



THE CHIPS OF GRANITE

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE CHAPTER

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Anne's Opportunities

Well, this has been quite a summer. I hope this finds you all safe and well. I am sorry we are not able to meet in person this fall and look forward to our next in person meeting, hopefully spring 2021 in Portsmouth.

Meanwhile, can we help educators during this pandemic? Maybe chapters could check with your local schools to see how your chapter members might help both new and veteran teachers. Ask, teachers may have tasks that could be done while staying safe. Maybe you have experiences that could help a teacher deal with the situation at their school. The DKG social media accounts (Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest) contain some interesting information and suggestions about managing a classroom anytime, but especially during these challenging times.

I want to encourage all DKG members to log in to their "MyDKG" accounts to verify their information to include mailing and email addresses. Remember that without an email address on file, members cannot log in to the website or app and miss out on valuable information shared online and through newsletters. If you are not able to log in your chapter treasurer has access to the chapter memberships and could assist you updating your information. Look in the governing documents tab on the DKG website to find guidelines for digital meetings which could be very useful in this epidemic.

This summer instead of the international convention we were all treated to a virtual event. Many of the sessions and happenings provide rich resources not only for individual members seeking personal and professional growth but also for chapter looking for programs. Maybe members could all view a specific event posted on the DKG website and then hold a Zoom meeting to have a discussion. The September /October DKG News has some great suggestions.

Chapter News

-----Alpha-----

Peggy Saunders continues to use the out of doors to get through the pandemic. She reports that she has been kayaking weekly with friends on some of Cheshire County's many lakes. She maintains frequent visits with grandchildren safely by meeting outside, and she and the children experienced a primitive camping trip on Spoonwood Pond.

Elaine Landry and husband moved to Hillside Village, a retirement community, a year ago. Little did they know what their first year would bring! From wonderful dining in the community restaurant, many activities such as musical productions, use of the swimming pool, library, and theater...all were shut down. Walking the out-of-door trails and restricted visits to medical appointments were allowed with social distancing, and residents were asked questions about health and temperatures taken when they returned to the Village. Face masks were required whenever meeting anyone outside of our immediate apartment. We have a year-old Australian Labradoodle, Mookie, who is a constant source of exercise and amusement. We feel blessed to have him. Visits to see family were not allowed, and they could not visit here either. We did not see our Massachusetts family from January 'til August. Now we can give virtual hugs in person. Togetherness has become a test! We are trying to limit television news stories, but there is a morbid attraction to tuning in. We have both been reading many books, doing crossword puzzles and Sudoku, and napping far too much. I have been baking a lot, too. (Have you heard about the COVID 15 # ?) Our main meal is still delivered to us in our unit, so we miss the social aspects of life here tremendously. Now that we are allowed to leave NH with warnings to keep social distancing, life is better. Technology has been a tremendous aid in terms of ZOOM, but life is certainly different. We are all making history in 2020!

Martha Marsette took a Rose Bowl to Elizabeth Sylvia—as she is having chemo due to the fact that her Breast Cancer returned after several years—and it is in her hip! She is staying positive and I plan to call her soon!

From Helen Ann Kelly

As for my life story: on January 26th, I lost my husband of 46 years after a few days of illness and a trip to the ER. We had been together for 50+ years!

Sudden loss is difficult, but our two grown children and many family members & friends were extremely supportive and gave me strength.

Then, less than three weeks later, on Valentine's Day, I returned home after a fun dinner with my youngest grandchildren to find my house on fire—in the basement! Upon opening the backdoor, the flames came up into the living room as I called out to our dog. Then, I realized that I had to 'get out of there'! Within a short time it became a 7-alarm fire and I watched my home (that my husband had built) burn to the ground; my dog and entire contents of the house as well as my car 'went up in flames'! I was panic-stricken to say the least, but grateful to the many firefighters and family members who showed up on Valentine's Day evening to support me! PHEW! What an unbelievable nightmare!

Then I lived with my daughter and family for over four months in Keene and my son was extremely helpful as my insurance agent.

Then, COVID 19 came along! Gosh, could it get any worse?? Actually, things got better: MANY, MANY people sent me cards, gift cards, cash, and notes!! It was pretty amazing and made me feel loved and cared for. Now, in the early days of September I am settled in at my new home in Keene with my new car!! I have purchased lots of new clothes and furniture and items for my house and yard! I have nice neighbors and my loving family and caring friends have continued to 'stay in touch' and support me in many ways! I am grateful for all the kindness I received and continue to move ahead with positivity! I have learned to live in the moment and to not sweat the small stuff.

From Maurine Henry:

It's been said that every cloud has a silver lining and while the COVID pandemic and stay at home/social distancing mandates have been difficult there has been a silver lining for me. My disabled, 46 year old son Jim has been spending a lot more time at home with me as we had to let his caregiver/roommate go at the beginning of May. As a result of the extra time at home, Jim decided he wanted to sew like mom.

He has become a regular sewing addict. His first projects were simple potholders and he advanced to making table runners and placemats for his apartment. He wore out my small Janome machine and now has a machine of his own. There are days when he is ready to sew and sitting at his machine before I have even finished my first cup of coffee.



His sewing requires some modifications. He uses his right hand to operate the foot control, which is placed on the table, and I guide the fabric through the machine. He clips the pieces of fabric together using binding clips (great for fine motor skills) and stops the machine to remove the clips as he sews up to them. He operates the presser foot as needed and snips the thread when the sewing is finished. I do all the cutting and pressing as I am leery of him using a rotary cutter and hot iron. Where before I was lucky to engage him in an activity for ten minutes, he will now work on a project for up to three hours.

As his sewing adventure continues he has made four quilts and has two more in progress. He has donated two of his quilts to the Cheshire Quilters' Guild for their wheelchair and cuddle quilt collections and 20 masks to Monadnock Developmental Services; he also made a set of pillowcases for his brother and sister-in-law to match the quilt I had made. In addition, he has also done a craft fair with me and actually sold more items than I did!

I guess it's safe to say, "I have created a sewing monster!"

-----Beta-----

Most members of Beta Chapter are staying home or at least close to it, so many are doing projects around the house and now that the weather is warmer, outside.

Anne Cragin has crocheted a number of newborn hats for babies with left-over yarn from making afghans. She made the afghans for her church which gave them to cancer patients and veterans.

Lisa Tores' yard was recently designated a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. She has even built some fairy houses near her house.

Terry Thompson has put on her teaching cap once again. She has been coming up with weekly activities for her five-year-old grandson including plant/art projects, button sorting activities, cooking projects, and beanbag games.

Jan Kulig and her husband, Ray, have painted their kitchen and Jan painted the dining room and bathroom. She is also writing weekly letters to her daughters. She was inspired to do so after discovering a box of letters while cleaning a closet.

Ann Silverstein came back from Florida and she and her husband guaranteed for two weeks, but don't go anywhere anyway. She has been doing a daily reading lesson with her granddaughter via Face Time and also reads with all her grandchildren. She uses ZOOM for fitness, book groups, and friend meetups.

Susan Mellow has two new granddaughters. Diany Estelle Millar was born November 17th in Turkey, CA. She joins older brothers Liam age 6, and Ryan, age 3. Sylvie Argyle Mellow Liston was born February 20th, in Plainfield, NH. She joins big sister, Ada, age 2. All are doing well!

Joan Tarleton will be having knee surgery on her left knee as soon as elective surgery opens again. She carries her phone with her everywhere now in case her knee gives out while she is walking. She has been making masks and hand sanitizer.



The Beta Chapter held our September meeting at the Enfield Shaker Village. With masks and social distancing, we held our business meeting in the large meeting room at Shaker Village and then enjoyed a brief introduction to Shaker life, followed by a tour of the gardens led by Lisa Torres. Lisa has been a Beta member for several decades and has

been a tour guide at the Shaker Museum since she retired from teaching science at Lebanon High School three years ago.

-----Gamma-----

Our members are staying strong through all this. Keeping in touch with relatives and friends -some working on quilts for vets - and making masks for friends and medical organizations

Myrt Moore celebrates a special birthday in September. She has always been so devoted to DKG, supporting so many projects both to Gamma and the state organization. At the Chicago N.E. Regional Conference she received an award for her constant efforts.

Priscilla Jenness may win the state prize for becoming a member on May 1, 1965. Priscilla, an art teacher and Department Head for many years in the Portsmouth School System, has been a moving force in the town of Rye, serving on many town committees and government posts. She has also been active in the Seacoast art world and has always been there for her family.

We wish all our DKG sisters strength, faith and so look forward to being together again at our local and state meetings.

-----Delta-----

Ann Gray, of Delta chapter, has been working with her husband, Lindsey, on a new and expanded camp. It's exciting to see it grow as the carpenters progress with their work. The new camp (right next to the old one) will have two loft bedrooms and two other bedrooms downstairs, as well as a kitchen/living area. There's a nice front porch that's very inviting as well. Ann and Lindsey look forward to spending lots of time there with family in the years to come. It's especially nice because the camp is located just a mile up the road from their home in Indian Stream Valley, which makes frequent trips to the camp very easy. Ann has just returned from a week-long visit to York Beach, Maine, where she was joined by all three of her daughters and their husbands as well as one granddaughter. There will be a new grandchild in September, as their daughter, Marilyn, and her husband are expecting their first child. Everyone is looking forward to finding out if she's having a boy or a girl as they opted not to find out until the birth.

Susan Ackerman

What have I been up to? I've been walking 5-7 miles every day from 5:45-6:30 am and taking photos during my walk. I've been writing encouraging inspirations every day and posting them with my photos on Facebook to help as many people as I can reach. I've been giving phone astrology readings to people all over the country. And for fun, I bought a mandolin, learned to play it and practice every day. Ed and I have written a song together and we rehearse many songs twice a week. We hope a time will come when we will be able again to give concerts.

And that's what I've been up to!

I miss you all too.

With Love and Light,

Susan

Kathy Urso

I retired from teaching after 42 years, at the end of June with 37 of those years doing both teaching and school administration at the same time. Because of COVID 19, we were unable to have a celebratory staff dinner or open house for students, families and friends, but I was surprised by a retirement parade on my last day. Shortly after I got home, I heard sirens and horns tooting and went out to my front yard while a whole caravan of cars, trucks, fire engines and the rescue squad drove by with balloons and decorated cars — with many people stopping to drop off cards and gifts. My staff and students also gave me a beautiful memory book with letters and photos from my 19 years at the Errol School. It was a great ending to a really wonderful career!

Wanda Merrill Maguire

I have been keeping busy this summer painting the outside of my house. I have been biking and kayaking with my grandchildren and stepson. I have been doing a lot of hiking with my daughter and grandchildren. We have hiked Table Rock, Sanguinary Trail, Mt. Willard, Brousseau Mt., Averill Mt. and other trails. I have also traveled to Henniker a couple of times to see my son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter! I spent a couple of very nice days with my brother and his family while they were camping on Island Pond. Chris, Charlie, and I are looking forward to our annual trip to Old Orchard Beach the weekend after Labor Day with my whole family.

Last week I spent two days with my daughter and son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter in Henniker! We had a good two days. We painted their house and we hiked Mt. Keasarge!

This week Delta sisters Karen Pariseau, Kaye Moren and I stayed at The Holiday House in Pine Point Beach, Maine. We had beautiful weather and enjoyed two days on the beach! We enjoyed our time together talking, walking, eating out, and sitting on the beach! My family is looking forward to our annual trip to Old Orchard the weekend after Labor Day.

We will be having my mother's graveside service on August 22nd at the Hollow Cemetery in Pittsburg, NH, followed by a celebration of life at the legion. She passed away on March 18th.

I am also very excited about returning to school. I am anxious to meet my new students. I am hoping that we will be able to stay at school and not have to do remote learning for the whole school year!

Marsha Biron

I was hiking while on a family vacation in July when I fell and fractured my ankle. Needless to say many of the rest of our summer plans have changed. Learning to walk on crutches for the first time in my life has not been easy! Have been busy with the Got Lunch program which I coordinate for the SAU#7 area, though. We pack bags of food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, each Monday morning. Families in Colebrook, Stewartstown, and Pittsburg are very appreciative of our program. It certainly helps them throughout the summer months when their children are not receiving breakfast and lunch at school.

Judy Erickson

During this time of staying close to home, we have been renovating. Last November a forty-foot pine tree fell onto our roof. The result is a new bedroom ceiling and better yet, a beautiful new three-season porch to enjoy . Summer plans for a road trip to Prince Edward Island (Anne of Green Gables) with my two sisters-in-law, and a lifetime trip to explore the mystery of Egypt this October have been rescheduled for 2021.

I have been blessed to visit at my sister's beach house in Plymouth, MA, and will spend another week there the end of August. I need my ocean and sea glassing fix!



My Tidal Treasures by Jude jewelry business has been greatly impacted by COVID. All my scheduled selling events were cancelled. However, I have done

some special sales events on-line that have been very successful.
I feel blessed to be living in such a beautiful, safe area of our state and am enjoying nature more than ever.
May you all stay safe and well.
Judy 🌹

-----Epsilon-----

Connie Lanseigne-Case

During these days of isolation I am pleased to be illustrating a book of poetry for a dear friend in Michigan. The mediums vary. I designed and used stain glass to depict the frog.



-----Eta-----

Most of Eta members have been busy with lots of safe outdoor fun. Ruth and Dianne have been camping in their RVs.

Caroline enjoys lake living at her home on Alton Bay, and everybody is improving their own backyards these days!

Ruth and Dianne spent time at Pickety Place in Mason, NH, this summer and even got to dine by themselves in Grandmother's Room. (Shhh, the wolf is sleeping.)



Diane Gray and her husband are taking social distancing seriously living in Pittsburg, NH, after selling their house in Union. Some of her family is in Key West, and some in California. Meanwhile her grandson John Robert is teaching at a private school in Boston after getting his Master's degree at UMass.

Now it's time to get back to the school season. Some of us have gone back on-site with schools opening. Keep us in your thoughts while we take care of the learning needs of NH students.

Eta Chapter's first fall meeting is planned for October 6, 2020.

Program: Election of Officers, Ice Cream Social

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Johnson's, New Durham

Hostesses: Dianne Mros & Anne Nute

Read every day, something no one else is reading. ~ Christopher Morley

-----Theta-----

Theta chapter has held 3 meetings remotely through Zoom at this point and will continue for our October and November meetings. It has been great to get to see people and catch up over Zoom even if we are unable to get together for meetings! We will revisit the topic to see what will happen for our spring meetings.

Karen Goss has been able to spend a great deal of time with her grandsons despite COVID. Their mom (her daughter), the boys and herself got to make memories by going to the Jurassic Quest drive-thru event in the parking lot at Foxboro Stadium. There were lots of dinosaurs to see and they all learned a lot about them! The boys were afraid at first but got more comfortable and then didn't want it to end! Karen, her daughter and the boys can't wait for the next adventure!

Pam Clark's new granddaughter Kinsley, was born on August 24. Pam went to Colorado and spent 10 days with her family and enjoyed her visit very much except for the night it snowed.