



THE CHIPS OF GRANITE

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE CHAPTER

Volume 2021 Issue 1
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Anne's Opportunities

Hello Ladies, I hope this finds you well, and coping with all the multitude of COVID requirements, restrictions, and maybe (hopefully) vaccine shots. Be safe.

Maybe you also are wondering what is happening with DKG International and in NH State DKG. Well I'm about to fill you in. First, be sure to check the DKG website – a source of much information about international's plans. Our North East Regional Director (NERD), Debra LeBlanc, is working to keep her region informed through regular Zoom meetings. There has been a shift away from having many regional conferences to having just three, now two. The conference originally schedule in Finland for the European region has been postponed until 2023 due to continued COVID travel restrictions. What remains is just two conferences: Portland, OR, July 7-10; and San Antonio, TX, July 21-24. San Antonio is being organized by the North East Regional Director and the

South East Regional Director. They are encouraging us to attend. The themes at each conference are similar, highlighting DKG opportunities, contributions and impact. The big question is attend in person or virtual? Well the answer at our January NERD meeting was they are planning on in-person attendance with a backup plan for virtual and maybe even some hybrid possibilities. It will be interesting to see what happens next, but I have always wanted to see the river walk in San Antonio.

There is another group of active DKG women working on the US Forum. They are putting on a virtual conference on February 24th to highlight the legislative issues for the 117th Congress. They have and "new" website address:

<https://www.dkgusforum.com/>

Check it out, a good source of information on our legislative issues and - if you are interested - register for the conference by Feb. 22.

On the NH state level we are adapting. Zoom meetings have been held. Our wonderful Maurine Henry has obtained a zoom membership and is willing to help all the chapters have access to longer zoom meetings. Just get in touch with her and she will set it up. The executive board felt an in-person meeting in March was just not going to happen so once again the meeting in Portsmouth is postponed until April 2022! Our gathering in Portsmouth 2022 will include the next awarding of the Founders Award. We are still planning to hold our fall meeting in Keene this September. This meeting will include a large outdoor

component as we are going to learn about the murals on the buildings. We are even discussing picnicking possibilities and planning on awarding of the Women of Distinction pins that were announced in the spring of 2020. More to come later.

Finally, I will be turning over this space to our wonderful incoming president, Terry Thompson. We are hoping to have a virtual installation ceremony in the spring. It has been a pleasure to lead this group of wonderful women, **thank you for your support.** I hope to see you in person in the fall!

**BETA ALPHA STATE AND KEENE FOUNDERS
ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS DUE
MARCH 1ST**

State Scholarship Chair Pam Clark reminds sisters that scholarship applications are due to her by March 1st. The application is in the back of your red/white book. You can mail or email them to her. Keene Founders can only be used for advanced work. Beta Alpha State can be used for workshops, conferences, courses and travel to Northeast or International. The date can be flexible depending on when this newsletter comes out.



The DKG US Forum Invites you to join our zoom program:

Legislative Issues for Our 117th Congress

February 24, 2021

7p.m. ET, 6pm CT, 5pm MT, 4pm PT

Featuring Dr. Sylvia Johnson



Dr. Sylvia Johnson is a lobbyist for the National Education Association (NEA). She leads NEA's efforts on Capitol Hill on a range of issues including: COVID-19 vaccines, the Safe Reopening of Schools, Health Care (including Medicare and Medicaid), Gun Violence Prevention/School Safety; Social Security and Pensions. She is also the NEA's liaison to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Zoom Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEgfuiqvTMjGtAvLmMTS5X7_vY_v_oSVa7I

Registration links can also be found at Facebook @DKG.US.Forum and our webpage

<https://www.dkgusforum.com/>

For further information contact Daphne Cagle, Southwest Representative usforumswrep@gmail.com

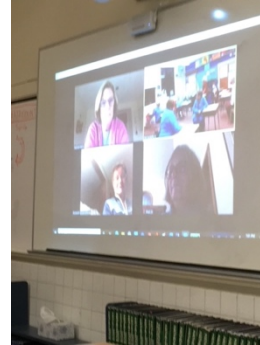
Chapter News

Alpha



An unusual outdoor meeting of Alpha Chapter was held at Ashuelot River Park on Oct 6, 2020. A business meeting was held, and new officers were inducted including Co-Presidents, Judy Durand and Carol Hines; and First Vice President Julia Dutton. Secretary Elaine Landry and Treasurer Bernadette Kuhn will continue their positions. Past co-presidents Jeannette Gardner and Karen LeDuc were also honored. Following the business meeting members shared their tales of life during the pandemic.

The second meeting of the fall was a hybrid session using



Bernadette Kuhn's classroom at St. Joseph's School. The guest presenter was Ken Durand, brother-in-law of

Judy Durand. His program "Interacting with the Deaf and Blind Communities". He taught Alpha sisters a great deal. Ken's background includes 38 years as a staff trainer and caregiver at the Perkins School for the Blind.

Martha Marsette reported that she is taking two courses at Keene State's CALL (Cheshire Academy of Lifelong Learning) program. One is a health course, and the other is "Wine on the Table." We hope that she will share what she learned!

Elizabeth Sylvia is enjoying retirement from teaching at Keene Middle School. She and Helen Ann Kelly keep in shape by taking walks together.

Joanne Stroshine and Bernadette Kuhn report that substitute teaching in the Monadnock Regional School District is going well despite COVID-19.



Peggy and Laurence Saunders took the fall hike challenge of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. They successfully hiked at five SPNHF sites. The last one was at the Hay Reservation in Newbury. You can see Mt Sunapee over Peggy's right shoulder between the trees.

From Maurine Henry

Last year when the COVID pandemic started and schools went to a virtual learning model I was so happy that I had retired and did not have to deal with online video instruction.

Fast forward a year.

My son is teaching STEAM at the Farmington, NH, middle school.

He offered his seventh graders the opportunity to complete a project of their choosing within the guidelines of STEAM. He has students tearing down an automobile engine, building/programming robots, doing graphic design, creating web sites, wiring a school bus sign, and he had a group who wanted to learn how to sew using a sewing machine.

Stephen is well versed in all but the last subject; he called Mom and asked if I would like to volunteer. Of course I agreed. My adventure in virtual teaching using Google Meet was underway! I thought I would teach them how to make a disappearing nine patch to introduce them to using the machine, making straight/even seams and matching up seams to sew pieces together. I went shopping for some charm squares for the project and sent them to school with Stephen.

I have six students in three classes that I have been working with. Four of the students had never used a sewing machine. I had never seen the machines that were in the classroom so was unsure of how they were threaded. For the first three days, the students kept having issues with breaking thread. I was ready to head over to Farmington to check out the machines after school when my granddaughter went into the classroom and showed her dad how

to thread the machines correctly. Problem 1 solved.

Problem 2: Terminology. I would ask the students to make sure the presser foot was down. Some thought I was referring to the speed control. (It sits on the floor and you press your foot on it.) Lots of tangled thread as the real presser foot was up when the speed control was pushed! Even with modeling it took a while for some to understand. Helping them understand that the thread has to be brought up from the bobbin case was another challenge. And placing right sides of the fabric together had to be taught (some learned how to use the seam ripper). I ended up creating a document with pictures and sewing terminology to help them out.

Problem 3: Understanding directions. One of the students is making a pair of pajama bottoms using a pattern. This student has sewn before but never used a pattern. After successfully laying out and cutting the pattern the issues came when putting the pieces together to sew. A lesson in using a seam ripper ensued. I ended up making a doll sized pattern to virtually show how the pieced fit together. With the visual help, the pajama bottoms are coming together nicely.

The projects that the students chose have changed somewhat during the course of instruction. One, who

started out wanting to make a blanket by sewing a cotton panel to fleece and doing decorative stitches around the pictures on the panel (a huge undertaking for a first time project) decided to make a jumbo pillow instead. Two others have chosen to make pillows and two have chosen to make lap size quilt tops. I have told them that when they finish I will quilt their tops for them. The nine patch idea that I had turned into two four patches that one of the students turned into a pillow. The eighth grade group will be starting up after February vacation-wonder if I'll have any sewers?



A SUPRISE came in the mail to Alpha Members just before Valentine's Day

During this pandemic, many members of Beta Chapter have found different ways to stay occupied by staying home.

Midge Jorgensen's grandchildren are "attending" school virtually. She reads most days with her grandson (8) while his sister is at her class meeting. Then he has his class meeting, and Midge visits with her granddaughter (10). They play math games or read together. It brings Midge joy and is a wonderful way to start her day.

Mary Pat Acerno is also in the teaching mode. She has been teaching her third grade grandson, Sam. She feels like she is in a time machine, since she taught school for many years, but it has been a wonderful

experience for her. Mary Pat is happy the math is simple enough for her to plow through and Sam is generally enthusiastic, so the days have been successful.



Anne Cragin has been reading and sewing a lot during the pandemic. She made shopping bags for her two sons' girlfriends for



Christmas and filled them with chocolates, lotions, etc. She also finished embroidering four shadow boxes she had had for years. She also worked at the Claremont soup kitchen, but was uncomfortable because of the lack of workers wearing masks.

Lisa Torres is spending the pandemic time helping her daughter with her 18 month old grandson, Jai. She hopes to be able to travel this summer to visit her siblings in Michigan and her gentleman's daughter in Jackson Hole, WY., if all goes well.

Jan and Ray's daughter, Rachel, was married in September to Ray Bakshi. The ceremony was held in the garden at Shaker Hill Bed and Breakfast. The twelve guests observed social

distancing. It was a beautiful day and a lovely ceremony. When not acting as a wedding planner, Jan has been reading, doing jigsaw puzzles, yoga, and taking long walks. She has also enjoyed virtual visits with family and friends.

During the pandemic, Terry Thompson's activities have stayed close to home: lots of cleaning, reorganizing, and downsizing. She only goes to the grocery store, transfer station, and Home Depot. She has completed a few small woodworking projects, using some left-over lumber that had been stored in her barn for years. Jigsaw puzzles and reading fill the rest of her days. She would recommend the following historical novels - Code Name Helene by Arid Lawhorn, based on the life story of Nancy Wake, a

powerful leader of the French Resistance during WWII, and Deep River by Karl Martantes, about the growth of the logging and salmon industries in the northwest during the early 1900s.

Are you looking for ways to beat the housebound pandemic? Joni Butler was, so at the beginning of 2021 she and her husband Peter started locating the 275 Historical Markers in the state of New Hampshire. They



found that this grand adventure will involve many journeys through our beautiful New Hampshire. There are Historical Markers throughout our wonderful state. So far, they have discovered 46 markers.

They range from a famous baseball player to a stone arch bridge and even a mountain gold mine. There is one in Canaan that really shocked them. Who would have thought you could find these things in New Hampshire and they are just getting started, so if you are looking for an adventure you can check out the New Hampshire Historical Markers on the internet or you can do it the old fashioned way and purchase Cruising New Hampshire History by Michael A. Bruno (hint, the book has much better directions). Perhaps you will see them on one of their journeys. They are certain to be at this for a little while longer...

Kathy Tucker has also been working on jigsaw puzzles and reading. She is very thankful for her dog, Cooper. They get out into the woods every afternoon to walk, snowshoe, or x-country ski.



Cooper



Midge Jorgensen made the DKG masks for gifts for Nancy Yeaton and Yvonne Crocker. The lanyard samples are being sold by Beta Chapter.

Gamma

Gamma members are busy with creative arts and quilt work. They have been Zooming with relatives and friends, and using the old-fashioned phone. Many are waiting for THE SHOT!

Some members have had operations and thankfully have had wonderful results.

We are going forward with our high school senior scholarship. This year it will be awarded to a young lady from Exeter High School

We look forward to our summer outside meeting at the New Castle Common and to deciding some future projects we may support.

Gamma members send good wishes to all our DKG sisters, and among other state meetings, the one in spring of 2022 in Portsmouth

Delta

From Karen (Rexford) Locke

Settling into the new normal
of the virus...

winter has
come and
my husband
and I along
with some
family



*Mt Prospect, Weeks
Estate, Lancaster*

friends are
enjoying snow machining
throughout the north
country. We have managed
to see three moose, turkeys,
rabbits and a pileated wood
pecker in our travels. My
dad, 84 years of age, travels
with us on most Sunday
journeys.

My sister and I downsized
our annual quilting retreat
with my mom to just the
three of us and I have started
giving private sewing lessons.



Karen, Mom, Wendy

This is truly a joy and has
retirement written all over it!

I miss my grandchildren
dearly and cannot wait to
hold them in my arms
again. It has been over a
year now since I have seen
them in person. Thank
goodness for facetime and
messenger which allows us
to read books and do
projects over the distance.

That's about all that is new
here in Dalton. Hope this
finds you well. Karen Locke

Ann and Lindsey Gray were
pleased to be able to spend

time with all of their family at some point during the Christmas holidays. It was extra special to be able to have their newest grandson, Angelo, in Pittsburg with his parents for an extended stay. They made the long trip up from NJ. It was fun getting to know Angelo better and to be able to present him with the special crib quilt that Ann Created for him.

Ann is getting ready for Read-Across-America events in early March. Things might be a little different this year because of the need for continued precautions due to COVID, but there will still be special dress-up days, trivia questions, contests, and story-time for the elementary classes. It's always an event that everyone looks forward to.

From Susan Ackerman

It has been a very full and busy time.

I have been writing daily inspirational pieces to go with photographs I take. I put them up on Facebook every morning and send some out in individual emails to people who don't have access to Facebook. As part of this new work, I take pictures almost daily.

I have been giving wonderful Astro-Counseling phone readings to many people from CA to NH and the response has been very gratifying. I've been an Astrologer and Counselor for 40 years. The new part in this time is giving my readings over the phone. I find that just hearing their voice gives a very clear image of where people are and what they are feeling

I spend some time each day practicing my mandolin

and electric piano and doing weekly rehearsals with my partner Ed.

From Pam Read

Since COVID began I have been sorting and cleaning out pictures. As I was browsing through a large trunk of school memorabilia I found a picture of a little girl I had in my Kindergarten classroom at the Whitefield school 50 years ago! I had her framed picture on my desk for 33 years as Sonia died that fall of 1970. She was burned in a tragic accident when she and a neighborhood child were playing with a gas can. I had sent a large paper bear that we called Brownie to be with her in the hospital room. In the following years I had her sisters in my class and the youngest one, Jess, has kept in touch on Facebook. I asked her if she would like the picture of her sister and I shared the story of Brownie. Amazingly, Brownie the Bear lives and has been stored in the family attic for 50 years. Jess sent me a photograph of Brownie. I was touched that this family that had suffered so much kept Brownie all these years.

I have sent photos of other students to them, and many are then posted on Facebook. I enjoy reading the comments.

From Judy Erickson

Like most of us much of my time is spent at home now with my husband. Our son visits us every month or so. I try to keep busy each day with walking around our property, breathing deeply and doing projects around the house. In October I thought it might be a good idea to get a kitten as company for my four-year old cat Lady Marmalade. I came home with two five-week old male tabbies. Things have not been dull around here. Lady is still hissing and swiping at them. In hindsight, I realize she loved being queen. My Bob is very patient and helpful with them. They are good lap and neck warmers on these frigid days. I miss my Delta sisters and wish you all safe and healthy days with a sprinkling of laughter.

Eta

-----**Eta**-----

Eta’s holiday gathering in December was a small group of four who came together in a large conference space to do a coffee break book exchange. Anne Nute made some lovely hand-sewn masks to share. We chatted about our work situations and how things would hopefully improve with vaccines and warmer weather returning us to the outdoors.

That makes us think of springtime! Dianne Mros is teaching a Spring Tai Chi session at Marshwood High School, Berwick Maine. She and Ruth Ashley are hoping to continue their tradition of attending the Indy 500 on Memorial Day weekend, which was sadly missed last year. They are wishing to hear the most famous words in motorsports: “Drivers, start your engines!”



Ruth and her husband John went up the Cog Railway for their 18th anniversary in October.



It was sub-zero with the wind chill – but crystal clear day and they could see the Casco Bay!

Caroline Butler, Title 1 Project Manager in Somersworth shares this anecdote from her regional group meeting:

One teacher was teaching a first grade boy who was working from his home. At school, the fire alarm went off. The teacher said, “I have to go, I’ll be right back.” The little boy also ran outside with his mother following him. The mother asked what was he doing and he replied, “There’s a fire drill and we have to go line up outside!” --- What a good boy, following the rules! Caroline is working from home and hoping we are able to get back together for work and fun soon.

Diane Gray and her husband John stay safe in their camp in Pittsburg, NH. Her family in Key West and Astoria, NY are staying safe also. Grandchildren are learning from home when needed. She reminds us to heed the guidelines: wear masks, wash hands, stay distanced!

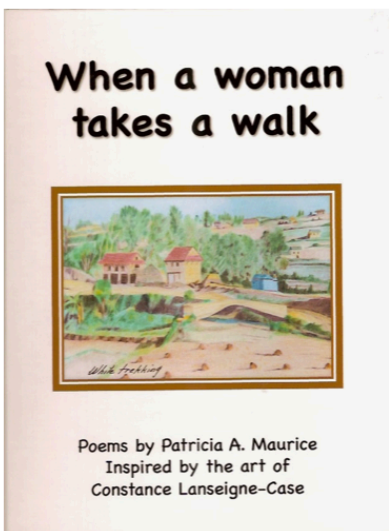
Prayers and healing thoughts are needed for Ruth Ashley and members of her family who have

been impacted by COVID-19, both through severe illness and other hardships that come with missed work and income. This pandemic has touched many, and although everyone is doing their best to be safe, remember the essential workers and health care providers who continue to put themselves at risk. This includes many of us who are still teaching on-site to ensure the education of our students. Plans for the March Eta chapter meeting are being developed at this time. Hopeful that we can join together soon!

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." - Lady Bird Johnson

Epsilon

Connie Illustrates a Book of Poetry



Connie Lanseigne-Case began to do art in 1980 using a variety of mediums. Touring and studying

abroad became her passion in 1954. So many photos taken on journeys around the world are subjects of poems. During the past summer the book "When a woman takes a walk" was published. The postscript states, "Two women world travelers separated by nearly three decades and half a continent come together through art and poetry."

Epsilon chapter has had a long-standing commitment to the Upper Room in Derry, particularly their T.I.P.S. program, which helps young parents. We started donating brand new books so that all littles (and bigs) as far as children were concerned would receive one of these for Christmas years ago! Last November, this presented yet another COVID challenge. We, like many other groups, were not having our holiday gathering in December, and many were not comfortable being out and about shopping.

I (Barbara Mee) decided to try something new, and sent an email to the chapter explaining that I was happy to go shopping with recommended precautions. So I asked people to send me a

donation IF they chose and I would go out. Barbara Williams volunteered to go with me so off we went to Barnes & Noble, and were able to purchase numerous books for a wide variety of ages! I let my chapter know how well we did, and as usual, the Upper Room was beyond grateful. I'm grateful that my chapter was able to continue this tradition.

Can't wait to see my chapter members and state members as soon as we can!.

Theta



Brenda Walker shared a picture of an uninvited unmasked guest that come right through the roof. Oops, a tree!

Editor's note: I was pleased with the interesting and sometimes amusing stories of our lives. I think pictures add a lot, especially since the Newsletter is delivered digitally in color. If you would like to send your story with a picture for the next issue, please send to redfoxnh@gmail.com I can crop pictures, and resize to fit. The next issue will be at the end of summer. You can start sending your stories in July.

Peggy Saunders