**Omicron News**

Omicron Chapter, Alpha Beta State

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Established June 14, 1960



***Vol. 61, No. 1 Fall 2020***

**Message from the President**

*Dear Omicron Sisters,*

 *Greetings, my friends! During these highly unusual times, I hope that you and your families are well and that you have managed to eke out some summertime fun. Even though I did not have the summer I had planned, it was productive and enjoyable thanks to gardening, reading lots of good books, and experiencing socially distanced family times.*

 *This summer has certainly been an Omicron chapter learning experience for me as well. Since the State Leadership Conference, at which I was scheduled to receive training in the role of chapter president, was cancelled due to Covid 19, Iris was charged with my instruction. I am sure you are all familiar with the simile, “It was like teaching a pig to sing!” Well, that is exactly how it was, with Iris being the sage and myself the porker. There really is a lot to learn. Iris made several trips to my house instructing me on the technology needed to communicate with the state and keep chapter records. It was a difficult process for me because we couldn’t be more different. (Mac vs. PC, aol vs. gmail, fluent in Word vs. What Word?) Anyway, I think that I am at least up-to-date as far as communications go. The one thing that Iris and I do have in common is our desire to keep Omicron a truly outstanding chapter. We are committed!*

 *In closing, I would like to thank all of those members who have recently stepped up and those who continue to hold important roles within the chapter. Although it may be somewhat challenging, I hope you are looking forward to an exciting year.*

 *Jo Anne*



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**Omicron Program Plans 2020-2021**

**October 8, 2020 at 7:00pm \*\*\* This is a change from the original chapter calendar.**

**Place:** Zoom

**Program:** Installation of Officers / Armchair Travel Program

**Community Service Focus**: Online September fundraiser for Shepherd’s Staff (<https://go.rallyup.com/shepstaffsummersendoff>) and school supply donations made on an individual basis by calling 410-857-5944.

**November 17, 2020 at 6:00pm**

**Place:** South Carroll High School

**Program:** Beth Halley will share information about Human Trafficking.

**Community Service Focus**: Adopt a Family, “Together We Own It”

**February 3, 2021 at 6:00pm**

**Place:** Westminster High School

**Program:** Sharon Begin will share information about being a landscape designer.

**Community Service Focus:** Boys & Girls Club, donations of snacks

**March 11, 2021**

**Place:** Winters Mill High School

**Program:** Greg Padrick will share information about Acupressure/Acupuncture.

**Community Service Focus:** Shepherd Staff Easter Baskets

**April 14, 2021**

**Place:** Westminster High School

**Program:** Robin Weiss will share information about estate planning, trusts and advanced directives.

**Community Service Focus:** Together We Own It

**May 13, 2021**

**Place:** Career and Tech

**Program:** End of Year Celebration

**Community Service Focus:** Shepherd’s Staff

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**Gift Card Fundraiser**

 Please consider supporting our fundraiser. You will find attached a revised gift card order form. For each card purchased, our organization receives a percentage of the value of the card. Now, how easy is that? Just fill out the order form, write a check, and either shop or give the cards as gifts.

 Doesn’t everyone enjoy receiving gift cards? Remember that the cards may be used in stores or on-line. If you are a frequent shopper at a certain store, buy cards for that store and use them yourself. This year, an Amazon gift card and a Visa gift card have been added to the list. It costs you nothing extra and really helps Omicron. Please note one change that you should make to the attached gift card order form: Food Lion is temporarily unavailable.

 Please mail your completed forms and checks to Pat Minnich by October 22. The cards will be distributed during the week of November 16 in plenty of time for the holidays. Thanks in advance for supporting this endeavor!

**Membership News**

 Change continues to happen.  Looking out for the safety and wellbeing of all, the formal induction of our new members will be next Spring.  Installation of the 2020-2022 officers will be conducted virtually, via Zoom on Thursday, October 8th at 7 p.m.

(Please note that this is a different date from the originally scheduled meeting. )

 Are you longing to travel but unable to do so due to the pandemic restrictions? We have planned an arm-chair travel event following the officer installation on October 8th.  Your input is needed for this activity. Please email Iris (iwingert3@comcast.net) with some pictures of places you have traveled to in the past and be prepared to share your travel experiences with our members on Zoom as the pictures are shared with members in attendance. We will take away from the meeting ideas for places to visit once we can finally leave for new destinations and experience exciting adventures.
 You will receive a Zoom link with a reminder about our virtual October 8th meeting approximately one and two weeks beforehand.

Sincerely,

Membership Committee

Laura McClelland

Sandy Dutterer

Lisa McCurak

Bonnie McElroy

Nora Murray

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**A Fond Farewell from Immediate Past President Iris Wingert**

 I want to thank everyone who supported me during the past two years in my role as chapter president. It’s been an honor to work with such dedicated and resourceful women who believe as I do in the goals of our chapter. As a former media specialist, I know how much skill and labor goes into being an excellent educator. Therefore, one of my goals was for Omicron to be an outlet for its members so that they could come together and unwind after a hard day’s work. I wanted them to be able to meet with their friends and build relationships with both former and current colleagues in a relaxed and fun-filled atmosphere. Our wine and cheese paint-bowl party, visit to the Taneytown Historical Museum and dinner meetings were some examples of having social times together.

 Another goal that I had as president was for members to enjoy an interesting speaker for a short period of personal growth. Those times included a healthy cooking demonstration, self-defense for women presentation, and hearing about the history of New Windsor and the home front during World War I. My third goal was to honor our members for their accomplishments and achievements in the field of education. At each chapter meeting, members were given special recognition by the chair of the Education/Professional Affairs Committee. Additionally, information about the great things that chapter members were doing in their classrooms or Carroll County Community was added to our chapter’s website member recognition page.

 Although the in-person meetings and events ended abruptly on March 12 due to you-know-what, we sisters will march on to bigger and better meetings and activities with the leadership from our new president, Jo Anne Stevens. And I promise that our field trip to the JHU Evergreen Museum with brunch at Miss Shirley’s is only postponed – not cancelled – as is our walking tour of New Windsor.
 My hope for our chapter’s future is that more members join and get involved in working toward some of our chapter goals that I just mentioned above and in helping with our community service activities, chapter fundraisers and educational partnerships that have been so successful in the past. With our wonderfully engaged and dedicated members, all of these goals will continue to be accomplished and our membership will grow and our chapter will thrive!

**A Note of Thanks from Iris Wingert**

 This is about a very special donation to our Omicron chapter from my friend, Helen Ann Schwartz. Helen Ann and I have been friends since the 1970s when we were both either teaching or taking education classes. Leave it to Helen Ann to surprise me this summer with a check for $200 made out to the Omicron Chapter. In her note that came with the check, she wrote that $100 was in honor of my leadership role as president of the Omicron chapter and $100 was in loving memory of her dear mother, Leona J. Dannenberg who was herself at teacher. Helen Ann suggested that her donation be contributed to our scholarship fund that helps curb the expense of a McDaniel College student in the Master of Science in Teaching program during her internship semester. What a most generous and thoughtful gift to our organization! And what a very nice gesture from a former teacher and my long-time friend, Helen Ann Schwartz!

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**Boscov’s Fundraiser 2020**

      Get a jump on the upcoming holidays and support Delta Kappa Gamma at the same time. A major money-making project is Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends Day. It is an easy way to raise funds for our organization.

       Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Boscov’s is doing things differently for

Friends Helping Friends. To follow social distancing guidelines, the fundraiser will be **two days**- **Wednesday, October 14th and Thursday, October 15th, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.**  Customers will receive a 20% discount on items purchased these days. (Some exclusions apply).

We will **not be** selling tickets. When you make a purchase and mention the name of our organization- Delta Kappa Gamma, Omicron Chapter- our group will get 5% of the total amount spent. (Some exclusions apply.)

        You can also shop online during these two days and we will get 5% from the total spent. Again the key phrase is Delta Kappa Gamma, Omicron Chapter.

        Encourage your friends, neighbors, and family to shop on these days and remind them of the name of our group- Delta Kappa Gamma, Omicron Chapter.

There are other Delta Kappa Gamma groups participating so we must identify our

chapter.  Hint: Write it out before your friends, neighbors and family members go shopping.

         Please support our organization. Grab a mask and go out shopping or shop online on October 14th and 15th, and remember our key phrase.

         If you have any questions, call me.

--Dixie Elmes, 410-857-5068

**Online Bingo - Who Would Have Imagined?**

 BINGO was our chapter’s creative way of trying to get folks together socially and to have some fun during this pandemic. On July 21st, ten or so members got together for three fun games of online BINGO. Elaine Bowen was the winner of one of those games and Jo Anne Stevens won two! Prizes will be awarded to the winners whenever we meet in person (hopefully in November).

