

# The Alpha Xi Messenger



August 2015

## The President's Message



Another school/DKG year is about to begin, but before it does, I need to say a few words about the last year. I am so very grateful for all the efforts you put into it. In fear of overlooking anyone, I am not going to list names – you all know who you are. Again, we had outstanding programs, a great response to our projects, honors bestowed, good leadership, and great fellowship. Thank you so much!

We ended the year on a high note, taking in new members Shari McGill, Jill Millard, and Nancy Weixel in a wonderfully blended ceremony of old and new in a gorgeous one room school house. Then at the PADKG Convention, Darlene Farrell and Dede Rittman were included in the Distinguished Women Album, Barb Rankin was acknowledged for her 50 years as a member, the chapter's contributions to Schools for Africa and the PA Head Start Association were published, Areta was remembered in a moving Sunday ceremony, and Alpha Xi received certificates for our newsletter and website.



Now, we are embarking on a new journey. As our PA president Tracey Dusch illustrates in her message on the state website, we are all standing on a platform and DKG offers the trains. You have your "TICKET" for the local express in the wonderful program that the Educational Excellence Committee has planned. However, there are more trains: the membership train transports you to meetings and conferences and has many extra seats for even more key women educators. Please see Faith's article, entitled "Plus One Event"! The leadership train offers you the opportunity to serve the Alpha Xi Community. Already, Sandy Werderitch and Shari McGill have taken their seats in the Projects car and will be asking you to join them. Seats in the Historical Records and Visual and Performing Arts cars are still vacant. In September 2016, the Pittsburgh Chapters will be showing off our beautiful city on the Purposeful Seminar Train – will you be able to help? Finally, the search is now beginning for the engineer, conductors, and management of the railroad for the next biennium.

There are seats for all! All aboard! We are in for another great ride!

Happy motoring!

Melody

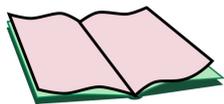
viatoretis@comcast.net

## THE 2015-2016 CALENDAR The DKG Journey - For the Alpha Xi Commuter Train, here's your

- T - Travel Back in Time!**  
Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>  
Author Katherine Ayres  
Bravo's in Cranberry
- I - Investigate the WWII and  
Pittsburgh Connection!**  
Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
We Can Do It! WWII  
Heinz History Center
- C - Create Delicious Recipes!**  
Thursday, December 3<sup>th</sup>  
Cooking Demo with Sampling  
McGinnis Sisters - Cranberry
- K - Kindle an Understanding  
of your Roots**  
Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Faith's Journey Back in Time  
Shaler-North Hills Library
- E - Express your Artsy Self!**  
Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
Painting Pottery  
Katie's Clay Studio – Rt. 8
- T - Treasure our Alpha Xi  
Community**  
Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Initiation and Installation  
Wildwood Country Club

Check out your website: <http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>  
Would you consider becoming web mistress or newsletter editor next year?

**Katherine Ayres,  
Speaker for September DKG Meeting**



Katherine Ayres is a local, award-winning author, who writes for young people of all ages and specializes in historical fiction. Some of her more popular novels include:

- *North by Night: A Story of the Underground Railroad* (which takes place in Ohio)
- *Macaroni Boy* (which takes place in the Strip District of Pittsburgh during the Great Depression)
- *Voices at Whisper Bend* (which takes place near Braddock during WWII. To research the book, Katherine spent a day on a tugboat on the Monongahela River.)

Katherine is also a former teacher and elementary school principal, and she currently teaches at Chatham University where she coordinates the Masters of Arts program in Children's Writing.

We hope that you can join us on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> to kick off our new year of programs and hear Katherine discuss where she gets ideas for her historical fiction novels. There will also be a Q & A session, and Katherine will bring along some of her book to purchase.



**In Our Community and Beyond:**

**Deb Stackrow** is now certified in harp therapy. **Ellen Rodwick** will do clown therapy with special needs children at the Curacao Sea Aquarium. **Dede Rittman** is producing and co-hosting a radio show on Total Tutor Education Network. [www.totaltutor.net/totaleducationnetwork](http://www.totaltutor.net/totaleducationnetwork) **JoHannah Brawdy** gave birth to a baby girl. **Paulette Hemmings** received a new knee in July and is busy getting it up to speed. **Melody Hannegan** officiated at her daughter Julia's June wedding. She is yet again returning to the classroom – this time at NA in her old job.

Please remember that your DKG dues of \$82.00 are due by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Your check, made out to "Delta Kappa Gamma", can be sent to Marg Foster at 200 Goldsmith Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or brought to the September meeting.



**SAVE THE DATE:**

Alpha Xi is one of eleven chapters whose birthdays will be celebrated at the Pennsylvania DKG Convention, June 10-12, 2016. In 2016, we turn 60 years old! Let's all show up with our hats, noisemakers, and balloons!

## Plus One Event

Look for more pictures and information on the website!  
Remember – our yearbook will be in digital format. Any member without internet access will receive a copy by mail.  
We give our Grant-in-aid: nominate a college junior or senior with aspirations to teach.

2015 is the 35th anniversary of the Women’s History Movement and the National Women’s History Project. As members of DKG, you are a part of women’s history—past and present. Please consider promoting DKG with your colleagues old and new.

Our program chair and committee have worked hard to provide us with illuminating and exciting programs for the year. The first meeting on Monday, September 14 will be a great opportunity to bring a guest or two. The speaker, Katherine Ayres, is an award-winning author and Pittsburgh resident. Her companion novels *North by Night and Stealing South* bring the underground railroad to young readers. *Voices at Whisper Bend* and *Macaroni Boy* are set in Pittsburgh, the former during WWII and the latter in the depression-era Strip District.

Attached to the newsletter email, you will find an invitation to email to a colleague. Please consider sharing this special evening with a colleague who would be a good candidate for membership. For your efforts, you will receive 3 raffle tickets for the door prize/basket. Don’t forget to RSVP for you and your “plus one.” For your convenience, the Recommendation for Membership Form has also been attached to this email. I would like to get a head start on the membership drive, so please fill out a form and bring it with you to the September meeting. If you aren’t attending the meeting but have someone in mind, you can email me the completed form.

I can’t wait to see you and your guests on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

Faith Jack

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Membership Chair



Roy Wagner in the Sample School and Melody in front; Barb at the Celebration Luncheon: our tool box for the convention raffle – quite a heavy gift!

## Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2015

Sample One-room School House, Cranberry Township

History of the School House & Initiation Ceremony

26 Present

Roy Wagner, President of the Cranberry Township Historical Society, gave us a presentation about the history of Cranberry Township and of the Sample School House, which was relocated to the grounds of the Township Municipal Building. Members wore hats and gloves in the spirit of the era that the schoolhouse was in use.

After his presentation, we held the Initiation Ceremony for new members. Led by Barbara MacDonald with readings by Darlene Farrell, Melody Hannegan, Sandy Werderich, Faith Jack, Sue Phillips, Jane Sestric, Carol Schuler, and Melissa Consentino, we welcomed Shari McGill, Jill Millard, and Nancy Weixel into membership.

We then moved to a room in the Community Library for a reception/business meeting. We also had a cake to honor the 50-year membership of Barbara Rankin. (And we discovered that Nancy Penney has been a member for 52 years!) After cake and beverages were served, we had a business meeting that began at 7:20. Nancy Penney read the inspiration, which was titled "The Invitation." Corresponding Secretary Peg Maser read a thank you from UNICEF and reported that she had sent a thank you to Alpha Alpha State President Kay Stewart for her inspiration at the bi-chapter meeting in March.

The minutes from the brief business meeting at the bi-chapter meeting were approved as printed in the April newsletter. Treasurer Marg Foster read the Treasurer's report, which shows a balance of \$2546.07.

Membership chair Faith Jack thanked participants in the initiation ceremony and encouraged members to think of prospective new members for the September 14 meeting featuring author Katherine Ayres.

Peg Maser reported that over 35 Jared Boxes had been turned in and will be delivered to Children's Hospital in June.

Under new business, President Melody Hannegan suggested doing the Member Directory as a digital product. Faith Jack made a motion to that effect; Marg Foster seconded. Some discussion followed. The vote was taken. Motion passed. Those members without computer access will receive a printed copy.

Melody asked for members to consider members who no longer are members and would be willing to donate their pins to be sold at ½ price to new members. She also announced that Darlene Farrell and Dede Rittman have been selected for the Album of Distinction, which will be awarded at the State Convention on June 12.

Barb MacDonald distributed roses to the officers. Melody asked Nancy Penney to pull the winning ticket for the Pete the Cat chair. Karen Klingman won.

Ellen Rodwick won the raffle basket.

The meeting ended with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma song.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ulrich, Recording Secretary



**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

BRAVO CUCINA ITALIANA

20001 ROUTE 19

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066

**PROGRAM:**

Following this year's theme of "Getting On The Train" with our **TICKET**, at our first meeting, the "T" represents Traveling back in time with award-winning local author, Katherine Ayres, who will discuss the source of the ideas for her historical fiction novels.

**SCHEDULE:**

Social Time 4:45-5:00

Business Meeting 5:00-5:45

Meal 5:45-6:30

Presentation 6:30-7:15

**MENU:**

**SELECT ONE APPETIZER:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Bravo chopped salad

\_\_\_\_\_ Wedding soup

**SELECT ONE ENTRÉE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Pasta BRAVO!

\_\_\_\_\_ Spaghettini & Meatballs

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Chicken Chopped Salad

**Included with meal: beverage and dessert**

**COST: \$25.00 PER PERSON**

**Reservation and payment due by September 5, 2015**

**Check payable to Delta Kappa Gamma, along with selection to:**

Paulette Hemmings

5052 Windriver Drive

McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Questions? Contact Paulette at 412-331-7894 or [paulette.hemmings@yahoo.com](mailto:paulette.hemmings@yahoo.com)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Menu Selection: \_\_\_\_\_

You are welcome to bring a guest! Her name and menu selection: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate here if you need a ride!

**ANY PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL NEWS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE MEMBERS:**