

Kappa Kappa Iota

Lambda State Kan Kan

Spring Issue, 2024, 5th edition
Kathy Russell, Editor

From the desk of the President

Hello Fellow Kappas!

Spring has finally arrived, and I don't remember another year that I looked so forward to the longer days of sunshine and nature coming back to life. The countryside is full of different colors as I drive around and I'm discovering a new hobby – plant identification. Apps make it so easy to point at a new flower or bloom and click! – I have the answer of what it is and all sorts of useful information. Last year I started a rose garden with four old-fashioned rose bushes – big blooms, big thorns! I generally do not have a green thumb, but they did so well; by the end of the summer, they were even sharing colors among the four different-colored roses. I plan on adding a few more rose bushes this year. I hope that each of you will try a new hobby or adventure this year. Trying new things is the best way to grow, to learn, to step out of one's comfort zone. By doing so, we stay younger, sometimes healthier, sometimes smarter but definitely more interesting!

We would love to see everyone at the Spring Convention at Hopewell United Methodist Church in Milledgeville on Saturday, April 13, 2024. We will be installing the 2024-2025 officers and remembering our members that have passed. Hear about the National Convention this June in Montgomery, Alabama. It is nearby so I hope Georgia will have a good turnout. Most of all, we will have a good time of fellowship and catching up with one another. I hope to see everyone there!

Sincerely,
Anita Beasley
2023-2024 State President



Spring Convention



Lambda State, Kappa Kappa Iota

Saturday, April 13, 2024

**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

Election/Installation of Officers

Professional Dev. By Loretta Vail

Memorial Service

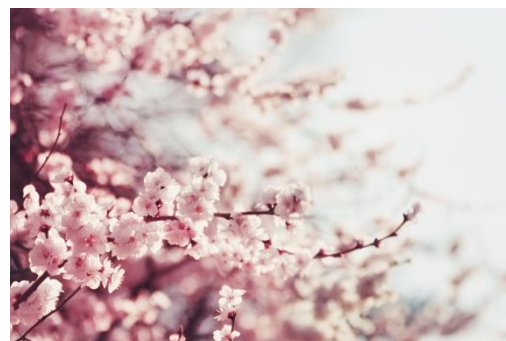
Lunch: \$20.00, [RSVP by April 9th, Marcelle Bridgeman 478-456-2457](#)

Here is the menu -

- Honey Lime Mesquite smoked chicken breast
- Steamed whole green beans in a yellow bell pepper butter
- Garlic and Parmesan Mashed Potato
- Dinner rolls
- Mixed Green salad with ranch, Italian, and Raspberry vinaigrette dressings
- Pecan or Apple Pie
- Water, Tea, Lemonade

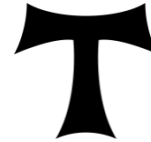


**Raffle Baskets: tickets \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00
homemade jellies**



News from our Chapters

Tales from Tau



Tau Chapter Fundraiser... and the winner is Destini Shope from Pickens County Schools in Jasper. Funds were used for Tau's Education Grant and additional monies will be donated to Lambda State Special Projects.

Tau Chapter awarded an 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. Then, they created a Book Review, Fan Art, or a Poem related to the book. Projects were judged and winners received certificates, ribbons, and gift certificates to their Scholastic Book Fair. Over 40 students participated and 60 guests attended the awards ceremony on February 10, 2024. They were joined by north Georgia author Nan Flickinger and illustrator Savannah who shared their book *Ellie J's Apples*.



Tau Chapter celebrated Christmas at the Tate House Dec. 9, 2023, with an official visit from State President Anita Beasley. This also was a joint meeting with **Theta Chapter**. The group also toured Tate Elementary School before lunch. Tate is known internationally for its marble quality; the school and House are made from marble.

Carolyn Wilkins completed course work to add a Dyslexia Endorsement to her teaching certificate. The changing landscape of reading instruction and Georgia's Early Literacy Act drove her to work on this. She also completed the Structured Literacy course work from Cox Campus, the only free training program in the country approved by The International Dyslexia Association.

Janet Martin will be flying to Scotland in April to attend the wedding of my International Student, Kimberly Baird. (She hosted Kimberly for one year, 2015-2016. And, many from Tau Chapter and Lambda State met Kimberly while she was here attending college in Kennesaw.) She is getting married on April 13, 2024, in a traditional Scottish wedding ceremony, with all the male attendees wearing Kilts. Janet's husband, Larry Eggersman, will be wearing the Baird Family's Scottish Kilt design and will be praying a blessing at the ceremony for the couple.

Ken and Kathy Russell, provided a personal development opportunity as they shared pictures and information about their 10 day trip, which began in Athens, Greece. They viewed temples, museums, and holy sites as they explored the beautiful country. During their tour, they were able to see Greek Orthodox monasteries and

abbeys that were part of the mountains. Part of their adventure included tasting local cuisine and participating in traditional Greek dancing. They moved from island to island on a cruise ship. After visiting Greece, they went to Turkey. In Turkey, they went to the Turkish market and watched as merchants shared a demonstration of Turkish rug making and “flying carpets,” a method the merchants use to unroll the carpets for tourists. While in Turkey, they also toured the ancient city of Ephesus. Tau chapter was then engaged in learning about Rhodes. In this beautiful location, the history of the Knights Templar was part of the experience. The island of Patmos was another opportunity to visit Biblical sites. More history included the site of the 1896 Olympics, the first modern Olympics. On their travels back to Georgia, Ken and Kathy had a layover in Switzerland where they took advantage of the time to explore this country. The Russells shared that one of the most memorable parts of the trip was the amazing sunsets they saw every evening.



Theta News



Theta Chapter started the year off “Taco -ing” about Education. We welcomed Carolyn Wilkins from Tau Chapter to lead us in a discussion about the new ELA standards that will begin in Georgia. It was a very insightful discussion followed up by a taco bar luncheon. Our second meeting on “Disaster Planning” was very informative with members leaving with a bright red “emergency bag” with handouts discussing what we need to have in place for natural disasters, routine car troubles, going on walks, end-of-life documents and even a nuclear attack! In January we remembered our past by wearing our “Aprons and Pearls”, two items that Kappas probably wore at chapter meetings (if they were hosting) or attending. We shared facts about pearls that many did not know from how they are formed, the different types and how to take care of them. We also quizzed ourselves about the history of Kappa Kappa Iota using a handout that National provided. We collected much needed socks and mittens to take to a women’s shelter. We had a hands-on Spa meeting in February. After discussing reasons we should have self-care in our daily routines we participated in facials and made our own “make-and-take” lip scrub, bath salts and sugar scrub. Since we met the weekend of the Super Bowl, we collected cans of soup, and they were donated to a “blessing box” that provides for the needy and to a local food bank. Our March meeting was another “make-and-take” experience. We discussed why violets

were Kappa's chosen flower to represent us and then shared facts about wild violets and all their uses. We then tasted candy made from violets, violet infused lemonade, and we decorated sugar cookies and cupcakes with real foraged wild violets that had been cleaned with some sugar frosted, some dried. We enjoyed our creations and made baskets to include some for our Theta members that can no longer come to meetings. We look forward to our spring meetings before taking a summer break.

Anita Beasley spent the month of February reading children's book as a consultant for the Ferst Readers foundation. This foundation sends books out to infants up to five years of age each month, free of charge to the family. The cost for the program is raised by local Community Action Team or "CAT team" which Anita and Carol Hilburn are members of for Henry County. Anita was on the panel of readers this year to chose which books would be selected to use the next year, as the books are routinely added and taken off to keep the selection up to date.

It was also a time of welcoming home one family member and saying good-bye to another. Anita's grandson that had served in the Air Force in Italy for 3 years was transferred to the Space Force in a one-time rearrangement of staff in the armed forces. He was able to spend Christmas with family for the first time since Covid before moving to Colorado Springs for his new assignment. Colorado Springs is much closer than Italy! Anita's second son left Georgia to take a travel nurse assignment in Plentywood, Montana – 30 miles south of the Canadian border. He is doing well, and they have already asked him to do a second rotation there so he will be in Montana until September. He was asked to visit the local elementary school to read to the students and talk to them about being a nurse. He was told that they have never seen a male nurse in the area, and they wanted the children to know that it is a field for all to go into in hopes that more local school graduates will stay in the area rather than move off.

Loretta Vail: Tom and I had a get away to Asheville, NC.
We walked a short time on the Appalachian Trail.



A book signing for Jan Brown author of *Mortal Matters*, a story of the nine unnamed women in the Bible. It was held at the Corner Bookstore in Winder.

Love my time in Colorado to spend time with Ian and Catherine. We were on our way to the play, ELF.



Love seeing Pikes Peak - one of the joys of Colorado Springs.

Mu Crew News



M



Mu Crew Member, **Paulette J Bass**, entered the Omega Chapter October 27, 2023.

Paulette served Kappa Kappa Iota as the Empathy Chair for Mu Chapter and was a “cheerleader” for Kappa. During her residence in a rehabilitation center, Paulette actively sought out residents who were former educators asking them to join her Kappa group. She opened the community center for joint Kappa meetings. She donated most of her bears received as prizes from bingo games to Mu Chapter for the “Books-n-Bears” program. Mu Chapter donated a collection of bears

to a local program aiding children in the foster care system. See the newspaper article below.

Group donates to Bloom
By [The Citizen](#) January 11, 2016

Fayette County’s local chapter of Kappa Kappa Iota, the nation’s oldest professional organization for educators, presented a collection of teddy bears and other stuffed animals to Bloom. The collection of bears is an annual community service project of Kappa Kappa Iota nationwide. Members give support and assistance whenever needed to organizations that provide services to children who are victims of abuse, neglect, or violence.



Becky Davenport, executive director of Bloom, accepted the collection from Paulette Bass, who donated the bears to the local chapter.



Member **Lori Burks** is excited to report that she is now walking with a cane instead of using a walker.

Mu Chapter member, **Dr. Barbara D. Culp** has exciting news. A movie script written approximately ten years ago is now receiving attention. She's been asked to submit a Pitch Deck for possible funding. She recently received a Wish for a Lifetime grant from AARP. Dr. Barbara continues to update her education series Words of Wisdom to be relevant for students, parents, educators, school officials, and the community in today's school settings. She is now writing a novel which addresses issues centered around mental health for young readers. A British Literary Agent wants to mentor her in finishing the book successfully. She states her cup is running over with many blessings and is excited the world still needs her services.

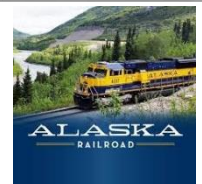


Atlanta GA - Akron-Canton OH

Mu member **Kathy Asher Crocker-Paridon** spends her time traveling from her home in Georgia to the center where her mother lives in Ohio.



Mu Chapter member, **Evelyn Davidson**, and her Kappa guy Mark plan on traveling to Alaska this summer. They have specific dates but are unsure of cruise line schedules.



Evelyn attended an Andrea Bocelli concert last fall. She even acquired new finery for the event.



Lambda State Mu Chapter member, **C. Joyce Farrar-Rosemon**, inventor of Squeeze the Hope Teddy Bears® and author of Caleb the Cancer-Fighting Bear Coloring and Activity Book has expanded her line of therapeutic products that support individuals and families experiencing cancer. Her new product line showcases her flagship character, Caleb the Cancer-Fighting Bear. In the book he offers hope to newly diagnosed Charlie by providing musical and therapeutic activities that encourage him to become a cancer survivor.

Products designed to help children and families affected by cancer are available through Zazzle.com and her website. These products are designed to help the affected children and families to relax and focus on getting better during cancer treatments and reinforce the goal of their loved one ringing the bell one day soon.

A portion of her cancer bear sales will be contributed to Harbor of Hope Inc., a breast cancer survivor non-profit in Henry County, Georgia and Children's Sickle Cell Foundation Inc. They are available for purchase at

<https://www.hopetedybears.com> and



www.zazzle.com/store/cancerproducts/collections

<https://www.zazzle.com/store/cancerproducts/collections>.

Mu Chapter president wrote an article for the local newspaper showcasing Joyce and her Hope Teddy Bears. Go to this site to view the article. <https://www.sovanow.com/pageview/viewer/2024-03-27#page=22>

Look for section D1.

Cancer Survivor Gifts Give Hope to Kids and Families Experiencing Cancer and Depression



www.HopeTeddyBears.com



Mu Chapter member, **Carol A Lunsford** is active in her community. She is a member of the Double Nickel Players, Thespians 55+ in age. Activities of the Double Nickels take place in the Clarksville Fine Arts Center (the former elementary school). The facility director's office is her former second grade classroom.

Recently she vacuumed the theater seating area in preparation for a visiting concert by The Folsom 4 and songs of Johnny Cash.

She volunteers at the Clarksville Regional Museum and assists with the Backpack Buddies program, helping to bag food items to give to the students in need at Clarksville Elementary School and Mecklenburg County Middle School.



Carol delivered clothing items to Donna Lopez, Spanish teacher at Mecklenburg County Middle students who are homeless or families struggling to make ends meet. Ms. Lopez attended a ZOOM meeting with Mu Chapter to explain her Secret Santa program. Carol volunteers at the Clarksville Food pantry with her church and the local Lions Club.



School for the



Ms. Lopez attended





Monday, March 25, 2024, Carol was formerly inducted into Lions Club International. The Lions Club International community services programs are very similar to those of Kappa Kappa Iota.



Kappa News

K



Emily Purcell and William (Billy) Scott Everett were married on October 7, 2023 in Atlanta. Emily and Billy live in Tucker, where she works for Nova Engineering as a Geologist.

Emily is the daughter of Kappa member **Patti Purcell** and the granddaughter of Kappa member **Pat Brown**.

Iota News

I

Noel Williamson sold her home on the lake overnight and has moved two times between April 14th & August 1st. Soo now she's ready to travel: she has a trip to Destin with younger son's family the first week in April, and an Alaskan cruise with older son's family in June! Footloose and fancy free!

Jill Rochon has worked tirelessly this year to promote awareness in our community that we have many, many families who are food insecure. She has approached many civic groups and churches asking their help feeding these individuals through the local food bank: Chard Wray. She also was able to secure a front page newspaper article to help with this need. This is an ongoing mission for her and for our chapter of Kappa Kappa Iota. This past year, Jill Rochon lost her husband to Alzheimer's but has not stopped traveling. She has traveled to the Galápagos Islands and Ecuador before the political climate changed. She has also traveled to Madeira Portugal with her youngest son and his wife, her sister and brother. She is going to Cartagena Columbia with her oldest son's family that includes her precious grandsons.

This year **Sherri Zant** has an Alaskan cruise planned and a trip to the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. She continues to enjoy her two precious grandchildren and volunteers at their school.

Sandy Fountain has spent the past year participating in pickleball and badminton. This fun was interrupted by surgery and recovery for a detached retina. Other activities have included various household upgrades including a new septic drain field, roof, and windows. She has also indulged in seeing musicals and plays, something that she enjoys with her youngest daughter. Facilitating a book club every month has kept her reading pile stacked high. Of course participating in her Kappa's chapter meetings and projects has been fulfilling.

Jan Anderson is enjoying the retirement life and is busier now than she's been before. She's taken a leadership role in her church with its lap quilt ministry. She's increased her knowledge with a sewing guild and has created many things this year including a lovely purple rag quilt she's donated towards the GA Kappa Spring Convention. Jan has wanted to increase her card correspondences and has acquired a ladies 20 year Stampin' Up collection and is starting a card ministry at her church. Jan has also joined the Learning in Retirement book club and is enjoying and discussing many good books. Speaking of books... Several times a year Jan and other Kappas go around town and put books in the Little Free Libraries.

Syd Trawick and her sisters have been collecting artwork of their Mother done over the last 70 years. They have created a ""Gallery of Miss Trudy's drawings and paintings". Syd also enjoys being on her tractor everyday mowing and getting the yards ready for Spring. She also enjoys tending her goats every day.

Elsie Clark as always enjoys making jams and jellies. After her fall in August, she's glad she is still able to enjoy her hobbies.

Marcelle Bridgeman stays busy taking care of her husband, Jeff, Mama Elsie and grandchildren. Jeff is retired and is home fulltime now. Mama Elsie is not as spry now that she is 94. Marcelle does most of the cooking. Poor family! She picks up grandchildren from school each afternoon and enjoys them until their parents get home from work. On Mondays, she enjoys trivia at Amici's restaurant with her son Travis and his family. Life is good.

Marcelle and Jeff Bridgeman will enjoy their 50th wedding anniversary June 8th. To celebrate they are taking an Alaskan cruise and land tour. Their daughter, Sara, and their granddaughter, Ava, will accompany them.

Connie Granade and family are looking forward to celebrating her grandson Adam's graduation from nursing school in May. A trip is planned to the West Coast for a celebration. Her great-granddaughter, Harper is growing so fast and now has two teeth. Her grandson, Sam is completing his sophomore year at Georgia Tech. Joseph, her grandson is completing the first year of his fellowship in gastrology. Jasmine, her youngest granddaughter is enjoying playing soccer this spring and has a straight A report card for seventh grade.