

*Highlights:*

- 2018 Meeting Highlights
- International conference: Austin, Texas, July 16-20, 2018
- Members' Achievements

## President's Note: Barb Angus



Quebec teachers are, by provincial law, automatically members of a union. The union acts on behalf of the membership in the negotiations of collective agreements, health and safety at work, labour relations, pension plans and the like. Unlike many Canadian provinces, there is no provincial *professional organization* that Quebec teachers are required to join. A professional organization seeks to enrich the *professional practice* of its members. DKG Quebec is such a professional organization. How fortunate we are to be members!

Over the years, DKG Quebec has served the professional needs of its members through fellowship and networking opportunities. Quality speakers address personal and professional growth. Scholarships are available for graduate study. Additionally, local and international grants are available to support instructional best practices, in particular, classroom projects.

The applications for classroom project funding have improved dramatically in the last few years. Where once

funding was simply requested for something like library books, applicants now must link the request to a specific and clearly identified instructional goal. The proposal must outline the action required to address the goal, the materials required, and the evidence to be collected to determine if the action was effective. This approach is referred to as an Action Research plan. Teachers have long been implementing this approach in their day to day instructional practice without naming it as such. Generally, they have not formalized the process to the extent that the submissions now require.

For example, this year Betty Constant, a FSL teacher in a multicultural school, used the Education Foundation grant she received for her project entitled, "Tasty Treats for the Love of French and Food", to develop her students' French language skills, digital literacy, and cultural awareness. Each student together with his/her parent prepared, served, and explained the cultural significance of a specific national dish for the class. This naturally involved lots of talk, lots of questions, lots of good eating, and potentially lots of language development. Betty injected an element of fun and enjoyment into a professional objective. She discussed the academic effectiveness of her project at our Spring Conference and showed us the e-book of recipes her students produced.

It is my hope that more of our members will apply for funding for their own projects. In addition to DKG International's Education Foundation, applications may be made for the Marianne Davis Early Educator Grant and the Evelyn Eaton Grant at the local level. Watch for the application forms to arrive in schools in September or contact our Scholarship Chair Cathy Bannan Sidorenko. As part of our programming next year, Nathalie Malhamé, and her team from Royal Vale Academy, will present their recently completed Evelyn Eaton project, *Global Citizens of Kindness*. Through our DKG Professional Improvement Community, your DKG sisters who have lead the way with their projects will be happy to help you get started and encourage you over the bumps.



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Dare to Kindle Growth



Leading Women Educators  
Impacting Education World  
Wide

THE GAMMA GAMUT



**GO TO THE NEW DKG WEBSITE TO REGISTER FOR THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN AUSTIN TEXAS**

**VISIT: [WWW.DKG.ORG](http://WWW.DKG.ORG)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

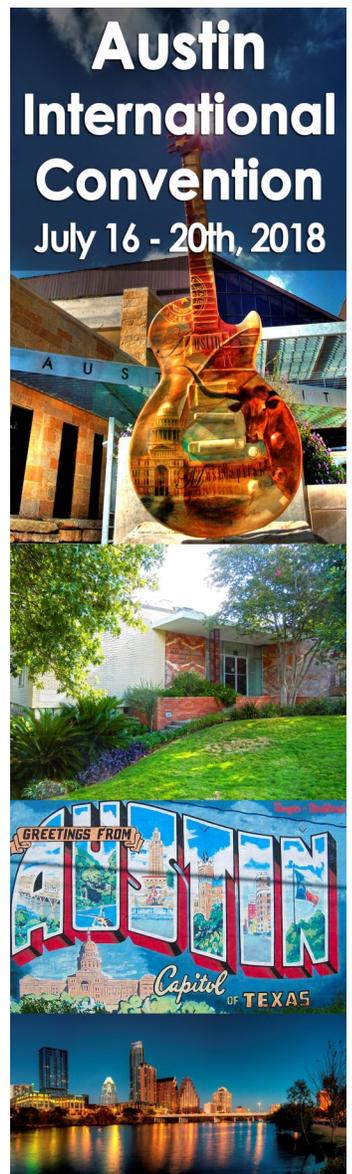
This year, Barb Angus, Sylvie Bastien-Doss, Diane Carroll-Phillips, Rena Entus, and Anne Marie Gitto Laurin will be attending the International Conference in Austin, Texas. They will each have a full report for you in the Fall 2018 edition of The Gamma Gamut. So, stay tuned and check out the DKG Quebec Facebook page and website for updates starting July 16th!

You still have time to join us to see the inner workings of DKGSI and to meet other members world-wide from 17 countries.

For your information, our N.E. Regional Director, Aggie Monahan, has outlined the major changes to the DKGIS constitution that are proposed and will be voted on at the Convention in July. **(Please see pages 4-5).**

As active members, we should take an interest in the direction DKGSI is headed. The proposed changes are considered with you in mind and in keeping up with today's needs. I urge you all to read them carefully.

- The Editor



## Chapter Officers for 2018-2020

### Alpha Chapter: 2018-2020

President Tara Wheeler  
 Vice-President Beryl Ball  
 Secretary Magda Grzechowiak  
 Treasurer: Ardis Root

### Beta Chapter: 2018-2020

President: Erika Sebaldt  
 Vice-President: Judy Szamosi  
 Secretary: Mindy Spiegel  
 Treasurer: Rena Entus

### Gamma Chapter: 2018-2020

President: Valerie Delacretaz  
 Vice-President: Diane Carroll-Phillips  
 Secretary: Cathy Bannan Sidorenko  
 Treasurer: Yocheved Sonenberg

\*State Vice President 2017-2019 – Sylvie Bastien-Doss

\*State Parliamentarian 2017-2019 Mindy Spiegel



*Members were inducted into office at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, May 3, 2018. We thank you for serving your chapters, and we look forward to a productive biennium with you.*

## Executive Officers 2017-2019

### President

Past President

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Executive Secretary

Executive Secretary to the Treasurer

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer

Parliamentarian

Parliamentarian Emerita

### Barbara Angus

Beverly Townsend

Sylvie Bastien-Doss

Estie Kleinfeld

Tara Wheeler

Erika Sebaldt

Sylvie Bastien-Doss

Rose Szasz

Estie Kleinfeld

Mindy Spiegel

Mildred Burns

## DKG International Constitution Proposals

By Aggie Moynihan, Northeast Regional Director

I have found that Annie Webb Blanton's words, "Be progressive. Keep up with the moving world while not discarding what in the old has value. Don't cling to the old when its worth has passed. Don't be a person so set in your views that nothing can change you." are exactly the words we need today. She knew things couldn't remain the same forever. Change is inevitable. She was a very intelligent, future seeing woman. She knew she had to give us permission to change things when needed. So, she did.

**One of the overall changes being proposed is to 'Simplify'.**

Today the Delta Kappa Gamma name makes many people and potential members think we are a sorority and not a professional organization of key women teachers who provide scholarships for members as well as a support system for those members. When you hear the name Doctors Without Borders you immediately know who they are and what they do. Not so, with The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

**It has been proposed that we change our name** to Women Educators International (DKG). The rationale is that this name promotes who we are. It doesn't tell what we do; but, with marketing that new name perhaps that would come to be known as well. It has also been proposed to change state names to the geographic area; so, Beta State would be known as Ontario. The state in turn would name the chapters. They could remain the way they are if the state chose to do that.

**Although some see membership in DKG** as a "reward," (an honours teacher society, and you have to be asked to be a member) Annie Webb Blanton was clear in Purpose 2 "to honor women who have given or

who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education." She didn't think that you had to have done something great before you could join. She just wanted you to have the potential for greatness so you could achieve that after you joined. But, it goes hand in hand, remember she was giving scholarships and support to the members so they could accomplish great things. In light of this idea, a number of proposals are trying to broaden membership.

It has been proposed to change the word initiated to inducted (modern term) and being able to apply to be a member not just by invitation. Remember, the idea is to simplify. You don't have to go out looking for members, they could come to you. Also, that you become a member as soon as you pay your dues to the chapter – not when Headquarters finally receives it. Members need a membership number to get onto the website. They need to start receiving mail from Headquarters. If Headquarters doesn't know they are a new member, they can't issue them a number and they can't send them material or publications. So, becoming a member as soon as you pay your dues and Headquarters being notified just makes sense.

Member Emerita is being proposed that members with 50 years or more in DKG don't pay dues. Long standing members who might be in a nursing home or special care units shouldn't be dropped because they can't pay their dues and sometimes the chapter just can't afford to do it.

Collegiate members would be graduate students who are enrolled in an institution working on an education degree. This introduces pre-career educators to DKG but also offers access to mentoring and support. They

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

couldn't hold office but they wouldn't have time for that anyway. They would become active members after they get a job.

**Many proposals have been put forth to make it simpler to focus on the mission** of DKG with easier structures for membership, dues collection, training, conferences and even voting. Make it simpler to take risks for personal growth by changing *shall to may* to allow piloting and experimentation. This pertains mainly to Committee Work Article VIII, Meetings Article IX and International Conventions and Conferences Article X. Make it simpler to fill a leadership role especially with the leadership training and tasks for leaders.

Make it simpler to respond to change by being able to modify the Constitution every two years instead of every four years that it is now.

**Paying dues is difficult the way it is now.** Our year begins July 1. We have until October 31<sup>st</sup> to pay dues to the chapter. Then it goes to the state who has to send it to International by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Almost half the year is gone by, before Headquarters gets any money and that is only if everyone is paying on time. It also makes it difficult for Headquarters to know who members are. The proposed change is to pay dues to the chapter before June 30 for the coming year. Then it goes to state and state to International before September 30<sup>th</sup>.

For states with no Headquarters building, an available fund reserve (savings account) separate from the available fund would be maintained with a total of one year's operating expenses.

It is proposed to **eliminate the Expansion Committee and the Golden Gift Committee**. Their work would continue Expansion by administrative board and Golden Gift by Leadership. The president shall assign members to

committees according to the proportionate number of members in each region unless otherwise specified in the committee description (not one from every region). Leadership Development wouldn't necessarily **precede each regional** conference. **Educational Excellence Committee** will have six members including the chair (instead of 13) as well as the NGO representative.

It has been proposed to replace the phrase **Regional Conference with International Conference** which would allow organizing conferences in a variety of ways, including by regions, pairing regions and even consistency in themes.

Modifying the groups to receive training at the conferences has also been suggested. **Editors and Webmasters have shown their interest is primarily in sharing which they could do easier in training videos and online sessions.**

It's been proposed that **treasurers receive a full day of training instead of a half day.** They believe working with treasurers, presidents and membership chairs as a team would be very effective. It's also been proposed to **remove the phrase "preceding each conference"**. This would give more flexibility to the timing of the training. It would also make it possible to train all presidents at the same time perhaps at a leadership conference.

There are other proposals about Headquarters, Publications, Awards, Amendments and an additional Enabling Act concerning the DKG Society Supporting Corporation. Those are very straight forward and I thought you could look at them yourself.

This is clearly a snapshot of some of the proposals to the constitution. I hope it has helped you to understand a bit better what is being proposed.

## The Power of Mentoring 2017-2018

By Diania Carroll-Phillips



I joined Delta Kappa Gamma Quebec with the understanding that this organization is one that celebrates the profession of teaching and as well it would challenge me to think out of the box and enjoy collaborating with others. I have not been disappointed to say the least! With that said, I realized that I wanted to explore and expand a role that would empower teachers in this rewarding profession known as education. I was very happy to be working in tandem with many teachers this year and I believe that mentoring is a fundamental responsibility of veteran educators. I also believe that mentoring models an inquiry disposition towards the practice of teaching.

As a mentor to teachers in two different school boards LBPSB and EMSB, I was encouraged to see how

mentoring accelerates the learning process for new and even seasoned teachers. Working closely together and providing a non-threatening environment to expand and diversify individual perspectives in teaching is important to teachers and the retention of them. Also, helping DKG and non-DKG teachers meet adaptive challenges within their ever changing assignments was an unexpected part of the mentoring journey. In one of the schools I worked with, a Phys. Ed teacher who has additional roles of teaching ESL and Ethics, benefitted from my experience as a consultant with the dossier of Integrated Pedagogy and ESL. Working together gave him new ideas and also helped him realize that much of what he was doing just needed tweaking and strategic organization for better outcomes. In another mentoring situation, I worked with a teacher whose students lacked motivation and engagement. When two heads were put together, the engagement increased and the motivation of both the students and the teacher were like igniting sparks in the classroom. Her Grade 3 classroom changed into one that was more involving and happier for all.

Adding mindfulness techniques and language games also improved her classroom environment and tone of the room.

As a DKG Quebec member I enjoy the partnerships created between teachers and myself. Mentoring offers individual teachers a sounding board, confidante, and role model. Furthermore being able to provide individualized and flexible support for the specific professional goals of teachers is very rewarding to say the least. But perhaps even more importantly, I feel that working as a mentor with teachers helps to develop a teacher's personal confidence and permits them to affirm their skills and capabilities.

As a DKG member I look for opportunities to help others strive for excellence in education, think outside of the box to create innovative solutions and mostly I enjoy collaborating with others through mentoring. I encourage many of our members to become a mentor to empower teachers and let them know that they are not alone. Finally, as a DKG member, mentoring creates a positive collegial environment and allows for professional knowledge to be more accessibly shared.

## Keynote Speaker in Belfast, Maine

By Sylvie Bastien-Doss

I had such a fabulous time in Maine this weekend! I arrived safe and sound yesterday.

We had a lot of fun, and it sounds like people enjoyed the keynote and the workshop I presented. I want to thank everyone in the audience for putting up with my very creative English and my « funny » accent, and I thank them for showing me how to pronounce Bangor and Newark correctly...!

This wonderful professional development day for teachers was organized by Alpha Psi Maine members, and the person in charge of the organization was Mary Whitten. You should have seen how well everything was organized. You see Mary at the welcoming table in one of my photos, and on another photo when she gave me a lovely gift after my keynote.

As well, Elaine Hendrickson, DKG State President took good care of me! She was my personal « chauffeur », picking me up at the airport, driving me back and forth between Bangor and Belfast! She even took the scenic way showing me how lovely this part of Maine was. Elaine was a real gem. She took care of me, like if I was royalty!! You see a picture of Elaine and I when she picked me up at Bangor Airport, on Friday night. This woman is a true inspiration to me. I am blessed to have been able to spend time talking with her during our long drives!

My flights were delayed at my arrival to Bangor, and I got there really late at night. Because I got there so late, Elaine had to cancel the evening she had

planned for us to spend at a restaurant with other DKG members, and had to do a one hour driving, late at night, to my hotel in Belfast. I am so grateful and I thank her for her kindness and generosity! United Airlines sure owes us a glass of wine!

I will remember this great experience all my life, and I am sincerely thankful for **DKG International Speakers' Fund (ISF)** for providing me with such a great opportunity. I had the chance to meet many school teachers, and exchange with lovely DKG ladies.

You will notice that a lot of people on the pictures were dressed in green, because it was... St.Patrick's day!

Here are a few photos of my experience in Maine.



## Diane Carroll-Phillips is Key Note Speaker in Pennsylvania



**Diane Carroll Phillips is the Keynote Speaker at the Leadership and Development Seminar in Pennsylvania April 13-14, 2018 at the Penn State Hotel and Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA.**

**Diane Carroll Phillips** is currently an Educational Consultant with the Lester B. Pearson School Board in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She holds a Bachelor of Education degree from McGill University and is a Canadian Hilroy Award winner. She has extensive experience in professional development and in the supervision of diverse learning groups. As a staff developer and in her consulting work, Ms. Phillips is a whole school change agent leading merged schools through their "Focal Points of Change and Collaboration."

Ms. Phillips also works with teachers to implement her Envisions Education Program.

This innovative program provides support to teachers who are struggling with helping students to "own" their learning. She has a passion for Storytelling and is a founding member of the Montreal Storytellers' Guild. Through her career and her work as a DKG Quebec member, she enjoys being a mentor to teachers. Her appearance at the Seminar is made possible by the **International Speaker Fund and the DKG International**. Ms. Phillips will also present a workshop entitled, "Guided Imagery for Your Mindfulness Journey."

## Teachers for Teachers Canadian Classroom Care links with Texas

Hello all! I just wanted to share this Logo Poster with you all! The Teachers for Teachers Canadian Classrooms Care has been a huge success and I would like to thank those of you that contributed to this cause. The DKG logo has been added to the poster because of your contributions. The amount of materials being sent to the Galloway School in Texas is staggering. Jazz Airlines will be shipping everything for free and they are even buying online supplies (to the tune of 1,000.00\$) and having them shipped directly to the school. I am so grateful to everyone.

Please see the poster attached (my talented son made the logo) that I aim to have it turned into a mission patch with the hope that Canadian Astronaut David St. Jacques will fly it with him when he goes to the ISS this fall. Keep your fingers crossed it is a stretch!!

- Diane Carroll-Phillips



## Spring Newsletter – March, 2018

### DKG Northeast Region

- **Check out the website.**  
There are so many things waiting for you to click on to discover so much information
  - **19<sup>th</sup> CTAUN Conference at the UN in New York on April 6.**  
  
Topic: Stepping Up to Protect the World's Children  
  
There are special hotel rates for conference attendees. The program and application to attend is on the website.
  - **Applications are now open for a new Membership Director at Headquarters – Due April 2**
  - **DKG App is now available on the website**  
  
Part 1 - gives members basic information, news, updates, etc.  
  
Part 2 – Conventions – gives maps, schedules, speakers discussion boards, etc.  
  
Download instructions are on the website.
  - **Proposed Amendments to Constitution and Standing Rules**
- These are available in their entirety. There are frequently asked Questions/Answers, Directions on how to use the interactive PDF's and Constitution Proposal Stories
- **Convention in Austin, Texas July 16-20, 2018**  
  
Register for the Convention on line or post-al mail  
  
Book the hotel  
  
Read about the Speakers  
  
See the Schedule of Events  
  
Check out the Breakout Sessions  
  
Find the Photo Time Schedule for your State  
  
Download the invite from Headquarters to show at your State Convention/Conference
  - **Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar Participants**  
  
Find members from your state who will be attending in June 2018
  - **State Organization Websites**
- Check to make sure your state website is listed. There are also some chapter websites available.
- **DKG Blogs, Presentations, and Committees**  
  
Check out the videos/webinars on Reorientation and Membership Training  
  
There are plenty of Power Point presentations waiting for you to view or use.
  - **Member Spotlight**  
  
See how members are highlighted for their work and accomplishments. Maybe one of your members is there or could be or should be. Check it out.
- There are so many things on the DKG Website! It is unbelievable! See for yourself. Check it out! Let me know if you need any help.
- Aggie Moynihan**  
**Northeast Regional Director**

## THE GAMMA GAMUT

## AREA REPRESENTATIVE CANADA CHAPTER VISIT REPORT

DKG QUEBEC MEETING, MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

To personally touch base with Quebec members, I attended their scheduled February meeting to be attended by a larger than usual number of members and guests, (with 40 expected). The format was a buffet dinner, a very informative short business meeting during which I was invited to bring greetings and give a brief update and "pep-talk", followed by the initiation of two new members, then the program, a very interesting, historically informative, and inspiring two part evening with successful authors, including Quebec's State President, Barb Angus.

Immediately evident was the working together, and caring and concern for each other, the "spiritual fellowship" that is the heart of DKG. I particularly noted: respect and honour for "senior members"; consideration and flexibility for those still in schools who had to put forth extra effort to get there in time to eat; the interest in and attention to young newer members, who were all respected and warmly welcomed; and a well polished team effort to provide a delicious meal efficiently to facilitate accomplishing much in a short time. Connections with shut-ins is obvious and admirable. Support of each other prevailed. Appreciated and nurtured by members, is the meeting space, with excellent facilities provided free of charge through Montreal education boards. The two are located on opposite sides of the large city creating challenges to get there through heavy traffic for many members (going either way). An excellent system is in place for food committees and responsibilities. Active fund raising for the DKG Emergency Fund and their Quebec's scholarships was noted.

It was an honour to be part of the initiation of two new members, one a young practicing teacher, and one a new, eager retiree. I met fairly new members doing incredible things in their classrooms with the encouragement and support of DKG members. Meeting two of the three Education Foundation Grant winners, excitedly sharing about their projects, I strongly encouraged sharing with others through articles for the Collegial Exchange. Guests were two student teachers and eight co-authors with Barb on her recently published and launched book. Guests were "impressed with DKG" and a possible new recruit emerged from the authors.

Gathering time and the buffet dinner, provided opportunity to touch base face to face with all members, to affirm and let them know they are each valued. It was affirming and informative to learn that the Skype and video appearances at their special anniversary last year were appreciated and effective. The importance and impact of communicating with individuals, for example, through recognition of significant milestones and achievements, was reinforced, with the time and effort required well worth the impact on members.

Greatly appreciated were the warm welcome and chauffeuring by president Barb Angus and her husband Jim, which provided several hours of sharing and learning about the successes and challenges in DKG Quebec. I also appreciated the generous, warm, caring hospitality of long time, and very actively-involved member Rena Entus, and her husband Eddie, making it a most enjoyable, enlightening, and enriching visit, and, again, providing hours of sharing and learning about the attitudes and actions motivating and achieving the outstanding successes and impressive outreach of this small, but extremely productive province / state organization.

Additional Strengths:

- Excellent website, very professional outreach to the community.
- Outstanding programming, enticing and of value to educators is provided in an effective format and advertised in an inviting way through their website.
- Communication (info about the meeting for those unable to attend was on the web immediately). Members are connected electronically and share information and inspiration. Excellent newsletter.
- Excellent, creative, and ever present focus on ways to enhance the lives of others, especially those for whom that extra attention and support will be significant. (Funds spent on "awards" supports an enterprise involving autism.)
- Support of international, and financial incentive for first time attendees to international events.
- Momentum and determination to increase and diversify membership.

Challenges:

- Geography: getting to meetings, traffic (which I experienced first hand on arrival), distances,
- Leadership succession.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Wolfe, Area Representative Canada, 2016-2018.

## Canadian Project: Report on Nepal

By Bonnie Edgecombe

With the help of funds DKG has collected, HER INTERNATIONAL now ensures that all sponsored students are offered tutoring. In addition, to help the students succeed, HER now employs one of the women, Deepa Chaudhary, who had been rescued from bondage herself, to monitor each student to ensure they are maintaining regular attendance and to do counseling and home visits to encourage the girls to continue with their education. Finally, in order to get parents more involved in their daughters' education, parents of sponsored girls are now required to visit their child's school at least once every 3 months.

HER INTERNATIONAL is now transitioning some students into Private English Schools instead of Government Schools where they receive a higher quality of education and teachers are more accountable.

HER INTERNATIONAL now has some former students who have gone on to post secondary studies. Sunita Chaurhary, who was rescued from bondage, recently completed her staff nurse course.

In addition, a Memorial Scholarship fund has been set up by HER INTERNATIONAL to have students train to provide medical care in small rural villages.

As well, HER INTERNATIONAL, along with UBC medical students continue to do volunteer trips to provide blood screening and awareness workshops for Sickle Cell disease which has been found in the Tharu people of Nepal. The Nepalese government provides free treatment to those who test positive but do not provide screening services themselves for this life-threatening disease.

Last June a speech competition was held by HER INTERNATIONAL to give mothers from the women's groups the first time in

their lives to speak out. Their speech subject was "The Importance of Education for our Daughters".

After the 2015 earthquake that devastated the Gorkha region of Nepal killing over 9000 people, emergency relief was provided by HER INTERNATIONAL to allow for

- Reconstruction of 11 school classrooms
- Allocation of metal roofs for 214 homes
- Additional cash support to reconstruct homes
- Emergency supplies to multiple schools

DKG chapters and individuals can continue to support the fine work that is being done in Nepal by sending donations to Bea Ceretzke, Alberta Provincial Treasurer, [kitttbea@shaw.ca](mailto:kitttbea@shaw.ca) or by visiting the website <https://herinternational.org/> to donate or purchase UNAKO scarves that are sewn by Nepalese women who are employed and have been trained by HER INTERNATIONAL staff members. UNAKO will soon be launching a new jewellery line made from recycled glass.

The pieces were designed by a Canadian artist, jewellery maker and board member, Francine Walker. Entitled **Bottles to Beads**, the jewelry will be stunning, environmentally friendly and will safely and fairly employ women in Dang, Nepal. A coffee table book entitled "HER – The Thura Women's Journey to Freedom", which includes inspiring personal stories and photos of the Nepalese women's freedom from bondage to empowerment, is also now available on the website. Much of the money from the purchases of the jewelry, book, and/or scarves go to support the education of the sponsored girls.

## Another New Adventure

by Tracy Woodward

I am excited to share that I have recently accepted a teaching contract with Riverside School Board at Royal Oak Access. Most of my contract is in the Vocational Training program as the instructor for the School Day-care Educator certificate program. The other part of my contract is with Adult General Education, and I work part

-time with the Social Integration students. I began my new job on March 12, and I can honestly say, I am loving it. As with any new job, the learning curve is big, but I am enjoying every minute of it! Between my new job and my Arbonne business, these are busy but exciting times!

## Canadian Citizenship Ceremony at Royal Vale

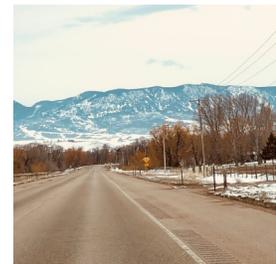
By Nathalie Malhamé

Royal Vale proudly hosted a Citizenship Ceremony, warmly welcoming 50 of Canada's newest citizens. In preparation for this ceremony, grade 5 students explored the meaning of citizenship, rights and responsibilities, and their own family's cultural history, with the help of spiritual animator Paolo Ruscito and their teachers Wendy Cryer-Frank,

Nathalie Malhamé and Aaron Prosser. They had the chance to witness a swearing-in ceremony and to congratulate the new citizens with bookmarks they created, representing their vision of Canada. As part of their year-long project, The Global Citizens of Kindness, the Royal Vale grade 5 students also teamed up with Royal Vale Student Life and

teacher Stella Halaris to welcome the new citizens with recipes from the many cultures represented at Royal Vale. Principal Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette and Vice-Principal Eugenia Carystios welcomed special guests Barbara Seal, Kettly Guerrier, Sue Montgomery, Margaret Guest, and Commissioner Joseph Lalla to this exciting event.

## Sylvie was the Keynote Speaker in Wisconsin, Wyoming



Sylvie Bastien-Doss enjoyed the wild beauty of Wyoming in April 2018 where she was the keynote speaker for the Wisconsin Chapter.

She was warmly greeted and enjoyed her weekend. It is an initiative in which DKG Quebec participates in neighbouring state meetings.



# Tea is Served in Plattsburg, New York

PSI Chapter in Plattsburg, New York, invited DKG Quebec members to attend their annual tea on April 28th.

Valerie Delacretaz, Rena Entus, Erika Sebaldt, and Beverly Townsend attended. It was a lovely tea served with cloth napkins, linen tablecloths and china cups and saucers. Some members represented prominent women of the Suffragette movement and their fight for votes for women: Lucy Maude Montgomery, Grace Chisolm Young, Victoria Woodhull and Eliza Adams Mooers to name a few. This is a "Hands Across the Border" initiative to get to know our southern neighbours.



Arriving: Bev, Rena and Erica



Grace Chisolm Young (1868-1944) with Rena



Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976) portrayed by Judy Corigliano



Victoria Woodhull (1838-1927) who was portrayed by Anne Bailey



Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942) portrayed by Karen Larkin



Eliza Adams Mooers who died in 1818 (portrayed by Melissa Blister Cross)

## Three DKG Quebec Initiatives Win Educational Foundation Grants

In the last issue of the Gamma Gamut (Winter 2018), each Educational Foundation winner explained their proposal. They have since presented to the DKG Quebec assembly at our **Annual General Meeting on May 3rd**.

Beverly Townsend, who inspired and encouraged us to submit our proposals, gave an overview of the awards and scholarships given by DKGSF with an emphasis on the development of our projects under the Educational Foundation grant.

First, Betty Constant, a French as a Second Language teacher from Coronation School, a multi-cultural elementary school in Montreal, presented her project. Her students were asked to come up with a family recipe, or a dish indigenous to their culture, or just their favourite. Then the students were asked to prepare the dish with the help of a parent, and share the food with their classmates. They were to write the names of the ingredients in the recipe on cards and place the words before the item. The students made the connection of the word with the ingredient and improved their vocabulary skills. They

also learned about a different culture and improved their IT skills.

Second, Beverly Townsend and I presented our project to support a school in Haiti called Collège Marie Reine Immaculée (Mary Queen Immaculate College) K1-12. With the money received, books, computers and food were purchased. Story books and picture books were purchased for the lower levels, K1-grade 5. The students were able to improve their vocabulary with the addition of new materials. Seven new computers were purchased, allowing more students to learn computer skills. Previously, 4-6 students had to share a computer; now 3-4 share allowing for more individual hands-on time on the computers. The food program nourishes 78 students a day. Often this is the only meal they will receive that day. Sister Cadet and her teachers saw an immediate improvement in the students' concentration and enthusiasm to learn.

Finally, Canjita Gomes –Fernandes and Pamela Koumotsakis received funding for an expansive grant to explore "The Power of Reading". Their project recognizes the attempts to deal with the re-

sult of the student registration limitations imposed by Bill 101, or the Charter of the French Language as it is also known. This project addresses this crucial educational issue at an early stage, grade 3. Its ultimate goal is to develop the project to play a role in the development of the child's literacy and language skills in a bilingual (English and French) environment in Quebec. They focus on children's books created by Canadian authors. Teachers aids and student workbooks were designed to improve students' language skills and vocabulary.

Sixty 8-9 year old students formed the basis of the study. The positive impact of the project on the population served was without question. Students were fully engaged and came to learn about and appreciate Canadian Literature. The interactive approach (cooperative discussions, reading, writing, and IT component) facilitated their understanding of the text and strengthened their communication skills and written expression. The project's conclusion will begin with 3 new classes in September 2018.

Please see more details on the following pages.



Betty Constant



Anne Marie Gitto Laurin



Beverly Townsend



Canjita Gomes-Fernandes (standing) and Pamela Koumotsakis

## Coronation School's Grade 4 DKG Education Foundation Grant FSL project

Mme. Constant's parent-student cookbook collaboration project.

Les élèves de 4e année ont réalisé le projet 'Création d'un livre de recettes' grâce à une contribution financière de l'organisme DKG Education Foundation Grant FSL project. To view the cookbook, go to: <https://bit.ly/2waxANG>

In May, 2016, Mrs Beverly Townsend, former Coronation Principal, and President of DKG Quebec from 2015-2017, presented the DKG Quebec team to the Coronation staff. DKG means:

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

Mrs. Townsend was my mentor throughout the project. The project takes place in a multicultural school. The students from the participating class have origins from many different countries such as Jamaica, China, Libya, Korea, Philippine and Saint-Vincent (West Indies). The students worked with their parents by writing a recipe from their own Country (culture). They engaged by learning a new language in a hands on way. That makes the learning of French more interesting.

The students were engaged in their learning French. They not only tasted their classmate's recipes, they also trans-

late, practice and present their recipes in French in front of classmates, visitors and Mrs Joanna Genovezos, principal of Coronation Elementary School, in the presence of their parents. It makes teaching so much fun and exciting for teachers and students, when they know that something exciting is going on in their classrooms.

With the help of the ICT consultant Kish Gué, from the EMSB School Board, the students were able to create a numeric recipe book with the title "Gâteries délicieuses pour l'amour du français!" The paper version will be placed in the library for everyone to read.

The DKG grant made the project possible, because the students also will be able to see their recipe book on their parents electronic devices.

On behalf of my students, we would like to say thank you to the DKG International Foundation for giving us the opportunity to achieve this magnificent project.

Betty Constant  
French Teacher  
Coronation Elementary School

### Recipe Project

Recipe Book title : Gâteries délicieuses pour l'amour du français!

Some pictures from the recipe book :



peleau



Rouleau de printemps



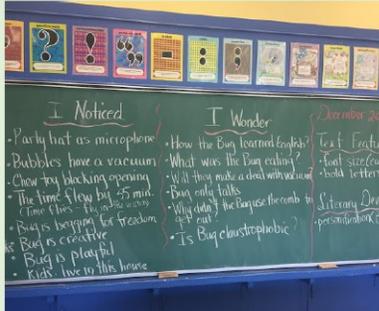
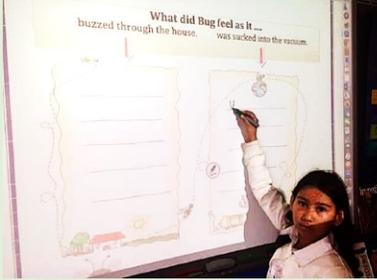
dessert



THE GAMMA GAMUT

Canjita Fernandez-Gomes and Pamela Koumotsakis Thank  
The Educational Foundation for supporting their project

CORONATION SCHOOL  
PICTURES OF  
THE POWER OF READING PROJECT  
2017-2018

		
<p>Grade 3 students enjoying Bug in a Vacuum by Mélanie Watt.</p>	<p>I Noticed... I Wonder responses.</p>	<p>Student reading book and working in activity book.</p>
		
<p>Author Visit</p>	<p>More writing....</p>	<p>SMARTBoard fun!</p>
		
<p>Presentations</p>	<p>Readers Theater of Play Gookum</p>	<p>Busy as a bee workers.</p>

Anne Marie Gitto Laurin and Beverly Townsend wish to thank the **Educational Foundation** for their support with the Collège Marie Reince Immaculée. Sister Verlaine Marie Cadet and her students are most grateful for the opportunities this grant has given them.



Computer classes were overcrowded with 4-6



With the purchase of 7 new computers, Sister now has 18 computers/ The student to computer ratio is now 2-3 students per computer, making it easier to concentrate and retain what they learned. The 18 Senior students now have one computer each enabling them to complete their assignments in a timely manner.



New picture books and story books were purchased for the younger grades K to 5, improving their vocabulary and reading skills. Texts books were purchased for grades 6-12 providing better research materials.



Sister Cadet and her students thank DKG Quebec and DKGSJ Educational Foundation



Gas tanks are required to cook nutritious breakfasts. The Educational Foundation allowed Sister to expand the number of students from 41 to 78 .



## Inspiration delivered at Our Annual General Meeting, May 3, 2018

By Beverly Townsend



I am beginning by sharing a poem by Nigerian poet, Albashir Adam Alhassan, entitled, "Remember to Forget". Here is the link to the poem:

<https://www.google.ca/search?albashir+adam+alhassan:>

(Ctrl-click to get to the site and the poem is at the top left hand side in yellow)

Here are some additional thoughts:

I truly believe that "life is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be experienced." [Joseph Campbell](1)

How?

On a daily basis, heighten your awareness about the positive energy, the blessed encounters and the wondrous events that pour into all our lives! Sadly, Many of these pass unnoticed!

Seize the small miracles when they come. Recognize that in our most difficult or darkest moments there is always an unbelievable breath of fresh air or what may be called "a silver lining".

These in turn will lead us to understand that we have the ability to **Love** even at the worst of times. Let's salute that notion because:

**LOVE** nourishes, comforts, strengthens, sustains.

**Love** creates invisible lines of connection.

**LOVE** begets those miracles and if we -

**Love** the life we live, it will not be difficult to live the life we love.

As best as possible, FORGET the difficulties but remember:

Life - Live it and love it irrespective of the year, month, day, time or situation.

Let us continue to grow the friendships that we share by being DKG sisters, because of this love of life.

(1) Small Miracles of Love and Friendship; Remarkable Coincidences of Warmth and Devotion. By Yitta Halberstam & Judith Leventhal. Adams Media Corporation, Holbrook, Massachusetts, 1999.

# Annual General Meeting May 3, 2018

Chapter officers were inducted for 2018-2020. (See page 3 for details).



Barb Angus chairs the meeting



Mindy Spiegel thanks presenters with beautiful plants



Beverly Townsend introduces the three Educational Foundation projects.



Left: Canjita Fernandes-Gomes and Pam Koumotsakis show their presentation sponsored by Educational Foundation



Left: Anne Marie Gitto Laurin shows the power point on Haiti, a project supported by the Educational Foundation



Betty Constant presents her project funded by the Educational Foundation

THE GAMMA GAMUT

## Gamefying in the Classroom: The Truly Engaging Classroom by Tracy Woodward



Tracy Woodward presented an interesting and innovative way to make learning fun: turning re-search answers into keys to open locks to a box with treasures inside. This form of "gaming" is a new way to engage the student while making learning fun!

Tracy split us into four groups. Each group had a set of clues, consisting of clever questions that made us research the answers. Each answer brought us closer to solving the riddle which would open the locks on boxes with treasures inside. Every group solved the problems, opened the locks, and "BROKE OUT"! The treasure: samples of Arbonne products.



Barb Angus, President, also invited the World Fellowship nominees to our March meeting where they joined the game challenge that Tracy initiated.



Barb thanks Tracy with a Chapters gift certificate for her summer reading pleasure.

## HANDS ACROSS BORDERS: DKG ONTARIO State Conference 2018

By Rena Entus

This year Barb and I travelled to Ottawa to attend the Ontario State Convention. We were warmly greeted by Aggie Moynihan, our N.E. Regional Director, at the registration desk, Debbie Rodaway, Ontario President, and several other people. After a "light meal" provided in the Hospitality suite, we went to the Friday night opening meeting where the guest speaker, Dr. Lace Brogden, (our former Area Rep) spoke on "Change" at the request of Debbie Rodaway.

Lace's focus was for all of us to be "OPEN" to change. She encouraged us to "Observe, Ponder, Engage, and Notice". To quote Lace: "Pondering change can require courage - we may need to acknowledge things in our present that are other than we would want them to be... [but] it also affords us the opportunity for deep, pensive engagement with the what ifs, potential entanglements, and possibilities of change."

"When we engage in change, do we do so in full awareness of our own personal ethic, that is, in view of, and respect for, our values (which may be individual, or

collective)".

We were left with a great deal about which to think: as we change, how will we handle change?

Lace's thought provoking talk was followed by an impressive presentation by



Barb Angus with Helen Lamos, Editor  
and webmaster for Ontario

Stephanie Allen, a member from London, Ontario, which dealt with her time studying in Reggio Emilia, Italy, over several trips. That school system is

noted for a philosophy that is student-centered and involves constructivist learning for pre-school and kindergarten children. Stephanie showed some examples of how that translated in her classroom. Stephanie did this trip with scholarship money.

The other highlight of the 2 days for me, other than Lace's talk, and the wonderful presentations by Stephanie, was the one by Aggie and Joan as they went through and briefly discussed the proposed changes to the International Bylaws. Another most important feature was the time we had to see and re-acquaint ourselves with our Ontario friends, and to meet new ones. Ontario always impresses me with the fundraising: they manage to do at their conferences and events.

Next year they plan to hold their Convention in Toronto on the first weekend in May. It will be fun to attend that one, too. We just have to make sure we don't hold ours the same weekend!

Thank you, ladies of Ontario!

## Mildred's Corner

By Dr. Mildred L. Burns



Lately I have been thinking about the difficulties today's teachers must face as compared to when I was a teacher. Today, there must be so many distractions going on in the classroom with the various technological requirements a teacher must learn to use productively in the classroom: smartboards, ipads, iphones, and

androids, PC and Apple computers, a lot of new words which didn't exist in my day. All we had were overhead

projectors and the blackboard. I tip my hat to the young professionals in education today. As I perceive it, the whole atmosphere has become more dynamic and inclusive between teacher and pupil. I think if I had to start over today, I would be overwhelmed by the demands teaching requires. What we considered innovative in my day has been overtaken by new technologies and new ways of interaction. So, Kudos to all you young, bright, resourceful women who look at the classroom as a laboratory of innovation and creativity. It makes for a brave new world with open minded citizens at its helm. Bravo!

THE GAMMA GAMUT

# Rose Szasz

When she emigrated to Canada, Rose Szasz applied at SGWU and was interviewed by D.B. Clarke. It was a two-hour session. Rose did not speak English and Mr. Clarke did not speak Hungarian. So, he gave her a drawing assignment and accepted her.

Rose was also interviewed by Henry F. Hall and is thankful that she was able to meet these two great men who instinctively saw her artistic potential. She enrolled in Fine Arts where she took up sculpture in plastic arts (where she was not required to speak but only create). Within three years, she mastered the English Language to the point that she no longer needed an Hungarian - English dictionary to complete a sentence.

She worked for "Ma" Bell during the day, drawing technical plans for new telephone wires to go from Verdun to Nun's Island. After three years, when she mastered English, she was training new technical artists at Bell.

After she completed her undergraduate degree, Rose decided to do her master's in fine arts. This required full time study, so she applied to St. Miguel de Allende in Mexico, and quit her job at Bell. When she returned from Mexico, she completed a year at McGill for her teacher's certificate.

Rose taught at Riverdale High School in Pierrefonds for over twenty years. When she retired, Rose devoted herself to her craft, exhibiting at 1001 Pots every August in Val David, Le Feufalu in Westmount, and a pottery exhibit in Summerside, Ontario every fall.

Rose Szasz donated many pieces of her art to DKG Quebec as gifts for our guest speakers who received her artwork as a token of our appreciation after their presentations.

We are truly blessed to know Rose Szasz for her kindness and generosity, and to be able to call her Sister.

And we are proud to celebrate her with this year's Achievement Award.

-Anne Marie Gitto Laurin



Guest speakers receive beautiful pots made by Rose



Some pots donated by Rose to DKG Quebec



Rose at home



## DKGSI World Fellowship Awards

By Catherine Bannan Sidorenko

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that DKG International has forwarded the names of the World Fellowship recipients for 2018-19.

We are proud to have two of the seven fellowships, awarded to:

**Shinjini Mondal**, India, PhD, Health Policy Studies, Policies & Systems in Low/Middle Income Countries



**Milka Nyariro**, Kenya, PhD, Educational Studies, Gender & Women's Studies, Challenges of Girls Who Drop Out Due to Pregnancy.

In addition, we have an alternate (1 of 3): **Malosree Maitra**, India, PhD, Neuroscience, and Psychiatric Illness

I wanted to let you know that I heard back from the DKG Fellowships committee. I did not get selected as a finalist, but they did say that they have selected me as an alternate in case any of the recipients are unable to accept the fellowship. Even so, I wanted to thank you all for supporting my application and having us over for your meeting. It was a memorable experience for me.

Best wishes,  
Malosree



Congratulations to Shinjini and Malosree. I wish all of them well with their research and more opportunities to come.

Sincerely,  
Milka

## Mc Gill University Awards Night: Sarah Paltiel Award Winner



Chama Laassassy, Year 2 at McGill Faculty of Education, is a brilliant, young and vibrant student-teacher who won the **DKG Sarah Paltiel Scholarship** award April 10 2018!

DKG Quebec members, Rena Entus, Cathy Bannan Sidorenko and Sylvie Bastien-Doss attended the McGill Scholarships event and congratulated Chama. DKG is proud to support our future teachers!

## DKG Quebec Adult Education Award

The winners of the Marianne Davis Adult Education Award are: Marianne Kerr McCrank and Kemoy Connor from Wagar Adult Education Centre. We are awaiting a date for a presentation and photo which will be included in the Fall 2018 edition of The Gamma Gamut.

THE GAMMA GAMUT

**The Marianne Davis Early Educator Award  
Went to Melanie Mercante of Royal Vale School**



Barb Angus and Mindy Spiegel (center) were on hand to give Melanie Mercante the Marianne Davis Early Educator award. The money went toward purchasing class materials.

Here are pictures of my class with their new dress up closet and our new sand and water table. The children are fishing for alphabets in the water beads!



**The Evelyn Eaton Award was granted to Nathalie Melamé**



The Evelyn Eaton French Elementary grant was awarded to Nathalie Melamé, Aaron Prosser and Wendy Cryer Frank. Nathalie Melamé is a member of DKG Quebec Beta Chapter. Mindy Spiegel presented "The Grade 5 Team" with the award while their Principal, Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette, was in attendance. Barb Angus and Rena Entus were also present.

## February Events

In February, Robert Wilkins, author of **"Montreal 1909"**, was our guest speaker. A passionate historian and researcher, Bob taught history for 35 years for the PSBGM/EMSB and in retirement was a regular contributor to the Westmount Examiner and more recently, the "Looking Back" and "Montreal Diary" pages of the Gazette. His special area of interest is Edwardian Montreal.

Using the archives of The Montreal Star, Bob's book focuses on one year in the life of our city with day-to-day accounts of the people and their happenings and concerns. His power point presentation was highlighted with wonderful photos of the era and his audience was quick to notice that certain themes such as health issues, city corruption, crime control and so on are still very much relevant today. People really appreciated this trip into the past of their own city, led by such a knowledgeable and compelling speaker.



Linda Blackwell-Phelan introduces Robert Wilkins

Barb Angus added to the enjoyment of our history-themed evening with the presentation of her writing group's newly published book **"Beads on a Necklace"** which is an anthology of family stories, melding genealogical research and creative writing. Our congratulations to our own DKG author!



Barb and her fellow authors of *Beads on a Necklace*



Rena displays the *Beads on a Necklace* at the book launch



Greetings from sunny & ever so hot Dansoman, Ghana!  
Got up this a.m. to a pleasant surprise of a charged phone, phone credit, internet connection and WiFi all available and working. Better still, is that as I open my inbox there is Diane's wonderful news to greet me. Bravo, Diane, as you continue spreading your wings and sharing your passion....keep going full steam ahead!  
Leaving for Nigeria on Sunday

and looking forward to even more totally relaxing times, notwithstanding petrol shortages, etc.

Attached is a look at last week when we were returning from Cape Coast. The other is the garden that surrounds the Dansoman home. Its lovely here!

Warm wishes, be well, until ....

Bev



## Terry Saba Remembers Sarah Paltiel at DKG Quebec Annual General Meeting

When you read about Sarah Paltiel and learn about her achievements you are immediately struck by the impressive list of all that she accomplished in her life. If you missed reading the obituary that appeared in the Gazette I will share with you an excerpt of those accomplishments, so that those who did not know her, will get an idea of how grand and remarkable she was.

The text of the obituary reads as follows:

From 1943 to 1974, she was employed by the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, where she served as a classroom teacher for every grade, as a music specialist, as a French supervisor, and as a school vice-principal and principal. She was Academic Dean of Vanier College (1974 to 1979), Director General of the Association of Jewish Day Schools of Montreal (1979-1981), and Director General of Dawson College (1981-1985). Sarah's notable achievements include: her pioneering work from 1962-1966 as an on-camera teacher and script writer for the Quebec French School Telecasts; her successful negotiation, in 1982, of Dawson College's purchase of the Mother House of the Congrégation de Notre Dame; and her role as Vice President of La Corporation des Célébrations du 350ième Anniversaire de Montréal, the committee that planned the city's 350th birthday festivities. In 1970, she was appointed to the Board of Governors of McGill University,

becoming the first woman ever to be appointed to its Executive Committee (1974) and the first woman ever to be named a Governor Emeritus (1987). In 1992, McGill University awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Laws. Sarah was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1996.

Her 3 children composed the obituary together and ended it with this very sincere sentiment. They wrote:

Sarah was a prize-winning scholar, esteemed teacher, masterful administrator, self-taught pianist, lover of words, consumer of cookbooks (she could not cook), and hilarious raconteur. She was a kind, decent, and honest person who took an interest in everyone. She was brilliant, enthusiastic, funny, and warm. Always in good spirits, Sarah had the gift of being happy, and that's how we will remember her.

What will strike a chord with all of us, whether you knew Sarah or not, is that the family asked that donations be made to the DKG Sarah Paltiel Award for Excellence in Education. DKG was very important to her.

I feel very honoured to be able to share a few personal thoughts about Sarah Paltiel because she was a giant in my life. My teaching career began with Sarah as my very first principal in 1970, coincidentally the very same year that she was appointed to the Board of Governors of McGill University. I believe that people come into our lives for a reason and I be-

lieve that the reason Sarah came into mine was to help shape the teacher who I became. I know she did this for many young teachers at the time I started my career in education. I would not say she did it unknowingly but rather by design. She knew the potential of each of us and she stretched that potential through her example of what it meant to be a good teacher. She modelled that for us in the way she ran things. She was a master at human relationships. Whether speaking with an errant child, or dealing with a difficult parent it was a privilege and an awe-inspiring experience to see her in action and to observe the effect she had on the individuals with whom she interacted. Whether battling a policy proposed by the school board with which she took exception or upholding the high standards to which she held her school, she was a warrior for justice and fair treatment.

How fortunate I was to have had Sarah Paltiel as my first principal! I learned more from her about teaching, leadership, and professionalism than I did from formal teacher training, and years of professional development courses and education seminars. She was both role model and mentor. Under her careful and caring guidance she instilled in us a love for the profession and a passion for being creative. She saw the best in everyone and each person strived to be their best because of her unbending faith in us. I learned from her, marvelled at her accomplishments, de-

(Continued from page 24)

lighted in her quick wit and wonderful sense of humour, and could not have been more proud of her if we had been related.

**Although** not related, I came to call my then boss by a pet name. That name had its origin in a message that she sent to me in my classroom one afternoon. It was relaying some directive which I cannot recall now but which of course I followed to the letter as I did all of her missives. In any case she signed the note "Big Momma". I wrote back "Dear B.M." and in brackets reminded her that those initials also represented something quite different. Rather than be offended by the cheekiness of a young upstart she howled with laughter and of course the name Big Momma stuck for all the years I had the privilege to know her.

My good friend and teaching partner and I, back in those early years, were interested in team teaching. We used to gather our students and herd them back and forth across the hall to one another's classroom where we would team teach to 50 or so kids in a single classroom. After visiting a school at the other end of town that had an open concept teaching situation we returned to ask Big Momma if we could have a double room in our school. Knowing her strong persuasive powers and the respect she garnered from many in high places, we were delighted to learn that the project had been approved and within a very short time a wall came down separating 2 classrooms and creating a large team teaching classroom for the two of us.

Staff parties at the Paltiel household were memorable events to be cherished. Music was always a key fea-

ture and Sarah's fun-loving husband, Danny Paltiel, would lead the gang of us in spirited renditions of songs like "Chevaliers de la Table Ronde". He would lead, and we would chime in for the "oui oui oui" or the "non non non." Laughter and merriment lasted through those wonderful evenings so generously hosted by the Paltiels in their warm and welcoming home.

Sarah even developed a friendship with my mother on the telephone over the years and whenever I was leaving the house to go and meet Sarah for a DKG meeting my mother would give me a jar of jam or ketchup she had made to give to Sarah. Sarah loved food and she always returned the jars knowing they would be re-filled. When my mother died Sarah donated a book of philosophy to the McGill libraries dedicated in my mother's memory. My sisters and I were very touched by this kind gesture.

Though our paths took us in different directions I remained in touch with Sarah over the years and accepted her invitation to join DKG which she spoke of so highly and with such conviction that I knew it would become important to me as it was so obviously to her. She believed strongly in its principles and she always championed young female teachers as documented by the annual award established in her name for excellence in education.

At her funeral, each of Sarah's 3 children Harriet, David and Ellen, and two of her grandchildren shared precious stories about their mom and grandmother and each spoke with love and sincerity. In her son's remarks he spoke of how touched he

and his sisters were to learn that in honour of her tremendous contributions to the university as governor, the McGill flag atop the main building flew at half-mast when she died. He spoke of how important McGill was to his mother and how she truly loved the university. He also spoke of Sarah's love for DKG.

In later years it was my pleasure to drive by Sarah's home and pick her up for the DKG meetings. During the drive she would regale me with stories of her children and precious grandchildren and her work at McGill. After the meeting on the drive back home she would expound on her views of the subject presented that evening. She always had a joke to share and would delight in the punch line as much as me. Her laugh was infectious and always made me feel happy just to be in her presence.

In spite of her many prestigious titles (Order of Canada) and her plentiful achievements Sarah Paltiel was as down-to-earth a person as you could ever hope to meet.

In her final years, memory failed her more and more. Her son told us that she forgot she had been married (and she had a wonderful marriage) but he told us that the one thing she never forgot was that she was a **teacher**.

Caring, supportive, funny: there are not enough words to capture her essence. She was a dynamo and I am so very grateful to have had an opportunity to share just a little about the magic she wove.

May she rest in peace knowing that her DKG sisters are richer for having once had such an inspiring woman among their ranks.



## Sarah Paltiel Memorial

By Rena Entus

On January 30, 2018 I had the privilege of meeting Sarah Paltiel's children at the funeral parlour. Terry Sabba, who was not only a colleague but also a close friend of Sarah, and I were among the small crowd of mourners present.

At the funeral service, Ellen, Sarah's daughter read this condolence message from Terry.

*"How fortunate I was to have had Sarah Paltiel as my first principal! I learned more from her about teaching, leadership, and professionalism than I did from formal teacher training, and years of professional development courses and education seminars. She was both role model and mentor. Several of my close friends and I still reminisce about our early teaching days with Mrs. Paltiel and we never fail to mention how lucky we were to have launched our careers under her careful and caring guidance. She saw the best in everyone and each person strived to be their best because of her unbending faith in us. I learned from her, marvelled at her accomplishments, delighted in her quick wit and wonderful sense of humour, and could not have been more proud of her if we had been related. I am grateful for having had the privilege to work for her and to have enjoyed her friendship for many years after she retired. A role model, a mentor, and a very cherished*

*friend. How privileged I was to have been among all those who knew and loved her! My sincere condolences to her family and friends."*

Each of her 3 children as well as 2 of her grandsons spoke at the ceremony. Each of Sarah's children shared something about him/herself while talking



McGill University at Half-Mast in Sarah Paltiel's Honour

about Sarah. Several shared lengthy messages of condolences through which we learned more about Sarah. And each one shared that Terry was loved and respected by Sarah and the family. (In fact, it was Sarah who brought Terry into DKG.)

Throughout the speeches we laughed, we cried; we each remembered. I could see Sarah sitting there with her great big warm smile.

Ellen was concerned that Sarah would not have approved of her hairdo. Sarah definitely made it clear to her children how to do things well, even as adults.

Harriet kept her speech very short. She was determined not to cry; she succeeded in her goal.

David, her son, told us that in the last few years Sarah had forgotten her children,

her friends; but she never forgot she was a teacher. All the children and the people who visited as well as the care givers all said that Sarah was happy.

Sarah had been a member of DKG since 1966. DKG was very important to her. Her children were all well aware of this. David's first comment to me, when Terry introduced me as representing DKG, was that they would be raising lots of money for us. (Of course he meant for the Sarah Paltiel scholarship fund at McGill.)

David told everyone that Jennifer Coutlee called the family to let them know that the flag at McGill had been lowered to half mast to honour their mother. Needless to say how much this touched them. They ran downtown and took photos of the lowered flag.

Following the burial we went to Ruby Foes for the reception. There we were able to go through photos that were displayed. (See certificate below.)

It was at the reception that Terry was able to share memories of the parties at the Paltiel home and the delicious egg salad sandwiches that the housekeeper Cecile made. You had to have been there to see how moved the children were. Before we left we were warmly hugged and thanked by all three children, Terry for all her special interactions and memories, and me for representing DKG, and you.

### ANOTHER MEMORY of Sarah Paltiel's influence.....

I also had the opportunity of teaching at Dalkeith school under the leadership of a well loved principal, Sarah Paltiel. She was my mentor who encouraged me to do my best and allowed me to do what I felt was best for my students. A well deserved recipient of the Governor General's medal.

I never had another principal but Sarah Paltiel who gave each teacher time off so that she could have a music period with each of our classes. Much appreciated. Teachers deserve a break and she inspired me as I moved on to high school, to start a social committee that would keep teachers together while enjoying pot-luck meals after hours at Rosemount High. To my surprise, the committee members scheduled a gathering on a date which happened to fall on a pedagogical day. Gary Sullivan, who has left us, reminded me that 89 out of the 90 teachers attended. As many of us were transferred to other schools...all would say "there will never be another school like Rosemount".

I was so happy to meet with Sarah Paltiel at the few DKG meetings I attended .

I will continue to donate to the **Sarah Paltiel Award for Excellence in Education**. On October 4, 2017, my cousin Barbara Chryssolor who taught hair-dressing at *Interdec in Montreal, passed away. Before her passing, I spoke about Sarah Paltiel and I took a few notes about Barbara's donations, and in her memory, I am fulfilling her wish by donating to Sarah Paltiel's foundation.*

*She will be missed by many who crossed her path.*

**Joan Lazurek, Beta Chapter**



# **DKG International**

**DKG QUEBEC**

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**DARE TO KINDLE GROWTH**

