



THE CHIPS OF GRANITE

Beta Alpha State News ~ Vol. 2018, Issue 1 ~ Mar. 2018

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International ~ New Hampshire



BAS WORKSHOPS OFFER SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Workshop 1: Mt. Washington Observatory Outreach— Brian Fitzgerald

Mt. Washington is known worldwide for its unpredictable and dangerous weather. For a mountain its size, why is Mt. Washington called the “Home of the World’s Worst Weather”? Join Mt. Washington Observatory’s Director of Education, Brian Fitzgerald, for an investigation into the unique life and work of the weather observers stationed at the observatory year-round. Brian, a former summit observer himself, will explore how the mountain’s weather works and what it can tell us about New England’s own weather patterns. This program will include stunning photography, video footage from the summit, and discussion of the Observatory’s educational resources and programs for both teachers and students.

Workshop 2: Problems, Progress, & Programs of NH’s Opioid Crisis—Linda Massimilla & Task Force

Linda is serving her third term as the NH State Representative from Grafton District 01. She serves on the House Committee for State Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. Also she has been a member of the NH Canadian Trade Council since 2013. She is a retired teacher and since 2007 has been the president of the Ammonoosuc Valley Retired Educators.

Workshop 3: Tai Chi & Mindfulness—Dianne Mros & Ruth Ashley

Participants will learn purpose and benefits of tai chi and mindfulness. Information will include grounding, visualization, movement, breath work, stress reduction, and wellness techniques. Dianne Mros of Eta Chapter and Ruth Ashley have a combined 50 years of public education experience and over 10 years of integrative health and wellness practice. For further information, visit their website: www.freewebs.com/reikibliss.

Workshop 4: Journal Writing—Sheila Mable, Theta Chapter

Sheila will lead us in journal writing. In this interactive workshop, she will focus on several purposes and formats that can be used in the classroom or in the privacy of our own journals. We will do some writing so make sure to bring some writing utensils to this session.

Evening Workshop: Journal Making—Maurine Henry, Alpha Chapter

Maurine’s journal making workshop on Friday evening involves each one of us making a personal journal as a follow-up to Sheila’s workshop in the afternoon. “I will be leading this evening workshop and need to know in advance how many journals I will need to prepare,” Maurine requests, “so make sure to check the journal box on the BAS Spring Conference registration form.”

BAS SPRING CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

5-6:45 p.m. Dinner on your own
7-8:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting
Book Chat for other members

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018

7-9 a.m. Breakfast
8:30-9:20 Registration & Raffles
9:30-10:30 Workshop 1—Mount Washington Observatory
10:50-11:50 Workshop 2—NH’s Opioid Problem
12:10-1:10 Lunch
1:15-2:15 Workshop 3—Tai Chi & Mindfulness
2:30-3:30 Workshop 4—Journal Writing
5-7:30 Dinner on your own
7:45-9 p.m. Making Journals with Maurine

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

7-9 a.m. Breakfast, Registration, Raffles
8:30-9 Chapter Governing Documents Meeting
9-10:30 BAS Business Meeting
10:45-11:15 Service of Remembrance
11:45 Women of Distinction
12:15 Parade of Presidents
12:15-1:15 Lunch
1:15-2 Speaker Frumie Selchen
2:15 p.m. Closing

PRESIDENT NUTE'S GREETINGS:

ANNE'S ANSWERS



Are you looking forward to spring? I know I am. The Beta Alpha State Executive Board has planned a wonderful spring conference at the Omni Mt. Washington. I hope that many of you plan to attend. Just the view from the hotel is worth the trip. We have some exciting workshops planned.

Last fall I spoke about the message from International: *simplify*. Have you tried to simplify in your chapter activities? Has your chapter worked on its governing documents? Are they simple and effective? We will be discussing the chapter governing documents on Saturday morning at the Mt. Washington. We hope every Chapter will have at least one representative attend the discussion.

My word for the next six months is *persistence*. I would like to have every chapter resolve to try one of the new approaches to recruit new members. Every chapter received a thumb drive with suggested activities. Try one. Be determined to get DKG and its good works on behalf of women educators better known. Resolve to take advantage of the opportunities DKG International and Beta Alpha State have to offer. Kudos to Anne Gaffney for being selected to attend Golden Gift this summer in Austin, TX. Check out the DKG International website for the many opportunities. Beta Alpha State offers scholarship opportunities, workshops, conferences, and fellowship. Please be an active and engaged member in your chapter, state and international levels.

Those we love and lose are always connected by heartstrings and into infinity.

~Terri Guillemets

**White Roses...
In Memory of**



Janice Coates (Alpha) d. 8/20/17

Marna Ingerson (Delta) d. 12/9/17

Barbara Stimson (Delta) d. 4-28-17

Mary Young (Delta) d. 4-26-17

**BEQUEST OF DELTA
KAPPA GAMMA PINS**

In the event of my death, I respectfully request that my family donate my Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) pins to:
_____ Chapter or
to the New Hampshire State Organization
(Beta Alpha State).

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please cut this form out or make a copy to place with your pins, so that your heirs will know what to do with them.

Honor a future member with your legacy.

MEET TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

JUDY ERICKSON SERVES AS DELTA'S NEW PRESIDENT

Judy Erickson joined the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society in 1999. Within her chapter she has served on the Literacy Committee for several years, as Historian, and as First Vice-President for two terms.

In the spring of 2017, her good friend and chapter president Marna Ingerson was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Marna began the process of tutoring and turning leadership over to Judy as they spent time visiting during chemo treatments, afternoon visits at Marna's home, and long phone calls. By the end of June, Judy left Marna's house with a carload of totes, binders, folders, red suitcases, and much trepidation. Judy was now acting president.

With continued support from Marna until late fall and the guidance from previous presidents, especially chapter sister Barbara Baker, Judy has managed to perform her duties as president of Delta Chapter, learning as she goes. She feels that her many years as a chapter member, her 25 years of teaching, and her organization skills have helped her to move forward in this position.

Judy is not sure what the future holds for her within her chapter duties but does know that her remembrances of Marna's leadership and her own heartfelt commitment to DKG are what keeps her motivated to do the best job she can while serving as acting president.



Other information about Judy Erickson:

- B.S. Ed. from Bridgewater State College
- M.Ed. from Plymouth University (Reading & Writing Specialist)
- Reading Recovery Trained 1990-1993
- Taught within the primary grades; Reading Specialist K-8
- Retired from SAU 36, White Mountains Regional School District in 2011 (Dalton & Whitefield Schools).
- Lives in Dalton with Bob her husband of 46 years. They have two sons, Jacob and Zachary.

INTRODUCING KATIE MURPHY, BAS SECRETARY

by Katie Murphy, Epsilon Chapter



I am honored to serve Delta Kappa Gamma as the new secretary of the Executive Board. I have been a member of Epsilon Chapter since 2002.

I taught 8th grade science at Londonderry Middle School for 11 years and taught 7th grade science at Dover Junior High School for one year prior to that.

For the past 11 years, I have been primarily a stay-at-home mother to three children (ages 11, 9 and 7). I have served on the board and the activities committee for the local Moms Club. Also, I am a member of FLOW (Friends of the Library of Windham), and for many years I served on the Strawberry Festival planning committee to help raise money for library programming. I am a Girl Scout leader to two troops in Windham (4th & 5th grade troops). I also volunteer as a CCD teacher at our church and have coached basketball and Destination Imagination Teams.

And, to make sure I don't get bored, I also work part-time. Currently, I work three days per week at a small health food store, and the other two days of the week I sub at the middle school. After school hours, I am the designated taxi driver and keeper of the family calendar. During the summer, I work on a whale watch boat. I began working for Granite State Whale Watch in 1993 and over the years have worked as both crew and naturalist on the boat. There was a time when I also had a 100 ton Coast Guard Captain's license as well.

CHAPTER CHATTER

ALPHA CHAPTER

Surrounded in love and with her family by her side, Alpha sister **Janice Baird Coates** was called to the Lord on Sunday, Aug. 20, 2017, at the age of 90.

Congratulations go to **Jeannine Leclerc** for completing her first full marathon in five hours and 23 minutes. This was the annual Clarence DeMar race, which was held on September 24, 2017. “This community event was a wonderful day,” Jeannine reports.

In keeping with **Alpha Chapter’s** literary theme for the year, author and historian Eric Stanway was the November meeting speaker. Stanway told stories from *Yankee Phantoms*, the title of a 2015 book. Our members enjoyed his entertaining accounts of restless spirits in New England. One of his books tells the story of Chesterfield’s Madame Sherrie, once a New York theater costume designer who spent summers in a “castle” in the woods. There, she entertained guests from the city during Prohibition. Her colorful life was the subject of many local stories.

Elaine Landry and her younger sister once had a confrontation with Madame Sherrie when they were exploring the property and she ordered them to leave while holding a shotgun! The two grabbed their bicycles and skedaddled. The lady died in a Brattleboro, VT, nursing home, and the castle’s stone walls are all that is left following a fire believed to have been set by hunters.

In December Alpha members once again entertained residents by singing at two nursing homes in Keene—Langdon Place and Genesis. We were warmly received by residents, many of whom joined in the singing. Genesis staff held a tree lighting ceremony while we were there. Carolers ended the evening at **Elaine Landry’s** home with refreshments provided by the group.

Peg Saunders, always on the go, visited her sister in Boston. The duo made it an educational experience by visiting the Boston Tea Party Museum. They learned that the tide was so low when the tea was thrown overboard that someone had to tamp it into the water.

Closer to home, Peg has completed the Master Gardener course through the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension program. She put her gardening expertise to work during Memorial Day weekend at Star Island when she helped prepare the flower bed for the summer season. Star Island is a UU and UCC conference center in the Isles of Shoals just ten miles out from

Portsmouth, NH. She then attended a couple of conferences with family members, including four out of her five grandchildren.

Penelope Shanks highly recommends taking a Viking Cruise. (See the article about her Elba River trip on p.7.)

BETA CHAPTER

Beta Chapter raised money by selling soups in a jar and bags with tags at a Christmas fair. With the money we are sponsoring a classroom in El Salvador through Epilogos. The high school student we had been sponsoring graduated this year.

Midge Jorgensen’s youngest daughter graduated from physical therapy school in Denver.

Jan Kulig’s “bridge” into retirement is going well. She is now working as a paraprofessional in a 3-year-old preschool program.

Heather Oliver became a mother to Dorothy Ann Oliver on September 1, 2017. Dorothy attended her first DKG meeting in December.

Since the end of January 2017, **Joan Tarleton** has been the transitional pastor at the Bridgewater Congregational United Church of Christ in Vermont.

In August **Terry Thompson** had an opportunity to join her son, daughter-in-law, and two-year-old grandson on a trip to Montana and Wyoming. After visiting her niece in Livingston, MT, for a weekend, Terry and her family spent four days in Yellowstone National Park. As a earth and life science teacher, Terry had previously only seen pictures of the Yellowstone wildlife and geologic features in textbooks. Driving through the Teton National Forest on the way home was icing on the cake.

Kathy Tucker, her husband, and her dog rented a cottage for about 10 days last July in Port Hood, Nova Scotia. They all had so much fun that they are going back again this summer!



GAMMA CHAPTER

Several **Gamma members** have had broken legs, shoulder replacements, damaged arms, and hip replacements; but all are mended, repaired and ready again for an active, wonderful spring.

Ann Douglas is busy making the surprise favors for BAS's fall meeting.

Helen Gettleman attended her grandson's wedding—Scottish to the point of creating the new tartan design worn by all.

Betty Gilman related changes in our chapter's bylaws/standing rules and all agreed with the results.

Ann Smith looks forward to welcoming a new grandchild in May.

Gamma members gathered at **Lynn Young's** home for an early holiday celebration of a potluck lunch and Yankee swap. A surprise visit by Lynn's son (whom most of us have known since he was a baby—now being 48!) let him be the photographer of our group photo.

DELTA CHAPTER



At our October meeting, Cheryl Baker (*on the left*), our presenter from Plymouth State University, talked to us about what teacher training looks like nowadays.

Ann Gray is enjoying semi-retirement these days. She is at 40% employment, continuing in the Pittsburg School Library working with library and research skills for the elementary students and also teaching basic keyboarding to the students in grades 3-6.

Judy Erickson is now the acting president of Delta Chapter since the passing of President **Marna Ingerson** in December. Judy urges DKG members to donate children's books in memory of Marna at the BAS Spring Conference. (*See articles on pp. 3 and 8.*)

Heidi Mathieu keeps busy. "I have started a new hobby this past year," she says. "I am doing painting with acrylic paints on canvases. So far I have painted a lot of pets for friends. I also volunteer for the Twin Mountain Recreation Department and teach skiing on six Wednesday afternoons to students from Whitefield School at Bretton Woods ski

area. The entire Whitefield School participates in an activity during this time. I went skiing during school vacation in February. And during school vacation in April, my husband and I will head to Florida for some warmth."

EPSILON CHAPTER

Ann Gaffney reports that her youngest son just turned 8 years old. He chose an interesting assortment of food for his birthday dinner including mussels, aloe, and lemon cake with orange frosting. He chose aloe because he was excited to see a cactus in the grocery store. He decided it looked much better than it tasted. His verdict: "Aloe is disgusting but the orange frosting on lemon cake is YUMMY!" (*See Ann's article on p. 9 about her new job.*)

Barbara Mee announces that her husband Bill officially retired as of January 1, 2018. "We'll see how this all plays out!" she says. "Advice from those of you who have 'been there, done that' is certainly welcome. I still haven't made my big *R* decision yet, however.

"We are looking forward to more travel, particularly a Viking River cruise that Robert and my cousin will join us on late this summer. We will travel the Rhine from Basel, Switzerland, to Amsterdam. I'm very excited about that.

"I will also be attending the International Convention in Austin, TX, in July and rooming with my Golden Gift sister from Maryland, who is my usual convention roommate. I hope to see many Beta Alpha state members travel to the land where DKG all began."

Congratulations go to **Katie Murphy**, who is Beta Alpha State's new recording secretary. (*See her article on p. 3.*)

ETA CHAPTER

Caroline Butler attended the National Title I Conference in Philadelphia from February 9 to 12. There were many great keynote speakers and workshop sessions, including the changes to the federal requirements.

Dianne Mros and her daughter-in-law attended an herbal workshop at the Prescott Farm Environmental Center. They learned how to prepare many wellness recipes including aromatic room sprays, relaxing bath salts, and energy truffles.

Martha Verville Sheehy celebrated her 90th birthday on February 22. Family and friends gathered on February 24 at the Red Blazer Restaurant in Concord to share memories and toast her many accomplishments. It was a very special day! She loved every minute of the party and lives life with gusto. As a constant globetrotter, Martha and her husband, John, will be traveling later in the spring. She'll share her adventures in the next *CHIPS*.

THETA CHAPTER

Theta Chapter started a new tradition of a January “no meeting” meeting. About 15 of us braved the cold to meet at the Brickfront Restaurant for the sole purpose of having dinner and enjoying each other’s company. We decided to schedule this event after many of us enjoyed an evening of fellowship when a speaker couldn’t make it to the regularly scheduled meeting a year ago. With no meetings scheduled between November and March, our sisters found this to be great fun. All left thinking that this will now become an annual activity.

Theta Chapter revived its Book in a Bag project to donate eight bags with Classic Children’s books to the Lakes Region Christmas Auction. Special thanks go to **Marilyn Coffin** and **Bev Jones**.

Donna-Marie Gamlin announced that she is beginning a course on inquiry writing and studying the textbook, *The Curious Classroom*. “Also I am on the Elm Street School (ESS) committee that will head the primary wing in becoming a trauma sensitive school,” she added.

Also, Donna-Marie announced the ESSence of Christmas results for 2017. Thank you to everyone who was able to help this year! We had 6 staff members help to unload my cellar and bring collected gifts to school. We had 15 people help with set up, including DKG sisters, junior honor society, community members, retired ESS staff and current staff. During the event, we had 22 volunteers from the previously mentioned groups, as well as 9 volunteers from the Kohl’s care program. These volunteers made it possible for the following:

- **118 children shopped and 992 gifts were wrapped!**
- **\$153.15 was collected for the food pantry.**
- **Four car loads of left over goods were given to St. Vincent de Paul.**
- **\$250.00 more was given to the food pantry later.**

Having three new great grandchildren has me interested in a Pilot program for volunteers at the Lakes Region Child Care Center,” said **Nancy Gibbons**.

Sheila Mable is back volunteering at the NH Department of Environmental Services, where she coordinates and teaches a Speechcraft class three quarters a year.

Brenda Walker is recovering from an accident while shoveling snow, “Breaking my ankle on Christmas is very limiting because I can’t I drive, but my husband, Bud, has been there every step of the way. He drives me to school and home each day, to meetings and doctors’ appointments. In addition, Bud is in love with our newest cat, Bushy, a Maine Coon cat that just showed up at our house. It is so

interesting seeing them together. You would not believe that Bushy is a cat and that we have six other cats.”



Pam Clark Ruth Conwell, and Brenda Walker welcome Barbara Wirth (third from the left) to Theta Chapter.

WHO IS BARBARA WIRTH, THETA’S NEWEST MEMBER?

by Barbara Wirth, Theta Chapter

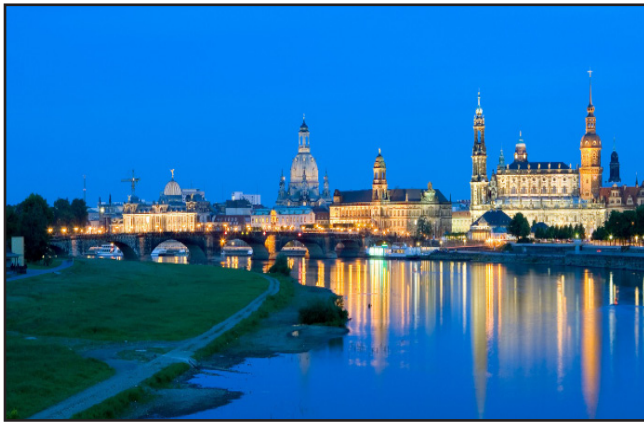
I am incredibly blessed to be a member of Theta Chapter and give a big thanks to Brenda Walker for the invitation.

If I could afford it, I would be living on Cape Cod and visiting the ocean every day! Since I need to work, I will settle for vacations and day trips.

In the meantime, I am taking time to revisit my career path. Having worked in higher ed for the past 18 years, I am seeking a role in K-12, either teaching or in an assistant principal role.

I’m enjoying volunteering on several boards—National Center for Competency-Based Learning, NH Coalition for Business and Education, NH Business Education Association, and my school district’s Budget Committee. My passions are my family, education and gardening.”





Elbe River with Dresden in background
 By Mylius - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6942713>

SHANKS CRUISED AND LEARNED ON THE ELBA

Globetrotter Penelope Shanks of Alpha Chapter highly recommends taking a Viking Cruise. She and friends began a one-week tour in October. The Elbe River trip began in Prague, and the first stop was in Dresden, where they visited parks built on World War II bombing sites. The journey continued on to Meissen, where the famous porcelain factory is located. After the war the machinery was taken to Russia, so the residents no longer had work. The next stop was Torgau, where American and Russian leaders met at the end of WWII. Wittenberg, hometown of Martin Luther, was another stop. The tour ended at Berlin.

The tour guides throughout the trip were East German natives who recounted actual events occurring after World War II. Penny reports some little known facts of life following the war were described by these tour guides. In addition to the removal of factory equipment and the subsequent loss of jobs, residents who lived in East Germany were allowed very little living space. A family was allowed a few square feet of living space per person for a home and a little land. Once the family number was reduced, the family would be forced to leave. Some were then shot. Each family was allowed a “cardboard car” with a lawn mower engine once a child was born. However, the cars were constantly breaking down and no parts were available. No replacement vehicles were provided. The Secret Police were everywhere. Residents who were thought to have committed crimes would be taken from their homes, questioned for hours, and then sent to Siberia, where they were never heard from again.

One guide, the mother of three, told a story of strawberry picking with her family. At the strawberry field, they were allowed to pick the berries...one quart for them and five quarts for the communists. The guides found the fall of the Berlin Wall to be overwhelming once normal freedoms were restored. “The trip was beautiful, but the stories of life under communism were unforgettable,” Penny reports.

~WRITERS' CORNER~

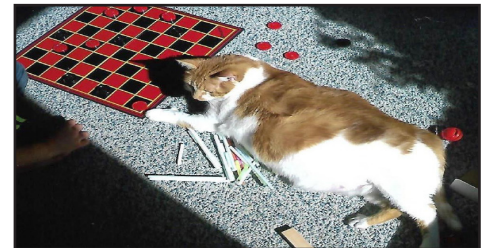
SEASONS

by Barbara Baker, Delta Chapter

We have spent the winter together, Marmalade and I. Strange though it seems, she is a good companion. She dreads the sound of the Bungay winds tunneling down Kinsman Ridge, as do I. These fierce winds send my bones shivering. Her favorite place is curled up by the heater, one paw covering her eyes, napping.

Through swirls of snow and months of icy roads, we have gradually worked our way to this first day of March. This morning's blue sky is gently clouded now. Days are warming but nights remain cold and quilt needy. Just the right temperatures for sap to start running.

At day's end, I settle in my cozy chair. Before opening my book, I look out and peruse the nearby trees, especially the top-most branches, hoping for signs of spring buds.



Marmalade takes a rest.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 12, 2018 (Thursday)

Ex. Board Meeting, 7-8:30 p.m.
 Mt. Washington Hotel

April 13-14, 2018 (Friday & Saturday)

BAS Spring Conference
 Mount Washington Hotel

June 14, 2018 (Thursday)

Yearbook filler updates due

July 10, 2018 (Tuesday)

CHIPS articles due

July 16-20, 2018 (Monday--Friday)

DKG International Convention
 Austin, TX

August 11, 2018 (Saturday)

Ex. Board Meeting
 Granite State College, Concord

Sept. 22, 2018 (Saturday)

BAS Fall Meeting, TBA



DEDICATED TO MARNA INGERSON, PRESIDENT OF DELTA CHAPTER

by Judy Erickson, Delta Chapter

What does it mean to live a life well-lived?

Aristotle defined a happy life as well-lived, a life in accordance with one's highest values. We know that Marna had high values and strived to live by these. Today we gather to celebrate her well-lived life. Marna was my teaching colleague, a mentor, my gambling buddy, a confidante, but foremost my dear friend. I will miss her greatly.

Marna was also my sister within the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society. DKG's mission statement is "to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education." There are more than 100,000 members belonging to over 2,900 chapters worldwide.

Delta Kappa Gamma played a very important part in Marna's life. Last summer, realizing she would no longer be able to carry out her duties as our chapter president, she handed over all the Delta records and materials and told me how much she truly loved every aspect of being a Delta member and leader. She was so helpful and encouraging to me as I have tried to follow in her footsteps as acting president.

Marna's initiation into the Delta Kappa Gamma Society took place on October 23, 1993 at the Ammonoosuc Inn, located in Lisbon, NH. In her 24 years as a member, she served as Finance Committee Chairperson at both the local and state levels, two terms as chapter president and one as vice president. There were so many other ways Marna served her communities and members through Delta, always with the common thread of thoughtfulness and comforting others.

It was one of her requests that books be collected at her services to be put into the hands of young readers. To date, Delta Chapter has put bookplates in more than 200 books in memory of our sister Marna and distributed these to school and town libraries throughout our chapter townships. Marna loved the Forget-Me-Not flower featured on the bookplates. It is now a part of her legacy.



A LIFE WELL LIVED

A life well lived is a precious gift,
Of hope and strength and grace,
From someone who has made our world
A brighter, better place.

It's filled with moments,
Sweet and sad with smiles and sometimes tears,
with friendships formed and good times shared,
And laughter through the years.

A life well lived is a legacy,
Of joy and pride and pleasure,
A living, lasting memory
Our grateful hearts will treasure.

~Author Unknown

"To live in the hearts of others is not to die."

~Thomas Campbell

Marna Ingerson will always live in the hearts of many.



GAFFNEY'S READY FOR CHANGE AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

by Ann Gaffney, Epsilon Chapter

This morning I am sitting on my couch, my computer in my lap, with the sunshine streaming through the front windows warming my toes and making me comfortably drowsy. It is a perfect day, one of those late winter days that tells you spring is definitely on its way. Last night we got about six inches of snow and today it is decidedly above freezing. We had to shovel early this morning before the light snow turned slushy and heavy in the sunshine. The snow slid off our solar panels already, and I am hopeful that soon we will be making more power than we use and begin storing up our electricity credits for next winter's snowy, short days. Today I am cognizant of winter turning into spring. I love winter and snow – its beauty, how fun it is to play in – but as much as I love it, I am ready for change.

This year has been a year of changes, changes for which I was more ready than I anticipated. After 20 years as a middle school classroom teacher, I have now spent seven months as Assistant Principal at Chester Academy, the one public preschool through grade 8 school in Chester, where I am lucky enough to have two of my Epsilon sisters on staff. Although this job is much different from my teaching job, I feel as though I was well prepared for the challenges of this new position and am so glad that I made the change. Every day brings something new, a new situation with a student to manage, a new question I have never thought about before, or a new way to interact with my colleagues on the administrative team as we try to negotiate how we work together.

Just as I love winter, I loved teaching. I expected to miss my classroom more than I do. But my new position keeps me involved with students and has me solving problems in a very different way than before. These new opportunities and challenges give me a broader sphere of influence where I can impact more students and more teachers than ever before. As the new outsider, I have a different perspective on the school and its operations. The rest of the administrative team, including my Superintendent, has been wonderful about allowing and encouraging me to question what we do. My fresh perspective gives us a chance to ask ourselves if we are doing things because it is the way we have always done them or because they are best for our students and staff today. Sometimes the answer is both, but other times we realize that there is room for improvement. At the same time, I am forced to question some of what I have always done, finding that some of what I think is important is really just what makes me comfortable. These changes are forcing all of us to grow and improve, and it is exciting to be a part of it.

Some of the biggest changes for me have involved the student population. I came from a middle school with just over 1,000 students in grades six through eight. I am now at school with just over 500 students in grades preschool through eight, half the size, but with a much broader range of ages. This has forced me to learn how to effectively connect with and manage our youngest students, who are much harder to reason with than middle schoolers! My strategies for student discipline have expanded, and I am learning so much from watching and listening to my teachers do what they do so well.



One of the things I am proud of is my focus on trying to streamline and clarify our processes and vision for our teaching staff. I know they probably don't see many changes yet, but I have been working with the administrative team to articulate our school vision and anticipate some great changes in the years ahead as we focus on the type of learning community we really want to create for staff and students. This means looking at and streamlining everything we do to make sure that our efforts are effective, efficient, and meet our vision. By making some of our processes easier for teachers, we free up their energy to focus on students and student outcomes. I see us at the beginning of years of positive and collaborative change. I am excited to be a part of this work and to learn the skills I need in order to lead this change effectively.

To that end, I recently learned that I have been accepted to attend the 2018 DKG's Leadership Management Seminar (LMS, a.k.a. Golden Gift) this summer. It takes place in the two weeks before International Convention in Austin, TX, the birthplace of our society. I cannot wait to build my leadership skills with 29 other amazing DKG women from all over the world. I anticipate an intense two weeks of learning, skill-building, connecting, and sharing that I will treasure long after the seminar ends. I am hoping I can get enough time off from work (the downside of being an administrator on a year-round contract) to attend International as well. It looks promising, and I am now trying to convince my family to join me in Austin for a few days before we head off to Oregon to visit my husband's parents the following week. I will then return to school at the tail end of July full of ideas, skills, and strategies to continue making change.

As I think about the changes I have gone through and those I anticipate in the next few months, I hope that they continue to happen as smoothly as today's transition from winter to spring. Today's changes are strong, warm, calm, and welcoming – just as I have found my transitions thus far this year to be. I wish the same for my staff and for each of you, that any changes you experience this year are strong, warm, calm, and welcoming. I am reminded of these words from the Delta Kappa Gamma Song: "Mindful of our sisters needing, aid and guidance from those leading." I wish that each of you feels the aid, guidance, and support from those around you that I have felt from my family, friends, staff, and DKG sisters as I have undergone (and continue to undergo) these changes.

FALL MEETING AT PATRICK'S PUB & KELLERHAUS





Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Beta Alpha State Spring Conference

Mindfulness for Teachers

Thursday, April 12—Saturday, April 14, 2018
The Omni Mount Washington Resort
310 Mount Washington Hotel Road, Bretton Woods, NH 03575

Day Package: \$ 75.00/ per day

Includes Registration, Breakfast, Lunch, All Taxes and Gratuities
 Select one or both: ___Friday ___Saturday

1 Night Package:

Includes Registration, Friday Night Guestroom Accommodations, Breakfast Friday & Saturday,
 Lunch Friday & Saturday, All Taxes and Gratuities

The cost per person: Single room **\$295.00**
 Double room **\$220.00**

2 Night Package:

Includes Registration, Thursday & Friday Night Guestroom Accommodations, Breakfast Friday &
 Saturday, Lunch Friday & Saturday, All Taxes and Gratuities

The cost per person: Single room **\$430.00**
 Double room **\$285.00**

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Name: _____ Chapter: _____

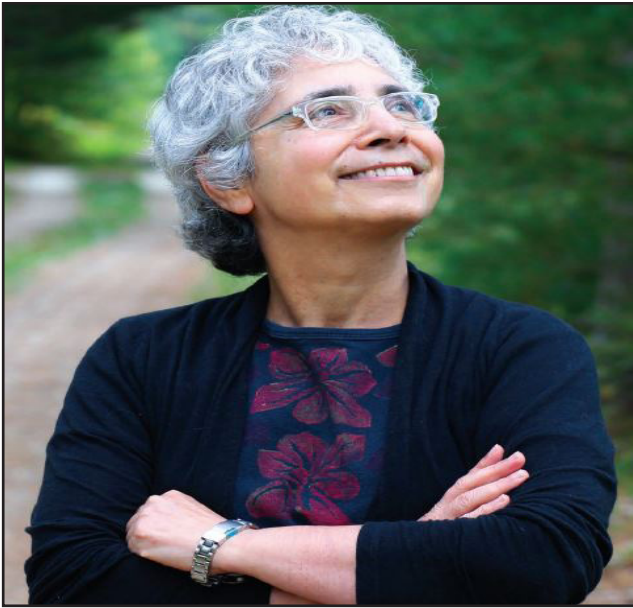
Package & Day(s): _____ Cost: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Roommate's Name (if one): _____ Dietary/facility needs: _____

I plan to participate in the "journal making" workshop on Friday evening: _____YES _____NO

Please send a check made payable to **Beta Alpha State** with this registration form by **March 8, 2018**,
 to **Flora Sapsin**, Londonderry High School, 295 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053.
(If there are questions or concerns, please call Flora at 603-566-4196-cell.)



*Frumie Selchen will speak at the BAS luncheon on April 14, 2018.
(photo by Cheryl Senter)*

WHY THE ARTS MATTER – AND HOW!

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, **Frumie Selchen** 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 NH students of all ages. “I’m 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.”

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