

September Rosette 2017



President's Message: *Susan Fujii*

Dear Ladies of Alpha Omega,

We would like to welcome you to yet another great year of opportunities to serve our new teachers and local community. Over the past year we have made a real difference in the lives of many. We partnered with Calico Kids, honored working teachers, supported a scholarship for the Hayward Public Library's Literacy Program "Career Online High School," provided a scholarship for a new teacher, and initiated one new member into our chapter. In addition, we became informed of the pro's and con's of ballot propositions in the General Election. We also had a joint meeting with Zeta Zeta, a sister chapter of DKG.

This is a very special year for us as we celebrate the 70th year of our Alpha Omega Chapter of DKG. A celebration will be planned to commemorate this special occasion in November.

The Executive Board of our Chapter met this summer and members came up with many ideas to continue our outreach. At this meeting, the Executive Board made a decision to combine certain committees this year so as to maximize our time and more effectively manage our activities this year. We are looking forward to all of you, both active and retired teachers, working with us to achieve our goals this year. We welcome your ideas for future fundraisers and/or community partnerships for this coming year.

Please make sure that you keep your calendar open for the first meeting of our Chapter which will be held at the Chef's Bistro on Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m., Dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by our meeting at 6:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our meetings this school year!

Regards and welcome back,

Susan



Alpha Omega Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Meeting/May 17, 2017/ Minutes

Present: Marilyn Baker-Madsen, Karin Bercovitz, Barbara Bishr, Annette De Julio, Janie Dobbs, Norine Dolyniuk, Susan Fujii, Donna Goldenstein, Jennifer Gonsalves, Jean Groth, Linda Henika, Jeanne Lycett, Nonnie Moore, Virginia Williamson, Nancy Wolf.

Guests: Carl Baker-Madsen, Book Quiz & Book Talks; Daniela Barajas Mena, Alpha Omega New Teacher Scholarship Recipient; Cynthia Breeden-Johnson, Literacy Program Coordinator; Henry Santos (guest of Daniela Barajas Mena).

Members and guests enjoyed a Book Quiz and Book Talks prepared and presented by former owners of The Book Shop (Carl & Marilyn Baker-Madsen) followed by dinner at Acqua E Farina Ristorante.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Co-Presidents Annette De Julio and Susan Fujii at 6:54pm.

Welcome Members and Guest. Co-Presidents Annette De Julio and Susan Fujii, extended a warm welcome to members and our guests.

Presentations:

Alpha Omega Chapter Scholarship. Linda Henika, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, introduced the recipient of this year's scholarship, Daniela Barajas Mena. Ms. Mena is a student teacher at Tennyson High School in Hayward. She is earning a Master's in Education through the Multicultural Urban Secondary English (MUSE) program of the University of California, Berkeley. Ms. Mena did not consider college until her Junior year of High School where she received help, support and encouragement that influenced her professional goals to

become a high school English teacher in order to help underrepresented students like herself to achieve greater academic goals. As an undergraduate student, Ms. Mena studied abroad in Argentina, working on a Case Study with a young girl who attended a low income school. Ms. Mena will use this scholarship to prepare her classroom for the fall working with English Language Development students.

The Chair of the English Department at Tennyson High School had this to say about Ms. Mena in support of her scholarship application: “In my opinion, successful teachers need to have strong content knowledge - - Daniela has an impressive amount of content knowledge – and the following intangible qualities. 1) growth mindset, 2) willingness to cooperate, 3) grit. Daniela is the rare candidate who has all three characteristics.

The MUSE Student Supervisor, Graduate School of Education, University of California, Berkeley noted that Ms. Mena is currently working in an English Language Development classroom at Tennyson High School where she is preparing a unit rooted in inspiring students to write their own autobiographical personal narratives based on her autobiographical writings. He shares that he was impressed to see her quiet strength created a trust and bond with her students. He is extremely proud that she is working at Tennyson, his former high school, this semester. He is amazed at her ability to adapt to the challenging teaching context of South Hayward. He states as a proud “Haywardian” and teacher “emeritus” of Hayward Unified School District, he knows Ms. Mena is contributing to the teaching profession in ways that most aspiring teachers can only dream of accomplishing.

Career Online High School Scholarship. A check that will provide a scholarship for one candidate in the Career Online High School was presented to Cynthia Breeden-Johnson, Hayward Public Library Literacy Program Coordinator, by Jean Groth. Jean stated that she likes belonging to DKG because we can do things together, like supporting this scholarship, that we can't do as individuals. Jean said we are givers and that our virtual meeting fundraiser netted \$845 towards this \$1,095 scholarship. Cynthia accepted the scholarship on behalf of a candidate in the program. She thanked members of DKG for their generosity and said she would bring the student getting our award to report at a future meeting.

Directory Update. Norine Dolyniuk distributed updates for our current Alpha Omega Chapter, DKG Directory. Co-President, Annette De Julio thanked Norine for her continued work on the Directory.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Donna Goldenstein and seconded by Norine Dolyniuk to approve the minutes with the following corrections: change Hayward to Tennyson under

Scholarship Committee Proposal and capitalize the D in donna under Chapter Service Awards. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report. Co-Treasurer, Nonnie Moore, noted that the \$5,509.78 balance indicated on the distributed May 9, 2017 report has been reduced by the scholarships (\$1,000 and \$1,095) awarded tonight. The ending May 2017 balance is \$3,414.78. The report was received without a motion, second and vote.

Correspondence. No correspondence was received this month.

Old Business. No old business was carried forward this month.

DKG California Convention. Virginia Williamson reported on the convention which was held May 5-7, 2017. She told of a highlight of the convention, an inspiring speaker, Sara Safari, who spoke about her book Follow My Steps, A Journey of Adventure, Disaster and Redemption. The book is a thrilling tale of the author's climb to the top of Mt. Everest to bring awareness to the plight of marginalized girls and victims of sex trafficking around the world with a focus on Nepali girls. During the devastating 7.8 earthquake that hit Nepal, the author survived the avalanches on Mt. Everest. Proceeds of the book support the Empower Nepali Girls Foundation.

Announcements. Virginia Williamson reminded members about the Penne Ferrell Fund Literacy Award that provides \$200 for building classroom libraries for women teachers who are not current members of DKG.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by Co-President, Susan Fujii, at 7:15pm. She thanked Carl and Marilyn Baker-Madsen for the Book Quiz and Talks and the wine with dinner.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 27 (meeting place TBD)

**Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Baker-Madsen
Recording Secretary**



SEPTEMBER MEETING

**China Bistro Wednesday, September 27th at 5:00.
Please RSVP to Nonnie 510-517-2944 or email
nonniemoore303@gmail.com**



**Alpha Omega Treasurer's Report
End of Year Report for 2016- 2017**

Nonnie Moore

Chapter Available Fund Balance, July 1, 2016.....	\$5476.49
Total Receipts.....	\$7161.47
Total Disbursements.....	\$9529.98
Total Awards: Three (3) totaling \$3095.00	
Chapter Available Fund Balance.....	\$3108.28
Total Assets of Chapter, June 30, 2016.....	\$3108.28

Dues are due by October 1, 2016. Active members, \$89; Reserve members, \$49. Send check payable to Alpha Omega to Nonnie Moore, 3309 Streamside Circle, #303, Pleasanton 94588

Questions? Contact Nonnie at Nonniemoore303@gmail.com or 510-507-2944.



1. Dues are due October 1. Please bring cash/check to the first meeting on Wednesday, September 27 at China Bistro/Chef's Experience. Please make out checks to Alpha Omega.

2. Active members = \$89.00; Reserve members = \$49.00.

3. If you are unable to attend the meeting, kindly send your check, payable to Alpha Omega, to Nonnie Moore, 3309 Streamside Circle #303, Pleasanton, CA 94588. **Remember the October 1 Deadline!**

4. You may postdate your check to October 1. Checks will not be cashed until after the 1st. Hope this helps our members who are still working and don't get paid over the summer and those of us who are retired and on strict budgets!

5. If paying all at once is difficult, please contact me to work out a plan!! We would rather you paid in installments than leave us!

6. Wonderful Nancy Wales has again offered to make those handy *Save the Dates* magnets so we'll all be in the know. Just to clue you in early, here are our meeting dates for 2016-2017:

September 27 Wednesday
October 24 Tuesday
November 29 Wednesday
December Party TBD
January 23 Tuesday
February Virtual Meeting - Please pay \$25 to our Scholarship Fund!
March 28 Wednesday
April 24 Tuesday
May 23 Wednesday
*Reserve members are welcome to join us if you are in town! We'd love it!

It's going to be a great year! Be sure to be there for our kick off on Wednesday, September 27th for an acknowledgment of our still-working members and a chance to renew friendships and commitments to DKG values!

Nonnie



Legislative Report

Submitted by Nancy Wales

*Legislative Report
Delta Kappa Gamma
September, 2017*

The Legislative Committee extends a warm welcome back to all our members! The state budget was approved before the deadline! It sure feels better this way than the days of waiting until well past the start of the school year for this to happen. Districts should be able to plan better and union contracts should be settled faster without the budget uncertainty.

In the state, Governor Brown still hangs on to the Democrat majority. There is still the great divide in the state between the densely populated coastal districts and the agriculturally based, less populated interior. Diversity is good so one party or another doesn't go crazy.

The new Secretary of Education is proposing a 9.2% (\$13.5 billion) cut for the Department of Education. This would eliminate \$2 billion for teacher training and Title II and \$1.1 billion for afterschool and enrichment programs. She is advocating for a 50% increase for federally funded charter schools. 1) This would reduce enforcement of anti-discrimination laws. 2) If schools are not federally funded they are not subject to Title IX rules. [Title IX is effective because it withholds federal funding from institutions

which are not in compliance.] 3) Because special needs students are more expensive to educate due to the smaller class size and additional expense needed for them, nonpublic schools are not inclined to admit these students which increase the per student cost leaving them in the public education system with no increase in the per student funding. 4) Another downside of charter schools is that they allow more unlicensed teachers in the classroom along with reduced oversight by state agencies. 5) Finally, if large numbers of teachers leave the state-funded system, state retirement programs will be negatively impacted as fewer teachers pay into the state retirement system.

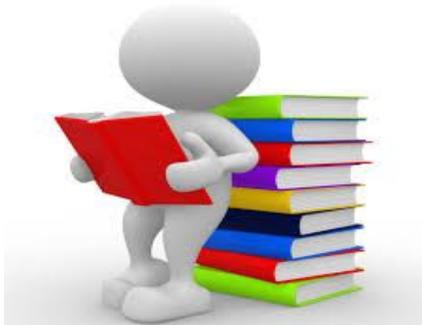
If anyone wishes to join this fabulous committee, Sandy Daly, Stephanie Magallon and I would welcome your participation. I have been Legislative Chair for over 25 years.. You have all been subject to my point of view for too long. Please consider joining us! New perspectives are what is needed. Let's all do our part and make this a great Delta Kappa Gamma year!

Nancy Wales

Money talks ...but all mine ever says is good-bye.

Book Notes

By Marilyn Baker-Madsen



Best Sellers/Hardback: The books of Pulitzer-Prize winning author Elizabeth Strout, have themes that examine how incompletely we know one another, how desperately hard every person in the world is working to get what they need, and the redemptive power of little things – like a shared memory or the setting sun. After watching the mini-series with Francis McDormand playing Olive Kitteridge, I had to go back and reread the book, and so I came to Strout's recent novel, My Name is Lucy Barton, fully aware that I would be stretched beyond my comfort zone, and I was! Strout humanizes

her characters so deftly, that the reader is nudged to acknowledge certain repressed aspects of their lives through the characters in her books.

This is the story Lucy tells about herself – a reunion with her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken in years, and as she reconnects with her mother, all the issues that have informed her life – her escape from her troubled family, her marriage, her love for her two daughters and her desire to be a writer – surface and play out through the following years of her life. The intense emotions, the deep insights and the keen observations of Lucy Barton strike a human cord and are hard to forget.

Elizabeth Strout's newest book of short stories, Anything Is Possible, was released in May. I have yet to read this book. Other titles by Strout include Amy and Isabelle, Abide with Me, Olive Kitteridge, and The Burgess Boys.

The Kind Worth Killing, by Peter Swanson, is told in alternating chapters titled for the main characters, Ted, Lily, Miranda and Detective Kimball – in each of their voices. I had to make myself keep reading this chilling story in the beginning as I did not find very many redeeming qualities in the characters; however, the suspenseful story of Ted and Lily plotting his wife's murder grabbed me hard and sucked me in! Each time I thought I had figured out this "who dunnit," new plot twists came along to derail my hypothesis. This book is a murder mystery extraordinaire! It is a tale of deceit and revenge from the author of The Girl with a Clock for a Heart.



Thinking about our DKG Sisters in Florida and Texas. Also there is a DKG Emergency Fund. Nonnie can give us an update at our first meeting.



Calendar for DKG Meetings 2017:
4th week of each month, alternating Wednesday and Tuesday:

- Sept 27 Wednesday : Recommitment meeting Setting course for theYear.
- Oct 21 Saturday Area III Fall Conference
- Oct 24 Tuesday Author #1
- Nov 29 Wednesday 70th Birthday Celebration Alpha Omega
- Dec TBD Calico party
- Jan 23 Tuesday Author #2
- February Virtual Meeting
- March 28. Wednesday Women's History
- Apr 24 Tuesday Installation
- Early May State Convention in Southern California
- May 23 Wednesday Books on B

Looks like the Rosette deadline can stay at the 10th of the month.
We will invite Zeta Zeta to join us in Oct, Jan or March.

Highlights of our May DKG Meeting at at Acqua E Farina Ristorante



Linda Henika, Chair of the Scholarship Committee and the recipient of this year's scholarship, Daniela Barajas Mena



Cynthia Breeden-Johnson accepting scholarship for the Career Online High School



Special guest, Carl Baker-Madsen and DKG Alpha Omega member, Marilyn Baker-Madsen delighted all of us with a Book Quiz contest



Virginia Williamson shares an amazing book with us, [Follow My Steps, A Journey of Adventure, Disaster and Redemption](#) by Sara Safari