

THE CONNECTICUT

KEYNOTE



Connecticut State Organization
DKG International Society for
Key Women Educators

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Summer 2022



Together at Last! CTSO 2022 Spring Convention April 30, 2022



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MAXIMIZE, MAINTAIN, MOTIVATE AND MENTOR OUR MEMBERS



Dear CTSO Sisters,

This is my favorite part of the summer! We have the whole summer to look forward to with vacations, gardens, beach time, family picnics and lots of swimming and other physical activity to enjoy. I hope you have a wonderful summer, especially with many of the COVID restrictions removed! I hope the fall will find you refreshed and rejuvenated!

CTSO has had a wonderful and productive in-person spring! The chapters have each nominated and installed their new officers for the 2022-2024 biennium. We welcome our three new chapter presidents and thank all of our presidents for leading their chapters. We just completed a very productive leadership training session at The McCauley in West Hartford. We thank **Leadership Chair Roz Etra** for making the arrangements and conducting fun ice-breakers and for our trainers, **Lenore Martinelli, Pam Aubin, Linda Paslov, Sandy Gammons and me!** We had an inspiring speaker, Millie Devine, and hope that our new leaders feel knowledgeable, supported and confident to serve.

Our 2022 Spring Convention at the Cascade in Hamden was delightful. We enjoyed the ambiance and food, and the two speakers were excellent. They shared their stories to challenge us to have those hard conversations about racism and inequality. It was so timely with Juneteenth recently declared a national holiday! Paula, the executive director of the Amistad, has invited chapters to attend a free tour of the Amistad in various locations along the CT coast. The dates and contact information have been sent to chapter presidents. We also held a moving Celebration of Life, conducted our business, presented longevity pins and presented an Outstanding Service Award. Several articles will share more details about each part of the day!

We are looking forward to attending the 2022 DKG International Convention from July 12 to July 16 in New Orleans! It promises to be a great opportunity for learning and fellowship. If you plan to attend, please let me know so you can join us for our CTSO Dinner on Thursday, July 14. See the DKG Calendar for the upcoming conferences in 2023 and conventions in 2024 and 2026. I am hoping to go to Finland next summer!

The Revitalization Survey has been submitted to DKG Headquarters in Austin. We look forward to the next step working with a DKG organization representative to develop a plan to increase our membership and leadership numbers. Thanks to **Pam Aubin** and the committee made up of chapter presidents/representatives who have contributed to this document. Our **First Vice President Lenore Martinelli** has convened a committee to evaluate and update our "Red Folder" chapter responsibilities for state conferences and conventions as well.

As you are planning your meetings for next year, Lenore and I would love to attend one of your events to meet your chapter members. Please send us a few dates so we will be sure to be able to attend. We are already planning for the fall! Please join us for the CTSO Executive Board Meeting on September 17th and the CTSO Fall Conference on November 5, 2022.

Thank you for all you do!

With much appreciation,

Ann



**CT State Organization
Fall Conference
November 5, 2022
Place
to be determined**



Reflections on the 2022 CTSO Spring Convention

I recently had to go through my calendar for the last few years to look up dates for health and PT services for a family member. Outside of the health information I needed, most of the weeks were blank for about 24 months from March 2020—March 2022. But then April 2022 came along! Zeta Chapter held its first in-person meeting, and then we had our state convention.

Being able to be with over 50 DKG women at Cascade was the equivalent of a booster shot—an emotional one. Mother Nature smiled on us and gave us a lovely spring day. (Should we consider making her an honorary state member?) After attending all those Zoom meetings with our cluttered backgrounds, we really appreciated the beautiful venue. Of course, it was so nice to be served a meal! Our two speakers, Pat Wilson Pheanious and Paula Mann-Agnew, were dynamic, timely and passionate. Seeing all the happy reunions and hearing all the chatter made all the planning and preparation worthwhile.

We are already looking ahead to next year. A group of members are already in the process of reviewing the red folders that outline chapter duties for the conference and convention using feedback from chapters that did those jobs this year and previous years. We are planning for speakers using comments from the evaluations that attendees completed.

You are DKG. Your suggestions and comments for topics, venues, speakers and programs are always needed and appreciated.

Lenore Martinelli, Zeta
First Vice-President
 ridgereader@comcast.net



DKG CT State Organization Upcoming Dates:

- September 17, 2022 - **CTSO Executive Board Meeting** – Location TBD
- November 5, 2022 - **CTSO Fall Conference** – Location TBD
- February 11, 2023 - **CTSO Executive Board Meeting** – Location TBD or Zoom
- May 6, 2023 - **CTSO Spring Convention** – Location TBD - Cascade?
- June 3, 2023 - **CTSO Executive Board Meeting** – Location TBD

DKG International Upcoming Dates:

- July 12 - 16, 2022 — **DKG International Convention** - New Orleans LA
- July 14, 2022 — **CTSO Dinner at the DKG Convention** - New Orleans
- July 11 - 16, 2023— **DKG Conference** in Detroit, Michigan
- July 18 - 22, 2023— **DKG Conference** in Phoenix, Arizona
- July 26 - 29, 2023— **DKG Conference** in Tampere, Finland
- July 2024 - **DKG International Convention** – Gaylord National – Washington DC
- July 2026 - **DKG International Convention** – Gaylord Rockies – Aurora, CO



DKG Dues Information Update from International

The DKG *Constitution* establishes June 30th as the deadline for submission of dues payments by members to chapter treasurers (Article IV. C. 1.). However, it also states that “The International portion of the dues shall be sent between July 1 and September 30.” (Article IV.C.4.) No one should consider dropping a member for not paying dues until after September 30, 2020. Of course, that holds true in any year; but it is even more important these years in light of COVID-19 issues. We need to be flexible, creative and empathetic. Each chapter president needs to work closely with the chapter treasurer and elected officers to formulate a dues collection plan. If you suspect a member has a need, approach her with the idea of paying via installments or bestow an anonymous “Dues Paid!” gifted by a member. Many members want to help and have the means to do so. Seek them out. No one wants to lose a valued member either physically or fiscally due to this pandemic.

Chapter leaders also need to consider the “how” of paying dues with some meetings cancelled. Ask members to mail their checks to the chapter treasurer. Whatever you do, address dues collection NOW. We’ve all learned that waiting a month or two can totally change our world.

A reminder to chapter treasurers that annual chapter reports are due in International by July 15th.



The Connecticut State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

A Call to Serve

Next spring we will install our new CTSO officers for the 2023 –2025 biennium. The Nominations Committee is accepting names of candidates to fill the slate for the next biennium for officers and 2023 -2027 terms for nominations and finance committee members. The Nominations Committee would like names of candidates to be submitted by December 1, 2022.

There is no restriction on the number of terms a Nominations or Finance Committee member can choose to serve. Current members of the Nominations and Finance Committees whose terms end in 2023 may choose to serve again. Our Bylaws only restrict term of office to two terms in succession to the president, first vice-president, second vice president and recording secretary. Exception to this restriction for officers would be if there is no candidate for the position, then the present officer can continue to serve.

The committee is looking for members to serve as first vice president, second vice president and recording secretary. The present first vice-president would move up to the presidency. Nominations are also open for three members, one from each region for the Finance Committee, and three members, one from each region for the Nominations Committee.

The responsibility of each position can be found online in the Connecticut State Organization website (dkgct.weebly.com) in the Bylaws and Standing Rules documents. The nominations form is also on line on the state website under Forms.

Nominations Committee Co-Chairs: Pat Piatek & Susan Nadeau

Committee Members: Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone, Kathleen Lozinak and Lillie Feierabend



CT STATE ORGANIZATION ACHIEVERS

Dr. Jess Gregory recently learned that an article she had written was highlighted in Edutopia.
<https://www.edutopia.org/article/8-evidence-based-tips-make-your-lectures-more-engaging-and-memorable>

Dr. Jani Pallis is the team mentor of the University of Bridgeport's NASA Glee project. The team will begin the project in the fall by building and deploying a small satellite which will land on the surface of the Moon to conduct local and distributed science missions. An aerodynamicist specializing in Computational Fluid Dynamics with a background in biomedical industrial, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, this Beta Chapter member specializes in fluid dynamics, with an emphasis on air, space and marine vehicles, sports equipment, the relationship between athletic injuries and equipment and engineering outreach education. Most recently, she and her students have been involved in small satellite development, in particular the launching of DiscoSat-1, with the Discovery Museum and Planetarium.



Beta Chapter members Dr. Linda Paslov (wearing her DKG honor cords), Dr. Patricia Buxton, and Dr. Kat Wallace cheered on their University of Bridgeport School of Education students at the May 1st Commencement.



Prior to the Commencement, Linda chatted with actor Danny Glover, who received an honorary doctoral degree.

Visit the DKG and Connecticut State Organization websites!

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



Sharing Our Vision - Strengthening Our Chapters



Congratulations to our Chapter Presidents for the 2022-2024 Biennium!

Chapter Presidents 2022-2024

- Alpha Sara Anderson & Karen Nagy
- Beta Allison Fay
- Delta Colleen Spieler
- Epsilon Janie Pertillar
- Zeta Evelyn Barese
- Eta Terry Ziegler
- Theta Pam Aubin
- Iota Sandra Gammons
- Lambda Mary Ellen Ulatowski
- Mu Ann Atwood
- Nu Ann Novotnik
- Omicron Patricia Block
- Rho Margaret Festi & Karen Newcomb
- Tau Upsilon Judy Ludwig & Holly Torrant



CONNECTICUT STATE ORGANIZATION 2022 Longevity Award Pin Recipients

Congratulations to the following Connecticut State Organization members:

Alpha

<i>Alice Neal</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Judith Allen</i>	<i>40 years</i>
<i>Nancy Wolf</i>	<i>50 years</i>

Beta

<i>Nancy Zorena</i>	<i>40 years</i>
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Delta

<i>Peg Goranson</i>	<i>25 years</i>
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Epsilon

<i>Mary Tucker</i>	<i>40 years</i>
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Zeta

<i>Evelyn Barese</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Dolores Butcher</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Kimberly Carew</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Marlene Casey</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Mary-Ellen Coloski</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Dorothy Logan</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Linda Jensen</i>	<i>30 years</i>

Eta

<i>Olga Manos</i>	<i>30 years</i>
<i>Alice Neuman</i>	<i>30 years</i>
<i>Carole Nossek</i>	<i>30 years</i>
<i>Diane Klotz</i>	<i>40 years</i>

Theta

<i>Madge Vining</i>	<i>40 years</i>
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Mu

<i>Janet Wade</i>	<i>50 years</i>
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Omicron

<i>Kathleen Lozinak</i>	<i>25 years</i>
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Rho

<i>Judith Thayer</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Gloria Matthews</i>	<i>40 years</i>

State Honorary Members

<i>Christel Truglia</i>	<i>30 years</i>
<i>Faith Middleton</i>	<i>30 years</i>
<i>Nancy Johnson</i>	<i>30 years</i>



AROUND THE

ALPHA

Alpha Chapter has continued to have successful on-line meetings via Zoom this year. This has allowed members to socialize and connect with those who are no longer residing in the immediate area. Everyone shares their favorite titles and recommends new books. The chapter has decided to keep up the Zoom Book Shares next year.

In April, members had an outing to the Greenwich Historical Society and participated in a program titled *Slavery in Greenwich*. It included information about slavery in Greenwich, as well as in the rest of New England. The docent discussed the *Witness Stones Project*, which was discussed the following week at the CTSO Convention. Members saw several stones which had already been placed on the property and learned about the Historical Society's work with students tracing the story of slavery in the town.

Alpha Chapter members look forward to in-person meetings next year and participating in the programs, which had to be put on hold.

BETA

Beta Chapter has continued monthly meetings on Zoom. Chapter members met on May 11th to elect officers for the 2022-24 biennium. The following slate was unanimously approved:

President Allison Fay
First Vice President Janis Isenberg
Second Vice President Nancy Yarmoush
Treasurer Dr. Linda Paslov
Corresponding Secretary Dr. Chandra Maxwell
Recording Secretary Barbara Schroeter
Parliamentarian Dr. Jess Gregory

Committee appointments will be made in the fall. Two Beta members retired at the end of the current school year: **Robin Proto** (Assistant Principal, Six to Six Magnet School in Bridgeport) and **Dr. Patricia DeCoster** (Science Department Chair at Ansonia High School).



**Beta Chapter 2022-2024
Chapter Officers**

DELTA

Delta Chapter held three in-person meetings this year. The May meeting was held at Fairview Farm Golf Course in Harwinton. Election of officers was held. A Celebration of Remembrance was held for four recently deceased members—**Loretta Teevan** (presented by **Angela Stortz**), **Caroline Wakefield** (presented by **Rose Marie Mikasauskas**), **Ora Massaro** and **Jean Masotti** (presented by **Nancy Roy**).

The chapter's new inductee is **Chelsie Guerrero**, math teacher at Watertown High School. She has been teaching for seven years and was just named Watertown's Teacher of the Year for the upcoming school year.

Joanne Chenkus introduced Kaylee Marie Jackson, recipient of Delta's 2022 Book Grant. Kaylee will graduate from Naugatuck High School and attend Roger Williams University in the fall. She plans to be an elementary school teacher. The committee was very impressed with her academic achievement and her involvement with her school and community. Among her academic awards are the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Award for Excellence in Math and Science and Top Scholar (top 5%). Kaylee maintained a high level of course work which included six Advanced Placement courses and all honors classes.

In her essay, Kaylee stated "There are so many things that you need to be able to do in order to be a teacher. You need to create a fun and encouraging learning environment; however, you also need to have balance. You need to keep in mind that you are there to educate. Teaching becomes more complex year after year. Not only do teachers have to teach content, they also have to teach real-world skills, which include regulating emotions, interacting with others, critical thinking, perseverance and so much more. We need teachers who understand the stress that students are under, and varying influences that shape their thinking. Social media, technology and outside influences are obstacles which teachers need to learn about and to overcome. Teaching is a profession that the world will always need, and they have the ability to make an impact that lasts forever."



**Delta Chapter Book Grant Chair Joanne Chenkus
with 2022 recipient, Kaylee Jackson**



NUTMEG STATE

ZETA

Zeta Chapter was so pleased to conduct two live in-person meetings this past spring. The first, held on April 9th, was the annual Birthday Party, Zeta's 73rd. It was a pizza party held at Giulio's Pizza Restaurant in North Haven. Guest speaker was **member Claudia Grantham** who shared photos and mementos from her amazing trip to Kenya in East Africa, along with details of special cultural events she attended. A huge birthday cake was served at meeting's end, while members chatted openly and enthusiastically after not having seen one another in person for so many months.

May 4th was also a very special day for Zeta Chapter! The meeting was held at the lovely East Haven condominium clubhouse of **Co-President Lynn Pastore**. It was the traditional *Sundae Social* meeting when all kinds of ice-cream and toppings are always served. There were many highlights of the meeting, the first being the Celebration of Remembrance held for beloved **60-year member Dorothy Martino** who passed away suddenly in October 2021. This eulogy was conducted by member **Anne Brandt**, niece of another beloved member, **Peg McKay**, who was Dorothy's principal at the time in New Haven and who sponsored her when she became a member in 1962. Installation of officers was conducted by **Terry Azoti** and **Judy Cody**. **Past Zeta President Evelyn Barese** will return to her role as president for another biennium. Thanks to Evelyn for being willing to serve and to the other officers for stepping up to the plate. Zeta is hoping to concentrate more this biennium on gaining some new members. A new candidate, Lisa Omark, was in attendance invited by **Lynn Pastore**, who will be joining Zeta in the fall. Lisa is a retired teacher having taught in the New Haven School system in various capacities throughout her teaching career. Orientation will be in September, and her induction ceremony is to be held at the October meeting. Members voted to extend the date for membership applications until August 15th, hoping some more candidates will be forthcoming. Get those applications in Zeta gals!

And lastly, **Zeta Second Vice-President Nancy Tingley** will be organizing some summer activities for members to join in on and enjoy. On June 9th, members attended a performance of *Mama Mia* at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford put on by members of the Square Foot Theater and Tavern in Wallingford. In July, a trip to the Gouveia Winery in Wallingford is being planned; and in August, Zeta members are invited to tour the Amistad along with other CTSO members. Happy and safe summer to all our DKG sisters.

THETA

Theta member Judy Baxter shared her passion for beekeeping at a chapter meeting in March. Everyone was surprised how much there was to learn about bees! Members then enjoyed soup and salad prepared by the hostess **Jane Moynihan** and **Karen Anger**.

In June, Theta gathered again to install the new chapter officers with a picnic at **Sharon Bartlett's** home.

Last August, Theta Chapter voted to increase the Elizabeth Jordan Higher Education Grant from \$500 per year to \$750 per year. This year's 2022-2023 grant recipient, Mhret Wondmagegne, a rising senior within the NEAG School of Education at UCONN. Mhret is majoring in elementary education with a concentration in English. Theta Chapter offers congratulations to Mhret Wondmagegne.



Theta officers: Millie Ramsey, Karen Anger, Jane Moynihan, Beth Prose and Pam Aubin

LAMBDA

Members of Lambda enjoyed a lovely year. **President Mary Ellen Ulatowski** hosted the September meeting. The featured guest was Jennifer Parr, Mary Ellen's daughter. Jen provided each member with three autumn-themed cookies to decorate, a leaf, a pumpkin and a sunflower. Individual bags of frosting and tools were also provided. She guided the process of decorating the cookies, showing a few different techniques and helping, as needed. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and went home with her creations in a special box.

Communications Chair Laura Longacre hosted the November meeting in the historic Bowden Hall of Cheshire Academy. The featured speaker was Jennifer Dillon, History and Social Science Department Chair and Coordinator for Sustainability at the Academy. She shared details of her involvement in sustainability as an educator and active member of the Town of Cheshire's Sustainability Committee. Her passion and many experiences with multiple organizations that focus on environmentalism and sustainability were most inspiring.

Nancy Maynard, member of the Grant Committee, hosted the December meeting. After the business portion, members enjoyed seasonal merriment, including refreshments, fellowship and an ornament swap. Due to COVID restrictions, members were unable to participate in the traditional sing-along.



AROUND THE NUTMEG STATE

LAMBDA (continued)

Vice-President Joan Roczynski hosted the May gathering at Avanti's Restaurant in Cheshire. After a short business meeting, which included voting on a new budget, members enjoyed delicious selections from the extensive menu. All were most appreciative of time together.



**Mu Chapter 2022 Grant Recipients
(I) Alexa and Itati**

MU

Like our Sister chapters, members of Mu have had a year-long roller coaster ride. It began with an in-person meeting on March 22nd at BeanZ & Co., where sixteen of our members enjoyed a wonderful and educational evening. Kim Morrison and Noelle Alix, partners and co-owners, shared stories of their history, their partnership and their commitment to running BeanZ & Co. as an inclusive coffee café employing people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their stories were inspirational; and the meals were fresh, delicious, generous and excellent.

The chapter had a wonderful meeting planned for May 25th, but COVID intervened. The theme was *Past, Present, and Future*, and members planned to honor **Janet Wade** on her 50-Year Membership, welcome a new member, induct the new board and celebrate two deserving grant recipients; but as the saying goes....*the best laid plans!* The meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute, and it was decided to celebrate at the meeting this coming fall. Since the two grant recipients will be in college at that time, **Mu's Grant Committee Co-Chairs Alberta Culley and Nancy Methot** came to the rescue and honored the recipients with a beautiful presentation ceremony all their own, complete with balloons and beautiful roses. The presentations were very personal, and family members were touched and very pleased.

But that was not to be the end of the roller coaster year, **Member Linda Career** generously offered her beach house for a final end-of-the-year get together. Sisters gathered to enjoy a relaxing day, a fitting reward for this year of uncertainty, but also of camaraderie, growth and learning.

Mu wishes all our Sisters a calm relaxing rejuvenating summer. See you in Fall 2022!

OMICRON

Omicron Chapter held its spring business meeting via ZOOM on May 19th. There were no major changes to the executive board. **Current President Patty Block** will continue in her role, as well as **Vice-President Debbie Ruderman**. **Marie Meresko** will continue as recording secretary, and **Emily DePiano** will remain as treasurer. **Laurie Mihalcik** will be stepping down after six years as corresponding secretary, and **Jessica Block** will be installed at the fall meeting in her place.



The annual members' dinner was held the following evening at Wellington's in Huntington. Nine members were in attendance and were very pleased to get together in person! A Meet & Greet meeting is scheduled for August 19th at The Hops Company in Derby. Each year, Omicron Chapter is pleased to award two \$500 grants to high school seniors planning on a future in education. This year's recipients are Talia Voccola, a senior attending Seymour High School, who will be going to James Madison University, and Erin McGuire, a senior



AROUND THE NUTMEG STATE (CONTINUED)

attending Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls who will be going to Monmouth University. Thanks to Award Chairperson Debbie Ruderman for all of her efforts in contacting area high schools and coordinating the selection of our recipients from all of the applications. Job well done, Debbie!

RHO

Rho Chapter members met in person at the South Windsor Library on April 12th. **Margaret Festi** and **Sue Nadeau** provided supplies and taught members how to make torn paper greeting cards. It was a fun project, and members loved using their creativity. Everyone had such a good time that it was decided to meet again over the summer to make more cards which will be sold at a craft fair this fall.

Rho also had eight members attend the Spring Convention on April 30th. Everyone enjoyed the presentations of the speakers: Paula Mann-Agnew of Discovering Amistad and Pat Wilson Pheanious of Witness Stones.

At a May joint meeting, Rho and Theta Chapter discussed the books, *Lost Roses* and *Sunflower Sisters*. Members of both chapter enjoyed the time together.



Theta President Pam Aubin, CTSO President Ann Grosjean and CTSO First Vice-President Lenore Martinelli and Rho Co-President Margaret Festi at a joint meeting of Rho and Theta Chapters.



Connecticut State Organization 2022 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD



CTSO Outstanding Service Award Chair Anne Brandt and 2022 Recipient Patricia Mason

Patricia Mason is the recipient of the 2022 CTSO Outstanding Service Award. She is a retired educator from the New Haven Public School System who specialized in reading instruction. For the past three years she has volunteered multiple times per week with sixth grade students during English Language Arts and History Class at St. Martin dePorres Academy in New Haven.

Pat is very dedicated and always does all things with a smile. She has been described as the quintessential teacher for the sixth graders. Using her experience as a reading specialist Pat insists every student learn to read – and her positive attitude helps students learn to enjoy the process. Her contributions have been extremely valuable to the students, and this makes Pat most deserving of the Outstanding Service Award.

**Anne Brandt, Zeta Chapter
Outstanding Service Award Chair**



CTSO 2022 Spring Convention



Paula Mann-Agnew

Thank you to Paula Mann-Agnew, Executive Director of Discovering Amistad, on her very thought-provoking keynote address presented at the Connecticut State Organization 2022 Spring Convention. Ms. Mann-Agnew congratulated Delta Kappa Gamma members and talked about how much she admired our organization and thanked us for the opportunity to talk with us. She opened her presentation with a brief video from Discovering Amistad after which she set the theme for her talk using the following African proverb:

"I stand tall because I stand on the shoulders of all who came before me."

Ms. Mann-Agnew talked about what an honor it was to represent and honor her ancestors. She also talked about the focus of the work of Discovering Amistad: creating a platform for dialogue and the importance of understanding our roots and how history connects. Ms. Mann-Agnew talked about her trip to Africa and the Sankofa bird. She described the symbolism of the Sankofa bird: the egg in its mouth for the protection of the children: the bird looking back while flying forward is symbolic of the need to focus on knowing and understanding our history in order to move forward. She stressed how important it is, no matter how complicated and difficult the work is, to engage in the work of healing. She went on to discuss the work of Dr. Nancy Boyd Franklin: *The history of African Americans is not based in slavery, but based in royalty and a rich heritage.*

Ms. Mann-Agnew presented the **themes** in the history of slavery.

- **Theme 1 Dehumanization:** Was the leader of the Africans of the Amistad named Sengbe Pieh or Joseph Cinque?
 - His real name was Sengbe Pieh when he was initially captured in Africa.
 - If he kept his name as Sengbe Pieh, he could not be enslaved.
 - If his name was changed to Joseph Cinque, he could have come from Cuba and would be considered a slave.

Very often actions like changing names were done to enslaved people----a form of dehumanization.
- **Theme 2: Knowing Yourself:** The most critical step in becoming culturally responsive
 - Aware of word views, biases and perspectives.
 - Messages about the "others."
 - How your cultural lens imparts your work.
 - Who do you see in front of you?
 - Sometimes we have to check our biases.
- **Theme 3: History is often skewed and not inclusive.**

For example, the MAAFA (the Swahili word for 'great disaster' or 'great tragedy') is used to refer to the centuries-long enslavement and murder of millions of Africans by White Europeans, North Americans and others—and the lasting impacts on African Peoples and the descendants of those who were enslaved (taken from Dictionary.com) International Human Trafficking. The purpose of MAFFA was wealth—they had a business plan:

 - The goal - FREE LABOR
 - The product - enslaved African people
 - The process - Human Trafficking—they kidnapped 'the product' using massive raids
 - The business plan was 'imbedding Institutional Racism' (Think of the bottom of the tree and what happened at the roots).
- **Theme 4: The Amistad Mende** were victorious, right —one little grain was the victory
 - Of the 53 Africans who arrived on the Amistad, only 35 were able to go back. When Sengbe returned home, his entire family was gone!

(Continued on page 13)



Keynote Speakers

Patricia Wilson-Pheneous

Pat Wilson-Pheneous guided us on a journey that unfolded the story of 11 generations of her family. A history teacher from Guilford, CT, was researching Pat's family when he came upon an article about the life of her father and his role as a Tuskegee Airman. The teacher was surprised to find that there was a living relative of the family and he contacted Pat.

Eleven generations ago, Montrose and Phyllis, teenagers at the time, were kidnapped, enslaved, and brought to America. In the mid 1700's, slavery was legal and common in Connecticut and states in the Northeast. Pat shared the story of her family: Montrose and Phyllis, born into slavery, family members born into slavery, other members later becoming indentured servants and others later becoming free men. She took attendees up through the generations to her grandsons, granddaughter and their cousin, who are the eleventh generation of this American family.

Discovering her family's history, led Pat and others to work with the Witness Stones Project in 2017, where Pat is currently the board chair. The project seeks to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities.

The Witness Stones Project works in collaboration with communities and usually middle schools or high schools. The Project conducts work by providing research, activities in schools and communities and installing Witness Stones in front of the place where an individual person lived, worked or worshipped. A community invites the Project into their schools. The Project trains teachers and helps with the research including records of physical places, financial records, church records and any other pertinent information.

When the stones are placed, they have information about a person including his/her name if available, birth and death dates, work the person performed, dates of purchase and emancipation or whether the individual was still enslaved at the time of his/her death. The Witness Stones Project has worked with over 8,500 students across five states at this time. The project has restored the history of 102 people. The Witness Stones Project strives through research, education and civic engagement to bring inclusive history to all students.



Pat O'Connell Buckley, Theta Chapter

(Continued from page 12) Paula Mann Agnew

- **Theme 5: How does history tie to 'social justice'?**
 - Achievement gap
 - Red lining
 - Disparities in employment
 - We have to acknowledge institutional racism, white privilege and other privileges.
 - Healing required owning the truth.
 - Learn to be allies and not by-standers.

At the close of her presentation, Ms. Mann-Agnew invited DKG members to visit the Amistad that will be at various CT sites through the summer and fall. For additional information about Discovering Amistad, to view a brief video about the event, and to follow the Amistad on its 2022 VOYAGE FOR FREEDOM in various ports this summer, go to the website:

discoveringamistad.org

Kathleen Peters-Durrigan
Zeta Chapter



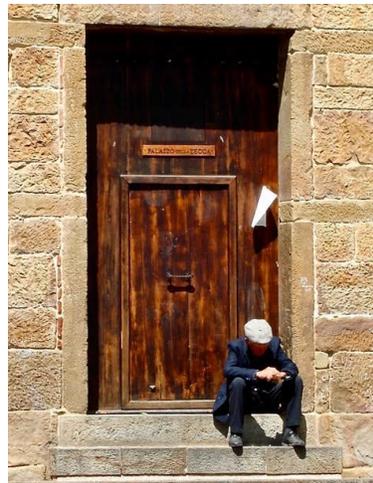
Congratulations to Our Connecticut Members!

The Arts and Humanities Jury has selected the artistic works of **four** Connecticut Members for the International Spring Fine Arts Gallery, an online exhibit of works of art and letters. Congratulations for their artistic endeavors to **Terry Azoti (Zeta)** with two photo entries accepted, to **Judy Baxter (Theta)** with one photo entry accepted *and* to **Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone (Beta)** with two photo entries accepted! Congratulations also to **Dr Linda Paslov** for her photo and poetry and **Linda Tracy (Theta)** for her two pastel paintings being accepted. Members are invited to view the entire gallery. Go to the Fine Arts Gallery on the bottom of the Home page on the International website www.dkg.org. All Connecticut members are encouraged to submit their creative work to the Fall Gallery during the next submission period from August 15 – September 15, 2022. The categories include photography, crafts, literary efforts and two-and three-dimensional art. Guidelines can be found online in the ART Gallery.

Congratulations again to our CT Members on their achievements!



Contemplation #2
Photo by Terry Azoti, Zeta



Contemplation #1
Photo by Terry Azoti,
Zeta



As Seen Through Crystal
Photo by Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone,
Beta



**Ring of Fire
(Annular Eclipse)**
Photo by Sandra
Petrucelli-Carbone,
Beta



Winter Bluebird
Photo
Judy Baxter, Theta



Brandon and Lucy on the Journey
Pastel Painting
Linda Tracy, Theta



A Foggy Walk
Photo
Dr. Linda
Paslov



Rodney the Rooster
Pastel Painting
Linda Tracy, Theta

The DKG International Juried Art Gallery submission period is

August 15th to September 15th.

This is a wonderful opportunity to display and share your creativity!

Visit the Gallery online to find information about submission procedures.



The DKG US Forum held in Washington, DC in March

The US Forum National Legislative Seminar was recently held in Arlington, VA, and was rated as one of the best. It featured notable speakers on how to advocate, hot topics, a *Monuments by Moonlight* tour, and it made up for the cancellation in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 20 first-timers in attendance. The kickoff dinner was followed by the well-known keynote speaker, Lisa Maatz from the Ohio Citizen Organization, who talked about advocacy. Her message to us was, "Use the talents you have as educators – challenge yourself. You have opinions." She encouraged us to write letters to the editors of newspapers. Even if it doesn't get printed, it gets the editorial board talking about the issue and they will do more research on it.

Day 2 included DKG Society International President Becky Sadowski who participated in the seminar along with Executive Director Nita Scott. Becky explained why DKG cannot support an issue: "We are an international organization of 17 countries with different cultures and regions. We cannot speak for members around the world, but DKG believes in advocacy and wants and needs all to be advocates as individuals. You can write, "I am (name) and a member of DKG Society International. I am advocating for ..."

Lucy Gettman, Principal of G&S Consulting, shared bills and issues of interest. The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act includes increasing the amount of time for new mothers to receive benefits and extends eligibility of children from five to six years of age. For childcare she said to look for an alternative proposal in the next few weeks. Universal pre-K education is gaining traction in Congress. Student loan forgiveness, really a payment pause, is set to expire on May 11th. Note there is a federal initiative to require teachers to provide one year of lesson plans so parents can opt out. Teacher availability is a challenge, and there is a need for well-prepared personnel. Her advice, "Advocate everywhere and with everyone, as one-half of the members of Congress held state government positions, one-third of the time with direct contacts, one-third with coalitions, such as DKG, and one-third with mentoring and supporting new educators."

From the League of Women Voters, Alicia Guerri talked about anti-voter tactics including misinformation- wrong information with no intent to harm and disinformation- intentionally sharing false information with intent to harm. Two groups to learn more from are vote411.org for voter mobilization and the Democracy Defense Fund, which works to counter voter suppression.

Concerns about mental health were shared by Director of Advocacy, Brandon Graham, from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). He noted that Congress is paying attention as the Surgeon General made a groundbreaking announcement with recommendations on the mental health crisis. Fifty percent of lifetime mental illness begins by age 14 and 75% by age 24. The average delay between onset and treatment is 11 years. The 988 phone number for mental health crises will be nationwide by July 16, 2022. On advocating he said, "Facts support, but stories move." For more ideas to help see [NAMI | Advocacy Headquarters \(quorum.us\)](http://NAMI | Advocacy Headquarters (quorum.us))

Brad Fitch, CEO of Congressional Foundation, works with many from Congress. His message was, "Advocacy is relationship building. Show empathy, 45% of Congress suffered anxiety for their safety after January 6, 2022. Their average workweek is 70 hours with 15 meetings per day." He gave a protocol for speaking to Congressmen, and we participated in an interactive exercise. He concluded with my favorite line of the day, "We don't have a government of the majority, we have a government of those who participate."

In between the speakers, the Steering Committee made presentations on hot topics including food insecurity, climate change and WEP/GPO (social security acts).

On our final day, Laura Peralta-Shulte from the Network: Build Anew program spoke on their 4 cornerstone projects for racial justice. They include: dismantle systemic racism focusing on the criminal legal system, cultivate an inclusive community with a focus on immigration, root our economy in solidarity for labor reform and transform our politics for democracy and voting rights.

Mark Egan, Director of Government Relations for the NEA, shared some important statistics: 55% of NEA (73% females) are looking to leave sooner than planned. Also, 41% hold more than one job to make ends meet and according to labor statistics teachers are 3 times as likely to hold second jobs as other workers.

After a period of time allowed for zooming with Congressmen as the capitol was closed, we had dinner and a game of NLS Jeopardy, leaving us well equipped to speak to our Congressmen at home, too.

Carol LaPolice, US Forum/USForum Steering Committee Northeast Rep



CTSO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE June 2022



**Mildred Devine
Keynote Speaker**

The Delta Kappa Gamma Leadership Conference took place in West Hartford at The McAuley, an impressive, beautiful resident facility. DKG members enjoyed a lovely light breakfast and a tour of the facility. Chapter presidents, treasurers, chairs of membership, program/educational excellence and communications committees, received packets of updated data. Presentations by state chairs also included *Navigating DKG International and CTSO Websites*. It is hoped that the information gained will encourage their members to become more involved in their chapter goals. Highlighting the morning was a presentation by Mildred Devine, the keynote inspirational speaker.

Mildred Devine, lifetime resident of Quaker Hill, resides in the home her parents had built in 1937. She founded the Southeastern CT Women's Network and was a force behind-the-scenes, helping launch the Women's Center of Eastern CT, which became known as Safe Futures. She rose through the ranks to become one of the first female bank vice-presidents in the region, then blazed trails as one of the first women granted entry to the then all-male bastion known as the Thames Club. Millie Devine has penned an autobiography that shows it wasn't all smooth sailing. Devine's new self-published book, *SUNRISE SUNSET Millie's Divine Journey* focuses on her local activism in the business and the non-profit community.

"On a personal note, I drew a connection to Millie as she spoke. My dear cousin Jeanne (who has since passed) also rose through the ranks of the 'men's world'. Upon graduation from UCONN School of Business in the 1960's, she acquired a job in the Internal Revenue Department in Washington D.C. She and I had many conversations concerning working in a man's world. Her advice was to stay strong, confident and assertive. She spent forty years and admitted she enjoyed her job very much. I spoke personally with Millie, and we discussed the connection. Isn't it amazing the way life works and we make connections? I was glad I attended the conference."

Dorothy Shackway

Thank you, **Dot Shackway**, for your help in putting together the leadership report and your personal note, to **Linda Shea** for organizing the hand-out materials. Thank you, also to **Ann Grosjean, Lenore Martinelli, Pam Aubin, Sandra Gammons** and **Linda Paslov**, your passion, insight and energy within the DKG organization came through with 'flying colors' at the leadership training. I'm sure everyone appreciated your very well-organized, easy-to-understand presentations. Don't hesitate to reach out to any of our state leaders for help.

I would like to thank my friend, Millie Devine, for being our Leadership Keynote Speaker. Rising through the ranks in banking in her 50+ years with determination, serves as an inspiration to women everywhere.

Google 'Millie' or check her out on Facebook if you are interested in learning more about her and her book. All proceeds go to 'Safe Futures' providing services to women, children and men who are dealing with bullying and physical abuse.

Roz Etra, CTSO Leadership Chair



CTSO members extend their sincere sympathies to Jeanne Morascini on the loss of her husband, Tony, and two sons within a short period of time.

Jeanne Morascini
55 John Horton Blvd.
Hebron, CT 06248

NEXT KEYNOTE DEADLINES:
September 1, 2022
December 1, 2022

Send information to
Ann Grosjean
acgrosjean@gmail.com

Mission Statement

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



Vision Statement

*Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide*

The Poetry Muses
by Linda S. Paslov, Ed.D.

Is anything sweeter than crisp rhyme and meter—
That wonderful moment when muses do teeter
On edge of euphoric, delicious delights?
They find the right words, which rhythm unites.

Consider, perhaps, the deft use of the vowel—
Yes, just when you're ready to throw in the towel
Your muse will excuse herself, lickety-split
And return with some assonance, peppered with wit.

When couplets and clauses are coolly created
Your muses conclusively collaborated.
Assuring accomplished alliteration,
They postponed their much-needed Venice vacation.

Your muses just love when they all get to see ya
To help with your use of onomatopoeia.
A "hiss" or a "boom", then a "twang" or a "thump,"
Can rev up a poem, like a hearty fist bump.

Comparing with "like" or an "as" is creative;
In this realm all muses are poetic natives.
Reject or agree, admire or abhor,
They like similes but adore metaphors.

My muse is amused when I call her to praise me;
Your muse may accuse you of being quite lazy.
Whatever you do and whatever you say
Please let your muse think that she's just saved the day.

Yes, muses are feisty and can be so fickle
Yet Lord knows they live to save you from a pickle.
All wannabe poets should heed my advice as
Your poems will exude literary devices.

Accepted to the DKG Fine Arts Gallery

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

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Terry Azoti | Kathleen Lozinak |
| Judy Cody | Lenore Martinelli |
| Ann Grosjean | Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone |

