



# BLOOMING ROSES

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Oregon State Organization -- Alpha Epsilon Chapter

Volume 63, No. 9 February 17, 2023

Marie Mueller and Kathy Martell, Newsletter Editors

## MARCH MEETING

**Date:** Monday, March 6

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Place:** La Margarita, 545 Ferry Street, SE, Salem



### Program:

- Dolly Parton Imagination Library: Kathy and Marjorie Lowe, Fiscal & Performance Officer from the Hub
- State Legislation: SB 407  
The initial draft of Senate Bill 407 was in the Jan/Feb newsletter, but you can read the update online at <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/SB407>
- Ivey Uppinghouse will join us to share how her students reacted to the Early-career Educator Library honoring Mary Lynn Morgan. See the article inside.
- Our guests from February 7--Lisa, Stacy, and Anna--are invited to join us to meet the rest of our chapter.

Check us out online! Stay current. Find info.

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

Visit our page. You'll be pleasantly surprised by all the goodies you will find there. Links, too!

## Co-Presidents' Message

February has been fun--and March promises to be marvelous. We're hoping to see you all at La Margari-ta on March 6.

It was delightful to meet on the 7<sup>th</sup> at North Salem High School. We'll be inviting our three presenters from this meeting to join us March 6, just to enjoy our group. They'd be wonderful additions! Check out the article--and photos, thanks to Lark Abrahamson.

Kathy Martell, Shirley Lomax, and John Morgan (Mary Lynn's hus-band) attended a Yoshikai Elementary faculty meeting on February 15 at 7 a.m.!! Marie couldn't go due to an early appointment and neither could our working educators, but it was a good session. It was our first Early-career Educators Literacy Project. Kathy was there to share information about DKG. Win/Win!

Thank you, Sue Nelson, for sending a sympathy card to President Brenda Jensen on the sudden passing of her boyfriend Steve. We all know how difficult it is to lose a beloved family member, especially if the loss is sudden and unexpected.

President Brenda arrived home on February 11 and is working with Steve's family to arrange a celebra-tion of life. She's in no hurry to do another cruise! Please keep Brenda in your prayers. She is hurting and is having a hard time refocusing on her normal routine.

*Kathy and Marie*

Our turn this month. Since Sue is our "Sun-shine Lady," we should all **send a card to her.**

Sue turns 29 (right?)  
on  
February 19.



## DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY UPDATE

*Kathy Martell & the HUB Staff*

### GOAL SURPASSED!!

With most of five months left to go, the Marion-Polk County version of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library has met its July 29, 2023, goal of enrolling 1000 children. In other good news, new funding sources allowed expansion to another Salem zipcode.

Our March meeting will explore the work being done to improve lit-eracy in our youngest Oregon children. Kathy and Margie Lowe from the Hub will update us on local successes.

At State Convention, Senator Deb Patterson, co-sponsor of SB 407, will discuss how state-wide work is going. If you read the *Salem States-man Journal* on February 17, the front page article discussed a new literacy bill in the Oregon House! Good things are happening.



# CONVENTION IS COMING!

April 28-30, 2023 (Friday evening through Sunday noonish)

Independence Hotel  
201 Osprey Lane  
Independence, OR

Marie looked it up. From her home in Southeast Salem, the hotel is only 8.5 miles away! You might be even closer, so this is a great location for Alpha Epsilon members, colleagues, and friends to attend.

If you read the information in the upcoming “convention” Trail, you’ll find that one option is to attend on Saturday only. That’s the day to invite colleagues to come, as it features workshops and both a birthday luncheon (Oregon DKG will be 82 years old!) and a Saturday evening banquet. Both have special keynote speakers, ceremonies and recognitions to enjoy. If you have the time, why not stay over at the lovely hotel and add to the fellowship and fun?

**Room registration forms** for the hotel are on their website. <https://theindependencehotel.com/> Register today!

Convention registration forms will be posted on the website by the end of February. Decisions are occurring as you read this, and those final details must be in place before the form can be posted.

# FEBRUARY FUN STARTED HERE

## ALPHA EPSILON CHAPTER

### MINUTES -- February 7, 2023 – North Salem High School

Alpha Epsilon met at North Salem High School, 765 14<sup>th</sup> St., NE, at 5 p.m. Deb Freels and/or Kathy Martell were on “door duty,” as by 5 p.m., doors were locked. We found our way to Emily Hickman Tarbell’s classroom and lab—Room 241 on the second floor. NSHS is very old but appears to be well maintained. We toured Emily’s classrooms and office. Fixtures and lighting were certainly leftover from decades earlier, but Emily’s room is spacious and is attached to the school’s former library, so she had lovely shelving and cupboards: Floor to ceiling, accessed by an old but functional library ladder on a rolling track. Her room is connected to a multi-person faculty office facility, and the classroom features white boards and a computer-based large-screen projector. She inherited a large fish tank and its occupants, as well as many other science items, even an incomplete, disarticulated skeleton, poor guy! As a side note,

Shirley House attended North, graduating about 1953. She remembers the brick façade, but not whether she was actually in Room 241 before or not. “It’s been a while!” she commented.

#### Present:

- Deb Freels
- Emily Tarbell, our hostess
- Jill Snyder
- Kathy Martell
- Lark Abrahamson
- Marie Mueller
- Shirley House



Marie, Stacy Ryan, Emily

#### Guest speakers & MAPS Grant Recipients (\$1,000 each)

- Lisa Iverson, Principal, Turner Elementary School & formerly Cascade HS teacher
- Stacy Ryan, Music, Liberty Elementary School
- Anna Smoll, Music, Waldo Middle School

**Emily** said that her science department has 10 teachers. Her own classes range from 27-37 students, with her lowest number one semester at 18 in a class. NSHS has a variable schedule with some class periods only 40 minutes long with others at 90 minutes. She prefers the 90-minute schedule, as it allows time for science discussions and experiments to be well rounded. Emily indicated that the faculty work well together as a team, sharing ideas and cooperating or helping one another. She also

gave credit to the long-term teacher who co-taught with her during the reopening of the school after the pandemic. His experience was instrumental in the comfort she feels as she now tackles teaching forensics and physics on her own.



*Lisa Iverson (L) Emily (R)*

**Lisa Iverson from Turner (and formerly Cascade High)** focused her grant applications on adding outdoor and off-campus education for first Cascade students and now Turner Elementary students. She writes grants “for fun” after she goes home—and then appreciates the results when chosen by the donors. Lisa provided PowerPoint™ slides and a short student-made film to demonstrate how well the “outside” fits into student learning and growth, from first trips to the ocean, to investigating trees, to attending a concert, and more.

Initially, “outside” literally meant being outside where students did not have to wear masks during the post-COVID months but, as Lisa pointed out, the outdoors offers much to learn and many things of interest. With students who had experienced the effects of the pandemic—distance / online learning, masking, computers, cell phones, TV, no socialization, no clubs, no, no, no....., being able to interact and learn with others in an unre-

stricted space (the outside of both Cascade and Turner offer land, trees, and water to explore) was refreshing and helped them readjust to in-person learning. Parents and the communities in the area are enthusiastic and encouraging.

Lisa’s current grant from MAPS purchased four different outdoor, weather-safe musical instruments to add to the mix of other outdoor learning activities at Turner Elementary.

### **Stacy Ryan from Liberty Elementary,** being a music



teacher, chose improvements to her various music classes and equipment for her grants. She arrived with a small xylophone, mallets, and two other instruments as a demonstration of what her MAPS grant had funded. Her grant provided rolling, adjustable stands for classroom xylophones.

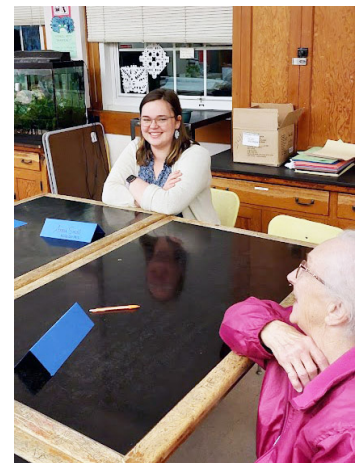
Since Liberty is a K-5 school, “adjustable” is essential—and with the stands, there is less chance of a student dropping the instruments, from which many parts fall, need to be re-set, and/or reattached. In addition, the grant funded 22 sets of new, colorful (blue, red, yellow) mallets to strike the tones. Included in the purchase are small wooden

instruments that make a variety of tapping and background noises, very useful during school programs. Through a different grant, Stacy was able to purchase risers and a sound system, with mics .

Stacy has her students for half-hour classes twice a week: 18-20 in Kindergarten, 24-26 in Grade 1, 32 in Intermediate). Music teachers are to provide four concerts a year and somehow ensure that each grade level can perform individually—for 500 students at the school.

### **Anna Smoll from Waldo Middle School** has her music

students for only half an hour each week. One of her overall goals is to make music more approachable and help students realize that they can access and participate in music through various venues. Coming out of the COVID isolation, another challenge was to raise student interest in music, by discussing what other schools are doing, what



*Anna Smoll (L) & Shirley House (R)*

options are available throughout the Salem-Keizer School District, and ways that high school graduates can continue music in college and later in their community--these are tactics that allow her students to incorporate music into everyday life as lifelong learners.

Anna’s recent MAPS grant allowed purchase of 25 brand-new

turquoise ukeleles! Her slides showed happy students with huge smiles, boys and girls participating enthusiastically in their work.

Kathy and Marie provided trail mix packets and drinks for everyone, and at the end of the session, we discussed the advantages of DKG. Emily made an important and well-focused comment about how much the DKG support from other members and willingness to assist or answer questions has meant to her. Kathy will send information on the DKG convention in Independence to all of us and to our guests, who may wish to attend for the Saturday workshops—and maybe earn some PDU’s. After the meeting, most of us adjourned to Chronic Tacos for supper—and more discussion. It was fun.

A casual thought: At some future meeting, it might be fun to hear from MAPS just how this grant program works and what criteria are used to select winners. (Marie)

## FEBRUARY FUN CONTINUED ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup>



*Yoshikai Elementary School Faculty Meeting on February 15. This was the “audience” for our Early-career Educators Literacy Award.*

*Photos by Kathy Martell*



*Lisa (guest), Deb, Jill, Kathy*



*Ivey Uppinghouse (L), John Morgan (C--Mary Lynn’s husband), and Shirley Lomax (R). Shirley and John were presenting the certificate to Ivey. Note the piles of books on the table--and that’s only some of the 70 that were donated!*

*Continues, page 6 >>>>*

# WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO BEGIN A DAY!

February 15, 2023, began what may well become a wonderful Alpha Epsilon tradition: The Early-Career Educator Literacy Award in honor of former member Mary Lynn Morgan. The award is a classroom library of 70 books given to an early-career educator in the Salem-Keizer School District. Co-President Kathy Martell, Shirley Lomax, and John Morgan, husband to Mary Lynn Morgan, met the recipient at Yoshikai Elementary School. The ceremony occurred at a faculty meeting at 7:30 a.m. with Ivey's colleagues enjoying the positive beginning to the day.

Our 2023 honoree is Ivey Uppinghouse, a third-grade teacher. As it chances—and this was pure serendipity—Ivey teaches at Yoshikai Elementary. That school was named for Alyce Yoshikai, a founding member of Alpha Epsilon Chapter. Alyce began her career in 1951 as a second-grade teacher at Richmond Elementary School in Salem. During her 22 years in the district, she was a District Primary Resource Teacher, principal of seven elementary schools, and Director of Elementary Education for Salem-Keizer. Alyce passed away in 2016.

Ivey, our chosen recipient, is in her first full year as a teacher, having started in January 2022. Recently, students have been strongly affected by the pandemic and online learning, so numbers of students are struggling with basic social and educational skills, including reading. Having a variety of new books to inspire them is precisely what Mary Lynn Morgan would have liked. Mary Lynn taught for 30+ years as a primary teacher at Pringle, Rosedale, Cummings, and Candalaria elementary schools. After her retirement she substituted throughout the Salem-Keizer School District and helped Family Building Blocks' families in ordering monthly books from Scholastic. She had a special affinity for students who faced challenges and was particularly interested in the positive effect of adaptive sports on students with a disability.

After the close of the ceremony, John Morgan posted a tribute: "I had a great and humbling experience this morning. I was part of the ceremony giving the Mary Lynn Morgan award to a young teacher for her exceptional service in education of young children. This is the first year of the award by the Salem/Keizer Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, the teacher group to which Mary Lynn belonged. The prize was a collection of 70 early childhood books and will be given every year. Sort of choked me up, and still does."

*Alyce Yoshikai*



*Ivey Uppinghouse Receives Award & Library*

*Mary Lynn Morgan*

