



## Alpha Kappa State The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Volume 77, No. 4

Summer 2018

### Chris George... Engrossing and Informative Speaker at Spring Convention



The keynote speaker, Chris George, was the highlight of our April 28<sup>th</sup> Alpha Kappa State Convention! As the Executive Director of IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services), he explained the refugee resettlement process by engaging us in an interesting role playing exercise.

Chris comes from a family of Peace Corps volunteers. Both his older and younger sisters, and more recently, his daughter served. His Peace Corps training emphasized cultural differences including dress, eating and drinking restrictions and especially language. He was immersed in the Arabic language in Oman. He worked in many refugee camps and remembers the smell of raw sewage, the shelters built from scraps and personal refugee traumas evidenced by shared stories of their lost sons, daughters, parents and homes. His favorite memories are of the hospitality of the refugees who treated him as an honored guest.

After serving overseas for seventeen years, Chris has been at IRIS in New Haven for the past thirteen years where he uses his Arabic daily now as he works with refugees. He feels this work is "the Statue of Liberty in action" as IRIS welcomes refugees from all over the world and helps them to start a new life. To clarify terms: Immigrants are people from another country who move to the United States. Refugees are people who are forced to flee their home country due to persecution based on race, religion, nationality, social group or political affiliation. There are 23 million refugees in the world. Compare this to the 3.3 million population of Connecticut!

### AKS Nominates Marion Blumenthal-Lazon as a DKG Honorary Member



Alpha Kappa State, Connecticut, has nominated Marion Blumenthal Lazon for International Honorary Membership. She was approved by the International Membership Committee,

and she accepted. Marion will be inducted as an International Honorary Member at the Northeast Regional Conference, hosted by AKS, in the summer of 2019.

Marion Blumenthal Lazon is not the usual educator who works with children or adults in a school setting. She considers any place in the world as a potential classroom so long as there is a gathering of willing listeners to hear her message. Through the art of storytelling, she presents her messages of respect, tolerance, acceptance, perseverance and hope. The story used to convey these messages is Marion's own family's story of incarceration, liberation and survival from six and a half years in concentration camps during the World War II Holocaust.

The facts have been documented in the book, *Four Perfect Pebbles: A HOLOCAUST STORY* by Lila Perl and Marion Blumenthal Lazon. We are hoping that she will present her story at the Regional Conference. To learn more about this remarkable woman go to [www.fourperfectpebbles.com](http://www.fourperfectpebbles.com). She shows by personal example that anyone can overcome severe hardship by maintaining dignity through perseverance and never losing hope for better days ahead. We are honored that she will be inducted into Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

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# Fellowship, Generosity and Advancement of Women Educators



Dear Alpha Kappa State Sisters,

I am excited that chapters are starting a new biennium. Many of you have installed new officers for the next two years. Most chapters have set their meeting dates and agendas. I hope to meet the new officers at our Leadership Development Conference on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The conference will provide many tools and strategies for strengthening our chapters.

Every year recently we have been experiencing a decline in membership across the state. Even though Connecticut is a small state, we are mighty. We have had numerous members active over the years at the International level. We always have many members attending the regional conferences and International conventions. We will be hosting a regional conference in the summer of 2019. I believe that our involvement strengthens our state organization.

We can and should reach out to teachers across the state to become members of Delta Kappa Gamma. Through Delta Kappa Gamma, I personally have received extensive leadership training, presented many workshops, been given positions of leadership and have had opportunities to work with a diverse and international group of women. We have a lot of opportunities to offer.

Each new year gives us a new beginning. Each chapter officer has a chance to make a difference in her chapter. Your leadership will guide the chapter forward. It is a chance to mentor new members, to develop new leaders and a chance to grow your chapter. I wish all the new and returning officers a productive and exciting year.

*Yours in DKG,  
Pat*

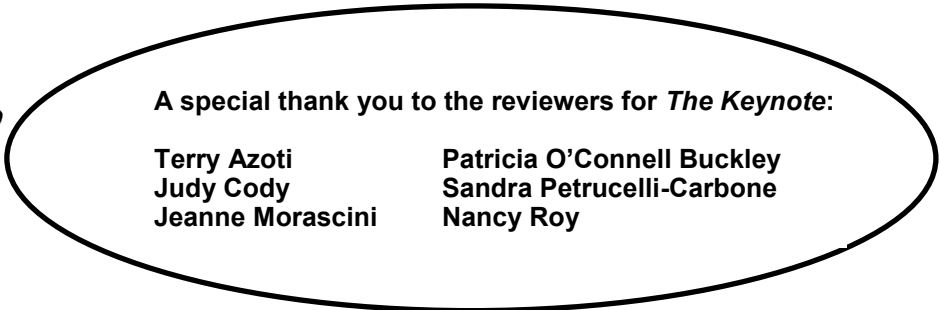


**Pat DeCoster**, Beta Chapter, received her doctorate in education from UCONN - NEAG School of Educational Leadership in May, 2017. She received a DKG grant that helped her complete the requirements. Pat's dissertation was on *Self-Efficacy in Secondary Urban Students*, and her research was conducted in a Bridgeport high school.

The Watermark at 3030 Park, a continuing care retirement community in Bridgeport, recently recognized resident **Helen Wasserman**, Beta Chapter. Helen co-founded two local volunteer programs:

The School Volunteer Association, a city-wide program of readers, tutors and mentors that works with Bridgeport's children,

The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, a collection of organizations committed to research, advocacy, community education and mobilization.



A special thank you to the reviewers for *The Keynote*:

Terry Azoti  
Judy Cody  
Jeanne Morascini

Patricia O'Connell Buckley  
Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone  
Nancy Roy



## Connecticut Members' Photos Again Accepted to the DKG Spring Fine Arts Gallery!

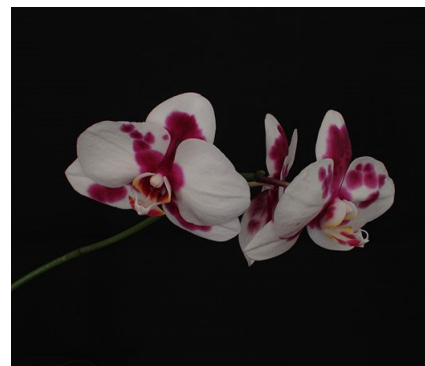
The DKG Arts and Humanities Jury has selected four photographic works of Connecticut members to meet the theme of The Butterfly Effect for the online spring gallery. **Judy Baxter**, Theta Chapter, had her entry, *Winter over Mirror Lake*, accepted. **Terry Azoti**, Zeta Chapter, had three entries accepted, *Blooming Orchids*, *Fast Fading Orchids* and *Pollinator*. Check them out on the International website.

Since the inception of the Fine Arts Gallery, Connecticut has had a total of four members' works accepted to this prestigious online gallery. All Connecticut members are encouraged to submit to the Jury **from August 5 through September 5, 2018**. Submissions include literary efforts, two and three dimensional art, performance art, photography and crafts. The process is simple, following *10 Steps to Submitting* at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) under Committees, Arts & Humanities Jury. If there are any questions about entering, please contact Terry Azoti at [tazoti@optonline.net](mailto:tazoti@optonline.net).

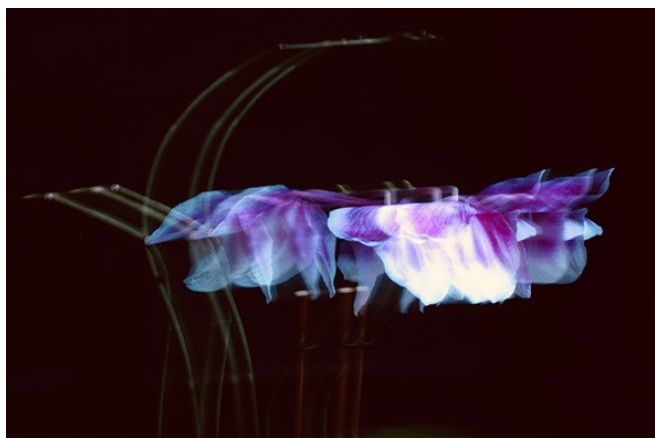
**Terry Azoti, Arts and Humanities State Organization Liaison**



*Winter over Mirror Lake*  
**Judy Baxter, Theta Chapter**



*Blooming Orchids*  
**Terry Azoti, Zeta Chapter**



*Fast Fading Orchids*  
**Terry Azoti, Zeta Chapter**



*Pollinator*  
**Terry Azoti, Zeta Chapter**

**Visit the DKG and AKS websites!**

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)  
<http://dkgct.weebly.com>



# AROUND THE

## ALPHA

Alpha Chapter celebrated two special events in March: Member **Ruth Wilson's** 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and Alpha's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Below are two photos – one of Ruth and one of Alpha's current and past Presidents.



Alpha Chapter's current and past presidents: (l. to r.) **Linnea Stenberg**, **Marilyn Arvoy**, **Carolyn Gilbert**, **Joanne Zammit** and **Lucy Galasso**



Alpha Chapter member **Ruth Wilson** celebrates her 100th Birthday!

Three Alpha Chapter members, **Jean DiVincenzo**, **Karin Layton** and **Linnea Stenberg** attended the CTAUN Conference. Also in April, **Judy Petersen**, retired Media Specialist, led a wonderful discussion on *Gifts from the Sea* by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Judy prepared thoughtful discussion questions and e-mailed them to members in advance.

Alpha's Annual Banquet was held on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Several members were honored with their DKG Longevity Awards: 30 years – **Carolyn Gilbert**, **Lurline Lapolla**, **Car Westbrook**; 60 years – **Anne Modugno**. Anne, our Fine Arts Chair, also organized a fun sing-along activity, which members enjoyed.

## BETA

Beta Chapter members have had an active year. At the December meeting, **Pat DeCoster** presented her UCONN Capstone Project for which she earned her doctorate in educational leadership. Pat shared not only the highlights of the findings of her project, but also her experiences as she conducted the research. After the presentation, Pat answered questions about her project and experiences for members.

The chapter adopted Six to Six Magnet School in Bridgeport for the 2017-2018 year. School supplies will continue to be collected throughout the year. **Catherine Dias**, **Robyn Proto** and **Jenny McCarthy** accepted school supplies that were generously donated by members. The March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting took place at the school where several teachers spoke about the programs offered at this science, math and technology magnet school.

The Spring Dinner took place on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Dante's Restaurant in Stratford. At that time, officers for the 2018-2020 biennium were installed.



Beta Chapter members at Six to Six Magnet School. Back Row (l. to r.) **Nikki Zgradden**, **Cynthia Gallo**, **Jennifer McCarthy**, **Catherine Dias**, a 6-to-6 student and **Robyn Proto**, Administrator.

## DELTA

Delta's final meeting of the year was held on May 16th at Fairview Farm in Harwinton. There were 23 members present. Installation of officers was held: **President Joanne Brogis**, **Recording Secretary Mary Lou Kuegler**, **Corresponding Secretary Rita Caruso** and **Treasurer Rose Mikasauskas**.

**Professional Affairs Chair Claudette LaFlamme** presented Delta's 2018 Book Grant to Dezheen Selevany, a senior at Crosby High School in Waterbury. Dezheen will be attending the University of Connecticut majoring in early childhood education. She is president of the Young Educators' Club, a member of the National Honor Society and the International Language Club. Although Dezheen began her education speaking mostly Kurdish, she overcame the language obstacle and has excelled throughout her years in school. She has challenged herself



# NUTMEG STATE

by taking rigorous accelerated courses and participates in numerous volunteer activities. She is excited about achieving her goal to become a kindergarten teacher.

Delta Chapter members are invited to a summer planning meeting on July 18th at the home of **President Joanne Brogis**. Ideas for programs, as well as for chapter -building, will be discussed.



**2016-18 Delta Chapter President Paulina Auclair** and 2018 Book Grant recipient **Dezheen Selevany**



Delta Chapter 2018-20 Officers (l. to r.) **Rose Mikasauskas, Rita Caruso, Mary Lou Kuegler and Joanne Brogis**

## ZETA

Zeta Chapter held its annual birthday celebration meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Giulios Pizza Restaurant in North Haven. Speakers were members **Nancy Tingley** and **Dorothy Logan** who shared with humor and dedication their activities as instructors with the **Step Forward Program** at Gateway Community College in New Haven. The program services students with mild cognitive skills focusing on interpersonal relationships, career exploration and worksite readiness. It includes classroom and community worksite instruction. Also, member **Dr. Rita Landino '64**, Emeritus of Counseling Services at Southern CT State University, shared her deep involvement in the newly dedicated Reflection Garden at the university sponsored through the SCSU Alumnae Association. This garden is a memorial to those lost in Sandy Hook, but it also serves as a place to honor other lost loved ones. Many people in the Alumnae Association, as well as surrounding community supporters, have helped to make this garden a reality.

Zeta Nomination Committee announced a slate of officers for the 2018-20 biennium that will include two presidents and two first vice presidents. While each office will name one person as the official officer, the second person serves in an associative role for her co-officer.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Zeta held its end-of-the-year Sundae Social meeting at Whitneyville Center in Hamden where new officers were inducted and new member recommendations were announced.

## THETA

In April, member **Pam Aubin** presented *The Just Right Garden* to Theta members. Members learned about different plants and the ideal planting location depending on the amount of sunlight and water they require. She also talked about plants to pair together and using plant arrangements to have your garden flower throughout the summer. Everyone left inspired to plant a new garden or revitalize existing ones! At this meeting, Theta also welcomed five Gamma members who have decided to join Theta Chapter: **Faye Ringel, Roz Etra, Janis Sawicki, Linda Shea and Mary Ellen Giard**. Theta Chapter looks forward to having them as members and incorporating some of their traditions into Theta.

In May, **Lynda Stein** led the girls at Journey House in an activity making get-well cards for children who are hospitalized. The girls were very creative, and the cards were beautiful. They will be mailed out to a national organization that distributes the cards. **Donna Cawley, Carole Norrish and Sharon Bartlett** assisted. The Annual Spring Fling is also being arranged with members donating scarves, make-up, writing and drawing supplies and other items teens love! **Jill Hill** will be helping the girls make jewelry as they shop for their summer goodies!

At the June 6<sup>th</sup> Banquet, three new members were initiated: **Jeanette Picard**, a reading consultant in the Lebanon Schools; **Jamie Pociask**, a second-grade teacher in Chaplin and **Barbara Coviello**, a special education preschool teacher in Columbia. **Marie Desautels** was installed as Theta's new president, **Pam Aubin** as the new first vice-president, **Karen Dibala** and **Lynda Stein** as second vice-presidents, **Ann Gruenberg** as recording secretary and **Ann Chuk** as corresponding secretary. Theta appreciates these leaders for sharing their time! The \$500 **Elizabeth Jordan Grant** was awarded to a deserving UConn or Eastern student majoring in education. Three deserving members were given the Theta Achievement Award! They contribute above and beyond to the chapter, but they have not yet become active at the state and International levels. Look forward to the Fall issue to learn more about our new members, the recipient of the Elizabeth Jordan Grant and the three Theta Achievement Award winners!

## OMICRON

The members of Omicron Chapter greatly enjoyed their March meeting at Emmett O'Brien Technical High School. Member **Marie Maresko** facilitated a tour of the recently renovated school. Mrs. Maresko's presentation on each of the shops offered at the Ansonia school was quite engaging. The members were also impressed with the many future career options offered to the students.

The cafe provided an awesome meeting space, and the refreshments provided by **Mary Torres, Annette Frank, Francesca Ford, Kathy Kiley and Julie Criscuolo** were delicious. Additionally, Omicron Chapter

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## AROUND THE NUTMEG STATE

(continued)

*(Continued from page 5)*

thanks Chef Valle for the coffee. Members hope to visit the school's café in the near future to sample the culinary arts students' famous cooking.

**Pat Chaghatzbanian**, 30-year Omicron member, continues to serve the children of the state through her donations of handmade afghans. In addition to donations to area hospitals, Pat recently sent 10 of her creations to the patients at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Pat and **Judie Joss** have been combining efforts, talents and well-wishes in the name of Omicron Chapter by sending hand-knit and crocheted afghans and hats to patients in New Haven and the valley. Pat and Judy co-chair Omicron's Community Outreach Committee.



**Judie Joss**, Omicron Chapter,  
with handmade hat



### RHO

Rho Chapter had two interesting meetings this spring. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, members met at the Ellington Library in the McKnight Room for a *Vietnam Photo Show and Tasting*. **Dr. Jackie Abbott** shared a photo show of her visit to Vietnam. Vietnamese cuisine from the Bui Vietnamese Restaurant in Manchester was enjoyed by all. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Rho members visited the Book Club Bookstore at 869 Sullivan Ave., South Windsor. Cynde Acanto, book store owner gave the members a tour of her store and explained ownership and responsibilities. She highlighted CT authors and the special area where she displays their books. Cynde also hosts many CT authors and book signings. She promoted Independent Bookstore Day held on April 28<sup>th</sup> that included twenty independent bookstores across CT. A map was available for these stores and special promotions were being held at each store. The archway of books that you enter through at this store provides a perfect photo backdrop for book lovers. Rho members appreciate Cynde's enthusiasm for reading and her warm hospitality providing refreshments and stories about being a book seller.

Rho had eight members attend the AKS Spring Convention. **Irene Raiche** was able to receive her twenty-five year pin at the Convention. **Cheryl Purnell** and **Pat Cosma** received their twenty-five year pins at Rho's final meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Crandall Pond Lodge in Tolland. This was the chapter's annual pot luck dinner at which new officers for 2018-2020 were installed. Rho was honored to have **AKS Pat O'Connell Buckley** as a guest at the meeting.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### *White Roses*

*"Every good life leaves behind the fiber of it interwoven forever in the work of the world."*

**Marion Jewell, Nu Chapter**  
April 28, 2018



Marion Jewell was a member of Nu Chapter for 51+ years and very proud of her DKG membership. Marion served in many leadership roles, including Nu Chapter president and membership chair. She was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need and regularly attended as many chapter meetings as she could. One of Marion's proudest moments was when she traveled to the AKS State Convention and received her 50 year pin. During the same convention, she proudly carried the Nu flag as part of the flag ceremony. Marion was always one to have a poem handy and was honored to write and deliver her poem about *Sisters* at the Convention.

Marion earned a B.S. degree from the Teachers College of Connecticut, now CCSU, in 1951, an M.A. degree from NYU in 1958 and a 6th year professional Diploma from the University of Bridgeport in 1967. She was a teacher in the Darien Public Schools from 1951 to 1981, followed by years of substitute teaching and tutoring. She was a member of the Connecticut State Teachers Retirement Board from 1987 to 1991.

Marion was honored in the Hall of the House of Representatives, Hartford, Connecticut as the Retired Teacher Representative on the Connecticut State Teachers Retirement Board, on Retired Teacher Recognition Day, February 20, 1991. The North Stamford Congregational Church has been her home church for many years. She served on the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees. Marion will be greatly missed by all her Nu sisters. She truly was an inspiration to all of us.



# Alpha Kappa State Honoring Our Members 2018 Longevity Recognition

## Congratulations to the following Alpha Kappa State members

### 60 years

Anne Modugno, *Alpha*



### 50 years

Georgene Hayes, *Zeta*

Frances Baratz, *Eta*

### 40 years

Angeline Schiallaci, *Beta*  
Donna Chaney, *Zeta*  
Teresa Santillo, *Zeta*  
Anne Rudge-Pinkham, *Eta*

Joan Haffey, *Theta*  
Renay Dickens, *Iota*  
Sandra Gammons, *Iota*  
Ruth-Ellen Hunt, *Iota*

### 30 years

Carolyn Gilbert, *Alpha*  
Lurline Lapolla, *Alpha*  
Caraliene Westbrook, *Alpha*  
Carolyn Dickens, *Beta*  
Angelia Whiting, *Beta*

Joan Konareski, *Lambda*  
Karen Hicks, *Tau Upsilon*  
Lisa Hudkins, *Tau Upsilon*  
Beverly Sanders, *Tau Upsilon*  
Barbara Yohe, *Tau Upsilon*

### 25 years

Helen Wasserman, *Beta*  
Ellen Maust, *Zeta*  
Kathleen Hanisko, *Lambda*  
Nancy Maynard, *Lambda*

Patricia Cosma, *Rho*  
Cheryl Purnell, *Rho*  
Irene Raiche, *Rho*

### State Honorary Members

Gloria Schaffer, *50 years*

Ellen Burns, *40 years*



2018 Longevity Pin Recipients with AKS Membership Chair Paulina Auclair (far left), AKS President Pat O'Connell Buckley (second from right) and AKS Longevity Chair Colleen Spieler (far right)

(l to r) Joan Konareski (30 years), Joan Haffey (40 years), Sandra Gammons (40 years) and Irene Raiche (25 years)



*(Continued from page 1)*

The long journey begins when refugees cross a border from their own country and are usually settled into refugee camps where they register with the United Nations. Some will wait until the war ends in hopes of returning home. They might wait as long as five to twenty years and often marry and have children while in the camp. A tiny fraction might be able to assimilate in the country they fled to. Fewer than one percent have a chance for the long-term solution of resettlement. In 1980, the U.S. Refugee Act was signed and up to seventy to eighty thousand refugees a year were resettled in the United States through agencies like IRIS. The U.S. resettles the most refugees in the world, more than all the other countries combined.

The vetting process begins overseas. Refugees are interviewed four or five times by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). The UNHCR and the United States prioritize the most vulnerable including single mothers, prosecuted ethnic groups and families. If all goes well, usually after two years or longer, some are invited to the United States.

Chris set the stage using role playing to illustrate the vetting process. The characters were a family of three from Homs, Syria: a father who owned a now destroyed bakery; mother who had studied English in a now closed university and a five year-old daughter who was not speaking or sleeping (traumatized by watching a barrel bomb kill three neighbors). The mother was abducted and threatened by government troops looking for her brother. This was the last straw – they packed their few belongings, took a cab to Jordan and then walked two miles with suitcases to the camp. They were there for two years.

Having completed the UNHCR vetting, they were selected by the U.S. and interviewed for four hours. They needed to provide fingerprints, DNA test for daughter, photos, passports, birth certificates, high school diplomas and all other receipts and documents which were sent to the FBI Forensics. About a year later, an FBI report was issued. They were then questioned about their experience in Homs. What happened with the barrel bomb? How was the bakery damaged? Six months later they are called back by the Department of Homeland Security for another four-hour interview. They needed addresses, social media accounts, phone numbers, names of all relatives and their addresses, questions about relatives in family photo. More questions were asked about events and dates – When was the barrel bomb? When did the soldiers come? When was the bakery damaged? Who were all of the mother's university friends, clubs and political contacts? Meanwhile, their fingerprints were checked by the FBI and CIA and the Terrorist Watch List and any information that other governments, including Jordan, had. During the third interview, it came out that in 2006 a terrorist cell was hiding in the basement of the bakery. The 2001 Patriot Act states that anyone who supports terrorists in anyway is barred from the US. At this point, the process would stop for this family.

The United States has the most rigorous, invasive vetting process; and this is the hardest way to enter the country. Chris then added that if this family had completed this phase of the vetting process, the health screenings would begin. Do you have any relatives or friends in the US? Usually not. They would be arbitrarily assigned to a state – every state has refugees. Then they must sign a promissory note for \$1,000 each for flights to the U.S. IRIS is informed that a family of

three will arrive in two or three weeks. The staff finds an apartment and furnishes it with donated furniture and new mattresses. The kitchen is set up and stocked with their ethnic food.

A case manager is assigned and another refugee family prepares an ethnic meal for the evening of their arrival – this is a U.S. regulation! An e-mail with arrival times is received and UN welcomes the family at airport security. The Case Manager and an interpreter from IRIS bundle them up in donated winter coats, hats and mittens and drive them to their apartment in New Haven. They show them how to dial 911, give them their keys and leave them alone to enjoy their meal and new home.

The next day the case manager takes them to Yale New Haven Hospital for medical exams. The daughter has PTSD and the father an abscessed tooth. They will address these issues over time. They enroll the daughter in kindergarten and the adults into English classes. They are given help in finding a job. He wants his own bakery again but realizes he can't be picky and settles for a job as a dishwasher and is quickly promoted to full time. Fatima settles for a housekeeping job at a hotel. It is hard for them to come from high status jobs in their home country to the need to settle for low paying jobs to pay the rent. They are given about \$1000 a month from IRIS for four months when they are expected to be independent. If there is a need, IRIS will continue to work with them a bit longer.

What can we do to help? First, volunteer with a group within your community. Since January of 2016, IRIS has used the expanded model of resettlement in which community groups, often faith based, do the work IRIS does in New Haven as they sponsor a family. They must raise money and assess the family needs to assist them. IRIS offers a forty-page manual describing the process. The map at the bottom of the next page shows the number of community groups working with refugee families in Connecticut.

You can also lobby to have the number of refugees admitted increased. Write or call your legislators. Learn about refugee resettlement and teach your friends. Meet and work with refugees. Support refugees in any way you can. Hire refugees – they are the highest quality staff. Think about what they have gone through to get here!

Chris received a standing ovation for his presentation which touched the hearts of AKS members. Hopefully, with our new awareness, we will each find a way to help our fellow global citizens settle into peaceful and productive lives!

**Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean, Theta**



Chris George and Pema Bhutia, IRIS





**From the AKS Nominations Committee**

The AKS Nominations Committee is preparing a slate of officers for the 2019 – 2021 biennium for first vice president, second vice president and recording secretary. (The current first vice-president, according to the bylaws and standing rules, automatically steps up to the position of president.)

The committee is also looking for three candidates for the finance committee and three candidates for the nominations committee for 2019 – 2023.

The duties of each of the positions can be found on the AKS website in the Bylaws and Standing Rules.

A nominations form, also found on the AKS website, needs to be filled out for each candidate. Permission of the person must be secured before her name is recommended for nomination.

December 1, 2018 will be here before you know it and that is when nominating forms are due to the Nominations Committee Chair.

**Marilyn Arvoy (Alpha) AKS Nominations Chair:**  
**350 Delavan Avenue**  
**Greenwich, Ct. 06830-5948**  
**marvoy@hotmail.com**

**Nominations Committee Members:**  
**Joanne Brogis (Delta)**  
**Jacqueline Farrell (Iota)**  
**Gail Karkowski (Beta)**  
**Susan Nadeau (Rho)**  
**Judy Weiner (Epsilon)**



Map of Connecticut showing locations of communities which are aiding refugees.



**Connecticut  
 State Organization**

**Welcome to our New and Reinstated  
 AKS Members  
 reported as of June 2018**

**Congratulations to all these members!**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>ALPHA</b>   | Barbara Gotch  |
| <b>BETA</b>    | Jenell Cunningham<br>Catherine Dias<br>Cynthia Gallo<br>Chandra Maxwell<br>Jennifer McCarthy<br>Patricia Miller<br>Susan Szudora |
| <b>DELTA</b>   | Linda Musco  |
| <b>ZETA</b>    | Claudette Beamon<br>Erika Forte<br>Gale Tirrell  |
| <b>ETA</b>     | Gloria Dover (Reinstated)  |
| <b>THETA</b>   | Barbara Coviello<br>Jeanette Picard<br>Jamie Pociask<br>Lynda Stein  |
| <b>NU</b>      | Laura Straiton   |
| <b>OMICRON</b> | Kathleen Kiley   |
| <b>RHO</b>     | Dr. Jennifer Piatek<br>Shannon Piatek<br>Donna Veo   |



# Spring Convention Photos



**AKS President  
Pat O'Connell Buckley**



**AKS First Vice President  
Dr. Kathleen Lozinak**



**Theta Chapter President  
Dr. Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean**



**Nu Chapter President  
Ann Novotnik**



**Former Rho Chapter President  
Dorothy Shackway**



**Vicky Valaine Braucci  
Tau Upsilon Chapter**



**AKS Recording Secretary  
Kim Albro McGee**



**Fine Arts Presentation by *Take Note!***



# Spring Convention Photos



**AKS President Pat O'Connell Buckley, AKS 2018 Outstanding Service Awardee Karen Cook and AKS Outstanding Service Award Committee Chair Anne Brandt (Zeta Chapter)**



**Holly Torrant carries the flag for the newly formed Tau Upsilon Chapter**



**Roz Etra  
Theta Chapter**



**AKS Birthday Celebration (Iota Chapter)  
(l to r) President Sandra Gammons, Carrie Fiske, Deborah Soresino, Pat Kelly and Ellie Coffey**



**Ceremony of Life (Mu Chapter)  
(l to r) Delta Chapter President Paulina Auclair, Mu Chapter President Carolyn Hallifax, and Mu Chapter Past President Patty Faulkner**



**Immediate Past AKS  
President Joan Konareski**



**(l to r) Patty Faulkner (Mu Chapter), former AKS President Nancy Roy (Delta Chapter) and Ann Newbury (Mu Chapter)**



**Alpha Kappa State Fellowship, Generosity and Advancement of Women Educators**

**Dates to Remember**

July 16—20, 2018

*International Convention*  
Austin, Texas

Saturday, September 15, 2018

9:30 a.m.—12:00 Noon

*Alpha Kappa State Board Meeting*  
Cook Room, Meriden Public Library

Saturday, November 3, 2018

*AKS Fall Conference*

Wilcox Technical High School  
Meriden, CT

Saturday, March 16, 2019

9:30 a.m.—12:00 Noon

*Alpha Kappa State Board Meeting*  
Griffin Room, Meriden Public Library

Saturday, May 4, 2019

AKS 80th Birthday

*AKS Spring Convention*

Saturday, June 8, 2019

9:30 a.m.—12:00 Noon

*Alpha Kappa State Board Meeting*  
Griffin Room, Meriden Public Library

July 30—August 1, 2019

*Northeast Regional Conference*  
Foxwoods Resort and Casino

**Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference**  
**Saturday, November 3, 2018**  
**Wilcox Technical High School**  
**Meriden**



**DKG 2016-18 International President**  
**Carolyn H. Pittman**

Invites all DKG members to attend the  
2018 International Convention in Austin, TX

**Birthplace of DKG**  
**Live Music Capital of the World**  
**J W Marriott—Convention Headquarters**

**AKS Chapter Officers and Members:**



**You are invited to join us at the**  
**2018 Leadership Conference**  
**Wednesday, June 27th**

***Cultivating Leadership***

**Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts**  
**160 Huyshope Avenue**  
**Hartford**

**To register or for more information, please contact:**  
**Shannon Karlowicz (860) 214-0394**

**Photography for *The Keynote* contributed by**

**Alpha Kappa State Photographer**  
**Carolyn Downs**

**NEXT KEYNOTE DEADLINES:**

**September 1, 2018**  
**December 1, 2018**

Send information to **Carol Beam**  
**267 Ivy Drive**  
**Bristol, CT 06010-3308**

or e-mail to [<d.w.beam@snet.net>](mailto:d.w.beam@snet.net)

***Mission Statement***

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*



***Vision Statement***

*Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide*