

DKG-Alpha Omega Rosette

November 2020



President's Message

Susan Fujii
Area III Director, DKG California
President, Alpha Omega Chapter

Dear Ladies of Alpha Omega,

Here we are.....almost Thanksgiving! I do hope all of you have been staying healthy and safe during this very unusual time in our history.

Last month, at our October meeting, we enjoyed a very informative talk from Julian Lewis, a representative from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters. Mr. Lewis provided comments on facilitating safe, healthy and contactless voting in the current election. At the time of the meeting he informed members that 900,000 registered voters exist in Alameda County, and of that number, 400,000 had already placed their votes as of that date. He shared that, for every 10,000 voters, there is a polling location. To date, we have 700 polling locations in Alameda County. Mr. Lewis informed members that voters have the option of dropping off their mail-in ballots at drop boxes throughout the county instead of using the U.S. Postal Service.

Members were encouraged to send in book recommendations/reviews to *The Rosette* editors: Janie Dobbs and Barbara Bishr so that they can be included in future publications of *The Rosette*. Virginia Williamson is also including a newly created "Members' Corner" section in *The Rosette* and requested news members may have about any of our Chapter members.

Our speaker at the November 18th meeting will be Evelyn LaTorre, one of our Chapter's newest members. Evelyn is the author of "*Between Inca Walls*." Evelyn will provide a brief summary and background of her published book, along with information about the process of publishing one's memoirs. Evelyn will also incorporate a "question and answer" portion to her presentation to allow for questions/comments from those who have read her book, and for those who would like more information. We look forward to listening to Evelyn's program and wish to express our appreciation to her for assisting Virginia Williamson in the speaker program from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters for our October meeting.

As usual, we ask that you read and review this November issue of *The Rosette* to see the Minutes and Treasurer's Report which will be presented for approval at our November meeting. The next Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, at 4:00 p.m. We look forward to "seeing you" then. I wish you all blessings and a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Sincerely, Susan





Alpha Omega Members' Corner

Virginia Williamson

Watching Television During the Pandemic

Carl and I watched every episode of *The West Wing* from 1999 through 2006 and really enjoyed the series. So as we trudged through Shelter-In-Place and the growing political disgruntlement, we returned to *The West Wing* and began watching it over again. We were delighted to learn that we could see *The West Wing* characters in their first performance together in 17 years as they promoted a voting drive. The *West Wing* Special that benefitted **When We All Vote** was a stage performance of Hartfield Landing, an episode in the third season of the series. Before the special was aired by HBO Max on October 15th, members of the cast joined Steven Colbert on one of his shows in early October. We just happened to watch that show and were pleasantly surprised that we were able to see the entire interview. It was just like running into old friends!

~ Marilyn Baker-Madsen

Member Interest Survey

Thank you to the eight members who replied and ranked their preferences on possible topics for Alpha Omega meetings. All choices were given a value, i.e., a member's first choice received 10 points; their last choice 1 point. The following are the topics with their values:

- Travel - 63
- Local History - 50
- Health/Fitness - 45
- Education - 38
- Art/Crafts - 36
- Books - 34
- Food Preparation/Gardening - 31
- Safety - 31
- Finance - 22
- Other - 17

Comments ranged from being pleased to meet, even if it is virtually, to suggestions of specific topics such as Social Justice and Black Lives Matter, to wanting to only have a meeting with no program.

Thanks again for your input.

~ Evelyn LaTorre

ARDELLE WARD



Ardelle Ward, our longest standing member of Alpha Omega, passed away on August 15, 2020. She was 101 years of age. Ardelle had been a reserve member of Alpha Omega Chapter for many years, having joined Delta Kappa Gamma in 1964.

Ardelle taught for 28 years for Hayward Unified School District, primarily at the elementary level, and for at least some of those years at East Avenue Elementary School. She also taught in Japan for a number of years, teaching English as a second language and assisting servicemen with reading competency in order to re-enlist. Her husband was career Army, and her daughter is an educator like her mother.

During her retirement, Ardelle maintained a great number of interests, including gardening, reading, writing letters, and attending writing classes. During this time, at the encouragement of her beloved granddaughter, she moved from Hayward to Riverbank, California. She enjoyed being close, and in fact, their homes shared adjoining backyards, which facilitated a close relationship with her granddaughter's family. She truly enjoyed playing with her great-grandchildren!

Ardelle was always an active supporter of DKG. She served as Alpha Omega Chapter President from 1972-74 and served on every chapter committee at one time or another. She not only supported all DKG projects, she also volunteered her time for many years at Children's Hospital.

Caring, wonderful and genuine, Ardelle left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her. Jean Groth remembers being invited to her home for a very enjoyable visit and receiving birthday cards from her for many years. Rosella Wick-Lesher and Rosemary Coyne both remembered how gracious she was. Nancy Hansen taught with Ardelle at East Avenue for many years and mentioned that she never once saw her lose her composure, not even with challenging students! And Jeanne Lycett remembers that Ardelle always wore a big butterfly pin on her shoulder.

Ardelle had the admiration and respect of all who knew her. She was an inspiration to younger teachers, and her positivity made it a pleasure to be in her company. Throughout her life she showed her commitment and dedication... to her family, to education and to DKG. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

~ Virginia Williamson

Alpha Omega Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma



MEETING MINUTES

Linda Henika, Recording Secretary

October 28, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Susan Fujii, President, at 4:00 pm.

Present: Susan Fujii, Janie Dobbs, Donna Goldenstein, Linda Henika, Virginia Williamson, Susan Levy, Evelyn LaTorre, Deanna Stemm, Nonnie Moore, Bonnie Hansen, Nancy Wales, Nancy Wolf

WELCOME: Susan to welcome members and guest speakers from Alameda County Registrar of Voters: Julian Leus, Community Engagement Coordinator.

PRESENTATION: The representatives from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters discussed various issues pertaining to the 2020 election, including the following:

1. What ROV is doing to facilitate safe, healthy, and contactless voting in the age of COVID-19 and how in-person voting will work at our 100 AVLs. Julian indicated that they are determined to maximize voter turnout. Election workers were masks and face shields and for every 10,000 voters there is an accessible voting location in Alameda County. You can find them at https://www.acgov.org/rov_app/pollinglist. All are ACA accessible and have adequate parking spaces and lots of space inside. If someone arrives without a mask, they will be offered one. If they refuse, there is a separate voting area outside for them to vote. And, there are places where voters may drive up and drop off their ballots.
2. Explained exactly how conditional voting works for eligible voters who may want to cast a ballot after the October 19, 2020 deadline to register to vote. Basically, anyone can register to vote and vote, but must be on the same day.

ICE BREAKER: Members were asked to share if they were an early bird or a night owl.

BUSINESS:

- A. Approval of Minutes – September 23, 2020
Donna Goldenstein indicated that a correction is needed. The n was missing from Bonnie Hansen's name. Donna **Moved to accept the minutes with the one correction**, Nonnie Moore **Seconded. PASSED**
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report – October 2020
Virginia Williamson **Moved**, Bonnie Hansen **Seconded. PASSED**
- C. Approval of Budget -- DKG—Alpha Omega – 2020-2021
Donna Goldenstein **Moved**, Evelyn La Torre **Seconded. PASSED**

Meeting Minutes, continued:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Scholarship Committee – Linda Henika reported that the committee has revised the application for 2020. The applicants must apply by the end of November and they will get the results in December. Checks will be mailed. Teachers will be asked to join a ZOOM meeting in the future to discuss their projects.
- B. Correspondence – Bonnie Hansen reported that she has sent to Ardell Ward's son a Sympathy card from our group. Members were also reminded that Gloria Gaylord had to evacuate during the fires. She is back home now.

INSPIRATION

Susan shared two inspirational quotes.

1. Kate Sheppard “Do not think your single vote does not matter much. The rain that refreshes the parched ground is made up of single drops”
2. Christine Pelosi “The beauty of our democracy lies in the American value of equality: if you vote, you have a seat at the table. If you speak, you have a chance to persuade others. A billionaire and a minimum wage earner have the same power at the ballot box.”

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.



Next Chapter Meeting

November 18, 2020

4:00 pm

Our next meeting will also be via Zoom. The Meeting ID # and the link will always be the same for each of our meetings. You only need to register once for these meetings at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlfumpqT8rG9yLci13BOy5Gykxt4rd7u5g>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you attended the last meeting, there is no need to re-register. You can log-on in one of two ways:

- Click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81890174118>
- Or go to zoom.us, click on “Join a Meeting”, Enter Meeting ID: 81890174118

Zoom should also send you a reminder before the meeting. See you there!



Treasurer's Report

November 2020

By Nonnie Moore

Beginning Balance	October 1, 2020	\$3627.72
-------------------	-----------------	-----------

Expenditures

<i>Total Expenditures</i>	\$0
---------------------------	-----

Receipts

<i>Total Receipts</i>	\$0
-----------------------	-----

Ending Balance	11/01/2020	\$3627.72
----------------	------------	-----------

Current members = 25 Active, 7 Reserve (Ardelle Ward , deceased Reserve)



November Celebrations

Happy Birthday to our Alpha Omega Sisters! Wishing you happiness on your special day and always.

4 Rosella Wick-Lesher
5 Evelyn La Torre
17 Virginia Williamson
29 Marsha Riley



Legislative Report

Nancy Wales

It is two weeks past the election as I write this article. We finally had enough votes counted and Joe Biden was declared the President Elect and Kamala Harris, the Vice President Elect. We should be uniting behind our new President. But we are in a very dangerous place right now. Some say President Trump is staging a Presidential Coup. Others say, the Republican Party is. Either puts our Democracy in serious jeopardy.

Lies, repeated over and over become truths to people. 70% of Republicans now believe that the Nov. 3 election was ripe with fraud and illegal votes. There is no evidence, only repeated lies. Logic and reason are thrown out. Democrats would vote for Biden, but not vote the whole ticket? They would vote in a “fraudulent” election but not bother to give the winning president a Democratic Senate?

As Paul Waldman says in the Washington Post, “If you were gripped by a particularly naive hopefulness, you might have thought that President Trump’s defeat in the 2020 election would produce a brief moment of honesty and responsibility from the Republican Party. “We lost, and it hurts,” they might have said. “But let’s handle it like adults and show that we’re committed to democracy.” But no. As the Trump presidency comes to a close, members of the party that has shown itself so incapable and unworthy of governing have one last card to play: They will do everything in their power to poison the American political system for years to come.” Biden will probably end up with a margin of over five million votes and the same Electoral College vote that elected Trump.

We must all stay with this evolving story. We must not let Democracy die under the weight of these lies. Waldman concludes, “It is almost impossible to overstate how toxic this all is. Republicans are trying to destroy any commitment their voters have to the American system of government. They’re working to convince voters that any election that does not produce a Republican win, not just in 2020 but in the future, is inherently fraudulent and need not be acknowledged or respected. This is not coming from the fringe, or a few intemperate voices, or just a corrupt president on his way out. It is the project of the entire Republican Party and conservative movement. And it is nothing short of an attack on democracy itself.”

In our own state, Proposition 15 has lost. Too many people thought that passing Proposition 15 would lead to more, eventually affecting homeowners. In the current Covid 19 business situation, Prop 15 could have been a business killer too.

Book Notes



Submitted by Marilyn Baker-Madsen

The Turn of the Key, by Ruth Ware

This is another excellent thriller by this best-selling author. Set in a remote mansion with mysteriously locked doors and an ominously, foreboding garden, this book evokes James' *The Turn of the Screw*, in a technologically modern setting. This story of murder and deception draws the reader from one suspenseful page to the next and ends with a shocking twist. Critics hail this as her best book yet and I agree! Other books by Ruth Ware include *In a Dark, Dark Wood*, *The Woman in Cabin 10*, *The Lying Game* and *The Death of Mrs. Westaway*

Submitted by Nonnie Moore

The Gown by Jennifer Robson

It's post-war London desperately needing something joyful to look forward to. Enter the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Phillip! This is the story of the planning of the bride's ultra secret wedding gown and the two women who created its magnificent embroidery.

Submitted by Susan Fujii

Memorial Drive by Natasha Trethewey

This is the author's real life memoir which is a compelling and searching look at the shared human experience of a sudden loss. The story moves through her mother's history in the deeply segregated South through her own girlhood as a child of mixed race in Mississippi. She describes the brutal murder of her mother at the hands of her former step-father, and her coming into her own as a poet in the wake of tragedy. This is a true look into the history of segregation in the South.

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

This is a beautiful book about parental love and human hope. The author, after four years of research, paints a picture of a Mexican native, Lydia Quixano Perez, a bookstore owner, and Luca, her son and love of her life. Forced to flee her native home in Acapulco due to inconceivable violence, the story depicts her travels over 53 days, and 2,645 miles, with the many migrants to the promised safety in El Norte. The author's story is the true story of immigrants. I truly could not put this book down!!!

Submitted by Janie Dobbs

The Color of Air by Gail Tsukiyama

I was so pleased to find a new book from the author of *Women of the Silk* and *The Samurai's Garden*. This is a delightful historical novel that alternates between the past and present as it interweaves the stories of troubled, yet kind characters in a close-knit Japanese-American community. The story is set against the backdrop of Hilo, Hawaii's sugar plantations. Life is hard yet full of hope; poignant and happy.

Book Notes, continued:

The Girl With the Louding Voice by Abi Daré

A beautiful, yet achingly sad story about a young rural Nigerian woman, Adunni, who is sold at 14 to an older man already with two wives and her long, difficult quest to become an educated woman with a voice and speak up for herself. It is simultaneously heartbreaking and triumphant. The author did a beautiful job creating Adunni's character and her voice.



Did You Know?



The *Alpha Omega* Scholarship Committee in Hayward is now accepting applications for grants. All teachers are encouraged to apply, including our current DKG members who are still teaching. Please share this opportunity with teachers that you know. The *Alpha Omega Chapter* in Hayward, offers grants of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) to deserving classroom educators. To apply, complete the two-sided Grant Application detailing your personal information and description of your project. You will be notified of the results by email by January 15, 2021.

Scan or email the completed application form (with attachment) to Grant Chair Linda Henika (hhshenika@yahoo.com). Be sure to write **DKG Grant** in the subject line.

The application form must be returned no later than midnight Tuesday, December 15, 2020

The links to both the cover letter and the grant application are below:

[Cover Sheet DKG Grant 2020](#)

[DKG Grant Application](#)



November Celebrations

Happy Birthday to our Alpha Omega Sisters! Wishing you happiness on your special day and always.

4 Rosella Wick-Lesher
5 Evelyn La Torre
17 Virginia Williamson
29 Marsha Riley



Alpha Omega Chapter Calendar

2020 - 2021

Wednesday, Sept 23	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	4:00 *
Wednesday, Oct 28	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	4:00 *
Wednesday, Nov 18	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	4:00 *
Wednesday, Dec 9	Tentative Holiday Party	4:00 *
Wednesday, Jan 27	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	4:00 *
February	Virtual Meeting	4:00 *
Wednesday, March 24	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	4:00 *
Wednesday, April 28	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	4:00 *
Wednesday, May 26	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	4:00 *

