

# Alpha Sigma Report

The Newsletter of the Alpha Sigma Chapter, Kitsap County, Washington

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Vol. 11, #2 Winter 2021

Contact the Alpha Sigma Chapter via e-mail: <[dkgkitsap@yahoo.com](mailto:dkgkitsap@yahoo.com)>

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

## Social Justice in Kitsap County

The 2021 Alpha Sigma Kitsap seminar topic of “Social Justice in Kitsap County” struck a huge chord. Over seventy individuals attended the Zoom meeting on February 16, 2021 to hear panelists discuss issues, barriers and work being done or planned for addressing social justice needs in the community.



Panelists came from a variety of backgrounds and represented views of varying groups grappling with inequities. In questions presented by moderator Dr. Sandra Cross, many noted that systems have

not been built to address the values of diverse groups in the populace. Services lack sustainability, leaving individuals, whether LGBTQ, immigrant or other persons of color, feeling vulnerable and unsafe. Tracy Flood, president of the Kitsap NAACP, noted that when people have fear (of the unknown, of change, etc.), they sometimes react in unpredictable ways. Annie Forsman-Adams, with the Indigenous Crime Victims Referral and Resource Center, concurred, noting that a history of constant attack can create a vacuum and lead to violence, such as has happened to Native women.

Both Loanne Harmeling of the Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC) and social worker Ann Jensen spoke to the importance of providing safe environments for all people to be themselves and feel respected for who they are and the challenges they face everyday.

When asked when was it appropriate to challenge the beliefs of the teaching community, panelists quoted Martin Luther King who said, “The time is

(see Justice on p. 5)

Check it out!

DKG International website: [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

Washington State website: [www.dkgwa.org](http://www.dkgwa.org)

Alpha Sigma Chapter, Kitsap website:

<https://dkgkitsap.weebly.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/alpha.sigma.dkg/>

## Upcoming Events:

Speak Up School Advocacy Training

March 2, 6, 11, and 25, 2021

see [www.dkgwa.org](http://www.dkgwa.org) to register

Can Schools be a Place for Healing Trauma?

March 20, 2021 9:00—10:30 a.m.

Virtual Conversion hosted by D.C. DKG  
(contact Carol Linscott for information)

Area X Workshop: Bloedel

April 17, 2021

Time: TBD

Dealing with Anxiety

Presenter: Jackie Finckler

April 20, 2021

Zoom meeting 5 p.m.

## DKG Purpose #7

*To inform members of current economic, social political and educational issues so they may participate effectively in a world society.*

## Testifying is Advocacy Power



The Washington State Organization DKG is presenting a workshop series in March 2021 to inform members about redistricting concepts and issues and to provide training in giving testimony before the Washington Redistricting Commission this spring. The Speak Up School workshops were developed by the Washington State League of Women Voters and will be given by a combination of redistricting experts and a team of DKG members trained in the workshops. Washington State Organization DKG is a sponsoring partner for the workshop series on March 2, 6, 11, and 25, 2021.

Members may wonder why offer workshops on redistricting? Are there problems with the Washington State boundaries that we need to address before the Redistricting Commission? Why attend the Speak Up Schools? Isn't it all gerrymandered anyway? Will my district ever change? Where would I find the data needed to testify? How does one testify? Objections and barriers are commonly expressed, but can just as easily be overcome if one is interested. The purpose of the schools is to help participants become more comfortable with testifying and to assist them to develop their testimony. Jim Rohn once said, "If you really want to do something, you'll find a way." The Speak Up Schools offer you a way to ensure that redistricting in Washington is more than politics as usual.

There is much to learn about this essential feature of our democracy and the important role to be played by ordinary citizens. Policy makers and the community need to hear from us to improve circumstances around issues we care about. Yes, even education issues are determined by the way in which Legislative and Congressional boundaries are drawn. Your voting power starts with redistricting. Unless the commissioners hear from us otherwise, they will continue to horse trade, gerrymander, or otherwise minimize their work load. It is up to us to tell them how we want the maps to be drawn, what is important to us and what criteria we want them to prioritize.

Look for details about the Speak Up School on the DKG web site and sign up for those sessions that most tweak your interests. <https://www.dkgwa.org/speak-up-school.html>. The March 2 session provides an overview of redistricting. Tips for writing and giving testimony will be covered on March 6th, along with a keynote address from April Sims, one of the Redistricting Commissioners. Learning how to examine census and demographic information from a variety of perspectives is the content of the March 11th training while on March 25th, participants will learn about an easy to use application to draw their own redistricting maps.

## Literacy Project 2020-2021

The Alpha Sigma Chapter Kitsap is still hoping to gather over 200 books this year to donate to the Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center as part of our Literacy Project goal. But, according to our Project chair, Susan Fritts, donations have been lagging—largely due to restrictions imposed by the covid pandemic and the need to keep everyone safe.

Have you found it difficult to do your usual used book browsing to purchase gently used books for the project? Here is an idea (borrowed from the Kappa Chapter Kent). Why not make a monetary donation equivalent to the purchase of books that we can send to KIAC?

Donation forms are available on the chapter web site: [dkgkitsap@weebly.com](mailto:dkgkitsap@weebly.com). Or you can mail a check to treasurer Donna Faulk at P.O. Box 1752, Poulsbo, WA 98370. Please help us reach our goal despite covid!



# Member Profile:

## Lindsay Little

We don't get to see her very often because Lindsay Little took some time off teaching to return to graduate school in Bellingham. But we hear from Lindsay from time to time regarding her research projects OR to support her advocacy efforts on behalf of student teachers of diverse backgrounds. Thus we get a glimpse of the dynamic leader Lindsay is and promises to become. How fortunate to have her as part of our chapter!

Lindsay graduated from the University of Washington in 2015 with a degree in history and this Spring will graduate from Western with a Masters in Teaching in Secondary Education. She will have endorsements in both math and social studies and soon thereafter endorsements in Spanish and ELL/Bilingual Education. At the same time, while at Western, Lindsay has been a TA in Instructional Technology allowing her to hone her skills in using technology to deepen student learning.

Lindsay describes her capstone project at Western as combining math, technology and social studies standards to teach community citizenship and social justice in the classroom. She is certainly a remarkably well prepared teacher!

Like many of us, Lindsay loves that no two days in teaching are ever the same; thus, she is constantly learning and trying new things. Lindsay says, "It's such a joy to see the "aha" moment on students' faces, and the more I teach, the more I realize that they are teaching me and I have constant aha moments of my own." She looks forward to using her new skills and aha moments to teach dual language math or social studies for a few years before pursuing an EdD in Curriculum and Instruction.

Lindsay is a firm believer in giving back to the community—an important idea in her culture—and sees teaching as a wonderful way to do just that. She would like to teach forever, though not necessarily in a traditional classroom. Her dream job would be to serve as Director of Curriculum at the Smithsonian



Institution National Museum of the American Latinx (which would first have to be funded by Congress).

In the meantime, Lindsay is engaged in advocacy work related to HB 1028, which would postpone some of the requirements for certification made particularly cumbersome by on-line instruction during COVID. She would like to see some modifications made in the requirements post-COVID to remove barriers for certification of non-native English speakers.

Outside of school and teaching, Lindsay plays and coaches lacrosse, dances baile folklorico (traditional Mexican folk dances), and likes to hike and travel with, to quote Lindsay, "the incomparable Martha Little." (We couldn't agree more.) Lindsay and her mother Martha plan to hike El Camino when its safe.

Lindsay has indicated that when she is able to return to DKG meetings, she plans to immerse herself in the wisdom that comes from experience and to share her own with other new educators. We will certainly look forward to her active participation in the chapter.

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### Outstanding Educators 2021 Recognition

The annual Outstanding Educators reception will be held virtually this year but still promises to be a special event for DKG members, the Outstanding Educator honorees and their families, according to Committee chair Carol Linscott.

**April 27, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Join in to meet this year's new class of honorees.



## Alpha Sigma Chapter Year - at - a - Glance

Due to the continuing threat of the COVID pandemic, there will be fewer meetings in Fall 2020. Members will be contacted and committee work will continue via Zoom and other on-line platforms.

September 15, 2020  
2020—21 Kick-off/Orientation  
Zoom meeting

November 17 2020  
Morrow Manor Transition Homes  
Virtual Tour and  
Presentation  
Zoom Meeting

**CANCELLED**

February 16, 2021  
Seminar—open to all educators  
Clock hours available  
Social Justice in Our Community  
Poulsbo Library and/or Zoom

March 16, 2021  
Morrow Manor Update  
Zoom Meeting

**CANCELLED**

April 17, 2021  
Area X Joint Workshop

April 20, 2021  
Dealing with Anxiety  
Location: TBD

April 26—May 2, 2021  
WA State Virtual Convention  
Olympia Red Lion

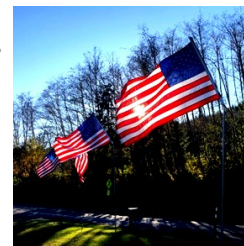
May 18, 2021  
Book Circle/ Induction  
Andrea's home

July 7—10, 2021  
International Conference  
Portland, Oregon

Donations collected for World  
Fellowship all year or through  
the one-for-all funding campaign.

## President's Post :

**So we lift our gazes not to what stands between us  
But what stands before us  
We close the divide because we know to put our  
future first,  
We must first put our differences aside  
We lay down our arms  
So we can reach out our arms  
To one another,  
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.**



**-- Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate**

Happy New Year! I'm writing this message at the end of Inauguration Day, a day that marks new beginnings for our country. The historic formalities I have seen before, yet it was so different with the lack of cheering crowds. Although the pomp and process was familiar, much of the pageantry was muted with grief and sadness over those lost in the pandemic. I know that for most this was a very happy day, for some not so much, but no one can deny the fact it was a new day for all Americans.

Here at home, life in a pandemic goes on. We hear of some of us getting our vaccine injections, with more of us getting our shots in the next few weeks. (In my opinion, not soon enough!) We hear of friends and family testing positive for the virus. We mask up, we social distance, we try to stay safe. We worry about our mental health. In North Kitsap School District, we welcomed back our Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Behind their multicolored masks, we could see their smiles through their shining eyes, (as well as tears in the eyes of the adults) and lots of thumbs-up as they got their temperatures taken and headed to their classrooms. Although only half of the kids in each class attend at a time, it gave our teachers hope that life would get back to normal. One of my colleagues shared, "It reminded me of why I am a teacher—to teach students face to face in a classroom." Meanwhile, I hear our secondary teachers struggle each day with getting their students to engage with academic content behind a screen. We worry for the future of these young people. But when I hear the eloquent words of our first Youth Poet Laureate, I think, if there are even a handful of young people like her in the world, who can inspire us with their poems, then there is hope.

Thank you to all who registered for our first virtual seminar on February 16, "Social Justice in Kitsap County." Our chapter's Educational Excellence committee, under the leadership of Dr. Sandra Cross and Kathy Caldwell, gathered an impressive list of panelists and it certainly was a very informative evening. I am striving to broaden my understanding of social justice. Make this a year that we "reach out our arms to one another, we seek harm to none and harmony for all."

*Andrea Neault, President 2020-2022*

## In the News . . .



Views of Morrow Manor toured by four chapter members in December, 2020. Tour guide, Jim Schlachter of the Poulsbo North Kitsap Rotary Club, has led the building of the 8 unit facility soon to be open to survivors of domestic abuse. Thank you to DKG members for your continued support.

### (Justice, cont. from p. 1)

always right to do what's right." Panelists replied that teachers need to challenge the "system" or any system that marginalizes people. They need to be "co-spirators" [conspirators] and part of the work to question, inquire and dialogue with others to create a movement for change. Educators need to stay open to the possibilities, to listening, to understanding that what someone else is feeling is valid and real, hence their concerns worthy of being explored and changed.

Panelists were optimistic about the future of social justice reform. Noting that people are remarkably resilient and that the younger generations are becoming engaged in social justice advocacy, they pointed to needs for multiple support systems that are not only culturally responsive but culturally sustaining. Voting rights reform and improvements in criminal justice/policing are needed. Immigrants need to be seen as having a positive impact on the community, not as criminals. Protections are needed for an aging population and for LGBTQ persons, who are particularly high-risk for suicide. For many panelists, "respect" was the key to a brighter future for social justice in Kitsap County.

How can community members support the work of these agencies serving vulnerable populations? Martha Little, NKSD coordinator for Bi-Lingual Services, encouraged community members to become

part of the Equity Committees at various levels of government from tribal, school district, city and county, to state and national, to keep the dialogue going. Becoming an ally, whether by displaying welcome symbols, or donating time and/or money to agencies is helpful. Volunteering is welcomed and needed where ever one finds a passion, from tutoring applicants for Naturalization to providing food and clothing, or helping prepare taxes or volunteering on suicide hot lines. Monitoring and advocating for legislation that promotes social justice is very needed and welcomed, according to several of the panelists.

In concluding remarks, panelists emphasized the need to be aware of one's biases and behavior, to learn and be cognizant of the language we use that promotes or denies inclusivity. Or that fosters or negates social justice. They spoke to the need to educate children from a young age to value differences, even if we disagree, and to respect the rights of individuals to be different. More importantly, to demonstrate the value of all individuals and to ensure that each has a right to social justice, adequate health care, voting rights and so on simply because of our shared humanity.

This valuable seminar was due to the hard work of the Alpha Sigma Kitsap DKG program committee: Dr. Cross and Kathy Caldwell, co-chair, Judy Kasnick, member. Special thanks also to Kate Moriarty and Andrea Neault for hosting the Zoom event.

# News from around the State

## State Spring Convention likely a virtual event.

The State WSO DKG Spring Convention is being planned as a virtual event since COVID still poses a risk to DKG members and the state restrictions on large gatherings is expected to remain in place. The event will take place from April 26—May 2, 2021 and will include a number of clock hour workshops, special events, fast break fun activities, and the conducting of State business.

Look for registration information around mid-March and then email confirmation with detailed Zoom meeting links. Most events will take place after 5 pm or on the weekend so that active teachers can attend.

## Area X “Workshop” at Bloedel Reserve

Discussions are underway to have the 2021 Area X workshop, a joint meeting of Alpha Sigma Kitsap and Beta Nu Clallam, on April 17 at the Bloedel Nature Reserve on Bainbridge Island. Participants would be assigned to groups of 5 to explore the reserve socially distanced and discuss the healing power of nature. Stay tuned for more information. Wouldn't it be lovely!

## Portland hosts International Conference 2021

Save the date! July 7—10, 2021 for the next big DKG International Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon. The conference will include a variety of professional and personal development workshops as well as training for DKG officers. Hotel reservations are filling quickly so make your reservation now. (It can be cancelled without cost up to 48 hours in advance.) The conference registration fee of \$160 is non-refundable. For more information see [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org).

Finished reading your newsletter and copying down all the important dates and information into your calendars? Want to help increase our membership?

You can assist in spreading the word about DKG and the Alpha Sigma Chapter by **sharing this newsletter** with former members, teachers in your school (or former school), and other educators you think might make good DKG members. Make as many copies as you want and distribute them to individuals; put them in faculty lunchrooms; add a copy to a basket of fruit or plate of



Winter 2021 photo by Pat Bennett-Forman

## “Legislative” Update:

Bills to become informed about and to write or speak to your legislators about your positions:

SB 5030—comprehensive school counseling—passed in Senate, now in House Ed Committee.

SB 5044—concerning professional learning, equity, cultural competency and dismantling racism in the public school system—passed the Senate, now in the House Education Committee.

HB 1336—digital equity; creating and expanding unrestricted authority for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end users (students) - passed House, now in Senate Ed Committee.

Federal legislation to watch and comment upon:

HR 82 Social Security Fairness Act—fully repeals current reductions to social security survivor benefits imposed by Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act would provide \$150/mo to current retirees and \$75/mo to future retirees.

*The Alpha Sigma Report* is published quarterly: Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. To submit articles for the *Alpha Sigma Report*, send materials to Pat Bennett-Forman, editor, <[bennettforman.p@gmail.com](mailto:bennettforman.p@gmail.com)>. The editorial board reserves the right to alter the length of material submitted to fit allowable space. Materials must be received two weeks in advance of publication: November 15, February 15, May 15, August 15.

Alpha Sigma Chapter, Washington, of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for Key Women Educators, serves the north end of Kitsap County, including Bremerton, Central Kitsap, North Kitsap, and Bainbridge Island School Districts. For information on meetings, membership or scholarship information, contact us at <[dkgkitsap@yahoo.org](mailto:dkgkitsap@yahoo.org)> or <http://dkgkitsap.weebly.org/>.