## Alpha Kappa State

### Birthday Commemorative Edition Celebrating Seventy-Five Years



State Chapter Newsletters 75th Spring Convention

Apríl 26, 2014

### Alpha Chapter

Alpha lost a dear sister this December. Margaret Rose Nielsen passed on December 13, 2013 following a brief illness. She served DKG in many capacities including President of Alpha chapter, President of Alpha Kappa State, Chair of International World Fellowship Committee and a variety of other committees. She worked for the Greenwich Public Schools from 1963-1992. She has left a large void and will be missed.

Alpha is pleased to announce its new members: Barbara Anderson, Virginia Gesh, Clare Harding, Barbara Hertz, Kate Saggese, Martha Taylor Nobile, Renee Slade, and Barbara Oppedisano. Our reinstated members include: Barbara Holden, Joan Karasick, Brenda Macri, and Gloria Palmer. Karin Layton transferred from another chapter. Members to be recognized for their service include: Elinor Carr-25 years, Janet Kaminski-25 years, Alice Obrig-40 years, and Dena Phelps-25 years. Ruth Wilson will be honored this spring with a lifetime achievement award.

This October our guest speaker was Laura Schroff, author of the best selling book, *An Invisible Thread*. It is a captivating story about how a concerned and involved adult saved a street child. This book talk was well represented by Alpha members and the residents of Greenwich.

On March 6 Bigelow Tea presented their many varieties of tea to our membership at a social gathering at Elinor Carr's house. Members enjoyed an English tea party ambiance where perspective new members were invited to attend.

In May, Alpha will have its annual banquet at The Water's Edge at Giovanni's. New members will be initiated, and we will celebrate the accomplishments of our members and another successful year of promoting the goals and values of DKG. Alpha, along with all the chapters of DKG, wish our long standing member, Nancy Wolf, the very best on her move to Pennsylvania where she will enjoy the next phase of her life. Nancy, currently the DKG Historian, has served as Alpha president and has held many distinguished positions in her career with the Greenwich Public Schools. Good Luck Nancy!

### **BETA CHAPTER NEWS** Janis Isenberg, Chapter President

**BETA** chapter has been very active during my biennium. We've had some outstanding speakers during the last two years. Carol Birch, nationally and internationally acclaimed storyteller, kept us enthralled with stories to use in the classroom to support the curriculum. *Kristen Record*, 2011 CT State Teacher of the Year and physics teacher at Bunnell High School, spoke to us not only about her teaching experiences but also about her encounters in the astronaut program. *Lisa Acerbo*, author and teacher at Trumbull High School, presented a program about her writing/teaching background. Her first book *Apocalipstick* takes place in a post-apocalyptic world occupied by zombies and a group of outsiders called the "others." Artist *Debbie Gilbert Taylor* always knew she was an artist, but it took decades to give herself permission to call herself one. Art played an important but secondary role in her life until recently. Inspired by nature and curiosity, Debbie observes and uses color, form, and texture to inform her work. *Dr. Jennifer Vienneau*, daughter of Dr. Linda Paslov, BETA's Educational Excellence Chairperson, spoke about Building a School in Mali, Africa. Dr. Vienneau is currently Social Studies Department Head at Bunnell High School, Stratford, CT. She traveled to Mali in June, 2008 as part of a school trip. **Ongoing Projects**:

Anita Pfluger and Jo-Anne Kershaw have spearheaded a project called *Books for Beardsley*. For the past two years, members have been donating books to the Beardsley Elementary School media center.

Gail Karwoski opened her garage for members to bring household goods to be donated to *Helping Hands of Bridgeport*. She reported a good turnout and volunteered to do it again in the spring.

Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone and Gail Karwoski are developing our *Early Career Educators* project. The first collection of items for early educators will take place at our May meeting. The project will be expanded over the next few years.

#### Member Recognition:

Congratulations to **Jacqueline Norcel**. She received the 2013 Saint Augustine Medal of Service from Father Christopher Samele, the Administrator of St. Stephen's Parish in Trumbull, CT. Jackie has contributed her time, talents, and treasures for many years at St. Stephen's, serving as a Parish Trustee, Eucharistic Minister and Lector.

**Suzanne Burr Monaco**, who submitted three of her paintings for the DKG Arts and Humanities Gallery, had her works accepted. They can be viewed at <u>dkg.org</u>. Suzanne is the first woman to have her work shown.

Geraldine Johnson celebrated 60 years as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma.

#### Congratulations Geraldine Johnson, celebrating 60 years in DKG: Barbara Schroeter, past chapter president



#### New Initiate:

**Patti Sorrentino-Galello** was initiated into BETA chapter October 2, 2013. She is currently serving on the Nominations Committee.

Our chapter is 70 years old. We are 72 women strong and have members who are active on the state and international level. We look forward to building and strengthening our chapter.

### GAMMA CHAPTER

In addition to the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of AKS this year, **Gamma Chapter** celebrated its **70<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 18, 2014**, with a wonderful dinner at the Brickview Inn located on the campus of Norwich Free Academy in Norwich. The birthday ceremony honored our 70 years by remembering charter members, past officers and introducing potential new members. Gamma was honored to have AKS President **Theresa Azoti** attend along with several other AKS Executive Board members. Leadership will continue with **Janis Sawicki** at the helm when installation of officers takes place in May. Immediate Past President **Jeanne Morascini** did a great job of mentoring and supporting Gamma during her biennium. During the last two years, current President **Regina Tate** and her chapter members have been very active. Committee chairs **Vicky Baker** and **Eileen Akers** completed the daunting task of revising our Standing Rules and adopting the Strategic Action Plan. Gamma was honored to conduct the Celebration of Life Ceremony at the Spring Convention in 2013 and serve as VIP Hostess during the 2013 Fall Conference with the help of **Linda Shea, Leonille Kadambaya, and Barbara Dombrowski.** 

#### **SERVICE**

Gamma Chapter has always had a history of supporting local community programs. By donating to the *Haitian Health Foundation*, we have supported our honorary member **Marilyn Lowney**, whose family foundation is working in orphanages and hospitals in Haiti. We have supported member **Leonille Kadambaya** and her foundation *Africaphilantropies, Inc.* in Africa. She and her husband received the 2012 Provost Award for Excellence in Public Affairs. Gamma is a community partner with *Safe Futures* (formerly the *Women's Center of Southeastern CT*) and *Power of Purple Campaign* to end domestic violence. We continue to donate needed items such as diapers, socks, and monetary contributions to *Madonna House*. Making tray favors for *Backus Hospital* is a time-honored tradition at our May meetings. Several members have proudly served as officers and/or committees members for Alpha Kappa State recently; namely, Executive Secretary **Linda Shea**; Scholarship Committee member **Regina Tate** and AKS Ad Hoc Birthday Committee member **Eileen Akers**. Gamma members **Roslyn Etra** (former Fine Arts Chair and current Leadership Development Chair) and **Dr. Faye Ringel** (former Fine Arts Chair) are actively involved in the planning and execution of another Leadership Conference in June. We look forward to hearing Dr. Joyce Saltman present "Laughter is the Best Medicine." Member **Abby Dolliver** is our Superintendent of the Norwich Public Schools and former Connecticut State Representative **Melissa Olson** is an honorary member.

#### PROGRAMS

Gamma paid a special tribute to the lost staff members of Sandy Hook Elementary School by conducting a very moving memorial service during one of our 2013 meetings. **Susanne Danilowicz** lit a candle in front of a picture for each lost teacher and read a selection as our Thought for the Day. We have had wonderful guest speakers at our meetings focusing on woman's roles in arts, the military, and education. Captain Anne Flammang, the first tenured woman at the United States Coast Guard Academy, spoke about the role of the arts in education. Dr. Judith Youngman spoke about the role of Women in the Military: Breaking Out of the Glass Box. Our own **Dr. Faye Ringel** also spoke about women writers in Southeastern Connecticut. Music has always been a favorite theme for Gamma programs--our own **Roslyn Etra** often entertains us by playing the keyboard and singing at our meetings and AKS functions. Norwich Free Academy has also entertained us with their Chamber Chorus singing and NFA Gospel Chorus supervised by member **Elaine Porter**.

#### **MENTORING EDUCATORS**

Gamma Chapter members continue to individually mentor the new and veteran teachers in our area. **Regina Tate** is a committee member for the annual September *Mass for Those in Education* at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich. Gamma recognizes the contributions of our members on *Teachers' Appreciation Day* in May. The thoughtful goody bags prepared by **Susanne Danilowicz** and **Karen D'Auria** are certainly appreciated by our active and retired teachers! Gamma is honored to have a former Norwich Free Academy student, Joseph Walczyk, as the 2013 recipient of the *Elizabeth C. Sonier Grant*. He is pursuing his music education degree at Central CT State University.

As Gamma Chapter starts its 71<sup>st</sup> year as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International, we look forward to continued success as a strong chapter. We also wish Alpha Kappa State a very Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday as they continue to mentor all of our Connecticut chapters with strong leadership.

# DeltaChapter

### Chapter Highlights

### **Book Grant**

**Morgan Elizabeth Goodrich** is this year's recipient of the Delta Chapter Book Grant. Morgan will graduate from Bristol Eastern High School in June. Through her volunteer work and her interactions with students with learning disorders, Morgan realized that she had experienced a very special connection and chose to become a special education teacher. Morgan wrote: "I hope that I can help these children to more positively experience their world as they have positively touched mine."



### By the Numbers

16 New members inducted from 2012 - present.

**42** Teddy bears, donated by Delta members during the December meeting (below) were given to PAL for distribution to needy children.

**\$301.00** Collected from Delta members to date for the M.J. Miller Memorial Scholarship.

**\$697.00** raised at the December 2013 Silent Auction for the Book Grant.



FUTURE PROGRAMS Health and wellness speakers Chapter 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration

For Key Women Educators

March 2014



Above: Book Grant recipient Morgan Goodrich, along with her mom and grandfather pose with Claudette LaFlamme. Below, Joan Krantz and Joanne Chenkus chat with author/speaker Donna Palonba.. Left: Angela Stortz and Loretta Teevan are shown delivering Christmas ornaments crafted by our Delta sisters to the Pines Nursing Home in Bristol,



### Program/Education

**Donna Palomba** is a nationally recognized speaker, author and advocate for sexual assault survivors. Following a harrowing home invasion and assault in 1993, Donna faced further victimization when the police department mishandled her case. Her extraordinary strength, perseverance, and leadership brought meaningful change to both police policy and Connecticut state law.

Donna's experiences led her to found a national nonprofit dedicated to sexual assault survivors in 2007, and they are chronicled in her new book, *Jane Doe No More*.





### **March 2014**

**Delta Kappa Gamma** International Society for Key Women Educators

### Epsilon Chapter Newsletter

### Epsilon

Epsilon is known as one of the smallest chapters with one of the largest number of young members on their executive board. As a chapter we are a small little group who prides itself on being flexible for its members. We have made it easier for our members to attend meetings by having babysitting available as well as including one meeting a year where family is invited to do a picnic. We are most proud of the fact that we are a little family. We care for each other and have fun together.

We very much appreciate the commitment of our members and therefore we try to make our meetings as interesting and as fun as possible. We have enjoyed many different activities together such as skin care demonstrations, volunteer work, Christmas parties and beach time. We also try to make our programs as interesting and as relevant to our teachers as possible.

We have evolved over time, and although we are a much smaller group, we have a very big heart!

### **Upcoming Events**

- April 26, Cromwell Courtyard Marriott: Alpha Kappa State (DKG-State of CT) convention
- Date TBD, Ashford, CT: Service Project at Hole In the Wall Gang Camp which offers a camp experience for seriously ill children – founded by Paul Newman in 1988
- May 17, Waterford, CT: Family Beach Day at home of Carol Koladiscz



### Initiation

Our December meeting featured the induction of our newest member, Shannon Karlowicz. Shannon is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in East Granby and was selected as Teacher of the Year for her district in 2013. Shannon is also active in promoting the Invention Convention as a program for all students who wish to participate. (Shannon gave us a wonderfully informative presentation on the benefits of the Invention Convention and how it works at our February meeting). Following the DKG induction format, Shannon signed the membership book and a candle was lit by serving chapter president, Katie Nunn. We are thrilled that Shannon has joined us!





Following the formal induction, we were given a presentation by a representative from Seacret: Minerals from the Dead Sea. What teacher doesn't need a little pampering after all the stress of the classroom? Our presenter was an educator who sells the products once the school day is done so she was particularly tuned in to what worked for us. Perhaps Carlyrae went overboard?





#### Founded February 12, 1949

March 10. 2012

April 26, 2014

#### This special edition of the newsletter is published to represent the birthday celebrations of Zeta Thapter from 2012 and 2013.

The 63rd Zeta birthday social was held at Grand Apizza in North Haven. Then president, Kim Carew, gave chapter members an up-date on standing rules revisions. The Executive Board presented an update on Zeta's worthy project

which sparked a lively discussion concerning how a project is chosen. The committee said that they would develop a rubric to help determine criteria for future worthy projects. Mary-Ellen Coloski informed members of the pending Education Reform Bill, which was being proposed by Governor Malloy. She encouraged everyone to learn more about how the bill would impact educators and urged us to contact our legislators with our concerns. Guest speakers were Zato Kadambaya and his wife Leonille Kadambaya.

Zato is the Executive Director of Africaphilantropies and Leonille is the 2nd Deputy Director. They spoke about their non-profit organization which was created to help less fortunate children of Africa. Their mission is comprehensive and addresses basic needs such as clean water, education, and general health and welfare. They were very grateful for Zeta Chapter financial support, which would help to provide food, school supplies, and medicine for African children in need.



### March 2, 2013

Zeta Chapter celebrated its 64th birthday with a pizza luncheon at Serafino's Restaurant in Wallingford. The meeting was opened by Roz Gambardella, president. The celebration included

the recognition of 17 members with certificates of appreciation for the milestones of five, ten, fifteen, twenty, and thirty year memberships. Three members, Rita Landino, Julia Nicefaro, and Frances Pagliaro, were recognized for thirty years of service. They will again be recognized at



the State Convention in April. During the State Convention, one of Zeta's members, Terry Azoti, will be installed as AKS President for the 2013-2015 biennium.



The highlight of the birthday celebration was the awarding of the first Zeta Chapter Life Membership Award for Georgene Hayes, a forty-five year member. The award was presented to one of her sons, Raymond, as Georgene now resides in Peterboro, New Hampshire. Her family shared photos and stories of her teaching career in New Jersey and later in Hamden, Connecticut where Mrs. Hayes was an art teacher at the Spring Glen School until her retirement in the late 1980s.

Zeta Chapter sends congratulations to Alpha Kappa State on its seventy-fifth birthday!

### ETA Chapter A Look at 2013

Greetings from ETA Chapter. 2013 was an interesting year with five meetings in total.

In March we were treated to Traveling with Tylaska to Tanzania. Betty Tylaska has been one of our March program mainstays for years. Movie fare was served—chips, popcorn, and soft drinks.

The May meeting is always ETA's favorite time at the Groton Inn and Suites. It is Spring Banquet time. Their personnel know us so well and always put out a fine buffet, which is enjoyed by all. This is the meeting where the Mary Tytla Scholarship of \$750 is presented to a graduating high school senior who will be majoring in education. Rachael Mauthe, an East Lyme High School senior, was the 2013 recipient of the award. She will be majoring in secondary education as a biology major at the University of St. Joseph in Hartford, CT.

The Peterson Patio Party took place in August. Alma always welcomes us and gives us the run of her home. ETA celebrated Genevieve Rafferty's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with hot dogs, burgers, and cake—great combination! A prospective member was in attendance. We are hoping..... School supplies were divided among the still-working teachers of ETA chapter.

The pot luck dinner in October really went to the dogs. Isabella and her human, Carol, gave us a fine presentation about therapy dogs. Everyone fell in love with the cutie—we shared bones, salads, and yummies with each other. Books and pennies for pedagogues are still being collected.

The last meeting of 2013 was the holiday brunch at Treasurer Sue Chojancki's home. Books, food supplies, and pennies were collected; they were to be dropped off at the appropriate organizations. Good food, camaraderie, and many laughs—as usual—were the order of the day.

### THETA CHAPTER

### Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday to our very special Alpha Kappa State!

Theta Chapter has a vibrant membership of 57 active and 10 reserve members from 16 towns in the northeast corner of our state. We meet five times a year in different towns starting in August with a well-attended pot-luck picnic lunch. Another popular meeting is an early afternoon meeting in January on Martin Luther King Day, focusing on reading and usually offering ample time for fellowship over sweets and a mid-winter treat. Our May catered dinner meeting always has a large happy attendance as we welcome new members, honor our leaders, and enjoy a few surprises.

We support and participate in several long-standing special projects:

Annually we sponsor a student's attendance at Laurel Girls State and another at Laurel Music Camp. Selection is done on a rotating basis from ten high schools in our area.

We also annually award a Higher Education Grant to an education major at Eastern CT State University or UConn. Both universities are in our geographical area.

We continually give Books to Babies for newborn babes at Windham Hospital in Willimantic, approximately 600 books a year. So far we have given over 7,000 books.

In January and May we prepare and serve Saturday lunch to approximately 90-100 guests at the Covenant Soup Kitchen. Many members participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

Our Ann Burns Fund supports the repair and maintenance of over 50 musical instruments we own and loan to students who need them in order to take lessons and play in school ensembles. On occasion a student or two will attend one of our meetings to showcase their expertise. The instruments have been donated by members and friends.

We have adopted the residents of Journey House, a lockdown facility for approximately 15 teenage girls who are on probation. It is an affiliate of Natchaug Hospital. For the December holidays we fill stockings with small gifts and gift cards and in late spring we provide a Summer Splash of fun items to help them pamper themselves. Various members have worked with individual girls teaching them to crochet, dance, learn to play an instrument, do scrapbooking, etc. based on their interests.

We are looking forward to a joyous May Dinner meeting to welcome our new members, thank our outgoing officers and congratulate our new leaders as we promise them our full support. We will also be gathering items for our Journey House girls to give them a springtime lift and let them know we care.

Alpha Kappa Gamma Connecticut



Winter 2013—2014 Volume 1, Issue 3

#### Events Fall 2013—Winter 2014

**September, 2013:** Initiation of new members, Sara Gutis and Carolyn Keenan, was held at our annual fall meeting at the Hopkins Inn on Lake Waramaug. We were pleased to have as our speaker newly elected President of AKS, Terry Azoti.

CATCHING UP WITH **IOTA** 

**October, 2013:** Orientation/ReOrientation was held at Sandy Gammons' house. The majority of active members, including all the new initiates and reinstated members, attended. By having everyone introduce themselves and update us on what they have been doing, we all reconnected. We reviewed all DKG's wonderful offerings at the international, state, and local levels.

**December, 2013**: We were privileged to have two excellent organizations represented at our holiday dinner/meeting. Our special guest for the evening was Addie, the comfort dog sponsored by the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Danbury. Lois Weiss, a member of lota chapter, is one of her handlers. She shared how Addie and her sister Maggie continue to comfort members of the Sandy Hook community as well as visiting other schools and nursing homes. For more information about the comfort dog program see <u>www.lutheranchurchcharities.org</u>. Another lota member, Jacqui Farrell, discussed her work with Literacy Volunteers on the Green. Over 160 volunteers offer literacy instruction and more to people in Northern Fairfield county and all of Litchfield county. To learn more about this organization visit <u>www.lvg-ct.org</u>. The lota chapter also held a fundraising raffle to support their scholarship fund for local high school graduates who are pursuing degrees in education. Area schools will be receiving application information after the first of the year.

*March, 2014*: We will be welcoming lawyer Barbara Reynolds to present: *ABCs of Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorney and Health Care Directives.* It should be a very informative and helpful evening.

*May, 2014:* Danbury Children First will be visiting to share information about the work they do in our community. We are looking forward to supporting them as our yearly service project. Our business for the evening will include voting on our Slate of Officers and having their Installation Ceremony. The chapter will also hold one of our lota auctions which is both fun and beneficial as we raise funds for the many scholarships and book grants we offer.

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

#### Slate of Officers for 2014-2016

President: Sandra Gammons First Vice President: Patricia Kelly Second Vice President: Carol Kelly Recording Secretary: Nina Shimer

#### New Members: Sue Crean Sara Gutis Carolyn Keenan Nina Shimer Reinstated Members: Kathy Hyland Joanne Gregory

#### In Memoriam:

Sadly, lota said goodbye to two beloved members this past year:

Mary Hatzis - Active 50 years, Initiated in 1963

Margaret (Mardie) Ford -Active 35 years, Initiated in 1978

#### Scholarships and Book Grants

lota is proud to announce that we continue to award a Graduate Study Grant, the last one granted to our new member, Carolyn Keenan, towards her PhD program. We also give book grants to graduating local high school seniors who are pursuing a career in education.

#### **Fundraising**

We raise our funds through voluntary contributions, raffles, and auctions. However, our most prolific fundraising is done by Ruth-Ellen Hunt on E-bay. Ruth-Ellen knows what is "hot" and gets the best results.

### Lambda Chapter

Action Is Eloquence...William Shakespeare

Judging by this Shakespearean quote, Lambda is an exceptionally eloquent chapter!! Our "Welcome Back" dinner at Serafino's Restaurant in Wallingford set the tone for an exciting year. Raffles for our grant fund and the unveiling of our service project gave us a clear direction. October's meeting at the Cheshire Academy enlightened us about early childhood education compliments of Carol O'Donnell. Our January "Birthday Dinner" brought us together to raise money for grants, contribute children's books for our service project, buy raffle tickets for the state chapter, and start work on our Applebee's fundraiser. In addition, we enjoyed a hearty meal, great fellowship, and the celebration of our 57<sup>th</sup> birthday, complete with candles and cupcakes. The above activities involved the efforts of no less than twenty of our Lambda members.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February our executive board meeting included budget work and discussions of nominations for the spring. In addition we assembled reading packets for first graders at Roger Sherman School in Meriden. Our March meeting was a combination Irish dinner and fund raiser. Jim Deveau, brother of Lambda president, Mary Ellen Ulatowski, discussed the history of Irish music. He shared songs and played authentic instruments.

In May we will be working at our Applebee fund raiser. The money is used for our high school grants. At our final general meeting in May we will present three grants to high school seniors from the area, vote on the budget, and vote on a slate of officers. After dinner we will be entertained by the Vivace Singers from Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford. Lambda fine arts chair, Jane Haffner, is the director of this elite group of singers.

Lambda members read the newsletter, pay their dues, attend meetings, support our fundraisers, work on service projects, share ideas, and enjoy the fellowship of the organization. These actions help to make our chapter strong and vibrant. These are the marks of true "eloquence."

## MU CHAPTER 75 GIFTS OF LOVE Celebrate by Giving

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

--Etienne de Grellet, 1773-1855

One hundred fifty nine years have passed since this memorable quote was written, but we members of MU Chapter apply it to our contemporary lives.

To honor the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alpha Kappa State, our chapter has had a charitable collection at each of our four meetings.

At our September meeting we collected toiletries for Interval House, a women's shelter. Hoping for 15 items, we collected boxes full of items.

In November we collected packages of diapers for "Gifts of Love." We had a car full of diapers!

In March we collected many canned food items for the Canton Food Bank, and in May we will give a one thousand dollar scholarship.

Books for Babies is our premier charity. We have donated 5,212 books since 2007. We have also sent school supplies to Africa.

Mu Chapter stands proud as members of DKG who honor all of us by trying to make this world a better place.



### **NU CHAPTER**

### DELTA KAPPA GAMMA - ALPHA KAPPA STATE - CONNECTICUT



Remembering ...

Jean C.Hoyt Mar. 1915 - Feb. 2009

Founding Member, Nu Chapter AKS State President 1969-1971



Life Membership Award

Ray Dilieto Doris Mason Mary Skelton

Members generously donated new and

gently used books that were sold at the

AKS Fall 2013 Conference. We raised \$351 for

our Scholarship Fund! Thank you, everyone!!!

### The National Blue Ribbon of Excellence Award

The National Blue Ribbon of Excellence Award was presented to Hindley Elementary School, Darien, CT in November 2012. At a Chapter meeting in Spring 2013, Principal, Rita Ferri and Veteran Teacher, Katy Gale, both members of NU Chapter, shared the exciting journey they took from the application process to the convention they attended in Washington D.C.. Rita and Katy presented an outstanding powerpoint presentation detailing their visit to our nation's capital for this amazing honor. Congratulations Rita and Katy!



### Nu Chapter's 52nd Anniversary Dinner & Initiation

Our 52nd anniversary dinner was held on Thursday, April 11, 2013, at the Red Barn Restaurant in Westport, CT. Terry Azoti and Donna Chaney joined us as we initiated two new members... Rita M. Ferri and Arlene Goettsman.



Nu Book Sale...



#### Save The Dates...

- March 18 Chapter Meeting - Sr. Carol Ann will present "Magic in Education" April 10 Nu's 53rd Anniversary Dinner April 27 AKS Fall Conference/ 75th Birthday Celebration
- May 15 End of Year Picnic/Installation



### Service Awards

Spring 2013 Doris Mason - 30 years Pauline Randall - 40 years

Spring 2014 Sr. Rosalita McNamee - 25 years Anna Chase - 50 years



Dinner and a Movie... Nu Chapter Members came together for our Winter Meeting at the Villa Maria Education Center in Stamford, CT. Sr. Carol Ann, Principal and member of Nu

Chapter graciously hosted members as they enjoyed a business meeting, followed by dinner, dessert and a viewing of the movie, "Waiting for Superman".

### **Omicron Chapter**

Omicron Chapter includes members from several towns and cities in the Lower Naugatuck Valley. The chapter has a long and rich history of service and professional development for its members and the community.

Omicron held their first meeting of the 2013-2014 year at the home of chapter Vice-President Kathy Maffucci. Fifteen members and two prospective members were in attendance. Discussion centered on the need to recruit new members. Plans were made for a spring meeting to induct new members. Members in attendance were encouraged to seek out colleagues to become active members of the chapter.

Several members of Omicron are currently serving on Alpha Kappa State Committees. These members include Chapter President Gail Gibbons on the Nominations Committee and Laureen Goncalvo on the Finance Committee. Kathleen Lozinak and Deborah Ruderman serve on the Educational Impact Committee. Linda Phillie and Gail Gibbons are on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

Omicron members have contributed to many worthy causes. Gift basket raffles have successfully raised funds to sponsor area high school girls' participation in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls' State summer program as well as college scholarships for girls pursuing careers in education. Recent efforts involve gift cards collected for the Umbrella Shelter for Battered Women and books collected for children of inmates at the Cheshire Corrections Facility. Omicron hopes to induct several new members this spring to assist in continuing the good work of this fine chapter.

### 2013 Rho Chapter Review

Rho Chapter held its first meeting for 2013-14 on Oct. 3 at Angelino's Restaurant in Vernon. We were pleased to have sixteen members and two guests, Elizabeth Arcouette, a South Windsor teacher, and Mimi Saidi, the 2013 South Windsor Teacher of the Year, present. We decided to continue bringing nonperishable items for donating to different food pantries in the Rho area following each meeting. We also will be participating in the September Willington Flea Market with a tag sale table for our annual fund raiser.

Several members are knitting or crocheting leprosy bandages to be donated for an international service project. Hawkwing, a Glastonbury nonprofit that sponsors collections for a Lakota Reservation, will be supported again this year with Rho chapter donations.

Our second meeting was held on Nov. 21 at the South Windsor Public Library where Michele O'Neill, a CEA Representative offered a power point presentation on Common Core Basics and Impact. We were pleased to welcome four guests to this meeting.

Our third meeting on Jan. 30 was a book group discussion on Jhumpa Lahiri's **The Namesake**. A lively discussion took place. We look forward to our annual book swap at the May potluck dinner where we will share and swap books we have enjoyed. A field trip to the Bushnell Theater in Hartford is scheduled on Saturday, March 29, for a backstage tour of the Bushnell. It will be interesting to see what's behind the stage curtains.

We are very proud of Rho member Ellen Festi, who has been accepted as a presenter for the July 2014 DKG International Convention. Her topic will be Creative Assessment Alternatives – Cartoons and Comics.

### **Tau Chapter**

Tau Chapter is in her 33rd year, small but mighty. We have several representatives on the State Board, and just about all our members are active within TAU on a regular basis. We are gaining in members each year and are proud to say we are growing.

Our biggest event of the year is our annual Vendor Fair which usually happens in November. For the first several years we managed to hit a rainy Saturday and wound up with few attendees. Over the years our following has grown and we've had some sunny Saturdays. Our Vendor Fair is pure profit. We charge for a table space to local vendors to come and sell their wares. We have the usual party people like Tupperware, Pampered Chef, etc. but we also have individuals who paint their own ornaments, create their own bird houses, or create their own greeting cards to sell. We usually have 20 to 25 vendors support our fair. It is usually a great way to kick off shopping for Christmas presents.

We ask each vendor to donate an item for us to raffle. We have a bake sale with baked goods donated by members. We have a used book sale. We also sell coffee and donuts for breakfast and a full lunch of soup, salad, quiche, and beverages. We also have plenty of DKG membership info on hand and usually wind up snagging a new member or two.

All the money raised goes to support our 3 annual book grants to graduating seniors from 3 area high schools as well as a grant to a beginning teacher to use the money in her classroom for something above and beyond. We also use some of the money to support other DKG donations to Schools for Africa or whatever the current International projects may be.

The best part of the day, though, is actually the camaraderie and fellowship we share as we set up, work during the day, clean up, and meet at the Village Restaurant for a celebration snack and beverage after a day well spent together. Look for us in November, and come join us. It is a fun day!

### **Upsilon Chapter**

Upsilon Chapter has had a very successful and entertaining 2013-2014! Our year began this summer at President Lisa Hudkins' home. We had a pot luck dinner and spent our time sharing summer stories and celebrating being together. After dinner we began to plan the events that would take place during the 2013-2014 calendar year.

Our first event took place in October at the historic Center School House in Barkhamsted. This school house dates back to the mid-1800's and has been moved from the old center of town to its present location. Members were given a tour of the school and were able to see authentic artifacts that have been placed throughout the building. Upsilon member Kathie Tong spoke about her experiences in attending a one-room schoolhouse when she was a child. Following this, member Cathy Connole gave a rendition from a Barkhamsted native whom she had interviewed many years ago and who had attended this very school. At this meeting, President Lisa Hudkins and the executive board initiated four new members to Upsilon Chapter. Welcome to the organization, ladies!

Early November found Upsilon members engaged in a Progressive Dinner. Four members opened their homes to the public to come and enjoy our company and good food! Judy Ludwig hosted the appetizer piece of the evening; Cathy Connole hosted the soup/salad portion; Beverly Sanders hosted the main course; and Lisa Hudkins finalized the evening by hosting the dessert. Everyone had an amazing time! Great conversation, as well as scrumptious food, was shared by all! All proceeds of this event will help to fund our yearly scholarship for a local high school student planning on entering education in college.

In April, Upsilon members will enjoy an afternoon of fellowship with local dog therapist Maryanne Beauchene. Maryanne raises standard poodles who serve as therapy dogs around the Northwest corner. We will role play as patients with the dogs so we can experience how they handle the patients they assist. At this meeting, we will discuss how we can become more active in contributing to World Fellowship and the Schools for Africa Project.

In May, we will celebrate together as we induct our new officers.