

~ Spring Newsletter 2021 ~ **CVAP**

A Message from President Stephanie Carter



***from where I sit ...
not where I zoom***

Sitting in my backyard, an old song came to mind. Remember the Rascals??
Most of you will know the song – *It's a Beautiful Morning*
Here are the first few lines:

***"It's a beautiful morning, ahhhh
I think I'll go outside for a while
And just smile"***

And that I am doing as most of the country is suffering record low temperatures!

After a year of uncertainty, it is almost Spring when everything seems new again.
We will continue to take what life throws at us and embrace it.

Many of us faced uncertainty in all aspects of life from professional, educational, personal and most dear to me fraternally with CVAP. We grew from this, we sailed forward and are nearing the docking of our 2020/2021 season. One thing we have learned is there is no one right way to do what we do, but multiple ways to accomplish things.

My goal as a volunteer and CVAP President has been to foster the sense of belonging for each member. Together, we have sailed this season showing what CVAP means and the strength of sisterhood when met with challenges.

Continue to have fun, be creative and SMILE.

Stephanie Carter
CVAP President 2020/2021

Annual Book Drive Reminder

Scooter's Bottomless Bookshelf at the Loma Linda University Children's Health - Indio location provides a free book to each and every child (regardless of age) that visits this health care facility. With Dr. Barbie Beck as our Chairman of CVAP's annual Books for Children Drive, Scooter's was selected to be this year's recipient of our book donations. Unlike previous years when gently-used books were welcome donations, due to COVID-19 used books will not be accepted. The recommended donation is a bookstore gift card: e.g., Barnes & Noble, Amazon, or Target. Any amount will be greatly appreciated and as little as \$20 would purchase four board books for little hands, or two graphic novels for older readers.

Gift cards should be mailed to Dr. Beck who will provide you with an acknowledgement together with a statement to support your tax deductible donation. Although donations to our Annual Book Drive are typically collected at the February General Meeting, given our online meetings the collection needs to take place through the mail and gift cards will be gratefully accepted through March 31, 2021.

Send gift cards for book purchases to:

Dr. Barbette Beck
573 Via De La Paz
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Patron Program and Benefit Fund

CVAP's annual benefit and Patron Program are our only means of raising money for our scholarships. With the COVID pandemic causing all gatherings to be cancelled, our annual benefit had to look differently this year. Between the individuals who carried out projects to raise money and the donations made to the Benefit Fund by our members a total of \$6,166.03 was raised.

Donations to the Patron Program so far total \$16,575.

CVAP's PATRON PROGRAM

As our newer members may not be aware of our Patron Program or understand what it is, hopefully this will provide some clarification.

The word "Patron" is defined as "*a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, cause, or activity.*" For CVAP our "cause" is scholarships for Coachella Valley high school senior girls furthering their education at four year colleges and universities with NPC on campus. The "Patrons" are the CVAP members who give financial support to this cause ... that's all of us. In November, our Patron Program Chairperson, Joan Tegen, sent all of us information about the Patron Program and invited our donations to be submitted for the 2020-2021 year. Please be aware that every dollar donated to the Patron Program goes towards scholarships and is fully tax deductible. Recognition of our Patrons will be in the program at our May 2021 luncheon when the scholarships are awarded.

A big **THANK YOU** to all who have participated in fundraising and/or made donations to our scholarship fund.

***DUE TO COVID-19 WE HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO
MEET SOME OF OUR NEWER MEMBERS.
(Some where introduced in our last newsletter.)
Here we will meet some more!***

JUDY AUSTIN



Meet Judy Austin who was born in Peoria, Illinois, and moved to Chicago area after graduating from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science degree/major in nursing, MBA and MS from University of Illinois. Her lifelong career has been in hospital executive leadership roles in the Chicago area and Southern California. In the last few years of her career she and her husband have enjoyed the adventures of sightseeing in Colorado and Montana during interim hospital executive leadership roles while maintaining her home base in Palm Desert.

As a member of the Chi Omega Palm Springs/Desert Cities Alumnae group, she is currently serving as the Vice President. Judy and her husband had plans to travel more in her next phase of life, but that is now on hold until we have conquered the COVID-19 virus! Judy loves the desert climate; however, she enjoys her summer escape to the smells of the ocean breezes while spending time with her adorable one year old granddaughter.

JUDY BILLINGS

Judy Billings attended the University of Kansas where she pledged Pi Beta Phi in 1955. During our season, Ironwood Country Club is home; summers are spent in Lakewood, Colorado. Judy's husband, Rich, participated with our PHD's (Panhellenic Honey Doers) at our benefit in 2019.

SANDRA BOYD



We were introduced to **Sandy Boyd** in our last newsletter, and she has now provided a photo and some information about her service to Gamma Phi Beta.

"I thought it would be interesting for the members to know that even though I am a graduate of Colorado College, I served for many years on the Corporation Board at the University of Washington in Seattle. I was also the President of the Greater Seattle Alumnae. As a native of the Seattle area, it has been fun for me to have friends from high school who also pledged Gamma Phi my year (1954) as well as

those who I came to know. I feel my greatest contribution was to solicit our Alums support for Camp Fire Girls, a fitting organization with our sorority's national support of providing camping experiences for young girls who could not otherwise have the experience."

GIORGI DUVALL

Currently serving on CVAP's Elected Executive Board as Second Vice President - Membership, Giorgi readily accepted this position despite being so new to our organization. She has been responsible for maintaining our membership records and the preparation of our annual roster.

Giorgi was born in Baltimore and grew up in Corona del Mar, CA. She attended UCLA where she majored in Sociology and pledged Kappa Delta in 1982.

After graduation Giorgi was part of a training program and eventually became a buyer for Robinson's Department Store. She held various executive positions in product and sales in the industry working with great brands like Calvin Klein and Carole Little. Her last role was as the Vice President of Merchandising and Design for Speedo Swimwear, the largest swimwear brand in the world. Giorgi tells us, "I enjoyed working with my team on the product direction, line architecture and profitability of the product for our Olympic athletes as well as for children just learning to swim and everything swim in between. I really loved being part of the sports industry. I was also so fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel all over the US and Europe during my career."

While living in Irvine, CA, Giorgi and her husband, Robert Pruesner, bought a second home in Monterey Country Club. They moved to the desert full time in Spring 2018 when they retired. Her parents had lived in the desert for over 30 years and Giorgi and Robert had enjoyed their time here and enjoyed time in Monterey Country Club. When they retired it just seemed like the right fit - many nice people, beautiful landscape and they love all the outdoor activities available including golf and bocce ball.

Giorgi and Robert have one daughter, Samantha, who got married this past September.



Giorgi, Samantha, and Robert

CHRISTINE ELLIOTT



I was born and raised in Salem, Oregon. Following high school graduation, I wanted to expand my horizons so I attended the University of Puget Sound where I pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma in September, 1967. After two years at UPS, I transferred to the University of Oregon in the fall of 1969 where I met my future husband, Bob. I majored in psychology and in 1971 received an invitation to join Phi Beta Kappa.

After college, I was hired at PacifiCorp in August 1971, where I eventually became a project manager. I worked as PacifiCorp's employee on The Northwest Power Pool staff coordinating electricity reliability programs for western Canadian and Northwest electric utilities. I retired with 35 years at one company, PacifiCorp.

In August, 1972, I married Robert Elliott. We have no children. We lived and worked in Portland until we retired in December 2006 and moved to Bend, Oregon. Bob was in landscape construction and design.

My sister, who is also a Kappa, lives in Palm Desert from October through May. So, several years after buying a Class-A motorcoach, we bought a lot at Outdoor Resort Indio, a motorcoach resort, and have spent the winters since 2017 enjoying the Coachella Valley with family and friends. I especially enjoy the new friends I have made participating with my sister in the Desert Alumni Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

MARTHA HAVEN

Martha Haven attended Southern Methodist University and the University of Colorado. She is a Kappa Alpha Theta who spends the summer months in Great Falls, Montana.

JULIE HODGES

Julie Hodges attended the University of Southern California where she pledged Alpha Phi in 1985. From USC she received her bachelor's degree in Journalism/Communications. Her advanced degree is a Master of Divinity from Princeton Seminary. She is currently Pastor of St. Andrew Community Presbyterian Church in Indio.

Julie is the daughter of our member and Scholarship Chairman, Joyce Johnson.

SHARON HUBBARD

Sharon Hubbard attended the University of Michigan where she pledged Alpha Phi in 1964. She spends the summer months in the cooler temperatures of Park City, Utah.

BECKY HUMPHERYS



Becky Humpherys was born and raised in Southern California, primarily in the small town of Ojai. While attending San Diego State University she majored in Business Administration with a focus on Marketing, and pledged Kappa Alpha Theta in 1989. She enjoyed serving as Pledge Class President as well as Historian; and in particular, being able to design the framed Chapter Composite. Becky and several of her Theta Sisters became Sigma Chi Little Sisters in 1990. She graduated from SDSU in 1992 and later went on to earn her Master's of Business Administration.

Becky met and married her college sweetheart, Scott, who was her "Big Bro" at Sigma Chi during Senior year. They lived in Orange County for two years as newlyweds and relocated to the desert in 1995 for job opportunities, both in Pharmaceutical Sales. Scott remains in the industry to this day and she helps as a consultant, behind the scenes.

They have been together for 30 years, married for 27, and have three children together, a girl and two boys.

Becky works as a "Household Executive" for Humpherys, Inc. and coordinates the schedules/ deadlines/ correspondence for their children's three different schools. Their daughter, Lauren, is a Junior at the U.S. Air Force Academy in CO Springs on the Competitive Cyber Team. Grant is a Freshman at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Their younger son, Steven, is a Junior at La Quinta High School. She feels fortunate in her role as a shepherdess in supporting their highest dreams and aspirations. Becky has had the pleasure of serving on the Executive Council for the Air Force Association - Palm Springs Chapter for the last three years as a HS Liaison for AFJROTC/CyberPatriot, since the AFA mentored Lauren during the application process. Other endeavors include membership in a variety of community activities including Theta-Desert Circle, PTO, Football Boosters, NCL, DSUSD-GPA Task Force, and USAFA-Inland Empire Parent Group.

Becky was sponsored by her friend, Dr. Barbie Beck, for membership with CVAP. She enjoys being a Newbie on our Scholarship Committee and helping to encourage, guide and support remarkable young ladies as they are about to embark on their collegiate journeys. She hopes their experience incorporates sorority affiliation and starting a Greek story of their own...

GLENDA MORDEN

Glenda Morden attended the University of California at Riverside where she pledged Gamma Phi Beta in 1983.

JOANNA NEWHOUSE



Hello to my new friends and old friends in Panhellenic! My name is Joanna Newhouse, and I am a current member of Palm Springs Area Alpha Gamma Delta Alumnae Club. Now ... I will have to say, "Go, Bruins!" At UCLA, my very first freshman activity was rushing and accepting the bid from Alpha Gamma Delta! Such excitement!

At UCLA, I studied music, particularly, piano performance. Through all four years, I happily studied under gracious and caring, internationally renowned pianists. Their sharing was a gift. After graduation, I obtained several teaching, credentials, but at the same time, worked on a masters degree in music at USC.

After all of this studying, hurrah! I met and married a tall, Norwegian American, Bob Newhouse. Last month, we celebrated our 42nd Anniversary! We have a loving daughter, Megan, who is married to Teddy Chadwick, officially Theodore John, and their home is in Wisconsin.

My career meant a lot to me. For 31 years, I worked as a special ed. teacher, music specialist, and regional music administrator, all for LAUSD. With my interest in music and love of children, I found my career in music education to be satisfying and meaningful. I did receive recognition for my work, including Who's Who of American Teachers.

For interests, both Bob and I thoroughly enjoyed boating, both sail and motor, almost every weekend during our working careers. We enjoyed the peace and serenity of the water, with exciting cruises traveling to Catalina Island and Mexico. We still enjoy walking the docks though we do not own a boat at the present time.

And now, we have retired and about 10 years ago moved from Redondo Beach to beautiful Palm Desert. At the time we moved here, we also purchased a Victorian home, with ties to Bob's family in Spring Grove, the first Norwegian settlement in Minnesota. We have enjoyed filling the 1908 home with many antiques from our families and from the many stores we visit. Yes, we love to antique shop! That is our 2nd major activity! We visit the home in summer.

Well, now you know a little about me. I am happy to have shared with you and look forward to meeting you. Wishing you the best in safety and health.

Loyally, Joanna Newhouse

BRIDGETTE ROMAN



Bridgette Roman is another new member who jumped right in to serve on the CVAP Board working with Linda Simmons providing members with email notifications of luncheon meetings or USPS "pink cards."

Bridgette was born in Elmhurst, Illinois and moved four times before 8th grade, at which point she and her parents arrived in Canfield, Ohio, where they remained until her parents' passings. She eventually moved to Columbus, Ohio, where she has lived longer than anywhere else.

She attended Ohio State University where she majored in Political Science and pledged Alpha Delta Pi in 1982. Between 1988 and 2004, she was an associate and then a partner at Ice Miller (a full service law firm); where she focused on commercial and employment litigation. Then from 2004 to 2020 she was an in-house lawyer; since 2006, she was the General Counsel of a nation-wide consumer finance company.

In May Bridgette will celebrate 25 years of marriage to Michael Schwind and has one step-son who has one daughter and a second one due in March.

When asked "What brought you the desert?" Bridgette responded, "Like many others, we are part-timers and anticipate dividing our time between La Quinta, Dublin, Ohio, and Pelee Island, Ontario. We bought our desert home in 2013, but until January of 2021, never had the chance to spend more than two weeks here. Although I was here once as a young child, it was a work-related meeting that brought me here in 2011. My husband and I returned a few months later and we were both hooked on the incredible weather; so hooked that we started looking at houses."

When asked if she is still working, her response was, "I am working seriously on my golf game right now! But professionally, I am on some boards and doing some consulting work, but no more 80-hour work weeks for me anymore!"

COURTNEY WALES

Courtney Wales is a full-time desert resident. She attended Colorado College where she pledged Kappa Alpha Theta in 1987.

We welcome all of our new members and look forward to seeing you in person soon.

CVAP MONTHLY LUNCHEONS
***In case you missed one of our Thursday
"Luncheon" Meetings, here is what you missed:***

JANUARY 14. 2021

James Ellwanger, an American artist, began his career in Des Moines, Iowa, in housing development. In 2000 he began sculpting and furniture design then moved to abstracts in many mediums.

His first major outdoor sculpture, "Shattering Silence," is shown below and is located adjacent to the building that houses the Iowa Supreme Court and overlooks the Des Moines skyline. The Iowa Art Council's newsletter describes the art as a commemoration of "those moments when Iowa has been at the forefront of breaking the silence of inequality and commemorates those lowans who refused to stand by silently when they saw injustice."



James Ellwanger



"Shattering Silence"

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

David Brinkman, CEO and President of DAP Health (formerly known as Desert Aids Project) talked about his role in this non-profit agency which was founded 37 years ago due to the AIDS epidemic.. David's presentation was not about HIV/AIDS but about community expansion. He has led DAP through an unprecedented period of expansion during his more than 25 years. David has served as Ambassador to the community along with providing leadership. During his tenure, DAP was named one of the "Top Charities."

DAP Health name change was timely due to the shift in focus for their medical services. No longer solely for the AIDS/HIV patients, DAP has taken on COVID-19 with similar concentration. Over half of the current patients do not have HIV; the common factor today is poverty. Mr. Brinkman's presentation gave us excellent insight into the organization and how he sees it's future in our community.



David Brinkman
Chief Executive Officer MBA

KUDOS ...

Our First Vice-President, Programs, **Ann Dew**, Alpha Phi, is doing an excellent job of putting together programs for our monthly meetings. Although we have not been able to meet in person, these presentations via Zoom have been most informative, interactive with question and answer sessions and well received. Zoom links are sent to all members a day before the meeting (always the **second Thursday of the month at 11:00 am**) and advise of the featured presentation. If you have not joined in one of the "meetings" please consider doing so. You will be happy you did.

Although this message is coming to
you after Valentine's Day, it's
appropriate for any day.



A Message From the Chairman

Dear friends,

WHAT IN THE WORLD? Galentine's Day...when I first heard about this event on a morning news show, I thought, "Good grief, another holiday for the retail world." But, the more I thought about it, what a great way to celebrate Panhellenic sisterhood.

According to The New York Times, Galentine's Day, celebrated on Feb. 13, is for celebrating sisterhood with your women friends, whether single or not. The celebration was created by Leslie Knope, the "Parks and Recreation" fictional main character played by Amy Poehler. She invented the holiday as a tribute to her close girlfriends and hosted a waffle brunch.

I'm going to digress for a moment. My spring 2020 calendar was chock full...until March happened. The last in-person meetings I attended for NPC were the Annual Membership meeting and Board of Directors meeting in Dallas March 7 and 8. After returning home, my husband and I were looking forward to our annual ski trip to Park City, Utah. On the morning of March 15, while getting ready to leave for the airport, all the ski slopes closed resulting in the trip being canceled. While I was relieved that I didn't have to board an airplane during a time of uncertainty, it was just the beginning of all my travel coming to a halt. My spring calendar had included speaking at the Nashville Alumnae Panhellenic scholarship luncheon, Northern Virginia Panhellenic luncheon and the Houston Panhellenic scholarship luncheon. The time spent with Panhellenic sisters was stripped away.

All of this to say, NPC collegians and alumnae across North America are experiencing the same thing – in-person meetings and celebrations have moved to Zoom and travel is limited. Many of us are tied to our computers as we work or take classes and attend meetings virtually, and Galentine's Day gives us the perfect opportunity to take a break to connect with our Panhellenic friends and celebrate sisterhood.

If we weren't in the midst of a pandemic, ideas abound for gatherings with sister friends including pink-themed parties, dinner or brunch at a fancy restaurant or a group mani-pedi. But this year, with most of us staying at home, take the celebration virtual:

- Order your favorite meal and enjoy a chat while you eat.
- Play trivia together online.
- Watch/stream a movie together.
- Take a virtual class – exercise, cooking or baking.
- Organize a secret cupid gift exchange.

There's no wrong way to celebrate our Panhellenic sisterhood, and taking advantage of Galentine's Day is the perfect time to acknowledge the lifelong bond of sorority membership and the experiences we share.

Panhellenically,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carole J. Jones'.

Carole J. Jones
NPC Chairman

MYSTERY MEMBER OF JANUARY, 2021

A Product of the South

Some people say the state where I was born is in the South; some say the North. That would mean they haven't walked among rows of white cotton bolls with their toes digging into the rich, sandy soil. Or, looked at a map to see that the Mason/Dixon Line is well north of where I grew up. Or, spent time sitting on a porch or veranda listening to mockingbirds, smelling honeysuckle or watching Spanish moss wave in the breeze. The gracious manner of Southern living has always been important to me.

I entered the world at the Lucy Lee Hospital in a small town in 1944. My first memories are of my paternal grandparent's large, two-story house where I spent much of my first four years. Next come the cotton patch memories and the farmhouse where I lived with my parents until shortly before I began kindergarten. I loved living on a cotton farm and was often found roaming the cotton fields. Looking out her kitchen window, my mother could only keep up with me by spying my dog Sandy's tail popping up above the rows of cotton.

As I was to start kindergarten, my father decided he could no longer make a living farming. So, including a new brother, we moved to a small town in a neighboring state where my father became head of the Chamber of Commerce. This required my mother to do a great deal of entertaining. It was fun to watch all the ladies in hats and gloves come and go. It was especially fun the day my mother put her Baked Alaska in the oven – while still on her prized Candlewick crystal platter! What a mess! It was here that I actually wore my first formal, a long yellow dotted-swiss gown for a play called *Tom Thumb's Wedding* at my school. This area was known as Tornado Alley, so it wasn't unusual to sit on the doorstep and watch twisters off in the distance.

Daddy decided politics wasn't for him so we were off to a nearby town where he took a sales job. After finishing the third grade there, my family now moved to a large city in another adjoining state. Here we lived until I completed my seventh grade year. The eighth grade found me attending school on the shores of Mobile Bay. By now, my father's sales job was transferring us a lot, so on to the next state for my tenth grade and half of the eleventh. Now, almost full circle, we had moved back to the big city, where I graduated from high school. To attend my University and live in the dorm, I moved back to my home state. How fun it was going to be to live on my own. But wait! My parents up and moved to the same town! Nonetheless, I graduated with honors from the University in 1966.

Somehow, I acquired a love of water. I think I must have been born knowing how to swim, as I spent many hours in one body of water or another: from small creeks in the Bootheel, beautiful rivers, the Mississippi River, all the way to the white sands of the Gulf of Mexico. I spent time swimming, water skiing and taking our 14-foot boat out on the Bay of Mobile; and, I often went to steamboat races on the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers.

Camping also played a large part in my activities. I was an active Girl Scout and Girl Scouting taught me much about flora and fauna – especially poison ivy. Oh how that itched! Through scouting, I learned many valuable lessons and skills that enabled me to accomplish much in my later life. In addition to general scouting membership, I was a Mariner Girl Scout; a State Delegate to the 1960 International Girl Scout convention; and, a recipient of the Girl Scout Bronze Cross Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can receive.

Starting in the 10th grade, I was a member of the high school band. Not dexterous enough to play the piano, I took up the flute. Eventually, I made second chair – quite an accomplishment considering that I'm almost tone deaf.

During my freshman year, I joined my sorority. I was President of our Pledge Class and still cherish the friendships formed with a wonderful group of women, as well as the leadership skills I learned. This woman's social organization was actually founded prior to the word sorority being coined, hence the word Fraternity in our name.

College graduation was in June 1966. Although accepted for the Masters Program in Social Work by the University of Colorado, I decided to move back to that big city, get a job and get married. I married a man with whom I'd gone to High School. My first child was born in August of 1967. Subsequently, I held several social work positions. I also served on the Board of Directors for the city's Association of Retarded Children; and, in my spare time, was a part-time job as Program Director for a local half-way house for the disabled.

After a divorce in 1970, I packed all my worldly possessions in a Ryder Rental truck and headed to Chula Vista, California. We arrived just in time to celebrate my daughter's fifth birthday.

Since there were more applicants than social work jobs, I switched careers and ended up in a technical position, a night shift word processing supervisor at one of San Diego's most notable law firms. I advanced to manage all of the firm's technology systems, my entry into the world of technology.

In 1974, I remarried and had my son in December of 1977. He made his appearance at 11 pounds, 23 ³/₄ inches long.

During that time, I joined several professional organizations, most notably the International Word Processing Association, serving in several officer positions. On weekends and vacations, my family spent time exploring all the desert and mountainous sites of southern and northern California.

Due to my proficiency with the firm's word processing equipment, I was offered a position by the vendor, Exxon Office Systems, as a Customer Support Specialist in 1979. Shortly I went into sales in the Newport Beach office; yet another move! Moving northward again, I moved into the Los Angeles Systems Engineer position and then became the Customer Support Manager. (Do you get the sense that moving is in my DNA?)

By 1984 I divorced my second husband and became yet again a single, working mother, now with a fifteen-year-old daughter and a five-year-old son. What an interesting challenge! Many times while traveling, whether from London or Hong Kong, I would call home at night and give my son his practice-spelling test over the telephone.

In 1985, I joined an international company, first managing the Los Angeles End User Computing Office and then working out of the San Francisco world headquarters, managing offices in Dallas, Miami, Los Angeles, New York, London and Hong Kong. As I moved into a Vice President position, I managed all the EUC offices and a number of other departments. This company afforded me the opportunity to work closely with several leading edge technology companies to influence the products the bank acquired.

Five years later, another international company hired me. Again, my responsibilities were similar to those I had previously. Since this company was based in Switzerland, I had the opportunity to spend time in Switzerland, as well as France, Canada, Japan and Portugal.

Mutual friends had introduced me to my current husband in 1984. His job also afforded him the opportunity to travel, particularly to wonderful vacation resorts. Even though we lived in the Los Angeles area, we joined a country club in the desert and began spending every weekend here.

While my job was very interesting and challenging, I decided it was time to plan my retirement. In 1996, I purchased a condominium in the desert. My husband and I decided that as much as we liked the beach, we wanted to retire to the desert. So I gave notice at work and left on December 1, 2004. My husband also retired on April 1, 2005.

My retirement days are active. In January 2005, I joined my Women's Golf Association and began playing golf every Tuesday and in all the ladies' special events. I was elected to the Board of Directors and had responsibility for the Ladies' Club computer and various programs we used to run our tournaments. Also In 2006, I joined a women's organization dedicated to promoting women's education and began serving as Recording Secretary, then President for several years. I was fortunately to be chosen as a delegate to its 2007 International Convention. I also began attending my fraternity's alumnae group and became an officer, a position I still hold.

In 2014, I joined CVAP, a wonderful opportunity to meet women from all sororities. It has truly been a fun-filled and rewarding seven years.

I signed up for croquet and Spanish lessons. I frequent the public library where I indulge in my life-long passion for reading, although with COVID-19 all my reading is now on e-books. Wine tasting with friends of many years, who also live in the desert, rounds out my time.

Until recently we have participated in the annual Golf Tournaments, either as a player or a tournament volunteer or both. Additionally, my husband was the Chairman of Marshals and then Admission for the LPGA Kraft Nabisco Tournament and recruited me to be one of his Captains. We had similar responsibilities for the Bob Hope Chrysler LPGA Tournament. We retired from those tournaments in 2019 and 2017, respectively.

One of my other activities affords me an opportunity to still travel some. My grandchildren race All Terrain Vehicles, ATV's, in the World of Off-Road Racing Championship series. WORCS holds their events in the Western United States. So, I've been to Utah, Arizona, Washington, Idaho and Baja, accompanying them as they attend races. (Surely by now you know who I am.)

In early 2015, I began to drive to Carson several times a month to assist my son-in-law with his fabrication business. I served as his part-time office manager (unpaid, of course) while he established his business. This afforded me an opportunity to stay with my daughter and grandchildren – an extra bonus!

p.s. I still have my cotton sack made to fit me as a child. **Who am I?**

To learn the answer, look to the end of this newsletter.

SISTERS SQUARED



JULIANNA GAYTAN, VANESSA GAYTAN

Vanessa and Julianna Gaytan are biological sisters from Desert Mirage High School in Thermal, Ca. They are also sisters in Alpha Gamma Delta having pledged at UCLA. Both sisters were winners of our CVAP scholarships, Vanessa in 2016 and Julianna in 2019. They have stayed connected with the Palm Springs Area Alumnae Club of Alpha Gamma Delta through CVAP member, Joyce Terrill, who says they refer to themselves as "Sisters Squared."

SPOTLIGHT ON SISTERS

A new feature has been added to our monthly meetings which will spotlight our CVAP sisters whose many talents and accomplishments deserve our recognition. The spotlight will shine on one sister each month.

If you have, or a CVAP member you know has, been published or nominated for an award, won an award, or anything of that sort, please let Stephanie Carter or Ann Dew know. We would love to feature her at a meeting.

Prior to our starting ***Spotlight on Sisters***, an email was sent to our membership regarding two of our members and their recognition-worthy accomplishments. **Dr. Susan Murphy** has written an article entitled *How to Reduce the Stress of Loneliness* that was published in Forbes Magazine, October, 2020.

Dr. Mona Khanna was named a finalist for Hero of the Year from Women in White Coats. Those results will be announced in April.

February Spotlight

At our February meeting **Joyce Johnson** shared with us her article that was published in the December issue of POAMN, Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network, (really a Newsletter). Along with a close friend, Reverend Sharon Johnson, she wrote ***"The Earthquake of Retirement"*** which lists the difficulties, and challenges facing retirees.

"For many people retirement is a blessed event, one that gives the retiree a new amount of time and enjoyment to pursue a variety of interests. That is only partially true in Sharon's and my case because we are in a special category known as Pastor Retirees. When a Presbyterian pastor retires, the local and national church in practice requires the pastor not to return to their former church. That means no choir, no hand-bells, no Mission Outreach, no regular Bible studies, no Sunday Service or fellowship in that church. Spouses must make all the changes along with the Pastor.

So, after several years of figuring how to manage both time, activities, and finances of retirement, Sharon and I felt we could give some suggestions to other retired spouses. Actually, our article works for anyone newly retired, if you are relatively healthy and willing to step out in a new direction.

We had four main sections, from recognizing the changes, the personal challenges, the new community needed, and how to re-institute family time. Some of our suggestions are:

1. Look at your current interests: expand on gardening – maybe a community garden; cooking with a group or for a shut-in; house redecoration; find a volunteer organizations: even try working part-time.
2. Find another retired couple who might enjoy meeting for discussion of a book, or starting a Bible Study.
3. Reach out with Zoom to others either in the family or neighborhood.

If you are a closet writer, but really wanted to write for some publication, I would encourage you to start now. These are a few suggestions for you.

1. Write regularly either in a journal, on a computer, a note pad, and just doing it. If you have an idea, jot it down. Try to have a clever beginning.
2. Write about what you are familiar with or would enjoy learning about. Even the Today Show women have written children's books.
3. Look for a publication that you might be reading already: Sunset, House and Garden, Westways, your local newspaper, religious magazines.
4. Do not be discouraged if you send it off and that magazine rejects it. There are others that might enjoy it.

Small organizations are happy to have articles. Even my Sun City News and Views look for residents' articles every month. We have about 10,000 residents and I have decided to write an article about my exercise class. Also POAMN has asked me to write again."

Congratulations, Joyce, on your achievement.

BOON SUPPLY You Gave Back While You Shopped

Benefit chairman, Lisa Corcoran, had established a fundraising agreement for CVAP's Benefit with Boon Supply which provides 40% of purchases from their website to our scholarship fund. This agreement was in place until the December 10 end of our Benefit Fundraising activities. We recently received a check from Boon Supply for \$162 which represented the 40% of our members' purchases.

Thank you to our members who checked out this shopping opportunity and took advantage of the unique and interesting items for sale.

WHAT ARE ALUM CLUBS DOING DURING PANDEMIC?

ALPHA GAMMA DELTA

President: Ramona Frost Ruiz

The very fun and active alumnae club of Alpha Gamma Delta has not let COVID stop us from enjoying one another's company. Monthly meetings have been via Zoom. Our first meeting was near Halloween when costumes were encouraged. We watched a video of a 1985 TV game show wherein one sister was a contestant. A quiz was provided ahead of time and we guessed the outcome of the contest with prizes for the winners. Our Christmas meeting, with Christmas attire encouraged,

included a trivia game of Christmas movies. Again a prize was awarded.

Palm Springs' new North Star Theatre's live outdoor production of ***West Side Story*** was to be our January outing. We were assured that all necessary COVID precautions were being taken; we were going to sit in the "bring your own chair" section and remain socially distanced. Unfortunately North Star Theatre's management were pressured by the city of Palm Springs to cancel their performances.

Alpha Gams are hoping to celebrate in person their International Reunion Day in April.

ALPHA PHI

President: Ann Dew

Historically, Alpha Phi alumnae have gathered around Valentine's Day at a local rehabilitation center, the home of Mary Margaret Hackel, better known as "MM." MM is one of the founders of the Coachella Valley Alpha Phi Alumnae Chapter. Following a scrumptious catered lunch and a dessert appropriate for Valentine's Day, we always dug into mounds of stickers of all shapes and sizes, glitter pens, coloring pens and blank cards. Creativity abounding, Valentine cards were made for all the local Alpha Phi's.

And then came COVID! A slight change of plans.

This year our Valentine celebration will be a Zoom meeting. Our alums will share memories of their most cherished Valentine Day or about a special Valentine Card they received. We'll enjoy our time together and look forward to the time when we can again make our Valentines and know we're going home covered in glitter!

Chi Omega

President: Marcia Flagler

We are a small but hardy group - about 30 members. We are meeting on Zoom during the pandemic. We will celebrate our 20th Anniversary as a Chi Omega Alumnae chapter on Feb. 27. We are all sending in photos of our college years. A video will be made and shared during our anniversary meeting. It's been a fun project to work on. Love looking at photos of our sisters when we were all young and beautiful.

Delta Delta Delta

President: Karen Graham

Angela Ficht provided information regarding their alumnae club. There is a Tri-Delta alumnae group - Desert Area Delta Delta Delta. Monthly meetings are held via Zoom. At present there are about 25 members. Before the pandemic monthly luncheon meetings were held and they plan to resume them when they are certain it will be completely safe to do so.

Kappa Kappa Gamma

President: Joan Tegen

Kay Larson provided this information; To date, we have not held any Zoom meetings or gotten together in any way. Our newsletter editor emailed our normal beginning-of-the-year newsletter and dues notice in September, and has followed it with two additional electronic newsletters. We are pleased to note that we have had a positive response to our dues notice in spite of the pandemic. In the fall, our directory chairman completed the member directory for 2020-2021, and mailed it to our paid

members.

Pi Beta Phi

Club Coordinator: Susan Zehnder

COVID-19 has made for challenging times. The *Palm Springs-Desert Cities Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi* was able to have a few small socially-distanced in-person gatherings at the start of this 2020/2021 season – before the number of cases skyrocketed and “Stay Home” went into effect. When this happened, one of our members helped us stay together on ZOOM. We’ve had our monthly “gatherings” where we talk about many things, including books read and series watched, and shared favorite recipes. Our Book Club has “met” virtually four times. Some of our younger members participate in the “Active Angels” group. While we have missed in-person get togethers, it has been rewarding and fun to “see” one another on ZOOM. We hold out hope that the 2021/2022 season will find our 45 members physically together once again.

ZETA TAU ALPHA

The Coachella Valley does not have an alumnae club so our President, Stephanie Carter, joined the Long Beach Alumnae Club of Zeta Tau Alpha for their January meeting. The program included a Disney Cruise Line animation instructor who, via Zoom, taught attendees how to draw one of the “Fab Five” Disney characters. All that was needed was a pencil and a blank piece of paper. After showing off artwork, they shared sisterhood, chapter updates, and Disney trivia. Stephanie proudly shared her drawing:



Our Roster ... Paper vs. Digital

In the last newsletter, the question was asked if you wanted to continue to receive your roster on paper in the booklet form or if you would prefer to receive it digitally. To date, three responses have been received. It's not too late to make your voice heard. Call or email Giorgi Duvall at (714) 404-2899 or email to rgsincdm@aol.com and let her know your preference.

MYSTERY MEMBER OF JANUARY, 2021

A Product of the South



Pamela Marshall Sinco, Alpha Phi, was our January Mystery Member

Are you on Facebook? Visit our page to view upcoming event information and view fun photos of past events. Our Facebook page is maintained by Ramona Frost Ruiz; contact her if you have postings to share.

Click on the blue " F " icon below to go directly to our page.

We also have a website you can visit for information, click on the green icon.



This message is sent to all paid members of Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic

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