



# CHICKADEE CHATTER

Vol 16 No 1

DKG New Brunswick

Fall 2024

*DKG -Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide*

## Canadians Meet at International Convention



Photo: J. Somerville

Members from New Brunswick to British Columbia gathered in National Harbour, Maryland at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center for the DKG International Convention from July 9-13, 2024. They celebrated as Dr. Shar McGowan from Saskatchewan was installed as Area Representative Canada 2024-2026. Their voices were heard when it came to voting on amendments to the Constitution, and their national pride was evident when Canada's former Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin became an honorary DKG member. (See Page 10)

### IN THIS ISSUE

- |   |                                 |    |   |
|---|---------------------------------|----|---|
| 2 | President's Message             | 8  | Beta Welcomes a New President               |
| 3 | News from the ARC Desk          | 9  | Canadian Conference Plans                   |
| 3 | Canadian Project Update         | 10 | DKG International Convention 2024           |
| 4 | Beta Chapter President's Report | 11 | Northeast Regional Presidents               |
| 4 | Beta Chapter Chatter            | 12 | Meet the Convention Keynote Speakers        |
| 5 | Early Career Educators          | 13 | DKG NB Member Recognized at Canadian Forum  |
| 5 | <i>Ready for Fall?</i> Workshop | 14 | DKG International's Newest Honourary Member |
| 6 | Beta's End of Year Gathering    | 15 | Growing DKG One Chapter at a Time           |

## DKG NEW BRUNSWICK EXECUTIVE 2023-2025

### President

Dianne Caron

### First Vice President

Marjorie Sinclair

### Second Vice President

TBD

### Secretary

Joan Somerville

### Treasurer

Margaret Dryden

### Past President

Margie Goodin

### Parliamentarian

Joan Somerville



## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## DKG NB Motto *Shine in DKG*

**Light the path to Education  
Glow with Friendship  
Sparkle with Leadership**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dianne Caron  
2023-2025

Welcome back to the first meeting in the fall of 2024.

We welcome Geri Kilburn as the president of Beta Chapter. With the leadership of members in the DKG NB and Beta Chapter Executives, we will have an exciting year with several continuing and new projects ahead. We are working diligently toward gaining new members, establishing an on-going partnership with the University of New Brunswick, promoting our cross-border connections and encouraging members to become leaders in our chapter.

Delta Kappa Gamma encourages members to promote Early Career Educators. Beta Chapter is proud this year to have four Collegiate Members. We are an international organization and DKG NB reflects that in our membership. This year, we have given grants to Sunyoung Lee and Yemisi Kehinde, who have obtained active teaching posi-

tions in Fredericton, to assist them in their new classrooms as early educators.

Last spring Marjorie Sinclair met with the Dean of Education at UNB to set the ground work for a "Lunch and Learn" session with students in the education department. We are hopeful that our involvement will expand to promote DKG, present a professional development session for the students, and enrich our membership with the vitality of recent educators.

State President of Maine, Priscilla McFarland and I have undertaken co-authorship of an article titled *Connections Across the Border*. It has been submitted for publication in *Collegial Exchange*. Cultural connections among members in countries, states, provinces, and chapters are essential in creating strong bonds of learning about their different cultures, accomplishments, and building friendships.

Beta Chapter is small in number, but we are strong in spirit! Be proud of our achievements in our chapter and province. No one person can do it all, but we can all do a little to make DKG stronger.

*Dianne Caron  
DKG NB President*

## News from the ARC Desk



Dr. Shar McGowan  
2024-2026

As we head further into autumn, I imagine your State and Chapters are busying themselves with plans for an exciting year ahead.

At the International level, you may wish to be mindful of the following:

The 2025 Conference will see a return to New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference will be from July 29 – August 2; however, the State Organization Leadership Training (SOLT) will occur just prior to the conference, also in New Orleans.

Please log on often to DKG.org where you can keep updated with the latest news from International. Likewise, DKG International has a Facebook site that you may wish to view. Forwarding International messages to your own State or

Chapter's Facebook is encouraged. Similarly, all members are invited to attend the DKG Inside International Zoom events that are posted on DKG.org. This is a wonderful way to network with members from other areas, and to hear what the International leadership's current initiatives are. In New Brunswick, you also may wish to join the NE Regional meetings on Zoom. Eileen Little is the NE Regional Director, and warmly invites the nearby Canadian provinces to join in the discussions.

At the Administrative Board level, ongoing conversations are occurring insofar as advancing Avenue M recommendations, the Strategic Plan, and updating the Bylaws.

We are all excited to continue plans for the Canadian Forum Conference to be held July 10-12 in Brandon, Manitoba. This conference will give members in Canada an opportunity to network together in the spirit of friendship, and re-imaginings for how DKG can thrive as we head towards the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2029.

My own vision for DKG in Canada is for a deeper connection from one province to another. One way we may be able to do this is to open our virtual events to members in other provinc-

es. We may also share our wonderful ideas for growth with each other whenever possible.

I wish you a wonderful year ahead. I am so delighted and proud to represent you at the International Administrative Board.

Shar



## Canadian Project Update



Members voted at the Canadian Forum to support the Soaring Circle organization as the Canadian Project for another two years. Ontario Treasurer Mary Margaret Farrow will continue to collect donations from the provinces and forward them to the organization.

Cat Lake First Nation in Northern Ontario was the first community this year to receive the Art for Aid program. Witchekean Lake First Nation in Treaty 6 received new sewing equipment at the beginning of the school year for the Sewcase program for students from Grade 4 up, and the after school programs for teens.

## Beta Chapter President's Report



Geri Kilburn  
2024-2026

I am pleased to serve as your Chapter President for 2024 -2026. I would like to thank Kathie Berry for allowing us to meet at her community room in Fredericton for our monthly meetings during the year.

We welcomed several attendees, including guests, at our first fall gathering. Our speaker Dawn DeCoursey gave an insightful program on her involvement with impoverished girls in Kenya with the purpose of assisting them with their education.

We also gave financial assistance and collected school supplies for the children who are housed at Transition House. Thank you for all the donations.

Our next meeting will be October 2, 2024.

*Geri*

## Beta Chapter Chatter



President Geri Kilburn (L) with  
guest speaker Dawn Decourcey

Dawn DeCoursey, the guest speaker at Beta's September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, gave a memorable presentation about her work with *Friends of Kilayo*, a registered Canadian charity that supports women and girls in the Masai Mara region of Kenya, Africa. The organization's mission is to give assistance to young girls, so that they will continue with their education and not leave school. In that area, only one in twenty girls continues to high school. Girls often leave school after grade four for many reasons that reflect a lack of money needed to purchase such items as hygiene supplies, pay school registration fees, and transportation costs, etc. On a trip to the Masai Mara region in 2014, Dawn met Kilayo, a young girl who dreamed of becoming a teacher, but needed sponsorship. When Dawn returned home to Fredericton, she was instrumental in arranging financial assistance for Kilayo so that she could continue with her studies. The organization that Dawn spear-headed was named *Friends of Kilayo* in honour of the first student who was helped. With the support of Dawn's Canadian friends, Kilayo has not only been able to complete high school, but has just graduated with a Diploma in Early Childhood Education, despite the

challenges of having had two children during her school years. Dawn works with a few Board members and two dedicated Kenyan woman who assist in dispersing the financial assistance from Canada to the students. There have been many success stories of the girls who have continued with their education through the work of this organization. The donations have helped change the lives of many students. For more inspiring articles about the accomplishments and future goals, you may wish to learn more by viewing their website. [FriendsofKilayo.com](http://FriendsofKilayo.com)

*Submitted by Dianne Caron  
Photo by Joan Somerville*



## Early Career Educators



DKG NB President Dianne Caron presented Early Career Educator Grants to Sunyoung Lee (left) and Yemisi Kehinde (right) at the September Beta Meeting.

Photos: Kathie Berry

Beta Chapter is pleased to announce that Sunyoung Lee from Korea, and Yemisi Kehinde from Nigeria have received early career educator grants. Both ladies are now teaching in Anglophone West School District. Sunyoung is teaching music at Nashwaaksis Memorial School, and Yemisi is teaching at Liverpool Elementary School. Both members have attended the University of New Brunswick to complete their Masters Degrees in Education.

These women have enriched our membership and we are proud of their accomplishments.

### Ready for Fall Workshop?

DKG Maine State Organization

October 18-19, 2024  
United Technologies Center  
Bangor, Maine

The Maine State Fall Workshop will offer a mix of sessions that focus on Society business, professional development, and personal growth. Included are several sessions that pertain to DEI, (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), a relevant topic for our times.

Information on the workshop, including details of the sessions along with the registration form (print or online), can be found on the Maine State Organization of DKG International website under PD Opportunities. <https://dkgmaine.weebly.com>

## Beta's End of Year Gathering

### Fredericton Botanic Garden

Joan Somerville

Beta Chapter's June Meeting was fortunate to have Bronwen Cunningham as our guest speaker. Bronwen is the Chair of the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association. The Botanic Garden is one of Fredericton's hidden gems which Bronwen so skillfully brought to our attention.

The Garden which was founded in 1969 is a 54 acreage located on a hillside backed by O'Dell Park. It is recognized for its terraces, streams, springs, and natural habitat for animals. It has the largest collection of rhododendrons in New Brunswick.

Using a detailed map of the Garden, Bronwen outlined the history of the Garden, and described its various trails. Each trail was described and the length of time required to walk the trail is indicated on the map. Located along the various trails are designated gardens such as the New Brunswick Literature Garden, the Rock & Crevice Garden, and the Food Forest (12 in total).

The Wabanaki Healing Garden was of particular interest in that it was the brain child of Cecelia Brooks (a Native Knowledge Keeper) and her son Anthony Brooks whose aim was to bring attention to the Wabanaki and their native use of plants and herbs for food and medicine. The Garden is home to several species of berries, sweet fern, blue flag iris, and lady slipper among others.

Each member received a package of seeds from the Swamp Milkweed which is a plant known for attracting butterflies, particularly the Monarch butterfly which is on the endangered species list in some Canadian provinces. While the directions for germinating the seeds sounds complicated, perhaps some of us will succeed.

Bronwen's presentation was inspiring and informative while encouraging us to become involved in the many activities that the Garden has on its Summer agenda, or to become a volunteer with the organization. She left us with much food for thought.



Photo: K. Berry

Joan Somerville (R) thanked Bronwen Cunningham for her enlightening presentation on the Fredericton Botanic Garden.

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

## Beta Welcomes a New President



DKG NB President Dianne Caron (left photo) thanked outgoing Beta President Joan Somerville for her two years of service. Outgoing President Joan Somerville (right photo) presented Geri Kilburn with her Chapter President's pin and a red rose as she begins her presidency.

### *The West is Calling You!*

## DKG Leading Women Educators International

### Canadian Conference

July 10-12, 2025

Brandon, Manitoba

Theme: Unite, Uplift, Inspire

DKG Manitoba members are busy planning this every informative conference and hope to see all Canadian members this summer.

There is a possibility for an extension trip to Winnipeg on Sunday, July 13 to visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Forks, and enjoy a River Cruise Tour.



## DKG International Convention 2024

National Harbor, Maryland

What an exciting week, at the DKG International Convention in National Harbor, Maryland! Days were filled with meetings, spotlight sessions, topic talks, socializing and delicious meals. Joan Somerville and I attended the Executive Meeting one day prior to the convention. When we met Canadians from east to west at the Canadian Forum, we got to know one another better. All attendees from the Northeast Region were invited for breakfast and it was a wonderful opportunity to see attendees in person after meeting online during the year. The week was busy but thoroughly enjoyable. It also allowed us bits of touring time in National Harbor with its beautiful waterfront and various restaurants, shops and its 50.3 m (180 ft.) high Capital Ferris Wheel. When Joan and I were on the ride in the sky, we looked directly across the Potomac River to Washington, DC. The summer heat was intense with some days over 100° F but the elaborate Gaylord Resort and Convention Center was very comfortable for accommodating almost 900 DKG members in attendance.

International President Debbie LeBlanc, the administrative board, the committees, the hosting DKG state of Maryland, and the volunteers did a wonderful job keeping us informed, achieving timely goals, and creating an atmosphere of goodwill. We had several discussions and members were able to voice their concerns regarding the amendments to the constitution; however, the voting moved along easily and decisions were made.

The speakers were articulate and engaging. Margot Lee Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures*, a true story that celebrated the unsung black women mathematicians at NASA who were instrumental in assisting with some of the greatest achievements in space, spoke about her research in writing the book. Andre Bradford, the author of *Golden Brown Skin*, had us enthralled with his slam poetry that drew us into serious topics such as social justice, mental health awareness and racial issues. He was definitely an engaging entertainer with a message of creating peace in our present world. The virtual presentation at our Canadian and American Forums was Marion Blumenthal Lazan, an International Honourary Member who spoke about her life as a child growing up in the Nazi regime in Germany. She and her family experienced terrible events during World War II. Marion advocates tolerance and respect for mankind. The spotlight sessions also had informative leaders who addressed a variety of topics on DKG concerns, and issues regarding professional and personal growth. All speakers were “5 star” and their messages were strong and thought-provoking.

I can say more and more about the positive experience of attending a DKG conference or convention but I will end with one thought. Next summer a Canadian conference will be held in Manitoba and I am hopeful that DKG NB Beta Chapter Members will attend and experience it personally.

*Dianne Caron, DKG NB President*



Photo: D. Caron



Northeast Regional Presidents  
International Convention 2024



**2024-2025 Northeast State Organization Presidents' Zoom Meetings**  
Eileen Little, Northeast Regional Director

Beta members are invited to join with President Caron for the following NERD Meetings.

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, @ 7:00 PM ET and 6:00 PM CT

Thursday, October 10, 2024, @ 7:00 PM ET and 6:00 PM CT

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, @ 7:00 PM ET and 6:00 PM CT

Thursday, December 12, 2024, @ 7:00 PM ET and 6:00 PM CT

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, @ 7:00 PM ET and 6:00 PM CT

Thursday, February 13, 2025, @ 7:00 PM ET and 6:00 PM CT

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, @ 7:00 PM ET and 6:00 PM CT

Thursday, April 10, 2025, @ 7:00 PM ET and 6:00 PM CT

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, @ 7:00 PM ET and 6:00 PM CT

The Incoming State President is invited to join us for the May 14, 2025, Zoom meeting.

## Meet the DKG International Convention Keynote Speakers

National Harbor, Maryland was the setting for this year's DKG International Convention, July 9-13, 2024. Located across the Potomac River from Washington, DC, National harbor was 350 acres of undeveloped land less than 20 years ago when development began on what now serves as an "homage to the American experience".

Visiting National Harbor was an experience in itself with its Capital Wheel, MGM casino, unique sculptures along the "American Way", Tanger Outlet Mall, shops and eating establishments. One could easily spend a wonderful vacation there.

The highlights for me at the annual DKG events were the Keynote Speakers. This year did not disappoint.

Margot Lee Shetterly, a writer, researcher and entrepreneur is well-known for her best selling book, *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*. She grew up in Hampton, Virginia where her father was a career scientist at the Langley Research Center. Her neighbourhood was populated with African-Americans working in science, math, and engineering.

She talked about how she grew up unaware of the numbers and roles of Black women working at NASA. At the start of World War II with a shortage of male workers, a pool of female mathematicians was hired and in 1941 when race-based discrimination was banned, positions were opened up to black women. Most of the women were graduates of historically Black colleges, did the same work as the white women but were segregated to what became known as the West Computers. Both Black and White women were paid less than their male colleagues.

Shetterly talked about her Human Computer Project, a digital archive, which she founded to tell the stories of all the women from all backgrounds whose work have impacted the balance in favor of the United States in its race to conquer Space.

Her research is impeccable in that she had access to Black NASA executives as well as engineers, scientists and the women who were featured in the book. Her remarks celebrated the unsung heroes who were part of the Civil Rights Era and expressed gratitude towards those who recognized the injustice and had the fortitude to stand up against it.

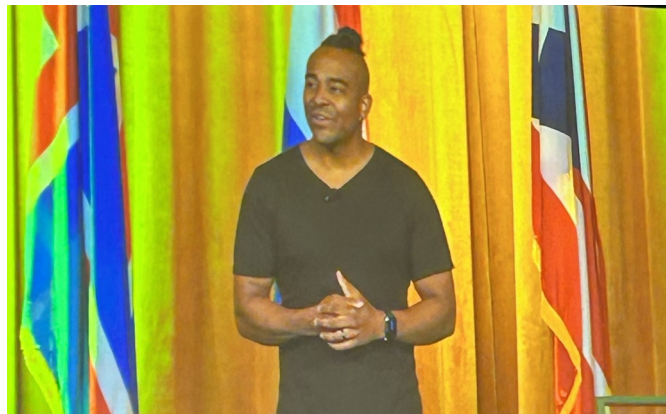
It was truly an enlightened presentation.

Andre Bradford, a.k.a. S.C. Says was our second Keynote Speaker. He is based in Austin, Texas and is a performer of slam poetry. I must admit that I never heard of that genre of poetry. Bradford began by explaining slam poetry is a form of performance poetry that combines the elements of performance, writing, competition, and audience participation. It includes gestures, facial expressions, and movement. The speed of delivery changes for emphasis.

He encouraged his audience to react to the poetry so that he could determine what was

meaningful to a roomful of teachers. There was much head nodding, clapping and finger snapping throughout his presentation making it obvious that he certainly connected with most.

The poetry topics ranged from light-hearted to deadly serious. He spoke of his mixed race heritage, his struggle with mental illness and effort to get a meaningful job (car salesman was extremely low on his list – worst job out there). His raw vulnerability and ability to connect with the audience made him an excellent choice for a Keynote Speaker.



*Submitted by Joan Somerville*

### **DKG NB Member Recognized at Canadian Forum**



ARC Lorna Berlinguette 2022-2024 asked Canadian presidents to bring a photo and give a tribute of an outstanding DKG member in their province. DKG NB President Dianne Caron gave the following tribute.

DKG NB would like to give tribute to Marjorie Sinclair, former ARC 2020-2022. Marjorie is a member of Beta Chapter, Fredericton, New Brunswick. As ARC, Marjorie promoted uniting all DKG Canadian members for virtual programs. She is also the editor of our newsletter, *Chickadee Chatter*. She presently serves as the chair of the membership and scholarship committees.

Marjorie has been instrumental in contacting the Dean of Education at the University of New Brunswick regarding the possibility of promoting and advertising bursaries for deserving education students, planning a *Lunch and Learn* session about the benefits and work of DKG and arranging a professional seminar for beginning teachers. Due to her tireless membership campaign, this year we have added collegiate students to our membership. Marjorie is a leader who always believes in working hard toward success and she has been a significant DKG component of our chapter, province and Canada.

*Reported by President Dianne Caron*



## DKG International's Newest Honourary Member Beverley McLachlin



President Debbie LeBlanc (R) presented Beverley McLachlin with her membership.

Members of DKG were pleased and proud to announce the appointment of Beverley McLachlin, (B.A. M.A, LLB) as our DKG International Honourary Member at the DKG International Convention in Maryland, US, July 2024. She was the first woman and longest-serving chief justice of Canada's highest court, 2000-2017.

In 2018, Beverley was appointed to the Order of Canada. She has obtained several honorary degrees from universities in Canada and abroad. As an author, this remarkable writer has received numerous honours and awards for her fiction and non-fiction manuscripts. She is an author of several legal, judicial publications, and best-selling books, including the novel *Full Disclosure* (2018), her memoir *Truth Be Told: My Journey Through Life and Law* (2019), *Denial* (2021) and *Proof* (2024).

Justice Beverley McLachlin embodies our DKG mission and purposes, and she endorses the work of all women educators.

Past ARC Lorna Berlinguette, Gamma Chapter, DKG Alberta has invited Canadian members to join Former Chief Justice McLachlin for her Zoom launch of *Proof*, her third novel in the Jilly Truitt series. This event will be held on October 19, 2024 from 10:45-12:00 MT (1:15-3:00PM AT). The cost is \$10.00 with payment to Gamma Chapter, DKG. Contact President Caron for further details if you are interested in attending



Photos: J. Somerville

### Growing DKG One Chapter at a Time An International Convention Session

This spotlight session that I attended focused on recruitment, maintaining membership, increasing finances, and involvement in the community. The following is a list of considerations that may help increase our membership.

- Change the meeting place and time to accommodate members.
- Team up with another community-minded group for fund-raising.
- Talk about our organization of international women educators in Delta Kappa Gamma.
- Contact former members with hand-written invitations.
- Meet with school district administrators regarding placing brochures and invitations in teachers' and educational assistants' mailboxes.
- Check on setting up an information booth at educators' professional development events.
- Partnership with a university.
- Invite other educational leaders such as church ministers and teachers of various hobbies.
- Give grants to early career educators.
- Have theme meetings and socials.
- Donate books and school supplies.
- Recognize an attendee with a Proud DKG member pin each meeting.

Beta Chapter has adopted some of these suggestions and we are moving forward to sustain and build our membership with our mission to impact global education worldwide.

*Submitted by Dianne Caron  
DKG NB President*



L to R: ARC Lorna Berlinguette (AB), DKG NB President Dianne Caron, Joan Kabotoff (AB), Cyndy Moore (AB), and Joan Somerville (NB) are just one example of the benefits of networking at International events.

Photo: J. Somerville



## DKG International Educators Foundation



Vision: Giving to Educate the World

November 1, 2024 DKGIEF Cornetet CIPD Application

November 1, 2024 DKGIEF Cornetet CSPD Application

### Submissions Deadlines

October 1, 2024 *Bulletin: Journal Submission*

December 15, 2024 *Bulletin: Collegial Exchange Submissions*

January 15-February 15, 2025 Art Gallery Submissions

Open All Year Leadership Discovery Centre Submissions

### Save the Date

October 1, 2024 Inside International Zoom, 5:30PM CT, 7:30 PM AT

October 2, 2024 DKG NB Beta Chapter Meeting 366 Aberdeen Street, 6:30PM

October 18-19, 2024 *Ready for Fall Workshop?* United Technologies Center, Bangor, ME

November 5, 2024 Inside International Zoom, 12:30PM CT, 2:30 PM AT

July 10-12, 2025 Canadian Conference, Brandon, Manitoba

July 29– August 2, 2025 International Conference, New Orleans, LA

## NEXT PUBLICATION DEADLINE January 15, 2025

**Beta members submit items to Dianne Caron dicaron47@gmail.com**  
**Editorial Staff - Marjorie Sinclair, Dianne Caron**