



DKG Mission Statement:

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

Volume 13 Issue 1

September 2023



Presidents' Message

Dear Alpha Upsilon Sisters,

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." Aristotle

Welcome back everyone! We hope your summer has been relaxing and enjoyable! Hopefully people have been traveling, enjoying family and friends, and just experiencing life!!

Thanks to **Judi Healey** for arranging some very exciting and interesting programs for our upcoming season. Our first meeting is Thursday, September 14th which will be hosted by **Pat Rabe** and who is also the refreshment chair and will be contacting those of you who signed up to help her. We will be distributing our annual red directories at this meeting. Be sure to attend to pick yours up!! **Karen Wilcoxon**, our Corresponding Secretary, will be sending out a reminder for this meeting so be sure to reply back to her with your RSVP. Thank you in advance for this.

We look forward to seeing all of you very soon. Let's make this year a good one!

**Willy Crouse and Karen Gollhardt,
Co-Presidents**

**DKG Vision: Leading women educators
impacting education worldwide.**

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**DKG California
2023-2025
Theme:**

**Our Compass is
on New Horizons**

**Alpha Upsilon
2023-2024 Theme**

**Expanding
Opportunities**

**DKG California
Educational, Professional,
Making an Impact**

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Co-Presidents: Willy Crouse
Karen Gollhardt
Newsletter Editor: Judy Kearns
judykearns24@gmail.com

**ALPHA UPSILON NEWS
Area XIII**

A "TOP TEN" DKG CA NEWSLETTER 2022



Ready for Our First Meeting of the Year?



First Meeting: Thursday, September 15

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Pat Rabe
3404 Markridge, La Crescenta

Program: Welcome Back! 2023-2024 Theme: Expanding Opportunities



3 Power Volunteer Options to Get Us Going

Gayle Dunhem - Holding Babies - Gayle has spent the last years volunteering for Dignity Health (Glendale Adventist)

SPCA Volunteers from Pasadena: You'll find a myriad of hands on volunteer opportunities, including the chance to train dogs, walk dogs, and reduce their boredom.

Karen Wilcoxon - Volunteering in schools goes to our strengths. If you are no longer in the classroom, why not make this year your time to share your strengths?

Bonus Incentive to "walk out your front door..." For those interested, your executive board has prepared a list (page 3) of various hikes/walks/activities worth pursuing in our area this coming year. If you do one from each category, you will get a prize in May. (Psst - It's an easy list.)

Refreshment Committee: Pat Rabe*, Marcelyn Bible, Ardis Bunn, Marty Unger

Calendar 2023-2024 Meetings



Mark your calendars **NOW!** Great things are planned!

- Thursday, September 14, 2023: Home of Pat Rabe
- Wednesday, October 11, 2023: St. George's Episcopal Church, La Cañada
- Thursday, November 9, 2023: Zoom meeting
- Sunday, December 3, 2023: Holiday Party for CASA: Home of Robin Williams
- Thursday, December 7, 2023: Decorate at Hillside
- Wednesday, January 11, 2024: Home of Christine Werner
- Saturday, February 3, 2024: Area XIII Conference, Cal Poly Pomona
- Thursday, February 15, 2024: St. George's Episcopal Church, La Cañada
- Saturday, March 16, 2024: Tour of Rubel's Castle, Glendora
- Wednesday, April 10, 2024: Annual Friendship Tea, Home of Pat Kalish
- May 3-5, 2024: DKG California Convention, Santa Clara Marriott, Santa Clara
- Thursday, May 18, 2024: Home of Betsy Bazdarich
- July 9-13, 2024: DKG International Convention: National Harbor, Baltimore Maryland

Ready for Our First Meeting of the Year?

Hikes & Walks to Enjoy in the LA Area

Tours:

Dodger Stadium has an accredited Botanic Garden, tours Friday 10 am \$25 for adults
Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House (L.A.'s first UNESCO site)
L.A. Conservancy Walking Tour of Union Station
Pasadena Showcase House (mid-April to mid-May)
SoFi Stadium and Gardens (and Lake Park) in Inglewood, tours \$30

Hikes:

Bane Canyon Loop—7.75 miles. 4721 Sapphire Rd. Chino Hills, parks.ca.gov.
Brown Mountain (named for abolitionist John Brown by his sons who moved west)—7.3 miles. Start at Ventura St. and North Windsor Ave. near the JPL entrance.
Champion Lodgepole Pine Trail near Big Bear Lake—One mile
Colinas Ridge Trail—4.2 miles. 30305 Golden Lantern, Laguna Niguel
Escondido Canyon Trail and Falls in Malibu—3½ miles roundtrip
Franklin Canyon Park—300 acres, lake and nature center. (www.LAMountains.com)
Harmon Canyon Preserve, 7511 Foothill Rd., Ventura- venturlandtrust.org/harmon-canyon
Henninger Flats—5.9 miles. Park and start at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Reservations may be required.
Moro Canyon Loop, Crystal Cove State Park, between Corona Del Mar and Laguna—3 miles
Mt. Lee (Hollywood sign)—6½ miles. Park in a lot and start at Brush Canyon/Canyon Drive West in Griffith Park.
Mt. Lukens (highest point in L. A. city limits)—9 miles, round trip. Park on the road and start at the Wildwood Picnic Area, 3299 Big Tujunga Canyon Road, Tujunga.
Point Dume Cove Trail, Point Dume State Beach, Malibu—1.4 mile loop
Switzer Falls—4½ miles round trip. Park and start at the Switzer Picnic Area on Angeles Crest Hwy. about 10 miles north of La Canada
Vasquez Rocks—3.4 miles round trip. Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park, 10700 Escondido Canyon Road, Agua Dulce.
Wisdom Tree —3 miles. Starts at Wonder View Drive near Lake Hollywood Reservoir.

Gardens:

Autry Museum's Ethnobotanical Garden in Los Angeles
Descanso Gardens in La Cañada
Getty Center Museum and Gardens in Los Angeles
Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanic Gardens in San Marino
L.A. County Arboretum in Arcadia
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont
South Coast Botanic Gardens in Palos Verdes Estates
Suihoen Japanese Garden in Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area
The Sherman Library and Gardens in Newport Beach
UCLA's Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden (hammer.ucla.edu/collections)
Ventura Botanical Gardens, 567 S. Poli St. Ventura

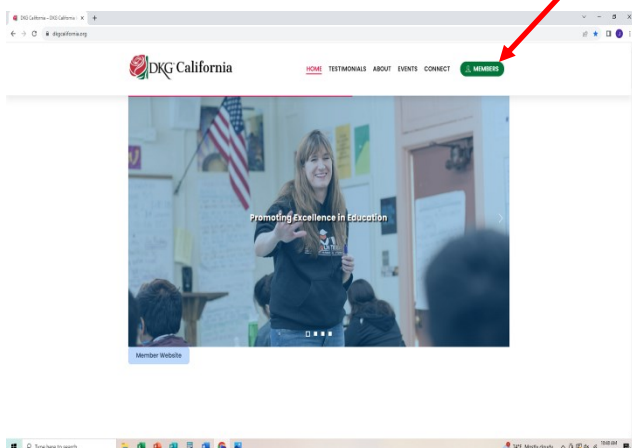
Happy Birthday to....



September

- 3—Susie Vernand
- 11—Jean Chubb
- 15—Trisch Diaz
- 21—Joyce Hamdan
- 25—Judy Kearns

Accessing the State Website



Take the time to explore the DKG California updated website. Address is: dkgcalifornia.org When you go to the website, you will see the word MEMBERS in a green box on the right side. Click on this and enter "sisterhood" when prompted for a password. Now you have access to all the information about committees, events, publications, etc. There's lots to learn!!

Membership News



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome Back! Can you believe it's time to start a new year? It will be so good to see everyone at our first meeting in September. I'm very excited about our 2023/2024 theme, "Exploring Opportunities."

What does exploring opportunities mean to you? Certainly there are many, many options outside of DKG as we'll hear from our guest speakers, but there are also so many possibilities within our own organization and chapter.

We also have the opportunity to "spread the word" about DKG and all that we offer. Who do you know that you can invite to our meetings? We have some great ones planned this year. The advantage of being on the board is that I have a "sneak" preview of what lies ahead and I'm really excited about them. Who do you know in schools that you could contact about leaving DKG brochures? I'm happy to drop them off or do a presentation at a staff meeting.

I am also going to send out the membership information form for everyone to update. It's been a long time since we've updated the document and information. Even though nothing may have changed, it's still a good chance to reflect on what you've done in the past and/or are doing now. New members, you are exempt – unless things have changed since this spring!

Hope you all had a great summer and I can't wait to find out what you've been up to. See you September 14, 2023!

Marty Unger
Second VP, Membership



Return of the Raffle!!



What's that in Santa's sack?? Looks like RAFFLE TICKETS!!!

Once again the raffle to benefit CASA will be held during the Holiday Party. Every dollar collected is donated to CASA. Plus, you get to **REDUCE** and **RECYCLE** items you no longer want to keep and **REUSE** awesome items you "win." The Raffle has been very successful in the past and because of your generous donations of quality items valued of at least \$15 or more or much more. Some examples of items from the past include: household decor, scarves, children's toys, tools, purses, jewelry, antiques, pet supplies, gift certificates, bottles of wine, etc. (Please do not buy anything to donate – that would defeat our eco-friendly goal).

You may begin bringing any items to the September, October or November meetings. They will be stored before the event.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks and good luck hunting!!

Robin Williams
AKA Hostess with the Mostest



Time to Think About Nominations!

Unfortunately the amazing leadership of Karen Gollhardt and Willy Crouse and all the chapter officers will come to and end in June 2024. They have been incredibly generous with their time and their talents for "4" years-2 biennia! Karen and Willy, along with other chapter officers, guided us through the pandemic without missing a beat and the Alpha Upsilon Chapter is so very grateful.

Now we have the opportunity to have other ladies take the helm for the next biennium. Your membership in DKG indicates you are a leader. The Nominations Committee is asking for your input by suggesting members you think would be able to fill these positions. Members may also submit their own names if interested in a particular position.

Please contact the members of the Nominating Committee.

Mary Linda Vandevælde
Phone: 213 210-5751 Email: marylindavandevælde@gmail.com

Nancy Gunther
Phone: 818 419-7966. Email: nfgunther@yahoo.com

Joyce Hamdan
818 415-5774 Email: artisticjoy@yahoo.com

Support Covenant House

Bring any personal care items you may have collected during your summer travels to the September meeting. The residents of Covenant House are so grateful for them.

Laura Strametz, Chairman





Hi Ladies,

2022-2023 was quite a year of wonderful in person and online meetings. Since we cannot predict the future, we are proposing that once again this year we make monetary donations to School On Wheels. Technology is something that is always needed.

This is a letter we received from Charles Evans that shows what is currently need.

Hi Kathy,

It is great to hear from you. I hope all is well. We are still giving out devices such as tablets and Chromebooks, so accessories such as headphones or earbuds would be great. We could use monetary funds to purchase devices, but gift cards such as Amazon and Target are greatly appreciated. Let me know if you have questions.

Charles Evans
Executive Director



school on wheels



*We will collect money in the fall at our **SECOND** meeting on Wednesday, October 12.

***Our goal** is \$1000

***Checks** should be made out to **School On Wheels**.

*Suggested **Gift Cards with attached Activation Receipts** are welcomed

*If you cannot make the meeting On October 11, send your checks/gift cards to Kathy on or before **October 11**.

*Checks and gift cards seem to be preferred. However, if you have already purchased school supplies, bring them to the **October 11** meeting.

Kathy Cockerill,
3408 Markridge Rd.
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Thank you for your generosity and caring. If you have any questions, contact:

Kathy Cockerill katsltr74@aol.com
Penny Schopflin schopflin@aol.com

Co-Chairs

Treasurer's Report

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL DKG California State Organization

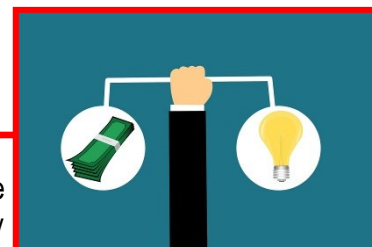
Treasurer's Report Alpha Upsilon Chapter August 1, 2023

BALANCE ON HAND: July 1, 2023				\$7,154.18
	Receipts/ Disbursements	Total receipts/ Disbursements		
RECEIPTS:				
Interest	\$.03			
Share certificate interest	9.21			
School for Africa (February)	49.50			
School for Africa (April & May)	130.44			
Buck a Book	134.00			
Membership (26 @ \$85)	2,210.00			
Membership (20 @ \$85, 2 @ \$50)	1,800.00			
Total receipts for July		\$ 4,333.18	\$ 4,333.18	
Total available			\$ 11,487.36	
DISBURSEMENTS :				
LIFE Foundation	\$ 200.00			
Total disbursements for July		\$ 200.00	- 200.00	
BALANCE ON HAND: August 1, 2023				\$ 11,287.36



Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

The Finance Committee met on August 9th to create the proposed budget for 2023-2024. The committee consists of Judy Kearns and Mary Lou Langedyke with Rose Gant, treasurer, Willy Crouse and Karen Gollhardt, co-presidents, as ex-officio members.



For the past three years, the budget document and process has evolved providing us with the ability to track expenditures and plan for the year. The first change was to provide a two-year overview. Next, specifics for membership expenses was added as well as two new expenditure categories, Committee Expenses and Officer Expenses. Rentals and Teacher Appreciation are line items added last year to better reflect expenses.

A budget is a working document, a guesstimate of future needs. Some items were below expectation, some on target, and one or two over budgeted amounts. Expenditures of \$50 or more over the stated budgeted amount must have approval of the Chapter President. (Chapter Rules, Article 4, B1). The numbers in parentheses indicate membership numbers. The first number is membership in 2022-2023, the second number is for 2023-2024.

The proposed budget will be voted on at the September meeting. The Finance Committee will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Remember, the purpose of a budget is to guide planning for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

STEP Up to THAT !!



Welcome to a new school year and the opportunity to support your fellow educators through the **Teachers Helping Another Teacher (THAT)** Program. The need to help teachers is greater now than ever, as we all strive to help students compensate for skills and time lost during the pandemic. There are numerous ways to assist in volunteer capacities from working directly with students online and in the classroom, to helping teachers with materials and activities, planning and evaluation.

For those members who are actively teaching:

- Complete the THAT help form by indicating areas where you need assistance Link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JmFBDxtFoCAwIENH9jEDwY9YtL7q2-IH4cnZtkHxHb8/edit#gid=0>
- Each month these needs will be shared in the newsletter for members to see and help you!
- Don't need help right now? Fill out the form and indicate your grade level, school, and district
- Explore the [DKG California website](#) and look for valuable resources offered by the [STEP Committee](#).
- Click on **Members** on the top right side of the home page and enter sisterhood when prompted for your password. (see page 4)
 - Look for the STEP Committee under Committee Resources at the top of the page
 - Make the chapter aware of teachers at your school site who could use our help

For members who are retired:

- Share any information with me about teachers, programs, or schools that could use our help
- Volunteer at your local school or for a teacher you know
- [Record volunteer hours on the THAT form](#) easily found on the DKG California website. Click on **Members** on the top right side of the home page and enter sisterhood when prompted for your password. (see page 4)
- This will open a page with several icons on it including THAT <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFvKaWfxOr64hHQNJENm9A-vWqUaxCRDH1WFJgaUibMibANw/viewform>
- Be sure THAT forms are completed by March 1, 2024

Karen Wilcoxen
THAT/STEP Chairman

Schools for Africa



“Education is a fundamental human right.”

Schools for Africa became The Delta Kappa Gamma Society's first official international project in 2010. Since that time, members have donated approximately, \$445,134.90. Currently, the project works with 21 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Schools for Africa's mission involves providing access to quality basic education for children, focusing on girls, orphans, and other vulnerable children.

Schools for Africa is a partnership with UNICEF (The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and Peter Kramer Stiftung (previously the Hamburg Foundation) to help millions of children access quality education. Currently, 600 million children and adolescents worldwide are unable to attain minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics. This learning crisis was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought education systems to a halt.

Poverty remains one of the most obstinate barriers to education. Other reasons children are cut off from schooling are economic fragility, political instability, and conflict or natural disasters. Unfortunately, it is even more challenging for children with disabilities, those from ethnic minorities, and females.

DKG's Schools for Africa aims to transform lives through education by focusing on teacher training, sanitation facilities at schools, proper hygiene, parent involvement, landmine education, deworming (medication), and sports & play.

*****Last year, in just three meetings, Alpha Upsilon members purged their purses and collected \$179.94. Let's aim to exceed that amount by collecting at every meeting in 2023-2024!!**

Debbie Bump,
Global Awareness Committee,
Schools for Africa

LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) Foundation



Welcome back, ladies, to a new exciting year of reading with our Buck a Book program. It's our pleasure to be your (LIFE) liaisons this year. The (LIFE) Foundation Learning is For Everyone Buck a Book is beginning at the first meeting in September. The mission of the DKG California State (LIFE) Foundation is dedicated to promoting and supporting classrooms, schools, and community-based special projects related to learning and literacy within the state of California.

Your book donations and book purchases are welcome at each meeting. Our goal for this upcoming 20-23/20-24 year is \$200.

We want to thank Mary Lou Langedyke and Harriet Furuya for their hard work as past liaisons.

Thank You,
Carol Vargas and Joyce Hamdan
LIFE Liaisons

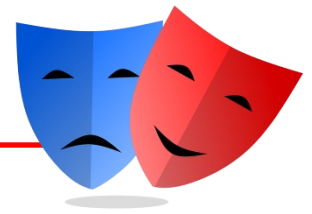


“Setting Our Course Together”
DKG California State Convention
Santa Clara Marriott, Santa Clara

May 3-5, 2024

REMINDER: Since the 2024 DKG California Convention will be in the north this year, Alpha Upsilon will pay the registration fees and hotel charges for interested members to attend. Remember—the convention is for **ALL** members. It's an opportunity to learn about the Society outside of the chapter level, meet outstanding educators from throughout the state, learn new things and have a good time doing it!

Are the Arts in Jeopardy??



Live Theatre is in Crisis

As many of you know, the Mark Taper Forum at the Music Center has cancelled its upcoming season because of financial woes. Like many other theaters across the nation, live theatre in our area has not been able to fully recover from the pandemic shut down, and many are on the brink of failure.

If you care, as I certainly do, about keeping our theaters from ruin, join me in doing what you can in their support, either by making a cash donation, buying a season subscription, or just buying a ticket.

Here's what's going on in our area for September-November

Pasadena Playhouse (Which won a Tony for its body of work!)

The Sound Inside- September 6-October 1-"Writing professor Bella Baird is looking for answers, but a fateful encounter with a mysterious student could lead to life-changing consequences for both of them. Nominated for six Tony Awards, including Best Play, Pulitzer Prize finalist Adam Rapp's haunting 90-minute thriller will leave you wondering who you can trust and remind you everyone has a story — the question is how it ends.."

The Theatre at Boston Court

Measure Still For Measure- September 7-October 15- " In this play-within-a-play, a renowned director rehearse a spectacular new production of Shakespeare's Measure for Measure, 'the original #metoo story.' But backstage, there's an even bigger drama."

A Noise Within

The Bluest Eye August 27- September 24 -"Pecola Breedlove, a young Black girl in 1940's Ohio, wants nothing more than to be loved and prays for Shirley Temple's blue eyes. Enthralling, gorgeously written, and incredibly heartrending, this stunning adaptation of Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winner Toni Morrison's debut novel centers three young Black girls as they strive to make sense of love, sisterhood, abuse, and hate."

A Midsummer Night's Dream October 8-November 12-"When two pairs of mixed-up lovers and a troupe of amateur players stumble into the forest of feuding fairies, an enchanting mix of magic, merriment, and mischief abounds. Anything can and does happen in Shakespeare's famously enchanting and delightful comedy, brought to life with special A Noise Within flair."

The Ahmanson Theater (at the Music Center)

HadesTown October 3-15-"is the most honored show of the 2018-2019 Broadway season and won eight Tony Awards, six Outer Critics Circle Awards including Outstanding New Broadway Musical and the Drama League Award for Outstanding Production of a Musical. This is a beautiful story of hope, faith and rebirth. The show has been transformed into a genre-defying musical that blends modern American folk music with New Orleans inspired jazz to re-imagine a sweeping and ancient tale. "

**Gale Caswell,
Fine Arts Committee**

In the Good Ole' Summertime!!

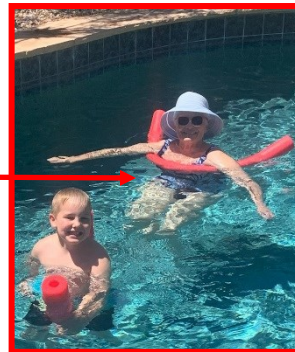
Debbie Bump reports that Summer 2023 has been eventful!! In May, Dan & I traveled to The Marquesas in French Polynesia. Being aboard a freighter-passenger hybrid ship was a unique & adventurous experience!

We helped our daughter with a move to the East Coast, while seeing a little known Water Temple in Redwood City before she left. July had us in Boston & New Haven visiting our two young people & their partners!



Christine Werner I traveled to Arches National Park and hiked to Delicate Arch. I also traveled north this summer to Lake Tahoe for the first time. Both were beautiful in such different ways and just what was needed to help recharge the batteries for the new school year.

Kathy Cockerill says the only way to survive Chandler, AZ, with her grandson, Dylan.



Gale Caswell In June, I took my youngest granddaughter, Audra, to England for a week of adventures including a visit to the Cotswolds and the wonderful historical sights of London. I began this tradition when my oldest granddaughter, Sloane, was 13 and she chose Paris as her destination. Our trip included Easter Mass at Notre Dame and a day at Euro Disney. When it was granddaughter Eva's turn she chose New York City where we saw LOTS of theatre and marvelled at all of the mind-opening art and culture. Precious days for this grandmother aka "Gramzilla," aka "Gram."



In the Good Ole' Summertime!!

Karen Gollhardt has had a summer has been filled with travel. In June it was a trip to Portland to visit my daughter and grandchildren. In July I spent 10 days on a Scandinavia tour with 16 others (mostly teachers). We visited Oslo, Copenhagen, and Stockholm - all beautiful clean green cities and countries! The best part were the ferry rides from one country to another! In August my husband and I took an 11-day Band of Brothers Tour with 20 other World War II enthusiasts from across America. We visited sites in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, and Germany. It was very heartwarming, inspirational, and emotional!



Connie Hanson and her husband, Dave, did their “summer traveling” in May and June this year. May found them on the road to Scottsdale for their grandson’s graduation from ASU, then to a convention in San Francisco, and finally spending some time by themselves in Carmel, their favorite place. June was no different! First there was a trip to Sacramento and then a visit with their son and daughter-in-law in Kennedy Meadows, in the Southern Sierra Nevada’s. Now they are doing “staycations,” and reliving great memories from May and June! (The picture is of their time in Scottsdale.)



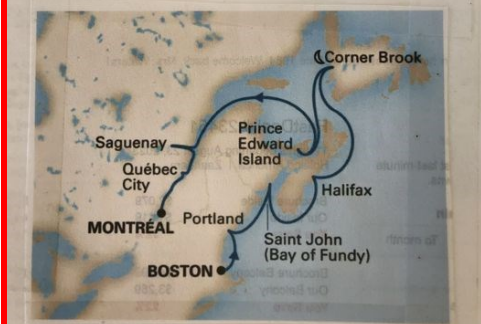
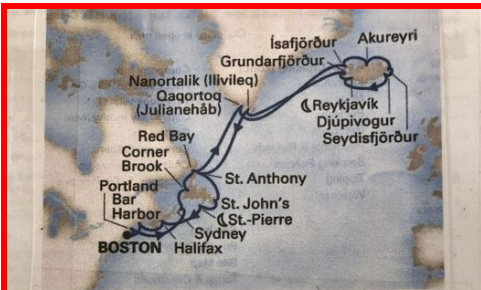
Betsy Bazarich has been working on her backyard since the pool construction. She and Michael are in Kauai now, their destination for 23 years. After an operation she is trying to get normal again.

In the Good Ole' Summertime!

Jill Waters and her husband spent five weeks in the UK seeing family and friends at the end of May and into June. This was the first time in seven years they have been able to be with family. In July their son, wife and grandson visited for two weeks, escaping the heat of Phoenix. Now in August they are spending five weeks on a ship from Boston and finishing in Montreal via Maine, visiting many places in Canada and to Greenland and circling Iceland. They are making up for the last three summers spent at home!



SCOTLAND



GREENLAND

In the good Ole' Summertime!

Pat Kalish has had several fun outings. In June, Kelly, Caden and **Pat** visited her brother and his family in Georgia. Though her brother, has cancer, he is doing well. She loved having some special sister and brother time! JULY, **Pat** headed to the Hollywood Bowl, with friends, to see THE BEACH BOYS!! Her 5 Grandkids, Abby, Ben, Val and Caden, visited for a week of Cousin Fun! They took Art classes, went swimming and enjoyed going to Knott's Berry Farm!

At the end July, **Pat** took in the OC COUNTY FAIR with **Willy Crouse** and saw everything, including Pig Races! Last week she had a special TEA TIME, with **Karen Wilcoxon** and their 92 yr. old friend, Janet Stephens! Janet was their Special Ed. Aide, some 40 years ago, when they job shared at Highland Oaks!! No big trips, but lots of fun!!



Dianah Greenlees spent a wonderful month with family in New Mexico, she then enjoyed a fabulous Country Walkers trip in Scotland. Lots of beautiful scenery, great food, and yes, some rain. This is taken at Loch Lomond.

In the Good Ole' Summertime!

Pat Rabe "I am writing from a hotel in Vancouver BC getting ready to take off for an Alaskan cruise tomorrow. We went on an interesting chef led tour of China Town today. I tried to send a wad of pictures, but they didn't go. I'll try sending one at a time.

We started our summer with a lovely trip to Tahoe driving up route 88 instead of the main highway. The frozen lakes were amazing! We arrived home to lots of family visiting from Florida ,New York and Philadelphia, then took off two weeks later for Kauai with our son and his three older kids and our daughter's family with their two,

Between trips we entertained grandkids, made some glass, saw a couple of Dodger games, enjoyed the Fourth of July with family and fireworks."



Glass art made with her granddaughter.

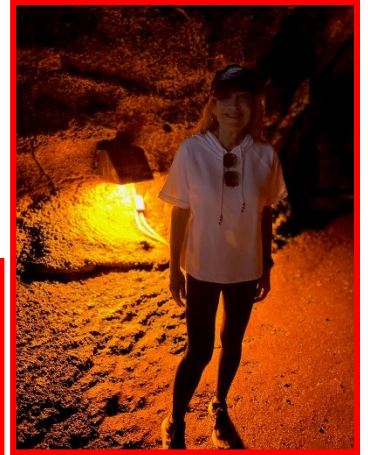


Nones on Kauai



In the Good Ole' Summertime!

Laura Castagnari It was a short, but fun summer break! We kicked it off by going to a Dodger game. I spent a few weeks walking at the arboretum, cleaning closets and then it was off to the Big Island of Hawaii. She and her husband celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary and had a wonderful time seeing volcanoes, waterfalls, rain forests, and black and white sand beaches. It was paradise!



Judy Kearns and her husband, Paul, took a Viking cruise of the Great Lakes. It was very nice but the ship was an Expedition Class ship, not quite their style! It was an absolutely beautiful ship, only a year old. However, riding Zodiacs and being on expeditions is not their thing anymore!! Learning about the Great Lakes and seeing how ships transition from one to another was really quite interesting. As you read this, the Kearns have crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Mary 2 and are in England. They will be there for ten days before reboarding the QM2 and returning to the USA. **Judy** has discovered a second cousin in Newcastle Upon Tyne and they will spend time seeing the area where her maternal grandmother lived before immigrating to America. Her cousin has already secured tickets for a Michael Bubl  candlelight concert at Durham Cathedral!! A special event in July was being with three long time friends, one of whom has been a friend since 5th grade, as we gathered to celebrate one friend's 50th wedding anniversary!

