn*

Jane will surely be missed by those who knew and loved her. As an educator, she made a difference. She was a treasure to her family and friends.

- **Sally Nazelrod**, Xi Chapter



Sandra Lee Long, Tau

Sandra Lee Long passed away December 5, 2020 after a long and brave battle with metastasized cancer. A resident of Abingdon, she was 75 years old. Sandy was a leader in her neighborhood, a want-to-be travel guide, and a provider of sunshine via her smile and antics to those around her. She encouraged all to enjoy each day and to find humor in daily experiences. Her collection of headwear from her extensive travels added interesting visual emphasis to any occasion or story she would share. She also had

a penchant for acquiring flamingos - all shapes and sizes. Most gifts she presented were adorned with her personal poem, often starting with “Roses are Red.”

Sandy was born June 3, 1945 in Radford, Virginia. After high school graduation, she attended Longwood College in VA where she majored in Physical Education. Her love of teaching provided the platform for the beginning of her career in Harford County. Her first job encompassed a dual role of teaching and coaching at two different high schools in Aberdeen and Havre de Grace, MD. She continued to teach, and later chair the departments at Bel Air Middle School, and Southampton Middle School. Teaching younger students to enjoy and appreciate aquatic, sport, and fitness activities was her forte. She furthered her education at Johns Hopkins University obtaining both a Master of Education and a Master of Science degree, after which she became Harford County Supervisor of Elementary and Middle

School Physical Education. In this role she provided experienced guidance to many teachers throughout the county. Providing innovative professional growth opportunities to all staff members was a major goal achieved during her thirty year career.

In addition to being a member of Tau Chapter of DKG, Sandy was an active member in professional organizations including NAGWS, AAHPERD and MAHPERD, where she served as President. Sandy was previously a long-time member of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air. More recently, she joined the Bel Air United Methodist Church where she volunteered in blood drives and a senior food distribution program. She attended numerous study groups and a weekly Bible study class. According to her devoted friend, Betty Reid, her life could be summed up in three words “We had fun.”

- **Brenda Patterson**, Tau Chapter



DKG Maryland State News

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DATES TO REMEMBER

DKG Maryland State Convention
April 17, 2021

DKG International Conferences
Portland, Oregon **July 7-10, 2021**
San Antonio, Texas **July 22 - 24, 2021**
Finland **2023**

DKG: Opportunities, Contributions, Impact

The theme of this year's Conference in San Antonio, July 22-24, encourages us to take advantage of the many opportunities to make contributions and have a positive impact on our society. Join us for this Conference in a perfect place for a reunion with our DKG sisters - after some very challenging times. This beautiful city is a destination for so many with its famous **Riverwalk** and charming sites. We're always told that everything is bigger in Texas, and this conference is no exception! You can register right now by going to www.dkg.org and clicking on Events and then on San Antonio. Don't forget to make your room reservations at the beautiful San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter. That link is also on the Delta Kappa Gamma website. Keynote speakers will include: **Becky Sadowski, Diane Phillips, Eva-Marie Kangro, and Wendy Gates Corbett.**

A preconference workshop sponsored by the Educational Foundation will be held on Thursday, July 22. You will "**Experience Historical San Antonio.**" The kick-off welcome reception will be held that same evening with yummy desserts and a chance to reunite with our sisters. Friday and Saturday will provide full days of sessions, keynotes, and more. And don't miss out on these additional opportunities:

1. Be a vendor in the Marketplace.
2. Be a sponsor.
3. Be a volunteer. Contact **Kay Stuart** at: dkg.stuart@gmail.com
4. Be in the chorus on Saturday night. Sign up online at www.dkg.org

For more information, contact: **Dr. Debbie LeBlanc** at dleblancedd@gmail.com or **Candi Martin** at going2bigflat@yahoo.com

Here's to Mental Health for All

LaTanya Eggleston, Rho Chapter, DKG MD State Webmaster

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a number of tough challenges to us all: social isolation, financial distress, and fears about health and an uncertain future have fueled depression, anxiety, trauma and substance use issues here in our state. At National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Maryland, we have been called upon now more than ever to provide support, education, and advocacy for the hundreds of thousands of individuals and families affected by mental health conditions.

The **Arts** have a unique power to speak to the human condition. Through our work, we have found that art is an excellent catalyst to spark important conversations about the causes and stigmatizing myths surrounding mental

health conditions. Thousands of creators throughout history have also used their art as a fun, creative catalyst to share their personal experiences. That's why **NAMI Walks Your Way Maryland: Creativity Connects** campaign was launched in February. The goal is to explore the intersectionality between art and mental health. This campaign will culminate in a virtual art showcase on May 22, 2021. This may also be an opportunity to sell your work.

Whether you are an artist or not, if you are interested in being a part of this movement, please contact DKG member, **LaTanya Eggleston** at <https://www.namiwalks.org/team/40969> or the NAMI Maryland Office at 410-884-8691.