

# The Alpha Xi Messenger



October 2015

## The President's Message



Greetings Ladies!

Our first Alpha Xi train trip was a great ride with Italian food in the dining car, good fellowship in the coach, and journeys into the pages of Pittsburgh's past and other places with a wonderful storyteller in Katherine Ayers. As so many of you were on journeys that kept you away, our train was small and we missed you.

Our next destination is a favorite – The Heinz History Center and another one of its excellent exhibits. Plan to pack your bags for travel back to Pittsburgh and the World in the 40's and to take a friend or two or three. There's plenty of room on this train and a light dinner will be served.

Please note a few items in the meeting minutes. We have a "Plus One Initiative" in place for this year's meetings. Bring a guest or more and you will receive extra raffle tickets and the satisfaction that you have shared DKG with someone new. Also for the first time, DKG International is sponsoring travel abroad: a tour of the British Isles – July 18-29, 2016. Information can be found at <http://dkg.grouptoursite.com/>. Consider traveling with other members and also, don't forget that you can apply for a financial assistance grant from the state. Finally, save the dates of the Purposeful Seminar, September 24-26, when our beautiful city will be shared with other PA members.

Happy motoring!

Melody

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

- T - Travel Back in Time!**  
Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>  
Author Katherine Ayres  
Bravo's in Cranberry
- I - Investigate the WWII and  
Pittsburgh Connection!**  
Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
We Can Do It! WWII  
Heinz History Center
- C - Create Delicious Recipes!**  
Thursday, December 3<sup>th</sup>  
Cooking Demo with Sampling  
McGinnis Sisters - Cranberry
- K – Kindle an Understanding  
of your Roots**  
Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Faith's Journey Back in Time  
Shaler-North Hills Library
- E - Express your Artsy Self!**  
Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
Painting Pottery  
Katie's Clay Studio – Rt. 8
- T - Treasure our Alpha Xi  
Community**  
Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Initiation and Installation  
Wildwood Country Club



Check out  
ALPHA XI  
CHAPTER  
of  
DKG  
at

<http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/photo-gallery.html>



Check out your website: <http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>  
Would you consider becoming web mistress or newsletter editor next year?

Program / Educational Excellence Committee  
Paulette Hemmings, Chair



Discover how Pittsburgh affected WWII and how the war affected our region. The newest exhibit at the Heinz History Center focuses on Pittsburgh's role on both the home front and the battlefield through 300 artifacts, life-like figures, interactive displays and personal stories. Also, the exhibit explores the development of the jeep, produced in Butler, PA, which was very instrumental to the war effort.

We hope that you can join us on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> for supper and a private tour of the exhibit, as we experience the 1940's in our region and commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of WWII.

Included in your reservation for the evening, you are also welcome to explore the Heinz History Center from 3:00-4:45 before the meeting begins. This would also be another great opportunity to invite a guest to share in the fun! Hope to see you there!

October 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Greeter: Terry Klein  
Inspiration: Terry Klein  
Raffle: Paulette Hemmings

Please remember that your DKG dues of \$82.00 are due by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Your check, made out to "Delta Kappa Gamma", can be sent to Marg Foster at 200 Goldsmith Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.



#### In Our Community and Beyond:

**Jane Sestric** announced the August birth of her granddaughter, Anonia Josephine.

**Melissa Costantino** earned a Masters degree in Education in Learning and Technology from Western Governor's University in May.

**Dede Rittman** is excited to share that her book, *Student Teaching: The Inside Scoop from a Master Teacher* is a finalist in the self-help category for The Author's Zone. Awards will be presented this month. Prior to the presentation, she will present a workshop on Social Media and Selling Books. Her book, *Grady Gets Glasses*, launches in Times Square on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Carol Schuler** had successful back surgery in May and traveled to Vera Cruz, Brazil to visit a Christian Preschool in August. She serves on the board of the preschool at Memorial Park Church.

**Diane Goff's** son Andrew has a job in the Hawaiian Attorney General's office in the agriculture department. He lives in Honolulu.

As a passenger, **Ellen Rodwich** received permission to bake 2 cakes (with the assistance of the head chef) on her Viking River Cruise – a thank you for the dining room staff. Chocoholics: they contained French dark chocolate bits.

**AN EVENING WITH AN  
AUTHOR**

At our September meeting, we were enlightened and entertained by local, award-winning author, Katherine Ayres. She shared stories of her inspiration for several of her books. In addition, she discussed the process involved in completing the book and how the process differs for various types of books. Katherine has many other topics for presentations that she gives to student groups, and if any teachers in your school district are interested in contacting Katherine for more information, her email address is [KAyres@Chatham.edu](mailto:KAyres@Chatham.edu)



Author and Educator, Katherine Ayres, seated on the left, delighted us with her stories of creating books for children of all ages. She made us want to be in her graduate writing courses at Chatham University.

**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**

September 14, 2015  
Bravo Cucina, Cranberry Township  
18 members present, 1 guest

President Melody Hannegan opened the meeting at 5:05 P.M. We each received a red folder to hold our printed directory when we signed in for the meeting.

In lieu of inspiration, we each wrote "three little words", which we shared with members from other tables.

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

Corresponding Secretary Peg Maser reported on her correspondences since the last meeting. She sent thank yous and a get well card to Paulette Hemmings when she had her knee replaced. She read a thank you from Barbara Rankin, a letter of resignation from Aleda Lardin, a thank you from the Jared Box Project and from UPMC Children's Hospital.

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**Important Reminder:** This year we will award the Grant-in-Aid to 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 October and December meetings. The deadline for submitting to Terry Klein and The Scholarship Committee is February 2, 2016.

## Minutes (Continued)

Barbara Schmid accepted news checks and gave the Treasurer's Report in Marg Foster's absence. The balance on hand is \$2455.58. Barb also presented the Budget for the year and answered any questions. Terry Klein moved to accept the budget; Phyllis Jenny seconded. Motion carried.

Membership/Second Vice President Faith Jack brought bookmarks with links to the state and international websites. Faith also announced a +1 or +2 Initiative to get members to bring potential members to the October 28 meeting. She also is looking for someone to travel to the United Kingdom in July 2016 with a Delta Kappa Gamma-sponsored tour.

Jane Sestric introduced her guest, Elva Matous.

First Vice President/ Educational Excellence Program Chair Paulette Hemmings thanked her committee for coming up with programs for the year and is open to suggestions for the future.

Melody announced Sandy Werderitch and Shari McGill as co-chairs for Projects. State projects for State President Tracy Dusch's biennium include Library connections (Little Free Libraries) and Dress for Success initiatives. We will also continue the Jared Boxes under the direction of Peg Maser.

The Social Committee had sign-ups for greeters, inspiration, and baskets.

Melody still needs a Visual and Performing Arts chair and a Historical Records chair. (Melody is the State chair for Historical Records, and Phyllis Jenny is on her committee.)

Under New Business, the Purposeful Seminar in 2016 will be in Pittsburgh: "The Pride of Pittsburgh." A planning meeting will be at King's in New Kensington. Terry Klein moved to give \$50 to the Purposeful Living Seminar; Peg Maser seconded. Motion approved.

Several members have new grandchildren, Dede Rittman reported that her book *Grady Gets Glasses* will be released on Dec. 4 in Times Square. Former member Nancy Moore had double bypass surgery recently.

Barb Schmid won the raffle bag.

We ended the meeting with the Delta Kappa Gamma song at 5:55.

After dinner, Paulette introduced author Katherine (Kathy) Ayres. Kathy spoke of her inspiration for her books and about the writing process and the "stinky writing closet" that holds the flotsam of her early projects. She also brought books we could purchase and that she would autograph.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ulrich



**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM  
OCTOBER 28, 2015  
HEINZ HISTORY CENTER  
1212 SMALLMAN STREET  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222**

**PROGRAM:**

To continue this year's theme of "Getting On The Train" with our **TICKET**, at our October meeting we will **INVESTIGATE** WWII with its Pittsburgh Connection with Robert Stakeley, the Education Outreach Coordinator for the Heinz History Center.

**SCHEDULE:**

Self Tour of Building: 3:00-4:45  
Social Time: 4:45-5:00  
Business Meeting: 5:00-5:45  
Meal: 5:45-6:30  
Private Exhibit Tour: 6:30-7:15

**MENU:**

**SELECT ONE:**

- Turkey Wrap (turkey, cheddar cheese, turkey bacon, lettuce, tomato on a flour wrap)
- Tuna Wrap (tuna salad, romaine, tomato on a flour wrap)
- Chicken Caesar Wrap (grilled chicken, mozzarella, feta, olives, lettuce, tomato on flour wrap)
- Ham Sandwich (honey ham, Swiss cheese, pickles, lettuce, tomato, spicy mustard on wheat bread)
- Roast Beef Sandwich (roast beef, cheddar, lettuce, tomato, onion, Thousand Island dressing on rye)
- Turkey Sandwich (turkey, provolone, spring mix, red pepper, honey mustard on sourdough bread)

**SIDE ITEMS (all are included):**

Roasted Red Pepper and Gouda Soup with crackers  
Garden Salad with choice of two dressings  
Assorted cookie and brownie tray  
Coffee, iced tea, lemonade, iced water

**COST: \$19.00 PER PERSON**

**Reservation and payment due by October 21, 2015**

**Payment: Check payable to Delta Kappa Gamma, along with selection to:**

Paulette Hemmings  
5052 Windriver  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Questions? Contact Paulette at 412-331-7894 or [paulette.hemmings@comcast.net](mailto:paulette.hemmings@comcast.net)

- **YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_
- **YOUR WRAP OR SANDWICH SELECTION** \_\_\_\_\_
- **YOUR GUEST'S NAME AND WRAP/SANDWICH SELECTION** \_\_\_\_\_
- **CARPPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED:**  
From Target, Rt. 28, 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 THE MEMBERS:**