



THE CHIPS OF GRANITE
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA
SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE CHAPTER
Volume 2026 Issue 2
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President's Letter
Carol Hines
2026

President's Message

The hot, lazy days of summer are beginning to wane as September approaches. I always look forward to the change of seasons. I enjoy the cool mornings and evenings knowing that the afternoons will still be warm as summer lingers. Schedules change and our activity level changes. Some of us will be returning to the classroom while many of us will reflect back to the years when we anticipated the first day of school and the smiling faces of the children.

September also brings a new year for DKG/NH. While the new biennium began in July it always seems that September is the formal beginning. Leadership teams in each of the chapters have met and planned the new year. Now, the membership takes a more active role. The opportunities for personal growth are limitless as are the opportunities to be of service to others. And, there is always time for socialization and enjoying all of blessings that are ours.



I am looking forward to working with each of the chapters and getting to know all of you better. I enjoyed all of the meetings that I attended last year and am looking forward to visiting your chapters again. Our fall meeting at The Fells in

Newburyport should provide a glorious setting as we gather to share our hopes for the coming year. In April we will return to The Fireside Inn in West Lebanon. Beta sisters are researching possible speakers for this event. With Dartmouth being so close there could be a plethora of choices. If you have not walked the campus of the college and visited the library and the Hood museum try to do so. It is an opportunity not to be missed.

Nora Beaton from Delta has encouraged us to seek out the historical markers that our spring speaker, Mike Bruno, highlighted in his presentation last April. If you do so, take a photo. I will collect them and make a display of our success in locating them. Ruth Ashley from Eta has suggested that we collect our favorite recipes and offer a DKG/NH cookbook. Sounds like a great idea.

All in all, I am looking forward to hearing about all of the wonderful opportunities that are being given to us to enrich our lives and the lives of others as members of DKG.

Carol



Are you in need of funding for a special educational project? Are you looking for professional development funds? Do you know an educator needing financial assistance due to a natural disaster? Grants are available for these needs and more through the DKG International Educators Foundation. For example, the Pontezuela School in Cartagena, Colombia now has air conditioning and smart TVs with the assistance of these funds (and the hard work of Ros Seidel). Be sure to check out the DKGIEF link on the DKG homepage (dkg.org) for more information. Feel free to contact me if you would like more information or assistance.

Judy Durand, Alpha Chapter

NH DKGIEF Ambassador
News from Ros Seidel, Beta Chapter World Fellowship-

I am pleased to report that the grant I submitted as a Delta Kappa Gamma International Educational Project (through DKGIEF) was awarded \$5,000 at the end of April, 2026. The grant funds will be used to significantly improve the school conditions at the Pontezuela School in Cartegena, Colombia by providing air conditioners and Smart TVs .

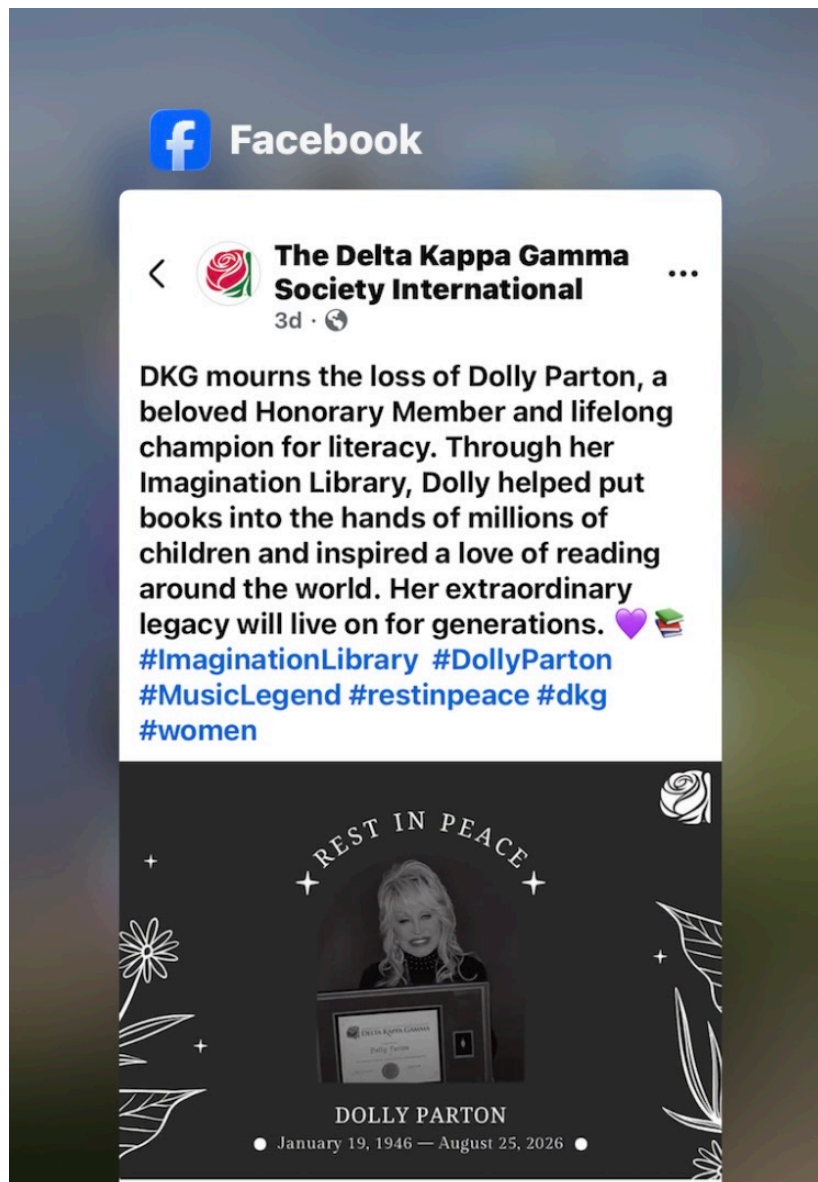
The Pontezuela community in Cartegena is one of the most socio economically challenged areas of the country. Poverty is extreme with more than 50% of the population working without formal contracts. Public services are non-existent. In this rural area access to education is limited as families cannot afford the necessary school uniforms, shoes and basic school supplies—all of which are requirements in schools.

The reason for the focus on air conditioners is that the average daily temperature all year is 100.4 F. Concentration is difficult . Headaches, dehydration, fatigue and chronic absenteeism all have an impact on student performance and teacher effectiveness. The hope is that classrooms with adequate temperature control will enable students and teachers to be attentive, comfortable and fully engaged during instructional time.

Smart TVs will expand access to digital learning. With internet connectivity, teachers will be able to integrate multimedia resources, educational videos and textbook linked digital content, enriching instruction and broadening students' learning experiences. The project will help bridge the gap between rural and urban schools by providing infrastructure and tools that promote a dignified, modern learning environment.

I have learned from my partner in Colombia that five of the six Smart TVs requested were purchased. Unfortunately, since submitting the application and receiving the grant, the exchange rate for the dollar has fallen. Only two of the three air conditioners were able to be purchased. My partner is hoping that she will be able to secure the additional funds needed somehow. In the meantime, windows have been added to the school and the classrooms have been painted. The Pontezuela School Improvement Project is one example of an opportunity for DKG members to engage with some of the economic, social, political and educational issues that exist beyond our borders. In this school that serves more than 300 students preK-grade 12, five Smart TVs and two or three air conditioners will help a little and it is a first step.

Dates to Remember



The following two dates are the most important for us. This is the time that we can gather, renew friendships, share ideas, and ensure that our organization remains strong. Please plan to attend one or both of these meetings.

September 26, 2026 DKG/NH Fall General Membership Meeting at The John Hays Estate at the Fells in Newburyport, NH. Our general membership meeting will convene at 10:00 AM. After the meeting you can tour the house and the grounds we have been at this location previously, we have had a list of places to visit. Again, if you know of a place that would be interesting, we would love to hear about it.

Lunch will be on your own, hopefully, with old friends and new ones. Some suggestions are listed below.

April 15-17, 2027 DKG/NH Spring Conference at The Fireside Inn, West Lebanon, NH. We are working on securing outstanding speakers for this gathering. Your thoughts and suggestions about potential speakers would be appreciated.

Restaurants in the Newburyport area

Newbury

Bubba's Bar and Grill (976 Rte 103)

Salt Hill Pub (1407 Rte 103)

New London

Flying Goose Brew Pub. (40 Andover Rd)

Tuckers (207 Main Street)

Peter Christian's Tavern (195 Main St)

Sunapee

The Blues Canoe (71 Main St)

Suna (6 Brook Rd and Rte 103)

Chapter News

Alpha



Helen Ann Kelly is very pleased to let everyone know that in May of this year, she was honored with the title of Woman of Distinction. My certificate & pin were given to me by Joanne Stroshine, our president of Alpha Chapter of DKG/NH. She also gave a speech with very nice words about me and I hugged her with gratitude as

my sisters stood up and applauded. What a wonderful surprise after being in this group for over 18 years.



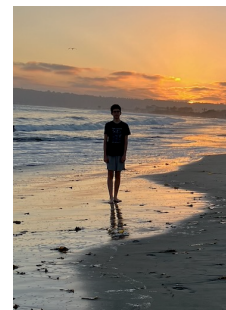
Peggy Saunders took a vacation to San Diego with her daughter, son-in-law, and grandson Thomas. The zoo was hot, but full of wonders. Thomas and Peggy returned to the East via Amtrak.



"The Bean" Millennium Park, Chicago



Giraffes at San Diego Safari Park



Thomas at Pacific Sunset



Residents of Stone Arch Village at our Sing-A-Long



Alpha members at Pot-Luck



Carol Hines, hostess

Beta

Beta Chapter Moments

Beta Chapter held two spring/summer meetings. In March, we met at the Kilton Public Library in West Lebanon, NH. After our business meeting, we put together articles for Teacher Appreciation baskets for the Claremont District Schools. These baskets contained supplies for teachers as well as for students. Nichole Boynton gave us an update on the district's difficulties including budget shortfalls, school building closings now, the consolidation of schools for the future and the disruption of education this year for the closed elementary school.

In June, we met at the Lebanon Public Library. We congratulated Jan Kulig on her 4 years as our president, holding our chapter together. Sue Seamans will become our next president, with Ros Sieidel serving as our vice president. We set up our program schedule for next year and finalized the information for the filler.

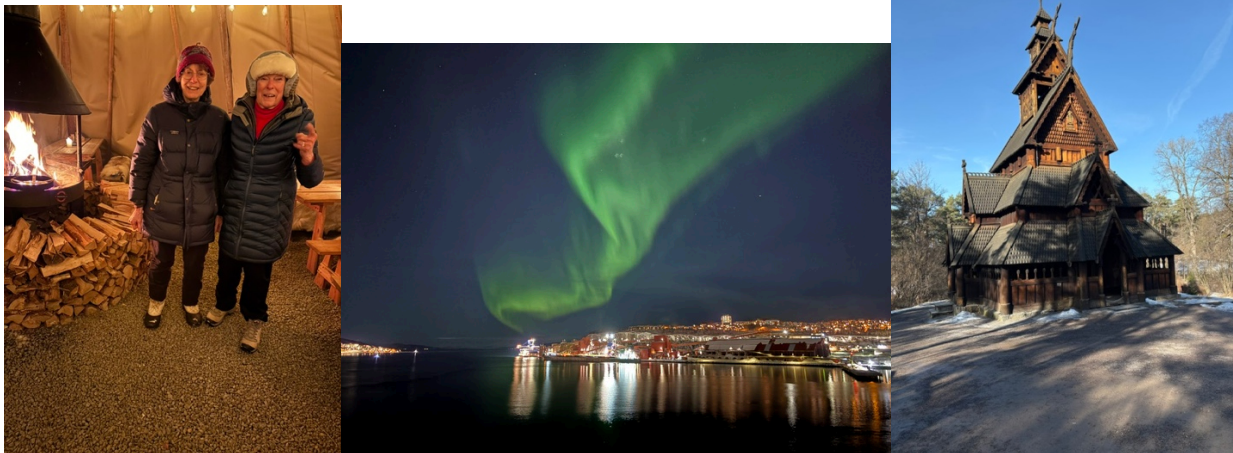
In other news:

Nichole Boynton was recently appointed principal of the Claremont Middle School. She is very excited, but knows that she has a lot of work ahead of her. Congratulations to Nichole!

Kathy Tucker's grandson, Gabe Tucker graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology earning a degree in mechanical engineering, on the 13th of August. He plans on going to graduate school there in September. He also played on the varsity volleyball team for four years.

Lisa Torres had a wonderful time in New Ulm. She saw her siblings, their families, and cousins she hadn't seen in years. The town was amazing. It was planned by the Germans and had very wide streets. There were 20 parks in the small town. She was there during Bavarian Blast – one of the many festivals that mark the calendar each year. Only in New Ulm, could one encounter a small just for fun Schunkein parade at 7 am in the morning. Because the Seiter family is well known, the museum gave everyone a special tour of the town and pulled out some family artifacts for them to see.

Terry Thompson's trip to Norway



Terry joined her neighbor, Sue Porada, on a two-week cruise up the Norwegian Coast in search of the northern lights. From February 21st

through March 3rd, they cruised up the Norwegian inland waterway, stopping at Norvik, Tromso, and Alta. On the return trip there were stops at Bergen and Olso. Northern lights were seen four nights with the best views from the ship. They also participated in “city” tours, museum visits, and an excursion to a dog sled camp which housed 131 dogs. The ancient architecture, churches, and exquisite scenery was always present. An interesting Norwegian education fact: during the first three years of schooling, Norwegian children spend more than half of their day outside learning about their country, history, and land.

Delta

Susan Ackerman recently gave a musical concert combined with a time for reflection after each song to the women from all over the world that are part of the Mary Magdalene course I have been taking for 3 years. It was magical and wonderful.

Pam Read will be going to her 64th class reunion on Columbus Day weekend. Judy Erickson will be going as her +1. At the end of October she will fly to Colorado to visit her grandson Kyle and family and see her great grandson Grayson.



In June Pam and Judy visited the Landaff School with Bookbags. There were only 16 students Pre-school through Gr.4. So, after many years, the Little Blue School was closed at the end of June; very sad to see. It was wonderful to watch the older students nurturing and reading to the youngers.

Pam received her 40th year pin in May along with Barbara Baker.

Judy Erickson has had a very busy, but very nice summer. She became a Great Auntie JuJu on Aug 14 to little Miss Magnolia Mae Opalinski. As a teacher, I think about the poor little thing learning to write that name!

Also in August she had granddaughter in-love Charlie(Charlotte)for ten days. Charlie is 8 and starting 3rd grade next week in Portland, Oregon and she is an avid reader. Charlie goes to a Japanese Immersion school where half of each day is in Japanese culture and language. She flew alone for the first time and all went well. We had a fun week with lots of adventures and laughs.

Judy is currently helping to write a Christmas Cabaret for her community theater Colonel Town Players of Lancaster while also teaching others how to play Mahjonn.



Ann Gray and her husband, Lindsey, were able to take a trip down to Lafayette, NJ recently to visit their daughter, Marilyn, and her family. Marilyn and her husband, Vin, have a six-year-old son and a two-year-old daughter. It was great fun for Ann and Lindsey to get to interact with Marilyn's family for a few days.

Ann and Lindsey will be grandparents again when their daughter, Melanie, and her husband, Chris, welcome their first child in December. That will bring their total number of grandchildren up to six. Their other grandchildren are ages 20, 18, and 17. Thankfully, they see these young people frequently.

Ann has enjoyed reading a lot this summer and would like to recommend a particular favorite, *Theo of Golden*, by Allen Levi. It is a beautiful, touching read.

Doug and Nora Beaton spent 3 weeks in Virginia in June taking care of their two grandsons while their parents traveled overseas. They had a great time exploring the local libraries and their summer programs. On Saturday they ventured to Santa's Village in Jefferson with their 3 year old grandson and his parents from York, Maine. It was his first time and they all had a wonderful day.

The summer has flown by as I have been meeting with my sewing group on Wednesdays and walking Mt. Prospect three days a week with a friend.

Joan Coats' big news is family fun at their farm. The whole family was able to come home to the farm for some special time together - a blessing to Allen and Joan! It's become a "given" - a day at Santa's Village; then the pond was "host" to

10 grandchildren swimming, kayaking, fishing, stone skipping, zip-lining, a grand - dog chasing her own splash as well as their own dog trying to rescue those in the water squealing with laughter.

So many special memories for "Grampa and Joan".

The Weathervane Theater in Whitefield offered many musical performances this summer. XANADU was attended by Joanne Hennessey, Nora Beaton, Pam Read, Susan Ackerman and Barb Baker. This hilarious '80s musical is about Kira, a Greek muse, who helps struggling artist Sonny achieve his dream of opening the first roller disco!

Forbidden love, jealous sisters, and chaos ensue, all set to your favorite 1980s hits like "Magic," "Xanadu," "Evil Woman," and "All Over the World."

Pam and Barb also attended "Come From Away" as one of their former pupils, Courtney Vashaw, was in the cast. This play is a sobering reminder of the events surrounding the 9/11 tragedy. With all planes grounded, travelers tried to call loved ones to assure them all was okay. The people in towns with these stranded visitors hurried to provide the housing and necessities for their stay. The relationships formed during this experience is the message of this musical. "Peter Pan Goes Wrong" will be attended by Pam, Barb and Judy Erickson in September. This Play That Goes Wrong, unleashes the comic mayhem on the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan. It's an awfully big adventure as the much-loved, yet inept, members of The Cornley Drama Society once again battle against technical hitches, flying mishaps, and cast disputes on their way to Neverland with hilarious and disastrous results. Something so wrong has never been so right.

Eta

ETA was pleased to recognize **Norma Taatjes** as our Woman of Distinction in April at the spring conference. Norma has been a member for forty years, hosting meetings, working on projects, and enjoying our outings. We appreciate her warmth, her energy, and her positive outlook! Thank you, Norma!

After acquiring a few members of the former Gamma Chapter this year, we now welcome **Flora Sapsin**, whose Epsilon Chapter has disbanded at this time. Flora



served as State President 2009-2013 and received the Founders' Award in 2022. She also chairs the Bylaws & Policies committee. She will be acting as our Eta chapter parliamentarian.

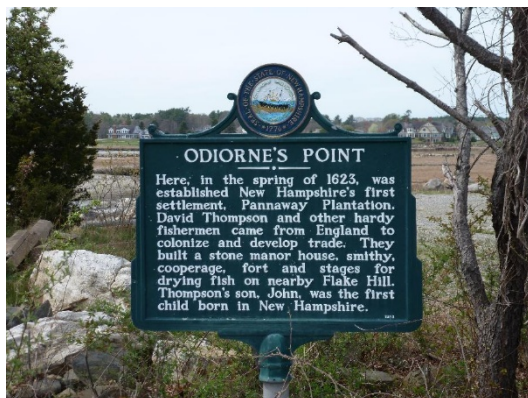
Eta keeps busy with chapter meetings, outreach, donations and other ways to promote education in our area. This fall we will be hosting a workshop on Rocketbooks and other technology to support new or veteran teachers maintaining documentation and communication. We plan to donate pumpkins to the Gilmanton Second Grade Science program, create holiday cards for seniors and our sock/supply drives for those in need again

this year.

Here is our member news to share – we are all so lucky to be busy and active with family and friends. **Betty Gilman, Diane Gray and Jean Garzillo** say “hello” to DKG friends also.

Caroline Butler enjoyed a fantastic trip to Colorado in July with members of her family. They stayed in an Airbnb about 10,000 feet above sea level and enjoyed the mountains and towns in the area. We were especially happy to meet four-month-old Isla, the newest member of the family!

Caroline, Betty Gilman, and Brenda Cleary had a great lunch together at the Beach Plum in Portsmouth at the end of June. We spent an entire afternoon catching up with each other!



Anne Nute and her husband spent this summer at home enjoying the New England weather. They have watched all sorts of animals come to their little pond for a drink, and were especially thrilled to see a doe with her fawn. She has also been babysitting her three-month-old granddaughter, Maggie. Additionally, we

have spent time visiting New Hampshire historical markers, inspired by the speaker at our spring conference. We even managed to enjoy the sand sculptures and the seacoast markers all in one day!

Dianne Mros continues to enjoy senior trips including a recent viewing of the tall ships in Boston. She teaches Tai Chi for Health in Maine and NH. She and Ruth Ashley enjoyed their yearly trip to the INDY 500 and have enjoyed many trips to the golf course in this beautiful summer weather from the coast to the mountains; including Exeter Country Club, Maplewood in Bethlehem and Waumbek in Jefferson, NH!

Ruth Ashley is going on 33 years as a school-based COTA for Strafford Learning Center. For the summer, she is active playing golf, traveling in her RV and sightseeing or going to car races with her husband, John. An administrator once explained that summer goes by like a really long weekend to educators. The end of June, once school lets out, is quick like Friday night. July, wide open and free is like Saturday. While August, preparing to return to the school year, is like Sunday. For those of us still working, summer continues to go by more quickly each year. After over three decades working in the public-school setting, Ruth has learned to savor each part of summer and not worry about how much time is spent or how many days of vacation are left. One of those is savoring the opportunity to read more. Her book group at work is currently reading “Unlikely Animals” by Annie Hartnett, which is a fictional story set in New Hampshire.

Here are some links for summer reading adventures; young and old!

<https://www.nationalbook.org/adventure/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/22/books/summer-reading-bucket-list.html>

<https://dispatch.barnesandnoble.com/content/dam/ccr/bnstores/books/pdfs/2026/2026-Summer-Reading-BN-Journal-eng.pdf>

<https://www.weareteachers.com/summer-reading-log-bundle/>

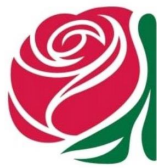
Theta

Four Friends on a Summer Voyage

In July, Karen Goss, Donna Marie Gamlin, Pam Clark, and Brenda Walker—set sail on a seven-day cruise to the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Cozumel. The trip offered a welcome stretch of sunshine, turquoise water, and shared adventure. From exploring vibrant ports to enjoying quiet moments on deck, the week was filled with laughter, friendship, gambling, cribbage and the kind of memories that linger long after the ship returns to port.

Once home we immediately got into a very different rhythm. Donna Marie began preparing her classroom, as Arizona schools open early and she is always dedicated to starting the year strong. Karen turned her attention to upcoming back surgery, focusing on the careful preparation such a procedure requires. Pam returned expecting to work only a few per-diem hours at the Antique Center, but when the owner was critically injured in a motorcycle accident out of state, her role shifted overnight into running the entire store until further decisions can be made. Meanwhile, I found that the quieter pace at home allowed my broken nose and ribs to begin healing. Those of you who know me, are not surprised that I fell flat on my face on the second day of the cruise.





*New Hampshire
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International*

Fall Meeting

*John Hay Estate at The Fells on
Lake Sunapee, NH*



Saturday, September 26, 2026

10:00 AM

Fee: \$15.00

Discover The Fells 83.5 acres of beauty and tranquility; learn the legacy of diplomat and statesman John Milton Hay; tour the 22-room Colonial Revival home; and enjoy the renowned gardens. The Fells is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a preservation project of The Garden Conservancy.

Directions

The John Hay Estate at The Fells is located on the eastern shore of Lake Sunapee at 456 Route 103A in Newbury, NH.

From Concord and points south and east: Take I-89 north to Exit 9 (Route 103) and go west to Newbury. Then take 103A north 2.2 miles. The Fells is on your left.

From Lebanon, Hanover and points north: Follow I-89 south to Exit 12 (Route 11/New London—do not use Exit 12A), turn right at end of ramp and immediately left onto Route 103A south. Follow 103A for 5.6 miles. The Fells is on your right.

Name: _____ *Chapter* _____

E-mail _____ *Phone* _____

Please enclose registration fee of \$15.00

*Please send your check made out to New Hampshire State DKG with the
registration form by September 18 to:*

*Maurine Henry
118 Old Walpole Rd
Keene, NH 03431*