The Alpha Xi Messenger

March 2016

The President's Message

Greetings, Alpha Xi Sisters!

As I write, the crocuses are blooming, the robins populate the field next to our house, snow is on the ground, and temperatures are predicted to reach nearly 70 degrees next week. Spring is almost in the air and our Alpha Xi train is preparing for the last stops of the year.

The first is a pleasure trip to Katie's Clay Studio where we will express our artsy selves. Please carefully read Paulette's write-up and the RSVP form as the procedure for reserving our tickets is a bit different. Plan to dress casually, pack a brown bag dinner, bring a beverage for imbibing, and have fun decorating pottery.

For our second stop, let's dress up in our finest. We'll be taking aboard our 4 new passengers, bestowing our grant-in-aid to a Duquesne University senior, and installing the newly elected crew. All are great reasons for us to assemble joyfully and celebrate Alpha Xi.

The final stop will be on Saturday, June 11th at the PADKG Convention where we will be honored at the luncheon for our 60th birthday as a chapter. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could proudly fill the train to receive this wonderful recognition!

I hope to travel with you all this spring! Happy motoring!

Melody
viatoretis@comcast.net

The March 30th Meeting
Inspiration: Paulette Hemmings
Greeter: Barb Schmid
Raffle: Phyllis Jenny and Melissa Costantino-Poruben

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/

SHOW YOUR ARTISTIC SIDE!!

BY PAULETTE HEMMINGS

At our next Delta Kappa Gamma meeting on Wednesday, March 30th, we will once again have the opportunity to share a creative experience with each other and learn a new skill: painting pottery at Katie's Clay Studio on Route 8 in Allison Park! We will begin the evening with our business meeting and a brown-bag supper that you bring, and then we'll begin our masterpiece!

As Katie explained to me, she has over 200 items for selection, and this project is good for all art abilities. We will each pay individually that evening for the items(s) that we would like to paint. The prices range from $7 for a small piece to $75 for a large platter. We will pay for the cost of the item and an additional charge to fire the finished piece. The normal cost to fire an item is $7, but since we are a group, Katie reduced the price to $3.50 per piece. The cost of the selected item or items, plus the $3.50 fee to fire each item needs to total a minimum of $16.50 per person. We can pay with cash or credit card that evening, and we need a minimum of 10 participants. As always, guests are welcome, so bring along a friend or two who may enjoy the experience (and who may be interested in learning about our chapter)!

Feel free to bring your preference for your own supper and beverage, or you may like to share with friends! We are welcome to bring an adult beverage, but we would also need to bring along our own cups, corkscrew, etc.

Even though there is no pre-payment or meal choice for this meeting, it is important to RSVP, so that Katie will know how many participants to expect.

We hope that you'll be able to join us for an evening of fun, food, and friendship as we create our works of art!

Membership by Faith Jack

I am pleased to announce that four new members were voted in at our February meeting: Kathy Barkovich (retired art teacher, Shaler Area & North Hills), Sallie Fisher (retired FACS teacher, Avonworth), Jade Leung (biology teacher, Shaler Area) and Deborah Steinmetz (retired Latin teacher, Shaler Area). Please join us in welcoming them at our Initiation meeting at Wildwood Country Club on April 30th.

Thank you, Faith, for your great presentation on your genealogical journey to the DAR. Alpha Xi Sisters, please help the DAR with its letter writing campaign to veterans. See the flyer which will be attached to the email with this newsletter and will also be linked on our website. We can give our letters to Faith at the next meeting.

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

PROJECTS:

Sandy Werderitch and Shari McGill

Literacy: Many thanks for all who brought silent auction items and bought the items at the February meeting. We raised $134.50 for Reading is Fundamental – Pittsburgh.

Dress for Success: Shari had an overflowing trunkful of clothing from the December and February meetings for Dress for Success. She delivered the donations and at the next meeting will distribute tax receipts.

Jared Boxes: This project was created to honor a very brave, little boy from Pennsylvania who lost his battle to cancer at a young age. He always took a backpack with him to treatments and wondered why other children did not do the same. The Jared Box highlights the importance of play and brightens the day of children who are faced with hospital stays and /or multiple treatments.

Peg Maser brought to the February meeting 41 boxes for us to fill and only 1 remains. If you wanted to participate and did not have the opportunity, several of us took two boxes so we could share or please consider donating seed money for next year's boxes. We will be collecting the filled boxes at the March and April meetings.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS® PITTSBURGH

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2016
Shaler North Hills Library
20 members present, 5 guests

Melody opened the business meeting at 5:05.

Guests were introduced: Jade Leung, Kathy Barkovich, Debbie Steinmetz, Sallie Fischer, Ginny Blasi (Mu chapter in New Jersey).

Dede Rittman had the inspiration. She focused on three quotations about teaching and the effect teachers have on others.

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

Peg Maser got a note from Barbara Rankin with a check for a Jared Box and one for the Silent Auction.

Barb Schmid gave the Treasurer's Report in Marg Foster's absence. The Balance on Hand is $2982.04.

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In Our Community and Beyond:

Marg Foster and her husband spent the month of February on Anna Maria Island in Florida and visited Key West before heading home.

Phyllis Jenny and **Sallie Fisher** are traveling in Costa Rica.

Sandy Werderitch is recuperating from foot surgery and is making her way around on a scooter.

Welcome to the world, *Logan Ruk*, **Nancy Weizel's** grandson; *Margaret Eloise*, **Melody Hannegan's** granddaughter, and *Ivy Elizabeth*, **Peg Maser's** great-granddaughter.

Several years ago, **Karen Klingman's** great nephew pledged to collect one million can tabs to donate to Shriner's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Ronald McDonald house. Many of you made contributions and helped him and his school, General Nash Elementary School in Haileysville, PA, reach that goal. Many thanks for the hand drawn and hand written thank you notes from students in his school.

Dede Rittman continues to work hard on behalf of her books. She has been interviewed by Stu Taylor and Neil Haley and has a full schedule of visits to elementary schools, libraries, and universities. She will participate in Cranberry Library's Author Expo on March 12th.

Minutes (Continued)

Paulette Hemmings explained the next meeting at Katie's Clay Studio. Each person will pay according to the item chosen plus the $3.50 firing fee. Bring a brown bag dinner, and we will have a short business meeting before our ceramic projects. Paulette also brought information on the new Toys exhibit at the Heinz history Center.

The candidates for membership were asked to leave the room. Faith Jack gave us some biographical information on each woman: Sallie Fischer, Jade Leung, Kathy Barkovich, Debbie Steinmetz. Terry Klein moved to accept all the nominees. Shari McGill seconded. All in favor, none opposed; motion passed.

Barbara MacDonald read the slate of officers for the 2016-2018 biennium: President: Faith Jack; First Vice President (Programs): Paulette Hemmings; 2nd. Vice President (Membership): Sandy Werderitch; Corresponding Secretary: Peg Maser; Recording Secretary: Shari McGill. Once again, Terry Klein moved to close the nominations. Melody asked for approval; it was unanimous. Melody also complimented the chapter for having members who will take on roles of leadership.

Terry Klein announced the Grant-in-Aid candidate: Victoria Abbondanza, a senior at Duquesne University. Terry moved that Victoria be given the Grant; Karen Klingman seconded. All in favor, no nay votes.

Shari McGill announced that bids on the silent auction would be held until 6:15 P.M. She also accepted Dress for Success items. She has a carload to donate and will do so in the coming weeks. Her co-chair, Sandy Werderitch had foot surgery the morning of the meeting and will be off her feet for 8-10 weeks.

Peg Maser gave a brief history of the Jared Boxes and explained suggestions for filling the boxes. Return them at the March or April meeting. We have 41 boxes with secure lids this year.

The Sixtieth Anniversary of our chapter will be celebrated at the state convention at the Saturday, June 11 luncheon. We could carpool if people want to go just for the luncheon. We can also "Accent our attire." Melody passed around a list for people to indicate their interest in attending.

Under Joys and Concerns, Peg Maser announced that she is a new great-grandmother to Ivy Elizabeth.

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

Melody won the raffle basket, which netted $61.00 in ticket sales.

After a dinner of shepherd's pie, marinated vegetables, and apple dumplings, Faith Jack presented a program on finding her roots: Voices Through Time. She explained the process she went through to validate membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (and perhaps in the Mayflower Society).

Members gathered the items they had winning bids on for the silent auction. It netted $134.50.

The meeting ended at 7:55

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ulrich

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016
KATIE'S CLAY STUDIO
3812 WILLIAM FLYNN HIGHWAY (RT. 8)
ALLISON PARK, PA 15101

PROGRAM:
Continuing this year's theme of "Getting on the Train" with our **TICKET**, at our March meeting, we will illustrate the letter, "**E**," by **Expressing Our Artsy Self** by participating in Katie's workshop, "Paint Your Own Pottery!"

SCHEDULE: (note the change from the usual times)
Social Time: 5:15-5:30
Business Meeting and Meal: 5:30-6:00
Project: 6:00-8:30

MEAL:
Bring a brown bag supper and beverage for yourself or to share with friends.
You are also welcome to bring an adult beverage, but you'll also need
to bring along your own cups, corkscrew, etc.

COST:
Each person will pay individually that evening for the item (s) that she paints. Prices range from $7.00-$75.00 per piece, plus a $3.50 fee to fire each piece. The cost of the selected item(s) plus the $3.50 fee to fire each item needs to total a minimum of $16.50 per person. We can pay with cash or credit card, and we need a minimum of 10 participants.

RESERVATION DUE BY MARCH 20, 2016
YOU MAY MAIL, EMAIL OR CALL YOUR RSVP TO:
Paulette Hemmings
5052 Windriver Drive
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
(or) 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: