

DKG
Connecticut State Organization
84th Fall Conference
November 4, 2023

Piecing It Together

Zoom

DKG Connecticut State Organization
84th Fall Conference
Saturday, November 4, 2023

- 8:45-9:00 Sign in on Zoom
- 9:00-9:45 Welcome and Introductions
Lenore Martinelli
President of Connecticut State Organization
- Thought for the Day
Mary Ellen Ulatowski (Lambda) for Eta Chapter
- Connecticut State Organization Recruitment Grants
Susan Carpenter
Chair of Professional Affairs
- 9:45-10:30 First round of workshops (Zoom Breakout Sessions A, B, C, and D)
Session A: A Deep Dive into Developing Your Chapter Revitalization Action Plan
Session B: Books That Sing; Books That Dance
Session C: A Child's Right to Choose What They Read
Session D: Girls' Interest and Achievement in Math: Action Research and Possible Solutions
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:30 Second round of workshops (Zoom Breakout Sessions E, F, G, and I)
Session E: Next Gen: The Future of CT DKG
Session G: A Deep Dive into Developing Your Chapter Revitalization Plan
Session I: Strategies to Support Writing Fluency
- 11:30-11:45 Closing Remarks
Lenore Martinelli
President of Connecticut State Organization
- Delta Kappa Gamma Song
Led by **Roz Etra**
Theta Chapter
- 11:45-12:00 Break-out Room Social Visits

Connecticut State Organization
Executive Board

Organized May 12, 1939
Officers and Related Personnel 2023-2025

President.....Lenore Martinelli.....Zeta
First Vice President.....Linda Paslov.....Beta
Second Vice President.....Kathleen Peters-Durrigan.....Zeta
Recording Secretary.....Robyn Proto.....Beta
Treasurer.....Pam Aubin.....Theta
Assistant Treasurer.....Vacant
Parliamentarian.....Donna Chaney.....Zeta
Immediate Past President.....Ann Grosjean.....Theta
Executive Secretary.....Linda Shea.....Theta

Chapter Responsibilities
Fall 2023

Registration.....Theta
Thought for the Day.....Eta

**Chapter Presidents
2022-2024**

Alpha.....Sara Anderson and Karen Nagy
Beta.....Allison Fay
Delta.....Colleen Spieler
Epsilon.....Janie Pertillar
Zeta.....Evelyn Barese
Eta.....Michelle Holdridge and Marlene (Terry) Ziegler
Theta.....Pamela Aubin
Iota.....Sandra Gammons and Debra Soresino
Lambda.....Mary Ellen Ulatowski
Mu.....Ann Atwood
Nu.....Laura Straiton
Omicron.....Pat Block
Rho.....Margaret Festi and Karen Newcomb
Tau Upsilon.....Susan Carpenter, Judy Ludwig, and Holly Torrant

Committees Contributing to Fall Program

Communications Chair.....Emily DelPiano.....Omicron
Keynote Editor.....LeAnn Hinkle.....Alpha
Program Editor.....Linda Paslov.....Beta
Web Mistress.....Emily DelPiano.....Omicron
Educational Excellence Chair.....Linda Paslov.....Beta
Professional Affairs.....Susan Carpenter.....Twu Upsilon

Presentations and Presenters

Breakout Session #1 Workshop Choices -- 9:45-10:30AM

Session **A** Title: A Deep Dive into Developing Your Chapter Revitalization Action Plan

Session Description: CTSO Chapter Revitalization planning groups are encouraged to attend this 45-minute session which will review the need to increase the number of members; to mentor and retain members; and to grow new leaders at the chapter, state and international levels of DKG. We will review the DKG CTSO Revitalization Plan and offer some new resources, which will be shared statewide at a later date. Finally, chapter representatives will have the opportunity to share great ideas and best practices and to ask any questions as each chapter works on their Revitalization Action Plan. The session will be conducted by Pam Aubin, CTSO Treasurer and Ann Grosjean, CTSO Membership Chair.

Session Presenters: **Ann Grosjean & Pam Aubin**

Length of Session: 45 minutes

Materials needed (at home): None

About the presenters: Pam Aubin was the Connecticut State Organization Membership Chair from 2021-2023 and is now the CTSO Treasurer. She is currently in her 4th year as Theta Chapter President.

Pam's professional career began as an elementary teacher and administrator for 27 years. She taught at Annie E. Vinton Elementary School in Mansfield, CT for 10 years followed by several administrative positions in Norwich Public Schools including: Principal of John Moriarty Elementary School, Norwich Public Schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction, then as Superintendent of Schools in Norwich, CT and Montville, CT. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education from Eastern Connecticut State University and Masters in Early Childhood Education. She also earned her 6th year in Intermediate Supervision (092) and Certificate in Executive Leadership (Superintendent-093) from the University of Connecticut.

Ann Grosjean is the CTSO Immediate Past President and presently serves as CTSO Membership Chair. Ann has been a member of Theta Chapter, CTSO and DKG for thirty-eight years. A retired elementary teacher, Ann taught for a total of thirty-five years – three years of first grade in New Jersey followed by thirty-two in Mansfield, CT, where she taught gifted and talented and later first grade. Ann attended the Dunbarton College of the Holy Cross in Washington DC and William Paterson College in Wayne, NJ, for her undergraduate elementary education degree. She later earned her MA in Gifted Education, Sixth Year in Educational Leadership and PhD in Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut.

Session **B** Title: Books That Sing; Books That Dance
Sing with books? Dance with books? With me? With my kids?
Yep! Yes! Sure! Why not?!

Session Description: Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember. Involve me.....I understand.
Open a book and what do you see? Words? Pictures? Look again. Is there an opportunity to sing? An opportunity to move? If so, invite your students to do more than just listen. Involve them; make their learning more meaningful by inviting them to sing and move right along. This lively session will share books that use “music” to help make authentic connections to other dimensions of their learning, and other cultures. Many of these selections may also be used as “Brain Breaks,” moments to refocus, reorganize and reenergize the brain.

Session Presenter: **Lillie Feierabend**

Length of Session: 45 minutes

Materials needed (at home): None; a list of books that invite active participation will be provided.

About the presenter: Lillie Feierabend is known for her work with young children and instilling a love of music within them. She has been an early childhood and general music educator for over thirty years and a conductor for the Connecticut Children’s Chorus for seventeen. She has twice been honored with her district’s Teacher of the Year Award and in 2008 also received the Outstanding Elementary Music Educator Award from the Connecticut Music Educators Association. She is a frequent clinician at local, state, national and international conferences, presenting over three hundred lively and thought-provoking sessions on music and movement development. Over the course of her career, Lillie has mentored twenty-three student teachers and will forever be grateful for the opportunity.

Session **C** Title: A Child's Right to Choose What They Read

Session Description: With so much talk about inclusive texts and book banning this workshop is designed as a starting point for discussion. During this workshop, we'll look at some resources and examples of inclusive books.

Session Presenters: **Jackie Abbott & Pat O'Connell Buckley**

Length of Session: 45 minutes

About the presenters: Jackie and Pat, members of Theta Chapter, are both past CTSO Presidents and serve on the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee. Jackie and Pat have led previous book discussion groups at CTSO fall conferences.

Jackie taught for 29 years at Eastern Connecticut State University where she was chair of the Education Department. Prior to Eastern, Jackie taught elementary school in New Hampshire and the country of Turkey. Jackie lives on Lower Bolton Lake, enjoys spending time with her son and grandson, reading, volunteering, and serving on the Manchester Peace and Justice Committee.

Pat is retired from the Mansfield Public Schools where she taught at the elementary level for 34 years. Pat lives on Middle Bolton Lake and enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren.

Session **D** Title: Girls' Interest and Achievement in Math: Action Research and Possible Solutions
Session Description: A female's college and career goals may ultimately be restricted by declining interest and achievement in mathematics that originates during her pre-high school years. Linda examined how a piloted pre-engineering program in one eighth grade middle school team impacted adolescent girls' interest and achievement in mathematics. The results suggested that a program called Project Lead The Way (PLTW) positively impacted both girls' interest and achievement in mathematics. The question is: Must we invest in costly programs to address the needs of our female students? What else can we do to encourage the girls in our lives to love and pursue careers in the STEM subjects? What works in your math (and science) classrooms, regardless of the grade level you teach?

Session Presenter: **Linda Paslov**
Length of Session: 45 minutes

Materials needed (at home): Be prepared to share ideas and success stories for making math (and science) more appealing to our girls, at all levels.

About the presenter: Linda Paslov is the CTSO First Vice President, Educational Excellence Chair, and Fine Arts Chair, as well as the treasurer and membership chair (and immediate past president) of Beta Chapter. She completed her BS in Elementary Education, MS in Reading, and secondary math certification at the University of Bridgeport, and her 092 coursework and Ed.D. from SCSU. Linda contends that she uses both sides of her brain equally. Retired twice, after working in both the K-12 and higher education arenas in teaching and leadership roles (she was both a math teacher and reading consultant at Central High School in Bridgeport; a high school assistant principal and middle school principal in Stratford; the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments for the Trumbull Public Schools; an adjunct professor in Educational Leadership at SCSU; and an assistant professor turned Director of the School of Education at UB), Linda currently serves as the Director of the Trumbull Agriscience and Biotechnology Center. With the help of the right side of her brain, she has had several poems published in the DKG Fine Arts Gallery, and has won first and second place nationally for two poems she wrote for the DAR American Heritage Committee Contest, as well as second place for a song. In addition, Linda has had two articles published in the DKG Bulletin: *Collegial Exchange*. She was also featured in the DKG blog "Artist Spotlight" on August 16, 2021, along with her poem, "Teaching Is..." Mother of three adult daughters (two of whom are DKG members), wife to Joe, and Gramma Linda to Abby Rose (age 5), Linda enjoys writing poetry and articles, sewing, drawing, baking, singing, genealogy, and all animals, especially her dog, Schroeder, and rabbit, Javier Bartholomew.

15 minute break (10:30-10:45)

Breakout Session #2—Workshop Choices---10:45-11:30 a.m.

Session **E** Title: Next Gen: The Future of CT DKG

Session Description: The Next Gen Subcommittee of the Connecticut State Organization (CTSO) Membership Committee is geared towards active teachers and younger members. This subcommittee is helping to develop a vision for the future of our DKG CT State Organization. During this session, the following questions will be discussed with the newer teachers in attendance, as well as those who mentor or support them: What can the CTSO do for you? How can we support your needs as you move forward in the world of education, whether you are working in public, private, or non-traditional settings? What are your ideas for both attracting and retaining new DKG members who are actively teaching?

Session Presenter: **Allison Fay**

Length of Session: 45 minutes

Materials needed (at home): Just your ideas!

About the presenter: Allison Fay, president of Beta Chapter and chair of the CTSO Next Gen Membership Subcommittee, is a highly sought-after classical soprano, conductor, accompanist, voice teacher and vocal coach. She is also a Musical Theater and Voice instructor at the Regional Center for the Arts in Trumbull, CT. A graduate of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and Shenandoah Conservatory's Contemporary Music Institute, Allison appeared with the Amadeus Opernensemble as Madame Herz in *Der Schauspieldirektor* and Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*, as well as with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra as Herd Girl and "Prophet Song" soloist in *Peer Gynt*. In addition, she has sung with Sherrill Milnes's VOICEexperience Foundation in Florida, and Lauren Flanigan's Audition Workshop in New York City. An enthusiastic supporter of choral arts, Allison works with choirs and churches across Connecticut and produces audio, visual and social media content for the digital age.

Session **F** Title: Chapter Treasurers' Workshop

Session Description: This is an open meeting for all DKG Treasurers: past, present, and future; or anyone else who is interested. We will gather virtually to discuss treasurer duties, responsibilities, procedures, timelines, answer questions, and share your insights and experiences. Topics for the meeting, plus an opportunity to ask questions, will include:

- Tax Topic – Filing of IRS Form 990N
- Dues Portal – Reinstate and Transfer Members
- Dues Payments – Electronic Payment Ideas
- DKG Website – DKG Treasurer Resources

Session Presenter: **Pam Aubin**

Length of Session: 45 minutes

Materials needed (at home): None

About the presenter: Pam Aubin was the Connecticut State Organization Membership Chair from 2021-2023 and is now the CTSO Treasurer. She is currently in her 4th year as Theta Chapter President. Pam's professional career began as an elementary teacher and administrator for 27 years. She taught at Annie E. Vinton Elementary School in Mansfield, CT for 10 years followed by several administrative positions in Norwich Public Schools including: Principal of John Moriarty Elementary School, Norwich Public Schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction, then as Superintendent of Schools in Norwich, CT and Montville, CT. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education from Eastern Connecticut State University and Masters in Early Childhood Education. She also earned her 6th year in Intermediate Supervision (092) and Certificate in Executive Leadership (Superintendent-093) from the University of Connecticut.

Session **G** Title: A Deep Dive into Developing Your Chapter Revitalization Action Plan

Session Description:

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Session Presenter: **Ann Grosjean**

Length of Session: 45 minutes

Materials needed (at home): None

About the presenter: Ann Grosjean is the CTSO Immediate Past President and presently serves as CTSO Membership Chair. Ann has been a member of Theta Chapter, CTSO and DKG for thirty-eight years. A retired elementary teacher, Ann taught for a total of thirty-five years – three years of first grade in New Jersey followed by thirty-two in Mansfield, CT, where she taught gifted and talented and later first grade. Ann attended the Dunbarton College of the Holy Cross in Washington DC and William Paterson College in Wayne, NJ, for her undergraduate elementary education degree. She later earned her MA in Gifted Education, Sixth Year in Educational Leadership and PhD in Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut.

Session **I** Title: Strategies to Support Writing Fluency

Session Description: Attendees will learn brief strategies to increase writing fluency, improve word choice, and help students with ideas for writing. This session is geared toward teachers in grades 2-5. Grandmothers may get ideas for “playing school” activities. Teachers in other grades may find ideas for adaption.

Session Presenter: **Lenore Martinelli**

Length of Session: 45 minutes

Materials needed (at home): Paper and pencil.

About the presenter: Lenore Martinelli has been a member of Zeta Chapter for 20 years serving as recording secretary, treasurer and president. At the state level, she is currently president and has served as membership committee chair and necrology chair, as well as receiving an award from the Margaret H. Croft Fund to attend the DKG International Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. She also attended International’s Regional Conference in Windsor, Canada and the CTSO Conference in 2019, acting as a member of the Steering Committee.

Lenore received a B.S. degree in Education from Southern Connecticut State College and an M.S. in Reading from Southern Connecticut State University. Lenore retired from the North Haven School district as a language arts consultant. She also taught English to second language learners and was an adjunct professor in the University of New Haven’s graduate program for 13 years.

Lenore has taught religious education at all levels in her parish church and has been an active Girl Scout volunteer for over 35 years. She currently mentors high school girls who are working toward earning their gold award. Lenore has resided in North Haven with her husband Ralph for over 50 years. They have three children and four grandchildren. She enjoys gardening, sewing, reading, playing Mahjong, biking, attending the opera, as well as hosting dinners for family and friends

Connecticut State Organization Grants

Since 1951, grants have been awarded by the Connecticut State Organization to female and male college /university students and high school seniors majoring in education. Each grant bears the name of a distinguished member of the Connecticut State Organization.

High School Grants and Recipients

Adelina “Lee” P. Formica Recruitment Grant

Awarded to a senior planning to pursue a career in education

Recipient: Alex Herron

Enfield High School

Hannah C. Griswold Recruitment Grant

Awarded to a senior who has financial need
planning to pursue a career in education

Recipient: Sofie Passante

The Morgan School in Clinton

Margaret Rose Nielsen Recruitment Grant

Awarded to a senior planning to pursue a career as a math, science,
or technology education

Recipient: Michael Connors

The Academy of Information Technology and Engineering in Stamford

Elizabeth C. Sonier Recruitment Grant

Awarded to a senior planning to pursue a career as a music educator

Recipient: Nicholas Webster

The Woodstock Academy in Woodstock

University Grants and Recipients

Vera Butler Recruitment Grant

Awarded to a junior at Central Connecticut State University
pursuing a career in education

Recipient: Natalie Driggs
Elementary Education Major

Mary Mahoney Recruitment Grant

Awarded to a junior at the University of Connecticut pursuing a career in education

Recipient: Lynna Vo
Elementary Education Major

Ida Seidel Recruitment Grant

Awarded to a junior at Eastern Connecticut State University
pursuing a career in education

Recipient: Kendall Chrzanowski
Secondary Education English Major

Helen Moroney Recruitment Grant

Awarded to a junior at Southern Connecticut State University
pursuing a career in education

Asher Zaccagnino
Special Education Major

Rheta A. Lange Recruitment Grant

Awarded to a junior or senior at Southern Connecticut State University
pursuing a career in education

Recipient: Keylee Sudimick
Elementary Education Major

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

Purposes

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education
4. To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action
7. To inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society

11:30-11:45

Closing Remarks
Lenore Martinelli
President of Connecticut State Organization

Delta Kappa Gamma Song
Led by **Roz Etra**
Theta Chapter