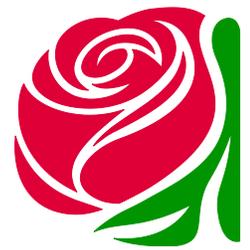


Beta Bits



Volume 82, Issue 4- January 2021

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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Dates to remember:

Monday, January 25, 2021

Social Justice Interest Group
Via Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9

Meeting: *The Queen of Free*
Via Zoom, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 18

Meeting: Beaded Pens Workshop
Via Zoom, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20

Meeting: Book Discussion
Via Zoom, 7 p.m.

The Presidents' Perspective

Dear Beta sisters:

Welcome to 2021!

Your co-presidents are continuing to make every effort possible to provide opportunities for personal growth and to keep you informed of current and future Beta activities. Of course, this is difficult under the conditions of the pandemic, but we press on.

We were saddened by the loss of member Marilyn Pecsok. She was an educator for many years and a strong DKG member. She was also involved with many groups such as the Propyleum. Marilyn and her late husband, Jack, spent much of their free time with their antique car collection by going to shows and by driving these beautiful vehicles to special locations on vacation.

On Tuesday, February 9, 2021 we will have a zoom meeting with the Queen of Free, Cherie Lowe. She is an author and is featured on Channel 13 often. She will inform us of ways to save money and we all look forward to that!

Continue to be positive, get your vaccine, and be safe!

Your Presidents,
Sheila and Ruth

Please see the announcement on page 8 regarding the March meeting. The deadline for ordering beads and pens is February 1!

Member Spotlight:

Getting to know our members

Family Ties Connect to DKG

Childhood experiences often provide defining moments that shape lives.

Sue Kiefer proves it.

As a child she went to speech therapy. As an adult she spent decades helping other children with speech impairments.

The native of Logansport, Indiana, grew up in a family of six children spaced fairly far apart. Sue entered the clan as No. 5 among her siblings – and the first girl. (Does that make her a princess?) Her oldest brother, Bob, celebrated his 18th birthday the same day she was born. The story goes he took her to school to show her off. Her baby sister came five years later. She tries to see or talk to them as often as possible.



Sue earned both her undergraduate and master's degrees in speech pathology from Ball State University. Later she completed a master's in Adult and Community Education from Ball State.

After she and Mike were married, she worked in speech therapy in Dowagiac, Michigan, in grades K-12 for three years. After moving back to Indiana, Sue helped K-12 students in the Clinton Central School Corp. in Michigantown for 10 years. She then spent a year teaching English as a Second Language for the Noblesville Schools and worked with preschoolers in Westfield.

For the next 15 years, she served K-12 students in the Frankton-Lapel Community Schools. Even after retiring, she went back part time to work with elementary students – her favorites.

Although her degree allows her to work in schools or hospitals, another defining moment occurred. Her mother had a stroke during Sue's freshman year in college. After watching her mother struggle for two years, she wanted nothing to do with hospitals.

Despite her many years of assisting students with speech disorders, Sue says she's most proud of rearing her two daughters (now in their 40s) with her husband of 48 years. Family tops her list of priorities.

In the fall of 2015, one of the most surprising things in Sue's life occurred. She went in for a routine physical. They found her carotid artery 95 percent blocked. (Sue says her family has a history of heart disease, and all of her siblings have heart problems. Her older brother Bill died eight years ago after a long battle with the disease.)

They successfully opened Sue's artery, but she says then a Godly thing happened the same day. She had a stroke – and remembers nothing of the next three days.

"It was as if the blood flowing through didn't know how to handle the clean artery," Sue said.

She also experienced eye problems – a retinal detachment and several retinal tears. She considers herself fortunate to see well enough to drive.

Family also played a major role in Sue joining Delta Kappa Gamma. Betsy Ann and Barbara Burdge are Sue's cousins. She joined their chapter Alpha Theta in 2003 and served as vice president, secretary and chair of various committees. In 2018 their chapter merged with Beta where Sue is currently first vice president.

Continued on next page

Member Spotlight: Continued

Sue knew two Beta members from her affiliation with SHARE (Speech & Hearing ARea Educators) – our current co-president Sheila Baker and Nancy Hoff. (The organization no longer exists.)

Sue also belongs to Tri Kappa (40-year member). The service sorority supports a variety of Indiana projects for charity, culture and education.

Before activity at Conner Prairie slowed due to the pandemic, Sue volunteered in the café, the Connor House and the barn. But she continues lunch mentoring in the Hamilton Heights School Corp. For the past three years she visited with the same student, Lily, now a fifth grader. They chat during lunchtime once a week.

But she does more than community service. “I have to keep moving,” she says. “Exercise is necessary for brain and bodily functions. ... I don’t sit still well.”

Sue loves to walk and exercise. She learned to play pickleball – a fast-growing paddle sport combining elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong.

Travel also ranks high on her list. Mike doesn’t share this love, so she traveled with her daughters. One year the three ladies took the train to New York City. They also visited Baltimore and Florida. Her daughter Julie and she participated in Semester at Sea, a multi-country study abroad program on a ship. Once they spent 10 weeks in China when Sue went through the Teacher at Sea program. Both remain involved.

Her creative side shows in her quilting and wall hangings, although her eye problems make it challenging.

To get out of the house during the pandemic, she works part-time at Sam’s Club straightening shelves. She considers the items she moves mini weights – a new type gym.

Please contact Sue if you want to go for lunch or coffee, take a walk or a short trip – or play pickleball. She’s game. (But be ready to move!)

A Little “Bit” of DKG History . . .

In 1929 our founding name was formed from the initial letters of the Greek words *Delta*, *Kappa*, and *Gamma*. Founder Dr. Blanton could not use English words as it would sound like an organization, and women were not allowed to form organizations in 1929! She therefore used Greek letters to sound like a sorority, which was permissible.

Twenty years later, in 1949, because organizations for women were now allowed, the word “Society” was added to the title to differentiate it from a sorority.

As the membership grew to encompass and unite women educators worldwide, during the International Convention in 1956, the word “International” was added to our name. Thus, today we are The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International!

Thanks to Nancy Hoff for suggesting this “bit” of history from an article she read in the April 2020 of *Collegial Exchange*! For further information see “From Obscurity to Transparency: What’s in a Name Part 2” by Donna Faye Madhosingh in the aforementioned issue.

The Tradition Continues

Despite the pandemic difficulties, Betas celebrated their annual tea party in December – via zoom. The hostess committee sent each member a cheery invitation with a tea bag to encourage everyone share a toast to another good Beta year. In addition, Mary Kay consultant Diane Alfrey shared ways to care for our skin. She graciously sent samples of various skin care products which we applied under her guidance during the Zoom presentation. At evening’s end, the attendees appreciated having an evening of “sistership” to relax and enjoy each other’s company!



Co-president Ruth Simmons leads everyone in a toast as members remember past tea parties and look forward to more in the future.



Diane Alfrey discusses the benefits and correct way to apply the various skin care products she provided.



Julia Price relates the history of our December tea parties which were begun by our very own English lady, Liz Foster. After her passing, Sarah Ellcessor continued the tradition with the help of a dedicated committee.



A highlight of the meeting was the drawing of names to receive Mary Kay products. Diane received help from daughter Megan McCutcheon and granddaughter Edrena.



Remembering Marilyn Pecsok

Marilyn joined Beta Gamma originally and merged to Beta with her chapter in 2016. She was a reserve member most recently.

She taught at IPS Ernie Pyle #90. As you will read, she remained active with many civic organizations and received numerous awards.



Marilyn was welcomed into heaven by her beloved husband, Jack, on December 15, 2020. She was born November 19, 1929 in Indianapolis to the late Homer Louis and Florence Randel Wiegand, an only child. She lived on the grounds of an evergreen nursery. Swimming on the Riviera team, she won several National Junior Championships in the 1940s.

A life-long member of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, she treasured her friends and kept them throughout her entire life. Having first met Jack in Tab's cradle roll, they married in 1962 and lived four years in Noblesville in the Judge Earl Stone House, built in 1849, which Jack worked to get recognized as a Historic Landmark.

She graduated first in her class from Shortridge High School, received an AB in romance languages from DePauw University where she was again first in her class, and a MS in education from Butler University. At DePauw she was a member of Pi Beta Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Mortar Board. For eleven years she taught third grade at IPS #90 and guided twelve student teachers.

Always interested in community and volunteer activities, she became president of numerous organizations, among which were Indianapolis Alumnae of Pi Beta Phi, Children's Bureau and Indianapolis Day Nursery Auxiliaries, Noblesville Chapter of Tri Kappa, regent of the Jonathan Jennings Chapter of the DAR. Among Boards on which she served were the Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Butler Alumni, Junior League of Indianapolis, Hoosier Capital Girl Scout Council, American Red Cross and the Marion County Child Abuse and Neglect Council.

She received DePauw's Distinguished Alumni Award, "Those Special People" by Women in Communication, Methodist Hospital's Beacon Award, the Children's Bureau Mallon Award, and the Governor's Voluntary Action Award.

Always trying to share in Jack's activities, she became very involved in the Classic Car Club of America and Milestone cars. From helping to polish his cars before a meet, to helping put on the meet, most at Indianapolis Motor Speedway's infield, she enjoyed it all. When he became National President of the Milestone Car Society, she became Executive Secretary and the first woman director of the Indiana Region of the CCA.

DKG Beta remembers and honors Marilyn's contributions to education and her community. Beta donated to the Children's Bureau in Marilyn's honor.



Circles of Care



Which Beta sisters live in your vicinity? The officers are challenging everyone to build new or additional Beta connections with those members who live near one another.

Circles of Care are proposed to keep us informed of how others are doing and to ensure everyone feels included and an active part of the chapter. The possibilities are up to you! Perhaps as a tech buddy to help a sister join in on Beta Zoom meetings or a call to share meeting highlights? Perhaps to share a ride once in-person meetings begin or to bring a delivery from Beta chapter?

During these stressful times let's take up this challenge, and we can report back in our May Beta Bits how our DKG friendships have bloomed!

Wayne Township, Avon, and Plainfield:

- Julia Allen
- Betsey Burdge
- Edna Fisher
- Betty Flynn
- Ruth Ann Hogsett
- Barb Imel
- Amy Karas
- Marilyn Knox
- Shirley McCoy

Pike Township:

- Yvonne Bernier
- Elizabeth Brayton
- Doris Downing
- Linda Lindner
- Lori Schneider
- Katy Smith

Washington Township, Carmel, and Westfield:

- Karen Braeckel
- Karen Brantingham
- Nancy Goldfarb
- Mary Griffiths
- Barb King
- Michele Lefkovitz
- Debbie Lewis
- Paula Miller
- Glenda Ritz
- Jane Stephenson
- Jane Walters

Fishers and Noblesville

- Jill Alsop
- Mindy Armstrong
- Bobbie Benson
- Sharon Casey
- Carolyn Cook
- Margaret Crawford
- Susan Hintz
- Carolyn Kendall
- Sue Kiefer
- Donna Taylor

Lawrence Township:

- Sheila Baker
- Sarah Ellcessor
- Roni Embry
- Ann Harvey
- Cindy Martz
- Millie McCarty
- Barb McDaniel
- Maureen Murphy
- Julia Price
- Ruth Simmons
- Marcia Tilden
- Sherry Watkins

Center, Perry and Warren Township:

- Peggy Beltrame
- Jan Good
- Nancy Hoff
- Barb Moser
- Lucille Mueller

Out of Town

- Reserves:**
- Joyce Bryan
 - Linda Patterson
 - Roleen Pickard
 - Isabel Smith

A Little Bit of This & That . . .

Congratulations, **Cindy Martz**, on your retirement!

Beta Chapter sends our encouragement to **Julia Allen** and **Edna Fisher**, who are recovering from Covid-19 at home.

News from DKG Indiana: Due to social gathering restrictions, **the DKG Indiana State convention has been postponed** to June 2021. The reservation at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, Indiana, has been canceled. A new venue and date in June will be arranged with information given in the March *Hoosier Newsette*.

The DKG Indiana website: www.dkgindiana.org is a quick place to look for issues of the state newsletter, *The Hoosier Newsette* and *DKG News*, from the International Society.

News from DKG International: A printed copy of *DKG NEWS* or *Collegial Exchange* can be mailed to you if requested by contacting Taylor Osborn, Graphic Design Specialist, DKG Society International, 416 W. 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701-1817 or email: tayloro@dkg.org Otherwise, these newsletters and magazines will be emailed. Our chapter treasurer, Jan Good, can also help you update your mail preference for publications or any new contact information changes through the member management section on the DKG website. If you receive Collegial Exchange by mail, consider passing it along to someone who teaches and might place it in a teachers lounge.

How to log in to the DKG International website:

- Look on your DKG membership card for your 6-digit member number.
- You can also get your member number from Beta's treasurer, Jan Good, or Beta's Co-president, Ruth Simmons.
- On your computer go to www.dkg.org
- At the top right of the page, click on sign in.
- Use your member number as your sign in ID.
- Until you set your own password, use the default password: dkg2014society
- Once you're logged in you can set your own password.

DKG's website has several ways to connect to other women educators. It's been modernized to be more interactive. There are videos, weekly blogs, a fine arts gallery of members' writing, art and photography, and 23 communities for communicating safely with members with similar interests which you can subscribe to.

More Time to Prepare for Our Book Discussion!

In a "normal" year, Beta would not be meeting in April so we can attend the state convention. As noted above, this year's convention will be held virtually sometime in June. The officers have planned a meeting in April to discuss *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. Although the original plan was to have a split meeting in March with a craft and book discussion, the new agenda will allow more time for the book discussion.

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 20, at 7:00 p.m. for our Zoom meeting!

'Royalty' Comes to Beta!

Hope you can join us on Tuesday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom as we welcome Cherie Lowe, the "Queen of Free"!

Cherie, a Greenwood resident, has appeared on many television shows giving suggestions on how to live a life free of debt. She authored the popular books *Slaying the Debt Dragon: How One Family Conquered Their Money Monster and Found an Inspired Happily Ever After* and *Keep the Happy in Your Holidays: 21 Ways to Save Time, Money, and Your Sanity This Christmas Season*. Her website is www.queenoffree.net.

The Zoom link will be sent a couple of days before the meeting.

March Meeting Decision due by February 1!

The program for the March meeting is to assemble a beaded pen. The cost will be \$3 to \$5, and the supplies will be delivered to your home. You can pay Nancy when she delivers the supplies or mail her the payment.



If you are interested in making a pen, please choose a color, and give me a second color choice in case they are sold out OR we have to buy all the same color. Email, text, call or US Mail

I would like a beaded pen kit:

1st color choice is _____

2nd color choice is _____

If you want more than 1 kit, call me.

Nancy Hoff, 317-356-2119, nancy-hoff@att.net, 807 N Ritter Ave, Indpls, 46219.

Your Name