

# The Alpha Xi Messenger



January 2015

## What has DKG membership meant to you?

I want you to take a moment and reflect on how you felt when you were asked to join DKG. I remember a feeling of pride and accomplishment that a colleague believed I was a “key woman educator” and that I deserved to be recognized as such. I am sure you had a similar experience.

Have you enjoyed the benefits of membership in Alpha Xi? I love attending our meetings from interactive programs like square dancing instructions, drum circles, Paint Monkey and Pittsburgh Glass Center to educational tours of the Pittsburgh Opera and Heinz History Center, just to name a few.

The best benefit by far has been the friendships I have made. Alpha Xi is a treasure trove of great women who are not only dedicated educators but also fun to be around. We support each other personally and professionally.

No matter the number of months or years you have been a member, **now** is the time to share the opportunity. A copy of the for Membership Recommendation (Form 11) is included with this newsletter, but here is the link on the DK website:

<https://www.dkg.org/content/recommendation-membership-form-11>.

The QR Code bookmarks are also attached so you can print them and give to prospective members.

Please consider sharing the joy of membership with a colleague (past or present) or two.

Email [faithj40@gmail.com](mailto:faithj40@gmail.com) completed forms to me by **January 28** (or snail mail postmarked by **January 26**)

Faith Jack  
DKG Membership  
2762 Drake Ct.  
Gibsonia, PA 15044



## THE 2014-2015 CALENDAR

### ENGAGE

in the community of Alpha Xi!

#### Explore Local History

Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
The Heinz History Center  
Steamboat Arabia

#### Nurture Your Creativity

Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
The Pittsburgh Glass Center  
Working with Glass

#### Gather Consumer Advice

Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Luciano's Restaurant in Mars  
ID Theft & Security

#### Affirm life: Organ Donation

Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
What is CORE?

#### Grow DKG Sisterhood

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>  
McCormick & Schmick's,  
South Side Works  
with Theta Chapter  
State President, Kay Stuart

#### Educate: Past, Present, & Future

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sample Schoolhouse /  
Cranberry Library  
Tour & Initiation of New  
Members

Check out your website: <http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>

## GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND DEADLINES

DKG offers our members many wonderful opportunities for enrichment grants and academic scholarships on both the state and national level. Alpha Xi members have taken advantage of these enrichment grants to travel to Hawaii, Portugal, and the American West. If you are still taking classes, there are funds available to help with those expenses.

You will find the links to these scholarship and grant opportunities at the end of this message.

At first glance, the forms may seem long and involved. They really are not. If you download them in word format, you can type your answers right on the forms. There are questions about your involvement with DKG on the state or national level. Do not let those questions stop you from applying. Many of the recent winners were active on the local level only.

Click below for information and application forms for the state. Applications and credentials must reach the Chairman of the State Committee on Scholarships no later than February 1 of the year the enrichment grant is desired.

**\*Scholarship and Enrichment Grant Information** - this downloadable document outlines all of the opportunities available, the criteria used to award the funds, the deadlines, etc. Read it first and read it carefully.

[Downloadable forms for Enrichment Grant](#) (WORD)

[Downloadable Forms for Enrichment Grant](#) (PDF)

[Downloadable Forms for Scholarships](#) (WORD)

[Downloadable Forms for Scholarships](#) (PDF)

Scholarships are also available from the **International DKG** to be used for graduate study. The deadline for application is also February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Here is a link to that application process.

<https://www.dkg.org/sites/default/files/files-for-download/2015-2016%20Scholarship%20Application.pdf>

Take a few minutes to look over this information. I did two years ago, and it helped me pay for my trip to Portugal!

### JOYS and CONCERNS:

**Diane Goff** and her husband Bill toured the Western part of the country in the fall. They visited 8 states and saw many sights from Crazy Horse and Mt. Rushmore to Salt Lake City and Jackson Hole to Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Grand Canyon National Parks. It was exhausting, but wonderful. Also, Diane's son, Andrew, took a new job in November with the Attorney General's Office of the state of Hawaii.

**Dede Rittman** has received much positive press for her book, Student Teaching: The Inside Scoop From a Master Teacher, with articles in Northern Connections, The North Journal, and TribLive. Three area colleges have will be using it as a resource in their education depts.

**Melody Hannegan** and her husband are touring Cuba this month with Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel). They are thrilled to be going at this exciting time in US-Cuba history.

### Silent Auction Project

Happy New Year – time to get rid of those “gently” used items you no longer, want, use or need. Your “trash” might be another DKG sister's “treasure”. Donate these items to the silent auction at the February meeting. You will be asked to write a brief description of the article as well as the starting bid. Please, no holiday decorations. Remember also to bring extra cash to spend at the silent auction. This is a fun-filled activity and a great way to raise money for “Schools in Africa”.



The 2015 Alpha Alpha State Creative Arts Retreat: March 27-29, Olmsted Manor, Ludlow, PA  
The registration form is in the Winter Keystonean or can be found through this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DC76UGmSowJj7kJYCDIPKM5ZsXS936ReDLbZZBFHsBE/viewform>

Registration deadline: March 6, 2015

**Gathering Consumer Advice:  
Caitlin Driscoll from the Better  
Business Bureau gave us great tips for  
security safety.**



Photographer: Barbara MacDonald



**Jared Box Project:**  
At the February meeting empty boxes for children at Children's Hospital will be available for us to take home and fill. Each will indicate age range and gender with ideas for items.

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**Our State Raffle Basket:**  
Handyman Special  
We are asking each of you to contribute 1 item/set for this tool box by the end of May. The sign-up sheet will be at the February meeting.  
Thank you!

## The President's Message

A Very Happy New Year to You, Alpha Xi Sisters!

It's hard to believe half of our DKG year is already over! At Luciano's in early December we gathered together to *mangia Italiana*, write some seasonal notes to those absent, show off our Alpha Xi website knowledge, and gather consumer advice. Phishing, Smishing, Vishing – who would have thought there are so many ways our security can be compromised! I hope our new knowledge keeps us safe. Yet since then, someone in France tried to use my husband's credit card and my future son-in-law (a computer security specialist for PNC) has dealt with the hacking of his Amazon account – twice!

We have much to anticipate in the new year: our pot luck dinner with an informational program on organ donation, the bi-chapter meeting with state president, Kay Stuart, and our initiation and tour of the school house in Cranberry. Also, our projects will be kicking into full swing: a silent auction for "Schools for Africa", Jared Boxes for Children's Hospital and the chair raffle for PA Head Start programs. Look for more information in emails for additional details.

Please consider carefully Faith's article on membership. DKG has meant a lot to us on various levels and so we have a vested interest in seeing that our chapter stays vibrant and relevant for more key women educators. Did you notice the opportunities we enjoy as you read the previous pages? Grants and scholarships, retreats, service, programs – all enrich us in addition to networking and socializing with so many special women.

I wish you all a blessed 2015 and look forward to working and playing with you this year.

*Melody*  
[viatoretis@comcast.net](mailto:viatoretis@comcast.net)

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Speakers:  
Lisa Strother Upsher,  
MS – CORE and Janey  
Walsh, a double  
transplant recipient



## Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2014  
Luciano's Restaurant,  
Mars, PA  
5:00 P.M. 23 present

February Meeting: Wednesday, the 4th  
Greeter: Phyllis Jenny  
Inspiration: Terry Klein  
Raffle Gift(s): Barb MacDonald, Dede Rittman,  
and Melody Hannegan

President Melody Hannegan opened the business meeting at 5:00 P.M. Paulette Hemmings read the inspiration, a poem called "'Twas the Day Before Christmas Break."

The minutes of the October 17 meeting were approved as printed in the December newsletter.

Corresponding Secretary Peg Maser reported that she sent a "Thinking of You" card to Areta Kalogeras and a thank you to the Glass Center staff.

Melody thanked Faith Jack in abstentia for her organization of materials for membership.

Phyllis Jenny read the Treasurer's Report (Marg Foster was cruising the Panama Canal), which shows a balance of \$5174.67. Be reminded that the dues have not yet been sent to state and international.

First Vice President Paulette Hemmings reported on the Feb. 4 meeting at the Trinity Lutheran church, which is a potluck dinner. A \$5.00 charge to cover paper goods, beverages, and dessert will be assessed.

Melody asked us to write a holiday card to members not present at the meeting, and she provided address labels.

Barbara MacDonald reported that she has been mailing yearbooks to members as she gets the membership cards. If you have any corrections, please call or e-mail her.

Melody reported that we still need a Chair Project Coordinator. Phyllis Jenny will run the auction at the Feb. meeting. Proceeds go to Africa Reads. Peg Maser volunteered to work on the Jared Boxes project and may be calling some of us for help.

Melody took a show-of-hands vote on the theme for our state basket in June. HANDYWOMAN won. Melody will create a list of items we can donate for this project.

Under Joys and concerns, Dede Rittman has submitted her book for consideration to the International committee; Sandy Werderitch's daughter was married on Nov. 8.

Under our homework assignment from the newsletter (Check the chapter Website and be ready for a quiz...), Melody gave us a 10 point multiple-choice quiz. Winners received small prizes.

We sang the Delta Kappa Gamma song to end the business meeting. Ruth Wilson won the raffle basket.

After dinner, we heard from Caitlin Driscoll of the Better Business Bureau serving Western Pennsylvania about Identity Theft. She gave examples of phishing, vishing, and dumpster diving schemes and told us what do do if we think we are victims. She also distributed a sheet of handy phone numbers, a magnet, and a BBB booklet. She answered questions we had. The program ended at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ulrich



**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**2500 BRANDT SCHOOL ROAD**

**WEXFORD, PA 15090**

**PROGRAM:**

Following this year's theme, to **ENGAGE**, February's meeting will Affirm life through organ donations. A representative from CORE, the Center for Organ Recovery and Education, will share information with us, and a local community member will discuss the effect that two transplants had on her life.

**SCHEDULE:**

Social Time: 4:45-5:00

Pot Luck Dinner: 5:00-5:45

Business Meeting: 5:45-6:30

Program: 6:30-7:30

**PROJECT REMINDER:**

Please bring a new or gently-used item or two for our silent auction, with proceeds going to Schools for Africa

**MENU:**

Bring a covered dish that will serve 8-10 people.

In addition, your payment of \$5.00 will cover the cost of paper products, drinks and dessert

**RESERVATION AND PAYMENT DUE BY JANUARY 26, 2015**

**SEND FORM TO:**

Paulette Hemmings

5052 Windriver Drive

McKees Rocks, PA 15136

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

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**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR COVERED DISH** \_\_\_\_\_

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