

DELTA CHAPTER

FOR
KEY WOMEN
EDUCATORS

September 2012

May Highlights



Recognizing and celebrating our newest members (from left to right): *Stacie Broden, Sybil Haggard Chamberlin, Megan LaPorta, Janet Galasso, Nicole Knott, Rita Caruso, Theresa DeCesare, Laura Dunn, Michele DeCesare, Linda Bartholomeo.*

Installation of new officers for the new biennium and a fond farewell to those leaving their positions. From left to right: *Rosemary Mikasanskas, Mary Lou Kuegler, Monica Kreuzer, Mary Jane Miller, Paulina Auclair, Joan Krantz, Terry Doyle, and Rita Caruso.*



Joan Krantz, Lana Warren, and Flo Goodman perform the 2012 induction ceremony.



Chris Comeau and Sondra Macdonald brightening the day with their smiles.



Lu Ann Cogliser and her guest, Helen Simko.

Save the dates for a brand-new year!

The planning committee worked hard this summer to design a year of exciting and inspirational meetings. Members *Paulina Auclair, Linda Bartholomeo, Joanne Chenkus, LuAnn Cogliser, Joan Krantz, Rosemary Mikasauskas, Colleen Spieler, and Lana Warren*, met at president *Mary Jane Miller's* home in June. Here are our meeting dates, locations and a brief meeting outline. Clip this section out and keep it by your calendar.

Wednesday, September 19 – 4:30 pm

Location: Watertown High School Library

Theme: “*Touchable Technology*”

Saturday, November 3 Annual Fall Conference

Saturday, December 8 (snow date Dec 15)– 9:00 am

Location: The Hills Restaurant, Waterbury

Theme: “*Caring for the Community*”

Saturday, March 16 – 10:00 am

Location: Junipers Restaurant, Middlebury

Theme: “*Health and Wellness*”

Saturday, April 27, 2013 Annual Spring Convention

Wednesday, May 15

Location: Chippanee Golf Club, Bristol

Theme: “*Celebrating the Arts*”

May by the numbers

- 3 guests in attendance
- 5 new members initiated – Congratulations!
- 10 Barnes and Noble gift cards for early-career educators
- 20 dollars donated to the Greater Waterbury Diaper Bank
- 38 Delta chapter members attended the meeting
- 124 dollars collected for the raffle that funds the Book Grant
- 127 dollars donated to World Fellowship



Rita Caruso and her guest, Debbie Manning, are all smiles for the camera.



New members and new moms Sybil Haggard Chamberlin and Theresa DeCesare.



Lana Warren celebrates as she announces that our chapter has reached the 12 x 2012 membership goal!

President's Message

Dear Delta Sisters,

Time passes so quickly and it seems I was just initiated into our Society. But here I am today, pondering how to write my first letter to all of you. Trust me, it is no easy task to follow Joan! But, being the energetic gal that I am....here goes.

First and foremost, I want to thank all of you who have helped me begin to prepare for the presidency and all it entails. I am so very appreciative for your generosity!

This summer has proven to be quite busy so far. In June, several Delta members attended the Spring Conference, held at the Coast Guard Academy in Groton. In July, a large contingency of CT members attended the International DKG Convention in New York City. In August, all new Presidents will be meeting to further acquaint ourselves with all the details of the office. I'm sure we will be commiserating, as well as helping each other!

Hopefully, you will like what we are preparing for this coming year. Our first get together will begin at 4:30 pm on September 19 with "Teachable Technology" to be held at Watertown High School, in Watertown. You will be amazed! Don't forget to send in your registration soon! Other dates to save: December 8, March 16 and May 15. Details will follow.

We will be having two raffles this year. Our first winner will receive tickets to a production at the beautiful Thomaston Opera House and dinner! Our second raffle, a spa special, will take place at our March meeting.

Rather than collecting at each meeting, we have decided to donate to our book grant at the same time as our yearly renewal in DKG. I hope you will support our yearly grant for a worthy high school senior who may just be starting the pursuit of a career in teaching!

In September we will be initiating a new member who was not able to join us in June. Please welcome *Laura Solocius* as our newest sister. We welcome her!

I thank you all for your assistance and participation in this year's activities!

Mary Jane

Leadership Conference

by Joan Krantz



The Coast Guard Academy was the perfect setting for this year's Leadership Conference, held on June 29, 2012. Dr. Laurel Goulet (left), the keynote speaker, highlighted the importance of the leader/follower relationship and emphasized that leadership "power" is impact ON individuals NOT power over individuals.

She not only spoke about leadership, but also asked us all to reflect on our own *Personal Best Leadership Experience* and to share these experiences with others at our

table (adapted from *The Leadership Challenge* by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner).

In doing so each participant was asked to "set the stage" and put the experience in context, describe what happened to address the challenge, engage and keep others motivated. Then we explained how we felt and named two or three major lessons that we learned about leadership. From the many experiences described, it's clear that we take on leadership positions in many life situations.

Here is a list of lessons about leadership from a roomful of DKG members:

- Be organized
- Consider group effort
- Believe in yourself
- Agree to disagree
- Give guidance
- Listen and compromise
- Take risks
- Think outside the box
- Remain committed
- Laugh
- Keep true to standards
- Lead without being an autocrat
- Start simply, slowly
- Get others involved
- Be prepared
- Communicate
- Don't micromanage
- Accept little steps
- Think things through
- Persevere

Dr. Goulet began her speech with a quotation from John Quincy Adams, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a **leader**."

I think we can agree that we Delta women are leaders.



The Connecticut Contingency in NYC at the International Convention, July 25, 2010. About 40 AKS members attended one or more days. Seven Delta members were among the CT group on July 25th.



Participants get ready to attend breakout sessions.



Roz Etra a member of Gamma Chapter, gives Dr. Goulet our thanks for an inspiring talk on what it means to be a leader.

“Art Matters” to newly inducted Delta Chapter member Janet Galasso

by Janet Galasso



As teachers, we live a life that is daily filled with adventure. Each day presents to us a host of challenges. Our students keep it fresh for us, and no two days are alike. It's one of the things I love most about this job. I left the graphic design industry to become an Art teacher because I knew I couldn't live my life in a stuffy cubicle with an inbox and an outbox. Instead, I'd rather be impacting the lives of others.

I read a concept about ten years ago in a book titled *I Married Adventure*, by Luci Swindoll. The book is an autobiography about a woman whose main goal was to travel the world and experience all she could out of life, whether it is in the big moments, or in the average day-to-day. Instead of seeing the daily routine as mundane, she says that, “even in the tiny events, adventure was there for the taking.” At the time of publication Swindoll was seventy years old and had encountered lots of adventure! Her book is one of my personal favorites. It has inspired me to look at my life differently, and to try to grab hold of at least one tidbit of each day and be able to have a story to share at my next meal.

The adventurer that I am, I love to travel. I got bitten by the bug as a student in college. I have yet to go abroad, but I've done plenty of domestic travel. However, the last few summers have been limited to staycations. With shifts in the economy, rise in fuel costs and multiple union concessions packages, my salary as a part time instructor had grown thin. As most of you know, this past year I got a new job at Berlin High School – Full Time! Along with this new adventure came an increase in pay! Yes! I could afford the freedom to travel again – and travel I did!



On a spontaneous whim in February I booked a last minute flight to Los Angeles to visit with college friends for April Break. That was a blast – and cheap! (I found an internet deal for \$300 round trip!)

With my appetite whet for more, as soon as I got back home, I jumped on my laptop and looked towards summer. For a few months, I had the Summervision D.C. conference page bookmarked in my browser. I had read about it via an email blast from the National Art Education Association, of which I'm a member. It is a four day intensive where you meet Art Educators from all over the country, tour museums throughout Washington D.C. and learn hands on activities to engage students in Art Criticism and Art Appreciation.

One of my professional goals as of late is to become more proficient in engaging my students in Art Criticism and learning to make the experience fun for students. One of my colleagues at Berlin High, Kathy Miller, who founded our Art History program, makes Art History fun! She teaches it in a completely different way than I had experienced in college – which was the standard “turn-the-lights off, memorize-the artwork” approach. Instead, she makes you feel like you're really there when she's telling a story about an artwork, digging into the symbolism and meaning. If I could only be a fly on the wall and sit in on her class!

Art History hasn't always been a strong suit of mine, but she inspired me. I realized if I develop a personal passion for it, this enthusiasm will carry over and can only enrich the classes that I teach. We want our students to walk away from our Department with an appreciation of Art and how it impacts history, culture and our daily lives.

So over the last semester, I've been engulfing myself with hands-on Art History. It started when we took our students at Berlin High on a two-for-one field trip that included the Wadsworth Athenaeum and the New Britain Museum in one day! I've been to both museums before, but I saw them differently this time. While I was in Los Angeles in April, I paid a visit to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Bergamot Station Galleries in Santa Monica. I'd become so obsessed with this, to the point where I was using my PL days for personal field trips to the MOMA and the Whitney in New York, and



the Aldrich in Ridgefield! Each time I go to a museum and encounter an artwork I've either studied or shared with my students, I feel as if I've encountered a rockstar. I didn't think in my whole life I'd ever visited such a plethora of museums in a short expanse of time.

Well, that was before I went to Summervision D.C. Eight museums in four days! This excursion had my name all over it! As soon as they posted the dates I booked my spot. I knew it was first-come, first-serve. Only 25 spots were available for each of the two sessions. I signed up for Session One from July 10-13.

This whole trip was all about making connections and “nurturing the nurturer” – which was one of our conference themes. So often we are so giving to others, whether it's in our professional lives, or our home lives, but we never (especially as women) take time for ourselves. It's one of the greatest lessons I've learned this year, and daily I strive to achieve this balance.

A big focus for me this summer was getting back into doing my own artwork and finding my personal voice. It's easy to push it off with the daily demands. As we all know with any personal project, “later” never comes. As an Art Educator it is so important to make time for the Artist within us. With each artwork, we experience the trials, failures and breakthroughs that come with the art making process and it helps us relate better to our students. Plus the more we do, the more ideas we have to bring back to the classroom with us, and it's good for them to see we are active in our field.



Thoroughly stoked about my commitment to a new adventure, I had told all my Art teacher friends about this conference. Cate Mahoney, my mentor from my last job at Kaynor Tech had contacted me. She said, “You know, I saw this conference advertised in my email and I thought, ‘Hey this is something Janet would like to go to.’” Then she heard me ask about it and knew it was a sign. Now I had a travel buddy to go with! Plus it was a great opportunity for us to re-connect again.

We woke up early in the morning on July 9th to catch a 7:38 am Amtrak train out of New Haven. We had gotten there in about five hours, with plenty of time to settle into the hotel and do a little sightseeing. The conference didn't start until a day later. Just down the road from our hotel in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of Washington D.C., was the Lincoln Memorial. What was really neat was that just a year prior, Cate and I had taken a daytrip to Chesterfield in Stockbridge, MA – the studio of Daniel Chester French. He was the sculptor who created the statue of Lincoln for the Lincoln Memorial. I have seen the Lincoln Memorial tons of times upon my many visits to D.C. but I had a whole new appreciation for the artwork now having seen the process French had endured before he created the final version.

The next day our adventure began! We all met up in the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art. Cate and I took the D.C. Metro (Subway) to the Smithsonian stop and took a leisurely stroll to the National Gallery. We knew we were heading in the right direction when we saw a few people who looked like Art Teachers on a mission. In a city full of suited Governmental employees, Art teachers are easy to pick out of a crowd.

At the National Gallery we were introduced to Renee Sandell and Carole Henry. They were our facilitators for the week. Renee Sandell is known in our field for creating the “Form, Theme, Context” model. It's a new way of approaching aesthetics and art criticism to engage the 21st century visual learner. Carole Henry is the author of *The Museum Experience: The Discovery of Meaning*. It's a book that talks about making connections and engaging students from the classroom to the museum setting. I absorbed all they taught us like a sponge.

In addition to our classroom work the first day with Renee and Carole, most of our journey consisted of visiting various galleries and museums and engaging with their local museum educators in various art criticism activities we could bring back to our classrooms at home.

Renee would brief us on what to expect to happen each day, and what to be aware of, as we were engaging in art in the galleries and making connections. Carole would help synthesize our experience at the end of the day. We dubbed her “The Closer”. She was often taking notes of the comments she heard us say while walking through the galleries and sharing them with us at the end of the day. We learned a lot from each other this way, and it helped us build a shared collective experience.



There were 17 Art Educators participating in this session of the conference and it was so nice to be able to connect with people in my field throughout the country. Often as Art Educators we tend to work in a vacuum. Our subject area is so different from others in the core subject areas and often our classrooms are situated far away from what is going on in the rest of the building. It was nice to be able to chat with people who understand what we go through and to make connections, gain new ideas and approaches for our lessons.

I almost forgot that another perk of the trip was our Portable Studio package! At the beginning of the conference we were given a mixed media sketchbook (with 90lb pages that are thick enough that they don't bleed through to the other side when you use marker or paint). We were also given a pouch that is self-standing and inside was a viewfinder, so we could break down an image and see the details, Derwint Inktense watercolor pencils, and a watercolor brush with a self-contained cartridge that holds water. It makes it very convenient to do watercolor work on the go. (You do your mark making with the watercolor pencils, and then go over your marks with the watercolor brush and it makes it look like watercolor paint – like magic!) We were also given a pencil, a sharpener, a thin sharpie marker, and an NAEA “Art Matters” tote bag where we could keep all our folders and museum handouts. The whole idea was to see things with “new eyes”. As we walked the galleries and sat and discussed the artworks, we were encouraged to sketch and take notes on what we saw to lend personal meaning to our experience.



All in all, in the course of four days we visited eight galleries! As I said earlier, the whole trip was about making connections. We learned how to appreciate and critique abstract Art as we sketched four views of Noguchi's “The Great Rock of Inner Seeking” at the National Gallery. We participated in token response activities that encouraged us to walk around the room and rank artworks using colored sticky notes. We indicated what we thought was “beautiful”, what we thought had “value”, and something we were “curious about” – and it helped engage us in conversation about the artworks we chose because we made personal connections with them. We listened to three different selections of music as we sat in the Peacock Room at the Freer Gallery. It was a very ornate space, lined with walls of pottery. We attributed our thoughts on which song we thought best exemplified the mood of the room.

When we were in the National Portrait Gallery we encountered one of the many portraits Gilbert Stuart did of George Washington and engaged in a CSI-like activity. We were told to take 30 seconds, and only 30 seconds to observe every detail of the artwork. Then we were forced to turn around and not look back at it again as we were asked a series of specific questions relating to the artwork. The activity became a friendly competition amongst our group as to “who could remember the most, the most accurately”, and we realized this is an activity our students could really engage in and have a lot of fun with. There were more activities in this vein. We wrote group poems about a Japanese screen series created by Hokusai. We role-played as if we were two pieces of artwork having a conversation with one another. We made up stories based on what

we saw in an artwork and shared with the group. The artworks we encountered came alive to us in a way that I've never seen in a classroom and I'm delighted to have such a toolbox of ideas to bring back to the classroom with me this year!



Another joy of our journey was actually viewing and having an in-depth critique of Renoir's "Luncheon of the Boating Party" at the Phillips Collection – a staple of most Art curriculums. I also encountered the other half of Jacob Lawrence's "Migration Series". It's a 60-panel series of narrative illustrations documenting the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North between World War I and World War II. He had achieved fame at the early age of 23 with these panels. The series was split in half between two collections. I had just seen the even-numbered panels at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City two months prior. You could imagine my delight when I encountered their odd numbered cousins at the Phillips in Washington D.C.! We saw paintings created by women artists, showcased on the walls the National Museum of

Women in the Arts. Many were artworks that had sat in the basements in the collections of internationally renowned museums for years. After every day's experience we walked out more and more inspired for what we do.

All in all, I had an awesome time at Summervision D.C. I was able to reflect on who I am as an Artist, see the world with "New Eyes", make connections with the Masters who came before me, with my Contemporaries in the field today, and gained a plethora of knowledge, experiences, and enthusiasm to share with my students this fall. One of the things I look forward to, is keeping in touch with those who I met in my cohort on this conference. Summervision D.C. has a Facebook Group page where the people in my cohort, as well as those who came before and after me can share lessons and experiences – and so the learning continues.

In reflecting upon my experience, just half my lifetime ago, when I was a Junior in High School I was recommended for the National Young Leaders Conference by our very own Delta Chapter member, Joanne Chenkus! It was a life-changing experience for me. I got to see behind the scenes how the Government worked, while gaining crucial skills to bring back to school that would help me on my journey. It was my experience at the conference that helped spur a lifetime of community involvement, whether it was in high school, college, the workforce, and now in the education field. Sixteen years later, I got to experience Washington D.C. again in a completely new way, again, leaving changed, and bringing fresh new ideas back to school with me to share with others. In a way, I feel like my life has come full circle.

One thing is for sure. I know I'll have lots of exciting stories to tell at lunch this school year!

Delta Chapter Meeting
September 19, 2012
Watertown High School
324 French Street
Watertown, CT 06795
4:30-7:00 pm

AGENDA

- 4:15 Arrival and Fellowship
- 4:30 Thought for the Day – Mary Lou Kuegler
- 4:40 Initiation of New Member – Laura Solocius

Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Mary Lou Kuegler

Correspondence

Corresponding Secretary

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

5:30 Dinner

6:00 Program – “Touchable, Teachable Technology”

Minutes for the May 16, 2012 meeting of Delta Chapter

The meeting was held at Chippanee Golf Club, Bristol, CT. President Joan Krantz called the meeting to order at 4:40 P.M. The thought for the day was read by Josephine Radocchio.

Joan Krantz eulogized Dr. Martha Counts who passed away on April 17th in Bristol. She was an active member, serving Delta Chapter well, holding numerous offices throughout her life. Joan asked for a moment of silence in her memory. A white rose was given to Josephine Radocchio in her memory. Guests for the meeting were introduced by their sponsors: Stacie Broden for Kair Yacawych; Rita Caruso for Debbie Manning; LuAnn Cogliser for Helen Simko. Joan asked the day's initiates to stand as well as their sponsors: Joanne Chenkus, Paulina Auclair, and Joan Krantz. She thanked Joanne Brogis and Nancy Roy for helping with the flag ceremony at the April 28th convention and to June Legge for her basket raffle donation, to Colleen Spieler for delivery of said basket and to Carol Beam for winning it and then donating it back to the chapter for this May meeting. She announced that Rita Caruso volunteered to be Corresponding Secretary. She asked that following the business meeting the initiates assemble for a group picture.

Installation of new members:

Sybil Haggard Chamberlin, Michele DeCesare, Theresa DeCesare, Janet Galasso, Nicole Knott

Secretary - Terry Doyle- Minutes were approved

Correspondence – Joan read a note of condolence from Marnee Straiton, President of Alpha Kappa State, for the passing of Dr. Martha Counts. She will be honored at both the 2013th State and the 2014th International Conferences.

Treasurer- Rose Marie Mikasauskas reported a balance in the checkbook of \$1241.03 stating that this was a very successful year and thanked the members for their generous support.

Report of Officers

President - Joan Krantz asked members to consider attending the June 29th Leadership Conference at the Coast Guard Academy. Any member can attend with a fee of \$15. June 8th is the deadline. Joan is waiting for input on the By-Law changes; she will pass the information on to Mary Jane Miller. Joan called Paulina Auclair to the podium to present her with the award for producing the “best overall newsletter” at the Spring Conference. The newsletter will be posted on the refurbished AKS website. The membership applauded her accomplishment. Speaking in reference to her tenure as president, Joan thanked all for their support saying that the position gave her acquaintance with all members of the chapter and new opportunities for learning and facing challenges.

First Vice President - Mary Jane Miller- Mary Jane described the highlights of the Spring Conference including the “Ceremony of Light” honoring deceased members; the performance by the Coast Guard Glee Club and the Newsletter award.

Second Vice President - Monica Kreuzer-Monica described the contents of the state website as user friendly, giving directions on how to use bar code scanning apps.

Standing Committee Reports

Educational Excellence (Program) - Sondra Macdonald and Loretta Teevan- Joan thanked them both for their selections of venues; Sondra hoped that the membership was happy with the efforts of the committee to keep the price per meeting to an average of \$21.

Membership - Lana Warren - Lana announced, with today's initiation, we have reached our membership goal. She has undated the membership information and will email the data to members. For those without email, hard copies were distributed.

Parliamentarian - June Legge, Mary Lou Kuegler- No report

Fine Arts- Peg Goranson - absent; Nancy Roy had the music cards.

Legislation- Carol Wakefield - No report

Professional Affairs- Claudette LaFlamme - absent – Joan commended her work.

Historian- LuAnn Cogliser - No report

Finance- Rose Marie Mikasauskas - No report

Nominations- Joanne Chenkus - Joanne stated that installation of officers would take place after the dinner.

Communications- Paulina Auclair – Paula thanked LuAnn Cogliser for her photography, members for their submissions and Joan Krantz for her editing.

World Fellowship and International Fund - Sondra MacDonald – Sondra spoke of her three year tenure telling the story of the boy who returned sea stars to the ocean knowing that the individual rescue is the most importance making the story analogous to the rescuing of each individual woman. Joan Krantz praised the generosity of the chapter. We donated \$127.45. Christine Comeau volunteered to take Sondra's place.

Curriculum of Hope- Colleen Spieler, Deborah Flaherty- Colleen referenced the Newsletter delineating the steps needed to reduce our carbon footprint.

Old Business: Joan asked the members to keep thinking about possible areas of interest for the 2012 – 2014 Biennial Planning Meeting.

New Business: Joan Krantz asked members to consider attending the International Convention, Wednesday, July 25. Iota Chapter has reserved a charter bus to New York City to provide a reasonably priced and convenient way to get to the Convention site. The charter bus cost is \$38.00 including driver tip. The deadline is May 30 and Joan asked members to sign a sheet of intent.

Joan announced that Peg Goranson had recent surgery. She will send an email with Peg's address to members who then may send a get well card. She asked that any member who knows of a need for a get well or sympathy card to notify the corresponding secretary. Ten \$15 Barnes and Noble gift cards were distributed to early career educators to aid in classroom purchases.

The new president, **Mary Jane Miller**, invited all members to a planning meeting to be held at her home on June 25th. She will email members with the pertinent information.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Doyle, Recording Secretary

Installation of Officers followed the meeting.

President: Mary Jane Miller, First VP: Monica Kreuzer, Second VP: Paulina Auclair, Recording Secretary: Mary Lou Kuegler, Treasurer: Rosemary Mikasauskas, Corresponding Secretary: Rita Caruso

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
Delta CHAPTER
DUES 2012-2013

Please fill out the following dues statement. Return by **October 25, 2012** with check payable to: **Delta** and mail to:

Rose Marie Mikasauskas PO Box 929 Middlebury, CT 06762

Active Members (includes initiates):

Dues \$75.00 (Chapter \$12.00; State \$22.00; International \$40.00; Scholarship \$1.00)

Active Member Total **\$75.00** _____

Reserve Members:

Dues \$28.00

Reserve Member Total **\$28.00** _____

Book Grant

(suggested donation \$5.00 or more, if possible) \$5.00 _____

Total of Check _____

Name _____

Address _____

email address _____

phone _____

date/check # _____

Plan ahead – don't put your membership in jeopardy. All chapter, state, and international dues and fees must be received by October 31st. Your continued financial support of the total organization is what keeps us alive and growing.