



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**



**Autumn 2018**

***Volume 16 No 4***

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### Photographs

#### Cover Photograph:

The entire European group attending the international convention in Austin, Texas, July 2018.

Photos of Nadia Lopez, Benjamin Zander and Gwen Simmons are from the DKG website. Thank you Phyllis Hickey for allowing this.

Other photos are by GB Members.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to a summery edition! Diana Bell, our new Webmaster, is doing a splendid job in keeping our website up to date – don't forget to look at [www.dkggb.org.uk](http://www.dkggb.org.uk) regularly so that you know what is going on in DKG GB and elsewhere in the Society. Diana would particularly welcome panoramic photos for the banners on the top of the pages on the website, if anyone has the right sort of camera.

Our State Conference in 2019 will again take place at the Devonport Hotel in Greenwich, where we went in 2017, on the weekend of Saturday 6th April – do put the date in your diary! Details of how to book will be available in the next edition of GB News, if not before.

Contributions for the next edition should be with me by **15th December**, please, in Word with photos attached in jpg format. The font should be Arial, size 10 if possible. Chapter presidents will have organised reports and photos from Chapter meetings, and hopefully the Christmas celebrations can be included too. Any matters of broad educational interest are always welcome, of course.

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## Kathy Hodgson

### STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT 2017—2019



This summer's highlights were two trips to Austin, Texas. The first was as a member of the International Finance Committee – sadly my final meeting after four years' service. The time spent on this committee has been of great interest – hard work too, but opening my eyes and informing me of the workings of DKG Society as a whole. I can't recommend highly enough what membership of an International Committee has given me – and would encourage those of you who are hesitant, to delay no longer. Filling in the form to apply is the worst part – but you will really reap the benefit.

My second trip was to attend the International Convention – unfortunately, due to the cost of travel and hotel accommodation, paired with a poor exchange rate, I was the only member of Great Britain attending. I would like to have seen more of Austin but, since I had several roles to undertake, much of my time involved meetings. Due to the high number of proposed amendments (see later article) the Finance Committee met every day after each general session in order to make any adjustments to the proposed budget which had been affected by that day's voting. As State President, I had to vote on your behalf at the Executive meetings. As European Forum Chair, I was responsible for the abbreviated Forum Meeting and delivering the Forum Report – quite nerve wracking to speak to almost 2000 members! I had also been tasked with chairing the inaugural Global Awareness Forum – a joint venture between the four Forums – Canada, Europe, Latin America and the US. This proved to be very well received by the audience with many positive comments at the end of the hour.

The week began early. A friend from Golden Gift picked me up from the airport as I was staying with her for two nights before the convention began. On the Sunday afternoon, being a Texan member, she had been asked to help with early Registration; since I had no other plans, I agreed to go to the convention hotel with her – perhaps I would see some old acquaintances there. However, I found myself being 'trained' to help with Registration – I was an honorary Texan for the day! On that Sunday, we registered about 400 members.

I had also found myself 'organising' a reunion of my Golden Gift class of 2016 in the weeks leading up to the convention (it involved a spreadsheet!). In total, 27 of the 30 members of the group were able to attend. We were able to catch up in a local restaurant – I refrained from consuming any Margaritas, though my classmates tried to encourage me (for those who don't know the story, ask me to tell you sometime!). We had a very enjoyable time together with promises of meeting again in Philadelphia – the location of the 2020 Convention. Interestingly, for

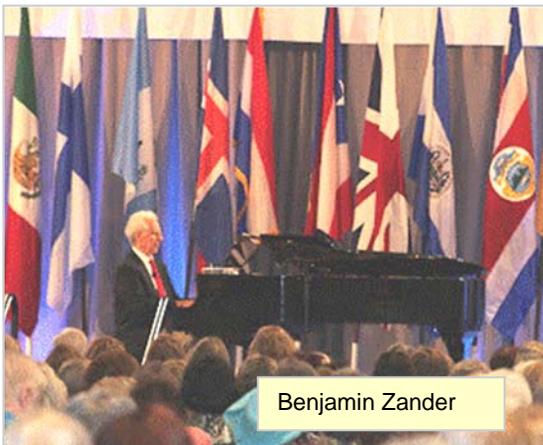
the first time, that Convention will not be the sole responsibility of Pennsylvania State; they will be assisted by the state of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and the Federal District of Columbia. (I may have missed some!)



The Golden Gift (Leadership and Management seminar) group reunited

Since I was the only GB member attending the convention, I suggested to the other European Presidents that we have a photograph of the entire European group attending, as well as having individual photographs. This took some logistics – ably assisted by the Texan members in attendance. All but one – there's always one! – managed to make it to the room on time. We were a very select little group, and I was reminded – as if I needed it – of the importance of a united Europe.

The two keynote speakers were superb. I came in late to listen to the first speaker and so it took me some time to work out what was familiar about his voice. Benjamin Zander is the conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and is a guest conductor around the world. He is also English – so it was the first English accent I had heard in almost a week. He and his partner, Rosamund Zander, co-authored *The Art of Possibility*.



Benjamin Zander

He offered insights into ourselves and our organisation – and, with the help of musical interludes, played with our emotions. At times we roared with laughter and then he had us in tears when listening to a piece of classical music – he asked us to think of someone who was no longer with us whilst listening. What a great communicator – it is no wonder that he is in great demand as a speaker – do look out for him.

The second keynote speaker was one of the most inspirational people I have ever listened to. Nadia Lopez is the founder and principal of Mott Hall Bridges Academy in Brownsville, Brooklyn – a school she founded in 2010 to address the downward trend in a neighbourhood that had given up on its students. She spoke of her grandmother, who arrived from the West Indies and, at the age of 33 was widowed, left to bring up 4 children; of her mother, a nursing assistant,

who ensured her family received an education; of her own training to become a nurse – her mother's ambition – only to realise that she wanted to teach. The entire presentation was stunning and moving, and tissues were at a premium. Her book, *The Bridge to Brilliance*, is available on Amazon – or you can borrow mine.



During our state conference – which seems ages ago now – many of you will remember Phyllis Hickey speaking of a Revitalisation programme – aimed to help states whose membership numbers are dwindling. After the conference, I contacted Carolyn Pittman (International President) via email and then spoke to her in person in May. Carolyn will be visiting on October 13<sup>th</sup>; meanwhile a Revitalisation committee has been created so we are prepared for Carolyn's visit. Sheila Roberts is the Chair of this newly formed committee – her report can be read later in this edition of GB News, or online in our new membership page.

We have even fixed the date and location of next year's state conference – April 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 at the De Vere Devonport House, Greenwich – the location of our conference in 2017. Please put the date in your diary.

So, an eventful and interesting period of time. I would like to thank you all for your continued support and look forward to the final year of my presidency with renewed enthusiasm.

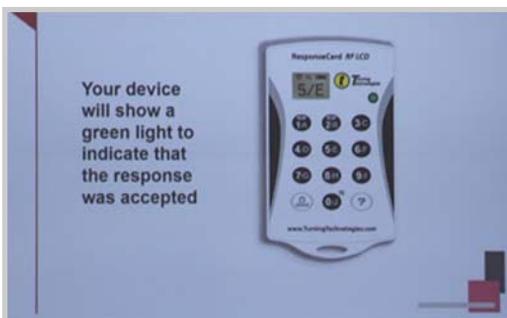
**Kathy Hodgson**

## INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND STANDING RULES

I am sure you will all recall the two editions of DKG News that arrived during the spring, listing the amendments that had been proposed for consideration at the Convention. Well – we considered them – at some length! In fact, the general sessions during which we debated – and debated – had to be extended.

The most innovative part of the proceedings was that we were able to vote using electronic devices – waiting for the result to be displayed on the large screens added a touch of excitement.

I have a full list of the amendments adopted and those not, should you wish me to send it to you. However, the items of greatest interest can be seen on the next page:



**C1:** There was much discussion about the proposed change to the name of the Society; the proposal had been to change it to Women Educators International (DKG). It appears that possible future abbreviations - perhaps to WEI (DKG) – would cause a problem in our Spanish speaking communities (wei is apparently a rude word, which I will not commit to paper)! As a result, the proposal was not adopted.

**C6:** New members will no longer be ‘initiated’ – in future we will use the term ‘inducted’, on the basis that it sounds more professional. However, as before, there is no need for chapters to hold an initiation/induction ceremony should they not wish to do so.

**C7:** It had been proposed that potential members could apply for membership. This caused extensive discussion, including the possibility that applications might be received from men. The proposal was not adopted, so membership remains by invitation only.

**C15:** The membership year is from 1<sup>st</sup> July - 30<sup>th</sup> June; a proposal was adopted that, in future, members should pay dues and fees no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June for the following fiscal year. In the year of changeover (possibly 2019 – but to be confirmed) this means that a member would pay fees twice within a twelve month period, i.e. in September/October, and then in the following April/May – but this would only occur once. The rationale is that Chapters, States and International should know how much money they have to spend right at the beginning of the financial year.

**C16:** Scholarship Fund – in future, States will not send money to the International Scholarship Fund. 100% of the money collected by Chapters should be forwarded to the State, which would pay the entire sum into their own fund. The only exception would be if individual Chapters had their own Scholarship funds – which GB does not. In that case, the Chapter would retain 80% of the money collected.

**C31 & C39:** It was proposed that voting for the election of International officers should be by the members who are registered for and in attendance at the international convention. This would have put the vote in the hands of people who can afford to attend the convention, which this year would have been about 2.5% of the total membership – hardly representative or democratic! Common sense prevailed and the proposal was not adopted.

**C41:** Most International Committees have been set up to include one member from each Region in the Society; the proposal was that representation should in future be proportionate to the number of members in each Region. This would have meant that Europe, with just 1% of the total membership, would have very few representatives on International Committees. It had been mentioned several times during the week that Europe is the only one of the five Regions in which membership has increased during the past biennium. This may have helped the proposal to fail – and so the Committee structures remain as before.

In the end, the proposal was not adopted and the Golden Gift Committee remains.

**C77:** Previously, the Constitution could only be amended every four years – the International Standing Rules can be changed every two years. This created inflexibility. It was agreed that the proposal to change this vote to every two years be adopted.

***Kathy Hodgson*** (State President)



*Nadia Lopez with Kathy*

## REVITALISATION OF DKG IN GREAT BRITAIN

Everyone who attended the State Conference in Kingston must remember the enthusiasm of Phyllis Hickey, our International speaker and DKG Business Director, who joined us from USA. Following her advice we decided that DKG is such a great organisation for teachers worldwide, that we would endeavour to revitalise it in GB.

Revitalise? Bring new life to our existing society in Britain? We think it is worth sharing its advantages and opportunities with many more women than the current members of Alpha and Gamma Chapters. Consequently Kathy applied to HQ and on 13<sup>th</sup> October we will have a special day together in London, led by Carolyn Pittman, former International President. To prepare for this day of brainstorming, sharing of ideas and strategies to strengthen our commitment, and to attract new members to DKG, we formed a ‘Revitalisation Committee’. We wanted the committee to be representative of the different age groups and experiences which make up our society. Our main aim was to assist the success of the October day by providing Carolyn with an informative picture of our current situation and some idea of previous efforts at increasing membership.

The members are: Kathy Hodgson, Diana Bell, Marian Bowles, Joan Carroll, Janet Carroll, Elisha Hoggart and Sheila Roberts (Chair).

The committee met on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, and we spent the day analysing the current state of DKG in Britain. We agreed that the context of DKG in Britain is very different from that of USA. DKG is widely known in USA and not in Britain. We looked at previous expansion initiatives and strategies which we have tried, and analysed why they have failed to attract new members. These ranged from

publicity of meetings and conferences, local media coverage and press releases, to the attempt to establish a new chapter in Cambridge. We didn't have all the answers as to why these have mostly failed to attract new members, but could offer some explanations. We brain stormed ideas on the way forward for a more dynamic DKG and what aspects of DKG would appeal to younger teachers/educators.

Some of these were:

- **The need to stress the internationality of DKG**
- **The need to stress opportunities for professional and academic development**
- **Widen membership to include librarians, teaching assistants, tutors etc**
- **Improve style and quality of publicity materials to be more inviting**
- **Reduce number of business meetings at chapter level**
- **High calibre speakers on interesting topics at meetings.**

Our current aim is to encourage every existing member possible to attend the **special day with Carolyn on 13<sup>th</sup> October, in London**. Your ideas and commitment will be invaluable. (The minutes of the committee meeting will be circulated to all members to give a fuller picture of the range of topics and ideas covered.)

**Sheila Roberts** (*Revitalisation Committee Chair*)

## USING THE CANTERBURY AWARD

I am pleased to report that about £200 of the Canterbury Award money given by the DKG members to me, for the class teacher I work with at Lowther School, has been spent. Year 3 children had very few concrete resources of their own for their Maths lessons. If needed, such resources had to be fetched and returned. This was particularly hard on the less able children and the situation is now remedied. *These resources are now more easily available so the children can quickly utilize the concrete equipment, see and make their own mathematical pictorial representations and through this, understand the abstract concepts more readily.* White Rose resources, paid for by the government, are used in

the school, whereas Shanghai resources, where every child has their own special work book, are too expensive for the school so the class teacher is blending the two, *deepening the children's understanding through effective questioning, fluency, reasoning and problem solving.*

This year has been the first for the new Calculation Policy that has been introduced into the school in line with the new curriculum. The equipment helps to ensure a consistent progression to calculations. It is felt that, "The policy provides clear guidelines as to the steps to be carried out, how methods are to be recorded and the prior understanding that the pupils need in order to move on to the next step."



*Some of the equipment in the classroom*

The next steps in the school encompass the Maths Lead teacher giving Bar Model training to teachers and support staff. The training encourages displaying and using the equipment to encourage talk about it and improve Maths vocabulary in the classroom. It also helps pupils to use equations to visualize Maths concepts and solve problems. Support staff in particular, should be better in effective questioning. Monitoring the use of resources and diagrams by staff throughout the school will continue. With this increased input, pupils should then be well able, and be seen, to continue to embed the links between learning through the concrete/pictorial approach and the abstract approach in an effective manner.

In the Year 3 class, 92% of children have met the expected standard of progress in Maths. Of the 8% two children, one boy and one girl both have support for Special Educational Needs and Disability and receive free school meals. One of these also benefits from an Education Health and Care Plan. 34% of children have made excellent progress in Maths and are working above national expectations.

The class teacher and I are very grateful for the Canterbury Award and thank the members most sincerely. Next year the remainder of the Award will be spent on more equipment and on holding Maths events.

***Unity Harvey (Alpha Chapter)***

## CANTERBURY AWARD

**Now is the time to think of applying for this award.**

The Canterbury Award has become well-established over the years with the aim of helping members develop both as educators and as enthusiastic members of the Society. Members have undertaken diverse and interesting projects.

There are two avenues members might follow to be considered for the award. Either it will subsidise an **educational project** that you would like to pursue, or the money could go towards expenses for first time **travel** to a Regional or International Conference. In 2019 the Regional Conference is to be held in Iceland. It should be most stimulating and lots of fun!

Please look at our website, [www.dkgeb.org.uk](http://www.dkgeb.org.uk) in the Key Documents section on the home page, where you will be directed to information and application forms.

**The deadline is January 4<sup>th</sup> 2019.**

*Liz Malik (Chair of Canterbury Award Committee)*

## A VISIT TO THE GERMAN STATE CONFERENCE

It was 6am on a bright Thursday morning in May when Diane Billam and I set off for Germany. We were going to attend the German State Conference being held in Rastede. Diane drove us to Gatwick and, as she had booked valet parking, we wasted no time dropping off our luggage, clearing customs, and sitting down with a welcome cup of coffee and something to eat. In less than two hours, we were in Hamburg, en route to our hotel in Oldenburg, which involved catching three trains and then a three minute walk! The first train was easy to negotiate as it was just like our underground trains and it took us to the outskirts of Hamburg to the main line station. Our second train to take us to Bremen was an enormous double-decker. There is a big gap between the trains and the platforms in Germany and you then have to clamber up three very steep steps carrying your luggage! Fortunately, the other passengers were very kind and helped to literally haul me up. Thankfully, once we reached Oldenburg, it was just a three minute walk to our hotel. Alleluia!!!

The hotel was extremely pleasant and welcoming. Tea/coffee, biscuits and cake, also ice-cream, were on offer in a 'help yourself' manner. Once we had located our rooms we met in the Reception area for refreshment. It was not long before

our German sisters started to arrive and, I feel sure, to the puzzlement of other guests in the hotel, 'who were these people giving each other hugs and kisses'??? Daniela, the German President arrived, gave us a great welcome and instructed us as to where we would meet for supper. This was a pleasant restaurant near the river where we sat at a long table and caught up with the news of events having taken place in our respective countries since we last met.

Our Hosts had arranged an 'exploring' day in Oldenburg on Friday. Guided by them we set off in the morning to see the city. Oldenburg is very old and the streets are all cobbled! Not a place to wear fashionable shoes! There was a market in the square which we found fascinating especially as we had heard that the local delicacy was kale. This was much in evidence in all its forms - fresh and pureed. Diane and I made a beeline for the local museum followed by a visit to an art gallery. After lunch, a boat ride on the Hunte River had been arranged. What a pleasant surprise we had on boarding to be greeted by Marika with Prosecco and bagels (which she had apparently made herself). The commentary was given by the daughter of the boat owner. We went first down the river past disused, and newly built, warehouses, and an interesting railway bridge which lifted to let large ships pass. We then turned back and travelled up river past beautiful riverside houses and pleasure boatyards. We were surprised to meet a member of the German group who was English. She had married a German and had lived in Germany for many years. After our boat trip she took us, in her car, for a tour of Oldenburg. It was so enjoyable and we were taken to places we would never have seen otherwise.

The day of the Conference dawned and we went by train to Rastede. It was a short walk to the conference venue, a well-appointed Gymnasium. We were in a large, bright, airy room set out so we all faced each other. The first session, although we did not understand the language, was easy to follow as it was their business meeting. We declined to have interpreters, as it is distracting for their members, but were pleased to be given the occasional whispered explanation. A delicious buffet lunch had been prepared by our German sisters which was to be followed by a visit from refugees who had happily settled in the country.



Diane and I decided we would leave for a while and explore Rastede so that we did not distract with needing explanations. We headed to a beautiful local park

where a Medieval Festival was taking place. We found a café in town, and rejoined the members who had spent an interesting time listening to the accounts of the refugees, their journey to Germany and the success of their lives now. After tea, Daniela gave a workshop on Irish dancing, to which Diane was happy, along with several other members, to take part.

A restaurant in Rastede was booked for dinner. Those members with cars gave the rest of us lifts which were gratefully accepted, especially by Diane and I, after our long walk in the woods. Jean (the English member) gave us a lift back to the hotel. An interesting and happy visit with a great welcome from our German sisters.



**Diane Billam and Evelyn Goodsell** (*Gamma Chapter*)

**Do think about attending the State Conference of one of our European sister states—you will always be made welcome!**

## INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2018

Many of you will know **Gwen Simmons**, the recipient of the 2018 International Achievement Award. The Society annually gives the gold medallion and chain, known as the International Achievement Award, to a leader who has merited recognition for her distinguished record of service to the Society at the international level. Dr. Simmons has been described as a risk taker, a motivator, a communicator, and a visionary. She often takes the least popular view to press others to examine their own stance, creating conversation, reflection, and broadening understanding.



As the 2014-2018 International Parliamentarian, Dr. Simmons' role included being a member of the International Executive Board, the Administrative Board, and the Constitution Interpretation Committee. My experience of her is of a warm, funny human being, who was very moved when receiving the award.

**Kathy Hodgson** (*State President*)

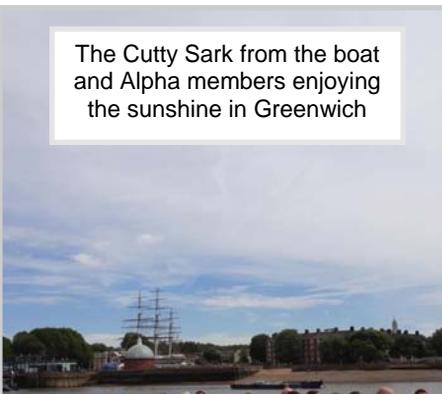
## ALPHA CHAPTER VISIT TO GREENWICH

We had a good walk around Greenwich as far as the path to the Observatory and enjoyed the wonderful sights and weather. After lunch we visited the 'secret' Queen's Garden, full of interest with half the garden allowed to be in its natural state. We then walked through the market where I bought a beautiful little Zebra wood dish for a friend's birthday. It was just the day for a boat trip up river to Westminster. We went past some boats that had free mooring provided they had a growing cherry tree on board – who would have thought of that! **Diana Bell**

I love boats and jumped at the chance to cruise down the river. I was not disappointed. The weather was kind and I learnt many new facts about the city in the present and in the past - "Free mooring for life if you planted a cherry tree on your house boat!" Unfortunately, this discount is not available today but we spotted a few boats with trees on them. Hopeful? A great day out with good friends. An unexpected highlight was the visit to the hidden garden behind the wall bordering Greenwich Park. The wild part, a tangle of weeds, fruit trees and brambles provides a home for the bees. Fascinating. **Lavinia Soul**

I looked forward to seeing the foot tunnel designed by Sir Alexander Binnie, which goes under the River Thames from Tower Hamlets to Greenwich. We met at the foot of Canada Tower at Canary Wharf and travelled by DLR to Island Gardens on the Isle of Dogs and made our way to a quiet coffee shop where we sat in the shade and updated each other on our news. We learned that the tunnel (accessible by lift/spiral staircase) was made from iron coated with concrete and shiny white tiles, took three years to construct and opened in 1902. It is 2.74m in diameter, 370.2m long and 15.2 m deep with entrances each end capped by glazed domes. The noise of shrieking children reminded us of ourselves when young! We surfaced by lift to the relative bustle of tourist filled Greenwich. The tunnel and surrounds did not disappoint. **Unity Harvey**

The Cutty Sark from the boat and Alpha members enjoying the sunshine in Greenwich



A lovely day out starting with our visit to Greenwich via the Greenwich Foot Tunnel under the River Thames, a very tasty lunch at The Plume of Feathers and our introduction to the lovely secret Queen's Garden – what a hidden oasis on the edge of Greenwich Park – with fascinating antique apple picking ladders on display. Then on to Greenwich Market where I fell in love with a wooden bowl which had been “turned” from a tree “growth” - I had to buy it. The culmination was an interesting and funny ad lib commentary on the boat trip back to Westminster with perfect weather for admiring the fascinating architecture – old and new - along the banks of the river.

*Penny Kinnear*



*Billingsgate Market from the river*



*Greenwich Market*

## ROYAL SOCIETY SUMMER EXHIBITION 2018

This year The Royal Society Summer Exhibition was one of the best exhibitions I have ever been to. Within its 22 exhibits it covered a great many aspects of cutting edge science. I have chosen three favourites to write about. The Quadram Institute of Bioscience from Norwich presented ‘**Guardians of the Gut**’. This team are developing ways to improve and protect the bacterial ecosystem inside us to enable it to stay healthy and also to treat disease.

Their interactive display, pictured right, showed how **Bifidobacterium**, the beneficial bacteria that is in our guts from the start, are important for healthy development. When disturbed by, for example, antibiotics we may then be predisposed to get allergies or gut problems. The team are researching how birth conditions and early life can



change our gut bacteria and health. They explained that a Caesarean birth does not allow the baby to get the good bacteria it should when during a normal birth it leaves by the birth canal – the latest simple answer in a caesarean birth is to remove these bacterium from the mother and give them to the baby. I knew the gut was lengthy but hadn't realised if spread out it would cover two tennis courts!

Imperial College and the Natural History Museum presented '**Nurturing Nature's Innovations**'. This exhibit showed how we can learn from some of Nature's ingenious solutions to problems. Slug slime for example has helped develop a new class of medical adhesive. It is 80% water and can make a strong bond with tissues needing



repair even when in contact with blood – such as those inside the body. A small tear in the heart could in the future have a slime slug inspired sticking plaster put on it! There was also a wonderful large scale model of dragonfly wings which all move independently. They are studying how sensory wings such as these and the visual tracking system of insect eyes (Unity and Lavinia viewing this left) could be used in improving the performance of mini-drones, mini wind turbines and visually guided robots.



At another exhibit '**Quantum sensing the brain**', I found that teams at the University of Nottingham and University

College London have collaborated on a project to develop a new helmet brain scanner that can be worn as the person moves around. It detects tiny electromagnetic fields produced by active parts of the brain and is four times more sensitive than conventional machines. The team are hoping to reveal how brain networks are changed in mental health conditions and how they can be 'resculpted' by therapy. I sat with a headset and an Ipad measuring firstly meditation – as I meditated a little ball on the Ipad kept on rising (the higher the better) and the needle showed how relaxed I was – the guy asked if I practiced meditation (I nearly said after 20 years as a headteacher relaxing in a noisy crowd was easy!). I also scored well on concentration. Apparently older people were doing much better in the tests than younger ones, I thought this was odd considering how much time young people spend concentrating on social and games media.

**Diana Bell** (Alpha Chapter)

## HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE



Nine members of Gamma plus two husbands had a lovely meeting at Herstmonceux Castle. Although the castle is most appealing we spent our time outside in the attractive themed gardens. The castle was built in the 15th century and was unique at the time because it is built of bricks. It was a most impressive backdrop to our wanderings.

First we admired the perennials in the Elizabethan Garden. Striking were the tall thistles. The raised beds of the Herb Garden gave us much to talk about as many of the plants, eg. Evening Primrose, had been/were used for medicinal purposes. This led to the Shakespeare Garden, a Knot garden with plants referred to in Shakespeare's writings. The scents of the Rose Garden pulled us forward. A wonderful display intermingled with seven sundials, the largest of which was a marvellous piece of design and timekeeping. We wandered happily through the trees to lunch and chatter.



There was more to come! We walked around the castle moat and admired the floating Lily Pads a la Monet! Well, that is an exaggeration, but it did remind us of Monet and that has to be good. A lovely summer's day enjoyed by all.

**Gloria Redston** (Gamma Chapter)  
<https://www.herstmonceux-castle.com>

*Gamma members  
enjoying a Sunny day at  
Bewl Water, see article on  
the next page*



## BEWL WATER

It was a bright, sunny morning in July when six members of Gamma Chapter met at Bewl Water. Naturally coffee was the first item on our agenda. Catering facilities at Bewl Water have greatly improved since we last visited and we were able to locate a table overlooking the water but out of the hot sun, all very pleasant.

Whilst we were enjoying the very relaxed atmosphere and scene, one of us voiced a desire to take a boat trip. Just at that moment, quite a coincidence, the Captain of the pleasure boat walked by and we were able to ask him how/when we could book a trip. He said he was taking a booked group at 12 noon and if we liked we could be on board as well. He then went on to say that the boat was fully booked but, if we arrived at 11.45am, it would be OK!! Even though, feeling rather guilty, we decided to do so and were settled comfortably when the booked party arrived. We received some rather puzzled looks as they boarded the boat, but all was well as many of them preferred to stand outside at the bow.



*Gamma members enjoying the boat trip*

The Captain gave us an interesting commentary as we travelled around pointing out the various wildlife and different properties bordering the water. Bewl Water is a reservoir man-made in the valley of the River Bewl, an area of outstanding natural beauty. At eight-hundred acres it is the largest stretch of open water in South East England. At the end of our trip it was time for lunch! We made our way along a path at the edge of the water to the Bistro. Another very pleasant building with a restaurant upstairs and a boat house below. We made our way upstairs to a table, again overlooking the water, and we all ordered the recommended fish and chips.

They were freshly cooked and delicious!

It was a most enjoyable day and a big 'thank you', from us all, to Liz for organising it.

***Evelyn Goodsell*** (Gamma Chapter)

## FOUR YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

I'm really happy that I was encouraged by others to take on the role of Chapter President. It was both a challenge and pleasure to have this opportunity at this stage of my life and to be able to make a larger contribution to the group.



As soon as I joined DKG I was impressed by the loyalty, camaraderie and commitment of everyone involved. Having the opportunity to attend a Regional Conference soon after cemented this realization and gave me a flavour of the whole organisation, the passion and aims for education for present and future generations.

As President I very much enjoyed searching for speakers who would entertain as well as educate us and broadcast our existence in the area. The teamwork with this aspect indicated how well we can work together for a common cause.

I was incredibly touched by the lovely card and beautiful handmade butterfly I was presented with at the gathering in Sheila's garden on a perfect summer's day. The butterfly hangs in my kitchen window where I sit each day as a great reminder of the last four years.

I thank each and every member for their support and guidance and feel proud of the progress we are always striving for. I wish Carole and Marian all the best for the next biennium.

**Liz Malik** (*President Gamma Chapter 2014-2018*)



The gathering at Sheila's included pool time



## ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT

I first became involved with DKG Alpha Chapter approximately 5 years ago and eventually became Chapter Vice President in 2016. I feel honoured to have been asked to be Chapter President 2018-2020 and look forward to the next two years in my new role. My background and experience in teaching has been in Primary Schools, having taught Nursery to Y6 over more than 40 years in a total of four schools – three in London and one in Belfast - as teacher, Acting Deputy Head, Deputy Head and Acting Headteacher.



Alpha Chapter continues to enjoy a range of interesting visits and speakers covering a variety of topics, despite some of our plans having to be quickly adapted/changed at the last minute. In May a group visited the Brunei Gallery at the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) to see the then current exhibition of 19<sup>th</sup> Century photographs of life in China and Siam taken by London photographer Richard Thompson. We were fortunate enough to be given a guided tour by the curator of the exhibition which made it even more enjoyable. This was followed by coffee and cake in a local cafe.

Our Summer Outing was brought forward to June when we took the DLR to Island Gardens on The Isle of Dogs and walked along the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Foot Tunnel under the River Thames to Greenwich. A walk through Greenwich Park to a leisurely lunch at the Plume of Feathers, a visit to the Queen's Orchard (part of the Greenwich Palace complex), then a stroll through Greenwich Market (some shopping and ice cream) and finishing with a boat trip down the river to Westminster, made for an excellent day. The annual visit to the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition in July proved as interesting and thought-provoking as ever with

As our original planned programme with a guest speaker for our final meeting in July had not been possible, it was decided to devote the afternoon to a forward planning and revitalisation discussion, which proved very productive.

Looking at how we can move forward, by restructuring our 2018-2019 programme, it has been decided to reduce our business meetings to three a year – September, February and July. Also, to hold two Saturday morning meetings with high calibre speakers focusing on key topics, issues and research relating to education today.

Finally, I would like to thank outgoing Chapter President Barbara Kern for her

invaluable support and guidance throughout my time as Vice President.

**Penny Kinnear** (*Alpha Chapter President*) 2018—2020)



### Forthcoming Alpha Chapter meetings Autumn 2018:

**13<sup>th</sup> October:** Joint Alpha & Gamma Revitalisation Meeting led by Carolyn Pittman, DKG International President. Venue 63 Bayswater Road, London W2 3PH.(Sorooptimist HQ). Coffee at 9.30 for a 10.00am start. Finish by 4.00pm.

**10<sup>th</sup> November:** Implementation Session (ideas from Revitalisation Meeting). Venue Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, SE21 7AL. 'Bring & Share' lunch. Lunch at 12.45, meeting begins at 2.00 - 4.00pm.

**1<sup>st</sup> December:** Christmas Celebration. Join us to make a special Christmas decoration, organised and led by Dorcas Rogers. This will be followed by a Christmas lunch. Venue Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bryan Road, Rotherhithe. London SE16 5HF. 10:30am – 3:00pm.



### 2019:

**12<sup>th</sup> January:** Local Speaker – Lindsay McHale speaking on an aspect of Music Therapy, or alternative member speakers – 'Views of Australia' by Lavinia Soul & Haiti Education update by Anna Evans. tbc 2:00pm. Venue Dulwich Hamlet Junior School . 'Bring & Share' lunch 12:45pm

**9<sup>th</sup> February:** Main Business Meeting - Agenda to be circulated 2:00pm Venue: DHJS - "Bring & Share" Lunch 12:45pm

**NB** Business Meetings – there will be 3 **Main Business Meetings** per year. (September, February & July):

- Timed Agenda (further responses to be sent by email)
- Members to email in advance if they wish a topic to be on the agenda
- Important elements to be added where necessary – short/timed.

**9<sup>th</sup> March:** Speaker tbc – 'Topical' issues relating to education such as mental health, drugs and gangs. Two speakers in central London venue & time tbc.

**6<sup>th</sup> April:** Annual State Conference held at the De Vere Devonport House Hotel, King William Walk, Greenwich, London SE10 9JW

**18<sup>th</sup> May:** Morning session – two speakers on issues relating to education, ‘How Learners Learn’, STEM subjects. Central London venue tbc 9:30am for 10:00am finish at 1:00pm.

**22<sup>nd</sup> June:** Alpha Summer Outing.

**1<sup>st</sup> week of July:** Date to be agreed. Visit to The Royal Society Summer Exhibition. This is usually bursting with cutting edge scientific ideas. Some members consider it the best exhibition ever!

**20<sup>th</sup> July:** Main Business Meeting. Agenda to be circulated. Venue: DHJS. ‘Bring & Share’ Lunch from 12:45pm. Meeting from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

## GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT



I feel very privileged to have been asked to be President of Gamma Chapter at such an exciting and challenging time. I think the next two years are going to be very special, I can't wait!

I am a retired Primary School teacher, having taught across the whole age range but spending most of my time in years five and six. I taught in four schools in Dorset and Kent, becoming an Assistant Head, a Deputy Head and an Acting Head for a while. What a lot of changes you see in over forty years of teaching and sometimes the same ideas (but with a different name!) coming around for the second or third time.

One of my colleagues introduced me to Delta Kappa Gamma and I soon realised what an amazing organisation it is. I was surprised by the opportunities available to members and the warmth and friendliness of all the members at Chapter Meetings meant they soon became very good friends. When I attended a Regional Conference in Malmo, Sweden I began to understand what it meant to be part of such an international organisation.

Gamma Chapter has been very fortunate to have Liz Malik as President for the previous four years. Under her inspirational leadership we have been fortunate enough to have passionate, informative speakers who were engaging and entertaining. She also organised some exciting and different outings in the glorious

summer months. We went to Bewl Water and had a boat trip as well as a delicious fish and chip lunch; the whole day was a complete success. Later in the summer Liz arranged a visit to Herstonceaux Castle. I was unable to attend but everyone who did had a wonderful time.

I would like to thank Liz for all her hard work, support and the example she has been to us all. She will be a very hard act to follow. I would also like to thank Marian Bowles for agreeing to be my vice president. She has already been an amazing support in the meetings we have had to plan the programme for the coming year.

I am so excited to see what the next two years holds for us all. The Revitalisation initiative promises to be the most important thing we've explored in years. Just think, if each of us introduced just one new member we'd double in size virtually overnight! Watch this space.

**Carole Stirling** (*Gamma Chapter President 2018—2020*)



### **Forthcoming Gamma Chapter meetings Autumn 2018**

**29<sup>th</sup> September.** Rebekah Domer, a member of the Darvell Bruderhof Community in Robertsbridge, will share with us the ethos of the Community's life together, their views on the education of children, and family life. Rebekah works as a volunteer hospice chaplain, copies of her book, 'Broken but Blessed: Journeying from Pain to Peace with Unlikely Guides', will be available at the event. 10:00 for 10:30. Beechwood School, Tunbridge Wells.

**13<sup>th</sup> October. All members to the Revitalisation Meeting at number 63 Bayswater Road. 9.30 coffee for 10.00 start. Finishes by 4.00pm.**

**24<sup>th</sup> November.** Learn about Body Language with Jean Brushfield. 10:00 for 10:30 at Beechwood School, Tunbridge Wells.

**8<sup>th</sup> December.** Christmas Party. Details to follow.



**2019:**

**19<sup>th</sup> January.** Life as a Celebrant, Pat Jay will speak on this interesting subject. 10:00 for 10:30am at Beechwood School, Tunbridge Wells.

**23<sup>th</sup> February.** Picasso, Liz Strang will talk about this amazing artist. 10:00 for 10:30. Beechwood School, Tunbridge Wells.

## LIFE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Left: Ann Grosjean and Kathleen Lozinak – both Connecticut members and Leadership Management Seminar recipients – with Kathy Hodgson

Right:  
The little and large of the European Forum committee - Kathy Hodgson and Daniela von Essen (Germany)



### + Mott Hall Bridges Academy

- 24 scholars enrolled
- 100% Black and Latino
- 100% Free or Reduced Lunch
- 56% Individual Education Plan
- 100% Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade are on K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade English and Math Level
- Average attendance was 47%

Mott Hall is the academy set up by Nadia Lopez which was the basis of her speech at the International Convention, see pages 4-5.

On September 8th 2010, Mott Hall Bridges Academy opened with 24 students—fewer than originally planned. Within the month the number had risen to 45. The school is seen by many families as a safe zone in a crime-plagued neighbourhood and a gateway out of generational poverty for those born with few advantages in life.

## **DKG Opportunities for all members**

- \* **Share and learn together in an international society especially for women in education.**
- \* **Enjoy annual international conferences with colleagues and friends from many different countries.**
- \* **Develop personal and professional skills, including leadership.**
- \* **Become an international speaker in North America or Europe with all expenses paid.**
- \* **Opportunities include:**
  - \* **Regular meetings with great speakers on interesting topics in London and Kent.**
  - \* **Scholarships available for individual projects.**
  - \* **Outstanding leadership & management training at The University of Texas. (Golden Gift).**

There are many more opportunities available – view the DKG websites for the full list.

**International Headquarters: [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)**

Details of GB meetings are on the website

**Great Britain: [www.dkggb.org.uk](http://www.dkggb.org.uk)**

Find out more about DKG in Europe

**Europe: [www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org)**

### **Mission Statement**

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