



THE CHIPS OF GRANITE

August 2010

Beta Alpha State News

NH



SPOKANE, WASHINGTON:

AN IDEAL PLACE FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

by Barbara Mee, Epsilon

Imagine a place where they do not use the term “humidity” in their weather reports! Well, attendees at the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Convention found just that when they arrived in Spokane during the week of July 19.

Add to that fellowship, friendship, “Visions to Action,” great workshops, great speakers and a very walkable city area. Over 1400 key women educators gathered to celebrate, learn, sightsee, and grow professionally and personally. It has often been said that the chapters ARE the key to DKG. They are, no doubt about it, but once you experience a regional conference and/or an international convention, you suddenly see the “big picture.”



Spokane is a beautiful and walkable city, says Barbara.

The fun part for me this time was that I went as “just” Barbara. Yes, I am Epsilon chapter president, and yes, I wanted to attend seminars for professional development hours, but I did not HAVE to do anything specific. I was not State President and I was not a workshop presenter. Don’t get me wrong. . . I’ve enjoyed doing both of those. But, this was a pleasant change. I did have one responsibility and that was a floor page at the general sessions, which proved to be an interesting challenge during the first standing vote. Trust me that a beautiful theatre style venue with no center aisle presents a rather LARGE challenge for floor pages!

We walked and walked and walked some more. There were three hotels within a short distance of the convention center and performing arts center where the activities were held. I roomed with my Golden Gift sister, Janet Cornick from Maryland, and we did get our exercise. Our daily treks took us over the Spokane River several times, and we saw a beautiful dammed area and center city park on the way. We had a little time for a tour of several wineries and sampled Washington’s best. For our Friday night adventure, we did a boat cruise of gorgeous Lake Coeur d’Alene in Idaho, an absolutely gorgeous lake and weather, along with a buffet meal and 200 of our closest DKG “friends”!

Success? That came in the form of an updated constitution and bylaws being passed by an overwhelming majority after several days of discussion. Semantics, terminology and personal opinion were interspersed with parliamentary procedure and laughs, along with musical entertainment. If you have been to an International Convention, you know there is a somewhat consistent format. At the birthday luncheon, the Society’s Achievement Award is given out. This year’s recipient is Beverly Helms of Florida. At the Saturday evening banquet, the new officers are presented. Look to your newsletters and to www.dkg.org for other information, pictures, and links to the technology of the 21st century our society employs.

For 2011, think chocolate. . .think HERSHEY! For 2012, start planning on a few days in the “Big Apple” as New York hosts the next International. Grab a friend, make some plans, and meet some old and new friends.

GREETINGS FROM FLORA:

DKG IS WELL AND STRONG!



Photographs by Jim, 2008

Welcome to “almost fall,” that very special time of year when the entire world longs to be in beautiful New England where we reap the reward for suffering through three other seasons!

Like you, I have enjoyed a full and exciting summer round of events, including two fantastic conferences. I have seen the society first hand in Spokane with seventeen hundred other members. Take heart; DKG is well and strong. In an amazing tour de force the convention accomplished a thorough revision of our governing documents. The emphasis is on providing flexibility to both state and chapter organizations. We must now begin the task of aligning our State documents to the newly revised International documents.

This work is demanding and will require all of us working as a team! I have also asked the board to consider adopting an action plan to focus our goals with specific strategies for achieving success. Naturally, this is not a short term task, but rather an evolving work in progress as you redefine your goals. Let me know what you think. Perhaps you'd enjoy participating!

On the topic of participation, you have an opportunity to make history. New Hampshire will be co-hosting the Northeast Regional Conference in Portland, Maine, in July 2013! This is a first for the Society. Two states have never co-hosted a conference. Please consider what part you can play.

As always, I *do* understand the demands on your time, but I am and always will be a very selfish woman where you are concerned. I want all the time I can possibly have with you; you make me want to become so much more than I am. My experiences at regional, national, and international events

have convinced me that the women of Beta Alpha State are extraordinary! Please try to find the time to attend as many of our activities as you can. DKG is not about rules, regulations, and duties. DKG is all about you and your incredible spirit.

If you simply cannot make our meeting, please contact me to let me know you are well and happily busy. It is my honor to represent you. See you in September! (Remember that song?)

Flora



RED ROSES

Deborah Moynihan Theta
Lori Ann Thompson Theta

WHITE ROSES

Katherine Carlson Theta

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, September 25, 2010

BETA ALPHA STATE FALL WORKSHOP

Plus State Nominations Committee to meet
Manchester, NH / Currier Museum of Art

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Scholarship Application Deadline

Saturday, January 22, 2011 (or Jan. 29, snow date)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Friday, March 4, 2011

Founders' Award Nominations Deadline

Send to Sheila Knight, 11 Wildemere Terr., Concord
03301 (one nomination per chapter)

Friday & Saturday, April 1 & 2, 2011

BAS SPRING CONFERENCE

Common Man, Plymouth, NH

Wednesday-Saturday, July 20-23, 2011

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Hershey, PA / Hershey Lodge

CHAPTER CHATTER

ALPHA CHAPTER NEWS:

More than 40 members of the Cheshire County Retired Educators Association returned to area second grade classrooms in May to read the story “Arlo Gets Lost” by Wendy Wax. A copy of the book was donated to each class. Alpha Chapter members participating in this activity were **Elaine Landry, Martha Marsette, Peg Saunders, Deborah Schofield, and Angela Seaver.**

Sue Miller went to Curacao on April 17 for a scuba diving vacation. The reef there has a tremendous variety of colorful fish. The island is Dutch in culture and has a lovely downtown panorama with quaint Dutch buildings in bright colors. As the speaker at Alpha’s April meeting, Sue shared underwater photos and gave a crash course in scuba diving equipment and diving details, including how to get into a wet suit.

Joining Sue in Curacao, **Peggy Saunders** explored the island and did a little snorkeling, as well.



BETA CHAPTER NEWS:

Anne Dontonville, Midge Jorgensen, Susan Mellow, Ann Silverstein, and Sue Stritter completed a course entitled “Perspectives on Small Group Reading Instruction.” They are looking forward to taking a class in the fall about children’s literature.

Helen Goodwin was in our local newspaper, *The Valley News*. She started a program at her church in Hanover doing Lutheran World Relief quilts. She has now started the program at her church in Enfield.

Midge Jorgensen is now a proud “gremmie.” Her daughter Anna and husband Rob are the parents of Zoe Elise Terry. Born on May 10, 2010, Zoe weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21 inches long. Midge is very excited to baby sit!

Lisa Torres was a recipient of a \$500 grant from Beta Alpha State at the May conference. Beta Chapter raised an additional \$170 on a table cloth raffle. Lisa will be using the money to purchase science equipment for teachers in El Salvador. “Thank you, everyone in BAS, for your support for this project,” Lisa said.

GAMMA CHAPTER NEWS:

Many Gamma Chapter members are involved in a variety of volunteer activities: doing church work (altar guilds, choirs, coffee hours, thrift shops, food banks), providing meals, helping with ESL programs, and transporting friends with injuries.

Barbara Cowan had another exhibit of her art work in a Kittery, ME, art gallery. Her theme was whimsical animals.

Betty Gilman followed **Meryl Roy** with her visit to China in early spring. After that trip Betty headed to Nairobi, Africa, for a woman’s conference under the United Church of Christ. Gamma members look forward to hearing about her adventures as one of their programs. Look for it in the Red Book!

Sheila Knight attended Delta Chapter’s June tea with a few Theta members and took pictures of the activities. Also Sheila had a visit from a DKG friend from Havana, IL, this summer. Gerri Stone is a retired music teacher, and she and her husband stopped in NH on the way to Nova Scotia. “It’s been almost 20 years since **Myrt Moore, Ruth Tuttle** and I went to the International Conference in Chicago, where I met Gerri,” Sheila explained.

Ann Smith continues her award winning work with the cleaning and preservation of the North Mill Pond in Portsmouth.

DELTA CHAPTER NEWS:

Many of Delta’s active educators took courses and classes this summer in the areas of technology and other educational needs.

Marsha Biron is a grandmother! Her first grandchild, Greyson Vaughan Biron, was born on March 15. He lives in Concord, and Marsha and her husband Mike visit as often as possible.

Rita Blakslee has been busy enjoying church, Ladies Aid Society, Weathervane Theatre, and family!

Jean Colby is relaxing this summer by enjoying her family, reading and gardening.

One of our newest candidates for membership was our guest speaker **Audrey DiMaria**. Audrey is the daughter of

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DELTA NEWS: *(continued from p. 3)*

one of Delta's 40 years members, **Jane Evans Whitney**. Audrey is a professor at George Washington University in Washington, DC, and works as an art therapist with children. Her presentation was most fascinating and enlightening.

While in New Hampshire, Audrey enjoyed her time with her aunt, **Barbara Stimson**. Barb, Audrey, and Ken all attended Bone Builders exercise sessions and developed amazing friendships. Barbara enjoyed the summer with Audrey and her Australian husband Ken. His family visited from Australia, and Barb was fascinated with the language and custom differences. She was also impressed with the manners of the grandchildren, who were very impressed with New Hampshire's greenery.

Peggy Guilmette has been busy this past spring and summer. She attended two nieces' graduation from White Mountain Regional High School and another niece's ballet dance performance at St. Anselm's College. Then she went to her 58th Lancaster High School reunion in June.

In May our guest speaker was one of our own members who had been showcased in previous issues of *CHIPS*. **Tonja Gilmore** shared her adventures with her travels to Tibet and working with those in the nomadic tribes. She will be visiting Tibet again in July, and we are anxious for her to share with us again.

Melanie Gray and her husband Mike have purchased a second home at the Villages in Florida. They will be spending six months in FL and six months in NH.

Marna Ingerson and **Sharon Cormier** escaped, along with their husbands, to the not-so-sunny South this past winter. Both couples enjoyed Florida jaunts to visit old friends and family and especially enjoyed their cruise together on the *Norwegian Dawn*. First they headed through the southern Caribbean, stopping at Tortola, Barbados, Samana in Dominican Republic, and St. Kitts for nine days. After a day back in Miami, they headed west to Grand Caymen and Cosumel, Mexico. "Snorkeling, segwaying, touring historical points of interest, sailing catamarans, swimming with the dolphins, hiking in the rainforest, visiting in the Concorde, and parasailing with a dark and stormy sea below were highlights to excite," Marna said.

This fall they are planning a trip to Maine and Canada. And the Cormiers and Ingersons are not so patiently waiting to set sail toward Alaska or Hawaii next year. "It's too bad not to visit these wonderful places during our teaching careers because they are so educational and beneficial," Marna said.

Sharon Lane and her husband Butch had all six of their grandchildren—ages five to ten months old—together for the first time this 4th of July weekend.

Karen LaRoche shares that her son Alex will be home from Iraq in late August/early September. Sons Matthew has transferred to Keene State for the Fine Arts Program, and William will be married in December to Samatha Page. Karen baked breads at Karen's Corner Creations throughout the summer for local farmer's markets. And in September she will begin studying for her master's degree.

Heidi Mathieu attended her 30th Waterville High School reunion in July. Many of her high school best friends are still her best friends!



Marna Ingerson (left) will serve as Delta's next president and is congratulated by outgoing president Pamela Read at the June Tea.

Anne Morgan is Delta's new parliamentarian.

Ted and **Pam Read** had a great spring vacation traveling across the country on the Amtrak, flying to Hawaii, and then cruising the Islands. Highlights of the trip were visiting Pearl Harbor and *The USS Arizona* Memorial, seeing the volcano erupting at night, swimming in a lava pool, and meeting people from all over the country on the train trip. In addition Pam volunteered at the Weathervane Theatre again this summer on Fridays as the house hostess for the Patchwork Players and as "The Ice Cream Lady."

At the Whitefield School **Marilyn Schroer** directed *The Sound of Music*. The most exciting experience was watching the students “bloom and grow” throughout the three months preparation. “The perfect ending to the theatre piece came from the cast trip to the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT. The tour guide was the great-granddaughter of Maria Von Trapp,” said Marilyn. “The cast also met the grandson.”

Kathy Urso is thrilled that her son Jim has reached the halfway point in his deployment in Afghanistan and is looking forward to the swift and safe return of Charlie Company in December.

EPSILON CHAPTER NEWS:

We are happy for some of our Epsilon members who have taken advantage of retirement but sad because of their moves away from Epsilon to the Cape or Florida.

“I am pleased to share the news of the birth of my second son, Reid Mitchell Norris, on February 2, 2010. He was 8 lbs., 3 oz. and 21 inches long at birth,” **Ann Gaffney** announced. “Our family is getting used to the new addition and to all of the schedule changes that happen when a new baby enters the home. Reid’s older brother enjoys singing to him, and we all enjoy cuddling.”

Barbara Mee received an invitation from the new international president, Jensi Souders, to be a member of the Educator’s Award Committee for the 2010-2012 biennium. She will travel to Austin in April 2011 for its first meeting.

In addition, Barbara is planning another vacation adventure! From April 23-30, 2011, join her on a private tour to Edinburgh and Dublin. Round-trip from Logan Airport, hotel (double occupancy), all breakfasts and dinners, and many other things are included in the price of just over \$4,000.00 per person. Barbara limits her groups to 16 or 18, so don’t hesitate if you are interested in getting more information. Contact her at 603-437-7210 or e-mail at b22ladybug@comcast.net.

Barbara also spent a week on the “big” island of Hawaii with her husband at the end of June. While Bill attended the CFMA national conference, Barbara did some sightseeing and relaxing.

Barbara and **Flora Sapsin** traveled to Spokane, WA, for the DKG International Convention from July 19-25. While Flora spent her time in meetings as state president, Barbara was able to see a little more of the area and catch up with friends from her Golden Gift Class of 2001.

ETA CHAPTER NEWS:

Dianne Mros has agreed to be president of ETA Chapter. This will ease her into retirement as she retired from teaching this spring.

Martha Verville has returned from her spring trip to Europe with her husband John. We all wish to be as active as Martha during our retired years.



THETA CHAPTER NEWS:

Pat Bolduc is serving as president of the Lakes Region Retired Teachers for the second year of her term. The group meets on the third Tuesday of Sept., Nov., Jan, March and May. “In November Paige Kutner, Meredith—who is Bob Montana, writer of the Archie Comics—will speak on ‘Growing up with Archie,’” Pat announced.

Kathryn Elizabeth (Lorden) Carlson, a life-long Canaan (NH) resident, passed away at her home on May 28, 2010, at 95 after a period of declining health. She had been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma since 1967, belonging most recently to Theta Chapter.

She graduated from Canaan High School in 1931, and in 1934 she graduated from Keene Normal School. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Keene State College in 1961. Over the years she taught in Bedford, Canaan, Plainfield, and Lebanon. She was a well-respected educator throughout New Hampshire. After retiring from teaching in June of 1977, she volunteered at the Canaan Meals-On-Wheels Program and sat with house-bound individuals as a RSVP member.

She is survived by her daughter **Ruth Conwell** (also a member of Theta Chapter) and son-in-law Scott with whom she lived. Kathryn is also survived by four grandchildren, a great-grandson, and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband (1975), and her brother (1978).

Pam Clark traveled to Las Vegas this spring to celebrate granddaughter Maddison’s first birthday. Maddy loved reading books with her “gammy.”

Marilyn Coffin’s son and daughter-in-law moved to the Netherlands to work in architecture and oil painting. They will finally reside in the same country after a year of marriage, one working in NYC and the other in Inverness, Scotland.

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THETA NEWS *(continued from p. 5)*

Tiffany Dube has resigned from her third grade teaching position to spend more time with her 14-month-old daughter, Gracie. "I am looking for a part-time teaching job in the Plymouth area," said Tiffany. She also has been busy organizing Theta's monthly visits to the Belknap County Nursing Home in Laconia.

Pamela Forbes was nominated as teacher of the year from her school. What an honor!

Rebecca Frame is enjoying summer vacation after two semesters of teaching freshman English at the Lakes Region Community College.

Nancy Gibbons volunteered at the Belknap Mill during May. "Fourth graders spent a day at the mill in the year 1918," said Nancy. "It was a nice way to stay in touch with children."

Ann Hart reported that her mother passed away at the age of 97 on June 26, 2010. "My mother loved children and was a retired reading teacher," Ann said.

After a fall several months ago during which she broke her shoulder, **Cindy Labadie** has been going to physical therapy and may have to have her rotator cuff operated on.

This next year **Taffy McGuigan** will serve the NH State Retired Teachers Association as President-Elect.

Ruth Puleo and her husband Rick visited her English relatives this summer.

A special thanks go to the Theta members who were able to help with the Rt. 11 clean up. **Ruth Puleo** reported the following: "We did the trash pick-up on May 17. Six members and two spouses did actual pick-up while **Gerna Magnusson** came and did a bit of driving. **Brenda Walker** (and husband Bud), **Betsy Webster**, **Priscilla Fletcher**, **Nanci Plimpton**, **Kathy Lacroix**, and I (and husband Rick) all helped."

Julie Swain is looking forward to teaching art full time this coming school year in the Winnisquam School District.

Brenda Walker was honored at school board meeting as Employee of the Month of May for Rochester Middle School. "I was recognized for serving as the middle school coordinator while still teaching my own pre-vocational program," she explained. Also Brenda fell on the first day of vacation but luckily the fall did not interfere with her teaching summer school in Rochester.

TORRES & BEATON WIN SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations go to this year's Beta Alpha State Scholarship Winners! Beta's Lisa Torres and Delta's Nora Beaton each received a \$500 Beta Alpha State scholarship. Lisa used her scholarship to help continue her work in El Salvador. Nora used it to attend the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences National Conference in Cleveland in June.

"Thank you so much for BAS Scholarship money," wrote Nora. "I was one of the 2010 AAFCS National Teacher of the Year Merit Finalists and was able to receive my award in person. I had a great time presenting my program to other teachers and to FCS college students, as well as learning about other programs taking place around the country."

State Scholarship Chair, Pam Clark, would like to remind all sisters that, in addition to the Beta Alpha State Scholarships, there are also two Keene Founders Scholarships available for \$750 each. These scholarships are for advanced degree work. Scholarship applications are available online and are due each year by January 15.



Jan Danziger and Marcia Baron from Alpha Lambda State (VT) spoke about DKG Women in the Arts at the Theta-hosted Tri-Chapter Meeting in April. Here they are helping Yvonne Crocker and Peggy Guilmette make glass jewelry.

MEET LINDA BENNION, TILLOTSON FELLOWSHIP WINNER

Congratulations go to Linda Bennion of Delta Chapter who was awarded a Louise Tillotson Teaching Fellowship worth \$10,000 on June 17 at White Mountain Community College in Berlin. The award was granted on the basis of “Commitment to Public Education, Breadth of Experience, Innovation in Education, Creativity in Solving Problems, Communication Skills, and Inspiration.”

“I’m planning to use the personal money for a CD for Kelsey’s after-graduation trip to Europe with me (no Papa). She wants to see Vienna and return to Paris,” Linda explained. “I will put the rest of the money into a college fund for my girl.

“I will use the classroom money to buy a few more multiple copies of science books and biographies. But the bulk will be used to buy technology for my kiddos.

I’ll be able to buy an LCD projector, so that everyone can see what we’re studying on a large screen (no more hovering over my shoulder to see the computer screen) and an interactive white board that will allow me to teach via the computer. I’ll also buy a few digital movie cameras and I Pods. I’ll use them at my listening center so kids can hear stories this way, rather than on the cassette tapes and tape machines that constantly break.”



Husband Raymond and daughter Kelsey are proud of Linda Bennion’s recent award.

LINDA’S PROFESSIONAL LIFE IN BRIEF

Linda Devine Bennion graduated from The University of New England in Biddeford, ME, in 1985 with a BS in elementary education. She has been employed with SAU 36 since 1985, teaching K-3. She is currently teaching second grade. She plans to continue teaching at The Whitefield School and hosting student teachers while she earns her master’s degree. In the future, she hopes to teach prospective teachers when she retires from the public school classroom.

CLASSROOM REFLECTS HER PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

I am a teacher, a leader, a motivator, a problem solver, and an ethical and caring person. I know my students can learn skills, become independent, be kind to one another, and learn to love the process of learning. I know the connections we make with each other from learning and life will be with us forever.

I begin creating “our classroom” with physical and mental preparations. My classroom is clean and tidy; it has room for individual learning space, large group space and spaces for resources. It is filled with classical music and growing things: plants and people, occasionally caterpillars, chicken eggs and insects. There are curtains on the windows and socks on the chair and desk feet. There are books in several places with cushions, camp chairs and even a loft. Children must feel physically comfortable, have resources and be able to reach and manipulate their materials. When mentally planning the year, I must work within the perimeters set forth by my school, such as lunch, recess and unified arts schedules. I am fortunate that I may then make a schedule for our day. I know that I must be ready for the day, week, and year with a plan that makes sense and reflects a positive, warm attitude. I know how typical students progress through the year, gaining in skills and confidence, but I keep in mind that each child comes to school each day with emotional, social, physical and academic needs. Knowing Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, I know I must meet these needs, as well as the needs of parents, for my students to learn.

Student conferences happen throughout the day, month and year. Students learn that we can have quiet conversations where strengths and weaknesses are talked about in non-judgmental ways. Plans for improvement are made while parents are informed by handwritten notes, e-mail or phone calls. Successes are shared sometimes publicly and sometimes quietly. My students realize that I am there to aid in their education, and we share the responsibility of making dreams come true. . . .

When you enter my room, you’ll pass by the “Home Sweet Classroom” sign on my door. You’ll know that I love my job as second grade teacher! I revel in my successes and struggle through my failures. My students and their parents know that I care about them while they are in my class and later as they move through our school, town, District and beyond. The long-term connections I’ve made to my kids make me happy, confident, and willing to continue to work in the world of education.

2010 BAS FALL WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Currier Museum of Art

150 Ash Street
Beech Street Entrance
Manchester, NH 03104
603-669-6144

Registration: 10 a.m.

Brunch: Noon

Program: Guided Tour of Museum Highlights

Cost: \$25.00 (*registration, brunch, tax & gratuity*)

Make check payable to Beta Alpha State.

Send registration form and money to Flora Sapsin,
Londonderry High School, 295 Mammoth Road,
Londonderry, NH 03053.

Registration deadline: September 17, 2010

10% off gift shop purchases and perhaps membership



2010 BAS Fall Workshop Registration

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester September 25, 2010

Name: _____

Chapter: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send a **\$25 check** made payable to Beta Alpha State
with this registration form by **September 17, 2010**, to:

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Flora at

Cell: 566-4196

School: 432-6941 ext. 2780

E-mail: fsapsin@londonderry.org

BETA ALPHA STATE

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Sheila Mable, CHIPS Editor

7 Peaceful Lane

Penacook, NH 03303

FIRST CLASS MAIL
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Permit #192
Windham, NH 03087



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Gamma Society International, PO Box 1589, Austin, TX 78767.*