

# The Alpha Xi Messenger

December 2019



## You Have a Voice and a Choice: The 2019-2020 Alpha Xi Remaining Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	VENUE
Thursday, January 16, 2020	Sustainable Engineering (Melissa Costantino)	DiPietro's in West View
Thursday, March 12, 2020	Easy Arts and Crafts (Darlene Farrell)	Shaler North Hills Library Mt. Royal Blvd. in Shaler
Sunday, April 26, 2020	Induction and Installation Ceremonies	Diamond Run Golf Club Ohio Township

## The President's Message



Holiday greetings!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you are enjoying the preparation for the upcoming season.

Thank you to Terry Klein and the program committee for another successful venue in November at Revival in Bellevue. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and tour of the mansion.

Also, a big thanks to Paulette Hemmings and the Teacher Enrichment Grant committee for their work as well as all the Alpha Xi members who donated items and money as we awarded four grants last month! We're off to a great start.

Please note the specific articles detailing our upcoming meeting and projects.

On a personal note, thank you to all for your cards, thoughts and prayers as I faced surgery and recovery from my hysterectomy on November 25. I am still recuperating at home until after winter break. Thankfully, the pathology came back with a manageable prognosis of Stage 1A uterine cancer which was contained to the lining. Treatments are not necessary, but periodic exams are required. I am so thankful a friend prodded me to see a doctor.

May you have a joyous holiday season! See you in 2020!

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Remember: our website can be found at <https://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>  
The state website: <https://dkgpa.weebly.com/>  
The international website: <https://www.dkg.org/>

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE - TERRY KLEIN

Our first meeting of the new year will be held on Thursday, January 16 at DiPietro's Ristorante, located at 412 Perry Hwy in West View. Check out the attached reservation form for the timeline and for your delectable menu choices! Marg Foster must have your check and menu choice by January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Our program that night will be presented by our own Melissa Costantino. Last year, she had an opportunity to attend a workshop at Pitt that focused on the environment and sustainability. She has planned a hands-on activity for us based on her experiences there.

Our members have so many diverse interests and talents! And we have been lucky to share in them this year!

Speaking of which, don't forget to mark your calendar for our March 12 Arts and Crafts Night. Darlene Farrell will lead us through some easy steps to produce "art" of our own. Details to follow in the next newsletter!

## MELISSA

### STEM Education Presentation:

For my presentation in January, **I am assigning homework.** I would like everyone (if possible) that is coming to January's program about STEM education to watch "How the oceans can clean themselves", a Ted Talk by Boyan Slat. It is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROW9F-c0kIQ>.

It is easily googled or available at the TED talk site.

## Dress for Success – Shari McGill

It will be time again to clear out your closet after receiving all those holiday gifts. So, pack up what you're not wearing anymore and send them to the next DKG meeting for Dress for Success. All donations are appreciated!

(see picture on last page!)



Don't forget to wrap your loose change and bring it to any of the remaining meetings! Extra wrappers are still available! Proceeds benefit the Teacher Enrichment Grants.

2019 Teacher Enrichment Grant Recipients **Beth Block** and **Amy Rak** attended our November meeting and spoke briefly about their projects. Both teach in the North Allegheny School District.



### **Busy Box Project – Peg Maser**

I regret to say that, after making every effort to contact the Jared Box State Chairperson and several hospitals in the city, I have decided to donate our efforts to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh once again this year. However, they will NOT be Jared Boxes. Instead, we will be following the hospital's guidelines and creating what they call "Busy Boxes".

We will continue to use the plastic shoe boxes as our containers. There will only be one label on each box which will indicate the gender/age of the recipient. Their suggested items list is similar to what we have always done, but, if you have questions or want to be sure what you are including is acceptable, you can check online at UPMC Children's Hospital - Child Life Department – Busy Box Suggested Items. Or you can call me at 412-486-4639. I will also bring a few copies of their list to the meeting.

I would like to thank Ellen Rodwick and Deb McMullen for their generous seed money gifts. Boxes will be available at our January meeting at Di Pietro's in West View. Thank you in advance for signing in on my clip board so I will have a record of the gender and age of the child for whom you are making a box. Sign twice for two boxes, please.

I wish each of you a wonderful Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you in 2020 !

### **Here are the donating guidelines:**

- All items must be NEW ( store bought items and in original packaging )
- Do not include any homemade items like hats, blankets or cards
- Do not wrap any items in tissue or wrapping paper
- Do not put labels or tags on anything
- **NO FOOD ITEMS OR PERFUMED LOTIONS**
- Do not decorate the lid of the box as the patients like to do that
- Do not include any item that does not fit in the box

### **Membership News**

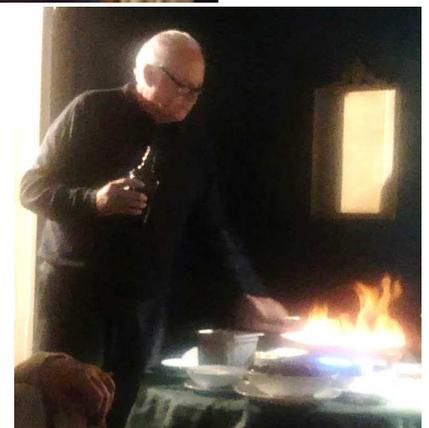
**Karen Klingman** requested children's coloring book donations for children who have been abused. The contact for additional information is Kelly Stebler @ Southwood Psychiatric  
**Shari McGill** is recuperating from a hospital stay.

**Dede Rittman** shared Grady with live bunnies from Animal Friends at the John A Hermann Jr Memorial Art Museum.

The **Avonworth** ladies will be hosting at the January 16th meeting. We will all be greeters, **Jeanne Vendeland** will share the inspiration, and **Melissa Costantino** will give the presentation. The fundraiser for the Teacher Enrichment Grant will be "Something for Everyone, Part 2," similar to what we did last year. We will have a silent auction, bake sale, and book sale. Hopefully, the meeting will be well attended, and we can all add to the funds raised for our grants.



**CINDY WEST – LOCAL HISTORIAN**



**JOHN KING – OWNER OF REVIVAL**



Alpha Xi Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
General Meeting Minutes  
Revival on Lincoln/Bellevue PA  
November 6, 2019

We met in the event room where we had appetizers prepared by John King, owner of Revival. We collectively enjoyed a presentation by Cindy West sharing the building's background. We then had dinner and homemade dessert again prepared by John.

7:05 Faith Jack President called the meeting to order.

The Inspiration, Greetings, and Raffle (a very nice knitted/crocheted throw, provided by North Hills sisters, and won by Nancy Weixel.

Inspiration was read Ellen Rodwick.

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Shari McGill asked for the approval of minutes from October 2019 – so done with no additions or corrections needed.

#### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT**

Darlene Farrell reported that she mailed out hard copies of the news letters to a few members.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Marg Foster also reported our balance on hand is \$6,067.48.

#### **PROGRAM REPORT**

Terry Klein gave information on the January 16, 2020 we will have dinner at D'Pietro's in Westview. Our speaker will be Melissa Costantino-Poruben speaking on sustainability.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Sandy Werderitch reported we are looking new members, so be on the lookout for prospective members.

#### **\*\*COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **TEACHER ENRICHMENT GRANT/WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEES**

Paulette Hemmings introduced two of our recipients of this year's Teacher Enrichment Grants, Beth Block and Amy Rak. Beth Block's mother, Pam, (a retired teacher herself) was the guest. Amy Rak is Nancy Weixel's daughter. The other two recipients were unable to attend but Paulette has extended an invitation to them for a future meeting. Their checks have been mailed to them.

#### **FINANCE REPORT**

Marg also encouraged everyone to submit filled coin wrappers throughout the year.

#### **SOCIAL REPORT**

Phyllis explained that a few Secret Sisters didn't pick up their names; don't miss out on the FUN!

(continued on page 5)

(General Meeting Minutes continued)

### **PROJECTS REPORT**

Peg Maser sent a message to the chapter on the Jared Box project. She contacted AGH and Mercy hospital and we are being placed on their lists. She also stressed that once we make our boxes we should be sure that everything fits inside the boxes.

Shari McGill reported we will be collecting gently used clothes for Dress for Success in January. Bring items to the parking lot before or after the meeting.

Karen Klingman will be collecting coloring books for donations. The contact for more information will appear in the newsletter.

### **STANDING RULES**

Melody Hannegan stated that the Standing Rules have been revised and are on the website. A few additional changes need to be made for the state's requirements and she will do that soon.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Nominations Committee has started to work on a slate of officers for the next Biennium. Some members have already shown an interest, but not all offices are filled. Please contact Melody, if you would like to be a part of the leadership of the chapter.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Faith reported that the International Convention is in Philadelphia in July 11, 2020, volunteers are needed. Faith encouraged members to take advantage of benefits of our state and national organizations. ALSO, THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 12, 2019.

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Melissa Constantino-Poruben will be asking that you read her posting in the newsletter.

Dede will be touring her book reading with real rabbits.

Faith had surgery November 25, 2019. Keep her in your thoughts.

Shari had surgery for an abscess in her colon; keep her in your thoughts.

**Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari McGill, Recording Secretary



Shari makes a special delivery to Dress for Success from Alpha Xi.