



# PEAKS



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MIRIAM HARTIG

TEACHER EXTRAORDINAIRE

DKG MEMBER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Miriam graduated from high school in Loveland, Colorado. With sacrifice by her father, Miriam was able to attend Central College in McPherson, Kansas. She worked in the library and cooked breakfast for 300 people. Miriam and her sister did their student teaching for the same teacher. This teacher had broken her ankle and the girls did their teaching under her.

Miriam began her teaching career in 1940 in a one-room school in McPherson County, Kansas, with a salary of \$65/month for eight months. Her salary was increased to \$72.00 the next year. She was offered a contract for \$92.00 the third year, but she declined and returned to school in Colorado.

She finished her BA + 60 hours at Colorado State Teachers College (now University of Northern Colorado). During this time Miriam married her husband of 60 years, Irwin Hartig.

Altogether Miriam taught for 30 years, most of which were in Granby and Delta, Colorado. She taught the primary grades, most often first grade.

Initiated in 1971 into The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Miriam has held all chapter offices including three years as president. Through the years she has attended many state conventions and has very generously supported a variety of DKG projects with the sale of her handcrafts and artwork.

Whenever possible, Mrs. Hartig has studied art with many private instructors. She took courses in watercolor at UNC. Her mural of the history and development of the Austin/Eckert area of Colorado is prominently displayed at the Orchard City Town Hall.

*(This material is from Miriam's memory of her career and was dictated in 2016. Miriam, at age 96, currently resides in Delta, Colorado, at the Crossroads Assisted Living.)* Miriam has many great stories about her 30 years of teaching. She would love to tell you, if you get a chance to visit with her.

*Miriam has been an active member of Chi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International since 1971—forty-five years.*

## Omega State Convention 2017

Your steering committee is working very hard to plan an amazing state convention next **June 9-11**. Put those dates on your calendar. You will not want to miss it! The convention is going to be at the Hilton Fort Collins. President Sue's theme is "Embracing the Heart of DKG." What better way to celebrate our love of DKG? Watch for the registration form in the next issue of Omega Peaks. If you would like more information in the meantime, contact Susan Chapman ([edchap@comcast.net](mailto:edchap@comcast.net)). Hope to see all of you in Fort Collins in June!!

**BREAKING NEWS:** International President Carolyn Pittman will be our guest!

**ARE YOU READY! BORN READY!**



This past July at the International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, speaker Natalie Paquin from Girls Scouts of America described a page from her coaching playbook when she shared how her young soccer team surprised her when they responded to her question, “Are you ready to win?” They shouted a resounding, “Born Ready!” This statement brought a standing ovation and cheer from the approximately 2,000 DKG members in attendance that day! Throughout the rest of the 2016 Convention, DKG attendees could often be heard chanting, “We are born ready!” DKG members are brilliant educators and work hard to prepare themselves for what is coming ahead: the first day of each school year, parent-teacher conferences, special family and DKG events, and for some of us—a meaningful and altruistic retirement. What have you had to prepare for this year? Were you born ready?

Sue Pettit  
Omega State President

Sometimes we do not feel ready. When we are surprised or disappointed by the unexpected in our lives, we may not feel ready to deny self, be dedicated leaders--ready to learn from our mistakes, ready for imperfection, or ready to start anew. As key women educators, most of us will admit that taking on a new challenge is more about dedication and willingness, than the skills and knowledge required by the job. When we say, “yes,” to that new job, we know very little. It is when a good leader completes their office that they say to themselves, “If I only knew then what I know now!” The future of our organization rests on your willingness to serve and be surprised. Your new and returning current chapter leaders have said, “Yes, I am ready because I am willing!” Support them. At the State level, we are currently nominating officers for the 2017-2019 Biennium. Support these women as they embark with a resounding, “Yes, I am ready to learn!”

As DKG members we are *born ready* to serve in any capacity or leadership office if 1) we fulfill the requirements of the office according to our governing documents, 2) we are willing to sacrifice our time, and 3) we are committed to using our talents for others. All of our past and present leaders have said, “Yes, I was born ready,” knowing that their commitment would take them to uncharted and unfamiliar personal and professional growth. Please encourage and support our slate of nominees and may God bless them for their willingness and commitment. Congratulations to all the nominees! As well, when the question comes to you, will you be ready to say, “Not for myself, but for you, dear Sister, I will learn!”

**OMEGA STATE OFFICERS 2015-2017**

<b>President</b> —Dr. Sue Pettit	<b>Treasurer</b> --Lilly Vigil
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> —Janet McClaskey	<b>Editor</b> —Farabe Smith
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b> —Brenda Wray	<b>Webmaster</b> —Nancy Scofield
<b>Recording Secretary</b> —Memory Lamfer	<b>Parliamentarian</b> —Susan Denny
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b> —Dr. Barbara Whinery	<b>Archivist</b> —Kathy Flynn
<b>Executive Secretary</b> —Cynthia Mousel	<b>Immediate Past President</b> —Beth Barzdukas

**DEADLINES**

Proposals for amendments to Omega State Bylaws	January 15
Hildegard Sweet and Katherine S Glendinning Scholarship	February 28
Omega State Scholarship	February 28
Omega State Elderhostel Scholarship	3 weeks prior to program
Omega State Lifelong Learning Scholarship	3 weeks prior to program
Chapter forms due	February 1
Omega State Award Nominations	March 1

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## OMEGA STATE WHITE ROSES OF REMEMBRANCE

“She has left a part of herself with those she loved, with her colleagues, and with all of us.”

### *Delta Kappa Gamma Ceremonies Book*



Jean Stasenka	Theta, Sterling	January 27, 2016
Doris Ramsel	Theta, Sterling	April 7, 2016
Barb Devie	Phi La Junta	July 8, 2016
Coletta Sanchez	Upsilon, Buena Vista	August 23, 2016
LaVonne Carlton	Alpha Delta, Arapahoe Cnty.	September, 2016
Dottie Heckman	Omega, Aurora	October 2, 2016
Eloise Timmons	Gamma (Psi), Boulder	October 16, 2016

### LAVONNE CARLTON STATE TREASURER 1991 - 1999

by True Morgan

LaVonne, where does one begin? You were such a good friend, faithful to Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, fantastic teacher for youth in Cherry Creek Schools, Texas, Aurora Public Schools, an avid reader, community volunteer, staunch Republican, valued Aunt to nieces and nephews, caring for sisters and brother and a loving wife.

Memories overflow when I begin to remember you at this time.

My thoughts are entwined with education .....

LaVonne and I both attended University of Northern Colorado....Colorado State College of Education.....receiving life time teaching certificates  
My sister and LaVonne knew each other quite well at CSCE.

Our next time to become better acquainted was when we were both teachers in Cherry Creek Schools ..LaVonne at CCHS and I at the elementary level.  
50 years ago LaVonne was initiated into Alpha Delta.....a long time relationship began.....Serving as Alpha Delta treasurer, Omega State Treasurer at the same time I served as Alpha Delta president and Omega State president.  
Attending state/international conferences/conventions were highlights.

Some personal thoughts are:

When Alpha Delta had book sharing times, LaVonne would indicate she had read over 100 books. My thoughts were.... that is over 2 books a week! She did this year after year!

One book I would like to share is titled The Worst Hard Times. LaVonne and I were both raised on a farm and one time we recalled the days of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. Her parents were in the middle of the worse days in Colorado.

Another is that she had such an allegiance to UNC or CSCE that she attended the 65<sup>th</sup> year class reunion a year ago and as she was telling me about it she broke into singing the CSCE fight song.

Many of you remember the last few years of her experiences as a Business Ed Teacher called to substitute in the Aurora Public Schools.....in a music class an art class, a kindergarten class. She performed with her usual grace, I'm sure.

She was recognized as writing the curriculum and teaching a beginning class in Law for Aurora High Schools.

Taking many trips to be with Gil, her husband, as he travelled the country and especially to his beloved Texas country. Many miles and many smiles!!!

LaVonne always looking so well dressed especially in her red suit.

LaVonne we love you and we will miss having you as a friend, colleague, and member of Alpha Delta Chapter.  
God Bless You and Be at Peace.

### OMEGA CHAPTER TRIBUTE

Dottie Heckman was one of the founding members of Omega Chapter of DKG. She was to be our presenter at our November meeting to tell us of her WAC (Women’s Army Corps) service. Instead we had a service of remembrance for our beloved Dottie. She was born in 1922 and raised in North Dakota. When she signed up for the WAC’s, she moved to Aurora where she served at Buckley Air Base and also at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital. She was one of the first members of this organization and was very proud of her service.

After some time in Washington, DC, she returned to Colorado where she taught science in Aurora Public Schools. She earned her M.A. at UNC in Greeley. She became a member of DKG and was very active in the organization for all of her life. She loved to travel, particularly to Nova Scotia where she had family members. She loved reading, sewing, gardening, bowling, ushering at church, and delivering Meals on Wheels. Our members will always remember Dottie being the head of the telephone tree. Whenever she called she never identified herself. She just started talking and we all recognized her happy voice and very clear mind. It is rumored that Dottie could still wear her WAC uniform which she donated to the Aurora History Museum. We will miss her very much.



#### FORMER OMEGA STATE PRESIDENT 50 YEAR MEMBER CHARLOTTE COLLINS

On May 7, 2016, Pi Chapter honored Past Pi and Omega State President Charlotte Collins with her 50 year DKG membership certificate. It was such a memorable occasion to us as sisters, to her Meridian staff who prepared a beautiful reception, and to the heart of our beloved Charlotte. Below is her message to all of us:

Dear DKG Sisters,

Looking back on my wonderful 50 years of membership in DKG, I would like to share the following prayer that I wrote during my term as President.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You for our Founders and their successors who not only dared to dream but dared to promote great movements in education. Please God, continue to raise visionaries in our time, women of positive action who realize their unique roles as educators and who will always dare to pursue their dreams.

Thank you for the gift of life and especially for creating us in your image and likeness. Grant us a simple child-like faith. Help us to see the people in our world through a child’s trusting eyes so that the sunshine of your love may brighten our lives enabling us to give more fully of our love to others.

In spite of discontent, injustice and flaws to which we are exposed each day, help us to concentrate on the wonder and beauty of life. Bless this land, our nation, in which you have planted the seed of freedom. Bless our leaders. Grant them to be the instruments of justice and peace for all.

Amen

We cherish the memory of every dream shared. Please continue, all of you, not only to dream, but do.

God gave a gift to me...

He gave it to you too...

He gave us to each other.

I thank God with all my heart for bringing us together...

Friends today, friends who’ll stay, friends forever.

Charlotte Collins

5/7/16

## OMEGA PEAKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CHAPTER STRENGTHENING

The Chapter Strengthening Committee tries to help chapters solve problems and become stronger. Have you looked at the form for Star Chapter Award? This could be your chapter's standard and a guide to set goals for your chapter. Chapters earn points for developing a strategic plan, having the state president visit, and putting an article in Omega Peaks about chapter activities. Also consider projects for one of these areas: Early Career Educators, Adopting a classroom and community activities and service. Brainstorm with chapter members and see what projects are viable and meaningful to the most members.

Have you reviewed the work your chapter/chapter leaders did in the past when the M&M lady presented and the chapter wrote goals and areas to work on for the coming year? Review and see what worked and didn't work. Set the goals for this new calendar year accordingly.

Have you investigated the possibility of doing your meetings on line with Go To Meeting, Google Hangouts, Zoom, Facetime or Skype? This could be especially helpful if a member could not attend a chapter meeting due to distance or family responsibilities.

In the latest issue of DKG News, The Chapter Strengthening section tells of using Google Forms to send invitations and RSVPs online. For one chapter, attendance increased from 49% to 69%. Does your chapter have trouble with attendance? If your chapter does, consider doing this Google Form invitation.

Lastly, if your chapter needs some ideas or help, please contact us and we will do what we can to help out.

Beth Barzdukas, Chair  
barzdukas@live.com

### PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL PRIDE COMMITTEE

#### Suggestions for ways to honor your chapter members:

- Any time you send funds to World Fellowship or the Emergency Fund, send them in honor of one of your members.
- Recognize a member for her service in some area of your chapter's work or projects.
- Recognize members for perfect attendance at meetings.
- Recognize members on their birthdays by giving them roses at your meeting or letting them choose a small gift from a "Birthday Basket".
- Have a "Meet a Member" portion of each meeting. Previous to the meeting interview a member to gather information pertaining to her personal and professional background. Try to learn something that others may not know. Read the information and let the members guess who the "mystery member" is for that month. Small prizes could be given for correct guesses. Or those who guess correctly could be entered in a drawing for a larger prize.
- Honor a "Member of the Year" (semester/quarter etc.). Publish her picture and accompanying article in your local newspaper or the Omega Peaks.

Members: Nicole Bailey, Donna Hoover, Kerry Tripp, Norma Silvers, Linda Pitts (Chair)

#### 2017 ~ A Great Year to Offer the Gift of Membership !

Submitted by Kathy Flynn, Membership Chair

**Membership in DKG provides multiple opportunities for members to make a difference in order to impact education worldwide.**

Check the Omega State website for resources to aid your chapter in recruiting new members.

<http://dkgcolorado.weebly.com>

Resolve to include a growth initiative as part of your membership plan in 2017!



In Nashville this past summer at the international convention, there were several members in their 20s to Early 40s, sharing their visions about DKG and how it is inspiring to their career opportunities, how they view their membership, and how they are actively advocating for their chapters. These members have been participating in Dr. Lyn Schmid's online group of DKG-NEXT!

As I visited with a few of these young women, one thing became extremely obvious—they were enthusiastic about our international DKG, their chapter and state organization. Even while balancing their many duties in their teaching obligations, they included attending meetings in their planned agendas each month and attended whenever possible, placing the meeting date as a priority on their monthly calendars. They dedicated themselves to spread the word about DKG to teaching colleagues and actively practiced doing just that—supplying chapter brochures and contact information!

**Recruitment:** If we apply this same enthusiasm to recruiting new members, we should see Omega State grow. We must provide interesting programs, fun, camaraderie, and relevance to our membership. We must make ourselves known as the organization that helps Early Career Educators in whatever way we can. We must publicize our scholarship offerings to assist those seeking higher degrees. We must publicize our World Fellowship assistance to educators from other countries.

**Reinstatement: How can a Chapter find former members and contact them?**

- Use the chapter's Form 18 and 18A to collect dropped member data.
- Contact them with a personal letter or call.
- Invite past members to a meeting or event.
- Have a "Reunion" or "Homecoming" event.
- Make them feel welcome when they attend.
- The chapter does not vote on reinstatement, so have a reinstatement form ready.
- After reinstatement, get members involved in chapter projects and programs.

**Transfer Members: How Your Chapter Can Help Them!**

- When you receive information about a member in transition, call them and welcome them to your chapter.
- Call Membership Services at Society Headquarters or submit the Transfer Request form online. A member who is relocating should continue to pay dues to her home chapter until the transfer is complete.

## BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

With each biennium comes clarity and challenges for state committees. The Bylaws and Standing Rules committee is charged with several items that can happen only with the support and diligence of members of Omega State chapters. The first challenge is to receive all proposals for amending the *Omega State Colorado Bylaws* by **January 15<sup>th</sup>** of odd number years. Look at the calendar and that will be this **January 2017**. Only if these recommendations for changes or amendments are received can they be considered for a vote at the Omega State Convention. If it is changing the Standing Rules the recommendation should be referred to the Convention and/or the Omega State Executive Board for a vote. The dates are quickly approaching. Please help the BSR committee by submitting your proposal in a timely manner.

This committee is also to review chapter rules to determine if they are in compliance with the CONSTITUTION and *International Standing Rules, Omega State Colorado Bylaws and Omega State Colorado Standing Rules*. The BSR committee appreciates all the chapters who have sent their chapter rules to the committee for review. This is to be done every two years in even number years. The BSR committee has provided a template and checklist of items to be included in chapter rules. These can be found on the Omega State website. We are here to support each chapter in bringing their chapter rules into compliance.

# AROUND COLORADO

## CHI CHAPTER, Montrose, Crawford, Olathe, Paonia, Delta

by Wendy Burrell

Chi Chapter's September meeting was highlighted by member Miriam Hartig's birthday. President Debbie Matteson presented Miriam with her 45-year membership pin. Miriam shared with the group some of her favorite memories from a long and rewarding teaching career, which started out in a one-room school near McPherson, Kansas, and ended with Delta County Schools.

Chi Chapter's partnership with Grant Mesa Elementary in Delta is in its second year. Members have paired with the school's teachers to assist them in the classroom as well as to offer professional and personal support.

It was voted to also continue support to the organization, Bags of Love that provides necessities to children who have been taken from their homes due to domestic violence.

Members are looking forward to the annual Christmas party with lots of silent auction items, a cookie exchange, and an ugly Christmas sweater competition. Never missing a chance to have a good laugh, celebrate an achievement, give a hug, or tell a great story, Chi Chapter marches on!



## ZETA CHAPTER, Thornton, Westminster, Arvada, Aurora, Northglenn, Brighton

by Nancy McFaddin



The ladies of Zeta Chapter kicked off the fall season with the new officers beginning their biennium in September. New Zeta officers for 2016-2017 include: Cynthia Ziegler, President; Jackie Bell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Mary Lynn Boughton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Ronnie Fugita, Recording Secretary; Nancy McFaddin, Corresponding Secretary; Mary Archuleta, Treasurer and Vivian Harvey, Parliamentarian.

At the September meeting we had a wonderful program on memory, nutrition and aging that was held at the Natural Grocers facility in Thornton, Colorado. Our speaker, Fallon Rhodes, provided some excellent information and addressed several personal comments and questions. Also, the yearly program membership notebook inserts were distributed.

Our annual "fundraising" trip to Blackhawk enjoyed a gorgeous autumn day in October to travel up the hill with a busload of fun-loving members of Zeta Chapter and members of the Holy Trinity Church in Westminster. The trip is always lucrative for our chapter treasury! Thanks again to Jackie Bell for making the arrangements and providing entertainment on the bus!

Zeta's Philanthropic project continues with **Precious Child** in Broomfield, CO. Members bring donations of clothing for all ages, diapers, books for children, etc. to each meeting. Our chapter toured this facility a year ago and we have been even more dedicated to serving this outstanding service project. The picture attached shows some of the beautiful, "hand-made" sweaters that member Carol Tebo made personally for these children. She also made sweaters last year.



November we had another personable and informative speaker from CASA of Adams and Broomfield Counties. CASA is the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association. Together with state and local member programs, they support and promote

court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused or neglected children within these communities with opportunities for children to thrive. It was uplifting to learn the CASA program of Adams and Broomfield counties works hand in hand with our philanthropy, **Precious Child!**

In December, we enjoy special fellowship time at our holiday brunch and Craft/Bake sale. Members participate in lively singing of Christmas Carols and other Holiday music.

During the writing of this article, we learned of the death of member Donna Wright. Donna was a forty-four year Zeta member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She will be missed by members of our chapter, especially those with whom she taught.

ALPHA CHAPTER, Denver, Littleton, Centennial, Highland Ranch, Lone Tree, Greenwood Village, Lakewood  
by Ruth Ann Bearden.  
IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Alpha Chapter's November meeting was held as a fundraiser at member Ruth Ann Bearden's home in Lone Tree. For several years we have enjoyed this fall tradition of gathering in a friendly, cozy setting, sharing a potluck brunch, and collecting gifts of toys, wrapping paper, toiletries, and money to be distributed to charitable organizations. In the holiday spirit Alpha ladies this year contributed new toys and wrapping paper to the Jefferson County Action Center, a group that responds to the basic human needs of the county's residents. Toiletries were used to fill gently used donated purses, which had attractive scarves attached. These gifts were given to the pregnancy center at Riverside Church in downtown Denver to be dispersed to the young women who come in seeking aid. Monetary gifts went to Warren Village, a non-profit residential facility in the Capital Hill neighborhood that strives to empower single parent, low-income families toward becoming self-sufficient.

Our meeting was deemed an overwhelming success due to our guest speakers, who introduced us to Parent Engagement Network (PEN). Dr. Shelly Mahon, executive director, and Paula Nelson, co-founder and program director, guided us toward an understanding of what PEN is all about and how the organization works toward achieving its goals. PEN was founded in Boulder County in 2001. The non-profit's worthy mission is "to engage, educate, and empower parents in promoting the social-emotional and mental well-being of youth and families". It accomplishes this amazing work through partnerships with schools, organizations and businesses,



individual experts, and young people. For example, parents in need with particular concerns relating to their children are connected to trusted professionals and service providers. PEN has proven that "it takes a village" to raise healthy young people – mentally, emotionally, and physically. This truly compassionate grassroots parent organization tirelessly supports families toward successful, thriving futures on all these levels. Our Alpha ladies left the meeting thrilled by PEN's work, a group in love with our youth as much as our lifelong educators.

PEN was recognized recently by 9News for its invaluable work with the community. Representatives of PEN are available for speaking engagements with other DKG chapters or other organizations. Arrangements may be made through Dr. Shelly Mahon at [parentengagementnetwork.org](http://parentengagementnetwork.org).

MU CHAPTER, Longmont, Loveland  
by Kathy Flynn

Many thanks to Cheryl Barnett, Mu Chapter president from 2010-2016. Cheryl has been the glue that has kept Mu Chapter focused on our projects and has fostered the feeling of nurturing and treasuring every member. Thank you, Cheryl for your service and your attention to bonding us together.

During the past biennium, Mu Chapter worked hard to initiate eight new members and to reinstate two former members. We are so happy to welcome our new members and are equally inspired that six of them are currently working in the schools. Welcome! New member, Sandra Vasquez, has already accepted the chair of the Scholarship Committee, and all other new members are on various committees taking part in chapter activities.

Newly installed as chapter president, Susan Burnett, assistant principal at Niwot H.S., will serve 2016-2018. Susan attended the Leadership Conference this summer in Colorado Springs and came back re-energized. Susan will lead us well! Gail Fray and Kathy Flynn also attended this outstanding conference at the Franciscan Center.

GrassRoots Longmont, Lisa Hainline, presented about the bond issue at the September meeting. St. Vrain voters once again passed a much needed bond issue. SVVSD is growing by about 800 students each year and new facilities and improvements are needed.



State president, Dr. Sue Pettit, visited and presented to the chapter in October. Members embraced her message on networking, bonding, and working together for the advancement of DKG. Member Katarina Schmitt, orchestra teacher at Mead H.S. played some lively tunes on the violin. Katarina is our youngest member and brings energy to our chapter. Thank you.



### ALPHA BETA, Denver, Lakewood, Broomfield, Golden, Centennial, North Glenn NOVEMBER MEETING HUGE SUCCESS

by Vangie Sena

Alpha Beta Chapter's November meeting was a great time for sharing and enjoying wonderful food and friendship. It was a Potluck Brunch and sharing of the recipes and their history. Members are excellent cooks, and there was an array of breakfast casseroles full of yummy ingredients, wonderful muffins, coffee cakes and homemade cinnamon rolls. The stories behind the recipes were as interesting as the food was delicious.

Members who did not have the time or inclination to cook brought trays of fruit, bottles of juice, and other yummys. There was even a turkey with salami, cheese and a green from the pineapple along with green bell pepper slices. The head turkey's head with red felt waddle available to purchase, and many of My granddaughter made a beautiful with sharing, laughter, and great enthusiasm. New members participated and felt welcomed and a part of the group.



made from a pineapple with toothpicks filled olive. The feathers for the tail were the leaves skewers holding curled red and yellow and was made of felt shaped and sewed like a and beak. Kits of premade heads and pins were us probably had a colorful turkey centerpiece. one for our food table. It was a wonderful time



**“A Poet among Us”**

Submitted by Ruth Ann Bearden, Alpha Chapter  
Alpha Chapter is honored to share the elegant poetry of a very special member, Evelyn Elfstrom. At age 96, this sharp, active lady, a former English teacher, employs her verses to reflect on her own life experiences. With themes such as the transience of life, human relationships, compassion, and the joys and sorrows we all encounter along the way, her body of work touches us all. We should all be so insightful and talented.

**“Thoughts on Time”**

Time, like running water,  
Seeks endlessly  
To move on.  
And our thoughts, like floating leaves  
Sometimes knowingly aware  
Ride the surface,  
And realize how swift the pace.  
At other times,  
Our thoughts submerged,  
We do not realize  
How swift the flow  
Till some future milestone appears,  
And we know  
How far time  
Has carried us.

**“Life like a Rose”**

Life can be like a rose  
Where joys, like petals, adorn  
The happier times.  
But, as petals wither and fall,  
And joys are shorn,  
We must address

With hope and grace  
As it appears--each thorn.

**“A Thoughtful Token”**

A thoughtful token,  
A pleasant smile,  
A helping hand,  
Support during trial.  
In a world  
That's full of stress,  
How palliative  
Is thoughtfulness!

by Susan Denny

At our Omega State leadership Conference last June at the Franciscan Center, one of the breakout sessions was sharing our favorite reads. And, as you know, there's a book for everything. The ladies first shared what kind of readers they were: a book at a time, or a book in every corner. The discussion also covered just what counts as reading. Is it something on the best seller list or a classic revisited? Are magazines, newspapers, professional journals included? Are good reads handed down from someone else or gotten on impulse or related to the grades someone is teaching? From non-fiction to fiction, it was enjoyable to hear people's book recommendations. Listed below alphabetically by title are just a taste of some of the selections. There's no excuse for not having something to read!

All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr; At The Edge of the Orchard, Tracy Chavalier; Be Careful What You Wish For, Jeffrey Archer; Book Scavenger, Jennifer Chambliss Bertman; Brooklyn Bridge, Karen Hesse; Corridors of the Night, Anne Perry; Doc Holliday's Woman, Jane Condia Coleman; Half Broke Horses, Jennifer Walls; How Rude, Alex J. Packer, PhD.; House Rules, Jodi Piccolt; Laudato Si, Pope Francis; It's Complicated, Danah Boyd (Education Foundation winner); Kitchen House, Kathleen Grissom; Maize Dobbs, Jacqueline Winspear; Navajo Nation Mystery, R. Allen Chappell; Nothing Daunted, Dorothy Wickender; Off the Grid, C.J. Box; Remarkable Creatures, Tracy Chavalier; Room, Neal Shusterman; Sarah's Quilt, Nancy E Turner; Still Life, Louise Penny; Tall Grass, Sandra Dallas; The Cat Who....., Lillian Jackson Braum; The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd; The Kearney Family Saga Series", Michael McGarrity; The Light Between Oceans, Anthony Doerr; The Meat Racket, Christopher Leonard; The Rainbow Comes, Anderson Cooper; The Rosie Project, Graeme Simsion; The Soul of An Octopus, Sy Montgomery; "Walt Longmire Series", Craig Johnson.

Delta Kappa Gamma International  
Omega State Executive Board  
October 15, 2016  
DIVERSITY PRESENTATION  
Evangeline R. Sena, Ph.D.

Thank you for asking me to say a few words about a topic that is very important to me. I have given it much thought and have done some research into the whole idea of diversity. What is it? What does it mean? Why is it important? How do we successfully achieve it?

Diversity can be defined as the quality of having many different forms, types and ideas. It can also be the state of having people from different cultures in a group or organization having differences by age, socioeconomic status, religion or educational level. It can also be defined as people coming together to form a community, a group or organization that consists of people with different backgrounds, ages and cultures. A diverse organization is one that values the differences in people; it is one that recognizes that people with different backgrounds, skills, attitudes, and experience have much to offer. They bring fresh ideas, experiences and perceptions to the group. Diverse organizations encourage and use these differences to make their services relevant. Successful diverse organizations draw upon the wide range of values and experiences to help them meet the needs of their members. The sharing of values, traditions, food and beliefs often creates curiosity, and leads to the sharing of things people have in common as well as the differences thus leading to understanding and trust.

The United States is a highly diverse nation. It is that we have more people with different religions, groups than any other nation. This diversity is part something to celebrate and capitalize on to the Unfortunately at this moment in our nation's developed a culture of mistrust between groups. for understanding and trust to be redeveloped in more accepting and tolerant of differences religion, race and physical challenges.

During the years that many of us worked for Schools we worked diligently to create diversity staff. The District was under a court order to integrate the schools, and during the years of busing much attention was given to ethnic balance. We had two types of ABC's; the ones we used to teach reading, and the ABC (Anglo, Black, Chicano) makeup of our schools.

Research at the time told us that children exposed to diverse cultures in the classroom learn to understand different points of view. By being exposed to differences in culture the child would have a better understanding of why people dress the way they do, eat the things they eat and talk the way they talk. As they looked at their own behavior they would realize that there are many similarities, and the differences can be interesting. When it comes to food the differences can be downright delicious.

People who have not been exposed to cultural diversity may find it hard to talk to or exchange ideas with someone who is different. One study I looked at said that members of dissimilar groups were less likely to be attracted to one another, have more difficulty communicating with each other and tend to stay to themselves. This may be true of groups that do not have an opportunity to mingle. However in our communities we have many opportunities to mingle. Our churches, schools and shopping centers are full of diversity. Diversity is not always just what background you come from; it can also include unique difference between human beings. Height, weight, personality, physical handicap and how we perceive ourselves can all be factors.

I was pleased to hear Sandra Bull, Executive Director of Delta Kappa Gamma International, when she addressed us at the Omega State Conference in June. She basically said that our Delta Kappa Gamma Society International as an organization is sorely lacking in diversity. I think her words were something like, "as a whole our group is quite white." She encouraged us to look at diversity as we add new members. I think she was saying we need to add a bit of color to our membership. Some of our Colorado chapters are diverse in their inclusion of people from different cultures, people with handicaps and a span of age groups. Our Alpha Beta Chapter is quite diverse culturally, but there is always room for improvement in other areas of diversity.

All of our chapters are working hard to find new members. This is a great opportunity to become more diverse. We also need to look at diversity by age. We as a group are aging, and if we hope to survive we must find ways to attract younger members. An organization that continues to bring in members that are like themselves denies itself opportunities to grow



probably safe to say cultural and ethnic of our heritage; it is benefit of all. history there has There is great need order to become pertaining to culture,

Denver Public among students and

and understand the differences in our population. Diversity comes in many forms, cultural, language, age, economic status, ability, religion, education, physical challenges, etc.

The real key to our success as a diverse organization is our ability to involve and include new members. Inclusion and acceptance are key to keeping members who may feel they don't fit. Greeting new members warmly at each meeting, providing opportunities for sharing so we can get to know each other, encouraging new members to take part in the group as soon as possible are ways to include them. Agree to listen to new ideas for doing things. Nothing kills a group faster than insisting "We've always done it this way." A multicultural potluck where members can share information about their recipe or a sharing of an item that has special meaning gets people to share information about their background.

I was fortunate to have grown up in a small community that included Hispanics, Japanese and Anglos. We didn't have the opportunity to know Black culture, but my first teaching position in Denver Public Schools was at Mitchell Elementary School where I learned about Black culture and made new friends.

I also had the opportunity to live with an Anglo family for three years when I was in college. I had four blonde sisters that I loved dearly and wonderful parents that took good care of me when I was with them. They included me in their activities and always introduced me as their fifth daughter. I did my share of household chores and ironed the younger girl's frilly dresses. I felt I was part of the family and never felt like a hired hand or servant.

I have brothers in law, sisters in law, sons in law, daughters in law, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren in a variety of cultures and colors. Diversity for me is a way of life. I embrace it and encourage it all of its forms.

As you approach your search for new members encourage the idea of looking at diversity. Think of plain Jello; it has good flavor, but it is lacking in texture, and the flavor is simple. Add a banana and it changes the texture and flavor, add fruit cocktail and the flavors pop. Your chapter can have more life if you make it interesting with members differing in age or cultural background. You must be sure to welcome your new members and involve them in the work of the chapter as soon as possible. They need to feel they are an important and contributing part of the chapter. Good luck in your search for new members that can add flavor to your chapters.



#### **DKG @ UNITED NATIONS -CTAUN CONFERENCE**

The **C**ommittee on **T**eaching **A**bout the **U**nited **N**ations 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference      Friday,  
January 27, 2017

#### ***Refugees: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge***

Refugee crises are not new in world history. Millions have been uprooted over centuries, fleeing their homes due to fears of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Yet, today we face the largest refugee/migrant movement since the Second World War and, wherever we turn, we are bombarded by media images of desperate but determined faces of people on frightening journeys to overburdened and increasingly unwelcoming countries.

## **OMEGA STATE AWARD**

Nominations should be sent to the Awards Chairman, Ruth Ann Bearden, 9626 Kemper Drive, Lone Tree, CO, 80124, or [rabearden@aol.com](mailto:rabearden@aol.com) by March 1, 2017. For further information, call her at 303 790 4573.

The nominee must have been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 5 years and must be gainfully employed as an educator.

### **Guidelines**

#### **A. General**

- (1) Writeup should be presented in outline form.
- (2.) Use an 8 1/2x 11in. paper, typing the information.
- (3) Be specific as to the nature of the service and contributions.
- (4) The nominee must be gainfully employed as an educator when nominated and must have been an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma for at least 5 years.

#### **B. Order of information**

- (1) The Delta Kappa Gamma Society (double point value)
  - (a.) Chapter level: offices, committees, contributions
  - (b) State level: offices, committees, contributions
  - (c) International level: offices, committees, contributions
- (2) Educational background
  - (a) Degrees, colleges, teaching positions, honors
  - (b) Additional experiences, positions, other educational work
  - (c) Papers published, writing, etc
- (3) Professional organizations
  - (a) Membership
  - (b) Offices held
  - (c) Contribution and service
- (4) Community involvement
  - (a) Organizations and committees
  - (b) Offices held and responsibilities
  - (c) Contributions and services
- (5) Additional information
  - (a) Travel
  - (b) Hobbies, special talents
  - (c) Family, children
  - (d) Letters of recommendation, commendations, etc
  - (e) Narrative letters from friends, etc. which would lend a humanistic value in writing the final resume for the recipient.

**REMINDER FOR CHAPTER  
PRESIDENTS – FORM 6**

It is very important that each death of a member be reported as soon as possible on Form 6 for Death of a Member. Presidents, please work with your membership chairs and promptly report to all three of the following:

\*International: International Membership Services:

[mem@dkg.org](mailto:mem@dkg.org) or [RohanT@dkg.org](mailto:RohanT@dkg.org)

\*Omega State Membership Chair: Kathy Flynn:

[katherineaflynn@yahoo.com](mailto:katherineaflynn@yahoo.com)

\*Omega State Treasurer: Lilly Vigil: [cmcr1@msn.com](mailto:cmcr1@msn.com)

The form is interactive on-line and is available on both the state website and the international website.

The Necrology Form is different and is a compilation of all the deaths in the chapter during the past year.

Necrology forms are due February 1, 2017, and may be sent via email or snail mail to Katherine A Flynn, 2101

Sand Dollar Drive, Longmont, CO 80503 or

[katherineaflynn@yahoo.com](mailto:katherineaflynn@yahoo.com). For questions, please consult with Kathy.



**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**SOCIETY PURPOSES**

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education
4. To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to women educators from other countries
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action
7. To inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate

*Omega Peaks*

Published four times a year in March, August, June and December by the Omega State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Contributors to the newsletter are asked to send news as soon as it is available to insure its placement in the next issue to:

Farabe Smith  
5910 Sengbeil Road  
Yoder CO 80864

Or [farabes1@gmail.com](mailto:farabes1@gmail.com)

**Send address changes to:**

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
PO Box 1589  
Austin TX 78767 or**

