



Alpha Kappa State
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International

Volume 69, No. 4

Summer, 2010

International Impact of Women

Christine Ieronimo: Helping Women and Children in Ethiopia



Eva, Christine and Diana

At the Spring Convention, Christine Ieronimo's talk focused on her upcoming book, *Drinking From Puddles*, a non-fiction children's book about her adopted Ethiopian daughter, as well as her passion to help Ethiopia. Before adopting her daughter, Ms. Ieronimo read and did extensive research about the country but as she said, "nothing could prepare her for what she saw." Children and adults were "toiling and clawing out a meager existence." She saw people begging and mothers giving away their

(Continued on page 3)

Dr. Bonita Chamberlin:

Inside Afghanistan



Dr. Bonita Chamberlin narrated a fascinating informative PowerPoint at the Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention. She began with images of a country showing lush green agricultural lands and prosperous urban areas with modern buildings, marketplaces and bustling people. Women worked in many careers and dressed in comfortable business attire, if they chose to do so. This was Afghanistan before the Russian invasion in September, 1979.

The invasion brought a breakup of social structures, schools and commerce, as well as the destruction of 600 miles of irrigation systems that brought water from the mountains for agriculture. There was no semblance of a peaceful or prosperous life left.

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Expand our Horizons: Make a Difference at the 2010 Fall Conference!

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Carol's Corner

Expand Our Horizons

Make a Difference



Happy Summer! Summer in Connecticut has arrived full swing as I sit at my keyboard thinking of all of you. It was great visiting and enjoying our Spring Convention with so many of you. For those of you who missed the Convention, you will find a number of interesting articles throughout this edition to help you expand yourselves as we who attended did. You did miss out on some beautiful jewelry from Bonita Chamberlin, though!!

This summer has been filled with opportunities for all of us. I was grateful to see many of you at our Leadership Training on June 26th at St. Joseph College. The focus for the conference was Expanding Our Horizons: Launch Your Imagination and Creativity. It was a wonderful learning time for all. **Chair Nancy Roy** and her committee went all out to make this an awesome experience for everyone. The Chapter Ambassadors helped us all to get in the mood with their creative skit. Thanks to all the presenters and the incoming chapter officers who attended. After the training session, the Program Committee for the Fall Conference held an open meeting to gather ideas for presenters and sessions.

A number of us traveled to Spokane for the International Convention, July 20th- 24th. During the convention members voted on the Proposed Constitution and International Standing Rules sent out last April. I hope you have been able to take a few moments to review them, and I appreciated your ideas on some of the substantial changes that were being proposed.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president these last two years, and I am looking forward to working with all of you again this year. See you soon,

Carol

Alpha Kappa State Seeking Nominees for State Honorary Members

All chapter members are reminded that the Alpha Kappa State Membership Committee is seeking nominations of new state honorary members to be initiated at the November, 2010 Fall Conference. The recipient of state honorary membership is a woman not eligible for active membership who has made contributions of statewide or national significance to education and/or women.

Use Form 11, Recommendation for Membership, to make the recommendations. Forms are due by September 1st to **State Honorary Membership Chair, Susan Salesses**, 20 Hillyndale Road, Storrs, CT 06268. If there are any questions regarding recommendations, please contact Susan at sgs57@snet.net or (860) 429-8111.

ΔΚΓ MISSION STATEMENT

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



(Continued from page 1) **Christine Ieronimo**

children for adoption, not because they didn't love them, but because they did love them and wanted their children to have a better life. Shortly after Ms. Ieronimo returned home with Eva, she witnessed Eva drinking from a puddle left in the driveway after a rainstorm. Thus the seed for her story was planted as Ms. Ieronimo felt this image of her daughter drinking from a puddle represented all the struggles Eva had endured in her homeland. Ms. Ieronimo feels the world and, especially children, need to know that not everyone gets water from a bottle or a faucet.

Ms. Ieronimo read her story about Eva in Ethiopia drinking brown water, walking barefoot, feeling so hungry it was like a "tiger roaring in the belly." The story included Eva saying goodbye to her biological mother so the woman with a face "the color of the moon" could adopt her. Ms. Ieronimo's poignant story of Eva moved many in the audience to tears. The story begins, "I am Alemitu. My name means world and ends with water connects us all."

After reading her story, she spoke about many organizations that have aided the Ethiopians in their efforts to improve the lives of children. Many work long hours as water and wood carriers and are denied education. Young girls are forced into marriage as soon as they can bear children. Organizations, such as World Bank, Doctors Without Borders, Camfed, A Glimmer of Hope, Hope for Hosanna and the Donkey Mobile Library have helped with such initiatives as supporting water projects, providing health clinics, fostering education and providing books to children. Projects sponsored by A Glimmer of Hope focus on lifting women and children out of extreme poverty in rural Ethiopia. Of the \$35 million dollars donated between 2001 and 2010, \$25.4 million has gone to education and water/sanitation projects.

Christine emphasized that education is the most important piece of the puzzle and the education of girls is "quintessential." She quoted an African proverb, "educate a boy and you educate an individual; educate a girl and you educate a village."

The images and information she provided in her PowerPoint and the DVD on the Donkey Mobile Library made visible the sad truths she told. She plans to donate proceeds from her book to causes that will directly help children like Eva. Her presentation was powerful proof that "change happens one person at a time." Bloomsbury Publishers will publish her book next year.

**Joan Krantz, Delta Chapter
Alpha Kappa State Fine Arts Chair**



Spring Convention International Guest, Cathy Dougherty Focuses on "Leadership for the 21st Century"

What a wonderful experience! This was Cathy's first visit to Connecticut, and she looks forward to returning. She encouraged all members to attend the International Convention in Spokane in July and showed a short film depicting International President Carolyn Rants sharing what we could expect in Spokane.

When Cathy visits the various states, she is always on the lookout for new ideas which she can bring back and share with others. Our Chapter Ambassadors and their vision "Creating Pride" is high on her list.

On Saturday, Cathy's focus was Leadership for the 21st century. She referred to two sources: Mark Sanborn, *You Don't Need a Title to Be a Leader* and Patricia B. Strait, *Five Attributes of a Effective Leader in the 21 Century*.

You aspire to lead if you want to do the following:

- Take control of your life
- Influence others to be their best
- Seize new opportunities
- Make your organization better
- Contribute to the betterment of others
- Solve problems
- Improve the service you offer others
- Make the world a better place

Cathy then cited five attributes of an effective leader:

1. An inspirational leader is loyal to his or her subordinates.
2. An inspirational leader stands up for what is right.
3. Inspirational leaders know when to overlook established policies and procedures.
4. An effective leader doesn't spend his/her time motivating employees.
5. An effective leader does not lament the passing of the old ways.

**Linda Amarante, Zeta Chapter
Alpha Kappa State Sunshine Chair**



(Continued from page 1) **Dr. Bonita Chamberlin**

Bonita's knowledge comes from years of hardship spent from 1983 to 1997 often through brutal winters, dressed as a man and living in primitive conditions, walking the Hindu Kush areas of Afghanistan with muhajadeen friends trying to help improve their existence. Hindu Kush translates to "killer of Hindus".

After Russia left, the Taliban took control of the land and the people and implemented the most stringent archaic forms of Islamic fundamentalism. The only form of work was raising poppies with opium crops to supply 92% of the world's opium. One quarter of the population was displaced, schools for girls were closed, women's rights were eliminated and women were subjected to beatings, enslavement, acid in their faces, limbs cut off and even death. The land was left riddled with 8 to 10 million land mines. It will take decades to cleanse the land of this scourge.

Over the years, repeated bombings by the Russians, United States and the United Nations forces revealed a wealth of gems, minerals, copper, tin, oil and natural gas in the mountains. The Afghan men used the dynamite from unexploded bombs to loosen the rocks to reach these resources. They often used too much and many were killed.

Bonita returned to the U.S. to attend the Colorado Mining College to learn the proper techniques for mining which she taught to the men when she returned to Afghanistan. For the past several years, the men mine gemstones, and women have been trained to create jewelry with help from silversmiths from Bali. Bonita sells the jewelry internationally to help villagers.

Today, after years of involvement and guidance, Bonita is an avid sponsor of the village of Nuristan having returned over one million dollars to train women in a craft, to establish schools for everyone including girls, to set-up a health clinic with a woman doctor and to train and employ teachers who earn \$480 a year. Teacher training is on-going during employment. The curriculum is strong in life skills to prepare students for work in the current economy. There are crops in pistachios, cashews, walnuts, raisins, wheat and barley. Mine fields had to be cleared to allow for the plantings. Approximately 2,700 engineers have been building irrigation canals, and cultured pearls are being produced in high mountain lakes.

We rarely hear of all the important advances made in Afghanistan, so Bonita asked her listeners to tell friends about all that is happening to revitalize the country and raise awareness and interest and stimulate discussion about the plight of the people who are working so hard. "There is power in many" she said, "or as stated in an Afghanistan proverb, 'A river is made, one drop at a time.' "

Bonita captivated all with her impassioned presentation of the land and people she loves. In addition, members were intrigued by the many lovely, rare stones created into one of a kind jewelry pieces. Many bought things for gifts or for themselves knowing that the money would be instrumental in improving life for people far, far away. Hopefully, there will come a day when Afghanistan is open to tourists and all can see first-hand the results of Dr. Bonita Chamberlin's efforts.

**Jeanne Morascini, Theta Chapter
Alpha Kappa State Chapter Ambassador**

ATTENTION, ATTENTION!

The 11 Alpha Kappa State Chapter Ambassadors are in the process of compiling a special binder for each chapter.

Creating Pride in the Big Picture will be available in September so that each Chapter will have at its fingertips, up-to-date information from International and State levels. Our hope is that the information will be shared by the First Vice President at each meeting in a five-minute segment called **CREATING PRIDE**. Chapter Presidents, please consider this plan to connect your members to everything they are involved in simply by being an international member.

The Ambassadors' goal is to make every member's heart swell with PRIDE in all that we do together to help women, education and children everywhere. Right now, most members have no idea of the breadth of commitment our sisterhood has undertaken at all levels AND we are each part of that.

Alpha Kappa State Chapter Ambassador



Alpha Kappa State 2010 Membership Award Pin Recipients



Congratulations to the following Alpha Kappa State members

65 Years

Kathryn Morgan Kelly *Zeta*

50 years

Dr. Martha Counts *Delta*

Nancy Lenihan *Nu*

40 years

Margaret R. Nielsen *Alpha*

Isobel Broadhurst *Beta*

Anne Kelley *Zeta*

Ruth Russian *Theta*

Ann Newbury *Mu*

Betty Wiesner *Mu*

Violet L. Brennan *Omicron*

Doris Charter *Rho*

30 years

Doris Molinari *Alpha*

Barbara Ann Cavanaugh *Beta*

Antoinette Di Martino *Beta*

Evelyn Montagnino *Beta*

Marcia Van Hise *Beta*

Anna Wilinich *Beta*

Linda Shea *Gamma*

Christine Comeau *Delta*

Ora Massaro *Delta*

Nancy Roy *Delta*

Ann Cappetta *Zeta*

Virginia Francois *Theta*

Annette Murphy *Theta*

Rose Marie Karl *Iota*

Jane Bradovchak *Mu*

Helen Hughlett *Mu*

Eddie Joyce *Mu*

Mary Ann Muccino *Mu*

Linda Coppola, *Omicron*

Biaggia Ryan *Omicron*

Katherine A. Connerty *Tau*

Dr. Joanne M. Lillis *Tau*

Judith Maier *Tau*

Elizabeth Riley *Tau*

Mildred O. Durham *Upsilon*

Pauline Fancher *Upsilon*

Leona Mangione *Upsilon*

Marcella Miller *Upsilon*

Julia Sullivan *Upsilon*

25 years

Ruth Ruskin *Beta*

Karen R. D'Auria *Gamma*

Barbara Dombrowski *Gamma*

Elayne Canter *Zeta*

Betty S. Tylaska *Eta*

Mary Rogers Beckert *Theta*

Edith Prague *Theta*

Lois Weiss *Iota*

Margaret Di Persio *Lambda*

Dorothy Sturmer *Lambda*

Barbara Barry *Omicron*

Pat Chaghatzbanian *Omicron*

Arlene Clancy *Omicron*

Mary Dickinson *Omicron*

Cynthia Prelli *Upsilon*



AROUND THE

ALPHA

Alpha Chapter members met in April at **Mary Ruth Allen's** home for a book discussion of *Mr. Pip* by Lloyd Jones. At this time possible new members were considered and the slate of officers was presented. Also in April, members visited Bush Holley House in Greenwich. It is an artist colony historical site where Connecticut impressionists painted.

Alpha's annual banquet was held on May 20th. New members initiated were **Lucy Galasso**, Greenwich High School teacher, and **Honorary Member Wendy Silver**, Cos Cob head librarian. Alpha's long-time members, **Margaret Nielsen** (40 years) and **Doris Molinari** (30 years) were honored. The 2010-2012 slate of officers was installed: **Nancy Wolf, President; Claire Fishman, Vice President; Mary Ruth Allen, Treasurer;** and **Car Westbrook, Secretary.**

BETA

Beta Chapter held two meetings this season. The meeting on March 25th was held in Monroe at the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library to vote on the newly recommended members. Long-time member and host, **Nancy Zorena**, talked about the library's famous mural, the artist and the history of Monroe as depicted in the painting. In addition, **Isobel Broadhurst, Barbara Ann Cavanaugh, Eleanor Gonzales, and Jo-Ann Olsen** delivered a panel talk about their memories of Kappa, its projects, charities and other successful educational and community enterprises. A raffle was held to collect money for the end-of-year scholarship grant to a high school student pursuing the field of education, and food items were collected for the Stratford Backpacks for Children Program.

On May 12th, Beta initiated eight members and installed its new officers at the Mona Lisa Restaurant in Newtown. The chapter has met the Shoe-in Challenge goals. Seven of the initiates work or worked in the Trumbull School System. They are **Karol Fleegal**, a math teacher; **Bette Sue George**, reading consultant; **Jennifer Grannis**, reading consultant; **Patricia Grosso**, retired elementary teacher; **Margaret Hull**, elementary teacher; **Stacy Weinstein**, elementary teacher, and **Donna Zimmer**, media specialist. The eighth initiate, **Vivian Manzione**, is a retired regional assistant director of Connecticut Vocational/Technical Schools. In addition, the following officers for the 2010-2012 biennium were installed - **Marcia Van Hise, President; Nancy Yarmosh, First Vice President;**

Carolyn St John, Second Vice President; Diane Strever, Corresponding Secretary; and Susan Littlefield, Recording Secretary. **Carolyn Dickens** was again appointed to the position of **Treasurer**. Beta's yearly grant was awarded to **Jennifer Garcon**. Jennifer is a senior at Bassick High School in Bridgeport. She will be attending Southern CT State University majoring in physical education.

GAMMA

Gamma's spring meetings capped one of the best years in terms of programming. In March, before the annual dinner meeting, **Martha Reynolds** representing the Haitian Health Foundation spoke about educational issues in Haiti, the impact of the earthquake, and the work that the Foundation has been doing in Haiti for decades. Members were privileged to hear Martha read a personal letter from Dr. J. Lowney (founder of the foundation) written to Martha and her husband Richard. Slides reinforced the power of Martha's words. Inspired by their dedication over the years, the chapter, as well as many individual members, made donations to the Foundation.

At the May meeting, the officers who had been nominated in March were installed. **Jeanne Morascini**, who had graciously agreed to be president for the next two years, led a group including: **Barbara Dombrowski, Reggie Tate, Eileen Akers, Gerrie Transue, Barbara Kosgarten, and Judy Pflum**. Jeanne spoke briefly about her goals and her own chapter's growth out of Gamma decades ago. She stressed that the key to keeping any organization running is to nurture and groom new members. Everyone was invited to the planning meeting to be held in early June. This turned out to be quite stimulating as the 2010-2011 chapter meeting schedule was set with tentative dates, places and programs. There will be a membership meeting in July at Judy Pflum's home. Many board members are planning to attend to brainstorm ideas for getting new members.

Congratulations to **Karen D'Auria** and **Barbara Dombrowski** for their 25-year membership.

A large bag of sundry toiletries was collected for the clients of Madonna Place. The group continued to socialize as tray favors were made up for the patients who would be in Backus Hospital over the Memorial Day holiday. **Vicky Baker** was



NUTMEG STATE

responsible for gathering the various items placed in the "goodie bags" which were clipped closed by American flag pins.

DELTA

Delta Chapter members met at Chippanee Golf Club in Bristol in May. Installation of officers for the 2010-2012 biennium took place: **President Joan Krantz; First Vice-President, Mary Jane Miller; Second Vice-President Monica Kreuzer and Recording Secretary Terry Doyle.**

Chapter members were honored to have Delta's grant recipient, **Elizabeth Pantoni**, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Xiomara Pantoni, present for the award. Elizabeth's essay and multitude of accomplishments were quite evident as she spoke to the group. She is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Waterbury, where she was enrolled in the SOAR (School of Academic Renown) program since ninth grade, Elizabeth graduated in the top 8% of her class and will attend Central Connecticut State University where she will pursue a degree in secondary education majoring in History and ESL (English as a Second Language).

EPSILON

Epsilon Chapter held its March meeting at the Wethersfield Community Center. After a delicious light supper arranged by **Hospitality Chair, Arlene Lastrina**, members enjoyed a creative craft activity with **Anna Tufankjian, a Wethersfield art teacher.** All members took home a lovely handmade origami gift card.

Six members attended the Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention in April. The end-of-the year meeting took place at Chuck's Restaurant in Rocky Hill.



Epsilon Chapter origami workshop. (l. to r.) Front Row: **Arlene Lastrina, Carylrae Clinge and Dianna Wassenhove.** Back Row: **Katie Nunn, Joan Peck, President Ellen Murtha, Carol Koladicz, prospective member Kate Adams, instructor Anne Tufankjian and Anne Marie Discenza**

ZETA

Zeta Chapter held its final meeting of the year with a Sundae Social at the Branford Community Center on June 1st. Installation of officers was conducted by **Past President Tina Mannarino.** The 2010-2012 officers include **President Kimberly Carew, First Vice President Kathy Imholt, Second Vice President Lynn Pastore, Recording Secretary Linda Bullard, and Corresponding Secretary Barbara Brozek. Lenore Martinelli** returns as Treasurer. **Donna Chaney and Mary Janeczek** share Parliamentarian responsibilities. Congratulations to all and best wishes for a happy and successful biennium.

Guest speaker was Zeta's 2006 recipient of Zeta's Memorial Grant and recent graduate of Boston College, **Lindsey Pyrdol**, from West Haven. Lindsey received her degree in Education and hopes to begin her teaching career soon in the New Haven area. She spoke about her educational experiences at Boston College and her volunteer activities in and around the city of Boston. Zeta wishes her well in her career as an elementary school educator.

Several of Zeta's new officers attended the Alpha Kappa State Leadership Conference on June 26th. A planning meeting will be held by the new officers and executive board. Four Zeta members attended the International Convention in Spokane, Washington.



AROUND THE

ETA

On May 13th, Eta Chapter held its Annual Spring Banquet at the Groton Inn and Suites. There were many good reasons to celebrate that evening: **Betty Ann Tylaska** was awarded her 25-year pin and was thanked for her service to DKG, funds were raised toward the chapter's 2011 grant through the Bountiful Basket Bonanza and the highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Mary Tytla Grant.

The recipient of the \$500 grant was **Paige Nossak**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nossak of Stonington. Paige's mother **Carole** and her aunt **Sharon Curran** are both members of Eta Chapter and were seen beaming proudly as she accepted her award. Also in attendance was her brother Michael, who was the winner of the Bountiful Basket loaded with goodies from "Harry and David" - lucky boy! Paige's application was notable for her many outstanding accomplishments. Here are a few highlights: participated in varsity sports, inducted into the National Art Honor Society, participated in extensive community service, served as class secretary and maintained academic honors for four years. A true scholar athlete, Paige will be attending Providence College in the fall majoring in education.

The well-attended banquet was enjoyed, as usual, by Eta members. The next event is the annual patio picnic at **Alma Peterson's** home.

THETA

On January 20th, Theta members met at EAST-CONN in Hampton to attend a 'foldables' workshop led by Donna Drasch. Members enthusiastically gathered many new and exciting ideas of how to use these graphic organizers in classrooms.

On March 26th, members met at the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry at UCONN for a tour of the museum. A short meeting was held, and a slate of officers was approved for the next biennium: **President Susan Salesses, First Vice President Joan Culpin, Second Vice Presidents Jane Schreiber and Anne Soracchi, Recording Secretary Sharon Bartlett, and Corresponding Secretary Mary Ann Manning.**

A "No Bake Sale" was held throughout the spring. This is a fundraiser for our Theta Chapter outreach programs. We had a very successful response to the 'bake sale'!

Theta members served meals at the soup kitchen at St. Paul's Church in Willimantic on January 30th and May 1st. As always, the meals were greatly appreciated. Doing this service is a very rewarding experience.

The end of the year celebration took place on Thursday, May 20th, at Freedom Green in Mansfield Center. Members always enjoy this time of fellowship. A new member, **Leslie Kirshenbaum**, was initiated; and installation of new officers took place. The very first recipients of Theta Chapter's Achievement Award were announced. The chapter is pleased to honor **Janice McKusick, Annette Murphy, Anita Satriano, and Catherine Wade.** Throughout the years, these women have worked tirelessly for Theta Chapter and Delta Kappa Gamma. Congratulations to them!!

IOTA

In May, Iota Chapter members met at **President Marnee Straiton's** home. **Jackie Abbott, NGO/DPI Delegate to the United Nations (Non-Governmental Department of Public Information)** and a member of **CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations)**, spoke to the group about DKG's involvement and achievements in UN projects. Members enjoyed her informative talk followed by a pot luck supper. Iota held both an initiation and installation of new officers at this meeting. The chapter was pleased to learn that it had achieved the goals for the Shoe-In Challenge and welcomed two new members. **Maria Frederick** teaches 8th grade math in Redding. She has been a professional educator for 18 years. **Elizabeth Ricci** has held different positions in education. For the past 4 years, she has been a teacher of children with cerebral palsy at the Hudson Valley Early Childhood Center.

Officers for the next biennium are **President Deborah Brownell, First Vice-President Nancy Nahley, Second Vice-President Eleanor Coffey, Co-Recording Secretaries Sandra Gammons and Lois Weiss and Corresponding Secretaries Renay Dickens and Ruth-Ellen Hunt.**

On June 30th, Iota held a planning meeting. It is too soon to know if we will be able to get speakers for our top program choices, but members left the meeting enthusiastic about the ideas and believe that our program choices will be of interest to prospective new members. Several members offered to help share the responsibilities for meeting arrangements.



NUTMEG STATE (continued)

MU

Mu Chapter has had an active year. The giving hearts of the sisters have been busy each meeting. Members spent a fall meeting gathering and donating food to the West Hartford Food Pantry. For the April meeting enough diapers were donated to pack the back of an SUV, and these were donated to the Diaper Bank in New Haven. Government programs do not provide subsidy for diapers, so these donation were much appreciated. For the May meeting, three \$1000 scholarship grants were presented.

The first grant was given to **Christine Hartwich** from Conard High School in West Hartford. Christine will be attending Providence College and will major in education. The second award went to **Tamara Roytman** of Farmington High School. Tamara will attend the University of Pittsburgh and will major in communication sciences. The final award was given to **Katherine O'Neil**, a senior at Lewis Mills High School in Burlington. Katie will be attending Gordon College for elementary and special education. All three applicants expressed their deep appreciation.

This summer members will also finish collecting and assembling packets of books for Books for Babies. They will be donated to the New Britain Hospital for Special Care. Congratulations to members **Ann Newbury** and **Betty Wiesner** for marking forty years as DKG members, and to **Jane Bradovchak** and **Helen Hughlett** who celebrate thirty years as members. At the end of this biennium, **Jenn Olsen** finished her tenure as president, and she turned the reins over to **Jeanne Morascini**. Thank you, Jenn for a very good two years, and welcome, Jeanne.

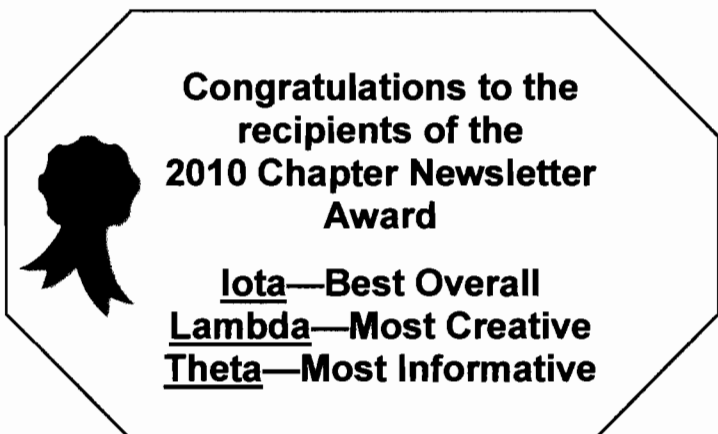
OMICRON

Omicron has had a busy year. The fall meeting was held at the new Oxford High School and included a tour of the very beautiful facility, a pot luck supper and short talks by some of the girls who had attended Girls State. The chapter has been sponsoring girls to attend Girls State for the past twenty years. This was a significant year for Oxford students, as this was the first year that the high school had a junior class. In cooperation with the American Legion Auxiliary and with the help of a grant from the Valley Community Foundation,

fifteen girls from the five valley towns attended the program. A significant share of the funding comes from the chapter's Annual Basket Raffle which takes place at the Christmas Brunch. On Sunday, December 6th, members met at a local restaurant to listen to a great speaker from "The Umbrella", a local group that assists women in need of any kind of service. They also operate a safe house for battered women and children. For the past ten years, Omicron has been donating gift cards to be given to any woman in need of their services. The speaker reminded us that our donations have totaled well over \$10,000.

Members continue to collect books to be given to Sister Jerilyn Hourihan, one of last year's guest speakers, who serves as a chaplain at The Connecticut Correctional Institute and shares the books with prisoner's families. The March meeting was held at the new Griffin Hospital Cancer Center in Derby. Members were treated to a tour and a lovely light supper. **Connie Evans** and **Marge Deegan**, hostesses, shared ideas of the needs that the center still has. **Blaze Ryan**, a thirty-year chapter member, volunteered to chair a Bocce Tournament to assist in funding the completion of the Women's Health Center. The tournament will be held in early fall at Shelton High School. Omicron is looking for teams from throughout the area to compete in this fun-filled fundraiser.

The May 13th meeting was held at Racebrook Country Club. Three new members were initiated: **Denise DellaVolpe** and **Laurie Hubelbank**, both second grade teachers at Quaker Farms School in Oxford; and **Laurie Mihalcik**, a special education teacher at Quaker Farms School.





IN MEMORIAM

White Roses

"Every good life leaves behind the fiber of it interwoven forever in the work of the world."

Wanda Dick, Beta

April 21, 2010

Beta Chapter lost another long time, devoted member, Wanda Dick, who died at the age of 83. She was recovering from abdominal surgery and residing at the Lord Chamberlane Home in Stratford.

Wanda was born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She later moved to New York where she taught elementary school in Bedford Village, after which she moved to Connecticut where she taught grades one and three in the Fairfield School System. It was there she was introduced to her future husband, Dr. Samuel Dick, a dentist in Trumbull. Wanda taught at Nichols Elementary School and Daniels Farm School before receiving her Masters Degree in Library Science. She later worked as the Library/Media Specialist at Hillcrest Junior High School in Trumbull.

She served on the Trumbull Board of Education for several years, was Co-Chairperson of the Trumbull Friends of the Library and a member of the Senior Citizens' Center of Trumbull. Wanda was also chairperson of the Finance Fund for the Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Association.

Wanda was a devoted and involved member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society where she held the office of the Beta Chapter president. She was also active on the state level, serving on the Alpha Kappa State finance committee. Known for her creative and artistic talents in paper cutting, she attended many state conferences and conventions, as well as regional conferences and international conventions where she presented workshops on the Art of Paper-Cutting. She also donated several of her framed silhouettes to chapter and state fundraisers.

She will be missed by all who knew her - friends, cousins and her Alpha Kappa State sisters.

Eileen Frager Litscher, Alpha Kappa State Honorary Member

December 18, 2009

Eileen Frager Litscher, initiated as a State Honorary member in 1970, passed away after a short illness. She was a long-time resident of Shelton and a 1936 graduate of Shelton High School. Eileen was involved in several local, state and national service organizations. She organized a Parent Teacher Association at Commodore Hull School in 1948, went on to serve as state president and was a member of the national PTA board. Eileen was also an active member of the March of Dimes Foundation, beginning the fight against polio before the vaccine development and staying to fight birth defects at the state and national level. She was a local Girl Scout leader and summer camp director for many years. In more recent years, she served on the Shelton Drug and Alcohol Commission. She was a proud member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Eileen is survived by her devoted husband of 71 years, Charles, and daughter, Kathleen Fortin.

Congratulations!

**ALPHA KAPPA STATE
ACHIEVER**

Florence "Flo" Goodman, Delta Chapter, was awarded the Sandy Marino, Sr. Distinguished Award at the 41st Annual Wolcott Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner. This is presented annually to a member of the community who has distinguished himself/herself in volunteer service. Flo serves in a variety of volunteer capacities in the town of Wolcott, as well as for her chapter.

She is the town's historian, president of the Wolcott Historical Society which hosts an annual Garden Tour and Dessert Card Party. The Society also hosts a House Tour biannually. Flo also researches and writes about the history of Wolcott for the Wolcott Community news which is available on the Wolcott Historical Society's website and hosts open house at the Old Schoolhouse Museum. She is also secretary of the Greater Naugatuck Valley History Consortium. Flo has served in various capacities in Delta Chapter, including president, vice-president, newsletter editor, membership chair and program co-chair.



Spring Convention Photos



(l. to r.) **Speaker Christine Ieronimo, International Guest Cathy Dougherty, Introductions Arlene Clancy, Alpha Kappa State President Carol Kraus, and Speaker Dr. Bonita Chamberlin**



Program Chair Roz Etra



International Guest Cathy Dougherty (Southeast Regional Director) and Arlene Clancy, Introductions



Birthday Celebration—Zeta Chapter (l. to r.) Linda Amarante, Terry Azoti, Linda Bullard, Judy Cody, Gerry Giaino and Nancy Janeczek



Honoring our Members (l. to r.) Terry Azoti, Carylae Clinge, Carol Kraus and Linda Amarante



Alpha Kappa State Display Connecticut Pioneer Women and State History Books



Chapter Donations for State Fundraiser



***Alpha Kappa State
Expanding our Horizons:
Making a Difference***

Dates to Remember

September 11, 2010
Alpha Kappa State Executive Board Meeting
II Monticello (Meriden)

November 6, 2010
Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference
Marriott (Rocky Hill)

January 15, 2011 [Snow Date: Jan. 22]
Alpha Kappa State Executive Board Meeting
II Monticello (Meriden)

March 26, 2011
Alpha Kappa State Executive Board Meeting
II Monticello (Meriden)

Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention
Date and place to be announced.

June 11, 2011
Alpha Kappa State Executive Board Meeting
II Monticello (Meriden)

**Photography for *The Keynote*
contributed by**

**Alpha Kappa State Photographer
Lisa Hudkins**

Visit Delta Kappa Gamma's **NEW** website...

www.dkg.org

Learn about the Constitution Revisions...

Find out what International has to
offer **YOU**...

Read about Tom' Shoes and the
DKG connection...

Join the **NEW** social network—
www.dkgnetwork.org

NEXT KEYNOTE DEADLINE:
September 3, 2010

Send information to Carol Beam
267 Ivy Drive
Bristol, CT 06010-3308

or e-mail to <d.w.beam@snet.net>

**Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference
Saturday, November 6th
Marriott
Rocky Hill, CT**

**Expanding Our Horizons:
Making a Difference**

Looking for Alpha Kappa State members who are
making a difference through the projects and initiatives
in which they are involved.....

- school
- community
- other affiliations

You are invited to share your contributions through
display boards, PowerPoint presentations, brochures,
etc.

Please contact
Roz Etra, Alpha Kappa State Program Chair
<roz620@aol.com>

Hope to see you all there!

A special thank you to the
reviewers for *The Keynote*:



- Terry Azoti
- Judy Cody
- Carol Kraus
- Jeanne Morascini
- Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone
- Nancy Roy
- Catherine Schaffer
- Marnee Straiton