



**Connecticut State Organization
DKG International Society for
Key Women Educators**

Volume 80, No. 3

Spring, 2021

**Dr. Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean
Nominated to Lead
Connecticut State Organization
for the 2021—2023 Biennium**



Dr. Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean has been nominated to be the DKG Connecticut State Organization (CSO) President for the 2021-2023 biennium. Ann has been a member of Theta Chapter, CSO and DKG for thirty-six years. During this time, she has served as chapter first vice-president, president, soup-kitchen coordinator and is presently the CARE chairperson. At the state level, she is completing her term as first vice-president and Educational Excellence chair; and she has also served as Educational Impact chair and CT State Liaison to the UN. At the international level she is a DKG NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) representative at the United Nations. This UN work also includes membership on CTAUN – the Committee for Teaching About the United Nations. At the 2016 CSO Spring Convention, she

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**Spring Convention
Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Elsa Nunez, President
Eastern Connecticut State University**



Dr. Elsa Núñez will be the keynote speaker at the CSO Spring Convention on April 24, 2021. This will be a very busy spring for her, as she will be retiring as the president of Eastern Connecticut State University, in addition to her graduation-related responsibilities. Therefore, she has agreed to send a recorded speech. Elsa is no stranger to DKG – she is an honorary member of Connecticut’s Rho Chapter. **Margaret Festi**, co-president of Rho, who recently attended her 50th Reunion at Eastern said that Dr. Nunez is “so personable, approachable, open and easy to talk to. She frequently interacts with the college community and seems to be involved in all aspects of the college.”

In August 2020, Dr. Elsa M. Núñez began her 15th

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**CONNECTICUT STATE VIRTUAL SPRING CONVENTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021**

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Closing: Approx. 12:30 p.m.

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LEADING WOMEN EDUCATORS IMPACTING EDUCATION WORLDWIDE



Hello Ladies,

FROM THE MIDDLE

I recently had the honor of having an article published in the Delta Kappa Gamma Journal: Collegial Exchange. The title of the article was *Passing the Gavel: Changing the Hat*. A new slate of officers will be proposed at our upcoming spring convention, and I will move into my new role as immediate past president of this great Connecticut State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma. Though I am eager to do all I can to support **Dr. Ann Grosjean** as she begins her term as your new state president on July 1st, I can't help but feel a sense of loss and regret. As I said in my last letter, I am by nature a positive person, and I usually am very quick to snap out of these moments of feeling sorry for myself. My Mom always said we only get two minutes for self-pity, so I'll try to be quick.

I did miss getting together last summer in Philadelphia. I so wanted to play hostess at a great "Connecticut Night" dinner out. I wanted to introduce "my" Connecticut members to all of my fellow state presidents and brag in person about the great work we do here in Connecticut. I wanted to travel to San Antonio and especially Finland this summer. I

wanted... I wanted... I wanted...but I'm out of time. Time to snap out of it. No more looking back on what was not to be.

As we look forward, I will continue to serve alongside Ann and God-willing alongside Lenore. I will wear whatever hat is needed to keep this organization vibrant and relevant. I will happily look forward to participating virtually in our State Convention in April and preside at my final executive board meeting by Zoom in June. I will participate from my dining room table in the International Conferences this summer and count my blessings during each event. You are among my many blessings.

I am honored to be your DKG Sister. I am grateful for your never-ending patience. I am in awe of your creativeness. I am blessed to work alongside women who, though they are overwhelmed, disappointed, grieving and lonely, continue to do the important work of this organization while they work full time, or care for loved ones, or volunteer in their communities or ALL of the above. You inspire me to stop feeling sorry for myself and to get busy with what still needs to be done.

Please consider joining me on Ann's Executive Board. We always need amazing women to step up as chairs or wear a new hat as a committee member. Think about where you might be of service and feel free to contact me with any questions. No pressure!

Kathleen

DKG 2021 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Catch the Spirit of the Pacific Northwest!

Have you thought about how you can make a difference in DKG? **President Becky Sadowski** has encouraged us to consider how we can find meaningful opportunities to contribute and to make a difference for a positive impact on women and children in our world. Join us in Portland, Oregon for "DKG: A World of Opportunities, Contributions, Impact" for the **International Conference on July 7-10, 2021**. The Marriott Waterfront Hotel adjacent to a waterfront park on the Willamette River will provide for your comfort. Inspiring speakers, informative workshops and takeaways. Fun in the art gallery, exhibits and vendors will stimulate you! Consider a trip to the Columbia River Gorge with Multnomah Falls, venture to the first western settlement along the Pacific Ocean (Astoria), and sightsee the beautiful Rose, Japanese, and Chinese gardens in the city of Portland. Shopping at the home of Nike, Columbia Crest, Adidas, and Pendleton Woolen Mills is in your future. Plan your DKG future NOW!



Howdy Y'all

Annie Webb Blanton had a vision for our Society, and it will come alive at the San Antonio, Texas International Conference **July 22-24, 2021**. **President Becky Sadowski** invites us to celebrate the DKG: Opportunities, Contributions, and the Impact our members have realized because of their membership in the organization. The San Antonio Marriott River Center Hotel, situated on the vibrant River Walk offers stunning views of downtown San Antonio. The conference features engaging and real-world speakers, informative and timely workshops and short presentations, exhibits and vendors. San Antonio is a destination for many and offers sites for you to visit while you are there. Indulge in shopping at the El Mercado/Market Square, relive the history of the Alamo, enjoy the beauty of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, visit the oldest religious community in the state at the San Fernando De Bexar Cathedral and the McNay Art Museum. Everything is bigger in Texas, and this conference is no exception!



ALPHA KAPPA STATE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2021-2023 BIENNIUM



Lenore Martinelli
Nominee for
First Vice President

Lenore has been a member of Zeta Chapter for 20 years serving as recording secretary, treasurer and president. At the state level, she served on the necrology committee and is currently chair of the membership Committee and received 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 CSO Conference in 2019, acting as a member of the Steering Committee. Lenore received a B.S. degree in Education from Southern Connecticut State College, an M.S. in Reading and a 6th Year Certificate 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.

She has taught religious education at all levels in her parish church and has been an active Girl Scout volunteer for over 35 years. She also 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 mah jongg, biking, opera and hosting dinners for family and friends.



Paulina Auclair
Nominee for
Second Vice President

A member of Delta Chapter since 2007, Paulina has served as communications chair, first and second vice-president and chapter president. She is currently serving as state second vice president.

Paulina has taught English at Watertown High School since 2002, and it was her colleagues there who invited her to Delta Chapter. In the fall of 2018, she became an adjunct professor at the University of Hartford. Her course lineup includes a Methods of Teaching Secondary English course and a Reading Across the Content Areas course.

She holds a B.A. from Wheaton College (Massachusetts), an M.A. in Education from the University of Bridgeport, and an M.A. in Education (Reading Specialist) from the University of New England.

A lover of libraries, Paulina has helped to raise tens of thousands of dollars in donations to the Bakerville Library in New Hartford by serving on the Friends of the Library since 2007. She has also been a member of the Board of Directors at the library since 2016, and she has served as secretary and chair. Paulina is convinced that her small-town, historical library, which used to be a two-room schoolhouse, is the coolest library in existence.



Kathleen Peters-Durrigan
Nominee for
Recording Secretary

Kathleen has been a member of Zeta Chapter since 2015. She has served as chapter secretary and co-secretary.

She has served as principal at Ridge Road Elementary School in North Haven and Beecher Road School in Woodbridge. Kathleen was also the director of summer school and community agency collaboration for the Stamford School District, director of pre-school and head-start programs for Greenburgh Central #7 School District in New York, supervisor of adult education for Southern Westchester BOCES in New York, director of Westchester County Homeless Student Collaborative and executive director of Student Advocacy, Inc. in Westchester County, New York. She was also an adjunct professor at the College of New Rochelle.

Kathleen has volunteered for Discovering Amistad, Inc. where she served as secretary to the board of directors and co-chair of the education committee. She was previously a member of the advisory board of the Parenting Support Programs of Yale-New Haven Hospital.

She lives in Ansonia with her husband, Jerry Peters; and they are the parents of a son living in St. Louis, MO, and a daughter residing in Stamford. They are also grandparents to a two-year old grandson and a nine-month old grandson.



ALPHA KAPPA STATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2021-2025 FINANCE COMMITTEE



Ann Novotnik Southwest Region

Ann is the current CSO Finance Chair and a member of the CSO Investment subcommittee. She is also currently president of Nu Chapter and has been a member of DKG since 2008. Ann holds a MBA from Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT, as well as a BA from Trinity College, Washington DC. Ann has over 30 years of teaching experience and is currently with the Darien Public Schools as a second grade teacher. In addition to her teaching experience, Ann was an executive with Bloomingdales, Federated Department Stores, in both personnel and operations management.



Millie Ramsey East Region

Millie has been an active Theta member since 2009. She became the Theta treasurer in 2013, receiving her training from long-time **Treasurer Joan Haffey**.

Millie began her teaching career in 1973 as a Special Education teacher in Bristol, CT. After her marriage in 1980 she moved to Columbia, CT, where she spent 20 years of her career as a teacher of kindergarten, first grade and special education. While working in Columbia, she was honored as Teacher of the Year and also served as CEA President. She retired from the Willimantic School District in 2012 after six years of teaching remedial reading.

Millie completed her teaching certification and master's degree at Central Connecticut State University, after receiving a BA in Sociology. Additional graduate work was completed at UCONN and Albertus Magnus College.

Millie serves on several of Columbia's citizen advisory committees. She is also a deacon at Columbia Congregational Church and gets her monthly "kid fix" by giving away books to students at Sweeney Elementary School who have met their monthly reading goal.

Marnee Straiton Northwest Region



Currently a member of the Connecticut State Organization Finance Committee, working as Investment Committee Chair. Marnee has served on the state level as president, second vice president, bylaws committee chair and expansion committee chair. A twenty year member of Iota Chapter, she also served at the chapter level as president, first vice president, second vice president, membership chair and newsletter editor. She has attended many state conferences and conventions and international conferences and conventions. Marnee is most honored to have received a Connecticut State Achievement Award.

She taught in the New Milford Schools at the K-2 level from 1970 through 2004. She received the Teacher's Choice Award from *Learning Magazine* for her book, *The Primary Teacher's Guide for Reading with Meaning*. Marnee was selected as the New Milford Teacher of the Year in 2000 and was honored as Outstanding Young Educator by the New Milford Jaycees in 1981. Marnee was also a mentor and portfolio scorer for the BEST program for more than 15 years. Marnee was also a frequent presenter at local, state and international reading and language arts conferences and conventions.

Marnee contributes to her community in many ways. She has served on the board of the Interfaith Early Learning Center for almost 40 years, having served on that board as president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. She is a member of the Roxbury/ Bridgewater Garden Club and enjoys working in her own garden. Marnee's greatest joy is spending time with her children and grandchildren.



ALPHA KAPPA STATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2021-2025 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE



Dr. Kathleen Lozinak
Southwest Region

Kathleen Lozinak has been a member of Omicron Chapter, Connecticut State Organization, since 1997. She is married to David, and they have five daughters and nine grandchildren, as well as many grand-puppies. They enjoy spending any free time at their “camp” in Stoddard, New Hampshire.

She has taught special education in Shelton, Oxford, Trumbull and Stratford and currently teaches grade four in Stratford. She is certified in elementary education, special education, as well as administration and supervision. She is an active member of the Stratford Education Association and Connecticut Education Association.

Dr. Lozinak has a BS in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University, a MAT in Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University and a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Capella University. She has had several articles published in The DKG Bulletin: Journal.



Susan Nadeau
East Region

Sue Nadeau has been a member of Rho Chapter since 2005. She has served on the chapter's Nominating Committee, Membership Committee, and was First-Vice President. Sue has 40 years experience as a Registered Nurse, 30 of which have been in school nursing. She received her Master's Degree in Nursing in 2006 and retired in 2018 as Nurse Coordinator for the South Windsor Public Schools.

Sue served on the Cadre of School Nurse Leaders. In Oct. 2012, she presented at EastConn Conference Center on *Working with Children with Autism in the Health Room*.



**Connecticut
State Organization**

Save the Date!

DKG CT State Organization 2021 Spring Convention

Saturday morning, April 24, 2021

On Zoom

Keynote speaker—**Dr. Elsa Nunez**
President of Eastern CT State University
Honorary Member of Rho Chapter

Fine Arts Presentation –
Bend in The River, Bluegrass Band with
Clara Guilmette, CSO 2020 Elizabeth Sonier
Grant Recipient

Business Meeting
Celebration of Life
Longevity Pin Awards
Installation of 2021-2023 Officers
Fellowship Time in Breakout Rooms!

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Closing at approximately 12:30 p.m.



IN MEMORIAM

White Roses

“A moment to remember. . .A lifetime to honor.”

Carol Mae Kelly, Iota Chapter
Died: December 21, 2020

Carol Mae Kelly, a 43-year member of Iota Chapter, passed away on December 21, 2020. A life-long resident of Danbury, she is survived by her nieces Robin, Lynn, Sharon, a nephew Brian and sister-in-law, Marilyn Kelly.

Carol graduated from Danbury Teachers College (now Western Connecticut State University) with a degree in elementary education in 1957. She earned a master's degree in education from Western Connecticut in 1964 and a second master's degree in reading from the University of Bridgeport in 1971, where she studied under Dr. Lydia Duggins. She taught elementary school in Darien and Bethel, Connecticut, and North Salem, New York, for a total of 32 years.

Carol was a dedicated professional who was always willing to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for education. For many years, she served as a team leader at her school and as a mentor to student teachers. She was treasurer of the North Salem Teachers Association. In 1989, she retired from her final position as a third grade teacher at Pequenakonck School in North Salem, New York. On a special note, Carol and her co-teacher, Patricia LeRoy, presented a yearly scholarship to one of their former students graduating from North Salem High School. Upon retirement, Carol worked as a telemarketer trainer at Groliers Publishing Company.

Her willingness to contribute her time and talent extended to her Danbury community, as well. She was especially interested in supporting the Festival of Trees at Ann's Place, the annual Irish Festival and the Danbury Animal Welfare Society, where she regularly volunteered and often adopted. Being an animal lover, her yard was a haven for birds and wild animals. Daily feedings were a regular part of her day.

Carol was inducted into Iota Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma on November 1, 1977. She never ceased to be an active and interested participant of Iota Chapter. Carol started the Elizabeth Braun Recruitment Grant and chaired the recruitment grant committee. She said that of all the chapter's activities, she was most proud of the fact that it gives a recruitment grant to help young people become teachers. She also served on the nominations committee. When asked why she continued to be a member, Carol cited the importance of fellowship and networking with other key women educators.



Mary Louise Wallace, Iota Chapter
Died: January 14, 2021

Mary Louise Wallace passed away on January 14, 2021. She was a 46-year member of Iota Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society of Key Women Educators. Mary Louise lived in Riverside, CT, until a recent move to Greenwich. She is survived by many friends.

Born in New York City on May 3, 1938, Mary Louise grew up in the New York City area and attended Erksine College from 1956-1959 before returning to the New York area to care for her mother. She completed her education at the University of Bridgeport, earning a B.A., M.A., and Sixth-Year Certificate. She later earned a Masters in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University.

Mary Louise was a high school English teacher for 30 years, retiring from the Bethel, CT, Schools in 1989. She took a strong interest in her students, and many former students considered her a mentor.

From her initiation on May 1, 1974, until her death, Mary Louise was an active member of DKG, noting that she valued both the honor of membership and the opportunity for fellowship and networking with other key women educators.

Friends remember her as being an intelligent and generous woman who was interested in the stock market and loved her cats. A graveside service was held on Thursday, January 21st in Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY.



IN MEMORIAM

White Roses

"A moment to remember. . .A lifetime to honor."



**Trudi Marie Black, Beta Chapter
Died February 17, 2021**

Trudi Marie Black died peacefully in Bridgeport Hospital at the age of 72. Trudi is survived by her husband of 52 years, Larry (Lauren) Black and her two sons and their families.

Trudi was born on March 5, 1948 in Hartford and grew up in Rockville involved with her Lutheran Church, Rainbow Girls, lifeguarding and volunteering with people with special needs. She went on to attend Southern Connecticut State College (now University) studying Special Education. She met Larry there and they married in 1968. She later went on to earn a Master's degree there, as well.

Trudi and Larry spent the early years of their marriage on Air Force bases in Mississippi and Illinois while Larry served and she worked as a teacher. They then moved to Trumbull, CT and lived there for the remainder of her life.

Trudi worked as a Special Ed teacher in Trumbull Public Schools for 37 years touching the lives of thousands of students. She was an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma; and in 1984 she was awarded the Helen Keller-Ann Sullivan Award by the CEA. She was a Board Member of the Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Association.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Monroe has been their church home since the 1970's with its members very much a part of her family. Trudi was an important lay leader of the Church serving in countless roles over the years as well as representative to the Greater Bridgeport Council of Churches. Together with Larry, Trudi launched the Special Needs Program at Camp Calumet Lutheran. Trudi often worked with the Salvation Army and frequently took the lead organizing community outreach programs, encouraging others to share their gifts.

Trudi was a cancer survivor who supported many others in their battles with cancer over the years. She loved knitting and crafting gifts for loved ones and was a voracious reader.

Trudi was an active presence in her sons' lives supporting them in their activities such as marching band, scouting and acapella. She communicated regularly with countless people. Trudi served as a mentor to many teachers "adopting" them into her family. In later years, Trudi and Larry enjoyed traveling the world together with a core group of close friends. Trudi loved spending time with her grandchildren, and they were always in her heart.



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

**Terry Azoti
Judy Cody
Ann Grosjean**

**Kathleen Lozinak
Nancy Roy
Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone**



**The Connecticut State Organization
2021 Spring Convention
Zoom
Saturday, April 24, 2021**

The 82nd annual DKG Connecticut State Organization Spring Convention will take place on Zoom during the morning of April 24, 2021. CSO members look forward to gathering, although not yet in person.

The morning will begin with a Celebration of Life to remember sisters who have passed during the last year. There will be a virtual chapter flag ceremony with a number of members present from each chapter. CSO President Kathleen Lozinak will conduct a business meeting which will include voting on changes to our CSO Bylaws, including one related to electronic voting. There will also be a vote to accept the 2021-2022 proposed budget, as well as the 2021-2023 slate of state officers.

Members who have contributed to DKG at the chapter, state and international level will be recognized with CSO Achievement Award. Members who have been in the organization for 25, 30, 40, 50 or 60 years will be acknowledged with their longevity pins. These members will receive their pins and certificates by mail. We ask that if you receive a new pin that you return your previous pin to your chapter president so it can be used again. It is an honor to wear a pin from another sister and it also saves us money! Finally, the new state officers for the 2021-2023 biennium will be installed. The keynote speaker will be the president of **Eastern Connecticut State University** and **honorary member of Rho Chapter Dr. Elsa Núñez**. Members look forward to hearing from this inspiring leader. Clara Guilmette, the recipient of the **CSO Elizabeth C. Sonier** Grant last fall, will perform with her Bluegrass Band, *Bend in The River*. More information about these presenters are in the accompanying articles.

Since we will be unable to hold our Silent Auction Fundraiser, would you please send any chapter or individual donations that you would have made buying raffle tickets to our treasurer, **Ellen Festi at 66 Harlan Street, Manchester, CT 06042**. We hope each chapter will send at least the \$1 per member, which is traditionally donated. This fund supports CSO state grants and scholarships (75%) and the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee (25%). Thank you for your generosity.

There will be some time for fellowship in Breakout Rooms following the meeting. We hope you will join your fellow CSO sisters. You will receive a Zoom invitation a few weeks prior to the Convention and another one the week before. You will not need to pre-register, although we will ask you to sign in as you enter Zoom. See you on April 24th!

Ann Grosjean, CSO First Vice President



Membership

This pandemic is slowly chipping away at my usual optimism! Did you expect to still be sheltering after a whole year? Although many of us have gotten the vaccine, many are still skittish about returning to former practices.

When the shut-down began in March 2020, Zeta chapter tried to call at least one member a day. (We found that when everyone is homebound, the phone calls last longer.) We continued this practice in 2021 for members who are retired.

For members who 'attended' the fall conference, there was a visiting session at the end for those who chose to remain online. Members were placed in two different chat rooms with a suggested topic for discussion. It was wonderful to chat with women I had not seen for months, and I loved meeting some members for the first time. Chapters might want to consider having a Zoom meeting with no agenda other than visiting. Zeta chapter has purchased an extended Zoom license so that 'meetings' are not limited to 30 minutes.

If you have other ideas for keeping in touch, please share with other chapters. Stay safe; stay in touch.

Lenore Martinelli, CSO Membership Chair



DKG/UN Relationship



Beginning in 1995, DKG has played an instrumental role as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the United Nations Department of Public Information. In addition, the Society was also granted Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2003. What does it mean to be granted Consultative Status? These are Organizations that can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council that they have substantive and sustained contributions to make for the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations. They are NGO's that are closely involved with the economic and social life of the peoples of the areas they represent and whose membership is broadly representative of major segments of society in a large number of countries in different regions of the world. These organizations are known as organizations in General Consultative Status. This, in and of itself, fulfills the seventh Society Purpose: To inform members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

DKG has eight representatives who are charged with familiarizing members with the activities and programs of the United Nations, inclusive of those relating to education and human rights. **Connecticut State Organization First Vice President Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean** is one of the representatives.

Our DKG/NGO representatives attend weekly briefings virtually or in-person at United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Information is shared through our newsletter, *DKG@UN*, as well as during the variety of conferences held including regional and international meetings. In recent years, we've included school visitations in our activities whereas educators experience hands-on classroom lessons about the UN and the introductions to the Society.

News from DKG@UN and CTAUN

Before COVID shut the country down, the 2020 CTAUN Conference, *War No More*, was held on February 28, 2020, at the United Nations in person. Since the United Nations Headquarters has been closed to the public since, CTAUN has developed two webinars. A third webinar will be developed this spring. You may view them on the CTAUN website (*teachun.org*) under the following topics:

Combating Misinformation: Teaching Media Literacy

The United Nations and Indigenous Peoples: Advocating for Education

Ann Grosjean, DKG@UN Representative & CTAUN Member



DKG International Educational Excellence Committee

The International EE Committee shared the following with us:

The Educational Excellence Committee invites all the chapter EEC Chairs to access the EEC Blog at the DKG website (link below) for interesting and updated articles related to DKG topics, projects and events to share with members.

Thank you for your support,

Evelyn Lugo
EEC Committee member

[DKGSI: EEC](#)



AROUND THE NUTMEG STATE

ALPHA

Alpha Chapter had a very successful Zoom Book Talk in December. In lieu of the usual meeting at a local independent book store, twelve members shared books they read. They gave a short summary of their chosen book, and we had a very lively and interesting discussion.

Because of the positive feedback, the executive committee decided that there would be another Book Talk for the March meeting.

For April, plans are being made for a Zoom tour of the Bush Holley House focusing on the Cos Cob Art Colony. The art colony was a retreat in the late 19th and early 20th century for impressionist artists. Members will be viewing their permanent collection.

BETA

Beta Chapter held its ongoing meetings on Zoom January 17th with a presentation by Dr. Jonathan P. Costa, Sr., Assistant Executive Director of EdAdvance in Litchfield, Connecticut. He has extensive experience in secondary history instruction, district curriculum development, for-profit, corporate management, executive leadership and consulting. He is the author of the Corwin Press book *Digital Learning for All*.

Chapter President Linda Paslov presented several prospective members: Dr. Tisha A. Fox, Dean of academics, Booker T. Washington Academy; Patricia Buxton, assistant professor of Education, University of Bridgeport; Lena Paslov, adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University; and Karen Masek, a retired business education teacher with the Norwalk school system.

Beta Historian and longtime member Trudi Black, a retired special education teacher in Trumbull, died unexpectedly February 17, 2021. She will be greatly missed by her family, colleagues and friends.

Beta Recording Secretary Barbara Schroeter attended the CTAUN Webinar Presentations on the Rights and Contributions of Indigenous People in the World January 24, 2021. Educators spoke to promoting greater understanding and knowledge surrounding the history, misconceptions, language, beliefs and rights of the Native American community. Nina Kantcheva, UNDP, Elizabeth Rule, Professor of Native American Programs at the George Washington University, and Edwin Shupman, educator at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian were featured speakers. Curriculum materials and further information can be found through #CTAUNIndigenous - 2021.

ZETA

Zeta Chapter held a mid-winter Executive Board meeting to plan activities for its members for the remainder of the 2020-21 year. Enthusiasm and eagerness seemed to be the words for the day after not meeting since late fall. Looking to establish opportunities for members to meet via Zoom meetings, the following plans ensued.

On March 25th, members held a Zoom 'book chat' featuring the book *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion,

a lighthearted story which brought smiles to the reader and generated an upbeat discussion. In April, Zeta will host a Kentucky Derby Social where members are strongly invited to attend wearing 'homemade' Derby hats, and when recipes will be shared to enjoy along with your BYO mint juleps, etc.!!!

Zeta's two regularly scheduled meetings will be held in April and May. In April members will greet speaker Chris Menapace, Senior Educator at Discovering Amistad. Members had previously been invited to view a two-part professional development video teaching lessons of the 1839 Amistad uprising to advance racial and social justice today. The Amistad is the Connecticut flagship and serves as a floating classroom used to enrich online and in-classroom curriculum.

The last meeting of the year is traditionally the 'Sundae Social', but this year with no ice cream sundaes being served. The chapter looks forward instead to member **Lenore Martinelli's** and her husband's helpful hints for vegetable and flower gardening. Summer Zeta meetings at the Martinelli home have had attendees marveling at the hearty and healthy abundance of both on the grounds of their home.

Zeta members have much to be grateful for after a bountiful spring of 'Virtual Activities' and meetings. Wishing all Delta Kappa Gamma members a healthy summer with an abundance of summer activities to give you and yours the happiness you all deserve after a long and difficult COVID-19 year.

OMICRON

Omicron Chapter held its winter meeting via ZOOM on January 7, 2021. A business meeting was followed by guest speaker, Dr. Ellen Lewis, a naturopathic physician and medical director at Shalva Clinic in Westport. Dr. Lewis helped members understand what naturopathic medicine is, discussed various treatments, the differences between an MD and an ND, as well as answered members' questions.

Donations of over 85 books were made to the Valley Regional Adult Education as part of Omicron's ongoing community service project. The 50th Anniversary Committee continues working on plans for the dinner to be held in May which will include a program covering the 50 years of Omicron Chapter, as well as in-person inductions of new members.

A virtual BINGO will be held via ZOOM on April 25th at 3 pm. All proceeds will fund Omicron's annual scholarship program. If interested please contact **Chapter President Pat Block**, at patblock@aol.com.



CSO BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Three motions for amendments will be presented at the spring convention on April 24, 2021. Two were published to all members in our winter Keynote and are as follows:

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS, Section A. Convention

From: 1. Business of the Connecticut State Organization shall be conducted annually at a convention held at a time and place approved by the Executive Board, for the purpose of taking action on reports, adopting policy, adopting the budget, and amending bylaws. In the odd-numbered years officers shall be elected and the amount of dues established.

To: 1. Business of the Connecticut State Organization shall be conducted annually, **either in person or electronically**, at a convention held at a time and place approved by the Executive Board, for the purpose of taking action on reports, adopting policy, adopting the budget, and amending bylaws. **Business shall be conducted electronically so long as all members can hear each other simultaneously and actively participate in the meeting.** In the odd-numbered years officers shall be elected and the amount of dues established.

Rationale: *This motion will allow convention business to be also conducted electronically and action can be taken on motions at the meeting as long as all members can hear each other simultaneously and actively participate in the meeting.*

ARTICLE VIII EXECUTIVE BOARD, Section A. State Executive Board

From: 3. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at least once each year. Special meetings may be called by the president or by a written request of ten (10) members of the Executive Board.

To: 3. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at least once each year **at a physical site or electronically. Business shall be conducted so long as all members can hear each other simultaneously and actively participate in the meeting.** Special meetings may be called by the president or by a written request of ten (10) members of the Executive Board.

Rationale: *This motion allows any state Executive Board meeting to be held electronically in addition to at a physical location, allowing for flexibility to transact business and approve motions electronically with members present on the same day as the meeting.*

An additional third amendment based on advice from **International Parliamentarian Helen Popovich** is one which will enable state organizations to vote electronically for officers and elected personnel. Presently CSO Bylaws provide for election by written ballot only, which is not feasible at an electronic meeting. Therefore, the Bylaws Committee will also present the following amendment at the State Spring Convention to enable us to vote electronically for our new officers and members of the Finance and Nomination committees.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS, D. Nominations and Elections

From: 2. Elections shall be by written ballot and a majority of the votes cast elects. If there is but one nominee for an office, a motion may be entertained for the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate.

To: 2. Elections shall be by written ballot and a majority of the votes cast elects. **Electronic voting for officers and other elected personnel is permitted when the election is held at an electronic state convention.** If there is but one nominee for an office, a motion may be entertained for the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate.

Rationale: *To clarify voting for officers and elected personnel at an electronic meeting it is necessary to add permission to use an electronic voting method in place of voting by ballot.*

Terry Azoti, CSO Bylaws Committee Chair

DKG™

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA MISSION STATEMENT

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



(Continued from page 1) Dr. Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean

spoke about the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals. Ann has attended most recent state and DKG international conferences & conventions, where she often presents. In 2017 she was honored with the DKG CSO Achievement Award. She has also been a member of the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World where she contributes articles for the newsletter and helps with events.

Ann was honored and grateful to attend the 2016 Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar at DKG headquarters in Austin TX for a two-week leadership training at the University of Texas Macomb School of Business with twenty-nine other aspiring leaders, including **Dr. Kathleen Lozinak**.

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. She taught at Confratute for several years.

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. She was active in the CT Education Association at the local, county and state level. She has served on the CEA-Retired Advisory Board and continues to work with the CEA PAC Committee and the CEA-Retired Legislative Committee representing retired teachers.

When she retired ten years ago, she became more active in DKG, CEA-Retired and in her local community. Until COVID, she volunteered weekly at her community school in Willington, Sweeney School with fellow Theta members in Willimantic and in Mansfield. She is serving her eighth year on the Willington Board of Education and has just begun plans for a new school with the School Building Committee.

Ann also serves on CACTPS (Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards) to work with the CT State Department of Education to advise the CT State Board of Education about new initiatives and to monitor established programs at the Pre-K to College level. Her experience volunteering and working with the board of education keeps her current with this work.

Ann is also active in her church community as a Eucharistic Minister at a local rehabilitation and nursing center (before COVID), teaching Sunday School and serving on the Social Justice Committee. She has also helped to resettle three Syrian families with QCRR (Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement), by teaching them to speak, read and write English.

Ann and Brian, her husband of twenty years, have four grown children and four grandchildren – three of whom live close by and often with them! They are staying young co-parenting yet another generation; and once again, it keeps Ann connected to education!

Ann is looking forward to this challenge as president of the CSO. She feels well prepared with the leadership training DKG has afforded her and that with the collaborative nature of state organization members, the CSO will continue to move forward to be the best that it can be. Since membership numbers are declining at the state and international levels and in some chapters, her focus will be to try to work with and encourage members to increase membership. She is grateful for this exciting opportunity and looks forward to the possibility of working with each member!

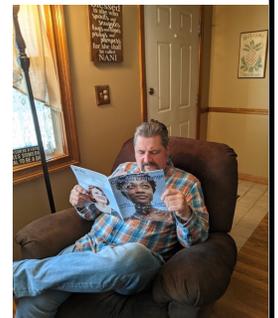
CONNECTICUT STATE ORGANIZATION ACHIEVERS

Beta Chapter President Linda Paslov: Her article *Viewpoint: Should SROs Remain in Our Schools?* is in the current issue of Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin Collegial Exchange and was inspired by Alec Voccola, "Officer V", a School Resource Officer in the school where Linda was principal.

Jess Gregory, Beta Chapter member: She has had two articles published: *COVID-19 Elevating the Problem of Plagiarism: The Implied Social Contract of Academic Integrity* in the Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin International Journal for Professional Educators.

The second article, authored with a student: *The Role of Ego Threat in Professional Growth: Fulfilling the Ethical Intentions of the SEED Model* published in Educational Practice and Theory.

Connecticut State Organization President Kathleen Lozinak's article, *Pass the Gavel and Change the Hat* was selected for inclusion in the Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin: Collegial Exchange.



Officer "V"



(Continued from page 1) *Dr. Elsa Nunez* year as the president of Eastern Connecticut State University. She came to the University in 2006 following more than 20 years as a senior administrator at such institutions as City University of New York (CUNY) and the University of Maine System.

Dr. Núñez has been a tenured faculty member of English at Ramapo State College, the College of Staten Island (CUNY) and Lehman College (CUNY). She also holds a faculty position as Professor of English at Eastern.

Author of two books *Pursuing Diversity* (1992) and *Hanging Out and Hanging On: From the Projects to the Campus* (2014), Dr. Núñez also has published numerous articles on language acquisition, diversity and other education issues.

Dr. Núñez has firmly established Eastern's reputation as Connecticut's only public liberal arts university. Academic enhancements range from an increase in full-time faculty positions to the development of new majors. Under Dr. Núñez's leadership, Eastern is ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as the #1 public New England regional university in the North. It has been recognized ten times by the Chronicle of Higher Education as a "Great College to Work For". It has also been named a U.S. Green College by the *Princeton Review* 11 years in a row and was recognized as one of the Top Workplaces in Connecticut by the Hartford Courant.

Dr. Núñez received her B.A. from Montclair State College, her M.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University and her doctorate from Rutgers University.

Connecticut State Organization members look forward to hearing about her inspiring life and career!



2021 Conference Fine Arts Presentation Features DKG CSO Grant Recipient and her Bluegrass Band!

Clara Guilmette, whose award of the **CSO Elizabeth C. Sonier Grant** of \$750 was announced at our Connecticut State Organization DKG Fall Conference, will be performing at the DKG Connecticut State Organization State Convention on April 24th. Her bluegrass band, *Bend in The River*, will put together three or four songs as a band and send it to us in a video, which "will have better sound quality over Zoom than playing together live," according to Clara. To provide a live performance, however, talented Clara will play a few songs on her banjo during the remainder of the 30-minute time slot allocated to the Fine Arts Presentation. To hear some samples of their amazing music, go to

<https://bendintheriverbluegrass.com/>

and click on *Videos* at the top right of their home page.

According to their website, *Bend in The River* features two young up-and-coming bluegrass pickers playing both traditional and new bluegrass music. The combination of the sibling harmony of Clara Guilmette and Evan Guilmette, with Clara's crisp rolling banjo and Evan's rhythm guitar, along with the solid bass of Dave Casali makes audiences want to stop and listen to this dynamic trio." They perform at bluegrass festivals and CT fairs. They were the proud first place winners of the 2017 Durham Fair Talent Show. Clara and Evan also had the opportunity to perform and record a CD in Nashville!

Clara, a senior at Portland High School, plans to attend Central Connecticut State University in the fall. She is planning to pursue a career as a music educator. She was present on Zoom in November at the CSO Fall Conference to accept her grant and shared with us that she and her band miss performing due to the pandemic. CSO is delighted to give them this opportunity to perform for members at Connecticut State Organization Spring Convention!



Connecticut State Organization

Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide

Dates to Remember

April 24, 2021

**Connecticut State Organization
Spring Convention
Virtual**

June 26, 2021

**Connecticut State Organization
Executive Board Meeting
Virtual**

July 10-17, 2021

**International Conference
Portland, Oregon**

July 21-24, 2021

**International Conference
San Antonio, Texas**

**THE CONNECTICUT
KEYNOTE**

Alpha Kappa State
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Carol Beam, Editor

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The Keynote is published four times per year.

Only the Spring and Fall issues are sent by U.S. Mail.

The Summer and Winter issues are ONLY published on the CT State Organization website and e-mailed to members.

Present and past issues are available on the website

<http://dkgct.weebly.com>

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact your chapter president.

Keynote Deadlines are:

Summer issue: May 27, 2021
Fall Issue: September 1, 2021

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