



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

EUFORIA

Edition 58, Spring 2022

Dear friends, here is EUFORIA the spring edition 2022. In this Issue you can read about committee works and various activities of the participating countries. But as you can see on the pictures there is more live and joy in our meetings now the pandemic is getting weaker.

Thanks to all the members who contributed to this issue with their interesting articles. Also many thanks to Evelyn Goodsell (GB) for her proof reading of the articles. Enjoy reading!



Helga Thorlacius, Iceland

Europe

From the Regional director

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR A WONDERFUL COLLABORATION!

My biennium as the Regional Director is closing. I often ask myself how much light my lantern gave you, how I could drive you by doing and how much I could fuel you to become a contributor to the Europe Region.



The Regional Director is delegated the authority and responsibility to propose and implement activities for the total region. I set four goals in September 2020, and I hope they facilitated personal and professional growth: (1) to unite DKG Europe Region more, (2) to build a bridge among the eight European state organisations, (3) to share best practices and collect these presentations on our DKG Europe webpage under Educational Topics (4) to celebrate cultural diversity.

During the first year of the biennium, I connected European state leaders through frequent zoom meetings with International Committee members and we got to know about the work of different committees. These meetings were informative, and I do believe they encouraged our members to apply to be a European in International Committees for 2022-2024. Numerous zoom meetings with state presidents were also of great help to keep close contacts, discuss problems and find solutions. I was honoured to work with these leaders.

In cooperation with European Forum Committee, I shouldered sharing best practices and state organisations presented educational topics which always called a large audience. All educational presentations by eight European organisations have activated educational discussions all over Europe and beyond. The presentations are recorded and uploaded on our dkgeurope.org webpage under a new layer - Educational Topics for those members who could not participate in webinars. All eight topics were engaging, and the presenters were impressive. The presentations have had positive feedback from all state organisations.

Monthly newsletters to you gave me opportunities to address the most urgent issues and keep you updated with the news from the Society. The newsletters are uploaded on the dkgeurope.org webpage under Publications.

The new Regional Director takes her position in July 2022. I have some recommendations to her:

- Form a strong team of state presidents, in-coming chapter presidents 2022-2024 and board members. These contacts are a valuable support for you.
- Continue connecting DKG Europe members using webinars or in-person meetings on educational, cultural, and historical topics.
- Customize the DKG Strategic plan to different age-groups which all have different expectations towards the Society, so that they are all interested in forwarding DKG Europe Region. The elderly members will be warmly welcomed to share memories of the time when they were initiated and what the DKG was like at that time.
- Organize a wonderful International Conference in Tampere in July 2023.

It is trust and strength of the relationship that allows us to react, course-correct and feel consensus. One thing that will not change – we have a dynamic partnership among European state organisations that will align and focus on a shared vision for the future.

It was a great pleasure to serve as the Europe Regional Director. Thank you, dear DKG Europe Region, for a wonderful cooperation.

Margarita Hanschmidt

ERD 2020-2022

Germany



Germany state meeting



DKG members met in Hamburg at the end of April face-to-face, first time in two years. It was a sunny weekend, and our venue, a stylish villa, provided a perfect framework for our meeting.

During the business part of our conference program we discussed the amendments to the Constitution and ISR, the nominations for the Administrative Board, the changes in Austin and the developments in the European Region. We had a lively discussion.

The highlights of the meeting were the presentation on the topic “Resilience” and the city tour in the afternoon.

We had chosen a tour about women in Hamburg with the title “About coffee-‘mietschen’ and foundresses a historic tour”. Already two hundred years ago women from wealthy households fought for more rights for women, especially for the right to vote. But the majority of women had to work hard for a little money.



The feminization of jobs started long ago with abstruse justifications.

Still today equality is high on the agenda.



The group at the
City Hall in
Hamburg

The day ended with a dinner in a historic restaurant (relaxation for our sore feet).

Next year we will meet in Erfurt or Leipzig.

Gitta Franke-Zöllmer
-state president



Dear DKG ladies of Europe



During this biennium the Editorial Board has been working on our European Website.

Updating the history of DKG Europe is still under way and will be finished before the summer.

We installed a new page in honour of our deceased members. Please do not forget to send obituaries to our webmaster: evglob@gmail.com .

When we had the first meeting in person in Amsterdam in early May, we had our business meeting at Ank Janssonius's house, always the generous host. I gladly accepted the invitation to stay another day at my friend's. Being in her home is like walking through a museum of art. Ank is not only a painter, but also creates sculptures in plaster, bronze und ceramic.

So it was at her house that the new idea was born: we will have a new feature on our website:

„The Artist of the Month“.

After the summer, at the beginning of the new biennium we will start with – Ank Janssonius!

And then we will rely on you, to send pictures of art works of members along with a photo and short description of your artist.

We are sure that this new page will be a success, there are so many artistic talents among our membership, and we are looking forward to receiving your entries:

My best wishes for a joyful summer

Marika Heimbach

Mariakath49@gmx.de

Great Britain



Report for Euforia 2022

As the DKG year draws to a close, I am filled with very mixed feelings. Sadly, it has been another year of uncertainty. The world around us seems filled with sadness, but we must look forward—restrictions are slowly returning to 'normal'. I say slowly as so many members have been rather hesitant to meet 'face to face', so virtual meetings have continued.

In GB we had one great sadness. The loss of Mary Wardrop, a loyal longstanding member who served as Chapter and State Presidents and on many International Committees

Due to our wonderful planning committee, Anne, Penny, Joan, Carole and Dorcas, we, in the UK, have been fortunate and treated to some super Zoom meetings. These have been very interesting and diverse: A virtual walk around the East end of London in the footsteps of the Suffragettes; a trip to the Globe theatre to hear about life of an actor and comedian; more seriously, the Kindertransport; Women's safety. We were able to share all these talks with our Sisters in Europe and the USA.

Throughout the year each country has presented an Education Hour to the rest of the Region. It was our turn in April and we were very fortunate to be given a talk by an eminent scientist, Christina Atkins. She is passionate about getting girls interested in science. She has appeared on 'Tomorrows World', Radio Kent and is a secondary school advisor on science. You can look her up on the Web.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our Conference once again. It was to be in London at a venue Joan and Penny had worked so hard to find, but due to uncertainty about the virus, it had to be cancelled.

Hopefully this situation is about to change. I have heard a whisper that our Planning Committee have arranged several 'outings' for us in the summer.

As we start the new DKG year, I hope we can approach it with enthusiasm and a determination to support our Chapters with their various projects and so make the year ahead a successful one.

Evelyn Goodsell GB

State President.

Norway



Dear Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters!



In 2001 I started as a member in DKG Norway, Zeta chapter.

This has really been a very nice journey up till now, and I hope it will be a nice experience further on.

In August last year, 2021, I started as State Organisation President for Norway. This was a great honour for me, and I am so grateful for this. Therefore, I hope I will be able to do a good job together with my excellent board.

In my contribution to Euforia, I want to tell you about my connection to USA since DKG was founded in this continent.

In 2006 I visited Oak Grove Lutheran school in Fargo in North Dakota because I was invited to celebrate 100 years anniversary for this school. My father's aunt, Jørgine Roen, was one the founders for establishing and for keeping the school going on.

She emigrated to America from Norway in 1888. She brought with her three very important things, her strong faith, her loved guitar and her outstanding brightness. Aunt Jørgine had limited amount of money but was hosted by a very nice family who helped her in the beginning. She started working in their factory, got a good education at Sacred Heart Academy and later continued her education at Concordia college. Later on, she started her own business and earned a lot of money.

She was a young lady who knew and who had experienced how important it is for girls to get an education. Therefore, she and others founded Oakgrove Lutheran school for girls.

Aunt Jørgine had been a member of Pontoppidan Lutheran church since coming to Fargo and was active in church circles, having been a deaconess for many years. She donated two large stained-glass windows to the church in memory of her parents in Norway, Ingeborg and

Johan Roen. She was also educating the children on Sunday school. A special room in this church is dedicated to her memory.

Her generosity was not limited locally. She was very liberal in donations to home and foreign missions.

Aunt Jørgine died in the treasurer's office at Oak Grove where she had spent many happy and devoted years in her work for the institution. It was her wish to die here.

A reference to this you can find in the book «A century in the park. Oak Grove Lutheran School» written by Hiram M. Drache.

We in DKG also hope to do a difference for young girls in the third world and other places. This is in one way a parallel to my story. In addition to this, all the members of DKG have grate possibilities to get different kinds of courses, education and good meeting places. We want to inspire, to motivate and make each other as good as possible.

DKG is a professional honour society of key woman educators in different parts of the world.

DKG is a journey for life. On my watch as State Organisation President of Norway I will try to be a leader who:

- **Believes in your potential**
- **Seeks your association**
- **Honours your membership.**

Best wishes to all of you!

Hilde Roen Munkelien, SOP Norway.



Norway and Delta Chapter 50 years old! A double Jubilee!

Barbara Carlsen



After two years of a pandemic, we could finally plan for a truly worthy Jubilee. Norway State and Delta Chapter celebrated their 50th anniversary on the 7th April 2022.

The date was no accident: on the 7th of April 1972, the then Alpha Chapter (no longer in existence), invited 20 “novices” to a formal inauguration meeting to celebrate the new Delta Chapter. At the time they were unfamiliar with each other and made their way into the organization with a certain trepidation. Exactly 2 weeks later, DKG Norway became the first European state in the DKG world fellowship. This meeting on the 21st April closed with a dinner and toasts to the new members and the new State organization! Certainly a fitting example to follow 50 years later.

Fortunately much has fallen into place in the interim years.

Muriel Marsh



Delta, the hosts for this evening, chose to invite all three Chapters to the capital Oslo for its celebratory dinner. The venue, Oslo Military Society, was a fitting setting for an event as important as this. We also had the pleasure of hosting five DKG members from Sweden, three from Delta’s sister chapter, Chi, and two from the State organization in Sweden, Marianne Skardeus and Birgitta Johansson.

Our celebration was also somewhat bittersweet: the organization is no longer full of young and energetic females. Most of us are now well into retirement and our numbers are also dwindling! But this didn’t hinder anyone from celebrating!



Reflecting on this, Barbara Carlsen (Delta), in her opening words, remarked that membership recruitment has been a common topic throughout the whole history of the society!

We are proud to have members who have been with us for 25 and more years.



“In the sign of the rose”

As a build up to our celebration, Chapter presidents, past and present during the last 10 years, were invited by Oddny Damsgaard (Delta) to contribute to the writing of the history of DKG in Norway. A booklet was published ten years ago covering the first 40 years. Now was the time to record experiences from at home and abroad. The project began in the fall of 2021 with strict

publication deadlines! The result was a very readable book full of personal anecdotes and photographs.

An era ends

Sadly Delta’s two “founding sisters”, ***Marte Marie Brandrud*** and ***Ingegerd Holst*** passed away during these last three years. They had been members from 1972 and both were over 90 when they died. Both were women of a foregone generation- making their school leadership and dedication to the upcoming generation a true vocation. Their passing, together with Epsilon’s eminent writer and poet, ***Kirsten Sødal***, was marked at the beginning of our celebration in true DKG spirit, with a minute’s silence and three white roses placed in a vase with the red ones. We all gave thanks for their long service, and later Kirsten Sødal’s “A DKG song” was sung very vibrant. The song has its own history. Initially sung by Norwegian attendees at the European breakfast during the Indianapolis Convention in 2014, it had competed in Europe for a new DKG song. It has become a firm favorite for all three Chapters in Norway.

Our celebration in Oslo also marked the end of our enforced distancing and lack of meetings in person, due to the pandemic. We were therefore many who looked forward to finally being with old friends across our Chapter borders. Many came dressed in their national costumes, “bunad”, which also added to the grandeur of the occasion. Members from Kristiansand and Hadeland made the trip to Oslo by train. Others came by bus and tube!





Despite a cold northerly wind outside, the warmth among participants was enormous. Old photographs had been brought to life on the digital screen, greetings from near and far were read to us by our State President, Hilde Munkelien and the evening's Master of Ceremonies, Bjørg Nakling. During a wonderful meal, songs were sung at suitable breaks; messages and presents conveyed from our visiting guests from Sweden and in true Norwegian style, speeches were held!



Delta chapter had made paper roses as a small present, one for each attendee. DKG State presented all present with a special glass heart from the Hadeland Glassworks. The gesture was a fitting end to a memorable evening.

Unfortunately, the evening flew far too quickly, both for the participants and the organizing committee in Delta! We wish to thank all who came and made the night special. Let's hope we are all still thriving and can invite again to celebrate in 10 years' time.



Here are (almost) all of Delta Chapter who were present!



The closing lines of Kirsten Sødal's "A DKG song" make a fitting end to this short report of a 50 year old celebrating itself!

*Sing Delta sing Kappa Gamma a song!
Let girls find their place within teaching!
We want a world where all women are strong.
New joy in each goal we are reaching!*

*Here is our wish for each woman on earth:
She should wake up to her true human worth.
Guided by wisdom and guided by love,
Always pursuing her freedom*

(Text Kirsten Sødal, music Anniken Søyland)

Muriel Marsh
Chapter president Delta 2019-2023
and
Barbara Carlsen
Past State and Chapter President, Delta

The Netherlands



Working weekend European Forum Committee April 29 and 30, 2022.



After picking up everyone from the airport, we started our first meeting Friday evening at 6 pm at my place with dinner. It was good to see one another in person after two years of ZOOM meetings.

Ewa Johansson and Margarita Hanschmidt couldn't be present, so they joined us on Saturday by ZOOM.

The program for this weekend was to organize the European Breakfast and the meeting of the European Forum in New Orleans, July 15 and 16, 2022, and to evaluate our work of this biennium.

It was hard to start this biennium because we were a whole new committee. None of the old participants entered into a new term. Also the Covid-19 pandemic made it difficult to start.

In the first year we had meetings almost every month by ZOOM and we planned our goals. Connecting the members of DKG was of our main goals. Ewa Johanson (chair) suggested that every country presented a Education Topic of their own choice. That was a success. Between October 2021 and May 2022 each country had a presentation. All the presentations were recorded and on average 60 members followed the submissions live and later even more members saw the recordings.



We decided that the new European Forum Committee will continue this program in the next biennium.



On Saturday we were allowed to use Ank Jansonius' studio as a meeting location. A very inspiring environment for creative ideas. We made arrangements for New Orleans and divided the tasks.

After a good dinner in a typical Amsterdam brown café, everyone was taken back to the hotel.

The next day was the return trip home. It was chaos at Schiphol, but after wandering and delay everyone was back home on Sunday evening.



On Monday morning I saw Evelyn on Dutch television at a crowded airport.

Marie-Antoinette Hubers
Member European Forum Committee and treasurer



Honorary membership



Trijny Schmitz-du Moulin became honorary member of the Dutch DKG.

Last week they brought her the document and flowers. She was honoured because of her big value to our Society, nationally internationally and European.

Marieke the chair of Epsilon (her chapter) surprised her , together with Elselien, Janny and Ank from Alpha Chapter in the residential caring home, where she lives now.



Trijny was also awarded [The European Achievement Award](#) in Borås 2015.

Janny Kisteman
The Netherlands

Iceland



Words from the State Organization President of Iceland



The beginning of the year 2022 will most likely be remembered as the post-pandemic period when we all learned to appreciate the company of and personal contact with each other. In Iceland most restrictions were relieved in March so our chapters were able to meet in person by then. Many of us had been looking forward to that moment for a long time.

Fortunately, the upheaval of the restrictions enabled us to stick to our plans of holding our state conference „in the flesh“. After having to cancel two state conferences due to the pandemic, the state board decided to plan to have the conference in Reykjavik, where there is a largest selection of venues for such an event. There we would be most likely to find a meeting place in which we were most likely to be able to maintain a social distance, in case the pandemic would creep upon us



again. The conference took place in the Grand hotel in central Reykjavik on May 7. About 60 DKG sisters had signed up and were eager to attend. The State Organization Board had made plans to record those of the presentations that we thought would be of interest to those of our members that were unable to attend. The theme of the conference was *Diversity and flexibility in education for the future*.



Our first presentation was called *Time, room and education: New technology and opportunities* and was given by a member of our Kappa chapter and professor at the College of Education of the University of Iceland, Solveig Jakobsdottir. The presentation was on the use of digital technology in education in

Iceland and the development of distance- and digital learning at various school levels. Solveig also discussed the influence of the pandemic on students and their education in the light of research on the matter in Iceland and on an international level.

After a musical break where one of our members accompanied our singing of some popular Icelandic melodies by her accordion, we were ready for the next presentation titled: *Learning for the future, what does that look like?* The presenter was Valgerdur Osk Einarsdottir, a teaching counselor of the Center of Education at the University of Akureyri in the north of Iceland. And of course this presentation was transmitted via Zoom. The presentation



was on distance learning, education through the internet and flexible learning in light of the theme of the conference. Valgerdur reminded us that distance learning is not a novel phenomena in Iceland since many of us remembered language courses given through the mail once upon a time. She also gave us some enlightening examples of students who had not attended school for some time due to various emotional and psychological complexities, but managed to complete high school or junior college with honors by using the more recent learning and teaching methods through the internet.



After a delicious lunch of a fish meal typical of Iceland, we were so fortunate to „give the floor“ to Gail Goolsby, an international speaker provided by DKG International Speakers Fund. She, of course, was at her home in Kansas at the same time we were in Reykjavik. As most of you know, Gail was a recipient of DKG Educators Book Award 2020 for her book *The Unveiled Truth: Lessons I learned leading the international School of Kabul* which was also the title of her presentation. Gail began by informing us about the country and the society in which she found herself in

Kabul, Afghanistan. She told us about the clash of cultures she had to learn to deal with and the importance of interactive appreciation of cultures. She learned the art of transparent leadership and the fine art of failure. She came to value trust and to carry on with her plans.

After returning to the States, she decided to make use of her experiences and lessons she learned by writing her story and publish the book and also by becoming a coach who encourages others to move forward and make changes in their lives. She has also become involved in assisting and supporting immigrants and refugees from Afghanistan and



other countries. The big lesson she learned was to learn to live well and that certainly was an important message that she gave to us. Gail was generous enough to take time to answer questions and discuss various aspects of her experience that we were most grateful for.



The last presentation was on *Humour and joy – a deadly serious matter* and was given to us by an actress, coach and ambassador of joy and laughter named Edda Björgvinsdóttir. Edda gave us examples of research findings that pointed out that laughter is health improving by promoting the produce of hormones connected with well being such as endorphine, serotonin etc. She informed us how sense of humour has positive effects on job

satisfaction, work effectiveness, as well as decreasing stress and preventing burnout. She reminded us to make fun of ourselves and spread joy and humour wherever possible.

After these interesting and thought provoking presentations the participants had a moment to discuss their ideas and reactions to the presentations and the presenters' questions they had provided. Each table was appointed a secretary that reported their findings on a Padlet that was presented on the big screen momentarily – another method our group used to take advantage of modern technology in order to make our reactions available and visible to others.

At the end of the conference, the State Organization invited members to a reception at the conference venue where DKG sisters were able to enjoy the company of each other after such a long period of virtual meetings.



In company of delighted members of the State Organization Administration at the end of the conference

Gudrun E. Bentsdóttir,

Iceland SOP 2021-2023

Sweden



***Marianne Skardéus* has been nominated for First Vice President of the Society.**

Marianne has been an active member of DKG for over 30 years. She has served the Swedish State in officer positions and as a chair or member of a variety of state committees. In 2005 to 2007 she was the Swedish state organization president. Marianne is a raw model for both new and old members and she always put DKG in her priority



She has been a teacher and administrator on all levels of education. From 1995 to 2001 she was in charge of the European Educational

Programmes in Sweden at the Ministry of Education and 2001-2005 she was Director of the international Unit at the University in Borås.



Marianne has served on several International Committees. She has been elected by the Society membership to serve on both the International Nominations Committee for four years and on the Educational Foundation Board of Trustees for six years where she served one biennium as vice-chair. She has also been chair of the Europe Forum. She served on the Society's International Administrative Board when she was the European Regional Director from 2014 to 2016.

Marianne has been very active in her chapter Chi, which she founded in 2003.

As an active participant she has attended all Europe Regional Conferences since 1999 and all International Conventions since 2000, presenting workshops and breakout sessions at many of them.

As a writer Marianne has published at least four articles in the Society's Collegial Exchange magazine. She has also put a lot of time and talent to elaborate and edit Parts II and III of the Histories of Swedish State and Swedish Chapters. Also the history of the Europe Region has been recorded by Marianne. She has also been one of the people who organized and archived the documents of Sweden state from 1972 and onwards.

To highlight her enthusiasm I would like to point out that in 2011, she received the European Achievement Award for her work in expanding the Society into Estonia and Denmark.

Anette Nyberg

Sweden State President



Finland



News from Finland – spring 2022



The DKG Finland had its 2022 annual meeting on **Saturday the 9th of April** in Helsinki. We had the usual society matters which we discussed, but also interesting suggestions from members like starting to write the history of the Finland DKG. All this was in the morning session. In the afternoon we had a hybrid seminar. We had some members in the meeting room and some online. The seminar presentations were very interesting and enlightening. Our first speaker was Ms Elina Kivelä, who is a special education teacher and music therapist, and she did her presentation online. She talked about “10Ts” – ten arguments or ideas about special education for professional development of teachers. Our second speaker was Ms Helena Ahonen. The Alpha Chapter had created a strategic group for marketing and chapter development, and Helena introduced the strategic plan. She was the leading speaker in the strategy group.

Both the speakers were very inspiring and gave us a lot to think about.

Our third speaker was the DKG international speaker **Dr Peg Dunn-Snow** from Florida. She spoke online and her title was Art Therapy: When Words are not Enough. Peg talked about how she uses art therapy and for example dolls with children and also with adults. The dolls are also a link to our primary school curriculum in craft education – many children create their own dolls in year three or four. Her presentation showed a number of children’s art products with Peg’s explanations of background situations, which was very interesting for us and also opened some aspects and the use of art therapy for us. Peg’s presentation was also a very good link to Elina’s presentation and thus opened our views.

The pandemic situation during the past two years has been challenging in many ways in Finland, where the situation has been so different in different parts of Finland. The International Conference, which was to be in 2021 in Tampere was postponed by two years.

The year 2022-2023 will be busy here due the coming **International Conference in Europe and in Finland, in Tampere from Wednesday to Saturday 26-29 July 2023. Warmly welcome!**

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney

DKG Finland, State President

News from chapters

Alpha – Helsinki

After 2020 – in 2021-2022 life began again somehow – sometimes via teams or zoom but live meetings as well.

We, Alpha-folks, most of us retired teachers, were offered interesting visits to two schools in Helsinki. In the French-Finnish Upper Secondary School we met teachers and students, and told them about our organization DKG. The Helsinki European School, again, was exceptional with its several curricula – due to its foundation of European Chemical Office in Helsinki. The State Meeting in Joensuu (Oct. 2nd, 2021) made us acquainted with a young female university student Senni, blind since her birth. She is about to complete her master's degree studies in special education.

The latest State Meeting in Helsinki (April 9th, 2022) brought Helena from Alpha on the podium. Her excellent presentation was about a *strategy* of making DKG enticing enough for young members to join. More networking, more international connections...? Helena's new strategy plan was shown in a couple of events earlier in April: a *concert* for godchildren of Helsinki Philharmonics, and discussions with the organizers. *Economical Education for Schoolchildren* was the issue in a lecture given by the representatives from Nordea Bank – children's experiences were also heard.

I'd like to reminisce a bit: in 2021 we had visited Helena's and Satu's lovely summer houses and spent 'Little Christmas party' in Donors' Lounge in Helsinki University; and simultaneously did our homework: discussions on books. One more book session remains (June 7th): we'll meet in Sofia, a cultural center in Helsinki and discuss Malena Ernman's work. We shall also listen to special education experts.

If sums of 500€ can be called scholarships, when one awardee was ADRA (a society helping with education of single mothers in Northern Uganda). Ukraine was the other target through Finn Church Aid.

My best regards from Alpha, Finland

Kaija Teikari, Chapter President

Epsilon Chapter in Joensuu

Our January meeting was a hybrid event – some were on the spot and some online also in other parts of Finland. Ms **Annikki Hämäläinen** gave an online lecture on “Facts about Brain Health”. This lecture was actually done twice, since it was found interesting and all who wanted to see it could not be present at the first online lecture.

We had our annual meeting in February in the Joensuu City Library. Ms **Jaana Tanskanen** introduced the photo exhibition of her school. The photos were by her students and one was her own photo. Jaana is doing her doctoral research and dissertation in art education and she received a DKG scholarship from Maria Pierce funds to support her, of which she was very happy and felt that she got a lot of encouragement and new boost for her doctoral research.



One of our members is a nursing teacher and a qualified expert in traditional Chinese medicine so we all had an evening with her and had a five-needle ear acupuncture in March.

In March and April the chapter arranged two online sessions for members to get acquainted with DKG webpages and its contents.

A local textile artist, Ihva Aula had a very nice 40-year retrospective art exhibition of her work.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Ihva-Aula/100009280799625/>

Some of us managed to go together and some visited it individually. The exhibition was very interesting and playful, and our very active chapter president Ms **Päivi Järvinen** had a joyful picture of her taken in one of the art works.

In May we are going to have an art cycling tour, when we shall cycle around the town and see outdoor art. In June – the third year running – we shall have a summer event exchanging plants and seedlings in a member’s garden and enjoying sunny weather!



Päivi Järvinen, Epsilon Chapter President

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney Chapter Vice-President

Gamma Chapter in Turku

The activities of Gamma Chapter located in Turku, Finland, remained in standstill since the onset of the Covid pandemic and the in restrictions set in March 2020. This meant, for example, that we were unable to celebrate Gamma's 45th Anniversary in April 2020 and had to postpone all face to face meetings for almost two years.

Therefore, the virtual events organized by e.g. the European Forum Committee and the DKG Communications and Marketing Committee have been a welcome addition to our contacts. They have introduced a new dimension to the DKG and shortened the physical distance between members, both at home and in other countries.

This spring, we finally had opportunities to meet in person again. In March we enjoyed the lighthearted performance of a local amateur theatre group. In the April event with a focus on handicrafts and wellbeing, we congratulated *Liisa Peltomaa*, a charter member of Gamma, on her 47th anniversary as a DKG member.

In May, we followed Alice's adventurous journey through Wonderland, as performed by Dance Theatre ERI.



The Game Theory-Westwards by Osmo Rauhala



We also visited the exhibition of Osmo Rauhala, one of Finland's most internationally successful visual artists. Entitled "Remember to Forget Everything", the exhibition provided an overview of the artist's work of the 2010s. His themes may also be a source of inspiration for us, as key women educators: "We inherit our ability to learn, but not all the knowledge that our parents had. Wisdom and information about the world are transferred through experience and various sign systems. In this, language, science and art play an important role."

Litteracy by Osmo Rauhala

Marianna Sunnari,
Gamma Chapter President

Zeta Chapter in Tampere

We visited Sara Hilden Art Museum in October, and admired the exhibition of works by Marcel Dzama.

Zeta had its 31st anniversary celebrated on December 8, 2021. The members also made red bracelets with wooden beads.



This spring has proved very busy for many of us, with theatres and concert halls making up for the lost time during the pandemic, so some of the events planned for us will be realized in the autumn. However, members of Zeta chapter have enjoyed the numerous varied presentations by other European DKG States.



Sirpa Ruhanen,
Zeta Chapter President

Members Share DKG International Speaker Fund Experiences



Get acquainted with the DKG International Speaker Fund and think about applying to the DKG International Speaker list by September 15!

This article was published in [DKG Blog](#) on May 20.

Thoughts from the presenter:

The DKG International Society's International Speaker Fund (ISF) serves as an excellent program to promote and increase diversity, international experiences, and cultural exchange throughout the organization.

I have had the pleasure of presenting to a DKG group as an international speaker four times. My most recent speaking experiences include Nebraska (2017) and Washington (2018) in person, and in late April 2022 at the DKG California Convention via Zoom, a new experience for me.

I think the experience for a speaker from the International Speaker Fund is almost like a scholarship to get to know DKG sisters in different parts of the world. The experience helps to make new friends, meet them later in the convention, or be in contact with them e.g., by email. The state convention creates a unique experience and excellent contacts among the speakers, the organizers, and the audience.

The virtual meeting is very different because one misses the in person contact. However, it offers another dimension; it makes meeting possible in difficult times. During the DKG California Convention, I gave a talk during the banquet about music, wellbeing, and the brain which are some of my favorite themes. I also presented during a workshop about Finnish education. Since the audience was smaller in the workshop, I could see the participants, create a connection with them, and answer their questions. I hope that was a win-win situation.

I have also had the pleasure as the Finland state president of twice inviting an ISF speaker—one in early 2000's and one in 2021 online. Those speakers offered the audience enlightening experiences as well and created connections.

The ISF program is great. It is worth applying for the ISF program to be a speaker or have a speaker attend an event. The application time is now so you should send your application in by the 15th of September. I warmly recommend it.

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney, Finland, DKG International Speakers Fund speaker and Member of the International Communications and Marketing Committee 2020-2022

Thoughts from a member of the audience:

When I first discovered that Eija Liisa was going to speak at the DKG California Convention, I was thrilled! Eija Liisa and I currently serve on the DKG International Communications and Marketing Committee. Eija Liisa certainly brought the international spirit to the California convention. Via Zoom, Eija Liisa came halfway around the world to the convention in Burbank to share her life experiences in Finland. She spoke about her favorite themes, including music, well-being and the brain, and offered slides to illustrate her thoughts.

I highly recommend that your state take advantage of the ISF program. The speaker will add depth to your convention through her keynote presentations and workshop, especially if your speaker is able to travel to your location now that travel has opened up.

Julie Drysdale, California, DKG International Communications and Marketing Committee 2020-2022

[International Speakers Fund Flyer](#)

Sent in by Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney

Finland State President



Why don't you apply for a scholarship – DKG offers good scholarship possibilities



Two Finnish teachers received scholarships this spring. Ms Jaana Tanskanen received a scholarship from J. Maria Pierce Scholarship from DKG for her doctoral studies. She describes her theme here. Altogether there were 9 doctoral scholarships awarded this year.

The name of her doctoral dissertation is “High school students as creators of their own visual culture – the background factors of art making for a high school student and the meanings of art making.”

My expertise derives from working as a visual arts teacher in basic education and high school for 22 years.

The target groups in my research are 776 students, 16-17 yrs, who started their high school studies in North-Karelia in 2018. Data collection took place in two phases: first an electronic questionnaire and then individual interviews. 381 students answered the electronic questionnaire, and 13 artists were interviewed with their voluntarily made artistic products – mainly manual and digital drawings, which are the core of my research.



The research is within the sphere of art education. It increases the understanding of young people's own art so that the pictures of the youth's experience in the world would become a part of formal art education also in Finland.



Dr Jaana Räisänen is a biology and geography teacher at University Teacher Training School in Joensuu, Finland. She was awarded with a course scholarship from Lucille Cornetet Professional Development Award for her course, which she hopes will increase her professionalism both in classroom work in high school and helping her with student teachers when she is tutoring them, and thus increasing young teachers' professional work. The Lucille Cornetet Foundation has awarded professional development scholarships for over \$800 000 since 2020.

Remember to apply! The next round for **Cornetet Foundation** applications is in autumn, deadline 1 November, and International Scholarship Funds early in

2023. I encourage you to do that!

“Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney

DKG Finland State President 2021-2023