



**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA, CHI STATE, AREA III  
ZETA ZETA NEWS**

**DECEMBER, 2011, VOLUME 31**

**Kit King, Editor**

*Mission Statement: To promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

November found many of us at the **Area III Conference** at Crow Canyon Country Club. The program was "I didn't know that letters have sounds" presentation by Project Second Chance Adult Literacy Program Contra Costa County Library. It was a very inspiring message from a woman whose son is a doctor and encouraged her to learn to read through the program. There was a representative from the program to introduce her, offer her guidance and direct questions afterwards. **Carmen Curtis** won a one of the opportunity baskets, called "Wrapping it Up." She says that she probably won't buy any wrapping paper for the rest of her life!

**Bobbie Mortensen** was Zeta Zeta's honoree at the conference. Bobbi taught 38 years in Dublin and Pleasanton, and for 2 years in Italy. She has knitted hats for premature babies and scarves for low-income women who are going back into the work force. She has volunteered at a local elementary school and a school for the deaf in the toddler room. Bobbie has been co-president of ZZ with Diana, worked on the Scholarship and Hospitality Committees, and has been in charge of the silent auction baskets. She is a woman of many talents and has many interests, such as playing the piano, reading, puzzles, knitting, crafts, and bridge. Bobbie says that she likes the camaraderie, the projects, and the people she has met through Zeta Zeta. We love and honor our Bobbie!



**JEANETTE FITCH**

is one of our newer



members. She is the one to whom you send your **THAT** hours. She

has been an officer in AAUW and the Alamo Danville Garden Club. She taught Kindergarten, Second and 3rd grades at Green Valley for years. Jeanette is one who likes to help others. For example, she was a Girl Scout leader for four years, and has served Community Presbyterian Church as a greeter and hospital visitor. We're so glad to have Jeanette as a member!

For more information go to:

[www.dkg-zetazeta.org](http://www.dkg-zetazeta.org),

<http://www.chistateca.org>

<http://www.dkg.org>

<http://www.dkg-ca3.org>

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**JANUARY MEETING**

The next meeting of Zeta Zeta will be held on Monday, January 9th at Scott's Restaurant in Walnut Creek. Social begins at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00. Please send your check for **\$34.00** to **Denise Dolan**,

P. O. Box 551, Alamo, 94507 by Wednesday, January 4th. The menu choices are: Salmon alla Bella or Tuscany Chicken. Caesar salad, bread, and coffee or tea are provided with the meal. We will be entertained by our own **Olithia O'Toole**,

**The Chi State Convention is May 4-6, 2012 in Irvine, CA. Let's have a good turn out..** PAGE 1



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past Area III Director and master storyteller. It's an evening you won't want to miss.

Drawing prizes will be brought by the following members: **Sydney Allison, Ann Kyle, Valerie Kellner, Joyanne Kennedy, Teddi Kennelly, Kit King, Roseann Krane, Betty Leecing, Carmen Curtis, Jeannette Fitch, and Pam DeBernardi.**

Remember, each raffle contributor should bring a \$10.00 gift of their choice or \$10 in cash, all WRAPPED, so the winners will not know what they are picking until it's unwrapped.

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

As I take time to wrap presents, and take stock of my life I must include the great things going on in our DKG chapter. First we are lucky to have the talents of **Kit King** in our midst to produce such a wonderful and informative newsletter. Since I cannot imagine Kit writing about herself in the newsletter, I would like to take a moment to let you know that she attended the University of Arizona as well as St. Mary's College. She taught in Anaheim as well as the SRVUSD. She has also been on the college faculty of St. Mary's. She has mentored a number of new teachers through BTSA. Her accolades are beyond mention in this paragraph but include the "Pay It Forward Literacy Program" at Shepherd's Gate shelter in Livermore. We thank Kit for all of her involvement in our Zeta Zeta Chapter that enriches our program.

Also I want to thank all of the members who submitted their T.H.A.T hours to **Jeanette Fitch**, as we were able to contribute 351 hours since last spring. Those contributing hours include: **Pam DeBernardi, Denise Dolan, Carmen Curtis, Jeanette Fitch, Emily Elm, Gail Faber, past member Judy Simkin, Mary Lembke, Kit King, and myself.**

I also would like to thank **Roseann Krane** for her effort, in spite of injury, for getting our a terrific yearbook. Remember they are on my porch to your pick-up or I will bring them to the meeting. I look forward to seeing you in January as our Program Chairs have made arrangements for us to hear a delightful storyteller, **Olithia O'Toole.**

Please take time to read the various newsletters you receive from DKG as the information regarding the schools in Africa, ideas in mentoring, and state legislation are informative and reiterate the purpose of keeping us informed in legislative and social matters. (*Purpose #7. To inform the members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.*)

Happy holidays to all.

*Stephanie*





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**ZETA ZETA SERVICE PROJECTS**

**BACKPACKS**

Backpacks were stuffed by **Pam DeBernardi's** two grandchildren. The girls filled 23 backpacks and they went with her to deliver them. Pam wanted them to see where they were going. Pictured is two volunteers from VESTIA (Volunteer Emergency Service Team in Action) who make sure that needy children get them when there is an emergency.

Pam needs more backpacks, scissors, rulers, colored pencils, markers and books. She has plenty of pencils and pens and enough crayons and glue sticks, erasers and paper. Hopefully we can do another 20 for June.



**PAY IT FORWARD LITERACY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

The program was begun in 2002, and involves reading to all ages of children followed by a literacy activity for an hour. A women's book group follows with an hour of reading to and with the moms. Children see their mothers reading with enthusiasm and it's a great incentive for them to be readers. SG needs paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, kleenex, diapers, cleaning supplies, and feminine products. Also they could use canned goods, cereal, and juices. If you would like to go with **Kit King** and **Donna Bell** to read one month, call Kit.





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*Purposes*

1. To UNITE women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship.
2. To HONOR women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education.
3. To ADVANCE the professional interest and position of women in education.
4. To INITIATE, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavor in the interests of education and of women educators.
5. To ENDOW scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to women educators from other countries.
6. To STIMULATE the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action.
7. To INFORM the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LEGISLATURE?**

Professional Affairs/Research  
Chairperson,  
**Karen De Baca Martens**

The updates on educational legislation are massive, but Delta Kappa Gamma-Chi State is doing a fabulous job of staying abreast on the issues that are of utmost importance to us. For example DKG-Chi State is a member of the "Retirement Coalition whose purpose is to monitor and take positions on legislative proposals or regulations affecting pensions, retirement and social security. Martha Zaragoza-Diaz attends the meetings of the Coalition on behalf of DKG-Chi State.

A last minute Assembly Bill 873 (Furutani) Prohibition on Employment After Separation

from Pension System was signed by the Governor with a "signing" message: "To the Members of the California State Assembly: AB 873 expands restrictions on post-governmental employment activities by board members and staff at CalPERS and CalSTRS. While I have signed this bill, I note that what's good for the goose, should be good for the gander. Sincerely, Edmund G. Brown Jr."

This leads to the most important legislative issue of the day: on October 27, 2011 the Governor moved forward on "pension reform" with his 12 Point Pension Reform Proposal. His press release states that "the proposal raises retirement age for public employees, ends

system-wide abuse and cuts costs for taxpayers by billions." The proposal does not make a clear distinction between CalPERS and CalSTRS and is a one size fits all. The Coalition believes that the most significant issue affecting CalSTRS, the adequacy of funding for future benefit payments, was not addressed by the Governor.

If you can't go to the full website for "The 12 Point Proposal", I will bring a summary to our next meeting: [http://gov.ca.gov/docs/Twelve\\_Point\\_Pension\\_Reform\\_10.27.11.pdf](http://gov.ca.gov/docs/Twelve_Point_Pension_Reform_10.27.11.pdf) We will keep you informed but this is now only in the negotiating process.