

The Alpha Xi Messenger

August 2018



The President's Message



Greetings, Alpha Xi sisters!

I am excited to begin my second biennium and have chosen "Embrace the Challenge!" as our theme.

What does "challenge" mean to you? Is it a double dog dare? An obstacle? An opportunity for change or growth? In this year of personal/professional change for me, I hope I can rise to the challenge and embrace a new

curriculum, new students, new faculty. I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and try something new. Whether it be making a terrarium at our September meeting, pondering the wonder of the challenges faced by the Apollo 11 astronauts and NASA team as we tour the new exhibit at Heinz History Center in October, or joining the Membership Committee to help bring the gift of DKG to new members in the spring. Our chapter is embarking on some new endeavors with fundraising and establishing a Teacher Classroom Grant, providing another opportunity to get involved in the purpose of DKG.

EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE: The 2018-2019 Alpha Xi Program

DATE	PROGRAM	VENUE
Thursday, September 13, 2018	Design a Mini-terrarium of our own	The Shaler-North Hills Library Mt. Royal Blvd. - Glenshaw
Wednesday, October 17, 2018	Explore the Exhibit: "Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission"	The Heinz History Center Smallman St. – The Strip District
Saturday, November 17, 2018	Mingle with other Local Chapters and Meet State President Barb Gasperini	Denunzio's Restaurant Mossdale Blvd. – Monroeville
Monday, February 4, 2019	Observe Our City, Pittsburgh through the eyes of Bob Cahalan, retired NA Social Studies Teacher	Walnut Grill Perry Highway – Wexford
Thursday, March 21, 2019	Create a Glass Picture Frame, led by your own, Deb McMullen	Pittsburgh Glass Center Penn Ave. – Garfield
Saturday, April 27, 2019	Celebrate New Members as we Welcome Them into our Fold	Diamond Run Golf Club Laurel Oak Dr. – Sewickley

Perhaps this is the year for you to become involved at the State Level. This June, our chapter was represented by several outstanding women at the State Convention in State College. Friday night was the Album of Distinction recognition ceremony, and Paulette Hemmings and Dede Rittman both received recognition for their contributions to education by meeting the purposes of DKG in other arenas. Paulette received her Sapphire Volunteer Award from the Heinz History Center for her extensive hours of service and dedication to their education program. Dede was inducted into the North Allegheny Hall of Fame for her 33 years as golf coach. Congratulations, ladies, on your well-deserved honors.

Saturday, Dede worked her focus table, selling books on mentoring student teachers and *Grady Gets Glasses*, complete with stuffed Grady. In the afternoon, she presented “Mentoring Student Teachers and New Teachers.”

On Sunday, I was honored to receive an Enrichment Grant toward tuition to attend two summer courses at the Genealogical Institute of Pittsburgh at LaRoche College. In July, I learned that Irish Genealogy isn't for the faint of heart, but it is well worth the effort. In June, I discovered that the 1st cousin once removed - 2nd cousin in my DNA match at 248 cM (centimorgans not centimeters) and 12 segments is really a close match. I'm thinking 1st cousin, but only time and genealogy research will tell.



November will offer more opportunities, one to network with 4 other DKG chapters in the Pittsburgh area and two, to meet State President Barbara Gasperini at the Multi-chapter meeting on Nov. 17 at DeNunzio's Restaurant in Monroeville. Please mark your calendars to attend.

To those who are returning to school soon or perhaps already, may you have a wonderful start to the new year, may all your classes be the best, and may your administrators realize what a gem they have in you.

To you retirees, rejoice that you can sleep in, don't have to eat lunch in half an hour, can plan your own schedules with no bells involved, and can use the bathroom at your leisure.

Faith Jack
President, Alpha Xi

Dues

Please remember that your DKG dues will be due by October 17th. If the increase is approved on 9/13, the amount will be \$85. Donations are also welcome at this time. You can give a check, made out to “Delta Kappa Gamma”, to Marg Foster at the September or October meeting or mail it to her at 200 Goldsmith Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.



Directory and Yearbook

Please remember to notify Barbara MacDonald if you have any changes to your directory entry. She is compiling all information now. Her email address is bmacd@zoominternet.net and her phone number is 724-776-2029.

New This Year:

The RSVP form for the subsequent meeting will be available at each current meeting, beginning with September/October. The space at the Heinz exhibit is limited to 30, so this will be a great opportunity to sign on early.

Meeting Minutes
Initiation and Installation
Diamond Run Golf Club
May 5, 2018 11A.M.

President Faith Jack called the meeting to order at 11 A.M. and explained the agenda for the morning. Past President Melody began the Initiation Ceremony. Second Vice President Sandy Werderitch introduced the two candidates for Initiation, Pat Bauer and Claudia McClelland. Sandy Werderitch, Faith Jack, Peg Maser, and Melody Hannegan conducted the ceremony. Ellen Rodwick, Deb McMullen, Terry Klein, Phyllis Jenny, Susan Phillips, Debbie Steinmetz, and Nancy Weixel each read one of the Society's seven purposes. Sponsors Melody Hannegan and Dede Rittman presented the initiates with their pins.

The Installation of Officers was also conducted by Melody Hannegan. Melody installed Faith Jack as President: Paulette Hemmings installed Terry Klein and Debbie Steinmetz as Co-First Vice Presidents, Faith installed Sandy Werderitch as Second Vice President, Peg Maser installed Darlene Farrell as Corresponding Secretary, Faith Jack appointed Marg Foster as Treasurer, and Melody installed Terry Klein as Parliamentarian. Recording Secretary Shari McGill had a prior commitment and was re-installed in absentia.

The business meeting began at 11:35. Dede Rittman gave the Inspiration based on the words of William Arthur Ward on the themes of Inspiration and Gratitude.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Peg Maser reported that she had sent a thank you to Pat Bauer for conducting the Drum circle at the April meeting. Marg Foster reported a balance on hand of \$4559.14.

Outgoing Program Chair/First Vice President Paulette Hemmings reported an important **SAVE THE DATE** for the Apollo 11 exhibit at the Heinz History Center:
October 17.

Sandy Werderitch reported that we are losing member Norma Miller, who is moving to Memphis, Tennessee, to be closer to her daughter, granddaughter and family. We wished her well and told her to hunt for a DKG chapter in her new location.

Peg Maser will collect the remainder of the Jared Boxes for delivery in June. Jade Leung collected Dress for Success clothes to give to Shari McGill for delivery.

Faith shared a list of committees, chairwomen, etc. that will need to be filled for her next biennium.
(continued page 4)



*Welcome to new members,
Claudia McClelland and
Patricia (Pat) Bauer!*



Our incoming and outgoing officers!

TEACHER ENRICHMENT GRANTS

As you read our summer newsletter, you probably noticed that our chapter is making some changes. Our grant-in-aid scholarship has become a teacher enrichment grant, and during the year we will be involved in fundraising efforts. In addition, to give everyone a chance to become more engaged in meetings and activities, the members of each of the school districts that are represented in our chapter will be in charge of the duties for a particular meeting: being greeters, sharing an inspiration with us, and organizing the fundraising effort for that meeting. Your group may want to raise money through a method that we've used in the past, or you may want to try something unique! Members who aren't able to attend our meetings regularly can also participate by making a monetary donation to help our efforts.

The September and November meetings have been taken care of, so at the first chapter meeting on September 13th, your group can sign up for one of the four remaining meetings (in October, February, March, and April). "Put on your thinking caps," talk to your group, get creative, and let's have fun with our fundraising!

The Teacher Enrichment Grant Committee

(The Minutes continued from page 3) The Multi-chapter meeting is November 17 in Monroeville. Faith would like to have an Executive Board meeting in May or early June. If committees would like to present anything for Board consideration, let Faith know.

Faith announced the State Convention June 15-17 in State College; both Paulette Hemmings and Dede Rittman will receive the Album of Distinction, and Faith will get an Enrichment Grant for genealogy classes she will take this summer. The International Conference is in Austin, TX, July 16-20; The Purposeful Seminar is in King of Prussia/Philadelphia October 5-7.

Our Grant-in-Aid recipient, Karen Raines, and her mother Amy were introduced.

Faith then showed an orientation video of the Society's purposes.

Secret sisters were revealed, offering several surprises.

Joys and concerns: Diane Goff had a left knee replaced, next is a right knee, then a hip. Jade Leung will take part in Duquesne University's graduation ceremony as a representative of the Bayer School. Karen Klingman has a new granddaughter, Bernadette. Faith Jack announced a move from the high school library to the elementary library at Shaler Area. Ellen Rodwick gave a shout-out to the women educators in Kentucky, West Virginia, and other states who rallied for pay raises and more school funding in their state capitals.

After a buffet lunch, Terry Klein presented the Grant-in-Aid \$1000 check to Karen Raines.

Ellen Rodwick won the gardening raffle basket. Darlene Farrell won a second raffle of a candy-filled DKG jar offered by Ellen Rodwick.

The meeting ended with the singing of the DKG song at 1:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ulrich for Shari McGill



Shaler Graduate and Westminister College Student, Karen Raines is the Grant-in-Aid recipient. Jade is her nominator and Terry is the Scholarship Committee Chair.