

Alpha Kappa State  
The Delta Kappa Gamma  
Society International

Vol. 76 No. 2 Winter 2016-2017

## Multi-Faceted AKS 2016 Fall Conference



Dr. Carol Guardo shares her experiences *Breaking Glass Ceilings*, in her keynote address.



CT State Senator Gayle Slossberg speaks to attendees after being inducted as an AKS Honorary State Member.

Gamma Chapter member Elaine Porter shares experiences about her multi-cultural choirs.



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Jottings from Joan

Sharing Our Vision—Paying it Forward



It's winter. We can decide to think dark and dreary thoughts, or we can decide to make things better. Let there be light. Pay it forward from our bounty to help those in need. Volunteer, if we can. All of these bring us out of ourselves as we think of others.

Our Fall Conference was a great success. Dr. Carol Guardo, the keynote speaker definitely paid it forward during her multi-faceted career. She began her talk by thanking her early mentors and then led us to the present day where she has helped to keep colleges and universities operating while they ran searches for the best candidates.

Our newly inducted **State Honorary Member State Senator Gayle Slossberg** spoke of issues related to education. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that state vocational schools, a great need in today's job market, would not be closed.

**Elaine Porter**, a teacher at Norwich Free Academy, has brought together a multi-cultural choir who perform throughout the state.

Several members attended a Fall Conference for the first time. The food was delicious, the camaraderie was great, awards were distributed and the Rose Room was beautifully appropriate for us.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year filled with peace and hope.

*Joan*



**The DKG Gallery of Fine Arts**  
An online publication and display of  
DKG members' creative works.

**Calling All DKG Members.....**

**The members of the DKG Arts and Humanities Jury invite you to submit your artistic works to be exhibited online in the Gallery of Fine Arts.**

Visit the site at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) for further information.  
Next submission period: January 1 – February 1, 2017

**AKS kudos to Theresa (Terry) Azoti, Zeta Chapter and Carol Kraus, Theta Chapter, whose works are displayed in the Gallery.**

**Please visit the Gallery of Fine Arts on the DKG Website ([dkg.org](http://dkg.org))**

**Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone, member of the DKG Arts and Humanities Jury**





## AKS Life Membership Awards

Alpha Kappa State has established the Life Membership Award. This award is to honor the state's longtime and Reserve members, who may drop their membership for any of several reasons. The formula for selecting members for the Life Membership Award is a combination of age plus years of membership, which should equal 135. Once a member is awarded the Life Membership, AKS pays her International dues and does not collect any state dues or fees. **AKS Treasurer Donna Chaney** and the AKS Executive Board believe that this is a small price to pay for keeping longtime members in the organization.

At the AKS Fall Conference **President Joan Konareski** announced that three members were eligible to receive the Life Membership Award. They are **Rita Gerzanick** (Delta), **Joyce O'Dea** (Lambda) and **Mildred Reed** (Delta).

**Rita Gerzanick** was unable to attend the chapter meeting. Members of the chapter will present the Award Certificate to Rita at a later date. Rita was initiated into Delta Chapter on November 16, 1957. She served the chapter in various positions, including first vice president for three biennia, second vice president for two biennia, nominations chair, program chair, research, teacher welfare professional affairs committees, etc. Rita was also involved on the state level, serving as AKS program chair, member of the special directory and achievement award committee, speaker at the AKS 1986 Fall Conference and speaker at the 1987 Northeast Regional Conference. Rita was an English teacher at Bristol Central High School and Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford. She was also a department head and guidance counselor in Bristol.

**Joyce O'Dea** was initiated into Lambda Chapter on April 1, 1973. She served multiple terms in various positions, including first vice president, secretary and communications chair. On the state level she was in charge of registration at a spring convention. As a teacher of language arts, Joyce spent most of her twenty years in Wallingford at Robert Early Junior High School. She ended her career at Moran Middle School. In addition, Joyce served as a building representative for the local teachers' association. On a personal note, Joyce is the mother of six children. She proudly shares that she has "sixteen grandchildren in every major city except Chicago". Joyce is actively involved in her church. She has undertaken several ministries and serves as a Eucharistic Minister. Both Lambda and Alpha Kappa State have been the beneficiaries of Joyce's countless contributions during her many years of membership.

Delta Chapter honored **Mildred Reed** at the December meeting by presenting her with the Life Member Award certificate. Mildred was accompanied by her niece, Priscilla Marshall. Mildred was initiated into Delta Chapter on March 9, 1963. She has served the chapter in a variety of positions, including corresponding secretary, publicity chair, research chair, historian, personal growth and services, enrichment, etc., as well as serving on the AKS research committee. Mildred attended the International Seminar on Purposeful Living in Montreal, Canada, and the Northeast Regional Conference in Wilmington, Delaware. She taught in the Bristol School System for 49 years, retiring in June, 1994.



**Congratulations to AKS new Life Member Mildred Reed.**



## Fall Conference

### Keynote Speaker Dr. Carol Guardo



Dr. Carol Guardo, keynote speaker at the Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference, began her presentation with the statement that social and cultural issues affect the decisions that one makes for the future. She represents a large group of women who paved the way for women in education.

Her talk traced the change in women's roles from the 1940's to the present, aided by citing historical events that were occurring in the United States and around the world. She illustrated and explained the transition from the traditional domestic role of women to that of becoming the breadwinners.

Dr. Guardo credited her mentors, many of whom were men, in helping her to climb the academic ladder which led to her becoming president of several colleges across the country. She stressed the extra responsibility that many women had, not only to succeed, but to leave the door open for the next woman to fill these positions. Finally, she described the four waves of the women's movement –the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1920, women's right to vote; the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1970's, Decade of Women and Title IX; the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a long transitional period; and the current 4<sup>th</sup>, as many students no longer embrace feminism or unions; but they do embrace social justice, cultural issues and human rights that cut across the lines of race and gender. She was gratified by the number of questions from the audience, and from individuals who approached her with questions and who looked for guidance in solving personal issues that they face.

**Anita Satriano**  
AKS Educational Impact Chair

Dear Sisters in Alpha Kappa State,

I am currently a representative of the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee serving on the steering committee of the Connecticut Human Rights Partnership. The idea for the Partnership was launched at a meeting hosted by the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Human Rights at the University of Connecticut in December of 2014. Many CT colleges and universities were represented at this meeting, as well as a high school. CHRP's mission is to develop, support, and publicize educational and co-curricular opportunities through a network of interested individuals and organizations. Since its inception the Partnership has co-sponsored events at Trinity College and the University of Hartford, and will participate in an event at UCONN in December and at Quinnipiac University in the spring of 2017.

The main focus of the Partnership at this time is on high school and university students, but hopes to expand to include middle, elementary schools and the community.

I am writing to ask if you know of any existing programs or organized focus groups in your schools or community. We would like to establish contacts with them and share information. I am asking chapter presidents to share this letter with your members. If anyone has information on this issue would you be kind enough to send it to me at [asinbl87@comcast.net](mailto:asinbl87@comcast.net), or to 21 Beaudry Lane, Bloomfield, CT 06002. It would be very helpful to have this information as soon as possible.

I thank you in advance for any information that you may be able to share with us.

In peace, **Anita Satriano**  
Curriculum of Hope Committee



**AKS First Vice-President Pat O'Connell Buckley and Fine Arts Presenter Elaine Porter (Gamma)**



# Fall Conference



**CT State Senator Gayle Slossberg and AKS Immediate Past President Terry Azoti**



**Fall Conference First-Timers**



**Conference First-Timer Linda Tuzzio (Zeta) and AKS President Joan Konareski**



**Jeanne Morascini and Dr. Janie Pertillar (Epsilon)**



**Faye Ringel, Elaine Porter and Roz Etra**





**Alpha Kappa State  
Awards Recruitment Grants  
and  
High School Grants**

Since 1951, grants have been awarded by Alpha Kappa State to female and male college/university students and high school seniors majoring in education. Each grant bears the name of a distinguished member of Alpha Kappa State and is assigned to the college or university with which the honored member had a close association. The following grants were announced at the 2016 Fall Conference:

***\$500 Vera Butler Grant to Amber-Lynn Dumais  
Central Connecticut State University  
Elementary Education***

***\$500 Flora Lister Grant to Lauren Russomanno  
Western Connecticut State University  
Elementary Education, Communications***

***\$500 Mary Mahoney Grant to Rachel Orbe  
University of Connecticut  
Secondary English Education***

***\$500 Helen Moroney Grant to Rachel Scicchitano  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Elementary Education***

***\$500 Ida Seidel Grant to Kelly Ann Huhtanen  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
Elementary Education, English***

**High School Grants**

***\$750 Adelina "Lee" P. Formica Grant — Emma Joyce Burnham, Parish Hill High School, Chaplin  
New York University***

***\$750 Hannah C. Griswold Grant— Damayanti Rane-Castrodat, Robert Fitch High School, Groton  
University of Connecticut***

***\$750 Margaret Rose Nielsen Grant — Lauren Marie Zielinski, Trumbull High School, Trumbull  
University of Connecticut***

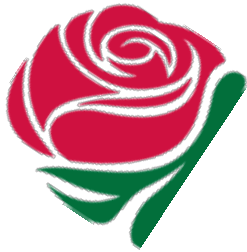
***\$750 Elizabeth C. Sonier Grant — Dominick William Wood, Darien High School, Darien  
William Patterson University, New Jersey***



**Reminder from Membership**

Please send any changes of members' information to Deb Soresino at [dsoresino@gmail.com](mailto:dsoresino@gmail.com) so that members continue to receive mailings from AKS and DKG International.





## Welcome to our New and Reinstated AKS members Reported as of December 30, 2016

We look forward to your energy and enthusiasm.

**Beta: Initiated**

Susan D'Amato  
Cathy Huffman

Lisa Acerbo (reinstated)  
Miriam Raubvogel (reinstated)  
Donna Zimmer (reinstated)

**Zeta: Initiated**

Nicki Dakis-Gallagher  
Diane Gleeson  
Lucinda Kramer  
Eleanor Rae Mulligan  
Jeanne Savoia

Lauretta Dowling (reinstated)

**Theta: Initiated**

Donna Cawley  
Margaret Daly  
Jill Hill  
Carol Norrish

**Iota: Initiated**

Carrie Fiske

**Omicron: Reinstated**

Gina Boxleitner  
Julie Criscuolo  
Allison Cunningham  
Margaret DiMasi  
Francesca Ford  
Annette McCabe  
Marie Maresko  
Jacqueline Schlosser  
Helen Scully  
Mary Torres



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>



# AROUND THE

## ALPHA

Alpha Chapter had a good turnout at its October author event which was open to the community. Missy Wolfe spoke about her book *Insubordinate Spirit*, which relates the story and historical times of Elizabeth Winthrop Feake Hallett, an early settler of Old Greenwich. This event combined the chapter's priorities of promoting literacy and community outreach.

The November meeting featured **Joanne Zammit**, sharing her trip to Africa. **Jean DiVincenzo** and **Pat Rosen** also shared their Alpha biographical portraits.

The traditional December event was an evening at Diane's Bookstore. Owner and Honorary Alpha Chapter member **Diane Garrett** shared her favorite new adult and children's books.

## BETA

Beta Chapter's first meeting of the current school year was held on September 14<sup>th</sup>, at Dante's Restaurant in the Oronoque shopping center in Stratford. Nineteen members attended. **President Nan Stern** presided, and members discussed fundraising ideas and ways to grow chapter membership. New officers were also inducted. They are **President Nan Stern, First Vice President and Communications Chair Janis Isenberg, Second Vice President Vivian Manzione, Recording Secretary Lisa Acerbo, Corresponding Secretary Diane Strever** and **Treasurer Karol Fleegal**.

**Nan Stern** and **Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone** attended the Alpha Kappa State's 77<sup>th</sup> Fall Conference. The next chapter meeting was held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at Frenchtown Elementary School in Trumbull. **Linda Paslov** planned the program which included Vicki Tesoro (D), who ran a very close race against Tim Herbst for Trumbull First Selectman last year. She spoke on the topic, *Local Women Politicians Share What They Have Learned*. Laura Hoydick (R) from Stratford, who is State Representative for the 120th District, as well as Deputy Leader of the House Republican Caucus, also attended and spoke on how they survived the negativity, maintained their energy and stayed focused on the issues.



**Beta Chapter: Laura Hoydick, Sue D'Amato, Dr. Linda Paslov, Vicki Tesoro, Nan Stern and Cathy Huffman**

## GAMMA

In keeping with the chapter's goal to make Gamma more visible, the chapter met in mid-October for the first time in New London. The group was hosted by Gamma Chapter member **Dr. Sue Iwanicki**, who is the principal of the Regional Multicultural Magnet School where the meeting was held. Gamma sisters enjoyed refreshments and socialized with members of the Magnet staff.

After the business agenda, **Chapter President Leonille Kadambaya** made the announcement that she was resigning as president of Gamma due to a major new commitment. It was with deep regret that members accepted her decision, but all are proud of the new responsibility she is assuming. She has been an industrious member of Gamma for several years and has led the way in organizing our chapter for the current year.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, chapter members met at the Norwich Free Academy. Baron Williams, a pianist/vocalist, performed a few classic holiday pieces. **Elaine Porter** arranged for the site and the entertainment. In addition, **Roz Etra** and **Faye Ringel** led all in songs appropriate to the various holidays celebrated in December. Roz and Faye co-chaired the meeting which centered on issues of how Gamma can be a viable chapter. Several ideas were presented and will be considered by an ad hoc committee. The main goal is to interact more with other women's groups in southeastern Connecticut and to find ways to encourage younger women to accept membership. Hopefully, members from some of these groups will attend the March meeting.

## DELTA

Delta Chapter met at Fairview Farm in Harwinton for the annual Holiday Brunch and basket raffle on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. All funds from the basket raffle support the chapter's Book Grant. At the September meeting, members voted to increase the Book Grant from \$750 to \$1,000. One book grant is awarded to a high school senior in the area planning to pursue a career in education.

*Happy Bucks* are collected at each meeting when members share their good news and donate to the cause. **Sondra MacDonald** has spoken with the directors of the Children's Community School in Waterbury. Children's Community School (CCS) provides an educational alternative for low-income families living in the Waterbury area. CCS has been providing a unique, high-quality, private education for 46 years. The educational model and the support of hundreds of volunteers results in a 92% on-time high school graduation rate of our children. It was voted on in September to donate two months of community fellowship *Happy Bucks* to CCS.

Delta Chapter was honored to have **Mildred Reed** and her niece, Priscilla, present at the December meeting. It was announced at the AKS Fall Conference that two members of Delta Chapter, **Mildred and Rita Gerzanick** are eligible for the status of DKG Life Member. This is quite an honor for these two members. Mildred's was presented with her certificate. Arrangements will be made to present Rita's to her at a later date.





# NUTMEG STATE

## ZETA

Welcoming new members to DKG/Zeta chapter is always a pleasant way to spend an evening, and this was the case at Zeta's annual Initiation Dinner meeting held in Guilford on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Zeta Chapter is proud to introduce five new members, **Nicki Dakis-Gallagher**, former teacher in North Branford schools, then at Quinnipiac University specializing in learning styles and cultural diversity; **Diane Gleeson**, social worker at Clintonville School in North Haven; **Elinore Rae Mulligan**, special education teacher at North Haven Middle School,; **Lucinda Kramer**, retired teacher from the North Haven School system and adjunct teacher at Quinnipiac University and **Jeanne Savoia**, teacher at Green Acres School in North Haven.

Members enjoyed an outstanding buffet and heard short, but fascinating, bios from each of the new members. This was one of Zeta's more memorable Initiation dinner meetings in some time! Welcome to these five outstanding women educators who look forward to participation and service in the chapter.

Zeta held its most popular meeting of the season, the annual Brunch and Auction, on November 19<sup>th</sup> at Whitney Center in Hamden and earned a record-breaking \$3,400 during the day from sales including \$207 for **World Fellowship**, \$250 for International endeavor **Schools for Africa**, \$200 for the **CT Food Bank**, nearly \$1,000 for Zeta's **2016 Worthy Project Right 2 Thrive**, along with almost \$700 each to go to Zeta's two student grants, the Marguerite McKay Memorial grant and the Zeta Memorial grant. The chapter's long-time member 'auctioneer' **Elayne Canter** was away on a well-earned cruise this year and was very aptly replaced by member **Albina Cannavaciolo**. Thanks to Albina and to her committee for planning and executing a most successful event again this year. Over 80 Zeta members/guests enjoyed a memorable day of socializing and fundraising. Thanks also goes to all who opened their hearts and their pocketbooks to support the annual projects.



**Zeta Chapter Initiates: (l. to r.) Diane Gleeson, Elinore Mulligan, Jeanne Savoia, Lucinda Kramer and Nicki Dakis-Gallagher.**

## THETA

Theta's October meeting was very relaxed! Members colored, as they ate comfort food snacks, held a business meeting and visited! **Pat O'Connell-Buckley** and **Ann Grosjean** taught members the line dance they learned in Nashville at the DKG International Convention this past summer. A good time was had by all.

As the holidays approached, it was time to think of others. Members prepared stockings to be given to the fourteen girls they mentor at *Journey House*. **Sharon Bartlett** and her elves made cookies with the girls, as well. Also, **Monique Brown** began the sign-up for Theta's Soup Kitchen meal to be served in January.

Last year members initiated the *Just for Fun* activity. It provides members with the opportunity to share an event they think Theta sisters might enjoy. Members attended the *Take Note* a Capella concert, which **Linda Tracy** directed for donations for the Quiet Corner Refugee Settlement organization. QCRS will be speaking about refugee settlement in Northeast Connecticut at a joint meeting with Gamma and Rho in January. They are also looking forward to Linda's *Madrigal Dinner* where her Tolland High School Madrigal Singers will entertain the chapter and serve dinner! **Karen Dibala** invited members to attend a Gun Safety Conference, as well as a concert by the Windham Theater Guild Chorus with whom she sings. Theta has many talented and involved members.

Many thanks to **Janice McKusick**, who handled the registration for the AKS Fall Conference. **Jeanne Morascini, Marie Desautels and Joan Haffey** also did a wonderful job with registration the day of the conference. Those in attendance were inspired by **Anita Satriano's** sister, Dr. Carol Guardo's presentation about *Breaking Glass Ceilings* at the conference. Thanks also to Theta's tireless **Chapter Treasurer Millie Ramsey**, who has been working behind the scene collecting dues.

We wish all of our AKS Sisters Happy Holidays and the Happiest of New Years!

## IOTA

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, Iota members shared an enjoyable lunch at the Hopkins Inn at Lake Waramaug. They welcomed new member **Carrie Fiske** and returning member **Sarah Gutis Fitzgerald**. The guest speaker was **Emily Lozinak** from Omicron Chapter. She spoke about recruiting and retaining new members. Emily also talked about some of the exciting opportunities she has received through DKG.

Mattea Heller came as a guest of the chapter and thanked Iota for the Graduate Student Grant she was given. The chapter decided to combine its Book Grant and Graduate Student Grant to create an Active Teacher Grant that funds a professional development opportunity for two teachers a year. They will also continue to support Reading Partners in Danbury this year. The chapter held its annual Holiday dinner combined with a trip to the McCarthy Observatory at New Milford High School, a wonderful way to end the year.



# AROUND THE NUTMEG STATE

(continued)

## MU

Mu Chapter resumed its fall meeting schedule with a Book Talk program. Each member talked about a great range of favorite books they had read and would recommend to members to read. A list was then compiled and sent to all members.

An appreciative thank you note was read from the Farmington High School student who received a \$1,000 scholarship from Mu to start her studies in secondary history education in the five-year master's program at Loyola University in Maryland.

**Ann Newbury** relayed a thank you message from Interval House, a domestic violence service near Hartford. The very generous amount of toiletries and personal care items donated by the chapter was greatly appreciated.

**Chairperson Bev Kibbe** reported that eighteen Mu Chapter members met to wrap children's books for new parents that were purchased through gifts and donations from Mu members. Wrapping stations were set up, and a pot luck luncheon was served at the home of **Pam Beach**. These books were donated to the Ferdinand Sauer, MD Family BirthPlace at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain. Bev delivered 1,278 books to the hospital, wrapped in packages of two. Each package included a letter to the new parents from Mu Chapter explaining the importance of reading to children from an early age and the skills that are developed when reading to their child.

**Carolyn Hallifax, Alberta Culley, and Nancy Methot** met, created and donated a wreath on behalf of Mu Chapter to the Wadsworth Atheneum's Festival of Trees and Traditions, the annual museum fundraising event.

## OMICRON

In October, Omicron Chapter held its fall meeting at the Valley Boys & Girls Club in Shelton. Members enjoyed participating in the activity *Getting to Know You*.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Omicron Chapter held its annual Holiday Tea at Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. Omicron members and their guests enjoyed a brunch together. Members also made and donated baskets to be raffled for Omicron's annual scholarship fund. Tours of the Osborne Homestead Museum were offered as well.



Omicron Chapter's *Getting to Know You* activity

## RHO

Rho Chapter had a very successful meeting on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at the South Windsor Public Library. Members enjoyed pizza during the business meeting. The guest speaker was Audrey Dean, **Rho member Barbara Dean's** granddaughter. Audrey visited Thailand and Laos for two weeks during the summer of 2016 on a scholarship from Rustic Pathways. Rustic Pathways is a program where the participating young people work on agricultural projects, education initiatives and community service in the countries they are visiting. Audrey had wonderful photos to share with interesting stories of her time in Thailand and Laos. She is a senior at Bolton High School and is in the process of applying to the Maritime Academy in New York. She has already received the endorsement of U.S. Senators Murphy and Blumenthal. Rho Chapter definitely supports Audrey in this process and appreciates her sharing her trip with the chapter.



**Dr. Kathleen Lozinak, President of Omicron Chapter**, has been notified by DKG International that her article *Mentor Matching Does Matter* was selected for inclusion in the 2016, Volume 83-1 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin Journal*. Congratulations to Kathleen from your AKS sisters.

**Joanne Chenkus, Delta Chapter**, recently served as stage manager for the Landmark Community Theater at the Thomaston Opera House fall 2016 production of *Dreamgirls*. The show was a huge success; and Joanne, along with the music director and Landmark Community Theater director were each presented with a gold record for their accomplishments. Congratulations to Joanne from your AKS sisters.



(l. to r.) Music Director AJ Bunel, Stage Manager Joanne Chenkus, and Landmark Community Theater Director Foster Evans Reese



*IN MEMORIAM*  
*White Roses*  
 "A moment to remember. . .  
 A lifetime to honor."



**Jane Ryan, Iota Chapter**  
**Died: July 8, 2016**

Jane Ryan, a long-time proud member of Delta Kappa Gamma, was initiated into Iota Chapter on April 1, 1959. On July 8 she passed away at the age of eighty-three. Jane was an active and valued member who served as Iota's President for two terms and chapter treasurer for thirty years. She attended many Alpha Kappa State functions and served as the Nominating Chair, 1981-1983.

Jane received her BS in Early Childhood in 1954 from the University of St. Joseph (formerly St. Joseph College) in West Hartford, where she was awarded the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award. She received her Masters and Sixth Year Certification from Fairfield University in Fairfield. She attended many Early Childhood seminars at various New England colleges and universities, as well as a two-week seminar at an Oxford, England, "Infant School."

Teaching was Jane's passion. She taught kindergarten in Danbury Public Schools for forty-three years, retiring in 1997. Upon her retirement, she was appointed by the mayor to the Danbury School Readiness Council. For the SR Council she chaired the Quality Standards Committee and wrote the Standards for Danbury. In that capacity she arranged for the purchase of many children's books for the School Readiness Classrooms. Jane also served on the Promise for Children's Initiative.

Always cheerfully willing to serve others, Jane was Building Representative for the Danbury Teachers Association and Vice-President and two times President for the Kindergarten Association of CT. She was also a lifelong member of St. Peter Church and a member of the Danbury-New Fairfield Woman's Club and its Educational Committee. Jane's tireless commitment to education has enriched our community and she will be sorely missed by her colleagues and Iota sisters.

**Ray Dilieto, Nu Chapter**  
**Died: December 16, 2016**

Ray Dilieto was initiated into Nu Chapter on April 1, 1966. In 2016, she celebrated fifty years of membership and was awarded Lifetime Membership.

Ray was a graduate of Fordham University, receiving her degree in Early Childhood Development. She spent the majority of her education career as an assistant principal and a kindergarten teacher in Norwalk, Connecticut for over thirty years. She was the first director of the Norwalk Head Start program, giving pre-kindergarten and pre-first grade students from disadvantaged backgrounds a hint of what they would face in the formal education environment.

She belonged to numerous professional societies involved with early childhood education. Ray enjoyed cooking, gardening and caring for her faithful basset hounds, Baron and Tilly.

Ray cherished her memories of Nu Chapter. She will be fondly remembered by her friends and Nu sisters.



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

**Terry Azoti  
 Judy Cody  
 Jean Morascini**

**Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone  
 Nancy Roy**



## Alpha Kappa State Mourns the Loss of Two Honorary Members



**Alpha Kappa State Honorary Member Connecticut State Representative Mary G. Sherry Fritz  
Died: July 9, 2016**

Connecticut State Representative Mary Fritz was initiated as an Alpha Kappa State Honorary Member on May 4, 1996 at the AKS Spring Convention in Rocky Hill. She was a member for twenty years.

Mary attended Emanuel College, Boston College, Trinity College and Fairfield University. She taught in the Wallingford Public Schools from 1959-1964. Mary was also the founder of Create & Play Nursery School and taught reading in Meriden Parochial Schools. She was president of the PTA at Yalesville School in Wallingford and served as Chairwoman of the Wallingford Board of Education.

Mary was the State Representative of the 90<sup>th</sup> House District of Cheshire and Wallingford for 32 years and was Deputy Speaker of the House for eight years. She was the longest-serving legislator, having first served in 1982, then retaking her seat in 1986. In addition to Deputy Speaker, she served as Assistant Deputy Speaker, Deputy Majority Leader, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Chair of the Internship Committee, Chair of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee and Vice-Chair of the Public Health Committee. Mary was a fierce advocate for her constituents, focusing on legislative issues of public education, early childhood education, crime control, health care improvement, job training, fair taxation, youth services and senior citizen care.

Representative Fritz was a former two-term President of the Connecticut Order of Women Legislators and was twice elected Regional Director of the National Order of Women Legislators. She was also an Ex-officio Member of the CT Employment and Training Commission.

Representative Fritz was recognized with many awards for her legislative and public service. A few of the awards she received were: 2009 Legislator of the Year by the American Heart Association; Cheshire Democratic Women's Club Civic Pride Award; Wallingford Business and Professional Women's Club Woman of the Year; and twice named Connecticut State Farm Bureau Legislator of the Year.

Mary was active in the community. She was a member of the Heritage Quilters, the Cheshire Grange and the Board of Governors for Mid-State Medical Center. Mary and her husband managed Fritz's Custom Furniture for many years.

Members of Alpha Kappa State send deepest condolences to her husband, William, six children and fourteen grandchildren. Mary was much admired for her years of public service. She touched the lives of many and gave her heart to everything she championed.

### ΔΚΓ MISSION STATEMENT

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



### Alpha Kappa State Honorary Member Connecticut State Representative Elizabeth 'Betty' Boukus Died December 2, 2016

Connecticut State Representative Elizabeth 'Betty' Boukus was initiated as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa State at the Fall Conference on November 6, 2004. She represented the 22<sup>nd</sup> House District, which includes Plainville and New Britain. Betty was an Assistant House Majority Leader and served on the Finance, Judiciary and Public Safety Committees.

State Representative Betty Boukus, an irreverent and irrepressible presence at the State Capitol for 22 years, defied a cancer diagnosis this year to keep working in Hartford and seek a 12<sup>th</sup> two-year term. She was 73 years old.

Boukus was a teacher by training, graduating with a degree in education from Central Connecticut State University and a Master's in Education from the University of Hartford. Betty began her teaching career at the local elementary schools, Wheeler and Toffolon. She left teaching to become a mother. Betty also established a career in the businesses of real estate and insurance, working for Cigna as executive handling claims.

As a State Representative, she is credited with the commissioning of the first new statue at the State Capitol in a century, a life-size piece honoring an educator, Prudence Crandall. Crandall was named the state heroine in 1995, an honor for her risking violence and criminal prosecution for opening a school for young black women in 1883 in defiance of state law. Years later, students from Bristol, a part of Boukus' district before redistricting, asked why there was a statue at the State Capitol of the state hero, Nathan Hale, but not of Crandall. Boukus worked with the students to win approval for the bronze statue of Crandall with one of her students. The statue now stands on the first floor of the State Capitol.

At the Capitol, Boukus was a stand-in for Santa Claus every December. She was the organizer of a Secret Santa program that collects gifts for residents of the Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill.

She was member of the Plainville Women's Club, the Plainville Senior Center, Lion's Club and the Tunxis Community Foundation Advisory Board. Betty served on the Plainville Town Council, as both vice-chair and chairperson. She also was a member of the board of directors at the Plainville YMCA and Family Services of Central Connecticut. She was the recipient of numerous awards from the Connecticut Library Association, the Connecticut Coalition of Police and Correction Officers' Courage of Connecticut Award, the Connecticut Commission on the Arts Distinguished Legislative Advocate for the Arts Award, as well as being selected as the Plainville Lion of the Year.

Alpha Kappa State extends its sincere sympathies to Betty's husband, Gary; to her children, Gary Boukus, Jr. and Helen Santini, as well as to her four grandchildren.



### Scholarship

## DKG to Award 30 Scholarships to Members

Are you planning to pursue an advanced or doctoral degree? You are eligible to apply for a \$6,000 advanced degree scholarship or for a \$10,000 doctoral degree scholarship. The application and information can be found on the DKG website under the Forms link on the top of the homepage of the Society. On the website, click on Forms and then click on Applications.

**The deadline for applying is February 1, 2017.** If you have any questions, please contact **Lois Vogel, 2016-18 International Scholarship Committee** at [lvogel5370@gmail.com](mailto:lvogel5370@gmail.com) or 812-689-6832.

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)



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## DKG Non-Dues Revenue Project Trip to Spain and Portugal

Invite your friends and join your DKG sisters for a 13-day trip in June, 2017, to the Basque Country. Within the borders of one small area, you'll find impressively distinct destinations. Relive the Age of Discovery in Lisbon and discover Moorish influences in exotic Andalusia. Fast forward to the present day to feast on tapas, drink sangria and join the night life in Madrid before ending in the Basque Country, where an impressive culinary scene shines.

This is a project of the International Non-Dues Revenue Committee. DKG gets a certain amount from the Go Ahead Tour company for each person who signs up for the tour. So we want to try to get the maximum number on the tour in order to reap greater dividends for our organization. Of course another important purpose is to provide a benefit to our members, friends and families with a discounted price and the opportunity to travel as a private group.

Additional information is available on the DKG website under Announcements. Please contact **Beverly Helms, DKG Global Ambassador 2016-2017**, at [bevhelms@embarqmail.com](mailto:bevhelms@embarqmail.com) or call 850-547-3220.



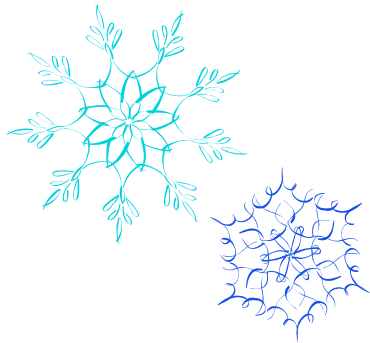
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Come to the Northeast Regional Conference July 12-14 at Caesars Resort and Convention Center in Windsor Ontario. The Northeast Regional Conference will be **one day shorter** than the other regionals as International is responding to evaluations that suggested shortening the regionals.

The registration fee is \$113 (U.S. dollars) for the three days and \$50 for one day. But the registration form will be listed in Canadian dollars, and, therefore, those living in the U.S. will need to use a credit card to register. The credit card bill will then list the cost in U.S. dollars, which because of the exchange rate is less than Canadian dollars.

Caesars Resort, the conference site located across the river from Detroit, is a lovely facility. Rooms are in the Augustus Tower, and the meetings are on a lower level in the same tower. Reserving a room in late spring, may require you to select lodging in the Forum Tower which requires a short walk through the Casino to the conference. Lodging is \$165 in Canadian dollars per night. Multiply \$165 by .75 to get the approximate cost of the room in U.S. dollars: \$123.75.

You do need a passport! No one gets in to Canada with a gun--not even one that a husband or friend may have left in the trunk of your car. When passing through customs, if you are asked why you are entering Canada, say you are attending a teachers' conference.

# See you there!

The Keynote photos provided by Carolyn Downs, Alpha Kappa State Photographer

**Alpha Kappa State  
Dates to Remember  
Sharing Our Vision—  
Paying It Forward**

**Friday, January 27, 2017**  
Conference on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN)  
United Nations (New York City)

**Saturday, February 4, 2017**  
**Snow Date: February 11, 2017**  
Alpha Kappa State Executive Board Meeting  
Griffin Room, Meriden Public Library

**Saturday, April 29, 2017**  
Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention  
Baci Grill (Cromwell)

**Saturday, June 6, 2017**  
Alpha Kappa State Executive Board Meeting  
Griffin Room, Meriden Public Library

**July 12—14, 2017**  
Northeast Regional Conference  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada

The Keynote is published four times per year.  
Only the Spring and Fall issues are sent by U.S. Mail.

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

Present and past issues are available on the website  
<http://dkgct.weebly.com>

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

Keynote Deadlines are  
**Spring issue: February 20, 2017**

**Summer issue: May 27, 2017**

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