**Area Liaisons’, Committee Chairs’ &**

**Chapter Presidents’ Page**

… from your Washington State President

“Embracing Possibilities: Leading with Wisdom and Passion”

Newsletter 14

Dear Chapter Presidents, Area Liaisons, State Committee Chairs, and State Officers,

Have you had a conversation about racism with family or friends? Racial tensions across the nation are at a high. We all carry hidden biases from a lifetime of exposure to cultural attitudes about age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, social class, sexuality, disability, and nationality. The more we talk about our beliefs, the more we reflect on our own experiences and realize our own biases. Only when we realize that we think and act a certain way, can we change. ***Blind Spot*** by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald is a book I encourage everyone to read. Our own 2nd VP Monique Harrison will be presenting a workshop on “Implicit Bias” during our Virtual Fall Board. Be prepared to learn more!

As the biennium begins on July 1st for newly installed chapter officers, I want to thank all 2018-2020 chapter presidents for your leadership, dedication, and courage the past two years. Your voice is important for your members, for state officers and at the Interntional level for DKG cannot move forward without knowing about your concerns and successes. We are living in a moment when communication and support of our members are so important. They are the glue that drives our compassion for one another and keeps us connected … even from a distance. As educators, we have learned to balance ourselves amid situations we may have no control over. As educators, we have a voice, read to find out answers to our questions and embrace situations with perseverance and a better understanding. The Coronavirus Pandemic, social unrest and justice, lack of being with family and friends, cancellations of schools and gatherings that we have looked forward to; all factors that we are dealing with. How are you coping?

Zoom has enabled many chapters to connect with members while still keeping distant contact. Since many area workshops were cancelled as well as meetings, I have not had the chance to meet with members. Please invite me to one of your Zoom meetings. The first 40 minutes is free for everyone.

The National Educational Association has just released a guide entitled “All Hands on Deck; Initial Guidance Regarding Reopening School Buildings”. The four basic principles are: 1. Health Expertise, 2, Educator Voice, 3. Access to Protection i.e. PPE, 4. Leading with Equity-Achieving racial and social justice. I recommend that everyone download and read this guide. (educatingthroughcrisis.org/meeting students-and-families-needs) When schools reopen, they will look different in many ways. We know what students should learn but the process will look different and we need to embrace the possibilities.

An update on

* International Virtual Convention to replace Philadelphia Convention: July 7-11, 2020 Look on the international website to find out more about the offerings. I am including a copy of International President Cathy Daugherty’s views on discrimination, violence, and injustice. Many of the offerings include diversity, equity, and inclusion, plus overcoming our biases. Please plan on attending and let your members know about the workshops.
* Fall Board: Training sessions, workshops and speakers will be published in the August ***Alpha Sigma News,*** presented on September 25 & 26th, 2020 using Zoom. Stay tuned!

Stay safe, keep healthy and find precious moments for yourself.

Gratefully, Susan Fritts, Washington Organization State President, DKG Society International

Books Worthy of our Time:

1. ***behind the beautiful forevers* Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity** by Katherine Boo Review: This nonfiction narrative tells the dramatic reality of families living in a slum called Anawadi, a makeshift settlement near the Mumbai airport and luxury hotels, located behind the large billboard which reads “The Beautiful Forevers”. After Boo’s three years studying and reporting the Anawadian culture, she tells a heartbreaking story of families striving toward a better life while trying to battle with corruption, poverty, equality, and hope.
2. ***The Moment of Lift* How Empowering Women Changes the World** by Melinda Gates

Gates’ enlightening narrative presents how girls have been raised “from child marriage to lack of access to contraceptives to gender inequity”. Her data mirrors experiences in Boo’s book. “When we lift others up, they lift us up, too. When you lift up women, you lift up humanity.”

1. ***Astrid & Veronika*** by Linda Olsson

Two women, one who has just rented a house next door in a small village in the midst of a harsh Swedish winter, discover they both have experienced tragedy in their lives. This book is about relationships and how they develop a lasting friendship and change over the year.

1. ***The Room on Rue Amelie*** by Kristin Harmel

This novel portrays the struggles that American Ruby Henderson Benoit has after her marriage to a Frenchman and relocation to Paris before the beginning of WWII. It includes relationships with Jewish neighbors (an 11 yr. old who becomes her best friend), her role in the Resistance, and reasons for fighting. This is an excellent example of courage, standing up for ones’ convictions and HOPE.