

The Alpha Xi Messenger

April 2023



The President's Message

Hi DKG Ladies!

At our last meeting, held at The Clubhouse in Gibsonia, we began our evening with a delicious buffet dinner, followed by a wonderful program given by our presenter, Carleton Young. He shared a fascinating story about the mystery of an old trunk filled with Civil War letters that he found in his parents' attic and his search for answers to their meaning!

At the beginning of our business meeting, in place of our usual inspiration, we held a very moving Celebration of Life ceremony for our member, Peg Maser. It was a fitting tribute to a lovely lady who was very involved with our chapter. She will be missed!

We look forward to our April 29th meeting, to be held at Diamond Run Golf Club. Lottery scratch-off tickets for the raffle basket for the state convention will be welcome. The Sew Powerful Project has come to an end, and we'll be looking for a new project for next year. In addition, Dress for Success will begin again in the fall.

Finally, the Program Committee could use your help this summer. Would you like to investigate venues and search for interesting speakers and programs? If you're interested in serving on the Committee and sharing your suggestions, contact Phyllis.

Enjoy your summer, and stay safe!

Paulette



The April Meeting

Date	Location	Program	Meal
Saturday, April 29, 2023	Diamond Run Golf Club – Ohio Township	Navigating the DKG Web – Melody Hannegan	Sit-down Luncheon
Brought to you by the North Hills School District Teachers			



"She
taught
me, and
I learned
well!"
In
memory
of Peg!



The Program Committee

Phyllis Jenny

Our next meeting on Saturday, April 29th, is at Diamond Run. Since our program presenter, Melissa, is unable to attend, she will be sending a short video of her Mediterranean cruise to everyone to watch at home.

Following the business meeting at 11:00, we will enjoy a delicious meal consisting of your entree choice, salad, baked potatoes, vegetables, rolls and butter, and apple pie.

After the meal, thanks to Melody and Paulette, everyone will actively participate in the program. First, Melody will be giving a tutorial on accessing the DKG websites and other technology information that many of us need. Please bring your laptop, iPad, tablet, or cellphone for this activity. Following our lesson on technology, Paulette has a DKG bingo game for all to enjoy.

The program committee will be meeting in early June to plan for next year's meetings. If you served on the committee this past year and would like to continue, please contact me. If anyone is interested in joining this group, or has some suggestions for venues or ideas for programs, please email, text, or call me.

I am not able to be at the April meeting, but I'm hoping to receive many new and exciting ideas for next year's programs.

Have a wonderful and restful summer. I look forward to seeing everyone in September.



Phyllis wearing the St. Patrick's scarf which Jade gave her as her secret sister!

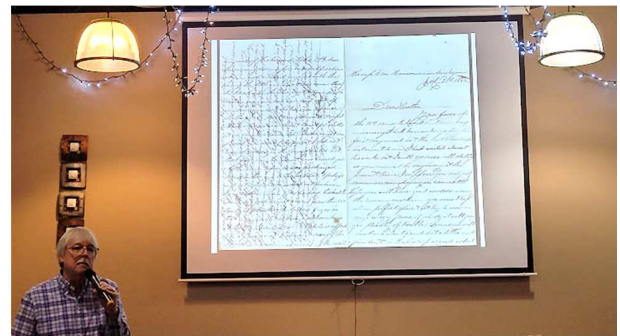


DUES REMINDER

Barb MacDonald

Dues will remain the same for 2023-24, they will be \$85 for active members and \$35 for reserve members. They are due to me by June 1st. Checks should be made out to Delta Kappa Gamma. If you have any questions, please email or call me. You can bring your dues checks to the April 29th meeting or mail them to me.

Barb's contact information will be sent via the newsletter email and can also be found in the Alpha Xi directory!



Carleton Young explained how difficult it was to decipher letters written in Civil War times as the authors wrote on top of previous writing when they ran out of space!



SEW POWERFUL PURSES PROJECT

Terry Klein and Jeanne Keys

We were so happy to visit the Olive Branch store this week to deliver the donations from our DKG members. Vivian and her volunteers were so appreciative of our \$150 in JoAnn gift cards and \$220 in cash donations. They assured us that our gifts will make a huge impact on the lives of the school girls in Zambia.

Thank you to all who made donations, dropped off materials, or shopped at the fair trade store. Special kudos to Darlene Farrell who sewed beautiful items from home for the project. Her work was much admired by the volunteers!

Although our official project is over, there are still opportunities to help. Materials are always welcome at the workshop, as are volunteers. And the fair trade shop is treasure trove of lovely and unique items for gifts or treats for ourselves.

Once again, our members have helped to empower young women with our generosity. As always, we can be so proud of the work we do.

Pictured: purse sewers at work (top); a sampling of Darlene's work (middle); the fair trade store (bottom)

MEMBERSHIP

Jeanne Vendeland

Alpha Xi is delighted to welcome our newest member, Dina Donini. Dina is an educator from Shaler Area High School, where she teaches Civics and Government to 11th graders and Trial Law to grades 9-12. She was a recipient of this year's Teacher Enrichment Grant with her proposal to institute Heritage Months in her classroom. Her goal is for her students to gain a better understanding of how different cultures contribute to society.

Dina has been teaching for 21 years, all of them at Shaler. She lives in Jeannette PA with her husband Sam and son Antonio. When not in school, Dina enjoys doing Crossfit and anything outdoors.

We'll be having a welcoming ceremony for Dina at a meeting next year. If you see her at our last two meetings for this year, so be sure to say hello and get to know her. She has some great ideas and will be sure to be a valuable addition to our chapter.



Member News

This week we lost long-time member, **Dorothy (Dottie) Winner**. Dottie joined our chapter in 1967 and was a faithful member under she was no longer able to attend meetings. We extend condolences to **Jan Graner**, her daughter.

In the picture, Dottie and Jan are standing in the last row to the left of Ellen (middle row) and Phyllis (front row), at the Greenstone Church in the early 2000's.



Dede Rittman presented at the Theta Chapter of DKG on Saturday, March 25, at DeNunzio's Restaurant. The ladies were delightful! She will also be presenting to the DKG chapters near Somerset on May 6.

Marg Foster has a new great granddaughter- Eva Marie Foster was born on 3/3/23. This makes her fourth great grandchild! How exciting! Also, her youngest grandson, Evan Foster, was just promoted to Private First Class on the Clarksburg, WV Police Force. He just completed his first five years. He is also on the SWAT ten, a field training officer, and a defensive tactics instructor.

Marg is heading home from Florida on Friday (3/31), after spending three months in Florida.

Press release from the Shaler Area School District

Shaler Area High School biology teacher **Jade Leung** has been selected to be part of the Carnegie Science Center's Teacher Advisory Council. Leung is one of twelve elementary, middle, and high school teachers in the region invited to collaborate on lesson plans for the Carnegie Science Center and provide insight into educational programs and exhibits.

Leung shares, "It is an excellent opportunity to work with other like-minded teachers across Allegheny County and to include Shaler Area into this unique experience about science in Pittsburgh." In the fall, Leung's class will have the opportunity to take a field trip to the Carnegie Science Center. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!



Dear DKG members,

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding as I campaign my way throughout Pennsylvania for my second term as NEA director! The spring has been quite busy, with national presentations in Seattle and San Francisco. The month of April is completely devoted to my campaign, traveling to different regional meetings. In early May I will be lobbying in DC, and May 20 will be my election day for the state in Philadelphia! (Yes, I am still teaching full time, too!) I was also elected to represent NEA internationally as a delegate to "Education International", a conference which is virtual this year. As a delegate I will be involved in advocating for policy change for educators globally.

As you probably know, I can only hold this office for one more term, but will be a DKG sister for much longer - your support has meant the world to me! I hope you enjoy my video which includes our itinerary, photos, and some small stories. Once again, I would like to thank the DKG Travel Grant committee for the \$500 grant. I look forward to seeing you all in the fall!

Melissa



Special Request PA Convention Raffle Basket

During our last DKG meeting we thought of an idea for the type of raffle basket that our chapter can make for the state convention in June. We're asking that each member donate a couple of scratch-off lottery tickets, and either bring them to the April 29th meeting, send them to the meeting with a friend if you can't join us, or send the money to Paulette by May 15th so that she can buy the tickets for you.

Hopefully, we'll have a winner who will win big!

THANKS for your help!

Dates to Remember

- ❖ April 18th – RSVP deadline for the April 29th meeting
- ❖ June 20-21 – Purposeful Seminar in Lancaster
- ❖ June 22-23 – PA DKG Convention in Lancaster
- ❖ June 30th – deadline for dues for the 2023-24 year

More Member News

As of the printing of this newsletter, **Paulette** is still patiently awaiting her new knee! Hang in there! In a couple of weeks, **Shari** and Paul **McGill** will be celebrating their 40th anniversary by sailing across the Atlantic with their family – destinations: Spain, France and Italy. Congratulations! **Phyllis Jenny's** grandson, Nathan Kelly, is graduating, Summa Cum Laude, from Point Park University on April 29th. **Barbara Israel** has moved from Canterbury Place. Once we have her new address, we'll pass it on to you. **Melody Hannegan** is celebrating a milestone birthday this month with her daughters, sister, and 2 grandchildren on a long NYC weekend!