

# Alpha Upsilon Today



**Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide**

## **President's Message**

It is hard to believe that I am beginning my second year as President of Alpha Upsilon. It seems like we have been so busy and have much to show in our first year on my biennium. As my President's project, I chose Project Linus for which we were able to donate fourteen blankets for children who are victims of fire or other tragedies. I would also like to get together again this year on the third weekend in February to celebrate National Project Linus day to make more blankets. Please save the date.



We had two Crop 4 a Cause fundraisers which benefit our Grant-in-Aid. These with our RADA knife sale enabled us to present Hope Albert with our \$1000 grant this year.

Our programs were so diverse this year! We had line dancing at Puckety Hall where a good time was had by all. We met at Highlands Middle school and had a lesson in their computer lab about technology and the wonderful program called Google Drive. At the Penn State Art Gallery, guest speaker, Michelle Dickerson presented a program on her travels to Nazi prisoner of war camps in Poland. Our final program was "All That Glitters" by Karen Ball who introduced us to beautiful costume jewelry and made us realize that we may have hidden treasures in our jewelry boxes.

We co-hosted a multi-chapter reception with Theta for Barbara Gasperini where we had a wonderful turnout to show our support for our State President.

In the spring several members of AU attended the Creative Arts Retreat in Olmstead Manor, Ludlow, PA. I just loved the weekend where we had time to "unplug" and get to know some of our DKG sisters from other chapters.

Ten Alpha Upsilon members attended the State Convention at Penn State this year where we got to celebrate Barbara's culmination of her biennium as President. Here, we also won an award for having a high percentage of members attend and member Jenn McKay won two raffle baskets

As the summer was winding down, a group of our sisters got together to catch up at the Knead Café. It was good to see everyone who attended.

All in all, I would say that it's been a good year! I would like to thank everyone who has supported us in any way, be it donating for our Crop, purchasing from RADA, donated baked goods, or books at our meetings or made blankets. It takes ALL of us to make this organization work.

I am hoping some (or many) of you are thinking about attending the International Convention in Philadelphia from July 7-11, 2020. We are trying to make plans to take a train across the state or perhaps share a coach bus with another chapter. More information will follow. Looking forward to another great year!

Barbara Summers

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## **Alpha Upsilon General Meeting Programs for the Year**

Be sure to support your local chapter by attending the meetings. Some great and diverse programs have been planned this year:

### **Saturday, September 21, 2019**

- **The Science of Puppetry** presented by Dr. Sandy Reidmiller
- Learning though puppets and how they are used to increase memory
- 10 am at the Penn State New Ken Art Gallery

### **Thursday, November 14, 2019**

- **Factory Tour—Oberg Industries in Sarver**
- Tour the plant and learn who Oberg Industries are reaching into our schools
- Reservations need made at the September meeting. Dinner will be on your own
- 4:30 at 275 North Pike Rd. Sarver

### **Saturday, March 14, 2020**

- **Mental Health Issues of our Youth** presented by Emilie Greiner
- Explore children issues and avenues for assistance
- 10 am at Puckety Presbyterian Church Covered Dish Luncheon

### **Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

- **What I Found in my Mother's Roller Skate Box** presented by Faith Jack
- How to search one's family tree
- 4:30 pm at Hillcrest Country Club Dinner at the club

## **Food For Thought**

- With our membership changing, how can I help grow our chapter.
- Am I willing to step up and fill some of the vacancies on the board?
- How do I feel about merging with another chapter?

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## **Upcoming Events—Put these Fun Fundraisers on Your Calendar**



### Crop For A Cause

October 26, 2019 from 9 am to 8 pm

Faith Hall, Puckety Presbyterian Church, 1009 Puckety Church Road

Crop Workshop includes: 2 meals and drinks, Goody bags and Make and Take Pages

Learn Creative Scrapbooking techniques from AU sister, Jenn McKay

Cost \$35.00



### Card Class for A Cause

October 26, 2019 from 1-4pm

Faith Hall, Puckety Presbyterian Church, 1009 Puckety Church Road

Card Class includes: Make and take 6 greeting cards, door prizes and learning creative card making techniques. One needed supply: tape runner

Great for beginners!

Cost \$20.00

Email Jenn McKay for registration form: [blessyourstory@gmail.com](mailto:blessyourstory@gmail.com)

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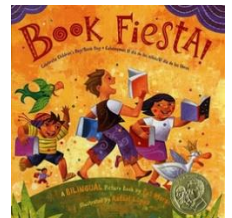
## **2019 Fundraiser—Buy your Christmas Gift Cards Early!**

Beginning at the first meeting of the year, orders will be taken for gift cards of your choice to be used by yourself or as gifts. You will pay the face value of the card, as if you were buying it at a retail store, then Alpha Upsilon will receive a rebate from each card ordered. There will be many of the stores we shop in regularly so bring your check book and get an early start to the holiday season.



## **Alpha Upsilon Helps Supply Local Students with Books**

Via Alpha Upsilon’s Facebook page, our sister, Pam Derby, requesting AU sisters to “sponsor” a student in her First Grade Class at Kiski Area East Primary through the Scholastic Book Clubs. Pam is happy to report that, through your generous support, she will be able to accommodate her class with a little left over in case she gets a new student. Books will be provided for students who would not otherwise be able to afford them. Well done Alpha Upsilon! Best wishes to Pam in her new classroom this year!



## **Book Club Choices for the Year**

This year’s book selections for the DKG Book Club are:

September: A Better Man by Louise Penny

October: Leadership in Turbulent Times by Doris Kearns Goodwin

November: The Dutch House by Anne Patchett

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## **Tribute to Kathy Varano**

Our beloved AU Sister Kathy Varano passed away on May 8, 2019, at the age of 70 of complications from kidney cancer. Kathy taught Spanish for 26 years at Kiski Area High School and was an adjunct professor at Penn State New Kensington. She also served as a Spanish AP test scorer. Ever since her induction in 2007 Kathy was active in our chapter. She served as AU president from 2014-16. She received the Cornet Professional Development award in 2010 as well as an Enrichment Grant in 2016. She was also honored with the Teacher of the Year Award at Kiski Area High School in 2008. Her friendliness, sense of humor, and willingness to help made her a good friend to many in our chapter. She was a seasoned traveler and an avid bridge player. She enjoyed playing bridge with the DKG Bridge Flight plus playing that and mah-jongg after her retirement to Florida. Kathy is survived by her son Joe and his wife Shirley. "Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed, and held so dear."

Contributed by Millie Pipman



Sally Coyne, Barb Gasperini and  
Kathy Varano at State Convention



Kathy Varano dancing with Millie and  
other DKG sisters at the Regional  
Convention in Hershey 2011.

## **Bridge Flight News**

The DKG Bridge Flight held its annual luncheon at Hill Crest Country Club on Wednesday, June 19. A short business meeting was conducted where the 2018-19 winners were announced. They were the partnership of Millie Pipman and Betty Grossheim taking first place while Jean Nader and Mary Jo Benec placed second. Since the bridge group supports the Grant in Aid every year, the news from this year's recipient was shared with the group. \$150.00 was collected to contribute to the 2020 recipient. After lunch from the menu and special snowball dessert, partners played their first match of the new season.

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## **2019 Grant in Aid**

Hope Albert, a senior attending Kiski Area was chosen as a very worthy recipient of Alpha Upsilon's 2019 Grant in Aid.

While attending Kiski, Hope maintained a 3.8 average. She was a member of the National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars and on the Honor Roll every nine weeks. She was chosen as one of the top 100 Outstanding High School Seniors in the Alle Kiski Valley. She was also Key Club President, Show Choir Dance Captain and has had the lead in Kiski's Spring Musicals the past three years. Her high school activities also include Jazz Choir, Active for Animals, Bible Club, Food Bank, Youth Day of Caring, and Read Across America. She is the "Good Morning Kiski" morning anchor.

Along with this long list of school activities, Hope is extremely involved in her community. She has been the choreographer for the annual Hometown Christmas at Vandergrift Casino Theatre for the past 8 years along with performing in this production since 2011. She is the principle cantor for St Gertrude's Church as well as a funeral and wedding soloist and church organist. She has performed the National Anthem for the Pittsburgh Pirates for 3 years and she is a dance instructor at Just Dance since 2014. She plans on attending Seton Hill University to major in Music Education. She wishes to advocate for the arts because it is what makes us a "kinder gentler nation", people of love, tolerance, and compassion.

## **2018 Grant in Aid Visits Alpha Upsilon**

Alpha Upsilon welcomed Leta Meyer, our 2018 Grant in Aid to our meeting in May. Leta returned after her successful first year at Seton Hill University where she is majoring in Art Education. Besides achieving a 4.0 GPA during her first semester, she has been active in the Campus Ministry, Education Club, Students in the Arts, Nature Club and the *Eye Contact* Literary and Art Magazine. One of her art works was included in the last issue of the magazine. Leta has been invited to join the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society and is hoping to be nominated as the assistant art director of *Eye Contact*.

Alpha Upsilon gladly gave Leta a \$100.00 stipend for her continued contact with the chapter and we wish her continued success at Seton Hill. We hope to see her again next year.



Leta Meyer and Hope Albert



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## **Alpha Upsilon Profile**

One of the greatest compliments a teacher can receive in her career is to teach a student who, because of your influence, later chooses to become a teacher in your field, just like you. Such is the case with Betty Baird and our current Alpha Upsilon president, Barb Summers. Betty taught Home Economics to Barb during Barb's entire high school career at Valley, grades 9 through 12. Barb remembers Miss Baird as a kind, enthusiastic teacher who encouraged students to expand themselves and try new things. Because of her experiences in her class, Barb went on to college, studied Home Economics and taught the subject at Highlands for many years. For this reason, and others, Betty Baird, has been chosen this issue's Alpha Upsilon Profile.

Betty grew up in Bagdad and Leechburg, where she spent time with her Aunt Twila in the summers. This aunt taught Betty how to bake and suggested Home Economics would be a good major in college. Betty agreed and so, after graduating from Leechburg High School, she attended Muskingham College for one year, then transferred to and finished her degree at Indiana State Teachers College.

Betty taught first in Blairsville where she started the first school lunch program at the high school. She would make soup each morning and then students would come in and make sandwiches which would be served with the soup. The principal would come hand help wash the trays after lunch.

Betty then moved closer to home, teaching first in Highlands, then at Valley where she finished her career.

Throughout the years, Betty enjoyed coming to Delta Kappa Gamma meetings with her sister, Agnes Tidd and later also with her niece, Mary Beth Yeamens, who is still a member. Family was very important to Betty and spent many happy hours with them, especially shopping at Brody's in Indiana and Kaufmann's in Monroeville.

Currently, Betty is living at Corcordia in Cabot and will be celebrating her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday this year on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday, Betty!



