

The Alpha Xi Messenger

August 2023



The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies!

We had an enthusiastic group at our April 29th meeting at the Diamond Run Golf Club last spring. We concluded plans for the year and started to look ahead to our first meeting of the new academic year in September.

Because of health issues, I was not able to attend the state convention in Lancaster in June, but our member, Jade, attended and presented there. At our first meeting this year we'll be able to hear about her experiences!

We are always grateful for our members who volunteer their ideas, skills, and time, and we are planning to organize two new local projects this year, following the theme of our new state president, Royce Boyd: "Helping People in the Local Community." Look for the details in this newsletter from Darlene & Jade and from Phyllis.

We plan to continue our Teacher Enrichment Grants this year, getting the information out to the community in late August. We are also planning a variety of interesting programs, some given by professional speakers, and some presented by our talented, generous, and hard-working members. We are excitedly anticipating another productive and rewarding year!

It's also not too early to think about serving our chapter in a leadership role since we'll be holding our election of officers in the spring. We need your involvement to keep our chapter running and strong; we can't do it without you!

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings!
Paulette



In good times,
and during challenging ones,
she stood tall
When she soared,
and succeeded greatly,
she stood tall
When she fell,
and needed help,
she stood tall
In her pride,
and through her fears,
she stood tall
Mistake, after mistake,
and in her vulnerability,
she stood tall
Whether in the spotlight,
or with not a soul around,
she stood tall
Even when others
tried to tear her down,
she stood tall
♥
she stood tall because
she was grounded in love,
and in the belief of her worthiness.
she stood tall because
she decided to simply be herself.

In Memoriam

Dede Rittman – August 2nd
North Allegheny

Memorial Service will be held at Northway Christian
Community on September 27th at 1 p.m.

Aleida Jackson – August 14th
Shaler, Reserve Member

Viewing and Funeral Service were held on August 18th
at the Eloise B. Kyper Funeral Home in Glenshaw

A Celebration of Life Ceremony for Dot Winner,
Dede and Aleida will be held at a meeting this year!

The 2023-2024 Program Calendar

Date	Location	Program	Meal
Thursday, September 14, 2023	Luciano's Restaurant in Seven Fields	Speaker – Lisa Purk	Italian dinner
Thursday, November 9, 2023	Shaler North Hills Library, Mt. Royal Boulevard	Speaker – Darlene Farrell	Boxed dinner
Tuesday, January 23, 2024	Dee Jays BBQ – Rt. 910 and Brandt School Road	Speaker – Bob Stakeley from the Heinz History Center	BBQ dinner
Wednesday, March 13, 2024	The Clubhouse, Rt. 8 in Gibsonia	Speaker – Carleton Young	Buffet dinner
Either April 27 or May 4, 2024 (Saturday)	TBD – possibly The Springfield Grill in Seven Fields – reservation can't be made until November	Musical Performance – Josh Morton, Duquesne University, violin	Luncheon

The Program Committee

Phyllis Jenny, 1st Vice President and Committee Chair

The Program Committee has successfully planned and scheduled 4 of the 5 meetings for the 2023-2024 DKG year. The first meeting is on Thursday, September 14 at Luciano's. Our speaker, Lisa Purk, will help us learn how to handle stress while being a leader. Definitely something everyone needs to do! Please remember to send in your entree selection and check before the deadline.

Mark your calendar for the meetings listed above so you can plan your other activities around the DKG schedule.

Thanks to the Program Committee members - Paulette, Barb MacDonald, Darlene Farrell, Sallie Fisher, and Karen Ulrich - for serving on this committee. . A special thanks to Paulette for arranging our program speakers for the January and March meetings, to Barb for making the arrangements with Lisa for the September meeting as well as contacting several venues for the April/May meeting, and to Darlene for volunteering to present the program in November. I couldn't have done this without such a great group of women.

Looking forward to having a good turnout to start the year in September. Enjoy these last few weeks of summer.



Member News – Barb MacDonald

In addition to getting our DKG Yearbook and Directory in order for 2023-24, Barb has been planning a PA FABulous Fall Festival for September, 2024, for square dancing.



Membership/Teacher Enrichment Grants

Jeanne Vendeland – 2nd Vice President and Committee Chair

The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting cooler. I guess that means it's time for another school year and another Alpha Xi season. As we prepare to get together for our first meeting in September, we need to start thinking about how to keep our chapter dynamic and flourishing. If you know a woman educator who would be a good fit for our group, reach out to her. Remember that she doesn't have to be a classroom teacher. Others who may be eligible are school nurses, principals, counselors, Sunday school teachers, or Girl Scout leaders. DKG even suggests that firefighters who teach safety programs to children or doctors who teach students could be eligible for membership.

We will once again be offering our Teacher Enrichment Grants to area teachers. Shortly after school starts, we will be spreading the word to local school districts about applying for the grants. If you know of any teachers who might be interested in receiving funding for a special project for their school, be sure to let them know of this opportunity. Applications will be due by the third week of October so that our membership can vote on potential recipients at the November meeting. The winners will be invited to accept their awards at the January meeting.

THE STATE CONVENTION RAFFLE

Our chapter's donation for the state raffle looked beautiful and took a great deal of work! Thanks to our members who donated over 60 scratch-off lottery tickets, and a special thanks goes to Darlene and Jade who designed and built the four frames that held the tickets. Plus, Jade delivered the project to the convention. It was a wonderful group effort!



Member News – Dina Donini

During this wonderful summer, my family and I embarked on a series of memorable adventures that brought us closer together. Our journey took us to the prestigious University of Virginia and the esteemed University of North Carolina, where we immersed ourselves in the rich academic atmospheres of these institutions. As we explored, we found comfort and joy in the welcoming embrace of Graduate Hotels, each one adding a unique touch to our travel experience. Adding a touch of coastal bliss to our summer, we basked in the beauty of Pompano Beach, Florida, letting the warm sun and gentle waves rejuvenate our spirits. The pinnacle of our summer was undoubtedly the breathtaking moment when we gazed upon the 4th of July fireworks cascading over the iconic White House in Washington, D.C. The sky lit up with a mesmerizing display of colors, symbolizing the unity and pride of the nation. These incredible moments of togetherness and exploration have etched an indelible mark on our hearts, creating cherished memories that will forever be a testament to the power of family bonding and the magic of shared adventures.

(Editor's Note: Join us at the September meeting as we hold our Welcome Ceremony for Dina!)

Projects

School Supplies

Phyllis Jenny

In addition to our ongoing collection for Dress For Success, we will be collecting back-to-school supplies for children in our area. As teachers, we are all aware of what students need to start school. Whenever you see a good sale on things such as backpacks, notebooks, glue sticks, markers, pens, pencils, folders, colored pencils, etc., pick up a few things to contribute. I will be collecting the items at each meeting until May. If you don't like shopping, you may want to contribute money or gift cards that can be used to purchase supplies. All items collected will be donated to North Hills Community Outreach and to The Hub in West View for the subsequent school year.

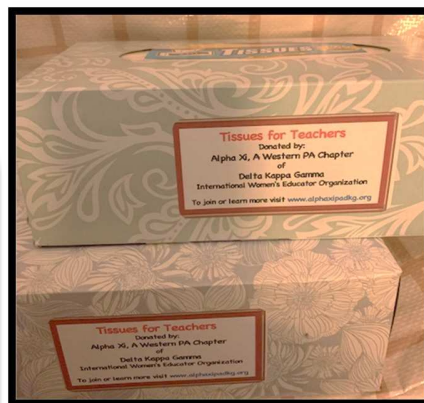
Dress For Success

Shari McGill

We will continue our DFS project for the 2023-24 year. So ladies, gather up your gently used clothing and bring those bags to our first in-person meeting. Show your generosity, and fill my car with your donations. We will be collecting each meeting this year. DFS is very grateful for all of the DKG donations.

Member News – Darlene Farrell

On August 15 I traveled with some friends to the Bethel Park Farmers Market in South Park to taste a Chimney Cake! It was a delicious and exciting experience. The Chimney Cakery bakers were so willing to answer our questions as we watched them being made. I definitely want to try making this very special Hungarian treat in the near future!



Tissues for Teachers

Darlene Farrell and Jade Leung

One of this year's projects will focus on a point of interest of our new President, Royce Boyd. At state convention she spoke about the importance of DKG's involvement in the community. Our new project, Tissues for Teachers helps high school teachers and students who are part of our chapter-Shaler Area, Avonworth, North Hills and North Allegheny. We will be collecting boxes of tissues (any size and /or monetary donations) for the first two meetings of this year (September and November).

Boxes of tissues will receive a label explaining who we are and they will be placed in a decorated container and donated to the high schools for distribution. Tissues are a need in high schools and this will help us to connect to current teachers and students in our local communities. If you have questions please contact Darlene Farrell or Jade Leung. Thank you for your help in our new project.

Member News – Phyllis Jenny

I enjoyed a visit to the Aviary with my granddaughter, Shannon. The last time she and I were there, she was in preschool. This year Shannon began her sophomore year at Kent State.



Member News – Karen Beemiller

In May, I traveled with Bill and **Ellen Rodwick** to Curacao Island. During my visit, I had the wonderful opportunity to swim with the dolphins. What amazing creatures, they are. Also snorkeling with the sea turtles was fun, and taking a small sub ride down 425 feet to see a shipwreck was quite the adventure. It was the highlight of the summer. Two trips to New York to visit my grandchildren rounded out the good times this summer. The twins are 11 years old and they keep me busy with games and activities. I am always sad to leave them.

Member News – Jade Leung

My morsel to share is that my Lego coral reef was on exhibit at the Shaler North Hills library during the month of July. It won as the favorite coral reef during the Steel City LUG adult Lego group of Pittsburgh quarterly meeting in June. I was excited- I joined the group last spring and at each quarterly meeting there is a build challenge. This was my first meeting.



Member News – Melissa Costantino

Melissa had a busy summer with 48 nights away from home. She served as a delegate to the World Congress of Teachers in July. She ended the summer with a visit to the White House Back-to-School Event, sponsored by the First Lady.





Our first meeting on September 14th is sponsored by the Executive Board. In the Spring, Karen Klingman donated this beautiful stained glass piece. It will be our raffle prize. Many thanks to Karen!

COMMUNICATION AWARD

Alpha Xi is very proud of our chapter's communication director, Melody! She was recognized at the state convention for the outstanding work she does on our chapter's website and newsletter. Congratulations, Melody!

Member News – Paulette Hemmings

My traveling this summer has primarily been to doctors' appointments, but the one highlight of the summer was spending time with Oliver, Ellis, and Niko, who are a joy and can lift anyone's spirits!! I am extremely thankful for friends who have showered me with well wishes and encouragement, for the wonderful staff in the ICU dept at Passavant Hospital, and for having one of the most amazing surgeons in Pittsburgh!

Member News – Melody Hannegan

My summer travels were bookends: a Disney Alaskan Cruise at the beginning and a week at the end in Chicago! Sandwiched between the two were cataract surgeries which went well! The silly side of me decided to dress up as Anna on the cruise and as Princess Leia for Star Wars Night at PNC Park!



Wishing all our active teachers a great school year and all our members good health, much joy, and safe endeavors in this coming academic year! See you at the September meeting!