

DKG-Alpha Omega Rosette

October 2021



President's Message

Susan Fujii

Dear Ladies of Alpha Omega,

I am happy to announce that we have selected **Nancy Wales** as our Chapter Honoree for 2021! Nancy received an overwhelming number of votes from our members in our recent poll. Nancy is a valued member of our Alpha Omega Chapter! She has served as our Chapter Legislative Chair for many years, and she is a past Chapter Co-President. She will be honored at the 2022 Area III Conference to be held in person on Saturday, May 14, 2022. So save the date! We hope to see many of you there to celebrate Nancy!

We had quite a surprise at our September Zoom meeting!! Rosemary Coyne, Jean Groth, and Nancy Wales joined us from the Big island of Hawaii! Rosemary and Nancy were vacationing there, and Jean joined them for a few days to celebrate all three of their birthdays! Nancy shared via zoom their gorgeous ocean view from their hotel room window. It was quite special to have them join us at the beginning of our meeting. All the members present were quite excited to see them!

Evelynn LaTorre informed members that she was having a Book Launch via Zoom on October 5, at Town Center Books, Pleasanton. I know that some of our members attended this event, which focused on Evelyn's sequel memoir, *Love in Any Language*, following her first book, *Between Inca Walls*. I attended this event, and it was so exciting to see Evelyn share the highlights of her book and the writing process. Evelyn highly encouraged attendees to write their own personal memoirs.

Our September meeting covered many areas. First, we decided to send out a poll to members inquiring as to preferences for speakers and

programs for the year, along with which areas of focus sparked the most interest for our chapter members this year. It was agreed that we will continue to offer teacher grants. Linda Henika informed members that she would begin seeking out candidates both in Hayward and Fremont.

Second, we agreed to donate to the Martin Luther King, Jr. event. This event is scheduled for January 17th at Chabot College at 4:30 p.m. We encourage members to attend this very important community event which celebrates not only Dr. King and his legacy, but also our diverse community and the students who attend our HUSD schools!

Third, we agreed to support CALICO again this year. Donna Goldenstein reported that the organization is in need of teen books and journals. Jen Gonsalves has already donated numerous composition books and pencils! Thank you, Jen! Janie Dobbs and Linda Henika are compiling a list of books that match the upper grade curriculum, and Nonnie Moore has offered to seek out books as well. We decided to begin collecting monetary donations from members for this book purchase prior to December. Please send any donations you may wish to make to Nonnie Moore for this purpose. We so much appreciate all the hard work our members are making toward this effort, and Donna informs us that CALICO is very grateful to our chapter.

Fourth, we decided as a membership to have a "Thanksgiving donation" for those who are able to donate, for the month of November. We will still have our regularly scheduled Zoom meeting. However, since we have not been meeting in person for over a year, and have not

President’s Message, cont:

incurred dinner costs, we feel a “Thanksgiving donation” would assist in our outreach support this year. As usual, we will send our donations of \$25 or more to Nonnie for this “Thanksgiving donation.” If you choose to participate, you may send your donation towards this effort to: Nonnie Moore, 3309 Streamside Circle #303, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

A big “thank you” to all of you! Please refer to the Rosette for the list of our Chapter meetings. We made some date changes at our September meeting. and Janie has updated this list.

We look forward to “seeing” all of you on **Thursday, October 28th, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.**



Alpha Omega Chapter Calendar

2021 - 2022



Thursday, Sept 23	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00 pm
Thursday, Oct 28	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00 pm
Thursday, Nov 18	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00 pm
Thursday, Dec 9	Tentative Holiday Party	6:00 pm
Monday, Jan. 17	MLK, Jr. Event, Chabot College	4:30 pm
Thursday, Jan 27	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00pm
February	Virtual Meeting	
Thursday, March 24	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00 pm
Thursday, April 28	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00 pm
Thursday, May 26	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00pm



Alpha Omega Members’ Corner

Virginia Williamson

After so many months of staying close to home, travel is again on the agenda for many of our Alpha Omega members!





Rosemary Coyne and **Nancy Wales** recently enjoyed a wonderful vacation on the Big Island in Hawaii. The calm, restorative environment and beautiful scenery were definitely worth all the months of planning and preparation! The highlight of their trip was the chance to visit with Jean Groth for several days! They especially enjoyed the spectacular sunsets... and the hot tub! Rosemary says the *real* reason for the trip was to get away from having to cook! They treated themselves to some fine cuisine in great restaurants and enjoyed it all

thoroughly! Rosemary also says that vacations are good for the soul, and her nieces agree... They've commented on how happy she seems since she returned.

Energetic woman that she is, **Bonnie Hansen** just came back from a weekend at Disneyland with her grandson Joaquin. They stayed at the Disneyland Hotel, and because the monorail was not in operation, they did a LOT of walking! Bonnie figures they did about 24,000 steps just on day one! Joaquin's laser-like goal at Disneyland was to do the Spiderman ride, a hugely popular attraction! It's a very complicated process to get in to the very popular rides, but they made it, and Bonnie was very thankful because she knew how much it meant to "Quinny!" Another highlight was that they both got to be pilots on the Millennium Falcon. It looks like a real spaceship in a hangar, and as pilots, they maneuvered the ship! "It felt real," Bonnie says! Totally exhausted and ready to come home, Grammy Bonnie was glad their Southwest flight was only delayed 10 minutes... but the adventure wasn't over yet. At boarding time Joaquin was in the restroom and had to be called by name on the loudspeaker. He said he was glad to hear the loudspeaker, though, because he had forgotten which gate they were boarding from, but when he heard his name with "Go to Gate 11," he rushed right there! Whew! Grammy and Quinny had a wonderful time!



Grammy and Quinny with Walt and Mickey



Avid travelers **Jeanne Lycett** and her husband Dayton are excited about their planned trip to Sedona, Arizona next week. They're hoping Southwest Airlines is running smoothly! They are looking forward to seeing the beautiful desert scenery of Sedona, with its red-rock buttes, steep canyon walls, and pine forests, then on to the majesty of the Grand Canyon. They also recently enjoyed a leisurely three-day road trip to Oregon, where they visited with Dayton's cousin and Jeanne's college

friend. That trip, though enjoyable, was also marked with alarm, as the Calder fire started the day after they arrived. The suddenness of the fire and overwhelming smoke made it quite scary.

Nonnie Moore is currently enjoying an extended vacation in the midwest and eastern states! The first leg of her trip was to Iowa to visit with her oldest daughter Erin and her family in Iowa City. Erin is an eye surgeon at the University of Iowa hospital there, and she's also a professor on the university faculty. Her husband, a lawyer, is away on a rafting trip, so Nonnie gets to spend lots of time with her grandkids, taking them to sporting practices and having adventures. They've visited the Antique Archaeology store from the TV show "American Pickers" in LeClaire, Iowa, and they've enjoyed dining on pork schnitzel sandwiches (an Iowa



Enjoying pork schnitzel sandwiches on the banks of the Mississippi

Members' Corner, cont:

favorite!) on the banks of the Mississippi. They've had a lot of rain in Iowa, and Nonnie says she will try really hard to bring some of it back with her to California! After Iowa, it's on to South Carolina, where she will enjoy visiting with her brother-in-law and sister-in-law near Hilton Head, South Carolina. Finally, it's on to Pennsylvania to see her sister, who is athletic director at Penn State. Her trip will culminate in a family reunion that will coincide with Penn State's homecoming and football game! Yay! Go Penn State! Nonnie will be home in time for our October DKG meeting!



Alpha Omega Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Meeting Minutes, September 23, 2021

Linda Henika, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Susan Fujii, President, at 6:15 pm.

Present: Susan Fujii, Janie Dobbs, Donna Goldenstein, Linda Henika, Virginia Williamson, Evelyn LaTorre, Deanna Stemm, Nonnie Moore, Jennifer Gonsalves, Susan Levy, Nancy Wales, Rosemary Coyne, Jean Groth

WELCOME: Susan welcomed our members, especially Nancy, Rosemary and Jean from Hawaii.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Janie made a motion to approve the May 26, 2021 minutes; Evelyn seconded: **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance is \$2576.53. There is currently no official draft budget. Virginia made a motion to approve the report; Donna G. Seconded: **PASSED**.

CHAPTER HONOREE FOR SPRING AREA III CONFERENCE: The fall conference was canceled because of COVID. It is now set for Spring. Members are asked to send their nominee choice to Susan Fujii.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO CONSIDER:

- *Continue to support CALICO.* Donna G reached out to them. They really need teen books and Journals. Jen has access to some extra available COMP books from HHS. Susan Fujii will pick them up. Janie will contact Megan Ball, HHS English Teacher, for recommendations for HS books to purchase for Calico. Nonnie made a motion to allocate the \$110 humanitarian monies for this project. Evelyn seconded. **PASSED**.
- *Donate to the MLK event.* After discussion, Nonnie made a motion to continue the \$100 donation; Janie seconded. **PASSED**.

Minutes, cont:

- **Teacher Grants.** Donna G. made a motion to allocate \$1250 to teacher grants for this school year, Evelyn seconded. **PASSED.**

SPEAKERS/PROGRAMS TO CONSIDER:

- **DKG CA Committees:** Virginia discussed each of these committees and the types of presentations that would be available.
 - Membership
 - Awards and Recognitions
 - STEP – Support Team for Emerging Professionals
 - Leadership Development
 - Communications and Technology
- *Youth Alive! – Program working to prevent violence and create young leaders
<https://www.youthalive.org> (Recommended by Janie Dobbs)
- *Lisa MacKenzie, “Choose Love” program (This program includes Social, Emotional Learning Curriculum that is currently being used in the Livermore USD.)
- *BeSMART for Kids – 20 minute presentation about keeping guns out of the hands of children.
<https://besmartforkids.org/> (Recommended by Janie Dobbs)

*Linda suggested that each of these presentations would also be very valuable for the greater Hayward/Fremont community to hear. Virginia will reach out to the folks who attend the MLK planning meeting to see if any might be interested in working with us to sponsor one of these talks. Suggestions include Superintendent of HUSD, Curriculum Council, Churches, etc... And/or we can just schedule them for our chapter and possibly invite other chapters to attend. TBD.

- **Hayward City Council** – Elisa Marquez was scheduled to speak in Spring 2020. We still may wish to have City Council members; The Chief of Police is also a possibility.
- **Results of member interest survey:**
 - Travel (62)
 - Books (34)
 - Local History (45) Food
 - Preparation/Gardening (31)
 - Health/Fitness (38) Safety (31)
 - Arts/Crafts (36) Finance (22)

CHAPTER RULES: A copy of the rules was emailed to all members for review and comment. Virginia will send out a survey for members to vote on the rules (keep as is, changes, etc...).

Minutes, cont:

Also, Susan L. asked that a note be added to the survey that Nov.18 meeting will also include a virtual THANKSGIVING donation request.

MEETING DATES AND TIMES – 2021-2022: These were shared with the membership.
CHAPTER OFFICE HOLDERS – Shadowing for 2021-23 biennium Discussion to offer the opportunity to members who might be interested.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS: Mixed Bags.... Savers.... Members' Thanksgiving Donations... Members are asked to submit other ideas. Virginia will add a question to the Survey to see if there is interest in a Mixed Bags fundraiser.

CORRESPONDENCE: An email was read from Gloria Gaylord who lives in Three Rivers and has been evacuated AGAIN because of the fires.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.



Legislative Report

Nancy Wales

Latest news on the legislation to fix the unfair WEP/GPO:

Since January the California Retired Teachers Association has sent over 90 Legislative Alerts – 70 for H.R. 82 and over 20 state Legislative Alerts. The 90 Federal Legislative Alerts have gone to a total of 153 United States Representatives:

- 75 of the 90 members of the Bipartisan Women's Caucus we contacted have cosponsored H.R. 82.
- 44 of the 53 California Representatives have cosponsored H.R. 82.
- 5 out of 10 of the out of state congressmen that alerts were sent in the beginning of September have signed onto H.R. 82.

As of September 22nd, H.R. 82 has 228 cosponsors. 123 of the 153 Congressional Representatives the CalRTA contacted have cosponsored H.R. 82. That's a whopping 79%

There is still a dire shortage of teachers and substitutes. Many chose not to return to the classroom for fear of bringing Corona-19 home to vulnerable loved ones. Some left because they did not want to get the vaccine. Some simply got burned out with the adaptations made in 2019 and 2020. All are threats to the public education system. Before the pandemic, the nation was already facing a nearly dry pipeline of new teachers. The Pandemic only accelerated the shortage. Even with declining enrollment, we are still short of fully staffing classrooms. I have not heard any solutions being proposed.

Legislative Report, cont:

The Educational Freedom Act (EFA) is a public-school voucher initiative being processed for title and summary with the Attorney General's office and will be eligible for signature gathering shortly.

This deceptive initiative is predicated upon siphoning educational dollars from public education to shift them to private institutions and selected students. It would shift local property tax revenue, that currently funds local public schools, to private and religious institutions and would harm the long-term fiscal stability of the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS).

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) recently completed their analysis of the EFA, which notes significant increased annual state costs ranging between \$4.7 to \$7 billion to provide funding for students that currently attend private or home school. They also state that the costs for this initiative could be through reductions to existing public school funds or other programs in the state budget and further speculated that additional state costs in the range of several billion dollars would be seen through reductions in students that attend public schools in favor of private schools.

A prominent way the structural integrity of CalSTRS could be threatened would be a significant reduction in the number of public education teachers. When a teacher works within California's existing public education system, they are an automatic member of CalSTRS. Keeping a healthy ratio of active to retired teachers is an important way CalSTRS can maintain its long-term funding integrity, as a higher number of active teachers compared to retirees helps to keep the normal cost of retirement manageable. Over the past years, CalSTRS has seen a reduction in the number of active to retired teachers, through the previous teacher shortage and through an increase in charter schools that have chosen not to participate in CalSTRS. The EFA would likely significantly shift the number of public teachers to the private sector, triggering a reduction in the number of active teachers within the CalSTRS system and additionally exacerbating the existing teacher shortage.

CalRTA members are strongly encouraged NOT to sign or contribute money to this deceptive initiative that would harm both public education and teachers' retirement security.

A touching little different legislative item that touched me.

Read here:  <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/oct/01/bruces-beach-returned-100-years-california>

In 1912, Charles & Willa Bruce bought prime beachfront land in Manhattan Beach, LA County & built a Black resort community. Then in 1924, the county took it & refused to pay its value. This week, it was returned to their descendents by Senate Bill 796. Governor Newsom signed it. It's worth is now \$72million.



Next Chapter Meeting

October 28, 2021
6:00 pm

You can log-on in one of two ways:

- Click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83949737268>
- Or go to zoom.us, click on “Join a Meeting”, Enter Meeting ID: 839 4973 7268

Hope to see you there!



Book Notes

By Alpha Omega Members

Please share your favorite books with all of us. Email your book notes to Janie Dobbs at janie.dobbs1@gmail.com.

Submitted by Susan Fujii:

Bowing to Light – A Mother’s Journey Through Grief by Rachael Maier. The journey is a personal memoir of her pregnancy which ends with an unexpected and worst-case scenario: Your baby has a fatal health condition and it is up to you to decide what to do? Rachael takes us on the heartbreaking journey of she and her partner as she embraces motherhood, only to experience the loss of their daughter. She shares with us that joy and grief, and her message that, even in the darkness, there is always “a glimmer of light.” This book touched me very deeply, as I too, have experienced loss through pregnancy as have millions of women across the globe. Rachael offers hope and positivity through her life experience and has proven to be a skillful writer who physically takes the reader on her journey. I literally could not put this book down! This book was recommended to me by my neighbor whose son and the author live on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Healthy at Last – A Plant-Based Approach to Preventing and Reversing Diabetes and Other Chronic Illnesses by Eric Adams. Mr. Adams is a Brooklyn Borough President and a current Mayoral Candidate in New York. He is on a mission to tackle a problem in the United States: chronic disease in the African American community. I recently saw Eric Adams on the Dr. Oz show presenting this book, which is based upon research that he has done. He shares the hard science with his readers, along with real-life stories where people have been successful in transforming their bodies by changing their diet. He shares his own personal health crisis and the steps one should take for a healthy and active life. Eric’s approach to tackling this problem can apply to many diverse culture groups. He helped create a program for schools in New York called “Meatless Mondays” aimed at exposing students to a healthy diet.

Submitted by Linda Henika

I love mysteries and Linda Castillo writes a good series. Her main character is Police Chief Kate Burkholder who grew up Amish and continues to protect the community. The crimes are horrific, so prepare yourself. But, you will not be able to put her books down. Start with the first one, “**Sworn to Silence**”.

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich won this year’s Pulitzer Prize. The Pulitzer’s often bring a slice of Americana to life and *The Night Watchmen* is not an exception. It is a book about a community - the Chippewa community of North Dakota’s Turtle Mountain - a community threatened by government-sanctioned “termination” - disenfranchisement of the tribe which would force them to move to the urban environment. The tension is palpable. Erdrich intrigues with Indian history and lore - spirits, psychics, seers - and she sprinkles the stories of her characters throughout the book - Patrice’s story is probably the most remarkable - her strength of character. The community comes together at the end of the book for testimony before the State. The book has the feel of “*To Kill a Mockingbird*”. Enjoy.

Submitted by Janie Dobbs:

The Afghanistan Papers by *Washington Post* reporter Craig Whitlock investigates how three successive presidents and their military commanders deceived the public year after year about America’s longest war. It includes alarming revelations from people who played a direct role in the war admitting that the US government’s strategies were a mess, the nation-building project was a colossal failure, and that drugs and corruption gained a stranglehold over their allies in the Afghan government.

The Love Songs of W.E.B. Dubois by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers chronicles the journey of one American family in Georgia, spanning 270 years from the displacement of the Creek Nation, centuries of the colonial slave trade through the Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Movement to modern times. Themes of family, class, love, sex, higher education, feminism, racism, colorism, rape, dynamism of black women and ancestral legacy are all beautifully woven together. This 799 page heart-wrenching and heartwarming saga is spellbinding and impossible to put down.

TEEN BOOKS NEEDED



CALICO ... is the **C**hild **A**buse, **L**istening, **I**nterviewing, and **C**oordination center, achieving justice and healing for abused children.

We would love to support Calico Center in San Leandro again this year. Donna Goldenstein reported that CALICO is in need of teen books and journals. We currently have \$110 to spend and we are collecting additional donations from members until November 20th. Please send your donation to Nonnie Moore, 3309 Streamside Circle #303, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Be sure to indicate on the check that your donation is for CALICO. Janie, Nonnie, Donna and Linda will be working together to purchase books. You may also purchase your own book/s or journals and we will arrange a way to collect them. (Thank you, Jenn G. for your donation of journals.) Here is a partial list of suggested books: <https://bit.ly/3BVFQhe>. Feel free to purchase any title appropriate for high school students. Thank you for your help. CALICO is so appreciative of our support.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Highlights September 2021-Draft Budget

By Nonnie Moore

September 2020 Balance Forward \$2576.53

INCOME	ESTIMATE	
Virtual Meeting	\$600	
Annual Event/Fundraiser	0	
Initiation (2 new members)	50	
	Total \$650	\$3226.53

EXPENDITURES	ESTIMATE	
Program Support	\$50	
President's Fund	100	
Membership Committee	100	
Chapter Honoree	35	
Convention	450	
Scholarships/Grants	1250	
MLK Celebration	100	
Humanitarian Fund	110	
Fee for two new members	10	
	Total \$2205	\$1021.53

Carryover to 2023 = \$1021.53

October 2021 Balance = \$2576.53



23 Active Members/ 7 Reserve Members

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<https://dkgalphaomegaarea3.weebly.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DKGAlphaOmegaArea3>



October Celebrations

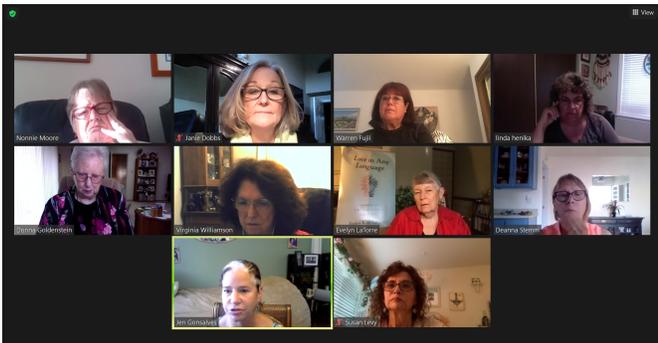
Happy Birthday to:

*Peggy Collett - 2
Karen Taylor - 24*

Wishing you an abundance of fun and happiness on your special day and always.



DKG Alpha Omega Highlights September 2021



Picture of our September 23rd meeting. Janie forgot to take a picture when Jean Groth, Rosemary Coyne, and And Nancy Wales joined us from Hawaii.



Our very own Alpha Omega Sister, Evelyn LaTorre, talked about her new book *Love in Any Language* at a virtual event hosted by Towne Center Books on October 5th.



DKG-Alpha Omega members, Nancy Wales and Rosemary Coyne visited another DKG-Alpha Omega member, Jean Groth, in Hawaii.