

The Alpha Xi Messenger

November 2015



The President's Message



Greetings Ladies!

What do you see from the window of your rail car this fall? Red, amber, golden leaves on trees over a blanket of leaves on the ground? DKG sisters and guests sipping delicious roasted red pepper and gouda soup? A brilliantly displayed exhibit of WWII complete with numerous connections to our own Pittsburgh (and personal) history? A prelude to the holidays including a flatbread baking class at McGinnis Sisters? Hopefully, all of these and more!

Much important information about our journey is in this newsletter and what doesn't fit here can be found on the website under the heading of "What's New?" I hope to see you climb aboard when we meet in December.

May you have a very blessed
Thanksgiving!

Happy motoring!
Melody

viatoretis@comcast.net



Membership Plus One Event

Thank you to Phyllis Jenny and Shari McGill who brought guests to the October meeting. I also brought a guest, and all three DKG members received three free raffle tickets. Shari's paid off with her winning one of the several door prizes provided by the Heinz History Center. More importantly, at least two of the three guests are submitting applications for membership. (continued - p. 4)

THE 2015-2016 CALENDAR
The DKG Journey-
For the Alpha Xi Commuter
Train, here's your

T - Travel Back in Time!

Monday, September 14th
Author Katherine Ayres
Bravo's in Cranberry

I - Investigate the WWII and Pittsburgh Connection!

Wednesday, October 28th
We Can Do It! WWII
Heinz History Center

C - Create Delicious Recipes!

Thursday, December 3th
Cooking Demo with Sampling
McGinnis Sisters - Mars

K - Kindle an Understanding of your Roots

Thursday, February 18th
Faith's Journey Back in Time
Shaler-North Hills Library

E - Express your Artsy Self!

Wednesday, March 30th
Painting Pottery
Katie's Clay Studio - Rt. 8

T - Treasure our Alpha Xi Community

Saturday, April 30th
Initiation and Installation
Wildwood Country Club

Check out your website: <http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>
Consider becoming web mistress or newsletter editor next year!

December 3rd – At McGinnis Sisters



We hope that you will be able to join us for our next meeting, which will be held at the McGinnis Sisters store in Mars, PA. There we will enjoy a private class on “Fun with Flatbreads,” just in time for holiday entertaining! We will learn how to make our own homemade flatbread pizza and appetizers and then sample them with different dipping sauces. We’ll also have a salad, dessert and beverage to make it a complete meal. In addition, we will receive a \$5 coupon to use toward a purchase, and since the store is open until 8:00 that evening, we can buy some goodies to take home! It should be a fun and delicious time, so we hope to see you there!

Paulette Hemmings – Program Committee

PROJECTS

Sandy Werderitch and Shari McGill

This year, we are hoping to take on 3 projects. We would like to start off with a State suggested project entitled ***Dress for Success***. For this project, we will be collecting clean, gently used, **PROFESSIONAL TYPE and BUSINESS CASUAL CLOTHING** for women who are in need and entering the job market. These will then be passed on to women who aren’t able to buy new clothes. So ladies, go through your closets and gather up clothes that you no longer wear and maybe pass the word around to others who can also donate. You can start by packing them up and bringing them to the **next meeting in December** and then we can continue on with this.

For the second project, we would like to have a **silent auction**. Our thought is that each of us donates an item or two that will be put up for bid at a silent auction during our **February 2016** meeting at Shaler Library. The monies collected during that auction will be donated to a literacy organization in Pittsburgh.

The third project is to continue with the Jared Project, creating **Jared Boxes for Children’s Hospital**. We will provide more information at the meetings.



This great group of women educators and bargain hunters posed before entering the “We Can Do It” exhibit. Many of us also left with multiple copies of Pittsburgh Born, Pittsburgh Bred – who could resist the \$1 price?

WANTED:

Dependable, Reliable, Leaders

Your Alpha Xi Chapter of **DKG needs YOU!**

We are looking for folks to run for our various offices. This is a two-year term from June 2016-2018. There is a wealth of information and training provided.

Contact **Barb MacDonald** to inquire, nominate another or self-nominate. bmacd@zoominternet.net
724-776-2029.

More information can be found on our website (alphaxipadkg.weebly.com under rules on the far right side) or by talking to the current officers.

Election time is February with President’s training in April.

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Please continue to talk about DKG with colleagues and share the opportunity. Don't assume they wouldn't have the time or be interested. You never know, that busy mother might want some "me time" or the woman who is always on the go may want another outlet for all that energy. Remember that the years of service rule has changed, so even that first-year teacher is eligible.

Do you have a **former DKG friend** that might consider being reinstated? Invite her to the December meeting, and shoot me an email (faithj40@gmail.com) so I can have a reinstatement form ready. The membership doesn't vote on reinstatements, so it's easy to rejoin. Do you know a **teacher who has moved** into our area? They may have been a member of another chapter. Let them know we have an active chapter and would love to have them transfer. Please see the attached brochure about reinstatements and transfers.

Still not sure whom you should nominate? Here are some great ideas from the New Membership Plan 2015 on the dkg.org site:

Chapter members might nominate an enthusiastic teacher they noticed at a district training session or a talented music teacher they noted directing her school's student musical. A retired teacher could nominate a beloved teacher she learned about from a grandchild or a teacher she noticed while volunteering in a school. A member could record the name of an educator whose outstanding teaching ability she witnessed while receiving instruction at a photography or painting class, a master gardener session, or technology training.

See the attachments for more membership tools. The recommendation for Membership Form can be completed by the prospective member and either be given to me at the December meeting or mailed to:

Faith Jack 2762 Drake Court, Gibsonia, PA 15044 Call me if you have questions: 412-303-5443

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!

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2015

The Heinz History Center, Strip District
22 members present, 3 guests

Attendees were permitted to spend time browsing at the History Center from 3 p.m. until 4:45 when the social time began.

A hoarse President Melody Hannegan opened the business meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Three guests were introduced: Sally Fisher (retired FACS-Avonworth) by Phyllis Jenny; Jade Leung (Biology and Physics-Shaler Area) by Faith Jack; and Kathy Barkovich (retired art-Shaler Area) by Shari McGill.

Terry Klein read the inspiration from a book by John O'Donahue: "The Friendship Blessing."

The minutes from the September meeting were approved as corrected ("dues" for "news").

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Important Reminder: This year we will award the Grant-in-Aid to a woman who is majoring in education and is currently in her junior or senior year of undergraduate study at an accredited institution. She should be a graduate of a high school in the Alpha Xi membership area. The nomination form will be available via email and our website as well as at the December meeting. The deadline for submitting to Terry Klein and The Scholarship Committee is February 2, 2016. tmklein@zoominternet.net

Minutes (Continued)

Corresponding Secretary Peg Maser reported that she has to write a thank you to Katherine Ayres for her program for the September meeting. Melody reported that *Matthew's Truck* is her grandson's favorite book.

Second Vice President Faith Jack had bookmarks with QR codes to give to prospective members.

Barbara Schmid read the treasurer's report in Marg Foster's absence. The balance on hand is \$4,069.08 (but remember that dues money will go out next month.)

First Vice President Paulette Hemmings discussed items for the raffle. Paulette donated the basket, and the History Center donated several other gifts, like books, sets of 4 admission tickets, etc.) She also explained the upcoming meeting at McGinnis Sisters on Dec. 3. Cost is \$20.

Yearbook chair Barbara MacDonald asked members to send any corrections to her for the digital yearbook and also announced that as Nominations Chair she is looking for members willing to get involved and serve the Chapter for the next biennium.

Social Committee chair Ruth Wilson reported that she still needs people to help with duties for the February meeting and future meetings.

Grant-in-Aid chair Terry Klein asked us to be looking for college female juniors or seniors majoring in education to apply for our award. They will be due Feb. 2. You can get the forms from Terry.

Melody still needs two positions to be filled: Visual and Performing Arts and Historical Records.

Under new business, the Purposeful Seminar is in Pittsburgh in Sept. of 2016. Our raffle basket will consist of literature about Pittsburgh or by Pittsburghers.

Under Joys and Concerns, **Deb McMullen** will have work at the Pittsburgh Glass Center/Art on Fall exhibit. **Faith Jack** and a colleague will present a workshop at the Western PA Council of Teachers of English Fall Conference on Nov. 6. Faith will also appear on a segment of Pittsburgh's Hidden Treasures. **Barbara Rankin** asked us to support Dr. James Withers of Operation Safety Net in online voting for the CNNHeroes award. You can vote once a day at CNNHeroes.com.

We ended with the Delta Kappa Gamma song at 5:40.

After dinner in the shadow of the "streetcar" in the lobby, raffle tickets were pulled, and the winners were Jane Sestric, Deb McMullen, Peg Maser, Nancy Penney, Melody Hannegan, Jade Leung.

Paulette re-introduced Bob Stakeley (our unofficial male member), who talked to us about the WWII exhibit and then let us explore the exhibit on our own. We also had a brief conversation with Andy Masich, Museum President, as he left for the day.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ulrich

Public Relations: Peg Maser,
Communications Committee

These thoughts on publicizing DKG were included in the State Communications Committee's recent newsletter, *The Spark*.

How do we receive recognition in our community? It is sometimes difficult to know what to publicize and what outlets are best for promoting our chapter and DKG in general. Here are suggestions for both:

What to Publicize:

- Honors awarded to members through DKG or community organizations
- Recognition of published writing or other works
- Mentoring accomplishments by members
- Community projects
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Where to Publicize:

- Local newspapers
- Radio and/or Television
- Local and State educational groups
- School district newsletters and other publications
- Social media

When receiving such honors, please make sure you mention your DKG membership.

The December 3rd Meeting

Inspiration: Karen Ulrich
Greeter: Sandy Werderitch
Raffle: Karen Klingman,
Deb McMullen, Jessie
Friedrich, & Jane Sestric



In Our Community and Beyond:

Dorothy Winner fell and broke her hip in September and is now living at Arden Court on Perry Highway. Her daughter, **Jan Graner**, says that Dot's hip has healed, but her memory hasn't. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Deb McMullen was invited to submit two pieces of work in the Pittsburgh Glass Center "Art on Fire" Glass Auction in September.

Faith Jack will be co-presenting at the Western PA Council of Teachers of English Fall Conference this month. Topic: Using iPads to Increase Student Literacy Skills. Also look for Faith on a future segment of *Hidden Treasures* – she took some of her purses from her collection.

Karen Klingman's son was sworn into the Wisconsin Bar and has begun a law practice in Oshkosh while her daughter-in-law has joined the faculty at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI.

Dede Rittman continues to receive accolades for her first book on student teaching and has been on the speaker's circuit throughout the area. Also, her newest book, a children's book entitled, *Grady Gets Glasses*, debuted in NYC's Time Square this weekend. (See photo above!)

Your president is happily retired yet again!



**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM
DECEMBER 3, 2015
McGINNIS SISTERS STORE
700 ADAMS SHOPPES
CORNER OF RT. 228 and ADAMS RIDGE BLVD.
MARS, PA 16046**

PROGRAM:

Following this year's theme of "Getting On The Train" with our **TICKET**, at our December meeting the letter, "C," will allow us to **CREATE** delicious recipes to sample and try at home, just in time for holiday entertaining!

SCHEDULE:

Social Time: 4:45-5:00
Demonstration/Meal: 5:00-6:00
Business Meeting: 6:00-7:00

COST: \$20 PER PERSON

Includes:

Samples of flatbread with dipping sauces
Salad, dessert, beverage
\$5 coupon for store purchase

RESERVATION AND PAYMENT DUE BY NOVEMBER 23, 2015

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

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR GUEST'S NAME _____

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