



Theta Chapter  
Alpha Kappa State  
The Delta Kappa Gamma  
Society International

# Theta Thoughts

Volume 13, Issue I

Summer 2014

My Dear Theta Sisters,

As the summer is drawing to a close, I hope that you are feeling relaxed and refreshed and ready to begin a new academic year! Whether you will be teaching pre-school through college; babysitting your grandchildren; or starting a new volunteer adventure as a retiree, this promises to be an exciting year! The Theta program committee has planned some educational and fun programs this year for us to enjoy. They are listed in this newsletter. We invite you to attend as many as you are able!



I just returned from Indianapolis where the International DKG Convention was held. How many of you were able to watch the impressive opening ceremonies on the live feed? Fifteen CT members attended the convention and five were from Theta! There, I was able to develop my goals for my biennium. First, it is important for us to increase our membership. At our height, Theta had one hundred members and we now have around sixty-five. Alpha Kappa State had one thousand and now has about five hundred and fifty. A Theta Ad Hoc committee met this summer to develop a plan to recruit new members, re-invite members who have left, and to better orient and involve our new members. Sharon Bartlett, our new membership chair, will share their ideas at our Theta Picnic in August and you can read their article for more information. Sarah Sladek, author of *The End of Membership As We Know It*, spoke about the characteristics and styles of the generations: Baby Boomers (1946-1964), Millennials (1965-1981 - also referred to as Gen X), and Gen Y (1982-1995). Her point was that each generation is very different in the way they communicate and how they expect to join and participate in a group. We will explore this topic this year and make some changes to welcome some younger members. Maybe it is time for us to have a Theta Facebook page! If every member invites one new member we could achieve this goal in a year! Please bring your completed nomination form(s) to our picnic!

My second goal is for us to take a close look at each of our projects and recommit to them. At the picnic, Susan Salesses will review each of the International, State and Theta projects and funds listed on our Dues Form so that each member will be able to make an informed decision about which fund(s) she chooses to support. Beverly Helms, our outgoing International President of DKG stated that every DKG

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President  
Susan Salesses

member is a leader - that is why you were invited to join! I would like to encourage each member to get more involved by choosing a committee(s) you wish to sign up to help with, or even co-chair, based on your interests. The incoming DKG International President, Lyn Schmidt said that to improve our chapter, we need to continually "plan, do and evaluate". We will reassess, reinvent and recommit to our Theta projects. If you have any new ideas for projects, bring them to the picnic! Terry Azoti, our Alpha Kappa State president who attended our May Banquet, was so impressed with the many services Theta provides, and with our wonderful fellowship! We should be proud of what we do and encourage others to be a part of our projects. Thank you for all that you do! You are amazing women and your donations of time, treasure and talent help so many people in our community, our state and the world community! I look forward to working and spending time with each of you this year!!

In sisterhood,  
*Ann*  
Ann Grosjean

## Summer Splash at the Journey House

Catherine Wade organized another successful Summer Splash at the Journey House and the girls LOVED the many items you donated! The scarves were particularly appreciated as they use them as head scarves!! Ann Chuk, Sheila Clark, Ann Grosjean, Sandy Popeleski, Millie Ramsey and Linda Duckstein were there to cheer the girls on. As we donate this year, keep in mind that in addition to the scarves, they also enjoyed the make-up, toiletries, nail polish, notecards, notebooks, pens and games.

We will also collect fourteen stockings for the holidays full of gifts for each of the girls. It is fun to collect and wrap with a partner so you might like to sign up to fill one stocking with a friend. There will be a sign up at the Picnic, or you can call Catherine Wade at 860 455 0921, or e-mail her at [catherineawade@hotmail.com](mailto:catherineawade@hotmail.com) if you would like to participate. Use the suggestions above for ideas and be creative!

## Convention

Fifteen CT members attended the Convention and five were from Theta! We are very proud of The Curriculum of Hope Committee and their very successful Peace Roundtable, moderated by Pat O'Connell Buckley, at which members from ten countries described how they teach peace in their countries. Anita Satriano spoke to the European Forum at their breakfast about the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World. The photo and stenciled cards the state created sold like hot-cakes and money was made for the Alpha Kappa State Non-dues Fund! I encourage each of you to attend the CT Alpha Kappa State Fall and/or Spring gatherings and the DKG Northeast Regional Conference next summer in Baltimore! It is a time to network, renew friendships, and to learn!



Phyllis Hickey, from DKG International, says hi to her Theta Sisters!

**Global Peace Roundtable**



Theta members Pat O’Connell Buckley, Ann Grosjean, Anita Satriano, and Carol Kraus represented the "Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee" at the “Global Peace Roundtable: Worldwide Educational Initiatives” breakout

session at the DKG International Convention in Indianapolis on July 31, 2014. Sixteen members from ten countries—Germany, Costa Rica, Estonia, Great Britain, Mexico, Canada, Japan, Norway, Sweden, and the United States participated in the roundtable discussion. Members shared initiatives that promote peace and educate global citizens in their respective countries. They shared common themes such as helping children value other children and the need to integrate or imbed peace education in other subject areas. The participating teachers expressed that teaching the attributes of caring, respect, responsibility, and compassion, and skills such as critical thinking and conflict resolution are essential elements to educating global citizens to live in a culture of peace. The committee will compile all of the presentations, post them on the DKG webpage, and share them electronically with each of the DKG countries. The roundtable was positively received by all participants and each person shares the hope of a peaceful world for future generations.

**State Senator Don Williams to Speak at October Meeting**

During his state Senate career, Senator Williams developed a reputation as a thoughtful, effective legislator who has successfully spearheaded a variety of cutting-edge reforms. His policy priorities have included campaign finance reform, ethics reform, the protection of children, improving the environment, and safeguarding the social safety net that is critical to families in need throughout his district and the entire state of Connecticut. He will not be seeking reelection this year.



After six years of research, Senator Williams has written a book "Prudence Crandall's Legacy," which explores Crandall's unique role in the fight for civil rights and her influence on legal arguments for equality in America. Prudence Crandall, the state heroine, opened a school for young African American girls in Canterbury in 1833. Connecticut’s rulings against blacks in the case that spelled doom for Prudence Crandall’s school, and in 1834 set the scene for the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dred Scott decision upholding slavery and, ultimately, set up the Civil War. In 1886 the Legislature voted to give her an annual pension of \$400. The General Assembly voted in 1995 to name her the state heroine.

We will meet at the Prudence Crandall House in Canturbury on Saturday, October 25th. Senator Williams will speak from 10—11, and then we will have a tour from 11 to 12. See the calendar for more information.

## Ad Hoc Membership Committee Meets

The Theta ad hoc membership committee met on Friday, July 11 and had a productive discussion resulting in a number of recommendations and initiatives. This is a wonderful group of seriously committed members who shared many ideas and thoughts. Pam Abel, Sharon Bartlett, Janice McKusick, Karen Dibala, Marie Desautels and Jeanne Morascini are serving on the committee.

The members unanimously recommend that Theta pay the \$5 initiation fee (required by International) for new members.

We also reviewed files to determine who should be contacted to encourage them to reinstate. Members will be calling former members this summer.

Sharon and Jan will be working together on all aspects of membership responsibilities. Sharon has the packet distributed at the Leadership Conference Membership session.

We also discussed the importance of keeping in touch with new members we have recommended including connecting with them before meetings, offering a ride, etc., as well as the need for each of us to make new people feel welcomed at meetings by speaking to them and getting to know them.

Sharon will make a report at the picnic meeting which will include asking each member to actively recruit one new member. Sharon will distribute a packet of informational materials to explain our group to any potential members so recruiting will be easier. She will also outline a schedule for getting recommendations to her, when we will vote on the recommendations and when we will hold initiation(s) during the year.

Thank you for appointing us and giving us the opportunity to be helpful in this most important matter of increasing our membership.



We welcome our newest members  
who were installed  
at our May meeting!

**Felicia O'Brien**  
**Carol Phelps**

## Membership in Delta Kappa Gamma

Women educators who are employed in an educational position or as a self-employed educator, or are retired educators from an educational position are eligible for membership. Membership is by invitation only and considered a prestigious honor.



## Congratulations!

**Sheila Clark**  
on your retirement!

**Marie Desautels**  
on your retirement!

**Kelly Putz**  
on your marriage to Ed Chase!

**Dee Hammon**  
on being the grandmother of  
the NBA's first female coach!

Madge Vining highly recommends books by Diane Chamberlain. She says you will fall in love with her delightful, believable, human characters, her literary writing skills with (mostly) short pick-up/put-down chapters, a little mystery, a little romance, and fascinating surprise twists to her interesting story lines.

**Committee Chairs**

Ann Burns Fund:	Catherine Wade
Archivist:	Sheila Clark
Books for Babies:	Ann Chuk Annette Murphy
Care:	Susan Salesses
Curriculum of Hope:	Anita Satriano
Directory:	Janice McKusick Susan Salesses
Finance:	Diane Either
Historian:	Ellie Decker
Initiation/Installation:	Sue Moon
Journey House:	Catherine Wade
Membership:	Sharon Bartlett
Newsletter:	Janice McKusick
Nominations:	Pat O'Connell-Buckley
Phone Chain:	Sheila Clark
Photographer:	Judy Baxter
Professional Affairs:	Leslie Neal Linda Tracy
Schools for Africa Project:	Karen Anger
Soup Kitchen:	Monique Brown Ann Grosjean
Theta Higher Education Grant:	Norma Fisher-Doiron
Ways and Means:	Jane Moynihan
World Fellowship:	Karen Anger

**Condolences**

Our thoughts are with Betty Brennan, on the recent death of her husband.

**We Care!**

If you know of a member who is convalescing, has lost a loved one, or could use some cheering up, please contact our CARE person, Sue Salesses at 860 208 9035 or smags457@gmail.com. She will graciously send a note on our behalf.



Jeanne Morascini with Louise Loomis, who Theta Chapter endorsed for the Alpha Kappa State Community Service Award, for her volunteer work with Connecticut's underserved children in the Hartford area.

**Books for Babies**

Books for Babies is going strong! Over 7,000 books have been donated to newborns at Windham Hospital. The UCONN Co-op continues to be an invaluable supporter, donating high quality board books. Many thanks to Theta members for their monetary support and contributions.

Nettie Murphy  
Ann Chuk  
Co-chairs



**Ann Burns**

If you have any instruments at home that your family is not using, consider donating them to the Ann Burns Fund, which will loan them to high school students unable to afford instruments. Please contact Catherine Wade at 860 455 9021 or catherineawade@hotmail.com.



## Dues

Your help in getting your dues in by OCTOBER 1, 2014 is greatly appreciated. Your dues support our local, state and international projects, grants and scholarships. Please also consider donating to the funds listed at all three levels as well. Each of the funds is described below. Know that the money you donate goes directly to the specific program, and benefits area students and members. We will be discussing these projects more at our August meeting. If you need more time, or help in paying your dues, please contact Ann Grosjean.

### Theta Chapter Funds

**Ann D. Burns Memorial Fund:** This fund is used to support the library of musical instruments (Chapter Standing Rules) that are repaired and loaned out to area high school students.

**Laurel Music Grant:** A grant that provides funds for a selected high school student in the Theta area to attend Laurel Music camp; a week-long camp for CT high school students whose interest is band/orchestra.

**Girls State Grant:** Provides funds for a selected high school junior girl in the Theta area to attend Girls State; a week-long program where girls learn about our state government.

**Books for Babies:** Provides a new board book and brochure to each infant born at Windham Hospital.

**Soup Kitchens:** A full meal is served twice a year to people in need in Willimantic. Extra funds are donated to the Danielson Soup Kitchen. (Members will be asked to contribute to the meal, serve, or donate funds.)

**Elizabeth Jordan Higher Education Grant:** Awarded annually to a student in the field of education at either UCONN or Eastern (\$500). The student is chosen via an application process.

**Care Fund:** Provides cards and/or gift/flowers for a Theta member for a special occasion (illness, death in family, wedding...).

**Journey House:** Provides support for our programs (Christmas stockings, Valentine's Day, Summer Splash) for the girls at Journey House at Natchaug Hospital.

**Lillian Hochberg Fund:** This fund was set-up by Theta member Lillian Hochberg and is there to help any member who is suffering from a hardship. i.e.: When members are unable to pay their dues, funds are taken from this fund.

**Theta Memorial:** This fund honors deceased members of Theta with a gift in their memory to a chosen charity.

### State Funds

**Margaret Croft Fund:** Provides \$1000 or more for members to attend seminars, etc. not covered by the scholarship program to assist in the publication of materials or for members with extenuating circumstances. "Networking for Children" and "Caring for Our Planet" were supported by this fund. \$ to go to conferences

**Rheta Lange Grant:** This grant is offered to a junior or senior enrolled in the elementary education program at SCSU.

**Lee Formica Grant:** The Lee P. Formica Grant is awarded to a senior entering a planned program for teaching communications, which includes, but is not limited to, English, reading, computer graphics, journalism and ESL.

### International Funds

**The Emergency Fund:** Provides \$500 in assistance for members who have sustained major losses from natural disasters. From 2010-2013 "record storms, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes and wild fires resulted in checks for a total of \$100,000 for 200 members."

**The World Fellowship Fund:** Used to grant fellowships to women educators who do not belong to DKG in countries other than the USA or Canada. The fund has supported over 400 recipients in more than 80 countries to pursue graduate studies at a cost of over two million dollars.

**The Golden Gift Fund II:** Supports leadership training through the Leadership/Management Seminars and research or professional conference participation through Special Stipends.

**The Educational Foundation:** Its purpose is to encourage standards of excellence in education by providing grants for women scholars to carry out research and study that will lead to the improvement of education. For example, this fund helped support Miriam Epstein's Books To Dreams project which has distributed over 369,000 books to children in need.

**Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire.**

**~William Butler Yeats**

# Theta Chapter

# 2014~2015 Calendar

**Monday, August 18th 4:00—6:30**

Welcome Back Picnic at Sharon Bartlett's  
Business meeting, committee sign-ups  
Bring an appetizer, salad or desert to share  
Nomination of new members

**Saturday, October 25th 10:00-12:00**

Prudence Crandall Museum  
Don Williams will speak about his book  
*Prudence Crandall's Legacy*, and we will tour the  
museum. From 10:00—11:00 Don will speak,  
answer questions, and sell and sign his book.  
From 11:00—12:00 we will tour the museum  
and view a movie about the museum with Kaz  
Kozlowski. There is a restaurant nearby, Dino's,  
where we can gather for lunch if you wish.  
There is a \$4.00 charge for admission to the  
museum.

**Monday, January 19th 2:00-4:00**

Willington Library  
Theta Loves to Read  
We will read the book, *The Virginia Plan:  
Thalhimer and the Rescue from Nazi Germany*, by  
Robert Gillette. Our late honorary member, Eva  
Lowe, is included in this book. We will discuss  
the book, and hope to view a taped interview  
with Eva.  
Business meeting, book swap  
Books for Babies donations will be collected  
Tea and desserts

**Monday, March 23rd 4:00—6:00**

Location to be determined  
Brain Gym with Carrie Hollman  
Increase your knowledge, improve your skills  
New member nominations

**Wednesday, June 3rd 5:30—7:30**

Freedom Green  
Catered dinner meeting  
Initiation of new members, scholarship  
presentation  
Collect items for Journey House Summer Splash

## Soup Kitchens

January 31st  
Monique Brown  
May 30th  
Ann Grosjean

## Alpha Kappa State Conferences

Saturday, November 1, 2014  
Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference /Courtyard  
by Marriott (Cromwell)  
Cora Weiss, nominated by the Curriculum of  
Hope, with be initiated as a DKG International  
Honorary Member  
Saturday, April 25, 2015  
Alpha Kappa State's 76th Spring Convention

## DKG Northeast Regional Conference

July 8—11  
Baltimore, MD

## CTAUN Conference

**(Committee on Teaching about the UN)**  
Friday, January 30th at UN Headquarters, NYC



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