



Alpha Beta Bits

Volume XXXI, Number 4

March 2021

President's Message

The year was 1980 something. I was in Anchorage, Alaska to present at an adult education conference. One of the keynote speakers was Dr. Leo Buscaglia. At the time, Dr. Buscaglia was a very popular professor at the University of Southern California. I had been hearing a lot about this dynamic person for a while and was anxious to experience his message first hand. I was not disappointed. He truly was motivating and inspiring. What I remember most about his session was his invitation to everyone to "come on down" and get a hug from him. I stood in line for my hug and again, I was not disappointed. His hugs were on par with my Uncle Army who until that point, in my opinion, gave the best hugs in the world. What made the hug as special as my uncle's was its strength ("bear-like" quality), its warmth, its genuineness, and its length.

Dr. Buscaglia said, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Those words reverberated throughout my mind during my hug moment with the famed man for the power of his touch/hug, his smile, and the few words he shared with me did make a lasting impression on me.

Turning lives around. In a way, that is what we do in DKG. Through our support of early career educators and our members active in the field, we help make a difference for them and for the students they teach. Our Grant-in Aid program (which will be featured at our March meeting) provides financial support for a soon-to-be early career educator. Our community service projects (Fleece Blankets, Weekend Backpack Program, Toastie Tootsies, STEM work with our Girl Scout Troop) and our support of our long-distance school (Jabulani School) in Zimbabwe, Africa are making a

positive difference for so many near and far and no doubt are turning lives around. And, what we do internally to support each other is the ultimate in terms of caring and compassion.

The DKG Core Values are at the heart of what we do. The work of the chapter truly reflects the seven purposes of DKG. Every time I reflect on all that you are doing, I hear Dr. Buscaglia also saying, "The majority of us lead quiet, unheralded lives as we pass through this world. There will most likely be no ticker-tape parades for us, no monuments created in our honor. But that does not lessen our possible impact, for there are scores of people waiting for someone just like us to come along; people who will appreciate our compassion, our unique talents. Someone who will live a happier life merely because we took the time to share what we had to give." I look forward to the continued happiness we will bring to those around us, to the difference we will make in the lives of students and teachers, and to turning lives around...to the Alpha Beta ripple effect that will continue to spread far and wide.

I am mesmerized by the exciting magic you are creating! Becky Johnen



Rays of Sunshine



Congratulations to Carol Deremer for leading the Grier School to earning for the third year in a row the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles.

Congratulations are in order for Melissa Moorhead who was asked to present an "In A Flash" session at the state convention. She will be presenting a session on Yoga/Breathing Relaxation.

Kudos to everyone for the Rainy Day Bag collection that raised \$385.26 for the Jabulani School. To date, we have raised \$850 which translates to 10 months of meals for the students! Thank you to Linda McElroy for coordinating the transfer of funds to the school. Pictures and thank you letter from Jabulani School are attached in another section of the newsletter.

Many thanks to the Ways and Means Committee (Lois Stoner, Kris Walters, Yvonne Bowser, Royce Boyd, Linda Clapper) for a wonderful auction at the Christmas Tea.

Many thanks to the Hospitality Committee (Jenn Harclerode, Pat Brenner, Wanda Clark, Carol Fritz, Sandi Hoenstine, Tina Smith-Gilbert, Trudy Snyder) for the delightful ornament and gift as well as serving the the lunch buffet.

Members of the Grant-In-Aid Committee (Linda McElroy, Linda Fisher, JoAnn Leighty, Sandi Hoenstine) for their time and energy in reviewing the seven Grant In-Aid applications and selecting the recipient of this year's award.



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Hospitality Members serving the Christmas Tea Luncheon. Pictured: Carol Fritz, Wanda Clark, Tina Smith-Gilbert; Trudy Snyder, Jenn Harclerode, Sandi Hoenstine and Pat Brenner.



Ways and Means Committee Members Kris Walters, Lois Stoner and Yvonne Bowser setting up and helping with the ticket raffle fundraiser.

The following members were recognized at the Christmas Tea held at Slick's Ivy Stone Restaurant for their milestone anniversary years of membership in DKG. Twenty-Five year certificates were given to Royce Boyd and Patricia Harrison. A Five year certificate was given to Angela Gates.

Picture: (L to R) Royce Boyd, Patricia Harrison and Angela Gates.

Projects Committee News

Since our December meeting, several members have donated their time to cut and knot blankets. The help has been very much appreciated! Plans are progressing as we work out the details to donate some different sizes of fleece blankets and lap blankets to the residents at The Village at Morrison's Cove in Martinsburg. We hope to make the first delivery to The Village soon.

At the December meeting, "Operation Toasty Tootsies" came alive with so many pairs of socks! Our members were so generous! The large stocking was filled and overflowing! After the meeting, the socks were divided. Two-thirds of the pairs went to the Bedford County Children & Youth. One third of the pairs (that was 80 pairs of socks) were given to the We Care Room at the Everett School District- a need that we had heard about!

Thanks again for your continued support to our Chapter's Projects!
-Linda Clapper

Fellowship Connection Activities – Bingo March Meeting

I hope that you've been enjoying the activities that were sent in January and February. Remember to bring your completed bingo sheet to the March 25 meeting. Give it to a Hospitality Committee greeter to claim your prize; one prize per person for any of the following:

- Regular horizontal or vertical bingo
- Four corners
- Round Robin (Outer four edges)
- Blackout (All squares are filled).

Have fun with the Bingo and have fun touching base with others in the chapter as you work through the squares.

In DKG Fellowship,
Becky



L to R: Pat Brenner and Beverly Brumbaugh collecting and sorting the socks for "Operation Toasty Tootsies".

Weekend Backpack Program

Our collection drive in October had the boxes overflowing with food items. Let's try to do it again with our spring food drive for our districts' Weekend Backpack Program. An updated list of district needs was attached to Becky's "In Between the Bits" email that was sent on February 4. (If you need another list, contact Becky.) When out and about food shopping, pick up an item or two, and then at the meeting, drop it off on the designated tables. This project helps children who are in food insecure environments .



-Jenn Harclerode

OUTSTANDING WOMEN EDUCATOR PROJECT

In mid-January, I sent letters of congratulation to the 20 teachers who were identified as outstanding educators. To date, I have heard from four of them and three of them are coming to a meeting this spring (two on May 22 and one on June 22) to be honored and to get a feel for us (and hopefully decide to join!). Another honoree has talked to Sonya Browell but has yet to connect with me.

- Becky Johnen

Speaking of Outstanding Women Educators – Congratulations

Candace Claar



Candace has passed her doctoral comps and now begins her dissertation.

DKG INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

If you've been on the Society's website, you'll have noticed a section at the bottom of the homepage, MEMBER SPOTLIGHT. According to the Society, "There's something special about Delta Kappa Gamma members. Maybe it's their educational background or professional development opportunities they provide others. It could be that the community is a better place because they are involved in ways to enrich the lives of others around them". Do you know a DKG member you would like to place in the spotlight so all members could catch a glimpse of them? Linda McElroy was spotlighted in October 2018. Who else in the chapter is making a difference that we would like to place in the spotlight? Send names to Becky.

-Becky Johnen

HOW TO THRIVE IN 2021 SESSION BY JONES LOFLIN

If you weren't able to attend the Zoom presentation on January 21 of How To Thrive in 2021 and you are interested in watching this outstanding presentation, you are in luck. The presentation is available on the state website. Go to dkgpa.weebly.com and on the home page look for the red button that says "How To Thrive Jones Loflin". On a day you need a pick-me-up, watching all or part of this presentation will do the trick. - Becky Johnen



Budget Timeline Information

It is that time of year when the Finance Committee needs to begin the budgeting process. Our fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30, therefore our budget needs passed in May so that our dues can be paid by June 15th. With that being said, committee chairs please send your requests to me. Email can be found on our chapter directory sheet. Please send requests by March 31st. In April the Finance Committee will meet and craft a budget to be voted on at the May meeting as well as recommend the dues for the 2021-2022 year. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks in advance for your reply to this request!

- Royce Boyd
Finance Committee

US Forum

Legislative Updates as of December 2020

S.1160 Supporting Family Mental Health in CAPTA Act increases support for mental health and child abuse prevention and treatment. Passed the Senate. Sent to the House and held on desk.

HR 5717 Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act of 2020 aims to toughen Federal Firearms laws. Referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

S. 2661 National Suicide Designation Act of 2020 became Public Law No. 116-172 on October 17, 2020. The universal hotline number for suicide prevention and mental health crises is **9-8-8**.

- Pat Brenner

Gracias! Kiitos! Thank You! Merci!

The Ways and Means Committee thanks all chapter members who contributed items for the Christmas raffle. The generosity of all members buying chances or contributing monetary donations is greatly appreciated. Hopefully, the efforts of all members following CDC guidelines made everyone feel safe as we continue to adapt our chapter activities during this pandemic.

-Lois Stoner

World Fellowship Report

Please continue to send notes and encouraging messages to Zhanar at Lehigh University. In December she stated that she was enjoying the snow during her winter break. Hope that she still feels that way.

-Lois Stoner

State Convention Basket

Everyone should have lots of ideas for our Alpha Beta "Snow Day" basket. As stores prepare for Warmer weather, winter merchandise will go on sale. Donations will be accepted at the next two chapter meetings as we look forward to State Convention in June.

-Lois Stoner

DKG EDUCATORS BOOK AWARD

Looking for a good book to read. Try one of the award winning books from the Society's Book Award: "Unveiled Truth" by Gail Goolsby, 2020 Award winner "Think Like Socrates" by Shanna Peeples, honorable mention "Suffrage: The Epic Struggle For Woman's Rights To Vote" by Susan L. Poulson, honorable mention.

You can generate non-dues revenue for the Society by purchasing these through Amazon Smile. Got to smile.amazon.com. (Use existing existing account or create a new one). Select DKG as the charitable organization.

- Becky Johnen

Dear Alpha Beta Sisters,

With deep gratitude, I wired funds collected at the October and December meetings to Harrison Muronga, our guide and contact in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The total from these meetings came to \$850. This is astounding!!

As you wished, the funds will be used for the children at Jabulani School. Harrison emailed and said that "tears filled his eyes" at the generosity shown. He was also up very early the next morning so that he could get in line to collect the money at the bank. He immediately took it to Sefiwe, the principal and director.

Your kindness and compassion is overwhelming!



With gratefulness and love,

Linda McElroy



Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter deadline will be April 24, 2021.
Please send pictures and articles to Tina Smith-Gilbert by this date.

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and pictures for the March newsletter. - Tina



DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 25: **Alpha Beta's Next Meeting**
April 23-25: **Creative Arts Retreat**
(Registration due by March 30)
May 11: **Founder's Day**
May 22: **Happy 73rd Birthday Alpha Beta**
June 11-13: **State Convention**
(Spring edition of the Keystonean will have registration information and convention details)

Next Meeting

- Date:** March 25, 2021
Time: 5:45 PM Meeting Opening
6:00 PM Dinner
6:45 PM GIA Program
7:30 PM Business Meeting

Upcoming Birthdays



We would like to wish the following sisters a very Happy Birthday! We hope you have a wonderful day!

- March 4th: Carol Fritz
March 7th: Denelle Diehl
March 8th: Tricia Beidle
March 14th: JoAnn Leighty
March 17th: Patty Valentine
March 28th: Kris Walters



- April 1st: Karen Musselman
April 4th: Pat Brenner
April 11th: Ann Snyder
April 18th: Beverly Brumbaugh
April 18th: Patricia Harrison

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