

# The Alpha Xi Messenger

September/October 2016



## The President's Message



WELCOME TO FALL

The weather has finally changed, just in time for the official start of Fall. I love the crisp fall air, colorful leaves, cooler temps and fall decorations. To get you into the season, at our October meeting we will be creating an autumn wreath. Please respond early as Paulette needs to inform Pat Catan's so they have the necessary supplies.

Thank you to everyone for a great first meeting in September. The venue was perfect, with an added bonus of leftovers for lunch. Ellen, Terry and Melody had us entertained with their Readers' Theater offerings. I especially appreciate everyone's enthusiasm for the ice breaker & sharing your choices of train-themed photos to depict your DKG journey. I hope you got to learn more about a fellow sister.

Along with this email, you will be receiving the state communique *The Spark* and a flyer from Marg Foster outlining our first project of book donations to Urban Impact. We will be using our chapter's donation of books as centerpieces at the Tri-Chapter meeting on March 4.

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## RIDING THE RAILS – TAKE TO THE TRACKS

<b>T</b> aking the 1 <sup>st</sup> Steps to Life-Long Learning – Osher Reader's Theater	Monday – September 12 <sup>th</sup> Café Des Ami Sewickley	Ellen Rodwick
<b>W</b> Reath designing for the Fall	<b>Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Pat Catan's at Mt. Nebo</b>	<b>The artistic staff at Pat Catan's</b>
Accolades to Alpha Xi: Birthday Bash & Educational Changes	Thursday, December 8 <sup>th</sup> (our birthday) Trinity Lutheran Church - Wexford	Jade Leung
<b>C</b> heck Out the Zoo	Wednesday, February 1st Fresco's - Wexford	The Pittsburgh Zoo – Docent Program
<b>K</b> eept the train on track	Saturday, March 4 <sup>th</sup> Diamond Run Country Club – Ohio Township	Tri-chapter Meeting with PA President, Tracey Dusch
<b>S</b> avoring our Gardens and our New Members	Thursday, May 4 <sup>th</sup> , Sample School House and Cranberry Library	Master Gardener, Bill Goff (& Diane's husband)

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

## President's Message (cont.)

Speaking of the Tri-Chapter meeting... we need volunteers (about 6) for a subcommittee to help Phyllis Jenny with the centerpieces, basically tying the books together. This would be a great opportunity to jump ON BOARD and make TRACKS in your DKG journey. Contact Phyllis at [pljenny@comcast.net](mailto:pljenny@comcast.net).

Another subcommittee that we would like to form is for the mini-outings. It would entail organizing an outing or two for the year. From the surveys, most people are interested in dining/food tours, day-trips and cultural outings. Terry Klein has the survey information, and she and Paulette have some ideas to share. Contact Terry at [tmklein@zoominternet.net](mailto:tmklein@zoominternet.net).

At the September meeting, we selected Secret Sisters. If you were not in attendance and cannot make it in October, please contact me for a Sister. Hopefully, you will get someone you don't know very well and learn more about them, either through discussions at meetings or by contacting a friend. Most of our members have a birthday listed in the directory, so sending her a card would be nice. If your secret sister's birthday has already passed this year, you can send a "thinking of you" card or a half-birthday card. If your birthday isn't in the directory, please email Barb MacDonald [bmacd@zoominternet.net](mailto:bmacd@zoominternet.net) so she can add it in the corrections. (We only need the month & day.) Secret sisters will be revealed at our final meeting in May.

Enjoy the beginning of my favorite month, and I'll see you on October 19. Oh, and speaking of October, if you want to dress in period (pick a decade) gear for the Birthday Bash on December 8, now is a great time to get a costume. You might want to pick the 50s as our charter year, or something representative of your first decade of teaching. (Hmm, early 80s. Big hair, big glasses and shoulder pads!) Costume not required, but hey, it's fun to dress up!

Faith Jack  
President Alpha Xi  
[Faithj40@gmail.com](mailto:Faithj40@gmail.com)  
412-303-5443



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



## PROGRAMS

### Paulette Hemmings

Our next DKG meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at Pat Catan's at Mt. Nebo Pointe. Bring a brown bag supper and beverage for yourself or to share with some friends. Then get ready to display your artistic abilities as we design our own autumn wreaths! All of the materials and instruction will be provided, and you will have two choices: making a 14-inch wreath for \$25 or an 18-inch wreath for \$35, depending on which works better for you. You can make it for yourself or even as a gift for someone. I will need you to make your choice ahead of time so that there will be enough of the correct materials on hand, so send me your choice, along with your payment. It should be a creative and fun evening, and we hope to see you there!

### *Membership News:*

**Sallie Fisher** is finally home and still recuperating.

**Ellen Rodwick** is traveling again: Florida in August, the Shaw Festival in Canada in September, and then a cruise to Tahiti.

**Karen Klingman** has a new grandson, Walter Michael, born 5/23/16. Her daughter, Abbey, a massage therapist, now works with Glimmer of Hope at AHN Wexford.

**Debbie Steinmetz, Sandy Werderitch** (and husband Bob) and **Faith Jack** had a wonderful vacation in Ireland in July.

**Faith Jack** enjoyed a long weekend with college friends in Gatlinburg, TN in June.

**Dede Rittman** now has Grady bunnies to complement the books. Check out her website: [www.gradygetsglasses.com](http://www.gradygetsglasses.com)! Orders can be made through her to avoid shipping costs. Also, she is willing to visit elementary schools to share her book and talk about being an author.

## Alpha Xi Journeys! My Delta Kappa Gamma Story Barbara Rankin

For several years in the '60's I was a mail person for DKG, delivering mail between members in my school district and a member who lived nearby, so I knew what DKG was, but I thought it was only for classroom teachers. So, I was surprised and honored in 1965 when I received an invitation to join. In 1968, at the encouraging of my principal, Virginia Hannan, I applied for a summer scholarship (not given any more), and went with her to the Convention to receive it. I was amazed at how she knew so many people there! I skipped a few years, but then went again, and found that now I knew some of the people there. Over the years I was a member on various committees, then chairman of several committees and then I became a state officer - Corresponding and Recording Secretary.

In 1990 I met Susan Stamm from Lambda Chapter (Grove City). We became good friends and have traveled to many Regional Conferences and International Conventions together. When I had been active on the state lever, I usually had to travel alone, so when I encouraged her to become active at the state level, I said I would travel with her.

I have made wonderful friends from all over the state, all over the country, and even the world through Delta Kappa Gamma. I believe in the purposes of the Society and am proud of my membership at the chapter level and the International level.

*N.B. Barbara is a recipient of the Alpha Alpha State Achievement Award, the state's highest honor.*



**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12, 2016**  
**Café Tres Amis – Sewickley**  
**T – Taking the First Steps too Lifelong Learning**

Faith Jack, President, opened the meeting.  
Sandy Werderich introduced her visitor, Judy Horne.

Ice-breaker Activity: Train Associations/Where do we personally fit on the DKG Journey? We each chose an area on the train where we would like to be and broke into smaller groups where we could focus on each other and how we all fit into our personal journey.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Shari McGill reported. April minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE: Peg Maser reported. Two cards went to Melissa Constantino - get well for hip surgery and the other for her new house; a get well to Linda Peffer who shattered an elbow in an accident; and 2 get well cards to Sallie Fisher who was hospitalized until Sept. 3. Nineteen emails were sent to members inviting them to rejoin the Chapter with 4 responses. Two "Thank You" notes were received from donations made to state and international groups of DKG.

TREASURER REPORT: Marg Foster reported. Balance moving forward from the report is \$1,238.80.

1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT and PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Paulette Hemmings reported it is a challenging process because of rising prices and most venues offer a buffet type dinner. The following programs are scheduled for 2016-17 year: October 19, Pat Catan's at Mt. Nebo Pointe - we will be making a fall wreath with a brown bag dinner. December 8, is our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wexford; it's a "pot luck dinner" with members dressing in 50's type clothing. Jade Lueng will be presenting. February 1, Fresco's in Wexford enjoying comfort foods. We will have 2 speakers from the Pittsburgh Zoo. March 4, is our Tri-Chapter meeting with Theta and Alpha Epsilon Chapters at Diamond Run Country Club with the State President addressing us on Literacy. May 4, is our initiation meeting, at the Sample School House and moving over to Cranbury Library as a dessert meeting. Our speaker will be Bill Goff who is a master gardener.

PROJECTS: Peg Maser reported Jared boxes were very well received by Children's Hospital and we received a "Thank You" note stating the same. We will continue this project and the boxes will be distributed at the December meeting. These boxes can be returned in March and May and please remember NO EDIBLE CONTENTS. Marg Foster explained the Urban Impact of Pittsburgh (Literacy Support Group) located in North Side. Phyllis Jenny will spearhead the collection of the books.. Books needed are for Grades 3-8 especially. We will turn those books into centerpieces for tables at the March meeting. **THE BOOKS NEED TO BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY** in order to construct the centerpieces. (continued page 5)

**Projects**  
**Phyllis Jenny**

Remember we are collecting books to be used as centerpieces for the tri-chapter meeting and then donated to Urban Impact Foundation of Pittsburgh. We especially need fiction books for grades 3-8. Please bring you donations to the October, December or February meetings.

*The October Meeting Volunteers:*  
*Inspiration- Melissa Costantino-Poraben*

*Greeter - Ellen Rodwick*  
*Raffle - Paulette Hemmings and Phyllis Jenny*

minutes (cont. from page 5)

**VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS:** Terry Klein reported. Surveys of Activities were passed out to be completed for those who did not complete them on line. These surveys will help us to meet other than at regular meeting to enjoy and socialize with our sisters.

**SOCIAL:** Phyllis Jenny stated we need greeters, inspiration, and raffle basket volunteers. Please sign up!

**OLD BUSINESS:** Faith presented Melody Hannegan with her President's Photo Book.

**NEW BUSINESS:** NE Regional Convention is July 12-14 2017 in Windsor, Ontario; remember you need a passport to attend this convention. We can consider a bus for the 6 Pittsburgh area Chapters, it would be about \$100 per person. Secret Sister selection: we each picked a name and we will send cards etc. until we reveal our Secret sisters at the May meeting. Have fun with this!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Newsletter deadline Sept. 23, distribution Sept. 30. Deadline to respond to Pat Catan's is October 10. Jade Leung was September's 50/50 winner.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS:** Paulette Hemmings went to Banff and Glacier National Parks. Dede Rittman shared that her Grady figure is here and available for sale. Karen Klingman has a new grandson and her daughter is working as a massage therapist for the Glimmer of Hope organization at AGH network. Faith Jack, Sandy Werderich, and Debbie Steinmetz were in Ireland this summer. Peg Maser visited her great-granddaughter in Nashville.

We decided to forgo the DKG song because of time restraints.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

**PROGRAM:** Osher of Carnegie Mellon University's Lifelong Learning - Readers Theater presented by Ellen Rodwick! Several skits were presented By Ellen Rodwick , Melody Hannegan, and Terry Klein

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shari McGill



Thank you for all your book contributions for our raffle basket for The Pride of Pittsburgh Seminar. The basket contained books for all ages and interests! Melody Hannegan delivered the basket to the Double Tree Hilton in Monroeville.



**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016  
PAT CATAN'S ARTS AND CRAFTS STORE  
250 MT. NEBO POINTE ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237**

**PROGRAM:**

As we continue our year of "Riding the Rails," let us once again take to the **TRACKS!** At the October meeting we will illustrate the "**R**" as we design an autumn w**R**eath to brighten your home! You can select the size that will work for you, and use your creativity to construct your masterpiece!

**SCHEDULE:**

4:45-5:00 Social Time  
5:00-6:00 Business Meeting /Meal  
6:00-7:30 Project

**MENU:**

Brown bag supper and beverage that you bring

**COST:**

**\$25** per person for a **14 inch** wreath

**\$35** per person for an **18 inch** wreath

**Reservation and payment for your wreath are due by October 10, 2016.**

**Payment of \$25 or \$35: 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)

**(REMEMBER THAT PART OF CAMP HORNE ROAD IS CLOSED)**

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

**YOUR GUEST'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR SELECTION (14 inch or 18 inch wreath)** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

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