

*Highlights:*

- *Important Dates, Nashville, Reports and More!*

## President's note: The Power of Possibilities



arships and the renewal of last year's recipient for McGill graduate students, grants to local teachers, and our affiliation with the Montreal Council of Women, enabled us to step out into the community.

A panel discussion of Administrators facilitated the sharing of ideas on how to assist early career educators.

To build on this, the 2016 – 2017 stimulating program created by the Educational Excellence Committee includes celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> year of service to promote excellence in the educational community.

As we hope to expand our membership and keep our present members interested and involved, we are still challenged with getting all of us "connected" through the wide variety of available social networks. (See pages 12-13 Get Connected!). More involvement in the Canadian Forum, and being part of the Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor, Ontario, in July 2017 are major goals for Year 2.

To consolidate this, the DKG International Convention in Nashville actively involved the newest and youngest members, as well its oldest and longest-standing members present, and that has given us the momentum needed to move forward with our goals. It was an outstanding learning experience on all levels, balancing fun, academic, professional and administrative opportunities. We eagerly look forward to this for DKG Quebec members too!

Beverly Townsend,  
President, DKG Quebec

**Embrace the Past; Enrich the**



**Present; Ensure the Future**



DKG International

**85 years and beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life**



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Last year was a period of discovery: my efforts to discover the potential of the office of the Provincial Presidency was of great importance to me. I knew that it was not going to be a lonely path because I believed in an inclusive and shared leadership to shape the future of DKG Quebec.

The very active Executive made several accomplishments impossible to ignore. Our ability to engage our new members immediately allowed us to energize our meetings through the formation and presentations by members of the new Professional Development and Applications Committee.

The acquisition of two World Fellowship Schol-

THE GAMMA GAMUT

**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM & MEETING DATES**

**Thursday, October 20, 2016: Sheryl Smith Gilman, McGill University,**

*Constructing Living Bridges: A Pedagogy of Listening for Today's Classrooms*



**Monday, November 21, 2016: Veronica Johnson, Citizenship Judge**

*O Canada: Reflections on Citizenship*



**Thursday December 15, 2016, Holiday Celebration, (Bev and Magda organizers)**

**JANUARY: NO MEETING**



**Monday, February 13, 2017, Diane Carroll Phillips, LBPSB,**

*Where Life Coaching and Teaching Come Together...Education Is Personal*



**Thursday, March 21, 2017, Kate Arthur, Kid's Code**

*Learning to Code in the Classroom*



**Monday, April 24, 2017, Monica Marleau**

*Spinal Energy Warm Up*



**Saturday, May 6, 2017, Cheli Nighthtraveller**

*Are classrooms safe for Indigenous Peoples? An exploration of contemporary Indigenous experiences and some ideas on moving forward.*



**DKG International and DKG Quebec: Important Dates to NOTE**

Sept. 1, 2016, Feb. 2, 2017, May 1, 2017 **Lucile Cometet Award Application**

Nov. 10, & May 10, Each Year **Request for DKG International Speaker (ISF)**

Sept 13, 2016

**1. Gamma Province Dues Deadline** \$60.00 Canadian, Pay to your treasurer

**Alpha:** Rena Entus

**Beta:** Rena Entus

**Gamma:** Yocheved Sonenberg

**2. Application to be an DKG International Speaker (ISF)**

**Sept. 1 (Province), Sept. 15: (International)**

**October 15: Request for DKG International Representative for Provincial Conference**

Dec. 1, 2016 **Golden Gift Fund Application** due (Special stipend for conference and special studies).

Obtain application form from **DKG International Headquarters**.

Feb. 1, 2017

1. **Gamma Province Scholarship Application** due (Get the form from the **Scholarship Committee, Barb Angus, Chair**)

2. **DKG International Scholarship Application** due Feb. 1

(get form from **DKG International Headquarters**)

Feb. 13, 2017 **Gamma Province Executive Board Meeting**

Any proposed amendments or changes to Provincial Bylaws or Standing Rules should be submitted to the Executive Board.

**MARK THESE IMPORTANT DATES IN YOUR AGENDAS AND PLAN TO ATTEND!!**

**July 12-16, 2017 Northeast Regional Conference: Caesar's Resort & Convention, Windsor, Ontario**

**July 16 – 20, 2018: DKG International Convention at the J.W. Marriot Austin, Texas**

**DON'T FORGET: Foonies (\$5.00) due for Canadian Forum Project for Nepal**

## NASHVILLE HIGHLIGHTS By Barb Angus

DKG members are welcome to bring their spouses to Regional and International conventions. A twenty-dollar guest registration allows your spouse to attend keynote presentations, breakout sessions, the Info Centre and Market Place, all the evening entertainment and the closing banquet. There is even an assigned room where the men can meet and plan activities of their own. Some men actually boast about the number of conventions they have attended! There was no way that my spouse was not coming with me to Nashville. He's a country music fan and Nashville had been on his bucket list for years.

The 2016 convention was a relaxed convention for me. I had attended two previous conventions as a member of the International Educational Excellence Committee (2012-2014) which included many responsibilities as a speaker and as a workshop presenter. This year my time was my own except for giving the Quebec Ed. Talk at the Canadian Forum. I could attend any

and all the sessions I wanted from the amazing selection offered. What a diversity of experiences and opinions were shared by fellow DKG members - there was just so much to learn. My only problem was having to make a decision when two of my choices fell in the same time slot.

This freedom from responsibility also gave me time to fully explore Nashville



Barb and Jim took a Riverboat cruise

with my husband. We went to the Grand Ole Opry. We took a show boat dinner cruise on a paddle steamer down the Cumberland River. Several evenings we simply walked around

downtown Nashville listening to the country music pouring out onto the streets from the bars and cafes. And we spent a lot of time at the George Jones centre going from floor to floor listening to George Jones songs, a different band playing on each floor. We even took time to shop for a special request from one of our daughters, a pair of red cowboy boots. The choice and price range of cowboy boots in Nashville is unbelievable!!

So ... think about bringing your spouse to the NERC convention in Windsor, Ontario, in July of 2017. It's an easy drive from Montreal and could include a Shakespearean play in Stratford, a visit to Niagara Falls, and wine tasting at any number of southern Ontario vineyards in addition to all the marvelous sessions and entertainment planned for the Convention. A perfect little summer "staycation" for the two of you along with, what will no doubt be, a watershed experience for you as a DKG member.

## WHAT A SUMMER! BY DIANE CARROLL PHILLIPS

What a summer this has been! After being released from the grips of a two-year rotator cuff surgery **recovery** in July, I had my first vacation where I can actually do some things within reason. But as you know, putting my feet up and basking in the sun is not for me. So instead, I launched my businesses for my future retirement! Yes! You know me! My aerospace science camp "Science Yourself! No G's About It!" was a huge success and thank you to my leaders, Anthony and Alexander Phillips, Yared as well as Thomas Kavanagh. Of course it could not have been done without my partner in educa-

tion, Donna Rice at AMuze. As if that was not enough, I assisted in the launch of DiGi Games owned and operated by the above mentioned young men. Ok, nope that was not enough either, I was awarded the chance to go to the DKG International Convention in Nashville Tennessee where thousands of passionate like-minded, game-changing professionals from the field of education led me into the garden of educational possibilities. What a profound game changing experience! **Thank you DKG Quebec! ♥🇩🇪**

Ok, so nope that was not enough, Montreal Aviation Museum Family Fun Day - done and a huge success! In

between all of this, Life Coaching, training in STEAM Education, cottaging with my friends and family and spending time with my hubby and watching my boys fly an airplane at their flight school. Thank you to the team that got me there: my mom, my husband, Mike, Rose and Paul Kavanagh, Dr. Rhodes and Isobel, my Physio-therapist, and my dear friend, Britta! Blessings to each and everyone of you. Love to all of you! ♥🇩🇪🇺🇸

Thank you to all of my friends near and wide who helped in so many ways! I could not have done it without you all!



## REPORT ON THE 2016 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION BY RENA ENTUS

Since 2000 when the International Convention was in Toronto I have been hooked on attending DKG International Conventions. It was at that first convention in Toronto that I realized how big DKG was and how much more we were as women in education "Together".

I was in awe of the women I met; some sang beautifully, some spoke with humour...all spoke with conviction, intelligence, and from the heart. Some had great personalities; some were interesting. All were connected to me and you. All were our DKG sisters.

Each convention I attend continues to bring these thoughts to the forefront for me.

This year in Nashville all these same thoughts and issues rose to make me swell with pride at belonging. But this year was special. I went with no pressure and no particular responsibilities except to myself. I was not the President; nor was I standing in for the President. My particular personal goal this year was to introduce Diane Phillips to our "organization" and to individual women that I admired and

that she had not yet met, and to visit Nashville with friends.

Well, I accomplished my goal. I toured Nashville (a little) with my friends (both from DKG and friends from life.) It was very interesting and enjoyable for me. (I hope for all.)

This is the kicker. I did introduce Diane to a few women...Beverly Helms, for one. But, there was no need for me to be there to see that Diane met anyone. Just set Diane in the middle of anywhere and, before you know it, she has a circle of people around her.

Diane met more and spoke to more women that I did. She was our Quebec ambassador. How proud we were to see that Diane had been chosen to represent the new members and the Eastern Region. Lyn Schmid and her International Convention Committee made sure that the DKG speakers at each of the sessions and at the luncheons were younger members. How clever were they! It really proved how much thought goes into planning an International event to make it feel and be inclusive.

Our DKG Minnie Pearl hats often made an easy way for women to come up to

us and to recognize us. In fact when we didn't have them on, we were asked why we weren't sporting our hats. (At least I was asked that question.)

In two years, 2018, the International Convention is in Austin Texas. We will have an opportunity to visit headquarters. I am giving you and me, us, two years to come up with a "hat" for Texas. But, you only have one year to come up with a "hat" for NERC in Windsor. This is your homework, Ladies, get your creative juices flowing. Now, for all you women who will be attending, and don't like hats.... I am open to suggestions. Hawaii has their leis, Nashville made us famous for our hats; let us keep up our reputation with a Quebec one of a kind.

I hope that we will have a big contingent from Quebec in Windsor in July 2017 who will work with and for Ontario, the North East Regional hosts.

My final word for this article is to thank you all for inviting me to be a member of DKG; thank you for all the opportunities that I have had to learn and grow. I could not have done this without you.



Shown left: The Mini-Pearls from Quebec (L to R) Diane Carroll Phillips, Barb Angus, Bev Townsend, Anne Marie Gitto Laurin, Rena Entus

Shown Right: Diane Carroll-Phillips was asked to take the minutes at the Canadian Forum, a rite of passage for new members



## THE GAMMA GAMUT



### DKG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION NASHVILLE TENNESEE 2016

When Dorothy landed in OZ she said to Toto, "I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore." I really know how she felt now! As I was whisked away to experience the DKG International Convention in Tennessee, I reveled in all of its splendor, wonder, friendliness, camaraderie, and educational awe. I knew then that this was my "OZ." Being in Tennessee and all of its magic also sealed the deal of wonder! Surrounded by so much history, Music City USA, Nashville is home to such celebrated locales as The Country Music Hall of Fame, the Ryman, The Grand Ole Opry and the very impressive eco-environment of the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. It was time for this "Dorothy" to take in her first DKG International Convention!



The convention was an inspiration for me as a senior educator and lifelong learner. My fellow DKG Gamma Quebec sisters, Bev Townsend and Rena Entus, were instrumental in showing me the ropes, making me feel incredibly special while leading me through what was my first time at such an important convention. The opportunity to be recognized

as a newcomer was also amplified as I was given the honor of sitting on the stage, front and center with other new members to DKG. Being greeted so warmly by so many DKG sisters made me feel incredibly special and I felt at home because of it and as well because of everyone's warm welcome. Barb Tarrant and Anne Marie Gitto Laurin (along with Bev and Rena), helped to make sure that I was being introduced to so many people. Getting the full Tennessee treatment, and making friendships that will undoubtedly be everlasting, was a mind blowing experience for me!

"No time like the present!" my DKG sisters would say. So I set off to get involved in participating in the convention and sitting in for our DKG Gamma secretary, I witnessed the incredible gears, sprockets, and motors of how DKG works. Professionalism to the max! I was also drafted to be assistant secretary at the Canadian Forum. Canada is doing great things, Folks, and that was made crystal clear at the forum. I knew at that very moment how privileged I was to be part of this outstanding organization. Yes! I can go on about it forever so let me get more to the point (or at least I will try!). The days were filled right from the get go! New2DKG First Timers and Using Tech for Convention was a helpful introduction to this newbie! The speakers made a profound impact on everyone. Kai Knight, a classical violist, turned innovative composer, was the

first convention speaker, using music as a metaphor to inspire the attendees. He is "on a mission" to spark a global mind-set shift in which ingenuity is the norm, not the exception.

Mike Figliuolo, founder of "ThoughtLEADERS" and author of several books including, "One Piece of Paper: The Simple Approach to Powerful, Personal Leadership," shared his message of how we need to "lead inside the box." His informal, storytelling presentation struck a chord with me. His insight on being better as a team player, so that "one may achieve higher levels of performance," was particularly poignant.

Author of the well-known children's book, "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," Judith Viorst also spoke at the convention. Her matter of fact dialogue really helped to demonstrate how we go through the phases of life and what really matters in education and life in general. Her humor and wit was enlightening! Loved it!

Then there was "Transformation Officer," Natalye Paquin who leads Girl Scouts of the USA's (GSUSA) Office of Strategy and Advancement. Natalye is responsible for providing strategic direction and leading change management efforts to ensure innovation, alignment, and coordination of the Girl Scout Movement around a national strategy and core business plan. What a presentation! She drew me in with her exam-

**THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 8TH WAS MS.**

ples of ways Girl Scouts has been empowering young girls through leadership, teaching, mentoring, and so much more! This presentation resonated with me because in education we all strive to bring these components to light. This was one of the best presentations in my opinion. It was worth every second of every slide that Natalye showed and discussed in detail!



In between all of this: breakout sessions, more speakers, Hot Topics, "Be the Change Luncheon!" - inspiring to say the least! Poems, songs, line dancing exercises between long meetings, entertainment from our DKG sisters and endless conversation with people whom will forever leave an indelible mark on my life.



One memorable workshop I attended was held by Dr. Kay Clawson and Sara Sweeney (USA). They shared great ideas about how to improve numbers in DKG chapters, which may perhaps help our province initiatives. Of course, the teacher that swells inside of me attended an Educational Excellence presentation that taught participants about Strategies for Teaching Children of Poverty. This specifically addressed struggling students and how to improve working memory and social skills in every child. As well, I attended enjoyable and informative sessions, for example: *Restoring Sanity to Your Classroom*, *Branding Yourself (DKG) on Social Media*, *The New Three R's of Education*, *Engaging Members through Inclusive Leadership* and my all-time favorite; *R-E-S-P-E-C-T; Was Aretha Referring to the Classroom?* This workshop was all about creating collaborative classrooms. I will never forget how these presenters greeted their participants! They danced us into the room to Aretha Franklin's classic song. It was energizing and empowering!



The Nashville Convention will be with me for a long time to come. I feel that I have been equipped with new ideas and thoughts to rejuvenate my thinking on how to support my own DKG Chapter. I see the experience as having been given a new road map of thought for the future. I feel particularly electrified as I gear up to return to work in a new role as the Integration Curriculum (aka STEAM) / Arts and Culture Educational Consultant at Lester B. Pearson School Board. There will be much to share, tell and, hopefully, much to inspire others.

Thank you DKG International, the members of our DKG Quebec and our Executive who graciously made this happen by awarding me with the DKG Founders Award from our chapter, my family, as well as everyone else who made this journey possible for me. I would not have been there in my "OZ" without you all making it possible! I am so grateful for the experiences that I encountered! There will never be enough words to express how my heart feels having been awarded this unique opportunity. This was the event of a lifetime! Thank you all! It was awesome!!

Diane Carroll Phillips, Gamma Chapter,  
DKG QUEBEC



## THE GAMMA GAMUT

**Ed. Talk from Quebec**  
**DKG Society International, July 2016 International Convention**  
**Canadian Forum**



There is much in Quebec's educational system of which we are proud.

But we have troubling issues to deal with as well.

Budget cuts are a major issue. The cuts are felt most keenly in the English sector, a minority sector in a French speaking province. Our school population is dwindling: smaller families, the exodus of our English graduates to other parts of Canada, and a law that prevents immigrants from enrolling in English schools, even immigrants from English speaking countries.

Our special needs students are the most vulnerable to budget cutbacks. For years we worked to include these students in regular classrooms with appropriate support. With the current financial squeeze, that support has been seriously cut and many school boards are finding it more financially feasible to revert to special classes. Often teachers working with these groups of students find themselves dealing with serious behaviour or volatility issues while having little training or experience to successfully manage the situation.

There is also a lack of significant training for pre-service and practicing teachers in working with students with learn-

ing disabilities. Too many resource teachers are brand new teachers or teachers who have been given part time resource assignments to fill up their schedules. There is little commitment to part time assignments. In the end, it is students with unmet learning difficulties who are in danger of dropping out before graduation.

Quebec has been exploring ways to reduce the high school drop-out rate. One suggestion is to mandate that all students be in school from ages four to eighteen. A proposed full-day, play-based kindergarten for all four year olds has largely been positively received and implementation has actually begun in economically disadvantaged areas. Our current five year old kindergarten program has such a play-base curriculum but more and more formal reading and writing instruction has been creeping in. Many educators argue that the four and five year brain is not sufficiently developed for formal literacy instruction. Insisting on such instruction for all students will only frustrate immature students and exacerbate a sense of failure that does nothing to reduce the dropout rate. We are urged to look to the Finnish model where reading and writing instruction is only begun at age seven yet Finland has the highest rate of literacy in the world.

Quebec has curriculum issues as well. The new high school history curriculum, *Quebec in Canada*, to go into effect this coming academic year is criticised as being ethno-centric. The focus is on the evolution of Quebec as a nation of Francophones and presents minority communities as either invisible, or in the case of Anglophones, as barriers to progress with respect to that nation.

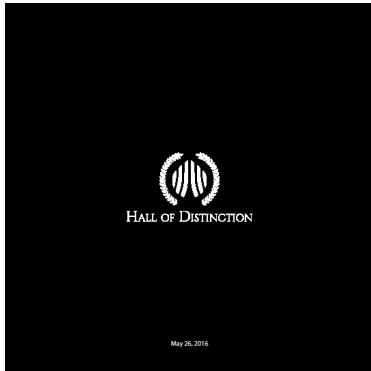
There is little or no mention of the contributions of the indigenous peoples to Quebec and Canadian society or to the contributions of Anglophones or the waves of immigrant groups such as the Italians, the Greeks, the Jews, the Asians and the Haitians. This new curriculum will only serve to teach Quebec students, both French and English, a skewed version of their own society.

Our nine English schools boards have committed to using the curriculum this fall despite public criticism but with the understanding that teachers have "leeway" in terms of how the course is taught and can augment it with material that better reflects Quebec's diversity. The final exam, however is set by the Ministry of Education and we all know teachers teach to the content that will be on exam.

Finally, Dr. Homa Hoodfar, a professor from one of our three English universities, Concordia, is being held prisoner as an activist in Iran's Evin prison. Dr. Hoodfar is an academic, not an activist, a professor of anthropology, with a long academic career in gender issues, much of it in Muslim countries. She is not fomenting a feminist revolution. Please go to the Amnesty International website and sign the petition urging the Canadian government to exert more pressure on Iran to release Dr. Hoodfar. We believe, as I know you do, that academic freedom is one of the most important foundations of free societies around the world.

Barb Angus, Gamma Province Quebec  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Chair: Scholarship and World Fellowship Committee

**Catherine Bannan Sidorenko Inducted in John Abbott College Hall of Distinction**



### Hall of Distinction

**Objective**

*In recognition of the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Abbott College in 2020, the College is establishing a Hall of Distinction. The Hall of Distinction will recognize alumni, former employees, and friends of the College: any person who has contributed to life on campus or to the greater community in a significant way. Other noteworthy people who also make their mark on campus and in society in the future will be considered. Nominees should have sufficient stature and recognition to ensure that their induction into the Hall of Distinction recognizes their contribution and brings credit to John Abbott.*



Cathy pictured, center, with fellow inductees into the John Abbott College Hall of Distinction

“Catherine came to John Abbott in 1974 on a contract as a researcher with teaching experience at the high school level. Despite several part time teaching contracts at the college and university level, she chose a career at John Abbott College.



Cathy addressing JAC Hall of Distinction

JOHN ABBOTT • Senior Academic Advisor; • Dean of Social Science and Related Technologies; • Member, John Abbott College Board of Governors; • Academic Coach, JAC Women’s Soccer Team; • Member, Program Evaluation Coordination Committee; • Chair, Academic Renovation Committee; • Assisted the Commission d’évaluation de l’enseignement collégial, CEEC, with program and institutional policy evaluations;



Cathy with proud husband, Alex

Participated in the implementation of new programs: Pathways, Pathways to Police Technology, 2-year Police Technology Program and the Double DEC; • Developed marketing and recruitment strategies for the General Education and Social Science programs. EXTERNAL • Conference presenter at the National Academic Advising Association conferences; • Québec representative with the Association of Ca-

nadian Community Colleges. Her high degree of professionalism was recognized throughout her career, and well reflected in her efforts to focus on the role of the College to the benefit of the students. An open door policy allowed Catherine to be available to students, faculty and staff to discuss issues in a respectful and caring manner. Catherine left John Abbott College in 2009.”

*Editor’s Note: Text taken from the JAC link :<http://www.johnabbott.qc.ca/foundation/hod/>*

*Editor’s Note: Catherine left JAC to become Chair of Community Studies at Algonquin College in Ottawa. She retired in January 2013 and now serves as Chair of the Educational Excellence Committee for DKG Quebec.*

## THE GAMMA GAMUT

### Congratulations to Maureen Baron on her Retirement

*The following is taken from the official announcement from JPPS-Bialik:*

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am writing to inform you that our Head of School, **Maureen Baron**, will be leaving our school on June 10, 2016 to pursue new initiatives.

During her three years here as Head of School, Maureen has played an important role in strengthening JPPS-Bialik. She has been instrumental in delivering on our Strategic Plan and ensuring that the school works as a team that respects the tenets of our mission and vision, and that the four JPPS-Bialik pillars (Academic Excellence, 21st Century Education, Jewish Identity and In Quebec) are met. Working with a talented

team of professionals and lay leaders she oversaw and contributed to the successful consolidation of JPPS and Bialik into our revitalized Cote St Luc campus building, Bialik was accredited as an IB Middle Years Programme World School, JPPS was accepted as an IB Primary Years Programme school, the JPPS-Bialik French and Judaic Studies programs were supported and strengthened by the work of the new French and Judaic Studies Coordinators, the Lederman Foundation donation spearheaded the building of the Lederman Bialik Synagogue and the writing and purchase of our own Sefer Torah and so much more.

I wish to close by thanking Maureen, once again, for her dedication to our school and our students.”

Dr. Harley Eisman, President, *JPPS-Bialik*

Maureen wrote to Rena Entus:

“I left JPPS-Bialik for new initiatives. This summer I am co-authoring, along with Lee Rother, the Canadian edition of an American book on Media Literacy. JPPS-Bialik owed me so much vacation time that I left on June 10th.

No matter what I am doing in the Fall / Winter, I am sure I will have more time and I can therefore become more active (if that just means be able to attend meetings I will be happy) in the newly formed group. Perhaps I could help out with the website, social media and look into using Zoom for electronic meetings.”

### Please Join Us for the Initiation Ceremony of our Newest Member, Ardis Root

**Ardis Root of LBPSB** has spent 23 years as a teacher, and eight years as an administrator. Of those thirty-one years, she spent six years as a high school teacher and twenty-five years in vocational training, or adult education.

Her passion in education is to help people find work that they love, either by getting specific training, or building the academic skills they need to succeed.



**Ardis Root has recently joined Gamma Quebec as our latest initiate. Welcome, Ardis! The official ceremony will be at HOMECOMING 2016!**

**Beryl Ball (center, standing) celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends.**

**DKG Quebec sisters, Beverly Townsend, left of Beryl, and Valerie Delacretaz, right, joined Phyllis Bennett, seated, in the celebration.**

**We all wish Beryl a healthy, happy and prosperous year ahead!**





## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

This year's walk is dedicated to raising money for ALL cancers... men's and women's, my plan was to ask you to donate to the ONEWALK to conquer cancer benefitting the Segal Cancer Center of the Jewish General Hospital as a way of wishing Eddy well. This was going to be my request. Sadly I am writing to ask you to donate in memory of Sherry, Eddy's daughter. She died suddenly on November 4, 2015, Montreal time. I have decided to designate my funds to lung cancer in Sherry's memory ... A few weeks later...I completed the walk. I would have finished in record time had I not got lost. I missed a direction sign in China town, (and having a wrong idea in my head) I walked back to where I had already been..... all the way back to Jarry Park .....instead of 10 minutes from where I was to the end at the Pier. But, I did it and I am grateful



and blessed to be able to physically do this walking. I am grateful that I have had your support for 12 years. I am grateful that I have you in my life.

This year because of your generosity I raised \$8600 through my site, and \$1800 which was given directly to the Peter

Brodje Fund for research into lung cancers at the Jewish General Hospital.

Money also to Cancer Montreal in my hon-



was given Breast Action in our.

I thank for the our you stowed personally. I thank you for all your continued support to the causes that need it. I could not have done this without you. So even if you didn't get official team designation, you were my team. You are in my heart and mind each and every day. I will never forget. With respect for all you have done, for all you will do, for who you are.

you all hon-be-ber on me



Here are a couple of photos from the Delacretaz reunion held at my home Canada Day weekend. Twenty-six members of Charles' family attended from as far away as Victoria BC and Geneva, Switzerland. The cake with the Delacretaz crest was made by my daughter-law, Helen.

- Valerie



**Dr. Mildred Burns**, at home, relaxing. Mildred can no longer attend meetings, but still offers advice and common sense solutions. Thank you, Mildred, for everything you continue to do for DKG Quebec and its members.

**Terry Saba**, second from left, speaking at a **Literacy Initiative event at Dante Elementary School** which stresses the importance of reading at home.

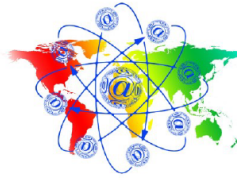


Frema Engel, Rena Entus and Beryl Ball enjoy an outing in the park.

**Maureen Baron's** Dad passed away in May. Our condolences to Maureen, her sister, Leslie, and the entire family on their loss. May the family know no further sorrows.

Deepest sympathies to **Melissa Margles** on the passing of her Mother this summer. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

## THE GAMMA GAMUT



## Get Connected!

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

July/August 2016

[Continued from right-hand column]

**Numbers Do Talk!** In the 2012-2014 biennium, 1,383 chapters responded to the Communications & Publicity Committee Report. Biennium reports for 2014-2016 were submitted by 2,133 chapters, for an increase of 54%. Streamlining of reports, less paperwork, and ease in submission are potential factors in this increase.

**Chapters and state organizations are also encouraged to use the *Guidelines for State Organization and Chapter Communications Committee Chairs*.** According to report data, 38% of chapters utilized this resource, which is filled with sections that address the many ways and avenues for communication and marketing. Use of this document would address the needs of 45% of respondents who wanted more tips for marketing the chapter/Society, as well as the 50% who wanted handouts for members available for communication and marketing. This spring, each chapter received a print copy of the updated *Guidelines for State Organization and Chapter Communications Committee Chairs*, and this publication can be accessed and downloaded by any member via the DKG website. Check out the current ideas and use them to fill the needs as expressed in the report.

**Thank you to all the chapter and state organization personnel who took the time to address these important questions.** The answers will be put to good use by Society personnel and committees.

**Help share information!** How does your chapter market DKG internally within your chapter? What are you communicating and in what manner? Help the Communications & Publicity Committee

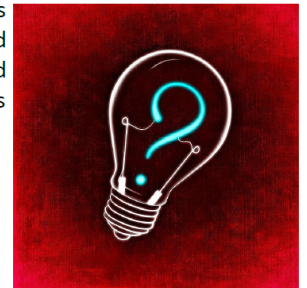
by sharing ways your chapter spreads the word to its own members. Have a chapter representative fill out this [survey](#).



## REPORTING on Reports

Data collected from Annual Reports submitted by chapters and state organizations provide valuable information. These data are analyzed by members of international committees and administrators at Society headquarters, and can be equally important at the chapter and state organization levels. The information can be analyzed two ways:

1. **As a reflection of what has worked well and what hasn't.** Analysis often lets a chapter and state organization know where a particular focus has been during the biennium. Answers to a question could apply to a goal from a strategic action plan. If time and effort have gone into a plan, then checking for effectiveness of that plan is a step in the process.
2. **The data should then be used to guide decisions for what is needed in the immediate future.** If analysis showed a deficit in an area or use of Society resources, then a plan should be written to address that area in the next biennium.



**As an example of planning for the future, all levels of the Society have been examining the use of technology.** For the first time ever, state organization annual reports were submitted via use of online Google forms. In response to a question regarding satisfaction with such online reporting, results from 70 state organization submissions indicated 37 were *Very Satisfied*; 23 were *Satisfied but with a few concerns*; 5 were *Not sure*; 2 were *Unsatisfied*; and 3 were *Other*. These data therefore indicated an overall acceptance of this use of technology. The few concerns reflect issues that occurred with the use of Google Forms.

**Various resources have been developed and placed on the Communications & Publicity Committee web page.** Questions on the report were posed as to usage of these resources by chapters, which ranged from a low usage of 7% to a high usage of 39%. Members of the C&P committee will examine these data to guide future development of resources or continued usage of resources already included.

### Of interest were results for the use of instructional videos:

- Number of chapters using Weebly videos - 7%
- Number of chapters wanting instructional videos - 17%

At first glance, these data suggest low use or desire to use this resource, yet it is important to note the 'newness' of these instructional videos. Because of the Society's desire to move forward with more technology usage (SAP 4.A.3.b - *Investigation and promotion of new technologies as developed*), the data can be seen as the foundation to assist chapters as they implement more and more technology.

**Also worth noting was the use of the electronic newsletter "Get Connected!," written bimonthly by members of the C&P committee.** Chapters reported that 39% used this informative resource during the 2014-2016 biennium. During the prior biennium, chapters reported a 12% use of the C&P committee newsletter. Interpretation of these data suggests increasing usage of this resource that is delivered electronically. [Continued to left]



THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 8TH WAS MS.



# Get Connected!

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

September/October 2016

## New Website Compliance Process Begins: Assurance Forms Due October 31, 2016

Webmasters of all websites currently linked to [dkg.org](http://dkg.org), the international website, have until October 31st to submit the new Form 72, *Society Website Compliance Assurance*. Submission of the form indicates the site has been reviewed and is in compliance with international standards.

A checklist for the standards and Form 72 can be found in the Forms section of [dkg.org](http://dkg.org). Be sure to complete both pages and sign the form. Submit the completed form to [compliance@dkg.org](mailto:compliance@dkg.org) to receive the 2016-2018 seal. If a compliance form is not received by the deadline, the site will be unlinked from the international website.

Submit compliance forms for **first-time** websites any time during the biennium. The Communications & Publicity Committee will do a courtesy review of any first-time website and will review any ongoing website upon request.



## DKG Communities: Connect!

One DKG benefit is the members-only social network called **DKG Communities**. This area of the DKG website allows members from all segments of the Society to discuss common issues. For example, two questions that have been discussed in the Communities are *What does your chapter do to help retain new members?* and *How are you publicizing DKG in your communities?* The social network is a great place to post questions and receive wonderful answers!

But the social network is not just for asking DKG questions. In the *DKG Book Club Community* members share reviews; in the *Home Life Community*, members share recipes, do-it-yourself projects, home design, and gardening ideas; and in the *Travels Community*, members share travel experiences and opportunities. Several fledgling groups in the *DKG Collaborative Communities* are dedicated to professional sharing, allowing educators to collaborate on ideas, strategies, research, and best practices in their teaching areas.

Besides participating in discussion groups, members can also create blogs, store resources in a resource library, and create shared documents on a wiki. Leaders of state organizations and chapters might want to establish a specialized DKG Community for their particular area. As an example, Canada has set up the *DKG in Canada Community* for their members. If you are interested in starting a new Community on a specific topic or for your state or local group, contact [nitas@dkg.org](mailto:nitas@dkg.org).

**To access DKG Communities:** Sign in to the DKG website. Your membership number is your username; the default password is available from your chapter or state president. Go to the MyDKG tab. Look for and click on the **My Communities** tab on the red bar. On the new page, you will see **Click here to join Community**. Click on the communities that are of interest to you and click on **subscribe** to any that you are interested in joining. Don't wait! "Get connected" now!

### Current DKG Communities:

Book Club	Home Life
Collaborative Communities	Canada
Communications & Publicity	Membership Forum
Social Media	Mentoring



## THE GAMMA GAMUT

### Gianna Melillo Thanks DKG Quebec for Her Early Educator Award

Dear DKG Quebec,

I am writing to thank you for the *Early Educator Grant* that you awarded to me, as a second year teacher. As a new teacher in the field, it is quite difficult to afford or maintain a classroom without any available resources. What I have encompassed throughout this year is best defined as what the great Albert Einstein once said, "it is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge".

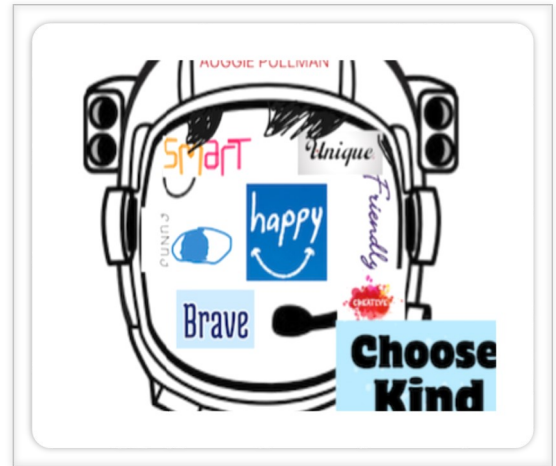
With the awarded grant funds of \$200 I was able to purchase two sets of novel studies for the students to use on a daily basis and some wall décor to brighten up the walls. Through the use of these outstanding literacy tools many of the

students have already improved their knowledge of the reading and writing process. The students loved reading and working with the novels. It was magnificent to see the creativity that came out of all the activities the students worked on.

Enclosed with this letter you will find pictures of the children enjoying reading the novel (*below, right*) and as well as some of the children's work (*right*). Again, I would like to thank you for choosing my request to be one of the fortunate teachers supported by Delta Kappa Gamma this year.

Sincerely,

Gianna Melillo  
Grade 5 Teacher  
Cedarcrest Elementary School



James K, Justin and Nikos' work.  
Grade 5



Gianna receiving her award from Rena and Bev with Principal Nadia Sammarco



Grade 5 working with their novels

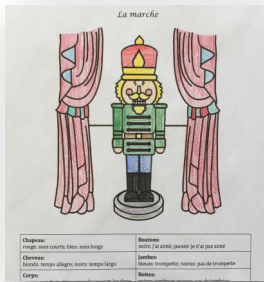


**Caroline Derome** also received an Early Educator Award presented by Valerie Delacretaz and Barb Angus with Principal Sandra Leveille at St. Dorothy School. Caroline's report is on the following page. Both winners were also featured in our March 2016 issue.

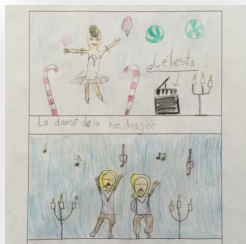


**Early Educator Award Report: Teaching Inference through Music and Images by Caroline Derome**

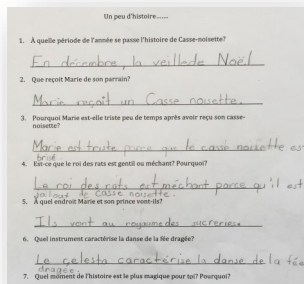
This year, through the generosity of your society, several projects were implemented with the students at my school (St Dorothy Elementary). I was able to use these resources for teaching French Inference as well as Music Appreciation. The first project was done using the storybook of *Casse-Noisette* (ISBN: 978-2-88480-286-X) with my grade 2 class. This book is accompanied by a CD of the music that represents the major scenes of the story. During the reading, the students discussed how they thought the music represented the important facts about the story. One of the projects that came out of these discussions was regarding the *March*. Students were asked to describe the music of the scene by putting the appropriate color on the Nutcracker (below)



Another activity was, following the viewing of selected scenes from the ballet, students were asked to explain which part of the story was depicted. They also had to draw the scenes (below).



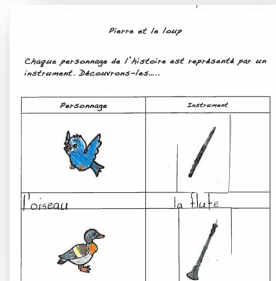
To evaluate how much of the story was retained, a short quiz was given (below).



Lastly, a display of the students' work was exhibited in the school (below)



The second project was realized using the storybook of *Pierre et le Loup* (ISBN : 978-2-88480-402-8), which was also implemented with the grade 2 class. This book also has a CD with music that depicts each of the characters of the story. Several activities were planned. First, the students had to associate each instrument to the character it represented in the story (below).



As part of another activity, students were asked to explain how well they thought the music represented each character (below).



Est-ce que tu trouves que le thème musical de chacun des personnages suivants le représente bien? Pourquoi? :

L'oiseau : Oui je trouve que le thème musical représente bien l'oiseau parce que la flûte jouait des sons aigus et rapidement comme le gazouillement de l'oiseau.

Le canard : Oui je trouve que le thème musical représente bien le canard parce que le hautbois a la même sonorité que le canard.

The final activity was a wall display where students had to each create a poster depicting a character of the story along side with the instrument that represented him/it. Adjectives that described the personality of the characters were also incorporated (below).



The third project was realized with the grade 4 class using the storybook entitled *Carnaval des animaux* (ISBN: 978-2-88480-205-5). After reading the story and listening to the music associated with each scene, students were grouped in pairs and had to mime a scene of the story. The other students in the class had to guess which scene was being mimed and had to draw it as well as give a description of the scene (below).



The last project was done using images that I printed in color and had plasticized. In pairs, the grade 2 students had to come up with questions about the images and then they had to ask their classmates these questions.

In conclusion, through these projects, the students were able to expand their vocabulary and strengthen their analytical skills. It was really rewarding to hear from them how much fun they had while engaged in these activities.

THE GAMMA GAMUT

Thank you from the Dr. Mildred Burns Scholarship Winner for Educational Leadership

To Whom It May Concern  
c/o Jennifer Coutlee  
Alumni Relations and Special Events  
Faculty of Education, McGill University  
Education Building, Room 209

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Donor,

My name is Millicent Adaku Arhin. I am presently a teacher at Hillcrest Academy Elementary School of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in Laval; I have taught at this school board for 13 years. I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for being awarded the 2016 Delta Kappa Gamma – Dr. Mildred Burns Award for Educational Leadership. I feel honoured to be the recipient; thank you so much.

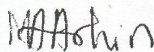
I have two Bachelor degrees – one from the University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana, majoring in English with a minor in Classical History and Civilization, and the other from Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, specializing in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. I graduated from Concordia University with Great Distinction. I graduated from McGill University in the M.A., Educational Leadership programme in June 2016.

I have been engaged in leadership activities in my school prior to, and since I started the M.A. in Educational Leadership programme. I have served on various committees that make decisions for our school communities. I have served on Teacher Council; during my involvement in Teacher Council, I displayed a willingness to listen to my colleagues' concerns and help to address many of the issues that concern them. I served as a member of the School Level Special Needs Committee (SLSNC) this school year. I have been playing a leadership role in this position in helping to steer our resources to help our students with special needs. I have been involved in mentoring student-teachers and being a mentor for new teachers at my school. I have also made myself available for interviews by student-teachers and by some of my colleagues in which I share my views on classroom management, teacher-parent and student – teacher relationships, and their impact on students' learning.

Along with serving at my school, I have also played a leadership role outside my school. Due to the diversity in today's schools, I have taken the leadership role of providing education that is culturally sensitive, free from discrimination and prejudice, and promoting educational equity. For this reason I agreed to be a panelist in the Fall semesters of 2014 and 2015 in the undergraduate course Multicultural Classrooms (EDEC 248, McGill University; the course is given by Professor Ratna Gosh). I shared my personal experiences in building a multicultural classroom to a class of about 120 students and mentored students in the building of inclusive classrooms.

Overall, I like being an active member and leader of my school and community, on whom students, fellow staff members, administration and parents can count on. Thank you again for choosing me.

Yours in Education,



Millicent Adaku Arhin



**Thank you from the Sarah Paltiel Award Winner Emily Mennard**

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

To Whom It May Concern  
c/o Jennifer Coutlee  
Alumni Relations and Special Events  
Faculty of Education, McGill University  
Education Building, Room 209

**Subject:** Delta Kappa Gamma – Sarah Paltiel Award

Dear Donor,

It was with genuine surprise and excitement that I learned I had received the Delta Kappa Gamma - Sarah Paltiel Award.

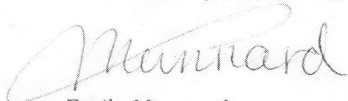
I am a current student in the process of completing an accelerated bachelor's of Education in Secondary English Language Arts with a second teachable in History. After completing a bachelor's in English Literature and European History, I decided to enroll in an education program and pursue a career in teaching because I am passionate and driven when it comes to teaching and helping others grow.

I have now completed my first year of the program and have finished two stages. Both my courses at McGill and field experiences have taught me an immense amount, provided me with the opportunity to create and teach my own lessons, and have allowed me to forge special bonds with students that have truly shown me that I have chosen the right profession.

The award I have received will be a great help to me as I work very hard to pay my tuition, both during the school year and during the summer months. Thanks to receiving this award, I will be afforded some much-needed breathing space for the coming year. For that, I cannot thank you enough.

I hope to be worthy of your faith in me by working hard and eventually reaching my goal of being a high school English and History teacher.

With sincerity and thanks,



Emily Mennard

## THE GAMMA GAMUT

## The Montreal Council of Women September 8, 2016

The Montreal Council of Women (MCW) held their first meeting on Thursday, September 8:

The Woman of the Year award ceremony will take place in December. The theme this year is **suicide prevention**. DKG Quebec should think about nominating a worthy candidate.

The membership booklet will be available Nov. 1. If you haven't submitted your membership form, do so asap, otherwise your name won't be in the book.

The MCW has an addendum to their 120th anniversary book. If you bought a copy, you should ask for an addendum to insert in your original book.

Resolutions deadline is Nov. 16. Contact Marjorie with your resolutions (check the website for contact info.)

**Oct. and April meetings meeting will take place at 7:00 pm in order to attract working women. Dinner at 6:00 cost \$10. It will be a writer's workshop: Write about your life in three easy steps. Please DON'T SHOW UP AT NOON!**

A reminder that on Dec 6 there will be a memorial for the victims of violence to commemorate the Polytechnique massacre which took place 27 years ago.

The guest speaker at the Montreal Council of Women meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> was Ms. Penny Rankin who presented, "Sorrows, Stories, Statistics & Strategies -- - Crossroads: A Crisis Unfolding".

Ms. Rankin presented staggering statistics from the UN World Wide Statistics/ Numbers (see below). However, it was the individual stories of desperation, bravery, determination, and hope that stayed with us.

Penny is a Warden at St. Matthias' Church in Westmount who teamed up with St. Marks Anglican Church in Dorval to sponsor and reunite a family. She recounted how three of their adult children had immigrated to Canada over ten years ago. One son, Fadi, was the primary link between the family and the churches. The family was desperate and especially so as the situation became critical for their parents and the crisis worsened in Aleppo: it was too late to get out; they were trapped. There was a small window of opportunity to escape last December when Assad's forces took control of a major route to the Lebanese border. They made the very dangerous journey to Beirut where they applied for refugee status to come to Canada. After almost six months they were arrived here in Montreal-met by their children and grandchildren and

Penny and Reverend Elizabeth Welch of St Marks. It was a very moving experience to watch young grandchildren be embraced by their grandparents Nadia and Antoune for the first time in their lives.

Many many of the refugees are people whose lives have been lived not unlike our own --- Antoune is a pharmacist, Nadia has a degree in French Literature --- their children all attended university. It is striking to imagine what it must be like to live as they were forced to during the months of bombings and limited access to resources, and to then pack everything they own in a knapsack, and flee. We often forget the full lives people leave behind when escaping warring parties. I asked myself, "What would I do?"

It is one thing to watch the news in the evening after supper with our stomachs full and our feet up while we shake our heads and say, "Those poor people", or "Not again!". But one day, we caught the sight of a two-year old child, lying face down on a beach, and it made us weep. Suddenly, the statistics had a face. Suddenly, the world took notice. And Canada opened its doors.

As Penny pointed out, migration is nothing new to Canada. After all, we are a nation of immigrants. She pointed out that we have

taken in over 200,000 refugees over the last 30 years. In the last year alone we have welcomed over 25,000. Clear directives for applying for immigration to Canada can be found on the Quebec government website and also the Government of Canada website. All applications made by groups in Quebec are submitted to Quebec who then forward it on to Ottawa. Every individual who applies for refugee status goes through a medical and criminal background check before gaining access to every resettlement or a family reunification program.

Sounds simple, but many countries resist the influx of change. For example, Australia refuses "boat people" and has an understanding with two near-by islands that they will take them in. But before they get to that point, what must they endure?

Penny pointed out that although the media focuses largely on the Syrian crisis, migrants from war torn countries in Central Africa have to cross the Sahara Desert, often on foot, to get to Libyan seaside towns-and the major ports of departure for "people smugglers" who exact huge fees (300-600euros each) . This is a dangerous journey with over 3700 loosing their lives on the Mediterranean in 2015. The overcrowded dinghies where they are promised "safe passage" are often

Continued from page 18

filled with 5 times as many passengers for which they were originally designed. Yet, most would rather face death by drowning than turn back. There is no choice.

Every 30 seconds, a child is displaced or becomes a refugee: Almost 46 million people are subject to modern slavery, forced labour and human trafficking is a worldwide blight, but is rampant in Pakistan, India, China and in African countries as well, where children are known to work in gathering cocoa that ends up in our chocolate bars. Huge profits (\$150 billion) were made on the backs of forced labour in 2014 (1 in 3 of those identified as caught in this other human tragedy, that of modern slavery, are children).

Two hundred and forty-four (244) million people worldwide were on the move in search of jobs in 2015. They are in fact an integral part of the world economy. In Canada we employ many migrant workers from Central America to pick fruit seasonally. Many who work in the medical and homecare sector worldwide are migrants who eventually settle permanently in their new countries.

One person in 122 is a refugee, displaced or seeking asylum. The majority come from Afghanistan, Syria and Somalia. Every two seconds a person has to leave home for reasons including natural disasters: flooding, tornadoes, fires and hurricanes are all becoming more frequent.

The brutality, cruelty and injustices of war are hard for us to comprehend.

Penny handed out brochures with a poem by Warsan Shire, a 24-year old Kenyan-born Somali poet, writer and educator based in London. Her poem, *HOME*, will deeply move you. As Penny read it,

we all felt the horror and tears came to our eyes. You can view the poem through this link:

<http://seekershut.org/blog/2015/09/home-warsan-shire/>

Keeping Warsan's words in mind, now read the facts and see the faces behind the numbers:

#### Worldwide:

- 3.2 Million Asylum seekers
- 16.1 Million Refugees
- 65.3 Million IDP's (Internally Displaced Persons) of which 5.3 Million are Palestinian
- 100 Million Homeless
- 10 + Million Stateless
- 198.7 + Million people displaced world wide
- There are 70 Refugees "Camps" worldwide: the largest holds over 360,000 people and the Oldest is 68 years old.

Please see UNHCR stats on next page

The UN has defined "Durable Solutions" for Refugees:

1. Voluntary repatriation;
2. Local integration;
3. Permanent residence in an other country.

#### How can we help?

- ◆ Sponsor a family/individual through your church or an organization
- ◆ Financial support through a repu-

table organization.

- ◆ Advocacy, awareness and Education.

You can check any of the following websites and keep a pulse on the situation:

- Action Refugies Montreal
- UNHCR: UN Refugee Agency
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Medecins Sans Frontieres
- Amnesty International
- Canadian Refugee Sponsorship Agreement Holders Assoc.
- EU Commission on Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
- IDMC: Centre Internal Displacement Monitoring

#### Video Resources:

Award winning film on boat people and Australian Refugee Policy: **Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea**

<http://deepblueseafilm.com>

The European Refugee Crisis and Syria Explained:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvOnXh3NN9w>

Syria: The World's Largest Refugee Crisis – Full Episode- Foreign Policy Association

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEQdVSWvWWA>

- Anne Marie Gitto Laurin, Editor & Co-Chair, Communications Committee



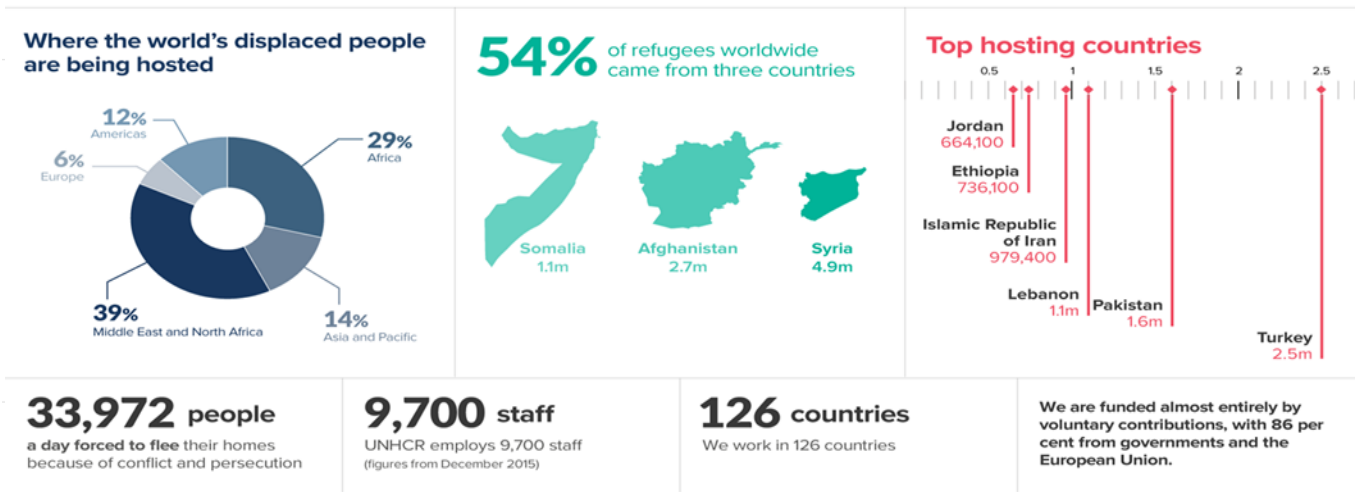
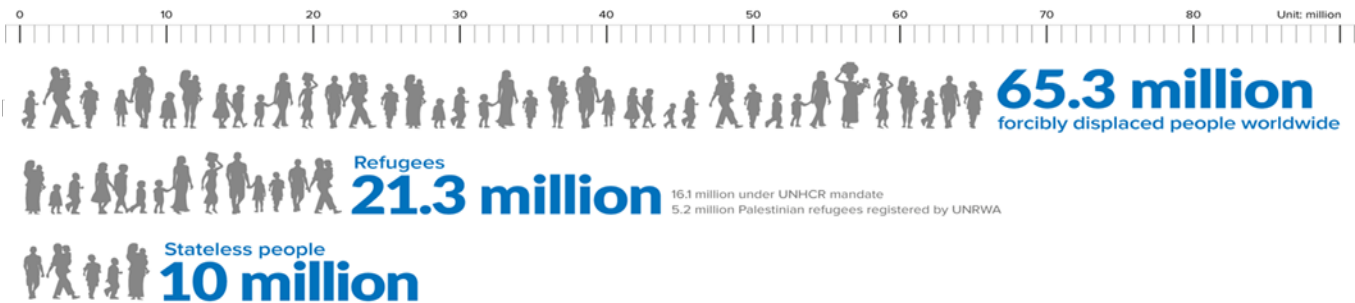
# The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

**DKG QUEBEC**

Email: [dkgque@gmail.com](mailto:dkgque@gmail.com)

**We're on the Web**  
[www.gammaquebec.weebly.com](http://www.gammaquebec.weebly.com)  
**and on Facebook:**  
**DKG Gamma Province Quebec**

**Embrace the Past; Enrich the Present;**  
**Ensure the Future.**



Source: UNHCR / 20 June 2016