

The Alpha Xi Messenger

November 2020



The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies,

Thanks to everyone who attended our October meeting and to Bob Stakeley from the History Center for sharing fascinating information and for giving us a wonderful tour of the glass exhibit and the H.J. Heinz exhibit! We always enjoy our meetings there!

Due to the pandemic and the predicted increase in outbreaks during the winter months, we won't meet again in person until March. We'll all miss seeing each other; however, we can stay in touch through this November newsletter and another one in January.

If you're like me, we've been striving to keep busy at home, while trying to stay safe and healthy. You've probably cleaned out closets, done some reading and cooking, and caught up on lots of little projects on your "To Do" list. As you're doing those things, please keep our projects in mind and set aside

- clothing for Dress for Success and a gently used purse or backpack for Living in Liberty
- travel or sample size toiletries and small items for victims of human trafficking (Living in Liberty)
- books for our spring book sale, and wrapped coins to support our teacher grants
- small toys, books, puzzles, etc. to complete a Busy Box for Children, Youth and Family Services

You may not be able to participate in all of these projects & fundraisers, but please look for items that you can contribute, which will make a difference to a female victim, a local teacher, or a child.



Even though we aren't meeting in person for the next several months, we'll be working on DKG business behind the scenes. Jeanne and Melissa will be publicizing our teacher enrichment grants in November, so be sure to help get the word out! The committee will soon meet virtually to finish the revision of our standing rules. Jade plans to present a Zoom presentation to us in January on how the pandemic has changed education, and during the next few months you can stay in touch and cheer up your Secret Sister by sending greeting cards (If you couldn't make it to the October meeting, and would like to select a Secret Sister, contact Phyllis).

Although we can't do it in person, I'm sure that we'd all like to wish each other "Happy Holidays," and hopefully a very happy and healthy 2021!

Paulette



The 2020-2021 Alpha Xi Remaining Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	VENUE
Tuesday, March 9, 2021	Living in Liberty/ Combatting Human Trafficking in the Pittsburgh Area	Luciano's Brick Oven Rt. 228 – Mars
Saturday, May 1, 2021	Presentation on Being an Author and/or an Entrepreneur - Dede	Diamond Run Golf Club Laurel Oak Dr., Ohio Township

Additional information about the meetings will appear in the 2021 newsletters! The March meeting will be sponsored by North Hills members and the May meeting will be sponsored by North Allegheny. Phyllis and the Program Committee

Membership

I hope you're all enjoying this beautiful fall weather and anticipating Thanksgiving with family and friends although this year our tables will have fewer chairs than in the past. Last year I had eleven diners and this year it's down to just four. Let's hope next year we'll be back to normal.

This is a reminder to be thinking about a potential member you might invite to one of our meetings. Our March meeting on combatting human trafficking should be a particularly interesting one. If you have someone in mind and would like me to send them a chapter brochure, let me know and I will do that.

Jeanne V.

Teacher Enrichment Grants

Teacher Enrichment Grant information will be disseminated via social media this month. If you know of anyone who would be eligible and interested in applying, please let them know about it. Applications will be due back to me by February 1, 2021, so the committee can evaluate them before the chapter votes on the recipients at our March meeting.

Jeanne V.

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Bob talks with Sandy and Peg in front of the Glass exhibit. Sallie tells us about *Living in Liberty*.



Dates to Remember: Mark Your Calendars

- -Enrichment Grant applications are due by February 1, 2021
- Album of Distinction applications are due by March 1, 2021
- The Creative Arts Retreat is scheduled for April 23-25, 2021
- The PA State Convention for next year will take place at the Scranton Hilton and Convention Center from June 11-13, 2021
- Three International Conferences will be offered in 2021: Portland, OR, July 7-10; San Antonio, TX, July 21-24; Tampere, Finland, July 28-31.



Jade is advertising DKG in style! She bought this quality sweatshirt from <https://designergreek.com/>

If anyone would like to order one, perhaps we can order as a group and get a discount!

BUSY BOX PROJECT REPORT - 2020

A big THANK YOU to Wes Hemmings who was instrumental in our collecting all the finished Busy Boxes and transferring them to a volunteer from Children, Youth and Family Services, our new and very enthusiastic recipient of this Community Service Project. Anyone who still has a completed box can leave it on my doorstep or contact me to pick it up. My husband and I will deliver them to the drop off box at CYFS on the corner of Smithfield and Fort Pitt Blvd. before the end of November.

May I request that those of you who wish to continue this community service project in 2021 (and have not already signed up at the October meeting) let me know if you will create 1 or 2 boxes and the age and gender of the recipient(s). You will receive boxes to fill at our March meeting & will have until our May 1st meeting at Diamond Run Golf Club to shop for children's items. I will collect the finished products there.. Age categories are; 0 - 2, 2 - 4, 4 - 8, 8 - 11, and 11 and up.

Thank you all for embracing this project as you have in the past! We now have an organization enthusiastically looking forward to sharing them with youngsters. Many children's lives will be brightened by the Busy Box they receive during a stressful time in their young lives. I thank you, once more, for the love and creativity you put into your donation.

Please, continue to take care, stay well and enjoy Happy Holidays... even if they are on ZOOM!
Peg



Secret Sisters

If you were not at the October meeting and would like to participate in Secret Sisters this year, please contact Phyllis. Reminder to those who already have a secret sister – don't forget to send a card.

With gratitude for the time 2020 has given me Home Sweet Gingerbread was made for the 2020 Pittsburgh Gingerbread House Competition, which is virtual this year. After years of going downtown to view the houses & having participated in student field trip visits, it was fun to create one myself.

Darlene



Member News

We can be thankful for successful surgeries: **Phyllis** had a pacemaker installed and no, it isn't a contagious condition (says Melody); **Shari** had back surgery; and **Dede** had Mohs surgery near her eye.

Claudia and her husband Bill, also a retired NA teacher, have moved to their new home in Clearwater, FL

Melissa has been conducting virtual campaign meetings for her run as NEA Director.



Claudia on her balcony and Melissa online! (Note Melissa's pin!)



Reminder:

Wear a mask!
Wash your hands!
Stay six feet apart!



And please be safe this holiday season!

**STAY SAFE.
STAY SIX FEET APART.**

History Center Social Distancing Guide

29 Heinz Ketchup bottles

4 Mister Rogers sweaters

6 Franco Harris football cleats

SENATOR JOHN HEINZ
HISTORY CENTER
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION