

EUFORIA

EDITION NO.40

OCTOBER 2012



Dear DKG members in Europe,

At the meeting of the European Forum held at the international convention in New York City, I had the chance to thank those attending for the unanimous vote for the position of Europe Regional Director. I am honoured and thank you all for your trust in my ability to perform this important task. Since then, I attended a planning meeting with the regional directors of the other four DKG regions and I think we are well prepared for the biennium. I plan to serve you all well.

Besides Dr. Helms' motto for the biennium "Sharing Our Vision - Strengthening Our Society," mine

will be as always "Friendship across all borders." I hope to deepen individual friendship as well as friendship among our states as a whole. The reasons why I joined the society are international contacts and friendships and networking together in order to learn from each other's experiences, thus enhancing our personal and professional skills.

I would like the European members to further these contacts through our well developed DKG network. I want to encourage you to communicate with each other and me, to share ideas proven successful or plans for projects on the state or chapter level. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, or suggestions of any kind. I would like this biennium to be a successful one for all of us, and the most important tool is communication.

EuForia is the significant tool for communication in the Europe region. I am very happy and grateful that Joan Carroll, editor of Euforia for so many years, has agreed to continue her dedicated work for the European newsletter. Please keep in mind that it is **our** newsletter and it will be appreciated and successful if all members consider to contribute to its content.

Within the European region of DKG many great things happen at the chapter and state level which are worth sharing with our membership.

Having been on the International Expansion Committee twice, as member and as chair, strengthening our chapters and expanding not only in our states but also initiating expansion into other European states are on my agenda. Without the support of every member these goals cannot be pursued and achieved.

Excellent and experienced members in The Netherlands are working hard under the direction of Riet Smits, steering committee chair. We have had our first meeting and our goal is to make the regional conference in Amsterdam next summer an exciting, fun experience for all attending DKG members and our guests. Watch out for the DKG News, visit the website (www.dkg.org) and mark your calendars!

As planning proceeds I will keep in touch with the European state presidents and the individual input of either chapter or member will be appreciated. So if you would like to contribute to the programme -as performer, vendor etc., please let me know.

On a personal note: I have been married to Hans Juergen (Hans, as he is called by international friends) for 42 years. We have three daughters and four grandchildren. The week before the convention in NYC was my last week at school. I retired after 38 years of teaching at a cooperative comprehensive school, a step which allows me to contribute more of my time to DKG. My husband and I live in the small town of Rastede north of Oldenburg not far from the western shore of the North Sea. In the future we will go back and forth to southern Spain where we enjoy being at our small home.

I plan to visit each state organization during the biennium, and I look forward to working with all of you in the next two years. Auf Wiedersehen!

Marika

Maria Katharina Heimbach
Delfshauser Strasse 45
D 26180 Rastede
D(00)49 4402 7761
E(00)34 96 570 3686
famheimbach@t-online.de

From the European Forum Chair



What is the European Forum?

Do we need a Forum meeting or a pre-conference at European Conferences?

Many of our members are not familiar with the Forum and its tasks and these are questions we often hear and I for one asked only four years ago.

What can we do?

The European Forum is the key to the professionalism of the organization.

I feel strongly that we need European Forum as a platform for discussions about different professional issues, a platform for learning from each other and using our skills as educators in our region. I see it as a platform for supporting each other as professionals and as DKG members.

The goals of the European Forum are:

- To unite the European members and celebrate their diversity.
- To give opportunities to discuss, in an open situation, issues of educational importance.
- To find ways to accomplish these goals and turn them into activities.

Our **SAP for the next biennium** will be based on the goals, which were accepted in New York, with objectives and activities added to them. We used the material from the discussion in Baden Baden last year to make the draft. *We now want to gather suggestions for amendments of the activities.*

We also *want suggestions* for a **pre-conference theme**. Last year we dealt with various aspects of literacy and in New York we had an excellent speaker from Estonia talk further about the subject. The pre-conference gives us the opportunity to look into what concerns us at present in Europe. The Regional Conference is directed more to international aspects.

The vision statement of our International Presidents is: **Sharing our Vision - Strengthening our Society**. We as European Forum will take the challenge and do just that. We will share our experience both professionally and as DKG members, we will help each other strengthen our Society.

We need **ACTION** - *Activate our goals – unite European members.*

Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, European Forum Chair 2012-2014, (ij@host.is)
September 2012

THE NETHERLANDS

THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE 1913

The European Regional Conference is not a Dutch conference, it is **OUR** European DKG event and we would like to have members from countries outside Europe attend, which would make it a truly international event.

To attract high attendance we want to offer an interesting variety of contributions which enrich spirit, body and soul. This conference should be an event to remember.

So if you know of an outstanding **speaker** you would like the regional conference committee to consider, please forward the information to the RD.

The Regional Conference **Workshop** Proposal form is on the DKG website's home page titled:

Workshop Proposal Form

Please feel encouraged to apply.

The **Info Fair** at the conference would not be a success without **vendors** and **exhibitors** who offer attractive goodies. At 31st October 2012 Administrative Board Meeting the proposals will be submitted for approval. There will be a later deadline to submit, but if you want to participate please let the RD know as soon as possible. All vendors and exhibitors will be asked to complete the DKG Vendor and Exhibitor Application/Agreement after they are approved.

To clarify:

DKG Affiliate Vendor = an organised part of the Society i.e. member, chapter, state organisation, who is selling items from the table.

Vendor = a company or other organisation who wishes to sell items directly from the table.

DKG Affiliate Exhibitor = an organised part of the Society i.e. chapter, state organisation or contracted Society partner, who wants to demonstrate or display items without selling directly from the table.

Exhibitor = a company or other organisation who wants to demonstrate or display items without selling directly from the table.

Please see our Conference flyers at the end of this edition of EuForia.

Riet Smits

GERMANY

First of all the DKG members from Germany would like to cordially congratulate Marika Heimbach for having been elected Europe Regional Director at the New York Convention this year. We feel very honoured that a German member has been elected for this important office. Her main task in the year to come will be to organize the Europe Regional 2013 in Amsterdam together with the steering committee and the Dutch members. They know each other quite well as Marika's Delta chapter in northern Germany and the Dutch chapter in Groningen have had a close relationship for years. So we wish her all the best for this responsible position.

This summer meant a great experience for me as I went to the USA for the first time in my life. It started with a 3 –day visit to relatives in Philadelphia where I was invited by my aunt's family. She had emigrated to the US in the 1923 at the age of 17. I saw cousins and their children whom I had never met before. This was emotionally very touching and I felt at home there at once. I got to know

details of my aunt's biography as an immigrant. So for me going to Ellis Island in NYC was a must and the speech given by an historian from Ellis Island during the European Breakfast was a congenial completion. Thank you very much Kate for having organized this!



In Philadelphia my relatives took me to the Constitution Center. Its main exhibition, "[The Story of We the People](#)", tells the story of the Constitution, its history, as well as its present importance. The Bill of Rights and even the Declaration of Independence were declared in Philadelphia and it even was the US capital from 1780 – 1790.

So it was quite logical to get on the train to Washington D. C. on Thursday morning where I took part in the "Seminar in Purposeful Living" seminar titled "A Capital Experience". It highlighted the sights and sites of the present capital. The tours included the Capitol, the National Cathedral, and Arlington National Cemetery as well as a moonlight tour of historical monuments.

Saturday morning was dedicated to the history and function of the Educational Foundation. Again the speakers appealed to the participants to apply for the Project Grants and the Cornet Awards that support DKG members and non-members.

On Saturday afternoon tours were offered to different places. I went to Mount Vernon, George Washington's famous countryside estate, picturesquely located at the Potomac River.



Sunday morning we were off on the buses on the four hour ride up north to NYC.

The convention hotel was very centrally located near Times Square, so the members not having to be on executive board meetings (and not fearing the heat!) could really have a good bite of the "Big Apple". But as state president I had to attend the board meetings, so I had to carefully make my choice what to see, but I am still very much impressed by what I could see of this unique city. So back to ordinary life now: Our chapters have planned or are planning their programmes for the coming year. Again, there will be social, cultural and professional topics on the agenda.

And the location and date for our State Meeting is already fixed. It will take place in Braunschweig, a town situated between Hanover and Berlin, from 9th to 12th May 2013 (Ascension Day weekend). Marika's Delta chapter is organizing it.

Monika Huber, Germany State President

GREAT BRITAIN

New York was a great opportunity to meet up and share experiences with our fellow Europeans. It was also great to share and get to know so many of our American counterparts and enjoy their wonderful warmth and welcome. (The queues at The Sheraton were not a welcome addition!)

Talking to colleagues from New York State I was so surprised to hear about the very low budget accorded education in their area -100 miles from the most famous city in the richest country in the world,-to the point that class teachers in poor rural areas end up paying themselves to provide all the basic classroom essentials such as pens, pencils, paper, books etc. They explained to me that they if they didn't do it, it would be the children who suffered as the education budget is so low. They are very dedicated teachers indeed.

London has been the centre of the sporting world for weeks this summer, hosting the Olympic Games, which were brilliant. The comradeship between athletes has been wonderful to see -albeit via television. Even the capricious British weather was on its best behaviour. It was warm and sunny! We are hoping that sport in our schools will benefit from the example of the Olympic spirit,- comradeship and dedication to achieving one's best.

During the year GB State has committed to fund- raising to support the DKG/Unicef project, 'Schools for Africa'. Gamma Chapter had book sales, raffles and film showing sessions to raise money and awareness and Alpha Chapter has been very imaginative and hosted a 'Murder Mystery' Party, - where guests role play, acting out the characters in a murder scenario. Each person pays to participate. We also sold books and had a raffle at our State Conference back in April so we were able to send £500 to DKG/Unicef and will send more in the next few months. Thank you to GB members for the hard work and generosity. We have had fun doing it!

The Autumn term will be packed with great meetings and inspiring speakers in our three chapters. The dates are in GB News, which is available on our DKG website - www.deltakappagamma.org/GB. Reports of the various events in New York are also on our website. After the Christmas parties and other visits and outings, our next big State event will be our State Conference, a day conference in Tonbridge this year, on Saturday 23rd March. GB members are happy to offer accommodation to any of our DKG colleagues who would like to join us. (Just email me if you would like to come - saroberts123@aol.com)

Sheila Roberts, GB State President

NORWAY

Report from the New York Convention 22-29 August 2012

Delegates: Britt Marie Wærhaug McCulloch, Oddny Damsgaardd, Astrid Skaaland, Berit Skiiningsrud, Turid Dahlman, Anna Handeland, Kjellbjørg Auestad, Anne Lise Huseth, Anne Marie Solstad, Bjørg Nakling, Barbara Carlsen.

Never before has such a large delegation from Norway travelled to the U.S.A. to take part in a DKG convention. A total of 11 members from Norway joined well over two thousand sister to experience a week in New York City. Our hotel, and the base for the convention, Sheraton Hotel and Towers, is situated in the heart of Manhattan, close to the Broadway theatres and a short walk from Times Square. It is true to say that we SAW, EXPERIENCED AND HEARD this pulsating city!!

The facilities of the hotel appeared impressive with their enormous "ballrooms" filled with plush chairs and chandeliers. DKG in New York did their utmost to provide us with an event that ran as smoothly as possible when such a sizeable group has to navigate between lectures and workshops in different areas. There was certainly a huge concern that we should not be too warm, the air-conditioning ensured that we had to go out into the street to warm up.! Living in an hotel with 30

floors and a limited number of lifts can also present its challenges when a large proportion of the 2,700 delegates want to go up to bed at the same time. The queues could be so long that there were those who took to the stairs instead. Sadly the number of personnel manning the front desk was far from adequate for the numbers who needed to check in and out and considerable time (and frustration) was spent in queues!

From our group, Anna Handeland the Nominations Committee. She service in this position. We are done! Bjørg Nakling, our most in attendance after an inspiring and Congratulations! Both she and 'happening' with many other



was in full swing with final meetings of was recognised for her 4 years of proud of her and the work she has recent Golden Gift recipient, was also challenging two weeks in Austin. Astrid Skaaland took part in a Golden Gift sisters.

Despite having to start over again when President Jensi Sauders overlooked an agenda item, Turid Dahlman played the piano beautifully as we exited from the Second General Meeting. WELL PLAYED!

Chi State California has been a supporter of DKG Norway since it was started in 1972. It was particularly appropriate that the \$300 contribution, presented on behalf of Chi State by Ellen A. Owens, was awarded to one of our newest members, Anne Lise Huseeth to offset some of the costs of her attendance at the NY convention. Thank you!

President Oddny Damsgaard and Secretary Barbara Carlsen were involved in a number of meetings, particularly keeping a weather eye on our interests. The President voted Norway's 17 votes in the election of officers in accordance with the swishes of our 84 members. Dr. Beverly Helms was elected as International President. The Nominations Committee's nominee, Barbara Bathe, failed to receive enough votes and the opposing candidate Carolyn Pittman was duly elected Second Vice President. Other officers were elected in accordance with nominations.

The proposal to accept Japan's membership into the Society was enthusiastically and unanimously agreed. After lively debate, it was agreed that research into the pros and cons of electronic voting should be continued until the next international convention. The budget was approved with some minor amendments and a wide range of reports from committees and sections of the organisation were presented and approved.

It was often difficult to decide which of the variety of sessions to attend. There were so many interesting speakers and topics and only a limited amount of time. For my own part, I was particularly impressed by the director of the Harbor School in New York, Murray Fisher. His dream, which has become reality, was to use the harbour in New York as the base for 'classroom' education. The students work with water, animals, boats etc. The school experiments with oyster production, registers pollution, counts species of fish and much more. Universities and companies are interested in the work of this school and have supported it with expertise and donations. The students learn practical work as well as theoretical knowledge and emerge with an education that can equip them both fur further study and employment.

Sadly there was much room for improvement in the organisation of the business section of the European Forum meeting. We must do better! However, the presentation by Meeri Sild (Estonia) on *Teaching Digital Literacy in the 21st Century* was both interesting and highly relevant.

Ceremony is an integral part of the convention. Flag bearer and number three in the line-up for the procession was President Oddny Damsgaard. (We are so proud to have such a prominent position in the flag procession, so national costume is a must!)



We were pleasantly surprised that Barbara Carlsen, as a delegate who had been a member for less than 5 years, was selected

to sit at the table on the stage for the celebration lunch. Hope the delicious lunch tasted as good up there!

Many are the impressions and stories that can be told after such a week. There is no doubt that it a tremendous experience to join with so many wonderful, talented ladies who are doing their very best to ensure that everybody feels included and appreciated. Many new connections are made and ideas noted for future reference. DKG is an organisation which connects us way beyond our country borders!



THANK YOU THAT I CAN BE PART OF THIS!

Oddny Damsgaard, State President Norway

FINLAND

The new school year has begun and we are all very busy working towards the goals we have set for our students and ourselves professionally as well as in DKG. However, it is very nice reminiscing about the past summer with its many wonderful DKG related events!



The summer began in June with Gamma- and Zeta -chapters' visit to Tallinn by an invitation of Estonia's Alpha and Beta-chapters. We enjoyed their hospitality at the garden of Margarita Hanschmidt, the DKG Estonia's State President, on the outskirts of the city. What a treat! Not only did we have a delicious Estonian picnic-meal but also enlightening discussions on many DKG issues; for example on how to get, invite and keep new members as well as what kind of projects would suit our association.



The weekend gave us all good insights to many issues in DKG in each country and strengthened our feeling of affinity. We enjoyed meeting our good Estonian friends and making new ones. We hope to see you soon again!



The highlight of everybody's summer must have been attending the DKG Convention in New York! Here we regional breakfast. We were truly inspired by the and the great breakout sessions and not least by the amazing views and numerous awesome sights!



are at the European excellent speakers city itself with its

This autumn brings new challenges to our chapters: Our Gamma-chapter is continuing their work with the immigrant women in Turku teaching them Finnish. It is a weekly session with varying topics

and well received by the group. Gamma has received a grant for it from the DKG International. Our Alpha-chapter is starting to explore the possible use of Facebook for reaching members, especially the prospective ones. If it is well received among the members we hope to spread it to all of our chapters. Wishing you all a very sunny and elevating autumn! **Taina Hokkanen, DKG Finland, State President**

ESTONIA

After the successful State meeting in March with the honoured guests Dr. Jensi Souders, Kate York and Janny Kisterman we continued our strategic actions in order to complete all the planned objectives by their deadlines. The group of sisters who were involved in compiling didactic and



methodical materials for Russian teachers were like buzzing bees. They simplified and adapted texts in art history, provided texts with photos and explanatory notes. Even an Estonian-Russian and Russian-Estonian dictionary was compiled for teaching purposes. The busy period ended with a picnic in Margarita's garden where the first draft copy of materials was handed over to Russian teachers for their assessment.

DKG Estonia sisters are happy to have founded warm friendship with Finnish and Swedish sisters. We all live in Northern Europe, don't we, and so close to each other. In June we hosted DKG Finland sisters from Tampere and Turku. We visited the Opera together and had a merry get-together in Margarita's garden. We not only enjoyed each other's company but we also had a lively business discussion tackling the problems of communication and involving all the members. The DKG Finland President Taina Hokkanen stressed that if every member contributes at least a little, then the Board is not so overloaded.



Already in May new chapter boards were nominated and exchange of experience became a hot issue. State Executive Board visited Beta Chapter in Pärnu and a productive brainstorming of new objectives took place. The meeting culminated with the visit of Gisela Baronin von Engehardt from



DKG Germany. In August the new Alpha Board organized a terrific trip out of Tallinn. We were proud that another sister Dagmar Ullman from DKG Germany paid a visit to us. Together with the members of Alpha Chapter she also took part in the trip. We visited Aravete Biogas Plant which was founded by enthusiastic and enterprising young people. The project manager Triinu Tamm gave us a tour of the premises, explaining how heat and electricity are generated from dung and biomass from the nearby

cattle sheds. The Biogas Plant is the first of its kind in Estonia, enabling an efficient and environment friendly utilization of farm waste. We also visited the local village museum and Aravete School where we admired a beautiful building and modern learning environment. The trip ended with dinner in a former creamery that had been converted into a lovely cafe. The participants of New York Convention Anu, Meeri and Margarita spoke about the key-speakers at general meetings, workshops and excursions. Margarita summarized both - Dr. Beverly Hill's speech as a new international president and Marika Heimbach's address as the new Europe Director (see photos 7 and 8)



One more memorable meeting took place in Boras, in Sweden, where the representatives of Alpha and Beta Chapter experienced tremendously kind-hearted hosting. How considerate and caring the Swedish sisters were to us! Special thanks to Maret ja Monica! The new school year started with a detailed planning of the conference in December devoted to Hilda Taba's 110th anniversary, reviewing the state budget and designing new activities for 2013.



Dear sisters, you are warmly welcome to our conference. You can register on OUR NEW WEBPAGE: www.dkgeesti.weebly.com

DKG Estonia State Board



RAHVUSVAHELISE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA ÜHINGU EESTI ORGANISATSIION

HILDA TABA - 110

You are welcome to participate in the international conference “Hilda Taba 110” on December 7 - 8, 2012 at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. The conference will be organized by **Estonia State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International** in cooperation with the Institute of School Music at the Academy, Tallinn University, Tartu University and Tallinn University of Technology.

The invited speakers making presentations on Hilda Taba and issues of curriculum theory and practice are :

- prof. Walter Parker (USA, Washington University)
- prof. William F. Pinar (Canada, University of British Columbia)
- prof. Ulf P. Lundgren (Sweden, Uppsala University)
- prof. Tero Autio (Tallinn University)
- prof. Edgar Krull (Tartu University)

There will be an exhibition and workshops. The themes of the workshops are:

1. Philosophy of education and educational policy making as factors influencing curriculum development (chaired by Rain Mikser)
2. Curriculum development for different target groups (chaired by Tiia Rüütman)
3. Music education and opportunities to develop national identity (chaired by Kristi Kiilu)
4. Education and learning as a process of socialization (chaired by Sulev Valdmaa)

Participation fee 30 EUR covers the book of abstracts, meals, concerts and the visit to exhibition.

Register here: <http://dkgeesti.weebly.com> or <http://dkgeesti.blogspot.com/>

CONFERENCE IS SUPPORTED BY:

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND THEATRE

ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

EMBASSY OF UNITED STATES TALLINN, ESTONIA

My thanks to all who have contributed to the 40th edition of EuForia, I hope you find a lively and stimulating read. I think you will agree with me that Europe is certainly an active and forward-looking region in DKG. The deadline date for contributions to the Spring 2013 EuForia is 28th January 2013. Good luck with all your plans and events.

Best wishes,

Joan Carroll Editor