

From the
Editor

Bonita Chamberlin/Lapis27@aol.com
 I didn't realize until I began working on this edition of the newsletter, how long it had been since our last publication (July 2019). Therefore, you will see that this issue is packed-full of information and stories. I assume you now have the time to read and digest EVERYTHING!

President's message

One of the joys of membership in Delta Kappa Gamma is meeting and spending time with a wide variety of remarkable women all of whom have dedicated their lives to helping others. At chapter meetings, leadership discussions, and area events, the program being presented is often secondary to the opportunity to be with these like-minded and inspirational leaders. It is therefore not surprising that for the women of Delta Kappa Gamma, no longer being able to meet in person due to the COVID 19 Pandemic is something of a hardship. We understand and support the importance of self-quarantine to help "flatten the curve" of virus transmission but we nonetheless miss the smiles, insights, and company of our sisters.



The ladies of Gamma Chi chapter, however, are a resourceful group and have found many ways to stay connected even as we stay in our homes. Several of us are now busy writing notes of friendship and love to our most isolated members. Emails, texts, and phone calls are happening with increased frequency and increased depth of feeling. And weekly video chats via Zoom once again gives us the opportunity to share smiles and savor one another's voices and insights.

Whether together in a room or together in spirit, DKG women will continue to support one another now and into the future. If you need us, we are here.

Wishing you health and happiness,

Doris C.
 Gamma Chi President

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1
 SPRING 2020

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Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

International
 Key Women Educators Impacting Education

Vision Statement

DKG California
 Educational - Professional - Making an Impact

FOCUS ON Gamma Chi Members & Friends

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RoseAnne Goodrow

Legislature

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Websites & Social Media

DKG CA:

<http://dkgca.org>

Area XVI:

<http://www.dkg-areaxvi.org>

Gamma Chi:

www.dkg-gammachi.org

International:

www.dkg.org

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/DKGareaXVI>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/dkg.areaxvi>

DKG app:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/delta-kappa-gamma-society/id538108613?mt=8>

Outstanding Student Teacher

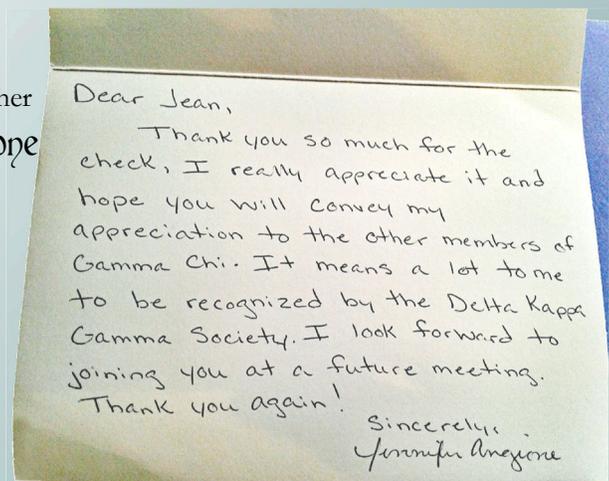
Iris is receiving Gamma Chi's Outstanding Student Teacher Awards which will be officially presented at the Circles of Celebration event, scheduled for May 30th. She also has been selected by the State to represent Area XVI.

Ms. Grace aspires to be a leader in her school in social emotional development. She understands that many students have experienced trauma in

their lives and need a caring adult they can depend on. She realizes the importance of being that dependable and caring teacher who can inspire a student to want to learn. Ms. Grace desires to bring arts integration into every classroom, because she knows that the arts awaken both sides of the brain and make learning memorable and lasting for students. Ms. Grace is motivated to become an outstanding and effective classroom teacher who has a lasting impact on students' lives.



From student teacher
Jennifer Angione



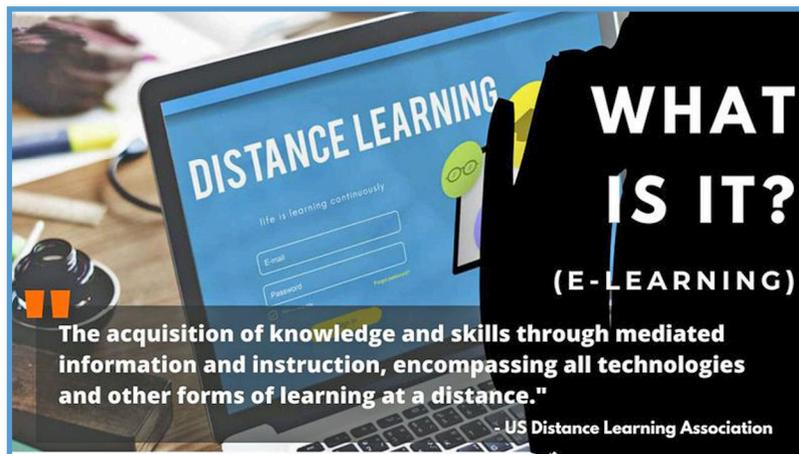
Teaching Through Covid-19

The last week of school, each day we remained open was another level of worry and anxiety as news continued to increase in severity with regards to the virus. At lunch, with my colleagues, we berated the district for staying open and putting our health and that of our students at risk. In yearbook, I emphasized that whatever sports games were going on to go and take photographs as that may be our only opportunity. With each passing day, I grew more and more concerned that the yearbook may not be finished and schools closing was inevitable. Friday the 13th arrived and I marveled that we were still open. My husband had already been told earlier in the week to begin working from home. As Friday dawned we decided to keep the boys home with him as a precaution. I had a feeling that the school would not be reopening Monday. During 2nd period one of my yearbook kids came in asking to work on her page and I readily accepted. Halfway through class she came into my history class and announced that the district had tweeted that schools would close at the end of the day. Relief swept me, but at the same time dread, for the yearbook. Third period was my prep and I gathered all my yearbook staff from their various classes and pulled them into the yearbook room to finish the book. We plowed through the rest of the day, my two English classes were left in the other room to their own devices while we rapidly finished 16 spreads. I am so appreciative for the school staff letting me take their kids that last day, but we all knew what was at stake. I was so proud of my students for getting that book done for our seniors. In the weeks since the district has announced that prom is cancelled and graduation is also most likely scrapped. I'm grateful

that the yearbook staff was able to have something complete this year. The district has still not decided how we will be able to distribute the books, but I'm hoping they will allow us to at least distribute to the seniors.

In the weeks since Friday the 13th of March San Diego Unified waffled back and forth over providing education. The last day of school we were told we could not assign any work, not even extra credit and to take whatever we think we need and be off campus by 3p.m. I had students email me for work and I had to tell them

I could not provide them anything. By week two, the district was actively considering distance learning. Our principal met with each department via Zoom and told us to start researching how we would teach online.



Teaching online is like nothing I have ever attempted before. I have been teaching for ten years and none of my training, experience and education has prepared me for the new journey my students and I are taking. I consider myself a tech savvy teacher, but up against the ingenuity and tech-savviness of high school students; I worry about students showing inappropriate images on their virtual backgrounds, or random students bombing my zoom meetings, or the rampant cheating and plagiarism that is almost certain. In the last few weeks, I have spent hours reading posts and comments on multiple Teaching-during-Covid-19 and Distance Learning groups on Facebook for advice and guidance. I've taken multiple professional developments the district has provided to aid in our understanding of several types of online platforms, including Zoom, Canvas and Google Classroom. I'm grateful our district has allowed us three weeks of optional teaching to work out our strategy

(Continued on page 5)

Unprecedented Times as a Teacher

March 13th, 2020. Friday the 13th. That's the day I say, when "this" all started.

Two weeks prior, our principal had told us to start thinking of ideas "just in case" we would be doing remote learning. I quickly thought of a few things but I didn't write them down or really think twice about them. Little did I know, things would take a turn rapidly.

On the morning of Friday, March 13th, 2020, my coworker told me that LA Unified and SD Unified stated that they were going to close and that in her opinion, the Diocese would be following suit. I started to think, "Oh my gosh. Is this really happening?" All the professional sports teams had just canceled their upcoming games and little by little, other events, stores and locations were closing. But still, we hadn't heard anything from our principal. During lunch at 12 o'clock, we got the confirmation. The Diocese would be closing our schools to prevent the spread of Covid-19. When my students came back to the classroom at one, we had an hour left until dismissal.

I sat my twelve students on the rug so that I could explain to them why I was going to have them take home all their workbooks, textbooks and notebooks. We had an hour left until dismissal. I tried my best to answer all their questions. We had a couple of group hugs, I hugged each one as they left and told them that I loved them. It was such a weird day. I wasn't sure how to process it all and I just wanted to go home to be with my family. I knew I was going to come back in on Monday to get work ready and to come up with some sort of schedule for that first week.

As I drove home in the rain, I was still so in shock that this was really happening. It was a feeling of uncertainty,

fear, confusion but mostly sadness, that I wouldn't be able to teach my students in our classroom. Thankfully the rain had stopped so I was able to take a quick walk with my family. In the moment of discussing everything with my husband Adam, I came to the realization, which I tend to forget sometimes in the day-to-day life, that I truly love being a teacher. I realized that my feelings of uncertainty and sadness were that my students were not going to learn in the full capacity that they deserve and that I wasn't going to be able to see them. It was a nice and heartwarming realization on a dark, uncertain and gloomy day.

Anytime Anywhere Learning

Now, I am on my second week of Spring Break after doing "Distance Learning" for three weeks. It was challenging being home and working. Adam is working from home too so we had to try and come up with a schedule where one person works and the other hangs out with our three-year old Juliette and then we switch. I recorded lessons on my phone using a tripod and a hand-held whiteboard. It is pretty strange, but funny, seeing all my videos on YouTube. I was in constant communication with the parents even though it was difficult having to be on my phone in front of Juliette. I'm thankful I established routines and procedures in the beginning of the school year because the students knew what to do when I assigned them things. The parents were very supportive and thankful for the videos and communication. We had Zoom meetings twice a week. Our first Zoom meeting was wonderful! I had that little frog in my throat when I looked at the computer and I saw all my students' faces. Distance Learning will never compare to being in the classroom but I am thankful that I am able to record videos for my students, I'm thankful we are able to use technology to see each other and I'm thankful that during this unprecedented time, we are able to be home with our families.

Chely H.

Teaching Through Covid-19 (continued from page 3)

for online learning, which starts April 27th. Our district is providing computers and Cox Communications is providing 2 free months of access and thereafter \$10 a month, which the district is planning to pay for those families in need. I fear that after this is all over, the district and many across the state will be in a desperate financial state, but in these times, I am learning to try to let go of the “what ifs” in the future. Distance learning is far more expensive than traditional education methods.

My district has never been very accommodating, nor supportive of teachers and staff, until now. In fact, other unions in the state have taken our MOU to their negotiations with their district to ask for what we have gotten: grace and flexibility. We have options: we have the ability to choose our schedule, we're not required to use the “recommended schedule,” most importantly for our students, grades cannot be lowered below what they were on Friday, March 13th, we will not be taking

attendance, we have freedom to choose our platform, to not choose live video platforms, or to choose the curriculum the district is providing; we have flexibility, if we or our kids are not ready. This will likely mean that many of my students with A's will probably not complete any additional work and kids with D's or F's who never sign on will receive an NG. I completely understand their perspective. These times are very trying and stressful for all of us. Many of our students are caregivers and family earners. Still more have limited access to computers or the internet. I told my two boys that they do not need to log on to their classes where they already have an A, because during these times we all need some concessions, student, teacher and parent alike. I keep going back to the phrase in our contract: grace and flexibility; because that is exactly what we all need right now, regardless of any of our very diverse situations, we all need a little bit of grace and flexibility in our lives right now, to give to ourselves and each other.

Elizabeth F.

Samantha's backyard shadehouse for orchids and other flowering plants. The size is 10x20x12'.



Student Learning During Covid-19

When I released my students that Friday, I truly thought we'd be back in a couple of weeks.

So, here we are.... in my district Pre-School through 8th grade, students have the option of packets of worksheets or to work on assignments online. Many teachers at my grade level were already giving assignments online through Google Classroom. So the students are very familiar with the format. All of their hard-bound books are also ebooks. Lessons in math are also given through the computer... during a "normal" day the student would get the mini lesson in math and language arts via their teacher, and an additional lesson can be found online through our curriculum. So far, that is the kind of format we are working toward. For the weeks before Spring Break, families could communicate with the teachers through email. The district wants teachers to stay away from whole class "Zoom" type teaching. Reasons: lack of equity, parental supervision, and in my own words "anything crazy that could happen, will happen".

Pam B.



"A painter paints pictures on a canvas.
But musicians paint their pictures on silence."

Leopard Stokowski



Music Can Be Brain Food

The Encinitas Guitar Orchestra was created 15 years ago by Peter Popping, bringing together a student ensemble comprised of beginners interacting with intermediate and advanced guitar students. The orchestra is divided into 4 to 8 sections with multiple players on each part.

weeks. I have moved from guitar four, a basic group to guitar three which incorporates harmonies in its arrangements. The thirty or more students average in age from fourteen to eighty years old. Most students go to school or work in a non musical job. They have a variety of experiences and I'm always impressed at how comfortable the young adults are in sharing stories, school experiences, or their expert playing techniques.

After retiring from teaching middle school mathematics and science a few years ago, I listened to the brain experts who said that as we age we should keep socially active, learn a new language (music is a language), and find joy. My joining the Encinitas Guitar Orchestra checked all of those boxes for me.

It is a commitment of an hour drive each way and a two to three hour practice each Monday evening. The semester is made up of twelve weeks of practice and a concert at the end of the twelve



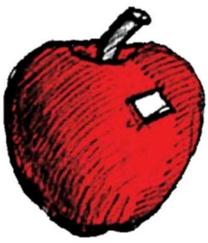
Encinitas Guitar Orchestra. Nancy is in the middle of the back row with the red scarf. Peter Popping is second from left in second row with the reindeer on his shirt.

This makes good camaraderie before class and at our ten minute break. My goodness they can play! Some play in professional settings at coastal pubs or parties.

The original idea by founder Peter Popping

was to create a stringed orchestra whose sounds resembled harps.

We laugh at our mistakes but respect and smile as brave students perform solo pieces. I'm still perfecting my playing and enjoying the group. If you have the chance visit the website at EncinitasGuitarOrchestra.com.



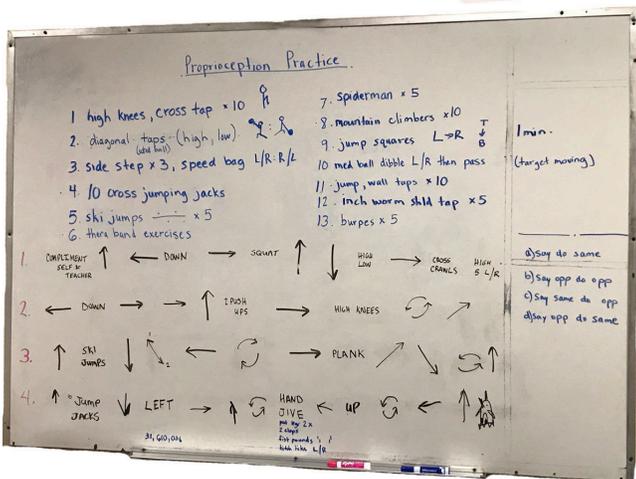
Teacher Creativity

Below are examples of Pam's students' work, the right 2 pictures were instructed in composition, tone, structure, and more for half a day; then were given the freedom to create Free Form Art using clay. The students loved their time there. Unfortunately they used to go all week and now it's one day. Some schools in other districts are getting more days...I wonder why?



Left photo: Chihuly sculpture out of plastic water bottles.

Doris, Sandy and Ellie visited Ariel at Excelsior Academy, bringing fruit for their students. Here are art projects by the students, along with the white board on proprioception.



"Every good teacher is a catalyst for creativity, a liberator. Every bad teacher creates cages."
 Tim Smit, Co-Founder and Chief Executive
 The Eden Project

Ange Leech Delta Kappa Gamma World Fellowship



Last in August I arrived in the USA to commence a Masters Program at Joan B Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego. My immediate impressions, confirmed that I made the right decision to move to San Diego to study Peace and Justice.

Every time I would catch an Uber, the conversation with the driver would again confirm my beliefs. Ange- “Hi, how are you today?” Uber driver - “Fantastic, how can I not be, I live in San Diego.”

This infectious upbeat optimism, makes San Diego my kind of town. I gained this profound educational opportunity through an Australian Fulbright Scholarship. Last year after receiving the Scholarship my good fortune was extended even further, when the Institute of International Education selected my proposal to apply for the Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) World Fellowship Grant. This extraordinary opportunity has enriched my professional interests and passions beyond anything I could have imagined.

In Australia my work has involved facilitating arts and education programs in prison and remote communities. My research goal is to strengthen my knowledge and skills in this field, create strength based education programs by using artistic and creative innovation. I came to the USA to both learn from peers who’s work I have admired from afar, and also contribute. By sharing the knowledge and successes we have experienced in Australia, I hope that with my American peers we can build new bilateral approaches to serve vulnerable populations through rehabilitation programming. The USA and Australian prisons are similar, reflecting the inequality seen within communities, by being populated by societies lower socioeconomic and ethnically diverse groups.

I feel very humbled and fortunate to be welcomed by the Gamma Chi and DKG sisters. The conversations and insight I have experienced while attending DKG

events reaffirms my belief in that through our work we can contribute to eliminating inequality. In early February, my mother Liz Atkins,

who visiting from Australia and I attended the DKG Tri-Chapter breakfast. We were incredibly inspired by the presentation and my mother was very excited to meet my new sisters and learn more about the services DKG provide to the broader community.

At the event, I learnt that the DKG Society was formed by a group of professional educators who would meet in secret, as at this point in history it was discouraged for women to congregate in groups. The mission of the group was to advance the concerns of the women's movement and establish a body of



Ange at the Tijuana/ San Diego border wall



Ange with Gamma Chi sisters during Christmas party dessert.

knowledge that would serve the education field. This history again deepens my appreciation as I feel fortunate to be part of such a long lineage of women who have committed their lives to education.

My short time with DKG informed my thinking and understanding of generosity and social responsibility. From our first Christmas dinner, I heard stories of all the different places sisters had taught and what

(Continued on page 9)

Ange Leech (continued from page 8)

community organisations they were involved with. I learnt of gift boxes that DKG had been made for young people in hospitals and that the restaurant where we were to have our Christmas dinner was selected on the premise that our celebration was investing into a small locally owned family business. Hearing the sisters experiences teaching abroad helped me realise that we are all global citizens and through teaching and education, have the capacity to make this world a better place.

My studies in San Diego is the first time I have lived abroad for an extended period of time. It was an unusual experience watching the Australian bushfires roll out from afar. I received mixed messages from home about how the natural disaster had been portrayed in the media. I am incredibly fortunate, apart from a few delayed flights, my family was not effected. The maps we would see of Australia online that were layered in small fire emojis, some people would say were exaggerated. What was obviously not exaggerated was the pain and loss that people experienced.

What I believe gave the bushfires a layer of controversy was the behaviour of the Australian

Government. The current Government is a strong advocate for the coal mining which has negative impact on the environment. Before the bushfires the Government gave little energy to the addressing national climate which attracted great criticism. These factors I thought may have been why the fires were featured so heavily in the media, as a means to demonstrate that our world would no longer accept poor environmental decisions.

I have little energy for stepping too deeply into politics or worrying about things beyond my control. With great optimism, what I experienced during my time in the USA, that despite whatever government may be leading, that mindful communities and individuals have the ability to foster peace and equity within their immediate space. I have always wanted to spend an extended period of time in the USA because I am in awe of the enthusiasm and generosity I have experienced in my past travels.

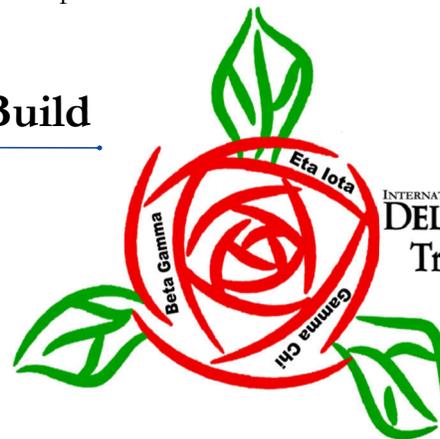
For the immediate future I have returned to my family in Australia to study remotely. I intend to return to San Diego in the coming fall and continue this educational journey. With love and compassion I send my wishes and prayers across the ocean to you all and I look forward to sharing many more experiences together upon return.

Ange L.

Habitat for Humanity, Women Build

Joanna Barraco, Donor Stewardship and Events Manager, and Lori Holt Pfeiler, CEO, joined us at our Tri-Chapter Brunch and spoke to us about the 2020 Women Build, part of San Diego Habitat for Humanity®. The organization works to bring people together to build homes, communities and hope. Habitat was founded on the conviction that every man, women and child should have a simple, decent and affordable place to live in dignity and safety. Women Build events provide the opportunity for women to take a proactive step in serving their communities. Women builders work under the guidance of construction professionals, and also alongside other volunteers and future Habitat homeowners.

Women Build usually comes together every spring. Unfortunately, they cannot come together this year to build a home in the traditional way, but they are still fundraising. Check out their website: <https://www.sandiegohabitat.org/Support-Us/Everyone-Build>.



Left to right: Doris, Gamma Chi, Susan, Beta Gamma, Betty and Brenda, Eta Iota, and Lois and Joanna, Women Build.

Visit to Nu Chapter, Light One Little Candle

DKG Area XVI Nu Chapter invited Gamma Chi to their February meeting. A dual program featured Write Out Loud and Light One Little Candle.

A local actor, Veronica Murphy, and Walter Ritter, began the Write Out Loud program of stories and poetry for children, teens and adults in 2007. We were entranced by animated selections from the StoryBox Theatre told by master storyteller,

Walter. He used a traditional box frame from Japan with wonderfully illustrated, enlarged books, a far cry from the cutout cardboard box and shelf paper we used in second grade after visiting the San Diego County Administration building. StoryBox is presented in area schools, and Walter will speak at

events, in assisted living and nursing homes, along with other venues. A lively discussion followed.

Light One Little Candle is a free program that provides books to cancer centers nationwide. We

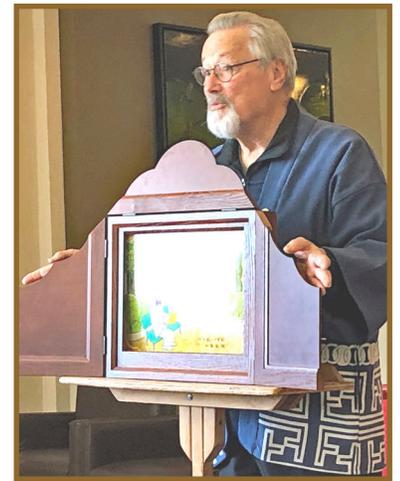
Note: Meet *kamishibai* – from *kami*, meaning paper and *shibai*, meaning play or theatre – the ancient Japanese storytelling tool that many librarians, nursing homes and schools use in several countries around the world. *Kamishibai* is a group activity – a shared experience. Storytellers engage their audience, eliciting reactions and answers from their public.

were asked to bring a child’s book or donation for the San Diego area. These books are then read by parents to their hospitalized children.

A delicious lunch and additional time for socializing between chapters followed.

This ended a heart-warming visitation.

Ellie M.



Walter Ritter

Face Masks for Our Heroes

Two Gamma Chi “sewists” discovered by chance that they were making face masks for the same hospital – Sharp Chula Vista. Samantha Swann was making masks for the Surgery Department and Joan Hosaka was making masks for the Emergency Room. Samantha and Joan both have close friends that they were supporting with their sewing. Both sewers were even using a similar pattern that is shaped across the nose and under the eyes and had raided their fabric stashes for their projects. Joan is also making masks for friends using an easier pattern with pleats at the side and made smaller versions for her granddaughters. Both Joan and Samantha plan to continue their sewing for as long as it is needed.



Samantha modeling her facemask.



Joan's granddaughter, Bailee

Choose your pattern.



Gamma Chi and Area XVI

Monday, May 25, Memorial Day

Saturday, May 30, Circles of Celebration, Handlery Hotel, Mission Valley

Friday, June 19, Gamma Chi Planning Meeting. Home of Doris

Saturday, June 20, Area XVI Leadership Meeting

Saturday, July 4, Independence Day



Legend

DKG Area XVI Gamma Chi General

DKG Regional and International

July 16-20, 2019 SW Regional Conference,
Costa Mesa, CA

RESCHEDULED
NEW DATE ANNOUNCED



Events

Happy Birthday

- November 15 Carol L.
- November 27 Bonita C.
- January 7 Doris C.
- January 27 Laura S.
- February 25 Pam B.
- April 12 Samantha S.
- April 30 Nancy W.
- May 9 Joyce H.
- May 22 Joan H.
- May 22 Terri N.
- June 3 Janet R.
- June 9 Vivienne D.

DKG California Area XVI
Spring Circles of Celebration
 Saturday, May 30, 2020
 SCHOLARSHIP & HONOREE BRUNCH

Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego 92108

Cost: \$35.00 before reservation deadline of 5/15/20;

\$40.00 if check received between 5/16 and 5/29/20;

\$45 at door. (No refunds after 5/29/20.)

9:00 A.M. Social, Silent Auction and Raffle to Benefit Area XVI Scholarship Fund



Make check payable to Delta Kappa Gamma Area XVI

\$35 before deadline of 5/15/20; \$40 after deadline. \$45 at door. No refunds after 5/29/20.

Mail to: Sandy Barstow, 3333 Poe Street, San Diego, CA 92106, (619) 222-7283.

Or email credit card information to: SDBarstow@aol.com

Table assignments are by chapter. However, if your reservation is made after the deadline (5/15/20), by phone, or you arrive without a reservation, seating will be at random on a space available basis.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Chapter, Area, Title (for name tag): _____ Credit Card: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV Code: _____ Guest(s): _____

Total # of Reservations/Buffer Breakfasts: _____ Total amount enclosed/charged: _____

I grant permission to be photographed and grant full use of my likeness and first name without compensation for use on the DKG Area XVI Website and DKG California Website. Please initial _____

Arts and Events

2nd half 2019

August

Diane Sullivan Memorial Picnic, Presidio Park



Jean, Ellie, Sharri, Celia and Elizabeth



Vivienne and Joyce

Presidio Park provided the perfect environment for a successful gathering to celebrate one another. You were missed if you were unable to participate. Think next year.

Camaraderie was enhanced through interaction 1:1 conversation; Elizabeth updating her teaching experiences to University City HS; Nancy reviewing and suggesting current thoughts about Teacher Appreciation items; and Sandy fielding thoughts about a get together to brainstorm DKG involvement in response to Rubina's situation. Attendees brought their own lunch and a variety of desserts were offered including chocolate cake in memory of Diane.

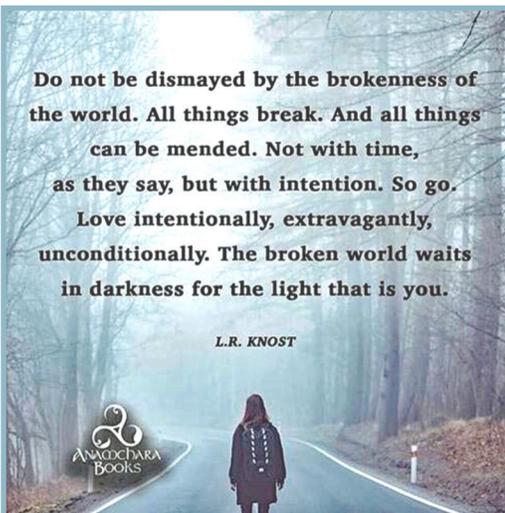
Considering the following thought by L.R. Knost that RoseAnne shared with us, I decided to extend the original intent, a limited "thank you" e-list to attendees.

L.R. Knost's words are to be shared. Wonderful thoughts to consider ending our

Gamma Chi
Annual Picnic.

Sandy B.

Sandy, Terri, Nancy and RoseAnne



October

Hands Across the Border

This was our 23rd year of Hands Across the Border. We were graced with 16 attendees from outside our area, and 15 from Delta State (Baja), for a total of 125. Again, for the fifth year, Baile Folklorico Teyacapan performed six dances from throughout Mexico with just as many costume changes. We are so impressed with Andrea and her troupe from Otay Ranch High School.



November

San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Lunch

On November 26th of Thanksgiving week, 16 of us, including friends, a husband and a daughter met at the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum to visit the new exhibit, A Dragon's Tale and have a traditional Chinese lunch at the invitation of Jean Cheng.



Dragon imagery is a pervasive element of the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum permanent collection, appearing on many different artifacts, ranging from flags and tapestries to jewelry and funerary jars. It represents nobility, power, strength, and good luck; plus, plays a key role in the zodiac story. "Dragons: Exploring the Symbolism of China's Most Revered Creature" celebrates the supernatural creature, exploring the symbolism and legends of the dragon still deep-rooted in Chinese culture.



Left to right: Carol and Brice, Robin, Sandy, RoseAnne, Ellie, Robin, Grace, Ruth, Doris, Bonita, Jean, Carol, Joan, Carol and Sharri



Sharri

November Packing Party

USO Packing Party

Every year Gamma Chi members and their husbands have gotten together at Jean's home to stuff Welcome Home bags for the USO, socialize and have dinner. This year we stuffed 80 bags—the most number ever!

Our homecoming program is designed to provide a welcome home bag for service members who are returning from deployment. We aim to include basic toiletry necessities, some snacks, a notebook and pen, puzzles, and any other items we think our service members may enjoy, and a thank you card from Gamma Chi. The items vary somewhat, as we rely on in-kind donations to complete these kits. We make our best efforts to complete each batch with the same/comparable items. The purpose of designating these homecoming kits is to hopefully bring a smile to those who may not have family in the area to greet them or go home to and to also ensure that those returning have some of the basic necessities they need to get them through the first 24-48 hours they are home.

Wayne, Laura, Sandy, Brice and Bonita



Wayne with USO bags



Sharri



November 30, 2019

Ms. Jean Kneisel
Gamma Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma
5665 Red River Dr.
San Diego, CA 92120



USO San Diego
Liberty Station Headquarters
2790 Truxtun Road, Suite 110
San Diego, CA 92106
Phone: (619) 235-6503
Fax: (619) 232-5520

USO San Diego
Neil Ash Airport Center
3705 N. Harbor Dr., 1st Floor
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: (619) 296-3192
Fax: (619) 232-1650

USO San Diego
MEPS
4181 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
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Genesis Legaspi
Marshall Nadel
JJ Quinn
Rachel Racz
Matthew Brogdonmsft
Tom McCormick
Steve Cowan

Thank you for your support to the USO San Diego and region's service members and their families. Your generous donation of welcome home USO bags is greatly appreciated. Your commitment says you fully understand your part in giving back to those who serve, USO San Diego would not be able to connect our service members with the people and places they love.

For 78 years the military has trusted USO San Diego to provide comfort, compassion and reassurance to service members throughout the region. We support the unique and changing needs of our heroes in uniform. Anything we can do to ease the burdens of service we do, from programs providing a safety net in tough times to various forms of outreach beyond our walls.

Our Armed Forces spend precious time away from their families, risking their lives to fight new threats of terrorism and keep us safe at home. Even when they return, wounded heroes continue to battle against visible and invisible injuries every day. We can never fully repay our service members for everything they do, but making sure they know we care is an excellent way to start.

Thank you so much for underscoring your gratitude to our courageous heroes in uniform and their families by supporting USO San Diego. Without you, we couldn't fulfill our mission to strengthen America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation. Because USO San Diego is not a government agency, we are 100% dependent on generous donors like you. Through your donation, you inspire others to do the same.

This confirms that no goods or services were received in return for your donation. Please keep this written acknowledgment of your donation for your personal records.

Again, thank you for doing your part in supporting the region's service members who have volunteered for the difficult, dangerous job of protecting us and our way of life.

Sincerely,

Ashley Camac
Executive Director
Ashley Camac

CFR# 63346/Federal Tax ID# 131610451/United Way 96576

December 13

Comments from Attendees

Overall thought of the evening is that of a community, both dinner and dessert.

The social settings were an opportunity to meet, to connect, to interact, and to share with one another.

The staff and environment of Pancho's Mexican Restaurant created a hospitable setting for conversation and catching up.

Bonita's decorations were a new experience for many and a constant amazement for everyone.

Overwhelming visuals and thoughts about the effort that is required to set up and store.

The desserts were delicious. Surprised at the number being homemade.

The koi were a memorable new experience.

Inspiring, Enthusiastic, Festive, Spectacular, Impressive.

Both the dinner and the dessert, with the magical decorations, created a very special evening for everyone.

Gamma Chi CHRISTMAS PARTY+ PROGRESSIVE DINNER



Just so I never forget April 12, 2020

- Gas price - \$2.45 and still decreasing!
- School **cancelled** - yes **cancelled** - since 3/13.
- Social distancing and self-quarantining measures mostly worldwide.
- Tape on the floors at grocery and other stores to help distance shoppers (6ft) from each other.
- Limited number of people inside stores, therefore, lineups outside the store doors.
- Non-essential stores and businesses mandated **closed**.
- Parks, trails, entire cities locked up.
- Entire sports seasons **cancelled**.
- Concerts, tours, festivals, entertainment events - **cancelled**.
- Weddings, family celebrations, holiday gatherings - **cancelled**.
- No Masses, churches are **closed**.
- No gatherings of 50 or more, then 20 or more, now 5 or more.
- Don't socialize with anyone outside of your home.
- Children's outdoor play parks are **closed**.
- We are to distance from each other.
- Shortage of masks, gowns, gloves for our front-line workers.
- Shortage of ventilators for the critically ill.
- Panic buying sets in and we have no toilet paper, no disinfecting supplies, no paper towels, no laundry soap, no hand sanitizer.
- Shelves are bare.
- Manufacturers, distilleries and other businesses switch their lines to help make visors, masks, hand sanitizer and PPE.
- Government closes the border to all non-essential travel.
- Fines are established for breaking the rules.
- Stadiums and recreation facilities open up for the overflow of Covid-19 patients.
- Press conferences daily from the President, Governors Andrew Cuomo and Gavin Newsom, and Doctors Anthony Fauci and Deborah Birx.
- Daily updates on new cases, recoveries, and deaths.
- Government incentives to stay home.
- Barely anyone on the roads.
- People wearing masks and gloves outside.
- Essential service workers are terrified to go to work.
- Medical field workers are afraid to go home to their families.

This is the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic, declared March 11th, 2020.

Why, you ask, do I write this status?

One day it will show up in my memory feed, and it will be a yearly reminder that life is precious and not to take the things we dearly love for granted.

We have so much!
Be thankful. Be grateful.
Be kind to each other - love one another - support everyone.

We are all one!  **ALONE TOGETHER**

Bonita C.

Sign outside my home with purple lights

