

DKG NB and DKG MAINE STATE CROSS-BORDER CONFERENCE

Passion for the Arts

October 4-5 was a splendour of fall colours as members from Maine, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Kentucky arrived in Fredericton, NB to participate in our DKG NB-Maine Cross-Border Conference. Thirty-six members attended the event that was hosted by DKG NB.

Following our welcome at the Chickadee Hall, Fredericton Public Library, we enjoyed meeting old and new friends during lunch. We were so pleased that our ARC (Area Representative Canada) Dr. Shaw McGowan was able to attend and shared DKG information from DKG International, Canada and NB Province/State.

We enjoyed a tour of the library situated with beautiful views of the Saint John (Wolastoq) River with its bountiful literary selections, programs, services, and local artworks for children, teenagers and adults.

Then we continued with our passion for the arts theme by walking to the



Beaverbrook Art Gallery.

Our tour director was Roberte Melanson, a docent at the gallery and a member of DKG NB. Roberte gave an overview of the beautiful facility and then we moved on to the Salvadore Dali Chapel. Santiago El Grande, a centrepiece of the gallery's collection (1959) has been permanently placed in its own space. Its religious imagery is exceptional and Roberte explained Dali's faith and philosophy as she helped members interpret the masterpiece. Members were then given the privilege of spending time exploring all the creative works of art at the gallery and downtown shops displaying art and artifacts. Some members were drawn to the trail that bordered the river with its autumn scenery.

The Banquet brought members together later in the day. Our guest speaker was Joanne LeBlanc-Haley, a Canadian educator, professional storyteller, and children's author. Joanne held us in awe as she shared a story and then talked to us about her personal journey as a story-teller.

One special award is given by DKG NB to a woman in our community who portrays leadership through volunteering and supporting our citizens. Roberte Melanson was

presented with the *Influential Women's Award* for her leadership in the arts. Roberte is a member of the Fredericton Arts Alliance, an organization that supports, promotes and encourages participation in visual, musical, literary and performing arts. Roberte Melanson has encouraged art participation for many years as a teacher, a docent, a volunteer at The Playhouse and workshop leader.

We had an opportunity to discuss topics relevant to DKG, our successes and challenges in our chapters, provinces and states. Members shared their experiences and gave worthwhile suggestions.

Our evening ended with a Mindfulness Activity led by our ARC, Dr. Shar McGowan. We used philosophical cards to meet and discuss personal experiences and had a terrific time networking with members.

Sunday morning brought a different aspect of the arts to our members. Judy Blake is a renowned artist of pottery. She has extensive displays throughout Canada, United States, Europe and Korea. She works in a variety of processes and her creative works are fabulous. Judy explained her works and we were able to see some of them on display.

The conference ended at noon and what a wonderful event we experienced. We met former DKG sisters and made new friends in our Delta Kappa Gamma Society while we were experiencing a passion for learning about the arts. We are looking forward to our next Cross-Border Conference!