



THE CHIPS OF GRANITE

August 2012 **Beta Alpha State News**

NH



Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



Congratulations, Karen, on receiving the scholarship!

LAROCHE AWARDED KEENE FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP

by Barbara Baker, Delta Chapter

Karen LaRoche of Delta Chapter was the 2012 recipient of the Keene Founders' Scholarship Endowment. This award is available annually to a member engaged in advanced degree work in the field of education. The recipient is announced at the Beta Alpha State Spring Conference in March. "The scholarship was very helpful in offsetting my expenses of textbooks and other related course expenses. With a son also in college, it was a well appreciated scholarship. Thank you!" Karen says.

Karen teaches Family Consumer Sciences at the White Mountains Regional High School in Whitefield where she has taught for 28 years. Her advanced degree in Curriculum and Instruction allows her to offer the Running Start Program as a certified Running Start instructor through White Mountains Community College.

Running Start enables students to take college classes in high school for \$150.00, which earns them three transferable college credits in addition to earning credits

toward their high school diploma. Karen offers Child Development and Foundations of Education courses through the Future Educators Career and Technical Education program at her high school. It is possible for a program completer in this area to earn 12 college credits that transfer course for course in NH colleges. All colleges accept these credits as electives. "What an advantage!" says Karen. "Many of these students begin their higher education pursuits as mid-term freshman."

Karen hopes to continue with Running Start classes for high school students and pursue the possibilities of working as an adjunct professor supporting others on their path to becoming a teacher.

SMITH RECOGNIZED FOR HER ENVIRONMENTAL WORK

Concord, NH - Two New Hampshire state employees and three citizens were honored in June for their environmental work at a ceremony at the Governor and Council meeting at the State House.

Ann Smith of Gamma Chapter was one of five New Hampshire recipients to receive the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Awards at the State House ceremony in June and in Canada earlier.

Governor John Lynch and the Department of Environmental Services Commissioner Tom Burack presented the awards, which recognize the important contributions made by these five individuals to the health of the Gulf of Maine, of which New Hampshire's coastal watershed is an integral part.

Each year the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, a US-Canadian partnership dedicated to protecting environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine, recognizes exemplary work in each of its five jurisdictions, which include the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, as well as the Canadian provinces New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The Gulf of Maine Visionary Awards recognize innovation, creativity, and commitment to marine protection by

(continued on p. 9)



President Flora Sapsin's picture was taken by Photographs by Jim.

EXPRESSING OUR VISION, DESIGNING OUR FUTURE

Summer... a time to relax, refresh, and reflect! It truly does not seem possible that four months have passed since we were all enjoying the fabulous hospitality of Portsmouth's Sheraton Harborside. I only wish every venue would schedule a restaurant week in our honor!

Seriously, Portsmouth was all that we hoped for and more. The success of this event was in the team effort to plan a program sure to dazzle. Who will ever forget time shared with Jean Gray? This amazing woman was so full of praise for you. Haven't I often told you how very special the women of New Hampshire are? But that, my dear friends, is my favorite thing about education. We all get to start anew and improve on the model.

I want to remind each of you that I truly value time spent with you. This is particularly true as we approach the end of my term as President. Surrounded by our Beta Alpha State Executive Board, I am personally inviting you to attend the special events we have planned for you. I think you will find that the team is prepared to dazzle you! I will, of course, be sharing with you all the news from NYC. And I'm delighted that I'll have company there, as well!

We'll start our season at Canterbury Shaker Village on September 22, 2012. This is a "must" for all in New Hampshire as we tour this quiet treasure. For the spring convention, April 4-6, 2013, we are inviting you to join us at NH's only four diamond property—the Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa.

May I close by reminding you that we, as women educators, share a common flaw or is it a gift? On our list of priorities, we place ourselves last. This trait reveals our generosity of spirit; however, experience has taught me that time spent in replenishing the spirit only serves to heighten enthusiasm and accomplishment. We are about to resume the world's most challenging environment—that of the professional educator. Please plan to schedule "quality" time with the most wonderful women I know, the members of Delta Kappa Gamma Beta Alpha State. Remember, we're all hoping to see you!

*Ex animo,
Flora Sapsin*

MEET 2012 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

We recognize women who actively promote the promises of Delta Kappa Gamma within their chapters and exemplify the spirit of our organization. These 2012 Chapter Achievement Awards were presented at the BAS Spring Conference in Portsmouth:

JEANNETTE GARDNER, ALPHA

Jeannette Gardner has been an active member of Alpha Chapter since 1999. She was instrumental in organizing and having published our chapter cookbook as one of our yearly fundraisers. She is currently organizing this year's raffle fundraiser. We greatly appreciate her hard work and dedication toward addressing our financial needs. In addition, Jeannette actively participates in our local meetings and committees and has also aided us in setting up speakers when needed. It is with a great deal of pride in her service that Alpha Chapter honors Jeannette Gardner as a Woman of Distinction.

HELEN GOODWIN, BETA

Helen Goodwin received her BMED from the Eastman School of Music and her Masters of Music Education from Boston University. She taught music, with an emphasis on strings, and directed school orchestras and choral groups for 34 years in Hanover. She also served on the state board of music educators and was president of American String Teachers Association (ASTA), NH. For her dedication and leadership in the field of music, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from ASTA.

Beta Chapter has been privileged to have Helen as an active member since 1964. She has served on many chapter committees, as well as on the state Research and Communications Committee. She is responsible for Beta's service project of making quilts for David's House. Because Helen served as our chapter president for many terms, she has truly been the thread that has held Beta Chapter together. It is Beta's honor to have Helen Goodwin receive this Woman's Award of Distinction.

BETTY GILMAN, GAMMA

Gamma Chapter celebrates, in great thanksgiving, the devotion and cheerful participation of Betty Gilman. From elementary through college level work, Betty has been a skilled educator and administrator. In 1994 she joined DKG and has always said "Yes" to all offices—many times twice—and to Beta Alpha State's duties as Parliamentarian. She is our chapter treasurer, compiles materials for the Red Book, and is our computer master. Ever the educator, she has brought, through her mission work in Zimbabwe, an understanding of the history and great needs of that part of the world. Betty is Gamma Chapter's quiet strength.

RITA BLAKSLEE, DELTA

Rita Blakslee, an 86-year-old member of Delta Chapter, has championed Delta Kappa Gamma for 41 years and continues to actively participate in chapter meetings. Rita entered the field of education after graduating from Dalton High School in 1944 and Plymouth State College in 1948. She taught business education in four North Country high schools, serving as the department head in some. She eagerly joined Delta Chapter in 1971 and served as its treasurer for 17 years. She then served as an auditor for several more years. Rita certainly deserves recognition as Delta's Woman of Distinction for her loyalty and long-standing dedication.

BARBARA MEE, EPSILON

Epsilon honors Barbara Mee with our chapter's Woman of Distinction Achievement Award. Barbara exemplifies Delta Kappa Gamma through her dedication to education and to service. She has served the Chapter, the State, and International with

humor, grace, and long stories about the benefits and opportunities of membership. From her late-night agreement to be State President, to Golden Gift, to this past year's International Book Award winner's missed flight, Barbara's stories educate us all about what it means to be a member of this amazing organization. Through her actions and dedication, she reminds us that when we support each other in fellowship and share our strengths with each other, we are all enriched.

MARTHA "MARNIE" VERVILLE, ETA

Eta Chapter recognizes Martha "Marnie" Verville as their woman of distinction. When Eta split from Gamma in 1977, Marnie was one of Eta's charter members and served as its first president. Also she has served on many chapter committees and is currently the corresponding secretary. Over the years she has attended several Delta Kappa Gamma conferences, including International's 50th Anniversary celebration in Texas and regional conferences in Indianapolis and Burlington. Also while in Texas, she attended the Seminar for Purposeful Living. In addition Marnie is an ever-smiling, ever-present participant at Beta Alpha State's conferences, where she is noted as "The Lady of Happy Fashion" because of her colorful hats and funky stockings. She brings joy to everyone she meets.



Theta's Brenda Walker

BRENDA WALKER, THETA

Theta Chapter recognizes Brenda Walker for being an ideal member. When we think of her, these words come to mind: kind, thoughtful, generous, dependable and hard working. Brenda joined DKG in 1999 and over the years has served many roles. She served as president of Theta Chapter for two terms, has worked on our annual yard sale, and has helped with the following projects: Books-in-Bags, Adopt-a-Highway and the Belknap County Nursing Home visits. Now she serves as our membership chair, as well as the state membership chair, and has presented many moving Services of Remembrance. She does all this while teaching a self-contained special ed. class full-time at Rochester Middle School. Thank you, Brenda, for all you are and all you do.



Eta's Marnie Verville (RB) with Anne Nute & Jean Gray



Epsilon's Barbara Mee (R) with Kathy Tucker



Helen Goodwin, Beta



Betty Gilman, Gamma

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.

~Henry Ford

CHAPTER CHATTER

ALPHA CHAPTER NEWS

Alpha welcomed two new members at the May birthday celebration: **Cathryn Harvey** and **Janet Horton**. **Cathy** is a music teacher at Wheelock School in Keene and a fine quilter, as well. **Janet** is a mathematics teacher who has taught at many secondary schools across the world, including Keene High School.

Helen Ann Kelly has worked hard as Team Leader for Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 teachers at Chesterfield School and plans to continue in this position next year. On a personal note, Helen's daughter recently delivered her first baby, making Helen Ann a grandmother for the third time.

Elaine Landry attended the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Convention in July in New York City.

Among the Cheshire County Retired Educators Association members who read and presented books to second grade classes this year were Alpha Chapter members **Elaine Landry**, **Martha Marsette**, and **Angela Seaver**. The book selected this year was *City Dog, Country Frog* by Mo Willems.

Martha Marsette continues to be involved in Special Ed in Keene SAU#29 as a substitute at Wheelock School.

Recent retiree **Peggy Saunders** returned to the classroom this spring as a long-term substitute in Gilsum for a fourth grade teacher who was on maternity leave.

Pat Small and husband Jim celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a surprise party given by their children. All thoroughly enjoyed themselves as the couple shared their lives.

Joanne Stroshine, Monadnock Regional School District, is the Mentor Coordinator for new teacher mentors at the MRSD Middle-High School in Swanzey. She conducts training for the mentors, coordinates and facilitates new teacher/mentor observations, and acts as a liaison between the mentors and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.

The **fundraising committee** raised \$637 by holding an Artisan Raffle on May 22. Some of the prizes contributed by members included a hand-knit baby blanket and a gingerbread man Christmas stocking, a crib quilt, a Mt. Monadnock pillow, a Swedish woven table runner,

a large quilted bag, a wooden casserole carrier, photo cards and notecards, and a water color seascape. Other prizes included gift certificates for restaurants, various baskets of goodies, a massage, and a Cape Cod get away weekend. Proceeds from the raffle will go to a qualified education major that will use the funds for a book grant.



Create the buzz!

BETA CHAPTER NEWS

Anne Dontonville is excited about learning about Smartboards and how to use them in her classroom. She also enjoys geocaching with her husband, Roger, every chance she gets.

Helen Goodwin leads the choir at Harvest Hill and participates in memoir writing.

Jan Kulig and her husband, Ray, traveled to Arizona during February vacation and explored the sights there. A highlight of the trip was a visit to the Heard Museum, which focuses on Native American History.

Joan Tarleton went to the WISE Conference (Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship) in Syracuse, NY. It was a fabulous conference of 900 women running or starting their own businesses. Joan is looking to start an educational computing business called Trey Maltor Success.

Nancy Snyder passed away February 29 at the age of 71. She was an active member of Beta for many years. She was a talented and creative elementary school teacher. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a great laugh. She will be missed.

Terry Thompson and **Anne Cragin** made 10 quilts to donate to David's House in Hanover. In addition, **Terry** took a trip in April to see her sister in NC. They visited many gardens and the Lemur Center at Duke. She also experienced an eight and a half hour airport delay!

Kathy Tucker went on a trip with three friends to the Dominican Republic in April. The trip was a birthday celebration, and they had a great time enjoying the sun, warmth and the ocean. They also experienced an overnight delay in Philly on their way home!

GAMMA CHAPTER NEWS

When Gamma gathers for our outdoor meeting in New Castle Common, we will plan our baskets of goodies and society information for teachers at some Portsmouth schools.

We are so proud of **Betty Gilman**, who was awarded the Woman of Distinction Award at the BAS gathering on the Seacoast. (*See the article on p. 2.*)

Members are active with their volunteer projects of civic duties and art creations while **Jacki Hinton, Jan McManus**, and **Sharon Svirsky** are gathering their school materials for another year in the classroom.

Sheila Knight attended the Beta, Delta and Theta's Tri-Chapter meeting at the Common Man in Plymouth this spring. "I learned a lot about the Munsel School Project of Tibet from Tonja Gilmore of Delta Chapter," Sheila said.

We are also proud of **Ann Smith**, who after years of dedicated work received the Gulf of Maine Environmental Award. Ann gave a wonderful thank-you with emphasis on developing children awareness and caring for the environment. (*See the articles on pp. 1 & 9.*)

DELTA CHAPTER NEWS

Susan Ackerman, an initiate of Delta Chapter, has just made a movie of her book, *Ella's Journey from Sadness to Hope*, Part I. In October she will give a presentation called "Astrology and the Twelve Learning Styles" to Delta and to Theta in May.

Delta Chapter celebrates with **Linda Bennion** and **Karen LaRoche** as they received their Master's Degrees this spring. Karen adds that she is taking the summer off! "This is the first time in 28 years...not to say that the summer is not filling up! I will have my baby granddaughter for the second week in July. I am restoring my gardens and trying to stay ahead of the groundhog that has moved in! It has been a busy, challenging experience earning my Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. I wish to thank DKG for the scholarship I received to help with expenses!"

Rita Blakslee received the DKG Distinguished Woman Award at the spring conference. She is now living in Manchester with her daughter, Charlotte Nelson. Her new address is 220 Ash St., Manchester, NH 03108-5682, c/o Nelson. She would really enjoy hearing from some of her Delta sisters!

Audrey DiMaria has just been hired as a consultant in art therapy for Save the Children's HEART Program. HEART

trains teachers in war-torn areas and areas ravaged by natural disasters to help children emotionally and cognitively through art activities.

Peggy Guilmette attended her 60th class reunion of Lancaster H. S. on June 23 at the Town and Country Inn.

Louise Tillotson of Dixville Notch established the Louise Tillotson Teaching Fellowship in 2006 to recognize excellence in teaching in public schools. A reception was held at White Mountains Community College in Berlin in May to recognize four recipients, one of whom is **Stephanie Lyons**, a member of Delta Chapter.

Stephanie is a Business Education teacher at Canaan Memorial School. She has been a professional educator for over 30 years. She holds certification in Business and Administration in Career and Technical Centers, Grades 9-12 Business, and Administration, Grades 7-12. She is a graduate of Colebrook Academy and Plymouth State College. Her first teaching position was at Danville High School in Danville, VT, where she taught for two years before accepting a position at Stratford Schools in North Stratford. She began teaching in Canaan in 1983.

News from **Heidi Mathieu**: "My son, Mathew Monahan, graduated from WMRHS this year. My daughter, Misty Monahan, graduates next year."

News from **Marilyn Schroer**: "Lots of news--lots of adventures! I am retiring from the job I love as music educator in Whitefield Elementary School and Jefferson Elementary School. A famous quote of mine is 'A lady knows when it's time!' I have been so blessed with the children, their families, and staff at those schools. A new chapter begins! Also I'm a grandma to a darling little boy, Kieren, who will soon be two! He will be a big brother this summer to a baby sister. We couldn't be more excited--another baby! Kieren and his family are presently living in Pohnpei, Micronesia, and also visited Peru and Chile this past winter."

"Happy 53rd Birthday, Delta!" was remembered and recognized at the Legends Restaurant in Gorham, Saturday, May 12. Members enjoyed fellowship with each other, a lovely luncheon and a snow ranger from the Androscoggin District who presented a slide show and talk on avalanche rescue service in the Mt. Washington/Tuckerman's area.

Also at our May meeting, **Susan Ackerman** and **Wanda Merrill** were voted into our chapter. **Judith Parker Millen**, our friend and Delta sister, was remembered with the reading of her obituary, the lighting of a white candle, and a white rose placed in her memory. In closing, lots of laughs were shared over our fun "Pig-in-a-Poke with auctioneer, **Anne Morgan**.

(continued on p. 6)

DELTA CHAPTER NEWS *(continued from p. 5)*

The Rocks Estate was the site for Delta Chapter's last spring meeting on Thursday, June 28. Members enjoyed a delightful wagon ride around the estate with history commentary by Sam Chase, a veteran docent of The Rocks. The sun broke through just as the wagon, pulled by Belgians, Bob and Bud, left the yard. Members wandered the grounds to explore the gardens, enjoyed the panoramic views, and visited the gift shop. During the floral edible luncheon, Delta sisters learned about many unique ways to use common plants and wildflowers to enhance flavors and presentations of our meals. Jessica Davis, our grant-in-aid recipient for 2012, told us about her first year of college. **Karen Pariseau** was voted in as a new member.

Delta's next meeting will be held at the Monadnock Congregational Church in Colebrook on September 15, 2012.

EPSILON CHAPTER NEWS

Jane Fowler was inducted as the new Epsilon chapter president in May. Jane is a long-time member of Delta Kappa Gamma in NH and in TX before that. Jane teaches in Chester, NH, and the chapter is grateful to her for agreeing to take over the reins. The other chapter officers are continuing in their positions for another biennium. A wonderful end of year meeting was held at Janie's Uncommon Cafe in Londonderry.

Barbara Mee had an amazing "small group" trip to Salzburg, Austria, and Venice, Italy, in April. Hard to pick the "best" moment, as there were many, but perhaps seeing *The Sound of Music* performed live in a beautiful Salzburg theater would be at the top of the list of highlights.

Barbara and her small tours are off again for April 2013, leaving Boston on Saturday, April 20, and returning a week later. They will spend four nights in Florence, Italy, and two nights in Cinque Terre while enjoying the sights and sounds of Tuscany. Care to join her?

Several Epsilon members made the trek to NYC for the DKG International Convention. **Flora Sapsin, Winnie Schmidt, Jane Fowler,** and **Barbara Mee** enjoyed the convention speakers, workshops, and the free-time activities. *(See Barbara's article on p. 12.)*

In April **Connie Lanseigne-Case** journeyed 2,000 miles by coach in the Anatolian region of Turkey with Road Scholars, her favorite travel organization. Civilizations, from prehistory the Hittite Empire, the Hellenistic Period, Roman, Seljuk, Byzantine, Ottoman and Turkish Republic were explored in meaningful ways through telling lectures and visits to revealing museum exhibits and an important archeological site. . .all in 16 memorable days.



Connie readies for potting at Chez Galip in Cappadocia, Turkey.

THETA CHAPTER NEWS

Congratulations go to the following members who were awarded certificates at our May meeting for their valuable contributions to Theta Chapter/DKG over the years: **Pat Bolduc** and **Nancy Gibbons** for 25 years and **Karen Sullivan** for 30 years.

Pam Clark thanks all the Theta sisters who helped make this year's annual scholarship yard sale a big success. "We raised around \$450. A special thank-you goes to **Donna-Marie Gamlin's** husband Mike for making and donating for sale an Adirondack chair, table and footrest," Pam said.

Tiffany Dube will return to Plymouth State University again this fall as a supervisor for Cluster II students. "My job is to review their lesson plans, give them feedback and work with the four content professors," she explained.

Rebecca Frame just finished "a fun semester tormenting freshman English students at Lakes Region Community College." She also will be vacationing in the Berkshires and Orlando. "Ain't retirement great?!"

In addition, **Rebecca** and **Sheila Mable** thank the Theta membership for contributing to the Schools for Africa campaign. Through the raffles, we collected \$105 this year.

Nancy Gibbons attended her 60th college reunion at Bridgewater State University. "The college has grown from four buildings in 1952 to a very extensive campus. There were 12 members from the original class of 131. Woodward dormitory, where she lived, is still used as a dormitory but is co-ed and has locks on all the doors. The rec room where everyone played bridge during breaks is non-smoking," Nancy explained. "We all enjoyed sharing stories about all the rules we lived by 60 years ago."

Ann Hart announced that she, **Tiffany Dube**, and **Nancy Gibbons** enjoyed their April visit to the Belknap County Nursing Home. “We were pleased to meet a woman who had just celebrated her 100th birthday. She participated during the singing with great enthusiasm!”

Sheila Mable and **Nancy McCall** attended the DKG International Convention in NYC during the last full week of July. Nancy sang in the chorus while Sheila had a chance during some free time to see *The Lion King* and *Evita*.

“I am looking for a full-time teaching job and would love to teach science at any school,” **Nancy McCall** announced. Email her at sciencemv@hotmail.com if you have any job leads for her.

Brenda Walker and **Kathy Lacroix** attended Delta’s wonderful presentation at the Rock’s Estate in Bethlehem on June 28. “I never thought that I would have a day lily for lunch, along with fiddleheads, and lots of other flowers. The entire day was perfect. Delta chose a great location; the horse-drawn wagon ride was so picturesque while the food was different and delicious. You couldn’t ask for better company than Delta Kappa Gamma sisters,” said Brenda.

Theta members and guests enjoyed a presentation by Josh Judge at their May meeting in Laconia. “He shared his history with us and showed us how the weather forecast is developed,” Brenda Walker reports. “Josh joined WMUR as a part-time employee in April 2001 and became full-time at WMUR in 2003. In addition, he received the CBM seal (Certified Broadcast Meteorologist from the AMS) in 2006 and was among the first few in New England to get it.

“*Extreme New England Weather*, his newest book, profiles New England’s strong storms. It also features contributions from over 15 of New England’s well-known television meteorologists. The book is reported to have sold over 5,000 copies in its first month alone.”



Vice President Pam Clark poses with Josh Judge of WMUR.

Below, **Doris Barnes**, Theta’s honorary member, celebrated her 101st birthday this year and was presented the Centennial Cane by Ernie Bolduc, President of the Laconia Historical and Museum Society. On the right, Mayor Mike Seymour joined in the celebration of recognizing Doris as one of Laconia’s oldest citizens.



WHAT’S WORLD FELLOWSHIP?

by Margaret E. Guilmette, State Committee Chair

The DKG Constitution defines “world fellowships” as monetary awards available to non-member women educators who are not citizens or residents of the USA or Canada.

The World Fellowship Committee selects women educators applying for study in the USA by using dossiers supplied by the Institute of International Education.

The number of grants, initial and extensions, to any one recipient shall not exceed the number of years indicated by the college or university as reasonable for completion of the degree for which the recipient was accepted for the initial grant.

Grants are awarded when sufficient funds are available. Contributions from state organizations, chapters, and individual members support the work of The World Fellowship Committee.

Please consider making a contribution from your chapter to the World Fellowship Fund and send it to Phyllis Hickey, PO Box 1589, Austin TX 78767-1589.

WRITERS' CORNER

OUR LOSS

by Sheila Whitney Mable, Theta

"Too bad about John," my colleague Dick Roy says to me as I remove my coat. It's another week of school.

"John who?" I ask, opening my briefcase.

"John Torpey. Haven't you heard? He's been killed at Old Dominion University," Dick replies softly.

"Oh, my God, our John? . . . I didn't know. . . . My God, how could this happen?"

"You didn't read this morning's paper?" Dick asks.

"No. . . . I can't believe it. What happened?" my voice cracks as I blink back the tears.

"The paper reported that John had called home Friday evening to wish his family a happy Valentine's Day and had said that he was going to a party with friends. Apparently he was shot in an attempted robbery on the way to the party."

Shocked and numbed, I head toward my first period class. *John graduated just last June. He still has a sister here. And many friends. What will I say to them? To his parents?*

Over the intercom Mr. Galvin's unusually somber voice announces John's death and asks for a moment of silence. I look around at the 22 students before me. Only DJ's puffy eyes meet mine. *He and John must have been best friends. I want to hold everyone in my arms...to comfort, to protect.*

The silence is long and oppressive. I can't breathe. I sob aloud. *Why don't they cry?* My throat tightens as I try to regain some composure. *What should I say?* I look back at Joyce, my student teacher, for some answers. I look front to my students. They are looking at me. I am so tired. The tears still want to come.

"It's . . . it's a very difficult day, a sad day, but we must continue our story telling unit," I struggle to say. That poem of Edna St. Vincent Millay, "The Lament," rings in my ears:

*Life must go on
Though good men die;
. . . Life must go on;
I forget just why.*

"Heather, do you have a story?"



GONE FISH'N

by Barbara Baker, Delta

Big Al looked at the weathered sign hanging by the door. "Been some time since I hung that out," he muttered to himself. His last fishing buddy had passed away, and he wasn't inspired to fish alone.

Settling into his rocker, he thought of Harry and recalled the ritual that never failed to excite him. Digging bait that left his calloused hands caked with pungent dirt. Checking his pole and line for snags and knots. Running his hands over the battered tackle box holding sinkers, bobbers, and hooks. Some were his and others were Harry's.

He'd washed his fishing knife and then found the needle nose pliers beside Harry's stained hat on the cluttered shelf. Big Al felt each creaking grove as he climbed the ladder as ancient as he. His arm strained to retrieve the waders from their peg and to grab his hat on the way down. He took care setting out his flannel shirt, heavy pants and vest. Organizing was satisfying.

These mind-tiring chores prompted a muttered yarn, "Seventy-eight isn't old, but it's old enough!" Big Al couldn't resist smiling, ready for a good night's sleep. Before bed he'd set out the coffee and English muffins ready for the morning.

Life revolved around ritual, customs, and traditions. These brought order to his days. He knew what to do, what to expect. Somehow he didn't expect Harry to die.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

Remember the January 15th deadline to apply for the Beta Alpha State Scholarship or the Keene Founders' Scholarship. Contact Pam Clark, BAS Scholarship Chair, for detail at p2pclark@yahoo.com or at 603-528-8028.

SMITH RECOGNIZED *(continued from p. 1)*

businesses, environmental organizations, or individuals who are making a difference to the health of the Gulf of Maine. The award is given to two individuals, businesses, or organizations within each state and province bordering the Gulf.

Ann Smith – New Hampshire—Visionary Award

Ann is a retired grade school teacher who has worked tirelessly to connect her students and citizens of Portsmouth to the environment by engaging them in environmental stewardship activities. Ann was the President of the Advocates for the North Mill Pond from 2005-2011 and helped the organization with numerous community stewardship and educational activities.

SMITH TELLS HER STORY

I became a member of Delta Kappa Gamma in the 1989. Throughout the years I have participated in the Beta Alpha State and the Northeast Regional conferences. I presently serve as the vice president of Gamma Chapter.

To be chosen to receive the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Visionary Award was truly an honor. I am humbled to be among the ranks of those who have received that recognition.

Since 1998, students at the New Franklin School in Portsmouth have been engaged in many restoration activities at the North Mill Pond, a 50+ acre estuary within the city limits of Portsmouth. The Pond has had a long history of abuse and neglect. However, through the efforts of the advocates and concerned citizens, progress is being made to restore this treasure in our backyard.



Ann Smith received the Visionary Award in Canada above and later was honored with four others at a ceremony at the NH State House.

While I was a fourth grade educator at NFS, the NMP was our outdoor classroom. All aspects of the project were integrated into the fourth grade curricula. The students studied the plants and animals of the estuary and learned about the causes and forms of pollution and its effect on North Mill Pond. They also studied the history of the pond and its relationship to the community.

Working under the leadership of Dr. David Burdick of the Jackson Estuarine Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire, the students planted shrubs, trees, and salt marsh grasses. During the past 15 years they have planted over 8000 ribbed mussels in the low marsh areas. Ribbed mussels are filter feeders which help to clean the waters of the NMP. Some of the other activities were distributing informative brochures to the homes near and on the shores of the North Mill Pond, stenciling storm drains, and producing a public service announcement for the local radio station. Since my retirement in 2003, the project has continued as part of the watershed curriculum of the fifth grade students.

I feel strongly that young people can take an active role in their community through projects such as these. They need to be needed. They need to know they are valued members of their families and their community. Engaging the students at New Franklin School in the efforts to restore the environmental integrity of the NMP has been empowering for these students. Hopefully, it has also given them an appreciation of and a sense of stewardship toward the world of nature around them. That is an equal, if not a greater, effect of the work done at the North Mill Pond.

A project of this scope couldn't have been possible without the support of many groups, including but not limited to the Administration of the Portsmouth School Dept., the City of Portsmouth, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Wildlife, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership, the Fund for Excellence in Education, SAU 50 & 52, and the University of NH.

HERE'S THE REAL SCOOP

by Barbara Baker, Delta Chapter

As our busy lives add demands on our time, it may be helpful to clarify the following:

- Must members “participate actively” in order to be “in good standing” in the Society?

Each member defines her own level of participation. It is hoped that members attend meetings, whenever possible, and participate in the chapter's activities. Chapters cannot judge whether a member should have all privileges of Society membership based on her attendance.

- Can Chapter Rules define an expectation for attendance and participation within the chapter?

The Society once had an attendance policy that was eliminated by the convention many years ago. Chapters, therefore, cannot reinstate an attendance requirement in any form. “In good standing” means that members have taken care of their responsibilities, such as dues and fees.

NH RETIREMENT SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The following bills related to RSA 100-A were enacted by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Lynch. RSA 100-A is the statute governing the NH Retirement System (NHRS).

Senate Bill 230 (Chapter 0166, Laws of 2012): This modifies RSA 100-A:1, XVIII(b) to reflect the intent of the 2011 Legislature regarding the calculation of Average Final Compensation (AFC) for members not vested prior to Jan. 1, 2012. The bill changes the “compensation over base pay” factor used in the AFC formula from a dollar average to a percentage average.

Senate Bill 244 (Chapter 0194, Laws of 2012): This amends various sections of RSA 100-A, including five technical corrections related to changes enacted in House Bill 2 (Chapter 224, Laws of 2011). These corrections are as follows:

1. Clarifies the date from which NHRS must begin calculating a 7-year average of Extra or Special Duty Pay (ESDP) for Group II (Police and Fire) members vested prior to Jan. 1, 2012. This change excludes from the calculation any months prior to July 1, 2009, which is when ESDP began to be separately reported to NHRS.
2. Clarifies the number of years of creditable service Group II (Police and Fire) members in service prior to July 1, 2011, but not vested prior to Jan. 1, 2012, must have in order to qualify for the supplemental disability benefit available to eligible Accidental Disability retirees.
3. Changes the annual effective date of changes to the member interest rate from a fiscal to a calendar year.
4. Clarifies the definition of “compensation over base pay” for members not vested prior to Jan. 1, 2012.
5. Clarifies that the maximum benefit limit for members hired before July 1, 2009, is 100% of Earnable Compensation and the maximum benefit limit for members hired after that date, and not vested by Jan. 1, 2012, is the lesser of 85% of AFC or \$120,000 per year.

In addition the bill modifies the definition of “part-time” for NHRS retirees employed by NHRS-participating employers. The modification limits retirees to a maximum total of 32 hours per week, regardless of whether they work for one or more employers and some of the hours are in a Group I position and some of the hours are in a Group II position.

Finally, the bill changes the date by which NHRS Trustees must approve the retirement system’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from Dec. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year.

House Bill 1483: (Chapter 261, Laws of 2012) This bill repeals the NHRS Special Account and removes all references to the Special Account contained in RSA 100-A. Due to previous legislation enacted in 2011, the Special Account balance would have been \$0 as of July 1, 2012. This bill also repeals the employer “spiking” assessment (RSA 100-A:16, III-a). This assessment had been scheduled to take effect July 1, 2012.



BAS SPRING CONFERENCE PHOTOS
taken by Sheila Knight, Gamma





RED ROSES

Cathryn Harvey, Alpha
Janet Horton, Alpha
Sue Ackerman, Delta
Wanda Merrill, Delta
Karen Pariseau, Delta

WHITE ROSES

Nancy Snyder, Beta 2/29/12



DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012

BAS Fall Meeting
Shaker Village, Canterbury
Hostess: Epsilon Chapter

April 4-6, 2013

BAS Spring Conference
Mountain View Grand Hotel
Whitefield, NH
Hostess: Eta Chapter

July 24-27, 2013

Northeast Regional Conference
Holiday Inn by the Bay
Portland, ME

FORUM SUPPORTS AMERICAN HEART ASSN.'S LETTER TO CONGRESS

The vast majority of tests of drug effectiveness and side-effects have been conducted on men. Often few if any women or minority groups were included in the studies. Consequently, the results do not adequately address the health of women or minorities. A recent much publicized case in point is the difference in heart attack symptoms between women and men. The American Heart Association has sent a letter to Congress urging that women and minority health issues be address in health studies and drug testing. A copy of the letter is given below. The U.S. Forum as part of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has signed on in support of this letter.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT DEFEATED IN SENATE:

The Paycheck Fairness Act (S.3220) was voted on and defeated 52 to 47 in the Senate. New Hampshire voted: Ayotte (R-NH), Nay; Shaheen (D-NH), Yea.

NEW WOMEN'S PAY BILL INTRODUCED:

A new bill called the Equal Employment Opportunity Restoration Act (EEORA) will soon be introduced in Congress. This bill attempts to discourage company-wide discriminatory practices. The Supreme Court ruling in the Wal-Mart v. Dukes (Betty Dukes) case against the workers is the reason for this bill.

PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT:

Here are three startling examples of women who, thanks to the pregnancy loophole, were fired for doing what was best for their pregnancies:

- A retail sales associate in Salina, KS, was fired for drinking water while working because it violated store policy.
- A nursing home activities director in Valparaiso, IN, lost her job because she could no longer lift heavy tables, an activity that took up less than 10 minutes of her workday and with which her coworkers routinely volunteered to assist.
- A pregnant truck driver in Tennessee was instructed by her obstetrician not to lift more than 20 pounds and sought light duty work. Her employer terminated her as it made such modifications only to those injured on the job.

To close this egregious pregnancy loophole, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (H.R.5647) was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Nadler (D-NY). So far the bill has 85 co-sponsors.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE:

If you are interested in keeping up with the latest on what is going on with Social Security and Medicare, you may want to check out the web site of this committee. That site is *NCPSSM.com*.

Teaching is one of the few professions that permit love.

~Theodore Roethke

SEVEN NH MEMBERS ATTEND DKG CONVENTION IN NYC

by Barbara Mee, Epsilon

“Lights, Action, Camera...!” Well, not necessarily in that order perhaps, but all were definitely an important part of our International Convention in New York City during the fourth week of July. Beta Alpha State members **Elaine Landry** from **Alpha**; **Jane Fowler**, **Barbara Mee**, **Flora Sapsin**, and **Winnie Schmidt** from **Epsilon**; and **Sheila Mable** and **Nancy McCall** from **Theta** would concur.

Those who attended the Convention experienced amazing speakers at the General Sessions and informative workshops presented by DKG sisters from many different states and countries; debated changes to our Standing Rules; celebrated the lives of members who had passed; and learned of new things going on in Austin and with DKG.

The “city that never sleeps” lived up to its reputation. During free time, or perhaps a little “playing hooky” time, there were museums to visit, subways to navigate, Broadway plays to attend, and stores to shop for anything and everything. Have you ever been to the M & M’s store on 7th Avenue? Tasted unfamiliar foods from many different cultures? Photographed the Statue of Liberty?



Visited the 9/11 Memorial at Ground Zero shown above? Tried to get on TV at NBC and ABC? Re-connected with old friends and made new friends? All of these activities quickly sum up what we did during the week. Check out www.dkg.org for a better understanding of what YOUR society has to offer you!

BETA ALPHA STATE

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Sheila Mable, CHIPS Editor
7 Peaceful Lane
Penacook, NH 03303

FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE PAID
Permit #192
Windham, NH 03087



Members, please send any change of address to Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, PO Box 1589, Austin, TX 78767.