**Omicron News**

Omicron Chapter, Alpha Beta State

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Established June 14, 1960



***Vol. 63, No. 2 Spring 2023***

**Message from the President**

Earlier this year, on February 2nd, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and predicted six more weeks of winter. Looks like Mother Nature had some other ideas for us here in Maryland. With mild temperatures we tend to venture outside a bit more, open a window for some fresh air, and maybe begin to think about planting a garden.

Some morning glory, zinnias, and even some sunflowers can brighten your garden and your mood. While the bright colors of marigolds are also eye-catching, did you know that marigolds can have a positive effect in your life? Planting marigolds next to other plants protects them from pests and harmful weeds, thus giving other plants the opportunity to grow healthy and strong. Imagine if we were planted near a marigold? You may not have to look far to realize that you do have a marigold in your close circle. The Marigold Effect is based on the premise that surrounding yourself with positive role models has a positive effect on you.

*“Marigolds exist in our schools as well – encouraging, supporting and nurturing growing teachers on their way to maturity. If you can find at least one marigold in your school and stay close to them, you will grow. Find more than one and you will positively thrive.” ~* Jennifer Gonzalez

We can connect The Marigold Effect to our own lives in that it can be found in our community, our schools, book clubs and really anywhere in which you are a member of a group. Look for the marigolds in your life. Hang with the marigolds. Be a marigold!



Sincerely,

Maria

***Omicron News Page 2 Spring 2023***

Calendar of Future Events

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023 – 6:00pm**

**Place** – Liberty High School

**Program** – Guest Speaker, Monica Schmidt, from Mission Beelieve, will share information about the importance of bees and how we can help protect them.

**Community Service Focus:** Carroll Baby; Diapers & Formula Program

**Thursday, April 27, 2023 – 6:00pm**

**Place** – Westminster High School

**Program** **–** Guest Speakers,Ms. Allison King & Nikki Rhodes-Whaley, from the Rudolph Girls Book Store, will present us with a book talk.

**Community Service Focus:** Food Pantry at WHS

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 6:00pm**

**Place** – St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, 17 Bond Street, Westminster

**Program** – Dinner Meeting

**Community Service Focus:** Shepherd’s Staff; School Supplies

**Executive Board Meeting, June 20, 2023 – 12:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Place** – Maria’s Home – 1305 Crossbow Road, Mount Airy

**Cookies for William Winchester and Members**

Please remember to bring cookies and a list of ingredients for the staff members of William Winchester Elementary. Bringing a dozen extra cookies to share at our meeting is much appreciated too.

**Gift Card Orders**

Gift card orders can be picked up during our March 21st meeting. If you are unable to attend our meeting, please make arrangements for someone else to pick up your order.

**May Induction of New Members**

We are looking forward to the induction ceremony in May of four outstanding women educators:

Rachel McCusker

Erica McAndrews

Dr. Kathy Wallace

Dr. Christine Koenig

***Omicron News Page 3 Spring 2023***

**Membership Message by Laura McClelland**

Committee: Lisa MacCurak, Laura McClelland, Bonnie McEroy, Noreen Strylowski

Fun facts were revealed about 3 more of our sisters. The September newsletter shared facts about Leslie Chesley. In November, we learned about Pat Minnich. In January, we learned about Lynda Lockard. Can you guess who this sister is from the clues below?

**Years taught**: 38

**Schools:** Sykesville High and South Carroll

**Interesting Fact:** Only girl in family of 6, in the middle of 5 brothers

**Favorite book**: *Gone with the Wind* and *Heidi*

**If I won the lottery I would**: Build a mountain cabin on a lake

**The best thing about DKG, Omicron Chapter**: The friendships shared over the years

**I am thankful for**: every new day

**My favorite thing about teaching:** working with the students

**A skill I would love to master:** to fly a plane

Text

Description automatically generated

Remember to register by April 1st to attend our DKG, Maryland State Convention. The convention is being held April 14 – 16 at the College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. Attend workshops, meet fellow DKG members from our great state of Maryland and listen to our speaker, Trish Woodley. If you plan on staying overnight, book your room quickly as rates increase soon.

There will be a Celebration of Life service to honor those deceased members for 2019-2021 and 2021-2023 at the State Convention on Sunday morning, April 6th.

We will be honoring our dear sisters:

Elinor Causey 1-3-2020

Patricia (Pat) Riesner 10-5-2021

Catherine Honora (Nora) Murray 9-14-2022

***Omicron News Page 4 Spring 2023***



**Spring Field Trip by Iris Wingert**

Tra La, it’s May, the Merry Month of May – a time to enjoy the beauty of spring and the great outdoors, the perfect time to visit **Ladew Topiary Gardens** in Harford County.

Why drive two hours in heavy traffic to Longwood in PA when Ladew is so much closer and more convenient? And Ladew has it all – 22 acres of beautifully manicured and themed gardens such as a Woodland garden, Pink, White and Yellow gardens, a sculpture garden, and best of all – an IRIS garden.

There’s also a Tivoli Tea House and Garden, a Victorian Garden, and even a Garden of Eden (I can’t promise that you’ll see naked people there though). Additionally, you can visit the property’s manor house circa 1747 that offers docent-led tours or stroll through a mile long nature walk with a bird watching pavilion. There’s also an onsite gift shop and cafe.

Ladew is rated one of the top 5 gardens in North America and one of the top 10 topiary gardens around the world. Featured during May will be flowering apples, azaleas, bridal wreath, cherries, deutzia, dogwood, IRIS (dwarf and intermediate bearded), lilacs, rhododendron (early), tulips, and viburnum.

Family and friends are welcome to join us for this visit. The trip is planned for **Saturday, May 6 at 11:00 a.m.** Here's a link for more information including entrance fees: <https://www.ladewgardens.com/>. Car-pooling opportunities will be made available. If you need a ride, please contact Iris Wingert at 443-340-5983 or [iwingert3@comcast.net](mailto:iwingert3@comcast.net).