

# ALPHA XI NEWS



## DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL XI STATE

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL PROMOTES PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL  
GROWTH OF WOMEN EDUCATORS AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION.

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### August picnic kicks off new biennium



From left to right, first row: Bailee Armstrong, Jessie Vincent, Joyce Mathai  
Second row: Bridget Johnson, Kim Thurman, Kristin Vincent, Beverly Smith,  
Jessy Mathai, Maxine Williams

At the lovely, new home of Julie and Robert Hughes during Alpha Xi's Summer Picnic, High School Essay winners were honored. Bailee Armstrong received first place and was awarded with a certificate and check for \$100. Joyce Mathai, won second place and received a certificate and check for \$75, and Jessie Vincent won third place and received a certificate and check for \$50. Maliyah Belue received Honorable Mention. Each of the graduating seniors exhibited strong writing skills in developing the essay's topic of Mahatma Gandhi's words: "You can't change how people treat you or what they say about you. All you can do is change how you react to it."

First-place winner, Bailee Armstrong varied sentence structure, chose vivid vocabulary, and created composition unity. She wove into her essay how she reflected Gandhi's words in her reaction to experiencing negative words because of her race. Bailee reflected, "Instead of losing interest in school and manifesting an insecurity, where self-pity and doubt could grow, I became determined and more driven to prove that I was not just some black girl who got a slot: I was a girl who earned her position who just happened to be black."

With the winners were members of their families, and the picnic offered an ideal venue for chapter members to become acquainted with these fine young people who are all college bound.

Alpha Xi High School Essay Committee members and essay judges were Barbara Nelson, Kim Thurman, and Maxine Williams, chair.

### NEXT MEETING

#### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8

PLACE: Fernando's 5308  
Ringgold Road, East Ridge

TIME: Social time 5:30, Dinner  
5:50

DINNER & COST: Southern-style  
buffet , \$8.99 + tax & tip

RSVP: Ann Pinion 886-5987  
anpinion@epbfi.com by

**Tuesday September 6th**

PROGRAM: Karen Glenn, STARS  
director, will present a program  
on bullying. This topic was the  
focal point of the US FORUM at  
the International Convention.

**MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO  
BRING SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

## President's Message



I have been blessed in many ways by my membership in Delta Kappa Gamma. I have gained many, many "sisters" over the past 20+ years. We have laughed together, cried together, prayed together, and just enjoyed being together. When I think about the many amazing women educators who have touched my life through DKG, I am in awe. One such person was Dr. Willene Paxton, a past Xi State president who recently passed away while on a trip to London. Physically, Willene was an impressive person. She was quite tall and carried herself with tremendous poise. When I was first asked to chair a committee on the state level, I gasped when I saw Willene was a member of the committee. Needless to say, I was intimidated. When we had our first committee meeting, I expressed my concern to Willene and stated that she should chair the committee, not I. I will never forget her placing her hand on mine and saying, "My dear, this is your time. I look forward to working with you." I can never put a price on what her words meant and did for me.

I share this story with you for two reasons. First, if you've enjoyed your membership in DKG (and specifically in Alpha Xi), don't you want to share that experience with others? Now is the time to invite someone to consider becoming a member of Alpha Xi. At the August picnic, I challenged members to ask an outstanding teacher to be a part of DKG and I extend that challenge to all Alpha Xi members. You don't want to deprive someone of the joys of membership simply because you didn't ask! Secondly, I encourage all Alpha Xi members to become involved beyond the chapter level. Although we have great Alpha Xi members, there are many DKG members across the state and the world who will enrich your life if you'll take that step. Let's put Xi State President Dr. Dorrie Powell's theme into practice and GROW POSSIBILITIES!!

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### Alpha Xi Officers

2016-2018

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Parliamentarian

Esther Clark

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### THANK YOU NOTE FROM RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

"It takes a tremendous amount of resources to operate our facilities, and we sincerely appreciate your recent in-kind gift of wish items which will allow us to provide many families with special care. You are truly making an impact in this community with every gift made to our "home away from home." Thank you for believing in our mission to *keep families close*."---Jane Kaylor, President and CEO



Pictured at North Hamilton County are Beverly Smith, Jeanette Esch, and Kim Thurman

### Alpha Xi members help North Hamilton County Elementary prevent “summer slide”

Every teacher can confirm that students lose ground over the summer if they are not encouraged to continue learning. According to the National Summer Learning Association, students from low-income families especially can fall 2 1/2 to 3 years behind by fifth grade. In addition, six out of seven students who receive free and reduced price lunches lose access to healthy meals during the summer.

To combat this problem, two first grade teachers from NHCE conducted a “Summer Slide” program for their rising first graders July 18-21. The students worked on reading and math skills, created crafts, and even did some cooking. Jeanette Esch taught art lessons with an ocean theme. The students learned to make gyotaku fish prints. They also learned about Japanese costumes, language, food, and geography. They learned about sea stars, ocean fish, coral, and sea horses and made prints. She also taught them about the elements of art since NHCE is one of the many elementary schools without an art teacher. Beverly Smith and Kim Thurman spent some time assisting teachers in the classroom and served lunch to the students. The program was sponsored by Northside Neighborhood House and lunches were provided through the YMCA summer lunch program.

### CALLING FOR 2017 CALENDARS

Do you ever get those nice calendars in the mail and you really don't need them but just really hate to throw them away.... Well as some of you know—you can donate them to the Liz Morton Calendars for Hospitalized Tennessee Veterans Project. For over a dozen years calendars have been collected and our own Liz Morton made sure the veterans at the Murfreesboro Veterans Hospital got one for their room or for keeping up with appointments. Last year I delivered 135 calendars—many came from YOU.

Liz was a dedicated DKG member, teacher, and supporter of our veterans. She was so dedicated to this project that it was named in her honor several years ago. Even after she moved to Knoxville and up until her death, she continued to support this project. So, bring those calendars to our meetings. The deadline is Veterans Day November 11, 2016. If you want to buy a 2017 calendar to donate that's great too. I will collect the calendars and make sure they get to the veterans.

Suzanne Rushworth



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Wendy Morgan will be participating in the Beginning Leadership Management Seminar in September. Congratulations, Wendy, for being selected. We know it will be a valuable experience. Thank you for your service to DKG!

## *This & That*

### **YOUR CHANGE CAN BE THE CHANGE FOR A NEW TEACHER**

Members are asked to donate spare change at each meeting to fund the Grant-In-Aid. This grant is awarded to a college senior who will major in education. Last month we collected \$20 !



### **Member Book Exchange**

If you've recently finished a good book and your shelves are full, share it with a member! Bring it to the next meeting and exchange with another member.

### **Dues are Due!**

Please remember to bring your dues to the September meeting.

Active members: \$80

Reserve members: \$45

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Tentative dates for future chapter meetings:

Oct 4— hosted by Educational Services committee/ 5:30

Nov— Initiation with other local chapters/ Alpha Xi's responsible for arrangements

Dec 8— Christmas tea at Nancy Bibler's home

Feb 11— 60th birthday celebration planned by ad-hoc committee

Mar 14 — hosted by the Educational Excellence committee/ literacy focus/5:30

*Concerns*

*Please keep our friends who continue to battle health concerns in your thoughts and prayers, especially...*

- The family of Peggy Wright in the death of their son so close to her passing.
- Jim Cate, husband of Norma Cate as he continues to undergo treatment

If you are become aware of a concern or have one of your own, please send an email to either

**Kim Thurman**

**[kimthurman@epbfi.com](mailto:kimthurman@epbfi.com)**

or

**Joyce Campbell**

**[jckhanum@comcast.net](mailto:jckhanum@comcast.net)**



**August**

5 Marguerite Santich

7 Jeanette Esch

14 Betty Julian

15 Dorothy Bayless,  
Julie Hughes, Suzanne Rushworth

18 Pam Thompson,  
Esther Clark

20 Raja Bandari

21 Maxine Williams

31 Betty Thomason

**September**

6 Kim Thurman

11 Charlotte Lasater