



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Key Notes from Xi Chapter of Upsilon State

November 2010

Cerro Gordo and Adjoining Counties



“The Magic of Giving”

Grant in Aid Holiday Auction and Brunch

Mason City Country Club

Saturday, December 4, 2010

9:00 a.m. arrival to set up the auction

9:30 Brunch will be served.

Please bring one or two items for the live auction and the silent auction. If you are unable to attend, a donation is appreciated. The money raised at this event supports the Xi Chapter NIAAC scholarship which is awarded each year to a deserving student who is majoring in education.

Be prepared for Christmas-spirited bidding!!!

Also, please plan to donate to the “present of money” (\$75) for Toys for Tots and bring a pair of mittens (75) to be donated to local schools.

The menu will be quiche, a muffin, fruit and coffee. The cost is \$12 per person.

Hostess Chairman: Cathy Petersen

Program Chairman: Judy Piersma

Planning Team: Carol Iverson, Karen True, Lou Meyer, Paula Warren

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The leaves have fallen, the weather has turned, and the holidays are soon approaching. This delightful, magical time of year offers many opportunities to spend quality time with family and friends, while providing us a diversion from our normal working schedules. Although many of us have the **desire** during this special time of year to be “superwoman”, with beautifully decorated homes inside and out, freshly baked goods for all who visit, creatively wrapped gifts under the tree containing “just the right item” for everyone on our list, and plans for hosting elegant dinner parties, the reality of the season is oftentimes much different. We have family and work responsibilities, as well as a multitude of other tasks that cannot go unattended, sometimes even for a short time. Perhaps this is the year to take a deep breath and reflect on what this beautiful season is truly all about. I hope that we all can focus on the beauty of the season, our family and friends, and enjoy each moment without the stress of feeling that we have to be all things to all people. We need to remember to take care of ourselves so that we can be of benefit to others.

I encourage you to take time each day to think, plan, and reflect. It's a good activity and forces us to identify what to eliminate from our to do lists and what to delegate to someone else. It also helps us to establish priorities. I hope that each of you have included in your list of priorities our December 4th Christmas Brunch and Auction! We look forward to this delightful event every year. It is a wonderful time to enjoy great food and fellowship. We have a great time with the auction as well. I look forward to seeing each of you on the 4th!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Paycheck Fairness Act, which would have strengthened equal pay opportunity laws for women, failed to clear the Senate Nov. 17. The Senate narrowly rejected the act by a vote of 58-41. The bill needed 60 to move forward. It was a comprehensive bill that would have created stronger incentives for employers to follow the law, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthen federal outreach, education and enforcement efforts. A much needed updated of the 47-year-old Equal Pay Act, the bill would also deter wage discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations and by prohibiting retaliation against workers who ask about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages. Together with the Ledbetter bill, this critical piece of legislation can help create a climate where pay discrimination is not tolerated, and give the administration the enforcement tools it needs to make real progress on pay equity.

With a record number of women in the workforce, wage discrimination hurts the majority of American families, both in terms of their economic security today and their retirement security tomorrow. Due to rising employment rates, an unprecedented number of women are now the family breadwinner – making pay equity even more critical, not simply to family economic security, but also to the nation's economic recovery.

The House passed both the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act on Jan. 9, 2009 with strong, bipartisan votes.

Information provided by American Association of University Women.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The following have dropped their memberships: Beth Ades-Hanson, Joyce Anderson, Cheryl Finer-Toppin, Deadra Stanton, Karol Wallskog. Please update your directory.

LITERACY PROJECT REMINDER

As you're out looking for holiday bargains, keep an eye out for good books for our literacy project. Books can be given to Sue Oetken at a meeting or sent to her at Hoover School through the AEA van.

***Book Bound:* Children's Literature Book Reviews and Recommendations by Karen Regal**

Although I am a firm believer that anytime, waiting at the doctor or dentist's office, riding in the car, if someone else is driving, of course, is a good time for a book, the holiday season is the best time for reading and giving a good book. I have fond memories associated with the anticipation of receiving books as gifts; in fact, I am still a little disappointed when someone doesn't gift me a book. If you're looking for a good read, or a good gift, I recommend the following selections.

First, I have to thank my current group of education majors for sharing this new book with me; they found it before I did. If you don't know the *Olivia* series by Ian Falconer, I so heartily recommend that you rush to the nearest book store and start getting his books. His latest in the stories associated with this precocious porcine heroine, *Olivia Goes to Venice*, just continues the antics and rye humor that began in the first picture book, *Olivia*, and have continued throughout the hardback series with *Olivia Forms a Band*; *Olivia and the Missing Toy*; *Olivia Saves the Circus*; and *Olivia Helps with Christmas*—required reading in that order. Once you meet her, Olivia is addictive: she is innocently child-like and naughty at the same time, all the time fulfilling her fantasies and mischief making that drive her folks, and little brothers, crazy. In this new episode, the family decides to vacation in Venice, and participate in all the typical touristy events; in the end Olivia decides she just must have a souvenir of her trip, and of course, that's when the inevitable accident happens. Regardless of her good intentions, it seems Olivia finds a way to cause mischief. One of the benefits of Falconer's work is that he often illustrates them using cultural references (Maria Callas, St Michael's Square; Jackson Pollack, and many others appear), so his readers, young or old, are not given superficial work; in fact, the first book, *Olivia*, won a Caldecott Honor Award. These books are for readers pre-K through 3rd grade, but don't let that age range limit you from enjoying the fun adventures of a strong personality. (FYI: there are some paperback spin-offs of Olivia with other holiday themes, but these original, and hardback, books are the corner stones of the series).

I have to admit that I read the Twilight series, and well, how I wish for the depth and intelligence of the Harry Potter days to return. So when I stumbled accidentally onto Maggie Stiefvater's first book, *Shiver*, I was sincerely skeptical. But, much to me delight, I liked it very much. I think Stiefvater is onto much stronger storylines and character development. In *Shiver*, we meet Grace and her shadow—a wolf who watches out for her, and who at one time was Sam, a young boy she went to school with but didn't pay attention to. As Grace discovers that Sam once was a real boy but is now experiencing werewolf-ism, they try to solve the death and disappearance of another classmate. As character development goes, Grace depicts a teenage girl left to her own devices because her parents are quite simply too busy; and Sam is the loner looking for someone to understand him and not judge him. Of course, he's in love with her, but the love affair isn't written in such fairy tale romantic proportions as we read in the Twilight series. There are conflicts with friends and werewolves that need surmounting and resolution—so the plot line really is plausible in the lives of many teens—if you can accept that small element of shape shifting. Two other books in the series, *Linger*, which is currently available, and *Forever*, which is due out in July 2011, will continue the saga and mystery. I recommend these books for those readers from 4th grade and up.

Finally, I always like to share a book that is moving rapidly to the “classics” shelf. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, and illustrated by Ellen Forney, started out on the young adult shelf, but after the author, and particularly this book, won the National Book Award for 2007, a well deserved nod was gained for not only Alexie's work but also the work on Native American writers in America beyond the young adult audience. Alexie joins the ranks of other solid America writers of Native work, like Louise Erdrich and Joseph Bruchac, who are trying to bring quality writing and the experiences of America's aboriginals to young eager readers. In *Part Time Indian*, we meet Junior as he struggles with his run-down reservation pedigree while attending an all-white school. Junior is funny, and sad, and angry, and funny, and sometimes very irreverent, all the way through; he reminds me so much of Holden Caulfield, from *Catcher in the Rye*, as he journeys through the world cheekily commenting on it and those around him. This time, however, we get the poignant 2.0 version. Forney illustrates this book with Junior's drawings which allow it to border on the graphic novel genre. As a young adult piece recognized by the National Book Award, readers, mid-level and up into adulthood, can enjoy it.

Our stockings may not be hung by the chimney with care quite yet, but I'm anticipating mine will be full of good reads; here's hoping Santa fills yours, and those you share the holidays with, are too.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, XI CHAPTER MEETING

The Xi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma met on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at the Lake Mills School Media Center, Lake Mills, Iowa. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by President Barbara Wells. Nineteen members were present. Minutes were approved as written. Treasurer, Judy Witte presented the 2010-11 budget. Lorie Huffman and Carol Iverson made a motion that the budget be approved. Judy Witte reported that balance on hand is \$4, 425.45.

Communications committee reminded the chapter to have news items ready by the first Saturday of the month for publication in Xi Newsletter.

Membership committee introduced our new initiates to the chapter and also read a brief write-up on Goldie Michalek Holden who passed away in July.

Carol Iverson informed the chapter about the upcoming Grant in Aide Scholarship Auction to be held at the Mason City Country Club, December 4, 2010. Further information will be sent by newsletter about the silent and live auction guidelines.

A reminder to keep Judy Witte apprised to the need of memorials that need to be sent.

No old business.

New business:

President Wells introduced Carol Iverson as Xi Chapter's new historian and Karen Dole will head up the newsletter. Karen Regal has agreed to collaborate with Karen Dole in the new endeavor.

Program book changes: page 8, Nominations Committee, Lori Quinlan, not Joanne Helland. March: Scholarship and Nominations Committee are in charge of the meeting to take place at NIACC Activity Center-101. Add Alice Phillips to Planning committee.

President Wells reminded the chapter about Iowa's 75th Anniversary of Delta Kappa Gamma. Think about 75 as an amount for Delta Kappa Gamma Emergency Fund. In 2008, \$500 was given to Delta Kappa Gamma members that requested help in flooded areas of the state. Think about 75. . What can we do that would be fun? Some ideas from short brainstorming included:

Bags of groceries for the Harvest Food Bank, Meals served at Community Kitchen, Pounds of food for Food Bank, Laps of walking/miles of walking, Gifts for Toys for Tots, Books for Francis Lauer, Hours of service at Women's shelter, Pennies for Peace(Greg Mortenson's Charity), Items for Food Bank, Used eye glasses for Lion's Club, Pounds lost for wellness, Blankets for the needy, Letter to servicemen and women, Mittens for children, Planted trees.

For our December meeting we will attempt to "fill a present" of money(\$75) that will go to Toys for Tots and bring a pair of mittens(75) that will be divided among the schools where our members are currently teaching.

Judy Piersma and Katie DiMarco moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen Christiansen
Secretary Pro Tem*

Karen Dole and Karen True presented a program on the TOM Shoes for Children Program. Through a generous gift from the DKG Education Foundation, TOM shoes were purchased for children in the Spokane area. Shoes were then sent to Guatemala, a member country. A video was viewed by members that showed the work that the TOMS shoe company is providing in Latin American countries. For further information, visit the DKG website and see how you can be part of this program. A second video, Schools for Africa, was also viewed. This project is also one of Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation's interests.

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Mission Statement

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

Chapter President: Barb Wells **Newsletter:** Karen Dole, Karen Regal, Kari Wagner

Xi Chapter Website: <http://www.orgsites.com/ia/xichapter/>