



# ***THE CHIPS OF GRANITE***

**Beta Alpha State News ~ Vol. 2017, Issue 2 ~ Aug. 2017**

**Delta Kappa Gamma Society International ~ New Hampshire**



## **BAS HONORS SHEILA KNIGHT WITH FOUNDERS' AWARD**

Sheila Knight is the dependable, kind, and giving Delta Kappa Gamma member behind the camera that shines the flash on others. This year the spotlight is on her as Beta Alpha State honored the Gamma Chapter member with the 2017 Founders' Award. Since she was unable to attend the state meeting in April, Betty Gilman presented her with the award at her chapter meeting in May at Portsmouth High School. Part of the award included \$200, which Sheila has donated to the Abbot-Downing project providing educational chests about the Concord Coach to 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

As for her educational background, after graduating from Concord (NH) High School, Sheila went onto the University of New Hampshire (UNH) obtaining a BS in 1964. She took many graduate level courses at UNH over her teaching career. She taught art in three school systems: In 1964-66 at all the Laconia elementary schools for grades

K-6; in 1966-68 at Lincoln Junior High, in Portland, ME, for grades 7 & 8; and in 1968-99 at all the Portsmouth elementary schools for grades K-5.

In 1980 Sheila was invited to join Delta Kappa Gamma and has been active in the organization since then. She served Gamma Chapter as Corresponding Secretary, Vice President and President (many terms). She also served the state as Historian, Awards Chair, and Vice President. In addition, she has represented Beta Alpha State at many International Conventions and Northeast Regional Conferences over the years.

Sheila has great fun with her camera, sharing photos of important wedding and church events, DKG meetings and conferences, and other organizations. This is her way of keeping in touch with friends made along the way. And DKG membership looks forward to seeing her photo displays of their many meetings and conferences.

As for awards, Sheila was recognized for her DKG International songbook cover design and for her illustrations of Raylean Edward's children's book *A Ribbon for Sammi*.

Outside of Delta Kappa Gamma, Sheila is active in St. Paul's Church & St John's Church Altar Guild, Food Pantry and Thrift Shop. She is also a Pierce Manse Greeter and a board member of Abbot & Downing Historical Society, where she designs and puts up the Concord Coach exhibit at the Hopkinton Fair each year. In addition, she serves on the hospitality committee for the Community Concerts Board, on the gift table committee for the Mayflower Society, and as the historian for DAR.

Congratulations, Sheila Knight! We salute you as an outstanding member of our Society. You have demonstrated a complete understanding of the Purposes of our Society and have enriched the Beta Alpha State with your many accomplishments. You have a keen interest in the education of children and a rich educational background and have brought honor to our profession. By recognizing you, we honor the memories of the Founders of Beta Alpha State and provide a continuing awareness of the history of DKG.



*Betty Gilman presents Sheila Knight with the Founders' Award.*

**PRESIDENT NUTE'S GREETINGS:**

# ANNE'S ANSWERS

Anne's answer is SIMPLIFY!

Ladies, what an honor it is to lead NH-DKG. Thank you. I want to share with you the message I heard at the Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor, Canada: SIMPLIFY! We, as a group, are asked to look at our traditions, our governing documents, and our assumptions and then to SIMPLIFY.

What does this mean? At the chapter level we are asking you to update and simplify the chapter governing documents. Can't find your chapter's governing documents? The DKG website has a one-page list of suggestions for governing documents that will help you write new simple documents for your chapter. Check it out!

A draft from each chapter should be forwarded to Flora Sapsin, our bylaws and standing rules chairwoman, by January 15, 2018. We will have a workshop to refine, compare and simplify the drafts at our spring meeting at the Omni Mt. Washington Hotel (April 12 – 14, 2018). Completed chapter documents should be voted upon by each chapter and the final accepted documents should be sent to the executive board by September 2018.

Another process undergoing simplification is membership recruitment. Your chapter president received a copy of a new way to recruit and accept members at the executive board meeting in July. This document is also on the DKG website. It simplifies the procedure. Please discuss it. Does it meet your chapter's needs? Can you modify it to meet your needs better? Membership is vital to any organization. We need new members. Let's simplify the procedures to make our membership grow.



*Eta Chapter's Anne Nute begins her biennium as BAS president.*

Finally, 2018 is a DKG constitutional year. DKG International is looking to simplify the International's constitution and standing rules. They are looking to the membership for input to help with this ambitious task. Look on the DKG website and perhaps propose an amendment to the constitution. Plan to join me in Austin, TX, at our next International Convention in July 2018 and SIMPLIFY.



*Meet NH-DKG members who attended the Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor, Ontario, in July: (from left to right & front row first): Anne Nute, Maurine Henry, Ruth Conwell/ Peggy Saunders, Elaine Landry, Flora Sapsin.*

*Photo taken by NJ's DKG member Michele Contala.*

# HOW WAS THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE?

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE

by Peggy Sanders, Alpha Chapter & Scholarship Recipient

The DKG Northeast Regional Conference (NERC) was held July 12-14 in Windsor, ON. Flora Sapsin and Anne Nute flew into Detroit and crossed the river. Maurine Henry, Elaine Landry, Ruth Conwell and I shared the driving all day July 11 and July 15. We stayed at Caesars in Windsor on Riverside Drive. I have been to two International conventions (Indianapolis, Nashville) and two regional conferences (Baltimore, Windsor). Each one of them has given me opportunities to meet amazing people and to learn more about DKG and education.

This year's experience was different because I volunteered to play piano and ended up playing at the flag ceremony, accompanying the flutist at the luncheon, and playing the prelude for the banquet. It turned out to be a good time to step outside my music comfort zone since there was quite an emphasis on music. There was an excellent choral group, Karen Schuessler Singers, providing entertainment for Ontario night. The Northeast Regional Chorus performed at the Friday banquet. The Friday banquet speaker was Mike Stevens, a harmonica player, who has used his abilities in working with Indigenous youth in northern Canada. He also offered a workshop on playing harmonica. Maurine and I both bought harmonicas and participated in the workshop. We didn't practice in the car on the way home, though!

I would like to encourage any of our members to participate in a state, regional or international conference. You don't have to be an officer or active on the state level to benefit. I used the state scholarship this year to cover my expenses. Scholarships are opportunities that are possible for anyone who applies. See you in Austin?

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SEMINAR

by Elaine Landry, Alpha Chapter

On Tuesday, July 11, four Beta Alpha State sisters made the trek from New Hampshire to Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Four women in a confined space for more than 10 hours? Maurine Henry, Ruth Conwell, Peg Saunders, and I were travelers and roommates for five days. You can bet that there was much sharing of experiences and a lot of laughter as attendees at the Northeast Regional Conference.

Among the seminars offered was a presentation titled "Indigenous Peoples of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Charlene Bearhead, once education officer for Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, shared her experiences and described the ways Indigenous students are being helped.

Did you know that more than 130 residential schools existed throughout Canada from 1833-1998? A student from one of those schools, 80 year old Susie Kicknosway Jones, a mother of six and grandmother, is a residential school survivor. She

described her life as a student. Taken from her family when she was just four and a half, she never saw her mother again until she was 16 years old. Why? The educational goal was to "Kill the Indian in the child." Native language, dress, and customs were forbidden as the children were trained to become domestic workers and farmers. Susie Kicknosway's story is one which I will never forget.

If interested, you can learn more by searching the web sites on *Truth & Reconciliation: Calls to Action* and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Canada was not alone. The United States, too, has much to atone for concerning its treatment of Indigenous peoples. You who teach US History or American Studies might consider the topic for research papers.

## BUILDING DKG MEMBERSHIP

by Maurine Henty, Alpha Chapter

Prior to going to the Regional Conference in Windsor, I received a membership document to review. The document contained membership statistics for our organization. It is saddening to see that membership across the country is in decline. In response to this decline, International has been surveying dropped members. While some decline is due to moving, health, and professional responsibilities, other reasons include conflicts within chapters, meeting costs, and chapters not meeting their needs.

As NH looks to increase membership and build strong chapters, it is imperative that we invite younger members into our ranks. We need to understand what their needs are and provide programming that will address their needs while continuing to address the needs of our current membership. Finding balance within our chapters and across the state is necessary to our continued growth.

As Communications chair, I am looking to improve how we communicate with members so that we can meet the needs of younger members. I have created group email lists so that information distributed by the state can be sent to individuals through email. In addition to information being in *Chips*, my thought is to send out state meeting registrations and other meeting information to individual members through a bulk email. I also plan to send out information to individuals as to how they can log into the DKG International site to get the forms and information that are available to all members. Additionally, I will be able to send out *Chips* and the Membership Yearbook to members that have given us an email address. In reviewing the state's membership, I found that 16 active and 7 reserve of our 190 members do not have email. This will not replace the hard copies that members receive but will give them an opportunity to view them in their preferred format. *Chips* and meeting registrations will continue to be posted on our state's website as well.

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# CHAPTER CHATTER

## ALPHA CHAPTER NEWS

'Tis the season of good news for Alpha Chapter members. Talented **Nancy Ann Belsky** has had an Art Quilt called "Wicked Good Art Quilts" accepted for a Studio Art Quilters' Association's traveling show.

In June **Judy Durand** and **Helen Ann Kelly** retired from teaching after 33 years and 28 years respectively.

**Phyllis Marinoff** reports that her daughter Katherine graduated from Keene State College in May with a degree in mathematics and will be going on to graduate school to complete her PhD.

**Mary Parker's** service to Delta Kappa Gamma is extensive. After 17 years as Alpha Chapter treasurer, Mary is turning her books over to **Bernadette Kuhn**. Mary has also served as chapter president and recording secretary and was Beta Alpha State's corresponding secretary. She joined Alpha in 1978. Mary was selected to blow out the symbolic candles at Alpha's birthday celebration on May 16. Congratulations to Mary on her many contributions.

Alpha Chapter's annual fund raiser raffle earned \$612.00. A check was presented to Keene State College education major Holly LaFoe in the form of a book grant. Members contributed crafts, gift certificates, and a Cape Cod fall get-away as prizes.

**Pam Sanders** and her husband travelled this summer to Pennsylvania to see the Longwood Gardens and the Sight and Sound Theater.

Our own **Peg Saunders** is the recipient of this year's Beta Alpha State Organization scholarship. Peg attended the Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, in July. We are sure that she returned with worthwhile news for both chapter and state.

**Maurine Henry** and **Elaine Landry** also attended the Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor, Ontario.



## BETA CHAPTER NEWS

**Ann Cattabriga** retired last June from 27 years teaching special education. She will be going on a nation-wide road trip with her husband later this year.

**Jan Kulig** retired in June after 23 years of teaching kindergarten at Canaan Elementary School. She and a long-time friend for 30 years will be traveling to Idaho and Seattle, Washington.

**Francine Lozeau** participated in the Camino de Santiago with two other friends this spring into the beginning of the summer. This trek is a 500 mile hike through northern Spain. We are anxiously awaiting details of her hike.

**Susan Mellow** retired in June after 35 years in education. She and her husband are renting a house next winter in Tahoe, CA, to be near their two grandsons.

**Sue Stritter** traveled to Denver to visit her son. The visit led to an overnight trip to the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve in southwest Colorado. "These are the highest dunes in North America. They're a marvelous meeting of geography and weather that sustains them," Sue said.

**Linn Thompson** is never out of the field of education. She is currently teaching a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class in Woodstock, VT.

**Lisa Torres** is an interpreter at the Enfield Shaker Museum.

## GAMMA CHAPTER NEWS

**Penny Bodwell**, up from her winter in FL, takes short trips with her husband and grandchildren during the summer.

**Barbara Cowan** continues her summer art work on the Isles of Shoals and Nantucket. We look forward to viewing her lovely paintings.

**Ann Douglas** presented Gamma's scholarship to a student from Exeter High School and is enjoying her family summer camp.

**Barbara Farah** continues to instruct on the Internet with the University of Maryland. She also has been busy with her husband, restoring their place—inside and out, plus taking care of her Icelandic ponies.

**Betty Gilman** is busy with her church and with keeping up with the young college student from Africa. Betty met the student's mother on a church trip to Africa. Betty is also busy with family and with meeting DKG deadlines.

**Joyce Griffin** has been busy with many social activities in her neighborhood and with supporting her parents who are in delicate health. In early June she had a happy occasion of membership in a Hampton Falls church.



*Gamma sisters and Sheila Mable enjoyed a picnic and travel tales by some of the members at New Castle Common in July.*

**Jacki Hinton** and her husband traveled to the last three of the fifty states they had never toured. Maybe she will make a quilt expressing all the places they visited. *(See p. 8.)*

**Priscilla Jenness** has been on the Rye town council for 17 years and paints and tends a large flower and vegetable garden. She has also been three times to Pompeii, Italy, while her son Steven has been photographing on digs for the archeologists.

**Sheila Knight** spent three wild hot days at Concord's Market Days with the Concord Coach (named Lacy) and lots of people.

**Jan McManus**, who loves the water and sailing, has been kept busy redoing her home—waiting for the workers to come and go.

**Myrt Moore** is still devoted to many activities at St. John's Church. She is most faithful in her time and support. She also visited relatives in Canada in July.

**Ann Smith** travelled to Italy this summer, visiting Lake Como, Venice, Assisi, and Rome. She got a close photo of the Pope. She shared the details and photos with Gamma Chapter during the July picnic at the New Castle Common. *(See p. 8.)*

**Sharon Svirsky** is still busy at the Hampton library. In addition, she has taken some small trips this summer and one longer trip to friends in Canada on Masawhipie Lake.

**Ruth Tuttle** still supports her church and goes to musical events with Myrt and other friends. She also visited relatives in CT this summer.

**Lynn Young** attended her grandson's eighth grade graduation in VT and many family weddings this summer. One wedding took place in the northern tip of ME with antlers and twinkling white lights!

We welcome to Gamma Chapter our new members, **Helen Gittleman** and **Bobbie Lippemeier**. They have been busy with family activities: Helen's grandson's wedding and visits from Bobbi's grandchildren. Both ladies, besides being educators on Pease AFB, were married to pilots.

## DELTA CHAPTER NEWS

**Susan Ackerman** presented a morning on Astrology for Kids to the Pittsburg Rec Program in July.

**Nora Beaton**'s two sons will be getting married this year: Patrick in Japan and Aaron in Whitefield. Nora has accepted a teaching position at Lebanon Middle School. She will be the health educator for grades 5-8.

**Marsha Biron** is co-coordinator of the Got Lunch Program in SAU #7. This is a program that provides weekly bags of food (canned goods, bread, cereal, fresh fruit, and vegetables, etc.) to children living in Colebrook, Stewartstown, and Pittsburg. The program runs throughout the summer in order to provide food to children who eat breakfast and lunch at school during the school year.

**Ann Gray** is cutting back at work at the Pittsburg School and will be working four afternoons a week and teaching keyboarding and library skills. She is pleased to be relieved of handling the technology responsibilities.

**Karen LaRoche** went on her first helicopter ride—ever! “If you get a chance to do this, treat yourself to a new perspective--no regrets,” she urged. Also, she enjoyed having her six-year-old granddaughter for three weeks in July.

**Heidi Mathieu** and Ron continue their world travels. In April they vacationed in Cancun! In July they celebrated their one year anniversary in Bermuda. In August they vacationed on the Canadian Side of Niagara Falls. They also added to their family by adopting two Great Danes

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## Delta News *(continued from p. 5)*

in March. Damon is seven and Denali is 15 months. “The dogs keep us very busy!” she exclaimed.

During June Mike and **Christine Smith** traveled to the Thousand Islands in New York. “We took the boat tour and visited the Boldt Castle. Also this summer we installed a new metal roof and solar power!” she said.

**Kathy Urso** and her husband, Wayne, visited Old Montreal in late April. They enjoyed many walks around the city, good food, and great jazz!

## EPSILON CHAPTER NEWS

**Connie Lanseigne-Case** learned to quill, the art of cutting and curling narrow strips of colored papers and gluing them on edge to create interesting intricate designs. The skill originated in the 13th Century when monks used cut edges of manuscripts curled around the base of a feather. It’s a satisfying activity creating cards and decorating tops of gift boxes. *(See the example below.)*



As a surprise for her husband Bill’s 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in March, **Barbara Mee** used the “turn about is fair play” philosophy because he has done numerous surprise trips for her. “We left Boston on Friday night of Memorial Day weekend and flew to the island of Sao Miguel in the Azores,” she said. “We stayed at a lovely (almost brand new) boutique hotel and did some sightseeing in the capital city of Playa Delgarda. We took a private Land Rover island tour on Sunday, walked around more on Monday and flew home late Monday afternoon.

“School didn’t technically end until June 26<sup>th</sup> for teachers (Seven snow days will do that, but I don’t ever want to give up snow days!). Thus we waited for July 11<sup>th</sup> to arrive when we flew to Aruba to enjoy almost two weeks of our timeshare at Aruba Beach Club.

“Then I spent three days in Nashua with a Londonderry group as we learned more about heading toward a competency-based system, with many Sanborn school district employees and several ‘education’ companies giving us all kinds of information. Since I still don’t have any huge desire to retire, I figure I should stay up on and be involved in the latest trends and mandates.

“In my true fashion, I am driving to northern VA on Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> to attend a Foreign Policy workshop in Washington, DC, for five days.”

**Katie Murphy** and her family hosted a family from the Netherlands during the first part of August and then drove up to Newfoundland to help her in-laws celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

In addition, Katie has been elected as Beta Alpha State’s recording secretary for 2017-2019 and will be subbing this school year.

**Flora Sapsin** attended DKG’s Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor, Ontario, in July.

## ETA CHAPTER NEWS

**Caroline Butler** attended the three-day Summer Summit sponsored by the NH-DOE and Title I at UNH the first week in August.

**Anne Nute** retired from teaching in June after a total of 41 years with 35 in Gilford and 6 in Farmington. She is now planning to move back to Milton, near family. She reports that her daughter Sarah has moved to Quito, Ecuador, to teach middle school English at Academia Cotopaxi, an American School, for the next two years.

In addition, Anne was elected as president of Beta Alpha State and attended the DKG Northeast Regional Conference in July, where she received training with other new state presidents. Congratulations, Anne.

**Martha Verville Sheehy** and her husband, John, will be touring in September in New York to Finger Lakes, Wine Country, and Corning Glass Works.

## THETA CHAPTER NEWS

Pam Clark reported that her eight-year-old granddaughter Maddison was here from Colorado till the end of July. “Maddie has a great sense of humor and enjoyed playing with my new kitten Tiger Lili. This kitten is quite curious and smart. She learned how to turn the faucet on in the bathroom when I wasn’t home! I had to rig something up so that she couldn’t turn it on. In spite of the mischief, she is definitely good company.”

After a trip to Disney World in Florida, **Ruth Conwell** went to the DKG’s Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor, Ontario. Late in July she and her husband, Scott, went to the EAA Airventure in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

**Karen Goss** is on the go! “My husband and I took a much needed vacation to the panhandle of Florida at the end of April after a busy tax season! The beaches are beautiful there! I also traveled to Virginia Beach again this year in June for the Liberty Tax convention. I brought my daughters and grandson along! It was a long ride, but we

had a good time! I also drove to Philadelphia in August with my husband for a week-long Liberty Tax training! He went sightseeing while I was in training! Good thing I don't have to work much in the off season! Too busy traveling!"

"I am volunteering again this summer for Got Lunch! Laconia," **Ann Hart** said. "Thus far, we have provided weekly lunches for more than 500 children in need. A literacy piece, such as a book, is also included with every week's food. I'm pleased to be among so many enthusiastic and caring volunteers."

**Kathy Lacroix** reports that the Gilford Historical Society is sponsoring the local Farmers' Market, now in its third year, every Saturday from 9-12 to raise money for restoration of the 1838 Rowe House." I am there selling coffee and doughnuts (and giving tours) every Saturday. I also write the press releases, so come and support our local farmers and craft people," Kathy requested.

**Sheila Mable** was sad that she could not attend the BAS Spring Conference and the Northeast Regional Conference because of her health problems but is happy that she is now getting stronger and more active each day. "Thank you, my DKG sisters, for all your cards, emails and phone calls, Your hugs, prayers, and words of encouragement gave me hope and strength," she said.

**Brenda Walker** and friend Jane Sharp travelled to Costa Rica after school ended in June. "Memories of Costa Rica are plentiful," Brenda said, "and included open air restaurants, playful monkeys, sloths hiding in the trees, not to mention the walks over hanging bridges in the rainforest. Costa Rica's beauty is a memory that I will have for a long time to come. Also on my mind are the differences in the homes. They range from huge gorgeous homes to shanties that dotted the mountainside. Nothing was more restful than being in the 119 degree waters heated from the volcanos. The brightly colored parrots, toucans and macaws held our attention for a long time. Seeing them free was spectacular."



*Colorful parrots in Costa Rica impressed Brenda.*



*Jane and Brenda enjoyed their adventures in Costa Rica.*

Brenda also taught summer school. "Returning from this land of awe was made easier knowing that I was coming back to teaching the life skills program for five weeks in Laconia," she added.

**Rachel Young** is looking forward to her grandson from Silver Spring, MD, coming to visit for four weeks this summer. "We just returned from a week-long trip to Cuba with him and his family. We hope, for the Cubans' sake especially, that travel to Cuba by Americans is not stopped by our government."

## ***IMPORTANT DATES***

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

BAS Fall Meeting, Patrick's Pub, Gilford  
Kellerhaus Tour, Laconia

### **Jan. 20, 2018 (Saturday)**

Winter Ex. Board Meeting, TBA

### **February 10, 2018 (Saturday)**

CHIPS articles due

### **March 1, 2018 (Thursday)**

BAS Scholarship Applications due  
Women of Distinction Nominations due

### **April 12, 2018 (Thursday)**

Spring Ex. Board Meeting, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Mt. Washington Hotel

### **April 13-14, 2018 (Friday & Saturday)**

BAS Spring Conference  
Mt. Washington Hotel

### **June 14, 2018 (Thursday)**

Yearbook filler updates due

### **July 10, 2018 (Tuesday)**

CHIPS articles due

### **August 11, 2018 (Saturday)**

Summer Ex. Board Meeting, TBA



# NH MEMBERS OF DKG PROVE TO BE GLOBETROTTERS



## MY CROSS COUNTRY TREK

by Jacki Hinton, Gamma Chapter

Forty-nine years ago, my husband took me on our first road trip. In the ensuing years we traveled to 47 of the states. On June 19 we set out on an ambitious adventure to finish the last three states: Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. For three and a half weeks we traveled through seventeen states and saw what a magnificent country we have. We visited many wonderful places along the way: Amish country in Ohio, Mt Rainier and Mt. St. Helen's in Washington, Cannon Beach and Crater Lake in Oregon, Shoshone Falls and the Snake River in Idaho, Yellowstone and Devil's Tower in Wyoming to name a few. But our greatest adventure came in Teddy Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota.

We stopped at the welcome center and as with most stops, visited their facilities first. The common entryway split off—women to the right, men to the left. As I was exiting the facilities, I heard a thundering of hooves and found myself watching two buffalo come running around the building. I took off running in the opposite direction around the building only to find myself coming face-to-face with them once again. My husband had been out studying the map tacked to a bulletin board when someone said to him, "Sir, you might want to peek around the other side of the board." He, too, found himself looking eye-to-eye with the pair. Fifteen or more people then retreated to the common entryway where we were held hostage for the next twenty minutes. Finally someone had the foresight to call the rangers who eventually wrangled the uncooperative pair toward a grassy area so we could retreat to our cars. I love watching wildlife. Though they provided us with a wonderful photographic opportunity, that particular wildlife is much better viewing at a little safer distance!

## MY JOURNEY TO ITALY

by Ann Smith, Gamma Chapter

For the first time since 1981, I boarded a plane to cross the Atlantic Ocean for a 17-day vacation in Italy. My trip took me first to Zurich, Switzerland, where I changed planes for the hour-long flight over the Alps to Milan, Italy. Through the window, I could see the mountains stretched out as far as I could see. They were a gift of beauty to start my journey.

Como, Italy is less than an hour north of Milan. I spent the first five days there at an apartment with two friends from my teaching years in Newport, RI. Lake Como is the deepest and fourth largest lake in Italy. Ferries travel throughout the day, bringing passengers to the many picturesque towns along the shores of the lake. Lake Como is truly one of the most beautiful places on earth. Rising up from the lake, the mountains are dotted with clay-tiled roofs, closely nestled homes and majestic villas.

On May 30<sup>th</sup> we set off on a six-day train trip to the three other cities: Rome, Assisi and Venice. We each got to choose one place and I chose Rome. On May 31<sup>st</sup> we attended a papal audience held in Vatican Square. Pope Francis spoke to us with a message of hope. He stated that hope "collects the wind of the Spirit and transforms it into energy." My dream of being in the same "airspace" as Pope Francis was fulfilled.

Assisi abounds in peace. The morning songs of the birds, the chiming of the church bells and a cup of cappuccino began each perfect day. Venice has an ancient charm that still manages to be felt in spite of the teeming crowds of tourists. Back in Como we spent our last five days walking along the city streets and the shores of Lake Como and absorbing as much as we could of the essence of Italy. As Rick Steves advised, we remembered to "look up."



*Ann Smith was thrilled to be this close to the Pope!*



# TOURING ICELAND, THE LAND OF FIRE & ICE

by Kathy Lacroix, Theta Chapter

On June 25<sup>th</sup> I went with the Bank of NH to tour the Land of Fire and Ice (Iceland) for nine days. It was a fantastic trip. We landed about midnight and saw one of the most beautiful sunsets I have ever seen, complete with a rainbow. What a way to start a trip!

We spent three days in the capital city of Reykjavik, a charming city that was easy to walk around without my getting lost. Our second day there we visited “one of the globe’s most geologically significant landscapes, Thingvellir’s rugged rift valley. This UNESCO World Heritage site marks the crest of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the point where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet.” The two plates move about 1 cm in each direction each year. We could look up and see the high black lava cliffs on each side. Then we stopped at the thermal area of Geysir to watch the biggest geyser there spout almost every seven minutes. It was not as high as Old Faithful (which I have seen), but it was impressive.

The third day we took a nature cruise in Breidafjordur Bay, where those with good eyesight were able to see puffins. While there, the captain dropped anchor and pulled in a net full of sea creatures. I ate raw scallops and even tried sea urchin roe (Once was enough!).

The fourth day was largely a traveling day. We stopped at Hellssheioi, the largest power station and the second largest geothermal power station in the world. Almost all of Iceland is heated by geothermal stations. We also stopped at a family-run business where they keep alive “a 400-year-old tradition of catching and preserving Greenland shark.” I tried some, and once again, trying it once was enough for me. Never again. We also made numerous stops to look at their fabulous waterfalls.

We spent three days in Vik along the southern tip of Iceland. We saw the E16 volcano that exploded in 2010 and saw a film that detailed what it was like for one family that still lives at the base. We visited a “black volcanic sand beach surrounded by basalt columns and cliffs scattered with caves and rich bird life.” We also saw “Iceland’s highest mountains and the Vatnajokull glacier, Europe’s largest glacier.” In addition, we sailed in a glacial lagoon among the icebergs and saw seals.

On the last full day there I “took a dip in the warm, mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal pool, located in the middle of a lava field.” What a relaxing way to end the trip!

## KNIGHT EXPRESSES THANKS

by Sheila Knight, Gamma Chapter

I would like to express my thanks and a happy surprise at receiving the Beta Alpha State Founders’ Award. I appreciate all the little “mice” who submitted my nomination and who presented the honor. Many were more deserving than I.

I accept this award on behalf of Gamma Chapter and all our members who care about, support and exemplify the theme of Key Women Educators for Life—and the seven purposes of DKG. And when singing Annie Webb’s song “...each is bound, to each as brother [sister], With this faith in one another, We shall win, for aye!”

Many years ago on a Saturday morning at Yoken’s Restaurant in Portsmouth, I received my pin and a little candle stick (which is still on my kitchen window sill). That initiation started my journey of meetings, events, NE Regional conferences and International conventions. I met so many wonderful educators—some who have become good friends—and I have taken millions of photos!

I even entered the cover design of the new song book. The only difference between the winner’s design and mine was the inclusion of the DKG pin. I almost fell over when I saw it.

Places I might never have visited include Hartford, Baltimore, Nashville, Louisville, Pittsburg, Cleveland, New Orleans, Chicago, Boston and Burlington, VT. Over the years Myrt Moore and Ruth Tuttle were with me the most. Others included Muriel Morrow, Diane Monti, Joyce Griffin, Betty Gilman, Ann Smith, Lynn Young and Gamma’s honorary member Esther Buffler—a poet and actress who, while living in Texas, knew three of our national founders.

I made many other friends throughout my DKG travels. Krisin from Stockholm was a long-time letter writer. Diane Robinson from Washington, DC, is a special, caring friend to me, Gamma Chapter and Beta Alpha State. From Havana, IL, Gerry Stone has visited me twice with her husband Clyde. She has been a member for 52 years. And I consider a friend from Vermont and now a Penacook neighbor to be a part of Gamma, too. She is BAS’s newly past president and a name-sharer. I am pleased to have her signature on my Founders’ Award.

The gift of money (\$200) that came with this award has gone to the Abbot and Downing Historical Society for a project started by two teacher members. These ladies will make travel chests (seen on the back of many Concord Coaches) filled with historic activities for fourth grade classes in local schools. They also will present the project at the NH-NEA Conference at Bow High School in October.

Again, dear members of Beta Alpha State, I thank you all for this honor.

## HOMWORK FROM WINDSOR

by Flora Sapsin, Epsilon Chapter

Fall is the most wonderful time of the year...school is about to begin. For many of us, September brings time for reflection as we have an opportunity to “begin again” and improve on last year’s successes! For others September marks a time to rejoice in happy memories—either option prompts review and revision.

So here is the good news! International has begun a process to “simplify” our society. A major initiative has begun to review, revise, and simplify our governing documents. The goal is to achieve this process at the International Convention in Austin on July 16-20, 2018.

Naturally, we will need to prepare for constitutional change. We have completed a review of our Beta Alpha State documents, and now we must complete our preparation by aligning chapter documents with the state. We are asking that you send me by E-Mail or snail mail a copy of your chapter’s standing rules. I have provided a checklist for every chapter.

Our intent is to share chapter rules within the state. It would be most helpful if I received your chapter rules by our September meeting. I will then forward copies to every chapter. I expect to receive a draft by the Winter Executive Board Meeting. In April we will have a workshop to review and approve chapter rules so that individual chapters can vote and approve their chapter rules between April and July 2018.

Once we have accomplished this revision, we will be in prime position to address any changes voted upon in Austin! So welcome to the school year. You have received your long term assignment! I look forward to helping in any way that I can. Please feel free to call for a chat. Meanwhile...as the song says, “I’ll see you in September.”

### GIVE TO EDUCATE THE WORLD

How do you want to impact tomorrow? Paying it forward sounds fantastic, but sometimes our intentions and actions do not create reality. Anytime you would like to make a difference for educators, members and non-members, please go to the website [www.dkgef.org](http://www.dkgef.org) and donate. Each member can make an impact in the world.

#### APPLY FOR GRANTS & AWARDS. DUE DATES:

**JANUARY:** *Project grants to benefit children and education. Available to DKG members and non-members.*

**FEBRUARY, MAY, & SEPTEMBER:** *Cornet Individual Professional Development Awards*

**NOVEMBER:** *Cornet Seminar Professional Development Awards*

The DKG Educational Foundation urges you to visit the website for information and the applications. Fill in application completely and apply early!

## U.S. FORUM FOCUSES ON KEY ISSUES

**HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION STATUS:** The most recent version of the health care bill failed in the Senate. For a bill to be sent to the President for his signature, an identical version must be agreed upon by both the House and the Senate. The strategy with the final Senate health care bill was to pass something which would be sent to a joint House/Senate conference committee. This committee would make changes in both the House and Senate bills that could then be taken back to the House and the Senate for an approval vote. Some senators, feared that the stripped down bill, would be voted on and approved by the House without being sent to a conference committee. This possibility was avoided when the Senate did not pass the bill.

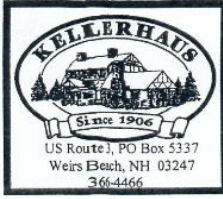
**AFFORDABLE MEDICINES ACT:** The Improving Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs Act (S.771/H.R.1776) has a number of cosponsors in both houses. The bills would allow the Secretary of Human Services to negotiate prescription drug prices for Medicare. The bills would also allow the Secretary of Human Services to regulate importation of prescription drugs manufactured outside the U.S. Additionally, the bills establish a prize fund to encourage development of prescription drugs to be overseen by the National Institutes of Health. More complete information about this legislation can be found at <https://www.citizen.org/sites/default/files/improving-access-to-affordable-prescription-drugs-act-summary-short.pdf>

**SOCIAL SECURITY EXPANSION ACT:** The social security Expansion Act (S.427/HR1114) would phase out the earnings FICA tax cap on the wages of people making more than \$127,200 a year. It is estimated that this would substantially extend the life of the Social Security Trust Fund and would also increase the average Social Security benefit by about \$780 per year (\$65 per month). Some of the organizations supporting this legislation are the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, The Alliance for Retired Americans and The Seniors Trust.

**FREE SOLAR ECLIPSE RESOURCE:** Big Kid Science has an educational app which tells when, where and what you’ll see on Monday, August 21, when the solar eclipse occurs. The site explains what can be seen /experienced. Because the eclipse will occur during daylight hours and at a time when many schools are in session, this should be a unique, free experience for students.

**FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.**

## SEE YOU AT THE BAS FALL MEETING



Organization/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable To: \_\_\_\_\_

Salesperson: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade/Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Day of Sale: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Delivery Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	1/2 lb Sugar Free Assorted	1/2 lb Assorted Chocolates	12 oz Non-Parrels Dark Chocolate	12 oz Non-Parrels Milk Chocolate	1 lb Chocolate Fudge	1 lb Chocolate Nut Fudge	8 Assorted Turtles (Approx 1/2 lb)	1/2 lb Buttercrunch	9 oz Peppermint Thin Mints	0.6 lb Favorites (BCrunch, Bark, Turtles)	Dollar Total for Each Customer	Check Box if Paid
Name & Address	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	12.00	12.00		
	<b>Total Individual Customer Dollars --&gt;</b>											Total
<b>1. Total Count By</b>												
<b>2. Multiply by Price</b>	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	12.00	12.00		
<b>3. Add These Totals</b>												Total B

**Note: Total A and Total B Should Be the Same**

We encourage you to attend Beta Alpha State's Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 23, 2017. We will have a business meeting and lunch (ordered from the menu) at Patrick's Pub on Route 11 in Gilford, starting at 10:30 and eating promptly at noon. Then we will go to Kellerhaus at Weirs Beach for ice cream desserts (ordered from the menu) and a tour of the candy making at 1:30 p.m.

As you should know from your chapter leaders, Kellerhaus is giving us a deal on candy prices so that we can earn dollars to be split equally between the chapter and state treasuries. If you wish to order candy, get your order form from your chapter president or designee. *(See the model of the order form on the left.)* These orders will be ready for pick up at the fall meeting but need to be submitted to Pam Clark of Theta Chapter by way of the chapter treasurer before September 1, 2017. All chapter orders should be on one form with one check, made payable to Pamela Clark.

Please register with Flora Sapsin by Sept. 16, using the form below and including \$5.00 as a registration fee.

**Cut here.**

### BETA ALPHA STATE FALL MEETING REGISTRATION

#### Saturday, September 23, 2017

Patrick's Pub, Gilford (Rte 11) & then Kellerhaus, Laconia (The Weirs)  
 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a check for \$5.00 payable to Beta Alpha State with this registration form by **September 16, 2017**, to Flora Sapsin, Londonderry High School, 295 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053. If you have questions, call Flora at 603-566-4196 (c). *(Note: You will order off the menu for lunch at Patrick's and for dessert at Kellerhaus.)*

## BAS OFFICERS, 2017-19

Anne Nute, President  
Terry Thompson, 1st Vice  
Brenda Walker, 2nd Vice  
Katie Murphy, Recording Secretary  
Maurine Henry, Treasurer  
Flora Sapsin, Parliamentarian

## EDITOR GIVES THANKS

to Rachel Young and Pam Clark for help in proofreading this issue; to Ann Smith, Jacki Hinton, Brenda Walker, Connie Lanseigne-Case, Sheila Knight and Michele Contala for the photos; and to those members who submitted articles and are acknowledged with the bylines. Also, thanks go to chapter presidents and communication chairs who send in chapter news and to Maurine Henry and other Alpha members who help with the mailing of *CHIPS*.

## JOIN US FOR ICE CREAM ON 9-23.

(See p. 11.)



*Ice cream is the perfect buffer, because you can do things in a somewhat lighthearted way. Plus, people have an emotional response to ice cream; it's more than just food. So I think when you combine caring and eating wonderful food, it's a very powerful combination.*

~Jerry Greenfield

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