



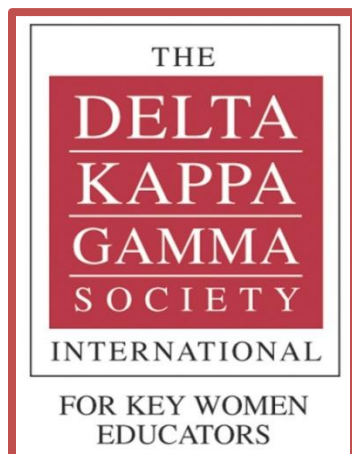
MA STATE ORGANIZATION of
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Baystater

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

VOLUME 64 ISSUE 5

Spring 2022



CLAIRIFYING COMMENTS
FROM CLAIRE

SAVE THE DATE:

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
JULY 12-16
NEW ORLEANS

Dear Sisters,

First, a warm thank you to our International Guest, Phyllis Hickey. She is the Strategic Outreach Director of DKG. She joined us for our meet-and-greet on Friday evening, gave the Society update Saturday morning, and was an honored guest at our celebration that evening.

We also welcomed Jennifer Hedrington, the 2021 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year as our Keynote speaker at our celebratory banquet. She delivered a moving tribute to attending members that delighted and brought some of us to tears, including herself. I will try to get the text of her tribute and have it posted to our website.

REVITALIZATION: We have been making progress. We met with Lyn Schmid in March in a very productive meeting. We formed 6 subgroups to study our concerns. I have received the subgroup reports and I have asked Lynn Howard if she would chair the steering committee for Revitalization. She has agreed. Lynn and I have met to discuss the recommendations. I met with members of the committee via Zoom on April 26. Revitalization is the responsibility of ALL OF US! You are all members of the Revitalization effort and will be asked to participate in some way. I trust you will all agree to do what is asked of you when called upon.

I have some upsetting news. Upsilon Chapter has requested to dissolve. Struggling before COVID, they now have little participation, not enough support from the membership, and no potential leadership in their chapter. This came up for a vote during the executive board meeting and it was voted to accept their request.

On a brighter note, we awarded the Massachusetts State Achievement Award to Lynn Howard for all she has done in keeping us together through this pandemic, and all she has done for our organization. It was well deserved! We also presented the Christa McAuliffe Award to Meghan Aycock, now of Alpha Iota chapter. Also, our own Dorothea Maynard will be attending the Leadership Management Seminar in Austin, TX this July. We look for great things from Dorothea!

The International Convention will be held this year in New Orleans, LA from July 12-16th. It looks to be a spectacular

CONTINUED on P. 3

ALPHA UPSILON STATE 2021-2023

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Claire LaBonte	cdlabonte@charter.net
1st. VP, Program	Jillayne Flanders	jillayneflanders@gmail.com
2nd.VP, Leadership	Dorothea Maynard	dorotheamaynard20@gmail.com
Recording Sec.	Gail Saccone	gvsaccone@comcast.net
Corresponding Sec	Christine Bonci	bonci228@comcast.net
Treasurer	Martha Cotton	macotton@comcast.net
Parliamentarian	Dr. Anita Newman	anitaneuman@comcast.net
Executive Secretary	Linda Stewart	lstewart564@gmail.com

PROGRAM OF WORK

ECC Chair	Jillayne Flanders	jillayneflanders@gmail.com
Leadership Training	Dorothea Maynard	dorotheamaynard20@gmail.com
Legislation	Annette Shaw	seventymill@yahoo.com

SOCIETY BUSINESS

BAYSTATER Editor	Gail Saccone	baystaterma@gmail.com
By-Laws	Bette Bridges	babridges1@verizon.net
Coordinating Council	Jo-Anne Butler	squeakie59@verizon.net
Directory	Jo-Anne Butler	squeakie59@verizon.net
Finance	Janet Wellock	justmummy@yahoo.com
Membership	Marilyn Spedding	GCS200@aol.com
Necrology	Gwen Miller	gwenmill@comcast.net
Nominations	Lynn Howard	lynnphoward82@comcast.net
Research	Kaaren Harrington	kaarenharrington@gmail.com
U.N. Liaison	Dianne Swistak	sra.swisy@verizon.net
US Forum	Carol LaPolice	carol.lapolice@comcast.net
Web Manager	Christine Bonci	bonci228@comcast.net

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Sara Chase Scholarship	Sharon McArdle	samcardle@verizon.net
Christa McAuliffe Grants	G'Tanya Small	smallgt@gmail.com
Golden Gift Leadership	Donna Brown	browndonnamarie@gmail.com
Golden Gift Fund	Marge Burns	mdburns8@comcast.net
Literacy Council	Diana Grady	badg2@verizon.net
World Fellowship	Beverly Shaw Johnson	beetleej@verizon.net



CHAPTER PRESIDENTS 2020-2022

AREA I

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

AREA II

Alpha Gamma	Tammy Edmonds and Beth Clark
Alpha Mu	Susan Apteker and Helene Carroll-Pascale

AREA III

Eta	Jo-Anne Butler
Alpha Lambda	Ellen Driscoll
Zeta	Audrey Smith (Acting)

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

EDITOR'S CORNER

The Baystater email address is:

baystaterma@gmail.com

I'd like to thank the following contributors to this issue: Linda Stewart (Alpha Theta), Diana Grady (Alpha Theta), G'Tanya Small (Upsilon), Lynn Howard (Alpha Iota), Jennifer Hoffer (Alpha Theta)
THANK YOU! Gail Saccone

time with some interesting side attractions. We will have literally hundreds of amendments to vote on along with breakout sessions, the marketplace, and several occasions to get together for all members. Let's see how many chapters from MA will be represented at this event.

On March 3rd, I visited Alpha Mu at the Williams Restaurant in Gardner. On April 14th, I visited Alpha Theta in Taunton for their meeting and initiation ceremony. I was also at Alpha chapter's meeting for their election (my chapter). I will be visiting Alpha Iota on May 21st and Theta for their meeting on May 31st. I love to travel, and I do have a traveling sister, so please let me know if and when you'd like us to visit you. I need to hear your concerns.

I am again inviting all of you to join me in helping to feed the hungry. It is a one month project that can be done in any month. Food banks/kitchens/pantries, etc. are usually short of food in the "off months," the non-holiday months, so perhaps we can help there. I am asking each chapter to adopt a month (or two or more) to collect the foods listed on the calendar which are posted in the Baystater. When the month is done donate whatever was collected to a local food bank, pantry, cupboard, family, or any organization that helps feed the hungry. Our children can't learn if they aren't fueled. And our families and seniors often need a helping hand.

*An alternative to food was suggested to me and I like the idea so I am sharing it with you. Instead of food, do a fundraiser and donate the proceeds to a local food pantry. They have connections to get what they need that is not often donated (like meats, vegetable, fruit, dairy) to go along with what they give out.

And finally, the big day has come and gone. Those of you who attended to celebrate our 80 + 1 years of service to the Society and to the educators and students of Massachusetts had a marvelous experience! Again, I'd like to thank all of the members of the anniversary committee who have met almost monthly from January through September of 2021, and earlier this year to plan this event. Thank you to our decorations committee, led by Martha Cotton, and to Lynn Howard for the birthday wishes. A special thanks to Christine Bonci for hosting all these meetings on Zoom. An Extra special thanks to Jo-Anne Butler and Bev Johnson for pulling together the history of MA DKG, and to Jo-Anne for creating our anniversary favors (magnet and party poppers) and magnificently designing our memorial booklet. Also, thanks go to Jo-Anne, Christine Bonci and Gwen Miller for a very moving Celebration of Life service Sunday morning. I will try to get that up on our website, too.

Your DKG Sister,

CLAIRE cclabonte@charter.net

MA STATE ORGANIZATION REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Lynn Howard, Committee Chair (Alpha Iota)

On Saturday, March 5th President Claire LaBonte hosted a State Revitalization Meeting. Lyn Schmid, former International President, led the meeting. Twenty-two members representing ten of our chapters attended the meeting. In the morning Lyn had the group think about and discuss the following questions: "How does working together make you feel?" "What does MA-DKG do well?" "What is keeping DKG from moving forward?" and "How can we help you become a better educator?"

After lunch we broke into six working groups: Leadership, Structure and Organization, Communications, Program, Membership and Relevance. Each group was tasked with developing two SMART goals.

A follow up meeting was then held on April 26th to review the work from March 5th and to prioritize and start working on the goals. We would love to see more people get involved with our revitalization so we will be having a Zoom meeting on Monday, June 13th at 7:00 p.m. You will receive the Zoom link from Christine Bonci, Corresponding Secretary. In the meantime if you have any ideas please reach out to me at lynnphoward4@gmail.com or 781-901-9120.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Submitted by Linda Stewart (Alpha Theta)



The MA State Organization proudly announces an honor bestowed on a member of its Executive Board.

Congratulations to **Dorothea Maynard**, MA State Organization's Second Vice and a five-year Alpha Theta Chapter President. From June 16th to July 3rd she will experience working with DKG sisters from all over the world. Dorothea is one of only twenty sisters chosen to participate in the DKG International Leadership Training, *DKG Ignite-Leaders Empowering Leaders*. As one of our most active sisters, we commend DKG International for recognizing Dorothea Maynard.

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE FUND...A LOOK BACK

Submitted by G'Tanya Small, Chair (Upsilon)

As DKG Massachusetts State Organization celebrates 80+1 years, the members of the Christa McAuliffe Living Memorial Fund Committee, looked back at the members the fund has helped over the past 8 years that we have served on the committee.

Lynn Howard attended a conference to support student's interest in STEM. Lynn, upon her return, conducted a workshop at one of our DKG Conventions. So did Maureen Maderos after attending Time to Teach Effectiveness Training and Kathryn Dunlap upon her return from a Poetry &



Prose Workshop. Even though, conducting a DKG workshop is not a requirement of the award, these members went the extra mile. This year's awardee, Meghan Aycock, attended an AITA Conference in Florida to understand the latest and greatest technology available to support the visually challenged students she teaches. Kristin Butler took Social Thinking/Play Basic Activities workshop for her professional development.

Natalie Januskiewicz focused on her personal growth attended a Quilting Workshop. Linda Stewart, at the start of the pandemic took



a Medical Tech training course to become certified. The committee also found a way to help Linda Tiley take an online Law, Ethic and the Educator course during the height of the pandemic.

In total, the Christa McAuliffe Fund has awarded close to \$6,700 to member's seeking personal growth. The committee, chair, G'Tanya Small, Consuelo Ryan, the late, Jackie Scott, and former DKG member, Paula Wilson were so glad, we could help all of these women achieve their goals.

Christa McAuliffe grants are available to all members to further their personal growth by funding their participation in conferences, workshops, or conventions. The learning opportunity does not have to be work related. It can center around a member's hobbies or exploration of interests. Go to the DKG Massachusetts State Organization website <http://alupsma.weebly.com> for the application to apply. The application is simple, just tell us who you are, what you want to do, and how much it will cost. The committee will review your application and make a recommendation to the state executive board for approval. We will notify you of the award amount. Easy...off you go! Enjoy your event. Upon your return you submit receipts to demonstrate attendance to the state treasurer, write an article for the Baystater about your experience and attend a state meeting to receive your award. If you would like to share with our members in the form of a workshop we would gladly sign you up to present at a DKG event.

Your Christa McAuliffe award is waiting for you!



2022 CHRISTA MCAULIFFE LIVING MEMORIAL FUND RECIPIENT



2022 Christa McAuliffe Living Memorial Fund recipient Meghan Aycock (center) received her award from G'Tanya Small, Christa McAuliffe Committee Chair, as Massachusetts State President, Claire LaBonte (seated) looks on. The award was made at the 80th +1 Birthday Celebration Dinner on April 30, 2022.

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE AWARD RECIPIENT'S ARTICLE

Submitted by Meghan Aycock (Upsilon)

First and foremost, thank you for choosing me as the recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Award. I used the funds to join the Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) from my school in attending the ATIA Technology Conference in Florida. I work at a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) in the Boston Public Schools. I primarily work with students with complex needs who require extra support around communication. In many cases these students are in wheelchairs and have limited use of their voice and limbs in addition to visual impairment. The cause of visual impairment in these students' is Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). CVI is currently the leading cause of visual impairment in children in the world. One of the reasons is technology has allowed the medical community to save infants who are born prematurely. Our visual pathways are the last thing to develop in utero and when born early, 20-30 weeks, the eyes and these pathways are not ready to work properly. Approximately 80% of what we learn is visual, through observation of our environment and watching how people interact with one another. The lack of vision in addition to being confined to a wheelchair limits incidental learning. Technology is creating avenues for students like mine to become a part of and communicate with their world like never before.

The reason I choose this conference was to explore options for increasing all of my students' ability to learn and communicate with their families, educators and the general community. The Speech Language Pathologist and I are working together to make sure every student we work with has a voice.

Thank you again for this award. It made it possible for me to learn about and now implement life changing technology into the daily lives of my students and families.

THE NECESSITY OF A SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Submitted by Jennifer Hoffer (Alpha Theta)

Those of us fortunate to be at Spring Conference were treated to excellent speakers. Our first speaker, Melissa Zeitz, mentioned she was trying to find information the dress codes for the event on Facebook. Nothing could be found. It is for this reason that MA State Chapter Alpha Upsilon will be making a concerted effort to increase its activity and visibility on social media, starting with Facebook. No matter what anyone thinks about it, social media is here to stay. However, it isn't just a place for mindless scrolling, heavily filtered selfies, and crazy videos. Social media can also be a very useful marketing tool and place to easily share important information. You may have noticed Claire and Lynn posting more recently, but this is something that cannot be done by just one or two people; it will take all of us for this effort to be effective.

There are a few simple steps you can take that will reap enormous benefits. First and foremost, make sure you have liked and followed the Chapter's Facebook page and joined both the Chapter's and DKG International's Facebook groups. To access the MA page type "Alpha Upsilon Chapter of DKG" into the search bar in Facebook. Click on the name once it appears, then click the Like button. The site may ask if you want to invite friends to like the page and this is another important step. To access Alpha Upsilon's group, type "Alpha Upsilon MA (DKG)" into the search bar and click on the

name when it appears, then once at the group click the join button. Searching for DKG International will bring up the International group and you'll be able to join in the same manner.

So you're connected - now what? The first, and easiest, thing to do is interact. Set aside five minutes every day to check the page and groups, then give each new post a heart, "care," or "wow" reaction and comment on the post. These simple actions tell Facebook that our group and page are active and worth showing members and followers the posts in their news feeds, thereby increasing both visibility and reach. Want to make even more of an impact? Post about what your chapter is up to both in the group and on your personal Facebook page! All members have the ability to post in the State Chapter's group, just go to the group and start your post where it says "write something".

There are a few key points to remember when posting:

- Facebook prefers posts that include photos. Don't forget to snap a picture or two at your events and include them with your post.
- Facebook does not like links that take the reader off the site. If you have a link to an article you'd like to share, tell us about the article in the post, attach a photo of yourself or an object relevant to the article, then post. Once what you have written has posted include the link in the comment section.
- Posting on your personal page about DKG increases awareness. There's no need to share all the private information about the organization, however sharing your passion and excitement over whatever projects your chapter is working on lets others see the good we do. You never know, there may be a female educator on your Facebook friends list who would be a fabulous addition to DKG but has no idea we exist!

Expanding our reach and influence on social media won't happen overnight. However with consistency and everyone's help it will eventually lead to information being more easily available for newer and younger members, as well as become an important way to reach potential new members.

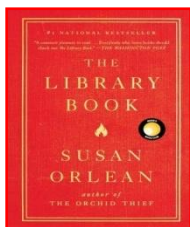
SUMMER READING: BOOKS ABOUT LIBRARIES

Submitted by Diana Grady (Alpha Theta)

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of a Library."

Jorge Luis Borges

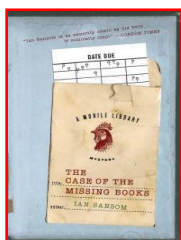
Have a great summer and Happy Reading! The Literacy Committee



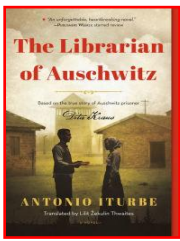
THE LIBRARY BOOK – Susan Orlean - Susan Orlean delivers a “delightful...reflection on the past, present, and future of libraries in America” (New York magazine) that manages to tell the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before.



THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY – Matt Haig - Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. In The Midnight Library, Matt Haig's enchanting novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision.



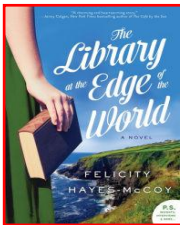
THE CASE OF THE MISSING BOOKS - Ian Sansom (Mobile Library Mystery #1) - Israel Armstrong is lured to Ireland by the promise of an exciting new career. Alas, the job that awaits him is not quite what he had in mind. He prepares to drive a mobile library around a small, damp Irish town. After all, the scenery is lovely, the people are charming—but where are the books? The rolling library's 15,000 volumes have mysteriously gone missing; it's up to Israel to discover who would steal them.



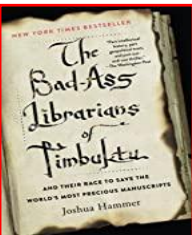
THE LIBRARIAN OF AUSCHWITZ – Antonia Iturbe - Based on the experience of real-life Auschwitz prisoner Dita Kraus, *The Librarian of Auschwitz* is the incredible story of a girl who risked her life to keep the magic of books alive during the Holocaust.



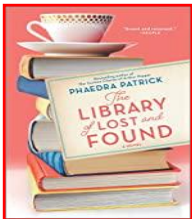
THE PARIS LIBRARY – Janet Skeslien Charles - Based on the true story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris during World War II, *The Paris Library* is a moving and unforgettable “ode to the importance of libraries, books, and the human connections we find within both” (Kristin Harmel).



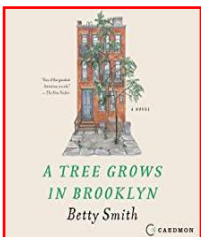
THE LIBRARY AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD – Felicity Hayes-McCoy - A local librarian must find a way to rebuild her community and her own life in this touching, enchanting novel set on Ireland’s stunning West Coast. Told with heart and abundant charm, *The Library at the Edge of the World* is a joyous story about the meaning of home and the importance of finding a place where you truly belong.



THE BAD-ASS LIBRARIANS OF TIMBUKTU: AND THEIR RACE TO SAVE THE WORLD’S MOST PRECIOUS MANUSCRIPTS – Joshua Hammer - To save ancient Arabic texts from Al Qaeda, a band of librarians pulls off a brazen heist worthy of *Ocean’s Eleven*. “Part history, part scholarly adventure story, and part journalist survey, Joshua Hammer writes about how Haidara, a mild-mannered archivist from the legendary city of Timbuktu, became one of the world’s greatest smugglers by saving the texts from sure destruction.



THE LIBRARY OF LOST AND FOUND – Phaedra Patrick - *The Library of Lost and Found* is a heartwarming and poignant tale of how one woman must take control of her destiny to write her own happy ending.



A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN – Betty Smith - A PBS Great American Read Top 100 Pick, Smith has created a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as deeply resonant moments of universal experience. Here is an American classic that “cuts right to the heart of life,” hails the *New York Times*. “If you miss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, you will deny yourself a rich experience.”

MASSACHUSETTS STATE ORGANIZATION KEYNOTE SPEECH

Jennifer Hedrington

Good Evening Delta Kappa Gamma. My name is Jennifer Hedrington and I am humbled to be in the presence of absolute greatness...to physically be able to see the actual giants that our current society is currently standing on. In this space you have all touched, influenced, impacted, inspired and rearranged the **orbits** of more than a quarter million students. Never mind the impact those individuals have made because of YOU. Take that in for a moment.

Look around. There aren't that many of us in here compared to the masses, but your impact is like no other. Think about it. How many other professionals can come together in this space, like we are, and say they have made an actual difference in the lives of a quarter of a million people (and I'm low-balling the numbers)? This weekend is all about the awesome-ness that is you...

I was asked to brag about how amazing you are and talk about the gifts we bring to our students and the community as a whole. In the last 18 months I've noticed that as a collective group, we, as educators, do not quite understand or respect our worth. Ask a teacher how much they would charge to conduct a PD and I promise you, most would undersell themselves. Ask a teacher to brag about her accomplishments and she will struggle and shy away from answering. When the truth is, WE are the reason societies move, grow, evolve, and without us there is NO them.

You see, before John accepts that CEO position, it was **Anita Newman** who sparked his love for learning, and gave him the necessary passion to get him where he is today. Ms Newman, would you mind standing so we can celebrate you for all you've done.

As Sarah travels the world she is reminded of the creative and innovative lessons that **Ann Barone** taught in her social studies class, seeing history come to life. Ms Barone, it's your turn to accept the spotlight so we can give you an applause of love.

M. Bette Bridges taught high school science. Thank you for the countless nights you spent preparing lessons and activities that would be permanently etched in your students' memories. Know that, because of you, there is a family that will forever give thanks to the doctor who saved their baby's life. That doctor was your student...you are a life saver!

For many, it's an escape from their reality, a fantasy world brought to life, a life-line to understanding the world around them, a vacation to exotic places without the need of a passport. **Ms. Gwen Miller**, You have been the gatekeeper with the keys to unlocking the universe's secrets. You single-handedly have given our children permission to imagine, to think outside the cubes, and explore different dimensions. You have allowed unicorns to be real, dinosaurs to be pets, aliens to be our neighbors, and the simplest of us to be superheroes. Because of you, the world of reading and the love of books was birthed. To you, and to all librarians, there aren't enough words to express our gratitude. So please accept this simple thank you" for all you do.

Would **Nancy Flaherty, Melissa Zeitz and Pam Larson** please assist me with a math problem. If Pam is at home, and Nancy is 30 miles away from her to the east, and Melissa is 40 miles away from Pam to the south, what is the distance between Nancy and Melissa? Well, if you have the honor of being taught by **Carol LaPolice**, she would have sparked a love of math which would lead you to find joy in this question. Anyone know the answer to the question? Carol, Nancy, Melissa and Pam, know that your presence, love and dedication to this profession has, is and will continue to change the world around us.

All educators matter, but there are a few who lurk in the shadows, like the air we breathe, invisible to the eye, but paramount to our existence. Because of you, there are those who will tell their children that you saved their lives, you encouraged them to continue when giving up was the easier option. You, **Donna Brown and Sharon MacDonald**, saw and continue to see our children for more than their test scores. You have been given the gift to see these kids for who they will become and not just who they are in the moment. Donna, Sharon, and all school counselors THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart. Your importance is vital. How I wish I had had you when I was a student. You could have helped me fight my thought of self-harm and quiet my suicidal ideations.

At the time I was 9 years old, a shy and awkward looking little girl in the fourth grade, in front of me stood Ms. Rose Graham. I couldn't have told you why this woman touched my heart. When I was around her, her love enveloped me. She saw me and saw potential that no other teacher had ever spoken about. I wanted to be the best because of her. I studied longer and harder because my goal that year was to make her proud. Thirty years later, over the phone, Ms. Graham who was battling dementia, had a 30-minute conversation with me. Before hanging up she said to me, "Do you remember Jennifer Amertil?" I told her I did. She continued to tell me how beautiful and how much she loved Jen. She even mentioned her sisters and parents. Amertil is my maiden name. All I could do was cry. After more than 30 years in education and a failing memory, She. Remembered. Me. It wasn't until after a few years in education that I understood

why I loved her so much. She was my first, and only, black classroom teacher until college. I was too young to grasp the notion that representation matters. **Ms. G'Tanya Small**, there are literally thousands of students whom you have molded into better people. You have been that representation for many little black girls such as myself. Although I did not get the opportunity to let Ms. Graham know how much her sheer presence meant to me, I want to publicly thank you on behalf of all the little Jennifer Ametils out there that you have loved. From my heart to yours...thank you!

Fourth grade...OMG! As a mother, and administrator of fourth graders, I want to apologize to and thank **Ms. Lynn Howard**. Fourth grade was the highlight of my educational career, because of my teacher. Lynn, know that during these pivotal years in a child's life, your role is immeasurable! Your lasting impact will be felt for generations to come. It was not until this year that I truly experienced fourth grade from the other side as a mum and administrator. I believe fourth grade is the first time these kids consume sugar, because too many lose their wits! It takes educators like Ms. Howard to patiently, yet firmly, through the lenses of love, guide them through the maze of pre-adolescence.

The difference between us and the world is our keen ability to see past the moment, to acknowledge, teach, and love the child in front of us, but also have the superpower of seeing a future in that child. When they see a bully, we see a potential leader whose skills just need to be sharpened and redirected. They see a socially awkward kid who prefers to be alone while we see the mastermind behind the next innovative think-tank. When others complain about their inability to concentrate and stay still, we see the birth of an artist with creative ideas that the world hasn't yet thought of. We see beauty from ashes, rebirth from destruction, potential in pain, and provide hope for the forgotten. No other profession requires a heart of love and the ability to see the future in the midst of the storm. You, we, are a group like no other. We stand apart from the rest, yet serve all in need. We are the giants people speak about when referring to the great. Before the well-known civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr., delivered his speech, it took a teacher like **Marilyn Spedding** to open his mind to the true power of words. While this country recognizes him as a giant, understand that it was because of your shoulders that the MLKs, JFKs, Steve Jobs, Aretha Franklins, Wright Brothers, and the Mark Zuckerbergs of our society were able to stand so tall. **IF IT WERE NOT FOR TEACHERS!** We are the bedrock of this society. So, please, take in this moment, the remainder of this weekend, and celebrate what you have accomplished. Give yourselves permission to marinate in all that is you, all that is great. Accept and rejoice in the wonderful work you have and will continue to do. Live with the fact that without YOU there is no them. To all the superheroes, life savers and change makers, give yourselves a round of applause, because you are worth it!

Delta Kappa Gamma, thank you so much for inviting me and allowing me to share this space and experience with you. It is a true blessing to be in the presence of greatness. From my heart to yours, and from all the little Jennifers who either sat, are sitting, or will sit in your classroom...THANK YOU!

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR SPRING CONVENTION



What a weekend! MA State DKG certainly knows how to throw a party! All of the events of the 80 + 1 Birthday, from the Exec Board Crudites to the moving Celebration of Life on Sunday, were executed perfectly, thanks to the dedicated work of the committee and the Board members. One of the excellent Saturday workshops was new DKG member Jessica Lupien's Suffrage for Women presentation. She and her talented Suffrage Supporters, Catherine E. Reuben (flute, recorder, vocals and practicing attorney), Marisol Abreu (vocalist and anthropologist), and Robert Dove McLellan (singer, author, and social change activist) along with enthusiastic songsters and marchers in the audience (thank you, Lynn) sang historical songs written between 1880 and 1920, researched, arranged, and produced by Jessica. Part of her research included the creation of a spreadsheet of the history of suffrage in the United States, state by state. A copy of this spreadsheet, as well as an abridged song sheet, is available online, free of charge. They could be used to plan a chapter or classroom

project, or to enrich your own understanding of these difficult years. Email Jessica Lupien at fsuj44@yahoo.com.

50+ Years of Service Awards



Kaaren Harrington



Marge Burns



Caroline Kiessling

Massachusetts State Achievement Award



Lynn Howard with Claire LaBonte

Workshop Presenters



Jessica Lupien and Melissa Zeitz



Robin Putnam (introduced by Martha Cotton)

Red Rose Banquet Keynote Speakers



Phyllis Hickey



Jennifer Hedrington



President Claire LaBonte



Incoming and Outgoing Chapter Presidents

Necrology Ceremony



Gwen Miller



