

# A Slice of Beta Pi

## Repeat Performance Requested



Shoebox Project  
Ryan's Case for Smiles  
Breakfast Meeting  
3-Chapter Breakfast  
Simply Fun Night  
President's Letter  
Dates to Remember  
in Memoriam  
Sisterly Concerns  
Insider Information  
Recipe  
Birthdays

2 **Nancy Brown**, playbill in  
2 hand, settled back into her  
2 seat with a sigh of  
3 satisfaction. The seasoned  
3 director had been looking  
3 forward to coming to  
3 Playcrafters Theater for she  
4 knew the musical, "A Little  
4 Night Music," well. Not only  
4 having enjoyed it many  
4 times on and off Broadway  
4 but, also, she had produced  
5 it at Forge Theater in 1989.  
5 Opening the program to  
5 the list of cast members,  
6 Nance sat bold upright in  
6 her seat. **THIS SHOW WAS  
GOING TO BE FANTASTIC!**  
Her friend, Jen Dinan had  
the lead role of Desiree. In  
addition, she had  
choreographed Greg  
Kasander as a student in  
Caley Elementary, Upper  
Merion Middle School, and  
High School. Years later she  
had seen him direct and act  
in many local community  
theaters and here he was in  
this show, appearing as Mr.  
Lindstrom.

Nancy was spot-on; the show was fantastic as was the rest of the event. Prior to the show, a reception was held in the room below the stage area. There, courtesy of **Katie Kovalich, Heather Lilienthal** and **Pat Juenger**, sisters could have their fill of cheese, crackers, and fruit, artistically arranged on platters, while perusing the beautiful baskets which were up for raffle. And, the efficiency of bartending duo, Pat and Tom Juenger assisted by **Clare Shank**, left no doubt in this reporter's mind that this wasn't their first rodeo. But, beware, Beta Piers, this was fake news, for

later Slice found out that Tom has never tended bar in his life. In fact, he doesn't even drink! (**editor's note:** Tom missed his calling. He could have been a successful bartender.)

While this fundraiser certainly did not bring in the amount of money we usually make at Designer Handbag Bingo, the \$1500 netted from the ticket sales and basket raffle will aid in propping up Beta Pi's barebones budget. However fundraiser or not, Sisters could not help but smile when they heard our little cheerleader, **Mary Leahy** exclaim, "This was wonderful. Let's do it every year."

## Next Dining Out Night Scheduled for March 22

**Pat Ryan** had the menu at Habit Burger memorized by the time by the time the Executive Committee entered the door of the restaurant. Not being able to attend the meeting, this Beta Pi sister had agreed to

meet the rest of the group after what had been anticipated as a rather short meeting. It wasn't and even though this was a scheduled Dining Out fundraiser, she hadn't run in any other members. And, with a span of

time from 11 – 9, it was possible that DKGers would miss each other. The restaurant has not indicated how much money was made, but that has not kept us from announcing the next Dining Out Night at Chickie's & Pete's in Audubon from 5 – 8.

## Experience Helps with Shoebox Project

*The DKG Beta Pi Chapter of PA have donated holiday toiletry bags for our friends here at the Center. This is their 10th year of providing holiday cheer on Christmas.*

- cited on the Norristown Ministries media post

"I don't need any more men." Wow, one would think that after **Katie Kovalich** declared that, all talking would cease and sisters would lean forward in anticipation about what would come out of her mouth next. But that didn't happen. Talk continued and like a well-oiled machine, Beta Piers simply pivoted to the tables designated for women where warm winter gloves, thick socks, and predominantly hand knitted scarves and hats were lying and began stuffing those items into the different colored backpacks that chair **Gail Schmerling** had so generously provided. Next,

the bags were handed off to other sisters who would add candy and snacks to the packs before walking them over to **Gail** and **Pat Ryan**. Checking them to make sure that nothing was missed, these two women would then place them in a big purple trash bag – the men's had been put in a black one.

So, Beta Pi was able to seamlessly assemble the bags in record time. It certainly helped that all donations were brought or delivered ahead of time to either **Pat Ryan** or **Katie Kovalich's** house for these hard-working sisters organized everything prior to the event. Also, Norristown Ministries assembled shower kits for their

clients. Any donated sundries were simply put into a bag to take to the center, rather than being placed in individual backpacks. Most important, though, is the experience provided by Chair **Gail** who has headed this popular event for many years.

Because backpacks take up much less room than shoeboxes, **Marilyn Peters** and husband **Dennis** were able to get all of them in their car. **Gail**, **Katie**, **Marilyn** and **Dennis** delivered them the following day along with a bag of extra socks, and, of course, the bag containing personal hygiene items. Needless to say, the directors of Norristown Ministries were thrilled.

## Personal Meaning for Beta Pi Project

By **Elissa Sullivan**

**Ryan's Case for Smiles** is a nonprofit organization which provides creative pillowcases for hospitalized children as well as providing resources and tools for their families. Started in 2007 as **ConKerr Cancer**, the organization began as a mother's need to support her son during his frequent hospitalizations. **Ryan Kerr** was just twelve years old when he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. He was a student in the **Tredyfflin-Easttown School District**. To ease **Ryan's** time in the hospital his mother began to make him whimsical pillowcases, and when other patients admired them, the project grew. A unique

creative pillowcase can remind a child that they are not just the illness, but also a unique person. Today the organization has more than 120 chapters comprised of thousands of volunteers, has donated more than 2,500,000 pillowcases and has over 362 hospitals participating. For more information on the history, mission, and advocacy of this organization the website is [www.caseforsmiles.org](http://www.caseforsmiles.org).

Creation of a pillow case is easy. All you need is a sewing machine and basic sewing skills! Our DKG member **Delores Narcisi** with a group of her classroom students had taken on this project for several years. It was later continued by the principal and counsellor at **Valley Forge Elementary School**.

Pillowcase making sewing groups and sewing events can be found on the website. If you are interested in creating a pillowcase in the comfort of your home the directions for creating pillowcases can be found in a pdf at the **Case for Smiles** website ([http://www.caseforsmiles.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Case-for-Smiles-Hot-Dog-Instructions\\_updated-5.10.22.pdf](http://www.caseforsmiles.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Case-for-Smiles-Hot-Dog-Instructions_updated-5.10.22.pdf)). It is important to follow the recommendations regarding fabric type and washing. Pillowcases can be dropped off at **Steve's Sewing and Vacuum** in **King of Prussia, PA**.

## Breakfast Meeting Slated for January 28

A note from Co-president  
Heather -

It's the time of year to think about bringing in new members. I'm sure you know someone you could ask to join our group. Bring them along to the breakfast...it's free and they will enjoy our speaker, author Libby Mosier. Another opportunity to bring a prospective member to meet the group would be Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> for burger night at Liberty Union Restaurant. I heard a rumor there will be free tater tots!!

The Breakfast Meeting has always been about giving back to sisters, thanking them for their generosity and hard work throughout the year. The only meeting held at a restaurant where members were not asked to foot the bill themselves, it abruptly stopped when Covid hit. Wanting to set that tradition in motion again but recognizing that budget constraints would hamper getting together at a restaurant, Heather

Lilienthal called 1-800-Jean Olexy.

Why Jean? Well, Good Shepherd Church does not charge its members for the use of its facility, and Heather knew that she has been a longtime member.

So, Sisters, the church hall has been reserved for Beta Pi's annual Breakfast Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month at 9:30. The gourmet breakfast foods, bound to please, will be provided by some of our

members. And, the meeting will be brief so that we can all sit back and enjoy our excellent speaker, Elizabeth Mosier, author and teacher of creative writing at Bryn Mawr, who will speak on being lifelong learners.

Oh, and two things, don't forget to RSVP **Marilyn Rogers** and remember to bring a donation for the Upper Merion Children's Library. A list of suggestions is found on the back of the enclosed flyer.

## Name Change, but Still the Same

The Three-Chapter Breakfast will be held at the Desmond Hotel on March 4 ...WAIT, the Three-Chapter Breakfast? Isn't it the Four-Chapter Breakfast? It was but, sadly, the Beta Alpha chapter had to disband due to attrition and lack of capital.

However, that will not affect the top-notch quality of this event. Anyone who has previously attended this meeting can attest to the

fact that the food and service is impeccable. Add to that the enjoyment incurred when a group of women with common bonds come together and share. And, last but not least, a speaker that you will not want to miss - Laura Arnhold, the director of the Upper Merion Children's Library. On a shoestring budget, Laura has been able to provide quality classes and programs for the library.

Recognizing how important libraries are to the education of students and that good programs need supplies, Beta Pi enlisted the support of their members to help. At the 2020 Breakfast Meeting, Sisters brought items from a children's library "Wish List" (and, in fact, we'll be doing a repeat performance of that at the upcoming breakfast). So, ladies, mark your calendars for March 4. You won't want to miss this event.

## Girls Just Want To Have Fun

A real proponent of DKG, **Rebecca Barkley** also loves people, parties, and playing her violin. So, at the Executive Meeting when **Staci Schettone** suggested the trip to Byer's Choice in December, she knew that she'd be there. But, knowing that month is an extremely busy one, she

brought up the idea of another "Simply Fun Night."

Because she lives in Collegeville, Rebecca is very familiar with Liberty Union Bar and Grill in Kimberton. She and her family often went there on Wednesday nights to enjoy \$10 Burger Night. The

Executive Committee agreed that "it would be a hoot."

So, Rebecca would like you to all come out on at 5:00 on Wednesday, Feb. 8 for Burger Night. She'll be waiting at the back table on the right for you. A party atmosphere with people - maybe we can persuade her to bring her violin!

## President's Letter

Happy New Year to Everyone!

We are hoping that you are planning to attend the breakfast meeting at Good Shepherd Church on Sat. morning January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Many of you have never attended the 3 Chapter Brunch held at the Desmond Hotel, this year on Sat. March 4<sup>th</sup>. It is always a lovely morning. One of the UM

Township Children's librarians will be the speaker. You will be supporting Beta Pi and our chosen speaker by attending.

It's time to think about bringing in new members. You know someone you could ask to join our group. Bring them along to the breakfast...it's free. Or bring them to burger night at

Liberty Union Restaurant on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> service project will be on March 18<sup>th</sup> at **Unite for Her** in West Chester. Only 15 members can come. There will be a sign-up sheet at the breakfast.

Let's make 2023 a WONDERFUL year for Beta Pi.

Sincerely,  
Heather and Katie

### Upcoming DKG Events

Jan. 28 -- Winter Breakfast Meeting @ Good Shepherd Church (9:30)

Feb. 8 -- Fun Night Out at Liberty Union Bar and Grill (5:00 pm)

March 4 -- 3-Chapter Breakfast @ The Desmond (Registration 8:45 -- 9:10)

March 18 -- Unite for Her Service Project in West Chester (9:30 am)

March 22 -- Dining Out Night @ Chickie's and Pete's (5 -- 8)

April 21-23 -- Creative Arts Retreat @Camp Ladore

## In Memoriam – Marie Kauffman

"She was a giver, not a taker." That was the description of our beloved sister from her best friend of 61 years, Dorian Miller. They had been next door neighbors when growing up in Harrisburg. Marie, born on April 7, 1952, the only child of Jack and Dot Reed, had always wanted a sister, and the moment she set her eyes on the precious baby girl eight years later, the bond was formed, only becoming stronger through the years. Dorian was "in awe of Marie" when she graduated from Bishop McDevitt High school with honors and was not surprised when her sister/friend chose to go into nursing as a career as "she put herself behind anyone else. That was the nurse part of her."

Soon Albert Kauffman was echoing her best friends' feelings. As a nursing student at Lankenau, Marie took care of "Albie" who noticed the loving care she

gave him. After an "extended courtship," she became his wife.

At some point in her rotation as a nursing student, Marie had felt drawn to geriatric care. So, it was no surprise that after working a few years at Lankenau Hospital, she decided to work at nursing home facilities – starting at Saunders House and later moving to Beaumont at Bryn Mawr. In both places, she threw herself into her work, Dorian's feelings about her being a giver reverberating in accolades about her caring ways from both patients and staff.

Winter was hard on Albie's back. Both of them agreed that moving to a warmer climate would help. Leaving family and friends behind they moved to Florida. Marie's calls to her "sister-by-choice" two to three times a week revealed that Albie got a job at a car dealership while Marie

care facility.

Their parents' failing health brought the couple back to Pennsylvania. Albie began working in his father's metals business while Marie picked up at Beaumont again. When Albie retired, Marie decided to leave, too and try her hand at her own baking business, another passion of hers from childhood. Her father had been a great cook, and she had inherited that same love. She got a stand at the Upper Merion Farmer's Market where she marketed her homemade dessert and salad items. Not surprising, this giving woman called her baking business, "Taste of Love Creations."

Then, Jean Riley, who was retiring as the school nurse at Roberts Elementary, called Marie. She knew that Marie and her caring ways would be a perfect fit for the school. She was right. It was!

Dorian's thoughts echoed again as Marie quickly became a respected part of the faculty. Barb McElvogue and Pat Ryan

recognizing her concern for students and their families, recruited her for UMEA. Maggie Caverly knew that she would be a perfect fit for DKG. On October 1, 2004, Marie was inducted into the Beta Pi chapter of DKG. Like everything else she did, she gave it her all. She catered the February 5<sup>th</sup> Tea, served as recording secretary, and accepted the job of treasurer..

In 2016, this sister faced her biggest challenge – a bout with cancer. Ever stalwart, her attitude of gratitude was an example to us all. And in September of 2017 when she showed up at the Meet & Greet, sisters stood up and gave her a round of applause.

The experience with cancer fueled her passion to give back. She became the President of the John B. Deaver Auxiliary of Lankenau, working so hard that there is now a plaque on the hospital wall with her name on it. Beta Pi will honor this generous woman by donating to this organization.

## Sympathies Extended

Our thought and prayers are with three of our Beta Pi sisters who suffered losses in October – **Fern Detwiler**, **Heather Lilienthal**, and **Pat Ryan**.

Heather and Fern lost their beloved mother, June Keinard Himes, on October 17. Knowing how active and involved her daughters are, it was not surprising that their mother was the same, having worked in the cafeteria of the Daniel Boone School District

for 23 years, and at Boscov's for 18. During those years and after, she served a vigorous role in the activities of her church, St. James Lutheran. As active as she was, though, her top priority was her family consisting of three children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Then on October 22, Pat Ryan said good-bye to her husband of 52 years. Most remember Rich Ryan as a fourth grade

teacher at Candlebrook Elementary, highly regarded by both staff and students. However, prior to his 25 years as an educator, this man who "could fix anything" owned and operated a TV repair business. Multi-talented, Rich also played the drums, dabbled in photography, and took flying lessons. Like June Himes, his top priority was devotion to his family "for whom he never missed a sporting event or concert."

*Dear Sisters,  
We would like to thank all of you for the outpouring of warm thoughts, prayers, and sympathy cards we received following our mother's passing. They meant so very much to us at such a difficult time. Mom was 97. We are thankful every day for her long life, her example as a strong woman, and her unconditional love.*

*Thank you,  
Fern and Heather*

## Did You Know That...

- most of the clients at the Hospitality Center in Norristown received hand knit hats courtesy of **Phoebe Baxter**, **Katie Kovalich**, and **Barb McElvogue's** church knitting group?
- **Rebecca Barkley** is one of the presenters at the Creative Arts Retreat? She will be doing a workshop entitled "Ukulele Singalong."
- it was so wonderful to have Marge Paradise and Susan Fritz from Chi chapter at the Playcrafter's Theater? What a wonderful thing it is when chapters support each other.
- to date, \$238 has been deposited from the Raiseright Card Program and of that amount, \$203 came from just 7 members who purchased physical cards? Many thanks to **Rebekah Stefanowicz** for heading this program.
- the small, but mighty group consisting of **Rebecca Barkley**, **Heather Lilienthal**, **Katie Kovalich**, **Staci Schettone** along with Staci's mom had a great time on the Dec. 3 "For Fun" trip to Byer's Choice?
- **Staci Schettone** ran the Scholastic Book Fair at Caley? **Maggie Caverly** came to help for two days. It was the first book fair there in over 4 years.
- **Mary Beth Humbert** won't be attending the Breakfast Meeting because she'll be on a trip down under to Australia and New Zealand? Imagine, she chose the trip over the meeting!
- our next service project will be on March 18 at "Unite for Her" in West Chester? We will be packing boxes intended for cancer patients from 9:30 to 11:30. Of course, we plan to go out for lunch afterwards.

### Oops, Our Slip Is Showing

In the last issue of Slice, it stated that Mindy Wood, the 2022 STEM recipient taught science in the middle school for 6 years. Somehow missed the tens place – she taught for 16 years.

It was bitterly cold when the editor listed the birthdays in the last issue. That led her to think of winter, not fall. That "leaves" us here at Slice to apologize for the error of confusing fall with winter.



## A Slice of Beta Pi

**Editor** – Marilyn Rogers**Staff** - Carole Gallis**Contributors:**

Heather Lilienthal

Betty Rippel

Elissa Sullivan

**Hot Onion Dip with Boursin** (from the kitchen of Sandy Rodman)

2 oz. pkgs. cream cheese – softened

1 5.2 oz. pkg. Boursin cheese

 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup grated Parmesan cheese $\frac{1}{4}$  cup Gruyere or Swiss cheese – shredded

2 cups sweet yellow onion peeled and diced

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Spray a 2-quart shallow baking dish with cooking spray. In a mixing bowl, combine the cream, cheese and Boursin cheese. Mix until creamy. Add in the Parmesan, Gruyere (or Swiss), and onion. Mix well. Pour the mixture into the prepared dish. Bake for 45 -60 minutes, until the top turns golden brown. Serve with crackers, chips, or vegetables.

**Now four ways to find us!****Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/betapi.dkg/>

**Web:**

<http://dkgbetapiowa.weebly.com/>

**Twitter:**

<https://twitter.com/dkgbetapi>

**Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/dkgbetapi/>

**Recipe Well Worth the Wait**

Laden with a ukulele in one arm and an insulated dish carrier in the other, **Sandy Rodman** carefully negotiated the front door to **Marilyn Rogers's** house, arriving just a wee bit late. Sandy, talented musically, did not want to miss any of **Rebecca**

**Barkley's** ukulele tutorage, but she also needed to ensure her appetizer was piping hot which required her to wait until the last minute to take it from the oven.

When she opened her carrier, all oohed and aahed over the beautifully browned top, quickly leading to all

scooping up the cheese with crackers as a vehicle. Ah, divine!

And, although this musical event was held back in May, the editor knew it would sometime be printed on the back page of Slice for it would be well worth the wait.

**Celebrating Winter Birthdays**

The official date for the beginning of winter was December 20 so although our Christmas baby **Terry McLaughlin** was listed in the last issue of Slice, the editor is doing her due diligence and including it as an "official" winter birthday. Other "official" winter birthdays that will be celebrated are **Gail Schmerling** on January 17, **Rose Clemente** on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and **Marianne Wohar** on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Sandy Rodman** is the first DKGer to celebrate in February, the chilly month of love. Her birthday is on the 5<sup>th</sup>. **Donna Cummins** blows out her candles on the 10<sup>th</sup> and, three days after Valentines' Day, **Amy Baxter** and **Danette Posey** mark their birthday fests on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The love gala continues on the 19<sup>th</sup> which is **Betty Rippel's** special day, followed closely by **Pat Juenger** on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

In March, will the groundhog see his shadow? Maybe, but know that there is no shadow of a doubt that **Maggie Caverly** will be partying on the 4<sup>th</sup>, **Joan Kellett** on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and **Alison Troy** on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Okay, winter officially ends on the 20<sup>th</sup>, but tht doesn't mean we won't give a shout out to **Tina Selvaggi** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and **Elaine DeWan** on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Happy birthday to all of our winter (plus two) Beta Piers!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR

# Beta Pi Winter Breakfast

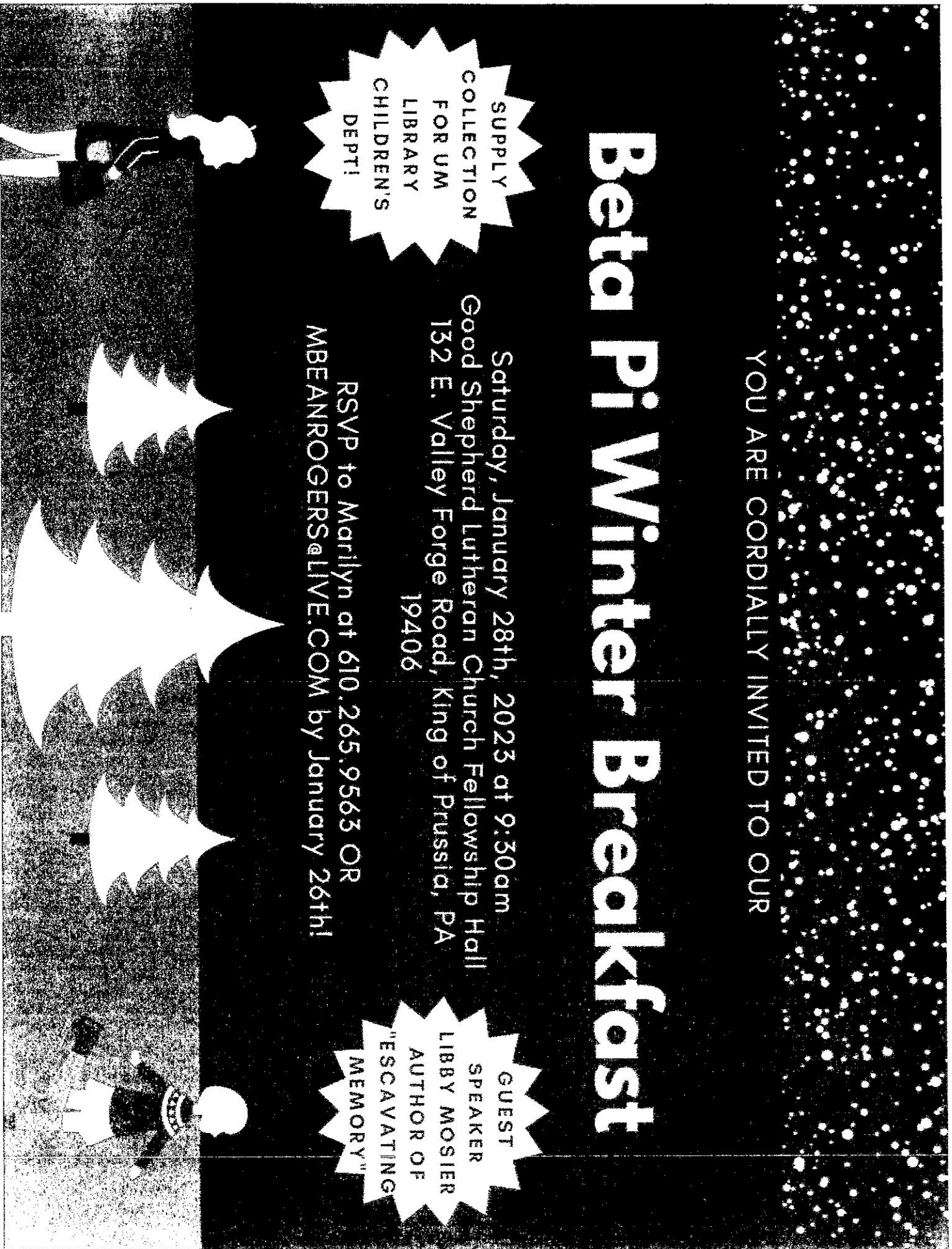
Saturday, January 28th, 2023 at 9:30am

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall  
132 E. Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA  
19406

SUPPLY  
COLLECTION  
FOR UM  
LIBRARY  
CHILDREN'S  
DEPT!

RSVP to Marilyn at 610.265.9563 OR  
MBEANROGERS@LIVE.COM by January 26th!

GUEST  
SPEAKER  
LIBBY MOSIER  
AUTHOR OF  
"ESCAVATING  
MEMORY"



## **Suggested Donation Items for the Upper Merion Children's Library**

Glue Sticks

Fiskar Scissors for children

Crayola Crayons

Craft Sticks 6" x 3/4"

Regular stickers (anything popular - princesses, trucks, seasonal, holidays, favorite characters, etc.)

Foam stickers with backs that peel off (animals, seasonal, shapes, hearts, etc.)

Plastic "Dollar Store" tablecloths (any color - 9ft rectangular)

Small, clear plastic storage bins (shoebox size)

Scotch tape

Sharpies (both color and black)

Ribbon (craft store ribbon, not birthday present ribbon)