



THE CHIPS OF GRANITE  
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA  
SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL  
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE CHAPTER



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**President's Letter**

**Carol Hines  
2026**



A new year, another opportunity for each of us as individuals, and as a group, to reflect on where we have been, where we are, and where we hope to be. There are so many blessings and things to be thankful for even as we face unexpected challenges. I am so happy to have such a talented executive board. We have welcomed Jan Kulig (Beta) to the board as our secretary and Judith Durand (Alpha) as our DKGIEF ambassador. The ambassador program is a new initiative this year. It was created to bring more awareness about this program.

You will see more information about this later in the newsletter.

As I reflect back to last year, as a member of DKG, I feel so blessed to have met so many wonderful women. Each brings many talents and a unique perspective to her chapter and to the work of the state organization. Each gives unselfishly to enrich the lives of her sisters and her community. I am looking forward to getting to know more of you and becoming better acquainted with your chapter.

Many thanks to Caroline Butler our Eta sisters for hosting our fall meeting at the Woodman Museum in Dover. It is an outstanding museum and if you have not visited it yet you should avail yourself of the opportunity to do so. The grounds are beautiful, the exhibits are interesting and varied, and the location is easily reached. It is close to downtown which offers great shops and places to eat. Personally, I have driven by it so many times on my way to Maine and never stopped. Definitely a missed opportunity on my part.

Our spring meeting is being held at the Common Man Inn and Spa in Plymouth from April 16-18. While the location and the place have definitely been set, the speakers have not. We are looking forward to Michael Bruno speaking on Roadside Markers of NH. Mike is a friend of Pam Reid and my chats with him were great. We are also looking forward to having one of our Alpha sisters, Jeannine Romeo, present a program on self-care. She is currently a doctoral student at Plymouth State University with a concentration on health and wellness. Look for their bios in this newsletter. More information will be forthcoming about our additional speakers. We have not often traveled to this part of the state for a meeting but the trip is easy. Plymouth is a beautiful community with a lovely downtown bordering the campus of Plymouth State University. Make sure when you are there to stroll the campus and visit the Museum of the White Mountains. This is another small and easily accessed gem in our state. Our Delta sisters have traveled many miles to visit us in our parts of the state. I hope many of you will choose to travel north.

As part of our meeting, we will be remembering those sisters who are no longer with us. Brenda Walker has always planned a very meaningful necrology service. We will also honor one sister from each chapter with the “Woman of Distinction” award. I am hopeful that many of you will

be at the conference as we remember our previous members and honor our current sisters.

We are also looking forward to the annual DKG convention in June. It is a wonderful experience. Think about attending. This year it will be in Aurora, Colorado.

Personally, I am anticipating a wonderful 2026. The end of 2025 was difficult for me and for my family. I fell in early November and had an eight-week recuperation period from a groin injury and two pelvic fractures. When your physical health suffers, it seems everything suffers. Many things did not get done in a timely manner and for that I apologize. I will do better in 2026. Additionally, I will have many things to celebrate with my family. All in all, I am in a good place and hope that you are as well. Reach out if you have suggestions, concerns, etc.

Be well.

Carol

### **Scholarship Reminder**

Reminder that the deadline for New Hampshire State Scholarships is March 1. There is \$1000 available for conferences, educational travel, or course work. You can apply for up to \$500 per person. Spring Conference would be a good use of these funds. Please get your applications in to Scholarship Chair Pam Clark.

## **Speakers for DKG/NH Spring Conference**

**Common Man Inn, Plymouth, NH**

**April 16-18**

**Michael Bruno**

Michael Bruno, author of “Cruising New Hampshire History: A Guide to New Hampshire’s Roadside Historical Markers,” embodies a deep-rooted connection to the Granite State, stemming from his upbringing in the Lakes Region. Michael’s early exposure to the state’s rich history began as he traveled alongside his father.

Michael explored NH on his motorcycle, stopping at the historical markers that dotted the landscape. Each marker told a unique story, captivating his imagination and fueling his passion.

Michael served his country with distinction, dedicating over 2 years to the US Army where he enlisted as a Mountain Infantryman and retired as a Sergeant Major. He then served as an Army jROTC instructor.

Michael has served his community as a Library Trustee, a Planning Board member and a fireman. In 2018 he earned his certification as a Granite State Ambassador.

Michael holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Education from Saint Joseph’s College in Standish, Maine. He attained a Certificate of Advanced graduate studies in Organizational Leadership in Education from North Central University in Prescott, AZ. In 2015, he received an Education Specialist degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

He enjoys hiking, reading, and embracing the four season opportunities that the state offers.

## **Jeannine Romeo**

Jeannine is a two-time breast cancer survivor who lives in Keene, NH. She has been an educator for 28 years and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree from Plymouth State University. Her research is on the well-being of teachers. Jeannine has served in a variety of roles in education which include: teaching in grades K-12, administration and as the Monadnock Regional School District's Wellness Integrationist and Wellness Curriculum Coordinator.

Jeannine enjoys the outdoors and is a yoga and fitness instructor. She also serves on the NH Brain Injury Executive Board and is a NH Caregivers Conference committee member and presenter.

She is the proud grandmother of one granddaughter and six grandsons. She has been a member of the Alpha chapter of DKG/NH since 2000. Her topic for our conference will be on Self Care.

## **Common Man for Ukraine**

Common Man for Ukraine will be one of our presenters at our April conference. Common Man for Ukraine is a special initiative of the nonprofit Plymouth Rotary Foundation. Founded in 2022 shortly after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Common Man for Ukraine focuses on delivering critical humanitarian aid and mental healthcare to vulnerable Ukrainian children and their families, delivering more than 4 million pounds of food to child safe houses and frontline villages, and providing residential trauma counseling to more than 1,400 children of Ukrainian soldiers killed in the war.

Susan Mathison is one of four co-founders of Common Man for Ukraine. She blazed leadership trails during her 30-year career of dedicated public service at the USDA Forest Service. She now serves as president of her local Habitat for Humanity chapter and competes and wins in rowing competitions nationwide.

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Recently, DKG International has asked each state to appoint an ambassador for the Delta Kappa Gamma International Educational Foundation (DKGIEF). The purpose of this Foundation is to oversee the distribution of many of the funding opportunities open to DKG members. The ambassador's mission is to spread awareness about the various funds to her state's chapters. **Judy Durand, Alpha Chapter**, will serve as our state representative for the DKGIEF. Some of the funding opportunities include monies for professional development, speakers at the state and chapter level, and personal emergencies. More detailed information about the various funding opportunities that are available to members can be found on the DKG website under that banner DKGIEF. Please contact Judy if you have questions about these funding opportunities.

### News from **Beta World Fellowship Representative, Ros Seidel**

This past fall, the Beta Chapter voted to make a \$200 donation to the Pontezuela School Improvement Project, spearheaded by Sofia Camacho and a group of women educators of Cartagena, Colombia. These women have devoted twenty years to improving the overall well being of children by combating the extreme poverty that prevents them from accessing a basic education. Most of the children in this area cannot even afford shoes to wear, which is a requirement for school attendance.

For those of you who may not be familiar with DKG World Fellowship, Goal 2 of the DKG Strategic Plan 2025-2029 encourages DKG members and chapters to participate in initiatives that expand our global presence and partnerships. In addition, the DKG vision statement: *Leading Women Educators Impact Education Worldwide*, states that DKG women educators are encouraged to make a difference beyond their local communities and to reach across borders in support of education.

The education system in our country is largely funded through tax payer or individual funds, and we take for granted that our public schools will provide a basic education. In Colombia, children need to wear shoes and uniforms. They must purchase their own basic school supplies such as paper, notebooks, pencils, rulers, etc.

Most of the children in Pontezuela come from families who do not have the resources for these supplies. The Colombian government supplies a building, a teacher and some textbooks. Maintenance of the buildings is not consistent; many lack windows, fans and bathrooms. The Pontezuela School Improvement Project is one example of an opportunity for members to engage with meaningful issues on a global scale. By supporting this project, Beta Chapter members can be informed of some of the current economic, social, political and educational issues that exist beyond our borders and participate more fully in a “world society”.

If you feel your chapter might be interested in supporting educational initiatives outside of this country, I encourage you to check out the DKG website and specifically information about World Fellowship and International Educational Projects.

~ Ros Seidel, Beta Chapter

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## **Important Dates to Remember**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**, Scholarship Applications to Pam Clark

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**, Chapter nominations for “Woman of Distinction” award to be sent to Jane Sweatt (Beta)

**March 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**, US Forum Legislative Conference, Alexandria, VA

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**, names for necrology service to Brenda Walker

**April 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**, DKG/NH Spring Conference, at the Common Man Inn, Plymouth, NH

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**, from 10-1. Tri State Conference, at the Meredith Community Center, Meredith, NH. The presenter will be:

Maurine Henry, “How History Has Affected the Art of Quilt Making”.

Delta chapter will be the hostesses.

**June 30<sup>th</sup>**, Last day for annual dues

**June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 4<sup>th</sup>**, DKG International Convention, at the Gaylord Resort in Aurora, Colorado

**July 1<sup>st</sup>**, Beginning of new biennium for chapter officers

**July 10<sup>th</sup>**, Last day for White book filler pages to be sent to Maurine Henry

**August**, DKG Executive Board Meeting, date, time, and place TBD

**September 26<sup>th</sup>**, Fall membership meeting at The Fells, Newbury, Alpha chapter will be the hostesses

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# Chapter News

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## Alpha

Alpha Chapter closed its October meeting with the DKG song, accompanied by Peggy Saunders on the clarinet.

PS I am playing an A clarinet which plays 3 notes below what is written on the music. Our low voice singers appreciated it. I don't know how the high singers felt about it.

Laurine Parker is going to Italy on February 8 to volunteer at the Olympics! She is very excited.



From Jeannine Romeo who also a speaker at our Spring Conference I am conducting my doctoral dissertation research through Plymouth State University. My study is *Teacher Wellbeing: Disrupted Like Never Before*. My research questions are as follows: How did Covid-19 affect the well-being of pre-K-12 teachers in New Hampshire? During the Covid-19 pandemic, what barriers were there to New Hampshire pre-K-12 teachers' self-care? In what ways did pre-K-12 teachers' in New Hampshire experience stress or anxiety during the Covid-19 pandemic? According to Chan et al. (2021), limited attention has been placed on teacher professional well-being during the Covid-19 pandemic. The

purpose of my study is to investigate how teachers navigated numerous challenges to their well-being throughout the pandemic.

My research will be conducted through structured, qualitative, individual teacher interviews in six pre-K-12 New Hampshire school districts.

Teachers who did not teach during Covid-19 will be excluded.

In the fall I presented workshops I created at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Cancer Symposium and the NH Caregivers conference entitled build Your Own Personalized Self-Care Plan. This interactive workshop ed simple, practical ideas and strategies for participants to identify what Self-Care activities they are already doing. Then individuals developed and/or “Build Your Own Personalized Self-Care Plan” Each participant leaves with some self-care tool they can immediately take home and begin doing that day!

In February, I will be presenting this workshop at the NH NEA New and Aspiring Zoom Conference. In the spring, I will be presenting this workshop at the Moore Center for Caregivers and at the Delta Kappa Gamma April 17th conference as well. I hope to see you there!

# Beta

## Beta Chapter Moments

Beta Chapter has had a busy fall! In September we met at the Lebanon Public library and were introduced to Maggie Dusseault. She is the Education Coordinator at the Shaker Museum. She does hope to become a member – yeah! We decided to contribute money to the Pontezuela School of Cartegena, Columbia. We also shared books that we had read and liked.

In October, we met at Terry Thompson’s home in Hartland, VT. We broke into groups to make items that were to be sold at Frosty’s World in Enfield in

December. This craft fair is a major fund raiser for the chapter. We enjoyed a wonderful pot luck lunch after putting together items to sell at the craft fair.



Our next meeting was in December, also at Terry’s home, which was already beautifully decorated for the Christmas season! We inducted Barb Leonard, who is a principal in the Claremont school district. We enjoyed delicious brunch and had our holiday sock swap. It was a great way to start the holiday season.

Initiation Ceremony for  
Barb Leonard, our  
newest Beta member



Jani Barrett sharing book recommendations



Lisa Torres & Helen Benham at Frosty's World Craft Fair



Anne Cragin and Jan Kulig shopping for Books for Bucks



Beta Chapter's December Meeting

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# Delta

Ann Gray spent a week in York Beach, Maine with her three daughters, their spouses, three of her five grandchildren, and several dogs.

The weather was lovely so there was lots of time at the beach and many hours spent reading books.

In August, she and her husband went to New Jersey to visit with one of their daughters and her family.

Nora Beaton visited her son in Midlothian, VA for Halloween and was joined by her other son and family. They had fun trick or treating with the three grandsons, ages six, one 1/2, and two. She was able to meet up with former chapter member and president Kathy Urso for lunch and shopping while in VA. Nora is headed to a quilt retreat in Yarmouth, MA for four days in December. She is looking forward to spending time on the beach.

In mid September, Judy Erickson flew solo to Oregon for 10 days to be with son Zak and family to help out while he underwent brain surgery. All went very well and recovery has been very successful. Overall, it turned out to be a wonderful visit with new adventures, lots of loving hugs and laughs, and thrown into the mix, two new kittens!

Six weeks later,

Zak and family flew to MA for a family reunion. It was over Halloween. The family went trick or treating in downtown Plymouth. It was great fun! After, they walked to the harbor to see the Mayflower and Plymouth Rock. It was a beautiful fall day to be out and about with loved ones.

Pamela Read had a busy spring and summer with three weddings-her grand niece in May in Biddeford Maine, her middle grandson, Teddy the fourth in August at her home in Bethlehem, and 6 days later, her only granddaughter, Caitlin in Pittsburgh, which she officiated. Caitlin's husband, Matt, is the son of a Delta member, Tammy Gerald's!



At Christmas she was blessed with a visit from her granddaughter-in-law and her great grandson, Greyson Theodore. Meghan and Greyson are anxiously waiting for "DaDa" to come home from a 10 month deployment in South Korea! They live in Colorado Springs at Fort Carson so spending time with the family is so special. A trip to see Kyle when he returns is on the agenda.

Our Literacy Project brought books, book buddies, in bags made by our Bag Lady, Nora Beaton to children in Pittsburg, Stewartstown, and Littleton, Thank you

Kaye Morin for helping us in the northern New Hampshire area.

Our fundraising endeavor, BBB which stands for Books, Buddies, in Bags was a great success and well received by the folks in the Colebrook area. Thank you, Mary Jolles for taking time to offer these for sale. We will bring our BBB fundraiser to the state and Tri-Chapter meetings in the Spring.

Speaking of spring....I can't wait! I am tired of listening to the furnace come on and visits from my oil man! Hopefully we can get back to burning wood next year!

# Eta

## ETA News Winter 2026

Eta has continued celebrating 50 years as a chapter with kind acts and giving back to our communities. Thank you for making our food drive a success at the Fall meeting. We were able to gather multiple boxes of food (filled a whole platform trolley) to donate to Paul School's End 68 Hours of Hunger Program. Eta once again donated money to the pumpkin science projects for second grade classrooms at Gilmanton Elementary School. We also collected socks; we had about forty pairs! Caroline delivered them to the Somersworth School to Home liaison who passed them to the homeless shelter. They were definitely appreciated.



At the end of November, we gathered to make holiday greeting cards for seniors at Riverside Nursing Home in Dover and then enjoyed our yearly outing, this time seeing the holiday comedy, "Ye Merry Gentlemen" at the Player's Ring Theatre in Portsmouth. Anne, Dianne, Norma, Betty, Caroline, and Brenda Cleary attended the play. We laughed and laughed!

Our October Meeting included combining with our Gamma colleagues and are pleased to now have Betty Gilman and Sheila Knight as Eta Chapter members. Our next meeting is March 14th where we plan our

Spring and Summer projects, followed by our annual Cinco De Mayo party in May at Caroline’s house on the lake.

Member News includes:

Ruth Ashley continues to work full time at Strafford Learning Center at two school placements: Paul School in Wakefield and Nottingham Elementary. She is active in the staff Wellness Committee and leads the SLC staff book group currently reading The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife. This book is a heartwarming novel about lonely, kind-hearted Frederick Fife who, at 82 and facing homelessness, ends up in a nursing home by mistake, taking the identity of grumpy Bernard Greer. He finds unexpected warmth and belonging while navigating this mistaken identity with a caregiver, Denise, and explores themes of loneliness, forgiveness, and second chances as he leaves kindness in his wake, rediscovering purpose. It's worth a read, so add it to your TBR list!

Ruth has been studying and integrating many technological tools with her students including AI and other applications for assistive access to learning. Some of her current favorite tools are Rocketbook, Brisk Google extension, and Epic Pen. She uses Rocketbooks in her work life and at home, including her Eta secretarial duties!

Ruth and Dianne Mrs had a lovely outing for Friendsgiving at Hart’s with fellow educators and enjoyed a December visit to Pickety Place for lunch. Dianne took a Dover Senior Center trip to Nantucket where she “met” Fred Rogers. She also took



Active Retirement Association trips to the Dartmouth Hood Museum and Boston Pops.

In September, Caroline had a great trip to Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. This historic village is such a step back in time recreating rural life in the 1830's. She was especially interested in the schoolhouse as the New Hampshire Farm Museum in Milton is relocating the last Milton rural schoolhouses to the Farm. Caroline is currently a member of the NHFM's board of trustees and encourages everyone to visit. The museum is open May through October. Caroline also enjoyed a trip to Boston with her college roommate later in September. They took advantage of the great weather and had a fun ride on one of the Duck boats! The narrator pointed out lots of historical sites and told some interesting stories! November and December were busy months full of family activities including celebrating her daughter Karen's 50th birthday!

Anne Nute stays busy with her quilting hobby and her work as a trustee for the [Milton Free Public Library](#) Milton, NH. She is always planning her next travel adventure; where will she head this year?

Other Eta members, Norma, Sheila, Betty, and Jean spent time with family and friends this season. Diane Grey enjoys the peaceful, snowy scenery of her northern home. Eta wishes you all well and see you at the Spring Conference!

“Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.”

- Vesta M. Kelly

# Theta

Pam Clark of Theta Chapter is thrilled at having cataract surgery in both eyes over the past month. She has never seen this well in her whole life. She is looking forward to going to Las Vegas again in February. Of course she has front row seats to see Barry Manilow again! She is also going to see Def Leppard this time as well.

Pam, Brenda Walker, Karen Goss and Donna Marie Gamlin have booked a Caribbean cruise for this coming July. It’s nice to be looking forward to that during this cold winter!!

In an attempt to increase our membership the group from Theta put together “Welcome Back to School” baskets which were distributed to all of the schools in the greater Laconia area in September. Each basket contained school supplies (pens/pencils, stickers, post-it notes, candies, etc.). We also included a write up about what DKG was, an invitation to a meeting, and contact numbers of our DKG members to get more information. We had a great time putting these together and were very well received by the schools but unfortunately did not result in any new members.

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## Beta Chapter Meeting Book discussion 9/17/25

Jan Kulig

Maggie D'Arcy Mystery series by Sarah Stewart Taylor

A detective from the US revives her connections with her Irish homeland.

Helen Benham

Gather by Kenneth Cadow -Young Adult fiction

Story of a young boy trying to help his family while facing many difficulties. It is a hopeful story with a community pulling together to help one of their own.

Kathy Tucker

West with Giraffes by Linda Rutledge

A 1930's adventure with an older man and a homeless teen as they drive across America to the San Diego Zoo with two giraffes in tow. Great story.

Raising Hare by Cloe Dalton

A woman takes in a rabbit and raises it. Beautifully written.

Terry Thompson

Historical fiction Born Survivors by Wendy Holden

Three pregnant women in Auschwitz survive their time there and give birth to three children. These three children find each other later in life.

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

Inspired by the life of the real midwife, Martha Ballard, who lived in Maine in the 1700's. She battles the legal system at the time standing up for her patients and family.

Francine

Sincerely Stoneheart by Emily Wilson Hussem A story about a minion of the Devil. She writes to her successor with advice about how to destroy someone.

How to Read a Chicken's Mind by Melissa Caughey

Susan Mellow

The Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore non-fiction

In 1860 an abusive pastor husband institutionalized his wife for having strong opinions.

Eleven Nations by Colin Woodard

US has been divided since people immigrant people have settled here. The book discusses the different groups that were originally formed once immigrants settled here. Yankeedom, Pilgrims, New Netherlands, etc. You can learn a lot. Interesting read as we still have remnants of separate groups today.

Wordy Shipmates by Sarah Vowell

Ros Seidel

Clear by Carys Davies

Historical Fiction about some islands in Scotland being cleared in order to raise sheep. The story focuses on a Protestant minister who has to remove last remaining resident from one of the islands. Sweet story powerfully written.

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

Pulitzer winner about a reform school in Florida with residents enduring horrific conditions. Good writing

Lisa Torres

Salt Stones by Helen Whybrow

20<sup>th</sup> century Memoir about a woman shepherd on a farm in Vermont. It is beautifully written and explores a deep connection to the land.

Sue Seamans

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

A friendship develops between a Pacific Octopus in an aquarium and its caregiver.

Anne Cragin

The Red Queen by Martha Grimes from her Richard Jury series

Martha has written many of these set in England with Chief Superintendent Richard Jury.

Janie Sweatt

Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall

This is a love-triangle thriller set on a New England Farm. The main character deals with the return of her first love and the problems this brings to her marriage.

The Black Wolf by Louise Penney

Anne is looking forward to reading this one as are many of us here today! You will love learning about the town of Three Pines and route for the Chief Inspector, Armand Gamache. It is set in Quebec.

Jan Kulig

The Bruno series by Martin Walker

Bruno is the Chief of Police in the little town of St. Denis in Dordogne region of France. He is very in touch with the land and people and food of the region. Don't read this if you are hungry! It is set in the current day and problems of the world make their way to St. Denis.

Sue Stritter

The Ladies Number One Detective Agency series by Alexander McCall Smith

Precious Ramatswe is the first woman detective in town. She has a secretary, Grace Makutsi, who is determined to forge ahead in this world despite a poor and difficult childhood. The setting is Botswana, which itself is almost like a character in the book. We watch as Precious holds to her cultural beliefs and love of the land as she deals with problems with humankind that walk through her door.