

The Alpha Xi Messenger



*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Pennsylvania State Organization*

January, 2024

The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies!

At our last chapter meeting in November, we focused on the past, present and future of our chapter. Our program presenter, member Darlene Farrell, took us to the past and helped us reminisce about a famous lady in the culinary world, Betty Crocker.

In the present our members are currently involved in projects that focus on our state president's theme of "Building Communities."



We are also looking to the future, discussing who our new chapter leaders might be for the next biennium, selecting which of our enrichment grant applicants will receive monetary awards, and planning for our upcoming chapter meetings as well as a multi-chapter meeting with our state president. It was exciting to hear the news that our DKG state convention will be located in the northern area of Pittsburgh this summer, which is our chapter's "back yard," so I'm hoping that many of our chapter members will plan to attend and get involved!

I look forward to seeing you at our next chapter meeting on January 23 and at many future chapter activities!

Paulette



Who is Betty Crocker and do you have her cookbook?



Darlene's treats: a puzzle, pin cushion, & chocolate BC spoon!

Newsletter Editor and Web Manager: *Melody Hannegan*
Website address: <https://www.alphaxipadkg.org/>

The 2023-2024 Program Calendar – Remaining Meetings

Date	Location	Program	Meal
Tuesday, January 23, 2024	Dee Jays BBQ – Rt. 910 and Brandt School Road	Speaker – Bob Stakeley from the Heinz History Center – The Kaufmanns	BBQ dinner
Wednesday, March 13, 2024	The Clubhouse, Rt. 8 in Gibsonia	Speaker – Carleton Young Discovering a Family History	Buffet dinner
Saturday, April 27, 2024	The Springfield Grill in Seven Fields	Celebration of Life Ceremony Musical Performance – Josh Morton, Duquesne University, violin	Luncheon

The Program Committee

Phyllis Jenny, 1st Vice President and Committee Chair

Happy New Year, Alpha Xi!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and you are ready to start a busy 2024. Our chapter begins the new year with the first meeting on Tuesday, January 23 at Dee JAY's BBQ Ribs & Grille. After a delicious meal of chicken, salmon, or ribs, our program presenter, Bob Stakeley, will enlighten us on the family that built the famous department store, Kaufmanns and their residence, Fallingwater. Hopefully, the January weather will be kind to us and we will have a big turnout to experience a new restaurant and to see and hear Bob somewhere other than the History Center.

Looking to the future, our chapter will meet again on March 13 at the Clubhouse with Carleton Young as our presenter. On April 27, Joshua Morton will entertain us with some beautiful music at the Springfield Grille. We also will have a Celebration of Life Service for our three members who we lost in 2023. And finally, an additional multi chapter meeting with Alpha Phi and Theta will be held on May 18 at the South Hills Country Club. State President, Royce Boyd will install chapter officers for the next biennium.

Our chapter has a busy schedule for the first half of 2024 and, I hope you all will be able to join us for these meetings and programs.

Membership/Teacher Enrichment Grants

Jeanne Vendeland – 2nd Vice President
and Committee Chair

Happy New Year, DKG Sisters!

I wish you all a healthy and happy new year! I've been in touch with the recipients of this year's enrichment grants, and they are all thrilled to be selected. Each of them plans to attend our March meeting to tell us about the plans for her grant.

Thank you all for contributing to the grant fund through our fundraisers and your support during the selection process. If you have any ideas about how to inform even more educators about our grants, let me know.

Congratulations to this year's Teacher Enrichment Grant Recipients:

Kate Elder, Shaler Area School District
Meredith France, North Hills School
District
Kerry Ruffennach, North Allegheny
School District

The January Meeting is brought to you by the Avonworth teachers!

Projects

School Supplies

Phyllis Jenny

Reminder - School supplies will continue to be collected at the January, March, and April meetings. All supplies collected will be divided between NHCO and The aHub to help students in need.



DRESS FOR SUCCESS®
PITTSBURGH

Shari McGill

Are you resolving to clear out your closets this year? We are collecting gently used clothing, shoes, purses, accessories and more for Dress For Success. This wonderful organization provides an essential service for underserved women seeking employment. In the past so many of our sisters and their friends have been generously donating. Please bring your donations to any of our next 3 meetings!

Tissues for Teachers

Darlene Farrell and Jade Leung

Thank you for your generosity! One hundred tissue boxes were neatly labeled, packed up, and delivered to the high schools in Avonworth, North Allegheny, North Hills, and Shaler. Jade notified our state president, Royce Boyd, who was thrilled to hear about our project, as it is aligned with the state project of community involvement, and The Shaler Area School District gave us a shout out in a press release.



← Shaler Area School District's post



Shaler Area School District

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SAHS teacher Jade Leung and her colleagues from the Alpha Xi chapter of **The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**, an international women's educator group, undertook "Tissues for Teachers," a community outreach project to help support high schools in our community. They collected over 100 boxes that will be distributed to Shaler Area School District, Avonworth School District, North Hills School District, and North Allegheny School District.

#WeAreSA



Did you read the lovely tributes to Dede and Aleida in the In Memoriam section of the *Keystonian*?

https://dkgpa.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/9/9/11998510/keystonian_79-3.pdf

Nominating Committee

Faith Jack, Past President, Chair

Many thanks to the current elected officers of the Executive Board who have all agreed to continue serving for the new biennium. The chapter still needs to vote, so be sure to be present at the January meeting. Barb MacDonald has also agreed to continue as treasurer.

REMINDER

Paulette

To our January 23rd meeting, please be sure to bring your completed biography sheet with details about your teaching career and any honors that you have received.

Also, please include your involvement on Alpha Xi committees, the offices that you've held, projects which you have organized, programs that you have presented, and DKG awards that you have received. You may have taken a hard copy of the form at the November meeting.

If not, Form 82 can be found on the international website. Thank you!

Member News

Sincere condolences to Karen Klingman on the loss of her husband on October 30th.

Our favorite gardener, **Sallie Fisher**, was present when The Greybrooke Garden Club was recognized by the Trib as Garden Club of the Month in September.



Phyllis Jenny had a memorable Christmas as her granddaughter, Shannon, portrayed Mary in the living nativity at Trinity Church and her family took in the Heinz Hall Christmas tree at the Pops!



Jade Leung moderated a breakout session and presented at the NSTOY-Pa/SAS education conference in December. She also had the opportunity to meet the Pa Secretary of Education, Dr Khalid Mumin.