

BETA THETA CHATTA AND NEWS

November Meeting



Saturday, November 14, 2020

9:30 AM via Zoom

Program: Learning to Use Zoom

Please plan to join us as we learn now to navigate the wonderful world of Zoom. I look forward to seeing lots of smiling faces without masks!

Discovering the Wonderful World of Zoom

Beginning with our November meeting and continuing through April, Business and Book Club Meetings will be conducted virtually via Zoom. Stephany Davidson will send out the invitation to the meetings via email 24 hours before the meeting is to convene. The email will contain a link to the meeting, a meeting ID number and a Passcode. In order to join the meeting, follow the steps listed below. You will want to use a device that has a camera, so a computer with a camera and speaker feature, an I-Pad or an I-phone could all be used.

1. After you open the email, write down the meeting ID and passcode on a paper.
2. Click on the meeting link in your email.

3. When prompted by the screen, enter your meeting ID and passcode.

4. A prompt will appear on the screen that says, Join Meeting. Click on it.

5. You will be asked if you want to join with audio and video and you want to click or reply yes to both items.

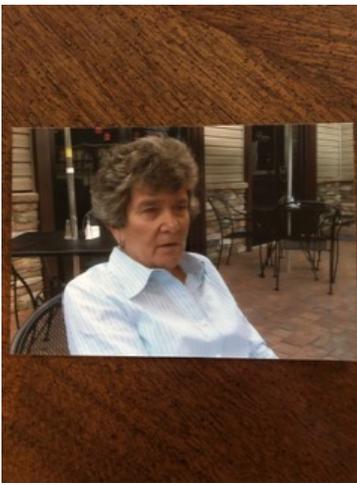
6. Once the leader of the meeting, Stephany Davidson, allows you to join the meeting, your face should appear on the bottom of the screen and the person who is speaking will be in the full screen.

7. If you click along the top of the screen a bar will appear. You will see a variety of icons. Please click on the picture of the microphone and this will cause a red bar to be slashed across it. This indicates that your microphone is muted. If you wish to speak, you simply click on the bar at the top, click on the microphone icon and the red bar will disappear and you will be unmuted and able to talk.

NOTE: It is important for only one person to be talking at a time, so there is not a lot of feedback.

Do not be intimidated by the technology. We will all be learning this together. Mistakes help us to learn and we will guide each other through the process.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It was so good to see everyone in person at the September meeting. Mother Nature has continued to bless us with warm afternoons enabling us to hold our September and October Book Club Meetings outside. However, this beautiful weather cannot continue forever. November will bring colder weather, forcing us inside. Then we will be using Zoom to conduct Business and Book Club meetings.

Over the winter and early spring months we may be changing the times and days of the week for some of our Business meetings and Book Club events. These changes will enable more of our working educators to participate in our activities. Please note any changes in times and dates for events in future correspondence.

Our State President, Eileen Little, has informed me that our state officers have decided to present their names to the nominations committee for reelection for the next biennium. This decision was made due to the uncertainty of our current life during the Covid-19 epidemic and their experience conducting business during this time. Other state members are still welcome to submit their names for State office if they so desire.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all members who donated supplies for our New Educator Gifts. We were able to fill three large gift bags to the top with useful teacher supplies. On Wednesday, October 21st Sue Davis, Sherry Welty, Laurie Williamson and Pat Ethridge, who are all retired teachers from the Lower Dauphin School District, delivered these gifts to the new teachers working in this district. These Beta Theta sisters surely brightened the day for the three new hard-working educators!

On Saturday, November 14th our business meeting will be conducted via Zoom. There is an article in this newsletter providing a step by step set of directions on how to log on to the program. Members with experience using Zoom will be available to assist us as we “navigate new waters”. Please join us and learn how to conduct business during this time of Covid-19.

Stephany

GRANT-IN-AID



Our current Grant-In-Aid, Lauren Miller, will be graduating in December. If you know of someone who you would like to nominate for the grant, please submit her name.

The qualifications are as follows:

1. That the grant will be awarded to a non-member woman student majoring in education who has completed at least one year of college.
2. That she should demonstrate some financial need.
3. Any Beta Theta Chapter member may submit a letter of nomination to the chapter president by April 15 of the year a grant recipient must be selected.
4. The executive Board will review the nominations and select one candidate to present for the memberships' approval at the May meeting.
5. Letters of nomination will include the name of the candidate, high school, college (major), awards, community service, extra-curricular activities, hobbies, etc.

The grant recipient will receive \$500 two times per year (August and January). The Treasurer will send the checks.

The chapter will only support one Grant-in -Aid per year.

A grant recipient may receive the grant for up to 3 years, depending on when she was first selected (sophomore, junior or senior year).

Increasing Your Awareness Voicing Your Concerns



Sympathies to all on the death of revered Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, champion for women's equality.

Educational Issues



Large Growing Inequities

According to research, a greater educational divide exists between the rich and poor in our country, and also between the ultra-rich and everyone else. School segregation by income appears to be getting much worse, with Black and Latino students being most affected. Furthermore, when white and Black schools have the same rates of poverty, there is no difference in academic achievement.

Jill Barshay. "A decade of research on the rich-poor divide in education."

Hechinger Report. June 29, 2020

https://hechingerreport.org/a-decade-of-research-on-the-rich-poor-divide-education/?utm_source=The+Hechinger+Report&utm_campaign=33f3c551e2-

[EMAIL CAMPAIGN PP 2020 06 26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d3ee4c3e04-33f3c551e2-322606321](https://www.npr.org/2020/06/11/875023672-4-ways-racial-inequity-harms-american-school-children)

In addition, research finds black students have higher arrest rates in schools, higher rates of suspension and often attend schools that receive less funding than districts that enroll higher numbers of white students.

Jeffrey Pierre. "4 Ways Racial Inequity Harms American Schoolchildren."

National Public Radio. June 11, 2020

<https://www.npr.org/2020/6/11/875023672-4-ways-racial-inequity-harms-american-school-children>

Remote Learning Keeps Bullies at Bay

Students who experienced bullying and other social issues found online classes a welcome reprieve, some even thriving in this new environment. Cyberbullying hasn't gone away, but reports indicate it has not increased since many instances of cyberbullying stem from in-school conflicts.

Lisa Selin Davis. "With online learning, class bullies fade to the background."

CNN. June 15, 2020 <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/6/15/health/online-class-bullies-fade-wellness/>

Issues Concerning Women and Children

Employment Gains Made by Women in the Workforce Remain Threatened by Historic Losses and Lack of Childcare

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Information and Analysis (Last Modified Date: October 20, 2020), unemployment rates in the United States range from 3.5% to 15.1%, with PA ranked 36th at 8.1%.

Today, women make up about 49% of workers on payroll due to tremendous job loss since March in sectors dominated by women. Women dominated sectors lost nearly half of their workers due to COVID-19 and its impact. Women of color remain disproportionately impacted. These heavily impacted sectors are education, hospitality and leisure, and retail. Close to 20 million jobs have been shed, making a swift rebound nearly impossible. Since March, women's job losses were five times higher than the total decline in women's employment during the Great Recession, causing women to now occupy less than half of all workers on payroll. Unemployment rates remain stagnant for Black and Hispanic women and greatest among workers with less than a high school education.

Woods, Lea, "As Unemployment Drops, Gains Made by Women in the Workforce Remain Threatened by Historic Job Losses and Lack of Childcare" Institute for Women's Policy Research June 5, 2020

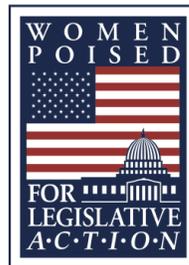
<https://iwpr.org/publications/>

The purpose of the US Forum Connection is to provide:

- Information to members on educational issues.
- Updates to members on proposed and enacted legislation affecting women, children and education.
- Factual and impartial information so that they can stay informed and vote.

FINDING YOUR VOICE THROUGH LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Let Your Voice Be Heard on issue concerning women, children, and education.



Call toll free at 866-327-8670 or use the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Ask for your congressional representative by name.

Visit www.house.gov for House of Representatives and www.senate.gov for U.S. Senate.

Track the progress of bills at www.govtrack.us

Know the bill number and expedite your search by going to www.congress.gov

LYNCH CREEK FARM FUNDRAISER



The holidays are around the corner and it is time to start planning your decorating and gift giving. Beta Theta can help you with both, and you can help support our Grant-In-Aide. Just go to the

website listed below and follow the step by step instructions to see all of the fresh Evergreen items available. The stated price includes shipping to anywhere in the USA. You can also set your delivery date, and 15% of the cost goes to Beta Theta. Please note there is a Donate Button if you are not in need of any greens. Deadline for orders is December 15. Why not order today?!

Visit www.LynchCreekFundraising.com/c/245704
Click on **product category** or **Shop Online**
Click on **SHOP ON LINE** or **DONATE NOW**

If you prefer, you can call **1-888-426-0781, ext 3** and reference **Campaign #245704**

Contact Marcy Sharpe with any questions



TREASURER UPDATE

Greetings from your Treasurer. I was able to send \$100.00 to Zion Lutheran Church in Dauphin in memory of Kathy Dunn. Several members donated extra with their dues for the grant- in-aid. Norma Mateer and daughter donated \$80.00 from mask sales. Linda Cummings sent a contribution for grant-in-aid in memory of Kathy. We had several debits for postage, supplies and international, state and scholarship dues for our new members. Total in treasury is \$5504.74.

Early Educators



Donations supplied by our Beta Theta sisters were packed in gift bags and delivered to new educators in the Lower Dauphin School District.

Pat Ethridge, Sherry Welty, and Laurie Williamson, all retirees from Lower Dauphin Schools, delivered bags to surprised and appreciative new teachers! Susan Davis accompanied as photographer.



Madison Moyer, East Hanover
1st Grade Social Skills and
5th Grade Learning Support



Adelynn Lingle, East Hanover
4th Grade

Navdeep Ghuman,
South Hanover
Learning Support





(Merle attending December Christmas Dinner 2019)

Spotlight on Merle Millhimes

Allow me to introduce you to Beta Theta member Merle Millhimes, who is 91 years young and sharp as a tack. Merle was born, “back in the sticks” (her terminology), in a place named Uriah in Cumberland County. The family home had no electricity or running water. Before entering school, Merle moved to Rock Chapel in Adams County where she attended a one-room school for grades 1-6. At the age of six, she began her musical performance career. Merle sang along with her parents and two sisters during Reverend Rittenhouses’s weekly church services on Radio Station WFMD.

Graduating in the mid-40’s from Biglerville High School, Merle was determined to be the first family member to attend college. When her father told her he would not finance “her dream,” she took a year off from education and worked as a waitress and as a lab assistant for Dr. Oyler in Knouse Industries to earn tuition money. From 1948-49 she attended Susquehanna University. Then she fell in love, got married and had three children.

Despite a ten- year hiatus from education, Merle’s dream persisted. From 1958-1964, while raising her

family and starting and running an interior decorating business to finance her dream, Merle attended Gettysburg College and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education. Merle’s career as a music educator spanned 30 years. Her early years were spent working in the newly formed Bermudian Springs School District, teaching grades 1-12 and later just 7-12. When the family moved to Hershey in 1970, Merle taught music at the junior high level in the Central Dauphin School District. Throughout her career, she directed the yearly Broadway Shows.

Growing up with parents who both sang and a grandfather who used to entertain the family in the evenings by playing his banjo, fiddle, accordion, guitar, ukulele and four harmonics, it is no wonder Merle decide to pursue a degree in the field of music.

In 1993, Merle was crowned Mrs. Senior Pennsylvania and that same year was 1st runner up to Mrs. Senior USA. Merle’s ancestor, Dr. Thomas Wynne, who immigrated from Wales in the early 1600’s, served as William Penn’s doctor.

Merle has contributed to her community in various ways. She served as Beta Theta President from 1998 – 2000, the DKG state music director for several years, the President of both the Adams and Dauphin County Music Educator Boards and as the President of the Civil War Chapter of Hershey.

Merle is the proud parent of three children, the grandmother of five and great-grandmother of 10. Despite the death of her husband a year and a half ago, Merle continues “to go on.” Her enterprising spirit, positive energy and drive continue. Merle is truly an inspiring woman!



Book Club

Beginning with the November meeting and continuing at least through April our Book Club will meet via Zoom. Please follow the directions that were described earlier in the newsletter.

November 18, 2020

2:00 PM via Zoom

Clementine, The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill by Sonia Purnell

December 16, 2020

2:00 PM via Zoom

The Little Bookshop on the Seine by Rebecca Raisin
Be prepared to share a favorite book that you have read.

Future Book Club Dates

January 20, 2021- 2PM

February 17, 2021 – 2 or 6 PM

March 17, 2021 – 2 or 6 PM

April 21, 2021 – 2 or 6 PM

May 19, 2021 – 2 PM

Calling All Hostesses

Bon Appetit!



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. Her contact information may be found in our Beta Theta yearbook. Enjoy this holiday recipe!

[Corn & Cheese Casserole](#), from the kitchen of Laurie Williamson

6 tbsp butter
3 cups corn
2 tbsp onion, finely chopped
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp black pepper
1 cup swiss cheese, shredded
1/2 cup heavy cream

*Dot the bottom of a 2-qt casserole dish with 3 tbsp of butter

*Combine the corn, onion, salt, pepper and 1/2 cup of cheese and pour into the casserole dish

*Sprinkle with the remaining cheese and dot with the remaining butter

*Pour the cream over all

*Bake @ 375 for 20 minutes



Calendar of Events

Business Meetings

November 14, 2020 9:30 AM via Zoom

March 13, 2021 9:30 AM Parish House, or a weekday evening meeting during that week via Zoom

May 15, 2021 9:30 AM Via Zoom or Parish House, Hummelstown

Christmas Dinner

Due to Covid-19 and restaurant capacity regulations, we have decided to forgo our annual Christmas Dinner.

Cottage Meetings and Social Events

April 20, 2021 2PM Craft with Luc Crum at Zion Lutheran Church, Dauphin, PA hosted by Cindy Kerstetter

Four Chapter Meeting

April 10, 2021- Location and Time TBA

State and International Dates

April 23-25, 2021 State Creative Arts Retreat, Olmstead Manor, Ludlow PA

June 11-13, 2021 State Convention, Hilton Scranton and Conference Center, Scranton, PA

July 7-10, 2021 International Convention at Portland, Oregon

July 14-17, 2021 International Conference, Tampere, Finland

July 21-24, 2021 International Conference, San Antonio, Texas

July 2022 International Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana

Officers for 2020-2021

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

Delta Kappa Gamma
Pennsylvania State Association of DKG
Beta Theta Chapter – September 19, 2020

The first chapter meeting was held in Stephany Davidson's backyard to allow for outdoor social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic. Fourteen members and three new inductees, Allison Mackley, Geneva Reeder, and Lauren Miller were present.

President Stephany Davidson called the meeting to order and gave the floor to outgoing President Jeannette Thomas since the May 2020 meeting could not be held. Jeannette shared a reflection and reviewed the accomplishments of the 2019-2020 year. Nancy Thompson presented the treasurer's report noting a balance of \$5,723.06.

Jeannette Thomas conducted the "Installation of New Officers." The 2020-2022 officers are Stephany Davidson, President; Suzanne Long, 1st Vice President; Susan Davis and Norma Mateer, 2nd Vice Presidents; Linda Geesaman, Secretary; Nancy Thompson, Treasurer; and Suzanne Long, Parliamentarian.

President Stephany Davidson presented Jeannette Thomas with a Past President's pin along with a gift card. Gaye Hicks presented Jeannette with a scrapbook chronicling her presidency.

President Stephany Davidson officially opened the new chapter year. Stephany shared a most appropriate reading, "Not Everything is Cancelled."

Induction of three new members was conducted by Norma Mateer and Susan Davis. Heather Lister, sponsor, introduced Allison Mackley and Geneva Reeder; and Gaye Hicks, sponsor, introduced Lauren Miller, first Beta Theta collegiate member. Roses were presented to each.

This year's Woman of Distinction Award was given to Kathy Dunn and presented by Norma Mateer.

Committee Reports followed:

Membership – We have 38 regular members, 2 reserve members and 1 collegiate member.

Programs – Suzanne Long noted that three programs are planned. November will be a Cyber Security Presentation by Detective Gonzales; March will be STEM Education by Heather Lister; and May will be our 58th Chapter Anniversary celebrated with a concert by Shirley Newhart.

US Forums – Susan Davis reported that she has written articles for the Forum and invites members to contact her if further information is needed on a topic.

Hostesses – Pat Ethridge and Sherry Welty encouraged members to share favorite recipes.

Ways and Means – Donna Winch has coordinated bus trips, coupon book sales, and restaurant nights out but will not be doing these activities this year due to Covid restrictions. Norma Mateer noted that \$1 per mask made by Norma and daughter Kate is being given to our Grant-in-aid Fund. We will continue with Lynch Creek Farms fundraiser.

Cottage Meetings – The meetings devoted to sewing are not scheduled due to Covid. The Spring Craft Meeting is scheduled but may need to be changed.

Book Club – The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23 at 2:00. The book is *Lilac Girls*. Other meetings are noted on the postcard. Members are encouraged to participate.

Books for Kids – We are still collecting books. Bonnie Hindman is the coordinator. Books have been a part of the supplies given to new teachers. The librarians among us noted that Covid procedure is to quarantine books 3 days prior to new use.

Newsletter - Appreciation for Kathy Woodbridge's contribution in preparing the newsletter as well as timely submission of articles was shared.

Webmaster – Heather Lister noted that our website is certified. New information should be given to her for posting.

There was no Old Business. New Business:

Distribution of School Supplies – Susan Davis contacted our designated district, Lower Dauphin. There are two new teachers. We will be permitted to do a presentation in the school office during the month of October. The date will be shared when established and any member is invited to be present.

Entertainment for Four Chapter's Meeting, April 10, 2021. It was agreed that we will be in contact with Kate Humphrey and her Dulcimer group.

Lynch Creek Farms Fundraiser – Marcy Sharpe has coordinated this for the chapter for several years. She provided each member with a packet outlining procedure to order holiday arrangements. This includes Thanksgiving. Price includes shipping and 15% goes to the Chapter. We are encouraged to share the ordering information with friends.

Grant-in Aid – Lauren Miller is our current recipient. She will be graduating in December and thus we will be seeking a new recipient.

Memorial for Kathy Dunn – Our Chapter designates a \$20. Memorial to a member's church. Additional money can be given in cash or check to Nancy Thompson.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Geesaman

Secretary