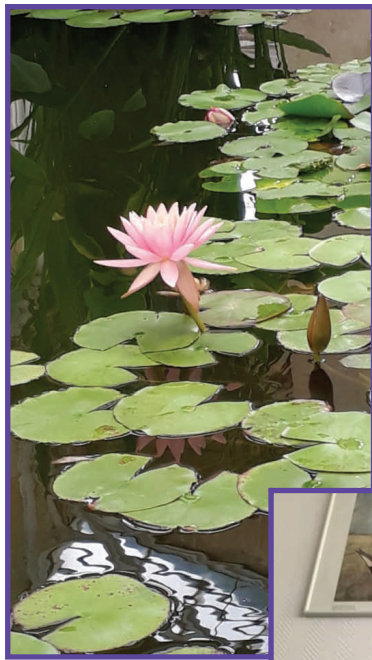


INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

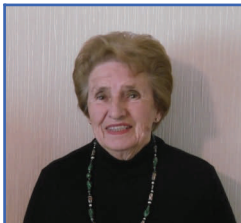


Summer 2021

Volume 17 No 6

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<p>Front pictures.</p> <p>Water lillies at Syon House, London. Thi Finkelmeyerai, a member of DKG Germany, joined us with her own water lily from her garden.</p>	

Evelyn Goodsell
STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT 2021—2023



Well, what a year! I am so pleased we actually went ahead with our Conference last October as that was the last time we met 'face to face.' Fortunately, thanks to Anne, Penny, Carole, Dorcas and Joan, we have been kept in touch with one another via Zoom. They have organized some very interesting meetings covering a wide range of subjects, for example-in February we were joined by a diverse panel of black Asian Minority Ethnic Teachers who shared their experiences of teaching, the prejudices and racially motivated problems they encountered.

In March we listened to a varied panel on the topic of 'Education in the time of Covid'. As well as rather serious subjects we also had some less so. East London Suffragettes, Sydenham Garden-a vital community project, 'Opening up ceremony after Covid' during which we celebrated by listening to a wonderful poem by a member and learned how to make water lilies, which focused our minds on the world opening up again.

Rather than holding our AGM by Zoom, Diana opened her house for us to hold it there. How joyful everyone seemed to be able to greet each other in the flesh after so long being at a distance. Sadly Kathy, pictured right, was unable to be at the meeting. Unknown to her she was the recipient of the Great Britain Achievement Award and we had hoped to present her with it at the meeting. I have arranged to visit her very soon with, hopefully, some of the members.



The one advantage of Zoom however was, we were able to invite our European Sisters to join our meetings as well as some of our members who live too far away to make the journey often. We have also been well supported by our Regional Director, Margarita Hanschmit.

Due to the uncertainty in the country, both Alpha and Gamma have made plans for future meetings being either 'face to face' or Zoom. We recognize that to keep all members involved, Zoom meetings must be held occasionally.

Please think about applying to be on International Committees, it is a good way to learn more about the Society and meet members from the other countries. We must aim to increase our membership of this extremely worthwhile Society during the coming year so-Spread the word!!! Thank you all for your continued support, there have been many times this year when I have needed it.

THE GREAT BRITAIN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2021

Kathrin Hodgson-Recipient of the Great Britain Achievement Award

It was so easy to select the winner of this Award this time. Kathy has been a very involved and keen member of DKG.



Kathy, pictured right, receiving her award from our President, Evelyn and Vice President, Liz.



Kathy has been Treasurer and President of Gamma Chapter. State Treasurer and State President and a member of the State Finance Committee. Member of European Forum Committee and also its chair. She has served on the International Finance Committee and also been a recipient of the prestigious Golden Gift.

As well as serving on these committees she has distributed the GB News and Updated and Distributed the Database.

She is capable, efficient and reliable. She was elected by a unanimous vote and is a deserving winner of the Award.

Evelyn Goodsell (State President)

It's now time to think about applying for next year's **Canterbury Award** and I'm really looking forward to hearing from anyone who would like to follow in the footsteps of past very worthy recipients. As you know this award is an valuable aspect of our organisation for personal growth, effect on modern education and promotion of our organisation.

Please have a look on the Canterbury Award section on our website (dkggb.org.uk) for details and I will look forward to hearing about your ideas by 8th January 2022. Please get in touch if I can help in any way to enable someone to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

Liz Malik (State Vice President).

EAST LONDON SUFFRAGETTES VIRTUAL WALK

David Rosenberg led us on a fascinating virtual walk, using photographs and maps to navigate us along his route. He explained that he had been a primary school teacher for 23 years, and now teaches in Adult Education, as well as having a repertoire of walks on London's Radical History. The suffragettes in London were divided geographically into East End and West End, with both 'not afraid of the prison walls'. He was going to concentrate on what was special and important about the East End contribution. Dates are sometimes confused in this narrative because he was following a route.



David showed us a map of his route, in what is now the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Between 1900 and 1965 it was split between Stepney, Bethnal Green and Poplar. He showed us a photograph of the gates of Victoria Park, in Old Ford Road. In the 1880s and 1890s there was a 'Speakers' Corner' just

inside the gates. By the early 20th century the suffragettes often spoke, sometimes harassed by the police. Relations were not good. In June 1913 60 women hired boats, assembled in the middle of the lake and unfurled umbrellas with suffragette slogans emblazoned on them. In May 1913 on Women's May Day celebrations at the end of May, there was a march from East India Docks to Victoria Park, with women wearing the suffragette colours of purple, white and green, and wearing red caps. From March 1914 there was a local weekly newspaper published by Suffragettes, Women's Dreadnought, printed by Arber's in Roman Road priced at one halfpenny to cover costs. Headquarters were in Bow Road, Sylvia Pankhurst moved to the East End in 1912. There had been 5 branches in the East End, but she brought them together.

Between 1905 and 1910 East and West London suffragettes had been more united. They took collective action, organised mass rallies. Big contingents were sent from East to West, to meetings at Caxton Hall. The first meeting there was in 1906, and the Red Flag was sung by the East End suffragettes before the

meeting started. Women had of course engaged in industrial action before, most memorably the Match Girls at Bryant and May. By 1910 the West End suffragettes had moved from mass action to individual acts such as arson, breaking windows, setting fire to pillar boxes, which the East End did not do, preferring local collective campaigning. The slogan 'Votes for Women' included 'on the same basis as men'. 60% of men could vote with a property eligibility, but East London were seeking universal suffrage for all aged 21 or over. Women knew it would be a long haul.



The Lord Morpeth pub was next door to the former Women's Hall of the East London suffragettes. To celebrate in 2018 the centenary of around 70% of women getting the vote, an Australian artist Jerome Davenport, painted a mural on the side of the pub, showing Sylvia Pankhurst

and others prominent in the movement. During World War I, the Women's Hall was used as a cost price restaurant. Much suffragette activity in the West End was curtailed during the war, but in the East End there were so many women in difficulty because of the war. Some disagreed with the war, but many had men folk who were fighting. So they tried to improve women's lives, and as the war dragged on they could express their opposition more openly. Women were paid much less for covering what had been men's jobs. They rented the Gunmaker's Arms, and called it the Mothers Arms, a day nursery, creche, health facility and later a school.

George Lansbury owned a woodyard in Poplar. In 1889 he left the Liberals, moved to the Independent Labour Party, and in 1910 became the first Labour MP in Bow and Bromley. In 1912 he stepped down as MP, and fought the election on the issue of votes for women, Although the Labour Party's hierarchy wanted to focus more on improving male suffrage. He lost the election. In 1913 he supported the suffragettes' civil disobedience campaign, and provided furniture for facilities like the Women's Hall. The Pankhursts divided their interests, Sylvia siding with the East Londoners. In 1913 she went on hunger strike 10 times shortening her stay in prison, but police attempted to re-arrest her often because of the Cat and Mouse Act. In June 1914 she demanded a delegation of

East London suffragettes to Asquith, but he refused to see them. She replied that he didn't know working women, and threatened to march from the East End to Westminster, and chain herself to railings. In the end he saw a delegation of 6 women, who described their injustices at work, police brutality: this meeting changed Asquith's mind and he began to show more understanding of their cause.

During the war there was a strong connection with dock and gas workers, and they had some male support nationally. The war changed so many things. At the end there was legislation that allowed 100% of men over 21 the vote, and married women over 30 who



met a small property qualification, which gave 8.4m women the vote in that first stage. There were elections in 1919, when voters in local elections doubled. In the East End every district went Labour. Councillors in Poplar were ordinary people, including some women. Reforms such as free milk for nursing mothers and greatly increasing health visitors reduced infant mortality by 25%, there was equal pay for council workers, council housing, and libraries. The borough had a problem when in 1921 they received bills for cross-London services such as police, fire, and parks, which they refused to pay because they felt the burden fell too heavily on poorer boroughs. They were taken to court, and 30 Poplar councillors were imprisoned until they started collecting and paying it over. They spent 7 weeks in prison. The London County Council warned other councils not to do the same but the rebellion spread and they released the Poplar councillors. Minnie Lansbury, nee Glassman, one of these councillors, died at the age of 32, about 10 weeks after being released from prison. A memorial clock was funded by public subscription, and it was recently restored. Muriel Lester, a local suffragette, developed the Kingsley Hall project, which included adult education and social events for the locality.

We cannot discuss the suffragettes without mentioning the Pankhursts. Emmeline was the mother of 3 daughters, Christabel, born in 1880, Sylvia, born in 1882, and Adela. Our main interest here is Sylvia, who came to the East End, and in 1912 moved in with a family above the Women's Hall. She united what had been 5 separate branches, and brought coherence to their work. The big divergence between East and West had come in 1914, when Sylvia and her as-

sociates were expelled from the movement. Sylvia later lead an adventurous life, and died in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1960. Christabel was the architect of marginalising working class women, and supporting educated middle class women. Adela is interesting: she and Sylvia had been very close as children, but she didn't get on with their mother, Emmeline, who in 1914 bought her a one-way ticket to Australia! She married a trade union activist, but by the 1930s was active in Australia First, a Nazi style organisation. In 1940 she was imprisoned for pro-Japanese activities.

What an interesting 2 hours we had! David gave us so much information, and I for one can't wait until we are able to join him on a 'real' walk in the East End. It was also good to have been joined by our German member, Thi Finkelmeyer, and Caroline Auckland of the Tunbridge Wells Soroptimists.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)



Footnote:

Did nobody else wonder why Sylvia Pankhurst died in Addis Ababa?

I discovered that Emperor Haile Salassi of Ethiopia had sought refuge in England when the Italians invaded in 1935. They had used poison gas thrown down from planes (cf Guernica, Pablo Picasso) and the Emperor was injured. He sought refuge in Bath, probably seeking its healing waters. He bought Fairfield, a house in Bath, and later donated it to the City of Bath. Meantime Sylvia had written a book on Ethiopia, and became a friend and advisor of the Emperor. In 1956 she moved to Addis Ababa, and when she died there in 1960 she was given a full state funeral. She is still the only foreigner buried in front of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Addis Ababa, in a section reserved for patriots of the Italian War.

Anne Goldstein in her Suffragette colours.



SYDENHAM GARDENS

Tucked away along a path between some houses in Sydenham, Lewisham in South East London is a little oasis known as Sydenham Resource Centre. In 2002 a local GP Jim Sikorsky decided that therapy rather than medicine – e.g. gardening – was more beneficial for certain people. As there was only a small courtyard at the surgery it was decided to look elsewhere for something bigger. A plot previously believed to have been an allotment growing roses was the perfect solution and after a lot of fundraising Sydenham Garden was established. Eventually a resource centre was built and a replica Victorian style greenhouse was erected. A condition set down by the Council stated that part of the garden had to be established as a wild garden to encourage wildlife. The centre includes a Garden, a Pond and a Seating Area.



The therapy sessions began with gardening but this was soon extended to include Arts and Crafts. Those who attend these groups are known as co-workers rather than patients. Barbara Kern became involved when she initially went along to help with one of the sessions and this led to a request for her to become a volunteer with

the Arts and Crafts group. Her role is to chat, administer and assist in activities such as mosaics, felt making, sketching, etc. Items made, such as marmalade, chutney, cakes, biscuits, greetings cards, etc are sold at their fairs to raise funds.

Barbara also now helps with the Dementia Group which supports those with Early Onset Dementia. These co-workers take part in “Sow & Grow” which lasts for six months and if they complete this they can move on to “Sow & Grow More” which lasts for a year. Arts and Crafts, and Gardening groups meet once a week and every three months assessments take place to monitor progress.

Covid has had a massive impact on Sydenham Garden. At the moment only staff can attend the centre in order to maintain the garden so that it is not over-



grown and to harvest the flowers and vegetables. In order to ensure continuation, volunteers made contact with members - some items were posted on YouTube, "Sow & Grow" newsletters were created and groups of staff packed up bundles of craft materials for packages which were sent out. Arts & Craft activities went on to Zoom fortnightly for volunteers. Barbara invited "visitors" (who brought their own tables and chairs) to her house to try out the Arts & Craft activities.

There are plans to erect a gazebo outdoors, weather dependent of course, This will enable singing and seated exercise activities to be held.

With the involvement of the co-workers, a lovely film animation project entitled "Sow & Grow" was created by Katy Milner. This had co-workers in groups of four, armed with a camera and shown how to create animated scenes reflecting different times of the year. It truly celebrates the uniqueness of Sydenham Garden and the pride of all those, co-workers, staff and volunteers, who are involved.

Penny Kinnear (Alpha Chapter).

OPTIMISM, HAPPINESS AND HOPE

The theme of our June meeting was optimism, happiness and hope. Anne and Dorcas had suggested that we all send in photos and some words on what made us happy, what had sustained us through the difficult months we had got through, and what gave us optimism for the future. This was collated into a slide show, and I have transcribed our contributions to this splendid production. We also have a wonderful poem which had been written by Alison Ajay, Joan's granddaughter, at the end of this piece. Not surprisingly many of the contributions mentioned grandchildren, but as we cannot include photos of children they do not appear here. There are also no photos of people – how could I choose between all the wonderful happy photos, with no room for them all? What is fascinating is the fact that while many contributions had a lot in common, several were different.

Here are our individual contributions.

Kathy Hodgson

Happiness and hope: unable to see her son and his family since early 2020, other than two brief visits last February and September, as they moved to the Netherlands just before Covid took hold. Prior to that Kathy looked after her grandson, Luke, two days each week – so not being able to have regular cuddles, as he grew from being two to being four years old has been hard.

Kathy showed a picture of Plutarch the puppy bringing optimism and happiness to the family. He is a rescue dog from Greece, hence his name.

**Diana Bell**

Diana showed a photograph dated May 2021 of her Great Nephews at a wildlife park with their heads poking through holes on a board so they appeared to have tiger bodies. 'Optimism – the boys have everything to look forward to. Happiness – they are really enjoying the moment. Hope – these boys are our family's future. Optimism, happiness and hope – that all the family will get back to Greece next year.'

Anne Goldstein

'A new café just opened with its enthusiastic workers, a sign of optimism at a tough time economically.'

Marian Bowles

'The first is of my youngest grandson aged 20 months. I felt he was captivated by the motion and sound of the sea. His absorption displayed the same physical reaction that almost everyone of every age feels, when they are by the sea and peacefully feeling in touch with natural forces. A timeless feeling.'

The second was taken on Easter Sunday when the other grandchildren went to a local farm to feed the lambs, as an Easter present from their parents. New life in the hands of the young. They are not vegetarians but we did not eat roast lamb at their house later that day!'

Bettina Kulsdom

'Each day during lockdown I would walk on the beach where I live in Normans Bay, East Sussex, trying to maintain a mood of optimism against the grim reporting of rising deaths. My aim was to make sure I did something creative every day. Our beach is remote and I have a photographic record now of calm days, sunsets, rough water, natural



patterns in the wooden groynes and beautiful light effects on the water. Nature was a companion and stimulus in a time of need..'

Margarita Handschmidt



'The first picture is taken 3 months ago when I decided to take a puppy - Westi Highlander White and we visited him together with my son and grand-daughter. My grand-daughter's face reflects happiness and hope!

In the second picture Mr Otto is already 3,5 months old.

Liz Malik

'Happiness is a cup of tea and a chat with Sandra!'

Thi Finkelmeyerai

'I am sending this as a symbol of hope for myself and Myanmar, the home country where I was born. My dream and wish is for the country to be free from dictatorship and to have democracy again. These woman are from different faiths all united to protest against the illegal military government that is destroying everything ten years of democracy had built up'.

Sandra Blacker

'My grandson Oliver's first haircut since lockdown.'

'My garden has helped my sanity. The wisteria on the front of my house stands for optimism. We planted it over 30 years ago and it gave us loads of blooms, but then it got lazy over the years. Last year we threatened to cut it down if it didn't flower properly, and even bought a substitute and planted it on the right of the house. Lo and behold! This year the old wisteria flowered from top to bottom.'



Dorcas Rogers

'Happiness: August 2020 when our small family was together for the first time since lockdown. Happiness can be fragile so hold on to the memories of good times as we never know what is around the corner.' Dorcas also showed a picture of her husband, Ray, and their beloved dog Snoopy on the beach: 'These two are the most important things in my life: they provide love, companionship and stability, always there in the good times and the tough.'

'Hope is illustrated by the rising sun, always bringing hope for a new day. What has happened is in the past and no longer under control, what is to come is in the future and beyond control, but with the rising sun there is always hope for a fresh start. At the end of the day the setting sun gives hope for those beyond the horizon whose day is just starting.'

'Optimism: despite the fragile nature of these cliffs at CoveHithe where in some years 10 feet or more disappear in the winter storms, these sand martins arrive every year and remake their nests. Some of these tiny holes are more than 2 feet deep.'



Di Billam

'I am a member of the Self Isolation Choir, which has over 6000 members from all over the world, mostly the UK as it started here in March 2020. We have learned and performed maybe a dozen works since then, from the Vivaldi Requiem and Messiah to Abba and the Beatles! We have 5 brilliant conductors, not only highly skilled at their profession, but also with the personality to come across on screen as if we were all in the same room. For every performance we send in a headshot and those who record send in a recording. It is collated by a team of whizkids from around the world into the final version, which is sent out on YouTube, and the headshots are all shown on screen as the performance progresses. Do look them up! We have supported many professional musicians, singers and instrument players, through this difficult year, by paying for each work we join. There is a chat group which continues right through rehearsals and performances – we share the happiness it brings, and a Facebook group and membership scheme.'

Carole Stirling

'This is a photo of me, my husband, my son and my daughter's grandchildren. Happiness to all be together again. This is a photo of my daughter and young family and hope for the future.'

Penny Kinnear

'My Great Niece Lia was born on 20 October 2020. I finally got to meet her when I was able to travel to visit the family in April and big sister Lana could show off her new sister to me. These adorable girls are also Linda Itoka's granddaughters.'

Joan Carroll

'Our family celebrating their reunion with Moira, my Down's Syndrome daughter, after 18 months apart - Cheers'.

Alison Ajayi

'Family reunion with Moira – happiness and optimism. Even though the time apart seemed never ending, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. My family are together again.'

PRESSING PAUSE

One day we dropped into the sofa.
Stepped through the looking glass.
Our world of whirring mirrors,
Glittering careers, dazzling smiles. Smashed.

We packed tight as ticks, snug as bugs,
Hustling through days in one London hug.
While above us stalked the Covid triffid,
Sniping as we ran, faster and faster.

Then that day came

When even the sirens were muted.
Silence rolled down empty streets,
Over lonely fields and small creatures,
Scurrying under silent skies.

Imprisoned, we paced and stood and stared,
Listening, drinking coffee in our dressing gowns,
Across the country, up and down and counting
Daily numbering, Mumbling, watching, worrying..

But not hurrying

We lazed and gazed and were amazed
By ourselves, what we could do.
Jobs lost. Terrible cost. Yet no longer bossed
Chicken licken! The sky! The sky!

Is not falling ...

We dreamed. We baked new cakes.
We stepped and screamed. And crammed
With our families we played, banged our pots,
Clapped each night and tended vegetable plots.

We walked and worked on teams and dusted

A few old dreams. We wept bitter tears of goodbye
Through closed windows, hands pressed
On cold glass as beloved ones turned to die

Alone. Holding the hand of a masked stranger
Giving surrogate love, crying tears of anger.
Days and weary nights for some of us giving all
Caring. Cooking. Cleaning. Driving. Keeping our world.

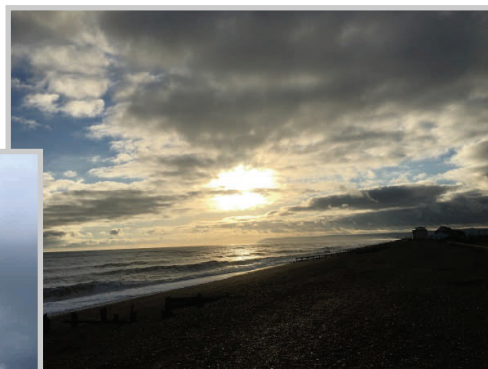
So that day when we pressed play ...

Once again the day is filled with people up and down
And the mirrors flash around and round again
We forget the debt and let those that kept
Our world. Unskilled, be pressed back down

But still we have the dreams

We made in secret, when pause was pressed
And the world was far away
And silence ruled the day
And we could play.

Alison Ajay (Alpha Chapter)



Pictures from Dorcas
Rogers, see page 13.

SHOW and TELL

This was a really interesting session organised by Anne, with a quiz by Dorcas. We had all been asked to bring a 'mystery object', which we showed the group, who had to guess its origins.

Penny showed us a collection of bricks and stones, pictured right. She explained that they were pieces of the Berlin Wall. Her late husband had been invited to join some German work colleagues on a trip to their home town of Berlin in November 1989. Whilst he was there, the Berlin Wall was brought down. These fragments were the souvenir he brought home. Unfortunately Penny had not been able to locate the two photos which had been taken of him and his friends at the scene.



Evie showed us two items: one was fairly easily identified as a boomerang! We could not guess the other, a beautiful doll, pictured left, which proved to be Ann of Green Gables, purchased in Toronto.

I showed a picture of a bus, asking people to guess where it came from. It was actually Malta, where they were still using postwar British buses for many years after the war, long after they had disappeared on our roads. I told a story about one hair-raising long distance trip from Valetta going south, with the driver a Johnny Depp lookalike dressed just like Pirates of the Caribbean, including the bandana, and with a driving style which matched his appearance! We

were shaking with fear by the time we got off the bus, but thankful that we had survived.



Dorcas showed us some beautiful maple leaves. They were sold on the 9/11 Memorial site in New York, and made from melted metal from the towers. There were emblems of victims from various countries, this one being Canada of course. I explained that Evie and I had been to the Memorial when we were in New York for the International Convention – she had a relative who had died

there – and thought what an inspiring place it was. Do look it up if you have not seen it. She also showed us a tiny turtle, with a baby on its back, which was Native American, from the Acoma tribe in New Mexico. She and her husband Ray had become fascinated by the Native American history and art while on trips to their areas. The turtle is a fertility symbol.

Barbara showed us a Chinese mirror, pictured right, and some beautiful garments, including a Burmese jacket. There was also a medal on a lanyard from the Paralympic Games in London in 2012, which includes the Paralympic logo, pictured below. Barbara had been awarded it as one of the chorus of 400 people who sang at the Opening Ceremony. What an amazing souvenir.



We tried to guess what it was Unity had sent. It turned out to be a wooden yardstick with notches on the sides, and a series of pictures carved into it. We could not guess that this was a replica of a Viking or early Christian calendar.

Margarita showed us a beautiful garment, with an Estonian pattern designed for skirts to be worn in celebrations on 20 August 2021, the 30th anniversary of their independence. These beautiful fabrics are embroidered by women on some of the Estonian islands. She also had a pillow with the words 'you are the best grandmother in the world' on it – we would all like one of those!

Thi showed us a cockerel from Myanma (formerly known as Burma) her home country. A mythical bird was one of a series of weights. A beautiful bangle was a mosaic circle made of bamboo lacquered black, with crushed eggshells added to make the mosaic. Incredible craftsmanship.

Carole showed us a woven ball from China – it must stay in the air and not touch the ground during a game. There was also a beautiful piece of grey jade from New Zealand, a replica of a Maori warclub. Diana had a gold medal! Also a Hadrosaurus dinosaur egg from China, pictured right. Joan and Moira showed us some beautiful Waterford glass from Ireland, shaped like an Irish harp. Anne showed us a heavy metal object of complex shape, which proved to be a calculator from Vienna called a Curta. The father of the designer was Jewish, the mother Catholic, detained in a concentration camp. It was patented in 1935, and is dated underneath.



We had also been asked to produce a gold medal – mine was an owl, as I pointed out that all we had heard from Olympic contestants recently had emphasised how much of their success is in the mind, and how easy it is for the elite performers to become overwhelmed by the pressure, which must be enormous to be performing in front of the eyes of the world. Kate had a chief's wooden seat from Africa, and a wooden plaque cleverly designed in the shape of the African continent. Dorcas showed her medal, saying the last few years had been difficult, and she had joined a walking group, aiming to walk 1000 miles in a year, ie an average of 2.7 miles per day. The group is from all over the world. Dorcas got to 1000 miles, and then went on to 2000, hence the medal. There are 4500 people in their Facebook page, and 10 in her particular group.

Dorcas then took us through one of her excellent quizzes, on the subject of Japan and the recent Olympics. I will not report on my lamentable performance!

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)

HAPPY HIGHWAYS

Over the summer, I acted in the Rusthall Community play. 'Happy Highways.' The play, with its theme of Home, was devised by volunteers on Zoom. The rough material was crafted into a play by Jon Oram, a talented theatre director, internationally known for his community plays.

In my lockdown research, I had discovered that Rusthall village had accepted 60 Basque children fleeing the horrors of the Spanish Civil War in 1937. They stayed at The Beacon in Happy Valley, now a restaurant and beautiful wedding venue. Although local people were aware of The Beacon housing Jewish refugee children from 1938, the Basque story was unknown.



Anne as a distressed Basque child leaving her mother.

Jon was excited by my findings and my research became part of the play. I was a Basque girl not wanting to leave my mother to go on a ship to Southampton from Bilbao. When my husband came to see me perform, he was rather shocked at how angry I appeared. This proved the director's belief that everyone can act.

Happy Highways was entirely Covid-19 friendly and took place in various places in the woods. The audience broke into

three groups and each one took a different route, as the stories unfolded. Some of the audience were so gripped, they came three times, to experience all the plays.

Our refugee theme suddenly became even more relevant with the Afghanistan crisis. The poignant finale chorus song 'Entertaining Angels', about welcoming strangers, seemed so fitting. We took the audience on a journey and went on one ourselves.

Anne Goldstein (*Gamma Chapter*)

Anne, left, with her fellow actors who played former Basque refugees.



THE SINGING REVOLUTION

Estonians have always loved singing. They were under Soviet rule for a long time, and in 1988 held a spontaneous mass singing demonstration, which started at the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds in 1988. Independence from the Soviet Union was eventually gained for Estonia in 1991. Latvia and Lithuania also regained their independence. Nowadays the annual festival also includes dancing.

When our European Conference was held in Tallinn we went on many interesting tours, and on one of them visited the Song Festival Grounds and heard this story. The Estonian Song Festival first took place in 1869, and now has 30,000 performers. Margarita Handschmidt men-



tioned it to us, and showed us some of the beautiful Estonian clothes which are worn on these occasions. We have noticed that on the last day of our European Conferences members from the other European countries wear their national dress – and we Brits are forced to confess that we do not have one! I have often wondered why –

goodness knows we make enough of other aspects of our history – and the other three parts of the United Kingdom all have recognisable national costumes.

Above is a picture of some of the typical clothes worn by Estonian singers on these memorable occasions.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)

Children`s choir above right. On the right, singers getting ready. You will recognise Margarita second from left!



ALPHA & GAMMA CHAPTER PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Due to continuing Covid restrictions both chapters have continued to hold joint meetings via Zoom. Invitations were extended to our friends in other European Chapters and their joining us added an extra dimension to our meetings.

In February we had a fascinating meeting. We were joined by a diverse panel of Black Asian Minority Ethnic Teachers (B.A.M.E) who shared their experiences of teaching. They shared the prejudices and racially motivated problems they encountered on their journeys and still encounter now. Only 3% of headships go to black heads. School leaders need to talk about race! They raised a range of contemporary and challenging issues.

In March we had a varied panel of speakers on the topic of 'Education in the Time of Covid'. It was fascinating to hear their different experiences. I think some of the things they shared surprised us all. We all had questions around the effect the lock downs have had on the education of our children and young people.

In April David Rosenberg took us on a virtual tour around the London Borough of Tower Hamlets following in the footsteps of the East London Suffragettes. They were a lesser known branch of the movement. These women were happy to go to jail for their principles although it had greater consequences for them than their West End sisters who had an economic cushion. There is plenty of evidence of the movement in the area and by serving as councillors they were able to introduce health visitors, free milk for nursing mothers and they cut the infant mortality rate by 25%!

In May Barbara Kern took us to Sydenham Garden where she volunteers. This is a vital community project where she went to help make marmalade and she's still there! You just can't turn up, you have to be referred. It was started by a local GP because he felt that some people needed therapy rather than drugs. It has continued to expand and the biggest area of expansion is working with people with dementia.

What an 'opening up ceremony' we had in June. Anne Goldstein and Dorcas Rogers put together an amazing slideshow of reflection and hope. Allison Ajayi read her amazing poem and a beautiful water lily activity focussed our minds on the world opening up again. People shared the activities they'd been following or started during lockdown. We have learnt a lot during lockdown – the value

and love of family and friends, the importance of community and to hold on to the good times.

We looked forward to our July meeting which was to have a theme of strawberries and Wimbledon. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. However we did have an exciting meeting in August which was post Olympics. We brought along items we had brought home from other countries and we had to guess what they were and how they were used – very interesting! This was followed by a brilliant quiz about Japan, produced by our quizmaster Dorcas – I hadn't realised how much I knew about the country! We are now looking forward to meeting in Diana Bell's garden in August when we will hold our AGM – what a treat that will be to all be together again.

Who knows what the future will hold for us in September but hopefully we will be able to meet together again – something we have all sorely missed. However I'm sure we will not completely abandon Zoom meetings as they have opened up all sorts of possibilities for us especially on an International Level. The future looks exciting and holds lots of new possibilities, here's to another year packed with stimulating meetings and precious friendships.

Saturday 18 September: 2 pm: (Zoom): 'The Colour of Success': Jane Liddell King will give a presentation on her Great Aunt, Ida King, the first black Girtonian and teacher.

What was Ida's sense of identity? What prompted her life choices? How was she perceived? What questions re education does her cultural value system raise?

Saturday 23 October – Alpha Chapter face to face event: 2 pm: 'The effect that Visual Perception Problems have on Education'. Sally Anne Olivier.

Diana Bell has agreed to host at her house and an invitation is extended to Gamma members. Bring and share lunch from 12.15pm.

Saturday 20 November – Topic and Speaker tbc.

Saturday 4 December - Chapter Christmas event/outing. Tbc.

Carole Stirling and Penny Kinnear (Chapter Presidents) .

DKG Opportunities for all members

- * **Share and learn together in an international society especially for women in education.**
- * **Enjoy annual international conferences with colleagues and friends from many different countries.**
- * **Develop personal and professional skills, including leadership.**
- * **Become an international speaker in North America or Europe with all expenses paid.**
- * **Opportunities include:**
 - * **Regular meetings with great speakers on interesting topics in London and Kent.**
 - * **Scholarships available for individual projects.**
 - * **Outstanding leadership & management training at The University of Texas. (Golden Gift).**

There are many more opportunities available – view the DKG websites for the full list.

International Headquarters: www.dkg.org

Details of GB meetings are on the website

Great Britain: www.dkggb.org.uk

Find out more about DKG in Europe

Europe: www.dkgeurope.org

Mission Statement

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