



Gamma Gamma Ray



Newsletter of the Gamma Gamma Chapter

www.gammagamma75.org

mid-May, 2022

Important Dates to Remember

May and June, 2022, Dates TBA, Annual committee planning meetings.

Thursday, May 12, 2022, 10:30 AM, annual Mentor Meeting at Panera Bread, 100 W. Higgins, Rd., South Barrington, IL. Contact Denise Pawelczyk for more information.

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 10:15 AM, Panera Bread, 100 W. Higgins Rd., South Barrington, IL. Contact Cheryl Keifer or Debbie Hopp for more information.

Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 1:00 PM via Zoom. Annual meeting of the Educational Excellence Committee—Scholarships.

June 21-23, 2022, DKG-ILSO annual Creative Arts Retreat. See Newscaster or contact Mary Wrobel for more information. Or see the DKG-ILSO website or visit DKG-ILSOWIACAR on Facebook.

Kenneth Young Walk- Saturday, June 25, 2022. Check in begins at 8:00 a.m. and the run/walk starts at 9:00 a.m. This is a family/pet friendly event. For more information, please contact Sudha Byanna at 847-212-6407 or sbyanna@gmail.com

August, 2022, date TBA, Semi-annual Gamma Gamma Executive Board meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2022, Chapter meeting, St. Peter Lutheran Church.

Websites to Remember

(Hold down control key and click to activate link)

Gamma Gamma chapter: www.gammagamma75.org

Illinois State Organization: www.deltakappagamma.org/IL

International: www.dkg.org

Zoom links for DKG-ISO programs: www.ilsozoom.weebly.com (Note: this is a change.)

www.YouTube.com. Subscribe to this channel: [Delta Kappa Gamma, Illinois, Key Women Educators.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Many/most of the slide shows from Zoom programs are saved to this channel. The Zoom sessions are not recorded, but the slides that the presenters used are all saved here, for your convenient viewing.

Facebook Pages to visit:

DKG-Gamma Gamma Chapter

DKG-Illinois Key Women Educators

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

DKG-ILSOWIACAR- This is the Facebook page for the Illinois State Organization Women in the Arts Creative Arts Retreat (virtual.)

Announcements

Congratulations to Lorena Williams on celebrating 50 years of Membership in DKG! Gerie Kay presented Lorena's certificate and honored her with these words:

"Lorena, my sister, my colleague, my mentor and friend has been a member of Gamma Gamma since 1972. She participated in chapter meetings and activities. She attended state and international conventions. She has served Gamma Gamma as vice president and as treasurer. She has been active in committees....predominately in Service and Special Projects which was previously divided into many areas. Her work was in the area of Professional Affairs and Legislation. I thank her for nominating me to join DKG and for her continued guidance and friendship. Congratulations, Lorena"

Book Club

The Gamma Gamma Book Club will meet on Tuesday May 24 at 7:00 on Zoom to discuss The Round House by Louise Erdrich. This is a story of a young teenager living on an Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota, who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever transforms his family.

On June 28 at 7:00 we will discuss the Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd. This novel is historical fiction based on real life agriculturist, Eliza Lucas, who figured out how to grow and extract dye from indigo plants on her plantation in South Carolina, which eventually brought great wealth to the territory.

The July 26 selection is Wish You Were Here by Jodie Picoult. Set in the early months of the pandemic, this novel is about an ambitious young woman, Diana, who gets stranded on Isabela Island in the Galapagos Island by herself when the island goes on lockdown. Her boyfriend, who was supposed to be there with her, is busy tending to Covid patients at a New York hospital.

The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende is our August 23rd selection. This novel focuses on two women, Irina Brazil, a young woman with a dark past who has moved to work at a convalescent home, and Alma Belasco, a screen printer who is a resident of the home.

Zoom links will be sent a week prior to the meeting.

Recently passed meeting

Our May Celebration of Membership was a rousing success! We held a White Rose Ceremony for Nancy Harmon and Jan Kayson. Then we inducted nine new members, two of whom who had been Collegiate Members. We presented our Recruitment Grants to two graduating high school seniors who are entering college in the Fall and will be majoring in education. Gerie Kay was this year's recipient of the Love of Learning stipend for a class on decluttering. Karyn Baldwin was the recipient of this year's Gamma Gamma Scholarship for a class on differentiated teaching. Karyn Baldwin was also the winner of our chapter Literacy Award.

Our graduating senior Collegiate members spoke to the group. Emily Ostermann spoke to us in person and Jade Coakley spoke to us via a video recording. Both young women told us of their plans for after graduation. Our final celebration of the evening was to present Lorena Williams with her 50-years of Membership in DKG. Congratulations to Lorena! We are proud to be your DKG sister.

Next meeting

Our first meeting next year will be Thursday, September 15 at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Look for our calendar of events for next year sometime this summer!

COMMITTEE REPORTING

Society Business (Finance, Rules, Research)- Joan Gazdic, jmtg@att.net

Our chapter budget for 2022-2023 has been approved by the general membership. If you have any questions about the budget and/or the rules, please contact Joan Gazdic.

Membership, Madelynn Brossard, rtb1445@yahoo.com

New Members 2022

Carly Brossard – Is in her second year as a self-contained 4th and 5th grade teacher at Einstein Elementary School in School District 54. She has worked for District 54 while in college as she was a Paraprofessional for Extended School year and as a full time Paraprofessional from 2013-2019. She began her teaching career Fall of 2020.

She is a product of District 54 and District 211, graduating from Schaumburg High School. Her undergraduate degree is from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh with a degree in Kinesiology and her master's degree is from National Louis University in Special Education. She graduated with honors from both. She is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Denise Caliendo – Is a professional educator for 35 years and is currently employed by School District 54 as a Chorus and General Music Director at Jane Addams Junior High.

She has a Master's Degree in Education, Curriculum and Instruction.

Outside of school, she is a music director at three churches in the area. She leads children's groups, as well as the adult Chancel and Handbell Choirs. She, herself, is a talented pianist and plays in a

clarinet choir and in the Chicago Bronze, a professional handbell choir. Denise is active on the Executive Board of the Chicago Bronze. She has been secretary of that group and now is the president of that board.

Dana Giannelli – is in her 5th year of teaching. She is currently teaching at a school in Chicago. Prior to teaching in Chicago, she taught 3 years in Indiana.

She is a product of District 54 and District 211, graduating from Schaumburg High School. She went to University of Wisconsin Oshkosh with her degree in Elementary Education, where she graduated with honors.

Dana was honored as Teacher of the Year for the 2018-19 school year in Indiana. She has been a member of the culture and climate committee, PLC, PBIS and Kickboard Implementation. She has also provided Professional Development to fellow staff.

She is a volunteer for Dear Autism nonprofit organization and with TFA.

Candace (Candi) Kuczynski – is currently a teacher at Aldrin Elementary School in School District 54 where she has been teaching for the last 35 years. She has her master's in Curriculum and Instruction.

She has been a member twice of the Student Leadership Team and is currently on the PBIS Secondary Team.

Her community activities include St. Margaret Mary Lector VBS coordinator, Greeter, and Eucharistic member. She has helped with the Schaumburg Food pantry through Aldrin and part of the Aldrin PTA.

Holley McGee – Has been an Educator for 47 years. She is currently a Choral Director for Roselle United Methodist Church and a private Vocal Coach. She has a BA in Music Education. She is certified to teach K-12 in both Illinois and Kansas. She has additional teaching hours in Gifted Education, Improvisational Acting, On-Camera Techniques and Live Marketing Presentation. She toured internationally for nine years, performing live and on-camera with the Serendipity Singers. She's done numerous television commercials and live marketing events. She performed with a professional caroling group for 30 years, and performed with the Ray Sassetti Orchestra for 10 years.

For the past 30 years she has taught private voice lessons and has been a judge for the Illinois Music Educators, the Illinois High School Association and other private vocal competitions. For the past 20 years she has been the director of the adult and youth choirs at Roselle United Methodist Church. In the Community, she has been an active volunteer for PADS and has participated in other charity organizations.

Jennifer Navarrete has been associated with Delta Kappa Gamma for quite a few years prior to her officially becoming a member of DKG. Jennifer was a recipient of the DKG scholarship for graduating seniors planning to enter the teaching profession in May of 2018. She was also awarded the "Minority Teachers of Illinois" Scholarship while she attended the University of Illinois Chicago. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.8 cumulative grade average. She has also been

very active in the Latino Educators for Change Association. This past March Jennifer received the DKG Outstanding Student Teacher's Award. Jennifer has just successfully completed her first year of teaching High School in Elk Grove where she teaches history.

Jennifer received the Gamma Gamma Recruitment Grant in 2017, and became a collegiate member of our chapter in 2019. She was the DKG ILSO recipient of the Florence A. Cook Recruitment Grant in 2020.

Emily Ostermann – is one of our collegiate member who is now becoming a member. Emily will be starting her first year of teaching this fall at Campanelli in District 54 where she went to elementary school. Emily is a product of District 54 and 211, graduating from Hoffman High School.

Emily will be graduating in a few weeks from Roosevelt where she has been on the Dean's list since 2020. She is also a member of Franklin Honor Society.

Nancie Watkins – is a retired teacher from Frost Junior High in District 54. She was an educator for 15 years. Prior to getting her teacher credentials, she worked 20 years in the corporate world in Human Resources.

Her professional accomplishments include Diversity Recruiting Task Force, Frost SLT, Principal Interviewing Team, Diversity General Assembly Presenter, District Summer Professional Development Workshop Presenter, Frost Theater Club Chaperone, Corrective Behavior After School Chaperone, MAP Testing After School Instructor

She has been an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated for 45 years. Nancie is also a published author. She wrote Always Have Always Will; A story of love, romance, betrayal, hockey Love, hurt, and betrayal.

Linda Wright – is a retired teacher from Frost Jr. High in Schaumburg 54 where she taught for 34 years. She has her undergraduate degree in Education and a Master's in Educational Administration. She was the Language Arts Department Chair, an SEA representative and on Ex. Board, was a member of the SLT Team, Middle School Committee, Blue Ribbon Team, was a National Middle School Convention Presenter, a Golden Apple Nominee and a PTA Life Member.

In her community she is part of the Algonquin Middle School Imp Team, on a Mentoring Committee, a member of the Algonquin Woman's Club and she teaches Senior High Sunday School Teacher.

Educational Excellence-Scholarship -Denise Pawelczyk, dreismom2@yahoo.com

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE--SCHOLARSHIPS (Submitted by Denise Pawelczyk)

It was exciting to see our young educators busy at this year's ILSO convention! Emilee & Karyn Baldwin* were pages at the general business meeting, both presented at the panel discussion on "The Pandemic Classroom", and Karyn additionally co-presented with Sandy Cook and I; along with **Lauren Haman, Karly Grapenthin, and Eden Schultz who sent videos to help co-present, also..!

Equally exciting was hearing **Vivian Zhao's name at the convention Awards Breakfast as the recipient of the 2022 ILSO Wm Chas. Iwert and Elizabeth J. Iwert Scholarship!!! (Vivian was our 2021 Gamma Gamma Recruitment Grant recipient.)*

The DKG IOTA chapter also awards several Wm. Chas. Iwert and Elizabeth J. Iwert Scholarships, and I'm proud to announce that yet more of our Gamma Gamma future educators were recipients! **Jillian Minninni, our 2020 Anne Fussell Scholarship recipient, **and Sydney Kozlowski**, our 2021 Anne Fussell Scholarship recipient, both received the IOTA chapter's 2022 Iwert Scholarship!!!*

There was an equal amount of excitement at this year's Gamma Gamma spring celebration! **Estefani Mariche was awarded the 2022 Gamma Gamma Recruitment Grant. Estefani is graduating from Palatine High School. She will be attending IL State University in the fall. Estefani would like to be a bilingual teacher at the elementary school level. Sharon Froehlich will be Estefani's mentor. **Vania Paola Chavez-Medina** is our 2022 Anne Fussell Scholarship recipient. Vania will be graduating from Hoffman Estates High School. She will also be attending IL State University in the fall. (Go Redbirds!) Vania also plans on becoming a dual language teacher at the elementary school level. Mary Wrobel will be Vania's mentor.*

Jada Coakley, our 2018 Gamma Gamma Recruitment Grant recipient and 2020 Gamma Gamma collegiate member, visited us via a pre-recorded video message to the chapter. She is graduating from the University of IL Urbana-Champaign with a degree in mathematics at the secondary school level. She is currently finishing up student teaching, and applying for jobs. She hopes to be teaching back in the northwest suburbs!

Emily Ostermann spoke in person to those at our spring banquet. Emily became a collegiate member of our chapter in 2022 based on member recommendation. Emily chose to transition to active membership now that she has graduated from Roosevelt University, and has signed her first contract as a teacher for School District 54. Emily will be teaching 5th grade at Campanelli School--the school SHE attended as a child!!!

Jennifer Navarrete, our 2017 Gamma Gamma Recruitment Grant recipient and 2019 Gamma Gamma collegiate member, chose to come back and reconnect with our chapter as an active member! She was also inducted that evening. She will be a second year history teacher at Elk Grove High School in D214.

Jillian Minninni, Eden Schultz, and Karyn Baldwin...all former grant recipients...were also in attendance at the banquet!

Gerie Kay was this year's recipient of the Love of Learning stipend for a class on decluttering.

Karyn Baldwin was the recipient of this year's Gamma Gamma Scholarship for a class on differentiated teaching.

Drum roll, please!!! Mark your calendars: **The annual meeting of the Educational Excellence Committee--Scholarships will be meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, June 8th, at 1:00pm.*

(Zoom invitations will be sent out closer to the date.)

Programs- Rose Marie Mincey rmincey@comcast.net / Judie King, judo1108@aol.com

Program Committee will be meeting sometime in the next few weeks by Zoom to plan the 22-23 year.

Our first meeting next year will be Thursday, September 15 at St. Peter Lutheran Church.

Look for our calendar of events for next year sometime this summer!

Communication, Cheryl Keifer, ckeifer@gmail.com

We welcome our new chair of the Communications Committee, Debbie Hopp. Our committee will be meeting Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 10:15 AM, Panera Bread, 100 W. Higgins Rd., South Barrington, IL. Contact Cheryl Keifer or Debbie Hopp for more information.

Service and Special Projects- Gerie Kay, Geraldine_kay@comcast.net

Dear DKG Sisters,

Our May service project is the Kenneth Young Center (KYC) 5K Run/Walk.

WHY: KYC is a non-profit provider of comprehensive mental health and substance use treatment and recovery services, wrap-around older adult services, and community health programs with a focus on helping youth make healthy life choices.

WHERE: It is held at Busse Woods just west of the intersection of Arlington Heights Rd. and Higgins.

WHEN: Saturday, June 25, 2022

Check in begins at 8:00 a.m. and the run/walk starts at 9:00 a.m. This is a family/pet friendly event.

Please let me know if you are going to walk on June 25. If you are not able to participate in the walk, feel free to make a donation in the ways listed below. If you have any questions, please contact Sudha Byanna at 847-212-6407 or sbyanna@gmail.com.

There are 2 ways to make donations:

- 1) You can give me any donations at the Spring Celebration dinner at Poplar Creek Country Club on May 5th.
- 2) Mail donations to my home address with checks payable to **Kenneth Young Center**. (Sudha Byanna, 59 Germaine Place, Schaumburg, IL 60173)

I have helped KYC organize this event and have also participated as a walker in raising funds for over 15 years. When I was working in District 54, KYC was very integral in helping provide services for many of my students and their families. I look at this as a way of giving back to an organization who has given so much to District 54 families as well as to our community.

Please join in this effort to improve the lives of people in our community!

Thanks,

Sudha

Gerie Kay presented our chapter Literacy Award:

Literacy Award 2022

The 2022 recipient is **Karyn Baldwin**. For her multi literary project which involved her 2nd grade class at Huff Elementary School in District 46, many DKG members and community participation based on the book Kiki's Hats written and illustrated by Warren Hanson.

15 years ago, Sandy Cook and Judy Segrebeck discovered this book and used it in many classes with teachers willing to participate.

In the background, there were many hands doing the knitting and crocheting of the hats given to the children to be shared with others. Children's writing and Zoom presentations, directly from Karyn's classroom ,followed.

The hats were made and donated by Sandy Cook, Marcia Kissamiss, Gerie Kay, the St. Peter knitting group and many friends of Gamma Gamma.

Care Team News:

Please contact Glenda Klein-Mali (and Kris Beaudette) if you have any news for the Care Team. We also love to hear your good news and celebrations! Let us know what you would like shared with your Gamma Gamma sisters.

Many of our chapter sisters have health issues or other situations they are dealing with which prevent them from coming to meetings. If you haven't heard from a Gamma Gamma sister in a while, please take a moment to call or email her. We can all do our part to check on our members and support them when they need us most.

To all our Gamma Gamma sisters, don't forget to let us know if you need our support-
The Care Team

Opportunities

School Registration for the 2022/2023 School Year and our Summer Daze program is open! This is a great time for families to tour our school and see all the great things St. Peter has to offer. If you know of someone looking for a home school or a summer childcare program please give us a call. Share with your family, friends, and neighbors.

Summer Daze is now hiring staff for the 2022 program. Do you love working with kids? This is the job for you! We have shifts from 7am-6pm, Monday - Friday starting May 31st and ending August 5th. Contact Jennie Lewinski at 847-885-3350 or jlewinski@stpeterlcms.org.

Kris' Corner

Thank you to all who worked together to put together our wonderful Spring Celebration of Membership on May 5, 2022, at Poplar Creek Country Club. I heard many wonderful reports of how it went, and I am grateful for all of the pictures that people sent to me. If any of you have photos, please send them to me and I will share them via Facebook. I wish I could have been there, but that was not to be. Next time!

Please watch your email for upcoming annual committee meetings. Our committees meet primarily just once a year, and it is a great way to get to know your DKG sisters. I hope you will be able to put your meeting into your schedule.

Congratulations to Rose Karner on being elected President of Gamma Gamma for the upcoming 2022-2024 biennium. She will do a great job and I know that we all will support her work to keep our wonderful chapter going. I have enjoyed being chapter President and I learned a lot. Please consider joining our Executive Board in the future, and/or joining a state-level committee. It is a great way to serve our wonderful organization and, also, to get to know some really wonderful people.

Congratulations to our new members that are retiring from their careers. Denise Caliendo and Candi Kuczynski will soon retire from District 54, and we wish you all the best in your future adventures. To all of our new members to our chapter, Welcome!

I will send one more newsletter in mid-June before I "hand the gavel" over to Rose. In the meantime, enjoy our warmer weather and all of the beautiful flowering trees and shrubs. Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend and enjoy the start to the summer!