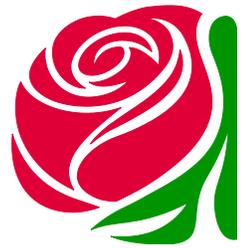


# Beta Bits



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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International • Beta Chapter • Alpha Epsilon State

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

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## ***The Presidents' Perspective***

Dear Beta sisters:

Welcome Beta members to our new biennium!

It is a time of uncertainty in so many ways, but we have to plan and look forward with the best vision that we can ascertain; therefore, we will continue with the safety for all being our main concern.

We are sure that you have gone through many phases during this pandemic time ~ cleaning, cooking, more cleaning, reading, calling friends, emailing long-lost friends, zoom meetings, missing your normal routine, more walks with the dog to get outside, watching the governor for the facts, writing the great American novel, board games, more reading, working on a “to do” list, and napping. We all are missing that social contact we cherish so much, but we have to act prudently for the well-being of all.

Beta wants to make a difference in your lives. We have some goals that address these needs with the large membership in mind. The goals are:

1. To make each member feel the importance that they are to the chapter.
2. To develop a Beta circle of friends by geographic closeness.
3. To work and complete all that is necessary for the Golden Key Award.
4. To increase attendance at meetings by use of zoom at all meetings.

Your co-presidents have high hopes to work through all this with you. We want to become the #1 chapter in Indiana. We want all of you to write down the dates and times of all meetings and zoom in or attend the meeting when possible. Just like you have heard for many months now, we are in this all together and together we will be successful.

Go Beta!

Your Presidents, Sheila and Ruth

## **In this issue:**

- Presidents' Perspective
- Officer Installation
- New Officers
- Beta Backstory
- Remembering Martha Hayes
- (Musical) Notes of Appreciation
- Numbers Show
- Devotion
- Looking Ahead

## **Dates to remember:**

- ❖ **Saturday, September 26 10:00 am**  
Zoom meeting  
*From Zoom to the Classroom*  
You receive the link via email a few days before the meeting
- ❖ **Wednesday, October 21 7:00 pm**  
Zoom meeting  
*Understanding and Action Starts with Me*
- ❖ **Saturday, November 14 11:00 am**  
Details to follow regarding in-person or Zoom

# *Pandemic Can't Stop Betas!*



No, that's not the *Brady Bunch* you're seeing. It's the *Beta Bunch*! Members zoomed into the May meeting to install officers. To insure that everyone remains safe and virus-free the executive board decided to hold all meeting via Zoom until at least January. Our first virtual installation of officers went smoothly, and we are ready to begin the new biennium! ("Thank you" to Nancy Hoff for using her tech skills to capture a picture of the meeting!)

## **Beta Officers for the Next Biennium:**

Co-presidents

Sheila Baker

Chapter responsibilities

Ruth Simmons

Council, state, and international responsibilities

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president

Sue Kiefer

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president

Doris Downing

Corresponding secretary

Michele Lefkowitz

Co-recording secretaries

Maureen Murphy

Lori Schneider

## ***Beta Back Story:***

### ***Adventure is Her Middle Name!***



The Beta member spotlight this month is our new chapter co-president, Sheila Baker. Easy-going and big-hearted, Sheila wants the best for our chapter members. She was invited into Delta Kappa Gamma by Nancy Hoff. In her fourteen years of membership, Sheila has held chapter positions including nominations chair, recording secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president and president. At the state level, Sheila has been state nominations chair and co-chair of Indiana Night for the DKG International Convention Indianapolis. She enjoys her DKG membership and has attended two international conventions, many state conferences, conventions and fall arts retreats offered by our society.

Sheila grew up on Carrolton Avenue and attended St. Joan of Arc School. She was the oldest daughter of seven children, which included four brothers and two sisters. Sheila admired both her parents who taught her a good work ethic. Her father came to Indianapolis after WWII and worked at Allison as a tool and die maker. He never met someone he didn't like and was well-liked and respected by others. Her mother was a thrifty homemaker who became a very skilled secretary at Bowers Envelope after Sheila's father died at age forty-eight.

After graduating from Chatard High School, Sheila earned a BS in speech and hearing therapy from Purdue University. She also earned a Masters in Special Education from Butler University.

Her first teaching position was speech and hearing therapy for Harrison School District in Biloxi-Gulfport, Mississippi, while her husband was stationed at Keesler Air Force Base. Sheila says they lived through Hurricane Camille as uninitiated Hoosiers, were evacuated by National Guard, and lived two weeks without electricity.

After two years, her husband got orders to go to Vietnam. Sheila returned to Indianapolis and worked for the Indianapolis Public Health Department for a year. She then worked at Restorative Services, which placed therapists in hospitals, rehab centers and nursing centers for two and a half years while working on her Masters.

This enabled Sheila to take a midyear job opening at Harrison Hill Elementary in Lawrence Township Schools teaching intermediate mildly mentally handicapped students. After three years, she was transferred to a new program - self-contained emotionally disturbed as well as resource learning disability students. When the program was discontinued in that format, Sheila returned to speech and hearing therapist positions for the remainder of her thirty-three-year career in Lawrence Township Schools.

During a carpool ride during her second week in Lawrence Township, Sheila was recruited into Special Olympics. She coached local, state and international bowling teams, and eventually she was Special Olympics program coordinator for the township. She also found time to chair state bowling tournaments for Special Olympics.

A highpoint of Sheila's career was being honored, along with her Special Olympics International bowling team, to sit as guests with Vice President George H. W. Bush and Barbara Bush at the International Pan Am Games in Indianapolis. Along with the joy of special needs students' victories were memories of meeting Eunice Shriver and bumping into Mohammed Ali and shaking his hand at Special Olympics events.

## ***Beta Back Story: Continued***

Sheila says she learned from her parents that if you started something, you finished it. Giving up was not part of her work ethic and her teaching philosophy was to “do the best I can for every student.” She also felt that way about her fellow teachers and served as treasurer, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, vice president and president of Lawrence Educators Association. Sheila served on the Indiana State Teachers Association professional practices and standards committee for several years. She enjoyed networking, traveling, and representing Lawrence teachers at many National Education Association conventions.

Sheila also traveled as a teacher in the French Back to Back student exchange program with Lawrence Township Schools. She and a French teacher guided twenty-five fourth and fifth grade students to three-week placements with families in three locations in France. Sheila also hosted nine exchange students from several different countries. These students attended Chatard or North Central for their year in the United States.

Combining love of travel and other cultures, Sheila took a year and a half teaching position in speech and language pathology in Desert Sands Unified School District in Palm Springs, California. She taught undocumented students with non-English speaking parents. Another job Sheila took after retiring was traveling throughout the country fingerprinting for the mortgage industry’s fraud protection division.

Back home in Indiana now, Sheila still enjoys travel and competitive bowling, pet sitting for friends and duplicate bridge. A member of the Indianapolis Bridge Center, she travels to sectional, regional and national tournaments and has achieved Life Master. She’s working towards Bronze Life Master while also serving as president of Women’s Contract Club. At this longest organized female bridge group in Indianapolis, Sheila uses her long- time skills at scheduling venues and player time and enjoys her friendships.

Beta chapter congratulates Sheila for everything she has taken on for the benefit of others and is honored by her active membership as co-president this biennium.



### **In Memory of Martha Hays**

December 11, 1927 – June 16, 2020

Martha was a charter member and past chapter president of Beta Gamma Chapter, which merged with our chapter. Martha received many honors in MSD Wayne Township: Senior’s Choice Awards, Extra Mile Awards, the Ben Davis High School Wall of Fame award for alumni, and a White House Rose Garden reception by President Ronald Reagan for Ben Davis Jr. High’s National Secondary School Recognition Award. Martha also received a Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Governor O’Bannon. Her dedication extended to teachers through a term as president of the Wayne Township Unified Teachers Association, founder and officer of the Wayne Township Retired Teachers Association, and term as state president of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association. Martha also served a term as president of the English Teachers Council of Greater Indianapolis, served on the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and mentored many student teachers in her classroom. Beta Chapter was honored to have Martha as a member and sent a donation in Martha’s memory to her church, Fleming Garden Christian Church.





## **(Musical) Notes of Appreciation**

Nancy Goldfarb shows the wind chimes which she received in appreciation for her wonderful service as president during the last two years.

Thank you to Karen Braeckel for utilizing her shopping skills in locating the wind chimes and delivering them to Nancy!

## **The Numbers Show Devotion to DKG!**

Last year, 83% of Beta chapter members attended at least one meeting and 52% attended a majority of the meetings. On the Honor Roll, attending all six meetings, were: Sheila Baker, Betsy Burdge, Nancy Goldfarb, Nancy Hoff, Barb King, Lucille Mueller, Ruth Simmons and Sherry Watkins. We had a nice variety of topics and activities arranged by hostess teams to share the good work. Thank you to all who helped plan an enjoyable and meaningful year.

Looking forward to this year, Beta is blessed to have 71% of our members helping as an officer, committee chair or on a committee. Thank you for helping to keep Beta strong in these strange times! Stepping up into a position for the first time in our chapter are Betsy Burdge, Doris Downing, Carolyn Kendall, Sue Kiefer, Barb McDaniel, and Donna Taylor. Thank you so much!

## Looking Ahead . . .

The 2020-2021 Yearbooks will be mailed to you this year. In the meantime, here is a partial list of dates and programs to help you update your calendar:

**You will be emailed the link to Zoom a few days prior to the meetings:**

**Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020 – ZOOM Meeting 10:00 am**

**PLEASE NOTE!!!**

Program: “From Zoom to the Classroom: An Update Zoom meeting on Classroom Teaching

Presenter: Barbara Burdge, Teacher grades 4-5, Sidener Academy IPS 59

**Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020 -Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm**

Program: Understanding and Action Starts with Me as A Leading Woman Educator

Hostess team: Doris Downing, Roni Embry, Jane Stephenson

**Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020 11:00 am Council 8 Luncheon**

Program: Cheryl Steurwald, Epsilon Chapter, Suffrage Centennial: Failure is Impossible

Location: Woodstock Country Club, 1301 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, 46208 **OR** Zoom

**Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 7:00 pm ZOOM Meeting**

Program: Retired Teacher but I Still Have Class

Presenter: Dane Alfrey, Mary Kay Consultant

**Jan. 2021** tba Executive board Meeting

**Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021 5:00 pm or 7:00 pm Zoom meeting, if needed**

Program: Queen of Free

Presenter: Sherry Lowe

Castleton MCL Cafeteria, 5220 Castleton Corner Ln., Indianapolis 46250

**Thursday, March 18, 2021 5:00 pm OR 7:00 pm Zoom meeting, if needed**

Program Part 1: Beaded Pens - Hostess team: Nancy Hoff, Jan Good, Ruth Simmons

Program Part 2: Book discussion (Book TBA) - Hostess team: Jill alsop, Amy Karas, Katy Smith

Township Line MCL Cafeteria, 2370 W. 86th St., Indianapolis 46260

**Monday, May 17, 2021 5-7 pm**

Program: Teacher Appreciation at IPS 88

Anna Brochhausen Elementary School #88, 5801 E. 16th St., Indianapolis, 46218

Socializing welcome with teachers and staff at our partner school

Success Stories from School 88 and Book Swap

Meal: Jimmy Johns

What to bring?

A book you enjoyed (adult not student) for a book swap among attendees

**The Indiana theme for the year:  
Celebrate the Society!**