

The Alpha Xi Messenger

November 2016



The President's Message



Ready to Party?

I hope you all have had a wonderful October. The twenty members and Paulette's guest, Jeanne, were creative at Pat Catan's last month and made fall or Halloween wreaths. In our "D-icebreaker," the members had a chance to learn a little more about each other.

Secret Sisters were selected by members who were not at the September meeting. Others will be mailed out with membership cards by Marg Foster. If you did not receive a secret sister yet, please email Marg at margfoster4@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars now for the social event of the year! Our next meeting is our Big Birthday Bash on December 8, at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2500 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA. Paulette has some games, activities and a pot-luck dinner planned. Member Jade Leung will take us into the present with her presentation on current teaching strategies and her journey as a PA State Teacher of the Year finalist.

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RIDING THE RAILS – TAKE TO THE TRACKS

T aking the 1 st Steps to Life-Long Learning – Osher Reader's Theater	Monday – September 12 th Café Des Ami Sewickley	Ellen Rodwick
W Reath designing for the Fall	Wednesday, October 19th Pat Catan's at Mt. Nebo	The artistic staff at Pat Catan's
A ccolades to Alpha Xi: Birthday Bash & Educational Changes	Thursday, December 8th (our birthday) Trinity Lutheran Church - Wexford	Jade Leung
C heck Out the Zoo	Wednesday, February 1st Fresco's - Wexford	The Pittsburgh Zoo – Docent Program
K eeP the train on track	Saturday, March 4 th Diamond Run Country Club – Ohio Township	Tri-chapter Meeting with PA President, Tracey Dusch
S avoring our Gardens and our New Members	Thursday, May 4 th , Sample School House and Cranberry Library	Master Gardener, Bill Goff (& Diane's husband)

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

President's Message (cont.)

There is a call for committee volunteers to help social chair, Phyllis Jenny, with plans for the Tri-Chapter meeting. Please contact Phyllis pljenny@comcast.net if you can help with the book centerpieces. We are also in need of a chair for the mini-outings sub-committee. Please consider volunteering to plan a small group outing in the spring. If interested, please email me or Terry Klein tmklein@zoominternet.net.

Wishing everyone a joyful November and a Happy Thanksgiving!
Hoping to see you all at the December Birthday Bash!

Faith Jack
President Alpha Xi
Faihtj40@gmail.com
412-303-5443



Shari's autumn wreath coordinated so well with the color of her hair.



Ellen made a wreath for Karen Beemiller too!



After a summer of rest and recuperation, Sallie joined the fun. We're wishing her continued improvement!

Peg Maser would like to thank the following sisters for their contributions to the 2016-2017 Jared Box Project seed money for supplies:

Barb Rankin, Darleen Farrell, Deb McMullen, Shari McGill, Nancy Weixel and Marg Foster.



PROGRAMS

Paulette Hemmings



ALPHA XI'S 60TH BIRTHDAY!!!!

Join us as we travel back to 1956, a time of poodle skirts and sock hops, Elvis and rock & roll, and the beginning of Alpha Xi! We'll celebrate the era with a pot luck supper (and if you're adventurous, you could bring a retro dish that was popular in the '50's!). You can also be a cool cat and wear your favorite '50's attire to the birthday party!

In addition, we'll travel down memory lane and remember what it was like to be an educator back in the day, and then hear from our member, Jade Leung, who will bring us back to the 21st century with a presentation on current classroom innovations.

We'll have it made in the shade! Mark your calendar for December 8th and don't be a party pooper! Join us for the fun! Later, gator!

Projects

Phyllis Jenny

Remember we are collecting books to be used as centerpieces for the tri-chapter meeting and then donated to Urban Impact Foundation of Pittsburgh. We especially need fiction books for grades 3-8. Please bring your donations to the December or February meetings.

Alpha Xi Journeys! My Delta Kappa Gamma Story Nancy Penney

I had been teaching for seven years when I received a mysterious invitation in the mail and didn't quite know what to do with it. While I was working on my Master's Degree at the University of Wyoming, my roommate had Delta Kappa Gamma posters in the dorm, so I had at least heard of the group. Not long after the invitation arrived, my principal Virginia Hannan met with me after school (very secret business) to explain what the invitation to Delta Kappa Gamma meant. For my initiation, I had to buy a hat as I sang in the church choir and didn't have need for one there and had to borrow white gloves from my mother. The year was 1963.

Meetings then were a little different from today. We wore hats and gloves regularly at our luncheons which we held in local churches. Programs were always provided by the members ourselves so I really appreciated learning about the different places where we taught and the different educational experiences we had. The camaraderie we developed then has meant much to me.

With the encouragement of my sisters, I began to attend workshops, area meetings, and state conventions. For state conventions, we packed all the food, beverages, and materials that were needed to host a convention in Hershey. The state conventions have changed in that respect, but I still enjoy attending and seeing some of my friends from those times. I also went to regional and international conventions where that graduate school roommate, who was from Iowa, and I reconnected and maintained our friendship through Delta Kappa Gamma.

Here at Alpha Xi, I have served in a variety of offices and I so enjoy and appreciate the times we have shared together over the past 50 plus years!



Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2016

R-Riding the Rails - On Board Your DKG Journey

WReath Designing for the Fall: Pat Catan's – Mt. Nebo Point

President Faith Jack - called the meeting to order and welcomed the guest of Paulette Hemmings, Jeanne Vendeland. She also recognized Sallie Fisher, who is back to this meeting after her rehabilitation.

Inspiration-Ellen Rodwick

RECORDING SECRETARY: Shari McGill asked for corrections and approval of minutes of September 12, 2016 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Peg Maser reported: A card was sent to welcome home Sally Fisher from the hospital and rehabilitation. Condolences were sent online for the passing of our sister Susan McKinney. Our Chapter received a Thank You letter from Children's Hospital for the 39 Jared Boxes we donated to the hospital for ill or injured children. Tax forms were received from Children's Hospital for those who wanted to take a deduction. A get well card was sent to Dede Rittman for her emergency appendectomy. We received a thank you note from Alpha Alpha, for the Purposeful Seminar donation to be used for the Pride of Pittsburgh event. In the note, they returned our check due to the success of the event, thanking us again for our generosity. Jan Bondanella from Erie, who won the basket, also sent a personal thank you note.

MEMBERSHIP: Sandy Werderitch reported there are no new members at this time but does have forms for recommending new members.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Marg Foster reported the Balance on Hand as of September 13, 2016 was \$1,238.88; Collected funds were: Pin Fines \$3.75, Raffle Basket \$24.00, (28) Meals money collected \$644.00, (26) Members' dues money 2,085.00, totaling \$2,085.00.

Spending was: \$644.00 for (28) meals, Year Book printing \$16.79, Printing and Mailing Newsletters \$22.24, totaling \$683.08 being spent. The new balance as of October 19, 2016 is \$3,312.60.

PROGRAMS: Paulette Hemmings stated the Heinz History is changing their format for exhibits and will hold more mini-forums on many interesting topics. The next meeting is Thursday, December 8, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church on Brant School Road. This is our 60th Birthday Bash, celebrating our Chapter, Alpha Xi beginning on December 8, 1956. Everyone is welcome to dress for the occasion in either 50's style clothing or clothing from when individuals began their career as an educator. The theme will be educating from the past to the future and our guest speaker is our own Jade Leung.

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The December Meeting Volunteers: Greeter - Barb Schmid. Inspiration- Terry Klein, Raffle – Melody Hannegan – Please let Phyllis know if you cannot be present.

minutes (cont. from page 5)

YEAR BOOK: Barb MacDonald reported that those who wish to have their birthdays printed in the yearbook need to send her that information. Any corrections should also be submitted to Barb.

PROJECTS: Peg Maser stated that donations for the purchase of boxes for the Jared Boxes are very much appreciated. They help to defray the cost to the chapter. Boxes will be available at the December meeting.

SOCIAL: Phyllis Jenny called for book donations for the March Tri-Chapter meeting and was very impressed by how many came in at this meeting. There is a need for more in order to create the center pieces for the March meeting and then donating them to Urban Impact. If you sign up for a responsibility at a meeting, please let Phyllis know if you cannot make the meeting or ask someone to do it for you. This will insure that portion of the meeting will not be missed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is still a need for volunteers to serve on subcommittees for the Tri-Chapter meeting. Please consider volunteering; contact Phyllis Jenny. Darlene Farrell volunteered to make Train cookie favors for the tri-chapter meeting. We will need to secure RSVP responses for the other chapters attending the Tri-Chapter meeting because of time restriction of their chapter's meetings. We need to secure the time which Tracey Ducsh will arrive here in Pittsburgh and if she will need accommodations for staying overnight.

The mini-outing for the walking tour of Lawrenceville restaurants had to be canceled because not enough people were able to attend for a private tour. We can try this again in the spring hooking up with one of the public tours. We still have a few Secret Sisters who need to be chosen, if you are willing to take a second name, please let Faith know. A bus trip to Northeast Region Convention in Windsor Ontario is July 12-14, 2017 is being researched. For those interested, the cost is about \$100 round trip for travel; accommodations would be separate.

Faith had a great ice-breaker during meeting time, where we interacted with sisters from other school district.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Peffer will be presenting a workshop at Creative Arts Retreat in April.

Karen Ulrich attended the Pennsylvania Council of Teacher's of English & Language Arts state conference in October.

Barb MacDonald's mother was in an accident; keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Raffle for the Fall Basket was won by Shari McGill

FALL WREATHS

Everyone who attended the October meeting made fall or Halloween wreaths and had a wonderful, productive time. The wreaths were beautiful and the fellowship was amazing. A big thank you to the ladies and staff at Pat Catan's.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shari McGill

JARED BOXES : Empty boxes will be available at the December meeting. Last year we donated 39 boxes to Pittsburgh Children's Hospital that were received by the Child Life Department with great enthusiasm. Here are the directions for making a box to be donated in 2017:

1. Choose a box labeled GIRL or BOY with age ranges from 2 to teens. Then, **record your choice on my clip board list.**
2. Fill the box with age appropriate items. **PLEASE, NO USED ITEMS, FOOD or CANDY !** 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, DELTA KAPPA KAPPA, ALPHA XI CHAPTER.**
4. Decorate the lid with permanent markers, foam cutouts, cheerful stickers, etc. Be creative! It's fun to see how cheerful the boxes look when finished.
5. Bring the completed box to our March Tri Chapter meeting or to our final meeting of the year in May. I would like to take some photos of you with the boxes you created to share with the state Jared Box coordinator.

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings listed above, please, call or text Peg Maser so we can arrange a pick up. **THANK YOU ALL** for your dedication to this worthwhile project! For more information about the origin of the Jared Box Project and its growth across our country, just google The Jared Box Project.

The Bach Choir
is singing **Handel's Messiah** this
December. Sue Phillips is a
member.

Saturday, December 3 at 8:00pm
Sunday, December 4 at 4:00pm

St. Agnus Center
3235 Fifth Avenue in Oakland.

If your birthday does not appear
in the directory, please send it to
Barb MacDonald at
bmacd@zoominternet.net or
call 724-776-2029. For privacy
reasons, yearbook updates will
appear in the newsletter email
rather than this newsletter.

Membership News:

Nancy Weixel's daughter, Amy Rak, has a new job
teaching science and math at Ingomar Middle
School in the North Allegheny District.

At the December meeting, ask **Ellen Rodwich**
about her trip to Tahiti.

Former North Hills Jr High Music teacher and
DKG member **Susan McKinney** passed away on
September 17th from Early Onset Alzheimer's. Sue
served for many years as our music committee
chairman and made the cassette tape of the DKG
song on the piano.

Dede Rittman's GRADY GETS GLASSES was
the winner of Best new Children's Book 2016 from
The Authors' Zone. The event and
group are based in Pittsburgh, but it
is a national contest. Dede's calendar
is filling with elementary school visits.
Let her know if you want her to do a
book talk for you. Also, email her for
orders for December
at rittman@verizon.net





**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (now equipped with an elevator!)
2500 BRANDT SCHOOL ROAD
WEXFORD, PA 15090**

PROGRAM:

As we continue our year of "Riding the Rails," let us once again take to the **TRACKS!** At our December meeting we will offer **Accolades** to Alpha Xi as we celebrate our 60th birthday, reminisce about our past as we travel back to 1956, and look to the future!

SCHEDULE:

Social Time: 4:45-5:00
Pot Luck Supper: 5:00-6:00
Business Meeting: 6:00-6:45
Activity: 6:45-7:15
Discussion of Changes in Education/Presentation by Jade Leung 7:15-8:00

PROJECT REMINDER:

Bring fiction books for grades 3-8, to be used as centerpieces for the tri-chapter meeting and then donated to the Urban Impact Foundation of Pittsburgh.

MENU:

Bring a covered dish that will serve 8-10 (perhaps a dish that was popular in the 1950's?)
In addition, your payment of **\$5.00** will help cover the cost of paper products, drinks and dessert.

RESERVATION AND PAYMENT DUE BY NOVEMBER 27, 2016

SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Paulette Hemmings
5052 Windriver Drive
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Questions? Contact Paulette at 412-331-7894 or paulette.hemmings@comcast.net

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR COVERED DISH _____

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