

DKG-Alpha Omega
March
Rosette 2019



President's Message

Susan Fujii

Dear Ladies of Alpha Omega,

As you know, we had our "virtual meeting" in February. If you have not sent your check to Nonnie Moore, please do so, so that we may add to our scholarship fund. Thank you to all the members who have already sent in their checks.

In lieu of our January meeting, several members attended the annual birthday celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 21, 2019. It was a truly memorable event, with Guest Speaker Carolyn McKinstry, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, who shared her experience as a survivor of the September 15, 1963 Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing. She gave a very inspirational speech and shared a PowerPoint presentation of news coverage of this event in our country's history. Carolyn believes that God spared her life on that day so that she might continue to live in service to others. We also enjoyed hearing several inspirational songs by the wonderful Mt. Eden High School chorus. We wish to extend our appreciation to Marilyn Baker Madsen, Virginia Williamson, and Bonnie Hansen for serving on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee for this event. Their active participation provided our Alpha Omega Chapter of DKG recognition in our community. We also thank Nancy Wales, Barbara Bishr and Mary Ann Gonsalves for helping the committee members prepare the event postcards for mailing.

For our March meeting we'll be celebrating Women's History Month, and we will be honoring visionary women. Our guest will be Renee Rettig, who has realized her vision by establishing the "Books on B" bookstore. She was recently named Business Person of the Year by the Hayward Chamber of Commerce and received this honor at the 75th annual awards gala at California State University East Bay. We would like to recognize her as well for her contributions to our community.

Please note that we will be **rescheduling our May 28 meeting to Wednesday, May 22** to allow our members to hold our meeting at Books on B. As in the past, holding our meeting at the bookstore allows members to listen to book reviews, as well as browse and select books. As she did last year, Renee Rettig will close the bookstore to the public to allow Chapter members this most generous opportunity.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, March 19, 2019**, at the China Bistro. Because of our guest's schedule, we will change the order of things for this meeting. Our meeting will take place before dinner, and dinner will follow, with the presentation by our guest speaker Renee Rettig following dinner. Registration is at 5:00 p.m., Meeting at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner at 6:30 p.m., and Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you!





**MEETING
MINUTES**

Alpha Omega Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma

Marilyn Baker-Madsen, Recording Secretary

January - No minutes as we attended the MLK Jr Event at Chabot College

February - Virtual Meeting



**March 19
MEETING**

We hope to see you at our next meeting. Please click below to RSVP.

China Bistro

22436 Foothill Blvd, Hayward

Registration at 5:00. Dinner at 5:30. Meeting following.

Please click on the RSVP link below.



<https://goo.gl/forms/elJZM0kfGXtT3x112>

(It helps to right click on the link and then select "open link. Or you can copy the link and paste it in your browser.)
If for some reason you are unable to open the link, please contact Nonnie Moore at 510-507-2944 or email nonniemoore303@gmail.com.



Treasurer's Report

By *Nonnie Moore*

March 2019

Beginning Balance, 2-10-19	\$1910.94
Expenditures	
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	\$ 0.00
Receipts	
Mixed Bag Fundraiser	\$ 550.00
Virtual for Scholarships	\$ 455.00
Dues	\$ 89.00
<i>Total Receipts</i>	\$1094.00
Ending Balance, 3-5-19	\$3004.94

\$\$ Alpha Omega Money News \$\$

Years ago, Alpha Omega voted to designate February as *Virtual Meeting Month*. Members stay at home and send their checks for the dinner (\$25) to the Treasurer to bolster our Scholarship Fund. Generally we collect around \$700. If every member donates, we would collect \$1050!

The following members have already supported the Scholarship Fund with their contributions:

\$\$ Janie, Gloria, Mary Ann, Donna G., Barbara, Virginia, Nonnie \$\$

Don't be left behind! Send your check for \$25 to Nonnie Moore, 3309 Streamside Circle #303, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Thanks so much!

\$\$ Dues Money News \$\$



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.



Legislative Report

By Nancy Wales

It's March already and Spring Break is within sight. Hang in there, working teachers!

It is with much regret that I must begin this report with a plea for help. For many years the Legislative Committee, Sandy Daly, Stephanie Magallon and I have been writing these reports for every Rosette. Stephanie has taken a break from her membership and Sandy has moved out of state. So we are now me. I have some new responsibility in my life, too. So I am asking someone to please step up and join me on the Legislative Committee. It's not good for our group to see things only from my perspective. So I begin this month asking for your help. I don't want to resign but I may need to do that without some help coming my way.

The Oakland Teachers strike is a blatant reminder of how poorly teachers are paid while trying to live in the Bay Area. As I write this, a settlement has been reached but not yet ratified by the membership. I hope the money can be found that is promised to the teachers. I am concerned that class size is to be reduced by only one. However, there is a severe teacher shortage in the state and the pipeline of new teachers is at a slow drip.

News from the a Federal Level

PROTECTING THE VOTE

The very first act introduced in this session of Congress is For the People Act of 2019 (H.R.1). With 236 cosponsors it should pass the House in some form. The act sets forth actions which would protect the right to vote. The act has three categories 1) voting, 2) campaign finance and 3) ethics. It has been referred to several committees. This is one to watch for all of us.

News from the State Level

In early December, the California Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the three cases challenging the California Rule. The California Rule is the current legal interpretation that vested retirement benefits are part of the employment contract and cannot be changed by either party without mutual agreement. The three cases are referred to as the Marin case, Tri-county case and the CalFire case. All three cases relate to reductions in retirement benefits made by the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) in 2012. The legal issues are:

- Are the benefit reductions being made to "vested" benefits that are guaranteed by the California Rule?
- If they are guaranteed benefits, may they be reduced by the state without mutual agreement from the employee? (i.e. can the California Rule can be modified by legislative action?)

The court will have many options in considering the cases. For simplicity sake the options will be summarized in three broad categories. The first option is to find the benefits that were reduced to be not vested. In this option, there is no effect on the California Rule because the Rule only protects vested benefits. Consequently, reductions to non-vested benefits are permissible. The second option is to determine the reduced benefits were vested and confirm the California Rule. That action would overturn the parts of PEPRA challenged in the three cases and end the reductions. The last option is to find the reduced benefits were vested and also find that they can be modified by the Legislature over objections from the employees. This option would overturn the California Rule and place all current benefits at risk. This option would give a jump start for

the people who want to eliminate the current public employee benefit structure. Overturning the California Rule could result in a 2020 initiative to make it easier to cut benefits and harder to protect benefits.



Book Notes

Marilyn Baker-Madsen

The Library Book, by Susan Orlean, author of The Orchid Thief, is an extraordinary storyteller and a master researcher who gives us as many stories as we might find at a library, and more! The first and foremost story is that of the devastating fire at the Los Angeles Public Library in April 1986; however, that story becomes a springboard into the mystery of the fire and by who or how it might have been started. There is the biography of Harry Peak, who was a person of interest in the arson investigation. There are stories of many of the Library Directors, the good, the famous, the infamous and the downright crazies over the historic span of the Library's history. There are historical accounts of other library fires including the burning of the library in Alexandria. Through the pages of this book, we experience the dramatic changes as Los Angeles transforms from an agricultural berg to the sprawling and bustling city it is today. This book is also a grand salute to libraries and their staffs and it underscores the necessity for free public libraries even in this age of digital dependence and especially as our current way of life leads to more social isolation.

The Library Book is that rare composition where fact based research leads to incredibly rich and gripping stories and characters. It is a tribute to the author's mother and the fond memories she has of visiting her local public library with her mother as a child, to the people who devote their lives to running and staffing libraries, and to libraries all over the world and their importance throughout history and the vital role they play today. I was hard pressed to put this book down - it was that good!

Unsheltered, by Barbara Kingsolver, explores the exponential ways that humankind can become "unsheltered" with the clever literary convention of alternating chapters about two families in two centuries who live in the same location in Vineland, New Jersey. Willa Knox, a journalist, finds herself adrift after the magazine she worked for folds. Her tenured, professor husband's college has closed. As the bottom falls out of their lives and debt mounts, a last hope arrives in an inherited house that is falling apart. Add to the mix of this relocating family, a very cranky, opinionated, and disabled father-in-law; a daughter who is an enigma and a son and grandson dependent on them following a tragic death. Willa finds an unlikely ally in her daughter who steps in to help in caregiving to both her grandfather and her new nephew. Willa emerges through the chaos as a changed yet stronger person.

In an earlier century, we meet Thatcher Greenwood, a newly wed who gains a teaching position in the town where his mother-in-law is able to move Thatcher, and her daughters, back into the house she left when her husband died. Thatcher becomes immediately alarmed that the elegant house is not sound and his worries are immediately dismissed by his new bride and her mother. Thatcher is a science teacher who is being forced by his employer to teach a doctrine that goes against his commitment to honest investigations like those proven in the works of Charles Darwin. Thatcher develops friendships with a woman scientist who lives next door and a newspaper editor who is exposing the fallacies of the town founder and his sycophants, and, ultimately, Thatcher must follow his heart and convictions.

The families and supporting characters in these parallel stories of life in unpredictable times, illustrate what happens when the foundation of a house, of an institution and of a way of life are eroded by human or natural causes. In this amazing piece

of literary fiction, Kingsolver brings our attention the social matters we find ourselves facing in these politically unpredictable times. Unsheltered is an ultra-relevant book for today with an underlying message of hope and positive change.



Best Wishes to our DKG Alpha Omega Birthday Gals!



February Birthdays

Karen Bercovitz February 13
Bonnie Hansen February 19
Susan Levy February 22

March Celebrations

Nancy Hansen March 7
Linda Henika March 20



DKG Alpha Omega Highlights



Carolyn McKinstry delivered the keynote address
At the MLK celebration at Chabot College

Mt. Eden High School Choir



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

Wednesday, May 22 - updated	Chapter Meeting at Books on B
Thursday, August 15	Hayward Third Thursday Street Party