



# THE CHIPS OF GRANITE

Beta Alpha State News ~ Vol. 2017, Issue 1 ~ Mar. 2017

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International ~ New Hampshire



## MORRISSEY TO SPEAK AT BAS CONFERENCE LUNCH ON APRIL 1



Beta Alpha State President Sheila Mable will finish her biennium with the focus on her theme of “Remembering Our Veterans” by having Donald Morrissey speak about Camp Resilience at lunch on Saturday, April 1.

Don is an original board member of the Patriot Resilient Leader Institute (PRLI). He served nearly 24 years in the Air Force as a pilot, primarily of B-52 bombers and H-1 helicopters, and had one combat tour. When his flying days were over, he transitioned into educational administration within the Air Force. Following his military career, Morrissey became a Dean and then VP of Student Affairs at the Lakes Region Community Technical College. He concluded his college administrator career as Interim President at what is now Lakes Region Community College.

Founded in 2014, Camp Resilience is the operational arm of the PRLI, whose mission is to help wounded warriors

recover in mind, body and spirit. The group is comprised of 100% volunteers with about 2/3 military veterans and 1/3 involved citizens. The group conducts four-day Camp Resilience sessions in the Lakes Region once a month for veterans from throughout New England. All attending veterans are referred from the VA or a VA Center. All are receiving services from the VA for a variety of physical, emotional or mental health issues directly related to their military service. To date, almost 200 veterans have been served by Camp Resilience.

## SPRING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Thursday Evening, March 30:

5:30-7:15 Dinner at Warren’s (opt.)  
7:45-9:30 Executive Board Meeting

### Friday, March 31:

7-9:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:45-9:15 Chapter Presidents’ Founders Award meeting  
9-9:45 Registration & Raffles  
10-11:00 Workshop 1  
11:15-12:15 Workshop 2  
12:30-1:15 Lunch  
1:15-2:15 Workshop 3  
2:30-3:30 Workshop 4  
Dinner on own

### Saturday, April 1

7-9:00 a.m. Breakfast, Registration, Raffles  
9-10:30 Business meeting  
10:30 Founders’ Award Presentation  
10:45 Service of Remembrance  
11:30 Installation of BAS Officers  
12:00 Parade of Presidents  
12:15 Lunch  
1:00 Speaker Don Morrissey “Camp Resilience”  
1:30 Remembering Our Veterans Report by Chapters  
2:00 Closing

## FOUR WORKSHOPS OFFERED IN PORTSMOUTH ON MARCH 31

WORKSHOP 1 (10-11 a.m.)

HEATHER OUELLETTE-CYGAN & BETH YORK

“Teaching Media Literacy at Concord High School Started with an Orange Juice Advertisement”



*Heather Ouellette-Cygan*



*Elizabeth “Beth” York*

In the mid 1990’s Concord High School’s students performed poorly on NECAP questions that asked them to analyze an orange juice advertisement. At the same time a shift in scheduling allowed for the design of a new year-long English course. Hence, English 11 Media Literacy was created. Since that time, educators at CHS have worked diligently to help students become critical thinkers about the multitude of media messages they consume daily. This presentation will provide an overview of what Media Literacy is and is not, give a quick history of the class, offer a glimpse of the typical units covered in a year, and have participants actively employ some Media Literacy skills.

Heather Ouellette-Cygan teaches English, Poetry, and Media Literacy at Concord High School where she is also the faculty advisor to the Tide Pride Gay & Straight Alliance. As a teacher, she is passionate about helping students recognize the role of media representation in developing their sense of self and of others. She is a founding member and current chair of GLSEN NH and has traveled the country for training on keeping schools safe for all students. She recently received an MFA in Creative Writing from SNHU. She writes poetry, essays, and fiction. Heather is currently working on a novel called *Merely Players*, which includes a cast of quirky characters involved with a fictional NH community theatre.

Elizabeth “Beth” York is an English teacher and Reading Specialist at Concord High School, where she has taught for 26 years. She is one of the original designers of Concord High School’s media literacy course and has taught the course for 16 years. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English and master’s degrees in both Secondary Education and Reading.

*(continued on p. 7)*

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## SHEILA’S SOAPBOX

As I reflect on my biennium as your Beta Alpha State president, I am thankful for the support I have received from our many members and chapters. I appreciate my officers, chapter presidents and committee chairs who served their roles well and who offered thoughtful and sound advice at our executive board meetings. Sisters from my own Theta Chapter attended our state meetings and volunteered to help direct traffic, provide refreshments, and proofread Beta Alpha State’s newsletter as a show of support. Brenda Walker added to that support by going to Delta and Eta’s meeting with me.

I enjoyed visiting the other six chapters and getting to know more members statewide. Eta, our smallest chapter,

provided Brenda and me a warm welcome, a delicious soup and salad meal, and an interesting program featuring Carole Albert’s book “My Grampy Russ.” Elaine Landry, my predecessor, and I presented a grateful Marion Pounder with the BAS Founders’ Award at an Epsilon Chapter meeting. There I was pleased with Barbara Mee’s work at the International level of Delta Kappa Gamma and with Ann Gaffney’s DKG scholarship award and getting her PhD. For Alpha Chapter I conducted a Recommitment Service and was impressed with their huge and successful fund-raising raffle. Also, I discovered how lucky they are to be able to hold their meetings in one central place in Keene. At a Delta meeting I was honored to present a program on “Telling Our Stories” and to observe Marna Ingerson’s well run business meeting and initiation of three new members. Beta Chapter invited Flora Sapsin and me to a meeting at President Terry Thompson’s beautiful Vermont

home, where we helped with their November fundraiser preparation. We enjoyed an outstanding lunch with the Beta members and felt their warm and “genuine spiritual fellowship.” With Gamma Chapter, I enjoyed a summer trip to the Concord Coach Museum at Prescott’s in Concord and then had lunch with this welcoming and close-knit group.

Thank you, one and all, for making my biennium an educational, enjoyable and memorable one. I am honored to be in your good company.

*Sheila Mable*, BAS-DKG President

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## WHAT IS NET NEUTRALITY?

*(a message from International)*

*...Controversies surrounding the transition of power in the USA have motivated DKG members to ask how the Society itself can “take a stand.” In response to these inquiries, we offer the following statement of nonprofit neutrality.*

**Statement of Neutrality:** As individuals, DKG members cherish the personal right of free speech. As leading women educators, DKG members want to—and should—take a stand on important issues. Purpose 4 of the Society, in fact, encourages members “To initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators.”

In contrast to speaking as an individual, however, “speaking” on behalf of an international, nonprofit organization is a complex endeavor. First, in the United States, the IRS restricts political and advocacy involvement of nonprofits; penalties can include revocation of nonprofit status. Second, the DKG Constitution, echoing Purpose 4, dictates in Article VIII, Section C., f. “that the committee (Educational Excellence Committee) shall study and recommend action on professional issues and shall urge the state organizations to initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interest of education and women educators.” The International Standing Rules further state in 8.102, c. “Legislative action shall be based on a thorough understanding of the issues involved in supporting excellence in education, equality for women, and a safe, peaceful educational environment.” The Rule continues in d: “Legislative activity shall be concerned with educational issues, not with candidates or political parties.”

Of course, the difference between issue advocacy and political intervention can be very difficult, which leads to the third point of complexity regarding “speaking” on behalf of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Although united in a genuine spiritual fellowship, we are an organization of

diversity—of various positions, experiences, opinions, passions, values and beliefs. The Society ultimately can only “speak” through formal consensus of members on **legislative** matters; without such formal consensus, neutrality must be the position for this nonprofit organization.

Thus, when issues or controversies arise, **each member must follow her personal journey to act on her passions and beliefs, whether by contacting a legislator, writing an op-ed piece for a local paper, using social media under her own name, or organizing or participating in a march or demonstration.** We support our love of DKG best, as well as represent our personal values, by acting with grace and supporting our organization as one that includes women with many different viewpoints—sometimes represented in the same chapter. *(February 2017)*

## DELTA MOURNS LOSS OF DEVILLAFANE

by Marna Ingerson, Delta Chapter

Joan Juanita deVillafane died peacefully on November 29, 2016, at The Morrison in Whitefield, NH, where she had resided in Assisted Living the last year of her life.

Joan graduated from Mary Hitchcock’s School of Nursing and served in the North Country, particularly enjoying her many years as the White Mountains Regional School District’s school nurse. She often joked about her relationship with her high school students when they “visited” her office. She was called “Mrs. D” and was recognized fondly right up through her last days by many past students who found her to be a great listener. Joan served on the National Board of Nurses, even as its president, and travelled across the USA. In 1994 she was named the New Hampshire Nurse of the Year and also received the EDDY Award for Excellence in Education. She was the first school nurse to receive that award.

Since her joining Delta Kappa Gamma, Joan served Delta Chapter well throughout the years as secretary, finance committee, and vice president more than once. She often attended state executive meetings with the Delta president as a supportive member. Joan also contributed her quilting skill by donating items to support our biennial Grant-In-Aid Raffle. She extended the spirit of our DKG promises to her community activities by sewing Hospice Bears for client families and by being a Hospice volunteer. Because of her service and dedication to Delta Chapter, she was honored with the 2016 Chapter Achievement-Woman of Distinction Award at the BAS Spring Conference last year.

Joan will be greatly missed!



# CHAPTER CHATTER

## ALPHA CHAPTER NEWS

**Judy Durand** and husband Dan enjoyed the summer traveling with family and friends in their RV. A favorite trip was through central Vermont. They look forward to more travels when they retire in 2017.

On a professional note, Alpha president **Cathryn Harvey** has been very busy. Currently serving on the Chesterfield School Board, she was also elected to represent Cheshire District towns of Chesterfield, Walpole, Hinsdale, and Westmoreland as a NH State Representative. She was assigned to the Fish and Game Standing Committee and says the work is interesting. While members may have differing political parties and concerns, all are very polite to one another behind the scenes and in public. Retired status helps those serving as many are in Concord for days at a time. The salary of \$100/year isn't much; reps must pay for their own licenses and name tags out of this amount, and those who must stay overnight pay those costs as well. Cathy says she is happy to be there! We are happy about that, too.

**Marilyn Hurley** reports that Gilsum STEAM Academy celebrated Veterans' Day with 90 guests. Children K-6 sang patriotic songs, and guests enjoyed refreshments after the program. A new NH flag has been donated to the school by Keene's VFW.

**Helen Ann Kelly** and the Chesterfield School primary team of Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade teachers attended a November seminar on Mathematics & Cuisenaire Rods presented by Mahesh Sharma in Massachusetts. Helen reports, "We all use rods in our classrooms this year to help all students with Number Sense and Strategies for Mathematics."

Retiree **Bernadette Kuhn** served as Exhibits Chairperson for the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New England Fall Conference held October 20-21 in Manchester, NH.

Snowbird **Martha Marsette** has been volunteering at the Church of the Redeemer charity thrift shop in Sarasota, FL, while in the Sunshine State. She does the same job at Saint James Episcopal Church in Keene.

About 10 Alpha members visited two area senior residences, Genesis Eldercare and Langdon Place, both in Keene, for an evening of Christmas caroling early in December. Many residents sang along with us. **Susan**

**Miller's** granddaughter sang, too, as a volunteer project for Fall Mountain Regional High School. Reserve member **Frances Bolles** now resides at Genesis and was very pleased to see us.

Several Alpha members have been traveling. **Pam Sanders** and her husband drove from Keene to the Grand Canyon in April. She reports that it "snowed, rained, and was foggy," but they caught glimpses of the canyon anyway. They helped their brother and sister-in-law celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and toured the Petrified Forest, Painted Desert, and Meteor Crater.



## BETA CHAPTER NEWS

**Helen Goodwin** passed away on September 30, 2016, at the age of 94. Locally, Helen was the music director for the Hanover School District, retiring in 1984. She was a member of DKG for over 50 years and served as Beta Chapter's president for a few terms. She was the thread that held Beta together for years and will be sorely missed.

**Linnea Thompson** joined Beta chapter in the fall of 2016. Lin's teaching experiences range from Head Start programs to the college level. She has worked in public schools, as well as served as a non-profit education director. Her career spans 46 years. She now volunteers in Woodstock and Hartland elementary schools. Lin just loves instructing and we feel fortunate to have her as a new member.

**Terry Thompson** is on the slate of BAS officers as first vice president for 2017-2019.

**Lisa Torres** traveled to Barcelona in November. She and her husband, Jose, had a wonderful time visiting the architecture of Antoni Gaudi, eating tapas, drinking wine, and appreciating the art of Dali, Miro, and Picasso.

Beta Chapter will host the **Tri-Chapter Meeting** for Delta, Theta and Beta Chapters on Saturday, April 29, 2017. It will take place at the Meredith Community Center.

## GAMMA CHAPTER NEWS

Gamma members are still busy with many projects and volunteer obligations.

“We were happy to support the Pease Greeters at Christmas time—a wonderful group who welcomes active duty and veterans as they come and go at Pease Air Force Base,” Gamma president **Sheila Knight** reported.

**Helen Gettleman**, a retired school librarian, will be rejoining Gamma this spring, “She is a great lady whose husband was a pilot stationed at Pease,” said Sheila.

“And we welcome **Bobbi Lippemeier**, a dedicated and talented elementary educator who is joining our artistic members as a gifted quilt maker.”

Gamma looks forward to seeing you all in Portsmouth at the BAS Spring Conference.

## DELTA CHAPTER NEWS

**Susan Ackerman** attended a fascinating Astrology Conference in Montgomery, TX. She also spent six weeks in France again this past summer.

**Judy Erickson** was blessed to attend two holiday craft festivals with her business, Tidal Treasures by Jude. One was held in Salisbury, MA, and the other in Plymouth, MA. She sold many seaglass jewelry pieces crafted from “recycled gifts from the sea.”

**Ann Gray** participated in the “Hour of Code” with her third to sixth grade students to introduce them to computer coding. This was a nation-wide drive during December, 2016.

**Marna Ingerson** and husband, Alan, traveled recently to South Carolina and Florida. The first week was as cold as northern Vermont! The remaining weeks were balmy and enjoyed by the Ingersons and their family and friends. They returned home to huge piles of snow. Luckily they head to Washington state to spend two weeks with one of their daughters and her family late in February! One of their favorite happenings throughout their years of travel has been meeting so many fabulous people.

**Mary Jolles** was recently elected as President of the Metallak Retired Teachers Association for 2017.

**Heidi Mathieu** and her husband, Ron, presented a travel log in December to Delta Chapter of their “once-in-a-lifetime trip” to several European countries. They enhanced their presentation with interesting and humorous

stories. The program ended with their lovely wedding picture! Best wishes and congratulations, Heidi and Ron!

**Pat Mclure** worked on her eighth Habitat for Humanity house. It was completed in November and the partner family took ownership and started moving in on November 15.



## EPSILON CHAPTER NEWS

**Ann Gaffney** recently installed solar panels on her house and has thoroughly enjoyed tracking how much power they make. It has become a family estimation activity to guess how many kwh of energy the panels make each day. She is amazed that they even make power through an inch of snow before the snow slides off the roof!

After fourteen years of living in NYC and working in the design industry, **Winnie Schmidt**'s daughter, Kate has returned to her New England roots and started her own business. “The family is very excited to have her closer and are also excited for her as she begins her entrepreneurial endeavor!” Winnie said proudly.

## ETA CHAPTER NEWS

**Dianne Mros** has been learning a Japanese form of braid-making called Kumihimo. She uses a Kumihimo Disk to make cords for necklaces and bracelets of various colors. Eta is hoping she will lead a demonstration session for us.

**Caroline Butler** attended the National Title I Conference in Long Beach, CA, during February. The four day conference was focused on Title I and dealing with the most relevant issues surrounding education today including the policy changes from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). “This conference provides a great opportunity to network with others from throughout the country and learn more about the requirements of implementing the new laws,” Caroline explained.

## THETA CHAPTER NEWS

**Pam Clark** had a banner 2016 at the Science Center. She enjoys listening to her granddaughter Maddy read to her on Face Time.

"I had my knee replaced over the summer," said **Pam Forbes**. "It is a journey."

"My son and his family bought their first home in Verona, WI, and I am excited to visit them during February vacation," **Donna-Marie Gamlin** reported. Meanwhile she, as a first grade teacher, is challenged by "budget cuts, poverty levels, and the impact of the heroin crisis."

**Nancy Gibbons** was fortunate to be in Honolulu for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. "Throughout the years I have visited all the memorials. The anniversary events were by invitation only. I was 11 years old and living close to the Atlantic seacoast so I remember many of the changes in our lives. The local news and papers in Honolulu were full of memories from people of all nationalities living there then. Their lives were never the same. I brought home the anniversary publications to share with my children. One of my grandchildren gave me a copy of the *LIFE* publication of *PEARL HARBOR 75 YEARS LATER*."

While in Hawaii, Nancy had many trips to the University of Hawaii where her granddaughter is a sophomore majoring in education. "Theta awarded her a scholarship last year," Nancy added. "I have also shared the DKG publications with her."

**Karen Goss** is busy during her third season at the tax office. "Come see me at Liberty Tax Services in Laconia," Karen offered. "After hearing about Camp Resilience, I have decided to make a 20 dollar donation for each Theta member who does their taxes with me."

**Kathy Lacroix** and her husband Jerry celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by having a large open house at their home with a big tent and catering.

In addition, she has been busy volunteering with the Gilford Historical Society. During the Farmers' Market from June to September, she gave tours of the 1838 Rowe House every Saturday morning. In October five second grade classes from Franklin came and she arranged for the volunteers for activities in the Rowe House and the Grange for two days. "Then I called for volunteers for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gilford Candlelight Stroll in December. And in January I arranged for the Gilford fourth graders for a total of six different activities centered on the theme of "Colonial Tradespeople," Kathy added.

**Sheila Mable** is experiencing a slow recovery from total knee replacement in December but expects to be well enough to attend the Beta Alpha State Spring Conference in Portsmouth in late March.

**Nancy McCall** had the honor of having dinner with Chelsea Clinton and Joseph Patrick III this fall. "The dinner discussion focused on the future of education and educational policy," Nancy explained.

**Deb Moynihan** hosted Thanksgiving for 20, went to Chicago to visit her son and his wife and three grandchildren, and then spent Christmas with her other son and his wife and two "grands" in Plymouth, MA.

**Ruth Puleo** sends greeting from Florida. "I'm enjoying being in southwestern Florida immensely. Husband, Rick, comes down to visit when he can, but I'm happily surrounded by relatives here. I come "home" to NH in April, in order to get a nice dose of spring weather. I am now a great-grandmother, which is hard to believe! I've been taking painting classes in Florida, which helps to keep the creativity going."

**Brenda Walker**, second vice president, presided over the Beta Alpha State's Executive Board meeting in February. She still enjoys going to Foxwoods occasionally in her spare time and looks forward to a trip to Costa Rica in June.

## SCENES FROM THE BAS 2016 FALL MEETING



*Beta Chapter Sisters*

(photos by Sheila Knight)

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## SPRING WORKSHOPS *(continued from p. 2)*

### WORKSHOP #2 (11:15-12:15) WHY THE ARTS MATTER – AND HOW! Frumie Selchen



*(photo by Cheryl Senter)*

Frumie Selchen serves as executive director of the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, a nonprofit network that works to promote, support and sustain culture, heritage and the arts throughout the northern half of the state. She will talk about the importance of the arts in education – and in life – and lead a discussion of how we can collaborate to ensure that creativity remains an important part of learning for New Hampshire students of all ages. “I’m so glad to be able to participate in your annual meeting; as you know, I’m passionate about the role of the arts in learning, and it will be wonderful to talk to educators who care so much about NH students and the opportunities they are offered,” Frumie said.

Frumie has over 25 years’ experience developing, designing and coordinating cultural programs, conferences and workshops at local, statewide and regional levels. She holds a degree in comparative literature from Yale University and worked in magazine, newspaper,

and book publishing in New York, New Mexico, and New Orleans before moving to New Hampshire. Here she has served for several years as the Rural Arts Coordinator for the State Council on the Arts. She received the 2009 Profile Award for service to the state and the 2013 Governor’s Award for Distinguished Arts Leadership. Then in 2015 she was chosen by the NH Humanities Council as one of 40 NH people who “have demonstrated what it means to create, teach, lead, assist, and encourage human understanding.”

### WORKSHOP #3 (1:15-2:15) BLACK CROW PROJECT: NH’S HEROIN EPIDEMIC—ERIK BECKER

Erik Becker is a lifetime North Country resident who is now pursuing a degree in addiction studies and ultimately hopes to become a Master Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

Steven Bissonnette and Erik founded the Black Crow Project officially last year to provide information and awareness on heroin and opiates to our communities and to bring our communities together for more discussion of substance abuse prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. Steven’s focus is the film side of things, and he splits his time between NH and CO.

“Our project has taken me all over the state speaking to high schools, colleges, conferences, and even leading county leaders in discussions with the public,” Erik said. “Back in April I hosted the largest naloxone distribution and training to happen in the state of New Hampshire to this day.” For more detail see Black Crow Project online.



### WORKSHOP #4 (2:30-3:30) AFRICAN-AMERICAN BURIAL GROUND—KELVIN EDWARDS



*Kelvin Edwards and his wife Royaleen*

Kelvin Edwards will be Delta Kappa Gamma’s last speaker at Beta Alpha State’s Spring Conference on March 31. He is a dedicated citizen who, with his retire teacher wife Royaleen, has been active in civil rights since they both attended Martin Luther King’s famous speech in Washington, DC. Kel is a retired engineer from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He is involved and on the boards of the Black Heritage Trail in Portsmouth, the Seacoast African-American Cultural Center, and the African-American Burial Ground. His support and knowledge for these groups have been constant throughout the years. He will speak on Portsmouth’s African-American Burial Ground.

## ~WRITERS' CORNER~

### *Watcher at His Pulse\**

by Sheila Mable, Theta Chapter

There will be no harvest time this year.  
Grandpa lies in his hospital bed while  
the clock on the wall stares, judges,  
and counts out his last minutes.

I, *watcher at his pulse*,\*  
hold his large, gnarled hands,  
callused from years of farm work.  
He is restless and wakeful  
and cries out in his confusion.

I sit in sorrow and in fear,  
not knowing what to do,  
how to comfort.  
Looking at this shadow of a man,  
once hard and strong as granite, I sigh.

I listen to  
his heartbeats on the monitor,  
watch his tired, green eyes flutter  
and his nostril flare  
as he struggles to breathe.

*Night is all but done*,\* and  
I long for Mom to relieve me.  
“Please don’t let Grandpa die,”  
my quivering 13-year-old voice prays.  
His ancient eyes widen and focus on me.

“I can see the light,” he whispers,  
and then he is gone.

(\* taken from “*Out, Out*” by Robert Frost)

## OUR TRIBUTE TO ALICE

Alice (Lacoss) Carrier, 72, beloved wife, daughter, sister, mother, and grandmother, died peacefully January 26, 2017, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center after a brief illness. She was born in Hanover, NH, October 2, 1944, the daughter of Niles and Helen Lacoss.



Alice graduated from Hanover High School and received her BA in Elementary Education and MA in Special Education from Keene State College. She and Gary Carrier were married in 1965 and raised their two daughters in Brattleboro, VT. She was a beloved teacher in Guilford and Brattleboro elementary schools, who loved teaching children to read. Last year, she and Gary moved to live full-time at their lake house in Enfield, NH.

Over the last 17 years of retirement, Alice delighted in spending time with her family and watching her five grandchildren grow into young adults. She was a gracious hostess and known for her tremendous talent for knitting, sewing, quilting, baking, and jewelry making.

She particularly enjoyed her work as a local, state, and international officer of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and traveled throughout the US and Northern Europe in support of teachers around the world. In 2012, she was honored to receive the International Achievement Award, the highest award given by DKG, to recognize her distinguished record of service to the organization.

Alice had a special and positive influence on other DKG members in Vermont and NH. **Barbara Mee** of NH Epsilon Chapter will always be grateful to her. “When Alice was Northeast Regional Director and a NH guest (back in 1999), we met in Wolfeboro and she is the one who encouraged me to apply for Golden Gift. I was so thrilled for her when she got the International Achievement Award. She was so gracious and so DKG. I am absolutely in shock and so, so sad. She was truly a mentor and made me so committed to DKG.”



*DKG members pose for a group photo in front of the WWII tribute wall at the 2016 fall meeting in Wolfeboro at the Wright Museum.*



# U.S. FORUM: FOCUS ON KEY ISSUES

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. This newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at [Bedenbaugh. Angela@gmail.com](mailto:Angela@gmail.com). We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

## **TITLE IX REVISITED**

In Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Federal Government stated that no person should be discriminated against on the basis of sex. This was enforced against higher education when the federal government threatened to withhold all federal money from a college which did not afford equal rights to women as part of its higher education athletic program. Originally athletic programs were the main focus of this law. It is because of this that colleges and universities were forced to offer as many athletic scholarships to females as they did to males. More recently there was a move to extend Title IX to secondary schools by forcing schools to offer as many sports opportunities to females as to males. This would afford girls the opportunity to participate in sports in high school which would give more girls equal opportunities for college sports scholarships. The leverage for Title IX is the withholding of federal money from all activities at the educational institution. Thus an institution which did not provide athletic opportunities could lose federal funding for research and other activities.

More recently Title IX was the basis on which the federal government through the Department of Education and the Justice Department (Attorney General) weighed in on the transgender use of rest rooms in schools. The Justice Department in the Obama administration gave the opinion that it was the right of a transgender person to utilize the restroom of the current gender identity, rather than that of the sex at birth.

The U.S. Supreme Court is due to take up this issue in its current session in the case of the Gloucester County Virginia School Board versus a transgender male concerning which bathroom the student should use. This case is likely to be argued before the court in the next month with a decision to be delivered by June of this year

Recently the newly confirmed U.S. Attorney General Sessions as part of the Trump administration has reversed the policy dealing with use of restroom facilities when he ruled that it is a state's right issue rather than a sexual rights issue covered by Title IX. This action is viewed by many as a lack of support for the LGBTQ community. Recent fears that resolving this issue in favor of the school board will drastically increase the number of transgender teen suicides mainly due to bullying. The teen suicide rate in the general population is between five and ten percent; while the suicide rate of transgender teens approaches 30%. Males are about three times as likely to commit suicide as females.

## **SUPREME COURT & AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

When sixth grader Ehlena Fry, who suffers from cerebral palsy entered kindergarten in 2009, the school district (Napoleon Community Schools) denied her the ability to bring her service dog into the school. The District ruled that an adult could perform the tasks with which the dog helped her. The dog which was trained to open doors and pick up items, among other things, was designed to give her a measure of independence, so she would not have to rely on other people for help. The family is seeking monetary damages from the school, rather than pursuing a lengthy administrative remedy process. Although the school eventually allowed her to bring the dog to school after two and a half years, they placed so many restrictions on the dog that Ehlena's parents decided to homeschool her. The family later located a school that allowed her to have the dog at the school. At issue is whether the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which would allow the dog to accompany her to school, or whether the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which would allow the family to sue the school, would take precedence. A ruling on the matter is expected later this year.

## **PRESCRIPTION DRUG UPDATE**

A generic version of the EpiPen has recently become available. Since this is the delivery system rather than the drug, this gets around patent protection.

## **FACEBOOK PAGE LINK**

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

**FORUM WEB SITE:** <http://www.usforumdkg.com>.

# BOOK YOUR TRAVEL PLANS TO WINDSOR, ONTARIO, FOR THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

by Carol Hughes, Northeast Region Director

As we are into the new year, you may now be thinking seriously about those travel plans to attend the Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor on July 12-14. Perhaps you have already decided to come a day early.

**How are you traveling?** If by auto or air from the US, remember to bring your passport. If flying Porter Airlines from Canada or one of these cities in the US—Boston, MA; Burlington, VT; Chicago (Midway); Newark, NJ; Pittsburgh, PA; Washington DC (Dulles)—Porter is offering a 15 per cent discount to those going to the Northeast Regional Conference and returning between July 7 and July 17. Book online at: <https://flyporter.com/Flight?culture=en-CA&promocode=NRC017>. If booking through a travel agent the Code is NRC017. From US, you will clear immigration on Toronto Island (aka Billy Bishop) rather than Toronto Pearson. Turnaround time is about 20 minutes and then you will fly on to Windsor.



## **Do you wish to reserve a room now in the Augustus Tower of Caesars Resort and Convention Center?**

Call the hotel's Reservation Department at 1-800-991-8888 and identify yourself as being part of Delta Kappa Gamma with the group code of ADE0708. The room rate of \$169 in Canadian dollars (about \$126 in US dollars) is good from July 8 to July 16. The online booking link is: <http://www.totalrewards.com/hotelreservations?propCode=WCL&groupCode=ADE0708>.

**If coming early to Windsor, you might enjoy attending one of the pre-conference seminars,** which will be held in the morning and afternoon of July 12. **The Underground Railway** features Elise Harding-Davis, an author and a descendant of slaves who escaped to Canada. Windsor was one of the destination cities in the underground railway. In the afternoon participants in this seminar will be taken to the sights outside of Windsor from those days in the mid-1800's.

**The other seminar, Indigenous Peoples of the 21st Century,** will focus on the history of the residential schools that were founded years ago to teach Indigenous students. Unfortunately, these children were taken miles away from their families and suffered many problems that remain with them today. Charlene Bearhead, a survivor of one of those schools and now the education officer for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, will share her past experiences and ways Indigenous students are being helped today. Ontario member Mary Ellen Gucciardi will speak on her work as a school counselor for Indigenous students.

**The March/April NEWS** will have a four-page spread on the Northeast Regional and pre-conference leadership opportunities and information will be posted on the website. If you have questions, feel free to contact me, Carol Hughes at [chughes@mtco.com](mailto:chughes@mtco.com) as I am happy to answer them.



Delta Kappa Gamma International  
**Beta Alpha State Spring Conference**  
 Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH  
Thursday, March 30 – Saturday, April 1, 2017

**Day Package: \$70.00**

Includes: Registration, Breakfast, Lunch, All Taxes & Gratuities.    **Select one:**           Friday    or           Saturday

**1 Night Package:**

Includes: Registration, Friday Night Guestroom Accommodation, Breakfast Friday & Saturday Morning, Lunch Friday & Saturday, All Taxes and Gratuities.

**Single room        \$255.00**  
**Double room      \$190.00/person**

**2 Night Package:**

Includes: Registration, Thursday & Friday Night Guestroom Accommodation, Breakfast Friday & Saturday Morning, Lunch Friday & Saturday, All Taxes and Gratuities.

**Single room        \$395.00**  
**Double room      \$255.00/person**

**Parking Fee: \$6/day or \$10/night—Obtain parking tickets on site.**

~~~~~ **Cut Here** ~~~~~

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Which package? \_\_\_\_\_

If attending one day, which day?           Friday           Saturday

Name of Roommate (if one) \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any dietary or facility needs \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a check made payable to **Beta Alpha State** with this registration form by **March 6<sup>th</sup>** to:

Mrs. Flora A. Sapsin  
 Londonderry High School    295 Mammoth Road  
 Londonderry, NH 03053

*Those we love and lose are always connected  
by heartstrings into infinity. ~Terri Guillemets*

## WHITE ROSES... IN MEMORY



**Helen Goodwin (Beta) d. 9-30-16**  
**Joan de Villafane (Delta) d. 11-29-16**

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 30-April 1, 2017:**

BAS Spring Conference  
Portsmouth, NH

**July 12-14, 2017:**

Northeast Regional Conference  
Windsor, Ontario

**July 27, 2017 (Thursday):**

BAS Executive Board Meeting TBA

**Sept. 23, 2017 (Saturday):**

BAS Fall Meeting TBA



## BAS SLATE OF OFFICERS

Anne Nute, President  
Terry Thompson, 1st Vice  
Brenda Walker, 2nd Vice  
Katie Murphy, Recording Secretary  
Kathy Tucker, Corresponding Secretary

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