



Epsilon's website: www.dkgepsilonnj.weebly.com

DKG State Website: <https://www.dkgnj.org/>

Password: Annie Webb Blanton

News from Epsilon Chapter April 2024

Convention Highlights!

The DKGNJ state convention was held at the Doubletree in Somerset NJ from April 12th through 14th, and it was fantastic!! Sixteen Epsilon Sisters and one Epsilon Inductee attended. We began the weekend with a delicious ice cream social and a silent auction. The baskets contributed by each state chapter were diverse and beautiful. The three Epsilon baskets were the talk of the evening, especially as everyone wanted one of those cute handmade duckies!! Thanks to Susan Brezina and Lorie Jeskey for making those wonderful baskets. It was fun to see our Epsilon sisters walk away with so many baskets won too!

Of course, there were the Friday and Saturday night PJ parties held by President Betty Monaghan. These were a lot of fun! Remember, what happens at DKGNJ stays at DKGNJ! LOL!

Saturday was the busy day of the convention with Induction rehearsal, inductee orientation, a state meeting, breakout workshops, our state "birthday" luncheon, more breakout workshops, the Induction Ceremony and our state banquet and award ceremonies. Thanks to Epsilon's Lisa Hirkaler who hosted a book discussion session. Also, all day on Saturday was DKGNJ's first State Art Show. Epsilon's Patty Curtis co-chaired this event, and it was a wonderful success! It was so moving to experience the various artistic media on display, many of which were created by our Epsilon sisters. Check out our website (www.dkgepsilonnj.weebly.com) for more information and pictures of the art. Many thanks to Patty and all our sisters who made this show such a success!

Three Epsilon sisters were recognized as having 50 years in our organization. Congratulations to Georgeanna Lewis, Mary Alice Hosking and Elba Lane. We thank you for your many years of service and dedication.

As always, the Induction Ceremony was both solemn and deeply meaningful for all who attended. We officially welcomed Melissa Neamand into Epsilon at the State Induction Ceremony. This ceremony is like no other. It is a solemn and moving welcome for our new members and a reminder for all of us to continue to commit ourselves to supporting each other as women in the education community. It is difficult to adequately describe the waves of emotion and sense of unity that this ceremony fosters.

If you have not been to the convention lately, perhaps since your own induction, try to get there next year (April 4 - 6, 2025). Sharing these experiences with so many women educators from all over the state is rejuvenating and energizing.

Lorie Jeskey was presented with the Rose Award for Epsilon Chapter at the Saturday evening Awards Banquet. Congratulations, Lorie!! Well deserved!

Sunday morning's Celebration of Life was a lovely tribute to those members of DKGNJ who passed in 2023. Several of these sisters were well known for their contributions to the state organization. It is always a moving experience to learn about the richness of the lives of women from around the state who we may not have known personally but share the same community and commitment to education.

Finally, no discussion of the convention would be possible without the outstanding efforts of the DKGNJ Convention Committee. Epsilon's own Susan Davis is the Facilities Chair for this committee. It takes a tremendous amount of planning for this convention of many moving parts to run smoothly, and I watched Sue handle it all like a Maestro with an orchestra! She was everywhere all at once. With one nod in the banquet hall, service was begun. Workshop rooms were equipped with everything needed. Last minute issues were easily resolved. Etc. Susan does all this seamlessly and with a smile on her face. Thank you Sue!

Meeting News!

Our final meeting for the year will be on **Saturday April 27th** at 11am at The Grand Tavern in Hackettstown (109 Grand Avenue - the old Bea McNally's) We will be able to order off the menu and receive separate checks. [Here is a link to the menu](#). We will have our own room. There is a parking lot behind the restaurant - no meters. The program will be health-wise with some of our Epsilon sisters sharing means to better health. We will also be having an **Installation of Officers** and an **Induction Ceremony** for new members who were unable to attend the State Convention.

We will be revealing our **Secret Sisters** at the April meeting as well!!

Dues for next year will be collected at the meeting.

Dues are **\$86**, and Epsilon must pay dues to DKGNJ by June 30th, so please bring a check made out to DKG Epsilon with you to the May meeting. Alternatively, you may mail your payment to Joan Lucas at 41 Carriage Lane, Sparta NJ 07871.

Upcoming Epsilon events - mark your calendars!!

Epsilon Book Club:

Many thanks to **Barb Edwards** who has been organizing and hosting Epsilon's Book Club for several years now. She has done an outstanding job! As Barb has agreed to be our new 2nd Vice President, Betty Monaghan has agreed to assume the Book Club responsibilities.

Our next Book Club discussion will be on **Wednesday June 5th at 5 pm** at the Andover Diner. We will be discussing In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom by Yeonmi Park.

Book club meets every other month on the first Wednesday of the month. Our August meeting will be at 12 noon at Lodestar Park pavilion in Fredon. We will be discussing The Women by Kristin Hannah.

All are welcome to join Epsilon's book club!

Manna House

Our next service opportunity will be on May 31st. Maija will be sending out an email for volunteers.

DKGNJ State Meeting

Saturday June 1 at Steinert HS, Hamilton NJ. All are welcome. The state meetings are a great opportunity to network and build relationships with DKG sisters throughout the state.

Epsilon's Projects and Oppurtunities:

Book Smiles: Cindy Seamans (cindylourple@gmail.com)

Remember, any book donations you make to any facility count, so let Cindy know!

Below, please find the places accepting donations that seem to be active. If you know of others, please let Cindy know.

The **Sussex Wantage Library** will accept books each month prior to the second Saturday of the month. Call before you bring books yourself. Phone number 973-875-3940

The **book bin at Hospice** may be full when you go to it, however it is emptied periodically, so don't give up

Benny's Bodega on Spring Street will also accept donations.

DASACC located in Warren County also accepts donations.

The Book Barn across from St Clare's Hospital in Denville also accepts book donations. They resell books to raise funds for the hospital. It's also a great place to go book shopping!

Epsilon Website Information

Our website URL is www.dkgepsilonnj.weebly.com

Barbara Edwards is our webmaster, and she has made several updates to the website.

You can find information about the convention and pictures of the artwork. On the bottom of the homepage she has posted the link to the latest DKG yearbook directory.

The link takes you to the State website, and the directory is password protected. The password is: Annie Webb Blanton. You must type her name in with the spaces.

Epsilon's information is on pages 36 - 47.

Scholarship Information:

Information is on the DKGNJ website at <https://www.dkgnj.org/> and look under the heading "What We Do". Detailed information and applications can be found at

<https://www.dkgnj.org/scholarships--stipends.html>.