



The Zeta Zone

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Spring 2013

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Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, April 27, 2013 AKS Spring Convention, Courtyard by Marriott, 8:30-2:45.
- * Wednesday, June 5, 2013, Sundae Social, Whitney Center, Hamden, CT, 4-7
- * July 24-27, 2013, Northeast Regional Conference, Portland, Maine

President's Greeting

Dear Zeta Sisters,



As I spring ahead I think of how quickly spring will come and go. I think of all that has happened since the academic year began. People lost their homes from the devastating effects of recent hurricanes. Schools were closed for many days after the record-breaking February snowfall. Communities, families, and students throughout the state were dramatically affected by the tragedy at Sandy Hook. The challenges to teachers, particularly early educators, continue to be overwhelming. More, now than ever, we need to join together to share what works so that all teachers can be successful.

I have been teaching for 26 years and I am passionate about education. I have experienced the changes in curriculum from phonics to whole language, fact families to number bonds, and from no mentors, to BEST mentors and now to TEAM mentors. I have always tried to help out the new teachers. I have held a variety of positions in my career in both special and regular education and taught in nine different schools in two districts. When you are new you sometimes don't know the right questions to ask. You need a friend. You need someone who will: listen to ideas, anticipate roadblocks for you, listen to your woes, and give you encouragement when you most need it. That could be you! You could be the key to keeping a great, natural teacher in our profession. It is the hardest job I have ever had; now more than ever. There are data to be collected, portfolios to prepare, bulletin boards to decorate, and modifications to provide. Yes, you can help. I love to learn. I love to Google questions with my students. I love to laugh with my students. One of the ways I remain sound is by keeping a sense of humor and the realization that what I do, everyday, is enough because I give all I have to give. I am sure you do, as well. Every day I find myself observing with so much admiration the early educators in my school. They never cease to amaze me. They're always there to give more instruction, make adjustments to lessons, buy their own supplies, provide more data, remain flexible, and prepare for portfolio reviews. They bring in snacks for testing, eat lunch with their students daily, and generally face the many pressures of being a teacher in stride. They come into school every day prepared for their students and the task ahead. They do all of that and so much more.

All teachers strive to do their best. They can't go to the bathroom when they need to. There is constant pressure to produce successful students. Standardized testing has replaced creativity in the classroom. Teachers do what they need to do for "their kids". A pat on the back, a quick hug, or a "high five" can often make the dif-

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President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

ference in a student's day. Sometimes a quiet word of encouragement or a package of cereal or a hopeful, listening ear is all that is needed to make a child smile.

A goal for my biennium is for Zeta Chapter to do what we can to help early educators. To this end, we will create an eternal flip or page-a-day calendar filled with our stories and vignettes,

words of wisdom, perhaps advice, and of course, encouragement. I could include a story of the day I wore two different colored shoes to school just to see who would be the first to notice. Surely every one of you has a memory or a story to tell. I am asking you to take a few minutes to think about what you can contribute that would help our newest teachers. Please feel

free to contact me by e-mail at rozg713@yahoo.com, with your stories or ideas of other ways we can contribute to the success of the teaching community.

Sincerely,
Roz Gambardella
Zeta President
New Haven Public School system
teacher

Membership News

Judy Cody, Kim Carew

All applications/Nominations for Membership forms should be completed and in the hands of Kim Carew or Judy Cody by May 24!! We seek members of all ages whether actively employed or retired. This year especially, we want to invite early educators (teaching 1-5 years) who can experience the many benefits membership offers including our individual and chapter support in and out of the classroom in a variety of ways.

Membership committee is excited about some prospective members you

have told us about or introduced to us to keep our chapter strong and vibrant we must continuously bring in candidates, but to date, have received only one application form.

Alpha Kappa State has awarded Zeta a certificate for being one of 5 chapters to meet the 12 x 2012 goal to attain 12 members! We had 17 which included one reinstatement, the *most* any CT state chapter received during this state challenge! **Please** let's show Alpha Kappa State we can continue to meet our membership challenge in

this biennium.

Mail to:
Kim Carew, 55 Mansfield
Road, North Haven, CT 06473

Judy Cody, 1450 Tuttle Avenue,
Wallingford, CT 06492

"Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."
-Vince Lombardi

Terry Azoti to be Installed as AKS President for 2013-2015



Please remember to support our own Terry Azoti as she is installed as our new state president at the spring convention. It is not too late to sign up. Registration is due by April 14th. Zeta members, Rita Landino, Julia Nicefaro, and Frances Pagliaro, will also be recognized for their years of membership.

Zeta's Initiation Dinner

Laura Gilson



Zeta was honored to initiate three new members to the Alpha Kappa Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International at the annual initiation dinner which was held October seventeenth at Pompeo's Restaurant in Branford, CT. Commendable initiates Carol Altieri, Rosalie Ann Amato, and Karen Shinkman along with their sponsors partook in a moving candle lighting and signing ceremony. The ceremony also honored Delta Kappa Gamma Society's beginnings with Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and her colleagues establishing the first chapter in 1929 through our current significant growth of approximately 90,000 members and 2,600 chapters in 18 countries. The ceremony displayed the symbols of the society in addition to stating the common vision of bringing together qualified and diverse educators, strengthening them while pursuing worthwhile projects that make a difference in

the community around the world.

Members were introduced to the new initiates by their sponsors.

Carol Altieri, of Madison, sponsored by Terri Santillo and Ann Caruso, is an author with numerous publications and is currently working on poetry and a memoir. She also is an environmentalist, taught many years in New Haven, including at Hillhouse High School along with the Talented and Gifted Program, and worked on the New Haven Festival of Arts. Carol has a sixth year degree in Educational Leadership and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Humanities.

Rosalie Ann Amato, of New Haven, sponsored by Anne Caruso and Terri Santillo, has forty-two years teaching experience. Rosalie has a sixth year degree in Educational Foundations. She has been the Pre-K Education Director teaching at Hill Health Central and Nathan Hale School.

Karen Shinkman, of East Haven, was sponsored by Carolyn Downs. She is re-

tired from teaching math at Amity Regional High School for thirty-six years. Karen has been active in CEA, NEA, as past president of her local education association, and a participant in local contract negotiations. She has a MS degree in educational testing and is involved with NEAP testing along with teacher evaluations.

The initiation dinner was followed by a brief business meeting. President Roz Gambardella encouraged members to support new teachers and members compiled helpful hints and anecdotes. Membership chairs Kim Carew and Judy Cody issued a challenge for ten new members for this biennium, especially, but not limited to, early educators. Members were encouraged to attend the AKS Fall Conference to support our own Ashley Brandl who will take part in a panel of early educators.



Initiation Photos



From left to right: Karen Shinkman, Carolyn Downs, Terri Santillo, Carol Altieri, Rosalie Amato, and Ann Caruso,.

Ceremony Table



Carol Altieri signing the book



Karen Shinkman receiving a rose from Roz



Rosalie Amato receiving her rose from Roz.

From left to right: Judy Cody, Anne Murphy, Toni Cartisano, Roz Gambardella, and Nancy Janeczek.



Alpha Kappa State 73rd Conference

Lynn Pastore

It was a pleasure to attend the Alpha Kappa State 73rd Conference on November third and get away from the damage and power outages caused by Hurricane Sandy. It was a time to relax, talk with other DKG members, and learn about supporting early-career educators.

The Keynote Speaker was Kim Wachtelhausen from the CT State Department of Education. Her presentation was *Launching and Supporting New Educators*, which included an overview of the TEAM Program. This is the third year of the TEAM Program that is designed to bridge the journey from preparation to professional practice of new public school teachers. She made a comparison of the BEST Program with the video tape and portfolio requirements to the TEAM Program that is web based with modules that foster conversations between mentors and new

teachers. It emphasizes professional learning, ongoing support, and professional growth. The TEAM Program is a two to three year program with flexibility and room for decision making. Journaling is encouraged and allows the new teacher and the mentor to be reflective. The mentor and new teacher together consider; How will this learning help you and me develop as a teacher, and how will the students benefit?

After the presentation, a panel of early-career educators, including Ashley Brandl from Zeta, shared ideas how DKG retirees and working teachers might support them in their classrooms. Some suggestions to members included:

- extra support to students
- support to the teacher
- support by phone by a teacher at same grade level
- support in content areas

The afternoon session included a presentation by Trevor Smith, a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, entitled *Laughter: The New Bottom Line in the Workplace*. He talked about laughter as opposed to jokes and comedy which sometimes offend people. DKG members participated in laughter games and exercises that improve your health and overall well-being. These activities encourage eye contact, and connect students with one another.

The day was well spent. If you have not attended a state conference or convention, I would strongly encourage you to attend the DKG Spring Convention on April 27th.



More photos on next page



Zeta Members Enjoy the AKS Fall Conference



Auction: A Financial and Social Success

Alblina Cannavaciolo

Our Zeta team effort produced another super Auction on November seventeenth! This year we voted to share our profit with Family Centered Services of Connecticut, whose mission is to prevent child abuse, neglect and victimization across the life span and to serve those affected through home visiting, parenting education and counseling.

Anne Murphy made the arrangements for us at the beautiful Whitney Center, which provided a wonderful venue and a delicious brunch for us to enjoy. Claudia Grantham and Louise Manfreda gracefully greeted members and their guests as they arrived and registered for

the upcoming festivities. Toni Cartisano provided the name tags and we were good to go!

Elayne Canter, who missed her calling as a comedienne, was really a hoot as our delightful Auctioneer again, while Dorothy Martino and Julia Nicefaro did an excellent job getting the items to successful bidders, with Dorothy doing double duty as our lovely model as well.

Ann Caruso and Terri Santillo set up at the back table to record winning bids and collect money, a job they have done extremely well for many years. Ann and Terri were helped by Tina

Mannarino and Jeanne Lawrence in making and distributing numbers that were used for bidding.

Tina and Anne Murphy sold raffle tickets for World Fellowship and Schools for Africa. We also collected money for the CT Food Bank. Carolyn Downs took enough pictures to fill an album, so that we will be able to enjoy the day again.

Roz Gambardella helped wherever we needed help, as did others whom we do not want to slight, but in the blur of the day, did not record their names. Know that we are grateful for everything that was done that led to the success of the Auction.



Donna Chaney

Ann Kelley

DKG Spotlight—Who's Who



Donna was honored at our Back to School meeting in September. She has not only achieved success as a leader in Delta Kappa Gamma, but also earned the admiration and respect of those educators who worked with her in the Milford School System.

Born and raised in Indiana, after completing her B.S. in Library Science at Indiana University at Bloomington, Donna came to Connecticut in 1968 to start her 36 year career as librarian/Library Media Spe-

cialist with the Milford school system. A M.L.S. from Southern Connecticut State University was completed in 1977. She spent five years at Milford High School and then moved to Foran High School, where she created a very good media center! Donna taught as an adjunct member of the Southern faculty for four years in the School of Library Science. After retiring from Foran in 2004, she supervised future Library Media Specialists for three years.

A member of Delta Kappa Gamma since 1978, Donna has served as president, treasurer, and is currently serving as co-parliamentarian for Zeta. An active member of the State Executive Board, she is currently in her eighth year as state treasurer, having served as assistant treasurer for five years previously. She has also served on Leadership

Development, Finance, and Communications. She was selected to participate in the Parliamentary Training Seminar sponsored by International in Chicago in 2005. She was awarded the Alpha Kappa State Achievement Award at the spring convention in 2009.

Honored with the Life Achievement Award from the American Red Cross in 2004, for her groundbreaking school bloodmobiles, Donna remains a strong proponent of volunteering...no matter what it is: time, money or even "a little bit blood!"

Retired in 2004, Donna is still on the lookout for "retirement-type" stuff to do; for now, emptying the 'job jar" is enough.



of

Northeast Regional Conference

The Northeast Regional Conference will be held from July 24 to 27th in Portland, Maine. Why not take advantage of the proximity, within driving distance, to attend the conference? It is an opportunity for informative workshops and great keynote speakers; to meet members from Northeast states and beyond; and for fun and fellowship with other Alpha Kappa State members. Join us at the Holiday Inn by the Bay!

Georgene Hayes

Claudia Grantham



Life Membership Awardee

- never finished it.
- She was married to John and lived in New Jersey until the early 70's.
- She taught in Hillsdale, New Jersey until the family moved to West Haven, in order to be near her mother who needed care. It was at that time she took a job in Hamden CT.
- Mrs. Hayes taught in Hamden as she took care of her mother and raised her family.
- She was an elementary art teacher.
- She retired in 1988.
- She was active in the Retired CT. Teachers Association
- She was initiated into DKG in 1968, shortly after arriving in Connecticut.
- Her sponsor was someone named Agnes.
- Mrs. Hayes has two sons. One, John, lives in Hancock, New Hampshire and sees her often and another son, Raymond, lives in Deep River CT. Raymond was at the birthday meeting to receive the first Zeta Chapter Life Membership Award on behalf of his mother.
- Initiated in 1968.
- She has been a member for 45 years.
- Mrs. Hayes currently lives in an assisted living facility in Peterborough, New Hampshire.
- She graduated from NYU with a Bachelor in Fine Arts.
- She continued to work on her Masters degree but

DKG Spotlight—Who's Who

Join us on Wednesday, June 5th at the Whitney Center for Our Annual Sundae Social

Zeta Sisters Sharing



From the North Haven Patch: The New Haven Boys & Girls Club Alumni has announced their selections for the 2013 Gold Ring Award. North Haven residents, Albina Cannavaciolo and First Selectman Michael Freda, will be recipients of the Gold Ring. The third person selected is Albert Carbone of Trumbull. The Gold Ring is awarded to honorees in recognition of the volunteer service they perform in the community. The rings will be presented at the 79th Annual Gold Ring Awards Dinner on April 29th at the Country House Restaurant on Rt. 80 in East Haven. For ticket information please contact Eileen Moriarty at 203-272-8140.

GREETINGS FROM JOAN DAVIES



I was asked to write an article for the Zeta Zone about my new chapter in Delta Kappa Gamma. We

are now settled in Acton, Massachusetts, nearer to our family.

Especially knowing that if I wished to remain an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, our move to Massachusetts meant transferring my membership to a local chapter near our home in Acton. Judy Cody kindly put me in touch with the chapter president of Alpha Kappa XI in Chelmsford. I attended my first meeting last June, the initiation of new members, and was welcomed warmly. It was especially com-

forting knowing the mutual bond we share as sisters in Delta Kappa Gamma was easily felt in my new chapter. Of course, I miss all my Zeta sisters and the many years we shared together. I miss you all!

I was fortunate to attend the Fall Conference for Alpha Upsilon Massachusetts with several sisters from Alpha XI. Jeanne O'Hearn from Alpha Eta chapter presented an excellent workshop called "Community Poem Project". Jeanne, a middle school teacher, described how she compiled poems from over 200 students and faculty members at her school to create one community poem titled, "Celebration of Life in the Tri-Town". Her enthusiasm was infectious and I left

thinking how much fun it would be to try this if I were actively teaching. Jeanne actually published a book from the many voices of students and faculty in her school expressing what their town meant to them. She kindly gave each of us a copy of the book. In keeping with this idea, she asked us to "close our eyes and think of what we see, hear, smell, taste and feel when we think of Delta Kappa Gamma." We were asked to create a simile or metaphor by comparing an aspect of Delta Kappa Gamma to something else. We wrote our thoughts on an index card and Jeanne then compiled the following poem:

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Zeta Sisters Sharing *(continued from page 10)*

WE ARE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

A community poem written by: Helen Clark of Alpha Epsilon, Joan Davies of Alpha Xi, Kathleen Fox of Alpha Theta, Diane Swistak of Alpha Eta, Betty Teixeira of Beta and Jacqueline Trotta of Alpha Mu. Compiled by Jeanne O'Hearn of Alpha Eta.

WE SEE red and gold
education in action
women, professionals, educators, leaders
meeting, learning, networking
working, giving, caring
bonding, mentoring
staying involved
promoting a better future for all

WE HAVE fellowship,
scholarship, leadership
life-long friends
ideas flowing like a river
dedication and rejuvenation
worldwide advocacy and outreach
community and opportunity

WE HEAR laughter
voices strong and proud
relating, sharing experiences
breaking into song as many souls with
one dream as one voice heard above it all

WE FEEL the power of sisterhood
support, encouragement, unity
inspiration to carry on
respect, hope, and love

An Acrostic by Carrie Gibbons of Beta

D uty
E xcellence
L iberty
T eachers
A cceptance

K indness
A re inspired
P erceptive
P ersevering
A re welcomed

G uidance
A re heard
M indful of others
M otivational
A re reunified

Kim Albro voted Teacher of the Year at Renzulli Academy



I was nominated for this honor by my colleagues. One teacher is chosen from each school in the district. (From these teachers, a district Teacher of the Year will then be selected at a later date.) To be qualified to be nominated for Teacher of the Year one must:

- be a tenured K-12 teacher
- exhibit exemplary teaching skills in the classroom
- be dedicated to the belief that all children can learn
- be active in community and humanitarian activities
- be outgoing and willing to serve in the honored role Hartford Public Schools "Teacher of the Year"

DKG Sisters Sharing

Roz Gambardella

How can we, as Zeta members, Support Early Educators?

Ease into a relationship with EE

Assist with a classroom project

Retirees visit schools

Listen and lift spirits

Your experience is invaluable

Empathize and enjoy

Discuss DKG opportunities for grants etc.

Understand the pressure they are experiencing.

Create an open dialogue

Ask how you can help

Turn a frown around with a funny teacher anecdote!

Optimize your time with them. Everyone's time is valuable.

Remember how you felt starting out. Recognize how it has changed.

Share a story that might help!

October, 2012

Red Roses



Congratulations to the women of Zeta Chapter as we acknowledge their achievements and dedication.

For Terry Azoti's upcoming installation as Alpha Kappa State President, 2013-2015.

For service: Rita Landino, Julia Nicefaro, and Frances Pagliaro—30 years also being honored at the spring convention in April; Linda Jensen—20 years; Evelyn Barese, Dolores Butcher, Kim Carew, Marlene Casey, Leslie Loehmann, and Dot Logan—15 years; Anne Brandt and Alicia Clapp (Honorary)—10 years Barbara Brozek; Dawn Hoskin, Judy Morelli, and Jan Pellegrini—5 years.

To Kim Albro for receiving the honor of Teacher of the Year at Renzulli Academy, Hartford.

To Albina Cannavaciolo for being a recipient of the Gold Ring Award from the New Haven Boys & Girls Club Alumni.

DKG Vision Statement

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

White Roses



Condolences to Louise Manfreda on the passing of her sister, Marie Criscio, on March 22, 2013 and to Marlene Casey whose mom, Sue

Elefante Santarcangelo, passed away on April 8, 2013 in CT. Hospice. Condolences to the family of Karen Shinkman who passed away on March 31, 2013. Karen was recently initiated in November. Her memory will be honored in the Ceremony of Life at AKS Spring Convention, 2014.

"Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy." - Eskimo Proverb

Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Celebrates 64th Birthday Dot Logan

Zeta Chapter celebrated its 64th birthday on March 2nd with a pizza luncheon at Serafino's Restaurant in Wallingford, Connecticut. The birthday celebration included the recognition of 17 members with service awards for the milestones of five, ten, fifteen, twenty, and thirty year memberships. Three members, Rita Landino, Julia Nicefaro, and Frances Pagliaro were recognized for thirty years of service. They will again be recognized at the State Convention in April. During the State Convention, one of Zeta's members, Terry Azoti, will be installed as AKS President for the

2013-2015 biennium.

The highlight of the birthday celebration was the awarding of the first Life Membership Award to Georgene Hayes, a forty-five year member. The award was presented to one of her sons, Raymond, as she now resides in Peterboro, New Hampshire. Her family shared photos and stories of her teaching career in New Jersey and later in Hamden, Connecticut where Mrs. Hayes was an art teacher at the Spring Glen School until her retirement in the late 1980s.



Curriculum of Hope

In School: Gratitude Journals

Psychologist Jeffrey Froh, an Assistant Professor at Hofstra University, conducts research in personality psychology, social psychology, and the psychology of emotions. His primary interest is the psychology of gratitude. Visit [people.hofstra.edu/Jeffrey J Froh/](http://people.hofstra.edu/Jeffrey_J_Froh/) and download the gratitude curriculum which gives step by step instructions on how to introduce gratitude and the concept of gratitude journals to students.

In School: Adult Actions

Hold "Gratitude Days" where staff members express their specific feelings of gratitude to adults and students in school.

Say thank you, write thank you notes, and lead conversations as the times arise to recognize the positive events in your collective lives.

Share information about gratitude and school-wide initiatives with parents and caregivers.

The Gratitude Project

365 Grateful is a film about uncovering what happens when ordinary people unlock the remarkable powers of gratitude.

This documentary was born out of a project created by Hailey

Bartholomew-"365 Grateful Project". In early 2008, in an effort to fight depression, Hailey started a year long photographic project which involved taking one photo a day of something for which she felt grateful. 365 Grateful is currently being filmed for production and will be released in spring 2013. www.365grateful.com

Resources

Looking for help responding when someone uses biased language or stereotypes in school?

Teaching Tolerance has developed Speak Up at School, a guide for educators. Go to www.tolerance.org/speak-up-at-school.

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Education** have launched a redesigned Stop Bullying website

www.StopBullying.gov

The website has a map with information on state laws and policies and videos for young people, along with practical strategies for schools and communities to make sure environments are safe.

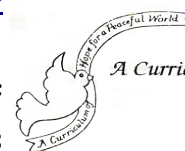
Nancy Janeczek

What's Going On?

Is an award-winning series of ten videos produced by the UN Works Programme. Each video is presented by a different well-known personality. See the UN works website www.un.org/works for related lesson plans. The DVD's can be ordered at www.socialstudies.com/wgo.

Right Site News

Continues to be a current and valuable means to keep informed and keep your students informed and involved in human rights issues. www.discoverhumanrights.org



A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World

The **Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee** is a Standing Committee of Alpha Kappa State. The Committee focus is threefold: promote peace, protect the environment and celebrate diversity.

Its Mission: To study and promote critical thinking, conflict resolution and cooperative learning skills toward a more peaceful world.