



The Zeta Zone

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Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, 3/10/2012 63rd Birthday Celebration, Grand Apizza North, North Haven, 11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
- * Saturday, 4/28/12 Alpha Kappa State Convention, Courtyard by Marriott, Cromwell, 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
- * Wednesday 6/6/12 Year-end social/meeting and installation of 2012-2014 officers, Whitney Center, Hamden, 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
- * Friday, 6/29/12 State Leadership Conference, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London
- * July 24-28 International Convention, Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, New York City

President's Greeting

Dear Zeta Sisters,



As my biennium draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support. Whether it was in the form of chairing an event or offering a few kind words it was most appreciated. Currently, our first vice-president Kathy Imholt is on a quest to find members who will become our new officers to lead Zeta Chapter into the future. Very often, when people are approached to consider taking on a leadership role they shudder with fear. Please know that your fellow sisters will always be close by to offer assistance.

I am most grateful for the guidance I have received from many former presidents. A quote from Vesta M. Kelly says it all, "Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together." Working together, we can get much done. Please consider becoming more active in your chapter whether it be by taking on a leadership role, attending more events, helping to promote our goals, growing the membership or getting to know your fellow sisters. The vibrancy of our chapter depends on your taking an active role, sharing your Zeta pride with others and bringing forward potential members.

With warm wishes,
Kim



Zeta Initiates Twelve Outstanding Women *Judy Cody*

Zeta impressively initiated 12 new members at its annual Initiation Dinner meeting on October 19, 2011 at Pompeo's Restaurant in Branford, CT. Incorporated into the evening was the new initiation ceremony recently issued by The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The ceremony includes much of our history when Annie Webb Blanton established the first chapter as well as our seven purposes.

The new initiates were featured as the program portion of the meeting when they were each introduced by their sponsor to share some personal and professional information with the member audience. With this program addition, Zeta members were pleased to be able to become better acquainted with these outstanding women.

The following new members are listed below along with their member sponsor(s).

Rosemary Berton	Hamden	Joan Davies
Ashley Brandl	Hamden	Terri Santillo
Cheryl Coppa	North Haven	Kim Carew
Judy Drenzek	Orange	Joan Venditto
Michelina Fazzino	Branford	Sue Rowan and Jay Palluzzi
Carole Franceschet	North Haven	Alicia Clapp
Jessica Giampietro	New Haven	Terri Santillo
Rosina Hurley	Branford	Alicia Clapp
Elizabeth Meoli	Guilford	Carolyn Downs
Anne Murphy	North Haven	Rita Landino
Carol Penney	New Haven	Kim Carew
Diane Wilson	Cheshire	Terry Azoti

Newly reinstated member **Ellen Maust** was also introduced. Ellen first belonged to Pi Chapter, then joined Lambda Chapter after Pi Chapter disbanded. She is the daughter of Zeta member **Frances Pagliaro** who was formerly a Pi member. Welcome to Ellen and our twelve new initiates!

Zeta is pleased to have completed our commitment to the **12 x 2012** Alpha Kappa State membership en-



Zeta's initiates (l. to r.) Rosina Hurley, Elizabeth Meoli, Carole Franceschet, Rosemary Berton, Ashley Brandl, Carol Penney, Diane Wilson, Michelina Fazzino, Judy Drenzek, Anne Murphy, Cheryl Coppa, Jessica Giampietro

deavor having now initiated thirteen new members and reinstated one. Congratulations and a special thanks to all the sponsors for their continued commitment to bring new members into the Society. Please consider recommending a new member for next year especially if you have never previously sponsored a member.

A membership application form for new members is attached at the end of this newsletter. Please return to Judy or Kim at the March 10th Birthday luncheon or send to Judy at 1450 Tuttle Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492 no later than May 24, 2012. Applications will be voted on at the June meeting for initiation at the October 2012 meeting. Applications not received by that late May date will be considered for membership in June 2013.

Getting to Know Some of Our New Initiates

Ashley Brandl grew up in Hamden, Connecticut and graduated from Southern Connecticut State University in 2009 with a double major in elementary education and psychology. She hopes to return to school soon to pursue a master's degree. This is her second year teaching

first grade and third year teaching overall. She was honored to be sponsored by Terri Santillo because she knows what an extraordinary teacher she is. "Terri has given me helpful tips along the way and has been a huge support to me during these first few years of my career. I have always wanted to become a teacher

because it is a passion of mine. I love the "a ha" moments and strive to create a patient and compassionate learning environment. I look forward to participating in upcoming events and feel privileged to learn from the experiences of so many accomplished DKG teachers."

Rosemary Berton retired after teaching 35 years in the Hamden school system. She earned her BS and MS degrees from the New Haven

Teachers' College, now SCSU. She enjoys reading, theater, meeting friends for lunch and exercising three or four mornings a week with an

over 50 fitness group where she met her sponsor, Joan Davies. "I am proud to be a DKG member and look forward to making new friends and participating in DKG's projects."

Carole Franceschet "So many teachers often say that from the time of their young years they thought of a teaching career as their career of choice. I am one of them. Once an educator, it will always be a part of who you are. It has been one of the key aspects of my life that has

truly shaped the person I am today. Returning to education after several years at home raising my own family, I knew immediately that the comfortable fit was still there. Now retired, being on the Board of Education of my town, education continues to be a significant part of my life. I know this will never change, and DKG af-

fords me another opportunity to keep my dream going-touching the lives of children, providing the best education for them in a safe and stimulating environment. It is an honor and privilege to a part of this wonderful organization!"

Anne Murphy "As a new member of DKG, I want to thank everyone for making me feel so at home in the group. I believe that the power of women who work together towards shared goals is a marvelous thing. Although you may have heard my introduction at the Initiation Dinner where I described

my many different teaching hats over the years (preschool and elementary teacher, remedial and special ed tutor), You may not know that I have also been a Group Leader for over 25 years in La Leche League of Hamden/North Haven, the local affiliate of the international organization which helps

women breastfeed their babies. I have recently auditioned for and been accepted into the all-women accapella barbershop singing group Silk'n Sounds. I look forward to getting to know and working with all my new "sisters" in DKG. Here's to Women Power!"

Diane Wilson "I began my full time special education teaching career in the town of East Haven in 1989. At that time I was assigned to a small self-contained classroom comprised of students with learning disabilities and behavioral difficulties. It was a challenging position

for a new teacher. Fortunately for me, Jeri Giamo was the director of pupil services at the time. She taught me all the "ins and outs" of the PPT process. Terry Azoti was the special education reading consultant for the district. She visited my classroom frequently and helped

me to monitor the reading progress of my students. Their guidance and support was a tremendous help to me in my early career.

I taught in the self-contained classroom for five years and then moved into a resource position. During my fourteen years as a resource teach-

Getting to Know Some of Our New Initiates *(continued)*

er I was assigned to a school where Marlene Casey was the principal. Marlene always made it a point to acknowledge and thank me and all her staff for our efforts. She understood the daily demands of a special education classroom so it was easy for me to share my concerns with her and seek out her advice.

I am currently teaching in a small

self-contained classroom again, this time with children on the autism spectrum. I am so blessed that I come to a job that I love and that I work with students who have enriched my life. When Terry Azoti asked me if I would consider joining DKG I really didn't have to give it much thought. Just knowing that I was joining a sisterhood with Terry, Jeri,

and Marlene was good enough for me. Knowing that DKG was an organization that would provide fellowship, professional growth opportunities, and a way to reach into the community was just the icing on the cake! Thank you, ladies, for continuing to support my personal and professional growth after all these years!"

Alpha Kappa State 72nd Fall Conference 2011

Michalina Fazzino

Calendar: 4 Oct., Orientation, North Haven
 19 Oct., Zeta Induction, Branford
 5 Nov., State Conference, Cromwell

"What a whirlwind fall this was! First, there was an orientation session and induction into Zeta Chapter, then two short weeks later, attending my first Delta Kappa Gamma Society State Conference.

Having been to many science and teachers' conferences and activities, I was expecting more of the same thing. Boy was I surprised! There was such a strong, and almost immediate, feeling of sisterhood, caring and friendliness. As I was a neophyte, I had expected some degree of uncertainty and confusion. But, such was not the case. The Zeta sisters who I had carpooled with and I were made to feel welcome as soon as we walked into the Cromwell Conference Center.

The introduction was all encompassing and so, set the tone for the three special sessions. Ms. Grace Murphy's talk about the United Nations and DKG's participation in UN activities was an eye opener for me. I had no idea about the amount of international work the Society sponsored. Zato and Leonille Kadambaya's commentary on their native culture gelled many impressions that I had held about Africa. But, the best part was the final session. Almost every woman got up, got a scarf, and learned to dance to *Ndakuvara*. It was amazing to watch all these women of various ages and athletic ability weaving and bobbing to the African drum beat. What a fun way to end a very busy day.

But, the best part of the day for me was the stories exchanged during our *free time*. Learning about the various chapters' activities and fund raising, sharing experiences about our personal and professional lives, and finally just spending quality time with dedicated women was very satisfying. On the way home, I realized how nice it had been to spend time with intelligent, caring and genuine women. I look forward to attending many more conferences and hopefully, I'll be able to sing the DKG song!"

Editor's Comments: Thank you to Mickey, a new initiate who volunteered to do this article about being at a conference for her first time and seeing it through a new initiate's eyes. Thank you also to our member contributors: Terry Azoti, Ashley Brandl, Rosemary Berton, Kim Carew, Judy Cody, Carole Franceschet, Anne Murphy, Connie Schingh, and Diane Wilson.

Alpha Kappa State 72nd Fall Conference 2011 Photos



Grace Murphy talked about
A Global Perspective

Grant Recipient
Claire Fryer



Pat Buckley taught us an
African dance

Zato and Leonille Kadambaya - Africaphilantropies



Kim Albro (Zeta Chapter)- Habitat for Humanity



Africaphilantropies

At the March birthday meeting, the presenters will be Zato and Leonille Kadambaya, founders of Africaphilantropies. This organization is a USA based non-profit organization created to help less fortunate children in Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Kadambaya who were born in Africa, took the initiative to give back and promote social development in Africa. Africaphilantropies is a comprehensive effort to



Terry Azoti

address the problem of poverty, prosperity and socio-economic development by building the future one child at a time. At the meeting, we will be presenting the Kadambayas with a check for their organization. This money was collected from the proceeds of a drawing at our November auction.

Red Roses

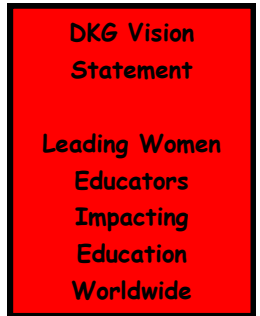


Congratulations to the women of Zeta Chapter as we acknowledge their achievements and dedication.

Recognition of members with years of service

- 50 years- Dorothy Martino*
- 25 years- Louise DiRuccio*, Barbara Torcellini *
- 20 years (1991) - Leslie Casanova, Geraldine Giaimo
- 10 years- Barbara Ann Gay, Tina Mannarino, Deborah Welton
- 5 years - Penny Conti, Diane Dow, Lynn Pastore, Frances Pease, Judy Primavera, Jeri Ripkin

*Also being recognized at Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention, 2012

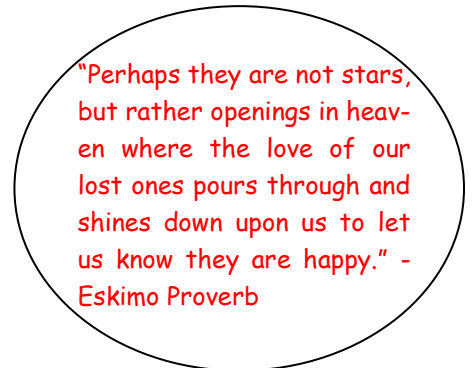


White Roses

We would like to send our condolences to Liz Mazzu. Her mother, Julia Toohey, passed away on October 22, 2011 in Massachusetts. She would have been 97 in December. She had been in a nursing home for almost two years following a stroke. Rita Landino's beloved son, Michael passed in a car accident



on November 7, 2011. He was a graduate of the North Haven schools and was currently a student at Gateway Community College. Our condolences also to Linda Amarante, whose mom, Ruth Jacobson age 95, passed away on September 16, 2011 and to Liz Meoli who lost her mom, Grace Castracane, at the age of 98 on December 16, 2011.



Zeta Sells Jewelry Cases at Fall Conference

Judy Cody



Every year, Alpha Kappa State invites and encourages chapters to sell a product of choice at the Fall Conference, which are fund raisers for the chapters. Applications must be received by the end of May with a limit of three chapters chosen to sell. This year Joan Davies and Judy Cody offered to sponsor a red quilted fabric jewelry case to contain official DKG pins and other Society jewelry. The proceeds from the sales were used to support the initiation expenses of our twelve new members. This

past June, a work party was held at the North Haven Rec. Center which was reserved through the kindness of Kim Carew. The Zeta members who helped with the assembly were Linda Amarante, Barbara Brozak, Anne Brandt, Donna Chaney, Roz Gambardella, Lynn Pastore, as well as Judy and Joan. The thirty plus cases were then sewn by volunteers, Alicia Clapp and Claudia Grantham. After sales at the Fall Conference and our November auction meeting most of the expenses were resolved. The remaining profits were deposited in our

Zeta bank account by treasurer, Lenore Martinelli. Eleven jewelry cases remain for sale to meet our financial goal. They will be available for \$20 each at our March meeting. State members, who were unable to attend the fall conference due to the October snowstorm, will also be invited to make a purchase at the April 28th spring convention or by order. Thanks to the project sponsors, the volunteers who helped, and finally to those of you who purchased them, supporting yet another Zeta project. At our March meeting, please consider purchasing one for yourself or as a gift for a member friend.

Auction News — Highlighting Elayne Canter

Kim Carew

Once again, our annual auction was held in November and helped kick off the holiday season. It continues to be our most popular event which drew one of the largest crowds we have ever hosted. Word has traveled throughout all CT chapters that Zeta puts on an amazing holiday fundraiser. Many of our state officers were in attendance including AKS president, Marnee Straiton. I had

the pleasure of sitting with these guests and they enjoyed a delicious brunch and were astounded at the spectacular items being auctioned. They were also impressed with our generous donations which were given to area projects/charities. As usual, our "ace" auctioneer Elayne Canter stole the show. We can always expect a fun-filled and highly entertaining

auction with Elayne at the microphone. With her comical descriptions of items or her challenging us to actually get home without eating the chocolates in the basket, she never fails to deliver an extraordinary day filled with laughs. Thank you, Elayne for once again volunteering your time to share your amazing sense of humor with us.



Elayne Canter and assistant, Dorothy Martino

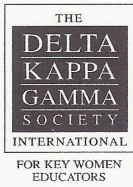
Books for Babies

Connie Schingh

We gathered together in November to stamp and fill 50 colorful gift bags with a copy of *Good Night Moon* for the young moms at the Polly McCabe School in New Haven. These gift bags are a part of the parenting classes the girls at-

tend. They were thrilled to learn the benefits of reading aloud to their child and how to choose a good book. Snuggling up with a book develops a special closeness between child and parent. A special thank you to our Delta Kappa

Gamma volunteers: Toni Cartisano, Ashley Brandl, Terri Santillo, Ann Caruso, Carole Franceschet, Rosina Hurley, and Kathy Imholt. This amazing group of women worked so quickly that we even had time to chat and catch up on old news.



Recommendation for Membership

Instructions:

Please complete and return this form to the appropriate level Membership Committee. For information about qualifications for membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, refer to sections on membership in the *Constitution* and the *International Standing Rules*.

Type of membership:

(check one) Chapter Active _____ Chapter Honorary _____ State Honorary _____ International Honorary _____

Name of person recommended:

_____ (Title) _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Last)

_____ (Street, Route, P.O. Box)

_____ (City) _____ (State and Country) _____ (ZIP/Postal Code)

_____ (E-Mail Address) _____ (Telephone Number) _____ (FAX Number)

Current position title: _____

Employer: _____ **Total years as professional educator:** _____

Highest educational degree granted: _____ **Year:** _____ **Field:** _____

Professional accomplishments: Include items such as professional development presentations, campus or departmental leadership roles, published materials, offices in other organizations honors and/or awards. (A brief professional résumé may be attached to this application.)

Community activities:

Endorsed by one or more members:

	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Date</u>
Required _____				
Optional _____				
Optional _____				