



Alpha Kappa State DKG International Society for Key Women Educators

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ALPHA KAPPA STATE INSTALLS 2017-19 OFFICERS AT 78TH SPRING CONVENTION



(l to r) Outgoing President Joan Konareski,
President Patricia O'Connell Buckley,
First Vice President Dr. Kathleen Lozinak,
Recording Secretary Kim Albro
(Absent from photo:
Second Vice President Lisa Hudkins)

Spring Convention International Representative

The speaker at the Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention was **Carol Hughes**, the current Northeast Regional Director. In her talk, Carol recognized many AKS members who have been Golden Gift recipients, who had received scholarships and also those who were and are active at the International level. She also informed the group that she had known **Margaret Nielsen** many years ago.

Carol stressed that there are many educational grants available to help enrich and enable teachers to further their education. She was impressed with the number of AKS members who are participants in the CTAUN program, the Curriculum of Hope and the STEM and IRIS programs.

The main focus of her presentation was on the benefits of attending the Regional Conferences and International Conventions. In addition to attending the break-out sessions, she added the perks of traveling and exploring new cities, states and countries. She stressed that the care and commitment of each member for one another is an important part of belonging to Delta Kappa Gamma. Lastly, she urged the members to attend the Regional Conference in Windsor, Ontario, in July and to enjoy genuine spiritual fellowship.



DKG Northeast Regional Director
Carol Hughes

Anita Satriano, AKS Educational Impact Chair

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Jottings from Joan



Sharing Our Vision—Paying it Forward



Dear Sisters,

The time has come to say goodbye. My biennium "Paying It Forward" has been jam-packed and has gone by quickly. In this amazing position I have gotten to know many more members of Alpha Kappa State. I have learned about the inner workings of running a large organization. I have been challenged to give my very best efforts.

I cannot thank enough our **Immediate Past President Theresa Azoti** for her guidance and support. Thank you to my officers for their hard work, to all the committee chairs and committee members for doing their share and to two years of chapter presidents who supported me on this journey. If all were not willing to pay it forward, I wouldn't have accomplished much during this time.

I encourage those who are involved to keep up the good work. Those who aren't involved, consider taking the first small step. Those of you who have given many years to Delta Kappa Gamma, enjoy knowing you have paid it forward and made Alpha Kappa State the great organization it is today. Thank you again for the privilege of being your state president. See you in the fall.

Joan

Share Your Creative Works, Submit to the DKG Fine Arts Gallery!

Submissions to the DKG International Arts and Humanities Jury are due **from August 1 through September 1, 2017**. Submissions include literary efforts, two and three dimensional art, performance art, photography and crafts. The application and submission procedure, along with rubrics for each area, are online at www.dkg.org under Committees, Arts & Humanities Jury.

For the upcoming fall gallery, the Jury has adopted a theme, *The Butterfly Effect*. Our International President used it to illustrate the impact each member can have on our vision statement and her theme, *Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide*. For more information, read President Pittman's article online on page two in the September/October issue of the *DKG News*.

Since the inception of the Fine Arts Gallery, Connecticut has had a total of three members' works accepted to this prestigious online gallery. The application process is simple, following the *10 Steps to Submitting*. If there are any questions about entering, please contact **Terry Azoti, Arts and Humanities State Organization Liaison**, at tazoti@optonline.net or **Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone, Arts and Humanities Jury Member**, at spcdkg@comcast.net.

Terry Azoti, Zeta Chapter



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Attend an International Convention!

At the 2018 Convention, approve the proposed election amendments to the governing documents!

As a Convention Attendee in 2020, you would be able to cast YOUR vote for international officers.

As a result of a motion at the Nashville International Convention, President Carolyn Pittman appointed an ad hoc committee to review the work of the 2012-2014 Ad Hoc Election Process Committee and propose amendments to the *Constitution* and *International Standing Rules* to enable convention attendees to vote for officers. The governing documents must be amended at the upcoming 2018 convention in Austin, Texas, in order for attendees to vote for the officers in 2020.

Learn the difference between Delegate, General Election and Convention Election options.

Cast your vote for the proposed amendments! (2018 in Austin)

**Carolyn Rants, Chair
DKG Ad Hoc Election Committee**



AKS Chapters Offer Special Outreach Programs Open to all Chapters and to the Public

Delta Chapter Hosts 2016 National Teacher of the Year



2016 National Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes with Delta Chapter district teachers of the year.

Jahana Hayes, 2016 National Teacher of the Year, addressed the members of Delta Chapter and their guests at the May meeting held at Fairview Farms in Harwinton. Mrs. Hayes, a social studies teacher at J.F. Kennedy High School in Waterbury, began by describing the rigorous selection process for Connecticut Teacher of the Year, followed by the most intense and arduous process to become National Teacher of the Year. At each level, she fulfilled all the requirements which included applications, biography, intensive interviews, several essays and on-site observations of her teaching.

She also made the point that contrary to what people may think about her, she was not selected National TOY because she has some secret formula or the best test scores. It is her passion for teaching, her belief that every child deserves an education and that we should teach our students as we would like our children to be taught. In her travels this year across our country and other nations, she learned much about the challenges and difficulties children face every day. She also shared her experience visiting a school district where the administration was proud of

their state of the art building and media center; but after speaking with students, it was revealed that they are dealing with the same drug problems facing other communities. She realized that all districts have problems and challenges. Other districts may have problems that are different from the ones we experience, and sometimes they may be much more severe.

She reiterated the message to not give up on students, but rather plant hope in students' lives. She shared a few memories and experiences, in particular, one which seems to embody her view of the world, "put the child together." She related, "A young father/teacher was trying to get work corrected while his daughter wanted to play. He ripped up the picture of the map and told her to tape it back together. To his surprise, she came back a few minutes later with it done. Her response, there was a picture of a child on the back of the map. 'You just have to put the kid together.' "

Several members of Delta Chapter and their guests commented. "Raised by her grandmother in abject poverty, she overcame obstacles because teachers ignited her passion for learning. She emphasized most that kids just want to learn." **"Jahana Hayes is an inspiration not only to her students, but to all educators."** "She is truly one in a million." **"Jahana Hayes is the embodiment of what it means to be a teacher."** "She told us about her school and her students, how she believes in them, fights for them and doesn't worry about the testing; but she does worry how her students are doing. In doing this she brought tears to my eyes and showed why she was chosen. It was a truly a memorable night for me."

Joanne Chenkus, Delta Chapter

Gamma Chapter Holds Open Meeting with Arctic Researcher Dr. Rebecca Pincus



Gamma Chapter hosted an open meeting for all AKS members and the public on May 25th at the Yantic River Inn in Niantic featuring Dr. Rebecca Pincus as the guest speaker. Dr. Pincus is a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Maritime Policy for the Department of Humanities at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. She is on the permanent staff of the Academy's Center for Arctic Study and Policy (CASP), an operational think tank that studies Arctic issues for the Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security for the advancement of safe, secure and environmentally responsible maritime activity in the Arctic.



Dr. Pincus holds a Master of Science and Doctorate in Natural Resources from the University of Vermont, and has published many articles, including such topics as *No One Wants a New Cold War in the Arctic* and *The U.S. is an Arctic Nation: policy, implementation and U.S. icebreaking capabilities in a changing Arctic*. She shared her insights into the rapidly changing Arctic region and the world of government policy-making, as well as international diplomacy.

(l. to r.) Dr. Faye Ringel, Dr. Pincus and Roz Etra

Roz Etra, Gamma Chapter



IN MEMORIAM



White Roses

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

Margaret Nemec, Beta Chapter February 25, 2017

Margaret Nemec was initiated into Beta Chapter on November 1, 1960. At her passing, she had been a member for fifty-seven years.

Margaret graduated from Stratford High School in 1937 and attended graduate school at New York University. She began working as an elementary school teacher in Putnam. Soon after, she moved to the Fairfield Public Schools where she advanced to become principal of two schools, North Stratfield and Holland Hill Elementary Schools.

Margaret was an active member of the Connecticut State PTA along with many other civic groups. Retiring as a principal in 1988, she performed countless hours of volunteer work raising money for the Kennedy Center and working at their thrift shop. Margaret traveled for many summers. She visited family in Sweden, Poland and Czechoslovakia and explored the other exciting cities Europe has to offer, Paris being her favorite. She often attended summer events at Tanglewood Performing Arts Center in Lenox, MA.

As a lifelong member of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Stratford, she devoted her life to service. She continued to be active in the Connecticut Retired Teachers Association and the Daughters of the Holy Spirit well into her nineties. Margaret spent most weekends, up until age ninety-four, traveling to Manhattan. She always tried to find a bargain, whether on Delancey or Orchard Street. She spent much of her time attending ballets and operas at Lincoln Center, as well as enjoying Broadway shows. She was especially close to her beloved cousins, the Agvent family, who showed her much love and care over the years. Although Margaret moved to Texas in 2013, she was very proud to call Connecticut home.

Pauline Fancher, Upsilon Chapter April 26, 2017

Pauline Fancher was a charter member of Upsilon Chapter since its establishment in 1980. She was initiated on June 10th. She passed away peacefully at the age of 106.

Pauline was a graduate of Pratt Institute of Art with a degree in art education. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Art from the University of New Hampshire and her education courses from Penn State. Pauline then taught art at Plainville High School, Concord New Hampshire Junior High, Laconia High School in New Hampshire and a school in Harrison, New York. She traveled as an exchange art teacher to England for a year. Pauline returned to Winsted, Connecticut and taught in the Winsted elementary schools from 1954-1975.

As a member of Upsilon Chapter, Pauline shared her love of photography and gardening. Members frequently toured her gardens and viewed her many photos over the years. Pauline also loved woodcarving and painting. For many years Pauline served as Upsilon's Fine Arts Chair. In this role, Pauline shared her many interests in the arts and inspired members to encourage area school systems to continue providing art education to their students. Besides her membership in Upsilon Chapter, Pauline was a lifelong member of D.A.R. Greenwoods Chapter and served as Regent for over seventeen years. She was also a member of the Winchester Historical Society, the Beardsley Library and the Winsted Health Center Foundation.



Be sure to check out the NEW AKS website. The updated site includes new features, as well as current AKS information, newsletters, documents and important links.

**THANKS to Emily Lozinak,
AKS Webmaster.**

<http://dkgct.weebly.com>



IN MEMORIAM
(Continued)



Rita Ellen Gerzanick, Delta Chapter
April 29, 2017

Rita Ellen Gerzanick was initiated into Delta Chapter on November 16, 1957. While a member of Delta, Rita served in various positions, including first vice president for three biennia, second vice president for two biennia, nominations chair, program chair, research and professional affairs committees. On the state level, Rita served as AKS program chair, member of the special directory and achievement award committee, speaker at AKS 1986 Fall Conference and speaker at 1987 Northeast Regional Conference.

Rita received her B.A. in English from Connecticut College for Women, her M.A. in English from University of Connecticut and 6th year in administration and supervision from Central Connecticut State University. She began her teaching career as an English teacher at Lyman Hall High School. One year later she began at Bristol High School and then Bristol Central High School. She retired in 1997, after forty-three years as the citywide 9-12 English Department Chair. She served as president of the Connecticut Heads of English Departments (CHED) for five years. She was a BEST mentor, a Trainer of Scorers for State Tests and a member of the state committee to evaluate teacher training institutions. Rita is the namesake for an annual award in Bristol presented to a student "who understands the importance of community involvement, leadership, and service."

As the award given in her name suggests, Rita was a valued member of her community. She was president of the Bristol Women's College Club and a member of the City of Bristol Library Board, serving three years as chair. She was involved with the Bristol Girls' Club, beginning as a member, then president, also serving on the Board of Directors and as Trustee. She was founder of the Women and Girls' Fund of Main Street Foundation. Additionally, Rita was appointed by former Mayor Frank Nicastro to the School Readiness Council and was chair of the Program Quality Committee. She then served as an educational consultant for Bristol Preschool and Child Care Center. She was a member of Tunxis Community College Advisory and Foundation Board; and was on the Board of Directors for Eagle Bank and Bristol Boys and Girls Club.

Rita was the recipient of many distinguished awards including Humanitarian Award from the Bristol Boys and Girls Club in 1995; a City of Bristol Proclamation from Mayor Nicastro honoring and thanking her "for dedicated, selfless and compassionate efforts on behalf of the city's youth," also in 1995. In 2001, she received a Certificate of National Service by Americorps, and additional Americorps' awards in 2002.

Rita was also very active at St. Matthew's Church, where she served as chair of the Parish Council for two terms (six years) and a lector for many years. Additionally, she was a member of the St. Matthew's School Board, serving as secretary.

Louise DiRuccio, Zeta Chapter
May 27, 2017

Louise was initiated into Zeta Chapter of DKG Society International on October 1, 1987. She was a thirty-year member at the time of her death.

Louise graduated from New Haven's Hillhouse High School and then went on to graduate from New Haven State Teacher's College (now Southern Connecticut State University) with a degree in elementary education. She received a MA degree from Yale School of Education.

Louise taught at Dante School from 1944-1949. She then taught at SCSU and became an assistant professor in the education department from 1949-1982 and finally became a member of the Administrative Emeritus Faculty.

From 1982-1995 she was the coordinator of the SCSU Senior Citizen Program. She was also Director of Alumni Affairs from 1949-1982. In 1995, she volunteered in the Public Relations Office at Yale-New Haven Hospital and edited the Auxiliary Newsletter. In 1998, she traveled to Berlin, Germany, to receive the Margaret Mead International Journalism Award from the American Medical Writer's Association for her magazine article *Looking Forward to Old Age*. Louise was also a Phi Delta Kappa emeritus member.

Louise was greatly respected by her Zeta sisters, and her presence will be missed.

ΔΚΓ MISSION STATEMENT

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



AROUND THE

ALPHA

Alpha Chapter celebrated a successful year of meetings and programs thanks to **Program Chair Ginny Rose**. Alpha's annual Banquet was held May 22nd. The highlights included: initiating two new members, honoring sixteen 30+ year chapter members with roses and completing a brief survey to assist with planning for 2017-18. The new chapter inductees are **Rita Baker**, a retired German, French and ESL teacher at Greenwich High School and **Laura Donnelly**, a science teacher at Eastern Middle School in Greenwich. The evening concluded with musical and dramatic entertainment by members **Elinor Carr**, **Janess Coffina**, **Karin Layton** and **Anne Modugno**.

Alpha sponsored two programs which were open to the public: an author's talk in October and a panel which addressed *Gun Safety: Keeping the World Safe for Children* in April. Both events were well-attended. Nearby DKG chapters were invited to attend, and five Nu members joined Alpha Chapter members for the April program.

BETA

During the last few months, Beta Chapter has been very busy with a variety of activities. The March 9th meeting featured David Weitzman, school psychologist at Frenchtown Elementary School. He spoke to twenty-five teachers and retirees about effectively dealing with stress in their lives. He also provided an extensive handout for people to use during stressful situations. In addition to his role at Frenchtown, David has a private practice in Trumbull.

The Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention, *Sharing Our Vision: Paying it Forward*, took place on April 29th. **Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone**, **Barbara Schroeter** and **Nan Stern** represented Beta Chapter. The following members received longevity recognition: **Barbara Buxton** (50 years), **Trudi Black** (40 years), **Gwendolyn Johnson** (40 years), **Jacqueline Norcel** (30 years) and **Cheryl Zakrzewski-Roman** (30 years).

The Spring Dinner took place on May 24th at Riverview Bistro in Stratford. **Alpha Kappa State President Joan Konareski** addressed members. Beta Chapter's new inductees, **Catherine Dias**, **Cynthia Gallo**, and **Jennifer McCarthy** also attended. All three inductees teach at Six to Six Magnet School in Bridgeport.



Beta Chapter induction: (l to r) **Catherine Dias**, **Cindy Gallo**, **Jennifer McCarthy**, **Beta Chapter President Nan Stern** and **AKS President Joan Konareski**

DELTA

Delta Chapter members gathered at Fairview Farm in Harwinton for the May 16th meeting. **Chapter President Paulina Auclair** led the business meeting at which leaders within the community and chapter were recognized for their achievements. **Professional Affairs Chair Claudette Laflamme** announced that Wolcott High School senior, Alyssa Capristo was the recipient of the Delta Book Grant. Alyssa will attend Quinnipiac University in the fall. The guest speaker was 2016 National Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes.



2016 National Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes and Delta Chapter 2017 Book Grant recipient Alyssa Capristo

ZETA

Zeta Chapter held its final meeting of the year on June 7th at the Whitney Center in Hamden with its annual Sundae Social. Light refreshments were served, along with the usual ice cream sundaes to finish off the meeting events. Several new member applications were reviewed and longevity awards were handed out to those not able to attend the Spring Convention in April. Members brought reading material for a summer reading book share. Congratulations to **Susan Rowan** who was at the AKS Spring Convention in Cromwell to receive her 40-year longevity pin/certificate. The chapter was honored to have 17 Zeta members attend that convention and are also proud to congratulate **Kim Albro**, who was installed as Recording Secretary for the AKS Executive Board for a second biennium. Congratulations to **Kim** also on her upcoming wedding this summer. The guest speaker was Jane Brauer from *Under the Same Moon* organization, an American fundraising arm of *Association Bendicion de Dios*, a non denominational not-for-profit school and community organization developed in San Juan Alotenango, Guatemala. Volunteers here in the U.S. sell unique handcrafted items of local artisans, with profits going to the community to support both the schools and the artisans.

On May 4th, Zeta hosted a "Powerful Stories" forum at Hamden Hall Country Day School auditorium. The meeting was open to the public, and invitations were extended to all chapters of AKS. Two Iraqi refugees



NUTMEG STATE

shared their experiences growing up in Iraq and later coming to CT through IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services). The audience was deeply impressed and touched with their candid tales of family crises in Iraq and success here in New Haven.

Donations of nearly \$500 were accepted from the audience to thank the speakers and to help support further work of IRIS. Zeta had previously selected IRIS to be its Worthy Project recipient, donating funds earned from the annual auction held each November for any organization's charitable work.

THETA

This spring, several Theta members enjoyed attending Rho's *Evening with Eastern Connecticut State University's President Elsa Nunez* and her induction as a Rho Chapter Honorary Member. In May, **Jeanne Morascini, Pam Aubin** and **Ann Grosjean** learned much about climate change in the Arctic from Gamma's guest speaker, Dr. Rebecca Pincus, and relished the meal at the Yantic Inn with Gamma sisters. Jeanne especially loved the opportunity to visit with the members she has spent much time with when acting as Gamma's president.

Theta members returned to the Covenant Soup Kitchen to serve a meal in April. Thanks to the many Theta members who contributed to the meal by making cash donations, casseroles or desserts, preparing the salads and finally serving the meal. It is always such a pleasure to work side by side with our honorary member, **State Senator Edith Prague**. Theta was also pleased to make a donation to the Soup Kitchen to honor their retiring kitchen manager, Pam Rogers, whom members had worked closely with for many years.

Many thanks to **Jane Moynihan**, who once again coordinated the **No Bake - Bake Sale** fundraiser. It is quite an undertaking, and her work is greatly appreciated. The proceeds enable Theta to fund chapter projects.

There was much to celebrate at the AKS Spring Convention! Theta's own **Patricia O'Connell Buckley** was installed as AKS President for the 2017-2019 biennium. Theta's **Treasurer Millie Ramsey** is now a member of the AKS Finance Board. **Sue Moon** and **Ann Grosjean** were honored with AKS State Achievement Awards. Finally, **Jeanne Morascini** received her fifty-year longevity pin, **Julie Brown** her forty-year pin and **Janice McKusick** her twenty-five year pin. Congratulations to all of them.

The June Banquet was an evening to remember. Theta Chapter celebrated its sixtieth birthday! **Linda Tracy** and **Cathie Rowe** led all in song with a playlist from 1957. To earn money for World Fellowship, a \$50 gift card to Macy's which Theta won at the AKS Convention was raffled. Thanks to Grant Committee members **Norma Fisher-Doiron, Pat O'Connell Buckley** and **Mary deVecchis**, the chapter's Elizabeth Jordan Higher Education Grant for \$500 was presented to UConn student, Jaqueline Ose. Theta also enabled a high school student to attend Laurel Music Camp with the **Catherine Wade & Ann Burns Laurel Music Camp** Grant and

another student to attend Laurel Girls' State. A Celebration for Life was held for Theta sister and **Anita Satriano's** daughter, **Anne Satriano Tucker**, who is missed dearly.

Finally, four of six new members were inducted: **Pam Aubin, Kristina Elias-Staron, Rebecca Moran,** and **Ronni Zoback. Pamela Aubin** is a retired superintendent. She served in Montville from 2010-2013 and in Norwich from 2005- 2009. She has been a teacher, principal and Director of Curriculum, as well. She is also a member of the Rotary Club. **Kristina Elias-Staron** retired from the CT State Department of Ed as a consultant. She has been a teacher and an administrator. She is also active in ALTRUSA and with QCRR (Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement) serving refugee families in Eastern CT. **Rebecca Moran** is an Adjunct Professor at ECSU in Fine Arts and has also been an adjunct at Three Rivers Community College, University of CT and University of Pittsburgh. She taught art in Willington for many years. Rebecca has traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. **Ronni Zoback** has been the Outplacement Coordinator for Windham Public Schools and she is currently a Speech/Language Pathologist at Barrows STEM Academy. She created the Young Parent's Program in Windham and is active in several parent/teacher organizations supporting students with special needs.

June 19 was a fun day at Journey House with Theta's annual Spring Fling! **Sharon Bartlett, Carole Norrish, Jill Hill** and her daughter Mackenzie, along with **Ann Grosjean** worked with the girls to make bracelets and note cards using shaving cream and food coloring! The girls also got to choose goodies from the many items donated by members at the June Banquet. A favorite was the gift cards to Friendly's that **Joan Cariglia** gave each of the teens.

MU

Mu Chapter welcomed to its March meeting former teacher, Ms. Josi Klein, who spoke about the international organization, Days for Girls (DFG), as well as a Connecticut offshoot organization, Kenyan Health Care Initiatives, (www.khci.org), which is bringing health care and clean water to girls in rural Kenya. Their vision is for every girl and woman in the world to have feasible access to quality sustainable hygiene and health education by 2022. Locally, Ms. Klein is an organizer for the Farmington Valley Days for Girls monthly Sew-a-Thon at the Granby Community Center. Volunteers prepare fabric, sew and assemble reusable menstrual kits to be sent to Kenyan girls by the Kenya Health Care Initiatives, so girls can stay in school more days each month. Mu gave a monetary donation as well as a large amount of fabric and other supplies to be used by this very worthwhile program. Several Mu members are involved with this organization.

At Mu's May meeting, an area high school senior, Ms. Andrea Mills, who attends Bloomfield High School,



AROUND THE NUTMEG STATE (continued)

was presented with a \$1,000 grant by **Grant Committee Chair Sally Swanson**. Ms. Mills is enrolled in a challenging curriculum and has earned a 3.1 GPA. She has demonstrated leadership and athletic talent throughout her high school years by being a member of the student council and the track and field teams. Ms. Mills was recently honored by being named to Connecticut's All State Track Team. Next year, she will be studying to become a physical education teacher at Barton College in North Carolina and will also participate in its track program.

Donations of toiletries were also collected at Mu's May meeting by **Ann Newbury** to be given to Interval House, a Connecticut shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Mu Chapter's 2017 Books for Babies Wrap was held June 26th at **Pam Beach's** home followed by a pot luck luncheon. Fourteen members worked to wrap 1,220 books, a record for Mu! They were wrapped two to a package for 610 packages that were delivered by **Chair Bev Kibbe** to the Hospital of Central Connecticut. They were gratefully received by hospital staff! Each package included a letter from Mu Chapter to the new parents explaining the importance of reading to children from an early age and the skills that are developed when reading to their child.



Mu Chapter's Books for Babies project

OMICRON

On May 2nd Omicron Chapter held its annual induction at Tavern 1757 in Seymour, where members enjoyed a buffet dinner and the induction ceremony. Four new members were inducted into the chapter.

The new inductees include **Melissa Bekech**, an art teacher at Hallen School in Bridgeport; **Annette Frank (McCabe)**, a special education instructor for 23 years from Emmett O'Brien Technical School in Ansonia; **Margaret DiMasi**, a special education instructor with the Bridgeport schools for 14 years and **Jackie Schlosser**, a biology teacher at Platt Technical School in Milford for five years. Two of the new inductees who could not attend are **Gina Boxleitner**, an elementary teacher with the Seymour schools for 12 years, and **Allison Cunningham**, an elementary teacher with the Seymour Public Schools for 13 years.

Omicron member **Debbie Ruderman** arranged for a tour of Shop Rite Supermarket in Derby. Several members participated in a behind-the-scenes tour of the local store. Tours were given by Jenna Hourani who is a dietitian at the Shelton Shop Rite.

The Annual Omicron Grant for 2017 of \$500 was presented to Anna Chevarella from Derby High School. **Debbie Ruderman**, presented the award at Derby High School Senior Awards' Ceremony.



Omicron's new inductees: (l to r) Jackie Schlosser, Annette Frank (McCabe), Melissa Bekech and Margaret DiMasi

RHO

Rho Chapter has had a busy spring. On April 5th the chapter hosted "An Evening with Dr. Elsa Nunez" at the Eugene Smith Library on the campus of Eastern Connecticut State University. On May 10th at Crandall Pond Lodge in Tolland, Rho held its annual potluck dinner meeting. Two new members were initiated into Rho. **Shannon Piatek**, an elementary teacher in Columbia, and **Donna Veo**, an elementary literacy intervention specialist in South Windsor. Social fellowship was enjoyed along with the popular teacup raffle, book swap and non-perishable food collection that was won by the town of Hebron. Rho's planning meeting for 2017-2018 will be held in the Friends Room of the South Windsor Public Library on July 11th.



Rho Chapter initiation: (l to r) Dottie Shackway, Ellen Festi, new member Donna Veo, Pat Piatek and new member Shannon Piatek



**Welcome to our New and Reinstated
AKS Members
reported as of June 30, 2017**

**Congratulations to all the new members!
We look forward to your energy and enthusiasm.**



**ALPHA KAPPA STATE
Connecticut State Senator Gayle Slossberg**

	<u>NEW</u>	<u>REINSTATED</u>
ALPHA	Rita Baker Laura J. O'Donnell	
BETA	Jenell J. Cunningham Catherine Dias Cynthia M. Gallo Jennifer A. McCarthy Michele L. Molloy	
ZETA		Ann Cuyler
THETA	Rebecca Moran Kristina Elias-Staron Pamela Aubin Ronni S. Zoback	
IOTA	Lisa A. Morlock	Carolyn Keenan
OMICRON	Melissa Bekeeh	
RHO	Sharon Piatek Donna Veo Dr. Elsa Nunez (Chapter Honorary Member)	

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Virgina Loch (Beta)

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



- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Terry Azoti | Pat O'Connell Buckley |
| Judy Cody | Nancy Roy |
| Joan Konareski | Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone |
| Jeanne Morascini | |



Alpha Kappa State 2017 Longevity Award Pin Recipients

Congratulations to the following Alpha Kappa State members

60 years

Rita Gerzanick, *Delta*
Carolyn Wakefield, *Delta*
Ruth Podgwaite, *Lambda*

50 years

Shirle Jankowich, *Alpha*
Barbara Buxton, *Beta*
Anne Mahalawich, *Gamma*
Therese Grillo, *Zeta*
Jeanne Morascini, *Theta*

40 years

Barbara Holden, <i>Alpha</i>	Susan Rowan, <i>Zeta</i>
Trudi Black, <i>Beta</i>	Mary Perchak, <i>Eta</i>
Gwendolyn Johnson, <i>Beta</i>	Jane Preston, <i>Eta</i>
Ann Marie Laflamme, <i>Delta</i>	Julia Brown, <i>Theta</i>
Jean Masotti, <i>Delta</i>	Carol Kelly, <i>Iota</i>
Ann Caruso, <i>Zeta</i>	Marilyn Ploski, <i>Mu</i>
Louise Manfreda, <i>Zeta</i>	Jeanne Schermerhorn, <i>Mu</i>

30 years

Claire Fishman, <i>Alpha</i>	Cheryl Zakrzewski-Roman, <i>Beta</i>
Karen Nagy, <i>Alpha</i>	Louise DiRuccio, <i>Zeta</i>
Jacqueline Norcel, <i>Beta</i>	Barbara Torcellini, <i>Zeta</i>

25 years

Geraldine Transue, <i>Gamma</i>	Alice Neuman, <i>Eta</i>
Linda Jensen, <i>Zeta</i>	Carole Nossek, <i>Eta</i>
Olga Manos, <i>Eta</i>	Janice McKusick, <i>Theta</i>

State Honorary Members

25 years

Nancy Johnson
Faith Middleton
Christel Truglia

60-Year Members Honored

Thirty-seven AKS members received pins and certificates at the Spring Convention for 25, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years of service. This year's honorees included three women with 60 years of service, **Rita Gerzanick** and **Caroline Wakefield**, members of Delta Chapter and **Ruth Podgwaite**, Lambda member.

Another active 60-year member of DKG is **Dr. Virginia James**. Virginia was a member of Lambda Chapter until transferring to Rho Chapter in Florida last year. She was a past Alpha Kappa State President from 1975-1977 and continues to stay in touch with all of her Connecticut friends. A certificate was sent to Virginia in Florida in recognition of her 60 years of service to DKG.

AKS Membership Chair Deborah Soresino



**Susan Rowan, Zeta
40-year member**



Spring Convention Photos



**Registration Table
Mu Chapter President
Carolyn Hallifax**



**Ceremony of Life
Kathleen Tong and Barbara Olender,
Upsilon Chapter**



**First-Timer Kate Dougherty,
Epsilon Chapter**



**Linda Amarante and Diane Wilson,
Zeta Chapter**



**AKS President Joan Konareski, DKG Northeast Regional
Director Carol Hughes and AKS Past President Terry Azoti**



Roz Etra, Gamma Chapter



**Incoming AKS President Pat O'Connell
Buckley, Theta Chapter, and Margaret
Festi, Rho Chapter**



**AKS Webmaster
Emily Lozinak,
Omicron Chapter**



2017 AKS Achievement Award Recipients



Dr. Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean

Ann, Theta Chapter, has been an active member of DKG at the chapter, state and international levels since her initiation on November 1, 1984. At the chapter level, she is presently serving as president for the second biennium and has been first vice president, acting president (eight months each year during 2012-2014 biennium) and co-chair of Theta's Soup Kitchen Project.

At the state level, Ann is a member of the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee since 2010 and serves on the AKS executive board. In 2014, she was a keynote co-speaker at CT High School Regional Model U.N. Conference.

At the International level, she is a DKG NGO (non-governmental organization) representative to the United Nations and is the CT representative to CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations). She is involved in the planning of the annual conference. In addition, Ann submits articles regularly for the publication *DKG@UN*. In 2016, she was one of 30 members selected to participate in the DKG Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar. Ann has attended two Regional Conferences and three International Conventions. She has also been a presenter at two conventions.

Ann, although retired from full-time teaching, keeps involved by serving on the CT State Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, CEA-Retired Advisory Council and Legislative Committee. Since, 2012, she has been a member of the Willington Board of Education and volunteers in four classrooms in Mansfield and in a priority district urban school.

She is also a devoted church member, religious education teacher, Eucharistic minister and member of the church Leadership Council. Ann brings communion to residents in a local nursing home once a week.

Ann has distinguished herself and the Society through her tireless efforts at all levels. She is constantly seeking to improve her skills and knowledge, while sharing what she has learned with her DKG sisters.



Joan Konareski

Alpha Kappa State 2015-17 President and Lambda Chapter member Joan Konareski was initiated into DKG on May 1, 1988. At the chapter level, she has served as president, vice president and recording secretary, as well as chairing the Ad-Hoc Committee to align Lambda's Standing Rules with the AKS Bylaws.

At the state level, she has served as president, first and second vice president. In addition, Joan has served as chair of the Bylaws Revision, Achievement Awards and the Educational Excellence Committees. She has also been a member of the Membership and Finance Committees, as well as the Ad Hoc Investment Committee. During her biennium as state president, Joan has been a presenter at the AKS leadership conference.

Joan has attended four Northeast Regional Conferences and six International Conventions. For the past two years, she has participated in pre-conference trainings for state president.

In addition to her DKG involvement, she serves on the Committee on Aging at the Wallingford Senior Center. Her contributions to Wallingford seniors include chairing the long-term planning committee and serving on the personnel, bylaws and the facilities subcommittees, as well as assisting seniors in applying for fuel assistance.

As a member of St. Pius X Church in Middletown, Joan is a member of the parish council. She also serves on the tithing committee.

Joan has shown herself as a 'key woman educator'. DKG, AKS and Lambda are the fortunate recipients of her hard work and commitment.



2017 AKS Achievement Award Recipients (cont.)



Susan Moon

Susan Moon, a member of Theta Chapter, was initiated into DKG on November 19, 1994, and has been actively involved at the chapter, state and International levels. At the chapter level, she has served as president, first and second vice president, corresponding secretary, as well as being chair of the Curriculum of Hope and Initiation/ Installation Committee.

At the state level, Sue is the chair of the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee. Under her leadership, the committee has initiated two exciting new projects this year. The first is *Making Friends and Dealing with Your Enemies 2016*, a project at Windham Middle School. The committee also began work on *Pieces for Peace*, a project with CITYarts in New York City involving students in an international art project to promote peace. Sue is presently serving on the AKS Finance Committee. She has attended all AKS Fall Conferences and Spring Conventions since 2006.

Sue has attended most Northeast Regional and DKG Conventions since 2000. She was a presenter at the 2006 International Convention and at the 2009 Northeast Regional Conference.

Sue and her husband are also ambassadors for the Heifer International, whose mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Sue and her husband speak at church and community events promoting Heifer International.

She also volunteers as a re-evaluation counselor. In this role, she works one-on-one to establish a self-worth and engages in active listening skills with women in need of help and a friend.

Sue brings dedication and leadership to all programs, committees, offices, etc. in which she is involved. Her work and dedication in DKG has bettered her sisters, her chapter and state community, and even reached the national and international level.

Past AKS Achievement Award Recipients

- 1989: Camella R. Maiewski (Epsilon)
Rheta Lange (Zeta)
Ella Rice (Kappa)
Dr. Jacqueline Abbott (Rho)
Elizabeth Sonier (Upsilon)
- 1991: Marguerite McKay (Zeta)
Charlotte Sharpe (Mu)
Helen Sheldrick (Upsilon)
- 1993: Hannah Griswold (Epsilon)
Isobel Broadhurst (Kappa)
Linda Shea (Sigma)
- 1995: Anne Modugno (Alpha)
Elizabeth Coppeler (Epsilon)
Jeanne Morascini (Theta)
Posthumous Award
In honor of Joan C. Lee (Rho)
- 1997: Gloria Dowaliby (Epsilon)
Nancy Scofield (Tau)
- 1999: Joan E. Haffey (Theta)
Judy C. Villa (Lambda)
- 2001: Phyllis Hickey (Theta)
Barbara-Ann Cavanaugh (Kappa)
Dr. Virginia James (Lambda)
Marcella Miller (Upsilon)
- 2003: Mary Connelly (Gamma)
Rita Ward (Gamma)
Pamela Solnik (Epsilon)
Eleanor Decker (Theta)
- 2005: Margaret Nielsen (Alpha)
Judith Cody (Zeta)
Patricia Lovelace (Xi)
- 2007: Carylrae Clinge (Epsilon)
Susan G. Salesses (Theta)
- 2009: Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone (Beta)
Carol H. Beam (Delta)
Donna Chaney (Zeta)
Patricia O'Connell-Buckley (Theta)
- 2011: Judy E. Pflum (Gamma)
Nancy M. Roy (Delta)
Theresa A. Azoti (Zeta)
- 2013: Carol Kraus (Theta)
Marnee Straiton (Iota)
- 2015: Anita Satriano (Theta)



AKS Chapters Offer Special Outreach Programs Open to all Chapters and to the Public (continued)



Rho Chapter Hosts Open Meeting with ECSU President Dr. Elsa Nunez, Founder of the Dual College Enrollment Program

On April 5th, Rho Chapter was pleased to host a program in the Eugene Smith Library at Eastern Connecticut State University with Dr. Elsa Nunez. There were many AKS members in the audience, along with ECSU students.

Dr. Jackie Abbott, a Rho member and retired professor from ECSU, arranged the program along with assistance from ECSU staff Joseph McCann and Kenneth DeLisa. Dr. Nunez described her experiences growing up in Puerto Rico and moving to New Jersey as a young child. She recalled education as such an important part of her life. In 2006, she came to Eastern as its new president. Dr. Nunez established the Dual

College Enrollment Program at Eastern with generous financial support from many, including the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving, the SBM Charitable Foundation and First Niagara Bank. The DCEP began in the fall of 2008 with ten students from Hartford Public High School. The program is designed for students whose academic credentials typically would not qualify them to enter Eastern under normal circumstances. The students in DCEP live on the Eastern campus and are fully a part of residential life and campus activities. Tutoring, advising and other services are available to these students. For the first semester three to four remedial classes are taken at Quinebaug Valley Community College on Main Street in Willimantic where they receive instruction in reading, writing and math and other core academic skills. They also take one class at ECSU. By the second semester most of these students enroll at Eastern as full-time students. Each DCEP student also is assigned a one-on-one mentor and works in an on-campus job. The program has proven to be very successful. It now has expanded to students from Manchester High School and other Hartford area high schools. Dr. Nunez has authored a book *Hanging Out and Hanging On: From the Projects to the Campus*. This book includes her personal narrative and describes the Dual College Enrollment Program, including a chapter from participating students.

A video of students who have participated in DCEP was shown. A current senior, David, described his experience in the Dual College Enrollment Program. Dr. Nunez is to be commended for her bold approach to higher education.

Margaret Festi, Rho Chapter

Zeta Chapter Sponsors Program Featuring Two Iraqi Refugees

On May 4th, Zeta Chapter sponsored a *Powerful Stories* event featuring two Iraqi refugee speakers who shared their experiences growing up in Iraq and coming to Connecticut through IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services). The event took place at Hamden Hall Country Day School in Hamden. The first of the two speakers, Raya, along with her siblings, was allowed entrance into the U.S. because her brother was working for the United States military in Iraq. Her mother, however, a retired college professor, was not allowed to join them due to an administrative error. But after a four-year fight, Raya happily introduced her (newly arrived) mother to the crowd at the event. Raya has an advanced degree from Iraq and was fluent in English before she arrived, making it easier to find employment.

The second speaker, Maher, arrived in New Haven with his parents and three siblings. The family was allowed refugee status because of Maher's work with the U.S. military in Iraq. He told the crowd how, as a teen, he taught himself English with "google translate" so that he could work for the United States to help improve Iraq. Even though Maher's work was kept secret, the family received death threats. It was only after his father was shot and wounded that the family left Iraq for Jordan, and then to the United States.

Both speakers were candid and at times emotional when they recounted their stories. It was inspirational for all to see how motivated and optimistic they were after experiencing the loss of friends and relatives, and the life that they knew and loved back home in Iraq. Raya hopes one day to return to Iraq to find that life will be better there, while Maher seems to be very happy with his life here in the United States at this point in time. Donations from the audience made it possible to give an honorarium to both speakers and to make a contribution to IRIS as well.



Judy Cody, Zeta Chapter



Alpha Kappa State

Dates to Remember

Saturday, September 9, 2017
9:30 a.m.

AKS Executive Board Meeting
Meriden Public Library

AKS 77th Fall Conference
Date and Place to be determined

Saturday, February 3, 2018
Snow Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018
9:30 a.m.

AKS Executive Board Meeting
Meriden Public Library

Saturday, May 19, 2018
9:30 a.m.
AKS Executive Board Meeting
Meriden Public Library



AKS Past President and Founder of the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee Jeanne Morascini receives her 50-year longevity award.



Travel with DKG
Go Ahead Tours October 2017
Fall Foliage Tour:
Vermont to Massachusetts

8 DAYS | OCTOBER 8, 2017

Mother Nature puts on a spectacular show every October, when the eastern forests burst into red, orange and yellow hues. That makes autumn the perfect season to explore New England's time-honored landmarks. From the quintessential fall fare of Vermont to the colonial roots of Salem, take in the history and charm of the East Coast—all under a vibrant canopy of color.

Your tour includes guided sightseeing, handpicked hotels, local cuisine and more.

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- Breakfast daily, 2 three-course dinners with beer or wine, 1 beer tasting
- Expert Tour Director
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- 2 nights • North Conway, New Hampshire
- 1 night • Maine Coast
- 2 nights • Boston, Massachusetts

MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE FOR THIS TOUR 18 — 35

GROUP COORDINATOR CONTACT:

Karen Crumley
Group Number: 67954919
914.797.3675 | kcrumley@hvc.rr.com
fallfoliatedkg.grouptoursite.com
Call 1.800.438.7672 to reserve!

NEXT KEYNOTE DEADLINES:

September 1, 2017
December 1, 2017

Send information to

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Photography for this issue of
The Keynote
contributed by

AKS Photographer Carolyn Downs,
Zeta Chapter
and
Judith Baxter, Theta Chapter

THANK YOU !!!



SAVE THE DATE

CTAUN
Conference
(Committee on
Teaching About the
United Nations)

Friday, April 6, 2018

STEPPING UP TO PROTECT THE
WORLD'S CHILDREN