

- *Installation of New President, Beverly Townsend, and Officers for 2015-2017*
- *Initiation of Tara Wheeler into Alpha Chapter*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



This biennium is a wonderful opportunity to be able to take DKG Gamma Province into uncharted territory.

With pride, we recognize the strength of our past, which, with the tenacity of our team efforts, will be used as reinforcement to guide us in shaping our future. We have acknowledged that change is imminent, but never without demands and challenges.

Our record of giving to our community to achieve our goal of fostering opportunities for excellence for women educators continues. Through the efforts of excellent DKG members, we suc-

cessfully secured our first World Fellowship Grant for a McGill student from DKG International.

Notably, our members continue to produce excellent, varied and stimulating Programs of Work on an annual basis. This year, it included a beautiful presentation by DKG member Barb Angus on "Writing Family History" with many of our DKG members' historical artifacts on display.

We persist in our tireless efforts to find creative ways to diversify our membership as we reward both local and international women educators with awards, grants and scholarships and in our federate membership with the Montreal Council of Women.

As we go about our business creatively, our primary efforts will be directed towards

sustaining interest and involvement while engaging new and exciting experts to participate in our women's circle.

As we strive to expand our skills and broaden our horizons, we will seek excellent educational opportunities, and incorporate the changes necessary to do so.

With humor, good spirit and great appreciation for her outstanding leadership, I dedicate this biennium in memory of Miss Ann MacLeish!

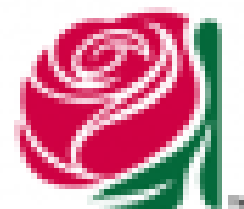
Beverly Townsend
President, Gamma
Province Quebec



*Embrace our past,
enrich our present;
ensure our Future.*

Delta Kappa Gamma
International

85 years and beyond:
Advancing Key Women
Educators for Life



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THE GAMMA GAMUT

Important Dates to Remember

Note: These dates are to be confirmed by Rena with the School Board. You will be notified of any changes.

Meeting Dates for DKG Executive and General Meetings 2015-2016

<i>Executive Meetings at 4:00 p.m.</i>	General Meetings at 5:30 p.m.
<i>Wednesday, September 9, 2015</i>	Thursday, September 17 (Homecoming at Valerie's)
<i>Wednesday, October 7, 2015</i>	Tuesday, October 20, 2015
<i>Wednesday, November 4, 2015</i>	Monday, November 23, 2015
<i>Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at Rena 's (pot luck)</i>	Thursday, December 10, 2015
<i>No meeting in January</i>	No meeting in January
<i>Wednesday, February 3, 2016</i>	Monday, February 15, 2016
<i>Wednesday, March 9, 2016</i>	Thursday, March 17, 2016
<i>Wednesday, April 6, 2016</i>	Monday, April 11, 2016
<i>Wednesday, May 11, 2016 (summary meeting after convention + AGM)</i>	Saturday, May 3, 2016 (Convention + AGM)

N.B.: All Executive meetings and General Meetings will be held at the EMSB unless otherwise noted.

Slate of New Officers 2015-2017

President, Beverly Townsend
 Past President, Yocheved Sonnenberg
 First Vice-President, Barb Angus
 Second Vice-President, Estie Kleinfeld
 Recording Secretary, Binnie Druker

Co- Recording Secretary, Catherine Banna Sidorenko
 Treasurer (appointed) Estie Kleinfeld
 Parliamentarian Emeritus, Mildred Burns
 Corresponding Secretary, Rose Szasz
 Executive Secretary, Magda Grzechowiak

Chapter Executive Officers 2014-2016

President, Alpha, Althea Caesar

President, Beta, Erika Sebaldt

President, Gamma, Valerie Delacretaz

Vice-President, Alpha, Beryl Ball

Vice-President, Beta, Judy Szamosi

Vice-President, and Treasurer, Gamma,
Yocheved Sonnenberg

Treasurer, Alpha, Rena Entus

Treasurer, Beta, Rena Entus

Secretary, Gamma Province, Doris
Leckie

Secretary, Alpha, Magda Gzrechowiak

Secretary, Beta, Mindy Spiegel

The Redstone Manor: Review

The Redstone Manor is a story about a young German couple, Margarethe and Theodorich Rudolf who immigrate to Canada in 1865, determined to integrate into the fabric of Canadian society. Margarethe makes it very clear in the opening pages of the story, "We are now Theodore and Margaret Randolph, and we must learn to speak and act properly. The Randolphs of Canada will become a name to count for something."

By joining the Anglican Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Margaret quickly mingles with the women from the upper echelon of British society, thereby making contacts for her ambitious husband.

Cobblers by trade, Theodore with his partner Ernesto Chiachcio, make high quality boots and shoes. Together they discover the game of hockey and start making skate boots to fit over the steel blades. They feed a growing need for this sport and the equipment to play the game. As public interest grows in this sport, so does their fortune.

The family, with their son Kingsley in tow, soon move to Montreal where they expand their growing business.

The reflection of their success, under the driving force of Margaret, is the Redstone Manor. Built on the trendy upper Mackay Street, the family entertains and befriends the well-to-do of Montreal, and soon Kingsley marries a Gordon, a well-established family in Montreal. Their roots are now firmly planted in Montreal high society.

As Kingsley and his new bride, Dorothy, move into the second floor of the Redstone Manor, the story unfolds as generations of this family face its trag-

edies and triumphs, its tears and its joys.

This novel is well researched and full of historical significance as the events of the time are interwoven into this story. The immigration, adaptation, integration of the newcomers gave me a sense of what my own grandparents must have gone through in their early life here in Montreal during that circa.

The author, Mildred Burns, takes your hand and walks you through time. We are faced with the outbreak of the "Spanish Flu" in 1918, a pandemic which killed thousands with hardly any warning (of which my Grandmother was a survivor). We smell the smoke and see the devastation of the explosion in Halifax Harbour in 1917 where two ships, one filled with munitions, collided and wiped out the Richmond area where Theodore opened his first shop.

As we get involved with the characters, we get to see these events through their eyes. We are there with them, feeling the heartbreak of sudden death; we feel their hopelessness and despair; we face the difficulties of life during that time, and the bitterness that ensues which causes devastation in the family.

The phrase "the sins of the fathers will be visited upon their sons" came to my mind as generation after generation is faced with such unhappiness in the midst of their financial success.

Finally, the last member of the family to be born in 1943 is little Charles who, at the age of four, cannot speak and is not able to socialize. We are taken through emotional upheaval as the parents, through desperation and ex-

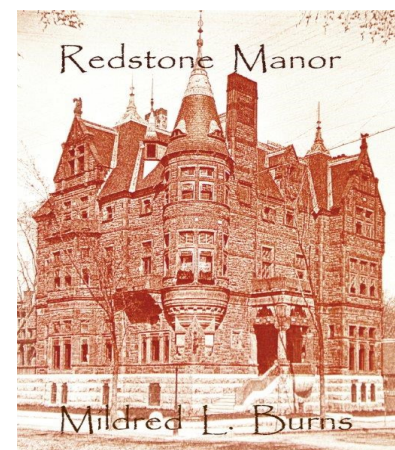
asperation, try to cope with this little known disorder. Remarkably, Mildred Burns is able to get into Charles's head, and we get a glimpse into how his brilliant mind works although he cannot express it in conventional ways.

The story shows how family ties, however loosely bound, are strong when the need is there. We are left with hope that little Charles will be well taken care of under the guidance of his second cousin, Jeannette.

The novel leaves you with a sense of wanting more. Can a sequel be far behind?

- Anne Marie Gitto Laurin, Editor,
Gamma Gamut Newsletter

**Visit the website mildredburnsbooks.com
and order your copy of the book
today!**



It is very hard for me to be unbiased. However, I can honestly say that I am very much enjoying the read. I feel fortunate that I can speak with the author and discuss some of the events and issues about which she wrote.

- Rena Entus, Executive Secretary

The characters grip you right from the beginning and I would love to read a sequel.

- Barb Angus, Chair, Scholarships and World Fellowship

THE GAMMA GAMUT

May 4, 2015 Annual General Meeting and Convention



Yocheved Sonnenberg presides over her last meeting, completing her vision: *Supporting our Community; Expanding our Skills.*



Estie Kleinfeld presents Beryl Ball with the Gamma Province Achievement Award, artwork made by a child at Giant Steps.



Beryl Ball is surprised by the announcement that she is Woman of the Year as the assembly looks on



Mildred Burns, Althea Caesar, Marcia Segal with friend Barbara Victor and Rose Szasz



Huguette Drouin, Evadne Anderson with friend Bev Townsend, and Barb Angus



Terry Saba, Beryl Ball, Mona Nadel and Marianne Davis



Linda Blackwell Phalen and Valerie Delacretaz



Daniela Livni, Conjita Gomes-Fernandes, Terry Saba and Beryl Ball



Kymerley Morin, Tara Wheeler's guest, with Zippy Kisilevsky Yedid and Frema Engel



We all wish you a Speedy Recovery, Erika! We missed you at Convention!



Robyn Bunch and Judy Szamosi listen to guest speaker, Barb Angus

AGM Inspirational by Rena Entus



Yes we can

Each of us faces challenges in our lives.

Sometimes we look at the enormity of an obstacle and we become despondent.

The perceived vastness of a problem can be overwhelming; our difficulties (perceived and real) can rob us of our enthusiasm and passion.

When confronted with any challenge we have one of two possible responses.

We can resign ourselves to defeat, or we can choose to persist and ultimately triumph.

Since our challenges always seem daunting, it is natural to believe that we are incapable of overcoming our personal difficulties and it is all too easy to capitulate to our demons.

This feeling of being overwhelmed by our challenges is a common feeling. However, it can and should be tenaciously fought, because surrender robs us of the opportunity to liberate our souls.

The option of resignation compels us to remain stuck with our insecurities and weaknesses.

G-d has given us all the resources we need to accomplish grand things.

We merely need to engage the talents that we possess in order to realize our most noble and magnificent ambitions.

The question ought never to be, "Can I do it?"

The resources to get the job done are always present.

Every problem can be solved.

The more helpful question to ask is: "HOW can I do it?"

Credit to Rabbi Avroham Jacks, formally Rabbi of the Zichron Kedoshim in Montreal

Chuckle of the Week

They tell the funny story of the time that Bill Gates was looking for a new chairman to lead Microsoft Europe.

Everyone wanted such a prestigious position, so 5,000 people apply for the job. One of the many people is a little old Jewish fellow, by the name of Maurice Cohen.

The candidates all assemble in a large room.

Bill Gates requests that all those in the audience who are not proficient computer programmers should excuse themselves. Half the candidates rise and leave the hall.

But Maurice Cohen says to himself, "I don't even know how to turn on a computer, let alone program one, but vat haff I got to lose if I stay? I'll give it a try."

Bill Gates then asks anyone who does not have experience managing a large group of people to leave the room. A large amount of

people leave the room, halving the number of candidates once again.

But Maurice Cohen says to himself, "Oy, I never managed anyvun but myself, but vat haff I got to lose if I stay? What can happen to me?" So he stays.

Bill Gates then asks all remaining candidates who don't have advanced university degrees to rise and leave. A further 500 people leave the room.

But Maurice Cohen says to himself, "Oy Vay, I left school at 15 so I never vent to university, but vat haff I got to lose if I stay?" So he stays in the room.

Bill Gates finally asks all the remaining candidates who don't speak Serbo-Croat to rise and leave. 498 people rise and leave the room.

But Maurice Cohen says to himself, "Oy Vay Zmir, I don't speak Serbo-Croat! But vat Haff I got to lose? I've stayed in so long"

So he stays in the room and finds himself alone with one other candidate - everyone else has left.

Bill Gates joins them and says, "Apparently you are the only two candidates who speak Serbo-Croat, so I'd now like to hear you both have a little conversation in that language."

Calmly, Maurice Cohen turns to the other candidate and says to him,

"Ma nishtana halaila hazeh mikol halelot."

The other candidate answers, "Shebechol halelot anu ochlin hamatz umatza."

THE GAMMA GAMUT

Tara Wheeler's Initiation into DKG Gamma Quebec

Tara Wheeler joined us as a new DKG member on May 4, 2015.

Tara graduated with a B.Sc. Honours and holds a Master's degree in Education in Educational Leadership with a focus on Special Education Leadership.

She has been in education for the past 16 years as a Teacher, a Special Education Consultant and as a Provincial Project Development Officer.

She is currently working as a Project Development Officer for the Work-Oriented Training Path, an educational



pathway in secondary school for students with learning delays and/or disabilities.

Tara has served as a volunteer for hospice where she led grief support groups and took care of children in palliative care. She has volunteered at the local animal shelter, and as a horseback riding instructor for students with disabilities. She also volunteered for the Big Sisters organization.

A recent Montrealer, we are proud to welcome Tara Wheeler as a new member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Quebec, Alpha Chapter, and we see a promising future for her in our organization. Welcome, Tara!



Tara Wheeler being initiated into Gamma Province by Judy Szamosi, Althea Caesar, Anne Marie Gitto Laurin and Barb Angus



Tara signs the initiation book and receives her certificate for DKG Gamma QC, Alpha Chapter



Members line up to congratulate Tara and to welcome her

The Installation of our new President, Beverly Townsend, and Officers 2015-2017



Yocheved Sonenberg, Past President, passes the baton to Beverly Townsend, new President, with Barb Angus as First Vice-President, Estie Kleinfeld as Second Vice-President and State Treasurer, and Binnie Druker as Recording Secretary



Beverly Townsend installs Barb Angus as First Vice-President



Binnie Druker installs Cathy Bannan Sidorenko as second Recording Secretary and Chair of the Educational Excellence Committee



Linda Blackwell Phalen installs Estie Kleinfeld as Second Vice-President



Frema Engel introduces Barb Angus as Local Guest Speaker at our Annual General Meeting



Bev Townsend thanks Yocheved Sonnenberg for her work as President 2013-2015

THE GAMMA GAMUT

Recording Our Family History



Barb Angus was the Local Guest Speaker at our May 4th AGM. She gave a very interesting presentation on *Writing Family History*. Barb shared useful information regarding websites to research family documentation, such as Ancestry.com, and the Quebec Family History Society (qfhs.com). Genealogy courses are offered at Pointe Claire Library, and you may have access to their databases for further research.

The first tip Barb stressed is **Triple Check Your Resources**. Always analyze, verify and confirm your documentation because often common family names may take you to another branch of the family tree completely different from the one you are researching. Remember to **label** photographs. Often we may not remember who these people are. Labelling and dating may help in the future.

To **keep track** of your research use “Ever-Note”, an electronic filing system, and a free app. To record your history, draft a 500 word story about an event, or a family heirloom. Use creative, non-fiction, techniques. Barb cites *The Wolfe Pack* by Dr. Mildred L. Burns as a perfect example of compiling stories that become family history. What a legacy to leave your children and grand-children!

So, **send emails** to family members, **make contact** with distant cousins, and **collect** family stories and documents. Meet these relatives in person for feedback and to create more memories and to cement family ties. Ask yourself **for whom are you writing** this? **Polish** your text and **publish!**

Some of the resources Barb Angus recommends are: *Reading Photographs*, *Time Traveler’s Handbook: A Guide to the Past* by Althea Douglas. Remember, **Descendants Become Ancestors**. Her favourite site is “Family History Writing Studio.”

Have fun and good luck!

Editor’s Note: We want to thank Linda Blackwell Phalen and Conjita Gomes-Fernandes for encouraging members to bring in their family heirlooms and artifacts, and showing their bit of family history. This tied in nicely with Barb’s topic. Unfortunately, we did not have sufficient time to discuss and share these items with each other. Hopefully we will get an opportunity to do so again in the future.

Mildred’s Corner

Tossing and Turning

I’m getting old, the walrus said
 And I’m losing all my teeth
 My eyes are getting weaker
 And they’re baggy underneath

I can’t stay under water
 For more than half an hour;
 I eat a little seaweed
 And my breath starts turning sour.

I’m frequently forgetful
 And I like to sleep a lot.
 You ask me what my plans are
 And tell you that I’ve thought —

Of going deep sea fishing
 Or maybe ride a whale.
 But don’t believe those funny stories
 They’re just a mammal tale.

Mildred wrote this poem for her grandson, Joel, twenty years ago as a joke. This is a great souvenir for him to pass on to his children someday. Thank you for sharing, Mildred!

DKG Panel Discussion of Early Career Educators November 13, 2014

The Panel Members were Stephanie Gordon and Jennifer Mariasine of Vanguard School, Alison Lydynia of Elizabeth Ballantyne and Samantha Michael of Emmanuel Christian School. The following is a summary the discussion of the evening.

The panellists were graduates of McGill and Concordia education programs. All of the panellists had a long standing passion for working with children and decided to go into teaching "to make a difference". They had experiences as babysitters, camp counsellors, tutors, classroom volunteers or assisted with siblings with learning disabilities.

The university programs emphasized how difficult it would be to find a job after graduation from their education programs. One woman decided to pursue a Masters, as did other classmates. All agreed that their university experience was very theoretical and that they would have appreciated more practical skills. Concordia seems to have done the best in teaching reading. Several juggled substitute teaching at several schools, masters' courses or part time jobs. One panellist emphasised the importance of developing contacts in schools. Who you know can make a difference!

First time jobs were replacement positions, often made available at the last moment or after school started. Everyone was well aware of the priority lists of applicants. Often positions were difficult: part time, split classes, several preps, different grade levels, different subject areas. Sometime they took contracts for subjects they were not that

comfortable with: French classes, science or computers. It was stressful not knowing if there would be another contract. It is challenging to develop new material each year.

One teacher said that it was difficult to know what questions to ask, not always knowing where to get assistance without appearing weak. They can be guarded in their questions to staff, in fear of appearing unprepared which could affect future contracts. All had mentors on their school staffs. It was



From left to right:

Jennifer Mariasine, Stephanie Gordon, (both of Vanguard School) Samantha Michael (Emmanuel Christian School), Alison Lydynia (Elizabeth Ballantyne School).

helpful to talk to other friends in teaching positions, who could understand their daily experiences which family members and friends in other jobs could not. The stereotype of 8-3 work day and two month summer holiday was prevalent, however they all now understood how well deserved the summer holiday was.

They all spent hours of their personal time preparing for their classes. Therefore, time management was a concern. They all had moments of doubting what they were doing, what they could do more or better. They had the tendency to do above and beyond. Classroom discipline issues were a challenge for some.

By the end of each year, they were delighted with the progress of their students. One mentioned that initially the parents were sceptical of their skill, but became thankful of the progress made by their children. The energy of the children, their smiles and the obvious impact of their teaching had a huge impact on the new teachers.

DKG members highlighted the experience available within our membership. We are available for consultation, classroom visits. The idea of meeting as a sub group was something they would think about. Mildred Burns stated that early career teachers are very idealistic; they want to make a difference. We don't realize the impact that teachers can have. It can be life changing for a child.

The four guests brought so much enthusiasm, joy and passion to our meeting that the room was filled with energy. Many of us remembered those early teaching days. A wonderful evening! A pleasure to meet Jennifer, Samantha, Stephanie and Alison.

Submitted by:

Cathy Sidorenko, Chair, Educational Excellence Committee


The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

GAMMA PROVINCE QUEBEC

Email: dkgque@gmail.com

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gammaquebecWeebly.com

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enrich our present;
ensure our Future.***

DKG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN NASHVILLE

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Convention and Resort in Nashville Tennessee, July 5-9, 2016**

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