

# Alpha Upsilon Today



Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

Winter 2018

## ALLLLLLLL ABOARD!!!!

Happy New Year!!

I can't believe we are already in 2019 and nine months into my Presidency! I have to admit, this experience has been both fulfilling and at times, a bit of a challenge.

As we are turning the page into this new year, we need to seriously look at our organization. Like all organizations now days, we are struggling with keeping up our obligations and our membership. Put on your thinking caps ladies!! Do you have a daughter, sister, neighbor, a niece, someone you used to teach with that is still in service, someone you play cards with or sit in church with ~ do they have a daughter you could introduce DKG to? Or perhaps, they, themselves, are someone you could invite to check us out. We have only inducted one member in the last two years. Remember, we no longer are solely a teacher organization. International has now opened us up to school nurses, social workers, and teachers aids and other educators. Our numbers are dropping for several different reasons. If we are to stay AU strong, then we ALL need to step up and try to increase our membership.

Re-Member-Ship Think about why...DKG

Barb Summers

**President Barb Summers  
and Veep Jenn McKay**



### SAVE THESE DATES

**Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> @10 AM** -Linus Blanket Day

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> @4:30 PM** -Board meeting at Peoples Library in Lower Burrell

**Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> @10 AM** - General Membership Meeting at Penn State New Ken Art Gallery

**Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9am-8pm** -Spring Crop Event called Color Your World - at Logans Ferry Presbyterian Church

**Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> @ 4:30** – Board meeting; location TBA

**Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 PM** - General Membership Meeting at Hill Crest Country Club

### Alpha Upsilon Officers for 2018-2019

President—Barbara Summers

First Vice President—Jennifer McKay

Second Vice President—Linda Koharchik

Recording Secretary—Colleen Sites

Corresponding Secretary—Linda Henkel

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## **AU MEETINGS (AKA—Sorry you missed it)**

**October 9, 2018**

The second general meeting of Alpha Upsilon was held at Highlands Middle School at 4:30 in the afternoon. After a brief business meeting in the library, everyone adjourned to Jenn Kosior's classroom where this retired teacher was taken back in time to the multisensory effects of being in school again. Great posters and the smell of chalk reminded me of classrooms of my past, however this room had the addition of a "tent" for making videos, and multiple computers set on fall themed tables.

Here, Jenn introduced us to how she uses the new computer programs while teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade math. Many of these techniques were learned at a Google Seminar Jenn took in the last two summers at Google in California. One such activity requires the students to correct the teacher's work on a math problem that has been posted on the video program, Flipgrid. The student explains how the problem should be solved. As we know, there is no better way to learn something well, than to teach it to someone else. The video is then viewed by the teacher and perhaps shared with the class.

Jenn went on to acquaint us with Google Docs, a Web-based application where you can create, share, edit documents, then access them from any computer—so no more carrying books, grade books, etc. back and forth to school.

Although, at this meeting, there was no meal as at other meetings, we did not leave empty handed or with empty stomachs. During the program we had lots of Halloween snacks and Lois Troiano and Shelly Nicholas brought multiple baked goods to sell as a fundraiser. Yum!

Judging from the reactions of the members who attended, Alpha Upsilon's first afternoon meeting was a success.



## **UPCOMING MEETINGS SUMMARY**

**March 16th**

**Penn State at the Art Gallery**

**10 o'clock**

Our speaker is Michelle Dickerson who will discuss her travels in Poland and her visit to some of the concentration camps that were in use during the Holocaust. Our brunch will be between \$10-12. (it has to be confirmed with PSU's caterers and they are in flux right now) Please ask the ladies to be on the look out for their email invitation because we will need an r.s.v.p.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Hill Crest Country Club**

Our program will be Karen Ball presenting "All That Glitters," showing her collection of rhinestone costume jewelry, with its history, instructions caring for, storing and using jewelry. You will view her vast collection of sparkling gems from yesteryear, learning terms such as Torsade, Parure, Cabochon. Come and enjoy!

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## AU Travels

### Purposeful Seminar—Women of the American Revolution

During the weekend of October 5-7, Barb Gasperini and Betty Grossheim traveled to King of Prussia, PA to participate in this year's Pennsylvania DKG Seminar of Purpose.

We arrived a bit early to enjoy shopping at the King of Prussia Mall, the largest mall on the east coast of the US. With so many stores to choose from, we visited a small fraction but ended up getting our 10,000 steps for the day, just getting from one to another.

On Saturday, we began with a guided bus tour of Valley Forge National Park. The excellent docent helped everyone appreciate the struggles and sacrifices made by both men and women during the 18-month encampment there. The log barracks of the men, Washington's Headquarters and the Justice Bell were some highlights of the park.

We then journeyed to Downtown Philadelphia, where a wonderful luncheon was served at the famous City Tavern. After a brief introduction of the tavern and food by our waiter we enjoyed traditional Early American foods, such as turkey pot pie, poached salmon, apple crisp, and Sally Lunn Bread.

The next visit was just around the block at the new American Revolution Museum where George Washington's original tent is displayed, and a docent taught about many of the important women of the revolution. See the FYI below for some information learned about these, until recently, unsung heroes of the Revolution.

We ended the weekend with two presentations by DKG sisters from the area. Emily Smucker-Beidler spoke about the American Folk Art called Fraktur, which originated in the area. Susan Allen taught us about the educational program called "BreakingoutEDU". This is a system of content-based games used to cultivate critical thinking, teamwork and problem solving.

FYI -- Facts about a few of the Women in the American Revolution and Valley Forge

- The Daughters of Liberty were the ones who started the Revolutionary War because they refused to buy the tax laden tea from the English in Boston
- Peggy Shippen, Benedict Arnold's wife, passed intelligence to the US
- Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, John, as he helped with the Declaration of Independence, "Remember the ladies. Do not put all power in men. They would all be tyrants, if they could."
- Two Petals, a Native American, fought alongside her husband as did Mary Ludwid Hayes.
- Baroness Von Riedesel, a German woman who traveled with her husband helped the wounded and kept a journal of the experience.
- The Justice Bell, which is housed now in a chapel at Valley Forge, was a copy of the Liberty Bell with the addition of "Establish Justice" to the inscription. It traveled around the country between 1915-1920 to help gain support for the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment which gave women the right to vote.



Justice Bell at Valley Forge



Washington's Headquarters

## DKG JOINT MEETING HONORING STATE PRESIDENT

### BARB GASPERINI

On Saturday, November 17, 2018, several chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma welcomed Pennsylvania State President Barbara Gasperini at DeNunzio's Restaurant in Monroeville. The five chapters were Alpha Upsilon, Theta, Upsilon, Alpha Xi and Alpha Phi. The project of President Gasperini is supporting the Girl Scouts. The keynote speaker, Jen McKay of Alpha Upsilon, spoke delightfully about her experiences as a Girl Scout and a DKG sister. Before becoming a member of DKG, Jen received the Grant-in-Aid from her future chapter. President Gasperini related her theme of the circle of membership in DKG through leadership, mentorship, fellowship and friendship. She was presented with a bouquet of "money roses". During our delicious luncheon, we were entertained by a trio of musicians including sister Patty Marco.



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## AU FUNDRAISER

The Great Pumpkin Adventure, a Crop for a Cause, to benefit the Alpha Upsilon Chapter Grant-in-Aid Fund was a huge success.

This project, co-chaired by our president Barbara Summers and First Vice President Jenn McKay was held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Logan's Ferry Presbyterian Church. It was a full day of crafting from 9am to 8pm. It included lunch and dinner.

It was a chapter effort, for all the work---setting up, cooking, serving, teaching scrapbooking techniques, prizes, and cleaning up---was all done by several of our members who volunteered their time, talents, and service.

Red roses & Kudos go to:

Set-up: Barb Summers & Carolyn Sutton

Goody Bags, prizes, and scrapbook lessons: Jenn McKay

Gift for attending: Barb Summers & Carolyn Sutton

Food donations: Sally Coyne, Linda Koharchik, Colleen Sites, Betty Grossheim, Barbara Summers & Judy Schaffer.

Monetary donation: Sandy Ross

Paper Products: Tricia Cavanaugh & Linda Bell

Clean-up: Barb Summers, Jenn McKay & Sue Hilty

We had 22 crafters attending including the president of Alpha Phi Chapter and the past president of Upsilon. We raised \$605 from registrations and \$45 from the 50/50 raffle for a total of \$650.00.

The event was so popular that a second editions is planned for April 27<sup>th</sup> at the same location, Logans Ferry Presbyterian Church

750 Church Street

New Kensington, Pa 15068

It will be from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and is entitled "Color Your World

This crop will benefit our Grant-in-Aid. We need everyone to get involved!

Submitted by Carolyn Sutton



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## ALPHA UPSILON SOCIALIZES

Alpha Upsilon members were fortunate to be invited to the home of Barbara Gasperini to celebrate the Christmas season on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. As we entered, we were greeted by Barb and part of her collection of Byerly carolers, those representing the 12 Days of Christmas. Throughout the rest of the house we met with the various Santas and other carolers that Barb has been collecting for years. There were too many to count in one afternoon!

The twenty-three members that were able to come all shared their favorite appetizers, cookies and other desserts with Barb providing Christmas meatballs, Pomegranate punch and hot dips. No one went hungry that day!

Barb also entertained by leading the group in an audience participation rendition of the Christmas story. As Barb told the story, each member had a “sound effect” to contribute when a particular word was mentioned. For instance, when Mary and Joseph were mentioned, they would say “Hello, Hello.” Although the animals sounded very distressed when they baaed and mooed, everyone had a good time playing their parts.

A gift exchange using various Christmas characters to distribute prizes, then the chance to steal someone’s package, led to more laughs and finally a fun Christmas gift to take home as a remembrance of a great party.

Thanks to Barb for being a great hostess!



### Points to Ponder

Seeing the many activities and advantages of membership, please consider contributing more to Alpha Upsilon. How might you do this? Please think about the following three things and contact our president with your ideas:

- How can we spread the many advantages of membership to more educators in the Alpha Upsilon area?
- How can we raise funds to support the projects and especially the Grant in Aid of \$1000 given each year?
- What programs would you be interested in for next year? Our meetings this year have been at different venues for a change. How do you feel about going different places?

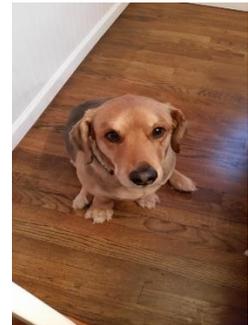
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## AU PROFILES—Pam Derby

In our last issue of Alpha Upsilon Today, we featured our member with the most years in our chapter, Carol Davis, who has 50 years in DKG. In this issue we will focus on Pamela Derby, our newest sister, with three years of membership.

Pam grew up in Allegheny Township while attending the Kiski Area schools. She attended Geneva College with a double major of Special Education, nursery through 12th and Elementary Education, kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Pam worked at the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit for 7 years. At that time, Kiski absorbed some of the IU teachers into their system, of which Pam was one. She currently teaches kindergarten, first and second grade Learning Support. Through her conversation about students and her teaching experience, one can tell that she is a very dedicated, concerned instructor who would be an asset to any school.

One month after receiving her master's degree in reading, Pam married Matt Derby. Four years ago they purchased their first home and moved to Lower Burrell, with their dog, Brutus. Matt is the choir director at Deer Lakes where he works long hours with the drama club and choir practices. Pam is active with Matt's groups, helping when she can. Together they enjoy traveling, especially on historic trips, such as to Gettysburg where they go once a year. Pam enjoys reading historic fiction, with Karen White as one of her favorite authors. This love of reading has led to trips tracking down some of the sites of the novels. Pam is also active in her church by singing in the church choir, serving as president of the Women's Group, and chairing their annual fundraiser tea.



Pam's love of books and reading led her to helping at the Peoples Library Book sale, where she reconnected with her National Honor Society sponsor from high school, Millie Pipman. At her first meeting as a new member, 3 years ago, Pam was excited to see her kindergarten teacher, Becky Timlin, her Safety Town teacher, Linda Henkel, and her principal's wife, Shelly Nicklaus as members. She also knew Carolyn Sutton because her mom babysat for Carolyn's children when they were small. Since her induction into DKG, Pam has been very active, attending her first state convention last year and looking forward to attending again in 2019. She looks forward to building relationships with our members and members from other chapters.



Pam and Matt



Pam and Carolyn at Convention Banquet

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## DKG BOOK CLUB NEWS



### A Book Club Favorite

Our January book club selection was “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens. It was a favorite of all. In this beautifully written story a quiet North Carolina town was haunted by years of rumors of a “Marsh Girl.” When a handsome young man is found dead, the locals suspect Kya Clark, the marsh girl. The mystery is only part of the story...there is also the story of sensitive, intelligent Kya and her years of survival alone in the marsh. Set aside a block of time if you choose to read this book, you won't want to put it down!

February selection --The tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

March selection—Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton

We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4:00 at the Starbucks near Pittsburgh Mills

Submitted by Mary Beth Yeamens

## AU PROJECT FOR 2018-2019



### PROJECT LINUS

On Saturday February 16, 2019 is National Project Linus Day. We are going to meet to work on blankets to be donated. We will tag them that they are from AU. I hope everyone can join in the fun and my President's Project. The place is yet to be determined

#### Upcoming State Events

**Creative Arts Retreat**—Olmstead Manor, Ludlow, PA

March 29-31, 2019

**State Convention**—State College, PA--June 14-16, 2019

**NE Regional**—Mashantucket, CT—July 30-August 1, 2019

**International Convention**—J.W. Marriott, Philadelphia, PA  
July 7-11, 2020

#### Alpha Upsilon Newsletter Information

Editor—Betty Grossheim

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Mary Beth Yeamens