

DeltaChapter

For
Key Women
Educators

March 2013

December Highlights

Delta chapter member *Janet Galasso* chaired a crafting event. Ornaments were constructed from recycled Holiday Greeting cards. The lovely ornaments were brought to the Pines Nursing Home in Bristol, CT to help spread some holiday cheer!



Joan Krantz carefully measures pieces to be assembled during the chapter's December meeting craft activity. How does that saying go? Measure twice, cut once!!!



Deborah Manning, Linda Bartholomeo, Rita Caruso and roving Delta photographer LAnn Cogliser pause in their crafting to pose for a group picture.



Janet Galasso demonstrates cutting techniques to *Loretta Teevan*.



Nancy Roy proudly displays two of the completed ornaments that will be delivered to the nursing home. Below is a sample of the day's creations.





Notable Good works...

On Saturday, January 12, Delta sister *Laura Dunn* and her golden retriever “Baily” listened to a story read by a Thomaston fourth grader. He and his owner attended the Young Readers program at the Thomaston Public Library. Baily is awaiting his treat for being such a good listener! (Town Times Photo).

By the Numbers...

42 Teddy bears, donated by Delta members during the December meeting (below) were given to PAL for distribution to needy children on December 21st.

91 Dollars were collected for World Fellowship

37 Members attended the December 8th meeting.

160 Canned goods (right) were collected to stock the Torrington Food Bank..



REMINDER!!! We are collecting cancelled stamps, as well as religious holiday cards for Haiti at our March meeting – Bring ‘em in!!!

Send us photos, along with information on any “milestones” you wish to share. This would include anniversaries, births, weddings, educational milestones, retirements and any other important life events. We are also asking members to share any newspaper articles celebrating accomplishments by our chapter members. Info should be sent to lbartholomeo@icloud.com



Dear Delta sisters,

I hope this letter finds you warm and safe and sound from the elements! As I write this, I am surrounded by over two feet of snow and icy roads. Haven't seen anything like this since the blizzard of '75. I remember fondly making coffee in the fireplace made from icicles I broke off the deck! This time I planned ahead and visited Dunkin' Donuts!

I am looking forwards to seeing all of you at our March meeting. Our speaker, Barbara Martensen, from Barbel Fitness Studio, will be speaking on Health and Wellness for Women. Don't worry...you don't have to work out! Plus, we'll be having a tasty lunch. Don't hesitate to wear green.

We will be auctioning a gift basket to match our theme....filled with Bath and Body products, a candle and a bottle of wine. All great for our wellness!

At the State Executive Board meeting a few weeks ago, there was a great deal of talk about what we as teachers and retired teachers, can do for the Sandy Hook community and those who lost their lives. Many suggestions were offered and, as of this writing, we may be joining with our sister chapters to sponsor a scholarship for a young woman studying to become a teacher. We will have more details soon, and I hope we will all be able to give a bit to this cause.

A few coming events I would like to mention. The State Spring Convention will be held on April 27 at the Marriott in Cromwell. At this meeting, there will be speakers and scholarships will be awarded. It will be a great day to renew friendships with our sisters, so try and save the date. This summer, July 24, marks the onset of the International Convention. Get together with friends and plan a mini-vacation for yourself! More details will follow.

I look forward to seeing you on March 16!

Sincerely,

Mary Jane

Spring Convention Update

The convention on April 27, 2013 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell will have Jeanne Morascini as the Keynote Speaker. The title of her presentation is “Visions of Strong Chapters Dance in My Head”. Among the activities at the convention are installation of new State Officers, Achievement Awards, Chapter Newsletter Awards, and Service Pins. Our Delta Chapter sisters to be honored for their many years of membership are:

Carol Beam – 30 Years

Janice Sambuco – 40 Years

Mildred Reed – 50 Years

Elizabeth Zaharek -50 Years

Advance sale raffle tickets for the Spring Convention will be on sale at our March Meeting. Each chapter will donate a raffle gift (\$40.00), with the proceeds used to support grants given by the state.

Calling All Artists – You are invited to exhibit your paintings, drawings, etchings, watercolors and photographs at the Spring Convention. Please bring the artwork to the convention, or send it in with a sister who is attending. (Those who will not be attending the convention but wish to submit work may bring the work to the March Delta meeting and give it to an Officer). Artwork can be framed or unframed. No “crafts” or sculpture, please!

Sad News: After many attempts to locate Sarah DalPozzol, we have discovered that she passed away on July 14, 2007. She will be honored at the *Ceremony of Life* during the convention.





All the Classroom is a Stage

By Sybil Haggard

My best friend is a teacher and she always says that our noble profession is at least 80% acting. I didn't realize how right she was until I started teaching almost four years ago. Education is actually my second career. I majored in both math and music in college and I pursued my passion to be onstage when I graduated. For thirteen years I was a professional singer, actress, and dancer. I worked on land and sea, performing in theatres all around the US and on cruise ships. It was an amazing way to see the world – a true education about people and cultures. Nevertheless, I always felt a calling to teach.

To make a long story short, four years ago I met my husband, a drummer, while starring in “Oklahoma!” at the Warner Theatre in Torrington. I married him and finished up my certification to teach high school math (I had participated in the ARC program back in 1996). I taught for a year in Waterbury and I've been at Torrington High School since I married and moved to the Northwest Hills.

I love teaching! It combines my love of both performing and math. It challenges me mentally, physically and emotionally more than any day I spent on the stage. Being grounded in content knowledge is primary, but with today's student we need to bring that content to life with real examples and tons of enthusiasm. Every class is performance. Whether we are exhausted, discouraged, or frustrated, we need to “act through the pain” and exuberate love for our subject. We have to show our students that despite life's challenges, our passion will get us through. On some days this “show” takes my strongest acting skills, skills I honed through years in class and on stage.

In the course of the school day I put on all my masks – excitement that a student handed in a homework “only” two days late, sternness so that students know how disappointed I am about inappropriate behavior (when I might want to laugh) and interest that a student's boyfriend broke up with her for the 12th time that month (yawn!). It's not that I'm not sincere, but just like performing the same show 9 times a week, bringing excitement and passion to the same lesson five times a day takes acting. Most days I feel like ringmaster of a circus – planning and executing lessons, reminding students of missed work, calming students who got in a fight at lunch, comforting a girl whose boyfriend broke up with her, keeping track of grades, making copies, making transparencies, writing student recommendations, creating tests, correcting homework, reading and answering endless emails; the list goes on and on.

At the end of the day I'm exhausted, but satisfied that my life serves a purpose, a great purpose – inspiring students to learn! As much as I loved the stage, I leave school everyday feeling like I've done something to make our world better. I feel I have used the gifts I have been given and the talents I have honed to help another human experience knowledge and the love of learning.

Reminder!! We invite Delta members to submit articles that highlight their special talents, skills and interests that promote good works in the community, (You may also write about a fellow Delta sister who is worthy of special note by “making a difference”!)

Delta Kappa Gamma – Delta Chapter

Minutes

December 8, 2012

Attendance – 37

The December meeting of Delta Kappa Gamma took place on December 8, 2012 at The Hills Restaurant in Waterbury, CT. The meeting began with President Mary Jane Miller recognizing Debbie Manning who was the guest of Rita Caruso.

Mary Lou Kuegler presented the thought for the day.

The Minutes for the previous meeting were sent to all members via e-mail and were accepted.

Treasurer's Report – Rosemary Mikasauskas – Dues are still coming in. Joanne Chenkus asked how many had paid and Rosemary responded all but 7 or 8. Mary Jane Miller asked if a reminder notice needed to be sent out. Rosemary replied that this had been done. Rosemary also reported that the Diaper Bank shows a \$0.06 deposit, due to the fact that a check for \$20.00 had been sent, with diapers purchased for 19.94. This left a remainder of six cents, which was deposited.

Presidents Report – Mary Jane Miller: Kudos to Linda Bartholomeo and Paulina Auclair for invaluable help with the newsletter and craft.

- Mary Jane asked for people to notice the Milestones section that has been added to the Newsletter and asked if people have events such as births or awards to send in. They may send them directly to Paulina Auclair.
- There will be an executive board meeting on January 12.
- Luann Cogliser reported on the November 3 state conference which included :a
 - panel discussion on changes the state has made moving from BEST to TEAM .Paulina Auclair was a member of the panel who spoke on her experiences as a mentor in both systems.
 - A guest speaker led the group in laughter exercises.
 - Founder's celebration, presentation of pictures and several Alpha Kappa Gamma grants were also discussed. One of the presenters will be invited to attend a future meeting of Delta Chapter.
- Mary Jane asked members to remember those who were affected by Hurricane Sandy. DKG offers an emergency fund of up to \$500 for any member who has suffered as a result of disaster. Information is on the DKG website.
- Mary Jane requested volunteers to attend the Delta Kappa Gamma meeting in Portland, Maine in July.
- 2013 Annual CTAUN Conference at the United Nations will be Friday, January 18th, 2013. The topic is “Advancing Social Justice: The Role of Educators”. Materials for the program are available at ctaun.org.

Corresponding Secretary Report – Rita Caruso received and read a letter from Terry Doyle regretting the need to be removed from the membership list. Discussion took place over whether it was possible for Terry to request to be put on “reserve” membership. Joan Krantz will check membership guidelines.

First Vice President – Monica Kreuzer Introduced the new DKG app for Ipad and Iphone.

Second Vice President – Paulina Auclair – No report.

Legislation – No report. Mary Jane Miller requested that someone volunteer to fill the position.

Professional Affairs – Claudette LaFlamme – Guidance departments will be receiving applications for the Delta Book Grant. She requests that teachers check in with the departments and also recommend it to students to spread the word and get more candidates.

Historian – Luann Coglisier – No report. She requested for someone to take over the scrapbook. She also requested that if newspapers have articles about Delta members or activities, to please save them for her.

Finance – No report.

Nominations – Joan Krantz - No report.

Communications – Paulina Auclair – No report.

Scholarship – Joanne Chenkus – The application for scholarships for DKG members is located on the DKG website.

World Fellowship – Mary Ellen Harmon – Christine is in China – an e-mail was read on her experiences so far.

Curriculum of Hope – Colleen Spieler – Colleen shared articles on Anti-Bullying activities, conservation and Nike Shoe Collection.

Program – Sondra McDonald – March 16 is the next meeting. Location, cost and time will be announced as soon as that information is made available. Sandra Genung raised a question regarding the time and cost of meetings. Sondra explained the process of finding locations for meetings. Joanne Chenkus stated that she had spoken with the planners at Junipers and had the information regarding cost, time and location for discussion.

New Business – No new business was introduced.

- The craft for the meeting was prepared and presented by Janet Galasso. The ornaments will be brought to the Pines Nursing Home in Bristol, CT.
- 40 stuffed animals were donated and will be brought to Waterbury PAL.
- The canned food collected will be brought to the Torrington Food Bank.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Lou Kuegler, Secretary.



Delta Sisters enjoy the spirit of the season

___ I will attend. A check for \$25.00 is enclosed.

___ I cannot attend the meeting, but would like to purchase ___ raffle tickets for a “Health and Wellness” gift basket at \$1.00 per ticket.. My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

**Delta Chapter Meeting
Junipers Restaurant
Middlebury
Saturday, March 16, 2013
10:15-1:30 pm**

10:15 Arrival and Fellowship

10:30 **Meeting**

Approval of Minutes	Mary Lou Kuegler
Secretary	
Correspondence	
Corresponding Secretary	Rita Caruso
Treasurer’s Report	
Treasurer	Rose Marie Mikasauskas
Report of Officers	
President	Mary Jane Miller
First Vice President	Monica Kreuzer
Second Vice President	Paulina Auclair
Standing Committee Reports	
Program	Loretta Teevan, Sondra Macdonald
Membership	Lana Warren
Parliamentarian	June Legge
Fine Arts	Peg Goranson
Legislation	
Professional Affairs	Claudette LaFlamme
Historian	LuAnn Cogliser
Finance	Rose Marie Mikasauskas
Nominations	Joan Krantz
Communications	Paulina Auclair; Linda Bartholomeo
Scholarship	June Legge
World Fellowship & International Funds	Christine Comeau
Curriculum of Hope	Colleen Spieler/Deborah Flaherty
Old Business	
New Business	

11:30 Luncheon Served

12:30 Program – Women’s Health and Wellness presented by Barbara Martinsen.





Mother and Daughter busy at work...