



Connecticut State Organization
DKG International Society for
Key Women Educators



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Summer 2021

**Dr. Ann Cavanaugh-Grosjean
Selected to Lead the
Connecticut State Organization
of DKG
for the 2021-2023 Biennium**



Connecticut State Organization 82nd Spring Convention

On April 24, 2021, fifty-seven Connecticut State Organization (CTSO) members from around the state gathered on Zoom to participate in the 82nd Spring Convention. The meeting began with the annual Celebration of Life to honor members who have passed. **Pam Aubin** (Theta) shared a tribute for each member while **CTSO President Kathleen Lozinak** (Omicron) placed a white rose in a vase in memory of each member. **Necrology Chair Sandra Gammons** (Iota) compiled the homage for each member for the Celebration of Life booklet, which will be shared with each deceased member's family.

Dr. Lozinak opened the business meeting with a thought for the day. The Flag Ceremony included the flag and number of members present for each chapter shared by **Recording Secretary Kim Albro McGee** (Zeta). Kim also presented the minutes from the 2020 Spring Convention for approval. This is Kim's last year in this position, and all CTSO members thank her for her many years of service! **Treasurer Ellen Festi** (Rho) gave the Treasurer's Report and **Finance Chair Ann Novotnik** (Nu) presented the 2021-2022 budget for approval. Kathleen gave her President's Report, and **Phyllis Hickey**, former Theta member and **CTSO president who now serves as the Strategic Outreach Director at DKG International Headquarters in Austin**, presented an update from International. **By Laws and Standing Rules Chair Terry Azoti** (Zeta) presented for approval changes related to virtual meetings and voting. **Investment Chair Marnee Stration** (Iota), gave a report from her committee that our investment are doing very well. **Professional Affairs Chair Susan Carpenter** (Tau Upsilon) presented the names of the high school and college students who will be receiving grants at the CTSO 2021 Fall Conference. **Marilyn Arvoy** (Alpha), **Chair of the Nominations Committee**, presented the slate of officers for the 2021-2023 biennium, as well as the nominated members for the Finance and the Nominations committees.

Dr. Elsa Nuñez, the president of Eastern Connecticut State University and honorary member of Rho Chapter, was the Keynote Speaker. She spoke about the importance of early childhood education and appropriate toys for this age group. She also addressed the inequities in education and the problems several teachers, former graduates of ECSU, have faced during the pandemic and adaptations they have made. CTSO congratulates Dr. Nuñez on her retirement from ECSU this summer. **Pam Aubin**, the Educational Impact Chair made the arrangements for Dr. Nuñez to share her inspiring keynote. Please see Pam's article on page three.

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LEADING WOMEN EDUCATORS IMPACTING EDUCATION WORLDWIDE

FROM THE MIDDLE



Hello Ladies,

I write to you for the last time from the middle...

I have said many times, loudly and proudly, to all those who'll hear me, that I am blessed to have a core group of key women educators who have served as my mentors and are now serving on my executive board. I had chosen "From the Middle" as my frame of reference for this biennium during a training session in Iceland 2 full years ago. The concept has served me well. I continue to feel strongly that one of the most important responsibilities of the state level executive board is to serve as a go-between for DKG International and CTSO chapter members.

Near the start of my biennium, we created two ad hoc committees. One committee was to investigate how to best recruit collegiate members, and the second committee was to explore a fine arts retreat. Both ideas were well received and had several members eager to serve. The committees have made their recommendations and will be dissolved at the June Executive Board meeting. I thank all involved for their assistance and commitment to moving CTSO forward.

Through this column, I have shared with you that as a wife, mother, grandmother, full time elementary school teacher, union activist and involved community member I sometimes find myself a little bit busy. I am so grateful for those state level leaders who have gone before me and put into place the structures that help to keep our organization on track for success in spite of my short comings. I have relied heavily on the policies and protocols that are in place in the Connecticut State Organization for me, as well as for each of my chairs and chapter presidents. Each person embraced their role and ably executed the responsibilities of their position, even during the most trying of times. I am forever grateful for their service.

I thank all of those who volunteered to serve with me and I am sure the upcoming transitions will be seamless as new chairs meet with their outgoing counterparts. I have enjoyed communicating with you in this format and I will miss this opportunity for quarterly reflection. I will also admit that leading in-person and especially zoom meetings made me very nervous and I am happy to go back into the shadows.

Ann Grosjean, our Educational Excellence Chair, 1st VP and Incoming State President, is ready and waiting to serve you. Please be sure to welcome her as you have me and reach out to her with an offer to serve. Thanks for all you do.

Fondly and finally, from the middle,

Kathleen

CTSO Zoom 2021 Spring Convention



**CTSO President
Kathleen Lozinak**



**CTSO Nominations Chair
Marilyn Arvo and
40-year member**



**Phyllis Hickey, DKG International
Strategic Outreach Director and
Past CTSO President**



(Continued from page 1) 2021 Spring Convention

Clara Guilmette, an aspiring music teacher and the recipient of the Elizabeth C. Sonier Grant at the 2020 Fall Conference, was the Fine Arts Presenter. She played her banjo and shared a video of her band, **Bend in the River**, which includes her brother on guitar and a friend on the bass. **Fine Arts Chair Dr. Linda Paslov** (Beta), who arranged her performance, interviewed her about her path as a musician and future teacher of music. You can read more about Clara and her performance in Linda's article on page 12.

Longevity Chair Patricia O'Connell Buckley (Theta) honored twenty-two members who have been members for 25, 30, 40, 50 or 60 years. She will mail each member a pin and a certificate. **Marilyn Arvoy**, a forty-year member shared what membership in DKG means to her.

Installation Officer and Past CTSO President Terry Azoti (Zeta) officiated the installment of state officers for the 2021-2023 biennium. **Dr. Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean** (Theta) was installed as the new CTSO president by **Outgoing President Dr. Kathleen Lozinak** (Omicron). **Ellen Festi** (Rho) was installed as treasurer by Outgoing Treasurer **Donna Chaney** (Zeta) and **Kathleen Peters Durrigan** (Zeta) was installed as recording secretary by outgoing recording secretary **Kimberly McGee** (Zeta). **Linda Shea** (Theta), CTSO longtime and most capable executive secretary will continue to serve in this position. **Lenore Martinelli** (Zeta) will be installed as the first vice president and **Paulina Auclair** (Delta) will be installed as second vice president at the June 26th Executive Board Meeting.

Finally, Kathleen shared closing remarks, and **Roz Etra** (Theta) led all in the Delta Kappa Gamma Song. **Emily Lozinak DelPiano** (Omicron), CTSO's amazing Zoom Master, then whisked members into two fellowship sessions in Breakout Rooms so that sisters from around the state could visit with each other!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this convention such a success. I hope I have included everyone so that you see that it takes many leaders to run our state organization and events. Please consider getting involved at the state level. A Help Wanted article on page nine lists the positions to be filled.

The convention was recorded so all members can view it at their convenience. You might also like to consider showing either Dr. Nuñez's speech or Clara Guilmette's performance and interview as a program for a chapter meeting. Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/k0AuPfwv8TI>

Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean
CTSO First Vice President

CSO Spring Convention Keynote Speaker



Thank you to **Dr. Elsa Nuñez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University**, on her inspirational keynote address presented at the Delta Kappa Gamma Connecticut State Organization Spring Conference.

Dr. Nuñez provided an outstanding address to the members commending them on their support for aspiring and career educators throughout the years. She specifically noted the grants and scholarships awarded to graduating high school seniors who are planning to major in education and current teachers who are furthering their education with advanced degrees.

Reflecting on the challenges of educating Connecticut students during the pandemic, Dr. Nuñez addressed the need to focus on the glaring equity divide, experienced by our students who are facing overwhelming challenges due to low family income, urban poverty, lack of opportunity for enriching experiences and learning English when emigrating from another country. Dr. Nuñez expressed the need to instruct differently, stressing that equity requires specialized teaching and learning approaches, not just everyone getting the same books and materials.

Former graduates of Eastern were highlighted in her presentation as they spoke about the challenges of teaching online due to COVID-19. Some spoke about the challenges of online learning and reaching out to students who lack a strong support system at home due to the challenges of poverty and technical support. Other teachers spent time sharing the mutual feelings of loss and disappointment when special family gatherings could not be held. Teachers shared how they had grown closer to families, as well as to students during these trying times. Others shared how they quickly had to adapt to a range of new instructional technology, such as Google Classroom Suite, See Saw and Classroom DOJO, to name a few required by online learning.

Finally, the audience was treated the observation of preschool children interacting with a range of toys to determine which yielded the most complex play to promote language development, socialization, expressive vocabulary and cooperative play through the TIMPANI (Toys that Inspire Mindful Play and Nurture Imagination) study, with special commentary by Dr. Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, retired Professor of Early Childhood Education at ECSU.

Connecticut State Organization members wish Dr. Nuñez well as she commences her retirement. She has been a true asset to Eastern Connecticut State University and has served as an inspirational educational leader for the teaching profession.

Pamela Aubin, President
Theta Chapter



IN MEMORIAM

White Roses

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



Sandra Genung, Delta Chapter February 21, 2021



Sandra Marie Genung, or Sandy as she was known to many, was initiated into Delta Chapter in March, 2004. She passed away at the age of 77. A life-long teacher who dedicated the majority of her life to education, Sandy loved reading her mystery novels, catching up over lunch and traveling the world with friends and family, who all remember her quick wit and her strong Catholic faith.

She graduated from Watertown High School in 1961 and received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and a Master's degree from Southern Connecticut State University, both in English/Education, followed by a Sixth-Year Certificate in Educational Administration from the University of Connecticut. Loyal to her alma mater, she remained an avid UConn women's basketball fan for her entire life. Sandy returned to Watertown High School in 1964, where she taught English for 35 years. She served as Head of the High School Curriculum Committee for 14 years and Head of the English Department for 10 years, positions she held until her retirement in 1999. Sandra went on sabbatical to Atlanta, Georgia, with the Vista Program from 1976-1977, where she worked as an educational coordinator for Bedford Pines Day Care Centers. As co-president of the Watertown Education Association, and a member of the Connecticut Education Association as well as the Connecticut Council of Teachers of English, Sandy represented and fought for her colleagues and fellow teachers.

Sandra served as first vice president of Delta Chapter, as well as chapter president. Outside of teaching, Sandy's greatest passion was dogs—Wirehaired Terriers in particular, including Brody, Tammy, and Timmie—and spent most of her free time playing and working with them. She was an active member of the Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club and the Obedience Dog Training Club of Waterbury.

Sandy will be missed by her many cousins and Delta Chapter sisters.

Barbara Buxton, Beta Chapter March 1, 2021



Barbara Helen Buxton was inducted into Beta Chapter on December 1, 1967. She passed on at the age of 93.

Barbara graduated from Framingham State Teachers College and Boston University before starting her career teaching Home Economics. During a summer teachers' program at the University of Connecticut, she met Henry Buxton of Bridgeport, to whom she would be married for 49 years.

A longtime resident of Bridgeport and Stratford, she retired as the Assistant Principal of Bassick High School in Bridgeport. She had taught Home Economics at Central High School in Bridgeport, as well as in Hopedale and Newton, Massachusetts, before becoming an administrator.

Barbara had a unique ability to find joy and wonder in everything, and she shared that delight with friends and family through a beautiful smile. Her patience and understanding made her a pleasure to know personally and professionally. She had many talents, including sewing, knitting, singing, painting and genealogy. Barbara truly enjoyed life and the people around her, and she has left a legacy of caring and courtesy without judgement. She belonged to many organizations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution and other lineage societies; the Greater Bridgeport Chapter, American Association of University Women for over 50 years; Bridgeport Hospital Auxiliary and the Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Association.

Barbara was predeceased by her husband, Henry and leaves behind two daughters, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Barbara's daughter, **Louise Williamson**, is a member of Alpha Chapter.



IN MEMORIAM

White Roses

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



Harriett Sonk, Eta Chapter March 7, 2021



Harriett Sonk was initiated into Eta Chapter on November 1, 1961. She was scheduled to receive her 60-year member pin at the Connecticut State Organization in April 2021. As a staunch support of Eta Chapter, she was usually first to pay dues, always considering herself a full-paying member even in retirement. She enthusiastically participated in every chapter fundraiser. Harriett was also a member of the Groton Education Association and the Connecticut Education Association, as well as the National Education Association. She was inducted into the Groton Teachers' Hall of Fame and recognized as an outstanding educator by NEA. Throughout her lifetime she was an active member and supporter of the United Methodist Church in Old Mystic and Gales Ferry.

The daughter of a homemaker mother and a hardware store owner father, as well as a granddaughter of Pennsylvania farmers, she loved the woods and roamed the outdoors. She enjoyed camping her whole life and was still camping at age 91 on her property in Pennsylvania, driven there in her Jeep by a friend. As an aside, Mrs. Sonk was driving by age ten.

Harriett attended college in Grove City, Pennsylvania from 1936-1940. She then taught in a one-room schoolhouse as an obligation to the college. Her Master's Degree was earned at the University of Connecticut. She taught at Eastern Point Elementary School in Groton. She was then appointed as a vice-principal and a Latin instructor at West Side Junior High in Groton. She retired in 1977.

Her husband, Harlan, was an engineer who helped in building the Gold Star Memorial Bridge which opened in 1943 between New London and Groton. He then worked for many years at Pfizer. Both were philanthropists, giving much to area churches and World Vision International, which she supported for more than 40 years.

Harriett's friends, especially Eta Chapter members and her wild songbirds, will miss her.

Ora Massaro, Delta Chapter April 21, 2021



Ora Massaro was inducted into Delta Chapter in December, 1980. At the chapter level, Ora served as chair of the Music and Nominations Committees, in addition to being the second vice president, first vice president and chapter president. At the state level, she served on the Membership and Communications Committees.

She was a graduate of Bristol High School and Annapolis College. Ora received her master's degree in education from Trinity College. She studied at Colgate University and in Mexico and Puerto Rico. A Spanish teacher for over thirty years at Bristol Eastern High School, she traveled many times with students to Spain. Ora's hobbies included world travel, cooking and watching basketball games, the New York Yankees and horse racing. She loved music which was evident in the fact that she belonged to St. Anthony and St. Ann choirs as well as the Bristol Chorale. Ora guided St. Anthony Rosary Society and her family in spiritual matters. She was a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister at St. Anthony's Church. Ora was awarded the St. Joseph Medal of Honor in 2014. This honor is given by the Archdiocese of Hartford to individuals who give of their time and talent to enhance their parish communities in numerous ways.

Ora was predeceased by her sisters Rose, Marie and Amelia. Ora is survived by her nieces Claudia (Maynard) Skarb and her husband Stanley of Berlin, Christina Ciarmella of Terryville and a nephew Ralph Ciarmella of Terryville.



AROUND THE

BETA

Beta Chapter held its last two meetings via Zoom, once again. On February 17th, David Weitzmann, social worker at Frenchtown Elementary School, was guest speaker. His topic was *Tunnel Vision: Completing the Path to Wellness* during which he spoke about controlling emotions and coping with stressful times. He shared some useful suggestions and interesting illustrations to emphasize the negative effects that stress can have on our personal health. He additionally offered some positive ways in which to cope with the issues we face.

UConn professor Dr. Casey Cobb was guest speaker at the March 27th meeting. He began his presentation by explaining the intention of a study which focused on Equity in Education and the *achievement gap coinciding with opportunity*, during the Pandemic lockdown, forcing a virtual learning environment which affected the educational community of teachers, parents and children. (Reference to an OpEd in the *Washington Post* by Rachel Gabriel about *Learning and Loss*).

In addition, plans are underway for a meeting via Zoom in June and a live, in-person meeting/induction ceremony in July. After that, the executive board will meet to begin planning for the 2021-2022 academic year.

DELTA

Delta Chapter members **Florence Goodman, Sandra Hudon** and **Angela Stortz** were honored at the CTSO Spring Convention and awarded thirty-year membership pins. The chapter mourns the loss of **Sandra Genung** and **Ora Massaro**.

ZETA

Zeta Chapter completed its busy schedule of Zoom meetings with the annual Sundae Social on May 12th. Unfortunately, the annual sundaes were not served; but the camaraderie was sweet, as member **Lenore Martinelli** and her husband Ralph presented a multitude of gardening tips for successful growing of both vegetables and flowers.

Zeta's **Marguerite McKay Memorial Grant** was presented to Terrence Berrie, a teacher at Helen Street School in Hamden, who will be studying for an advanced degree in education at Southern Connecticut State University. The chapter was also pleased to donate \$100 to the CTSO Spring Convention annual fundraiser.

Twenty-five year member **Nancy Janeczek** and thirty-year member **Leslie Casanova** were recognized at the CTSO Spring Convention.

Hopefully, members will hold an outside gathering somewhere during the summer when more information becomes available on restrictions for doing so.

On April 29th, with the outstanding planning of **Chapter Vice Presidents Nancy Tingley** and **Kathleen Szczepanski**, members participated in a delightful Kentucky Derby Party complete with member-decorated fascinators and mint Juleps served up virtually by Nancy. (read more about this party on page 13). Most participants reported having watched the Derby the next Saturday with so

much more information about the history and traditions of this famous horse race!

Zeta is particularly proud to have two of its members join newly elected **CTSO President Ann C. Grosjean** as officers for the next biennium. **Lenore Martinelli** will serve as First Vice President and **Kathleen Peters-Durrigan** will become Recording Secretary. **Kathleen** replaces three term CTSO secretary and Zeta member, **Kim McGee**. Our thanks and congratulations to Kim for the fine job done over this period of time! We look forward to supporting the efforts of **Lenore** and **Kathleen** as they serve the state organization.

A special thanks to **Zeta's Co Presidents Lynn Pastore** and **Carol Franceschet** for keeping the chapter together and involved during this year of the pandemic through Zoom meetings and monthly newsletters.

THETA

Throughout 2020-2021, Theta Chapter continued to be committed to chapter projects while responding to the critical needs of the expanded Theta region. Due to the pressing need for support to area soup kitchens, the provision of books for the *Books for Babies* program, as well as support for the Journey House girls and the Salvation Army Bloom Initiative. Theta members have given generously throughout this difficult time.

This past year the chapter was able to provide a cash donation to the St. Vincent DePaul Place in Norwich, as well as the Covenant and Danielson Soup Kitchens. In addition, members were able to provide 20 casseroles and additional sides twice at the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.

Due to the closure of the maternity unit at Windham Hospital, Theta needed to find a willing recipient for its *Books for Babies* project to support literacy in children. At the January meeting, it was announced that Backus Hospital in Norwich would be Theta's new partner for the *Books for Babies* project. **Jane Moynihan**, Chairperson of *Books for Babies* committee, and **Theta President Pam Aubin** brought over 50 books in both Spanish and English to the Frederick Eadie, MD Birthing Center at Backus Hospital on January 20th. During the May 4th meeting, Theta members voted to rename the program, *Books for Siblings*, to expand books for siblings of newborns, who will continue to receive a book from another donor.

Once again Theta Chapter continued to support the girls residing at Journey House at Natchaug Hospital. This year, the girls received Valentine's Day gift bags containing facemasks with a Valentine print created by **Jane Moynihan** and gift cards for the girls to use. In addition, the girls received a gift bag filled with treats at Easter. **Committee Chair Sharon Bartlett** reported that the girls' spirits are uplifted by these surprises and gestures of support.

In addition, members stayed abreast of the needs of the Salvation Army Bloom Initiative that provide outreach, counseling and support to victims of human trafficking. In January, cleaning supplies, art materials, winter coats



NUTMEG STATE

and paper goods were donated to support victims of human trafficking.

Theta is proud of its members who will hold leadership positions at the state level. **Ann Grosjean** has been installed as the President of DKG CTSO, and **Millie Ramsay** will be serving for the next four years on the Finance Committee.

On June 3rd, Theta held its Year-End Banquet and Induction Ceremony for five new members:



Theta Chapter Induction: (l. to r.) CARE Chair Ann Grosjean, President Pam Aubin, Induction Chair & Past President Marie Desautels, Membership Chair Sharon Bartlett and new members: Michelle Doucette Cunningham, Laura Rodriguez, Sarah C. Smith, Pat Wilson Pheanious and Tracy Olander.



(l to r) Pat Wilson Pheanious, Pam Aubin & Marie Desautels



(l to r) Laura Rodriguez, Pam Aubin, Marie Desautels & Sharon Bartlett

Many members are excited about the prospect of joining together for an outdoor dinner at the home of **Sharon Bartlett**. Theta Chapter is excited to resume its in-person programs in the coming year. Best wishes are extended for a safe and healthy 2021-2022 to fellow sisters of Delta Kappa Gamma.

LAMBDA

In September, Lambda sisters met in the lovely backyard of **Treasurer Kari Baransky**. The meeting began with a moment of silence in honor of dear **Peggy DiPersio** who passed in the spring of 2020. After chapter business, a program was presented regarding the state of the nation during the pandemic. The meeting closed with the sharing of hopes for the future during a time of world suffering and uncertainty.

Due to pandemic fears, the November meeting was cancelled. **Joan Roczynski, Mary Ellen Ulatowski** and **Johanne Walworth** braved the cold to participate in an outdoor December sing-along fundraiser. Members felt blessed to be together and to share the tunes of the season.

Laura Longacre hosted the April Zoom meeting. After conducting chapter business, members discussed the Ted Talk entitled, *Why Winning At All Costs Doesn't Always Equal Success*, presented by Valerie Kondos Field. Field is a retired head coach for the UCLA Women's Gymnastics Team, a job she held for 29 years. The core of her message was that winning doesn't always equal success. Real success is developing champions in our world.

The May meeting was held on the beautiful patio of the Gouveia Vineyards in Wallingford. After chapter business, **Nancy Maynard** told all about Allison Connelly, Lambda's grant recipient from Wallingford. Nancy and fellow committee member, **Kathy Hanisko**, both agreed that the decision for a finalist was difficult due to the multitude of impressive applications. The meeting concluded with time for much needed fellowship with the sisters that have not been seen in person since the fall.

MU

Mu Chapter's March meeting included a virtual installation of officers. A very informative Zoom program followed. Mu's active teachers plus invited school specialists, two social workers and a school psychologist, who represented grades K-12, discussed their observations of how the pandemic was affecting teaching and learning at all grade levels. Members were able to get an insight of the successes, but also the real difficulties that occurred whether it was remote or in person learning for students of all ages. Teachers found it challenging to meet curriculum demands while also trying to meet the social and emotional needs that the pandemic was causing. Fortunately, signs of normalcy are now being restored.

Mu Chapter's Grant Committee met to view applications submitted by high school senior women from area high schools who are planning to pursue an education degree in college. Three \$1,500 grants were awarded at the June Mu meeting.



AROUND THE NUTMEG STATE (continued)

OMICRON

Omicron Chapter held its March meeting via ZOOM with a presentation from Meghan Hatch-Geary, the CT 2020 Teacher of the Year. Meghan currently teaches various levels of English at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. She shared her teaching career experiences from teaching in Ghana and Ecuador to her work on a statewide curriculum on Black and Latino History that is slated to be taught in Connecticut schools in 2023. She has also appeared on the NBC television program "Connecticut in Color" to discuss her work on this curriculum. She was an inspiration to our members who are still teaching, as well as those who are retired. Meghan is really making a difference!!

A virtual Bingo was held via ZOOM on April 25th with all proceeds going to the fundraiser for Omicron's High School Grant Fund. Winners received gift cards as prizes, and scratch off lottery tickets were given as door prizes. It was a huge success, and the chapter was able to award two \$500 grants. This year's recipients are Suzana Imetovski from Seymour High School, who will attend Western CT State University and major in Education, and Amelia Heckendorf from Pomperaug High School in Southbury. Amelia will attend Central CT State University and plans to major in Elementary Education.

On May 14th, Omicron Chapter finally held its 50th Anniversary dinner. Members and friends gathered in person at Brookside Inn located in Oxford. Among the festivities, there was a ceremony for the installation of the officers for the 2020-2022 biennium.



Omicron's 2020-2022 Officers
(left to right) **Treasurer Emily DelPiano, President Patricia Block, Vice President Deb Ruderman, Recording Secretary Marie Meresko and Corresponding Secretary Laurie Mihalcik,**

There was also an induction ceremony for the new members who joined last fall during COVID. They are **Susan McDonald**, who teaches Art at Emmett O'Brien Technical School in Ansonia and **Morgan Rossignol**, who teaches English at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls.



Omicron's new inductees: Susan McDonald (l) and Morgan Rossignol (r)



Omicron's 50th Birthday Celebration; (l to r) Zeta Past President Margaret Hrabchak (Zeta), Omicron Recording Secretary Marie Maresko, CTSO Incoming First Vice President Lenore Martinelli (Zeta) and Omicron Past President Helen Scully

RHO

Rho Chapter celebrated Women's History month in March by reading and discussing the book *The Only Woman in The Room*, by Heather Terrell. It is a fascinating historical fiction novel about a young woman, Hedwig Kiesler, who goes on to become Hedy Lamarr. Through her actions and attempt to end WWII, readers learned that Hedy Lamarr was much more than a beautiful actress. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Women's History Month.

Rho members held the first in-person, outside BYO picnic gathering at the end of May. It was wonderful to gather again in-person, to catch up and socialize, as well as doing a little planning for next year.



Do you need money for professional development ?

Cornetet Individual Awards (CIPD) will fund participation in conferences, seminars, lecture series, online courses, and workshops plus other non-degree programs. This award is given May 1 and September 1.

As of February 2020 over **\$801,200** has been granted as Individual Professional Development Awards.

Employed educators who meet the stated professional development definition may apply. **Applicants may receive a Cornetet Award only once**, but may apply up to two times a year, should earlier applications be unsuccessful. CIPD activities must occur after the funds are awarded.

Professional Development is defined as a *growth-promoting learning process that empowers employed educators to further excellence in education.*

The award may pay for registration fees and conference-related materials, travel, lodging, food, substitute teacher, if not provided by the district, and other expenses necessary for participation in the professional development activities.

The award may **not** be used for: 1) attendance at Society-sponsored events, 2) college or university courses leading to the completion of a degree program or 3) reimbursement of expenses for activities already completed.

The DKG Cornetet Individual Awards for Professional Development Funds have what you need . . .

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will only be considered if submitted electronically on or before the dates of **May 1st** and **September 1st** of each calendar year. The completed application should be sent to the Foundation Specialist at icpd@dkg.org. Upon submission, an email confirmation will be sent as proof of receipt.



Many of our CT State Organization members have committed to continue to serve on or to chair our state committees. I thank you all for your willingness to serve! We have just a few vacancies for the 2021-2023 biennium. If you have thought about getting involved at the state level, this is a great time!

- **Educational Impact Chair:** This person and her optional committee arrange for the speaker(s) for the state conference and conventions. They also request a photo and biography and write an article for the Keynote about the presenter before and after the event.
- **Photographer & Assistant Photographer:** take photos at the State Conference (fall) and State Convention (spring) and send them digitally to the Keynote, as well as to the state webmaster.
- **Program Booklet Editor:** create the program Booklet for the fall conference and spring convention – ideally using Publisher. The text and a template will be provided and the booklet will be edited by others and printed by a chapter. This could be a shared position.
- **Non-Dues Revenue Committee Chair(s):** Conduct a fund raiser to supplement the DKG funds.
- **Celebration of Life Booklet Editor:** create the Celebration of Life booklet for the Spring Convention. You will be given the text and will organize it using a template. It will be edited by others and printed by a chapter.
- **Keynote Editor** - Would you be interested in learning how to publish our Connecticut State Organization newsletter? **Carol Beam**, our **Keynote Editor** has served in this position since 1993 and feels it is time to 'retire'. If you are familiar with Microsoft Publisher and enjoy or would like to create publications, this is the ideal position for you. Carol is willing to work with the in-coming editor!

If you are interested in serving in one of these positions or have any questions, please call Ann Grosjean at 860-429-6152 or e-mail acgrosjean@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration!



CONNECTICUT STATE ORGANIZATION 2021 Longevity Award Pin Recipients

Congratulations to the following Connecticut State Organization members

60 years

Harriet Sonk, *Eta*
June Roberts, *Nu*

40 years

Marilyn Arvoy, *Alpha*
Sandra Ames, *Theta*

30 years

Florence Goodman, *Delta*
Sandra Hudon, *Delta*
Angela Stortz, *Delta*
Leslie Casanova, *Zeta*
Gloria Dover, *Eta*
Ann Chuk, *Theta*
Lisa Young, *Theta*
Jacqueline Farrell, *Iota*
Maureen O'Connor, *Lambda*
Joan Roczynski, *Lambda*
Johanne Walworth, *Lambda*

25 years

Linnea Stenberg, *Alpha*
Nancy Janeczek, *Zeta*
Terry Ziegler, *Eta*
Sandra Conway, *Lambda*
Laura Longacre, *Lambda*
Janet Schwartz, *Mu*
Vicki Braucci, *Tau Upsilon*

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



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Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone
Nancy Roy



OMICRON CHAPTER CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Omicron Chapter members gathered for their 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 14, 2021, a full year after the true 50th anniversary. Forty percent of the members had worked on the 50th Anniversary Committee. **CT State Organization Past President and CTSO Executive Board member Pat O’Connell Buckley** attended and facilitated the Omicron Recommitment Ceremony. She accurately described Omicron Chapter, as “small but mighty.”

The celebration was planned and organized by **Omicron’s Past President Helen Scully** and current **President Patty Block**. Helen welcomed guests, formally installed the current officers, researched the founders, created the program booklet and provided a video presentation.

Current President Patty Block inducted two new members, **Morgan Rossignol** and **Susan McDonald**. Patty also recognized **Patricia Chaghatzbanian** and **Arlene Clancy** for 35 years of membership and shared her closing remarks. Greetings were shared by **Omicron member and Outgoing CTSO President Kathleen Lozinak**, and **Incoming State President Ann Grosjean**. **Arlene Clancy** provided an invocation.

Omicron member Patty Benner created chocolate favors and assisted in arranging the music with **Diana Davis** and her husband Steve. **Marie Meresko** arranged for the cake, as well as the table decorations. **Laurie Mihalcik Thayer** and **Barbara Shepperd** assisted in preparing the program booklet. Laurie, Marie and **Daria Ploski** prepared and presented the tribute to the Omicron Founders. Daria also assisted with set-up and clean -up. **Emily Lozinak** assisted with finances.

Time was taken to remember the chapter founders, acknowledge past chapter presidents and to honor the memory of **Linda Coppola**, our forty-year member, who served Omicron right up to the very end by working on the Anniversary Planning Committee.

Linda Philie had reached out to local government representatives to share Omicron’s many accomplishments and was privileged to receive three State Citations. **Rosa DeLauro, an Honorary Member of CTSO**, Dean of Connecticut’s congressional delegation and recently selected Chair of the House Appropriations Committee for the 117th United States Congress, provided a wonderful tribute, highlighting Omicron’s many service projects. The second citation was from **Susan Bysiewicz, also a CTSO Honorary Member**, currently serving as Lt. Governor of the State of CT. A third Personal Citation from the members of the entire CT State General Assembly of six congressional representatives and three senators was introduced by Representative Jason Perillo from Shelton’s 113th Congressional District on May 14th.

Omicron Chapter members are proud of the work they have done over the last 50 years and look forward to continuing their dedication to the DKG International purposes for many years to come.

CTSO President Kathleen Lozinak



Pat O’Connell Buckley, Helen Scully and Patty Block



Omicron 35-year members (l. to r.)
Patricia Chaghatzbanian and
Arlene Clancy





CLARA GUILMETTE AND THE BEND IN THE RIVER BLUE GRASS BAND

Clara Guilmette wowed the attendees at the virtual DKG Connecticut State Organization State Convention on April 24th. Not only was she able to entertain live with a few songs on two different banjos (one has an open back with no resonator, she explained). She also provided some insights into her life as both a college student and musician during the pandemic. Additionally, Clara shared a video of her bluegrass band, Bend In The River, playing a tune at the last festival in which they were able to perform. (To hear some samples of their amazing music, go to <https://bendintheriverbluegrass.com/> and click on "Videos" at the top right of their homepage.)

Clara, who has been playing the banjo since she was 6 years old, was awarded the CTSO Elizabeth C. Sonier Grant of \$750 at the Fall Conference and attends Central Connecticut State University. She shared that her middle school band director inspired her to become a teacher. Three years ago, she taught at the Kid's Academy at the Podunk Bluegrass Festival in Goshen, which solidified that decision. I cannot wait to learn about her first teaching position in the near future!

**Dr. Linda Paslov,
CTSO Fine Arts Chair**

This photo is a screenshot of Clara performing live for CTSO.



**Clara Guilmette and
Bend in the River Bluegrass Band**



ZETA CHAPTER HOSTS A KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY VIA ZOOM

Zeta members were pleased to attend an entertaining event on Thursday, April 29th, via Zoom. A fabulous Kentucky Derby Celebration was planned by **Vice Presidents Nancy Tingley** and **Kathleen Szczepanski**. Members used their creative thinking to make and don a hat or fascinator to be judged by chapter appointees. Prizes of framed silk roses were awarded for Win, Place and Show. Nancy provided directions for making the hats and a list of suggested materials.

During the event she presented the history of the Kentucky Derby, with interesting facts about the yearly event. Did you know that this year was the 147th Derby? It is known for its rich tradition of sipping mint juleps, donning beautiful hats, and the fans singing *My Old Kentucky Home*. We also learned that over 500 roses are sewn into the garland that is draped on the winning horse. *The Run for the Roses*, only two minutes in length, is the most famous sporting event in history.

Nancy also taught us how to prepare some of the signature drinks that included a Woodford Reserve Bourbon Spire with plenty of bourbon, a Woodford Spire Mocktail without the bourbon, Mint Julep and Pineapple Mint Julep Tea Mocktail. A list of ingredients was provided before the event so that members could create their own cocktails along with Nancy. Not all of us toasted the list of contenders with any amount of bourbon, but we surely learned some bartending skills along the way. It was such an enjoyable event for all who participated.

Zeta Chapter has presented some pleasurable and educational Zoom events along with our annual spring meetings this year thanks to the creativity of our officers and other helpful members committed to the Delta Kappa Gamma goal of fellowship. Our visit to the 147th Kentucky Derby was certainly a favorite!

Judy Cody, Zeta Chapter Past President and CTSO Past President



Lenore Martinelli



Anne Brandt



Lorna Mangles



Margaret Hrabchak



News from DKG@UN and CTAUN

Ann Grosjean, DKG@UN Representative & CTAUN Member

The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN – pronounced Ctawn) is an independent organization made up of active and retired educators at all levels, representing numerous NGOs including DKG. Since its beginning in 1996, CTAUN has held events at UN headquarters in New York City and satellite locations in Georgia, Texas, Indiana, Oklahoma and New Jersey. Unable to conduct proceedings in person anywhere during these COVID days, CTAUN has continued its mission of “providing educators worldwide with opportunities to learn about the work of the UN and to incorporate global awareness into the curricula and school activities” using Zoom on the internet.

CTAUN members have continued to meet monthly on Zoom throughout the pandemic. Since the UN has been closed, three webinars have been created.

Connecticut State Organization Outstanding Service Award

Connecticut State Organization Outstanding Service Awards are presented to outstanding community volunteers who, without thought of recompense, devote time, energy and caring attention to the children and youth of Connecticut. This award is presented to non-members of DKG. These awards are given at the Spring Convention in even-numbered years.

Outstanding Service Awards Nomination Form and Procedure:

- Nominations may be made by chapters or by individual chapter members.
- Complete the nomination form describing the nature of the nominee's volunteer work.
- Include two letters of recommendation from chapter members, youth or community members who have knowledge of the nominee and his/her volunteer work.
- Submit the nomination form and additional documentation by snail mail to **Anne Brandt; 167 Ocean View Avenue; New Haven, CT 06512. Forms are due by January 15, 2022.**

A suggested time line to help chapters meet the deadline for completing the Outstanding Service Award Form. . .

1. Discuss what the Outstanding Service Form is at your first meeting in September or October.
2. Assign the second vice president to oversee the follow-up for finding a person worthy of receiving the Outstanding Service Award in September or October.
3. Receive the nominations and letters of recommendation by your second meeting in November or December.

Mail the nomination forms and letters of recommendation to the Outstanding Service Award Committee Chair Anne Brandt by January 15, 2022.

Anne Brandt, Chair
Connecticut State Organization Outstanding Service Award Committee



CT STATE ORGANIZATION ACHIEVERS

Several members of Beta Chapter defended their doctoral dissertations and earned an Ed.D. from the University of Bridgeport:

Kathleen Wallace: *Exploring Novice Teachers' Perceptions of edTPA as Indicator of Teaching Readiness;*

Deresa Scott: *A Case Study of Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy in an Urban School;*

LeTanya Lawrence: *Mosaic of Thought: A Qualitative Case Study on the Individual Induction Experiences of Black Women Educators in CT Urban Public Schools.*



Beta Chapter President Dr. Linda Paslov served as a reader of the dissertations. All three graduates wore their DKG honor cords with pride, and Dr. Kathleen Wallace was appointed Professor of Literacy at UB, “her dream job.” Paslov was also a recent recipient of the University of Bridgeport School of Education’s *Outstanding Literacy Leader Award*, presented annually to an alumna of their reading program, for her lifetime achievement as a reading teacher, consultant and supervisor.

Dr. Patricia Anekwe, Adjunct Professor of Education at the University of Bridgeport, recently published her book *High Achieving Second Generation Nigerians in the United States: Navigating Multi Contexts to Success*.



Connecticut State Organization Members Selected for the DKG Spring 2021 Gallery

Artists Submitted
126

Works Submitted
223

Works Accepted
184

The following state members were recently accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Spring 2021 Gallery:

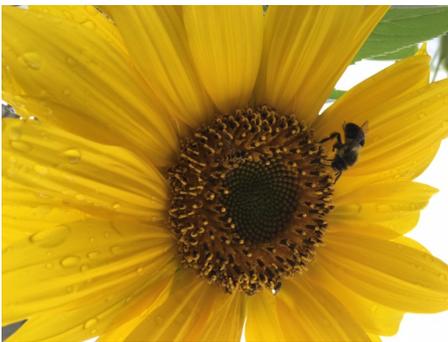
Terry Azoti (Zeta Chapter) for her photographs *The Lookout* and *Trilogy*.

Judith Baxter (Theta Chapter) for her photograph *Red Squirrel*.

Dr. Linda Paslov (Beta Chapter) for her poem *Teaching Is. . .*

Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone (Beta Chapter) for her photographs *Gourds and Glass* and *Dew Drop By*.

Linda Tracy (Theta Chapter) for her pastels *Fog on the Fenton* and *Here Comes the Sun*



Dew Drop By



Gourds and Glass



Red Squirrel



The Lookout



Trilogy



Here Comes the Sun



Fog on the Fenton

**Dr. Linda Paslov's poem, *Teaching Is.....*,
can be found on Page 17.**



Connecticut State Organization

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

Dates to Remember

June 26, 2021
Connecticut State Organization
Executive Board Meeting
Virtual

July 10-17, 2021
International Conference
Portland, Oregon

July 21-24, 2021
International Conference

CTSO Spring Convention
Link for YouTube video

<https://youtu.be/k0AuPfwv8TI>

Visit the DKG and Connecticut State Organization websites!

www.dkg.org
<http://dkgct.weebly.com>

NEXT KEYNOTE DEADLINES:
September 1, 2021
December 1, 2021

Send information to
Carol Beam
beamc267@gmail.com

Teaching Is...
by Linda S. Paslov, Ed.D.

Teaching is a lifestyle, as well as a career
That, whether we teach young or old, holds our values dear.
“My class would love this!” we exclaim when viewing Pinterest posts.
Our budgets suffer just a tad when red our bankbooks boast.

Teaching is a calling, a mission attitude
That pushes us to action and fosters gratitude.
We went to school to learn our craft yet keep on going back;
The knowledge gained is critical and keeps our work on track.

Teaching is a service, a yen for betterment
That leads us all to research, and then experiment.
We pore through what the experts say and try suggestions out.
If they succeed, we add them to our repertoires, no doubt.

Teaching is a passion, a cause for jubilee
That brings us joy when we deploy bursts of energy.
Whene'er we see that understanding look of sheer delight
It makes our efforts worth it, and thus all the world seems right.

Teaching is a talent, a true ability
That, with a bit of nurturing, yields humility.
A chance to share a skillset that results in learning's love
Is surely a great blessing, an endowment from above.

Teaching is a union, a fellowship of kinds
That joins together people with student-centered minds.
We advocate for policies that help our colleagues thrive
And validations of our needs that keep our hopes alive

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*