



Winter 2012-2013
Volume 1, Issue 2

IOTA NEWS

Iota Chapter

Alpha Kappa Gamma Connecticut

Delta Kappa Gamma

Society International

President's Message

Happy New Year Iota Sisters,

I'm sure that everyone is enjoying winter in Connecticut: the snow, the wintry mix, single digit temperatures... I don't think that Iota Chapter has any "snowbirds" but hope that your winter includes plans to make these months pass by quickly.

There is much news to share. Unfortunately, the last time I contacted you was after the tragic event that occurred in Sandy Hook in December. Newtown is one of the towns within Iota's traditional Chapter boundaries so I have received emails and calls from DKG members around the country. When we meet as a Chapter in March, we can discuss ideas to support the teachers in this school.

Exciting news to report is that Marnee Straiton, Iota's Nominee for Outstanding Achievement, will be presented with this award at the April 27, 2012, AKS Spring Convention. Congratulations, Marnee!

This winter Newsletter is filled with information, opportunities, and upcoming events.

Are you pursuing a masters or doctorate? Is there a professional workshop you wish to attend? In addition to providing grants to high school and college students, one of the benefits of belonging to DKG is the scholarship money available to members. Alpha Kappa State and Delta Kappa Gamma International annually award scholarships.

Iota members are all talented! Is your talent painting, or drawing, or etching, or photography? If it is, you have the opportunity to exhibit at the AKS Convention this spring.

Do you plan on attending AKS Spring Convention? Iota Chapter and its members have many opportunities to be a part at this year's convention.

Marnee Straiton will receive an Alpha Kappa State Outstanding Achievement Award.

Deborah Chin and Sandy Gammons will be in charge of the Installation of Officers with assistance from other Iota sisters.

Deborah Soresino is a candidate for AKS Second Vice-President.

(At the convention the officers are voted on and then installed.)

Four of Iota's members will receive service pins.

Iota's Newsletter, put together by Elizabeth Ricci, will be on display and part of the friendly judging for best Chapter Newsletter.

Iota members will have contributed a basket for the State Raffle.

Would you like to contribute to the Chapter Service Project? Iota's March 20th meeting will include speakers from Danbury's Reading Partner Program.

Details on everything mentioned above and more is included in this Newsletter. Enjoy!

Deborah Soresino

Officers For the Biennium

- President: Deborah Brownell Soresino**
- First Vice-President: Sandra Gammons**
- Second Vice-President: Eleanor Coffey**
- Treasurer: Marnee Straiton**
- Recording Secretary: Lois Weiss**
- Corresponding Secretary: Ruth-Ellen Hunt**



Iota Chapter
 55th Anniversary Celebration
 October 2012
 Hopkins Inn, Lake Waramug

Those in attendance:
 Deb, Joan, Marnee, Mary,
 Jane, Carol, Pat, Ellie,
 Debbie, Lois and Sandy

Camera shy Elizabeth



Inside Stories of Our Members



Graduate Program Grant Honors M. Jane Ryan

The 2012 Graduate Program Grant was awarded in honor of M. Jane Ryan. Jane has held Iota Chapter in her heart for the 53 years that she has held membership in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Jane has held many leadership positions in Iota Chapter, including her biennium as Chapter President and her 30 years as Chapter Treasurer.

Jane Ryan retired in 1997 after teaching kindergarten in the Danbury Public Schools for 43 years. Over those 43 years, Jane taught more than 2,000 young people, encouraging them "to fly" as they left her classroom. Upon her retirement, she was appointed to Danbury's School Readiness Council as a charter member and continues on that council as an active and contributing member today.

In the Spring of 2012, M. Jane Ryan was awarded the Mary deLourdes Kenny Award, a distinguished award from her alma mater, St. Joseph College in West Hartford, CT. This award "recognizes significant contributions to the field of education." Jane's commitment to developmentally appropriate education for young children has been a driving force in her continued advocacy of quality education for all.



Grants and Scholarships

Scholarship money is available to DKG members annually.

Alpha Kappa State (www.deltakappagamma.org/CT/scholarships)

Scholarship money is offered and awarded in the Fall and Spring to financially assist members of AKS who are enrolled in accredited programs of graduate study or who attend professional workshops. Three scholarships are available.

Delta Kappa Gamma International (www.dkg.org) DKG offers up to 30 scholarships annually to members enrolled in graduate or doctoral programs. The deadline for these applications is February 1st of each year. An amendment approved this year increased the monetary award for doctoral studies to \$10,000.

Special Reminders

March 20, 2013 at 5 p.m., Rocco's Restaurant, Brookfield

Joan Weisman, Founder of Reading Partners Program in Danbury, and Sandy Brenner, the current Co-Director, will be our guests and speakers.

Members are encouraged to bring a donation of either books or cash to this meeting, remembering that the program works with children, grades K-5, to strengthen their reading and language arts skills.

Joan Weisman, recipient of AKS Outstanding Service Award, was unable to attend the AKS 2012 Spring Convention. Iota Chapter will have the opportunity to present Joan with the certificate and the Chapter donations at this meeting.

Ebay Fundraiser for Iota

This is an ongoing fund raising vehicle and any member who would like to donate an item for the cause should get in touch with Ruth-Ellen to discuss whether it might be "Ebay worthy." Telephone # 203-744-0778, email: Reh35put@aol.com

Any profit exceeding \$100 on an item would be given to the donating member.

Thanks to Marnee Straiton (vintage fountain pen) and Lois Weiss (Christmas collector plates) for recent donations which added \$38 to our treasury.

Recently, vintage hats from the 1980's or earlier seem to be doing well on Ebay. Do YOU have any????





Alpha Kappa State News

A STATE AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

by Marnee Straiton

Deborah Soresino, Jacqui Farrell, Sandy Gammons, and Marnee Straiton attended the 73rd Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference. Kim Wachtelhausen, from the State Department of Education, was the Keynote Speaker. Kim talked about the TEAM [Teacher Education and Mentoring] Program that replaces the BEST Program. This program connects closely with the DKG focus: supporting Early-Career Educators.

Mary Hatzis, Iota Chapter, was among the first four Alpha Kappa State members to receive the Lifetime Membership Award. Donna Chaney, AKS Treasurer, presented the award to Marnee Straiton who will, in turn, present the award to Mary.

The 13th CTAUN [Committee on Teaching About the United Nations] Conference was held this year at the UN in NYC on January 18th. Marnee Straiton, Nina Shimer, and Jacqui Farrell attended. The theme was "Advancing Social Justice: The Role of Educators." The speakers and panel members addressed current social justice issues, were very knowledgeable, and provided valuable information. Think about attending this worthwhile conference next year. Ann Grosjean, Theta Chapter and the Alpha Kappa State NGO representative to the UN, will provide any help with registration or hotel reservations.

On October 14, 2012, Japan became the Society's 80th state organization and 18th country. Japan was sponsored by Hawaii State organization, 23 of whom attended the installation ceremonies in Kochi, Japan.

Dr. Beverly Helms, International President, presided at the ceremonies.

Alpha Kappa State to Recognize Chapter Members

On April 27th, at the AKS Spring Convention, four Iota members will be pin recipients recognized for their years of membership to DKG.

Louann Daragan 40 years

Mary Hatzis 50 years

Mary Roberts 50 years

Roberta Van Nostrand 30 years

Reading Partners: Iota's Service Project

For 2012-2013, Iota chose to support the Reading Partner Program. This volunteer program serves Danbury Elementary School children in grades K-5. Last year, Chapter member Deborah Hocking, nominated Joan Weisman, Founder of Reading Partners Program in Danbury, for an AKS Outstanding Service Award. Joan was awarded this honor.

Joan Weisman and Sandy Brenner, the current Co-Director of Reading Partners, will be our guests and speakers at Iota's March 20th meeting.

Members are encouraged to bring a donation of either books or cash to this meeting, remembering that the program works with children, grades K-5, to strengthen their reading and language arts skills. Concentration of books, both fiction and non-fiction, for the younger grades would be appreciated.

Joan Weisman was unable to attend the AKS Spring Convention. Iota Chapter will have the opportunity to present Joan with the certificate and the Chapter donations at the March 20th 5 p.m. meeting at Rocco's Restaurant in Brookfield.

Fine Arts Exhibit

Attention talented members of DKG!

You are invited to exhibit your paintings, drawings, etchings, watercolors, and photographs at the Spring Convention on April 27, 2013.

Any member can exhibit at the event even if you are not planning to attend. Items can be sent with a Chapter sister. Items can be framed or unframed, but they should be small enough to fit comfortably on a table.

Alpaca Farm Visit

Iota Chapter members visited Southwind Alpaca Farm in Watertown on December 8, 2012. The owner took us on a tour where the friendliest of the herd greeted us. Members could see why so many people decide to buy these beautiful animals. They were gentle, curious, and on their best behavior. After the tour, members had the opportunity to buy handmade alpaca clothing or alpaca yarns.



Lois



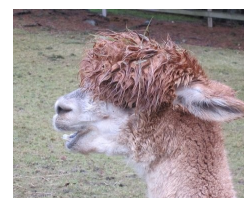
a few friendly alpacas



Ruth-Ellen, Pat, Sandy



Jim Mullen, Owner



cria (a young alpaca)

2013 IOTA Events Calendar

March 16, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. (Snow date 3/23)
AKS Executive Board Meeting

March 20, 2013 at 5 p.m., Rocco's Restaurant,
Brookfield
Reading Partner Project (see page 5)

April 27, 2013
AKS Spring Convention

May 15, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.,
Marnee Straiton's, New Fairfield
Potluck dinner and auction;
viewing of the movie "American Teacher."

June 8, 2013
AKS Executive Board Meeting

July 24-27, 2013
DKG North East Regional Conference,
Portland, Maine



Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

Leading Women Educators
impacting education worldwide.

NEXT IOTA NEWS

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