

DKG-Alpha Omega January Rosette 2019



President's Message

Susan Fujii

Dear Ladies to Alpha Omega,

Happy New Year! I do hope each one of you had a wonderful holiday celebration and captured many memories for years to come.

Our Chapter kicked off the holidays with a wonderful party hosted by Jeanne Lycett at her home. We were overwhelmed by the delicious appetizers and desserts provided by everyone. Jeanne and her husband had every room in their home beautifully decorated for the occasion. Chapter members gathered for a photograph in Jeanne's living room surrounded by donations of blankets, books, journals, baby pacifiers and toys, along with toiletry items to be given to our partner, CALICO KIDS. For the past three years, Alpha Omega has focused on this special fundraiser project which brings smiles to the faces of the many children this organization serves.

A big "thank you" to Donna Goldenstein for heading this project and creating and donating toiletry gift bags. Another big "thank you" to Janie Dobbs, who donated the fleece for 18 blankets and sewing materials for this project, along with hosting a sewing circle of members at her home to sew and assemble the decorative and colorful blankets for the children. A "thank you" too to Virginia Williamson, Bonnie Hansen, and Susan Fujii for donations of journals. Another "thank you" to Nancy Wales for her donation of baby pacifiers and toys. Finally, thank you to all members of Alpha Omega for their monetary donations which allowed for the purchase of the Scholastic books.

The last meeting of the year 2018 was November 27, and featured speaker Gail Steele, former Hayward City Council member and Alameda County Supervisor. Gail spoke about the two priority projects in which she is involved that include a 2nd Grade Pilot Program at Fairview Elementary School in the Hayward Unified School District, and the ballot measure that proposes an amendment to the current allocation of Measure AA Health Care Services Initiative funds that would increase the percentage of funds allocated to St. Rose Hospital and other County health care needs.

The year ended with another successful fundraiser! A big "thank you" to Nonnie Moore for heading our "Mixed Bag" fundraiser where members, family, and friends were given the opportunity to purchase useful products such as shopping bags, organizer bags, gift wrap, and many other items. The funds from this fundraiser will be applied to teacher scholarships in 2019.

Please keep your calendar open for the first meeting of 2019 which will be a special event held on Monday, January 21. This is a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday. The decision to attend this event was in

response to member surveys that suggested that our Chapter engage in community events in lieu of meeting every month.

We are happy to announce that Virginia Williamson and Bonnie Hansen are now members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee representing our Chapter. A big “thank you” to Marilyn Baker Madsen, Virginia Williamson, Bonnie Hansen, Nancy Wales, Barbara Bishr, and Mary Ann Gonsalves for assisting in the labeling and stamping of over 300 invitations to this event. Chapter members will be receiving personally addressed invitations in the mail.

The event which will take the place of our January meeting will be on Monday, January 21, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. at the Reed L. Buffington Visual & Performing Arts Center at Chabot College. Carolyn McKinstry, acclaimed author and survivor of the 1963 Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing is the Keynote Speaker for the event.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Susan



MEETING MINUTES

Alpha Omega Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma

November 27, 2018

Marilyn Baker-Madsen, Recording Secretary

Present: Marilyn Baker-Madsen, Karin Berkovitz, Barbara Bishr, Peggy Collett, Rosemary Coyne, Janie Dobbs, Elisabeth Gieger, Donna Goldenstein, Jennifer Gonsalves, Mary Ann Gonsalves, Bonnie Hansen, Jeanne Lycett, Susan Levy, Nancy Wales, Virginia Williamson

Guest: Former Alameda County Supervisor, Gail Steele

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Virginia Williamson at 5:30pm.

Welcome Members and Guests: Vice-President Virginia Williamson welcomed members and our guest.

Introduction of Program Speaker: Former Alameda County Supervisor, Gail Steele, was introduced by Marilyn Baker-Madsen. Ms. Steele spoke about the two priority projects in which she is involved that include a 2nd Grade Pilot Program at Fairview School in the Hayward Unified School District and the ballot measure that proposes an amendment to the current allocation of Measure AA Health Care Services Initiative funds that would increase the percentage of funds allocated to St. Rose Hospital and other County health care needs.

Gail would like to survey 1st and 2nd Grades at Fairview to identify children that are not performing at grade level. She welcomes the input and help of our Chapter in this endeavor. She would be grateful for the time of volunteers interested in this project to meet with her to develop a solid plan in going forward and ultimately meet with the teachers and parents of children at risk making intervention a team approach.

Gail has served on the Board of Directors of St. Rose Hospital for many years. She and other like-minded community members are concerned that St. Rose currently receives 1% (or \$1.5 million) of the \$142.7 million allocated from Measure AA funds. The ballot measure proposes that St. Rose receive 10% (or 14.2 million) of Measure AA funds as St. Rose currently serves up to 15% of the non-insured and underinsured population of Alameda County with inadequate funding. Should St. Rose be unable to operate on this inadequate funding structures and close, Highland Hospital, already struggling to meet the needs of the community, would be heavily impacted.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Donna Goldenstein and seconded by Jeanne Lycett to accept the October 30, 2018 Minutes as presented. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Co-Treasurer, Susan Levy, presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2018. It was moved by Jeanne Lycett and seconded by Donna Goldenstein to accept the report. The motion passed. Susan also distributed and discussed with the group a draft budget for 2018-2019.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to share this month.

Old Business:

- a. **Memorial for Yvonne Thrower:** Barbara Bishr reported that she is following up on a memorial for Yvonne with the principals at both Cherryland and Winton.
- b. **Scholarships:** Donna Goldenstein advised that Linda Henika is suggesting that scholarships be given to established teachers. This would require a change in parameters and criteria. It was suggested that we could vote on this proposal by mail.

New Business:

- a. **CALICO KIDS Fundraiser:** Janie Dobbs and Donna Goldenstein reported on this fundraiser and they are still accepting donations for items yet to be purchased. Items being collected for CALICO include books, toiletries, and journals. Fleece purchased by Janie for blankets will be hemmed at a sewing party at Janie's house on December 1.
- b. **New Fundraiser:** Barbara Bishr and Jennifer Gonsalves have tentatively schedule September 9, 2019 as the date for a fundraiser for Alpha Omega at Gianni's Restaurant in San Ramon. Members could volunteer as servers or could attend with other guests. Jeanne Lycett informed the group that this event would be like that of Scholarships, Inc.'s fundraiser, Tips 4 Change and advised that the attendees be informed that money is earned for the Chapter through tips with 100% of the tip money going directly to the organization.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm by Vice-President Virginia Williamson.

Next Meeting: The Leadership Team of Alpha Omega determined that we would attend the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration on January 21, 2019 at 4:30pm at the Reed L. Buffington Visual & Performing Arts Center at Chabot College. Carolyn McKinstry, acclaimed author and survivor of the 1963 Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing is the Keynote Speaker for the event. The determination to attend this event was in response to member surveys that suggested that our Chapter engage in community events in lieu of meeting every month.

Respectfully Submitted

Marilyn Baker-Madsen
Recording Secretary



JANUARY MEETING

*In lieu of our usual meeting at China Bistro, we will be attending a special event to celebrate the 90th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We hope to see you there, **Monday, January 21, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.***

CHABOT COLLEGE

Reed L. Buffington Performing Arts Center
25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Carolyn McKinstry, acclaimed author and survivor of the 1963 Sixteenth Street Baptist Church Bombing

PERFORMANCES BY

The Mount Eden High School Choir.

FREE ADMISSION AND FREE PARKING

No pre-registration is required.



Treasurer's Report

Nonnie Moore

February is Our Virtual Meeting

Years ago, Alpha Omega agreed to hold a virtual meeting in February and designate the \$25 dinner cost for scholarships/grants. As we will not have our next formal meeting until March, please send your check for \$25, payable to Alpha Omega, to Nonnie Moore, 3309 Streamside Circle, Apt 303, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Please note: in October and December we held two fundraisers that netted over \$1000 for scholarships. 15 out of our 34 members participated. If you were not one of those 15, you can do your part now by donating to this Virtual Meeting Drive. We need all members to help out so we can maximize our funds for teachers!

Thank you in advance!



New Dues Due Date- June

Please don't shoot the messenger! 2019 has been chosen as the year to change dues collection from fall to spring. So... I'll be collecting your 2019-2020 dues in April and May. Start saving now! More info to come - Nonnie



Legislative Report

January 2019

By Nancy Wales

January marks the start of a new year and it's also the start of a new Congress in Washington. Things will be different than the previous Congress. The Republicans no longer control both houses of Congress. Thank you to all of you who voted and helped get others to vote. It's becoming more and more apparent that Republicans can only win if they gerrymander the state, suppress the vote, or otherwise cheat. In North Carolina Republicans caught cheating are now saying there should be an election "do over. So ridiculous! "We cheated so the whole election should be thrown out." I hope saner minds prevail in North Carolina and the Democrat is declared the winner. In any other competition, the cheater is thrown out.

On legislation that is near and dear to educators, the repeal of the GPO and Windfall Elimination still will need bipartisan support. The author of the original bill lost his seat in the election, so a new sponsor will need to be found and carry the legislation forward. Hopefully the attacks on healthcare will lesson and we can finally move to a bipartisan solution to the high cost of prescription drugs and expansion of Medical care nationwide.

At the state level, there will be a new Governor, Gavin Newsom, who will set a new direction. The Assembly and Senate leadership will be staying the same. It is expected that we will have more help in protecting pensions. We hope to look at legislation that enhances benefits particularly under purchasing power protection and work on legislation protecting our allowances. If there is an employer reporting error, employers should pay the amount owed to CalSTRS for those errors, not the retiree.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Wales



Book Notes

Marilyn Baker-Madsen

A FAVORITE AUTHOR:

The Clockmaker's Daughter, by Kate Morton is an ambitious book about so many things - different times different places and people and the stories associated with each time and place and person. The book is a masterpiece that weaves the threads of all these, yet related, stories into a thrilling saga of mystery, murder, theft, art, love and loss. It is the story of Edward Radcliffe, a promising young artist in 1862, and his fascination with Birchwood Manor on the Upper Thames and his obsession with and love for his beautiful model and muse. It is the story of Elodie Winslow, an archivist working in London in 2017, who finds an old leather satchel that contains an artist's sketchbook with a drawing of a twin-gabled house on a river and a sepia photograph of a beautiful woman. Elodie is inexplicably drawn to the sketch and picture and begins an investigation

to find out more about her discoveries. As Elodie uncovers clues, we learn about the many people who have inhabited Birchwood Manor - Edward Radcliffe and his fellow artists and their models; Lucy Radcliffe, Edward's younger sister, who inherits Birchwood Manor and opens a girls school; Leonard Gilbert, a soldier and scholar who comes to Birchwood after serving during World War I and writes a biography of Radcliffe; Juliet, a young widow who moves her family to Birchwood after their home is destroyed in the Blitz; and Elodie, who meets Jack Rolands who is searching for lost treasure, when she arrives at Birchwood Manor. At lesser hands, this multi-layered story would be a difficult read; however, Kate Morton deftly pieces all of these stories together in a gripping tale of the clockmaker's daughter.

The following review appeared in the March 2017 Rosette.

I first became acquainted with bestselling author, Kate Morton, last March when I read the Advanced Copy of her latest book, *The Lake House*. I was on vacation in a little cabin in Point Arena when torrential rains held me captive in the cabin for two days! I curled up on the sofa in front of the fire and lost myself in this beautifully written, mysterious, multigenerational saga of the Edevane family. The family suffers a tragic loss at their country house, Loanneth, in Cornwall in 1933. The loss is so great that the family abandons Loanneth forever.

Seventy years later, after being forced to take a break from her duties when she became personally involved a particularly difficult case, Sadie Sparrow, a Detective with the Metropolitan Police in London, stumbles on the abandon house where she is staying with her grandfather in Cornwall. Her detective's background leads her to discover the story of the Edevan's baby boy who disappeared without a trace.

Alice Edevane, the older sister of the missing boy is now an older lady who has become a bestselling author of detective novels. She is drawn back into the family secrets she has worked so hard to escape by the tenacious Sadie Sparrow who is trying to solve not only this mystery, but the one in London that resulted in her forced leave of absence. The astonishing conclusion of this gripping novel caught the reader by surprise!

I found this book such an engrossing read that I got copies of two other books by Kate Morton, *The House at Riverton* and *The Forgotten Garden*. Both of these novels are also beautifully written and satisfying reads with tantalizing secrets and drama. *The House at Riverton* was Kate Morton's debut novel about the Hartford family's daughters Hannah and Emmeline and their lady's maid Grace Bradley. In 1924, during a society party at the house at Riverton, a young poet shoots himself. Hannah and Emmeline were the only witnesses and only the girls and Grace knew the terrible truth. Many years later, Grace is living in a nursing home when she is approached by a director who is making a film about the events in the summer of 1924. Grace's memories of the time and aristocratic privilege are reawakened as is the stunning secret that she had been keeping all of her life.

The Forgotten Garden is another page turning novel of family intrigue and generational secrets. In 1913 a small girl is abandoned on a ship headed for Australia. She is raised,

as their own, by the dock master and his wife. When Nell turns 21, they tell her the truth and she begins to search for her real identity. Nell finds clues that lead her to Blackhurst Manor on the Cornish coast and the secrets of the Mountrachet family. However, Nell is not able to bring all of the pieces of the puzzle together before her death. Her granddaughter, Cassandra, takes up the search and eventually unravels the mystery.

Other books by Kate Morton that I have not read are *The Distant Hours* and *The Secret Keeper*.



Best Wishes to our Member Birthday Gals!

January Celebrations

9-Janie Dobbs
21-Jennifer Gonsalves



Alpha Omega Chapter Calendar 2018 - 2019

September 17	Chapter Meeting at Chef's Experience China Bistro
October 27	Chapter Fundraiser -Dublin Savers, 7117 Regional St., Dublin from 1:00-2:00 If you can't drop off the items you collected, contact a driver and arrange to have them take your items for you.
October 30	Chapter Meeting
November 1	Penne Ferrell Fund Literacy Award Deadline for Submission
November 27	Chapter Meeting
December 1	Blanket Making Party at Janie's
December 1	Distinguished Career/Professional Service Award Deadline for Submission

December 1	Distinguished Service to DKG California Deadline for Submission
December 11	Tentative Holiday Party
December 31	Scholarship Grants/Awards Deadline for Submission
January 21	Chabot College - Martin Luther King, Jr. Event
February	Chapter Virtual Meeting
March 1	Chapter Service Award Deadline for Submission
Tuesday, March 19	Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, April 30	Chapter Meeting
May 3-5	California Convention in Burlingame
Tuesday, May 28	Chapter Meeting
Thursday, August 15	Hayward Third Thursday Street Party



DKG Alpha Omega Highlights

A big thank you to Jeanne Lycett for hosting our annual DKG Alpha Omega holiday party. We had a grand time talking, laughing and sharing stories. We thoroughly enjoyed all of the potluck hors d'oeuvres and desserts.



Members proudly display some of the items we donated to CALICO (Child Abuse, Listening, Interviewing and Coordination Center). It is a privilege to support CALICO and their skilled clinicians who offer guidance, resources and support to help entire families in time of crisis. Items included homemade fleece blankets, dozens and dozens of young adult readers, journals, baby toys and some beautiful lotions and bath sets from Bath and Body Works. Our members donated \$385 to purchase young adult books and toiletries. Janie Dobbs donated the fleece for the blankets, having coupons to get all fabric at 75% off. The pacifiers/baby toys came from Nancy Wales' daughter's baby shower. Bonnie Hansen, Susan Fujii and Virginia Williamson donated journals.