

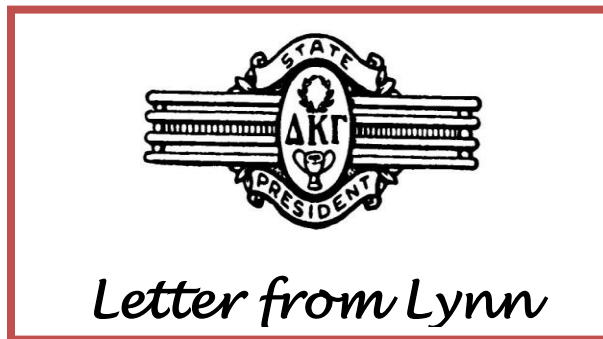
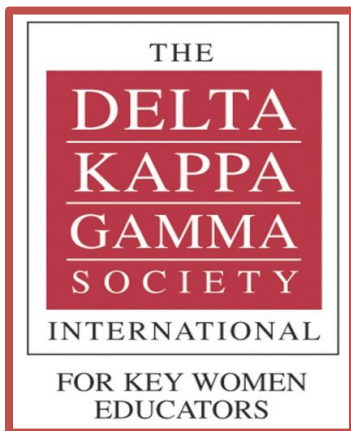
MA STATE ORGANIZATION of
THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA
SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Baystater

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

VOLUME 63 ISSUE 3

WINTER/SPRING 2021



Letter from Lynn

SAVE THE DATE:

**SPRING
CONVENTION:**
APRIL 30-MAY 1,
2021

**FALL
CONFERENCE:**
OCTOBER 1-2,
2021

Dear DKG Sisters,

Wow, what a year it has been! I can still remember going home from school on Friday, March 13th 2020 thinking we'd be out of school for 2 weeks while the school was deep cleaned. Never did I think we'd be home teaching remotely for the rest of the year and continuing through this year! The good news is that we have begun administering the vaccine to people and spring is right around the corner, so things are looking up!

As for DKG, I really miss our in-person gatherings and look forward to getting together again in the near future. Although many DKG activities and events have been put on hold during this past year, we have still been able to keep in touch and maintain connections and do some of our business thanks to technology. Many chapters have held virtual meetings with a variety of themes. Some chapters have had social gatherings with time to catch up with each other while others have had presentations from authors, discussions about their service projects, sharing with active educators about teaching during a pandemic, and playing bingo games.

Unfortunately, the vaccine roll out in Massachusetts has been slower than we hoped; therefore, we had to make some adjustments to our upcoming State Meetings. The Spring Convention will be held virtually via Zoom. The Executive Board Meeting will be Friday evening, April 30th and the General Membership Meeting will be on Saturday, May 1st. Our International Guest, International Society Member-At-Large, Cynthia Moore will join us Saturday morning virtually from Canada.



Lynn's Letter continued on p. 3

ALPHA UPSILON STATE 2019-2021

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Parliamentarian	Dr. Anita Newman	anitaneuman@comcast.net
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EDITOR'S CORNER

The Baystater email address is:

baystaterma@gmail.com

I'd like to thank the following contributors to this issue: Nanci Flaherty (Alpha Iota), Dianne Swistak (Alpha Eta), Carol LaPolice (Alpha), Diana Grady (Alpha Theta), Irene Falite (Epsilon), Deb Gill (Alpha Zeta), Sharon MacDonald (Alpha), Marcia Pereira (Alpha Gamma), Leah Jones (Alpha Mu), Claire LaBonte (Alpha), Dorothea Maynard (Alpha Theta), Jo-Anne Butler (Eta) and Jill Flanders (Alpha Epsilon).

Your support and efforts are appreciated!

THANK YOU ALL! Gail Saccone



CHAPTER PRESIDENTS 2020-2022

AREA I

Alpha Beta	Louise O'Brien
Alpha Theta	Dorothea Maynard
Kappa	Donna Brown (Contact)
Theta	Nancy Carroll and Janet Wellock

AREA II

Alpha Gamma	Tammy Edmonds and Beth Clark
Alpha Mu	Leah Jones

AREA III

Eta	Jo-Anne Butler
Alpha Lambda	Ellen Driscoll
Zeta	Marcia Cameron

AREA IV

Alpha	Sharon MacDonald
Alpha Epsilon	Lindsay Skelton

AREA V

Alpha Iota	Nanci Flaherty
Alpha Zeta	Deborah Gill
Upsilon	Michele Glynne

AREA VI

Alpha Eta	Diane Pendergast and Deborah Wescott
Epsilon	Irene Frangos Falite

Our 80th birthday celebration will be held in the Fall instead of in the Spring in the hopes that we can have the celebration in person. The plan at this time is to have the Conference and Birthday Celebration at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center on October 1st-2nd. Claire LaBonte, 1st Vice President, and her committee have been busy planning these events. I hope that you can join us at one or both of these State Meetings.

As the 2019-2021 biennium comes to an end it means that it's time to elect new Officers. Bette Bridges and Marilyn Spedding have been working tirelessly to recruit nominees for the positions. You can learn more about the nominees here in the Baystater. The election will take place during the Convocation at the State Convention Meeting on Saturday, May 1st. We will also accept nominations from the floor at that time. Thank you to those that have stepped up to lead us as we move forward. Also, the next State President will be looking for people to chair our state committees. This is a great way to get involved at the state level and work with some amazing women!

By now I hope you have received the latest edition of the DKG Collegial Magazine. There are many great articles inside about the wonderful things happening in DKG. After you finish reading it don't put it in a pile on your desk or in the recycling bin, instead put a note on it and pass it along to a key woman educator that you know or put it in the "teacher's room". This magazine is a great way to help other educators learn about DKG and all that we do.

While we are still inside and looking for fellowship and things to keep us active I'd love to see if we can put together some Zoom presentations that we can offer to all DKG members. Many of the states have been using Zoom to host presentations of all kinds for personal and professional growth. I've attended presentations hosted by other states and they've been very informative and interesting. Some topics that would be great to share via Zoom are personal wellness and mindfulness activities, instructional tools and tips for educators (i.e., Peardeck, Nearpod, Kahoot etc.), craft projects, past travel adventures etc. Please reach out to me (lynnphoward4@gmail.com) if you or someone you know is willing to do a Zoom presentation. Also, see a list of additional ideas for Zoom presentations and activities on p.4.

Recently, Internet trolls accessed my personal email account and many of you may have received scam emails from me asking you to purchase gift cards for a sick friend of mine. I'm so sorry if you received this email from me. Unfortunately, my email address book was also hijacked so I was not able to let everyone know about the problem. I would like to remind everyone to be very careful when you receive emails like this and obviously use your best judgement. If you're not sure if it's really from the person, check with the person before replying to the email and getting gift cards! When you are sending emails to a group of people it's a good idea to send it "Bcc" instead of "Cc" which includes everyone's email address that everyone can then see. Please use lynnphoward4@gmail.com for all DKG related matters when you are sending me an email.

Finally, as we approach March 13th this year, I'm feeling very hopeful and thankful. I am hopeful that as the number of COVID cases decreases and the number of people receiving the vaccine increases, along with the warmer weather coming soon, we will be able to gather in person. I am thankful that I am a member of DKG and have had the opportunity to meet such amazing women educators across the state, country and world. I look forward to our DKG meetings and enjoy working with all of you as we address the educational needs of the students (young and old) in our communities!

Stay safe and healthy! Keep in touch!
Best wishes,

Lynn

[Lynnphoward4@gmail.com](mailto:lynnphoward4@gmail.com)

MEET THE ALPHA UPSILON STATE NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS

CLAIRE LaBONTE: PRESIDENT



A member of DKG from Alpha Chapter since 1999, Claire has held various positions at all levels of the organization: in her chapter (President, Vice President, Recording Secretary), on the state level (First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, State Membership Chair for three biennium), and at the international level (International Membership Committee, Chair of International Educational Excellence Committee). Since becoming a member Claire has been a delegate at all but one international and regional conventions and conferences. Claire regularly attends state meetings and has presented at all levels of the Society.

JILLAYNE FLANDERS: FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT



Jill has been an active member of Alpha Epsilon Chapter for 30 years. She has served in every role, most recently as Chapter Treasurer, and several bienniums as President.

It has been a special thrill to have both her mother, Anne Torrey, (now deceased) and her daughter, Lindsay Skelton also be members of AE Chapter. Lindsay is currently the Chapter President.

Jill was honored with the Area IV Award in 2011, the same year she was selected Massachusetts Principal of the Year (Passios Award) and National Distinguished Principal (NAESP). Jill taught 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades for 10 years, and was principal in Hadley and South Hadley MA for 27 years combined.

Now “retired,” Jill consults with the Department of Early Education and Care, and Elementary and Secondary Education, the MA School Administrators Association, is on the Board of Directors for Easter Seals of Western Massachusetts, SEL4MA, the Center for Educational Improvement, and supervises student interns for Mt. Holyoke College.

DOROTHEA MAYNARD: SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT



Dorothea’s initiation (now induction) into the DKG Alpha Theta chapter was in May 2013. She learned early that a DKG sister never says NO. In September, she accepted the position of chapter Recording Secretary. She attended the 2014 Spring Conference on Saturday. She participated at the full 2015 Spring Conference enjoying the presenters and meeting members. Kit Dunlap pulled her out of a presentation to meet the State President. Kay was glad to meet her, and they engaged in a half-hour conversation. At that point, Kay stood up. She asked Dorothea if she would accept the position of Executive Secretary. Since Dorothea assumed the work was as a secretary to the President, she agreed. Kay explained that the job was as a conference planner and reminded Dorothea that a DKG sister never says NO. She said YES. Dorothea was ignorant of the then-current requirements for the position. At the luncheon, Kay announced she had filled the Executive Secretary position. Kay introduced Dorothea; they both received a standing ovation! Dorothea was a speaker at the 2015 Fall Workshop with her Olympic Torch. She presented a Self-Compassion session at the 2019 Fall Workshop. Her five-year commitment as Executive Secretary has ended. Dorothea is ready to serve Alpha Upsilon as Second-Vice President.

In the 80s, Dorothea was a Seekonk Special Ed Middle School Para. She is a nationally certified RAINBOW Facilitator assisting children through the stages of grief. Dorothea holds degrees in Thanatology (grief education) and Psychology and attended the Buzzards Bay Writing Project Summer Teaching Institute at UMASS Dartmouth. She became an Assoc. Director assisting with Summer Institutes. Dorothea wrote a grant through BBWP to facilitate an after-school writing group for fourth and fifth graders attending the Alfred J. Gomes School in New Bedford. The J.B. Fernandes Memorial Trust 1 approved the grant and, the students were able to participate in two eight-week sessions. Dorothea and her husband Russ, an Elementary PE teacher and poet, facilitated the program. As a retired MA licensed Real Estate Broker and licensed MA Real Estate Instructor, Dorothea is aware of the difficulty in keep adult learners engaged. She looks forward to assisting new chapter presidents in feeling comfortable in their position.

GAIL SACCONI: RECORDING SECRETARY



Gail is a retired School Psychologist. She worked in the Norwell Public School system for 32 years before retiring in 2007. Gail was initiated into the Alpha Zeta chapter in 2002. She has served as Alpha Zeta's President, First Vice-President, and currently as Recording Secretary. She was appointed as a representative to the National Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C. in 2014, 2016, and 2018. As a follow-up to attending the Seminars, she co-presented workshops at three Alpha Upsilon State Conferences. Gail has also served on the State Scholarship Committee. She wrote the Scholarship Guide to simplify the process of applying for grants and scholarships. She has attended four NE Regional Conferences and three International Conferences. At the State level, she chaired the Finance Committee from 2011-2012 and served as Corresponding Secretary from 2015-2019. Gail has been 2nd Vice-President from 2019-2021. She is currently serving as Acting Recording Secretary and Editor of the *Baystater* (2019-2021).

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

We do not have a nominee currently for Corresponding Secretary. We will take nominations from the floor at the Convention. The Corresponding Secretary will attend the State Meetings, collect and then distribute the reports for the State meetings, and send out any correspondence as delegated to her by the President.

MA STATE ORGANIZATION~SPRING CONVENTION

April 30-May 1, 2021 Via Zoom

Friday, April 30, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Convocation

Report to Membership by President

Election of Officers

Greetings from International Guest Cynthia Moore

Women's Suffrage in Massachusetts

Presenter Jessica Lupien

Author Steven Manchester: Chasing the Dream

Installation of New Executive Board

You will receive an email from Christine Bonci to register for the Spring Convention. Then after you register you will receive the Zoom link to join the meeting on Friday evening and then another for Saturday morning.

STATE SERVICE PROJECT

Reach Out and Read



Thank you to the Chapters that have donated to the state service project Reach out and Read. Reach Out and Read Massachusetts promotes early language development skills and health through established systems of well-child visits with an intervention that has the potential to reach all young children in the state's 47 counties. As Reach Out and Read's flagship state, Massachusetts has been on the forefront of early childhood development and literacy since it's very first program opened at the Boston Medical Center over 30 years ago.

In Massachusetts, Reach Out and Read serves 223,000 children annually at 285 program sites and distributes 377,000 books. Help make families reading aloud together a priority for the children of Massachusetts-your contributions make a difference. If you or your chapter would like to support this organization, you can get more information at Reach Out and Read.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES FOR 2021

The following information was included in the latest issue of the MTA Reporter. For a full listing of MTA Legislative priorities, go to www.massteacher.org/legislation.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: 2021 GPO-WEP NEWS

As we enter 2021, the 117th Congress begins. Now new bills must be filed for the new session. The *SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT* has been the vehicle to repeal both offsets. As of now, there has not been a Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 filed, but it is anticipated that one will be forthcoming. Once it is filed, it will be important that members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation sign on as co-sponsors **immediately**. Under House rules, if a bill gets 290 co-sponsors, that bill must come up for a vote in the House. Reaching the 290 co-sponsor threshold could provide a procedural avenue to advance the legislation. There may be a "call-to-action" to contact your Representatives in Congress.

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: ENSURING A DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT

FAIR AND DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT BILL

- Immediately increase the COLA base from \$13,000 to \$18,000 and overtime to raise the base to align with SS maximum allowable benefit
- Freeze municipal retiree premium contribution rates
- Cap out-of-pocket expense for non-Medicare-eligible retirees

EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE BILL

- Provides MTRS members with an option to purchase additional years in age or years of service (or a combination of the two)
- This incentive would be open to MTRS members who agree to purchase their time and retire during the limited enrollment period
- Mandatory backfill language would be included in order to avoid teacher shortages

MTRS RETIREMENT-PLUS BILL

- To correct a Retirement-Plus enrollment issue impacting certain members of the MTRS



U.S FORUM ~ Carol LaPolice North East Representative

The US Forum Steering Committee featured Dr Sylvia Johnson on their February 24th online program on **Legislative Issues for the 117th Congress**.

Dr. Johnson, a DKG member and lobbyist with the National Educators Association, gave an overview of the changes in congressional leadership roles and its effect on the passage of legislation. She shared the new administration's goals for the future including:

- Historic increases for programs service the most in-need students and full-service community schools
- Modernization of infrastructure of schools
- Rewriting the Higher Education Act to encourage a diversity pool and relief for student loan borrowers
- Racial, Social and Economic Justice
- Police Reforms
- Paycheck Fairness
- Immigrant reform and pathways to citizenship
- Improved child nutrition
- Strengthening retirement security
- Addressing tax fairness
- Strengthen the Affordable Care Act for improved access, lower drug and healthcare costs

Dr Johnson shared the need for retirement security and had some fairly good news. H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, is a bill for **full repeal** of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) acts. These acts unfairly reduce or eliminate social security benefits for dedicated retired teachers through no fault of their own. The GPO affects 695,000 educators, mostly women, and it reduces Social Security **spousal or survivor benefits** by 2/3 of public pension with 9 out of 10 losing their **entire** spousal benefit.

The WEP affects approximately 2 million and that number is still growing as more people enter education after having worked in the private sector. It reduces **retirement, disability, spousal, or survivor benefits**. The downside to this bill is the anticipated cost of \$80-90 billion. However, a bill, The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, is being re-filed this year by House Ways and Means Chairman and MA Representative, Richie Neal that offers a less costly solution.

Retirees affected by the WEP only would get \$150 more monthly with future retirees getting \$75.00 on average. According to Dr Johnson this is a good first step and could bring us somewhere in the middle, talking points to use with legislators are:

- GPO and WEP penalize educators who dedicate their lives to **public service**
- GPO and WEP **discourage** people from becoming educators, especially those in mid-career
- We (NEA) support **full repeal** of GPO and WEP, including incremental steps toward full repeal

There are some states not affected by this issue. When I asked how we can get them onboard she suggested that we can contact their legislative staff to make them aware of the human impact on our citizens and point out that it applies to the economy for all of us.

Another important bill relating to pensions is the Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021 (EPPRA). You may have a family member impacted by a pension that is in danger of running out of funds. This act will preserve the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") funding with new rules for those affected.

While we are moving towards vaccinations for educators in MA, I questioned how those who may become ill will be helped. In the new COVID relief bill 10 additional days of sick leave are included.

Student testing, required by the ESSA- Every Student Succeeds Act that replaced No Child Left Behind, will not be waived by the Department of Education (ED). The only thing we can do about MCAS is to share the stories of our students at the local and state levels as the ED guidance gives some options on how to test and usage of data. Johnson reminds us that Congress is moved by stories.

Finally, when ask how our organization can be more effective, Johnson replied, “By calling and emailing our legislators- each represents a vote.” Also, run for office, even at the local level, local politics matter. We have 1800 educators in office right now including the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden!

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



DKG International Educators Foundation is “Giving to Educate the World”

Celebrate by Giving using the online contribution form.

- **Give** to the International Educators Foundation to honor your friends, your mentors, your chapter, yourself!
- **Give** to the International Educators Foundation to memorialize your loved ones.
- **Give** to the International Educators Foundation to celebrate an achievement, to recognize your champions.
- **Give** a dollar for each year-Give a dollar or the equivalent of your age on your birthday as a way to pass on the good works to future members.

More information is available on the website [DKG International Educators Foundation](https://www.dkgief.org) Donations are 100% tax deductible for U.S. citizens.

LEAVE A LEGACY!

SHOPPING ONLINE MORE THESE DAYS?

Your tax deductible contributions that are given to the **DKG International Educators Foundation** “go global” through awards for educational projects and professional development to members and non-members. The money collected will enhance the numbers and kinds of projects funded by the DKG International Educators Foundation.

Here’s a very easy way to donate to the DKG Educators Foundation just by shopping!

The DKG International Educators Foundation now has a **donation link with Amazon Smile**:

1. Go into your smile.amazon.com account
2. Up on the top left-hand side under the search bar, you will see what cause you are currently supporting.
3. Click on the arrow to the right of the cause you have chosen
4. Click on CHANGE
5. Type in DKG International Educators Foundation and then click the Search Button
6. Once you see the name of the Educators Foundation, click SELECT
7. That’s it! Now shop and a portion of your purchase will go to the Foundation.

IDEAS and TOPICS for ZOOM SESSIONS

Statewide or for Chapter Meetings

Compiled by Gail Saccone

- Get started with Zoom. Set-up “Coffee Hour” tutoring sessions and learn how to:
 - Host and conduct meetings with Zoom
 - Use features that help in presentations
 - Share documents
 - Ensure participation in meetings
- Personal Wellness through Yoga and Meditation
 - DIY: Creative wellness activities to do at home or outdoors (cardio, strength exercises)
 - Stress Management, Meditation, and Mindfulness techniques
 - Tips for Trauma Reduction (as it affects children and learning)
- *Each One, Reach One*: Reaching new members
 - Conduct Member Connect activities such as emails, phone calls, letters or notes
- Leadership Redefined in Pandemic: discussion
- Select a personal topic that a member can present online:
 - How Art Can Build a Community (i.e. murals in schools, community centers)
 - Craft project (provide a list of materials needed), Art workshop, Music, Hobbies
 - Travels, Writing, Health issues, Computer and iPad usage
 - Genealogy, Making Digital Albums
 - Games: Zoom Bingo, Goose Chase, Scratch
- Instructional Technique Tips for Teachers (i.e. Pear Deck/ Kahoot)
 - Sneak Peek into a Virtual Classroom Lesson
- Guest Speakers to talk about topics for both active and retired teachers:
 - SPED in Covid (SPED attorney)
 - STEAM in Covid
 - How to volunteer virtually
 - Teacher rights during Covid
 - Cultural diversity in our contemporary world
 - Discussion: Teachers and parents perspectives on the online learning environment
- Elementary Curriculum Directors talk of effects of pandemic on young learners (social/emotional health, academic progress, standardized testing, etc.)
- *Helping Teachers During the Covid-19 Pandemic (9/20)*:
<http://dkgsi.blogspot.com/2020/09/helping-teachers-during-covid-19.html>
- Endorse a Project: Backpack for Kids, Food banks, homeless shelters, personal hygiene items for school nurses, Thank You cards to teachers & school staff, donate books to school libraries, “Goodie bags” for teachers, outdoor garage for a fundraiser.
- **BOOK GROUPS**: Have each member talk about a book they have read and why others would be interested; do a traditional book study: invite a local librarian to talk about how the library dealt with Covid and talk about her favorite books.



CHRISTA MCAULIFFE LIVING MEMORIAL FUND~ G'Tanya Small

We're Here! Looking for New Applicants!

The Christa McAuliffe Living Memorial Fund Committee stands ready to accept applications from MA State members interested in taking professional development workshops or perhaps an online class for personal growth. Sessions do not have to be school related. They can focus on a hobby or something you've always wanted to explore in more depth.

The "easy-to-fill-out" application can be found on the MA state website <http://alupsma.weebly.com> under Christa McAuliffe on the home tab. Please send completed applications electronically to G'Tanya Small at smallgt@gmail.com. The deadline for fall and winter events is November 1st and the **deadline for events held during the spring and summer is March 1st. (This date can be extended this year).**

The Christa McAuliffe Living Memorial Fund does not receive support through the MA state budget. We appreciate everyone's generous contributions and hope that we can count on your continued support.

THANK YOU FROM CHRISTA MCAULIFFE RECIPIENT~Leah Jones

I would like to thank the committee for awarding me the funds to take a college course through the Christa McAuliffe Living Memorial Fund. Last year I had a career shift and became a first grade special education teacher in my school. Throughout my (24 year) career I have been a third, fourth and fifth grade educator, both general education and special education.

I took an online course, through Learners Edge called, "Reaching Young Readers-Improving Reading Skills". The course took me on a learning journey reviewing and learning about phonemic awareness and phonics instruction. Not only did this course help me become a better teacher, and my students better readers, it reminded me how much I love learning!

"Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets."

----- Leonardo da Vinci

A poem written by Leah Jones' mom.

President, Alpha Mu

Friendship

A smile, a tear, a gentle touch;

Unspoken feelings that mean so much.

Eyes who speak and understand;

Strength that comes from hand on hand.

Ears to listen, arms to enfold;

Embracing all from the heart that's told.

Laughing and happy in playful glee;

Sharing and caring, unselfishly.

Accepting me, the person I know;

Guiding and helping me as I grow.

Patient, forgiving, when I am all me;

Taking, receiving, with humility.

Knowing, trusting, someone is there,

Willing to give, ready to share.

Tedi Borgendale Carlson

Copyright @ April, 1976

UPDATED 2021 MEMBER DIRECTORY

The Updated Member Directory is now available. Copies will be available at \$10.00 each.

Any member wishing to purchase a copy should contact Jo-Anne Butler at squeakie59@verizon.net.

SARA E. CHASE FUND~ Dorothea Maynard

The maximum award is \$2,500 per semester.

Application Deadline Dates by Semester:

- Spring Semester – December 15, 2020
- **Summer Semester– April 15, 2021**
- Academic/Writing Year – April 15, 2021
- Fall Semester – July, 2021

Download the Application Form at: <http://alupsma.weebly.com/scholarship.html>

Mail your Application to:
Dorothea Maynard
Sara E. Chase Scholarship
661 Pearse Road
Swansea, MA 02777



CORNETET PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Do you need money for conference/seminar expenses including travel, hotel, meals, and a substitute teacher? We have good news for you—the Cornetet Professional Development Award! The awards are available to members and non-members for up to \$2,000!

Three award cycles: September 1, February 1 and May 1.

1. Go to: www.dkgef.org
2. Click on Apply> Click on Cornetet Professional Development-Individual

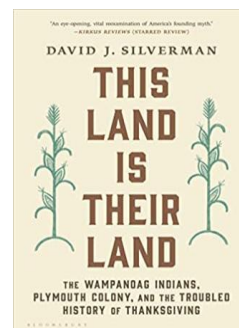
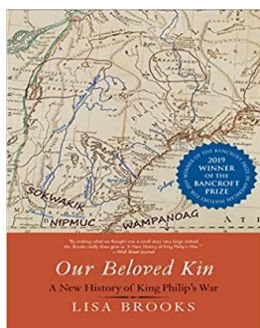
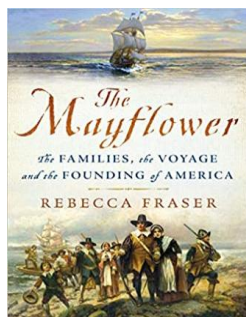
REMINDER TO CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Necrology Form #6 needs to be sent to International (mem@dkg.org), MA State Treasurer (Carol LaPolice: carol.lapolice@comcast.net), and the State Necrology Chair (Natalie Januskiewicz: njanuskiewicz@msn.com) as soon as possible after the member passes. The Form #6 can be on www.dkg.org (FORMS tab> scroll down to General).

LITERACY COUNCIL~ Diana Grady

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT...Stories of Early Massachusetts?

Recommendations from Diana Grady, State Literacy Chair



From acclaimed historian and biographer Rebecca Fraser comes a vivid narrative history of the Mayflower and of the Winslow family, who traveled to America in search of a new world.

“By making what we thought was a small story very large indeed—Ms. Brooks really does give us ‘A New History of King Philip’s War.’” —*The Wall Street Journal*

A new look at the Plymouth colony's founding events, told for the first time with Wampanoag people at the heart of the story.

~~BAYSTATEMENTS~~ CHAPTER NEWS

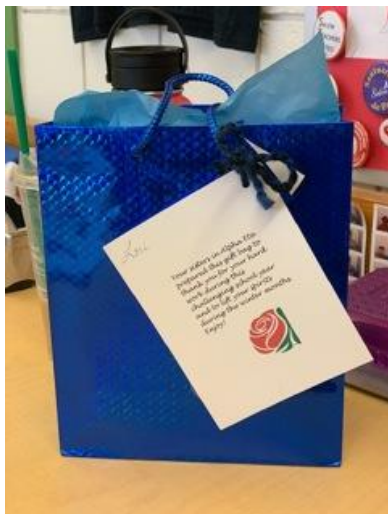
ALPHA ZETA *Submitted by Debbie Gill, Chapter President*

Like the other chapters, Alpha Zeta has had our meetings virtually since the onset of the pandemic. On September 18 we had a wine and cheese gathering via zoom. It was a good opportunity to see our chapter members, catch up with summer news, and discuss back to school issues. We planned an outdoor event in October to visit Heritage Gardens in Sandwich. Although we had to cancel due to weather, we hope to reschedule this event in the spring. Given the limitations on gatherings, we decided that book discussion “meetings” would be a good way to keep in touch. On January 22 we meet to discuss the book, *Beantown Girls* by Jane Healy. This is an historical fiction about three women from the Boston area who served as Clubmobile Girls during World War II. Some of our members followed this discussion up with a live webinar with the author. Our chapter is currently reading, *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, and will be “meeting” at the beginning of March to discuss it. This book is a New York Times Bestseller which is an historical fiction that spans many decades, following the relationship between two Korean girls from very different backgrounds who work in the sea as part of their village’s all-female diving collective in a matriarchal society. Two of members had already read it, and highly recommended it. We are looking forward to resuming our gatherings in person, but in the meantime value our ability to stay connected via zoom.

ALPHA ETA *Submitted by Dianne Swistak*

The executive board of Alpha Eta knew that holding meetings would be challenging this year, and so the plan was to remain flexible and make changes when needed. As a result, our December, in home, Holiday meeting became a project that we could complete without having to all get together. We combined our literacy project of delivering books to member Berna Roy’s PreK class at the Moody School in Haverhill with a collection of hand-made hats and mittens and added school supplies that students need when learning from home. There were enough hats and mittens, thanks to generous donations from friends outside of DKG, for Berna to share with other classes.

To start the New Year on a positive note our executive board suggested putting together gift bags for our active teachers. We made up seven gift bags and then put together seven more for them to share with a colleague. Along with other goodies we included hand lotion, a candle for relaxation, and an apple for the teacher. The bags were delivered before the end of January, and they seem to have provided a bright spot amid all the challenges educators have been facing. When March rolls around the chapter will once again make plans to meet, to Zoom, or to undertake another project in support of teachers.



ALPHA GAMMA *Submitted by Marcia Pereira*

Alpha Gamma Chapter continues to stay connected during COVID-19 pandemic. The new exec board is in place and has held online meetings using Zoom. We held our first full chapter meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2021. It was great to hear from so many chapter members and see some familiar faces on the screen.

The meeting had a familiar feel as the officers ran the online meeting much like our in-person meetings. The meeting was called to order by Co-President Tammy Edmonds. An invocation was given by Co-President Beth Clark. Roll call was taken by Corresponding Secretary Donna Wayman. The minutes of the last meeting December 12, 2019 were approved and seconded. Yes, it had been 13 months since our last meeting as a chapter.

As a chapter we are focusing on inviting prospective members to join and following DKG news on the website.

This year our service project will be monetary donations to the John Paul II Food Pantry in Southbridge.

Chapter members are asked to review the list of committees and contact the co-presidents with their choices. Committees include By-laws, Finance, Membership, Nominations, Programs, Professional Affairs and Legislation, Research, Literacy, Communication, Fund Raising, World Fellowship, Hospitality, Sunshine, Scholarships, and Personal Growth and Service. A chapter goal is to find new, creative ways our committees can continue to make a difference during these challenging times.

We wish continued health and safety for our chapter members, their families and students, and all of our DKG sisters.

ALPHA *Submitted by Sharon MacDonald, Chapter President*

Our local chapter started meeting on the third Thursday of the month when the pandemic first started as a way of staying connected and promoting a well-being check in with each other. We had two business meetings, but the rest of the monthly meetings have had a social fun component. We have brought our favorite beverage and appetizer to show and tell, shared our favorite family recipe, shared our favorite holiday symbol with one another, and had a Christmas story read to us by one of our members. Last month we met two days after the inauguration and wore pearls to honor our new first female Vice-President. Several photos of our pearl wearing members have been included here for you to see first-hand. Kathy Balakier's pearls were a gift from her husband straight from Tiffany's. She received them when they were in Paris for their 25th wedding anniversary! He proudly went and retrieved them for her and helped her get them on during our meeting.

We have decided to continue this monthly format until we can all return together in person. If any of you would like to join us, please feel free to join us! All are welcome. The zoom link is on our website, but I will include our id and password for you here as well. We hope to have two of our members who are in assisted living join us this next month as well. The nurses at the facility have agreed to set up iPads for two of our members so that they may participate as well. Not being in person is a huge void for all of us but for some it has also made other things possible as we continue to reach out to try to stay in contact with one another. And it has some advantages.....we don't have to travel outside in the cold, snowy weather and can remain safe and warm wherever we are yet still have a chance to chat with our Alpha sisters!

Meeting id is: 6477318827 Password: 016320.



ALPHA EPSILON *Submitted by Jill Flanders*

Our chapter has successfully stayed connected through the pandemic with three Zoom meetings since last August. It was a delight just to see each other's faces, and to discuss how we could best support our own members working remotely or in hybrid classrooms this year.

In October we heard from Dr. Deborah Pelotta Fontaine, a friend of Dr Gail Herman, who is closely associated with the Be Like Brit program in Haiti. Through her position at Becker College, Debbie has helped support the orphanage in Haiti for over 10 years, and is now deeply involved in expanding the school associated with the orphanage. She provides teacher training remotely, and has been assisted by Gail, who is an acclaimed story teller. For more information, Debbie can be contacted at debbie@belikebrit.org

In February, our chapter was pleased to support our president Lindsay Skelton with her Donors Choose project. Lindsay has collected a library of children's books that she has developed into monthly Story Walks for the conservation area next to her school in Greenfield MA. She changes out the stories each month, and provides activities for children and their families to do while enjoying the walk. The area is open to the public, and we were pleased to hear that her project was fully funded for this school year.

Alpha Epsilon was shocked by the sudden passing of one of our members, Liz Tiley, in November. We will be honoring her and her work in education in May. Her sister, Linda Tiley, is a member of our chapter, too. As always, we look to invite new members to our small chapter, share our history, the available scholarships, and the networks and resources that are available to DKG members. We remain optimistic that we will come out of this pandemic even more committed to serving children and their families, and supporting each other, in new, innovative ways - after all, isn't that what teachers have always done?

ALPHA IOTA *Submitted by Nanci Flaherty, Chapter President*

Alpha Iota's Holiday Boutique is typically our favorite, well attended event. Due to COVID restrictions, we had to cancel the event this year. However, we were not letting the Grinch or any Bah-Humbug's thwart our fun. Enter Alpha Iota's Lynn Howard and the maiden voyage of zoom Holiday Bingo! With some creativity, our chapter was able to host an online zoom event mc'd by our own Lynn Howard. With approximately 20 members in attendance, we spent some fun time enjoying rounds of Bingo and winning prizes that were generously donated. Sherry Pedone and Carol Sullivan - Hanley led us through some wonderful holiday songs as well. The event was well received and hopefully we can plan another event soon.

Our most recent membership gathering was held in partnership with the AAUW focused on the following: **Let's Talk: Scam and Fraud Prevention Workshop** sponsored by The State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment, in partnership with People's United Bank. Many alerts and recommendations were shared during this session.

As we continue to live in the land of Zoom, our March meeting will be a presentation by continued celebrations of empowered women with a presentation by Kathy Swanson. Ms Swanson will share with us her commitment and dedication to provide educational opportunities and job training for girls and women in Honduras.

Along with the joy of the season, Alpha Iota experienced some sadness as well with the loss of our member Arlene Ellen "Bunny" Haglund. Arlene was a friend to many in the Chapter and will be missed by those who shared in her wonderful life. Alpha Iota lost several members over the course of this past year, that also included: Patricia Armstrong (October 2020), Claire Glynn (April 2020) and Mary Margery McKenna (May 2020). Join me in saying a silent prayer to our sisters, who will be dearly missed.

ETA *Submitted by Jo-Anne Butler, Chapter President*

Eta chapter continues to host Zoom Meetings during the pandemic. Our December meeting was a fun Christmas art activity where we were able to make Christmas ornaments with guided directions from our newest chapter member, Susan Ste.Marie. Sue also presented the chapter with a beautiful Zen-Doodle original drawing of the Mayflower to be used as the fundraiser prize. Every member who joined in the activity was delivered a lovely gift bag which included the activity kit, a mug, hot cocoa or coffee and some delicious cookies. Thanks to our special elves Anne and Brenda who coordinated the safe socially distant deliveries for this fun evening.

Students in a disadvantaged school in our community, a new low-income nursery school and a soup kitchen were all given books for the holidays to ensure each child had an aged appropriate book for a holiday gift, especially during these trying times. 750 books were distributed in this event.

Our State President, Lynn Howard graciously provided the fun for us at a Bingo night in February. Participants enjoyed the camaraderie and a few surprises. An upcoming meeting is being planned for a trivia night hosted by one of our members, Sue Richard.

EPSILON Submitted by Irene Falite, Chapter President

Happy New Year to all of our DKG Sisters. Wishing you a happy, healthy, and blessed year.... hopefully to see everyone in person someday.

We had a very successful donation drive in early December. I would like to send another big thank you to the Sisters who were able to donate. I am very grateful to have caring and generous members in our chapter. The staff at My Brother's Table, the Lazarus House, and the Pettengill House were all delighted and so appreciative that we were able to help keep their clients warm and fed this winter. They also loved that the items were all organized. I felt like I was working in a store again. It feels so good to help others and we look forward to donating again in the near future.

In communicating with many of the Sisters, they are finding ways to use their creativity with knitting and crocheting blankets, hats, mittens and scarves. Reading, painting, scrapbooking, solving crossword puzzles, Sudoku, and word searches to name a few. Outdoor walks to see the beauty of the season is a favorite for some....of course some Sisters are working in schools and other places, helping with family and relatives and their grandchildren. A few have had to assist with Remote and Hybrid learning too. We are hoping to be able to meet at some point and look forward to sharing our ideas and conversations with each other.



Alpha Theta Submitted by Dorothea Maynard, Chapter President

Alpha Theta's members enjoyed our February Zoom meeting. Jennifer Hoffer has shared her Business Zoom with us. We can have longer sessions now without the stress of watching the clock before being shut-down. Jennifer, our president's daughter, will be inducted during our March meeting. We were pleased to welcome our State President Lynn Howard to be with us. Kit Dunlap provided an intriguing educational video: The Dutch Sisters Who Save the General. We engaged with the narrator of this compelling World War II story. Our discussion included the fact that few of us realized how Holland was affected during the War.

We are pleased to have Eta member Lisa Maucine a Reading Specialist, as our speaker on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. to present The Power of Books: Deepening Our Understanding of Ourselves and Others. Books can change how we think, how we view ourselves, and how we view the world. In this presentation, you'll learn about influential picture books that provide students opportunities to celebrate their identities and better understand others' experiences. If you are interested in attending this meeting with us, email me at touchstonetherapies@gmail.com, and I will send you the link. Lisa will be using Zoom rooms during her presentation.

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