





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It is hard for me to believe that my Biennium as Beta Theta President is coming to an end. I have to say it has been a pleasure to work with this group of cheerful, helpful ladies! There is absolutely no way I could have made it successfully through Covid, Zoom Meetings, Programs presented via Zoom, Book Clubs, three surgeries, downsizing 53 years of possessions, selling my home, moving into a smaller space and the Creative Scrips Fundraising Program without the help of my sisters. My tenure as president was truly a team effort! I cannot say thank you enough for your creative ideas and helpful hands.

Our state President, Eileen Little, would like to encourage you to go to the DKG website, ([dkg.org](http://dkg.org)) and either create or update your account on the website. The organization would like all contact information to be current as we enter a new biennium. Eileen also encourages you to join the Pennsylvania State DKG Facebook group so you are able to see all the activities occurring in various chapters throughout the year. Finally, if you download the DKG app on your phone you can readily access the current news and events wherever you happen to be.

Dues for the 2022-2023 year need to be paid by June 15, 2022. The cost for regular members is \$80 while the cost for our one reserve member is \$40 for the year. Please make your checks payable to Beta Theta and mail them to Nancy Thompson, our treasurer, at her home address, which can be found in our picture yearbook. Nancy will also be accepting checks for dues at our May business meeting for those wishing to avoid mailing the checks.

I extend my sincere thanks and best wishes to our incoming officers: President: Cristal Sheaffer; Co-First Vice Presidents: Laurie Kirkscey/Gaye Hicks; Co-Second Vice Presidents: Susan Davis/Norma Mateer; and Secretary: Cindy Kerstetter. Your willingness to share your time and talents with Beta Theta and DKG as well as your sisters is greatly appreciated.

Most importantly, I wish to express my sincere THANK YOU to Cristal Sheaffer for agreeing to serve as the Beta Theta President for the 2022-2024 Biennium. Cristal has been preparing diligently to assume the reins as President and she brings a wealth of knowledge regarding the larger DKG picture through her participation in several State and International Conventions. Cristal's enthusiasm is contagious and her extensive computer literacy skills will serve her well as DKG moves forward into the "digital age." I know Cristal will be able to count on the support of her Beta Theta sisters as she moves through the next two years.

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## Convention Raffle Basket

### Summertime Treats

Beta Theta's Raffle Basket for the 2022 State Convention is titled "Summertime Treats". We will be accepting your creative donations for this basket at our May meeting. Please consider donating items related to enjoyable summertime activities. Some examples could be anything related to swimming, going to the beach, sunbathing, golfing, reading, gardening and eating. Gift cards are very generic and readily usable. A few of our members will assemble the basket and deliver it to the Convention. The proceeds from the raffle basket sales help to defray Convention costs.



## Scripts Orders

The next Scripts Order will be due by June 1. Geneva Reeder will be in contact with more information and an order form sometime in mid-May. Look for that important email!



## Cristal Sheaffer

Hello to all sisters of Beta Theta Chapter, DKG!! As incoming President for the next biennium, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. I have been a member of DKG since 1996 ... over 25 years!! Merle Millhimes and Shirley Newhart were two of my sponsors when I joined. I have not been extremely active over the years, but have intermittently attended Chapter meetings, attended State Conference several times (participating in the choir and providing special music on occasion), and attended International Conferences in Nashville and NYC where Donna Winch, Shirley Newhart and I performed a "Welcome Song" at the opening session. A college roommate, one of my dearest and oldest friends, is a DKG member and Past President of Alpha Beta Chapter in Bedford, PA.

For a little personal history, I grew up in Hershey PA ... my father was my principal in Derry Township School District from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and my mother taught 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Milton Hershey School (as a matter of fact, Peter Gurt, the current President at MHS, was her student!). I have two sisters: my older sister is an Attorney and my younger sister works in Business Management.

I attended IUP for Music Education, graduating in 1982. Upon graduation, I moved to Akron, Ohio where I lived and taught for 3 years. I then moved back to Hershey and began teaching at Milton Hershey School. After 33 years, I retired from MHS in 2018. Most of my years at MHS were spent as the Choir Director at the High School, but I also taught at the Elementary School instructing beginning band, choir and classroom music.

I am Principal Flutist in the Central PA Symphony, a position I have held for 35 years. I have also served as a

church musician, Children's Choir Director and Interim Choir Director at Hershey First United Methodist Church (of which I am a member), and as a guest musician at other area churches. I am a retired member of NAFME, PME, and serve as President of the MHSAA Honorary Chapter.

I currently live in Harrisburg with my husband Joel (Jody) who is also a retired teacher from MHS, have two daughters Jessica and Julie (Matt), and two of the most adorable grandsons – Owen (8) and Charlie (4) who live in Ellicott City, MD. My father and mother still reside in my childhood home on Cocoa Avenue in Hershey (95 and 91 years old respectively), and are still fiercely independent! I love sewing, watching baseball, thrift store shopping, and working around the house.

I am looking forward to doing the best I possibly can serving Beta Theta Chapter as our next President and will need all of the support and guidance that you can give me!!

## Re-Gift Raffle

During our May business meeting, our chapter will be holding our fourth popular re-gift raffle. Members whose birthdays fall during the months of April, May and June are encouraged to scour their closets, attics, cabinets and garages to locate perfectly usable items that they either no longer need or use. Once an item is located, please place it in a gift bag and bring it to our May business meeting.



All raffle tickets will cost one dollar and the amount you choose to spend is up to you. Prior to the beginning of the business meeting everyone will have an opportunity to view the items and purchase as many tickets as they wish. At the conclusion of the meeting the lucky winning tickets will be drawn. Hopefully, you will be taking home a new usable treasure while helping our treasurer deposit funds into the beta theta account to assist current as well as aspiring educators.

# Increasing Your Awareness

## Voicing Your Concerns

**Initiate, endorse, & support desirable legislation in the interests of education & of women educators.**



## US Forum Update

A recent webinar, Understanding Climate Change, presented by Dr. Ralph Propper President of the Environmental Council of Sacramento addressed what we might expect should temperatures rise two degrees. River flooding would occur, with 90% of coral reefs being bleached, and droughts lasting four months longer. He emphasized that being a world issue meant working together as in the Paris Climate Accord. Driving electric vehicles would be recommended since many countries already ban gas vehicles. Renewable energy resources over fossil fuels will cause consumers to search for more efficient sources of energy. Home improvements like insulation, windows without leaks, heat pumps and trees are all beneficial. His suggestion of the U.S. investing \$200 billion every year in clean energy would produce 4.2 million jobs by 2030 and a 1.5% unemployment rate.

Educating people with ways to reduce their carbon footprint, passing their concern about climate change along to their government officials, and voting accordingly are top priorities.

Legislative initiatives currently in the House:

[HR 2467-PFAS Action Act of 2021](#)  
[HR 3607-Buy Green Act of 2021](#)  
[HR 1780-the Paris Climate Disclosure Act](#)

*If we do our part, our planet will be around for future generations.*

## National Legislative Seminar Highlights



Recently held in Arlington, VA and said to have been one of the best with notable speakers on how to advocate. Some of the takeaway messages were:

➤ “Use the talents you have as educators – challenge yourself. You have opinions.” Encouragement was given to write letters to the editors of newspapers, even if it doesn’t get printed, it gets the editorial board talking about the issue, and they will do more research on it.

Lisa Maatz, Ohio Citizen Organization

➤ “We are an international organization of 17 countries with different cultures and regions. We cannot speak for members around the world, but DKG believes in advocacy and wants and needs all to be advocates as individuals. You can write, “I am (name) and a member of DKG Society International. I am advocating for...”

Becky Sadowski, DKG Society International President

➤ “Advocacy is relationship building. Show empathy, 45% of Congress suffered anxiety for their safety after 6/6/2022. Their average workweek is 70 hours with 15 meetings per day.” Following an interactive exercise in protocol for speaking to Congressmen, speaker concluded with, “We don’t have a government of the majority; we have a government of those who participate.”

Brad Fitch, CEO of Congressional Foundation

➤ Director of Government Relations for the NEA, Mark Egan shared some important statistics: 55% of NEA (73% females) are looking to leave sooner than planned. Also, 41% hold more than 1 job to make ends meet, and according to labor statistics, teachers are 3 times as likely to hold second jobs as other workers.

**YOU HAVE A VOICE**



**AND A CHOICE**

# Calling All Hostesses

Bon Appetit!

Beta Theta sisters enjoy social time before our meetings! There will be a "Hostess Sign-Up" Sheet at the May and September meetings. Please consider helping. If you are unable to attend but would like to volunteer contact Sherry Welty or Pat Ethridge. Their contact information can be found in our Beta Theta yearbook.

A sunny thank you to our March hostesses (Gaye Hicks, Cindy Sell, Connie Stackhouse) and our May hostesses (Bonnie Hindman, Suzanne Long, Nancy Thompson.)

We would love to hear from you! Please mail, email or text (a photo is fine) a favorite recipe...including your name...to Sherry Welty. Enjoy this delicious cake shared at our March meeting. It would be perfect at your summer picnic!



## Butterscotch Apple Cake...

from the kitchen of Connie Stackhouse

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 2 ½ Cups Flour       | 3 Large Eggs   |
| 2 Cups Sugar         | 1 ¼ Cups Vegetable Oil                               |
| 2 tsp. Baking Powder | 1 tsp. Vanilla                                       |
| 1 tsp. Baking Soda   | 3 Large (4 Cups) Granny Smith Apples, peeled & diced |
| 1 tsp. Salt          | 1 Cup Pecans, diced                                  |
| 1 tsp. Cinnamon      | 1 Pkg. (11 oz.) Butterscotch Chips                   |

- \*Combine flour, sugar and other dry ingredients. Set aside.
- \*Beat eggs, oil and vanilla.
- \*Add dry ingredients to egg mixture. Mix well.
- \*Stir in apples and pecans.
- \*Spray bottom only of a 9 x 13 baking dish with non-stick spray.
- \*Pour batter into baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with butterscotch chips.
- \*Bake at 350 for 45-55 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.
- \*(If the cake has not set, and the top is getting too brown, cover lightly with aluminum foil until done.)
- \*Cool on wire rack before slicing.



## Book Club News

**Please join us each month for a wonderful time of spirited discussions, yummy refreshments, and a wonderful social time with your Beta Theta sisters!**

The June meeting will be held at the home of Geneva Reeder. We are still looking for people to host the remaining Book Club meetings. Please contact me if you are willing to be a host. Thank you so much to Nancy Thompson, Cindy Sell and Geneva Reeder for hosting past book club meetings! Thank you, Gaye

Happy Reading!!!

### Wednesday, May 25, 2021 2PM

*Time Is a River* by Mary Alice Monroe

### Wednesday, June 22, 2022 2PM

*A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle

### Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 2PM

*The Bookwoman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson

### Wednesday, August 24, 2022 – 2PM

*Clara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

### Wednesday, September 21, 2022 – 2PM

*The Plant Hunter* by Cassandra Quave

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## Four Chapter Meeting



On Saturday, April 2, 2022 the Kappa, Beta Iota, Beta Kappa and Beta Theta chapters of DKG met at the Army Heritage Center in Carlisle for their once-a-Biennium Four Chapter meeting. The ladies from all four chapters were able to meet our state President, Eileen Little and hear her describe all of the wonderful things DKG is doing both nationally and locally to support women educators. Eileen's presentation was followed by a delicious luncheon. At the conclusion of the meal, the Beta Theta Chapter provided the entertainment. All the ladies played DKG Bingo which had everyone up and about conversing. Prizes were awarded to the first three women that completed three rows on their cards. This meeting gave the ladies from all four chapters an opportunity to mix, mingle and get to know a little bit about one another. It was a very successful and fun-filled Spring Saturday.



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Thank  
you



Our final recognition of the year would not be complete without a huge **thank you** to Stephany Davidson. Stephany's fearless leadership through much adversity exemplifies the spirit of our organization: ". . .to the calling, Firmly rally, never falling, Duty ne'er upon us palling, Staunch, courageous, we!" Thank you Stephany and best wishes moving forward.

## Calendar of Events

### Business Meetings

**Saturday, May 14, 2022** – 9:30 AM Parish House,  
Hummelstown, Pa.

### Book Club Meetings

[May 25, 2022](#)

[June 22, 2022](#)

[July 20, 2022](#)

[August 24, 2022](#)

### State and International Dates

**June 9-11, 2022** State Convention, The Penn Stater,  
State College, PA

**July 12-16, 2022** International Convention, New  
Orleans, Louisiana

## Officers for 2021 - 2022

Stephany Davidson - President

Jeannette Thomas - Past President

Suzanne Long – First Vice President

Susan Davis/ Norma Mateer – Co-Second Vice  
Presidents

Linda Geesaman- Secretary

Suzanne Long- Parliamentarian

Nancy Thompson- Treasurer

Kathy Woodbridge- Newsletter Editor

Heather Lister-Webmaster

## Officers for 2022 - 2024

Cristal Sheaffer - President

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Delta Kappa Gamma International  
Pennsylvania State Association of DKG  
Beta Theta Chapter – March 19, 2022

Beta Theta Chapter Meeting  
Saturday, March 19, 2022  
9:30 AM Parish House, Hummelstown,

Call to Order

President Stephany Davidson called the meeting with 14 participants and one guest to order.

Words of Thanks/Reflection

Thanks were given to:

Gaye Hicks, Connie Stackhouse and Cindy Sell for the refreshments  
Gaye Hicks, Norma Mateer, Jeannette Thomas for serving as interim presidents  
Marcy Sharpe for coordinating the Lynch Creek Farm Fundraiser  
Norma Mateer for doing the President's message for the newsletter  
Sherry Welty, Pat Ethridge, and Laurie Williamson for coordinating the Christmas Party  
Kathy Woodbridge for publishing the newsletter  
Heather Lister for assisting with the meeting place and maintaining the website  
Suzanne Long for organizing the programs  
Susan Davis for presenting the program on master gardeners

Stephany continued with a reflection, "Meditation for Women Who do Too Much."

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 13, 2021 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy Thompson provided a written report and noted that the balance as of the end of February was \$5,881.06. Last Script order netted \$30. and Lynch Creek Farm sales netted \$332.72.

Program

Our own Susan Davis provided a program on "Master Gardening." She began with a reading, "I teach best when it is something I want to learn." Susan has become a Master Gardener and shared the mission and history of this program begun by George Gibby. She explained the extensive training and volunteer service required to be certified and to maintain the certification. She described the many program offerings and noted the hotline provided for questions that would be answered following research by the gardeners. The program concluded with a visit from Dr. Richard Ammon as the ghost of Dr. Pugh. We learned much from this most enjoyable program.

Initiation of New Members

Stephany noted that the traditional long initiation program provided by DKG was no longer being recommended. Following some discussion and general agreement that we want to make some changes, a committee was named. Marcie Sharpe, Suzanne Long, and Norma Mateer will meet and make recommendations for the May meeting.

### Nominating Committee

The Committee requested delay of their presentation of a slate as the position of president is not filled. All members were asked to give consideration for this service. A slate will be provided for voting via email.

### State Convention Basket

The Executive Committee has recommended "Summertime Treats" as the theme for the basket we take to State Convention for raffling. Nancy provided the basket and some items have been collected and members are asked to bring items to the May meeting. A coordinator for this project is needed.

### Chapter Achievement Award

Suzanne Long described this award given to a chapter member for contributions during the last biennium. Nominations can be given to Suzanne via cell, email or paper ballot. The award is a pin and will be given at the May meeting.

### Committee Notes

Membership - Susan Davis reported that she was aware of a number of potential candidates. It was suggested we reuse written brochures or fliers developed to inform prospective members of our organization.

Program - May meeting will be presented by Dr. Judith Witmer

US Forum - Members were asked to refer to the recent newsletter.

Cottage Meeting/Little Dresses - Sewers could not gather on the designated day but Laurie and Linda will be completing about 40 dresses to take to the "Old Country Store" for delivery to Africa.

Ways and Means - Next Script order due date is June 15.

Book Club - Members will meet March 23 and continue with "The Lincoln Highway" and Nancy Thompson as host. Norma will host the April meeting with "The Lost and Found Book Shop," and Geneva Reeder will host the June meeting. A May host is needed.

### Old Business

Our Grant in Aid, Madeline Hower, received her second payment.

A donation of \$150. was given to the Hummelstown Historical Society for use of the building.

### New Business

A Financial Committee was created to review the records and create a budget. Suzanne Long, Nancy Thompson, Linda Geesaman and Stephany Davidson will serve.

The scrapbook project is ongoing.

Registration information for the DKG State Convention, June 9-11 was distributed

Respectfully submitted

Linda Geesaman/Secretary