Help yourself to...

Volume 6, Issue 2
Apr./May/June 2022

A Slice of Beta Pi

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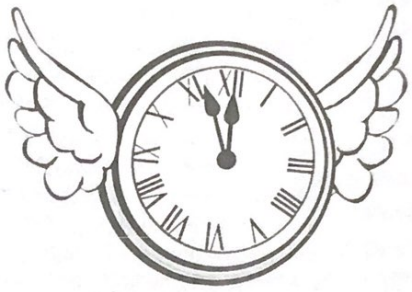
Anticipation



It's coming! The permits for hosting a Game of Chance arrived in **Heather Lilienthal**'s mailbox. *It's coming!* Although a bit more challenging than other years, **Katie Kovalich** was able to purchase all the designer purses needed for Bingo. *It's coming!* **Cathy Rubbo** personally dropped off the final check to the Black Rock Fire Company. *It's coming!* Publicity for this event has been put on Facebook, Instagram, and The Main Line Courier calendar courtesy of **Staci Schettone**, **Maggie Caverly**, and **Betty Rippel**. *It's coming!* **Danette Posey** is finishing up her 26 bracelets, while **Gail Schmerling** has contributed money for the five-dollar gift cards that are to be included as door prizes. *It's coming!* **Rose Clemente** and **Pat Ryan** have determined the amount of hot dogs and individually wrapped packages of pretzels, chips, and nuts needed and are working towards procuring these items. *It's coming!* Staci has a huge bag of gift donations from businesses that she will be dropping off at Katie's house. *It's coming!* Sisters are in the process of making sure that Staci, Katie, and **Marilyn Rogers** receive their unbelievably generous donations of gift baskets and gift cards. Unfortunately, all the names of the generous Beta Piers who contributed cannot be placed in this article as it would add an entire page to Slice resulting in the mailing of the newsletter to be 15 cents more per envelope. *It's coming!* Ladies who graciously volunteered to provide baked goods are beginning to flex their baking muscles. *It's coming!* Over two-thirds of the tickets have been sold, and **Fern Detwiler** is meticulously making sure that each ticketholder is assigned a place. *It's coming!* A final Bingo Committee meeting in late April to ensure that every little detail is taken care of. And finally, *it's coming!* Chairperson Heather's huge feeling of relief after an incredibly successful Bingo fundraiser.

Four-Chapter Breakfast is a Go

After a two-year hiatus, it was decided that with vaccines, and the removal of the mask mandate, the Four-Chapter Breakfast could once again be held. The very popular event will be held on Saturday, June 18 on the first floor deck of the elegant Desmond Hotel. A sumptuous breakfast buffet, news about other local Beta Pi chapters, and socialization that is face-to-face and not on Zoom makes this an occasion that all will want to attend.

So, mark your calendars and send a check made out to DKG Beta Pi in the amount of $25 to **Rebecca Barkley** by June 1. A form has been enclosed in this mailing for your convenience.

Did You Know

Speaking with Marlena about her education, her goals, and ideas provided a glimpse into the future of what DKG-Beta Pi will look like

By Carole Gallis

Sometimes our everyday lives keep us so busy that we are not aware of certain things that may have transpired. This can be especially true within the various organizations with which we are associated. Did you know that in 2019 (yes, that memorable year) DKG-Beta Pi decided to give a collegiate membership? The recipient would be the person who received the collegiate scholarship and who is currently student teaching. The first recipient of this membership was Margaret Ostrich. The current recipient is Marlena Ruser who received both the high school scholarship and the collegiate scholarship from DKG-Beta Pi. Speaking with Marlena about education, her goals, and ideas provided a glimpse into the future of what DKG-Beta Pi will look like.

Marlena was influenced by her mother, Georgia Ruser. She saw how much her mother loved teaching and that, combined with her own love of reading and desire to learn, made her want to encourage kids to love both reading and learning as much as she does. Currently Marlena is student teaching in Bucks County at Nockamixon Elementary School. She is working with kindergarteners. Student teaching has not been quite what she expected because of Covid-19, and she has not had the opportunity to interact and work with the children as much as she had hoped since the school was doing virtual learning for part of the year. However, it is gratifying now that they are back to in-person instruction to see the kids responding and learning from her. Upon graduation Marlena will be looking for a teaching position in Delaware, Bucks, and Montgomery counties.

To Marlena, having been the recipient of both scholarships, DKG is a supportive, positive network of women who love being teachers as well as helping others in the community. It is another support system for teachers, and she is amazed at all the good works that DKG-Beta Pi does within the community. She looks forward to contributing more to the group when she graduates.

One of the things Marlena would like to see is Beta Pi helping new teachers through donations of books, teaching supplies, and general advice in the first weeks of school. She believes that if DKG Beta-Pi becomes a more visible presence in the schools that additional younger teachers would be encouraged to join the organization.

Having a collegiate member is a refreshing breath. Marlena's enthusiasm is infectious. DKG-Beta Pi has so much to offer, so many ways to reach out and help others. Pat yourselves on the back and then get ready for our next project!

The Nancy Project is in the Works

Chapter rules stipulate that upon the death of a member, Beta Pi will send a dozen red roses to the service and a contribution of $50 to the charity of the family's choosing. However, in Nancy's Craig's case, there was no formal funeral, and her charity of choice was DKG Beta Pi.

What to do? Historian **Staci Schettone** had an idea. Two decades ago, the chapter had an outreach plan that involved donating handmade baby quilts to new mothers. Nancy volunteered to purchase 100 copies of the book, On the Night You Were Born, so that each mother had a book to go along with the quilt. Could we not donate this book to new mothers dedicated to her memory? Yes, was the unanimous vote. Thus began, "The Nancy Project."

Staci contacted **Jo Cressor** whose daughter is a maternity nurse at Paoli Hospital. The daughter in turn contacted her supervisor – she welcomed the idea.

The ordered books arrived. Staci is currently working on putting name plates on them. Nancy, a generous woman who gave her entire life is still giving!

President Faced Challenges at Meeting

Everyone had signed into Zoom for the General meeting on February 23, with the exception of one person. Why didn't they just begin the meeting? Because the missing person was the President. Did anyone get worried? No, for Katie freely admits having problems with technology. Finally, they reached her. Here she was on a previous Zoom site that had expired. Not realizing that, Katie was patiently waiting for the host to let her in.

Once she was on the correct Zoom call, President Katie started to efficiently run the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved, the Treasurer's report was given and accepted, upcoming events were noted, and committee reports were presented. A large portion of time was spent on the chapter rules regarding the death of a Member. Previous chapter rules were written with the assumption that there would be a funeral. With Covid, this is not always the case. It was decided that the rules needed to be amended to an and/or situation. This will be put up for a vote at the next general meeting. And with that decided, the meeting was adjourned. Suffice to say that in **Katie Kovalich**'s mind, she is hoping that Zoom will be adjourned, too.

Musical Get-Together Planned

"Whether musical or not, all are welcome as this shindig is bound to be fun."

Carole Gallis sent in her article for the current issue of Slice. Unfortunately, it didn't quite fit the template, and two phrases and a few adjectives had to be removed. One of those edited phrases found in her final paragraph was *"so many talented women."*

Carole's phrase was spot-on. Some DKGer's talents are subtle while others have quite obvious talents. One sister with a recognizable talent is **Rebecca Barkley**. Her musical ability is exceptional. It gave her a rock star status at the State Convention. And, several sisters who have experienced her tutelage on basic ukulele skills to teachers at in-service have requested that she do the same for Beta Pi.

Well, Ladies, with Covid restrictions lessening, that time has come. Rebecca agreed to hold a musical get-together at Marilyn Rogers' house on May 17 beginning at 3:30. Whether musical or not, all are welcome as this shindig is bound to be fun. Sisters do not have to RSVP but are asked to bring some sort of appetizer to share. Drinks will be provided. There is one caveat, though, for safety measures it is requested that only fully vaccinated members attend.

Who knows, perhaps a hidden musical talent or two is waiting to be discovered!

Dining Out Night at Chili's

Betty Rippel entered Chili's Restaurant on Dining Out Night fully expecting to see a lot of familiar faces. There were none. Surprised, she decided to explore the reason for the dearth of DKGers. She sought out the manager. Yes, he knew it was DKG's Dining Out Night, but only four people from Beta Pi had come, and they all had takeouts. Since she had his ear, Betty asked if he would consider contributing anything to our Bingo fundraiser event. He told her to come back tomorrow. So, she ordered takeout and left.

The following day, she returned and, true to his word, he gave her five ten- dollar vouchers for Chili's. Thanking him, she added how much she enjoyed the salad from the previous day. He had another salad made for her with his compliments!

Actually, Chili's headquarters didn't send the flyer until the day before the event. Also, the rainy weather contributed. But, it actually was a win-win for Betty and DKG!

President's Letter

Dear Sisters,

Whew! All the purses for Bingo have been purchased, and I am now working on the tenth basket for the big fundraiser. Just want to let you know that I was so thrilled by all your generous donations. Beta Pi simply has amazing people.

And speaking about amazing, members have stepped up to the plate when it came to making up a slate of officers. Currently we only have one left to fill – that of chairperson for the Finance Committee. If you're interested, I would love to hear from you.

With the officers being presented, retirees honored, and deceased members recognized, we certainly will have a full agenda when it comes to the End-of-the-Year Dinner. Vice-president Heather and I are busy trying to find a venue for this event which hasn't been held in person since I have become president! And since I'm technologically challenged, I am so very much looking forward seeing all of you face-to-face and not having to worry about Zoom.

Sincerely,
Katie

Upcoming DKG Events

May 1 – Designer Purse Bingo @ Black Rock Fire Company

May 17 – Music session with Rebecca Barkley @ Marilyn Rogers's house

June 9 - 11 - State Convention at the Penn Stater Conference Center

June 18 – Four-chapter Breakfast at the Desmond Hotel

Spotlight on Barbara Guiffrida

A mathematician is by nature logical and organized. For a person with a numerical bent, making a plan and following through with it is as natural as breathing. So it was that Barbara Sulpizio had a plan as to what her career would be. After all, like her first-generation Italian grandfather, a successful businessman who could unerringly calculate what the cost of a job would be in his head, she excelled in anything involving numbers. So, upon graduation from Marple Newton High School, the Broomall native had already determined her life path – that of becoming an actuary.

A small blip in the screenplay of her goal in life was caused by her mother who insisted that teaching was "a good back-up job for a woman." To placate her, Barb agreed to attend Shippensburg State College and major in math education, fully knowing that as soon as she left the stage with diploma in hand, she would begin the necessary steps toward fulfilling her ambition.

In January of her senior year, Barb went to a job fair. All hepped up about the possibility of a statistician's job in Philly, she only had to get through student teaching.

In order to save money, a request was made to the college to place her in Derry Township School District so that she could stay with a cousin. The college agreed. Soon Barb found herself at a school right near the Hershey factories. It was a "sweet experience." She woke to smells of peanut butter and chocolate; she had a cake schedule, teaching the cream of the crop, and had a honey of a supervising teacher. She fell in love with teaching. Plans about accepting the statistician's job so that it put her in a position to become an actuary collapsed like a ruined souffle.

New plans developed quickly. When Frank Luther interviewed her, he decided that this young woman, with a degree in math education and (her new plan) working towards a Master's in secondary guidance, was tailor- made for a new position which involved teaching math to students who didn't fit in regular education due to physical and/or emotional issues. Barb dove right into the challenge, teaching four classes twice a day, and always having had a proclivity for athletics, coaching hockey, basketball and lacrosse.

Two years later, funding for the program ended. Armed with a Master's, Barb's plan to join the guidance office was foiled as the demand for math teachers was much higher than that for guidance counselors.

Even though she was extremely busy, Barb, with her usual efficiency, carved out time for social life. Of course, being a true problem solver, she had already made up her mind that she was never going to date an Italian. Enter Fred Giuffrida whose father came from Sicily and grandmother came from Italy. Another plan hit the dust.

In the early 1980's, Jean Olexy, invited her to a DKG function. Lo and behold, there was Betty Walsh who had encouraged the young teacher to apply for a fellowship in Library Science. Needless to say, she quickly was approved for membership into Beta Pi.

Superior educator, caring coach, Union President, DKG President, class sponsor, math chair are but a few examples of her leadership at Upper Merion. Yes, she always had a plan, but thankfully the universe knew better!

Positivity Abounds with Sisters Facing Challenges

With a full day ahead, **Pat Ward** went to her car. Yes, it was sleeting, but that wasn't a big deal. After scraping her windows, Pat started down the driveway. She noticed that the mirror on the driver's side was pushed in and attempted to push it back. Unsuccessful she opened the door, and stood to get a better angle. What happened next is a bit fuzzy, but she believes she must have slipped and went underneath the car. Preoccupied with the mirror, she inadvertently neglected to put the car in park. The car ran over her legs and continued across the street. Somehow she was able to crawl across the driveway to the kitchen where she yelled for her daughter. Needless to say, when she saw her mother, Holly immediately called 911. Providentially, a neighbor who was a firefighter heard the call and arrived before the ambulance. He was able to instruct Holly on what to do.

The ambulance took her to the closest trauma unit which was at Paoli Hospital. There she underwent emergency surgery. Several surgeries later, Pat is now at Shannondell Rehab. There they are giving her OT and PT. Her skin grafts, taken from her upper legs, are beginning to take off. This plucky sister maintains an unbelievably positive attitude, telling Slice. "I will walk again. I will get through this – it's not any major organ or head injury." And, you know what, Sisters? She will!

Our thoughts are also with **Heather Lilienthal** who purposefully put off having surgery on her knee until after the Bingo Fundraiser She will be having surgery for a torn meniscus on May 4.

In the last issue of Slice, **Elaine DeWan** and **Liz O'Keefe** were featured as experiencing transitions in their lives. We felt it important to update Beta Piers on their progress.

Elaine had everything planned. In April, she would be moving to the Kendal Retirement Community in Ithaca. However, two days before her birthday - the buyer of her house backed out of the deal. Thankfully, which had to be put back on the market sold. Her new plan is to move on May 31.

Liz reports that the newest addition to the O'Keefe family is thriving. Alexis smiles, experiments with vocalizing, and is almost ready to turnover. The adoption is not finalized, but with all I's and t's dotted, all is in order to hopefully be wrapped up by the end of May.

Did You Know That…

- **Pat Ward** truly appreciates all the cards and kindnesses shown to her during this challenging time?
- compared to other chapters, dues are still a bargain at $80? Treasurer **Cathy Rubbo** would appreciate having all sisters pay by May 31. Paying by VENMO is accepted. (Don't try it, Katie)
- **Laura Daino**'s daughter Melissa skated for Disney on Ice as Belle and Sleeping Beauty? She currently manages and teaches at several ice rinks.
- Donations to Beta Pi's scholarship fund in memory of Nancy Craig totaled $1175?
- **Hope MacDougall** was at the stadium for the Phillies opening game? She certainly brought them luck as they won!
- **Staci Schettone**'s daughter, Charlie, was the top fundraiser for Jump for Heart at Caley?
- **Sandy Rodman** and **Marilyn Rogers** are back singing again? Sandy had a concert on April 9 with the Valley Forge Chorale while Marilyn's was with Wayne Oratorio on April 2 and 3.
- **Elaine DeWan**'s son's fiancé, Bree Barton, has had her 4th book release due in April? She is offering free virtual author visits for classrooms in April and May.

A Slice of Beta Pi

Editor – Marilyn Rogers
Staff - Carole Gallis
Contributors:
Heather Lilienthal
Betty Rippel

The Best Ways to Help Ukraine

The following are some organizations vetted by NPR that are asking for donations to help:

UNICEF – supports health, nutrition, HIV prevention, education, safe drinking water, sanitation and protection for children and families caught in the conflict in Ukraine.

Médecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders - runs a range of activities in Ukraine working with local volunteers, organizations, health care professionals and authorities to help people travel to health care facilities and access prescribed medications.

Voices of Children - The Ukrainian organization's Charitable Foundation helps provide psychological and psychosocial support to children affected by the armed conflict.

Sunflower of Peace - The nonprofit organization is raising money to prepare first aid medical tactical backpacks for paramedics and doctors on the front lines.

International Committee of the Red Cross - This Switzerland-based organization is aiming to help people affected by the conflict and support the work of the Ukrainian Red Cross.

Save the Children - helps to deliver lifesaving aid to vulnerable children in Ukraine and around the world.

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) - The international organization aims to provide emergency assistance to families in Ukraine — providing aid such as cash assistance and opportunities for resettlement in the U.S.

CARE - is raising money for its Ukraine Crisis Fund, which will provide immediate aid including food, water, hygiene kits, support services and direct cash assistance.

Now four ways to find us!

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/betapidkg/

Web:

http://dkgbetapipa.weebly.com/

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/dkgbetapi

Instagram:

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

Spring Birthdays

The advent of spring is always exciting. And to add to that feeling is the warmth when these sisters celebrate their birthdays.

Marie Kauffman has the first birthday in April on the 7th, following immediately on the 8th by **Clare Shank.** Then on the 16th, **Julia Sponseller** gets a chance to make merry while on the 20th, our president **Katie Kovalich** has her special day.

May brings not only flowers, but these birthdays: **Mary Beth Humbert** on the 4th, **Ann Roberts** on the 10th, **Elissa Sullivan** on the 11th. **Liz O'Keefe** rounds out the May birthdays on the 30th.

In June, three DKGers can let loose with birthday festivities: **Marlena Ruser** on the 6th, **Barb Giuffrida** on the 23rd, and **Peggy Taylor** on the 27th.

A very happy birthday to all our spring celebrants