

# The Alpha Xi Messenger

October 2014



In the entrance to the Steamboat Arabia exhibit at the Heinz History Center!

## The President's Message

Greetings, Alpha Xi Sisters!

On a cold February evening in State College, State President Kay Stuart sent a "wish" lantern into the sky and asked us, the newly elected chapter presidents, to make our DKG wishes for our coming biennium. She then sent us home with wish lanterns of our own.

After a wonderful first meeting and program at the Heinz History center, we gathered outside to send off our lantern with Alpha Xi wishes. At first, the lighting didn't go so well – the aim & flame and fuel cell weren't connecting at all. The fire finally not only caught but quickly grew in intensity. Paulette and I were fidgeting with a burning lantern which just did not want to fill enough with the hot air to rise and we were so scared that the lantern was going to go up in flames. Someone suggested that we let it drop to the ground. That seemed like a great alternative to catching fire ourselves and so we did. Then the miracle happened: the balloon filled with the hot air and lifted rapidly into the dark sky. I have to admit my first wish was granted – the experiment worked and delighted us with its simple beauty.

I think Alpha Xi is a lot like that lantern. We have the fuel cell, the flame, and the environmentally friendly paper lantern in our members, our programs, and our service. We have our leadership to light the flame, hold the lantern, and sometimes even nervously let go. Then, filled with our wishes, we key women educators soar high, a bright light to share

### THE 2014-2015 CALENDAR

## ENGAGE

in the community of Alpha Xi!

### Explore Local History

Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
The Heinz History Center  
Steamboat Arabia

### Nurture Your Creativity

Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
The Pittsburgh Glass Center  
Working with Glass

### Gather Consumer Advice

Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Luciano's Restaurant in Mars  
ID Theft & Security

### Affirm life: Organ Donation

Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
What is CORE?

### Grow DKG Sisterhood

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>  
McCormick & Schmick's,  
South Side Works  
with Theta Chapter  
State President, Kay Stuart

### Educate: Past, Present, & Future

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sample Schoolhouse /  
Cranberry Library  
Tour & Initiation of New  
Members

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

Photographers Darlene Farrell, Terry Klein, and Barbara MacDonald captured the dramatic send off.



among ourselves and all of Pittsburgh. I see that light every time we meet.

Thank you so much to Paulette and her committee for planning another great program at the history center and to Bob Stakeley, who gives of his time so generously to ensure we have a great visit. It was so nice to see so many familiar faces as well as guests. I hope that those of you who became ill and couldn't attend are back in good health and that this finds those of you with other commitments that night well too. Please add your wishes to those which were made in the moment.

I hope you'll all be able to nurture your creativity at our October meeting at the Pittsburgh Glass Center. Because this is another venture into the city and parking will be limited, we encourage you to sign up for carpooling from Cranberry and the North Hills. Pack up a brown bag supper, dress casually, and be prepared to have a lot of fun.

May your wishes come true!

Melody

[viatoretis@comcast.net](mailto:viatoretis@comcast.net)

### Seeking a Few Good Women to Fill Big Shoes

As service is a crucial part of Alpha Xi, we are in dire need of project leadership. Since no one has volunteered to take on the job alone, let's divide the tasks so that we can accomplish our goals without the responsibilities falling on one set of shoulders.

#### Needed: **The Chair Project Coordinator**

Description: Arrange for Donation Tickets to be made; coordinate the schedule for the chair to be displayed in local libraries (we already have volunteers to contact & work with the libraries); account for the funds collected.

#### Needed: **Schools for Africa Fund Raiser**

Description: Plan and organize either a silent auction or book sale for the February meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church.

#### Needed: **Jared Box Coordinator**

Description: seek donations from the membership and donated boxes from local businesses; set up a time to assemble the boxes; make contact with Children's Hospital (Ellen will give specific help.)

Please email Melody at [viatoretis@comcast.net](mailto:viatoretis@comcast.net) with your interest!

**Please remember that your DKG dues of \$82.00 are due by October 15th. Send a check, payable to Delta Kappa Gamma, to Marg Foster, 200 Goldsmith Rd., Pgh, PA 15237.**

#### **JOYS:**

**Darlene Farrell** was inducted into the Cookie Cutter Collectors Club Hall of Fame.

**Ellen Rodwick** travels this year include France, a Doo Wop Cruise, & Florida Caroline Sue, **Karen Kilngman's** new granddaughter, was born on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Terry Klein** will have a second grandson in March and **Paulette Hemmings** will become a grandmother in April.

**Dede Rittman**, after 33 years as the NA Men's Golf Team Coach, has announced her retirement. This summer, her first book, Student Teaching: The Inside Scoop from a Master Teacher, was published.

**Melody Hannegan's** daughter, Julia, is engaged to be married next June.

## Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2014  
Heinz History Center  
Steamship Arabia Exhibit  
4:45 P.M. 22 present

October Meeting: Tuesday, the 28th  
Greeter: Sandy Werderitch  
Inspiration: Karen Ulrich  
Raffle Gift(s): Darlene Farrell and Peg Maser

President Melody Hannegan opened the business meeting at 5:00 P.M. in the cafe area of the History Center. She explained to the unknowing about her shoulder episode and assured us she is on the road to recovery.

Guests were welcomed. Faith Jack introduced Debbie Steinmetz, retired Latin teacher from Shaler Area, and Shari McGill, social studies teacher at Shaler Area High School.

Barbara Rankin read the inspiration, which came from an article by Sharon Randall, a columnist. It was titled "What Does It Really Take for Kids to be Ready for School?" And, yes, Barbara did ask the writer for permission to use her work.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved as printed in the September newsletter.

Corresponding Secretary Peg Maser reported on cards she sent over the summer and the invitations she sent to 50 former members from the past 5 years who we hope will rejoin us this year. Peg also read resignation letters from Mary Shirey and Barbara Lanza. Second Vice President Faith Jack suggested maybe a follow-up call to people we know personally to invite them back. Prospect cards are being distributed to consider women for membership; Faith will create a strip of paper with the International Website on it to hand out since all needed information on the Society is on it.

Treasurer Margaret Foster reported that the balance on hand is \$2451.97, which is about where we have been in the past couple years. Marg also presented the proposed budget for the coming year. It totals \$5264.00. Faith Jack moved and Karen Klingman seconded the motion to accept the budget. Motion passed.

First Vice President Paulette Hemmings reported on meetings for the year, with the theme of ENGAGE. She explained the variety of venues, costs, and programs.

Barbara MacDonald distributed yearbooks.

Melody announced that she still needs a Projects chair/co-chairs. The PA Head Start Association project, with the Chair Project, has hit a bit of a glitch with the copyright infringement issue. The plan is to move the chair around libraries in the area during the year to earn money through the sale of raffle ticket chances.

Melody is doing the Chapter Website and newsletter and would like to hand those chores over to a member. She also wants to start a blog page for newsy items.

Standing Rules were sent to the State for approval. One item that needed to be tweaked is that the Executive Board selects the Treasurer and the President appoints a Parliamentarian.

*(minutes continued)*

No new business was discussed. Sign-up sheets for meeting jobs, raffles, and committee chairs were passed around.

Under Joys and Concerns, Darlene Farrell was named to the Hall of Fame of the Cookie Cutter Collectors Club, Karen Klingman has a new granddaughter, Ellen Rodwick is travelling; Melody's older daughter got engaged; Faith reported success on getting a grave marker for her great grandfather, a veteran of the Spanish American War.

The Basket Raffle included a basket by Paulette Hemmings and items from the History Center, like free passes and magazines. Darlene Farrell, Linda Pepper, and Karen Ulrich, among others, won.

We ended the meeting with a Choral Reading that was used at the International Convention.

The program was presented by Bob Stakeley of the History Center. He gave us information on the Steamship Arabia. After that we went into the exhibit and were allowed to spend as much time as we wanted looking at the recovered objects.

One last activity was the launching of a hot air "balloon" to carry our hope and inspirations into the night sky over the Strip District.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ulrich

Before we entered the exhibit, a group of us posed for a quick picture. The entrance was lined with corn stalks so that we felt like we were walking through the field where the buried steamboat was found. Some of us built and named our own steamboats by embossing the design with symbols of the of key boat parts while Faith tried to save the stubborn mule from going down with the ship.





**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014

PITTSBURGH GLASS CENTER

5472 PENN AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15206

**PROGRAM:**

As we continue in our theme to **ENGAGE** this year, we will **Nurture** your creativity as we tour the Pittsburgh Glass Center's facility, watch a glassblowing demonstration, and create our own sun catcher to take home!

**SCHEDULE:**

Social Time: 4:45-5:00

Brown Bag Supper/Business Meeting: 5:00-6:00

Tour/Demonstration: 6:00-7:00

Creating Our Sun Catcher: 7:00-7:30

**MEAL:**

Bring along whatever you'd like to have for your meal: a sandwich, salad, snacks, drinks, etc. You can provide your own supper or plan together with some friends and share!

**COST: \$25 PER PERSON**, to cover the tour, demonstration and your artistic creation.

**RESERVATION AND PAYMENT: Due by Friday, October 17, 2014**

**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@comcast.net](mailto:paulette.hemmings@comcast.net)

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARKING IS LIMITED, SO CARPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED.**

From Target, Rt. 228, Cranberry  I can give a ride.  I would like a ride.

From Giant Eagle, Camp Horne Rd.  I can give a ride.  I would like a ride.

**ANY PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL NEWS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH MEMBERS?**