

# The Alpha Xi Messenger

January 2016

The President's Message



Happy New Year, Alpha Xi Sisters!

As I write this article, I am anxiously awaiting my first significant journey of 2016: a first visit with my granddaughter who should be gracing us with her presence tomorrow. The questions just flood my mind: what will she be like? What will she encounter in life? Will she be happy? How will she contribute to our world? What can I do for her?

As educators, we teach much more than subject matter. We teach the importance of service to others, leadership skills, and a sense of responsibility. And we do that more by our example than by our curriculum. Then consider the impact we have on our children, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren and the scope of our influence upon our students. It's awe-inspiring!

As we look to the future, we tend also to be mindful of the past. How did we become educators? Who taught us our sense of responsibility, leadership skills, and desire to serve others? Our teachers – definitely! And of course, our ancestors! For me, they were my maternal grandparents, both teachers, who so greatly influenced me.

While we enter this year, let's gather at our next depot, The Shaler North Hills Library, to assure our future is strong by voting for a great, new leadership team and new members as well as to reflect on those in the past who have fashioned us to be the key women educators we are as Faith shares her story with us. I hope to see you all there on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

May you have a year blessed with good health and happiness!

Happy motoring!

Melody

[viatoretis@comcast.net](mailto: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 - Mars
- 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

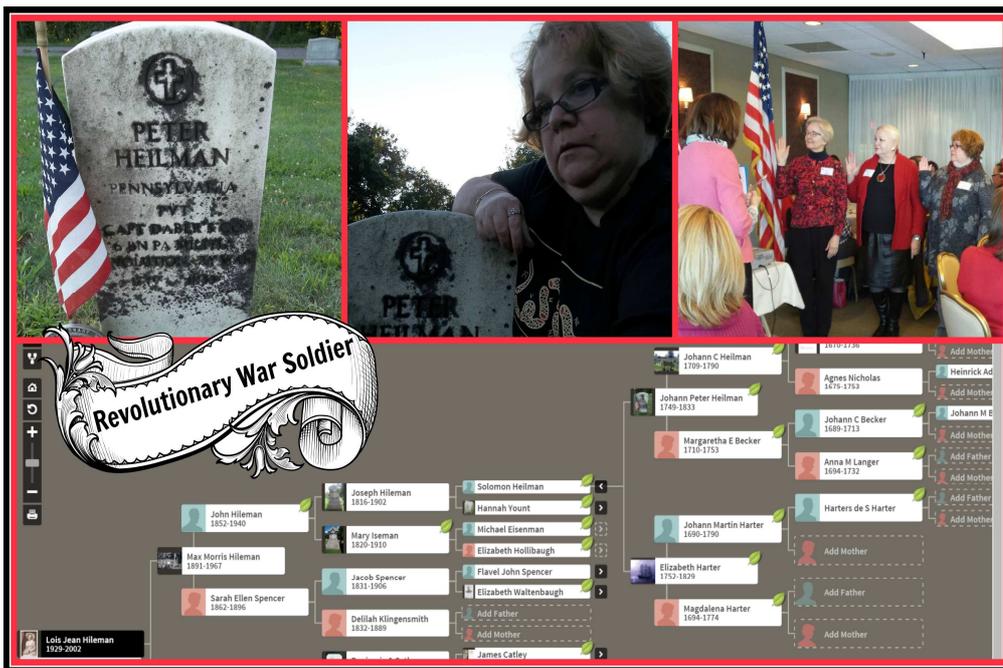
Check out your website: <http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>

## FEBRUARY 18

### How the contents of a roller-skate case led me to the DAR

By Faith Jack

After my father passed in 2013, my siblings and I were cleaning out the house where my parents had lived since 1952. Being the family historian, I wanted to keep almost everything while my siblings wanted to purge. Even though I am the youngest, I managed to prevail and saved loads of photos and papers. As a child, I can remember my mother taking out her old roller-skate case and showing me letters, postcards, photos and mementos from her childhood. Little did I know that taking the case home with me would be the impetus to locating my great grandfather's grave in Allegheny Cemetery, to following my grandmother's journey from the Home for the Friendless, and ultimately, to joining Kushkushkee Trail Chapter of the DAR.



### Voices Through Time

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### Love History?

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### Interested in Genealogy?

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### Have a Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestor?

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### Curious About the DAR?

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Join us at Shaler North Hills Library to learn more about Faith's ancestry search, get some tips about doing your own research and enjoy an ethnic dinner, Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 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, noise-makers, and balloons!

## PROJECTS:

**Literacy:** During the February meeting, we will hold a silent auction to support a local literacy program. Please bring gently used or new items for the auction and some money to bid. We ask that you do not bring Christmas items at this time.

**Dress for Success:** This is a great time, however, to clear out your closets. We are continuing to collect clothing that women can wear in the workforce. Please bring these garments to the February meeting. Thank you for the numerous December donations.

*Sandy Werderitch and Shari McGill*

**Jared Boxes:** Empty boxes will be available at the February meeting. Last year, Alpha Xi created and donated 37 boxes to Pittsburgh Children's Hospital and the Child Life Director was extremely grateful. Here are this year's directions for participation:

1. Choose a box, labeled GIRL/BOY with age ranges from twos to teens. We have 41 boxes this year.
2. Fill the box with age appropriate items. Please, no used objects or food! A list of suggested items will be included in each box.
3. Include a short and simple note of encouragement. For example, "This box was packed with love to brighten your day." Sign your first name.
4. Decorate the lid with permanent markers, foam cutouts, cheerful stickers, etc. Be creative! It's fun to see the diversity.
5. Bring the completed box to our April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting and we'll take some photos before delivering them to the hospital.

If you cannot attend the February meeting, ask someone to take a box for you or call *Peg Maser*, who has again coordinated this project.

## Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2015

McGinnis Sisters, Mars, PA

20 members present, 4 guests

We each had a salad to start the evening. Then, the program began at 5:15 with Susan of McGinnis Sisters making flatbread for us. (Remember to start the griddle early so it gets hot.) We had samples of three dips to use with our warm flatbreads and the recipes for each. We also had three desert choices and a cold beverage. Susan answered questions and discussed various products that she likes to use from the store. We each received two coupons to use for a discount at the store this evening and for the week ahead.

Melody opened the business meeting at 6:30. Karen Ulrich read the inspiration about finding your way in this increasingly complex world. Guests introduced were Jade Leung, Kathy Barkovich, Brenda Barner, and Sally Fisher.

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### **Yearbook Update:**

We are happy that **Sue Ennis** has rejoined us.

Her correct email address should be: [susanennis@verizon.net](mailto:susanennis@verizon.net)

**Visit the newly redesigned Delta Kappa Gamma Society International website:**

<http://www.dkg.org/> Remember to log in as a member!

**The DKG International Convention** will be in Nashville, July 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Details can be found on the website and in the latest issue of *DKG News*.

## **Minutes (Continued)**

Minutes from the October meeting were approved as printed in the November newsletter. Peg Maser reported that she had thanked Katherine Ayres by e-mail and Bob Stakeley by snail mail for their contributions to the programs of our September and October meetings.

Faith Jack (Membership) asked us to keep thinking of prospective members. Voting will be at the February meeting. Forms have been attached to the newsletters and are also available online.

Marg Foster read the Treasurer's Report. The balance on hand is \$2911.08. 49 members have paid dues. That is a decrease of four from last year.

Paulette Hemmings (Programs) reported that the next meeting is February 18 at the Shaler North Hills Library. Faith Jack will present a program on her Genealogy search to earn her membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.).

Sandy Werderitch and Shari McGill (Projects) thanked members for bringing clothes for Dress for Success. They may be brought to the February meeting, too. At the February meeting, we will have a silent auction for literacy projects in the area. (Avoid bringing Christmas items). Peg Maser spoke about the Jared Box project. She will have information in February, and the filled boxes will be due at the last meeting of the year. After some discussion, we will buy boxes and distribute those to be filled. Several members donated money to buy the boxes.

Barbara MacDonald (Nominations) announced a slate of officers for the next biennium. Members who would like to seek an office should notify Barb so they can be added to the ballot. Barb also sent updated directories with corrections she has received.

Terry Klein (Grant-in-Aid) is seeking members to nominate college juniors or seniors majoring in education for our award. Nominations are due to Terry by February 2. If you need a form, let Terry know. Don't linger—there are several parts of the form that may take time to complete fully.

Melody asked us to contact members who have not been to several meetings to say "We miss you and hope we will see you soon."

Joys and Concerns: Dede Rittman has launched her "Grady" line. She has copies if anyone would like to purchase a signed one from her. Marg Foster finally has a great great granddaughter after 5 generations of boys.

Darlene Farrell won the raffle basket. We ended the meeting with singing "Dona Nobis Pacem" at 7:10 p.m. and then had time to shop in the store.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ulrich

## Officer Nominations:

We currently have the following nominations.

**President:** *Faith Jack*

**First Vice-Pres:** (Program) *Paulette Hemmings*

**Second Vice-Pres:** (membership) *Sandy Werderitch*

**Corresponding Secretary:** *Peg Maser*

**Recording Secretary:** *Shari McGill*

Thanks ladies, for stepping forward.

Other nominations are still being accepted.

Elections will occur at our next meeting. (February 18)

Barbara MacDonald

## **The February 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Inspiration:

Needed – please  
volunteer

Greeter: needed –  
please volunteer

Raffle: Shaler Area  
Teachers



At the December meeting, we enjoyed the instruction for creating several types of flatbreads by a very knowledgeable McGinnis Sisters chef, Susan. The best part was consuming the delectables!

## **In Our Community and Beyond:**

**Ellen Rodrick** is teaching private classes on hospital and nursing home clowning. She is also planning to teach a Reader's Theater class for Osher Life Long Learning Institute at CMU. Ellen has extended an invitation for us to carpool for a meeting down in Naples, Florida. If only...

*Grady Gets Glasses* is traveling all over Western PA to visit classrooms. Likewise, **Dede Ritmann** is traveling to universities to speak on her book for student teachers. She has just joined a group called FIELD TRIP ZOOM, which offers global virtual field trips. Dede is the first person to offer programs to higher education and she will also be reading and discussing *Grady Gets Glasses* on this platform. Having taken the steps to order 500 Grady plush animal toys, she plans to make them available for sale before Easter. This busy and blossoming author has completed the second Grady book and is working on the third.



**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016  
SHALER/NORTH HILLS LIBRARY  
1822 MT. ROYAL BLVD.  
GLENSHAW, PA 15116**

**PROGRAM:**

Following this year's theme of "Getting on the Train" with our **TICKET**, at our February meeting, the letter, "**K**," will help us **KINDLE** an understanding of our roots. Our second vice-president, Faith Jack, will share information with us about her ancestry search, which ultimately led to her membership in the DAR. Faith will also give tips about doing research on our own families. In addition, our catered ethnic meal at this meeting will complement the meeting's theme.

**SCHEDULE:**

Social Time: 4:45-5:00

Meeting: 5:00-5:45

Meal: 5:45-6:30

Presentation: 6:30-7:30

**MENU:**

Shepherd's pie (made with beef)  
Sweet and sour pickled vegetable salad  
Apple dumpling  
Coffee, tea, water

**COST: \$25 PER PERSON**

**RESERVATION AND PAYMENT DUE BY FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

**Payment: Check payable to Delta Kappa Gamma, sent 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 GUEST'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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