

**Omicron News**

Omicron Chapter, Alpha Beta State

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Established June 14, 1960

***Vol. 60, No. 2 Spring 2020***

**Message from the President**

Greetings Omicron Sisters,

What a great 2019–2020 fiscal year we are having!!! We kicked off the new year with a great October program featuring Gabrielle Balasonne. She explained how her survival experiences on Discovery Channel’s *Naked and Afraid* series provided her with seven important and inspirational lessons in everyday living. Our November dinner gathering was very well-attended, gave us lots of sisterly-bonding time and a delicious meal hosted by the CCCTC culinary arts students.

Our calendar for the remainder of the year is replete with enjoyable activities and events including an ice cream social and paint-bowl party in February, brunch at Miss Shirley’s and a field trip to the Johns Hopkins Evergreen Museum in March, a historic town walking tour and a luncheon plus wine, cheese, and books in April, and a DKG Maryland Leadership Development Conference and Omicron Chapter Dinner Meeting, Officer Installation, and New Member Induction Ceremony in May. And let’s not forget that in July, there will be an exciting DKG International Convention in Philadelphia. Please plan to attend our meetings and participate in as many fun activities as possible.

In addition, plans are underway for exciting new programs for our 2020–2022 biennium. At our February 12 meeting, you will get to vote on the programs that you want to have for next year. Thanks to Maria Shanabarger and Jo Anne Stevens for putting together a great selection of possible future programs from which we can choose.

Our future looks bright, our chapter is growing, and members are stepping up and getting involved. Please continue to participate in all that we have to offer. I look forwarding to seeing you at many of our upcoming events.

Best Regards,

Iris

**Gift Card Orders**

Our spring gift card fundraiser is currently taking place. For each card sold, Omicron receives a percentage which is used to support our grants-in-aid fundraiser. So please participate. The gift card order form is attached to this newsletter as a download. Your order can be turned in during our February 12th meeting. They are due to Pat Minnich by Friday, February 21 and will distributed to members during our March 12th meeting.

**Highlights of Some Upcoming events   
(see chapter calendar for complete listing)**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m.**  
Place – Westminster High School  
Program: The History of Hoffman’s Ice Cream Establishment  
Community Service Focus: “Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports” Items for the children at Robert Moton Elementary School (see details under “Supporting RMES”)

**Friday, February 21 - 6:00 p.m.  -** **Cabin Fever Bowl Paint Party**  at [Cobb51 Pottery Studio](https://www.cob51.com/) in the Town Mall of Westminster. $15 per bowl to be donated to the Shepherd's Staff Empty Bowls Charitable Event plus you get a **free** **gift** **to paint and take home**. A fun time for sister-bonding and supporting our Carroll County Community.  Bring snacks and Wine!!!  We must have an advanced head-count of attendees. Please click on the following link to register to attend this event: [https://app.getoccasion.com/p/n/kr7q896S#](https://app.getoccasion.com/p/n/kr7q896S) If you have any questions please email Cindi King:  [cindiking@hotmail.com](mailto:cindiking@hotmail.com)

**Saturday, March 21** - 10:00 a.m. We will meet at [Miss Shirley's in Roland Park](http://www.missshirleys.com/menu/full-menu) for Brunch and more Sister Bonding, then proceed to the nearby [Johns Hopkins Evergreen Museum](http://www.museums.jhu.edu/evergreen.php) for a 12:00 p.m. 90-minute guided tour. Evergreen, a two and a half story, 48-room Italianate country house at 4545 North Charles Street, was built in 1858 and "reflects the late 19th- and early 20th-century lifestyle of a prominent Baltimore family, showcasing the changing tastes and varied collecting interests of its members." According to the Evergreen website, the home's opulent rooms are filled with over 50,000 extraordinary and eclectic belongings.  Museum admission is $7.00 and will be collected in advance at the February 12th or March 12th chapter meetings. Carpooling is advised. The brunch and tour will be limited to the first 20 people who sign up and pay. Email Iris Wingert at [iwingert3@comcast.net](mailto:iwingert3@comcast.net) if you have questions or are interested in attending.

**Saturday, April 18 - 11:00 a.m**. - A group walking tour of New Windsor followed by lunch at Uncle Matty's in New Windsor. Time to get some fresh air and exercise and enjoy some local color of this historic Carroll County town. During our March 12 meeting at Westminster High School, former New Windsor resident, historian, and author Frank Batavick will present an informative history of New Windsor. The walking tour will be led by Frank on April 18 as a follow-up to his March 12 presentation. This tour is open to members and guests, young and old. Advanced notice of who will be coming is required in order to let Uncle Matty's know in advance how many luncheon guests to expect.

**Calendar of Events For 2019 – 2020**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Place** - Westminster High School  
**Program** - The History of [Hoffman's Ice Cream Establishment](https://www.hoffmansicecream.com/)   
**Community Service Focus**: “**P**ositive **B**ehavioral **I**nterventions & **S**upports” Items for the children at Robert Moton Elementary School

**Friday, February 21, 2020 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Cabin Fever Bowl Paint Party** at [Cobb51 Pottery Studio](https://www.cob51.com/) in the Town Mall of Westminster. $15 per bowl to be donated to the ​Shepherd's Staff​ Empty Bowls Charitable Event. Receive a free gift to paint and take home. Bring snacks and Wine!!!

**Saturday, March 7, 2020 – 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**DKG Maryland State Organization Executive Board Meeting** @ Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 12430 Scaggsville Rd. ​(Rte. 216); Highland, MD

**Thursday, March 12, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Place** – Westminster High School  
**Program** - A local history of the town of [New Windsor](http://www.newwindsorheritage.org/) presented by Frank Batavick  
**Community Service Focus**: Cookie Exchange for Robert Moton faculty and staff

**Saturday, March 21, 2020 –10:00 a.m.**

[Brunch at Miss Shirley’s](http://www.missshirleys.com/menu/full-menu) in Roland Park followed by a tour of the [Johns Hopkins Evergreen Museum](http://www.museums.jhu.edu/evergreen.php) at 4545 North Charles Street.

**Saturday, April 18 – 11:00 a.m.**

Visit the New Windsor Museum and a Walking Tour of [New Windsor](http://www.newwindsorheritage.org/)   
followed by Lunch at [Uncle Matty’s](http://www.unclemattyseatery.com/menu.html).

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Place** - A [Likely Story Bookshop](https://www.sykesvillebooks.com/) in Sykesville  
**Program** - Book talk and discussion of great reads  
**Community Service Focus:** Supplies for the Boys and Girls Club of Westminster, Cindi King, liaison

**Saturday, May 2, 2020**

DKG Maryland State Organization Leadership Development Conference (Chapter members who attend will be reimbursed $20 with proof of registration payment)

**Wednesday, May 13, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Place** - Carroll County Career and Technology Center  
**Program** - Dinner Meeting catered by the Culinary Arts Students followed Induction of New Members; Installation of New Officers  
**Community Service Focus**: [Shepherd's Staff Backpack Program/School Supplies Donations](https://omicrondkgmd.weebly.com/uploads/4/9/5/7/49576775/2019_bts_donate_brochure_6.4.19.pdf)

**Programming for 2020 – 2021**

What programs will enlighten, entertain, and inspire us next year? Well, you get to decide. Attached to this newsletter as a separate download is a page entitled “Potential Speaker List 2020 – 2021” with ten options for next year. Please read the choices over before attending the February 12th meeting. You will then vote during that meeting on which programs we will have next year. Thanks to our hard-working program committee co-chairs Maria Shanabarger and Jo Anne Stevens, with assistance from Iris Wingert, for helping put this list together.

**Membership News by Laura McClelland**

We have an amazing group of sisters. It is an honor to be a part of such an outstanding group of women educators. Our most recent sister, Noreen Strylowski, currently works at McDaniel College as a Secondary PreK-12 PDS Liaison. She taught middle school ELA for 35 years at West Middle School.

On a personal note, she was my brother’s favorite teacher. Two other women educators plan to be inducted into Omicron along with Noreen in May.

If you would like to recommend someone for membership, please complete a prospect card and/or a Chapter Membership Application, (found on the Omicron and DKG Maryland State Organization websites) and submit either to Laura McClelland at [omnifurpets@gmail.com](mailto:omnifurpets@gmail.com). A vote will be taken, and a note of invitation will be sent to the individual inviting her to attend a future meeting and consider membership. You never know where you will meet a prospective member. Driving home today, I saw a lady walking her dog, with another dog tagging behind. She stopped to see if it was my dog. Together we located the owner. Then we had a chance to get to know each other. We both taught at the elementary level. She just retired and was inquiring about things to do. Of course, I mentioned Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and directed her to the website.

As many of you are aware, one of our dear, long term members, Elinor Causey, passed away on January 3rd. She joined Omicron in 1987. During her membership she held the offices of First Vice-President, President, Parliamentarian, Remembrance Committee Chair and Alpha Beta State Maryland Chapter Legislative Committee member. Elinor loved her Omicron sisters. We loved her and will miss her.

A celebration of her life will be held at our February meeting.

**New Dues Cycle**

As a reminder, the DKG fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. This means that annual dues are collected in May and June for the next fiscal year.

**2020 DKG International Convention in Philadelphia**

Please join your Omicron sisters for a fun and informative time in Philly. Watch this video for details: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8T3v03n6mU&feature=youtu.be>   
then download and complete the registration form that is attached to this newsletter.

**Works of Art**

You can visit the DKG International Art Gallery without leaving home. That’s because it is virtual. Visit <http://gallery.dkg.org/visual-art.html> to view beautiful artwork from sisters across the country. In the photography section, see if you can spot the photograph taken during last year’s bookfair at Taneytown Elementary School.

**Member Recruitment Program**

Does CCPS have outstanding women educators who would like opportunities for leadership, fellowship and personal growth? Are there outstanding women teachers who would like to compete for scholarships or professional development grants? Of course there are. DKG members are nominated by other outstanding members – that’s how our chapter grows and continues to thrive. So please complete this prospect card with the names of these outstanding women and hand them into our membership chair, Laura McClelland, at any upcoming meeting. Laura and her membership committee will do the rest. It’s that simple. Thanks! **Supporting RMES**:

DKG Prospect Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Our school partnership with Robert Moton is going strong. Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies and delicious breakfast items for the faculty and staff in November. The breakfast was a feast to behold and the faculty were extremely grateful for the wonderful and large selection of school supplies that were donated by our members. A special thank you to Jean Repsher for donating the electric pencil sharper that was raffled off (for free) to a lucky RMES teaching team. Lots of gratitude goes to the retired teachers (Margi Petrella, Jo Anne Stevens, Sandy Dutterer, Cindi King, Laurette O’Keefe, Jean Repsher, Laura McClelland, Kim Arnold, and Kathie Tromble) who arrived early on November 15th to help set up and serve breakfast and clean up afterwards.

Five members are visiting   
Robert Moton weekly and   
helping the 1st-graders with   
their math fluency. Thanks  
to our volunteers: Sandy  
Dutterer, Laura McClelland, Margi Petrella, Jo Anne Stevens and Iris Wingert. The first grade teachers are very thankful for your help.

**Up Next:**

At the beginning of our February 12th meeting we will be collecting member-purchased items that support the RMES PBIS program. These items will serve as rewards for positive behavior. The children must move through a color-coded list of behavioral goals to reach the highest standard level: blue. At that point they are given a ticket to select a special reward. The guidance counselor is looking for items that are nicer than the small trinkets and stickers that the children receive at the lower levels. She identified the following sample items for level blue: books, card games like UNO, puzzles, gift certificates, and the kinds of items that you could purchase at Five Below. One of our members found some nice items to purchase at the Weis grocery store near the stationery supplies. These are only some suggestions. Thanks in advance for participating in this community service activity. 

**Looking Ahead:**

February 14: A poem with Hershey Kisses will be placed in each teacher’s mailbox.  
March 13:  Cookies will be delivered to the staff.  
March 26: “One School, One Book” Family Night. An evening of activities and book discussions about *A Boy Called Bat*.   
April 21: “Every Healthy Family Night” and the School Book Fair. 5-7 p.m.  
June: End of year treat placed in teacher mailboxes.

Please click on this link to register for the Omicron Chapter

Cabin Fever Paint-Bowl Party!

Friday, February 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

At Cob51 in the Westminster Town Mall

Bring Wine and Snacks to Share!

<https://app.getoccasion.com/p/n/kr7q896S>

