

# The Alaska Nuggets

BETA GAMMA STATE



THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL for KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS



Fall 2018 Volume XXXIV No. 3

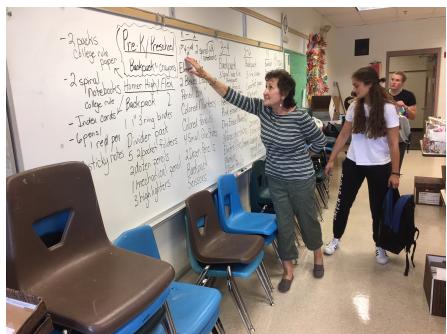
<http://www.dkgalaska.org>

## OMICRON Chapter News

This is the 11th year that Homer's Omicron chapter collaborated with the Homer Community Food Pantry, in helping families outfit children with school supplies for a new school year.

In addition to Omicron Chapter's thirty members, many local people joined in to make it a community outreach. Rotary, the local churches, Lions, Emblem Club, the local stores and concerned people in the community contributed time and finances to make this a successful out reach for kids.

As a result, this year 104 supply-filled backpacks were distributed to families needing help from the greater Homer area.



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# Attending International Convention

by Colleen Brown

Attending my first International Convention in Texas inspires me to participate in future ones. The Texans were gracious hosts and put on a fantastic event. I recommend every DKG member attend and meet your sisters from all over the world. The next one will be hosted in Philadelphia in 2020. It would be great if two members from each chapter attended an International Convention. I want to share a few thoughts on the Convention.

**Revitalization Session:** Our state is not the only state working on revitalization. One of the first breakout sessions I attended was on Revitalization. Those who were currently involved in revitalizing their state shared what they were doing and how it was going. I was able to share how proud I was of Alaska for coming together, uniting as a state by having our three revitalization meetings with Carolyn Pittman. Then having her as our guest speaker at our April State Convention to continue the work of revitalizing. One of the Canadian provinces is struggling and needs help. Their state president wants Alaska to help them revitalize. We are in conversation about some possibilities. I am excited about a future partnership.

**Mentoring Leadership:** I went to another breakout session for State Presidents, and we discussed the challenge of mentoring future state leaders. Wisconsin shared that their Vice President (VP) moves up to President and the 2 VP moves up to 1 VP. They are mentoring all year. I think that is an awesome system. Many of the states including Alaska are currently seeking nominations for state leadership positions. It would be nice for your state president to be currently mentoring your next state president. Let's have conversation regarding this leadership issue, and see if we want to do something like Wisconsin.

**Northwest State Presidents:** There are 16 NW state presidents that I met last year at the NW Convention and again at International. We have a closed Facebook page and are getting to know each other better. We bounce ideas off each other. At International there was a NW Breakfast where

we all sat together and shared. They are 16 sisters that I cannot wait to see in Iowa at the NW Convention. I encourage you all to consider two things. First, attend NW Convention in Iowa in 2019. Second, serve at the state level. Set a goal of being a state leader. As State President, I am enjoying the benefit of knowing these 16 wonderful state presidents.

**Proposals to the Amendments:** It was definitely an interesting experience to be there to vote for the proposed amendments. I certainly understand Robert's Rules of Order better! Even though it took a long time for discussions and making amendments to the amendments, it was good to hear the pros and cons of the proposals.

**State T-shirts:** Some states have their own DKG state t-shirts. I am wondering if there is interest in Alaska DKG t-shirts. It would be good publicity. Gara Cesefske is looking into an online ordering system. Please discuss this in your chapters, and let me know.

## Garden of Roses: Cultivating Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter Growth by Marketing the Work of the Chapter by Dr. Kimberly Beckerdite, VA

This was one of the best breakout sessions I attended at the International Convention. It was pertinent for Alaska since we are revitalizing our state, and wanting to increase our membership. Dr. Kimberly Beckerdite shared how her Virginia chapter cultivated 23 new members by hosting their annual Garden of Roses recruitment event in October. This event provides an overview of the society's purposes, benefits of membership, and specific information relating to their chapter such as local, state, and international projects. Personal stories of why members joined DKG are shared. Food is provided.

**Invite:** They invite former Teacher of the Year recipients, coworkers and friends in education, former students who are now educators, former Grant-in-Aid recipient educators, and early career educators who they mentor. They encourage each member to invite a guest, invite people in pairs, and use verbal, written, and electronic invitations.

**Format:** A digital slideshow of the “Year in Review” runs during the social, focusing on chapter meetings, programs, projects, and regional, state, and international meetings. After the welcome and introduction of guests, the chapter president provides an overview of DKG. The membership Chair shares benefits of membership and opportunities available. Projects Chair and Committee Members discuss local, state, and international projects. Two to three members (ranging in diversity) give personal reflections. Then a program or project is shared such as Arts in Education or Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar.

**Contributions:** They share how members contribute to DKG. First, participating in meetings, projects, and activities at all three levels of the society. Second, sharing of their interests, talents, and professional expertise. Third, seeking opportunities to grow personally and professionally, and supporting others in their growth. Fourth, paying their dues and fees in a timely manner. Fifth, becoming involved in chapter life by attending meetings and other activities, by using their voice and vote in chapter business, and by taking advantage of opportunities to grow. Sixth, accepting leadership roles in the supportive environment of the society.

**Supporting Future and Early Career Educators:** Their chapter supports these educators in many ways: a Grant-in-Aid Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a high school senior planning a career in education; early career educator mentoring; school supplies for new teachers and students; and welcome to education bags.

**Local and State Projects:** School supplies and clothing drives for local schools, book drive for special schools and learning centers, donation of clothing, personal hygiene supplies, and gift cards for those in need; holiday gift drive for refugee children; donation of school supplies and funds to purchase materials for schools effected by disasters; and Hope for Appalachia shoe boxes filled with toiletry items, books, and games.

**Bridging the Generations to Grow the Chapter:** This includes initiation, getting to know your member moments, member key pin ceremony,

and recommitment ceremony. It is important to utilize the talents and strengths of all members in the chapter. Chapters can draw on members for programs, to use their talent to market the chapter, use their connections in the community, and bring their leadership skills to DKG.

**Chapter Presidents**, if you are interested in how they do their Garden of Roses event, I can send you Dr. Beckerdite’s power point.

## **Forward Moving Ever: NOT Without Millennials by Linda M. Hall and Dr. Mary M. Mehaffey, VA**

I am sharing this session because I feel we need to know our members personally and the generational mindsets. I think this topic would be a good chapter program or State Convention session.

The presenters shared that “Forward Moving Ever” must be DKG’s focus for the future. In order to grow and thrive, we need to embrace change to appeal to the younger generations. They showed a spreadsheet of traditionalists, baby boomers, generation X, and generation Y, which provided information about core values, core attributes, how to motivate, and how to value them.

**Comparison:** On a comparison between millennials-after 1980 (M) and boomers 1946-1964 (BB), it was stressed that M loves and desire freedom while BB loves working. M are digital natives while BB are Tech savvy-text messages and own tablets. M is constantly connected while BB are involved, making a difference. Boomers tend to be achievers, explorers, goal-oriented, self-sufficient, control 80% of personal financial assets, hard working, highly motivated, competitive, and dedicated. Millennials are the largest most educated generation in the western world. They tend to be civic oriented, socially conscious, global citizens, pragmatic idealists, authentic, transparent, frugal, liberal, compassionate, diverse, and impatient.

**Motivation:** To motivate baby boomers, offer them recognition and status (“You are valued. You are needed.”). Offer millennials an opportunity to develop. (“You will work with other bright, creative people.”)

**Communication Preferences:** Baby Boomers prefer personal interaction, phone calls, and emails. Millennials prefer instant message, blogs, and text message. I think more and more Baby Boomers are texting.

**Feedback and Rewards:** Baby Boomers like praise and titles, public recognition, and appreciate awards for hard work and long hours. Millennials prefer frequent feedback, clear goals and expectations, and want competent leaders.

**Keys to Working with Each Group:** Baby Boomers want their ideas to matter. Their careers define them and work is important. They do not take criticism well. They need flexibility, attention, and freedom. Millennials want to work with bright, creative people who are their friends. They expect to be treated respectfully, and that it's disrespectful to do things a certain way simply because it has always been done that way.

The session was ended with the following advice: To successfully attract and retain members, we must develop an integrated strategy that speaks to the requirements, needs, and interests of all! Together we are stronger!

## BETA Chapter News

Beta chapter's first meeting of the school year on September 8 coincided with the first sunny day to grace Fairbanks in WEEKS! Everyone was in high spirits.

President Maryanne Allan took the group efficiently through a weighty agenda. Members

enthusiastically voted to support and fund a "New Teacher Project." The "Shoe Project," which has a goal of 2500 pairs of shoes to be collected and sent to Africa – with a goal of raising \$2000. Everyone is encouraged to clean closets.

Beta is looking forward to state president Colleen Brown's visit at the October meeting.

Picture #1 – Program Chair Kathy Alton introduced the list of programs that will keep members involved and energized throughout the year.



Picture #2 – Fundraising committee members Eleanor Houts, Janice Trumbull, and Patt Caldwell brainstorm ways to meet the chapter's budget goals.



## CONVENTION MUSINGS

from Gara Cesefski

This summer I had the opportunity to attend the International Convention. I met sisters from all around the world, and everyone who saw my name tag had the same reaction, "ALASKA!"

It was very interesting to see the process of amending the DKG constitution, and I have a deep appreciation of the amount of time and effort that the process takes.

I attended two break out sessions that had information I thought would help our state. The first was information about using Google products within DKG. The greatest take-away from this session was the use of Google Hangouts. Though DKG uses GoToMeeting for larger meetings, Google Hangouts is a very practical way for members to connect on a small scale (25 or less). This could be used by chapters to connect with remote members or by state to connect with sisters from other chapters. The second session I attended was the Chapter President Summit. During this session, chapter presidents and past chapter presidents exchanged ideas about what "works" within their chapters. The main problem discussed was getting new members and how to tell potential members about DKG. At this session I shared Colleen's idea of creating business cards that list benefits of DKG. I had some cards made on Vistaprint before the convention and the idea was very popular with other chapter presidents. I have a template available on our website in the "Tools > Membership and Benefits" tab. Other attendees also suggested having meet and greets, fun activities, getting involved with other community organizations, and sending districtwide invitations.

## ZETA Chapter News

Zeta chapter is proud to announce we have awarded Delta Kappa Gamma 50 year pins to two of our members.

Kati Rogness presented a pin and a rose to Jane Ursel Vergason, a charter member of Zeta, which was added to Beta Gamma State Alaska in 1962. Jane was an active member of Zeta serving as

corresponding secretary, second vice-president, parliamentarian, and as committee chairman.



Jane was born in Rochester, New York. She has a son, Brett and a daughter, Brenda. Jane has a BS from the State University of New York Teacher's College. She did post graduate work at the University of Alaska Community College and Alaska Methodist University.

Jane's first teaching assignment in 1952 was a kindergarten class in Sodus, New York. In 1955 she taught first grade in Webster, New York, and then came to Alaska in 1957 to teach first grade in Anchorage. She taught kindergarten at Sand Lake Elementary until she retired.

Jane is a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and has served as a Sunday School teacher. Jane enjoys gardening, culinary arts and reading in her leisure time.

Judy Ireton, Eta Chapter and Marlin Collins, Theta Chapter, presented a pin and a rose to Betty Baer in Fairbanks. Betty became a member of Zeta in

1963. Even though she has lived in Fairbanks a number of years, working with her sons, Paul and Daniel, at the Golden North Hotel, she maintained her membership in Zeta chapter.

Betty started teaching in 1957 in Cody, Wyoming, as a seventh grade English teacher. She also taught in Santa Clara, California, and Kenai,



Alaska. Betty is an outstanding artist who painted and created many pictures and art forms. She served as the elementary art consultant, 1962-1966, for the Anchorage School District.

## Thanks to the Technology Class Participants

by Gara Cesefski

I wanted to thank everyone who participated in my summer technology class! I finished my degree because I was able to teach this class. I am in the process of migrating all the information I presented from Google Classroom to our state website in the “Tools>Tech Training” tab.



## **A DKG Summer Adventure**

By Gara Cesefski

Last year I started as our state Communications Chair. After attending our convention in Homer, I felt like I needed to know more about what DKG does with communications related positions. I had the idea to meet with Aldean Kilbourn and Maryanne Allen to learn what they do and how they keep our Nuggets and website active. For me, this meant taking a trip to Fairbanks this summer. I have to admit, the most traveling I've done within our state was attending the convention in Homer, and the idea of traveling somewhere I haven't been before by myself and spending time with DKG sisters I've only met once was a little terrifying for me. My solution was to ask Colleen Brown to come with me. I think it speaks volumes about our state president that she came with me only because I felt that it was important that I take this trip, but I didn't feel good about going alone. I always learn so much just from being around Colleen, and I really value her leadership.

I flew to Anchorage a day early to meet up with Colleen and had the opportunity to participate in Nu chapter's book giveaway. It was really cool to see how this chapter got to work with their community and interact with kids as they came to pick out books.

While in Fairbanks, we attended social events with Beta and Theta Chapters. Beta was full of great ideas to move DKG forward. I really enjoyed the fun sense of humor I saw in Theta. It was nice connecting with all of these sisters that I never get to see because I live in Ketchikan.

Aldean housed us while we were in Fairbanks. We were so spoiled with great meals; my favorite was an amazing moose stroganoff. It is so rare to have someone make stroganoff that accommodates a mushroom allergy, but Aldean did, and it might be my favorite thing! We had the added bonus of Tanya O'Brien spending time with us at Aldean's house and taking us on tours of Fairbanks. Tanya has that personality that made me feel like I was just talking to an old friend. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to get to know her.

Aldean showed me The Nuggets. I learned that her main struggle is getting women to submit articles for each edition. We all should contribute to help create our Nuggets. It also helps to email her your articles and pictures before the deadlines. I will be posting reminders on Facebook periodically to remind everyone.

Maryanne spent a day teaching me all about the website. I consider myself to be very "techie" but it still took me a lot of guess clicking to make it do what I wanted it to do! What I learned is Maryanne also has the struggle of getting things from members to put on the website. Things can be added by emailing Maryanne. We have some new content planned for the website, and I will be posting on Facebook as new things are added throughout the year. Please make sure to check out the website. There is a bunch of useful things that members can access at any time. Watch for the next issue of the Nuggets!

This experience is the perfect example of the relationships we have because of DKG. I went on this trip only expecting to learn about the position I hold. Instead, I had a great time and got to know some spectacular people. I returned home full of ideas for DKG and absolutely remembering that the people are the best part of this organization. I cannot thank Colleen, Aldean, Tanya, and Maryanne enough!

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **DKG Alaska State Executive**

**Board Meeting** is October 4, 2018  
at 5 PM - GTM

### **DKG Alaska State Executive**

**Board Meeting** is April 9, 2019 at  
5 PM

### **GTM Alaska State On-line**

**Conference** is April 27, 2019 at  
10 AM

# Voting at the 2018 Convention in Austin

## by Judy Ireton

Technology assisted members with voting during the Austin Convention July 16-20, 2018. At registration, each participant was issued a voting device on a lanyard and reminded to bring the device to every business meeting. At voting time, members were given a 30 second window to choose button 1 for yes or 2 for no. Results were posted just a few seconds after the voting period, both as numbers and as percentages. Once everyone got used to the new system, it worked quite smoothly. Devices were returned at the close of the last business meeting; most likely to be used at future conventions.

The majority of the proposed amendments passed during the business meetings. One notable exception was the motion to change the name of the Society to Women Educators International. Following spirited debate, the motion failed. Many people do not want the change, while many do to make the Society sound less like a sorority. A member from Mexico pointed out that the letters W, E, and I can be used as an insult in her country. Further details will be published in the DKG News and new documents will be printed at Headquarters.

### Assistance with Technology Widely Available at Convention

From a Tech Station available during most of the Convention, to sectionals encouraging members to learn more about their smart phones and other devices, the recent Convention was certainly wired.

The Delta Gamma App was available to download, and Texas members were ready, willing, and able to help convention goers do just that. The App had the convention schedule, list of participants, update messages, and a host of other information right at one's fingertips.

QR Codes were demystified by Missy Collins of Georgia. Once one has a QR Code reader (and a helpful member was on hand to assist in downloading one to anyone's phone), then the information in those funny-looking black and white boxes becomes usable. QR stands for Quick Response and the coded boxes contain

information in a very small space. Once a code is accessed, the information in it is available to the user of the smart phone.

All is not sweetness and light in the realm of new technology. Dr. Patricia Kubistal gave an entertaining and enlightening presentation on Pavlov's Dog and the Smartphone. She pointed out how addicting a smart phone can be, a great cautionary talk for anyone with a smartphone, but particularly a new user of same. Should anyone wish to learn more of the details, Dr. K very kindly shared her entire presentation with the participants and is encouraging them to share with other members. Please contact Judy Ireton, Eta Chapter if you would like more information.

One Break-Out Presenter shared history about the Founders of the Society, most of whom were founding members of Alpha Chapter, Texas. 10 Minute Take-Away Sessions were popular as well. How I Reversed My Pre-Diabetes (exercise and healthy diet) was well attended. A nearly overflow crowd showed up for 10 Tips in 10 Minutes for Clearing Away Your Clutter. Who knew there were so many people out there with the same concerns?



## **DKG Alaska Bylaws and Standing Rules Are Now Available**

by Barb Sell, Rules Chair

The updated Alaska State Organization Bylaws and Standing Rules are now on the State Website. They are found under the "About" heading and are available for downloading.

Since our Bylaws and Standing Rule Amendments vote in April, our edited documents have been sent to the International Constitution Committee. Barbara Clausen, the Committee Chair, has sent a short list of items the committee has asked us to include in our document. Our changes, which we approved at our April meeting in Homer, have been put on hold until after the vote on the International Constitution Amendment vote In July.

As soon as we receive documentation of these International Constitution changes, my committee will meet to include those changes in our Bylaws. If this is completed before our Executive Board meeting in October, a report of the changes will be presented at that time.

A special thank you to Judy Jasperson and Marlin Collins for their technical support as the Bylaws and Standing Rules were being edited. It couldn't have been completed without your help!

## **Alaska DKG Scholarship Guidelines**

**by Tanya Obrien, chair**

1. The applicant must be a member of DKG Alaska of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.
2. The Scholarship committee will give consideration to financial need on the part of the applicant as voluntarily expressed on the application form.
3. Previous recipients may apply for additional scholarships.
4. The deadline for submission of scholarship applications for 2019 is October 5, 2018. (May be extended with good reason.)
5. Applications should be sent to the Scholarship Chair. (Information listed on the application document.)

6. Scholarships will be awarded at an Alaska DKG Convention following each year's application deadline.
7. All recipients are required to send a report to the Nuggets Editor during the calendar year in which their scholarship was received.
8. The scholarship Award is \$3,000 per year as voted by membership in 2018.

## **DKG INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS:**

This committee is charged with annually awarding up to thirty (30) \$6,000 (U.S.) international scholarships to members for study at the master's level and \$10,000 (U.S.) for work at the doctorate level.

### **Goals for 2016-2018:**

1. Explore strategies to increase the number of scholarships that can be awarded.
2. Consider any changes needed in the Society's governing documents that would state the language in a new and innovative way.

### **Deadline**

February 1, 2019 - International DKG Scholarship Application

### **Consider Attending with DKG Sisters**

check out at [www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Events](http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Events)

International Convention July 7-11-2020 in Philadelphia, PA

### **DKG Go Ahead Tours**

Iceland Tour July 19-July 24, 2019 or July 28-August 2, 2019

Food and Wine: San Francisco and Napa Valley October 9-October 14, 2020

## THETA Chapter News

Theta Chapter managed to get in one social event in June 2018; everyone was too busy the rest of the summer to get another group activity organized. We all met at Equipment Source Inc, which is also the Kubota tractor and construction equipment dealer for Alaska. The distinctive, orange-colored, Japanese-built Kubota equipment shares space on the sales lot with the bright yellow ESI equipment manufactured on site.



### Equipment Source Inc.

was started in 2000 by Terry Warnath and his nephew Josh Parks, as a heater reconditioning company that catered to the oil field companies on the North Slope. Deciding they could do better than simply repairing machines that weren't designed for the wear and tear of Arctic operations, the two created their own industrial heater, the ES700. The indirect-fired air heater excelled at providing long-term, reliable and continuous service in the most severe weather conditions. Soon, Warnath and Parks were competing against the various companies they'd been servicing. Local businessman Tim Cerny slowly invested in the company and eventually became the sole owner, although Parks stayed on as the manufacturing manager.



Store manager, Nick Ferree, gave us a tour of the three large buildings where the manufacturing of these heaters takes place. He explained, "We start with raw, flat sheets

of steel. We design 3-D models of our equipment on the computer and send it over to the plasma table. There all the parts and pieces are cut out of the flat steel, including the bolt holes, and it all gets bent and welded together. Then it gets sent down to sandblasting, painted, and comes back for final



assembly." Ferree said that the company uses Kubota engines, Mecc Alte generator ends, and other purchased parts and pieces to build the ESI heaters. "But as far as the frame and the shell and the metal structure, we're truly building that from the ground up here in Fairbanks."

Manufacturing isn't very common in Alaska, and especially not

in Fairbanks, due to high costs. Ferree says that shipping costs notwithstanding, "it's not the most economical place to do stuff like this. But we strive to stay on the very leading edge of technology, and we're competitively priced, if not cheaper, than

many of our competitors in the states.

We've also the advantage of doing one-off stuff, where someone can call and say



exactly what is needed, and I can say that I can have it ready for delivery in four weeks or less." As he says, "you don't run into that kind of service very often."

We all enjoyed our tour and informative talk, but by

then we were hungry to sample our delicious potluck dishes at the home of Aldean Kilbourn and visit about our summer plans.



## **President Colleen Brown - DKG Life Together**

I hope you enjoyed Alaska's beauty this summer. Hiking, 4-wheeling, gardening, and sight seeing provided me time to refresh, reflect, and prepare for the upcoming year. I wanted to give you some rest from DKG this summer, and have time for yourself and family. Some of you had summer sisters, and got to know each other better. Four members went to Austin, Texas in July for the International Convention, and have come back inspired and full of ideas that will be good for our members, our state organization, and the communities of Alaska.

Now it is time to continue the work we started revitalizing our great state. We have a new set of chapter officers who will need your support and care as they lead their chapters the next two years. Thanks to each member who accepted a position as chapter officer or committee chair. Work together as a team, take risks in trying new ideas, let go fear of failure, and have fun making a difference in the world.

Keeping alive the biennium motto of "Let's initiate, cultivate, and celebrate DKG pearls," remember these three verbs: initiate, cultivate, and celebrate. Key women educators came together this past year brainstorming and implementing many ideas to help our state become vital. We still have much work to do: motivate the younger generation in joining DKG to ensure the future of DKG Alaska; cultivate our members' personal and professional growth; and celebrate the lives of our members.

Communications plays a huge role in the future of DKG Alaska. Our State Communication's Team realizes this fact, and met face to face in Fairbanks this summer to update the state website and newsletter, and discuss how to best utilize our new state Facebook page. All three are tools for us to stay informed and share news. More social media ideas are in the works.

This is the season of initiation for most chapters. See in this newsletter the "Garden of Roses" article about how a chapter in Virginia successfully recruits members. To increase our membership, we all need to gain confidence in inviting women to DKG. It is everyone's responsibility to recruit new members. We are all needed.

Remember, the "Order of the Rose Challenge" is for each chapter to initiate 5 new members in the 2017-19 Biennium: one member under age 30, one diversified member, one reinstated member, and two of any category. A second challenge is for a chapter to double their size. During our 2019 Online Convention chapters meeting this challenge will be recognized. As you have initiation ceremonies, please post photos on our state website and Facebook. Let's collect those Alaskan pearls!

Cultivating relationships are vital to any organization. Being a three-tier society, we should foster relationships at all three levels. We must recognize and value each member at the chapter, state, and international level. We should search for authentic ways to show our appreciation for each other. I encourage building generational relationships. It is awesome to see a new member being mentored by a seasoned member, or a millennial teach a seasoned sister new technology. If you are a present or past officer in your chapter, please consider mentoring someone for a chapter leadership position. The Educational Excellence Committee is working on credit classes for members. More information will be forthcoming. Let's mentor, cultivate, and grow our leaders!

I celebrate everyone's past, present, and future educational endeavors, whether you are the teacher or learner. Let's celebrate life together in DKG!