



**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

PI STATE NEW YORK



The first 10 Years

*history of
Alpha Chi Chapter
Pi State New York
Delta Kappa Gamma*

FIRST TEN YEARS

Historian

Edith Jones

Cover and Frontispiece

Margery Anderson

BEGINNINGS OF ALPHA CHI

On a warm evening, June 15, 1962, 16 educators met with Nu Chapter at Hotel Utica, mostly strangers to each other. Each had received a written invitation, signed by Martha Gates of Nu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. Each had by letter accepted the invitation. Subsequent events of the evening revealed the what, the how, and the why of the invitation.

Nu Chapter was launching a parallel chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma with 17 who were to become the charter members of newly formed Alpha Chi. N. Aileen Price would not be initiated until 1963 by special permission. Alpha Chi, then, was started not by splitting an already existing chapter but by forming a completely new parallel chapter. The charter members were initiated by Nu Chapter in a most impressive ceremony. The 16 then met to elect officers. Alpha Chi was now afloat, starting from scratch, and finding its way. The lifeline was Martha Gates. At this point, then, Alpha Chi recognizes in its history the contributions of Martha Gates in its "creeping years". She kept before us our purposes, our traditions, the dignity of our ceremonies, our ties with Pi State, and ways to move forward, yet leaving Alpha Chi free to move as leadership and membership planned.

These early years were very important. Much of what Alpha Chi might later take for granted had to be carefully worked out step by step. The first two committees named at the organizational meeting in September were the scholarship and membership committees with the vice-president as chairman of program planning. An Executive Board meeting, a regional meeting, and a Pi State Convention loomed on the horizon. Alpha Chi had to study the Constitution, the Handbook and the Yearbook. Alpha Chi soon knew that it had to get its feet carefully planted before reaching out to recognize more professional women educators. It did not seek new members for two years.

Programs were planned around themes adopted by Pi State. The talents of Alpha Chi's own membership were used. A birthday dinner was planned each year as close to the June 15 date as possible. An especially decorated birthday cake symbolized the birthday until the membership voted to send the cost of such a cake to the Pi State Indian Project, in lieu of a cake. At early birthday dinners the tradition of wearing a long dress was followed. During the first years installation of officers was in the fall. In June, 1972, the first spring installation was held. The President's pin was presented to the President by the chapter at the close of her biennium. Gladys Mersereau, Executive Secretary, was a big help, coming in 1963 and in 1964. Selection of candidates for membership was a constant concern. What levels of education, what colleges, what special programs, what positions in schools, what public schools were not being tapped for membership. Method of voting for candidates had to be tested. In November, 1965 Alpha Chi changed from preferential voting (had to exclude some nominees each year) to 4/5 voting (4/5 vote of membership voting). Pi State granted permission to change.

The membership worked together in unity. A strong friendship was fostered among the early members. All learned, planned, and grew together.

Alpha Chi purchased Our Heritage book. A scrapbook was started. Initiation scarf, candles and bowl were purchased, but not all at once. Alpha Chi borrowed brass candle holders from Hunts for several years. The very first initiation was planned and held. Alpha Chi learned of its Founders and the significance of Austin, Texas. We learned the tradition of the pin, how to wear it properly, and what it symbolizes. Alpha Chi did not do well at learning and singing "the Delta Kappa Gamma Song", despite the valiant attempts of Clare Wasmer and Edna May Rawson. We also learned the tradition of hats and white gloves at luncheons and white gloves at dinners as a must. We did not always do well with this, but in the more important goals and purposes we sincerely tried. Alpha Chi learned of biennium Pi State Projects. The Indian Project became close to the members, as well as the names of Melissa Hill, Virginia Doctor and other Indian women scholarship recipients. The Insurance program was presented to membership in 1968.

Alpha Chi felt its first loss in the death of Stella Smith. Alpha Chi conducted its first memorial service on March 18, 1967.

In these early years Alpha Chi respected but was not bound by tradition, moved slowly, used the talents of its membership, tried varied formats for meetings, tried different locations for meetings, attended local, regional and state meetings, met and was inspired by leaders of Delta Kappa Gamma, respected the purposes, respected the dignity of initiations, and was concerned about educational issues.

THIS ALPHA CHI HAS DONE. WHAT FOLLOWS ARE SIGNIFICANT SPECIFICS.

MEMBERS OF ALPHA CHI (1962-72)

- | | | |
|------|--|---------------|
| 1962 | <u>17 Charter Members</u> | June 15, 1962 |
| | Elinor Carney, Math, Holland Patent (res. 1970) | |
| | Josephine Carroll (Autenrith), Jr. H.S. Soc. St., Poland (res. 1970) | |
| | Helen Hampston, Gr. 1, Poland (res. 1971) | |
| | Merle Harrington, Lib., New Hartford (trans. to Rho, 1967) | |
| | Madeline Hunt, El. Prin., Sunset Sch., Utica | |
| | Edith Jones, Guidance, Herkimer | |
| | Julia Lisle, Ch. Eng., Holland Patent | |
| | Dorothy Owens, French, Sauquoit | |
| | Eleanor Palmer, El. Sup., New Hartford | |
| | N. Aileen Price, Reg., Utica College (initiated in 1963) | |
| | Jean Prime, Ch. Eng. and For. Lang., Chadwicks | |
| | Isabella Robinson, Coun. Coord., Utica Free Academy | |
| | Ruth Sanford, Kindergarten, Poland (res. 1972) | |
| | Nelle Schmidt, Ch. Eng., Ilion | |
| | Clare Wasmer, Ch. Latin, New Hartford | |
| | Helen Wolf, Ch. Soc. St.-then, Ass't. Prin., Rome Free Academy
(res. moved, 1972) | |
| | Ruth Yale, 7th Core, West Canada Valley (trans. to ch. in Arizona, 1967) | |
| 1964 | (4) | |
| | Margaret Bishopp, Bus., Holland Patent | |
| | Edith Donahue, Ch. Math, New Hartford (trans. to Alpha Kappa, 1966) | |
| | Helen Gillis, Math, Rome Free Academy (dec. 1972) | |
| | Ruth Magee, Bus., Staley Jr. H.S., Rome | |

- 1965 (5)
 - Alice Cole, Gr. 2, New Hartford
 - Winifred Hunt, Ch. Math, Proctor H.S., Utica
 - Ruth Kenney, Math, West Canada Valley (trans. from Alpha Iota)
 - Edna May Rawson, Sup. Voc. Music, New Hartford
 - Stella Smith, Eng. Sup., West Canada Valley (dec. 1966)

- 1966 (3)
 - Wanda Goodrow, Ch. Soc. St., Holland Patent
 - Viola McKay, Eng., Herkimer
 - Leona Whiter, Gr. 1, West Hill Sch., Ilion

- 1967 (2)
 - Helen Arthur, Lib.-then Ass't. Prin., Rome Free Academy
 - Alice Hawkins, Head-Soc. St., West Canada Valley

- 1968 (8)
 - Alice Bamford, Ch. Bus., Ilion
 - Ruth Derby, Soc. St., Ilion
 - Charlotte Garbus, Gr. 3, New Hartford
 - Jane Reid, Eng., Rome Free Academy
 - Ruth Simonson, Eng. and Journ., Proctor H.S., Utica
 - Ruth Solan, Phys. Ed., Strough Jr. H.S., Rome
 - Wanda Smith, Art, Holland Patent
 - Joan Williams, Math, New Hartford

- 1969 (1)
 - Eleanor Rapacz, Biol., New Hartford

- 1970 (3)
 - Arlene Cudmore, Voc. Music, Herkimer
 - Robin Hall, Guidance, Ilion (trans. from Pi)
 - Mary Lou VanDerwiel, El. Tch., Herkimer

- 1971 (3)
 - Elizabeth Bottini, Ch. Lower Sch. Studies, New York State School for the Deaf, Rome
 - Jean Henry, Math, Ilion
 - Genevieve Whitehead, Math, New Hartford

- 1972 (2)
 - Lois Muniente, Eng., New Hartford
 - Nancy Shupp (Zukowski), Eng., New Hartford

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS (1962-1972)

Charter Members	17
Transfers into Alpha Chi	2
New Members	29
Deceased Members	2
Resignations	5
Transfers from Alpha Chi	3

ALPHA CHI OFFICERS (1962-1972)

	1962 - 1964	1964 - 1966	1966 - 1968
President	Ruth Yale	Isabella Robinson	Isabella Robinson
1st Vice-Pres.	Isabella Robinson	Edith Jones	Ruth Magee
2nd Vice-Pres.	Helen Wolf	Ruth Yale	Elinor Carney
Treasurer	Eleanor Palmer	Nelle Schmidt	Ruth Yale (1 yr) Ruth Kenney (1 yr)
Rec. Secretary	Jean Prime	Clare Wasmer	Winifred Hunt
Corr. Secretary	Clare Wasmer	Elinor Carney	Margaret Bishopp
Parliamentarian	Nelle Schmidt	Julia Lisle	Julia Lisle
	1968 - 1970	1970 - 1972	
President	Edith Jones	N. Aileen Price	
1st Vice-Pres.	Viola McKay	Helen Arthur	
2nd Vice-Pres.	Julia Lisle	Helen Hampston	
Treasurer	Ruth Kenney	Ruth Magee	
Rec. Secretary	Helen Wolf	Julia Lisle	
Corr. Secretary	Nelle Schmidt	Joan Williams	
Parliamentarian	Wanda Goodrow	Wanda Goodrow	

ALPHA CHI AND PI STATE (1962-1972)

Pi State officers were invited regularly to visit Alpha Chi and speak to the membership.

1. Gladys Mersereau, Executive Secretary, 1963 and 1966
2. Frances Johnson, Pi State President, 1964
3. Frederica Hollister, Pi State President elect, 1967
4. Ruth Williams, Pi State Recording Secretary, 1968
5. Olive Pierpont, Pi State First Vice-President, 1969
6. Mary Putnam, Pi State First Vice-President, 1970
7. Margaret Hoch, Pi State Second Vice-President, 1971

Pi State Committee Responsibilities for Alpha Chi members.

1. N. Aileen Price was chairman of Pi State Scholarship Committee (1967-69). In that position she presented scholarships to recipients at Pi State Conventions.
2. Edith Jones was a member of Pi State Indian Project Committee (1970-72), and served on a panel on the Indian Project at Binghamton Regional, 1970.

Pi State Conventions

1. Alpha Chi was represented at every Pi State Convention, Central Regional and Executive Board Meeting, 1962-72.
2. Alpha Chi presented successfully a resolution at the Pi State Convention on May 16, 1970.

Pi State Scholarship Recipient

Alpha Chi member, Eleanor Rapacz, was recipient of a \$500 Pi State Scholarship in 1970-71 for a one year study toward a M.S. in Marine Biology at University of Miami, Miami, Florida.

A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

To shake hands with Dr. Welthy Honsinger Fisher, founder of Literacy Village in India, was a real privilege. Several Alpha Chi members attended Dr. Fisher's initiation into Delta Kappa Gamma as an International Honorary Member through Nu Chapter. Dr. Fisher, 85, President of World Education, Inc., author of "To Light A Candle", was born in Rome. The initiation and reception was held at the Beeches in Rome on Sunday, December 6, 1964.

ALPHA CHI HANDLES EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS

Programs during these ten years related to the themes of Values, Creativity and Changing Times. Outside speakers and panels of Alpha Chi members handled the discussion of educational concerns.

"Cultural Pressures Upon Today's Children" and the work of Crane Hill School at Marcy State Hospital were discussed by a Crane School teacher, Oct., 1963.

Mrs. Florence Vincent of the Thousand Islands Central School dealt with "Professional Standards in the Teaching Profession", Oct., 1968.

A panel of Alpha Chi members led a discussion on "Values in Education", Nov., 1967.

Edna May Rawson, Alpha Chi member, presented "Procedures for Arousing Creative Interest in Music Pupils", April, 1966.

"Changing Times in Education and the Resulting Problems and Challenges" was the concern of a panel of Alpha Chi members (Isabella Robinson, Ruth Derby, Eleanor Palmer, Joan Williams with Edith Jones as moderator) at Utica College, Nov., 1970.

"Shifting Values on College Campuses" was the concern of a panel in Sept., 1969. Dean Nelbach of Kirkland College, Carolyn Evans, Ass't. Prof. at Mohawk Valley Community College and college students with N. Aileen Price, Registrar of Utica College (Alpha Chi member), as moderator sparked the discussion.

"Involving Students in Their Self-Fulfillment" created interest as high school students with Edna May Rawson, Alpha Chi member, as chairman discussed greater involvement of each student in his educational growth, Nov., 1968.

One meeting was devoted to an informal discussion of legislation affecting teachers and of the experiences of members involved in or affected by strikes, Nov., 1971.

"Creativity in My Field" by Alpha Chi members, Nov., 1966.

Mrs. Sarah Kent, a former teacher from Rome, developed "Creativity" and the World need for the common variety of creativity in "us", Oct., 1967.

Discussion of recruitment and encouragement of the young for the teaching profession. Student teachers in the area were invited to a Tea at Munson-Williams Proctor Institute as guests of Alpha Chi, May, 1971.

A greater understanding of special children - the deaf. A Tour of the New York State School for the Deaf under leadership of Elizabeth Bottini, Alpha Chi member and Director of the Pre-Primary Department at the school, Sept., 1970.

Alpha Chi submitted a resolution at Pi State Convention, endorsed by unanimous vote of Alpha Chi, relative to permissiveness in dress in the public schools of New York State and its relationship to the behavior and attitude of students. The resolution was presented on the floor at the Pi State Convention by Alpha Chi President. The resolution was passed. Copies of the resolution were forwarded to State Commissioner of Education, the Governor, Presidents of State P.T.A. and N.Y.S.T.A., May, 1970.

ALPHA CHI LEARNS ABOUT EACH OTHER AND DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

An entire meeting or a portion of a meeting from time to time was devoted to knowing each other and understanding what the chapter is a part of.

A committee with program chairman devised 48 questions (multiple choice, completion, true-false, short answers) covering quite detailed knowledge of Delta Kappa Gamma. This was titled, "Your Delta Kappa Gamma I Q". Each member "took" the test during the dinner hour, followed by a discussion of each item. These served as a springboard into many areas of understanding. Alpha Chi was commended for this technique by a Pi State Chairman. The Constitution and the Handbook were the tools. All members participated, 1965.

Two programs were built entirely around getting to know each other and thumbnail personal sketches, 1966 and 1971.

Members participated in a full evening's discussion of who we are and where we are going as a chapter, 1971.

OTHER PROGRAMS (1962-1972)

An Exchange Student from Pakistan (1963) and an American Field Service Exchange Student from Argentina (1965) addressed Alpha Chi on "Youth and Educational Patterns" in their cultures and showed slides.

Slides and presentation by a nurse at the special fellowship mission on the Firestone Plantation in Liberia was a program in 1965.

Ruth Yale, Alpha Chi member, presented slides of a trip to Mexico (1964) and Rabbi Wrubel lectured and showed color slides on "Israel" (1964) - Theme: "Other Cultures in Change".

Grace Spencer, a local poet in her 80's, discussed "Cultural Changes in the Arts" as related to Poetry and read several of her own verses, 1964.

Jean Prime, Alpha Chi member, presented slides, a talk and discussion on her weeks spent in service to the people of Appalachia, followed by a discussion of how Alpha Chi might become involved in the needs of Appalachia, 1969.

Mrs. Patterson, New York State Indian Services, presented a program, strengthening Alpha Chi's interest in the Pi State Indian Project, 1969.

Barbara Franco, Curator of Munson-Williams Proctor Institute, spoke on Women's Liberation and Misconceptions related to it, 1972. The meeting was held at Rome Art and Community Center.

Alpha Chi visited Americana Village, Hamilton, 1971.

ALPHA CHI AND NU (1962-1972)

Remembering Nu as Alpha Chi's mother chapter remained alive during the ten years. In the early years Martha Gates attended several of the meetings and spoke to us more than once. She is a former Pi State Parliamentarian.

Alpha Chi cooperated with Nu Chapter when Nu was hostess for the Central Regional in Utica, October, 1967.

Alpha Chi accepted an invitation to join Nu in a meeting at which Assemblywoman, Honorable Mary Ann Krupsak, was the speaker, 1972.

Nu, Alpha Chi and Phi Delta Kappa met together, 1968.

Alpha Chi members were guests of Nu at a Tea and Program for Foreign Exchange Students from the area, 1965.

SPECIAL PROJECTS (1962-1972)

The Helen Gillis Scholarship Award to a senior girl at Rome Free Academy in memory of deceased member, Helen Gillis - \$50 - 1972.

The Stella J. Smith Scholarship Award to an outstanding senior girl entering the teaching field from West Canada Valley Central School in memory of deceased member, Stella J. Smith - \$50 (from individual contributions) - 1967.

Support of the Pi State Indian Project (1968-1971). There was enthusiasm for the Indian Project to further the education of Indian girls. Sources of support: jewelry sales, Alpha Chi Treasury, individual contributions, cost of a birthday cake normally part of the Birthday Dinner each year.

Christian Appalachia Project, 1969. Jean Prime, Alpha Chi member, was a volunteer in Appalachia several summers. Alpha Chi supported her work there with clothes and other saleable items and a Thanksgiving Offering in excess of \$100.

Alpha Chi contributed books and magazines to needy schools and libraries in Asiatic and Latin American countries from lists provided by "Books for Friendship" and "Brothers of the East and West". This was initiated by the committee on Personal Growth and Services, 1964-65.

Survey of Members by Committee on Personal Growth and Services to ascertain travel taken, hobbies developed, courses taken and community service involvement - 1964-65.

Support of Literacy Village in India. Alpha Chi sent money in lieu of a corsage normally given Alpha Chi President when she attended Pi State Convention.

PLACES ALPHA CHI MET (1962-1972)

An attempt was made to meet in a variety of locations that would convenience the membership.

Home of Martha Gates
Home of Clare Wasmer
Home of the Hunts
Holland Patent Central School
Rome Art and Community Center
New York State School for the Deaf, Rome
Munson-Williams Proctor Institute, the Terrace Room and the Meeting House
Colgate Inn, Hamilton
Alexander Hamilton, Clinton (1968-70) - 8 meetings were held here by vote of the membership - sometimes brunch at 10 A.M., sometimes luncheon, sometimes dinner
Hart's Hill, Whitesboro
Towpath Inn, Ilion
Palmer House, Herkimer
Prospect Hotel, Herkimer
Cristiano's, Poland
Orchard Hall, Sauquoit
Twin Ponds, New York Mills
Trinkaus Manor, Oriskany
Dibble's Inn, Vernon
Beachley's, Barneveld
Utica: Fort Schuyler Club, Hotel Utica, Valley View Country Club, Diplomat, Ventura's, Hacienda, Towne House
Utica College

The first ten years ended. Alpha Chi moved into the next years on a foundation reflected in the accomplishments written in this history of 1962 - 1972.