



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA



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This edition includes some reports for which there was no room in the previous edition. They all add to the variety of activities and initiatives reported in GB News and on our website www.dkggb.org.

There will be more to report on the Revitalisation programme at our Conference in Greenwich on 6 April 2019. Please look out for the registration form, which will be sent to you by email shortly, and return it as soon as you can as our State President needs the numbers in good time to inform the hotel. This is a return visit: we enjoyed our time at the hotel and in Greenwich so much the first time that it was decided to repeat the experience!

Contributions for the next edition should be with me by 7 May please, in Word with any photos attached to an email. The font should be Arial, size 10, although I can change it if necessary. Chapter presidents will have organised reports and photos of any Chapter events – let's share our activities with each other!

Photos are by members unless otherwise stated.

Front Page shows the European Forum Committee in November 2018.

Back row: Ria Logtenberg (The Netherlands), Daniela von Essen (Germany)

Middle row: Terttu-Triin Tomusk (Estonia), Helga Magnea Steinsson (Iceland), Elisabeth Stärner (Sweden – Chair), Iida Hyvönen (Finland)

Front row: Barbara Carlsen (Norway), Kathrin Hodgson (Great Britain)

dibillam@hotmail.com

Kathy Hodgson

STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT 2017—2019



Moving into 2019, and my final tenure as State President looming, my thoughts are turning towards the future of Great Britain as a fully functioning part of DKG. We had a really successful and well-attended meeting in October when Carolyn Pittman, our immediate past International President, travelled over the pond to help us focus our minds on Revitalisation. Of course, a single meeting does not resolve underlying problems of membership – what is important is to continue the impetus. We have two chapters remaining, in different areas, and it is from those two chapters that revitalisation must come.

Sheila Roberts, as chair of our Revitalisation committee, has worked tirelessly and with such enthusiasm, but it needs effort on the part of us all, in order to achieve our goal – increased membership. As I write, I know that Alpha chapter has already agreed a plan of action; a group of Gamma members will meet at the beginning of January to decide their next steps.

I have always been warned – never go back – but this year our State Conference is to be held on **Saturday 6th April 2019 at the De Vere Venues Devonport Hotel, Greenwich, SE10 9JW** – a venue we visited in 2017. Feedback from those who attended were extremely favourable, and it is in a central, easily accessible location. We plan to have several speakers, on the theme of **Mental Health in Schools**, as well as the Annual General Meeting.

You will be receiving a registration form via email in the next few weeks. Please put the date in your diary, and complete the form as soon as you can – it saves us a lot of time and worry when members commit early!

Another big event is the European Regional Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland from 25-27 July, 2019. I have never travelled to Iceland, but am looking forward to discovering a new part of the world. If you have never attended a Regional Conference, this would be a really fascinating place to start. By the time you read this, there should be more information available on the European website: www.dkgeurope.org

Finally, as my second biennium comes to an end in June, now is the time to think about selecting new state officers for the coming biennium; certainly the Executive Committee has had this high on the agenda for the past few meetings. However, anyone can nominate officers – you can even nominate yourself!

I wrote something similar two years ago and, because no-one stepped forward, I agreed to continue for a further two years as state president. According to international rules and our own byelaws, I am not permitted to continue beyond June 2019, and neither would I wish to. Fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm are required in order for our organisation to flourish.

Taking on the responsibility of state president may feel a daunting step – it did for me – but, trust me, the rewards are truly massive. You will learn so much more about the organisation and, more importantly, about yourself.

Happy new year.

Kathy Hodgson (State President)

EUROPEAN FORUM COMMITTEE 2-4 November 2018

My third year as Great Britain's representative on the European Forum was the first in which I did not have the responsibility of chairing the committee. I have passed on the gavel to Elisabeth Stärner from Sweden who is doing a brilliant job. We had already had a virtual meeting via Skype before we met together.

Our meeting took place in Rastede, Germany – a small, very pretty town somewhere between Bremen and Hamburg. Daniela von Essen, our German representative, had kindly organised accommodation for each of the members, as well as the location of our meeting.

The journey was long but interesting; I flew from Gatwick to Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, and caught a train from there to Groningen in the Netherlands. What an amazing way to access the station platforms from the airport – each had a lift from within the airport to the required platform – I've never seen anything like it – how efficient! In Groningen, I was met by Ria Logtenberg, the Dutch member, and we completed the trip in her car – a further hour or so. The weather was glorious – dry and crisp – and we arrived on time and, certainly in my case, quite refreshed.

Our new Regional Director, Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, joined us for the meeting. We gathered together in Daniela's home for a meal and to begin work on what was an extensive agenda. We discussed the nominations for the European Achievement Award in preparation for a more thorough look and decision the following day. There were not nominations from all of the European countries, and it was suggested that all new State Presidents should be reminded of the deadline, during their training, for nominations by 15th October of even numbered years.

The bulk of our work took place on the Saturday at Sportforum VfL, Rastede. It was a very long day, but we made good progress and the most important information to report includes the following:

- The International Conference – in Reykjavik, Iceland – begins at 5:00 pm on Thursday 25 July and lasts until 3:00 pm on Saturday 27 July (this is one day shorter than in previous years). Leadership training will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday (23-24 July). Recently renamed breakout sessions are to revert to their previous title: workshops.
- Tours in Iceland are still being investigated; it is possible that tours will not be organised as part of the conference activities, but information provided for attendees to make their own plans. Please check the European and Icelandic websites for latest news.
- Discussion of pre-conference - consideration was given as to what would encourage members to arrive early. The possibility of visiting two or three schools – perhaps on the Thursday morning – was a strong contender – watch this space!
- Nominations for the Achievement Award were considered once again and a recipient decided upon. Hopefully, an appropriate award will be designed and made by a college student studying art.
- Celebrating Europe Luncheon – this is to be organised by Iceland; they will be asking for involvement from members.
- It was agreed that the yearly fee for the European website should be paid from the Forum budget.
- The future of EuForia was considered and all members were to be asked to complete a very short questionnaire about whether they read EuForia on a regular basis to assess whether it is still necessary in light of the greater use of websites. **Note:** this survey has been sent to members – sadly, less than 10% of European members have so far responded. If you have not yet done so, please let the Regional Director and the Chair of the Forum Committee know what you think by following the link.
- Exchange Programme – specifically for younger members - Daniela will write some words that will appear on the European website, and can be used at chapter and state meetings.

The next meeting of the Forum Committee will take place on the weekend of 1-3 November in Tallinn.

Kathrin Hodgson (European Forum Member)



Picture of a house Kathy particularly liked in Rastede

REVITALISATION

Carolyn Pittman, Immediate Past International President DKG

At Number 63 Bayswater Road, on 13th October 2018.

Carolyn mentioned using 'Time to Think' by Nancy Klein

What is it that you value about DKG?

- Celebration and value of female educators
- Community
- Opportunities to listen
- Interesting speakers
- Respect for a teacher's role
- Know about what is happening in different countries (Europe and US) meeting, travelling
- Give our expertise to the society (Eg Climate change)
- Supportive friendship with other teachers especially in difficult times
- Networking
- Leadership, management (opportunities)
- Opportunities to make friendships worldwide
- Non-judgemental equality (but accepting)
- Supportive friendship within group and helping financially students from abroad
- Hearing and considering different perspectives
- Friendship, challenge and learning
- Discovery and friendship
- Making connections and expanding knowledge
- Learning about a wide range of subjects – the whole of education (not just teachers)
- A springboard for us to follow interests
- Old friends
- Building confidence
- Sharing of knowledge and experience
- The international aspect
- Friendship and travel

- Friendship and opportunities
- Encouragement to do things you didn't think you could do

Challenges

	World fellowship?
	Projects
<i>Communication</i>	Getting the message out effectively
<i>Communication</i>	Personal contact
	Diversity (ethnic mix)
<i>Access/Communication</i>	Getting past the Data Protection Act
<i>Finance</i>	Having a base/venue eg when advertising meetings
<i>Communication/ Finance</i>	Funding and marketing (Expert)
<i>Communication/Finance/ Membership</i>	Growth and succession
	Natural reserve
	Restricted access to schools
<i>Communication/ Knowledge</i>	Need to embrace technology
<i>Structure</i>	Flexibility
<i>Communication</i>	Sharing with people who have issues informally
<i>Communication</i>	Listening to each other
<i>Knowledge</i>	Possibly up-skilling
<i>Structure</i>	Give and take meetings
<i>Structure</i>	Introduction of 'Open meetings'
<i>Finance</i>	Education foundation fund
<i>External</i>	Competition from other organisations

What are the issues of:

Speakers? Personal communication?
Marketing? Relevant range of methods?
Chapter discussion? Schools?

What are the issues?

Why are they issues?

How can the issues be addressed?

Begin to develop a plan for
(Communication)

- Who? What? When? Where? How?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

World Fellowship

State Project. (Discussed some ideas such as) Haiti (Canterbury Award), Cambodia.

Communication Marketing, funding

Website

Audience postcard.

Simple postcard.

Professional, short. (Shiny ,red). Who contact name, DKG email. Use quotes (from page 1).

Elisha will co-ordinate (words). Sheila will co-ordinate card.

January distribution. Give to members in a meeting. Distribute twice.

Respond. Immediate response.

Book Project

'Women who changed the world'. (Carole's suggested book).

2 Chapter Presidents to put on agenda to discuss and identify schools.

(Janet offered to distribute some books).

Postcard, continued.

Elisha design cards, Sheila will print. Chapter Presidents will put on agenda.

Give to each member to distribute. Distribute in January. Chapter rep sets up email address to see response.

Send common response.

March 2nd card to non-responders.



Evelyn thanks Carolyn

GREAT BRITAIN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award, consisting of a rose brooch in silver and amber, is given biennially and is Great Britain's way of honouring a member for something special.

Nominations are now invited for the recipient of this special award for 2019

The criteria are:

- must have been an active GB member for at least five years.
- must have shown one or more of the following:
 - professional achievement that has:
 - raised the profile of the society in Great Britain
 - raised the profile of Great Britain within the European Region and/or the International Society through service or achievement within the Society
 - shown distinguished personal development or courage in adversity such that it provides motivation to others
 - provided a special service for Great Britain State

Please submit any nominations, with a **short citation (50 words)**, before 28th February, 2019 to the Chair of the GB Achievement Award Committee, Liz Malik, Elizabethandfarid@btinternet.com so that if necessary a postal ballot can be held before the State Conference. An acknowledgement of your nomination will be sent.

The award will be announced at the GB Annual General Meeting.

Previous recipients: Lillian Lynch (Gamma), Phyllis Kern (Alpha), Loetitia Stone (Beta), Pam Irons (Gamma), Mary Wardrop (Gamma), Joan Carroll (Alpha), Evelyn Goodsell (Gamma).

CANTERBURY AWARD

Now is the time to think of applying for the 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.

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 **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 the website where you will be directed to information and application forms. The deadline is 18 January 2019.

Liz Malik,

Chair of Canterbury Award Committee.

Elizabethandfarid@btinternet.com

PROJECT PERIOD

Project Period was created by my close friend Nina Cassells after she learned about the problems schoolgirls in Kenya experience. Many of them miss school when they have their periods because they either cannot afford or do not have access to ordinary forms of sanitary protection. After coming up with the idea she was kind enough to approach me because she believed I was the right kind of person to be on the team. It was an offer I was very humbled to receive and could not refuse after she had explained the potential impact we could make on girls who are struggling to deal with their periods and learning how to feel empowered.

Five members were able to go to Kenya in July 2018, Nina Cassells, Tara Tijani, Susanna Odedina, Sera Mustafa and me. Fundraising was completed in many different ways to achieve our grand total of £2,000. Our biggest source of income was from our *Just Giving* page online, which we were able to promote through our Project Period social media platforms as well as our personal ones. We had friends who held gigs and shows and kindly let us collect money at the doors for the cause and even donated all the ticket sales. Lastly we used a

connection we had to a pub near our college to throw parties for our peers. We were able to raise over our total and purchase more than 200 menstrual cups. These are a hygienic, re-usable form of protection lasting up to 5 years. So Project Period was able to go ahead with support in Kenya from the charity Garden of Hope there.

Because all the girls on the Project Period team are from the BRIT School in Croydon we are all confident enough to create a workshop that was inclusive and interactive. We included name games at the beginning of the workshop to make sure that the girls were feeling more confident to talk about a taboo subject. Then we made sure the girls had the menstrual cups in front of them when we were talking about them so that they were able to hold the product and take in what we were teaching them. Then again, to make the topic fun and exciting we incorporated games into the teaching process so that they were able to see the subject of menstruation in a positive light! At first the majority were very shy and reserved when asked to get involved however, the more they got used to the technique of interactive learning, the more they enjoyed themselves. It was so encouraging to see the progression of each and every girl's confidence throughout the workshop. It was incredible to see the majority of them change their mentality into such a positive state of mind when talking about taboo subjects.

My first impression of Kenya was amazing. What I got to see of the land was a mixture of rural and urban, both as incredible as each other. The beauty of the open spaces and the scale of the buildings in the working city was a mix I didn't think I would see anywhere. It truly impressed me. The same applied to all the people we met. Kenyan people had an overwhelmingly welcoming attitude. From each shop assistant in Nairobi to the head of the charity we partnered with in Kibera, everyone had time for you. That in fact was the biggest culture shock, coming from London which, although it has a big place in my heart, can be a very cold city at times. There was such a difference in how people treat each other and strangers, which made the place so carefree and happy. Even in Kibera, one of the largest slums in the world, people were welcoming. The charity we were able to collaborate with had a team of people who all had such big hearts and hopes of helping people. Every member was passionate and driven about helping young people in Kibera become more knowledgeable and help them try to break the cycle of staying in the slum. We as a group of Western girls learnt very quickly that looking at the positives in life should be at the forefront of everyone's mind. I can truly say that my friends and I learned countless lessons from Kenyan people without them having any idea of how much they were opening our eyes to the true meaning of having a positive

perspective on life. Each and every girl, boy, man and woman we were able to meet had an impact on us and we could only hope we did the same with this project. The majority of teenagers from the U.K. are confident straight away when meeting someone new but the Kenyan girls we met need time to establish that they are allowed to be talking out of turn. However, when they get used to the new people and more comfortable it is hard to see the differences. They all want to laugh and joke. They all want to dance and smile. They want to be as carefree as possible.

We were able to experience something of Kenya when we were not working in schools. The wildlife we were able to see was breathtaking. Although it wasn't easy for 5 teenage girls to wake up at 4.a.m. after a week of working, going on a safari was incredible. As I mentioned earlier, the mix of rural and urban in Kenya is such a great mix. While we were in the incredible national park we could see the amazing city in the distance. The animals in their natural habitat were beautiful to see and something I will never forget. We were also able to go to markets and shops selling hand made goods. We were able to go to a centre selling amazing Kazuri beads and buy stunning hand made jewellery. And we were able to go to a market near where we were staying and buy t-shirts, art and bags. We did try to embrace every aspect of Kenya we could while we were there and every minute was unforgettable.

As a team we received so much encouraging feedback it is easy to feel that we made a positive impact. We were told by teachers and leaders we had around us which made us so fulfilled because they were the support network holding us up out there. However, it was so rewarding to hear the feedback straight from the girls. When you hear from their mouths that the menstrual cup is going to make their life easier forever it is a feeling of pride you will never lose. The fact that they are able to take a solution you gave them and progress with their life of education that could potentially lead them out of poverty is an act that is unmatched. I am writing this before I go off to our next Project Period meeting to talk about the next place we want to visit and try to make plans! We want to do this again and will strive to because, as I said in the film we have now put on You Tube about Project Period, "You should always have time and space in your heart to help people less fortunate than you".

Thank you for reading about our beloved Project Period.

Eirinn Carroll

*Eirinn singing at our
conference in Kingston.*



OPERATION MUSICAL

I was asked to train and direct a choir of village children in a musical called Operation Musical. Fredi Claus, a local piano teacher and former engineer, arranged the music for an all comers orchestra, wrote the lyrics, and directed the orchestra. It was very much a team effort which I enjoyed enormously. Some 40 children aged between 6 and 16 took part.

The moral of the story was the triumph of true friendship over fame, glory, and mobiles!! The performance took place at 10.00 pm at night in our lovely hot summer climate and it was all in Catalan. Parents really entered into the spirit of the occasion, making and erecting stage furniture, directing and calming the children, and generally helping all to flow beautifully. As you may be able to see from the pictures we were all wearing sunglasses. Roll on next year's!

The village choir, which I also direct, gave a concert in July and resumes rehearsals in September. Meanwhile the German choir and I are preparing for a weekend tour to Germany.

Carol Dawson

(Gamma Chapter)



Performers at the Concert



CELEBRATION IN POLAND

My first ever visit to Poland at the beginning of May was at the invitation of Polish friends who had relocated back to Poland in February 2017. Reason for the invitation? Their 7 year old (8 in July) daughter Weronika was to celebrate her first Holy Communion. Home for the Bryk family is in the lovely old town of Nysa on the Nysa Klodzka river, in South West Poland, in what was once known as Lower Silesia.



Nysa is one of the oldest towns in Silesia. It was probably founded in the 10th Century. The town's fortifications from 1350 served to defend against the Hussites in 1424. During the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) it was besieged three times. The first Silesian War (1740-41), ended Austrian sovereignty over Silesia and left the town in the hands of King Frederick II of Prussia, who laid the foundations of its modern fortifications. On 25 August 1769 Neisse was the site of a meeting between Frederick II and Emperor Joseph II, co-regent in the Habsburg Monarchy of Austria. During the Napoleonic Wars, Neisse was taken by the French in 1807. It retained its mostly Catholic character within the predominantly Protestant province of Silesia in the Kingdom of Prussia. Because of its many churches from the Gothic and Baroque periods the town was nicknamed "the Silesian Rome". From 1816-1911, the town was the seat of the Neisse District, after which it became an independent city.

After World War I, Neisse became part of the new Province of Upper Silesia. Conquered by the Red Army during World War II, the town was placed under Polish administration according to the Potsdam Agreement and renamed to the Polish *Nysa*. The town's German population was largely evacuated or forcibly expelled and replaced with Poles, many of whom were themselves expelled or resettled from what is now Western Ukraine.

My journey began with an 8am flight on the Friday from Luton Airport (another first for me) which meant being picked up at 5am – predicted roadworks on the Airport perimeter road turned out not to be as threatening as expected. Arrival at Wroclaw - "Vrotswaf" - Airport (Polish pronunciation continues to defeat me) was followed by a one and a half hour drive to Nysa.

After a quick lunch we headed out, on the way visiting the florist who was making Weronika's headband and then for a tour of some of the highlights of

Nysa. First was a visit to the oldest church of St Peter and Paul with its stunning interior. It belonged to the Fathers of the Holy Sepulchre and is a masterpiece of Baroque architecture.



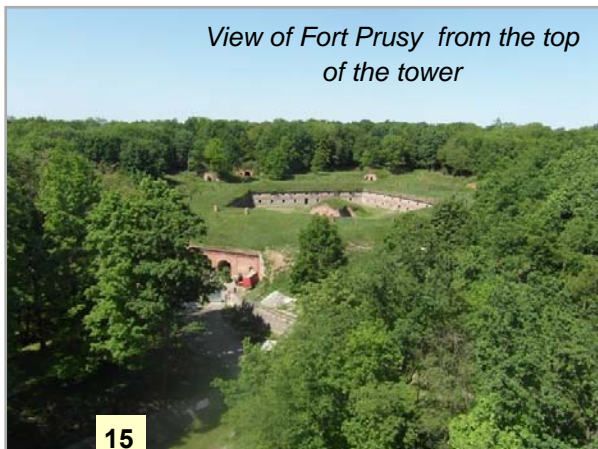
Interior of St Peter and St Paul Church

Then to the biggest Church which was recently designated "The Basilica", where we admired its stunning stained glass windows.

Fully satiated, after a visit to a local cafe to sample some yummy cakes, we headed out to Morow, to my friend Dorota's family home. It was great to meet up with her parents and her sister again, as I hadn't seen them since their last visits to London a few years ago, and to finally meet her brother who has lived in Ireland for the past 12 years with his family.

Saturday was to be another busy day. We spent the morning visiting an area where my friends have bought a plot with an old ramshackle dwelling which will need a lot of renovation and includes a large piece of overgrown land which they eventually plan to turn into a lovely garden with a vegetable section.

The afternoon involved a visit to the Church where Weronika was to do her "Second Confession" – Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Church. In total 156 children (in two groups) were due to take part in their First Communion the following day, Sunday. Weronika was to be in the second group. Children were led in turn in small groups to one of the four Confessionals where they had to recite a rehearsed confession.



View of Fort Prusy from the top of the tower

When this was over we headed out to Fort Prusy, one of the largest fortifications in Europe. At the entrance to the fort stands a tower which was built by the Germans during the Second World War Occupation. Climbing 105

steps to the top you get a brilliant view of the fort. The fortification, in urgent need of renovation, is managed by a group of volunteers who rely on donations from visitors as no funding has as yet been forthcoming from official quarters.

Later in the afternoon we headed back to Morow for a family Sunday BBQ, room only for those who didn't get there early enough.

At 12:30pm it was time to head to the Restaurant for the celebration meal. A table overflowing with food. Three courses – a traditional Chicken Consommé with noodles to start, a platter of every kind of meat, vegetables, rice, potatoes, etc displays of fruits and delicious pastries! Dessert was a slice of Weronika's specially made cake. At 3:00pm we had to return to the Church where both groups of children joined together (156) for a Blessing and to receive their Communion Certificate and Commemorative Communion Bible. Then it was outside into the brilliant sunshine for each group to be photographed.



Group photo at the end of the service



Penny with Weronika

Later we all relaxed back at the flat whilst Weronika opened all the cards and presents which she had received from family and friends.

Sadly, the next morning saw me up in the wee small hours for my one and a half hour car journey back to Wroclaw Airport, as my fantastic first trip to Poland was over.

Penny Kinnear (Alpha Chapter)

2019 will be a great year for conferences!



GB State Conference will be held at the De Vere Venues Devenport Hotel, Greenwich, on Saturday 6 April 2019. The registration form will be sent to you by email shortly. Please look out for it, and respond as quickly as possible. In the meantime, please put the date into your diary—if it is not there already!

European Regional Conference, Reykjavik, Iceland,

27—29 July 2019.

The European website, www.dkgeurope.org, has more details. If you have been to Iceland before, you will want to go again! If you have not, this is a golden opportunity to go.

Beautiful views across the River Thames from the top of the mediaeval church tower that is part of the museum building. See report on page 18.



17

THE GARDEN MUSEUM

Following Alpha Chapter's decision to offer a wider range of informal member-led visits during this biennium, the first one took place on 28th September 2018 when 3 members visited the Garden Museum which is in Southwark, next to Lambeth Palace. The museum was founded in the former church of St. Mary's at Lambeth; an appropriate place for it housing as it does everything to do with the history and practice of gardening, because it is also the burial place of John Tradescant who, in the seventeenth century became the first great gardener and plant hunter in British history. The exhibits and collections are many and varied and there is an educational programme for children with a range of hands-on activities. The museum also holds talks and events linked with the exhibitions they hold throughout the year.

The special exhibition on display when we visited was of the work of twentieth century water colour artist Cicely Mary Barker who produced paintings and poems for children's books with the theme of "Flower Fairies". The botanical accuracy and detail of the plants and trees plus the delicacy and liveliness of the children that were the subjects of her work have made her books popular worldwide from the 1920s, when she first started producing them, to the present day. Cicely lived in Croydon and studied art at Croydon College. After the death of her parents she lived in the family home with her sister who ran a kindergarten there. Cicely used the sketches she made of the pupils at play as the Fairies in her paintings and the poems were a charming addition. I admit I suggested this visit for nostalgic reasons. My father bought me the Flower Fairy Alphabet book when I was about four years old. Not only did I learn to read and to memorise some of the little verses, I also loved the illustrations and through them developed a life-long interest in botany and gardening.

Before we left the museum we bravely decided to climb the mediaeval church tower that is part of the museum building. The views of London from the top after successfully tackling the 131 very uneven steps of the spiral staircase were well worth it however. After all our exertions we were very pleased when we found an old fashioned pub not too far away where we could relax over lunch before the journey home. Alpha chapter plans this idea of informal weekday visits whereby any member planning to visit a gallery, museum, exhibition or other event sends a general email to other members giving details of time, place etc. so that anyone interested can join her. We hope this will meet a wider range of members' interests and offer opportunities to meet socially between more formal meetings.

18

Joan Carroll (Alpha Chapter)

ALPHA CHRISTMAS AT ROTHERHITHE

Menu

Aperitif: Glass of Prosecco

Starter: Pate and Toast or Butternut Squash Soup

Main Course: Turkey and all the trimmings or Vegetable Pie - served with new potatoes and medley of vegetables

Dessert: Christmas Pudding or Fruit Salad

Followed by: Cheese Platter and Coffee/Tea

Choice of Red or White Wine

Where is this restaurant I hear you ask? It's none other than the pop-up "Rotherhithe Restaurant" run by Dorcas and her husband Ray. Our Alpha Christmas event this year saw us gathering at Holy Trinity Church, Rotherhithe for a lovely Christmas Lunch preceded by a Christmas Craft activity led by Dorcas. Lunch was prepared by Chef Ray and his co-Chef Stephen Kern (Barbara's brother).

Prior to the event we had been given the option of choosing from different Christmas Tree decorations. A range of materials (including bells, ribbons, spices, etc) had been provided for us and it was just a matter of letting our imaginations run away with what we wanted to do. Having been inspired by Dorcas' demonstration there was no holding us back until finally we had to be dragged to the Festive Table to have our lunch. I think we were all quite proud of our achievements despite having claimed not to be creative. Lunch was delicious and a hearty vote of appreciation was given to our two fantastic chefs. As you can see from the menu we were definitely treated well.

Once lunch was finished we were keen to get back to our crafting and our efforts were displayed together for all to admire. Dorcas and Ray were thanked for all their planning and organisation and presented with a toy for their new dog Snoopy.

Penny Kinnear (Alpha Chapter)

ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT

At our September meeting Barbara officially passed the President's gavel to me as the new Alpha President for the next biennium. Barbara was then presented with a gift with thanks from all Alpha members.



It was decided that a more structured approach to Alpha Chapter events would involve three Business meetings during the year, in September, February and July. Visits would move to weekdays on a more informal basis and some Saturday meetings would take place in the morning in order to make these meetings more accessible to others.

As this is a year of Revitalisation for DGK Great Britain our October meeting was a joint session with Gamma Chapter, led by Carolyn Pittman former State President USA, following on from Phyllis Hickey's inspirational session at the State Conference in April. This was held at Soroptimists, Bayswater and there was an almost full turnout of Alpha and Gamma members with those unable to attend keeping in touch by email. The meeting was a great success with everyone feeling positive and with lots of ideas about how we can move forward.

Our November meeting was a follow-up to the October Revitalisation meeting to discuss and plan "what next". The main issue is "What can DKG offer that is new and/or worthwhile?" in order to attract working teachers to our meetings and possibly become new members. It was agreed that we would go with the proposed DKG Welcome Pack to include – an introductory letter, a postcard with DKG contact details and a gift of a book/books to be hand delivered to selected schools. Due to lack of available cost-effective central venues it was decided that we would change our proposed Saturday morning meetings to midweek "Twilights" to be held at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School in order to make them available to working teachers whose weekends are valuable downtime from teaching.

December saw us at Holy Trinity Church, Rotherhithe for our Christmas celebration planned and delivered by Dorcas and her husband Ray. This involved a very enjoyable craft session led by Dorcas, making a variety of Christmas decorations, followed by a delicious four course lunch expertly cooked by Chefs Ray and Barbara's brother Stephen.

Our January meeting will have Lindsay McHale returning to talk about "Music

Therapy in Africa” and at our Business meeting in February we plan to proceed to the next stage of our Revitalisation project. We are hoping to have a speaker from MIND at our proposed Twilight meeting in March.

Christmas masterpieces and their proud creators at the Alpha Christmas party

Penny Kinnear

(Alpha Chapter President)



THE DARVELL BRUDERHOF COMMUNITY



Rebekah Domer, pictured left, from the Darvell Bruderhof community, based only seventeen miles from us in Robertsbridge, East Sussex, came to speak to us. Rebekah was a gentle and clear speaker who epitomised love in action and the message of Jesus. Her simple headscarf and long dress, sewn within her community, exuded modesty. Rebekah’s story of dedicating her life to others, which included personal sacrifice and loss, touched us all.

As she explained, she took a vow of obedience and availability when committing to Bruderhof.

Rebekah traced the story of the Bruderhof community, from its roots in Germany in 1920. The movement practices adult baptism, non-violence and peace-making, the sharing of goods and commitment to Jesus’ teachings. There are Bruderhof centres in USA, Germany, Australia, Paraguay, as well as Britain.

We were fascinated to hear about the history of the pacifist group, its flight from Nazi Germany to safety in the Cotswolds in Britain and its relocation to Paraguay to escape some members’ internment as enemy aliens. Despite

terrible hardship in the jungle, the Bruderhof community created a missionary hospital for the Paraguayans, showing their commitment and love to all in need.

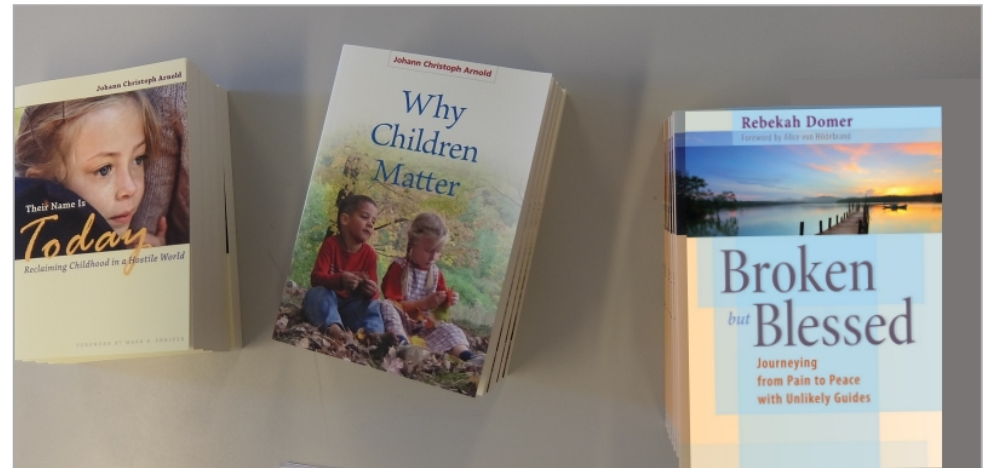
Rebekah’s parents were real peace seekers, seeing themselves as ‘citizens of the world.’ They stayed with Dr Albert Schweitzer, who inspired them. They were drawn to the Bruderhof community for its spirit of love.

As former teachers, many of us had a warm place in our hearts for Community Playthings’ finely crafted classroom furniture, wooden toys and outdoor play resources and we were delighted to hear how this helps fund the community’s activities. www.communityplaythings.co.uk

Some DKG members had visited Darvell and witnessed the caring nature of the children. We were fascinated to hear how the children of the community are engaged with supporting dying elderly members, by singing songs and gathering flowers for them. The Bruderhof school also has Ofsted inspections – not surprisingly, it received ‘Outstanding’ for its quality of personal development, behaviour and welfare.

Our time together was too short but we gladly picked up copies of Rebekah’s books. She showed us ‘another way of life’ in her engrossing talk and some of us will certainly take up her offer to visit Darvell and see its values in action.

Anne Goldstein *(Gamma Chapter)*



Rebekah Domer from the Darvell Bruderhof Community gave us some beautiful books .

GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT

My Mother was right (it isn't very often that you hear me say that!) the years fly past the older you get. I can't believe it's nearly 2019. What a very mixed year 2018 has been for many of us and I hope that the New Year will bring a fresh start for all.

Gamma chapter started their meetings in September with a fascinating talk by Rebekah Domer from the Darvell Community in Robertsbridge. She explained the history behind the community being established in Robertsbridge and shared some of their daily life with us. They are members of the Bruderhof, a Christian church community founded in 1920. There are communities across the World who share a common faith and way of life. There were, needless to say, many questions, especially around children in the community and their education. She brought several books with her written by herself and other members of the community. She gave them to us to share so we might better understand their common beliefs. Everyone agreed it was a very interesting morning.

In November Pat Jay came to speak to us about her second career as a Humanist Celebrant. Having retired Pat decided to try something different. She trained with the Humanist Society as a non religious celebrant and was able to conduct weddings. With further training she is now able to conduct funerals and baby naming ceremonies. So she covers all the major stages in life! She talked about her beliefs and her relationship with the Humanist Society. This was another stimulating morning and in complete contrast to the September meeting.

Unfortunately our December celebrations were cancelled as so many people were unable to come due to unforeseen circumstances. I was very disappointed but I think that we'll have to have a social in the New Year to just enjoy each other's company. Val Shilling at Symond's Court is quite happy for us to use their facilities at any time. We'll have to arrange a date.

The most exciting news at the moment is REVITALISATION. This initiative needs to be driven through in the New Year before we lose the momentum created by our special meeting in October. I would like to thank Sheila Roberts who is co-ordinating this for Gamma chapter. There are many exciting ideas being talked about and now we need to decide our way forward. Sheila is liaising with Alpha so it is a combined initiative. I think this is a very exciting time for us and I look forward to the future and everything it brings.

Carole Stirling (*Gamma Chapter President*)

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

Details of GB meetings are on the website.

Great Britain: www.dkggb.org.uk

Find out more about DKG in Europe.

Europe: www.dkgeurope.org

Mission Statement

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