

Kappa Alpha Theta

WASHINGTON DC/SUBURBAN MD ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Fall 2011

President's Message

DC Thetas began 2011 with a beautiful Founders Day celebration at the elegant Washington Club in DuPont Circle. Thanks again to Moni Upham for hosting us there! Nearly 50 chapters were represented. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and reconnect with old friends. Our guest speaker was Mary Ellen Fitzsimmons, a Theta Foundation trustee, and we raised over \$1,000 for the Friendship Fund.



Visiting The Corcoran Gallery

2011 has also brought new energy to our chapter with the installation of several new board members. Our new Book Club chair has focused our reading on short fiction works by women writers. The CityKats chairs are taking us everywhere from trendy waterfront spots to pottery studios. And our new Panhellenic representatives are getting us more involved with Greek life. Read more

about these dynamic women and other new board members in the articles by them below!

Thank you to all of our members for making these and all of our events in 2011 fun and successful.

Through participation in our alumnae chapter, we not only support each other but also our community. At our annual Holiday Party, we contributed gift cards to provide presents for children



A night with the Nats

through CASA. We continued our mentoring program this summer to assist Theta interns in our Capitol. I am looking forward to the events we have planned for the upcoming year, including a Signature Service Event. If you are interested in getting more involved in these or other events, please contact me at debora.lyon@yahoo.com.

-- Debora

Panhellenic Update

Each year, the DC Alumnae Panhellenic Association does many great things to promote Panhellenic spirit and raise funds for charities throughout the greater Washington D.C. area. This September, Theta will donate \$25 dollars for school supplies for children and in recent years the association has gathered donation during Thanksgiving and Christmas to help families in need. One event that pleases everyone's taste-buds is the annual Holiday Party and Cookie Exchange where attendees can enter the "Best Cookie Contest."

In June 2012, the DC Alumnae Panhellenic Association is also organizing the first House Tour fundraiser at the University of Maryland College Park., which will give attendees an opportunity to tour the Panhellenic houses on campus. The money raised from this event will be used for Panhellenic scholarships at the University of Maryland College Park. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the Theta house to be showcased to others throughout the Greek community.

The DC Alumnae Panhellenic Association meets the first Wednesday of the month, September through June. Meetings are usually at the Davis Library in Bethesda, except for special events during

December, January, April, May and June.

Chapter members are invited to attend any of these meetings with the exception of the April meeting where Panhellenic members review and vote on scholarship applications. Meetings begin with social time at 7 pm, meeting at 7:30, and wrap-up by 9 pm. Please contact Meghan Oster

(oster.meghan@gmail.com) or Heather Schwenk (hlschwenk@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating in the association.

Thetas in Service

This Spring, we had three service events. At the Cherry Blossom Festival, in colorful outfits as pictured, we battled the rain and a bout of hail, handing out cute buttons around the Tidal Basin and trying to keep our beautiful cherry blossom trees in good condition. We then went to the Mandarin

Hotel for a spot of tea to warm up and rest our feet.

The Gamma Mus and the Alpha Chi



Omega chapter of the University of Maryland co-organized its first "Run For Love" 5K run, in support of the House of Ruth, a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence and the One Love Foundation in honor of Yeardeley Reynolds Love. As well as being attended by many other sorority and fraternity members, Gamma Mu alumnae and advisors came to the campus to show their support. The National Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure this year was a nice reunion for me as I and Debora, our alumnae president, was joined by two members of my Tulane Theta family. We want to thank everyone who donated on behalf of our team.

-- Chrystelle Zweidler



Collegiate Chapter Update

Despite being on Mother's day, the Alumnae tea and senior sendoff had a great turnout of both actives and alumnae at the beautiful Gamma Mu House. We want to thank Paula Senft, the Gamma Mu Alumnae Relations Chair, and her helpers for her help in organizing. We had a great time chatting over iced tea and an array of sweet and savory snacks.

My Summer in Washington

From May 16th to July 6th I had the opportunity to serve as an intern for United States House of Representatives Congresswoman Kristi Noem, at large representative from the state of South Dakota. Coming from a state whose total population rounds out to that of the thirteenth largest city in the country, my time in Washington D.C. was both eye-opening and life changing. While interning on Capitol Hill, I had the opportunity to work with the Congresswoman, her in-district and in-state staff, other congressional interns from the South Dakota office and other district offices, and various constituents, lobbyists, and organization representatives. My fellow interns and I spent our time assisting staff with various constituent services and communication projects, leading Capitol tours, and conducting legislative research.



It was an invaluable experience, one that was only enhanced by my sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta. While in Washington, I participated in the D.C./MD alumnae chapter mentoring program. My mentor was Megan Campbell, an attorney for an electric company. Megan was able to share with me highlights of her profession and introduce me to ideas and members of related fields of work. We shared great conversation and laughter, and I will definitely be keeping in touch. Through the mentorship experience I gained insight into career opportunities and met professional women. I am so grateful to have met Megan and other alumni chapter members; they definitely made my summer in Washington D.C. that much better!

-- Alyssa Van Meeteren

Are you Kappa Alpha Theta Life Loyal?

Being a part of Kappa Alpha Theta starts in college, but it doesn't end there. The good friends, the laughter, the loyalty—everything that makes Theta the wonderful experience it is—that's for a lifetime. Believing in the true worth and merit of Kappa Alpha Theta, Life Loyal members have chosen to remain linked to our sisterhood long after their college years. Through the Life Loyal program, they are committed to helping Theta foster dear friendships and nurture hopes and dreams for generations to come. Kappa Alpha Theta Life Loyal is a program that was developed to provide enhanced services to members and to recognize those who support the Fraternity financially. Believing in the true worth and merit of Kappa Alpha Theta, Life Loyal members are helping to create ethical, social, and educational programs that develop women of integrity and character. For more information visit <http://www.thetalifeloyal.org/index.cfm>.



Scenes from Founders Day

Are you on "The List"

All of our events are listed on our website, and each interest group also has a listserv managed by a member of our Board. To get information about your favorite groups delivered straight to your inbox, sign up to be on their list!

Bethesda Lunch Leader: Gloria Williams
wgtwo@aol.com

City KATS: Allison Brown and Kimberly Linton
citykats.dcthetas@gmail.com

Service Events: Chrystelle Zweidler
czweidler@gmail.com

Book Club: Jennifer Alandy
jennifer.alandy@gmail.com

DC Lunch Bunch: Jane Howard
jahoward@bechtel.com

Summer Intern Mentoring and Networking:
 Interested in being the Chair? Contact Debora Lyon
debora.lyon@yahoo.com



Florence Ashby is Moving to Florida!

Our long-time member and supporter Florence Ashby is in the process of moving to Florida, where her involvement in Theta began. Florence will keep her membership in the Washington/Suburban MD Alumnae Chapter and will be visiting up here often. Thank you Florence for all your contributions to Theta! Her heartwarming story is an inspiration to us all. She writes:

My life with Kappa Alpha Theta began at a rush party shortly after graduating from Sarasota High (Florida). One of my favorite teachers was there; she wrote my recommendation. Her son, a classmate and good friend, sent me her Theta badge when she died! After joining Theta I learned that a great aunt, her two daughters and a granddaughter were Thetas too. One of the daughters was the Theta Grand Vice-President who installed our Alumnae Chapter in 1917.



As President of my Florida State University (Beta Nu) chapter I attended the Grand Convention in Banff, Canada, as the collegiate delegate who traveled the farthest. A Theta chartered train took us from Chicago to Banff and back – all KAO for ten days. If I hadn't realized that Theta was for a lifetime, I knew it by the time I got off of that train. While in graduate school at Purdue I was active with the Theta (Alpha Chi) chapter there. Then I became the first person to be employed full time in Theta's new Traveling Consultant (now ELC) program.

In our Alumnae chapter I have served on the Board in several offices, including President three times. My six years as a Theta Foundation Trustee was a joy and was followed by six years on the Florida State Foundation Board. Service to the College of Music and Foundation lead to an award from the Florida State U. Senate and another from the Washington FSU Alumnae Club (DC 'Noles). Currently I am co-chair of the Beta Nu capital campaign for renovation of our chapter house. I plan to attend my 24th Grand Convention next summer in Tucson. My Theta friends mean so very much to me. And I am a Life-Loyal Theta.

CASA for Children of DC with Liza Ortego Bush

Liza Bush is a Louisiana native and alumnae member of the Delta Kappa Alpha Theta at Louisiana State University. Liza was first introduced to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) through Theta. Through her work as Public Relations Chair and Editor of her college chapter with the Capital Area CASA in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Liza decided to pursue a career in children's law after graduation from LSU. She continued at LSU, earning her Juris Doctorate and Master's in Public Administration in 2009.

Liza is now the Senior Manager for Outreach and Communications at CASA for Children of DC. At CASA DC, Liza oversees the organization's communication, outreach and recruitment efforts in addition to managing a caseload of CASA volunteers and their youth. Liza also manages CASA DC's Dual Jacket Initiative for youth who have open abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency cases. "I'm so proud to represent Theta and the great mission of CASA here in DC. Thetas around the nation provide invaluable support to their local CASA chapters and I am proud to be on both 'sides' of this great partnership," says Bush. For more information about CASA DC, contact Liza at lbush@casadc.org.



Building Strong Bones with Ginny Gilbert

Our own Ginny Gilbert was honored by Montgomery County with the 2009 Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award in the area of Sports and Exercise for her work in the Bone Builders Program. Bone Builders educates people to improve their dietary and exercise habits to reduce the risks of osteoporosis. This has become Ginny's mission in retirement. Ginny and her Theta sister-in-law Carolyn Doherty (Chi '57) watched their mother-in-law suffer with osteoporosis. Ginny realized that through her Bone Builders Program, developed with another Chi Theta sister Maryanne Hardenberg, that no one need suffer like that again. For more information on participating in or volunteering with Bone Builders, contact Ginny at vagilbert@comcast.net.

Be a Part of our Alumnae Chapter!

Membership in the Washington DC-Suburban Maryland Alumnae Chapter is a great way to do something for yourself, your community and Theta.

You can reconnect with old friends, start new friendships and build your professional network. We have fund-raisers and community service projects throughout the year that support various organizations, including CASA of DC and Miriam's Kitchen. Social events are scheduled several times a month and can be anything from book clubs and lunch groups to Nationals games and museum tours. We invite you to join us whenever possible. Our annual membership form is included in this newsletter, with a submission deadline of November 1.

Dues can be paid either by mail or online through PayPal. Links for both methods can be found here: <https://www.kappaalphatheta.org/chapters/alumnae/washingtondcmaryland/page/membership-questions>? Please contact Carter Seaton, the Membership Chair, at [cibtaylor19@yahoo.com](mailto:cbtaylor19@yahoo.com).

Meet Our Members!

Our newest Theta legacy,



happy mom Joy Wilder.



Annabella, joined us for lunch at Watershed with



Calendar of Events

Bethesda Lunch Bunch:

Thursday, October 6, at 12:00. The Bethesda Lunch Bunch meets at the Bethesda Marriott on Pook's Hill once a month. Please call Gerry Jennings, 301-216-5791 or contact Gloria Williams, WGwtwo@aol.com if you would like to be on the list to be notified each month. Some come often and some only come once in a while but all are welcome whenever.

Shenandoah Lunch and Hike:

Saturday, October 22, from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Join us for lunch and a short hike in the Shenandoah National Park to enjoy the spectacular fall foliage. Meet at Skyland Resort in the Park at mile marker 41.7 at noon or contact debora.lyon@yahoo.com for carpooling information by October 15.

National Museum of Women in the Arts Brunch:

National Museum of Women in the Arts Brunch: **Sunday, November 6**, at 11:00 AM. Join us for brunch, a time honored tradition, on the Mezzanine level. Eggs any style, omelets, French toast, and waffles cooked to order; fine pastries, fruit, juices, coffees, and tea. Because we need a reservation, pre-payment of \$35 (which includes brunch, tax, and gratuity) and registration for this event is required through our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/rsvpdcthetas/brunch-at-nmwa>. Your brunch also includes free admission to the museum and 10% discount in the bookstore. No refunds, although substitutions are allowed. Please RSVP no later than November 1. Questions, contact Alicia at alicia.diane.lee@gmail.com.

National Museum of Women in the Arts Tour

Sunday, November 6, at 1:30 PM. Please join us for a free docent-led tour of the only museum in the world dedicated exclusively to recognizing the contributions of women artists. Free admission to the museum on the first Sunday of the month. Friends and significant others are welcome; no RSVP required for the tour. Nearest metro: Metro Center (Red/Blue/

Orange line). Questions, contact Alicia at alicia.diane.lee@gmail.com.

Book Club

Meet at the Bethesda Writer's Center (November Date **TBD**) to discuss *Widow: Stories* by Michelle Latiolais.

Holiday Party

December 10 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the home of Donna Palmer. Join us for some holiday cheer! Please bring a small plate or dessert to share with sisters and a gift card for CASA children. For the address, e-mail rsvp.dcthetas@gmail.com.

Ice Skating at the Sculpture Garden

January 22 at 2:00 p.m. Meet at the Sculpture Garden Ice Rink at 7th St. and Constitution Ave. for skating and hot cocoa! Closest Metro is Smithsonian (Orange/Blue Line) or Archives/ Navy Memorial (Green/Yellow Line). RSVP to rsvp.dcthetas@gmail.com by January 21.

Afternoon Tea at the Mayflower

Saturday, February 11 at 3:00 p.m. Travel back in history and timeless grandeur and join us for an afternoon of high tea at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel. Because of the need for a reservation, pre-payment and registration for this event is required through our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/rsvpdcthetas/afternoon-tea>. No refunds, although substitutions are allowed. Please RSVP no later than February 1. Nearest metro: Farragut North (Red Line) or Farragut West (Orange/Blue Line) Questions, contact Alicia at alicia.diane.lee@gmail.com.

Founders Day

March 2012, hosted by the NOVA Theta Alumnae Chapter.

Spring Tea

April or May 2012 at the Gamma Mu house at the University of Maryland.

Ways to Stay in Touch

Web — <http://www.dcthetas.org>

E-mail — rsvp.dcthetas@gmail.com

Google Groups — <http://groups.google.com/group/dcthetas>

Twitter — <http://www.twitter.com/dcthetas>

Facebook — http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_8566243763

Linked In — <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=2885113>

InCircle — <https://kappaalphatheta.affinitycircles.com/kappaalphatheta/groups/29699/view>

Kappa Alpha Theta

Fall 2011

Washington DC/Suburban Maryland Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta

Jane Howard
2 Bostwick Ct. Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Kappa Alpha Theta
Washington, DC/Suburban MD Alumnae Chapter

www.dcthetas.org

2011 Membership Form

Mail to: Carter Seaton, 775 Monarch Lane, Huntingtown, MD 20639

Include your check. You can also join online through our website at <http://www.dcthetas.org/>

Further Questions? E-mail us at membership.dcthetas@gmail.com.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____ Spouse (if applicable) : _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

*Would you like to be added to the Google Group (<http://groups.google.com/group/dcthetas>)? YES NO

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

College Chapter: _____ Initiation Year: _____

Employer/Industry _____

Dues (includes your \$15 KAO Headquarters dues): please check applicable membership level

\$25 - New Alum Member (2011 graduates)

\$25 - Graduate School Member

Please indicate your graduate school and anticipated graduation year: _____

\$25 - KAO Life Loyal Member (not incl. HQ dues)

\$40 - Active Member

\$25- 50-year Theta

Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation Support: \$ _____

Other Philanthropic Support \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta

Other ideas for events you would like to see added? _____

Interested in helping out? How? _____

Personal Interests: _____