

The *Gamma Gamma Ray*

Newsletter of the

Gamma Gamma Chapter of Lambda State

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



November 2012

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, November 15th – Sharing the Blessings of the Harvest

Thursday, December 6th – ‘Shop ‘til You Drop’

Tuesday, January 8th - Chocolate, the Elixir of Life

Sharing the Blessings of the Harvest

For those of us who attended this worthwhile Special Project last year, we have warm memories of working frantically side by side with our Sisters packing the rice meals for needy, starving children. We also have the scary memories of seeing one another in hairnets! This year, Historian and Photographer, Sue Werner, promises to put the fuzzy lens on her camera.

We are hoping many will be able to join us for a bite to eat at Panera on Golf Road, which is close to the FMSC facility.

Date: Thursday, November 15th

Location: FMSC Facility – 1072 National Parkway, Schaumburg, IL 60173

Service Project: Monetary Donations to FMSC

Time: 4:30 – 5:30 Optional Dinner at Panera (622 East Golf, Schaumburg, IL, just east of Kohl’s)

5:45 – 6:00 Meeting

6:00 – 7:30 Program/Packing

Reflections: FMSC Staff and Video

Arrangements: Anne Fussell

Hostesses: Special Projects Committee: ***Anne Fussell**, Cammy Basak, JoAnn Bechtold, Rachel Bobren, Kris Davenport, Peggy Gire, Keri Gold, Mary Kay Marrello, Christine Pyzdrowski, Danielle Silva, Lorena Williams

Members are welcome to bring family and friends. Children need to be in the 3rd grade and up. The FMSC Market Place will be open to purchase hand-crafted gifts. For more information, please visit their website at www.fmsc.org.

Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

Save the Date:

The **Annual “SHOP ‘TIL YOU DROP” Auction** will be rolling around on **Thursday, December 6th**! Mark down the date on your calendar, and start saving your money!

Maureen Briza and Auction Committee members are planning a few changes this year. Expect a Gamma Gamma Auction Holiday Reminder. It will be coming very soon, complete with details about the new program

OCTOBER 25TH MEETING WAS AN “A+” SUCCESS

And I have the PAPERS to prove it! I received “The Lambda State Ambassador’s Report of Our Chapter’s Visit” recently in the mail, and our ambassador, Diane Kettelson, gave us this outstanding score. We received great marks in all areas. She commented on our detailed and thorough Chapter Committee Reports (and a hearty “Thank You” to all Committee Chairs for gathering all your information) and our fantastic yearbook and website (and a hearty “Thank You” to Barb Peterson and her committee members). She noted our excellent membership turnout at the meeting and remarked on the fact that Gamma Gamma had the highest number of Delta Kappa Gamma attendees at State Convention last spring. She agrees that sending “Happy Day Cards” is a positively thoughtful idea, and “Thank You” to Debbie Goodman for this idea.

Be proud, Ladies! I will bring our “A+” Report Card to our November Meeting for all to see.

I wish to thank Julie Rowe for her compelling October Reflection. The song from the South Pacific musical, “You’ve Got to Be Carefully Taught”, is a continuous reminder of how children learn from their parents, family members, and society. It’s a reminder for us to be careful in all the various roles we play every day in our lives.

On a sad note...

We have lost a few members this fall due to health, time commitment, and location issues. We know it is not always easy to find the time to attend meetings, but we are always glad to see you when you can come. Making telephone calls to fellow Sisters who have missed a few meetings might be appreciated.

Bev Johns, the DKG State’s Membership Chair, is willing to offer suggestions about maintaining and increasing membership. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS! This can be both complicated and challenging. Let’s focus on the “three R’s” of membership: RECRUIT, RETAIN, and REINSTATE.

Remember that we can think beyond classroom teachers to administrators, faculty trainers, instructional assistants, college level educators, and corporate level trainers. Membership statistics show that in the last five to seven years, two members have dropped for every one initiated.

FYI RETIREES: IEA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Anne Fussell and Linda Stolt have diligently kept us informed of all IEA news. This information has been sent out about the scholarship program that is open to all children/legal wards of current IEA-Retired members, who are planning to pursue a career in teaching. Applications for this scholarship must be postmarked by December 3rd. If anyone requires additional information, please contact Anne or Linda.

There are numerous scholarship opportunities available for members, so please check to see if any would benefit you. Members must apply by February 1st for international scholarships that can be worth \$10,000 for doctoral studies and \$6,000 for other graduate studies.

Taming Technology Seminar ---- with the possibility of earning 12 CPDU's

Date: June 18-19th

Location: Bradley University in Peoria

Accommodations: Dorm rooms available for \$22.00 per night

Teacher Extraordinaire: Barb Peterson

Watch for further information about this special opportunity.

NTETP! ---- Never Too Early To Plan! ---- News!

- Lambda State Convention: April 12th-14th in St. Louis.
 - Yes, our Spring Lambda State Convention is coming to Springfield, Illinois from April 12th to the 14th. Volunteers are needed.
 - Member volunteers are the heart of Convention as they fulfill responsibilities that keep our activities running smoothly. Each Convention requires over 100+ members to help in some way to make it successful. Most of these responsibilities take one hour or less, are not difficult, and provide an opportunity to meet and visit with your DKG Sisters from around the state of Illinois. Let's keep this in mind when spring draws nearer.

- Panama Journey: The International Projects Committee invites you to journey to Panama, "the crossroads of the world". Our DKG sisters will explore this fascinating country. The state-to-state visit will take place February 18th-27th, 2013. Check DKG International Projects Committee on the DKG website for additional information.

Book Recommendation

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak tells the story of a young girl, Liesel Meminger, who is living in World War II Germany. Interestingly, Death narrates this book, but in a sympathetic and insightful manner during which we are exposed to a memorable portrait of Death, as well.

Despite Liesel's illiteracy, she develops a fascination and love of books. Unable to purchase books, she turns to thievery with the theft of each book coming at a significant turning point in her life. Her first is while traveling with her mother, who can no longer care for her, to the home of her soon-to-be foster parents. Initially, foster care is a very difficult transition for Liesel, but eventually she comes to love her foster parents, especially the

father who teaches her to read while nursing her back to mental health. She is also comforted by the friendships she develops with some of the other townspeople.

A stranger soon comes to live with the family due to a promise made by the foster father many years prior. This stranger and Liesel develop a close relationship due in part to their shared appreciation of the printed word and their separation from their families.

There are many themes in this book including the power of words and books, the importance of the arts in soothing the heart and soul during tumultuous times, the courage to stand up despite adversity and the threat to oneself and family, and the capacity of love to heal the mind and body. The *Book Thief* contains a well-developed plot with fully-formed characters. It addresses many hard questions, but leaves the reader with hope.

*The *Book Thief* has many implications for our world today. It was selected for the *One Book, One Chicago* program and was the focus of a conference for teachers of teens in Chicago which defined the concept of being an “upstander” or a bystander in life. There is a phenomenal multi-media exhibition at the Harold Washington Library in Chicago that highlights the courage of some who have made the difficult choice to participate as “upstanders” in our communities and understand the ramifications of their behavior in preserving a democracy. But, please note it is only there until November 11. A dramatic presentation of this book can also be seen at Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theater through the 11th.

Reviewed by: Cammy Basak

Announcements and Reminders

- Be aware that a revised phone tree has been attached to this newsletter. Please print it, and replace the one in your yearbook with it. It is important that we have a means by which to contact one another other than by email for last minute situations. It might be a good idea to make two copies and to keep one in your purse or wallet. Also, check to see if you are now responsible for calling others.
- Please also be sure to check out the other three attachments to this newsletter.
- Barb Peterson has asked that you be informed that this newsletter will be posted on our new web page (www.gammagamma75.org). It can be found under the parent page entitled RESOURCES. Let Barb know how you like here latest adventure in web page design (barbpete1947@comcast.net).
- We have some new contact info for some of our members:
 - Dorothy Clair’s - 203 S. Emily St., Ludington, MI 49431
 - JoAnn Bechtold – joannbechtold@gmail.com
 - Kris Davenport – Kris@dcwellness.org
 - Mary Kay Marrello – marymarrello1@gmail.com

Jane’s Jottings

As we have entered the Holiday Season (for me it starts off with Halloween), I am reminded of all my blessings but have been worried about my family who were caught in Hurricane Sandy’s terror. My son, who lives in lower Manhattan, was evacuated but was able to stay with a friend living in Midtown for the week. My sister living in Princeton, New Jersey, lost several beautiful and huge trees, electricity, and a garage door. All are now safe and well and most thankful.

Everyone has experienced heartbreaking situations. Those on the Northeast Coast anxiously anticipated the event, hopefully lived through the event, and are now responding to the event. The challenge to work through the feelings of anger and frustration and begin the process of 'continuing on' will be daunting. I'd like to share Marnee's Story...

October 29th, 2012

"The highways in Connecticut are closed. Mass transit is also shut down. Shoreline communities have evacuation orders in place, and flood waters are not receding with the outgoing tides. Power outages are up to more than 200,000 with more to come in those same shore communities, and the main storm has not yet arrived. As always, our sisters will keep each other in thoughts and prayers.

Marnee Straiton, Alpha Kappa President, Connecticut

With our spirits up, let's celebrate a wondrous Holiday Season