

GAMMA PHI GAZETTE



May 2020
Volume 53, Issue 11

Ohio State Organization
Editor, Katie Gantz

Special “Stay at Home” Edition

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

September

Due to the cancellation of our May meeting, the following agenda items will be moved to our first meeting of the 2020-2022 Biennium in September:

Biennium Wrap Up
Induction of 2020-2022 Executive Board
Initiation of New Members

Watch for specific meeting dates to be announced in the Gamma Phi Gazette this summer!

Committee Sign-ups for 2020-2022

Thank you for your support in electing me President for the next Biennium. This next year will be a time to “think out of the box” on how we will have meetings and programs. The most important factor though is that we are still a strong group of women educators-current and former-who have friendships and bonds within this community and need to stay in communication with each other. Katie is doing a fantastic job with the newsletter and keeping all the members informed and engaged. I am SO glad and thankful that she will continue in this role of putting the newsletter together.

At the beginning of each biennium we ask our members to sign up for committees. Please look at the list that you will receive via email on May 4th and choose which committee(s) you would like to participate on. Some are a once a year activity while others require a greater amount of commitment. Please rank your preferences 1, 2, and 3. If you would like to stay on the same committee, just note that on your response.

Hopefully, everyone can participate in at least one committee. Gentle reminders will be given if you do not sign up because we would like everyone to participate in the committee that feels right for them as opposed to being placed in one.

Please return all responses to Katie by Thursday, May 7.

Thanks for your help. Helen

Happy Birthday Wishes To:

- Heather Campbell-Lieberman May 3
- Kathie Walmsley May 9
- Linda Ausman May 27
- ... and our Gamma Phi chapter which was founded on May 21, 1966

Early Bird Gift Card Winners

Dear Sisters,

We are happy to announce that Diana Haskell & Karyn Kern Lazear have won the early bird \$20 Kroger gift cards for renewing their membership dues by May 1st. Congratulations!

We ask that all our chapter members send in their dues for the 2020-2021 year before this June 1st if possible. If you have not already done so, please send your check for \$75 payable to DKG and mail it to:

Margaret Murph 1548 Hollywood Ave Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

As COVID-19 challenges our creativity, the membership and finance committees truly appreciate your support for our chapter.

Thanks!

Jane Houser, Gail Adams Arnold and Margaret Murph



Stay At Home Member Updates

We are all feature members this month!

In mid-April, we sent out a plea to the ladies of Gamma Phi chapter to send in messages and photos about your experiences living through the COVID-19 pandemic during the last few months. The remainder of our May newsletter features items you would like to share with your fellow chapter members to let us know how you have been spending your time during our statewide "stay at home" period.

Enjoy!



I have spent my stay-at-home time making cloth face masks for my craft group, Scarf It Up, that supports our community hospital, hospice, etc. organizations here in town. When I finish my current kit, I will have completed 290 masks. For breaks I switch to knitting or crocheting hats. Here's a sample of my face masks. That's pretty much what I've been doing.

Kathie Walmsley



In early February, Doug and I packed ourselves and my 92 year old widowed mother for a several week trip to SW Florida. We attended celebratory events hosted by Mount Notre Dame, University of Cincinnati and an opening of a favorite photographer. We enjoyed days at the beach, swimming in the pool, shopping, visiting relatives and friends and lots of dining out. Every day was a new adventure! Several weeks have become several months and we still enjoy swimming in the pool as we shelter in place. Our return to Cincinnati remains unknown.



Doug arranges weekly Zoom meetings that bring immediate and extended family together each Sunday afternoon. He is also building the Condemi family story by locating primary source materials that confirm when my paternal family immigrated from Italy and then moved along the Midwest US coal veins until arriving at Vandergrift, PA where many relatives were born. This research has been a peak into the past. Family members are adding the documents that were passed to them to complete my paternal family tapestry. We have also learned much about my maternal family through ancestry websites. We continue to search for more primary source documents to complete the history of my mother's family.

Delta Kappa Gamma work found me! Serving as OSO Treasurer during a canceled convention kept me a prisoner to my computer. I am happy to report that all convention refund checks have been sent! I have attended committee meetings and board meetings using GoToMeeting. Your state officers and Foundation directors have continued to work for the benefit of all members.

What I miss most during this time is family, friends, getting my hair cut, visiting and working at the Art Museum, and participating with members and missions of organizations that I have pledged membership.

I am grateful for so many blessings that surround me. I look forward to new efficiencies that will be a part of our lives going forward. I am thankful to those who have worked to make our lives safer, healthier, and more secure during the pandemic. I embrace the hope that our world will recover and we will have newfound trust in our future.

One more thing. On Easter Sunday I fell and broke several bones in my left foot, giving new meaning to "Shelter in Place"!

Warm regards, Diana Haskell



I am working on a T shirt quilt with material I had on hand!

Jane Houser

Joe and I have handled the "Stay at Home" situation fairly well. As I often state to friends that so far, "no divorce papers have been filed nor has there been any blood either". I have been lucky that I have had a reason to leave the house to deliver hygiene kits from the ALGC to Winton Hills Academy on the food distribution days for CPS. It started out being 3 days a week and now is just on Monday. I know that I have delivered over 1000 kits to the school since it was closed in March. I do feel as if I am doing something worth while as well as leaving the house (alone), for an hour each time.

Karyn Kern Lazear

Spending my time watching my 4 1/2-year-old granddaughter (daycare closed) and trying to do some gardening!

Carol Ladrigan



I started in January, but I have been doing a lot in the past month or so. I have been researching family trees on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). I started with my father's family since that was where the biggest gap was in what I already knew. I always thought that we must have Scottish blood since my father's first and middle names were Duncan Campbell. Well, I found it! My grandfather's mother's family came from Scotland, near Glasgow. Her middle name was Campbell and her father and brother were named Duncan.

I didn't know much about my paternal grandmother's family, and neither did she. All we knew was that her mother was first cousin of Willis Carrier who had invented air conditioning. I thought that would be the most interesting person. No. Her father's family goes back to Colonial Massachusetts (Puritans) with men who fought in King Philip's War, the French and Indian War, and the American Revolution a few days after Lexington and Concord. Her mother's family also goes back to Colonial Massachusetts with my 8th great-grandmother being hanged as a witch! Her family did not get smallpox when there was an epidemic. She also inherited land from her father since her brothers also died in the epidemic, and apparently she was an independent woman who shared her opinions. They tortured her sons to confess that she was a witch. Because she would not admit to the lie. She was hanged. Later when the top official (governor or such) returned, he stopped the hysteria and compensated all the families of the victims.

I have also done my husband, Thom's, mother's family. I found an ancestor who had fought in the Revolution also. His brothers had been killed in the Wyoming Massacre in Pennsylvania, so he and his father joined. He was a fifer and the mother was a cook and nurse. When the father was killed in battle, the mother went to General Washington and knelt before him pleading that her last surviving family member be released from service. Washington granted it and gave them land in central Pennsylvania in the same county where my mother and all her family lived. I keep waiting to find an overlap in families or on the same census listing!

I still have my mother's family to go. This has been quite an adventure!

Cindy Speakman

I've been keeping busy with things that should be done and things that are fun to do and something Cindy inspired me to do.

First, the things that should be done: I've cleaned out two closets - something I never have time to do, but now I do have time; I've washed all my windows and put in the screens - something that is bearable only because I fill my CD player with Broadway cast albums and sing along; I've used the tree trimmer to trim my tallest Rose of Sharon bushes - something that gets me outside, but hurts my shoulders; I'm keeping up with regular chores which now include grass-cutting; I've made five no-sew masks - not very attractive, but they've offered protection on my 3 trips to Kroger.

Next, the things that are fun to do: I've been taking a walk every non-rainy day, something I like to do but often don't have time to do when keeping a busy schedule; I've been getting 7-8 hours of sleep instead of my normal 5-6, and that has been most welcomed; I've completed two 1000-piece puzzles- definitely a luxury at this time of year; I binge-watched "World on Fire" on PBS Passport - an engrossing series, but now I have to wait a year for season 2. Unfortunately, while I love to read, I unfroze my four on-hold books at the library a few days too late; so they are still sitting at the library.

What I call my Coronavirus Project is reading the letters my dad wrote to my mom during World War II. This project was inspired by Cindy Speakman's publishing of her dad's letters. Starting in August 9, 1942 and going until September 11, 1945, I have now read 117 letters and am up to July 1, 1943. So far in my reading, my dad is still in Naval Air Corps training, having started in Iowa with "ground school," then moving on to Indiana for flying, and now in Pensacola for the military part of flying. I have a feeling he'll be off to war soon because he just learned how to take off from and land on an aircraft carrier. I've learned a lot about the training and am transcribing this part of his letters for my nephews who may find it interesting, too.

I am thankful that I am healthy and that my extended family members are healthy, also. I am grateful that my church, like many others, is having online services. I have great admiration for our active teachers who are doing yeoman's work during this pandemic.

I forgot to add that the one thing I do everyday is watch Gov. DeWine's press conference. Dr. Acton is inspirational.

Diane Heilmann



As with everyone life has changed. It has made me slow down since many of the activities that I am involved in are not happening This has given me time to read several books on my "to read " list and participate in a book club discussion on-line.

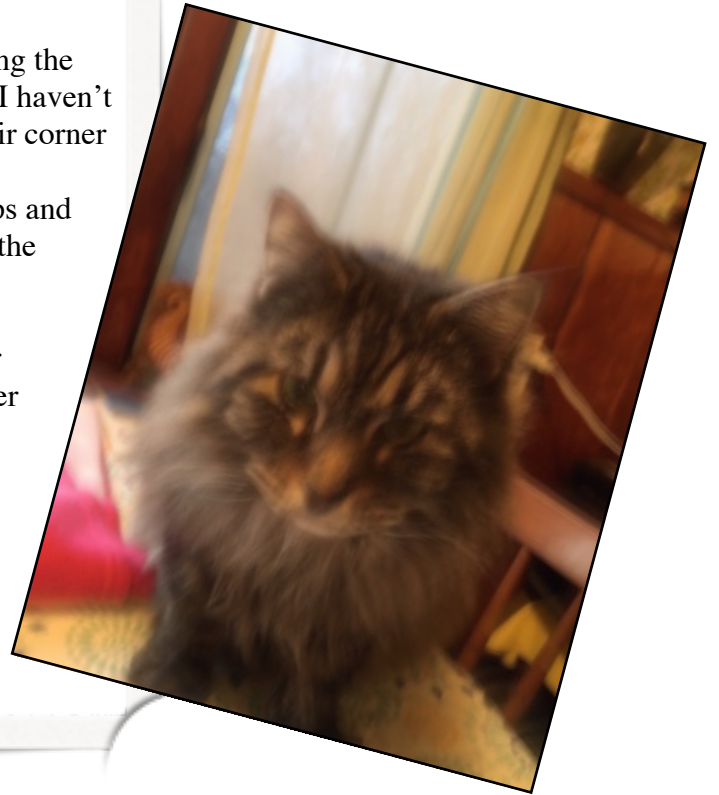
I am spending more time with my cat Abby. She is enjoying the extra attention.I have had great conversations with people I haven't talked to for awhile and hear about what is going on in their corner of the world.

On nice days I take a walk to try and get in my 10,000 steps and enjoy the beautiful spring landscape. Surprisingly enough the days and weeks have gone by quickly for me.

During this time of confinement it has made me more appreciative of the simple everyday things that we take for granted. I look forward to the time when we can be together with family and friends and things return to "normal " whatever that will be.

In the meantime stay safe and healthy.

My best to you all.
Sue Eades



I have been working in the yard when the weather is nice.

Trying to beat the lesser celandine and dandelions. The score shows that they are still in the lead!

Diana Klenk



We are all ready for the salons to reopen!

Staying at home has provided an opportunity for me to continue a memoirs writing project that I've been working on since the spring of 2007! At that time my husband, Dick, and I became students in an adult education class entitled, "Writing Your Memoirs." The class was taught by two U.C. professors, both excellent teachers, who knew how to inspire us to begin what could have been an overwhelming project. After the ten week class ended, a small group of us decided to continue meeting once a month, each time writing another memoir to be shared with the others.

In recent weeks, I have been continuing to write a few more memoirs to fill in places in my life story that I had not yet covered. I've also been organizing the over 100 memoirs that I had previously written. In addition I've been looking through photo albums and many scrapbooks to select a few memorable photos to include in my book. My hope is that when I give these memoirs books to our two daughters and two grandkids, that eventually they will appreciate knowing more about my life than I know about the lives of my grandparents and even my parents. It seems that there are always things that we wish we would have asked our own relatives before it was too late.

Judy Rosene

Judy - 6 months



One year



two years



three years

First of all my birthday came and went during the beginning of this pandemic. However, I was blessed to see another birthday.

During this "Stay Home Period" I begin each day first by either walking my community if it isn't raining or I visit my mini gym downstairs unwillingly. I do this five days and usually take off Saturday and Sunday. If the weather is nice I continue to walk on Saturdays and Sunday. I enjoy walking because it is my meditation time with myself.

I have finally cleaned off one of my two desks. This was a big accomplishment. I have started to clean the room, throwing out items etc. Also shredding old papers and documents. I'm trying to de-junk my house.

My sister is in a rehab center and I visit her outside her window weekly, as well as, I do her laundry.

I try to think of creative things to give to her to keep her busy since the family can no longer visit with her. Her spirits are great and I'm trying to keep them that way.

I check on my brother weekly and I occasionally take him to the grocery store. This is my life taking care of my family. I

My son in New York tells me to stay in, he doesn't even want me out in the yard.

Now it is grass cutting time and I do that weekly as well as digging up weeds in all my flower beds getting them ready to plant flowers.

At the present time this is my life!!

Margaret Murph



What have I done during this time of statewide stay at home? The first three weeks of the state order that schools were to be closed, my school assigned work for a few days and then used our calamity days and spring break for teachers to get ready for our new experience of Zoom teaching and using google classroom. During that time, I attended a few quick trainings, attended webinars, watched countless videos, and prepared new lessons and assignments. Well, after four weeks, I am feeling a bit more comfortable teaching this way. It was so good to see the faces of the students and just to be able to interact with them, though I miss being able to help or redirect at that moment that is all part of the school day. I still am learning the ins and outs of doing all this, but each day there is a normalcy and structure to it. We start school at 8:50 and have regular classes until 11:50 and then after lunch have 2 more classes. The students and I are doing the best we can and look forward to the day we can all be back in the classroom/school again.

Though most of the day is school, I do take time to take my dog, Grizzly, for an extra walk. He never had it so good! I'm also cooking more which my husband loves! With the warmer weather, I am also looking forward to getting into the garden and reading once school is out for the summer.

Helen Romes

What have I been doing?

Right now I am sitting at my kitchen table looking out the window at my dogwood tree that is very slow to open its beautiful white blooms. I seem so much aware this year of the spring happenings in my garden. I even discuss this with my husband! I begin most days with a prayer service on line hosted by one of our priests. It's nice to see the names of friends as you can check in. I happen to be in charge of meals for those who need from our church so I continue to do that.

I have pretty much exhausted my projects: knitting a prayer shawl, making masks for the family, making pot holders out of scrap fabrics, reading, long overdue cleaning, filling a recycle bin with old magazines, filling 2 shredding machine bins, and washing kitchen cabinets. I discovered a crossword puzzle book hidden in a bookcase so that has become my new passion. We also have watched more television than ever before.

I am trying to keep in touch with friends and family and I guess it's time to start my projects over again. Oh- big excursions to Kroger Pick-Up; I even put on make-up for that!

Carolyn Lamping

I decided a good way to de-stress is to color. I spent time during the day relaxing with this now that I have time on my hands.

Gail Adams Arnold





My husband, Jim, and I have spent our days enjoying old movies, playing Scrabble, and taking long walks together. Kids in the neighborhood take great pride in decorating the sidewalks with inspirational chalk messages. Even the flying pig yard statues nearby are sporting appropriate masks to embrace good health safety measures! One family nearby posts a new joke of the day in their front yard each morning.

When the weather cooperates, I work in my garden, weeding and preparing all the perennials for the coming season. A chipmunk has "moved in" and he often enjoys sitting on top of a specific sprinkler head to survey his newfound kingdom. A brave little guy!

I have also been hard at work designing some fun new necklaces and earrings that can be worn down the road when we are able to be social again. For now, I am just wearing them during ZOOM and FaceTime video conferences.

Looking forward to seeing all of you again very soon!

Katie Gantz



I have been walking the dog almost every day and cleaning out closets and going through old paper work.

Be safe,
Mary Jo Berry



The easiest thing is to follow me on Facebook (Heather Sue Campbell), Twitter @hcbluiz or on Instagram @connecttoconnections. I am putting celebrations of teachers and classrooms on those platforms regularly.

Heather Campbell- Lieberman

HOPE:

What if???

If they cancel the rest of the school year, students would miss 2.5 months of education. Many people are concerned about students falling behind because of this. Yes, they may fall behind when it comes to classroom education...

But what if...

What if instead of falling "behind", this group of kids are **ADVANCED** because of this? Hear me out..

What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read, they love to express themselves in writing?

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyard and sitting near a window in the quiet?

What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if this generation are the ones to learn to cook, organize their space, do their laundry, and keep a well run home?

What if they learn to stretch a dollar and to live with less?

What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential support workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, custodians, logistics, and health care workers and their supporting staff, just to name a few of the millions taking care of us right now while we are sheltered in place?

What if among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life to truly learn what really matters in this life?

What if they are **AHEAD**?

(Copied and pasted from a friend of Judy Rosene. Too good not to share!)



Handy links to our chapter's website and social media platforms:

<https://gammaphiohio.weebly.com/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2358967190829279>