



THE CHIPS OF GRANITE

March 2012 Beta Alpha State News

NH



Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

JEAN GRAY TO SPEAK AT SPRING CONFERENCE

by Sheila Mable, Theta

Mrs. Jean Gray will address the Beta Alpha State Spring Conference in Portsmouth, NH, during the last weekend in March. She comes to us from Silver Spring, Maryland, as the current DKG International Parliamentarian. Before that position she served as International President--2002-04, Northeast Regional Director--1992-94, chair of the International Convention--1988, Alpha Beta State President--1985-87, and charter member of the Omega Chapter in 1973. In addition she has served on many committees and presented at many conventions at the state, regional, and international levels. For her dedication and extensive work in DKG, she received the Golden Gift Award in 1981 and the International Achievement Award in 2001.

When interviewed at a state conference in Alaska about her hopes for the future of Delta Kappa Gamma, Jean replied, "I believe that the most significant work that is done in this Society is carried out by members, working together, in Delta Kappa Gamma Chapters; and that the future success of Delta Kappa Gamma will be determined by the continued growth and vitality of our chapters."

As for her career in education, Jean graduated from Howard University with a B.S. in 1956 (Mathematics, Physics). She began her mathematics teaching career in Georgia, where she grew up, and then moved to Maryland after two years. Later



she earned her M.Ed. in Mathematics Education and her C.A.S. in Counseling from John Hopkins University. Over 34 years as an educator, she taught math and chaired the math department in several high schools in Maryland. She retired in 1989 and is now active in the Retired Teachers Association at local, state and national levels.

Jean has a busy life beyond DKG and her other educational activities. She is the mother of two sons, Alan (deceased) and Charles (a professional singer and actor). She enjoys keeping up with her actor son, being active in her church, volunteering at the area hospital and Hospice, and serving as president of her Mutual Board of Directors.

In her spare time--what little there is, we can find Jean reading, gardening, knitting, studying and translating ancient Sanskrit scriptures, and watching birds. "I had maintained a backyard bird reserve for 30 years," she explained, "but I had to give it up when I moved into a retirement community. I now fight off deer who continually trim my flowering plants every time a bud shows up."

***Welcome, Jean Gray,
to New Hampshire!***

GREETINGS FROM FLORA



Photographs by Jim, 2008

“Starlight, starbright, first star I see tonight... .” Do you remember gazing up at the night sky filled with the wonder and certainty of childhood that **this** time your wish would be granted? I certainly do. It gives me great pleasure to report that my belief and faith have finally been rewarded! I’m sure you have all decided that I must be experiencing a “senior moment.” Not at all!

At our Executive Board Meeting I mentioned a long held goal and asked for board approval to proceed. Support was instantaneous and overwhelming. We asked Delta Kappa Gamma International if we could please have Jean Gray as our guest for the spring of 2012. Our wish was granted. I cannot properly explain how great an honor this is for Beta Alpha State. And guess who is truly eager to come and spend time with you? Our own Jean Gray.

Today, more than ever, we as women are managing multiple roles. Education is changing; the society is changing, and we must be prepared to navigate in uncharted waters! This spring we have developed a program that fulfills the society’s goals of “**Embracing Our Vision, Designing Our Future.**” As part of that program, we are offering an evening with Jean Gray in the Riverwatch Lounge of the Sheraton Harborside in Portsmouth so that together we can explore progress and possibilities as we women once again reflect on our choices and priorities. Please do not miss this opportunity to share ideas in a calm, restorative atmosphere. You certainly deserve this special time, and frankly, we need your wisdom.

Change is in the air in Concord; or is it something else in the air? I’m confused by our legislature. Perhaps you are, too. Let’s not forget who we are and what we can do! I am very proud to be a part of Beta Alpha State; I am honored to serve as your representative. I want Jean Gray to meet you, for you are truly special women. Please plan to be in Portsmouth for our spring convention on March 29-31, 2012. Join the extraordinary women educators of New Hampshire in “**Embracing Our Vision, Designing Our Future.**”

Let’s summon the spirit that makes this state great. Together we are invincible. I look forward to sharing an amazing weekend with you in Portsmouth as we gather with a society legend. The program is outstanding, the location superb, the food divine. What is missing? Only you. And did I mention that Portsmouth appears to be celebrating our arrival with “Restaurant Week”? How can you resist?

I close by thanking you for your kindness and support. Please plan to join us. We have much to do and I truly value your thoughts and advice.

Ex animo,

Flora Sapsin

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION TO BE HONORED

by Sheila Knight, Gamma & Barbara Baker, Delta

Beta Alpha State presents the Founders’ Award every other year (odd years), but we are blessed with so many dedicated, creative and loyal women in our chapters that it was discussed at the 2011 fall meeting to create a Woman of Distinction Chapter Achievement Award. These awards will be presented to a member from each chapter on the alternate years (even years) from the Founders’ Award.

The distinguished member may be chosen by the chapter president, the chapter executive board, or by other methods the chapter may use. As with the Founders’ Award, the recipients’ names will be kept confidential until the presentations.

This award will be presented biennially at the Beta Alpha State Spring Conference, beginning this year. Each chapter needs to select a member to be recognized and submit her contributions in a paragraph by March 10, 2012, to Sheila Knight, 11 Wildemere Terrace, Concord, NH 03301.

I long to accomplish a great and noble task; but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.

~Helen Keller

SCHOLARSHIPS: *THINK...DECIDE...APPLY*

by Barbara Baker, Delta Chapter

Beta Alpha State has two different awards available to further the professional goals of its members. Applications for these awards are available at the September meeting and also are available on-line.

The Beta Alpha State Scholarship

- Beta Alpha New Hampshire members may apply for these awards.
- Applicants must be active, contributing members of the Society for at least three years.
- Members wishing to further their professional growth may apply for this award.
- The intended use of the scholarship includes course work, conferences, educational travel, Elderhostel, or other educational endeavors acceptable to the Scholarship Committee.

Scholarships of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) each shall be available annually.

The Keene Founders' Scholarship Endowment

Vivian Rockwood, a Beta Alpha State Founder, established this scholarship in 1993.

- Applicants must be active, contributing members of the society for at least three years.
- The recipient must be engaged in advanced degree work in the field of Education.
- Scholarships of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) each shall be awarded annually.

Selection of a recipient shall be based on the established criteria of the Scholarship Committee.



BETTY GILMAN TO SPEAK ON EDUCATION IN ZIMBABWE

Betty Gilman will speak about education in Zimbabwe at Beta Alpha State's Spring Conference on Friday, March 30.

Betty began as an elementary classroom teacher in 1963 after graduating from Keene Teachers College, now known as Keene State College. She taught in four different New Hampshire school districts after teaching in Connecticut and New Mexico. Her teaching experience included grades one through six before she turned to administration as a teaching principal, curriculum coordinator, and ending her career in 2005 as an Assistant Superintendent with a Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. The experiences of teaching and learning with children, parents, and adults at the college level all have had a major impact on the 34 years.

Betty joined Gamma Chapter of DKG in 1994. She has served as the chapter president and is currently the chapter treasurer. She also served as Beta Alpha State's parliamentarian.

Since retiring, Betty has volunteered her time for several organizations and still has found time to travel to several states and countries such as China, Italy, and Zimbabwe. The trip to Zimbabwe was coordinated within New Hampshire United Church of Christ (UCC) Conference. Representing North Church of Portsmouth UCC, Betty visited their partner church in Marondera for six days and spent the remaining ten days traveling across the country while staying with host families.

RED ROSES:

Joni Butler	Beta
Simone Duven	Epsilon

WHITE ROSES:

Yonnie Houpis	Alpha
Betty Ireland	Gamma
Evelyn Knapp	Beta
Judy Millen	Delta



CHAPTER CHATTER

ALPHA CHAPTER NEWS:

Ann Ayotte and her husband traveled to Alaska for two weeks in June. They did a combination land and cruise excursion visiting Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, Icy Point Strait, and Vancouver, British Columbia. They were among the fortunate 30% of Alaskan visitors to see the top of Mt. McKinley without cloud cover.

Nancy Ann Belsky had three quilts accepted in the East Coast Quilters' Alliance's annual show "The Gathering" in Nashua.

Jeannine Leclerc and her sister Michelle Swenson participated in the Cranberry Run on Thanksgiving Day in Keene, NH. Michelle weighed 300 pounds last year and walked the 4.8 mile walk for the first time in 2010. Since then, she has lost over 100 pounds and walked/jogged the run in 2011 in just over an hour. This is a family tradition, which the sisters will continue as they work to improve their times. The joy was not just in the run, but in sharing each other's accomplishments as they develop healthy habits through their love and friendship.

Helen Ann Kelly and her husband Tim bought a seasonal home on Silver Lake in Harrisville, NH, in July. They enjoyed it often with family...especially with two grandchildren. They will soon be joined by a third grandchild when their daughter has her first child in March.

A contingent of Alpha sisters continued a holiday tradition of visiting area assisted living/nursing homes to sing Christmas carols. This year Prospect Place and Langdon Place were the sites. Many seniors joined in the singing, and **Peg Saunders** provided her musical talents on a portable keyboard.



BETA CHAPTER NEWS:

New member **Joni Butler** currently teaches PE at the Enfield Village School. She has instituted many new programs into the PE program, including heart-rate technology, fitness assessment, wellness programs, and a nutrition program. She was named NH's Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year in 2000. Beta Chapter is fortunate to have Joni as a member.

Helen Goodwin now resides at Harvest Hill Retirement Community and is finding it perfect for her. "I am thoroughly enjoying a course in memoir writing and find it an interesting way to preserve family history," she said. She is now even directing a choral group. Helen now lives close to the nursing home where her brother resides and is able to visit him regularly.

Evelyn Knapp passed away in November 2011 at the age of 93. She had taught in the Concord School District for 50 years, retiring in 1983. She was an active member of Beta Chapter for many years and will be missed.

Francine Lozeau is working as a long-term substitute at the Enfield Village School, where she taught before her retirement. "I love the job and am happy to be back at work in my old school," she explained.

Kathy Tucker, her husband, her sister, and her brother-in-law took a trip to Italy in October. They visited Tuscany, the Amalfi coast, and the ruins of Pompeii. "The scenery was gorgeous, Pompeii was amazing, the food was delicious, and the wines were perfect," Kathy exclaimed.

Create the buzz!



GAMMA CHAPTER NEWS:

Betty Gilman will be presenting at the BAS Conference on March 30 in Portsmouth. *(See the article on p.3.)*

Betty Ireland passed away on January 8, 2012, at her home in Dover. She served Zeta as president, Beta Alpha State as treasurer from 1997-2007, and generously shared her love of music and crafts. There will be a graveside service for her in the spring.

Myrtle Moore is recovering from complications following an operation and thus is having difficulties with her left leg.

Ruth Tuttle fell and broke her arm while clearing snow from her car. The break was so bad that the arm could not be put in a cast, and thus she had to go a rehab center. She is looking forward to going home soon.

DELTA CHAPTER NEWS:

Linda Bennion and her daughter, Kelsey, were in the Creative Edge Dance Studio's production of *The Nutcracker*. Linda was in two of the dances and Kelsey in four.

Judy Erickson retired from SAU #36 in June and has been using her extra time to make jewelry of sea glass. She had a grand presentation of her Sea Treasures Collection at Cate Diblasi's home where several women did some Christmas shopping for themselves. One pair of earrings was part of a Yankee Swap at our December meeting.

Peggy Guilmette and **Joanne Hennessey** were presented their 45th and 20th year pins at the September meeting of Delta. The two ladies were lauded for the excellent and multiple roles they have held for Delta, both at the chapter level, as well as at the state level.

Nine Delta members held a "mini meeting" in December with their special friend (and founding member), **Ruth Harris** at The Morrison, where she now resides. Ruth is famous for wearing lovely hats so members wore hats (seasonal or not!) that day. Delicious cookies and tea were provided by the staff there, and a picture book was presented to Ruth to help her remember her Delta friends.

Delta Chapter mourns the loss of their dear member, **Judy Millen**. Judy's sudden death was a shock to all. Twelve members of the chapter attended her memorial service and carried red roses in her memory. Judy loved the honor of membership in DKG and enjoyed going to the fall and spring conferences of Beta Alpha State. She will be missed! (*See Judy's obituary on p. 6.*)

Pam Read and her husband Ted bought a camper this past summer and had a wonderful time camping at Old Orchard Beach and at their daughter's lakeside home in Center Sandwich. They were even able to kayak on Squam Lake during the Columbus Day weekend.

EPSILON CHAPTER NEWS:

"Our one new inductee is **Simone Duven**. We are excited to welcome her, particularly since she immediately 'stepped up to the plate' and volunteered to become recording secretary!" said President Mee.

Simone is in her second year teaching at Great Bay eLearning Charter School located in Exeter, NH. "I teach US History, World History, Contemporary International Issues, Lower School Forum, and Psychology," she said. "I am also the faculty advisor for Great Bay's student senate and looks forward to bringing a group of 11 students to Plymouth State University's Model UN this April.

"We are a charter school set up for grades 8-12 and are focused on project based and interactive lecture teaching delivery styles," Simone explained. "We do not administer mid-terms or final exams; rather we have two community-based open house project exhibition nights.

"I am privileged to teach where the administration allows me the freedom to change my course content to fit emerging news and needs of the day and where I am treated as a valuable member of our learning community. Perhaps most importantly, I am blessed to work with an outstanding group of teachers, support staff, and administration that perform as a cohesive unit for the betterment of our students and consider ourselves to be family."

Currently **Dr. Connie Lanseigne-Case** has encaustic works (paintings using hot wax) on display at the Pelham Public Library. Also she enjoys doing Zentangles (like doodles) bookmarks and cards for friends. She combines a passion for travel, painting and photography into her work.

Barbara Mee reported that her travel expedition for this April vacation is three nights in Salzburg and three nights in Venice. "It is truly a 'private tour' because my wonderful tour company, NETC, has agreed to run things as planned even though I ended up only with five travelers. If anyone is interested in my April 2013 plans, please email me at b22ladybug@comcast.net for information."

Barbara and her husband Bill came downstairs Christmas morning to find the BEST present of all. "Robert, our 31-year-old son, had driven home overnight from northern Virginia to spend a day and a half with the family. It was amazing!" she announced.

Linda Robillard became a proud great grandmother on April 7, 2012. "Juliana Emely Carus was born to our granddaughter Meredith and her Marine Sgt. husband in Monterey, where he is attending the Language Defense School. Juliana is happy and healthy and loves to sing, dance and play with her German Shepard, Maverick. We feel so blessed to be great grandparents. We spent a month in the fall in Monterey and will be going to NC when they return to Camp La Jeune," Linda said.

Susan Trammell was a presenter at the New Hampshire Association of World Language Teachers (NHWALT) in November, speaking about "creating immersion experiences" in the foreign language classroom. In addition, Susan said, "My favorite son just donated his red hair (via Steve's Pantene program) at Thanksgiving to honor his aunt who is a breast cancer survivor."

Each day comes bearing its own gifts. Untie the ribbons.
~Ruth Ann Schabaker

THETA CHAPTER NEWS:

Tiffany Dube is continuing her position at Plymouth State University in the spring as an adjunct faculty member. "I'll be supervising students in Cluster II Program who will be doing their student teaching in the fall," she explained. "My job entails working with small groups of students in conjunction with the Language Arts professor during class and also to revise and give students feedback on their lesson plans."

"I want to say THANK YOU to Theta for giving me the grant to go to the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference. I learned SO MUCH and can't wait to share with everyone what I've learned," added **Tiffany**. "In the meantime, you can check out a really neat website called *gloster.edu*."

On January 25, four members of Theta went to the Belknap County Nursing Home as part of the Intergenerational Project. **Tiffany Dube** coordinates these monthly visitations. Others teaming with her were **Nancy Gibbons, Bev Jones** and **Ann Hart**. "A winter theme was presented to 21 residents. Activities included childhood reminiscences, a large-group word game, stories about winter and BINGO. The program concluded with lively music with Theta members and enthusiastic residents played 'instruments' to accompany a variety of songs," Ann reported.

Pam Forbes has a new grandson, Landon, who was born on January 3, 2012. "Mom and baby are doing great," Pam announced. "Also I took the Penguin Plunge on February 4 with 20 other teachers and staff from Alton Central School to raise money for the Special Olympics."

Rebecca Frame is teaching a two composition classes at the Lakes Region Community College this semester. Also she enjoyed a two-week visit to Maui, Molokai and Oahu last fall. "The sun...the sand...the flowers...and completely missing NH's huge October snowstorm – priceless," she exclaimed.

Donna-Marie Gamlin, Grade 1 teacher at Elm Street School in Laconia, spent her first Christmas with her new daughter-in-law, Amanda. "Having another female led to talks about books, make-up, fashion and movies. After living with all males for the past 26 years, this was a wonderful treat!" Donna-Marie said.

"As you may know, HB 542 was recently enacted into law over Governor Lynch's veto. (See *NEA-NH article on p. 9.*) I find this disturbing and would like to invite discussion from other Delta Kappa Gamma members," said **Nancy McCall**.

Brenda Walker was one of Pam Forbes' sponsors for the Penguin Plunge.



This picture of Judy Millen was taken at the BAS Spring Conference (2011) in Claremont by Sheila Knight.

DELTA'S JUDY MILLEN IS LOVED AND MISSED

Judith Parker Millen, 71, of Littleton, N.H., died on Nov. 9, 2011, at Fletcher Allen Hospital in Burlington, VT, after a brief illness. She was born in St. Johnsbury, VT, on Dec. 2, 1939, to Holmes and Betty (Beal) Parker.

Judy graduated in 1957 from Littleton High School, attended Colby College, and graduated from Plymouth State College in 1962 with a degree in Elementary Teaching.

She lived in Littleton her entire life and was an active member of All Saints' Episcopal Church and choir, Delta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, and NH Retired Teachers Association. She taught for 25 years in the Littleton and Bethlehem elementary schools and retired in 1997.

She loved to travel--visiting Greece, Italy, Norway, and Ireland--and spent many summers at her beloved family's cottage on Caspian Lake in Greensboro, VT, where she also enjoyed walking with the Greensboro Walking Girls. And for the last 12 years, along with other local women friends, she spent a week in September at Wells Beach, ME.

Judy loved her family, had many friends, was well known for her willingness to serve her community, and had a wonderful sense of humor. Her life seemed to be guided by the three simple words: *live, laugh, and love*.

She is survived by her husband, two children, four grandchildren, one great grandchild, and many others.

Memorial donations may be made to the Littleton Public Library for the purchase of children's books in memory of Judy Millen, 109 Main St., Littleton, NH 03561.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday-Saturday, March 29-31, 2012

BAS SPRING CONFERENCE
The Sheraton, Portsmouth, NH
Hostess Chapter: Delta

Friday, June 1, 2012

Filler Updates due to Elaine Landry

Friday, July 13, 2012

CHIPS deadline for news

Tuesday-Saturday, July 24-28, 2012

DKG International Convention
New York City

August 2012 (TBA)

BAS Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012

BAS Fall Meeting
Place--TBA



BYLAWS RECOMMENDED

by Barbara Baker, Bylaws Committee Chair

Members attending the Beta Alpha State Spring Conference shall be asked to discuss and vote on these recommendations.

1. The recommendation is made by BAS President, Flora Sapsin and seconded by Barbara Baker to establish an annual honorarium for the state webmaster. Her invaluable service to the state demands maintaining, updating, and monitoring the BAS website at Delta Kappa Gamma International.

Rationale: To bring the electronic communications community in line with the traditional communications community.

Cost: \$350.00 from BAS budgeted funds.

2. The recommendation is made by Sheila Knight and seconded by Sheila Mable to establish a Chapter Achievement – Woman of Distinction Award. This biennial award shall recognize a member selected by each chapter. The recipient shall be chosen by the chapter president, chapter executive board, or alternative method designated by the chapter. The

name of the recipient shall remain confidential until the BAS spring meeting when she shall be presented with a certificate and pin.

Rationale: To recognize women who actively promote the promises of Delta Kappa Gamma and who exemplify the spirit of our organization.

Cost: Minimal cost from BAS budgeted funds.

CONSIDER SUPPORTING SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA CAMPAIGN

Schools for Africa is a joint campaign founded by UNICEF, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Hamburg Society to promote education for children in Africa. The campaign will increase access to quality basic education for children with a special focus on girls, orphans and vulnerable children.

~UNICEF brochure

In September 2009, an additional agreement was signed to extend Schools for Africa into 11 countries, including Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia and Madagascar.

In all of these countries, UNICEF is working with local authorities, governments, communities and other partners to do the following:

- Build and rehabilitate 1,000 schools;
- Create schools that offer a safe and protective environment where children can learn and play;
- Provide access to clean water and separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls in those schools;
- Supply exercise books, pens, proper furniture and other school and sports materials;
- Train 100,000 teachers to provide children with quality education and basic life skills; and
- Educate children about proper hygiene and HIV prevention. This knowledge is passed on to siblings, parents, and the community at large.



LET'S FOCUS ON SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE!

The *U. S. Forum Connection* (January 2012) publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma. The FORUM website is dkg.org/US-Forum/index.html.

At the Regional Conferences during the summer of 2011, an overwhelming number of our members expressed interest and concern about Social Security and Medicare both on the questionnaires filled out at the conferences and in their questions to the presenters. Due to the member interest, this issue of the *U. S. Forum Connection* will deal solely with Social Security and Medicare.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE:

There is one organization which is totally dedicated to issues concerning Social Security and Medicare. This is the National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM), which has been in existence for about 30 years. NCPSSM presents some facts given below and emphasizes that Social Security and Medicare are not entitlements but are **earned benefits** paid by citizen for years through payroll taxes.

FACTS:

1. Social Security's trust fund currently takes in more money through the FICA tax and interest on the bonds held for Social Security than it pays out in benefits. Even in the current troubled economy, the total accumulated surplus is in the trillions of dollars and will continue to grow for the next dozen years.
2. Current projections show Social Security able to pay benefits for another 25 years.
3. Beyond 25 years, the actuaries project a relatively modest gap between taxes collected and benefits paid, but there are reasonable, solid, relatively modest adjustments that would ensure the viability of Social Security for many years to come.

*The source for the above information is the National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare. For more information you can go on line to www.ncpssm.org or phone 1-800-966-1938.

RETIRESAFE:

A second organization which has concerned itself with Social Security is RetireSafe. This organization is currently pushing for a Constitutional Amendment to protect Social Security. This amendment would contain the following:

1. No Benefit Cuts
2. Guaranteed Annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)
3. End of Trust Fund "raids" (For years Congress has been borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund to fund other projects – mostly so-called pork barrel items.)
4. Pay Back Social Security (The Trust Fund is full of IOUs that have no real cash value and only represent a promise to pay. The proposed amendment calls for Congress to repay the more than \$2.56 trillion it has taken from the Social Security Trust Fund.)

* The source for the above information is RetireSafe. Additional information about this organization and its proposals can be found at www.retiresafe.org.

GOVERNMENT CONTACT ADDRESSES:

U.S. government contact information can be obtained through the Congressional Switchboard 1-866-327-8670. You can contact your Representatives and Senators through this number without paying long distance charges.

<http://www.house.gov> for members of the U. S. House

<http://www.senate.gov> for members of the U.S. Senate

1-202-456-1111 for the White House

HOW CONSTITUENTS' VOTE ON KEY BILLS:

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/111/bills/>

Note: Five constituent contacts will cause a legislator to pay serious attention to a given issue.



EXERCISE YOUR VOICE!

from April 2011 *Broadcasting the Buzz*

Exercising our voice to legislators has never been more important. The following is a ranking of most to least effective means when contacting local or international government officials.

1. personal visit
2. handwritten short letter
3. type written letter
4. phone call to a key office staffer
5. phone call to the reception staffers in the office
6. personally written fax
7. obvious form letter or fax
8. personally written email
9. obvious form email

NH Legislature Invites Chaos into State's Classrooms

George Strout, NEA-NH Communications Coordinator
603-224-7751, ext. 308 / gstrout@nhnea.org

The New Hampshire Legislature overrode the governor's veto of HB 542 to enact a new law allowing parents to object to any part of the school curriculum. With this act, legislators have now entered every classroom in the state telling educators that if any parent for any reason objects to your course material, subject matter, or teaching methodology, you must teach an alternative to that parent's child.

The law that took effect reads as follows: *Require school districts to adopt a policy allowing an exception to specific course material based on a parent's or legal guardian's determination that the material is objectionable. Such policy shall include a provision requiring the parent or legal guardian to notify the school principal or designee in writing of the specific material to which they object and a provision requiring an alternative agreed upon by the school district and the parent, at the parent's expense, sufficient to enable the child to meet state requirements for education in the particular subject area. The name of the parent or legal guardian and any specific reasons disclosed to school officials for the objection to the material shall not be public information and shall be excluded from access under RSA 91-A.*

NEA-NH objects in the strongest terms possible with both the enactment of this law and the reasoning behind it, and fears that the consequences from the enactment of HB 542 will open the door to the end of public education as we know it in this state.

We believe there are too many unanswered questions associated with this new law.

- With no definition or limitation as to what can be deemed objectionable by parents, a parent can object to any material, lesson, or teaching method with complete anonymity.
- Does the parent have to provide any grounds for their objection?
- What happens to the child's education from the time the parent notifies the district of their objection and the agreement upon an alternative education plan?
- What happens if the parent and district cannot agree upon an alternative?
- In the case of multiple parent households, what happens if both parents do not agree that a plan is necessary?
- What happens if more than one parent objects? There is the possibility of more than one alternative being developed for the same classroom.
- How does a district maintain compliance with common core standards if there are multiple curricula being taught in a classroom?

We view this as another attack on public education and the constitutional right of all of New Hampshire's school children to a quality education that prepares them for the challenges of the 21st Century.

- If we have learned anything from the model Finland used to attain prominence in education, it is that professional educators know what they are doing; they have been educated, trained, certified and are highly

qualified to teach as a requirement by the State. With this new law, any parent, qualified or not, can veto any lesson plan on any grounds.

- Time and again we as teachers are told that we need to challenge our students to prepare them for the future. This law gives every parent and student an excuse to side-step rigorous curriculum and put in its place a less challenging alternative.
- This law is part of a calculated assault on the very foundation of public education, opening the door to the elimination of the public education model in New Hampshire, leaving expensive private schools as the educational alternative to those who can afford them and an underfunded, fragmented system for the children of the hard working middle class families in the state.
- This law discriminates against parents and children who may not be able to afford to pay for an approved alternative or limits them to the only alternatives they can afford.
- Any attack on public education is an attack on middle class families, depriving them of the best means possible to pursue the American dream: a quality education.

There are important unintended and unexplored costs that will result in increasing the burden of providing education for local communities and taxpayers.

- While the law states the parent will pay for the alternative lesson and materials, who bears the costs to develop and teach the alternative lessons?
- Do the parents pay for the alternative plans up front or after the lessons have concluded?
- With over 200 school districts in New Hampshire, there is the potential for more than 200 policies on alternative plan costs and reimbursements.
- This Legislature has recently seen fit to question the need for licensing or certification in areas other than in education, reasoning, for example, that as long as a consumer knows that the person mixing dangerous chemicals to be used on your head isn't formally trained or licensed, at least you have made an informed risk. They have extended this logic to the teaching profession with this new law allowing untrained, uncertified individuals to veto lesson plans. What can be accomplished by this continued degrading of our profession by politicians? The ability of the districts in the state to attract and retain highly qualified educators will be severely compromised by this measure.

With its many unanswered questions, hidden costs and potential to undermine public education in New Hampshire, the only certainty associated with this new law will be the chaos it will bring to classrooms across the state.





CONTOIS TO SPEAK ON EDUCATORS' ROLES AS COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

Jaime Contois is currently consulting with several non-profits to build a more balanced, common sense approach to public policy at the NH State House. She will present a workshop at the BAS Spring Conference on March 30.

Jaime received a M.S. from Antioch University New England in Environmental Education and has spent over 10 years working to increase community engagement and social capital on civil rights and environmental and economic policy issues.

She is the former State Director of Working Families Win NH, a non-profit that works to build citizen engagement around issues impacting the health and economic well-being of low and middle income people.

Jaime has served as an educator, not only with young adults and adults in community organizations, but also in the classroom. She has worked with grade school, high school and college teachers to provide classroom support and training on a broad range of topics--including reading *The Forested Landscape*, a 4th grade exploration of the woods around us; winter animal tracking; fair trade policy and international trade; election education and voting training.

Jaime has run pre-school classrooms for several years, as well as the Wells Memorial School Before and After School Program in Harrisville, NH.

Also she is the founder and current co-chair of the Monadnock International Film Festival, co-founder of the Monadnock Live Free and Equal Coalition, member of the founding board of directors of the Monadnock Community Market, and has worked with community groups to address homelessness, affordable housing, and empowering students to participate in democratic process. For all her work, she was honored by Keene State College as one of NH's Women of the Year in April 2011.

**Beta Alpha State Spring Conference
“Expressing Our Vision,
Designing Our Future”**

March 29-31, 2012

Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel

SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 29:

8 p.m. Ex. Board Meeting

Friday, March 30:

7:30 Breakfast
 8:00-8:45 Registration
 9-10:00 Betty Gilman
 “Schools for Africa: Education in Zimbabwe”
 10:15-11:15 Jaime Contois
 “Educators’ Roles as Community Organizers”
 11:30-12:30 Lunch
 12:45-1:45 Mark McQuillan, SNHU Dean of Education
 “Teaching to Meet Today’s Challenges”
 2-3:00 Joan Chawziuk,
 Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce
 “Walking in Portsmouth: History Underfoot”
 Visual presentation followed by an optional
 walk (\$8 to \$10 extra)
 4:45-7:15 Dinner on own—Portsmouth’s Restaurant
 Week goes from March 22-31, so check out
portsmouthchamber.org for more information
 7:30 p.m. Fireside Chat with Jean Gray, DKG
 International Speaker

Saturday, March 31:

7:30 Breakfast
 8-8:45 Registration
 9-9:45 Service of Remembrance
 10-10:45 Women of Distinction Awards
 11:15-11:45 Jean Gray
 Business Meeting
 12:30 Lunch
 1:15-2:00 Jay Dwyer, NEA-NH, Seacoast Uniserve



Beta Alpha State Spring Conference
“Expressing Our Vision, Designing Our Future”

Thursday, March 29--Saturday, March 31, 2012

Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel

250 Market Street / Portsmouth, NH 03801 / (603) 431-2300



Day Package:

The cost: \$50.00 Select one: Friday or Saturday
Includes: Registration, Breakfast, Lunch, All Taxes & Gratuities.

1 Night Package:

The cost per person: Single room \$210.00 Double room \$140.00
Includes: Registration, Friday Night Guestroom Accommodation, Breakfast Friday & Saturday Morning, Lunch Friday & Saturday, All Taxes & Gratuities.

2 Night Package:

The cost per person: Single room \$345.00 Double room \$210.00
Includes: Registration, Thursday & Friday Night Guestroom Accommodation, Breakfast Friday & Saturday Morning, Lunch Friday & Saturday, All Taxes & Gratuities.

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BETA ALPHA STATE SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

March 29-31, 2012

Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel

Name: _____ **Chapter:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

Any dietary/facility needs? _____ **Roommate's Name** _____

Check One: Day Package: Friday _____ **1 Night Package** _____

Day Package: Saturday _____ **2 Night Package** _____

Please send your check payable to Beta Alpha State to Flora Sapsin at Londonderry High School, 295 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053 by **Tuesday, March 13**. If you have any questions, please contact Flora at 566-4196 (c), 432-6941 ext. 2780 (s), or fsapsin@londonderry.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BETA ALPHA'S SPRING CONFERENCE

March 29-31, 2012--Portsmouth

MCQUILLAN & DWYER TO FOCUS ON TODAY'S EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

Dr. Mark McQuillan, Dean of Education at Southern New Hampshire University, will address Beta Alpha State at the Spring Conference on Friday, March 30, 2012, on "Teaching to Meet Today's Challenges."

New on the job, he comes to SNHU as the former Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut, the former Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operational Officer for the Massachusetts Department of Education, and the President of the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston. He received an A.B. degree in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley and his Ed. D. degree from Harvard.

Jay Dwyer, NH-NEA's Seacoast Uniserve representative, will speak about the state of education in New Hampshire.

PURPOSE 7



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IMPORTANT ISSUES

BETA ALPHA STATE

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