



"Each of us can be compared to a spoke in a wheel. Without each spoke functioning well, our wheel won't turn."

Alpha Alpha New York State,
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



Newswheel

June 2020



2020-21 Alpha Alpha Officers Set

As part of the online March meeting, members elected Mary Ann Geonie as President, Lucy Smassanow as Vice President, and Linda Wetherell as Secretary. Outgoing President Bridget Bishop will serve as Past President. In addition, Incoming President Geonie has appointed Eileen Wuethrich as Treasurer and Roz Freedman-Baum as Parliamentarian. This team will begin serving at the start of the 2020-2022 biennium on July 1.



Mary Ann Geonie



Linda Wetherell



Eileen Wuethrich



Lucy Smassanow



Bridget Bishop



Roz Freedman-Baum

Jeanette D'Agostino Banker Distinguished Service Award Presented

The 2020 recipients of the newly renamed Jeanette D'Agostino Banker Distinguished Service Award are Dr. Betsy Balzano and Elaine Leshnower.



Jeanette D'Agostino Banker



Dr. Betsy Balzano



Elaine Leshnower



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Dear Sisters,

As I write this letter, my thoughts and prayers are with all of you—hoping that during this pandemic you have all stayed well, that your family and friends have also stayed safe, and that you have been able to find ways to enjoy your days at home. I have missed our final three gatherings of my biennium but know that these cancellations have been absolutely necessary. Several committees have met through zoom, and seeing and hearing from some of you electronically has helped to reduce feelings of isolation.

I would like to thank those of you who have served these last two years on the executive board or as a committee chair. Your dedication to our chapter and your hours of work have not gone unnoticed and have moved our chapter forward. Here are some of our programs over the past 24 months: Improving Global Awareness of Women Educators, Social Emotional Learning for Life, Teaching in China, Hearing from International Students about Their Education, and The Teaching Dilemma-Perception, Recruitment, and Retention.

We have also seen several of our members receive chapter and state awards. Alice Young received the prestigious DKG-NYS Frederica Hollister Award, Linda Kotwas was designated DKG-NYS Woman of Distinction from Alpha Alpha, Faith Prather received her 25- year membership pin, Betty Switasky was honored for being a member for 60 years, and Sue Genthner received the Distinguished Service Award from our chapter. Also, Lynne Keefer received an award from the Pi State Education Foundation and Barb Mitrano was published in a DKG Journal.

We as a chapter selected Jo Anne Antonacci, District Superintendent of Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES as our Helen E. Quinn Award recipient, and of course we gave \$1000 each to seven worthy scholars each year. In June of 2019 we established the Gretchen Hughes Award for a Rochester scholar, we helped Judy Fuller attend a three-day workshop, and we funded students at the Rochester International Academy so that they could travel to Washington DC. Added to these is the fact that several of our members traveled to Austin, Texas for the DKG International Convention, and others attended DKG-NYS fall and spring meetings and a West Central meeting.

Sadly, we lost several of our dear long time members: Rosalie Gabbert, August 2018; Mary Ann Pietrzykowski, August 2018; Gretchen Hughes, September 2018; Mary Ingersol, November 2018; Jeanette Banker, February 2020; Joy Kinz, April 2020; and Jean Fuller, April 2020.

I wish I could name all of the awards that our members have been given over the past two years by organizations other than DKG, they are too numerous to list here. Included in this issue, you will also learn of members who would have been honored this past month and that we will not forget the next time we meet. Alpha Alpha: What an awesome group of women!

Let me say that I am proud of you and hope that our scientists will soon be able to create a vaccine for the virus that threatens us all. Governor Andrew Cuomo recently quoted Teddy Roosevelt:

“Courage is not having the strength to go on, it is going on when you don’t have the strength.”

I wish all of you who are teaching, some of whom also have students at home, the strength and courage to continue with what is required of you.

Best wishes for a healthy summer and, God willing, we will be able to gather together in person soon.

Love to you all

Bridget



Jeanette D'Agostino Banker Distinguished Service Award Presented

The Jeanette D'Agostino Distinguished Service Award recognizes the personal and professional contributions made by dedicated members of the chapter who have given outstanding service above and beyond by providing sustained service to the organization through active participation, advocacy, and leadership.

Jeanette D'Agostino Banker was a member of Alpha Alpha Chapter for over 50 years. Jeanette participated on every level of chapter life, serving as vice-president and chair of several committees. She consistently supported our fund-raising endeavors and sponsored many new members. Every member at some point was the beneficiary of her mentoring and support. The chapter's distinguished service award was renamed in Jeanette's honor in March 2020.

In May, the 2020 recipients of the Jeanette D'Agostino Distinguished Service Award, were informed of their selection. Dr. Betsy Balzano and Elaine Leshnowar will receive proclamations and commemorative framed pictures to commemorate their efforts to lead the chapter in the area of fiscal responsibility and accountability.

Betsy has served on the Legislative and Professional Affairs Committees, has chaired the By-Laws Committee, and has served two terms as Chapter Vice President. As Chapter Treasurer since 2018, she has managed with efficiency while updating our financial records and working with DKG state and international officers to resolve computer software and communication issues related to the development of a whole new DKG accounting system.



Elaine has served as a member of the Scholarship and Awards Committee and served as chair of the Legislative Committee for many years. In addition, she was Chapter Treasurer for four years and Finance Chair for twelve years. While Finance Chair, she mentored subsequent treasurers and guided chapter leaders to adopt greater fiscal planning and accountability.

Commemorative silver picture frames that include the montages shown here will be presented with their awards to Betsy (above) and Elaine (left).



Member News



Lesli Myers-Small is RCSD superintendent

Dr. Lesli Myers-Small—former Brockport superintendent, and former SED assistant commissioner of school reform and innovation, and Alpha Alpha member—has returned to our area to serve as superintendent of the Rochester City School District. Her appointment was officially announced on May 18 and she began her new position on May 19.



Dr. Lesli Myers-Small



Donna Noble and Faith Prather

Faith Prather wins quilt raffle

Because we cannot meet for some time yet, Donna Noble, who spearheaded the drawing for the Margaret (Peg) Hare Brown quilt, drew a name from the stack of submissions. Chapter member Faith Prather is the winner! The quilt drawing netted \$750 for the Rochester strand of our scholar awards funds! Thanks to all who participated. Seen here are Donna presenting the quilt to Faith in a parking lot on May 12, as they both worked to maintain pandemic safety practices while holding the quilt off the ground as the wind blew. Both ladies note that they were smiling while pictures were taken.

Zoom Meeting



Members of Recognition Committee meeting via Zoom in April:
TOP – Dr. Margie Lovett-Scott, Chair; Judy Wadsworth; Sue Genthner.
BOTTOM – Monica Cosgrove; Bridget Bishop.





Remembering Joy Kinz

Long-time Alpha Alpha member and officer Joy Kinz died on April 14, 2020. Joy was born in Potsdam, NY. She obtained her Masters at SUNY Brockport, then worked as an English Teacher and Guidance Counselor for the Caledonia-Mumford and Hilton Districts. She also worked as an editor and publicist for the Macmillan Publishing Company. She was a dedicated member of Delta Kappa Gamma, AHS Phi Beta Kappa and AAUW. Joy was initiated into DKG/Alpha Alpha Chapter in 1979 and over the years was a long-term member of the Awards and Scholarships Committee and served terms as chapter secretary (1984-86), second vice president (1986-88), vice president (1996-98), president (1998-2000), and past president (2000-2002). She strongly believed in supporting women in politics and was passionate about Women's rights.



TOP ROW: President Jan Horton, Helen E. Quinn Award recipient Barbara Carder, and Vice President Joy Kinz, March 1998; Joy Kinz with Anne Abbey, June 1996.
MIDDLE: President Joy Kinz with Reichel Scholar Charlene Fry, June 1999; Vice President Joy Kinz with Reichel Scholar Sheri Taylor, June 1988.
BOTTOM: Eileen Wuethrich and Joy Kinz, May 2005; Bethany House resident and Joy Kinz during Alpha Alpha visit to the House, December 2008.



Remembering Jean Fuller

Alpha Alpha Member Jean Fuller died on April 20 after a long illness. Jean was inducted into DKG/Alpha Alpha in 2000, sponsored by her daughter Judy. Jean was for many years a member of the Nominations Committee, and served as its chair in 2004-2006. Jean grew up in Mattydale, New York, earned a Bachelor's degree at SUNY Oswego, and earned a Master's degree from SUNY Brockport. Early in her career, she taught in Niagara Falls, New York; Flint, Michigan; and Karlsruhe, Germany. After settling in Rochester, she taught in multiple public and private schools as an elementary teacher, as well as a GED instructor. Jean traveled to several DKG and DKG-NYS conventions in North America and Europe. She was a lifelong learner who remained active in many groups after her retirement. A donation to our scholar awards program in Jean's memory has been received from the faculty and staff at Quest Elementary School in Hilton, where Judy Fuller teaches.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Jean and Judy Fuller sharing highlights of their participation in a DKG regional meeting in England, September 2007; Jeanette Banker, Elaine Leshnowar, Judy Fuller, and Jean Fuller at Jean's and Elaine's initiation, 2000; Jean introducing speaker at chapter meeting, November 2001; Jean with Colleen Tyler at our chapter's 50th anniversary celebration, May 2005; Bridget Bishop, Sue Genthner, Judy Fuller, and Jean Fuller at 2010 DKG convention in New York City; Eunice Chesnut and Jean, September 2005.

2020 Alpha Alpha Chapter Membership Recognition

Each May, on the occasion of Founders' Day, we recognize the number years that we have shared as members of DKG-NY-Alpha Alpha. Listed below are all current chapter members.

Initiated in 2019 – 1 year Anniversary: Susan Hasenauer

Initiated in 2018 – 2 year Anniversary: Susan Ross

Initiated in 2017 – 3 year Anniversary: Jan Marchetti, Paula Barbel, Heidi Macpherson, Mia Sinclair

Initiated in 2016 – 4 year Anniversary: Sherry Johnson, Barbara Mitrano, Erin St. James

Initiated in 2015 – 5 year Anniversary: Dr. Lesli Myers

Initiated in 2013 – 7 year Anniversary: Annie Tran Flesch, Mary Ann Geonie

Initiated in 2012 – 8 year Anniversary: Lori Burch

Initiated in 2011 – 9 year Anniversary: Marjorie Emler, Sarisa Zoghlin

Initiated in 2010 – 10 year Anniversary: Rosemary Callard-Szulgit

Initiated in 2009 – 11 year Anniversary: Katie Andriatch, Lisa Montanaro

Initiated in 2008 – 12 year Anniversary: Pamela Quamo

Initiated in 2007 – 13 year Anniversary: Mary Lou Galasso

Initiated in 2006 – 14 year Anniversary: Betsy Balzano, Joan Fenton, Diane Maurer, Carol St. George

Initiated in 2005 – 15 year Anniversary: Laura Delehanty, Lynne Keefer, Anita Mance, Deb Hoeft *

Initiated in 2004 – 16 year Anniversary: Pam Eberhardt

Initiated in 2003 – 17 year Anniversary: Judy Wadsworth

Initiated in 2002 – 18 year Anniversary: Monica Cosgrove

Initiated in 2001 – 19 year Anniversary: Bridget Bishop, Donna Noble

Initiated in 2000 – 20 year Anniversary: Valerie Clark, Jean Fuller, Elaine Leshnow, Janet Winter

Initiated in 1997 – 23 year Anniversary: Judy Cattleberry

Initiated in 1996 – 24 year Anniversary: Judy Fuller, Susan Genthner

Initiated in 1995 – 25 year Anniversary: Margie Lovett-Scott

Initiated in 1994 – 26 year Anniversary: Faith Prather

Initiated in 1991 – 29 year Anniversary: Susan Dodge-Peters Daiss, Jutta Siefert Dudley, Marjorie Searl, Sr. Edwardine Weaver

Initiated in 1990 – 30 year Anniversary: Eileen Wuethrich, Aggie Seneway

Initiated in 1988 – 32 year Anniversary: Sheila Brady-Root, Ena Farley

Initiated in 1986 – 34 year Anniversary: Linda Kotwas, Nancy Padilla

Initiated in 1984 – 35 year Anniversary: Mitzie Collins, Mary Duryea Merle

Initiated in 1981 – 39 year Anniversary: Linda Muto

Initiated in 1978 – 42 year Anniversary: Linda Bretz, Roselyn Freedman-Baum

Initiated in 1976 – 44 year Anniversary: Esther Blackman

Initiated in 1974 – 46 year Anniversary: Rose Swiskey

Initiated in 1973 – 47 year Anniversary: Wanda Ward

Initiated in 1971 – 49 year Anniversary: Anne Abbey

Initiated in 1964 – 56 year Anniversary: Anne O'Toole

Initiated in 1962 (through 1984) – 13 years; Rejoined in 2016 – present – 4 years; = 17 years: Alice Young

Initiated in 1959 – 61 year Anniversary: Betty Svitavsky

Jeanette D'Agostino Distinguished Service Award Presented to Betsy Balzano



Betsy opted to receive her award now, so members of the Recognition Committee visited her on May 26 to make the presentation. Seen are Bridget Bishop and Monica Cosgrove presenting Betsy with the proclamation, inscribed frame, roses, and a card. Not seen are committee members Margie Lovett-Scott, Sue Genthner and Judy Wadsworth. Elaine opted to receive her award when the chapter meets in person, probably sometime in the fall.

Upcoming Birthdays

June

8 Susan Dodge-Peters Daiss
9 Mary Duryea Merle
13 Anne O'Toole
15 Jan Marchetti
24 Elaine Leshnowar
29 Linda Kotwas

July

14 Sheila Brady-Root

August

05 Elizabeth Svitavsky
13 Katie Andriatch
22 Rose Swiskey

2020-2021 budget approved

All 23 of those who participated in the May 7 online meeting approved the proposed operating budget for the coming program year. Thank you to those who voted and to Finance Chair Sherry Johnson for preparing the budget.



DKG
International Society for
Key Women Educators

Newswheel

Alpha Alpha Chapter, New York State,
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

April 2020

Janet Winter, Editor
winterjanets@gmail.com

2018-2020 Alpha Alpha Officers :

President	Bridget Bishop	637-2422
Vice President	Mary Ann Geonie	637-0045
Secretary	Diane Maurer	301-1621
Treasurer	Dr. Betsy Balzano	594-0314
Ass't. Treasurer	Sherry Johnson	594-2520
Parliamentarian	Dr. Roz Freedman-Baum	865-2822
Past President	Judy Wadsworth	442-4737



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(<http://www.dkgalphaalpha.org/>)

Pi State <https://www.dkgnystate.org/>
DKG International <http://www.dkg.org/>