

Alpha Upsilon Today



Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It seems like Alpha Upsilon has been in hibernation for the last year, but this is far from the truth. With meetings by Zoom, we have promoted the work of the society by supporting one another, reorganizing our efforts, and learning to recognize the importance of Mental Health for both educators and students alike. We continued to support upcoming ladies in their endeavors to become key women educators of our future generations. Our dues helped educators throughout the world with the new demands of virtually teaching during the pandemic.

State leaders remain diligent in training DKG presidents through quarterly meetings. I have connected with other presidents around the state. Each are sharing their challenges and successes in making a difference for students and women educators in their communities. I was encouraged how DKG's outward focus can impact the development of fellow women educators and their students. With that being said, I would like to introduce my president's project – Adopt a Teacher. We will identify young women educators in local districts to provide support and inspiration in hopes to make a lasting mentorship that will develop key women educators. Our support will range from notes of encouragement to sponsoring a lesson. We have much to offer these young ladies from our extensive talents and experiences. I look forward to our commitment to enhancing the future of education.

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Finally, this organization is only as strong as its members and their willingness to get involved to make a difference. I want to thank all those sisters that have accepted the challenges of working together in one or more of the Academies. Our efforts to work more efficiently by reorganizing our committees into academies has made jobs easier to complete. I also encourage you to consider serving in a leadership role in the society. As a new member, I was asked to accept this journey to presidency. I have grown as a leader and learned so much about myself. My close connects with sisters have enhanced my life so deeply. I pledge to assist you as you become the next leaders of Alpha Upsilon. Please accept this call and make a difference that helps impacts education.

Jennifer McKay-President of Alpha Upsilon Chapter of DKG

Hello Sisters of Alpha Upsilon!

My name is Mary Anne Battaglia and I am the new editor of the AU newsletter, taking over the reins from Betty Grossheim. I have some rather big shoes to fill as she has published many wonderful newsletters chocked full of information which I have had the privilege to read to learn more about your chapter. I want to thank Betty for generously sharing the newsletter format with me so we can get started.

This is not a one-woman operation. It is a collective effort because I need to depend on you to provide article ideas, suggestions and feedback for improvement, and proofreaders prior to sending out to the membership. You are the consumer of this information and we want to be sure to address the needs of the chapter leadership and members to provide a communication avenue of which we can be proud. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!

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Alpha Upsilon General Meeting Programs for Spring of 2021

Be sure to support your local chapter by attending the Zoom meetings.

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 – Our program was presented by Emilee Greiner, a therapist who works in the SAP program in local schools who spoke about Mental Stress of our Children in Covid.

Saturday, April 10, 2021- TBA

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 -

What I Found in my Mother's Roller Skate Box

Presented by Faith Jack

“How to search one's family tree.”

A fellow DKG sister will speak about the process she used in finding out about her ancestry. Faith Jack traced her ancestors through a variety of methods. We look forward to hearing about her adventures

2021



DATES TO REMEMBER

St. Patrick's Day Social on March 17, 2021 @ 6:30pm via ZOOM

AU Executive Board Meeting- March 30, 2021 @ 6:30pm via ZOOM

AU General Membership Meeting – Saturday, April 10th at 10:00am via Zoom

PA State Convention in Scranton, PA – June 11 – 13, 2021

International Convention in San Antonio , TX – July 21 – 24, 2021

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2021 Fundraiser



Scrip Gift Cards Fundraiser

Attention DKG Sisters,

Our first fundraising event will be the sale of Scrip Gift Cards. Plan now for future gifts, dining, travel, and wardrobe upgrades! Purchase your gift cards now and help fund **the Grant-in-Aid**.

Extra Bonus: Purchase 6 cards and receive a designer hand-crafted gift card holder! Orders must be received by at the meeting on Saturday April 10th. Cards will be ready for pick up at the meeting on Tuesday May 4th. The order forms follow in this newsletter.



Barbara Summers and Carolyn Sutton

Order your desired gift cards that can be used personally or as gifts. DKG – Alpha Upsilon will receive a rebate from each card ordered. Your cost you pay is the actual face value of the card. Place the number of cards you wish to order in the table below. Contact Barb for additional names – including Hotels.

	\$10	\$25	\$50	\$100
Ace Hardware	NA		NA	NA
Amazon.com	NA		NA	
Applebee's	NA			NA
Arby's		NA	NA	NA
Barns & Noble			NA	
Bath n Body Works			NA	NA
Bob Evans	NA		NA	NA
Boston Market		NA	NA	NA
BOSCOV'S	NA		NA	NA
BP Gas	NA	NA		
Burlington	NA		NA	NA
Cabelas	NA		NA	
Chili's Grill & Bar	NA			NA
Cracker Barrell			NA	NA
CVS Pharmacy	NA		NA	
Dairy Queen		NA	NA	NA
Denny's		NA	NA	NA
Dicks Sporting Goods	NA		NA	
Disney	NA		NA	
Eat n Park			NA	NA
Famous Footwear	NA		NA	NA
Game Stop	NA		NA	NA
Get Go	NA		NA	
Giant Eagle	NA		NA	
Groupon.com	NA		NA	NA
Hallmark	NA		NA	NA

Home Depot	NA		NA	
Home Goods	NA		NA	
iTunes	NA		NA	NA
JC Penneys	NA		NA	
JoAnn Fabrics	NA		NA	NA
Kohls	NA		NA	
<i>Land's End</i>	NA		NA	
LL Bean	NA		NA	
Longhorn Steak	NA		NA	
Long John Silvers		NA	NA	NA
Lowes	NA		NA	
Macys	NA		NA	
Marshalls	NA		NA	
Michaels	NA		NA	NA
Nike	NA		NA	NA
Nordstrom (Rack)	NA		NA	
Old Navy	NA		NA	
Olive Garden	NA		NA	
Overstock.com	NA		NA	NA
Panera				NA
Papa Johns`		NA	NA	NA
Pet Smart	NA		NA	NA
Pizza Hut		NA	NA	NA
Red Robin	NA		NA	NA
<i>Ross's Dress for Less</i>	NA		NA	NA
<i>Sally's Beauty</i>	NA		NA	NA

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UPDATES ON PREVIOUS AU PROJECTS

Project

When last we
Barb Summers'
of the initiative



Linus

heard about the Past President,
project, she explained the purpose
and the materials that were needed

to complete it. Three sessions were held with a group of AU sister volunteers who assisted Barb in cutting and assembling the blankets made of fleece and fabric. Several of the blankets were sewn and some were crocheted depending on the wishes of the volunteers. Thirty-one blankets were donated to the Project Linus headquarters in Uniontown, PA. Those blankets are then distributed to police units, fire companies, funeral homes, and children's wards at local hospitals. All the blankets remain in our area and are given to children in need in various situations and circumstances. Barb Summers would like to thank those AU sisters who volunteered their time and talents for this project.

We extend a note of thanks to Barb for bringing us such a worthy project.



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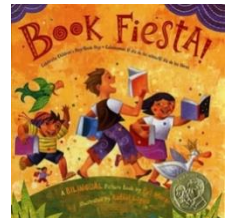


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Alpha Upsilon Helps Supply Local Students with Books

Our sister, **Pam Derby**, requested her AU sisters to “sponsor” students in her First Grade Class at Kiski Area East Primary through the Scholastic Book Clubs. Books were provided all students who would not otherwise be able to afford them. Putting books in the hands of children is such a noble gesture. Thank you, Alpha Upsilon sisters once again for supporting the literacy needs of a group of young children.



TREASURER'S REPORT

As reported by Alpha Upsilon treasurer, Sue Hilty, at the last AU general meeting on February 16, dues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year are due by May 1, 2021. You may begin sending in your dues to Sue after April 1, 2021. Sue reported that we currently have \$2835 in our checking account. Thanks, Sue for the update.

Book Club Choice for the Month

The Book Club, which meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, has selected the following book for discussion:

March: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

Bridge Flight News

The DKG Bridge Flight group will be reorganizing soon led by Roseann and Marsha. More information will be forthcoming.

2021 Grant in Aid

Grant-in-Aid Committee Report

Barb Summers and Carolyn Sutton met to update the guidance counselor contacts with each high school. The applications were revised, assembled and mailed to each of the contacts. Hopefully, we will have applications from each of the seven school districts and the committee will meet in early April to select the 2021 recipient. We wish good luck to our applicants.

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ADOPT A NEW TEACHER

Be sure to support our AU President, Jenn, by providing the names and addresses of new local teachers who might need and/or enjoy a note or two of encouragement and hope as they complete their intense year of education in a Pandemic world. Be thinking of someone you might like your AU Sisters to support in some form or fashion. More details to follow.

EDITORIAL:

It is the best of times, it is the worst of times to paraphrase Charles Dickens. Sorry Chuck!

I am talking about education in general and the lives of teachers during this coronavirus pandemic. Many of our Alpha Upsilon sisters are retired from active service but some are still on the front lines of trying to provide a quality education to students in the most extreme and trying conditions.

I have been retired from public school service after 40 years as a teacher and an administrator in a suburban school district. However, I am currently still actively involved in working in the private school arena where I consult with teachers on curriculum and staff development. Although I am removed from the day-to-day operations and grind of my former public education work, I have remained in touch with so many of my former staff members through social media. In addition, I have been directly interacting and working with teachers/administrators from 3 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh as they try to maneuver through the minefield of education through a myriad of avenues.

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What have I heard and observed in my travels since last March, especially my teachers who work directly with students on a daily basis? Mostly, I am the recipient of stories of struggle, frustration, and even despair about the expectations, responsibilities and working conditions that teachers must endure. There are so many commonalities across districts and school settings. There are things like class size differences (in-class and virtual), disparities in technology availability and allocation, student engagement issues, difficult parental expectations, lack of materials, intense time and effort to prepare lessons, inability to judge whether students are truly learning, assessment challenges (for virtual students-it's who is taking the test), mental health issues in both students and staffs, newer teachers leaving the profession after only a few years, and how inadequately teachers were prepared to move over to virtual learning with little staff development.

I don't only want to be the bearer of bad news. So, what can we see as the benefits of what is happening in education today? At first glance, one might say there are very few benefits but there are many. Social and emotional learning has stepped to the forefront of what is trending now in education. Our students continue to outshine us when it comes to technological know-how. One thing that has come to light is that most parents have a better understanding of how difficult teaching can be. Keeping their children focused brings a new awareness of how kids function in the classroom whether they are distracting others or being distracted. In some regard, many teachers have a better understanding and appreciation of what home life environments are like for their students.

I am well-aware that I am speaking to the choir here, but we must understand that teachers more than ever need our support, our encouragement, a listening ear, and our appreciation of their work. Even though "these are times that try men's souls" we must pull together with our fellow educators to show that through difficult times, people pull together to demonstrate strength, perseverance, resiliency, caring and most of all, hope. After all, we are not the first generation to live through difficult times in education as I am sure to which you can all attest. But frankly, this one takes the cake! Let us adopt an educator to be a manifestation of the purposes of DKG International.

To All Our Irish Sisters of Alpha Upsilon



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COMFORT CORNER

We are so fortunate to have Linda Henkel who so faithfully sends out cards from our membership to sisters for a variety of reasons i.e., get well, birthday, sympathy, thinking of you etc. At times, other sisters of AU would also like to send a card or message to show their support. We will establish a little section of the newsletter to communicate to the membership that one of our own may need a pick me up message or card. Please let me know the brief information about the individual and it will be included in this section.

Here are a few notes that I have gathered for this edition of the newsletter.

We will use this as an additional means to communicate these special bits of news to you. You can contact me by phone or text at 412-719-7181 or by email @ mab202@comcast.net

- **Special Condolences to Carolyn Sutton and Colleen Sites on the passing of each of their husbands**
- **Special wishes of returning to good health are sent to Judy Schaffer and Cindy Lemon**