

The *Gamma Gamma Ray*

Newsletter of the

Gamma Gamma Chapter of Lambda State

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



September 2012

Dates to Remember:

<p>Monday, September 17th: Gamma Gamma Meeting - Steve Layne, Ph.D., Literacy Lessons</p> <p>Friday-Saturday, September 21-22: Lambda State Executive Board Meeting</p> <p>Friday-Sunday, October 5-7: Creative Arts Retreat</p> <p>Saturday, October 20: Legislative Seminar</p> <p>Thursday, October 25: Barb Peterson's Website's Presentation and DKG Ambassador of Good Will (State Visitor)</p>

Gamma Gamma's First Meeting of the Year

Please join us on **Monday, September 17th** for our first meeting and **Literacy Lessons** from Steven Layne. Dr. Layne is a professor of Education and Program Director for Judson University's Master of Education in Literacy program. He is a highly esteemed author of 19 books for children, adolescents, and teachers. Steve is a recipient of many awards in the reading field and is sought after the world over as an inspirational speaker and lecturer in the area of literacy. He is first and foremost a teacher. Come and be inspired by a man who is dramatic, humorous, and a bit of a philosopher. Who can't use a bit more drama (!!!), humor, and philosophical wisdom in their lives? Also, - FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER - District 54's newest teachers have been invited to join us.

Immediately following the program, a brief meet and greet with our guests, and the Gamma Gamma meeting, we will convene for our annual **Pizza Fest** at Ricardo's. (See below) The price of \$13.00 includes pizza, salad, garlic butter rolls, iced tea/soda, tax & gratuity. **Please e-mail Carol McHale (teachntech@comcast.net) by September 13th if you can come and spend some additional time with your sisters! Carol will collect the money (cash preferred) at Ricardo's.**

Location: Frost Junior High (320 West Wise Road, Schaumburg) - Cafeteria

Time: 3:30 Set-up, 4:00 Program, 5:15 Meeting

Service Project: School supplies for Schaumburg Township students

Reflection: Mary Wrobel

Arrangements: Nanette Doubler/Marge Fox

Hostesses: Program Committee - *Maureen Briza, Mary Balk, Merna Folkers, Marge Fox, Glenda Klein-Mali, Carol McHale, Gail Mehlan, Dayna Prochaska, Linda Szymkowiak, Cindy Ward, Melissa Ward, Karen Weinzierl, and Mary Wrobel.

***Optional:** Dinner at Ricardo's, NW corner of Roselle and Wise Roads in Schaumburg.

Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

Dues are due Monday, September 17th. Please don't delay!

Bring your check to our first meeting or send to:

Linda Stolt, Treasurer

1912 Quaker Hollow Lane, Streamwood, Illinois 60107-1977

Make check payable to DKG.

Active Members: \$84.00 Active Members with newsletter mailed: \$89.00 Reserve Members: \$40.00

Linda will skillfully and appreciatively accept our dues.

SAVE THE DATE — Thursday, October 25

Open Executive Board Meeting

Ambassador of Good Will Visit

Gamma Gamma Website Presentation

What an exciting agenda we have planned for next month! Diane Kettleson, our DKG 'Ambassador of Good Will' (formerly referred to as our State Visitor) will pay us a visit and soak up on some of the 'good will' that our chapter has to offer. At this Open Board Meeting, Committee Chairs will briefly present their **Plan(s) of Work**. And then, Barb Peterson will familiarize us with Gamma Gamma's very own, brand new, state-of-the-art website. To those of us who think we are technically challenged, Barb says, "Your 'bravery' will be rewarded, and you will leave the meeting knowing how to navigate our newest Chapter resource." Barb would *never* lead us astray.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

For all Committee Hostesses, we may want to think about streamlining our "snacks" a bit. There is often plenty of food left on the tables. ...just a thought...

Barb Peterson is checking with AIM Insurance Company to see if they might be able to cover our DKG/Gamma Gamma Membership at different sites for future meetings. (We've found that sometimes venues are reluctant to host large groups if they are not insured.)

Jane Martin and Membership Committee are thinking of ways to maintain our current membership and initiate new members in the spring. Please pass along any helpful ideas to Jane and her committee members.

Maureen Briza and Program Committee will be passing out relevant surveys at the end of meetings and asking for helpful input.

If anyone is interested in presenting a Workshop at the April **Lambda State Convention**, please let President Jane know. You would need to have a subject idea turned in by October 15th. This would be great publicity for our already renowned chapter.

We are truly a wonderful community of women, so let's continue to be vigilant by making sure no one member is ever standing or sitting alone. This summer I found out that a member I had sponsored sat alone at the last Annual Holiday Auction. Had I been there, that wouldn't have happened, but I was unable to attend that particular meeting. Walking into a roomful of unfamiliar faces can be intimidating for new members. **Note to new members:** We're nothing if not approachable. Try us!

Legislative News

A huge "Thank You" to Linda Stolt and Anne Fussell, who are keeping our membership informed about current legislative issues. All members must be aware of what is happening in Springfield. We need to know the latest about pensions, insurance, cola, revised retirement criteria and options, and (did I mention) pensions ... with regard to both working ***and*** retired members.

And with that awareness comes responsibility on our part. We should be *ready and willing* to make recommended calls and send emails to the necessary people. We should also be *ready and willing* to do our part to inform the public (our neighbors and friends) regarding facts and issues that might be misunderstood because of media misrepresentation. Thanks to Linda and Anne we'll have the information we'll need to make a difference.

The DKG Legislative Seminar in Springfield will be held on October 20th.

Committee Reports

Each Committee Chair has submitted a brief summarization of their 2012-2013 **Plan of Work**. Please read this section carefully so that you will be aware of future plans and have an appreciation of each committee's work.

- **Society Business** (Finance, Rules, Research) – Charlotte Weber, Chair

Society Business Committee prepares a budget for each year and presents it for review, modification, and adoption by Chapter Executive Board and Chapter membership. The committee oversees Chapter expenditures and arranges for an annual audit of chapter funds. The committee is responsible for reviewing and, if needed,

updating the chapter standing rules each biennium. If any changes are needed, the committee presents changes to the membership. The committee is charged with conducting assessments on target topics as needed or requested.

- **Program Committee** (Program, Music, Women-in-the-Arts) – Maureen Briza, Chair

Program Committee met in June and planned an exciting year of programs for 2012-2013. In September, we will begin with *Literacy Lessons* presented by Steve Layne, Ph.D. of Judson University. Fellow member Barb Peterson will be launching Gamma Gamma's very own *website* in October and teaching us how to navigate it. In November, we will return to *Feed My Starving Children* to pack meals for children in need. And, of course, we will *shop 'til we drop* at our *annual auction*. January brings a social where we will be making delectable *chocolate treats* and in February we will turn worry upside down by learning to use *meditation to reduce our stress*. We are in for a special treat in March where we will see *Decades of Dresses (1905-1991)* modeled and learn about women's history, fashion trends, and contemporary events from those times. We will cap off our year with the *Annual Spring Celebration*, always a special treat. Please check your newsletter for details of each program. You will not want to miss out on any of them!

- **Membership Committee** (Membership, Necrology, Nominations, Phone Tree, Historian, Newsletters) – Jane Martin, Chair

Membership Committee has several duties to perform during the 2012-2013 year. The committee along with every member's help will seek out suitable prospective new members and work to maintain current members. This committee will keep a record of member attendance and make efforts to reach out to members not attending meetings. Membership committee will also take pictures at meetings and events and organize the photographs and memorabilia into chapter publications and onto our new website for reference, display, and sharing with members and Lambda State. The Membership Committee will be responsible for the distribution of the monthly newsletter either by e-mail or printed copies.

- **Communications Committee** (Yearbook, News Media, DKG State, Web Watchers, Website) – Barbara Peterson, Chair

Communications Committee established goals for the 2012-13 year at the June meeting. The committee will provide linkage of both Gamma Gamma Chapter members to fellow members and Chapter to state and international organizations. Activities planned to strengthen the linkage to all levels of The Society include: continuing to **write articles** for the Lambda State *Newscaster*; webwatching to provide **updates about new offerings** posted on state and international websites; creating a **Gamma Gamma Chapter website** and posting to state and international websites; developing a **program (October 25, 2012 at the Schaumburg Library)** that will introduce members to the new chapter website; **refreshing** the chapter yearbook; and, continuing to **write articles** and submit them to local newspapers with information about chapter programs, service projects, and award recipients.

- **Service Projects Committee** (Personal Growth and Services, Professional Affairs, Scholarships) – Christine Dick and Sandy Cook, Chairs

Service Projects Committee will have another busy year in that they will be 1.) selecting a high school senior grant-in-aid recipient and following up on past recipients for consideration for future financial assistance from the chapter and state, 2.) encouraging members to apply for International scholarships, Lambda State

scholarships and stipends, International and Lambda State Foundation Grants, and a Chapter stipend and scholarship, 3.) coordinating our community outreach projects which will include the following:

September - School Supplies for District 54 students

October - District 54 Food Pantry

November - Feed My Starving Children (cash donation accepted at the site)

December - Auction

February - Prince of Peace Preschool Supplies

March - Clothing for District 54 Community Closet

September (2013) – School Supplies for District 54 students

- **Special Projects Committee** (International Projects, Literacy, Legislative) – Anne Fussell, Chair

Our goals for the coming year include:

- Hosting a second packing session at *Feed My Starving Children* on Thursday, November 15th – please save the date!
- Collecting financial contributions for FMSC to help pay shipping for the food we pack
- Coordinating Book Swaps at both October and March meetings
- Publishing monthly book reviews/recommendations in newsletters
- Donating parenting magazines to WINGS women’s shelter and researching other sites for donations
- Continuing to send email alerts to members about legislative issues concerning education and teachers
- Sharing information about issues and candidates for fall election
- Selecting an individual within the community to honor with our annual Literacy award.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand by Helen Simonson

This is a sweet story of unexpected love between a proper widowed Englishman and a widowed Pakistani shopkeeper. It tells how their love changes their views and lives with their families and community. It has comedy, drama, and is full of surprises all the way through. (Available in paperback)

March by Geraldine Brooks

A Pulitzer Prize winning novel about the years Mr. March, absentee father in Little Women, spent as a chaplain during the Civil War. His continual struggle to live up to the man he thinks he should be is powerful. After reading this you will probably want to pull your copy of Little Women down off the shelf and read it again with a new perspective. (Available in paperback)

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

Here are three future Society events to consider:

- 1.) **Lambda State Convention**: **April 12th-14th** in St. Louis. At Convention you will learn so much regarding DKG **International** Society. Carpooling is strongly recommended, and it’s so much more fun than traveling alone.

2.) **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.

3.) Barb Peterson is attending the **Creative Arts Retreat: October 5th-7th**. She would love to have some company. Hadn't our own Kathy Muench had expressed an interest in wood working with heavy tools? Could be fun!

JOYS, CONCERNS, CELEBRATION

Rose Karner was so pleased and proud to report that a total of 25 boxes of books, teacher resources, and DVDs were shipped to Joplin, Missouri from our generous Delta Kappa Gamma members. Following is an answer of gratitude:

Rose,

This is perfect. Just what I needed. When I took these to the Librarian, she said that there was a teacher that had just been transferred to a new grade this year and did not have a class library. She said she was very excited that she would get a first look at the books (and be allowed to) select some for her use.

Thank you so much for caring for us. It means a lot to us and to the students. They know that a lot of people like you have helped in all kinds of ways. You have made a difference.

Dale Peterson

Disaster Volunteer Coordinator

Joplin Schools Administration Building

Summer Travels

Barb Peterson and JoAnn Bechtold not only attended the DKG International Convention in New York City this summer, but they have also planned an entertaining surprise for us at our September 17th meeting.

Spread the Word

Do you have bits of news, requests, and information that you think would be of interest to fellow members? If so, please send them along to President Jane Jedlicka (jjfamilies@aol.com or 847-382-2111) or Editor Cheryl Keifer (ckeifer@gmail.com or 847-524-4230). We will include it in upcoming newsletters or send the information out as needed.

Announcements and Reminders

- Be sure to look in the Yearbook as soon as you get it to see when your committee will be responsible for hostessing a meeting and if you have been selected to lead an invocation or serve as head hostess

(designated with an ‘**’). **Important:** If you will not be attending the first meeting on September 17th, please ask a fellow member who will be there to pick up your yearbook for you.

- Thanks to those who continue to offer rides to our more senior members. Sometimes your offer determines whether or not they can attend.
- If you are a member who hasn't been able to come to recent meetings and needs a little coaxing to rejoin the group, rest assured that each of us has had our 'time away' and fully understands any and all reasons and excuses. Just come. We miss you and want you back!
- Remember to give any changes to Cheryl Keifer (ckeifer@gmail.com/847-524-4230) **as soon as you are aware of them** (i.e. name, address, home phone, cell phone email, spouse's name, children's names, new school/position/district, teaching status, professional honors, degrees earned). She will update your recorded information for our data base, newsletter, yearbook, emergency contact list, and phone tree.
- Send dues and vouchers for any Gamma Gamma expenditures to Linda Stolt. (See address above.) Need a voucher form? Pick one up at the meeting or email your request to Cheryl.
- Check the Lambda State Web site: www.deltakappagamma.org/IL.
- View the International Web site: www.dkg.org.
- Invite outstanding educators to our meetings.

Jane's Jottings

Though I retired three years ago, my life seems to keep involving me in "New Beginnings". My work as a Social Worker in school systems keeps changing and continuing. I was very recently offered a new position as an Autism Project Manager with a healthcare company, a referral made by my son. And here I am writing my first Newsletter as President of our Gamma Gamma Chapter. When I retired in 2009, I never envisioned this future for myself.

This Summer I had the amazing opportunity to witness first-hand the creation of Gamma Gamma's 2012-2013 schedule. Starting at Char Weber's home with delicious treats, Society Business outlined the financial budget. Then Maureen Briza and Program Committee scheduled our meeting dates with great events... coming in way under budget, I might add. As always, we had so many great ideas that it was difficult to choose. Barb Peterson and Communication Committee met to discuss the Yearbook and website presentation. Chris Dick, Sandy Cook, and Service Projects Committee matched the events with projects, and then Special Projects Committee, with Anne Fussell leading the way, decided to support the *Feed the Starving Children* project for a second year, since it was so well received last year. Jane Martin and Membership Committee spent hours discussing their ongoing tasks and brainstormed ideas for increasing and maintaining our membership numbers. In August, the Executive Board met to finalize all plans - thank you Rose Karner for taking care of the minutes. And now, off we go! 2012-2013 festivities! All Committees had good summer attendance, and if you could not meet, thank you for informing your chairpeople.

My dear friend and mentor, Nanette, I know will continue to guide me throughout the year. I've received so much support and good wishes from everyone; I thank you all. Jane Jedlicka, President