

The Alpha Xi Messenger

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Pennsylvania State Organization*

October 2023



The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies!

Our first meeting of the new school year was a busy and personal one! Our inspiration was an article written by a beloved member whom we recently lost and our raffle prize was a beautiful red rose stained-glass piece made by a member and her husband. We are so grateful for our members' talents, generosity, and involvement in our chapter!

At the meeting we heard a report from Jade, describing how interesting and fulfilling the 2023 PA convention was and we began anticipating next year's DKG convention, which will be close to home-in Cranberry Township, just north of Pittsburgh - so many of us will be able to go!

This year we have begun two new projects, which support President Royce's theme of "Helping the Local Community." You can read details in this newsletter about the fundraisers that will help local students and teachers. We will also continue to collect for Dress for Success.

In addition, we offered our Teacher Enrichment Grants again this year, which fund local teachers' projects. We will soon know if we have any winners for this year!

Some reminders:

- *Please give me your updated list of chapter involvement at the November meeting.
- *Remember that a potential member is not necessarily a classroom teacher; she could be a counselor, librarian, coach, private tutor, paraprofessional, fitness instructor, etc. Think about who you know that you could invite to one of our meetings to learn about DKG.
- *Finally, we need members to step up to take leadership roles in our chapter after this year. Where do we go from here, and what can you do to help?

I hope to see you at our next meeting on November 9th at the Shaler-North Hills Library, where we will hear a fascinating presentation from one of our chapter members about a famous lady from the culinary world!

Hope to see you there!
Paulette



At the September meeting, **Barb MacDonald** introduced the speaker, **Lisa Purk**, who talked about dealing with stress in leadership.

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The 2023-2024 Program Calendar – Remaining Meetings

Date	Location	Program	Meal
Thursday, November 9, 2023	Shaler North Hills Library, Mt. Royal Boulevard	Speaker – Darlene Farrell – “Who is Betty Crocker?”	Boxed dinner
Tuesday, January 23, 2024	Dee Jays BBQ – Rt. 910 and Brandt School Road	Speaker – Bob Stakeley from the Heinz History Center – The Kaufmanns	BBQ dinner
Wednesday, March 13, 2024	The Clubhouse, Rt. 8 in Gibsonia	Speaker – Carleton Young Discovering a Family History	Buffet dinner
Either April 27 or May 4, 2024 (Saturday)	TBD – possibly The Springfield Grill in Seven Fields – reservation can’t be made until November	Installation of Officers Celebration of Life Ceremony Musical Performance – Josh Morton, Duquesne University, violin	Luncheon

The Program Committee

Phyllis Jenny, 1st Vice President and Committee Chair

Our next DKG meeting is on Thursday, November 9, at the Shaler-North Hills Library. We will enjoy a boxed meal from Good L’Oven with your choice of sandwich, pasta salad, fruit cup, cookie, and bottled water.

Following dinner, our resident food connoisseur and expert crafter, Darlene, will present a program on everybody’s favorite cookbook editor, Better Crocker. To prepare for this program, I looked at the first page in my Betty Crocker’s Cookbook. This page did not contain a recipe and was one I had never read before. So now I can’t wait to hear Darlene’s answer to the question, “Who is Betty Crocker?”

Hope to see everyone on November 9. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and the vibrant foliage!

Note: Darlene is asking for everyone to please wear red as we take a look at “Who is Betty Crocker?”



Membership/Teacher Enrichment Grants

Jeanne Vendeland – 2nd Vice President and Committee Chair

At our November meeting, we will have the welcoming ceremony for Dina Donini, our newest member. Please plan to attend to get to know Dina, who is sure to be an enthusiastic and energetic addition to our chapter. And continue to think about potential members who would be interested in coming to a meeting and learning about DKG.

The judging committee for the Teacher Enrichment Grant has five qualified applicants to choose from for this year’s award. We will have narrowed down the choices by our November meeting so that the membership can vote on our decision. Thanks to everyone who helped get out the word about our grant, especially Faith Jack, Melissa Costantino, and Jade Leung.

Projects

Tissues for Teachers

Darlene Farrell and Jade Leung

ALERT! At our November meeting boxes of tissues will be collected for this project for the last time!

After this meeting, we will label the boxes and add them to those which have already been collected and readied for distribution to the designated high schools represented by our membership!

Thank you in advance for your participation!



School Supplies

Phyllis Jenny

Our project of donating school supplies continues until May. I will be collecting items such as notebooks, pencils, tablets, pencils, folders, binders, pens, backpacks, etc. at every meeting. All items collected or purchased through monetary donations will be donated to North Hill Community Outreach and The Hub in Westview.

Dress for Success

Shari McGill

As you switch from summer to winter wardrobes, don't forget to set aside your gently-worn clothing and donate it at any meeting this year!

I would like to thank all of you who have been sending cards and prayers through this breast cancer journey of mine. It means so much to hear from all of you and know you care.

Marg

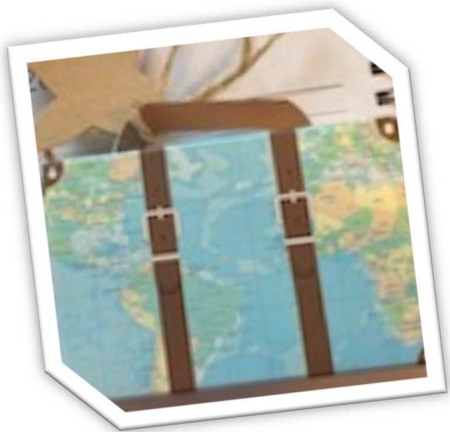
The November meeting is brought to you by the Shaler Area teachers!

Alpha Xi Officers Needed

Faith Jack, Past President/Nominations Chair

Have you been enjoying the programming, projects & camaraderie of Alpha Xi? If so, we need you to take an active role in contributing to the future of our chapter. As you know, Paulette has served 2 biennia, so she will be moving to Past President. Join me in congratulating her on a job well done.

As current Past President, I am gathering a slate of officers. Please consider serving as one of the elected officers: President, 1st Vice President [Program Chair], 2nd Vice President [Membership Chair], Corresponding Secretary, or Recording Secretary.



What is happening in DKG Pittsburgh?

Barb MacDonald attended the Theta Chapter's Benefit on Saturday October 7, 2023 at the Doubletree Hotel in Greentree. This was their big fundraiser where they awarded two \$1,000.00 scholarships. The event consisted of a few games and many raffles with about 55 large baskets and 20 smaller ones. Also, there was a 50/50 raffle worth \$359.

The 1st scholarship winners was Alainah Bhutta, DVM, at the University of Georgia for the College of Veterinary Medicine. She hopes to continue in research and teaching of Veterinary Medicine. The 2nd winner was Elizabeth Nerone, a senior at Duquesne University. She is planning to graduate in Elementary Education in 2025.

Theta Chapter currently has about 55 members. There were 119 folks in attendance including me and 9 members of Alpha Phi.

I introduced myself to Rose Ann Colosimo and said we would be interested in hearing about the multi-chapter event they plan to host in 2024 when Royce Boyd, PA State President, will visit.

The theme of the event was *The Places You'll Go*, so that explains the favor package and the large basket I won.



Honor for Melissa

Melissa Costantino was a finalist for the PA Presidential Award of Excellence in Math and Science. She, her mother, and daughter Violet were at the state capitol this week for the ceremony. She first attended a COLA Rally for public sector union retirees! Congratulations, Melissa, on this nomination and thank you for fighting for your sisters in retirement!

Member News

Jeanne Keys

During the two weeks I recently spent in Morocco, I traveled through a beautiful and modern country.

One day, we visited the small town of Rissani on the edge of the Sahara Desert. A part of that day's tour included a visit to a pre-school deep in the Medina. The students were about five years old, very cute and excited to have visitors. The Moroccans value education, and while the children were learning Arabic, there were also posters in French and English on the walls.



Jade Leung

I displayed my Legos at the Brickfest Live Lego Event at the Monroeville Convention Center on Oct 8. Since it is the month of Halloween I set up a Harry Potter Lego display.



Phyllis Jenny

My grandson, Nathan, traveled to Guatemala with the organization *Doctors Without Borders* in October. He was the videographer along with a photographer who was documenting the work of the medical team from the Pittsburgh area. Here are my two favorite photos of him that he shared with me - one in scrubs before going into the O. R. and one at the top of a mountain in the clouds.

Terry Klein and Melody Hannegan

We have returned from our make-up-from-2020 trip to Sicily and had an amazing experience there! These 2 Latin teachers marveled at the sights of Greek temples and theaters and intricate Roman mosaics, delighted in the Sicilian cuisine, and climbed Mt. Etna! Bellissima!