President’s Message

Happy 2015! We’re pleased to honor the 106th anniversary of our award-winning and vibrant Denver Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

We celebrated Theta’s 145th Founders Day anniversary on January 24th at Glenmoor Country Club. Val Lunka and her wonderful committee organized a fantastic celebration with 89 Thetas in attendance. Generous Thetas contributed over $1,900 to the Friendship Fund to support our sisters in need. Mary Ellen Fitzsimonds, Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation President, travelled from her home in Chicago to join us and shared a heartwarming message. Our 2015 special award winners were also announced at Founders Day: Allison Radcliffe, the Woman-of-the-Year, and Shannon Chandler Gross, the Inspirational Theta-of-the-Year. Congratulations to them both!

Our chapter’s firm commitment to service continues on Saturday, March 7th, as we support Clothes to Kids. Be sure to save the date for our “Casa for CASA” philanthropy event at Casa Bonita on Friday, April 10th!

Thank you for honoring Theta for a lifetime. Our fraternity’s highest aspirations are found on the four points of the kite: intellectual curiosity, commitment to service, leadership and personal excellence.

Loyal in Theta,

Jane Siekmeier
Gamma Upsilon/Miami University
President, Denver Alumnae Chapter
jsiekmeier@comcast.net
(303) 850-9369
On Saturday, January 24, 89 Thetas and collegians from our Colorado chapters celebrated Theta’s 145th Founders Day anniversary at Glenmoor Country Club.

Mistress of Ceremonies Sydney Ayers, DAC Theta, President Jane Siekmeier, and President-Elect Val Lunka

50 Year Thetas: Donna Ryman, Sally Rock, Carol Bartscherer McGuire, Marleen Swanson and Courtney Price
Not Pictures: Lisa Calkins, Marijo Rymer and Kris Miller

Allison Radcliffe, 2015 Theta of the Year, with Caren Stahmer, 2013 Theta of the Year

Shannon Chandler Gross, 2015 Inspirational Theta, with Sarah Hittner, 2014 Inspirational Theta

Photos by Scottie Taylor Iverson, courtesy of The Villager Newspaper
2015 Founders Day, cont.

Jane Siekmeier, Susan Secrest, Skye West, and Leigh Miller

Mary Ellen Fitzsimonds, Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation President, Leigh Plue and Martha Doughtie

Carolyn Holce, 2015 Winnie Ingalls Scholarship Winner with Barb Ingalls

Allison Ratcliffe, Joan Whittlesey, Allison Klein, Collette McConnell, Donna Ryman, Nancy Ives, Jenny Hoch and Kate Gearhart

Shirley Smith and Lisa
Once there were four women. They graduated from college with honors. They were innovators in their professions. They founded new Theta chapters and made the Fraternity stronger throughout their alumnae years. They served selflessly in their communities.

Who were these women? Of course they were Thetas; in fact, they were the first Thetas. They were our founders, the original Kappa Alpha Theta leading women.

This Founders Day, for the 145th time, we pause to commemorate and honor the perseverance, independence, and faith of Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie. Their vision has stood the test of time, and although much has changed since 1870, the values upon which Theta was founded as the first Greek-letter fraternity for women have not. They remain as relevant today as they were 50, 100, and—yes—nearly 150 years ago.

How many organizations for women have not only survived but thrived for nearly one and a half centuries? Not many! I believe Theta continues to flourish because each of us—like our founders—continually strives to personify our ideals and manifest our ritual in unique and powerful ways. Our ideals and ritual are not simply words we say; they are commitments we have made.

On Founders Day, we celebrate not only our history, but also our potential. In Kappa Alpha Theta, our founders created a singular opportunity to learn, serve, and grow in a supportive environment. They created a sisterhood in which we give kind and thoughtful care to one another. And they created a platform upon which we can build and expand to meet new challenges, while staying true to our purpose. Please join me in taking some time this Founders Day to reflect upon what a treasure our Fraternity is and to renew your pledge to its advancement and welfare.

One of the purest affirmations of our commitment to one another is the Friendship Fund. Established to provide gifts to Thetas experiencing extreme financial hardship, the love and support it demonstrates are proof that Theta is larger than ourselves and that what we give to one another comes full circle. One recipient wrote, “I really cannot put into words my appreciation for the recent gift I received from the Friendship Fund. When I opened your letter, it immediately brought tears to my eyes. I will be forever grateful and hope to someday be on the other end and give back to a sister in need of my help. I am very proud and privileged to be a Theta.”

This Founders Day, we can all feel proud of our determined, confident, passionate, and caring founders, just as we can feel privileged to be part of the sisterhood they began, a sisterhood that helps shape us as leading women.

Loyally,

Laura Ware Doerre, Delta Xi/North Carolina Fraternity President

We trace the beginning of the Friendship Fund to the 1924 Grand Convention, when a young alumna, Rachel Sumner Poole, Chi/Syracuse, spoke of a Theta in dire need and asked if there was any fund from which the Fraternity could aid her. In response, a committee was formed and recommended the establishment of the Friendship Fund at the 1926 Convention; a few months later, Grand Council suggested starting the fund through contributions at Founders Day celebrations. An important ongoing tradition is the secrecy surrounding the giving of gifts from the fund. Two members write on behalf of a sister, and the Friendship Fund committee determines the award amount. The requesters remain anonymous, and all records are confidential.

Theta tradition also calls for Friendship Fund contributions to be made on Founders Day. The suggested donation is $1 for every year of membership. Checks made out to Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity with “Friendship Fund” written on the memo line may be mailed to: Kappa Alpha Theta, 8740 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268, attn.: Friendship Fund.

* Donations to the Fraternity are not tax-deductible.
Update from our VP Membership

Susan Secrest, susan.secrest@comcast.net

On January 24, I had the distinct honor of attending the 145th Founders Day Celebration with 89 Thetas at Glenmoor Country Club and sitting at a table with our 50 Year Thetas! While searching the room for a table to join, the group invited me to sit down and enjoy the delicious food and conversation. At first glance, I was hesitant. The table was clearly labeled “50 Year Thetas” for which I did not qualify. However, these ladies were so friendly and welcoming I could not resist! Plus, I thought to myself, I am now closer to a 50 Year Theta than I am to a New Alum. At the same time, I realized that I would be just as honored to join a table with recent graduates and our newest Theta Alumnae for the Founders Day Brunch. The point of my story is that the Denver Alumnae group has something to offer to all Thetas. I hope that each and every one of you feel this way when attending our most popular events like Founders Day to our many small special interest groups like Book Club and Lunch Bunch.

Last year the Denver Alumnae Chapter moved to a calendar year membership. The 2015 membership year began on January 1. To date, we are 238 members strong! But it is never too late in the year to welcome renewing members, Thetas who are new to the area, and recent graduates. Dues can be paid online (login required) or by contacting me, the VP Membership at susan.secrest@comcast.net or 303.862.4977.

Dues are $55 (Regular) or $89 (Twin Star), which covers both local and national fees. You won’t want to miss a bit of all the Theta action going on this year, so please renew your membership right away!

If you know a Theta who is not yet a part of our chapter, please invite her to join us too. Bring her to a chapter program or Special Interest Group event, and let her know how much fun we have connecting with each other socially, through career networking events, and in service to Theta philanthropies.

New Kites over Denver Skies

Our chapter is growing! DAC welcomes the following new members in 2015:

Alyssa Albertson, Eta Eta/Idaho
Michelle Fargher Clark, Alpha Zeta/Washington State
Kathryn Gearhart, Alpha Nu/Montana
Kathy Gibson, Beta Sigma/SMU
Lisa Lodge, Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor
Kristen McGourty, Beta Iota/Colorado
Laurny Reiff*, Mu Upsilon/Allegheny
Sally Rock, Alpha Theta (now Beta Iota)/Colorado
Alexis Higgins, Delta Epsilon/Arizona State
Katharine Hoehne*, Eta Eta/Idaho
Anna Porter, Zeta Mu/MIT
Anne Green, Beta Kappa/Drake

*Recent Grad

Kappa Alpha Theta – LEADING WOMEN

I love being a DAC member because...

“...I like connecting with Theta alumnae for community good and helping collegians and CASA.”

Sarah Harrison, Alpha Zeta/Emory

Member dues are paid online at: kappaalphatheta.org
Beta Gamma Celebration

Denver Alumnae Chapter Thetas celebrate Beta Gamma Initiation

Standing: Jane Siekmeier, Martha Doughtie, Elizabeth Metz, Shera Eddy, Sarah Harrison, Cara Knott, Katherine Hoehne, Kelly Nole, Stacy Hayes and Ashley Nelson

Seated: Nikki Gordon, Betty Dysart, Val Lunka, and Kimberly Nerheim Spahmer

Laura Ware Doerre, Fraternity President

Right: Jill Pedicord Petersen, Lindsay Sell and Kim Spahmer

Kappa Alpha Theta
Events

Crafts and Cocktails
Social Event
February 19, 6:30 pm
Upstairs Circus
1500 Wynkoop Street #100, Denver
Join other Thetas as we get a little crafty! Look for an evite with more information in your inbox soon.

Mark Your Calendar
Clothes for Kids Service Event
March 7, 9-11:00 am
2890 S. Colorado Blvd, Denver
We’ll help with some behind-the-scenes works for this great nonprofit!

Casa for CASA Fundraiser!
(Court Appointed Special Advocates)
Please join us at this historic Colorado landmark to raise awareness for Denver Area CASA programs.

April 10, 2015
5:30 to 9:00 pm
Casa Bonita, 6715 W Colfax Avenue, Denver
The event will have family friendly activities, an exclusive silent auction, and prizes. Casa for CASA is open to all, so please, mark your calendars and spread the word!

If you cannot attend, you can still donate to CASA via their website: http://coloradocasa.org/
or by sending a check -- made out to CASA -- to:
Jenny Koch, 999 18th Street, Suite 3000 Denver, CO 80202

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
To learn more about CASA in Colorado, visit:
http://www.coloradocasa.org/
Thinking of You...

Our Sympathies to...
- Carl Smeltzer, Dan and Stephanie McCoy, and Sky and Judy Smeltzer on the death of his wife and their mother, Janet Smeltzer.
- Edie Bell on the death of her mother, Kathleen Ann Beier.
- Carole Baer on the death of her daughter, Stephanie.
- Bonnie McMullen on the death of her husband, Paul.
- Lynn Donaldson on the death of her father.

Get Well Wishes to...
- Jean Parchen after surgery.
- Julie Fleming Crowe (a Theta sister of Patti Theil's at college) after a car accident.

Congratulations to...
- Shannon Chandler Gross for becoming the Inspirational Theta!
- Allison Radcliffe for becoming our Theta Woman of the Year!

Theta Foundation News

THETA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABLE

Theta Foundation is once again pleased to share that our 2014-15 Scholarship Application is available!

Theta collegians and alumnae who will pursue undergraduate or graduate study during the 2015-16 Academic Year are eligible to apply. Theta Foundation scholarships support tuition, textbooks, and course-related fees, but cannot support Theta membership dues.

If you are interested in applying, you can find a link to the online application form, an application guide, and a link to Frequently Asked Questions on our website at: www.KappaAlphaThetaFoundation.org/apply-now.

If you have any questions, review the 2014-15 Scholarship Application Guide or contact Theta Foundation's Director of Programs, Gaylena Merritt, at gmerritt@kappaalphatheta.org.
Introducing Your 2015 DAC Theta Board:

Opportunities to get involved:

**Thetas,**
Join a committee and get more involved with our wonderful chapter:

**VP Fraternity** Adrienne Babb has two open committee positions (adriennebabb2@gmail.com)
- **Beta Omega Liaison:** help coordinate between Colorado College’s active members and our Denver Alumnae Chapter
- **Archivist:** help us preserve anything of historical interest (this would be ideal for a creative person who is active in Theta activities and enjoys taking pictures.)

**VP Communications** Antonette DeLauro Smith has two open positions (adspatriot1776@gmail.com)
- **Web mistress** help get our Denver website up to date
- **Digital member communications:** help with our monthly e-blasts

**VP Social** Shannon Chandler Gross (scchandler24@gmail.com) is welcoming Theta friends to join the new Social Committee.

**VP Membership** Susan Secrest has two open committee positions (susan.secrest@comcast.net)
- **Database Manager:** help manage our membership database. We use LibreOffice 4.3 shared through Dropbox.
- **Alum Chums:** an active member who welcomes first year members by inviting them to attend Chapter events. The Alum Chum helps make introductions and answer the new member’s questions about the Denver Alumnae Chapter.
Lila Milligan Boyden
Educational Leadership Endowment Fund

Lila Milligan Boyden was unwavering in her commitment to Kappa Alpha Theta, whenever and wherever, no matter what the position or task. In Lila’s memory, her husband Tom, daughter Ashley (Kappa Chapter, Kansas) and son Nick have established the Lila Milligan Boyden Educational Leadership Endowment Fund to support Theta’s Educational Leadership Consultant program. A fitting tribute – Lila continually demonstrated her leadership and outreach talents through many Theta connections, on personal, local and national levels.

As a loyal Theta, Lila was a delegate to several Theta Conventions and served as Alumnae District President from 1990-1993. As a member of Gamma Omicron Chapter (University of New Mexico), Lila served as the chapter’s president and then became a pillar in the Albuquerque Alumnae Chapter, serving as president for three years, and chosen twice as Theta of the Year, while also involved in the Junior League of Albuquerque, UNM Foundation Board, and New Mexico Symphony Guild. When she and Tom moved to Spokane, she immediately joined the Spokane Thetas, served as president for three years, and reached out to college chapters at WSU and the University of Idaho. Today the Spokane group continues “Lila’s Lunch Bunch.”

Devoted to her family and a dear friend to many, Lila was fun-loving, compassionate, energetic, and forever inspiring. Please join her family, including grandchildren Levi (left) and Hadley Lila (right), in honoring her legacy and strong commitment to Theta. Your contribution to Theta Foundation is 100% tax deductible and can be made online or by mail. Lila’s family has made an initial donation of $10,000 and will match contributions as the fund grows to its goal of $25,000.

To contribute online, please visit https://www.givetotheta.org/give/, select “Educational Leadership Endowment, and add “Lila Milligan Boyden Grant” in the “Note” box.

To mail a contribution, as an individual or an alumnae group, make the check payable to Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation, note “Lila Milligan Boyden Grant” on the check and mail to Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation, 8740 Founders Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

(For additional information, contact Ashley Boyden Lowe at ashelina26@yahoo.com).
Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups are exclusively for dues-paying members, an extra “perk” for DAC membership. Contact the SIG chair directly or contact Sheri deCoste, Vice President of Special Interests, at sheritheta@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Special Interest Groups!

**Book Club**
Lydia Troxler  lydiatroxler@comcast.net

**Bridge Club**
Fran Williams  ferinfitz@reagan.com

**DTC Lunch Bunch**
Leslie Nissen  leslie_nissen@yahoo.com

**Downtown Lunch Bunch**
Leslie Franklin  snowgumbo@gmail.com

**Golf Club**
Edie Bell  eabell5@msn.com

**Hiking Club**
Betty Dysart  bmdysart@aol.com
and Pat Ling patling@comcast.net

**Kites and Kids**
Marcy Goetz-Than  marcygoetzthan@yahoo.com

**Lunch Bunch**
Cynthia Skari  cynthiaskari@gmail.com

**Nite Kites**
Jill Byrne  robertsjille@yahoo.com

**Supper Club**
Karen Olson  ko.karen.o@gmail.com

**Nite Kites**
The next event will be Feb 27 for Happy Hour at Tamayo at 1400 Larimer St. They will meet around 5:30pm. Happy Hour is from 2-7.

**Theta Book Club**

**FEBRUARY MEETING – Feb26**
Host: Ashley Nelson  7:00 pm
223 N. DeGaulle St., Aurora CO 80018

*Burial Rites* – by Hannah Kent MARCH MEETING -

**MARCH MEETING - TBD**
Host: Liz Peterson 7:00 pm
*Miramonts-Ghost* - by Elizabeth Hall – it is a current best seller and has ties to Colorado.

An “extra” event: a lunch presentation and conversation with **award winning author**, Helen Thorpe, discussing her newest book, *Soldier Girls, The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War*, by Helen Thorpe (named by Time Magazine the number one nonfiction book of 2014) will be held:

**When:** Thursday, February 19, 11:45 – 1:00 pm
**Where:** Centennial Room at the Denver Athletic Club
**Cost:** $25 – includes lunch

**RSVP to** [www.denverathleticclub.org](http://www.denverathleticclub.org). Payment accepted with credit cards, checks, or cash

**Downtown Lunch Bunch**

Six Thetas from the Downtown Lunch Bunch enjoyed gourmet burgers, handmade shakes, truffle-Parmesan fries, and fabulous salads at Hopdoddy Burger Bar in Union Station on February 4th. They will be gathering next on Wednesday, March 4th at Blue Sushi & Sake Bar (16th and Wazee). Please RSVP to Leslie Franklin, snowgumbo@gmail.com.

**DTC Lunch Bunch**
The DTC Lunch Bunch meets the third Friday of every month. The next event is Friday, February 20th, 11:45 am at Viewhouse Centennial, 7101 South Clinton Street, Centennial, CO 80112. Please RSVP to Leslie Nissen, leslie_nissen@yahoo.com.
By Shera Eddy

50 years ago, Denver Alumnae Chapter Theta Martha Ezzard and her husband John started hosting Theta couples in their Denver home for Theta Couples Bridge. It is a tradition that carried on for many years. In fact, when Martha was a Colorado State Senator and practicing attorney, she hosted several Theta meetings at her lovely historic home near the capital of Denver.

When Martha and John Ezzard’s children reached adulthood, Martha and John moved to Tiger, Georgia, John’s childhood home. There they decided to build a vineyard on the family property. Martha continued her journalism career working for the Atlanta newspaper. She also wrote a book about their experiences building their winemaking business. Her book, *The Second Bud*, became a success and last February The Tattered Cover here in Denver hosted Martha to come and do a book talk. Several Denver Thetas attended the lecture: Gail Karsian, Scottie Iverson, Carol Spensley, MG Wake, Carolyn Longmire, Shera Eddy, and Maggie Dillon.

The Theta Book Club read Martha’s book in June 2014 and held their discussion on the book at Shera Eddy’s house. It was so much fun discussing the book and sampling some of the wines that Martha so graciously sent us.

Martha and John Ezzard were in Denver for the Christmas Holidays. Gail Karsian, Shera Eddy, Scottie Iverson, Lydia Troxler, Cynthia Skari, had a special lunch with Martha on the day after Christmas at Balistreri Vineyards here in Denver. It was a cold blizzardy day, but we enjoyed the tour of the winery and getting to hear Martha talk about her experiences in the wine business they own in Georgia. Thetas connecting with Thetas provided a warm welcome to Martha Ezzard as well as a special time for Denver Thetas to connect with her.

![Image of Thetas connecting with Thetas]

**Shera Eddy, Cynthia Skari, Martha Ezzard, Gail Karsian, Lydia Troxler and Scottie Taylor Iverson**

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**Panhellenic Social February 20**

A social event is being planned by the Denver Area Panhellenic called “A Winter Wonderland formal.” All area sorority women are invited to gather sisters, husbands, boyfriends and significant others for drinks, appetizers, dancing and a silent auction at the Curtis Ballroom of the DTC Comedy Works South at The Landmark (5345 Landmark Place, just east of Quebec and south of Belleview) on Friday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. A portion of the ticket price and proceeds of the silent auction are designated for the DAP’s collegiate scholarship fund. The formal is an outreach and recruitment event for the entire Denver Greek community.
Pansy Bouquets

...to Val Lunka, Sydney Ayers, Kim Finnin, Nikki Gordon, Katharine Hoehne, Tracy Kersch, Valerie Lunka, Kelly Nole, Kelly Petty and Carey Seely on hosting a spectacular Founders Day for the Denver Alumnae Chapter.

...to Sarah Hittner for welcoming new members and helping process membership dues via credit card at Founders Day. —Susan Secrest

...to Katharine Hoehne for her smiles and willingness to volunteer as a new member to the Chapter

....to our 50 Years+ Thetas who allowed me to join them at their table at Founders Day! —Susan Secrest

...to Scottie Iverson for snapping so many wonderful pictures at Founders Day and ensuring great publicity for Theta in the Villager newspaper.

...to Martha Doughtie, Sarah Hittner, Shannon Chandler Gross and Lauri Nitz for their amazing work on the wonderful new Member Book. You are the best team ever. Love you, Antonette

...to Lynn Myers, Vice President of Economic Development for the Denver South Economic Development Partnership, who was named as one the top 50 economic-development practitioners in North America by Consultant Connect.

Who We Are

Founded in 1870 at Indiana Asbury (now DePauw University) in Greencastle, Ind., Kappa Alpha Theta is the first Greek-letter Fraternity known among women. In creating Kappa Alpha Theta, our founders were leading the way for women’s groups and for women in higher education. Our members are women of all ages: women who attended college in nearly every US state and Canadian province, women who live all over the world, and women with varied professions, faiths, and ethnic backgrounds.

Mission Statement

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, Kappa Alpha Theta exists to nurture each member throughout her college and alumnae experience and to offer a lifelong opportunity for social, intellectual, and moral growth as she meets the higher and broader demands of mature life.

Stay connected to Kappa Alpha Theta and strengthen its future. [www.ThetaLifeLoyal.org] ★