

Alpha Upsilon Today



Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3 APRIL/MAY 2022

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – APRIL/MAY 2022



It is unbelievable these last 2 years. Who would have thought that 2020-2022 would be filled with so many changes? We have witnessed an educational revision to include remote learning, advanced communications with friends and families via Zoom, the closure of our entire communities through lockdowns, medical break-throughs to combat the pandemic and innovations in the traditions of our own DKG Society. I genuinely believe that you go no place by accident, thus it was no accident I was able to use my technology skills to help carry us through the switch to online meetings and virtual conventions. You all have been so willing to endure the learning curve associated with these progressive experiences. I am honored to be able to be a small part in your evolution.

We have welcomed our first collegiate member and three college connections, supporting these young ladies to strive for excellence in their training to be our future Key Women Educators. We have provided support to young teachers in our schools with materials, supplies and encouraging words to help lift them up as they maneuver educating our youth during a pandemic. We have continued to stay connected when it was impossible to be together and now have transitioned to in-person gatherings where we have a new profound appreciation for fellowship with our sisters.

I look back and reflect on my own personal growth as a leader. I know you have shaped me into a better person, with room to still grow. I realize the adaptations that I had to accept to meet the needs of our chapter. It is never an easy task to delegate when you want to be deeply involved in the mission of the chapter, but I learned to commission the tasks and place trust in knowing the business of Alpha Upsilon was in good hands. I cherish the connections I have made at the state level with other chapter presidents and the state leadership team.

I feel now more than ever empowered to promote women in education and seek ways I can contribute to stimulate growth and transformation. I thank you all for your confidence in me and your support through these past 2 years. It has truly been an honor. Many blessings to you all... Jenn McKay

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A Note from Pam Derby

As my 2021-2022 school year comes to a close, I want to thank each and every one of the generous ladies in this organization who have donated money to purchase books for my students this year. My students were thrilled to have books waiting for them during four different times this year in addition to getting new books in their reading bags for our independent reading time (these books stay in my classroom guided reading library). The students received the following books this school year: “Wemberly Worried” by Kevin Henkes, assorted winter books, National Geographic animal books, and assorted books for the summer season. The books that were purchased for my guided reading library (leveled reading books tailored to each child) are seasonal sight word books, “I Can Read” book assortment, and leveled readers packs by various authors. As an extra bonus, I received bonus points towards more books for my classroom when I purchased the class sets of books. With these points, I will be purchasing summer themed books to use at the end of the year. Attached with this article are pictures of my students with their National Geographic books as well as the books purchased for my classroom library.

Lastly, I have shared with my students how these books are purchased for them. They have been told that a group of teachers who love reading would like them to enjoy reading too. They also know some of the teachers who have taught in our building. Thank you all for bringing joy and the love of reading to students in 1D at Kiski Area East Primary!

“A book is a gift you can open again and again.” - Garrison Keillor

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Pamela V. Derby



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Alpha Upsilon Chapter General Membership Meeting for **SPRING 2022**

DKG: Alpha Upsilon May General Membership Meeting

May 14th @ 11:00 am

Atria's - O'Hara (Fox Chapel)

1374 Freeport Road Pittsburgh PA 15238

RSVP with your checks to Sue Hilty

833 Hawk Valley Drive, Leechburg, PA 15656

by May 11th

Choice from three entrees at the meeting:

Chicken Piccata, Simply Grilled Salmon or Chicken Chopped Salad)

Cost of your meal is: \$30

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THIRD Alpha Upsilon Meeting of the 2021-2022 year

Our program for the Tri-Chapter meeting on April 9th was presented by Alpha Sigma member, Ursula Payne. Ursula is the Director of the Frederick Douglass Institute at Slippery Rock University. She is a professor in the Dance Department of SRU, where she teaches all levels of modern and jazz dance techniques. She is a choreographer, performing artist and visiting lecturer.

In 2021, Ursula received the Golden Anniversary Scholarship from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She is attending Texas Woman's University in the doctoral program of dance. She is a Pennsylvania State Organization Women of Distinction for her research and publications.

At the meeting, Ursula shared with our members one of her academic papers, which concerned her research and reflections on the value of line dancing for women, particularly Black women. Her findings inspired us. And then we, too, danced! **By Carolyn Sutton**



To the left, our Speaker, MS. Ursula Payne

To the right, Carolyn Sutton, who introduced our speaker



We received many nice comments about the event from our visitors from the Alpha Phi and Theta chapters. It was noted that they commented on how welcoming it felt that our president, Jenn, was standing at the door greeting our guests. Many comments were gathered about how special it was to have a Tri-chapter event and that it should occur more often. Sounds like a great idea!!

Our breakfast meal, prepared by the staff of the Knead Café, was delicious and served in a timely manner. Our guests also commented positively about the brunch. Many thanks to Barb Summers and Carolyn Sutton for arranging all the details of the event for our members and creating/sending the invitation.

Our basket raffle was enthusiastically received and brought in a significant amount of funds for our Grant-in-Aid fund. Thanks to Pam Derby for organizing the raffle.

Special thanks to our treasurer, Sue Hilty, for managing all the details of the reservations as well as creating the favors along with Carolyn and Barb for the occasion. Clever idea suggested by Jenn. Thank you everyone who attended. It was a wonderful day to be an AU member. **By Editor, Mary Anne Battaglia**

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT

FROM LINDA HENKEL

From the date of our last General Membership Meeting, held on April 9, 2022, to our next General Membership Meeting, to be held on May 14, 2022, there will have been sent:

6 Birthday Cards

4 Cards of Sympathy

1 Get Well Card

There were 2 Thank You notes received.

Three Memorial Books will have been purchased at various libraries.

There are no expenditures to be reported at this time, as I am awaiting responses from the Family members of the deceased and the libraries they have chosen.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Henkel



is

Book Choice for the Month

The Book Club which meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Our book selection for April was The Love of My Life by Rosie Walsh

May was The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave.

Thank you Mary Beth Yeamans for the update.

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TREASURER'S REPORT



Since January 2022

Income:

Breakfast at Knead Café	\$560
Bridge Flight	\$100
Scrip Cards	\$2,615
Basket Raffle ay Knead Café	\$377
Dues for 2022-23 (19 members paid)	\$1,846

Expenses:

Grant-in-Aid Printing and Postage	\$29.24
Gift Card for Ursula Payne	\$50
Breakfast at Knead Café	\$318
Donation to Knead Café	\$50
Supplies for Knead Café (Roses, Placemats, Napkins, Ribbons, Favors)	\$92.33
Raffle Basket for State Convention	\$75
Scrip Cards	\$2,483.91

Balance in Checking Account

\$6,494.64

*** This looks like a healthy balance. But remember that we still need to pay for our Grant-in-Aid recipient, International Dues, State Dues, World Fellowship, Scholarship, State Convention Expenses, Installation Expenses, and Induction Expenses.

Congratulations to Sue Hilty who will be recognized for the Album of Distinction Award at the State Convention in June. More information to follow. Well-done Sue!

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ADOPT A NEW TEACHER

Our Alpha Upsilon President's Project is completing its second year of Jenn's Biennium. We currently have eight new teachers who have received support and many materials from our chapter members this year.

Thank you, Alpha Upsilon sisters who joined in this project. Also, please consider sending our Collegiate Connections members a note and even a gift card to let them know you are thinking of them.



COMFORT CORNER

We have several items to report about members of Alpha Upsilon here under *Comfort Corner*.

Our dear Alpha Upsilon sister, *Ann Palmer* passed away on Wednesday, March 16th. Her viewing was conducted at R.J. Slater Funeral Home on Freeport Road in New Kensington. A DKG Rose memorial service for Ann took place at the funeral home on March 21st led by Barbara Summers with several AU members attending.

We would like to share the news that **our Collegiate member, *Leta Meyer*** informed us that her beloved grandmother, Emma, recently passed away. She had recently moved in with Leta's family to receive family care. Our deepest condolences to you and your family, ***Leta***.

One a brighter note, ***Leta*** recently completed her student teaching experience at Franklin Regional School District and has completed her senior art show as well. She will graduate from Seton Hill University. She is getting married in May and will be moving to the Philadelphia area to teach at a middle school. Alpha Upsilon has sent a wedding gift to her. Best wishes to ***Leta*** as she embarks on her teaching career and her future married life. Life can be so bittersweet.

Although they have both healed very nicely from their recent issues, we wanted to send comforting thoughts to ***Mary Beth Yeamans and Sue Hilty*** to let them know we have been thinking of them.

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Tributes honoring the memory of **Ann Palmer**, our Alpha Upsilon Sister

From Carolyn Sutton

When I think about Ann, I like to think that we had much in common. We both loved being an educator. We both loved children's literature and would often attend the same lectures and book festivals. We both have shelves full of autographed editions of children's books. Once, she asked me to be a storyteller for each of her classes at Stewart School where she was the principal. One year, we were roomies at the Shippensburg Conference.

We liked good food. Our favorite lunch location was Hoffstots in Oakmont, and I would often see her there. Ann loved The Greenbriar, and she and I traveled together when the Northeast Regional Conference was held there. Ann had been to The Greenbriar many times with her family, so she was eager to share this special resort with me.

Ann and I both loved Delta Kappa Gamma. We both served Alpha Upsilon as officers, including chapter president. When she was no longer attending meetings, she still supported the chapter with her donations. Ann and I loved our DKG sisters, and we were also very close to our biological sisters.

Judy Schaffer's comments about Ann Palmer

She was always known as Ann S. Palmer and for many years I did not know that her middle name was Sidney. She was both a teaching colleague in New Kensington-Arnold and a friend! We developed our friendship as members of the New Kensington Junior Woman's Club and later both served terms as club presidents. Ann always called me on the phone to ask about what dues she owed, no matter what organization, and sent me her check. I would always pass it on to the treasurer. When I did not get the call, I knew something was wrong and paid her dues myself.

If I had to describe Ann, I would say - Always Smiling, Dependable, Friendly, loved her teaching jobs and her kids, spoke well about everyone and was a True Lady!

Barbara Gasperini remembers Ann

I met Ann her first day as the new principal of Stewart Elementary School in Lower Burrell. She was a genuine person of kindness. She had a special place for every student in her heart by trying to understand them and helping them in any way she could. I thought the students felt they could go to her, and she would try to understand their problems.

Her smile was infectious. She made you feel happy as you passed her in the hall. She was very helpful when she observed you and always looked for the positive. By being open minded, she was willing to accept change. I never hesitated to go to her office because her door was always open. If we stop and think of Ann Palmer, a smile will form on your face. I wish I could thank her for setting high expectations for educators and students. As principal, Ann shaped the conditions for her teachers and students to learn and succeed, we are forever grateful for her impact on education.

Barbara Summers' memory about Ann

My memory of Ann Palmer is that she was a mentor to me... she was the first teacher to allow me into her classroom my freshman year at PSU and tutor a young man in reading. She guided me along the way.

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

JUNE 4, 2022 @

- Installation of Alpha Upsilon officers for the 2022-2024 Biennium *will be held on June 4th at 11:30am at Villa Ballanca, Lower Burrell.* All AU members are invited to attend. Please inform Jenn if you will be attending. Each person will select her luncheon choice from the menu. Please join in the event.

JUNE 9-11, 2022

The DKG State Convention held at Penn State University is coming up soon in June. Currently, there are ten members who are scheduled to attend from Alpha Upsilon Chapter. It has been indicated that those not attending may be able to participate virtually. If you look on the state website, you can sign up to virtually participate in the First General Session for a fee of \$20. Check it out!

SUMMER EVENT To Be Announced

FIRST MEETING OF THE 2022-2023 YEAR- TO BE ANOUNCED

A little poetry for food for thought. I do not know the poet's name

No man is an island

No man stands alone

All that you send out into the lives of others

Will once again come home.

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Theta Chapter Members



Winner of Easter Basket





Dancing off our breakfast



Alpha Phi Chapter Members



Jenn leading our business meeting



Look who won a basket!!!