

The Open Rose

The Greater Kansas City Alumnae Club Newsletter of Alpha Gamma Delta

Spring 2009

Letter from the President

Sisters,

I would like to hear from you as we start thinking about planning our programs for next year. Currently we do:

- ◆ Chocolate Bliss in February
- ◆ International Reunion Day in April
- ◆ Designer Showhouse in May
- ◆ Alpha Gam Always in August
- ◆ Christmas Brunch in December

Do you have ideas for a new function for the whole group? Would you want to attend an event that includes husbands? Carol Cochran would welcome your ideas for Day Group outings. Kim Himes would like your thoughts on new restaurants around the city for Night Group. Please give me a call at 816-833-2097 or 816-304-9869 or email me at soc5mom1@aol.com if you have any suggestions.

Loyally,
Sara Acuff Smith, EA

Alpha GAMMA DELTA

PRESENTS

40th ANNUAL SYMPHONY DESIGNERS' SHOWHOUSE

DELIGHT IN AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS DURING A PRIVATE TOUR OF THE FAMOUS NELLY DON ESTATE. SHOP AT THE BOUTIQUE. ENJOY LIGHT APPETIZERS AND REFRESHMENTS DURING THE PRIVATE SHOWING.

TICKET PRICE \$15

NELLY DON IS ONE OF THE FIRST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL SELF-MADE WOMEN MILLIONAIRES IN AMERICAN BUSINESS. SHE WAS A FAMOUS DRESS DESIGNER AND LIVED IN KANSAS CITY FOR THE MAJORITY OF HER LIFE. NELL'S STORY DOESN'T END THERE... HERS IS ONE OF MONEY, FAME, ROMANCE, THE MOB AND MORE. LEARN MORE ABOUT NELLY DON ONLINE AT [WWW.NELLYDON.COM](http://www.nellydon.com).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR PRIVATE ANNUAL EVENT AS WE HELP RAISE FUNDS TO BENEFIT THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY, YOUTH CONCERTS, AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
April 25 - May 17

PRIVATE SHOWING FOR
Alpha GAMMA DELTA
May 1, 2009
6:00-8:00 PM

5236 CHERRY STREET
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



TICKET ORDERS

Email
info@aqdkc.com
OR
Call REGINA UTTER
913-422-1545

Visit www.aqdkc.com
FOR INFORMATION
AND A MAP.

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Calendar of Events

March

~March 3, 2009~

National "Wear Your Badge" Day

~March 11, 2009~

Open Board Meeting
Home of Janet Powell
6:30 p.m.

~ March 13, 2009~

Day Group Luncheon
"Few of our Favorite Things"
Home of Sue Loudon
Full Details in Article on Page 6

April

~April 10, 2009~

Day Group Activity
Henry's Antiques
Lee's Summit
12:00 p.m.
Full Details in Article on Page 6

~April 18, 2009~

International Reunion Day
Bravo at Town Center
Details in article on page 7

Continued to Page 3

Nelly Don is one of the first and most successful self-made women millionaires in American business. She was a famous dress designer and lived in Kansas City for the majority of her life. Nelly's story doesn't end there... hers is one of money, fame, romance, the mob and more.

John and Catherine had 13 children. Nell was the 12th child and the fifth daughter. She was christened Ellen Howard Quinlan but her older sisters quickly took to calling her Nell. She grew up in the small railroad town of Parsons, Kansas. Nell was relegated to wearing hand-me-down clothes from her older sisters and learned to sew early on so as to repair and re-size the clothes that she was given.

Nell met Paul Donnelly and married him at age 17. At age 18 Nell enrolled at Lindenwood College in St. Charles, MO. After earning her degree Nell moved to Kansas City and became a housewife, but not for long.

This is where the Nelly Don story takes off. Nell did not want to wear the everyday Mother Hubbard fashions women were resigned to wearing in those days so she started making her own dresses. She gave them away to her family, friends and neighbors who soon encouraged her to sell them, which she did. In 1916, Peck's Dry Goods Store in Kansas City ordered 18 dozen of Nell's dresses and her business was off and running.

By 1923, Nell had 250 employees. By 1931, Nell had more than a thousand employees and \$3.5 million in sales. Her factory was making five-thousand dresses a day and continued to do so under her leadership for the next 25 years.

Nell's first husband Paul had often threatened Nell that if she became pregnant he would kill himself. Paul became a philandering alcoholic and Nell and Paul grew emotionally distant. Nell came to know James A. Reed, the fighting U.S. Senator from Missouri. In September 1931, while Nell was still married to Paul Donnelly and James Reed was married to his wife. Nell ostensibly traveled to Europe to adopt a child. The truth is that Nell was pregnant with Reed's child and delivered a healthy boy named David Quinlan Donnelly and returned to Kansas City.

Three months later Nell was kidnapped along with her chauffeur in Kansas City in front of her house. Reed went ballistic and threatened the kidnapers that if they harmed a single hair on her head that he would track them down and ensure they received the death penalty. Reed then contacted the reigning mob boss in Kansas City at the time, gangster Johnny Lazia, an associate of Tom Pendergast the city's political machine boss, and threatened Lazia that if he did not find Nell within 24 hours that Reed would buy half an hour of national radio time and expose Lazia's illegal vice operations. So it was that up to 25 carloads of gangsters went searching for Nelly Don.

She was the largest manufacturer of women's military and work clothing during World War II. She fought unionization successfully. In 1947 she built the largest dress manufacturing plant in the world. Nell lived to be 102 years old, outliving all her brothers and sisters. She died 47 years to the day that her second husband James A. Reed died. Learn more about Nelly Don at Showhouse and online at www.nellydon.com.

The Nelly Don Story

This year's Designer Showhouse is at the infamous Nelly Don Estate. Read on to hear her story. Excerpts were taken from www.nellydon.com.

Calendar of Events

Philanthropy Report

~April 25, 2009~

Panhellenic Women of the Year
Leawood South Country Club
9:00 Auction 10:00 Brunch
Details in Article on page 3

May

~May 1, 2008~

Designer Showhouse
5236 Cherry Street
6:00 pm

~May 13, 2008~

Open Board Meeting and
Officer Installation
Location TBD
6:30 p.m.

Visit the website for updates!

www.agdkc.com

Panhellenic Women of the Year Brunch

The Kansas City Panhellenic Women of the Year Brunch will be held April 25 at the Leawood South Country Club. The auction begins at 9:00 a.m. with the brunch following at 10. Cost is \$20. If you are interested in attending contact Regina Utter at info@agdkc.com or by calling 913-422-1545.

Our nominee is Libby Harrison Julo, EA, who has served Alpha Gamma Delta as our representative to Kansas City Panhellenic for many years and this past year served as President of the Kansas City Alumnae Panhellenic group.

We would love to see a great turnout! Please come to support the Panhellenic auction. Each year, the auction room is full of wonderful and unique items to bid on, including teeth whitening, movie tickets and dinner certificates. This year, we have a number of great donated items including tickets to our Alpha Gam Showhouse night, Scrapbooking Basket and a handyman service certificate for 2 hours of work.

Reservations are required, please RSVP to info@agdkc.com or by calling Regina Utter at 913-422-1545 by April 1st.

2008 Holiday Party

Alpha Gam sisters gathered on December 6 at the home of Lori Barnes Allen, EB, for the annual holiday party. 28 Sisters enjoyed a delicious brunch and beverages. We collected over 100 books for the KU Reach out and Read program and participated in the traditional "Night Before Christmas" gift exchange. Finals treats were also collected for the local collegiate chapters EB, EL and EK. If you weren't able to join us, please do so next year!



Markita Pickney Zimmerman, EA delivers books collected at the Christmas Party to Janice, Director of the KU Reach Out and Read.

Chocolate Bliss

Our annual February event Chocolate Bliss was held on February 7, 2009 at the home of Clara Sawyer Van Draska, EB. Sisters, their daughters, mothers and friends attended to kick off the Valentine's season and indulge in chocolate and other sweet treats. Two dozen sisters and friends enjoyed treats and conversation while raising money for the Alpha Gamma Delta foundation. Chocolate Bliss was our final Foundation fundraiser for the year and brought us to our \$1,000 goal. Thank you to all the sisters who participate each year in our efforts to raise money for this worthy cause.



Host Clara Van Draska poses at the beautiful table fully stocked with chocolate desserts. This is Clara's third year hosting Chocolate Bliss! Many thanks to Clara for opening her beautiful home for this wonderful event!



Those who were able to attend Chocolate Bliss had a wonderful time visiting and dining on a lunch of chocolate!

Website

Do you visit The Greater Kansas City Alumnae Club's website often? You should! The site is update quite frequently and is full of great information! You will find a calendar of events, contact information, photos, collegiate information, past issues of the *Open Rose* and much more. When the Membership Drive begins later this summer, you can pay your dues online through our website! Make sure to bookmark and check the website often for valuable information.

Newsletter Info

Do you have information that you would like to see in the newsletters? Would you like to see information on your collegiate chapter? I am always looking for Alumnae News as well. Contact the GKCAC Editor, Heather Kalar Rubesch, EK, at info@agdkc.com to submit information.

Alumnae Membership

Our 2008-2009 membership drive gave us 66 paid members. Through our website, we have gained nearly twenty new members who have recently moved to the Kansas City area or have graduated college. We are excited to have several new members!

Look for our annual membership mailing later this year. We hold a variety of activities throughout the year and we would like to hear from you. Your membership dues really make a difference. Your membership fees make it possible to print newsletters, directories, support the Alumnae Club philanthropies, contribute to the collegiate chapters near Kansas City, and other operational needs of the Alumnae Club. All Alpha Gamma Delta alumnae are invited to join. The board will plan the 2009-2010 budget based on your response to this mailing. We can not wait to hear from you.

If you have any questions, please contact the membership committee at info@agdkc.com.



ALPHA GAMMA DELTA

surrounded by sisterhood

Alpha Gamma Delta
Greater Kansas City Alumnae Club

P.O. Box 2763
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201

Very Important Information

Do you have a change in name, address, or marital status? When you do, please notify International Headquarters and The Greater Kansas City Alumnae Club through one of these contacts:

- 1) Fraternity Website: www.alphagammadelta.org. Click on "members only" and enter/change your information (secure section)
- 2) Fraternity Fax: 317-875-5824
- 3) Fraternity Address: 8701 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268
- 4) Fraternity Phone: 317-872-2655
- 5) Greater Kansas City Alumnae Club Permanent Secretary
Regina Hogard Utter
P.O. Box 2763
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201 or info@agdkc.com
- 6) Fill out the Membership form at www.agdkc.com

GKCAC Editor: Heather Rubesch, EK, info@agdkc.com

IRD 2009

Greater Kansas City IRD

International Reunion Day 2009 will be held Saturday, April 18, at Bravo Cucina Italiana, located on the north side of Town Center Plaza in Leawood, Kansas.

Focusing on the Alpha Gamma Delta Purpose, this year's event will highlight the importance of personal wellness through the theme, "Health and Vigor: The Prizes of our Purpose." This theme offers many possibilities for addressing the importance of healthy living for our members and their families.

Here are the event details:

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Bravo Cucina Italiana (Town Center Plaza)
5005 W. 117th St.
Leawood, Kansas 66211
Meal: Members will order from a customized menu
Cost: \$18-\$20



Our featured speaker will be fellow Alpha Gam April Sikes Anderson, EA who holds a Masters in Exercise Science from the University of Central Missouri. April is a Fitness Specialist at Maple Woods Fitness Center.

Let's get physical! After lunch, we will take a stroll around Town Center Plaza to enjoy the sunshine and get in just a bit of exercise. Remember to bring your walking shoes!

Contact Cheryl Conrad McGee to RSVP at 913-220-6066.

To develop and prize health and vigor of body.

To covet beauty in environment, manner, word and thought.

EK 50th Anniversary Celebration

Greater Kansas City is proud to join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Alpha Gam Chapter EK at Pittsburg State University. The women of EK have a wonderful reunion planned in coordination with this year's IRD to be held April 18, 2009. Activities will include a Chapter Open House, IRD Luncheon and Social event to name a few. They hope all EK sisters will make plans to attend. For full details contact Laura Mortick at 913-384-2608 or lauraleemort@hotmail.com.

EL 50th Anniversary - Next Fall

The women of EL are also planning a 50th anniversary celebration next fall, October 31, 2009. Plans include a homecoming tailgate, party at the chapter and class gatherings. More details to come. Kari Baum at the chapter is the planning chair.

Bridge Group Report

The Alpha Gam Bridge group has become very Panhellenic in membership. We have women from Chi Omega, Alpha Phi, Alpha Delta Pi, Kappa Kappa Gamma and would welcome any AGD who would like to play. Call Mary Thayer, 815-763-9115. One of our AGD sisters has been driving in from Council Grove each month to play with us until she broke her leg--Jan White is a good example of the dedication to the game of bridge!

The Alpha Gamma Delta Purpose

To gain understanding that wisdom may be vouchsafed to me;

To develop and prize health and vigor of body;

To cultivate acquaintance with many whom I meet;

To cherish friendships with but a chosen few and to study the perfecting of those friendships;

To welcome the opportunity of contributing to the world's work in the community where I am placed because of the joy of service thereby bestowed and the talent of leadership multiplied;

To honor my home, my country, my religious faith;

To hold truth inviolable, sincerity essential, kindness invaluable;

To covet beauty in environment, manner, word and thought;

To possess high ideals and to attain somewhat unto them;

This shall be my purpose that those who know me may esteem Alpha Gamma Delta for her attainments, revere her for her purposes and love her for her womanhood.

Alpha Gamma Delta
Greater Kansas City Alumnae Club
P.O. Box 2763
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201

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