



THE CHIPS OF GRANITE

Beta Alpha State News—Vol. 2015, Issue 2—Aug. 2015

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



BETA ALPHA STATE HONORS MARION POUNDER OF EPSILON WITH THE 2015 FOUNDERS' AWARD

We salute you, Marion Pounder, 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 today, we honor the memories of the Founders of Beta Alpha State and provide a continuing awareness of the history of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Marion Pounder has been an educator for a total of 41 years. She spent 34 years in public school systems as teacher, reading specialist, curriculum coordinator, and principal. After that, she spent seven years as a part-time college instructor at White Pines College, which later became Chester College of New England.

This year, 2015, Marion celebrates her 50 years as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, first in Gamma Chapter in 1965 and then as a founding member of Epsilon Chapter in 1970. She served as Epsilon Chapter's first treasurer and served Beta Alpha State as president from 1981-83.



Ann Gaffney (R), president of Epsilon Chapter, poses with long-time member Marion Pounder, who received the 2015 BAS Founders' Award at Epsilon's May meeting in Londonderry. BAS President Elaine Landry and incoming president Sheila Mable presented the award.

Besides being active in DKG, Marion was president of the Pinkerton Alumni Association and was recognized as an Honored Alumna in 2006. She was elected as the first woman on the Board of Trustees for Pinkerton and served in that role for 30+ years. In addition, Plymouth State/University honored her in 2006 in their alumni magazine. And she served the Town of Derry as long-time member of the Derry Heritage Commission.

“Marion remains active in the Chapter to this day,” says Epsilon’s President Ann Gaffney. “In addition to her more formal roles, she has been a role model and mentor to many members. Through the depth of her work both in the Society and in her community, she is also an inspiration of what the spirit of Delta Kappa Gamma embodies. Everyone we speak to or email about Marion has nothing but the highest praise for her contributions to students, schools, organizations, her church, and her town. She has given of herself for her entire life to any group of which she is a member.” *(continued on p. 2)*

SHEILA'S SOAPBOX



Dear Beta Alpha Sisters,

As of July, my term as your DKG state president is official. I went through a grueling yet informative and worthwhile presidents' training in Baltimore before the Northeast Regional Conference. Dr. Lyn Schmid (International President), Dr. Kay Clawson (Northeast Regional Director), Sandra Bull (International Executive Director), and Debbie LeBlanc (Leadership Development Committee) led the two plus days of the training. During that time we focused on the following:

- * Establishing a network as we got to know each state president and a few of the state executive secretaries
- * The Northeast Regional Director's role
- * Effective leadership as shown through *The Art of Possibility* by Zander & Zander and through *One Piece of Paper* by Mike Figliuolo
- * Finding our individual leadership voices by writing our personal leadership maxims
- * State Presidents' responsibilities noted in our Constitution and Standing Rules
- * Successes in each state's organization
- * Procedures for effective meetings
- * The new Robert's Rules of Order (11th edition)
- * Marketing the Society: Recruiting & retaining members
- * Getting members to take leadership roles
- * "Being a Contribution"
- * Finances, "Hold Harmless," and "Go-to-Meeting"

I learned that we all can lead from any chair, that we should not let ritual replace meaning, that we are not a sorority, that we have a place for the struggling as well as for the successful educators, that we should not be afraid of "pruning or systematic abandonment," as Lyn Schmid says, and that we should not take ourselves too seriously.

As I begin my biennium, I am thankful to have the guidance and support of those who have served as president before me since I moved from Vermont to New Hampshire in 2005: Lois Plimpton, Taffy McGuigan, Barbara Baker, Flora Sapsin and Elaine Landry. All have served as role models who have given their time and inspired the membership in different ways.

On behalf of Beta Alpha State, I give a special thanks to Elaine for being a knowledgeable, organized, dedicated, kind and gracious president. She was available, often asked our membership for advice, listened to us with an open-mind, and was diplomatic in dealing with contrary opinions. Also she was clear, articulate and prompt in her communications with us. I felt a special support from her in Baltimore. As the immediate past president of NH-DKG, Elaine presented me with a rose when I was introduced as the new president and also covered the editors' training for me. I hope I can serve you as well as she did.

I also felt a special support from my DKG friend Miki Grady from AZ and VT. Miki was there for me as I was with her years ago when she served as the Vermont president. At that time I took pictures to record her being inducted as state president. During *this* conference Miki ironed my clothes, took some pictures, and covered the membership training session before the conference and later some workshops I was not able to attend.

And, of course, I felt supported by other NH members who attended the conference: Flora Sapsin, Anne Nute, Peggy Saunders, Joanne Stroshine, as well as by my Theta sisters Ruth Conwell and Pam Clark. Thank you one and all.

*With warm regards,
President Sheila Mable*

MARION POUNDER HONORED

(continued from p. 1)

"I have to say that I was beyond thrilled when I heard that Marion Pounder had been awarded the prestigious Founders' Day Award from Beta Alpha State," says Barbara Mee, former DKG state president. "It was an honor to see her receive this award from our state leadership, Elaine Landry and Sheila Mable. Marion is one of a handful of women who have served as mentors to me since my induction into Epsilon Chapter in 1992. Many of them have already been recognized with the Founders' Award, and it is only fitting that Marion join this elite group. Marion epitomizes what DKG is and should be: a key woman educator, a leader in all areas of her involvement in education, her town and community and, in my case, fledgling DKG inductees many years ago. She represents each of our seven principles and has set a standard for our organization that is hard to match. I thank her personally for her leadership, grace, advice, and most of all her friendship."

RED ROSES: WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michelle Tiani Alpha



Ann Gray Delta
Kaye Moren Delta

EDUCATORS FOCUS ON CRITICAL SKILLS

by Patricia McLean, Delta Chapter

Nora Beaton, Karen LaRoche, Cheryl Meehan, and Christine Smith, Delta Chapter members, together with administrators in the White Mountains Regional School District, have completed Critical Skills I training offered onsite by Antioch College. Each summer, beginning in 2011, the District has provided the week-long training for district educators.

Several educators, including many Delta chapter members, have taken Critical Skills II, a three-day training. Below is a description of each level of training.

DELTA MEMBERS EXPERIENCE A LOCAL ANTIQUE ROAD SHOW

by Susan Ackerman, Delta Chapter

Our June meeting's presenter was Mark Yelle, owner of the Potato Barn Antiques in Northumberland, NH. Mark gave an excellent presentation examining and appraising the many items members had brought to the meeting.

The variety of items ranged from Barbara Stimson's photographs on an easel, taken in the 1880s; a "sweet potato" ocarina from Janis Perham's great grandfather-still playable; an 1890's inkwell from Marsha Biron; a Native American sweet grass basket from Sharon Lane; and a hand-carved shell from World War II from Karen Pariseau. Mark explained each item's background, its uses, and current worth. Barbara Baker brought what she thought was a doorstop. It turned out to be a bookend. The number 10 on the back was the number of the mold from which it was cast. The current value was approximately \$100.00.

Mark brought two surprise items from his shop for us to identify. The first was a leather fire bucket. Each household had one for personal use. When a fire occurred in town, people grabbed their buckets and ran to put out the flames. This is the origin of "the bucket brigade." The second was a most unusual hair curling heater from the 1840s, used by ladies of the time.

Everyone enjoyed this interactive presentation and shared cultural knowledge.

In Level I training, educators explore problem-based, experiential, collaborative, and standards-driven learning. Over five days, they examine how these methodologies can be successfully integrated, focusing on the role of the teacher in designing curriculum, guiding students, and assessing performance. Participants develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to build and maintain a dynamic and responsive classroom.

During Level II training, participants revisit the Critical Skills classroom model. Participants expand their repertoire of the tools and techniques helpful in building and maintaining a classroom culture that encourages collaboration. Focus is on the planning and implementation of more academically rigorous challenges and on increasingly comprehensive tools for assessing student work. Participants are given time to develop their coaching skills to prepare them to guide students through the Experiential Learning Cycle and through the reflection process.

BETA ALPHA STATE'S FALL MEETING SET FOR 9-26

Beta Alpha State's Fall Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, to kick off the theme "Remembering Our Veterans." We will meet at the NH Veterans Home at 139 Winter Street in Tilton from 9:30 to 12:30. During that time we will have refreshments, hear from the President of the Residents Council, take a tour of the facilities with Brenda Walker's sister Betty, and have a business meeting. The cost is 10 dollars per person, half to be given to the Veterans Home's Residents Benefit Fund for field trips, supplies, etc.

Delta is our host chapter. Lunch is on your own.

**See page 12 for the registration form
due to Sheila Mable by 9-15-15.**

CHAPTER CHATTER

ALPHA CHAPTER NEWS

A few Alpha members were enrolled in the Keene State College CALL program this year. **Ann Ayotte** took a course on the iPad. **Peg Saunders** took two music courses, British Classics, and the History of Japan. **Nancy Belsky** enrolled in drawing, permaculture, and animal communication. CALL is the Cheshire Academy of Lifelong Learning for students over age 55. Students may take up to four classes per semester.

Nancy Ann Belsky had her art quilts displayed in the Keene Art Walk from May 29 to June 6 in downtown Keene.

Congratulations go to **Maurine Henry**, who officially retired as of June 17, 2015.

Joanne Stroshine, Peg Saunders and **Elaine Landry** attended the Northeast Regional Conference in Baltimore in July. As the outgoing NH state president, Elaine was there to support Sheila Mable, Beta Alpha State's new president.

Alpha is very lucky to have **Michelle Tiani** join Alpha Chapter as a new member. Michelle is a physical education teacher and has been honored as Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year. Welcome, Michelle, and congratulations.

BETA CHAPTER NEWS

Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International, which promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education, chose Mascoma Valley Regional School District as this year's recipient of community giving.



Jani Barrett delivers fun bags to Cynthia Collea at Mascoma H.S.

Under the leadership of President **Terry Thompson** of Hartland, VT, Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) members created reusable "fun bags" from new and gently used t-shirts and provided personal care items and school supplies to fill them. Member **Jani Barrett** delivered three boxes of bags and supplies to District Social Worker Cynthia Collea. "Thank you, Beta Chapter!" Cynthia said.

Grace Graser has retired after 46 years of teaching. She received professor emeritus status from Plymouth State. She was also honored by the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum by receiving Honorary Trustee status. Congratulations!

Heather Oliver and **Lisa Torres** received a grant from The Byrne Foundation to run a field ecology class this summer at The Shaker Museum in Enfield. The course is for high school juniors and seniors, and they can earn ELO credit for participating. Lisa and Heather are both excited about the class. "I feel as if I've come full circle since Heather was in my Girl Scout ecology group years ago," Lisa exclaimed.

Lisa Torres retired from Lebanon High School on June 25 after 31 years there and 39 years of teaching altogether. Congratulations, Lisa!

Kathy Tucker, her husband, and three other friends did a "trains, planes, and automobile" trip through Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. "Open this time around, the Grand Canyon was an unbelievable sight. It was so huge that it seemed surreal," Kathy exclaimed.



They also went to Monument Valley, Mesa Verde, Canyon Lands, and Arches National Park. "Everyone was in awe of the amazing scenery in that part of the country."

In addition, **Kathy** is in ME for the summer. The Tuckers are sharing their cottage with a family of raccoons. The mother is in and out a few times during the night and seems to huddle with the young during the day. "Since they have made their home in the walls," Kathy said, "we will just have to wait for them to leave and then plug every hole we can find!"

GAMMA CHAPTER NEWS

Returning from FL, **Penny Bodwell** is active with her grandchildren and many summer seacoast events.

Barbara Cowan continues her painting around northern MA and southern ME and is experimenting with new techniques.

Ann Douglas presented our Exeter High School senior with Gama's scholarship. Ann also enjoys the lake house where she takes care of her family and their summer fun.

Betty Gilman is busy with church activities and a trip to many western parks. We look forward to her photos and stories.

Joyce Griffin is back at full speed with her card and game group that enjoys going out to lunch, too. Her daughter Amy gave her a wonderful birthday party in March.

Jacki Hinton has been busy with grandchildren and finding treasures at yard sales. Last year she and **Meryl Roy** had a grand trip to Italy while this year Jacki is entertaining Meryl who is visiting from FL.

Priscilla Jenness is still busy with the town of Rye and with painting in oils.

Sheila Knight has a new camera and has been recording many activities of the Abbot-Downing Concord Coaches. She and nine other Gamma members visited Johnny Prescott's collection of coaches in Concord, went to lunch at the Common Man, and had dessert at her home on Aug.5.

Jan McManus visited family and friends in the seacoast area of NH and MA. She has always been an avid sailor.

Myrt Moore and **Ruth Tuttle** are both singing in their church choirs. Myrt went to upper ME and Canada to visit with family while Ruth headed to CT to visit relatives.

Ann Smith visited family the South and is now involved with the summer program of the Gundalow in Portsmouth.

Sharon Svirsky paid a visit to Quebec City and also works part-time at the Hampton Library. In addition, she is having fun with her two granddaughters.

Lynn Young has been active getting ready for her son's seaside wedding in mid-August. She is also enjoying her lakeside camp in Greenville, ME, with her grandchildren.

Charity Welch had hoped to attend the Northeast Regional Conference in Baltimore to see members of her former chapters in Delaware but was unable to do so because of her new job in MA. We wish her well.



DELTA CHAPTER NEWS

Each month **Susan J. Ackerman** of the Delta Chapter writes a column called "Increasing Our Inner Peace." It is always free and never more than two pages. She would like all her Delta Kappa Gamma sisters to know about it. They can find it on her website, lifeinsightastrology.com at the top right side. Susan has a Master's degree in Counseling and Teaching and has been giving courses on Inner Peace for several years. This column arose as a result of those courses.

Delta Chapter welcomed **Ann Gray** and **Kaye Moren** into their membership this spring. **Ann** was initiated in June at the Wilder-Holton Museum in Lancaster, NH. She is the Librarian and Technology Coordinator at the Pittsburg School in Pittsburg, NH. **Kaye** was initiated in May at the Northland Restaurant in Berlin, NH. She teaches Grade 3 at the Colebrook Elementary School in Colebrook, NH.

Marna and Alan Ingerson happily adopted their last foster child just before his twenty-sixth birthday. A family and friends adoption/deployment party was held in mid-January. Unfortunately, Ted's part of his adoption was handled by phone as Ted deployed at the end of January to Kuwait. He is now half-way through this tour. He spends time in Iraq and truly would like to see green trees, grass, and our lake!

Mary Jolles finished hiking the NH 4,000 footers in 2013. She had both knees partially replaced in January 2015 and is happy to be hiking again in the White Mountains.

Patricia McLean has fully retired after 32 years as an educational professional. Pat has served as a classroom teacher in Farmington, a reading specialist and assistant principal in Londonderry, and a principal in Bow. After spending six years as a program director in upstate New York, she returned to New Hampshire to serve as the principal of the Lancaster Elementary School. Pat retired from her principalship in 2012 and has served as the half-time Director of Pupil Services for the White Mountain Regional School District for the past three years. She is now looking forward to spending more time with family and friends and to doing crafts.

Wanda Merrill was the commencement speaker at the Pittsburg graduation ceremony held on June 11. (*See the article on p. 7*)

(continued on p. 6)

DELTA NEWS

(continued from p. 5)

Barbara J. Stimson received the **Teacher of the Year Award** presented at the Lisbon High School reunion dinner held at the Elks Club this June. She was selected by vote of the Alumni Association. Barbara (Class of 1937) was accompanied by her niece, **Audrey DiMaria** (Class of 1967). Audrey exchanged experiences with her classmates and friends while Barbara enjoyed visiting with her former students, the farthest traveling from CA.



EPSILON CHAPTER NEWS

See the article on page 8 about **Connie Laseigne-Case** and her visit to Cuba.

Flora Sapsin attended Delta Kappa Gamma's Northeast Regional Conference in Baltimore in July.

ETA CHAPTER NEWS

Sandy Crockett retired at the end of the school year and moved to Largo, FL. She plans to transfer to a chapter there. Eta wishes her the very best in her new home and will miss her.

Dianne Mros went to FL in February and visited Gamma member Meryl Roy. They traveled to Sarasota to tour the Ringling Museum.

Anne Nute attended the Northeast Regional in Baltimore with Flora Sapsin. A good time was had by all!

THETA CHAPTER NEWS

Pam Clark enjoyed having granddaughter Maddison visiting from Colorado for a month this summer. "Six years old and she flew by herself to New Hampshire," Pam said.

In July **Pam** and **Ruth Conwell** drove to the NER Conference by way of Washington, DC. Four days of sightseeing was fantastic. Pam hadn't been there in 46 years. Highlights were a night tour of the monuments and lunch in the Senate dining room. "The conference in Baltimore was great, too," Pam added. "The inner harbor was a beautiful place to walk around in the evening. Dinner in Little Italy was delicious. Our waitress was a hoot."

"Change is inevitable," said **Donna-Marie Gamlin**. "Some is welcome, some is not. This year has been marked by change. On April 26 the world welcomed my new granddaughter, Amelia Ruth Segedy, into the world. This summer my husband and I moved from our home of 18 years. This move allows us to fly to WI to visit Amelia whenever the occasion allows. In the past 5 years, 12 of my friends and peers have retired from Elm Street School. The new teachers are well versed in technology, energetic and pleasant. Yes, change is inevitable. What hasn't changed? The love and support from our Theta sisters."

"My husband Dave and I recently attended my 50th high school reunion this summer," **Ann Hart** said. "My classmates and I go back a long way, having started first grade together. Lots of laughter and hugs all around. What precious memories!" Ann is also volunteering again for Got Lunch! Laconia, which provides weekly lunches and literacy materials for families in need.

Kathy Lacroix took a riverboat trip from Amsterdam to Vienna to Budapest in June. *See p. 7 for details.*

Sheila Mable was named Toastmaster of the Year 2015 by Karner Blue Toastmasters Club in Concord.

In addition, Sheila received her training as Beta Alpha State president while at the Northeast Regional Conference in Baltimore in early July. Also while there, she served on a panel to talk about her three photographs that were accepted for display in the DKG's online Fine Arts Gallery. Her photos were titled "Snowy Rendezvous," "Winter Visitors" (both of deer) and "Taking a Break" (a goldfinch).



Nancy McCall traveled to Las Vegas, Sequoia and Yosemite this summer. Her Theta sisters look forward to hearing more about the trip.

Brenda Walker has survived her summer job working with three and four-years-olds at Woodland Heights Elementary School in Laconia. "Here are some things I learned this summer from teaching preschoolers...beside the fact that I am 63 and not 36!" Brenda says. "Do your best to make the learning fun. Make the room a 'safe' and friendly place where kids will want to be every week. Watch out for children who drop to the floor like minions...it is a long way down if you go with them! You've got to love them! My educational work history is complete. I have now taught preschool through high school. I am thankful for the opportunity but now realize that this level is not the best fit for me!"

WANDA MERRILL SERVES HER COMMUNITY OF PITTSBURG

What would the town of Pittsburg, NH, do without Wanda Merrill of Delta Chapter? Wanda was the commencement speaker at the Pittsburg graduation ceremony held on June 11th. Wanda, their kindergarten teacher, noted that in kindergarten students learn best with alphabet books, poems, and songs. Since the Class of 2015 began school in this manner, she thought it fitting to end their high school experience in the same way. She compiled an alphabetical series of butterfly quotes to share with the graduates, read a poem by an unknown author called "Legend of the Butterfly," and ended with a song called "Butterfly Fly Away." Wanda closed by telling the class, "Your time here as a caterpillar has expired. Your wings are ready; you hold the power in your own hands. Be brave. Give yourself permission to spread your own wings and fly!" Each graduate received an origami butterfly reminding them of a butterfly inspirational message that reads, "Butterflies are angels sent from Heaven. Remember you are never alone!"

Also Wanda is the program director of the Summer Recreation Program funded by the town of Pittsburg. She is assisted by Nicole Jeralds. This program is a six-week program with a different theme for each week: Challenge Week, Outdoor Adventure, H₂O - Wow!, Christmas in July, M.A. D. (Music, Art, Drama), and Science Exploration. The students will enjoy several field trips. These include April's Maple in VT, The Colebrook Pool, Santa's Village in Jefferson, the Weathervane Theatre in Whitefield, and the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium in St. Johnsbury, VT. The goal of this program is to provide a safe, friendly, and fun summer program for children in Pittsburg.

STORY CHARACTERS COME TO LIFE

by Maurine Henry, Alpha Chapter

Kindergarteners and first graders at Mt. Caesar Elementary in Swanzey, NH, were treated to some surprise visitors when Alpha Chapter member, Maurine Henry, along with a colleague, Karen Mattson, arrived to tell the stories "The Three Little Pigs" and "The True Story of The Three Little Pigs." The children enjoyed hearing the stories told by the characters in the story. Following the story, the children wrote and drew pictures showing which story they believed to be true.



Mrs. Pig and Mr. Wolf surprise Mt. Caesar Elementary students.

LACROIX TAKES RIVERBOAT TRIP

Thanks to three friends who "husband-sat," Kathy Lacroix was able to take a 16-day riverboat trip from Amsterdam to Vienna to Budapest in June. "It was relaxing to unpack once and yet busy as sometimes there were both morning and afternoon excursions," Kathy said.

"There were many castles and cathedrals, so many that they began to blur and were hard to remember which was which. The Weltenburg Monastery, founded by Irish or Scottish monks in 620 AD, is the oldest monastery in Bavaria. This memorable monastery is small and impressive, but the fact that its famous dark beer is still brewed on site in the oldest monastery brewery in the world and a glass of beer was included in our tour made it stand out.

"In Amsterdam the bicycles have their own lane and if you are in their lane and you get hit, it is your fault. There are bicycle racks all over the city, and the people are quite energy conscience as the price of gas is so expensive.

"It was also impressive to see the number of houses along the river banks that had solar heating panels on their roofs. In addition, many areas devoted to wind turbines, especially in Germany. Except for towns located right on the river, no private homes were seen that abutted the river directly. There were walking trails all along the various riverbanks.

"Visiting Nuremberg was especially memorable; the Documentation Center's permanent exhibition entitled "Fascination and Terror" examines the causes, context and consequences of the National Socialist reign during the years of the Third Reich. To stand on the podium that Hitler stood on when he gave his speeches to thousands while thinking of the newsreels that showed him standing in that spot, causes one to shudder and realize how easy it could be to happen again in another part of the world.

"Traveling and visiting along the Rhine, the Main, and the green Danube, along with all the canals that we went through, is quite an experience, very different from the U.S. It is good for the soul to take a vacation, to learn about life in other parts of the world, and to learn about history.

"But, it is so good to come home. Thanks go to Brenda Walker and Ruth Puleo, my Theta sisters, for looking after my husband so I could go with a clear conscience."

~WRITERS' CORNER~

PEOPLE AND PLACES IN CUBA

by Connie Lanseigne-Case, Epsilon Chapter

What a treasure trove of memorable experiences and pictures I garnered during the recent eight days in Havana and the resort town of Varadero, both on the Gulf of Mexico. Sculptors, painters, writers, dancers and especially energetic seniors we visited are decidedly friendly, creative, dedicated, and willing to share their thinking and experiences. Talented artists received our group of Road Scholars in their modest homes. Owners of paladares, self-employed restaurants also in homes, served delicious homemade Cuban foods. Dancers in colorful costumes, performed inspiring programs based on their culture in studios needing refurbishing and sans air conditioning. Seniors proudly demonstrated and enthusiastically taught us the traditional danzon dance of the 1940s and 1950s. Wishing to preserve it, they teach it in local schools.

The island reflects a proud past in its colonial, Spanish Baroque architecture and art nouveau style. Interestingly, a smaller copy of the United States capitol graces the Havana skyline. Near the Malecon, the popular esplanade on the waterfront is the modern American embassy completed in 1953. Architects responsible for the Lincoln Center and UN headquarters in NY, designed the soon to reopen building. There are the ubiquitous, carefully maintained American cars of the late 50s, which also speak to past US presence in the nation.

Early in the visit and sadly noted throughout Havana is the overwhelming need to renew and reconstruct once splendid buildings that fell into disrepair after the Cuban Revolution. An example of the snail's pace of renovation which continues to plague the poor nation was the government's politically important edifice, the Museum of the Revolution, once the palatial residence of Dictator Batista. It took from 1959 when Castro's guerrilla army entered Havana, to 1988 when the building, devoted to communist propaganda, was opened.

In contrast to the decay in Havana is Varadero, in the 1930s a fishing village, today transformed into a luxury vacation destination mainly for foreigners, run by the state. Numerous hotels are along stretches of sandy beaches with coral outcroppings. The Melia Hotel, where we stayed, has comfortable accommodations, huge buffet selections, and the Cuban beat to the mambo, salsa, and rumba music.

Employees at the hotel work long hours for low wages. This is true for all Cubans, including professionals. Prices in local outdoor markets of vegetables and fruits are a different currency (cup) from what tourists must use (cuc). Shoppers have few choices of meats, no milk (only for children and seniors), and limited items at the pharmacy. Yet citizens appear remarkably resilient. In 1991 when Russia stopped its aid, the times were called "The Special Period" because



"Conversacion" with Connie at St. Francis Plaza in Havana

80% of Cuban imports ceased. We visited an organic farm, which typifies one important accommodation farmers made when chemicals no longer were available to them.

After reviewing my passport, the customs official in Miami stated, "Welcome back to the land of WiFi and toilet paper," a truism. There is only five percent of Internet access in the nation; newspapers and TV are under government control; the plumbing and electricity are in the need of updating. Despite a few personal inconveniences, I found the journey rich and rewarding.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Beta Alpha State Fall Meeting
NH Veterans Home, Tilton
Host Chapter: Delta

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Executive Board Meeting, TBA

Saturday, February 13, 2016

CHIPS deadline



Thursday-Saturday, April 7-9, 2016

BAS Spring Conference
Omni Mount Washington Resort
Host Chapter: Epsilon

Monday, June 20, 2016

Yearbook updates due

Wednesday-Saturday, July 5-9, 2016

DKG International Convention
Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN

BITS FROM BALTIMORE

Joanne Stroshine of Alpha Chapter:

“I really enjoyed the conference for several reasons. The site was excellent, as were the staff and accommodations at the hotel. Also, I could not have asked for more hospitable DKG hosts from Maryland. Sara Sweeney, who spoke about recruiting and keeping Gen Y members, certainly opened my eyes to the character and concerns of her peers. I will definitely keep her advice in mind as I encourage our members to be open to these unconventional, but talented professionals.”

Elaine Landry of Alpha Chapter:

“Renewed friendships, stimulating general sessions, thought-provoking workshops, a historic venue were all part of the NE Regional Conference.

“General Session #1: Sean McComb, 2014 National Teacher of the Year, presented an inspiring and personal message, ‘Advancing Education.’ His message dealt in part with the role of educators who believed in a kid who came from a dysfunctional family and aspired to a better life. An English teacher challenged and nurtured a McComb, who is now an English teacher and adjunct university instructor in education and writing at Maryland’s Towson University. He reminded his audience that we can make a difference in our students’ lives.

“Among breakout sessions that I attended was ‘From the Dust of Halley’s Comet: Magic, Mystery, Mark Twain,’ a slide presentation by Eileen McNally, provided excellent visuals of Twain’s Hannibal setting, the inspiration for the Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn characters and their adventures. Overcoming current objections to teaching these classics when the *N* word is used was discussed.

“A Friday session, ‘Senior Retirement Real Estate: What You Should Know,’ was attended by those of us who have retired or are contemplating down-sizing. Top 10 Rightsizing Tips provided practical and some humorous suggestions for disposing of material goods. Among the examples: Use age to your advantage. ‘Gift’ items you eventually want family members to have. Ask ‘If this disappeared tomorrow, would I run out and replace it?’ Also, ‘Value what you keep.’ The fewer things you keep, the more you will treasure and enjoy what you have. Finally, ‘Don’t be a storage unit for others.’ Self-explanatory!

“Lastly, Baltimore’s Inner Harbor provided a wealth of activities: The science museum with an I Max theater and planetarium, historical sites, fine restaurants ... delicious crab cakes, sight-seeing boat excursions, Babe Ruth’s childhood home/museum, and Camden Yards.”

Ruth Conwell of Theta Chapter:

“Years ago, my mother headed off for Northeast Regional Conferences and International Conventions...her bags included the sought-after long dress that would be ‘just right.’ This year as I left New Hampshire for my FIRST Northeast Regional, I hoped that my much more casual attire would be appropriate. It was.

“Pam Clark and I agreed that we’d share a room in Baltimore and take the metro into Washington, DC, for some sightseeing before the conference. What started as a “day” there quickly became four days packed with everything we could possibly do while staying in the heart of the city. Yes, we saw the White House, Washington Monument, Arlington Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, the Smithsonian, Watergate, the Kennedy Center, and more. There was never a dull moment.

“Baltimore was also an experience I’ll never forget. The Parade of Presidents was held on Wednesday night, rather than on the traditional Saturday night and was followed by a great night of dancing and music. Can you imagine about 200 women all dancing to ‘YMCA’?! Thursday was a day of workshops that focused on Advancing Education and Advancing Possibilities. I chose to attend ‘Got Money?’ where I learned how to fund projects and professional development. I followed this with ‘Do You Want to Build a Meeting?’ where I learned things about how I might adjust the status-quo and build a chapter that might encourage younger members to join.

“Friday began with a breakfast that focused on Advancing Members and was followed by a U.S. forum. Many afternoon workshops were offered on Friday, and I chose to attend ‘Disappearing Privacy and Choice in a Digital World.’ I can’t accurately describe my surprise when I arrived at the workshop to see an ‘elderly’ woman about to present on this topic! She was outstanding! This was followed by ‘Manners for Life: Etiquette for Success,’ where I learned many things. The most interesting was how to properly introduce individuals using the ‘most-important-person-in-the-room’ concept! I ended my afternoon with a presentation about the Rockwood Museum and learned a great deal about history. On Friday we were also afforded the opportunity to shop for DKG-themed merchandise.

“Those of you who know me well, you already know it’s all about the food when on vacation. I can assure you that the crab cakes in both Washington and Baltimore were superb. Lunch in the Senate Dining Room was incredible (thanks to Senator Ayotte for making that possible), and dinner in Little Italy with many of the NH delegation sisters was memorable.”

BALTIMORE MEMORIES

Thanks, Jim Miller, for your photos on this page and one (the boat) on p. 11. These photographs are courtesy of Photographs by Jim, Floresville, Texas.



President Lyn Schmid has lots of fans!



Look who is dancing! Well done, Theta members.



Elaine and Sheila wait for the President's Banquet.



NH delegates: (F to B, L to R): Elaine, Sheila / Flora, Ruth, Pam / Joanne, Peggy, Anne.

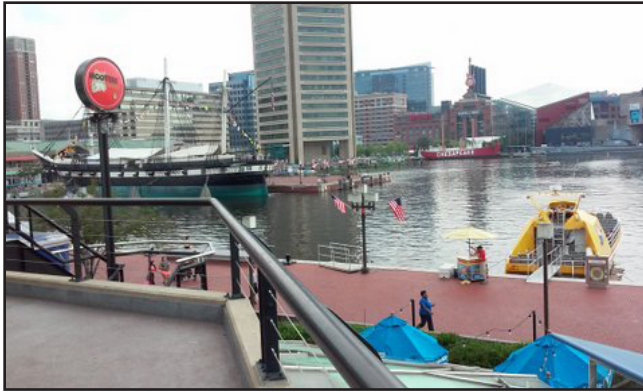


The Chesapeake Harmony Chorus entertains us.



Just a quick walk to Baltimore's Inner Harbor

IN AND AROUND BALTIMORE AND THE NER CONFERENCE



Baltimore's Welcoming Inner Harbor



Honoring George Washington



This boat photograph is courtesy of Photographs by Jim.



At the President's Banquet, Elaine Landry relaxes now that her term as state president officially ends.



Peggy Saunders captures Joanne Stroshine cranking ice cream.



Former NER Director Diane Robinson of Washington, DC, asks Sheila Mable about Yvonne Crocker and Sheila Knight of NH.

Beta Alpha State Fall Meeting Registration

Saturday, September 26, 2015

NH Veterans Home, 139 Winter Street, Tilton

Name: _____ **Chapter:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Please send a check for **10 dollars** payable to Beta Alpha State with this registration form by **September 15, 2015**, to Sheila Mable, 7 Peaceful Lane, Penacook, NH 03303. Half of this fee will be given as a donation to NH Veterans Home's Residents Benefit Fund.

(Cut here)



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

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