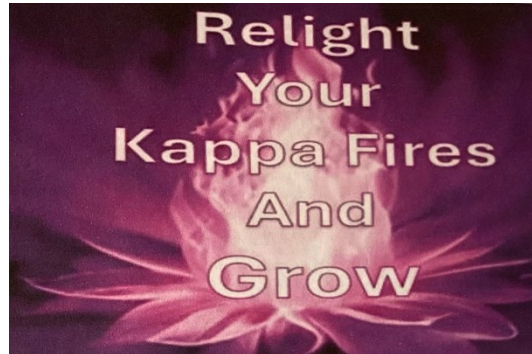


Kappa Kappa Iota

Lambda State Kan Kan

Spring Issue, 2025, 5th edition
Kathy Russell, Editor

From the desk of the President:



Dear Fellow Kappas,

This has been a good but challenging year for everyone.

I have decided to step down as President for the next year and I hope that you will continue your support of the next President.

Learning more about Kappa and spreading the word to new and former teachers that we are a “fun group” to get involved with as well as a current teacher group. I have visited two chapters, Tau and Theta, this year already. I also went to Headquarters in October and learned that Kappa Kappa Iota has much to offer for its members – like seeing different places (National) and involvement with other people and events (State).

I hope each of you had a good year, whether you are actively teaching or retired. But most of all, I hope you will support the new President. My only regret is not seeing more of our members attending the State Meetings. I realize that each of you had good intentions to be more active but had other things you had to do.

I appreciate you all very much for your support this year and will continue to rejoin this year. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO FOR KAPPA.

Melinda Sams
President Lambda State
Kappa Kappa Iota



Spring Convention



Lambda State, Kappa Kappa Iota

Saturday, April 26, 2025

**Hopewell Methodist Church
188 Hopewell Church Rd NW
Milledgeville, GA, 31061**

Executive Committee (elected officers) will meet at 10:30 a.m.;

Meeting Begins at 11:00 a.m.: Business meeting

Memorial Service

Election/Installation of Officers

Lunch: \$15.00, catered by *Chicken Salad Chick*

Make checks payable to Iota Chapter KKI



Raffle Baskets: tickets \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00



News from our Chapters

Tales from Tau



At **Tau's** March meeting, Anita Beasley gave a program on why violets were Kappa's chosen flower and then shared facts about wild violets and all their uses. We then tasted candy made from violets, violet infused lemonade, and decorated cupcakes with foraged wild violets; some sugar frosted, and some dried.

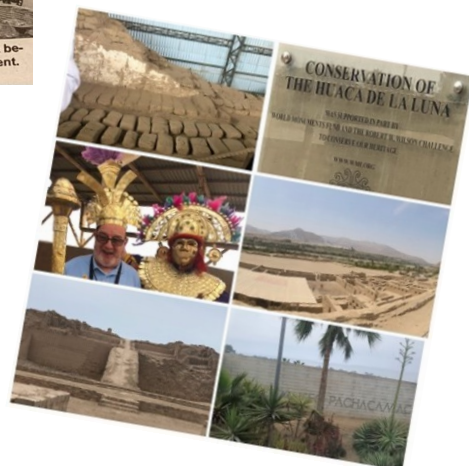
In March, **Tau** and **Theta** Chapters had a joint meeting with President Melinda Sams visiting Theta. Ken and Kathy Russell also attended. Ann Jones was hostess. We enjoyed listening to our speaker, Carrie Newman, from Legacies and Miracles. She had spoken about her upcoming mission trip to Uganda at our state Christmas Banquet. Each chapter had brought school supplies and donated money for the trip for Carrie to take to the children there. It was so wonderful to see her pictures of the work that her group did while in Uganda and hear how our gifts were able to bless others.



Tau Chapter awarded a \$200 education grant to the media specialists of Pickens County. The project was "The Pickens Page Turners Society." Students read from a list of tomes that the Tome Society selected and produced a book report, poetry or fan art.



Kathy & Ken Russell spent 17 days in November including Thanksgiving on the Holland America Oosterdam traveling through the Panama Canal, to Columbia, Panama, Ecuador, Perú, and Chile. It took an entire day to navigate the locks of the canal. Also, during the cruise they toured numerous pre-Incan archaeological sites such as Chan Chan, Huaca de la Sol, Pachacamac, and Tambo Colorado, among others. They were amazed at their technological and mathematical skills.



Casa Aliaga



During their three day stay in Lima, they had an evening meal at Casa de Aliaga, the home of Captain Jeronimode de Aliaga, the Accountant to Francisco Pizarro, Peru's Founder, who established the country in 1535. The family still lives in the house five centuries later and it is the oldest house in the Americas. The Russell's confirm the meal, and the conversation were both absolutely wonderful!

In addition to fabulous meals, remarkable conversations, and pheomenal civilizations to explore, they saw Panama hats being made (in Ecuador), experienced Dutch tea on the ship, shopped for souvenirs at an Indian market, toured numerous museums where pre-Inca and Inca jewelry and utensils were displayed; and visited a colonial hacienda where they they learned about African slavery.



Carolyn and Jimmy Wilkins enjoyed a trip to Central Europe over Spring Break. They embarked on a Viking River Cruise and sailed from Budapest, Hungry to Passau, Germany. Along the way they enjoyed the history, architecture, and food of Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, and Germany. Most memorable was a night tour of Budapest, a hike to Castle Hill, and a tour of the Mauthausen Memorial Site. There were so many amazing sites along the Danube River that took them through 11 locks and countless bridges. This area was devastated by conquests and turmoil since before the Middle Ages and was partially destroyed during World War II. It survived Soviet rule during the Cold War. One of the most beautiful experiences was the slow float down through the Wachau Valley by hundreds of miles of tiered vineyards. It was a very relaxing and educational experiences that the Wilkins recommend to all!

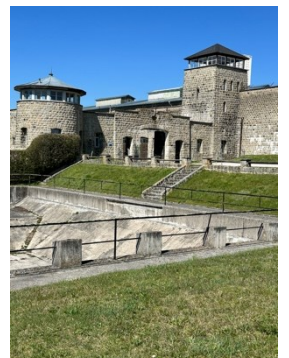
*Chain Bridge, Budapest;
Blown up by Nazis & rebuilt*



*Where 3 rivers meet in the background
Medieval Castle in Germany*



*Mauthhausen Memorial
Concentration Camp*

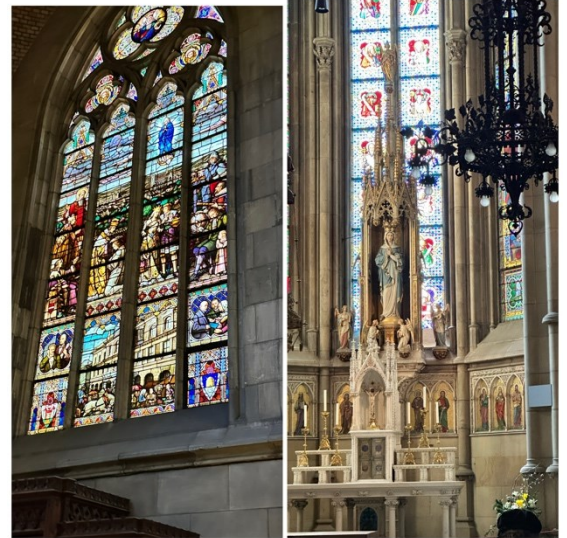




A beautiful fresco painting



Gothic Stained Glass



Theta News



Theta Chapter began their year 2025 with a meeting in February at **Johnette D'Arcy's** house. After catching up from the holidays because the weather cancelled their January meeting, they had time to spend playing games such as Uno. March's meeting was hosted by Ann Jones and we were happy to have our state president, Melinda Sams, visit with us as well as two other Tau members, Kathy and Ken Russell, who came with Melinda. We enjoyed listening to our speaker, Carrie Newman, from Legacies and Miracles. She had spoke about her upcoming mission trip to Uganda at our state Christmas Banquet. Each chapter had brought school supplies and donated money for the trip for Carrie to take to the children there. It was so wonderful to see her pictures of the work that her group did while in Uganda and hear how our gifts were able to bless others. We look forward to our final meeting in May where we will install 2025-2026 officers and plan out the year.



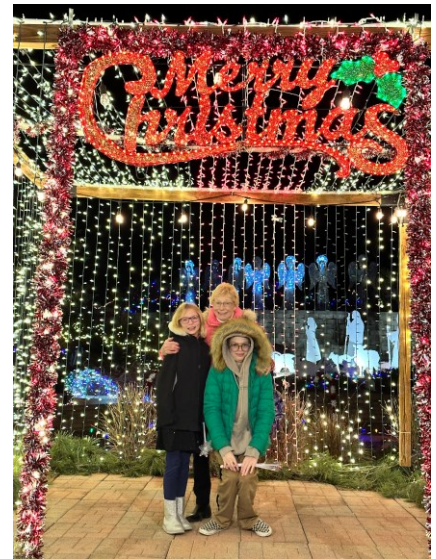
Loretta Vail

October brought the Lambda State Fall Meeting at Delmar Gardens. It was a great meeting at this new facility in Lawrenceville. Shortly after the meeting I was in a car crash that totaled my husband's car and broke my sternum. For the next six weeks I slept in my recliner and didn't do my usual routine. I am healed now and back to my life.

The first part of October, Tom moved his bookstore to a new location - not an easy task. Our daughter and my sister came to help us. This was all going on while I was recovering from the car crash. In January we had the Grand Opening of his new location in Auburn, GA.



Christmas was spent in Colorado Springs with my family. We did many fun things including a visit to a very large light show, 100,000 lights, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church. We also drove to Canon City to see a light show and look at the wonder of nature. Christmas morning at my place is always fun and exciting.



In February, I helped a group from my church at Medshare. We sorted donated materials that will be sent to third world countries to help with medical needs.

My friend, Carrie Newman, joined us at our Theta meeting in March and shared her experiences in Uganda. The last of March, Tom and I traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC to have a weekend get away. There we enjoyed the Sweet Carolina Neil Diamond Tour. What fun to listen to all his hits and sing along with lots of voices as we made Beautiful Noise!

Carol Hilburn and **Anita Beasley** planned to spend a leisurely week in Gatlinburg in January to wander and catch up after the holidays. They did get to visit the Smokies a few days before a snowstorm arrived and they had to leave quickly so as to not be stuck on icy, mountainous roads. They arrived home just in time for snow from another storm to hit the Atlanta area!

Anita Beasley's family were able to gather in Thomaston for her oldest grandson's wedding on March 8, 2025. Brandon and Savannah had a lovely, fun sunset wedding lakeside surrounded by loved ones, nature and bison! Yes, the Barn at Harper Pines is surrounded by fields with fenced in bison but they never cooperated to be in the background of pictures!

Anita's second grandson and his wife, Nathan and Allison, are expecting their third child this month.

This time they decided not to find out what the baby is so everyone will be surprised when he/she arrives. Anita's middle son accepted a job as a CNO for a small hospital in Plentywood, Montana. This is where he spent his first travel nurse job last year. He left Alaska and drove through the Yukon in the dead of winter to begin the job the first of February. Wayne and Anita see an upcoming trip to Montana and Colorado, where another son and grandson live in the near future.

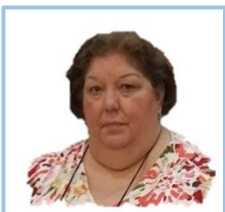


Margaret Van Buren has a new grandbaby. Matteo Lucas was born March 21st. He will make his first trip to Georgia in July.

Mu Crew News



M



Last year at this time member **Lori Burks** did not have a vehicle. Her car had been crushed when a tree next door fell onto her car, crushing it. The car was too old for insurance to replace it. She is happy to say "I. Have. A. Car!" What kind is it? Mu Chapter President Carol Lunsford will find out at the Lambda State Convention in April.



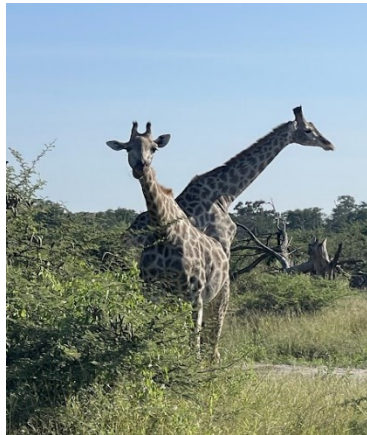


Laurel Colgate: Globe Trotter Adventures

Laurel is known for traveling around the world. Scotland, Ireland, and London took place during the spring of 2023. Mu Chapter President Carol Lunsford went along for the cruise. 2024 and 2025 have seen other cruises and trips. Iceland, been there. Antarctica, been there. Her latest trip was an African Safari. With each trip she takes, she creates lessons about the world around us to use with her students through her business <https://cnilinc.com/>. Laurel is internationally certified to work with students suffering Autism and Dyslexia. She will be the featured speaker during the Annual Luncheon for the 2025 National Kappa Kappa Iota Convention in Chattanooga.



Images from the trip to Antarctica.

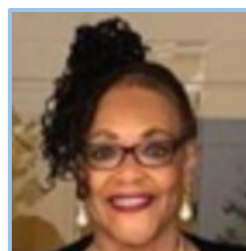


Photos from the Safari adventure.



Evelyn Davidson says that her Kappa Guy Mark retired (again), for good this time he says. He is enjoying being retired. He is still busy. With the recent storms and hail damage to their East Texas area he can be seen helping neighbors if needed. Damage to their home is minimal and they have their health.

Joyce Farrar-Rosemon
says she has no new news.





Member **Kathy Crocker-Paridon** is traveling between Georgia and Ohio to finalize the paperwork needed as she is the Executor of her mother's estate. She is excited to say that her Kappa Guy, Tony, has a new ride. A GT-40. This is the same car that was used in the movie Ferrari & Ford. Kathy, her friends and grandchildren enjoy the new ride. Take a look.

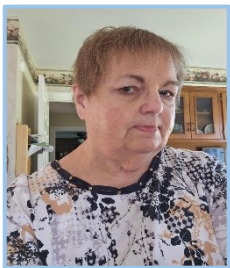


Dr. Barbara Culp sends daily Inspirational Messages to educators through her business Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/amyraconsultancy>

MU Chapter president, Carol Lunsford, shares these posts to all National Kappa Kappa Iota Facebook pages.

Dr. Barbara states, "In today's ever-evolving educational landscape, professional development plays a crucial role in empowering educators to enhance their teaching practices and foster student engagement. Inspirational professional development transcends traditional workshops and training sessions; it fosters a dynamic environment where teachers can grow, connect, and innovate.

To that end, I aim to inspire those who educate our children every day. That is why I send out daily inspirational messages through my company, Amrya. These messages serve to remind educators that they matter, and that people are cheering for their success and their students.



Carol Lunsford cut her hair. All she must do after washing it is to "blow and go". Busy in her community, Carol plans her days according to where she must be. She is an active member of the Double Nickel Players (all members are over the age of 55. Some are over 90 and some have just turned 55. She will soon be directing one skit and acting in another in the upcoming "Sunday Funnies". This production is on May 4, 2025, at the Clarksville Fine Arts Center. The Double Nickel activities can be followed by visiting the website <https://clarksvilleplayers.org/> When not at the theater Carol can be found at the

Clarksville Regional Museum as she has been appointed to the role of "Docent". What this means is that she volunteers her time each Friday and Saturday from 1 to 4PM guiding visitors through the museum and answering any questions. Memory of her childhood hometown and the community around her helps. Carol remains an active member of Clarksville Lions Club, helping during the annual Chili Sale, White Cane Event, and volunteering at the Clarksville Community Food Bank.



Iota Chapter chose Emergency Support Bags as one of their service projects for this year. Our member, Beth Pettigrew, wrote a marvelous grant that won our chapter \$1,500.00 from our local Electric Membership Cooperation. The bags were given to the Baldwin County sheriff, police and fire departments to be given to children when they were picked up from the home or in an emergency situation. Each bag was purple with a reflective stripe and was filled with a blanket, stuffed animal, toothbrush and paste, comb and brush, washcloth and soap, hand sanitizer and a bottle of Johnsons shampoo and bodywash combo. Attached to each bag was a purple luggage tag with the message "Someone loves you!" With the grant we were able to complete 120 bags.

Jan Anderson is thrilled to have her son John IV now attending Kennesaw State University and her son Noah finishing high school a year early and planning on joining his brother at Kennesaw this next school year. Jan attended the sewing Expo in Atlanta for the first time and enjoyed several sewing classes. She also spent way too much money but did come away with some wonderful items and an awesome back massager!!

Judy Montgomery enjoyed a birthday week with granddaughter who was born on her birthday in New Orleans. Her granddaughter is expecting her first great granddaughter in September.

Sandy Fountain was treated to a fun week in Phoenix, Arizona by her sister-in-law. While there she was able to visit an art exhibit, the Butterfly Wonderland, and a Chicago Cubs spring training game. She enjoyed the visit with family and new friends!

Sherri Zant and her husband Ron celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary in March in Jekyll Island, Ga. The weather was beautiful, and Driftwood Beach was an interesting and beautiful spot to see.

Noel Williamson is really looking forward to more spring weather so she can get outside to redo her planters for her porches!

Syd Trawick's great-nephew, Austin Dickens, is building a house on Swift Creek. Austin is the fifth generation of our family to live on Swift Creek in Hancock County.

Beth Pettigrew has enjoyed walking and going to the gym with her husband. Family has made frequent visits to her home for get-togethers.

Connie Granade attended her grandson, Joseph, and his fiancée, Elena's wedding March 22nd. The wedding was held in Charleston at the Magnolia Plantation. It was so beautiful and so much fun. They were married by Joseph's father, Connie's son, John. All the grandchildren were in the wedding, and they were so beautiful! ♥

Connie's granddaughter, Morgan, is expecting her second child in July, a little boy. Great grand number two! Jasmine, Connie's youngest grand child is playing soccer and getting ready to travel to Williamsburg on a school trip.

Adam, her middle grandson, is loving nursing in the emergency room at Peidmont Newnan.

Sam, her youngest grandson, is a junior at Georgia Tech. He is majoring in mechanical engineering. He is playing ultimate frisbee and having a wonderful experience.

Elsie Clark is still receiving physical therapy at her home. Since it's hard for her to get out, her family has inundated her with visits.

Marcelle and her husband, Jeff, have moved in with her mother, Mama Elsie, in order to care for her. Marcelle and Jeff's grandson, Westin, was just baptized at Haddock Baptist Church in Haddock. Spring break is coming soon, and all of their children are headed out of town. Their daughter and granddaughter, Sara and Ava, leave soon for a week in London, England; son Travis and his family will go to Holden Beach, NC; while son Clark and his family will vacation in Charleston, SC.