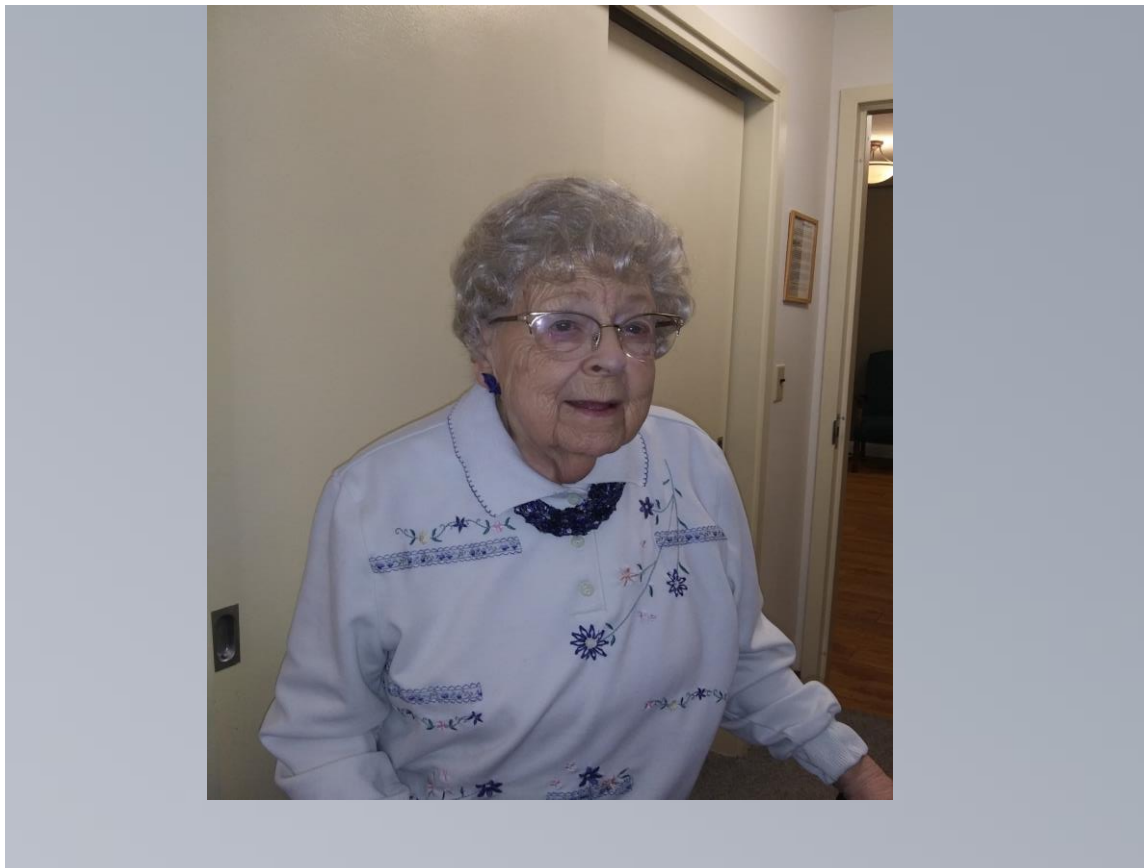


The Maine State Organization Of DKG
Honors
Our 50 and 50+ Year Members

October 17, 2020



Thelma Merritt

Alpha

- B.S. - Aroostook State Teachers College (later UMPI); M.S. - UMO
- Taught for 26 years, first at the Training School and then at Gouldville School, both in Presque Isle; mostly second grade

Thelma Merritt - Alpha

- Recommended by Ernestine McKay, her principal at the time
- Inducted into Delta Chapter in 1970; later transferred to Alpha Chapter; A member for 50 years
- Held several offices, including president of Delta Chapter; served on many committees
- Memories - She has had the opportunity to get to know and love many of the past State Presidents, including Barbara Randall, Roberta Rogers, Madelyn Linscott, and Vivian Smith. She was very proud that many of them could stay at her home when they visited Delta Chapter.
- Memorable Women - Eva Zipple, Rena Kearney, Rachel Burden, Ernestine McKay, Marguerite Wieden, and all the Alpha sisters who welcomed her when she transferred to Delta Chapter
- Worked for 10 years in the Turner Memorial Library as the Assistant Children's Librarian and was a volunteer at the RSVP (EMTC) Library
- Retired in 1980
- Current Activities - Enjoys doing the crossword in the Bangor Daily News, completing jigsaw puzzles, and reading romance and suspense books
- Advice - It is something Mrs. Zipple told her: "Remember they (the children) come in bunches like bananas."
- Other Thoughts - She was so very proud to be invited to join DKG and it still means the world to her, a place where she has so many cherished sisters.



Clara Hutchins

Beta

- B.S. - Farmington State Teachers College;
M.Ed - UMO; M.S. in Library Service - UMO
- Taught first grade at Huse Memorial School in Bath for 29 years

Clara Hutchins - Beta

- Recommended by Alice Austin, a colleague at Huse
- Inducted in 1960; a member for 60 years
- Served as president, first and second vice president, corresponding secretary, and parliamentarian for Beta
- Served at the state level as corresponding secretary and assistant treasurer
- Current Activities - Enjoys photography, classical music, and walks on her farm



Constance Pillsbury

Beta

Taught first grade at the Sawyer School in South Portland
Inducted in 1961; A member for 59 years



Phyllis R. Theriault

Beta

- Served as the Curriculum Director for grades K-3 in the South Portland Schools
- Inducted in 1958; A member for 62 years
- Led her Beta sisters in many sewing/quilting projects throughout the years



Marian Thurlow

Beta

- Served as the Science Director for the Portland Schools
- Inducted in 1965; A member of DKG for 55 years
- Beta sisters send love to her in Florida where she currently resides.



Nancy Grover

Gamma

- B.S. - Farmington State Teachers College; M.S - UMF
- Taught elementary grades In New York (1 year,) Japan (2 years,) Farmingdale (3 years,) Alaska (1 year,) Waldoboro (9 years,) and Waterville (14 years.)
- Taught math for Augusta Adult Education and Worked as a Community Math Tutor for the University of Maine at Augusta for 5 years
- Taught Title I classes in Gardiner for 1 year

Nancy Grover - Gamma

- Recommended by Mary Kyes, who was a parent of one of her second grade students and a member of DKG. She became a good friend.
- Inducted into Gamma Chapter in 1969
- Served as chapter president for 3 bienniums; served on several committees, including World Fellowship and Clara Soule
- Serves as Liaison to the United Nations for our state organization
- Memories - Revisiting the United Nations (as Liaison) and remembering when she first visited there as a young teacher with her class on a field trip to New York City; Serving as president of Gamma Chapter when she was expecting her baby son; Remembering friendship conversations with other members
- Memorable Women - Two that stand out in her heart are Ruth Bass and Peggy Barrett who are her friends. Both women show friendship and kindness to many people. Mary Hanks was Gamma's president from 1968 to 1970. Her kindness and respect for her as a new young member is greatly appreciated. Bea Byrd taught with her in New York. Her maturity and wisdom continues to be a treasure to Nancy.

Nancy Grover - Gamma

- She has never retired from teaching. As a Literacy Volunteer, she has helped a person to become a U.S. citizen and continue with English reading, speaking, and writing.
- Current Activities - Traveling to visit her son and his family; Attending CTAUN meetings at the UN in New York; Enjoying nature
- Advice - “That is a difficult question since I usually tend to view people - one at a time. This thought has been helpful along the way: ‘An intelligent person is one who makes use of his/her environment.’
- Some people say ‘Bloom where you are planted.’ My friend’s husband passed away at age 80. He was a college professor and research scientist as long as he lived. His research and student influence will continue.
- Now to the teacher of today. Hopefully she enjoys teaching most of the time and realizes her value.”



Rachel Burden

Delta

- Received her education in Gorham and at UMPI
- Began her career as a 5th/6th grade teaching principal in York Beach
- Taught education courses as an assistant professor at Machias State Teachers College
- Taught elementary grades in Mapleton, Calais, and Presque Isle
- Taught Kindergarten through college during her career

Rachel Burden - Delta

- Inducted in 1961 in Calais; A member for 59 years
- Recommended by Maxine Giberson, who lived to be 102 and was the superintendent's wife at the time
- Served as chapter president, worked on various committees, and attended conventions
- Memories - Too many to count (said with a smile)
- Retired after 28 years of teaching and then substituted
- Current Activities - Loves Scrabble and often beats her daughter at it - she has been known to create words with as many as 82 points; Other hobbies include reading and writing; In her younger days she enjoyed knitting and cooking.
- She collaborated with other women, ages 75 and up, in her writing group to produce 2 published anthologies entitled *Gifts to the Future*, chronicling their experiences as they lived through different historical periods - she contributed about 15 articles to these books.

Rachel Burden - Delta

- Advice - “They should always be kind to the children and say a little prayer before administering discipline.”



Rena Kearney

Delta

- B.S. -Aroostook State Teachers College/UMPI
- Taught 3rd grade at Training School for 15 years, 4th grade grade at Pine Street School for 13 years, other grades at the Pine Street School for another 13 years, and 8th grade social studies at Cunningham School for one year; all in Presque Isle

Rena Kearney - Delta

- Inducted in 1970; A member for 50 years
- Served as treasurer, second and first vice president, and president for Delta; has worked on numerous committees
- For the state, has served as recording secretary, second and first vice president, and president; has served as music chair for many years
- Presented the Alpha Psi Achievement Award in 1997
- Has served on a number of international committees, including International Achievement Award, Finance, Education Foundation, and Nominations
- Has attended 34 consecutive international conventions from 1985 to 2019 and also in 1979 and 1983
- Memories - Picnics in the summer; 3 from her chapter and her mom attended the 50th International Convention in 1979

Rena Kearney - Delta

- Memorable Women - Too many to mention
- Retired in 2005 after 42 years of teaching
- Presented a Paul Harris Fellow Award in 2020 for her work with the Rotary Club; “She exemplifies Rotary’s motto, ‘Service Above Self.’”
- Current Activities - Substitute teaching and tutoring for SAD 42; involved in many community activities, including the Mars Hill Food Cupboard and the Homecoming Committee, has served as church pianist and treasurer for the Bridgewater Baptist Church for 45 years, is a member of the Retired Teachers Association and a council member for the town of Mars Hill.
- Serves as treasurer for the Mars Hill Rotary and is involved with many Rotary activities, including the annual Golf Tournament, Samaritan’s Purse, Purple Pinkie, the Guatemala Project, Mars Hill pageants, raffles, annual car hop supper, annual turkey dinner, and activities within the Rotary 7810 District, to name a few.
- Advice - “If you have a question, don’t be afraid to ask. If you need help, don’t be afraid to ask for it.”



Janet Woods

Delta

- B.S. in Education - Aroostook State Teachers College/UMPI
- Taught elementary grades in Caribou for 40 years; Taught Reading Recovery and Title I for her last 10 years; Substituted for 17 years after retirement

Janet Woods - Delta

- Recommended by Mildred Hatch, her teaching supervisor who was a mentor and a great resource
- Inducted in 1965; A member for 55 years
- Served as corresponding secretary and recording secretary; worked on the Clara Soule committee
- Received the 2019 Leadership Award from MEA-Retired
- Memories - “It was always such a pleasure to get to know people from all over the county and getting advice, support, and comfort from my Delta sisters.”
- Memorable Women - Mildred Hatch, whom she will never forget, Helen McConnell, and Gwen Haman, all dear friends forever who swapped ideas and gave each other support
- Retired in 2000 after 40 years
- Current Activities - Serves as Senior Warden at St. John’s Episcopal Church, a small, but active parish; Active in Aroostook Retired Educators Association (AREA) and serves as the Community Participation chair; She helps coordinate their yearly Backpack program and gifts for teachers in a local school.
- Advice - “Just relax and enjoy it. Enjoy every class you have. You’ll never forget the joy. Try to keep a balance in your life.” Early on, her mentor said, “Choose an after school night and work ahead.” She and several colleagues stayed late on Thursdays and planned out projects, ran off copies, and prepared for the following week so they could enjoy their Friday evenings and weekends.



Sandra Ilona Berry

Epsilon

- B.S. - Bob Jones University; M.S. - UM Portland/Gorham
- Taught Freshman English and Math at Crosby High School
- Taught Business, General Business, Shorthand, and Typing and was Department Head at Belfast Area High School
- Taught Typing and Shorthand at UMO

Sandra Ilona Berry - Epsilon

- Taught cake decorating for Adult Education
- Recommended by Gwen Stratton and Marietta Packard
- Inducted in 1968 (Attended the State Convention 2 days later); A member for 52 years
- Served Epsilon as president, first vice president, corresponding secretary, committee chair, and committee member
- Served the state organization as president, first and second vice president, corresponding secretary, member of the Nomination committee, and State Leadership Coordinator/Presenter
- Coordinated the DKG Northeast Regional in Hartford, Ct.
- As state president, served on the International Executive Board and on the International Personal Growth and Service Committee
- Attended all state conventions and many regional and international conventions; Served as a timer and recorder at regionals and conventions; Chairman of Maine Night at the Northeast Regional

Sandra Ilona Berry - Epsilon

- Received the Alpha Psi State Scholarship in 1974
- Was a Golden Gift Recipient and attended the Leadership/Management Seminar in Dallas in 1985
- Presented with the Alpha Psi Achievement Award in 1992
- Served as Senior Class Advisor and Yearbook Advisor
- Was Maine's first female track coach
- State President of the Republican Women's Club
- Memories - Her greatest joy was when her daughter, Ilona Dubois, joined the Epsilon Chapter.

At a conference she attended in Indianapolis, she went to the National Science Museum and sat in a space capsule. At the Indianapolis Speedway, they rode around the track in a van. The older ladies with her kept asking the driver to go faster and pass the car ahead of them. It was always fun and a learning experience at every convention.

Sandra Ilona Berry - Epsilon

- More memories - Sandra's first big convention highlight was when Pat Healy and she attended their first national convention in Seattle. They first went to Spokane to the World's Fair for a few days. There were only a few Maine delegates at the convention, and they sat in the balcony. She and Pat went to the Space Needle and to the fishing docks. At the docks, Sandra bought a big salmon for her husband and had it shipped home. He was surprised as it was packed looking as though it was in a casket. (It was a dead fish, after all!)
- Sandra and Donald Berry have fond memories of traveling with Lorraine and Jim Bowden in Toronto
- Memorable Women - Marietta Packard, Pat Healy, Sharon Romanow, Lorraine Bowden, Linda Gustafson, and Phyllis Small
- Retired in 1991 after 28 years of teaching
- Current Activities - Quilting; She enjoys welcoming family and friends into her home for visits.
- Advice - "First of all, PRAY! Don't let your students rule your classroom. Let them know you are there to lead and help them grow."
- Other Thoughts - "God bless you ALL for your love and prayers. Keep the Faith!"



Madeline Stevenson

Epsilon

- B.A. and M.A. - UMO
- Taught High School English and Social Studies in Appleton, 7th and 8th grade English at Morse Memorial in Brooks, English and Social Studies for grades 9-12 at Island Falls High School, English and French at Mt. View High School in Thorndike and later took the position of librarian there

Madeline Stevenson - Epsilon

- Inducted in 1961; A member for 59 years
- Served as president and second vice president of Epsilon; worked on a number of committees, including Scholarship, Professional Affairs, Ways and Means, Nominating (served as chairman,) and Finance
- At the state level, served as the chairman of the Research Committee
- Retired in 1978 after 29 years
- Current Activities - She used to enjoy gardening, golf, and traveling, especially to England.



Lilian Fidler

Kappa

- B.A. in Psychology, Sociology, and Art - Houghton College, New York; M.Ed. - UMF
- Taught elementary grades in Mercer, Rome, and New Sharon

Lilian Fidler - Kappa

- Recommended by Blandine Buggell
- Inducted in 1970; a member for 50 years
- Memories - Anniversary meeting at a hotel in Kingfield where a deer's rear end was mounted to the wall; Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas; Annual Christmas auction
- Memorable Women - Senator Margaret Chase Smith, who belonged to the chapter; Dr. Eleanor Wood of Farmington, who wrote for the Mainspring and who attended all UMF basketball games; Dr. Arlene Lowe at UMF, who visited her classroom
- Retired in 1997 after 34 years
- Substituted for several years and then taught as a volunteer at Western Maine Christian Academy for a year and a half

Lilian Fidler - Kappa

- Current Activities - Reading, films, art, travel, beach
- Advice - “Try to make school fun.”



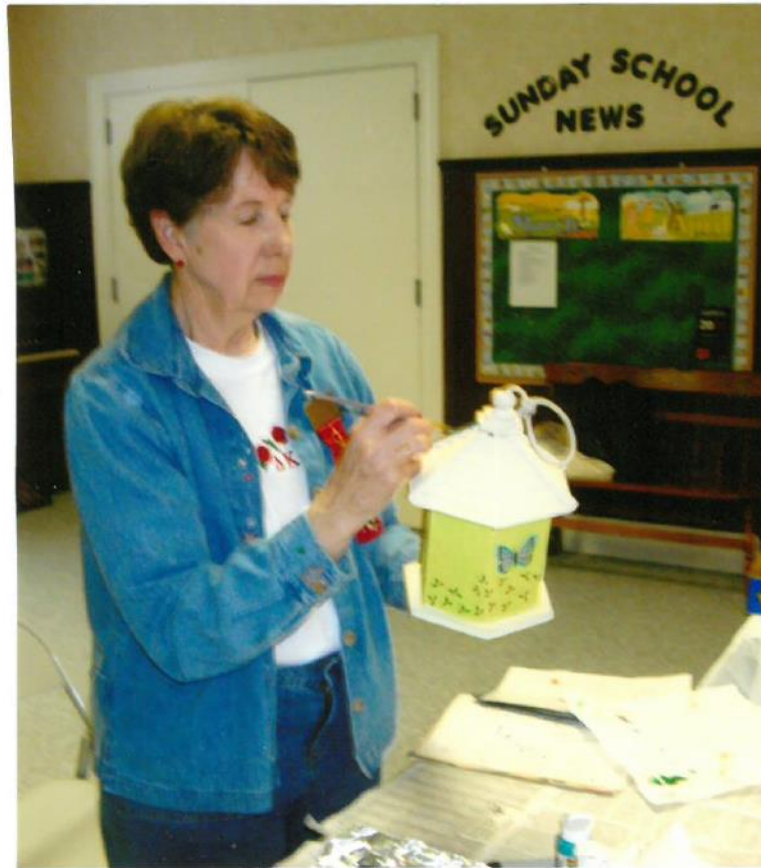
Gail Smith

Kappa

- Taught high school math, from General Math to Calculus
- Worked one year at CONY in Augusta, 24 years at Waterville High, and 4 years at Temple Academy

Gail Smith - Kappa

- Recommended by 2 sisters, Olive McDowell and Eva Jackson
- Inducted in 1970; A member for 50 years
- Worked her way up the leadership ladder in Kappa; served as assistant treasurer, treasurer several times, and president twice; worked on several committees, including Bylaws
- Served as state treasurer for 3 bienniums
- Received the Alpha Psi Achievement Award in 2006
- Memories - Participating with chapter members in attending state meetings and conventions
- Memorable Women - Martha Smith, state president; Alice Hartwell, Kappa president; Barbara Randall, state president during her induction - They kept in touch as they worked on various Alpha Psi committees and while she served as state treasurer.
- After retirement, she worked as assistant clerk at the town office in Sidney for 3 years
- Current Activities - Lots of reading, knitting, and talking on the phone; Used to enjoy hiking, snowmobiling, and canoeing (has had 2 hip replacements)
- Advice - “Keep your patience. Sleep is very important. Get your rest, if possible.”



Nora Thombs

Kappa

- B.S - UMF; M.S. and C.A.S. - UMO
- Taught 4th grade in New Sharon for 28 years and was an administrator there for 12 years

Nora Thombs - Kappa

- Recommended by Leona Campbell
- Inducted in 1970; A member for 50 years
- Served as Kappa president and worked on various committees
- Memories - Putting on a special breakfast while president and painting birdhouses
- Memorable Women - Carolyn Sturtevant
- Retired in 2002 after 40 years
- Current Activities - Enjoys painting and knitting
- Advice - “Hang in there. It’s going to be a long haul.”



Edith Jordan

Mu

- B.S. in Education
- Taught at Farwell Elementary School and McMahon Elementary School in Lewiston

Edith Jordan - Mu

- Recommended by Betty Mauzy
- Inducted in 1970; A 50 year member
- Served as second vice president and on numerous committees, including Clara Soule every year, Membership, Teddy Bear Fair, and Retirement Tea
- Memories - Conventions, workshops, friendships, and Clara Soule deliveries to nursing homes
- Memorable Women - Madelyn Linscott and Barbara Randall for their dedication to DKG; Co-workers who were always supportive, ready to listen, and gave valuable advice: Anne Cheney, Pauline Simpson, Gerry Ricker, and Marguerite Belleau

Edith Jordan - Mu

- Retired in 1994 after 32 years of teaching
- Current Activities - Still being active in all DKG activities, reading, movies with friends, Senior College classes, exercising with SeniorsPlus, many family and church events
- Advice - “Enjoy each and every day with the children. They are the reason you are there. They will remember fun things you did with them long after they have forgotten the lesson.”
- Other Thoughts - Enjoys being with her family - children and grandchildren - especially summers on Vinalhaven



A. Jeanette Achorn

Nu

- B.S. - Farmington State Teachers College
- Taught in 3 MSAD 40 schools: Friendship Street, Miller Elementary, and Prescott Elementary

A. Jeanette Achorn - Nu

- Recommended by Eleanor Fuller
- Inducted into Eta Chapter in 1965; later transferred to Nu Chapter; A member for 55 years
- Completed 2 terms as president after coming up through the leadership chairs; has served on many committees
- Served as State Research Chair and was instrumental in creating, with fellow Nu member Ellyn Marckoon, the book *Women Who Made Their Mark*, which celebrated women in Maine who rose to leadership positions as principals in local schools
- Memories - The many women educators she met over the years at state conventions, as well as her many wonderful fellow sisters such as Wanda Callahan, with whom she enjoyed working during Nu meetings and projects

A. Jeanette Achorn - Nu

- Retired in 1988 after 33 years in education
- Current Activities - Attends as many Nu meetings as possible; has volunteered at the Waldoboro Public Library and the Waldoborough Historical Society; has knit numerous newborn sets for the Pen Bay Hospital; She is an avid knitter, and this year, at 90 years of age, she has a personal mitten goal: 52 pairs of mittens for local children.
- Advice - “Cooperate with the other staff members and always try to meet each child where he or she is, paying attention to learning styles and differences.”
- Other thoughts from Jean Lawrence - Jeanette recommended me as a member in 1988, and we have traveled together, often with Wanda Callahan, to conventions and meetings all these many years. She has been my friend since 1971 when I joined Medomak Valley High School. There may be 10 years difference in our ages, but we still enjoy one another’s company and are grateful to be able to enjoy keeping in touch during our retirement years.

dedication, service, and contribution to Alpha Psi

*Maine State Organization
of Delta Kappa Gamma International