

## President's message

My grandmother's cupboards were full of coffee mugs. They were all shapes and sizes. She had mugs on pedestals and mugs with flower designs; mugs that changed color with the heat and mugs that were so tiny they would hardly fit an espresso. She even had a mug from Lahaina's Pioneer Inn. Her favorites were earthenware because they seemed to have an artistic history about them. Over Christmas break a few years ago, I enjoyed the company of my grandmother and her stories over a cup of coffee each



day. We would open the cupboard and select the perfect mug for that moment. I treasure those memories and am thankful that many of her mugs now rest in my cupboard. Daily rituals like sitting down with a cup of coffee provide an opportunity to relax, reminisce, and share a story. The holiday season is a busy time of year. Please find time to enjoy a cup of coffee and a story with your family and friends.



Happy Holidays,  
Steph

## Recommended quarterly reading

This quarter, I recommend any of three books from Grace Lin: *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, *Starry River of the Sky*, or *When the Sea Turned to Silver*. All three offer adventure and fairy tales set in Chinese folklore. Grace Lin shares an answer to the question, Why stories? "Because stories are how we share our lives and what we truly mourn when they are lost. Stories are what connect us to our past and carry us to our future. They are what we cherish and what we remember. They are why I write my books and why I offer them as my humble gift to you."



## Save the dates:

### Talk Story Tuesday

Please join us for a Talk Story Tuesday on the first Tuesday of each month. Topics will vary monthly. The next one is 1/2/24.

### Saturday, January 27

Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Hawai'i State Organization at the Bishop Museum from 10 am - 1 pm.

### Saturday, April 13

**Lambda** Chapter kindly asks for you to save the day for the 2024 Spring Convention. More information to follow.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

## Delta Kappa Gamma Hawaii State Organization's 75th Birthday Celebration

"Embracing our Roots - Cultivating our Future"

JANUARY 27, 2024

10:00AM - 1:00PM

BISHOP MUSEUM - ATHERTON HALAU  
1525 BERNICE STREET, HONOLULU HI 96817

PARKING: \$5

Early Bird Registration: \$50

RSVP by January 5, 2024

Regular Registration: \$55

RSVP by January 19, 2024

## Delta Doings

Delta chapter welcomed five new initiates at our April meeting. **Shin Ae Han, Ph.D., Leah Muccio, Ph.D., Debra Okumura**, and our first two collegiate members, **Haley Chibana** and **Kylie Otsuka**. As is our usual practice, this gathering culminated with food and fellowship.

The Alma White Delta Scholarship Fund administered by the Hawaii Community Foundation awarded two grants for Fall 2023, totaling \$5,500, to John Nihipali, a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa student, and Sheralynn Norqvist, a Stony Brook University student.

The family of the late **Yun Soong Jim**, long-time member, biology teacher at McKinley High School, and island-wide mentor to biology teachers, established a scholarship to enable DKG members to develop leadership skills and to encourage academic advancement at the graduate level.

Later in the summer, through the efforts of Delta member **Jo Ige**, our Chapter members assisted at the Ala Wai Genki Ball Project. It was a fun-filled morning of learning about ways in which schools and community organizations can help with cleaning up the Ala Wai Canal. The highlight was tossing the Genki balls into the canal!

**-Gale Ikeda, Delta**



## White Roses

Leilani Warinner Oliveria was a Delta Chapter member for 47 years. She passed away on April 21, 2023, leaving a large void in our chapter that will be difficult to fill. Any member can tell you Lei exhibited quiet strength and humility and never said no to any request. Lei served as State president from 1986-1987, chapter president, and chairwoman of almost every chapter committee. Lei taught at Aiea Elementary, Alva Scott Elementary, Lanai Elementary, and Kapalama Elementary. While living at Volcano on Hawai'i island after retirement, Lei would return for Delta's annual Christmas luncheon, bringing homemade ohelo berry pies and jams and liko lehua wreaths. Aloha, a hui hou, Lei.

**-Gale Ikeda, Delta**



## 2nd VP message

Aloha mai kākou,

The new biennium for HSO DKG is off to a busy start. We are grateful for the leadership of those who served before us and look forward to building upon the strong foundation they've set.

Many of us today are enjoying face-to-face meetings and gatherings, as well as the benefits of online connections that provide alternative opportunities to engage current and potential members. I remember my first **Lambda** Chapter meeting. A dear friend and colleague invited me to join. The members were very welcoming and from many different roles, areas, and levels of education. There was learning, much laughter, and, as we always like to do it in Lambda, great food! From the wealth of knowledge gained from one another to the collaborative work in planning and supporting state-wide learning and to the deepening of our friendships and camaraderie, the benefits for all have been enormous.

We look forward to exploring new ideas for enhancing our stories with current members and inspiring the addition of members to create new ones. Reflecting on our memories and stories with DKG, we can combine our collective talents and efforts to share opportunities for growth and examples for enhancing current and potential memberships.

E holomua kākou,

**.Ronnie Kopp, Lambda**

## US Forum Ad Hoc Committee update

Two of the seven goals of DKG are to (4) "initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation in the interests of education and of women educators" and (7) to inform the membership of current economic, social, political, and educational issues to the end that they may become intelligent, functioning members of a world society." To this end, the U.S. Forum Ad Hoc Committee was formed.

In Hawai'i, we are indeed fortunate to have responsive and highly moral representatives being sent to the United States Congress. They have worked for women's and children's rights, protection, and equality. They have a record of helping this state economically and socially as they sit on influential committees to create laws to be enacted.

Even so, our nation faces so many divisive issues legislatively, and we cannot sit idly, hoping these either go away or pass us by. Guns, women's rights, and voting are just some of the issues that continue to face our legislators. Even if we individually don't have solid solutions or suggestions for our national problems, support for those good intentions is essential as well.

U.S. Forum allows us to gain knowledge of the issues through its webinars and to interface with our CONgress members to support or add input into laws that they are working on. Please get involved with this Ad Hoc Committee, its conference in March in Washington, D.C., and its online opportunities to learn more about the issues facing all of us as citizens and educators.

If you wish to connect or re-connect with this vital part of DKG, you may find me at [maug006@gmail.com](mailto:maug006@gmail.com).

### Upcoming Events:

-National Legislative Seminar: March 10 - 13, 2024. Visit [this website](#) for more information.

-QPR Suicide Prevention Certification Course: November 14, 2023, November 28, 2023, and December 19, 2023, from 1:30 - 3:00 PM. Register [here](#).

-The Many Advantages of Outdoor Education: November 16, 2023, at 7 PM Central. Register [here](#).

-Emotional Well-Being with Journal Writing: December 5, 2023, at 6 PM Central. Register [here](#).

**-Gwen Mau, Theta**

## Gamma's update

**Gamma** Chapter is exceptionally grateful for all the heartfelt words of support for Maui following the devastation due to the wildfires. The road to recovery will be long, and the rebuilding of Lahaina and the homes lost in Kula will take time. Tears were shed as we received check after check after check in the mail from so many sisters across the miles. Over \$4,000 in donations from the HSO, **Epsilon Omicron**, and **Epsilon Lambda** of California were received for our sisters impacted by the wildfires. Japan State visited O'ahu recently and also donated \$1,000 for our Maui keiki, which will be used to support a holiday toy drive for the Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui, who gave all their toys and books they had immediately following the fires to displaced children. **Theta** Chapter made over 200 stress balls and massagers, which were donated to King Kekaulike High School and Lokelani Intermediate School staff, who greatly appreciated their hard work! We see the musubi stress balls close at hand on many teacher's desks! We know that many sisters donated directly to the various organizations supporting the people of Maui and helped at the different collection and distribution drives across the islands over the past few months. Mahalo for your generosity and love shared with Maui!

**-Cindy Asato-Kochi, Gamma**



*Save the Date*  
SPRING CONVENTION 2024  
Hosted by Lambda Chapter  
APRIL 13, 2024  
Hale 'Ākoakoa  
Windward Community College

## Happenings at Kahauiki Village

The First Family Literacy Class with DKG teachers **Lena Kanemori**, **Carole Mitsuyoshi-Sugai**, and **Ann Takazone (Kappa)**, and **Sharon Inamine** and **Ellen Tanoura (Mu)** ended festively on Thursday, October 19, 2023. The new term started on November 7, 2023.

**-Ellen Tanoura, Mu**



## Red Roses

**Jo Ige** is **Delta** Chapter's Red Rose. Jo is a second generation Delta member, following in the footsteps of her mother, Nancy. Jo has been a teacher, administrator, and educational leader in the DOE for many years.



Following her retirement from the DOE, Jo continues to work for the University of Hawai'i, College of Education, supervising student-teacher cohorts. Jo's mission has always been focused on developing leadership capacity. She has served in various roles, ranging from chapter president to chairwoman of many chapter and state committees, and is the epitome of Delta's mantra: "A Delta sister never says no."

Jo's leadership skills extend beyond the classroom. She deeply desires to perpetuate her Okinawan heritage, a seed that her mother planted. She has held leadership roles in the local Kin Chojin Kai as its president twice. She then led the entire Hawaii United Okinawan Association as its president. Jo was awarded Uchinanchu of the Year in recognition of her many achievements. Recently, Jo was elected president of Hui O Laulima, an organization of Okinawan women dedicated to promoting Okinawan culture and traditions.

**- Gale Ikeda, Delta**

## White Rose

**Juliette Chau Han Ling (Theta)** passed away on July 21, 2023. She was born on July 30, 1928.

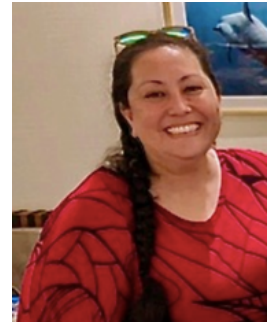
Juliette was initiated into the Theta chapter on January 30, 1965. A few years ago, she was awarded a DKG 50-year pin. Juliette served as chapter president and State Leadership Development Chair. She also served as DKG Beta Beta State President from 1977 to 1979. Presenting workshops on flower arranging allowed Juliette to share her passion for Ikebana. Professionally, Juliette was the Principal at Anuenue Elementary, Hokulani Elementary, and Waialae Elementary. She was an avid reader, and one of her favorite television shows was Murder She Wrote. As one of our older members, she was a mentor to many of us in the Theta chapter, helping to guide us when we took leadership positions since she had served in almost all of the leadership positions. For 58 years, Juliette blessed us with her friendship and knowledge.

**-Deanne Kanekuni, Theta**



## Blooming Roses 2023

Our Blooming Rose, **Mary Miura-Aguinaldo**, has been an **Iota** sister since June 6, 2017. She has made it her duty to represent our Chapter on the LDW Planning Committee and embraces their important work.

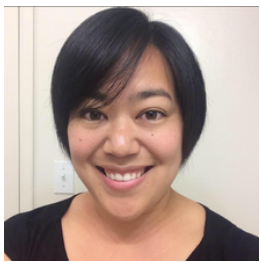


As a science educator, Mary uses data and observation when approaching most things. She is open to finding solutions that most people might overlook. Her "out-of-the-box" approach to problem-solving, activity planning, and total engagement during meetings ensures that we have a fun yet productive time. We admire her positive and approachable personality; it helps to create and maintain our close bonds. She is dependable and is a key member of her meeting team each year.

Professionally, she imbues her students and children to never limit themselves due to racial, socio-economic, or gender barriers. She is a cheerleader for empowerment through education and helping others. She values the gifts and talents each of us has and encourages us to continue learning and growing.

Mary steps forward when there is a call and when a sister needs personal and professional support. She is highly respected and very trustworthy. Her "can do" spirit helps to lift our Iota Chapter as a whole.

**-Camille Matsutomi, Iota**



**Jennifer Lee Koike** has demonstrated her commitment to DKG and the **Mu** Chapter by participating in and hosting the many meetings and events of the Chapter. She has shown her leadership qualities by being a committee chair and helping with many behind-the-scenes tasks. She strives for excellence, even as a student teacher. She was an outstanding student at the University of Phoenix, where she conducted workshops for the faculty at her assigned school! She has attended state Leadership Workshops, Fall Conferences/Forums, and Spring Conventions and conducted breakout sessions, often in technology. Jen is a team player and works to bring people together using her great sense of humor. The Mu Executive Board is proud to nominate Jennifer Lee Koike as its 2023 Blooming Rose.

**-Sharon Inamine, Mu**

**Tiffany Dela Cruz (Beta)** is currently the HSTA Director for Hawaii Island (East Big Island). Before taking on that instrumental role, she diligently served the DOE as a teacher at Pahoia Elementary School. Tiffany's service to her community is wider than that of Hawaii's public schools. Through her established Polynesian entertainment company, Merahii Productions, Tiffany preserves and enriches our culture by teaching it and creating unity and camaraderie bridged by a shared sense of Aloha. Tiffany approaches challenges and does not settle with complacency, which is demonstrated by her consistent attendance and participation in chapter events, primarily on a different island.

**-Zoe Green, Beta**

