



# BLOOMING ROSES

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

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Kathy Martell, Newsletter Editor

***The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Mission Statement:***  
*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

### Chapter Officers:

**Presidents:** Kathy Martell  
**Website:** Cindy Ryan  
**Rec. Sec:** Shawnie Murphy  
**Corr. Sec:** Deb Freels  
**Treasurer:** Jill Snyder



Hello Everyone!

This morning when I went swimming, in what felt like my very own pool because no one else was there, I had a chance to reflect on how lucky we are this year to live where we do. The sun was out, no wind and just a beautiful September morning!

### **West Salem Athletic Club The Courthouse**



Then I started thinking about my many blessings. I thought about all of you and my other friends. I know I have people I can count on if I need help. I thought about how blessed the Salem-Keizer community is because of DKG and our chapter members. Since 1959 members have lived and taught in the schools. We have worked together supporting many different literacy projects from Little Libraries, to labeling books, conducting a Family Literacy Fair at State Convention, doing Family Literacy Nights at the high schools for their

Preschool Programs and the list goes on.

Last year we started learning about two other literacy projects we're going to become more involved in this year. Our chapter will become partners with different community groups once these programs are set up. They are a work in progress right now as we deal with Covid.

### **Book Collection - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**

Some of us have donated books to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Salem Health and they are very appreciative. I was instrumental in getting the Marion and Polk Early Learning Hub to donate books to the Unit for their Drive by Reunion of their neonatal babies this month. However, I just learned this morning they have had to cancel the reunion because it's "all hands on deck" with the Covid issues at the hospital.

They are going to be doing a Read-a-thon though and I want to share with you part of Shannan Murphy-Brown's email she sent out to the rest of the staff at the hospital explaining to them about the Read-a-thon.

*We will be kicking off the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Read-a-thon next week! There are 106 NICU's participating globally. You will see materials at the bedside.*

*With the help of Kathy Martell (Alpha Epsilon Chapter President) and the members of Delta Kappa Gamma (Key Women Educators), Salem Hospital NICU has received donations of new books from the Early Learning Hub of Marion and Polk County. We will be providing the NICU families with new books from this donation as well as the books collected by our Parent Action Committee (PAC) during the NICU Book Drive. Please read how you can help support babies and families with bonding and learning the importance of reading with their children.*

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

As I shared before, Cindy and I are part of a Steering Committee working with local partners to develop a plan for bringing the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to our area. Lisa Harnisch, Executive Director of the Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub has agreed to have the Hub be the "Local Champion" for the program. That means they have the right non-profit number so they can set up an account and pay the book invoice each month for children we have enrolled in our Imagination Library program. Lisa and I have a Zoom meeting set up on October 5<sup>th</sup> with the Regional Director for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to discuss exactly how this comes about. After that meeting, we will have another Steering Committee Meeting to discuss how the partners will work together getting financial sponsors for the program.

In the meantime, I would like all of you to be thinking about who DKG might approach to become a financial partner. I know banks offer grants for community projects. I have checked on line for information on MAPS Community Grants and they are revising their guidelines and will be sharing the new ones after the first of the year. Spirit Mountain has community grants and that might be a possibility, but I know they really support Yamhill County's Imagination Library. There are also car dealerships, Lion Clubs, Rotary Clubs and many other Civic Organizations around. Do you know of anyone who might be a member of an organization or a business that might be supportive? I'm just wanting ideas of who to contact. I don't expect you to go out and solicit.

I see our DKG Chapter helping sign up children for the program during a special family event being held around town (once Covid is under control) and maybe helping keep the data base updated which can be done from home. I'll be learning how to do that too when we get that far.



## Alpha Epsilon's September Social

Alpha Epsilon succeeded with our second try for a social. The first effort was cancelled by 109 degrees! We met on Sept 11 at Legacy Vineyards, part of the Eola Hills group, for a picnic and a glass of wine. Perfect day, acorns dropping from the oaks, sunny, brisk breezes—outside and distanced. Each of us brought a lunch; Kathy Martell brought yummy cookies to share; Cindy Ryan provided scrumptious chocolates; the winery cheerfully sold some bottles of wine—all good. In attendance were Kathy Martell, Lark Abrahamson, a retired McClaren teacher (Kathy's guest), Shirley House (a 45-year DKG member), Jill Snyder, Cindy Ryan and Ruthie, Maria Laine, Instructional Coach/Mentor, with Salem-Keizer Early Childhood (Cindy's guest), Sue Nelson, Marie Mueller, and too many yellowjackets. Lots of stories were shared. Kathy shared DKG Int'l and chapter brochures with the guests, with the servers at the vineyard, who are also teachers, and with one of Cindy's co-workers who stopped by. Lots of stories were told. Ask Jill and Cindy what the differences are among a puddle, a pond, and a lake.

(Thank you, Marie for writing this article!)