



EUFORIA

Edition 63 Fall 2024

Dear friends, here is EUFORIA, the Fall edition of 2024. In this Issue, you can read about committee work and various activities of the participating countries. The conference in Brighton at the University of Sussex from 18th to 20th of July 2025 is really exciting with the theme of Education and Wellbeing. Thanks to all the members who contributed exciting articles to this issue. Many thanks to Evelyn Goodsell (GB) for proofreading the articles; she has been a great help.



Europe

Greetings from your Regional Director



The summer holidays are over, and the leaves are showing their Autumn colors. It was a wonderful DKG summer with the international convention in Maryland, near Washington, D.C. During this convention, we voted on 103 Amendments in time and two new business motions.

Also, the new Administrative board was elected, and Dr. Beverly Hall Maughn is our International President. You can find all the board members on the international website. I was re-elected to be

your Regional Director for this upcoming biennium. I am very honored that you have confidence in me.

The European Forum, together with the US Forum, Canadian Forum, and Latin American Forum, held a combined meeting during the International Convention in Maryland. Marion Blumenthal-Lazan was the keynote speaker. She told her story about the survival of the concentration camp during World War II. Special in her story are the words of peace, no hatred, after all the sufferings she had faced. She is a remarkable woman. Her full speech is on the European website and can be used in the classroom.

There are many challenges we have to face in this biennium. The first challenge is the revision of our Constitution and ISR, which involves new bylaws. A task force committee started working on this, and in the near future, you can join Town Hall sessions to be informed and discuss the articles. Also, during the meetings of Inside International every first Tuesday of the month, you can ask about everything happening in our society. You will find the Zoom link on the International Website when you have signed in.

The second challenge is a new long-term strategic plan. The current one ends in 2025. The Strategic Plan Committee is now reviewing the current one and rewriting the objectives, considering our Mission, Vision, Purposes, and the recommendations of the Avenue M Report. This new Strategic Plan will be presented before July 2025.

The Third challenge is closer to home. The contract with the University of Sussex (near Brighton, England) to host the first European Forum Conference 2025 is signed. The dates are 18th-20th of July 2025, and more information will be placed on the international and European websites. The theme is Education and Wellbeing. We will speak about the well-being of the educators as well as the well-being of our pupils/students. This subject is a struggle for educators all over the world. You can think about physical and mental health, the causes, and how we can deal with it. One of our members in Estonia will open a survey on this subject, and she will present the results at the conference. We are now looking for our keynote speakers, and soon, there will be a form on the website for

applications to be a workshop presenter. So look at the international website to be updated. There will be a unique conference website.

The fourth challenge is membership. Our new Membership Director, Sy Franco Stern, is working on several tools to increase membership. She has also created a toolkit to help you set up a virtual chapter or when you have a hybrid meeting. Her email address is syfranco@dkg.org.

What is coming up: On the European website, you can find "**The Artist in the Spotlight**" (it was Artist of the Month). You can still see all the beautiful and creative contributions under Archive. You also can find the recordings of the educational topics we had, and the forum is now discussing how we want to go forward in the future. dkgeurope.org.

Our tradition, Lucia Day (December 13), will be held on **Thursday, December 12th**. The link will be placed on the European website. Everyone is welcome to join. The theme will be sent to the State Presidents and the members of the European Forum.

News about the European Forum Conference will be posted on the European and International websites. Please sign in to receive an automatic reminder when something new is posted on our European website.

If you have any questions, please let me know. You can send me an email at mac.dewolf@gmail.com.

Greetings, and I hope to see you all in July 2025.

Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf

Europe Regional Director 2024-2026

#dkgsi

#secondcenturydkg



International Convention in National Harbor

Maryland, from July 9 to 13, 2024



This is page 38 of the booklet for the International Convention in National Harbor, Maryland, from July 9 to 13, 2024. It is the invitation to the first joint meeting the four forum chairs had decided upon.

"Ignite Her Spirit, Empower Her Voice" – a quote from the booklet's front page—truly applied to International Honorary Member Marion Blumenthal-Lazan's presentation, which was well received. There is hope that our spirits have been ignited and our voices empowered by her so that we can

stand up for tolerance and respect and encourage our children to work for a truly peaceful world.

Our European website has a link to one of her presentations, which is useful for chapter meetings and the classroom.

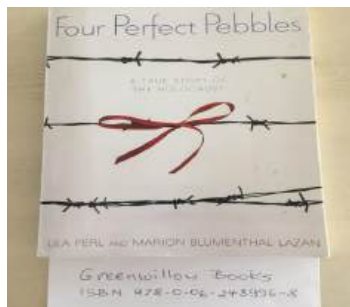


Since 2021, I have been working with Marion, but I have never met her personally, so I looked forward to seeing her at the convention. Unfortunately, she was not able to come, so my husband and I arranged to visit her at her home in Long Island after the convention. When she opened the door to her lovely home and we hugged, it was as if we had known each other all our lives.

Marion's husband of 71 years welcomed us just as warmly. We spent an unforgettable day together, exchanging life stories, browsing through albums and files, and learning about all the honors Marion has received for her unswerving commitment to speak about her Holocaust experiences. She conveys her strong belief in love, respect, and tolerance, hoping that we will also persevere to stand up against injustice.



Nathaniel Lazan has dedicated his time and efforts to documenting Marion's numerous visits to schools, churches, and libraries and making online presentations. The basement of their house is his workshop, where he not only copies and keeps the extensive files but also laminates and mounts photos of his beloved wife's endeavors.



" If she could find four pebbles of almost the same size and shape, it meant that her family would remain whole, they would survive Bergen-Belsen...."

I am grateful that my husband Hans accompanied me to the convention specifically to help with the Blumenthals' travel back and forth to National Harbor, which did not happen. I could not have served during the biennium without his support.



Marika Heimbach EFC chair 2022-2024

The European Forum Committee 2022-2024

- EFC met regularly via Zoom, once a year in person
- All agendas and minutes are on the European Website
- History of the Europe Region was finished by the Editorial Board, and the chair worked closely with our webmaster to constantly update the website



From left to right front: Marie Antoinette Hubers-de Wolf, Evelyn Goodsell (GB) Back: Astrid Bie Skaaland (NOR), Pia Nyman (FIN), Marika Heimbach (GER), Helga Skeidsvoll (SWE), Reeli Tänavsuu (EST), Carola van Zanen-van Rijn (NL) – Anita Jonsdottir (ICE) is missing. Astrid left the committee in November 2023, and Muriel Marsh from Norway (far left) joined.

At the first committee meeting, we decided that International President Debbie LeBlanc's keywords for the biennium should be met.

Vitality

The EFC members are also members of their respective administrative boards and serve as liaisons; thus, they work closely with their state members and each other. I am grateful for having had such a great group of women to work with. Our vitality was fruitful, which shows its relevance.

Relevance

By working with all states, it was possible to set up an excellent program. All eight countries presented educational topics relevant to education today during the biennium, provided much food for thought, and encouraged further actions beyond this biennium. Chapter-to-chapter meetings have been encouraged, as well as state-to-state meetings, not only within Europe but also beyond, e.g., Manitoba, Canada, and Finland have exchanged information about their school systems. Out of this experience, the member states will be asked to present their school systems to the membership. Discussions have begun, and there is more to learn from each other. There is hope that necessary changes within the educational field can be encouraged by the committee's endeavors. All presentations are available on the website at the chapter level and in the classroom, and they are conducted in our Lingua Franca, English.

Sustainability

As outlined, European members moved closer to each other because of the programs that have become a tradition, e.g., Lucia Day on December 13, when all eight countries contribute. Look for "Artist in the Spotlight" on the website to view the works of excellent artists. As it proved challenging to present an artist monthly, the committee renamed this feature.

The **EF session at the conference in Tampere in 2023**, including a remembrance ceremony, was prepared. During the session, Helga Thorlacius was acknowledged and thanked for her excellent work as editor of Euforia. With the help of Eygló Björnsdóttir, our webmaster, we were able to find Kristín Guðbjörg Snæland, from Iceland, a new editor for our newsletter. The EFC greatly appreciates that Euforia goes on.

The EFC presented the **European Achievement Award** to Eyglo Björnsdottir for her yearlong dedication as a webmaster, outstanding work to sustain our website, and ongoing support.

We are pleased that Iceland's membership has grown. In our other member countries, more work remains to present ourselves as a modern Society that meets the educational challenges educators face today.

Survey

The US Forum surveyed the US membership. The EFC was allowed to make it suitable for European members. 25% of our members answered, which is an expected outcome. The results have been distributed, and the following committee will continue working with the results in the hope that they become relevant to our educators.

European Forum Guidelines

The EFC revised the guidelines. According to the guidelines, the document was sent to state presidents before the Forum meeting at the conference in Tampere. The document was not approved; more time was needed to consider it. In essence, the problem was Finances.

The EFC Finances (see Financial Report) do not allow full reimbursement for members' traveling expenses. The amount paid was 300 € per member from the EFC budget. Members have to apply for monetary support within their states.

European Forum **Strategic Action Plan** was discussed, and no changes were considered necessary.

Amendments to the governing documents of the Society

The EFC worked closely with the International Constitution Committee to ensure correct wording.

Zoom meetings cannot be compared to in-person meetings. We are adamant that we meet for two days per year to share ideas and expertise, prepare, and lay the foundation for further work, which will continue via Zoom. Therefore, the committee asked for an international contribution of 500 USD per country annually.

Annual planning meeting costs and communication expenses for the Canadian, European, Latin American, and United States forums shall be funded in the Available Fund budget. The Canada and Latin America forums shall be funded annually at three thousand dollars (U.S. \$3,000). The Europe forum shall be funded at five hundred dollars (U.S. \$500) per *member* country per year. The United States Forum shall be funded annually at ten thousand dollars (U.S.

\$10,000). Annual budgets and accounting reports of funds shall be submitted to the president and the assigned professional staff.

Rationale: The costs of the annual meetings in Europe are incredibly high. Without the funds raised or increased, we can not meet every year. Europe is working hard to expand, so we ask for money per country rather than in total.

This was the original amendment. After discussions at the international administrative board in Austin, the proposal was asked to be reduced to **400 USD per country**.

The EFC did not ask for the 3000 USD that the Canada Forum and Latin America Forum receive but for 400 USD per country because DKG Europe plans to expand and would then automatically receive this amount for the new member country as well.

International Standing Rule 9.31

Monetary support is needed as the EFC is asked to prepare the international conference in Europe (a former regional conference).

The Canada Forum Conference, The Europe Forum Conference, and The Latin America Forum Conference. The conferences shall all be funded at five thousand dollars (U.S. \$5,000) per biennium each. The Canada Forum Conference, The Europe Forum Conference, and The Latin America Forum Conference shall all be funded at five thousand dollars (U.S. \$5,000) per biennium each.

Rationale: All the Forums will organize conferences every biennium and need the same amount as Latin America.

The motion passed.

ISR 4.65 (new, proposed by M. Heimbach)

The chair of the Europe Forum Committee shall be reimbursed for traveling and other expenses when attending an international convention.

Rationale: The chair of the EFC is expected to attend international conventions; forum meetings need to be prepared and chaired. The work of the EFC chair is

equivalent to that of international committee chairs, and the EFC chair should, therefore, have the same rights.

The motion passed without discussion.

Two honorary members were inducted at the convention. When I learned that the Society does not pay for their attendance, I moved to change that policy. After discussing the motion, it was not passed but conveyed to the International Finance Committee. The new Honorary members were reimbursed later, so the motion was successful.

Bursting the Bubble

EFC was asked to contribute to the campaign. Chair sent a report and photos.

Carola van Zanen-van Rijn is the new EFC chair from 2024-2026.

My best wishes for a successful biennium go to her and her committee.

Marika Heimbach, EFC chair 2022-2024



The European Forum Committee 2024-2026

Dear European DKG members, I will be the new chair of the European Forum Committee for the next two years. Who am I?

My name is **Carola van Zanen-van Rijn from the Netherlands**, and I have been a member of DKG since 1999. I teach gifted and talented children and other children who need extra attention in school for different reasons. That is a wonderful job. While the children are learning,



I often learn together with them. For example this year I learned many things about Robotics and entered a contest with one of my classes with children from China, Africa, the Netherlands, and France. That was amazing. Also, I am on the committee of Lab020, which organizes a lot of events around gifted education in Amsterdam. For the last two years, I have already been a member of the European Forum Committee. The members of the committee were a great team and worked well together with Marie-Antoinette, our Regional Director. Marika Heimbach did an outstanding job as chair; filling her shoes will be hard. Now it is exciting to start with new members in the committee and help organize the Conference in Brighton at the University of Sussex, dates: 18-20 July 2025. Hopefully, you will all put these dates on your agenda, and I am looking forward to meeting you at the conference next year. The theme is Education and Wellbeing. It is an important theme that affects us all, and if you think you can contribute to the conference in any way (as a workshop leader, help with registration, etc.), just tell/mail me or the committee member in your country. Know that the European Forum Committee is here for all of you, and we post the agenda and minutes on the European website with many thanks to Eyglo and Kristin. If you have something you want us to take into account, don't hesitate to contact us. You can send an email to c.vanzanen@icloud.com.

With pride, I introduce to you all the new members of

The European Forum Committee 2024-2026:



Today, I work as a special educator with a passion for lifelong learning, both for students and colleagues. I am deeply committed to creating inclusive and supportive learning environments and strive to foster a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom. As a former president of Sweden and a current member of My in **Sweden**, I continue contributing to the educational community, blending leadership experience with a strong educational foundation to inspire growth and development at all levels.

Anette Nyberg

I am **Thi Finkemeyer**, and I was born and brought up in Myanmar (Burma) but left the country in 1968 for political reasons with my parents and five other siblings to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where my father worked as a professor in Anatomy in the medical college. After two years my father's work brought us to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, where I continued my school but left for Canada to study after staying there for two years. I went to an all-women university in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Mount Saint Vincent University), and got my Bachelor of Science in biology. I met my husband in Tanzania while working as a German Volunteer. After graduation, I came to live in **Germany** and have been here since 1976. I worked as a freelance teacher in Business English and a lecturer at the University of Applied Science, teaching technical English to students specializing in Surveying, Audiology, and robotics. I have now retired, but we still have a "Pension" (guesthouse") so we are still busy with guests. We enjoy doing this as we meet different people from many countries.



Thi Finkemeyer



I started as a member of the DKG **Iceland** Iota chapter in 2018. I have been a chapter leader. I am a member of the Iceland State Board.

I live in a small fishing village in Westfjord in Iceland called Suðureyri. There are almost 300 people here. I work in the



school and have done that for about 23 years. I have been a principal for 1 year. Now, I am a member of the European Forum committee. This has been a perfect journey up until now, and I hope it will be a nice experience further on.

Vilborg Ása Bjarnadóttir



My name is **Kadri Mettis**, and I'm from the DKG **Estonia** Alpha Chapter.

I have been a member of DKG for 6 years. My current work areas are education and research, specifically educational technology and its meaningful use in classrooms. Last year, I also defended my PhD thesis on a related topic.

Kadri Mettis

My name is **Muriel Marsh**, and I am the SO President of **Norway** for 2023-2025. I have been a member of DKG since 2015 and have sat on the board in different capacities since 2017, first as secretary, then representing my Chapter, Delta. I was the Chapter President before, during, and after the pandemic, which was a unique period to hold



office! I was voted in as Norway's President at our biennium in 2023, where Zeta Chapter was our host. Traditionally, the incoming SOP becomes the EFC member after 6 months in office. I have, therefore, been a member of the EFC since November 2023. I am an elementary school teacher as well as a preschool teacher. I have taught in a local elementary school at most levels and with many subjects as a class teacher and ten years of teaching in kindergarten. I have also been active locally in the teacher's trade union. I was born in England but moved to Norway in 1978 after taking my teaching certificate in England.

I am married and have two sons. I also have four grandsons who live quite close by in Oslo and near us, just outside the capital. I am seventy years old and have been retired since the end of 2019. I have dual citizenship from Norway and the UK.

Muriel Marsh



Hello, my name is **Henna Perätalo**. I'm a member of Alpha Chapter (Helsinki) in Finland. I am also the treasurer of my chapter and the European Forum committee. In my work life, I teach physics, chemistry, and entrepreneurship. My hobbies include activities with Junior Chamber International (JCI), reading, self-development, and traveling. Nature is also very important to me, and I love spending time outdoors and taking photos with my phone.

Warm regards, **Henna Perätalo**

I've been a DKG Alpha Chapter member for well over 30 years. I was state president from 2007 to 2009, 2013 to 2015, and now for a third term. I've also been a Parliamentarian. I'm now the **GB** State webmaster, and I put GB News in Brief together. I have been a European Forum member each time I have been president and chaired it from 2008-2010, putting the guidelines together and helping to start the website. After nearly 40 years as a teacher, 20 of those



as a headteacher, I retired in 2006. Having attended many conventions and conferences, I look forward to seeing you all in Brighton for the EF Conference on 18th-20th July 2025.

Diana Bell

Our DKG European Forum Conference will be held from July 18th to 20th, 2025, in the UK at the University of Sussex on the outskirts of Brighton. This will be the first conference run by the European Forum. We are planning some excellent speakers, good food, and entertainment. Transport links to the area are good. Brighton has much to offer and is worth visiting for a few days. It was made famous as a coastal resort by an infamous Prince Regent whose extraordinary Royal Pavilion is a 'must see'! Accommodation will be available at the university and local hotels linked to the website.

Further booking information will be available at the website link in January.

Keep a look out through www.dkqgb.org.uk

We hope to see many of you there.

Diana Bell

SOP GB



Sweden



Impressions from Sweden -

Our Convention Experience and Back to Work

In July 2024, we, the Swedish National President, Charlotte Lindgren



(Epsilon)(right), and Vice National President, Karin Grundahl (Phi) (left), traveled to the DKG Convention in National Harbor, Maryland. It was our first time attending such a convention for both of us, although we had previously



participated in other international DKG meetings.

Another Swedish participant, Marianne Skardeus (Sigma), also attended to give a lecture on Linnaeus' disciples. We now look forward to sharing our impressions from the trip and briefly reflecting on our experiences in this article for Euforia.

Sweden, located in northern Europe, stretches over 1,600 kilometers from north to south and is 500 kilometers wide. With approximately 10.5 million inhabitants, the country has a relatively low population density of 23.6 inhabitants per square kilometer. This brief geographical reminder puts our trip to the United States—a country with 333 million inhabitants—into perspective.

This time, we were excited to visit Maryland near the U.S. capital, Washington, D.C.

From previous trips, we knew that everything felt much larger in the U.S. This impression was confirmed upon our arrival at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor. The hotel, with its impressive 20 floors, features a vast indoor plaza surrounded by rooms. Expansive corridors, grand ballrooms, and meeting rooms were adorned with large, elegant crystal chandeliers whose sparkling prisms created an atmosphere of luxury and refinement.

As we later discovered, National Harbor is a relatively new city—more of a collection of hotels and restaurants than a traditional town. Google aptly describes it as a "convention center hub." The recently built hotel houses an atrium with a charming artificial village surrounded by lush plants. Fortunately, we had a room overlooking the Potomac River, one of America's longer rivers. The Potomac derives its name from the Algonquin word "Patawomeck," the name of a former Native American village along the river. Several rooms at the Gaylord National Resort are named after words from the Algonquin language as a tribute to the region's indigenous people. We worked in rooms with names like Potomac and Chesapeake, with solid connections to the area's history.

We took a few walks along the Potomac during our stay, although fewer than we had hoped due to a busy schedule and the oppressive heat. The sense of scale we experienced at the hotel was further emphasized the next day when we attended the first joint session in a large ballroom filled with nearly 800 women. The convention had attracted about 800 participants, with only a few men among them. It's easy to forget how large DKG is. We have 114 members in Sweden and know the organization has about 50,000 members globally in 17 countries. But sitting among 800 fellow sisters in a large hall is a powerful and somewhat indescribable feeling. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, and everyone we met was friendly and social.

Among the many people we met were two women from Minnesota, a state that holds particular interest for Swedes because of its large population of Swedish descent. Minnesota was established in 1849 and became the 32nd U.S. state in 1858. The state's name comes from the Sioux language and means "clear water." It's believed that the first Europeans, primarily French settlers, gave it

this name. Although the first European settlements appeared as early as the 1820s, most arrived after 1865. Today, significant groups in Minnesota can trace their origins to Germany (33.8%), Norway (15.3%), and Sweden (8.1%), according to Wikipedia. We spent most of our time conversing with Kate Pearson, the President of the Mu Chapter at the time and will be the Past President for the 2024-2026 term, and Deb Rossman, who serves as Treasurer of the same chapter. Minnesota has eleven chapters and is a very active area within DKG. The Mu Chapter will take on the primary responsibility for the national meeting in May 2025, which means a lot of work lies ahead. One of the benefits highlighted in the promotional campaign *Bursting the Bubble* is the “opportunity for travel and networking,” this certainly rings true—the convention provided an excellent opportunity to network with members from other countries.

Our trip to the DKG Convention gave us new insights and valuable contacts, reaffirming how large and diverse DKG truly is. The sense of community we experienced among members from around the world inspires us to continue strengthening the network nationally and internationally. Looking ahead to future meetings and exchanges, we are eager to contribute to the organization's growth and help carry its vision forward.

On a surprisingly warm September day in Sweden, most of the Chapter Presidents' Board gathered with most of the 2023-2025 National Board for the autumn meeting. Every two years, this meeting also welcomes and trains new Chapter Presidents and Treasurers. The Linköping Chapter Mu graciously hosted us, and we had an intensive and productive day. Several important decisions were made between two "Swedish fika" breaks. Time always seems to fly by at these meetings, doesn't it?



We wish all our colleagues across Europe a wonderful autumn.

Charlotte Lindgren, President Sweden,

Karin Grundahl, Vice-President Sweden

Finland



Greetings from Finland



Autumn is coming, and all the chapters have started their activities. This coming year will have two special anniversaries. Alpha Chapter in Helsinki was founded in the autumn of 1974, and they celebrate in November. Gamma Chapter in Turku will celebrate in the spring of 1975 in connection with our annual meeting.

Delta Kappa Gamma Society has been in Finland for 50 years. The first chapter was Alpha in Helsinki,

founded in the autumn of 1974. The Alpha members are arranging an anniversary dinner on Friday, November 15th, where Professor Emerita Liisa Keltinkangas-Järvinen will give a celebration lecture. Prof. Keltinkangas-Järvinen is a very distinguished researcher in psychology. She has worked at Helsinki University. Here is a link to her research portal.



<https://researchportal.helsinki.fi/en/persons/liisa-keltikangas-järvinen>

I look forward to participating in the anniversary evening and dinner with Alpha members. We will also have a greeting from Dr. Beverly Hall-Maugham, president of DKG International, a music program, and a very nice dinner.

Here in Finland, we still often remember the DKG conference in summer 2023 and look forward to the conference in Brighton, England, in July 2025. Many of us will attend the conference not only because of the exciting program but also because the city and the campus of the University of Sussex seem very attractive.

With best autumn wishes from Finland

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney

DKG Finland President 2023-2025

News from Gamma Chapter, Turku, Finland



After an exceptionally warm summer, the Gamma Chapter of DKG Finland started planning their activities for 2024-25 in early September. During the autumn, we will focus on cultural events organized by the Program Committee. In September, we saw the new production *Pinnalla* [On the Surface] by the *Dance Theatre Eri*. Their skillful and impressive performance reminded us of the importance of human connections in today's world, where it is too easy to become immersed and lost in the digital environment. This production

has also been included in the list of art visits offered for free for all Finnish 8th graders and their teachers by a culture education program, *Art Testers*. (<https://taidetestaajat.fi/>)

Other cultural events for the autumn include *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, performed by a local Amateur Theatre, *Akseli*, in October. The ticket sales for these events will contribute to Gamma's scholarship fund, from which we can

give small stipends to lower secondary school students who have shown unique initiative and effort during their schoolwork.

In December, we look forward to attending the traditional St. Lucia evening organized online by the European Forum. In addition, we will have our own Christmas event at the *Luostarinmäki* open-air museum, located in a district of wooden houses that escaped the Great Fire of 1827 (<https://www.turku.fi/en/luostarinmaki>).

Lastly, we will launch preparations to mark Gamma's 50th Anniversary in 2025. They include updating the History of DKG Finland Gamma Chapter, edited by our oldest member, *Liisa Peltomaa*, ten years ago, and drafting the program for the event to be held in connection with the Annual Meeting of DKG Finland in Turku on April 12, 2025. We hope to see many current and former DKG members in Turku in the spring and will report on the upcoming events in due course.

Auli Ottelin, President, Gamma Chapter

Marianna Sunnari, Secretary, Gamma Chapter

Greetings from the Epsilon chapter in Joensuu

Every autumn, we have had an outing. For several autumns, it's been berry picking and a visit to Päivi's beautiful cottage and nearby forests and areas full of berries, especially lingonberries. This autumn, we headed 90 km North to *Juuka* <https://www.juuka.fi>, where one of our members had arranged an excellent program on a Saturday in early October. We got acquainted with the activities and sights in Juuka village. We bought knitting wool from a local specialist shop well-known for its large selection of yarns. Then we had coffee in Hedwigin Helmi Cafe <https://www.koli.fi/palvelu/hedwigin-helmi/>, a charming cafe, where we met *Ms Tuula Ikonen-Graafmans*, our guide, a former parliament member, who told us about the village and its history. She took us around to see ELLINKULMA, an amazing place in the village center for local societies, activities, and meetings. Tuula told us about all the activities going on there during the week. Every day, there is something to do; people can





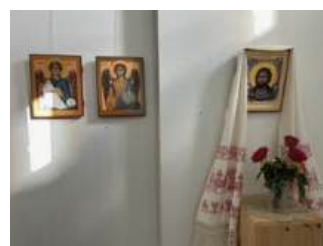
do activities, learn Swedish, spend time together, meet friends, etc.

We visited the new and modern local school, the library, and the Citizenship college, which offers evening classes, kansalaisopisto

(<https://www.juuka.fi/kansalaisopisto>).



The library had an exhibition of traditional Karelian dresses and icon paintings.



In Kansalaisopisto, we could see and hear what could be studied there. We had a chance to talk to the pottery teacher and someone weaving linen tablecloths. But there are many learning possibilities, like languages, writing, art, and music. Thank you, Päivi, for arranging this visit. Ms Päivi Pennala, our host, is a textile teacher and knitting designer. She has designed this jumper and matching woolen socks for the Juuka community based on the Juuka community coat of arms.



In November, we will visit a new local vocational college, Luovi, in Joensuu. This school is for young persons with special needs in learning. <https://luovi.fi/en/> This will be interesting since it is one of Finland's most modern concepts and educational buildings. We are looking forward to the Lucia event on December 12th. We usually get together, have some glögi, ginger biscuits, buns, or cake, and watch the event together. In December, we also plan to sing Christmas carols in a nursing home. In the spring term 2025, we plan to visit and listen to interesting talks.

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney

DKG Epsilon Chapter vice-pres.

Alpha Chapter activities this autumn in Helsinki

We started our activities in August by meeting at TYLY, Etu-Töölö Upper Secondary School. Dr. Kaija Teikari and Ms. Jenni Korte said greetings from the Maryland Conference and shared other experiences they had in the US during their journeys.

Later in August, we did our traditional outing to Suviranta, Eero Järnefelt's (1863-1937) artist house on Lake Tuusula. <https://www.jarvenpaantaidemuseo.fi/en/suviranta> The house holds an extensive collection of Eero Järnefelts, his contemporaries' art, and his daughter Laura's paintings as well as objects of value that have belonged to the family. So, the house is not a museum but a family home. Our other target was Lottamuseo, Lotta Museum <https://lottasvard.fi/en/front-page/>. We had a light lunch in the Lotta Canteen.

In September, Henna Perätalo told us what is behind JA Worldwide—Junior Achievement—and what happened in Catania, Italy, at the most significant European festival of young entrepreneurs. Henna traveled there with award-winning Honey Fellows, who are students at TYLY.

In October, Raini Sipilä invited us to visit and introduced us to the art collection of SYK, Helsingin Suomalainen Yhteiskoulu. Alpha Chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary at Tapiola Garden Hotel, Galleria Cabinet, on November 15th. In December, we have our traditional Christmas party at Aalto University Donor's Lounge.

We collect money for our scholarships by selling theatre tickets to members and friends. This autumn, we will again sell tickets to three theatre shows in Helsinki in three different theatres.

Ritva Norhomaa

DKG Finland 1st Vice-President

Alpha Chapter Secretary

Germany



Germany state organization

This year, our state meeting took place in Darmstadt, a town in the Southwest of Germany, known as a science city and city of arts. We had an exciting program, starting with an informative guided tour of the technical university. The topic was: The female face of the TU Darmstadt- stories and portraits of female personalities who have shaped the university over time. These women have ensured that today, TU Darmstadt is known worldwide for its success, research, and quality in technics.

The next day, our keynote speaker, Desiree Wild, presented her master's thesis: Psychological stress reactions in older people after stress exposure. The participants listened and were highly interested, and a lot of questions were discussed. Mrs Wild can be contacted at desireewild.dur@gmail.com.



After our business session, we took a guided city tour that took us to historic buildings and places, some of which are UNESCO World Heritage. Not even a heavy rain shower could stop us.

We were happy to welcome guests from the Netherlands and the European Regional Director, Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf. She passed greetings from Headquarters and informed us about the latest projects and developments. Another topic was the connection with educators in Poland who wish to join DKG. Plans were agreed upon. DKG Germany will be the connecting country. We hope that our Zoom meeting will be a success. The evenings were saved for dinner in historic restaurants.

The Convention in National Harbor was a great event. Meeting old friends and making new friends is always thrilling and empowering.



For the coming months, we are planning face-to-face meetings in addition to our regular Zoom meetings. Contact over borders will continue.

Outlook: Our next state meeting will occur in Erfurt, Thuringia, April 25-27, 2025. Guests are warmly welcome.

Gitta Franke-Zöllmer

-state president-



Estonia



Inspiring Growth: How DKG Empowers Women

Eleanor Roosevelt, one of the most influential First Ladies, novelists, reformers, and female leaders of the twentieth century, once stated, "Learning and living" should go hand in hand. If we cease to learn today, we cease to grow tomorrow".



DKG promotes this idea by encouraging both professional and personal growth. The summer of 2024 was an extraordinary experience for me, as I had the opportunity to attend the DKG international convention in Maryland and participate in the Ignite program in Austin. My three key takeaways from these experiences are learning from the best, collaborating with remarkable women bonded by a commitment to learning, skill-building, advancing education, and empowering each other.

The University of Texas at Austin classes are undoubtedly among the finest. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there, where the instructors covered various topics, including leadership, communication, core values, interpersonal skills, teamwork, and much more. Among my favorites were Dr. Melissa Murphy's class on the art and science of persuasive speech and Dr. Richard Grant's workshops on the

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Integrating education and psychology in these courses has significantly shaped my understanding of human behavior and highlighted the importance of recognizing differences as strengths in achieving our goals.

Learning with 20 remarkable women was an incredible experience that helped build a strong sense of unity within our team. These fabulous women share similar values and are driven by a common goal: to advance professionally and personally. I genuinely hope we can reunite in the future, as I learned so much from these amazing women.

Furthermore, building friendships and empowering others is very significant. I believe DKGs most incredible privilege is the opportunity to make friends and form soul sisters with incredible women worldwide. I consider myself truly fortunate to have met such wonderful people who genuinely uplift me.

DKG is an organization that brings together outstanding women to share best practices, inspire one another, and work toward advancing education through continuous self-improvement and learning. As a result, the connection between learning and living becomes inseparable, ensuring that we will keep growing and evolving.



DKG Ignite: Leaders Empowering Leaders 2024

Siiri Vimberg

The State President of Estonia

The Netherlands



New international committee – taskforce DEIA, what's new !?!?

Within DKG are different international committees, which can be seen on our Europe site (<http://www.dkgeurope.org/int-committees.htm>). One of these is



the TASK force. The DEIA task force (diversity, equality, inclusion, and accessibility) was started early this year. At the Maryland convention, the decision was made to continue with the task force. Participants from several parts of the USA, mid-America, Canada, and Europe shared thoughts and looked into this matter. This issue involves all of us, in and out of our work in education and in real daily life.

Many people embrace this subject, while **diversity** in education means recognizing and embracing the differences between individuals and groups, regardless of their cultural or ethnic background, gender, age, religion, or physical abilities. **Equality** means that we have equal opportunities to succeed. To achieve this, we need programs that reduce inequalities.

Inclusion means everyone can participate and feel welcome, regardless of background or identity. This could mean adapting teaching materials or providing

support to people with special needs. **Accessibility** will be about removing physical, digital, and/or social barriers. The goal is to ensure that all, regardless of their ability, can participate in the education environment.

Recommendations for the next DEIA task force (from the 2024 Task Force

1. Draft a comprehensive DEIA plan that outlines DKGs commitment and strategies to promote DEIA.
2. Develop an action plan for the DEIA Task Force's selected focus objective (s) from the 2015-2025 Society's Strategic Plan.
3. Create a communication plan to distribute information via print media, social media, in-person meetings, and virtual meetings, among other channels.
4. Schedule in-person and virtual training opportunities for DKG members to increase their knowledge and learn best practices for embracing DEIA. Consider offering a workshop at the 2025 International Conference and the 2026 International Convention.
5. Encourage task force members to receive training on leading a DEIA program in a nonprofit organization.
6. Create a library of resources on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for the Leadership Discovery Centre.

Last July, the task force received its GO at the Maryland Convention to go further with this important task. We have participants from different parts of the USA, mid-America, Canada, and Europe, and we share our ideas, thoughts, and good practices to advance this subject within DKG. Do you have a good idea, example, or experience on this subject? Please let me know; Jacqueline.dkg@gmail.com.

Jacqueline van Meeteren
Delta Kappa Gamma Netherlands

Norway



A Celebration of Life

– of three very special women from DKG Norway.

“Rest in peace” is a phrase that is common to us all. After my first State Convention this summer, I was overwhelmed by the names in the book of remembrance that we all received during the Celebration of Life. None of these were known to me. Their passing allowed me to reflect on the lives of three women among our dearest members in Norway.

This last half-year has been a special one in that context. We had just wished ourselves a happy summer when the message of **Anna Handeland's** passing came. Anna died on June 23rd. She had only just celebrated Epsilon’s summer meeting a few days prior. She had been an active member since 1990 when her Chapter was established in Kristiansand. A fellow member described her as a “standard-bearer for the society” and a wonderful mentor and role model. Anna had many friends in Norway and abroad. She represented Norway at all levels and was active at many International Conferences and Conventions.

Epsilon's oldest member, **Magnhild Mogstad Tveit**, died on the 7th of September this year. As Anna, she was a founding member of the Epsilon Chapter in 1990. As an active and creative person, she also enjoyed the opportunities to gain lifelong friendships and contacts at DKGs International activities. She had served on the board in many different capacities. In April 2022, Norway State celebrated its 50th anniversary. Fortunately, we were able to make this a golden opportunity to meet as many members of our society as possible in Oslo. Magnhild and Anna came together with other members from Kristiansand, Hadeland, and Bærum. As we mourn their passing, we are grateful for the opportunity we had in 2022 to meet up as we did.

Just before the news of Magnhilds passing was sent, our sisters in the Zeta Chapter sent a message. **Mette Heiberg** died on the 15th of August. Mette, or "Mother Zeta," as she was known by her fellow members at Hadeland. She established the third chapter in Norway and became a member there after being one of the early members of Alpha in Oslo. Alpha no longer exists; although she lived in Oslo, her connections to Hadeland were extremely strong. Her life was a memorable adventure, both at home and abroad. Her network was impressive, and many visitors to Oslo during the Conference of 2009 have Mette to thank. Mette was too ill to attend our 50th anniversary in 2022. Had she been there, it would have been an extraordinary memory for me.

I have a very short DKG history, just 10 years. I never met Mette in person, and Anna and Magnhild, I only met briefly at state events. All three women were stalwarts of their DKG communities. They left lasting memories and beautiful friendships throughout their international engagement with DKG. Through the words of their DKG sisters, I have been touched by the dedication and enormous energy these three women have given their families, colleagues, and Chapter peers.

Their names will hold a special place in my book of remembrance.

"Vi lyser fred over deres minner"

We light a flame of peace for their memories.

Muriel Marsh

Great Britain



The Role of a DKG Planning Group



The approach of Great Britain's Planning Group to organising DKG meetings and events has altered radically since 2020, when the pandemic changed so much in our lives. In the last few years, we have lost active members through bereavement, ill health, and the demands of the pressure of working in education now. Gaining and retaining members has become increasingly difficult. Increases in the cost of living affecting the hire of meeting venues, costs of transport, etc., have added to these problems. We have met these and other challenges in a variety of ways. Most of our monthly Saturday meetings are now on Zoom. We vary the time of day and record meetings, so no member needs to miss out on these events, and our members do not incur travel expenses. Another bonus has been that we can invite quality

speakers who cannot attend in person. We can also invite members from other countries to join in our meetings. We arrange visits on different days of the week to which members can bring friends. This makes it possible for groups, whether large or small, to maintain contact throughout the year. Below are our 2024 summer program and plans for this autumn. We have ideas for events in 2025 but will be busy planning to host the European Forum conference in Brighton in July. We hope to meet many of our DKG friends from other countries, many of whom we may only have met on Zoom before.

Summer/Autumn Programme 2024

A successful program of Zoom meetings and visits has been held throughout the summer. On 27 th June, a group visited the City of London. After coffee at Fortnum and Mason in the Royal Exchange they



visited the Bank

of England museum's exhibition about the history of banking from its beginning to the present day, a fascinating and free experience. To the left you can see where Barbara Kern tried to lift a solid gold bar. This was followed by lunch at the George and Vulture the oldest Inn in the City and one loved by Charles Dickens.

At the Zoom meeting on 11th July, Anne Goldstein gave a moving, poignant presentation about her research into the Jewish child refugees who were flown into England on the outbreak of the Second World War to be resettled in Tonbridge and the surrounding area and their subsequent life experiences. There was a visit to Lewisham on 18th July to see "The Heart of the Nation" exhibition about the history of the NHS and the people who have come from all over the world to work for it and still do their stories and lives in film, recordings, and artifacts.

On 10rd August,, Sheila and Harry hosted a splendid lunch and reunion of members from both chapters at their home in Tenterden. It was a lovely



experience for many of us to enjoy being together on a sunny day in such beautiful surroundings.

Also, on 23rd August there was a visit to the Walthamstow Wetlands, a beautiful public parkland created around two large reservoirs in the Lea valley. Again, this was on a sunny day in an amazing setting with views across London.



A visit on 4 th September was made to the very popular Biba exhibition at the Fashion and Textile Museum near London Bridge. Biba was a company that existed from the early 1960s to the mid 1970s but was very influential in fashion, design, home furnishing, cosmetics, and making them affordable, especially for young people. The focus of the Zoom meeting on 15 th September was discussing and planning for the 2025 conference. Areas discussed were catering, speakers, workshop presenters, and entertainment, and everyone finished the meeting with tasks to follow up on and questions to be answered.

During the autumn, the following events are planned so far:

Friday 4th October – visit Tate Britain to the “Now You See Us” exhibition, the work of female artists from 1520 to 1920. Entrance cost is £20. Meet at Pimlico tube station 11. a.m. -11.15 a.m. This is a short walk to the Tate.

Saturday 19th October - Zoom meeting 10. a.m. speaker Veronica Jones – topic “The Art of Icons.” Saturday 9th November – Zoom meeting 10. a.m. speaker Dennis Tourish – topic How leaders influence and persuade people.

Saturday 30th November - pre-Christmas lunch. 12. noon at Maggie's restaurant, Lewisham plus the option to visit the “All Our Stories” exhibition at the Migration Museum. N.B. Lewisham is one stop from London Bridge, where we will meet at 11. a.m.

Joan Carroll

Iceland



Artificial Intelligence in the classroom

This fall I have been experimenting with AI in my classroom. I have always used technology quite a bit but was sceptical about how AI could help my students without taking away their critical thinking. I'm still working on how to best implement it but in order to help me make a decision I made a list of pros and cons of using AI in the classroom. I hope you can also use it.



Using AI in the classroom offers several advantages, including personalised learning experiences that adapt to individual students' needs, 24/7 access to educational resources, and automation of administrative tasks, freeing up more time for teachers to focus on instruction. AI also provides valuable data-driven insights, helping teachers identify learning gaps and tailor interventions while engaging tools like interactive simulations can make learning more dynamic and accessible. Additionally, AI can support diverse learners, including those with disabilities, and enhance teacher professional development.

However, there are also notable downsides. Over-reliance on AI might reduce critical thinking skills and human connection in education, which is crucial for

social and emotional development. Privacy and security concerns arise due to the collection of sensitive data, and biases in AI algorithms can inadvertently disadvantage certain groups of students. Resistance from teachers unfamiliar with AI and the potential for increased complexity in simple tasks further complicates its integration. Additionally, AI may need more understanding of context and emotions that a human teacher can provide. AI does not always have the right information or lacks part of it. Certain knowledge is needed to make sure the information will be of use.

In summary, while AI can potentially transform education by enhancing learning and efficiency, careful consideration is needed to address issues of equity, privacy, and the preservation of human-centered teaching.

Kristín Guðbjörg Snæland

Member of Beta Chapter in Iceland