



# PLEIAD

THE ELECTRA PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 2, Fall 2011

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## ELECTRA PROVINCE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters,

As a third or fourth grader, I remember working with enthusiasm and diligence to do my very best work on a school project. The project included collecting assigned creations from nature, drawing pictures to represent the things that could not be feasibly collected, and copying lines of a poem from the chalkboard. All came together in a booklet titled "September". I still remember the lines of the poem and can see the pages of my book. An internet search has given the name of the author of the poem, long ago forgotten. Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1885) was a writer and activist in Indian concerns.

On our vacation to Minnesota in August, we passed one noticeable tree that seemed out of place. Surrounded by trees dressed in green, this tree wore a coat of brightly colored red and orange leaves, -- a reminder that fall is on its way. The lines of the poem "September" came to mind and continue with me as more of the poem comes to life: "The golden-rod is yellow; The corn is turning brown; The trees in apple orchards With fruit are bending down. The gentian's bluest fringes are curling in the sun; In dusty pods the milkweed Its hidden silk has spun." All of these and more are mentioned in Helen Jackson's poem. Yes, "By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With summer's best of weather, And autumn's best of cheer."

Ms. Jackson's poem and the changing of the season remind me of our changing. We grow and change with our experiences and with the seasons of the year and the seasons of our lives. Some will continue in their present chapter of their life this year, while others will close one chapter and open a new one. Whatever your season, I encourage you to look forward to what it holds for you. I know I am looking forward to Conclave, October 7, 8 and 9 in Topeka. I am looking forward to new sisters and new experiences. I am looking forward to seeing "old" sisters and enjoying the warmth and love in our Sisterhood. I am looking forward to whatever is waiting in my "new" season, -- in OUR "new" season. I am a good friend who says with enthusiasm, "Change is good!" I think enthusiasm is good too!

In Sisterly Love,  
Mary Kreager  
Electra Province President

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES  
WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT CONCLAVE**

## VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Dear Sisters,

These last few months have been a whirl wind for me.

Upon returning from the June National Convention in Grapevine, TX, life has yet to slow down. Our daughter called us on the retuning trip to inform us the above ground pool liner split at the bottom and the back yard was quite flooded. When calling us she heard a crashing sound and looked out to see that 2 big tree limbs fell onto the fence and neighbors shed (lucky minor to no damage on that!!). Next day I discovered a dead rat - yes rat! by the back fence where the dryer vent is located. The odor was coming into the wash room. UGH! And then we discovered our beloved K-State lime rock was stolen. (Yes some people think it is worth stealing) WELCOME HOME.

Other news:

- Daughter, Angela, took a new job with Bartlett & West - With a portfolio of professional solutions- from engineering to landscape architecture, from GIS to information management, from field services to sustainable development.
- Son, Brad, needed to transfer to the OK City area. (One needs a job these days). Unfortunately he

still needs to sell the home so his family is still in Topeka. Makes commuting a weekend adventure!

- Backyard above ground pool is now a dirt pile.
- Oldest grandson, Jordan, is attending Washburn University
- Youngest grandson, Hudson, turned 1. He is such a jovial character.

SORORITY NEWS:

I am delighted to inform all Sisters . Congratulations in order . for a wonderful 2010-2011 year. We continue to grow. We will be initiating 3 new Sisters at the October Conclave in Topeka, KS. We welcome Bonnie Priem, KS Theta, Ann Bell, KS Kappa, & Royce Dent, NE Eta.

I am winding up the year-end reports for my office AND as always, I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Conclave.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janelle Clark  
Province Vice President

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Greetings all!

It is so hard to believe that another year has flown by. It has though and our 80<sup>th</sup> Conclave celebration is just around the corner. I still haven't unpacked from National Convention! Congrats to all of the award winners. I so look forward to seeing each and every one of you in October.

Let me take a moment to remind you of the annual History Book contest. We hope that each chapter is working on an entry for this year. The activities and events each of our sister chapters report amazes and interests us each year as we review and take your deeds back to our own chapter. As most of us only see each other once or twice a year, your history book is the means through which we see you working for and enjoying the sisterhood of Delta

Theta Chi. We look forward to doing so this year as well.

Did you know that the Electra Province Corresponding Secretary sends notes and cards to our members all through the year? Your Province Board wants you to always know that you are each in our prayers and thoughts every day. Be sure to let us know of illnesses, births, accomplishments and the interesting ways you celebrate our sisterhood.

See you soon,  
Kay Kimball  
Electra Province Corresponding Secretary

## TREASURER

Dear Electra Province Sisters,

I can't believe that in almost 2 weeks we will be celebrating another Conclave together in Topeka, Kansas. I am looking forward to seeing what excitement the Kansas Theta chapter brings in hosting Conclave. Don't forget that the fundraiser this year is the 2011 Delta Theta Chi Antique Roadshow. If you have any dishes, silverware, platters, teacups, teapots, hand towels that you would like to donate,

for the live auction on Saturday evening of Conclave, please remember to bring them with you. I have enjoyed serving on the Electra Province Board as Treasurer. Continue to hold high the torch of Delta Theta Chi!

Fraternally,  
Mindy Miller  
Electra Province Treasurer

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters,

I am so looking forward to fall. tired of all these hot summer days. There have been way too many 100 degree days for my taste. I enjoyed seeing those of you that were at National Convention in June. Our new website was on display during the Sunday meeting and I think it looks great! Thanks to Cathie Barber and Paula Smotherman for doing a great job. I had one suggestion that stemmed from the presentation that was submitted to me which I passed on to the web mavens. Good idea. keep them coming. I hope you had a great time. I know Steve and I did even though the drive home was a test of my patience. Road construction is not my friend. Oh well, we must endure.

On a happier note I am getting ready for a short vacation to Wendover, Nevada Aug. 11-14. A cheap short getaway that I hope goes smoothly. I really need the break from work.

Speaking of fall, I hope you are planning to attend Conclave in Topeka this fall. It should be a grand time! I can't wait to see what the Topeka girls have planned for us. And it will be my first Past President's party, whoo hoo!

See you soon!

In sisterly love,  
Brenda Thompson  
Immediate Past President

## KANSAS ALPHA

### KS ALPHA

The Kansas Alphas are ready to launch the 2011 . 2012 program year with more interesting events and activities planned. We finished up the 2010 . 2011 year with building terrariums, having guest speakers/imitators of Abe and Mary Lincoln, a craft project, a book report, looking over a great thimble collection, learning about Norman Rockwell and cooking lessons. Our first and last meetings each year are pot luck dinners, and the tradition is alive and well in Topeka. Thanks to all of you that attended our Founders Day. We loved seeing you.

The National Convention was fun and interesting. We are getting ready now for Conclave. Janelle Clark is taking some time off to help with her niece's wedding out in Santa Barbara. Kay Foster moved and is still unpacking. Peggy Heald is still recovering from her stroke. Terry Heald is well on the mend from her broken hip and anxious to be in her new apartment. Susie Sidesinger had a run in with an automobile, the auto is fine and so is Susie. Lucy Breitenstein and Marge Strouts remain strong and positive. Leslie Sunderman had the baby! Zoe Belle was born on December 29th, and Kay Kimball is the happy grandmother.

For us Alphas, it has been a good year.

## KANSAS BETA

### KS BETA

The Kansas Beta chapter is fast approaching earning their PhD in Norman Rockwell. After **two** chapter meetings where the educational programs were totally devoted to him and one more to go; **five** plus rehearsals for the achievement contest; **fifteen** sisters spritely arguing the names of his wives and in what order, and one nutty sister who is learning to run a riveting gun, the Betas are just pretty well versed in Norman Rockwell's life and works. They are looking forward to Conclave in Topeka.

After installing their 2011-2012 chapter officers the Betas took the summer off to enjoy the heat of Kansas. Did I say enjoy? Maybe tolerate would be a better word.

New officers for the coming year are:

President: Jan Ingham

Vice President: Charlotte Jewell

Educational Director: Patty Gray

Recording Secretary: Paula Smotherman

Treasurer: Lenore Waren

Corresponding Secretary: Cheryl Schultzbaum

Sergeant- At Arms: Kim Rea

Eleven Kansas Beta sisters traveled to Dallas to attend the 2011 National Convention where they saw their own Sister, Teresa Carter, installed as the Electra Province National Trustee. They also were thrilled to be there with Sister Gracene Sims as she was awarded her 50 year certificate. Making it extra special was the fact that Teresa had been asked by the President CarolAnn Moyes to conduct the ceremony and Teresa was able to present the certificate to Gracene.

Since the last publication of the Pleiad we have had a couple of new knees, hip joints and even a thumb surgery, but the Betas are faring very well. Plans are underway for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual souper-rama rush event to be held in January when it's cold enough for hot soup. Sisters are already gathering names for rushees and anyone from Electra is welcome to come too.

## KANSAS THETA

### KS THETA

The KS Thetas closed our year with a trip the Farmers Market and then a tour of the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic Site. The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) is one of the most historic opinions ever rendered by the court. This landmark decision highlights the U.S. Supreme Court's role in affecting changes in national and social policy. The case is often remembered as a little girl whose parents sued so that she could attend an all-white school in her neighborhood.

Throughout the summer, heat and all, the KS Thetas have been busy with preparations for our 80<sup>th</sup> Conclave slated for October 7, 8 and 9, 2011 in Topeka. The registration forms have been sent electronically and by snail mail, so get your reservations in early!

Submitted by Vicki Lignitz

## KANSAS KAPPA

### KS KAPPA

The Kansas Kappas have had a fun and busy last few months. We pledged Ann Bell in March and Jamie Rinke in April and are excited to have two new sisters! The Kappas celebrated a joint Founder's Day with the Missouri Deltas in April. We enjoyed a "Rainbow of Sisterhood" and honored Cindy Whiteley for her service as Electra Province Trustee. May meant our annual Cinco de Mayo party with delicious Mexican food and fellowship with sisters. In June, we heard a fun and educational presentation from Lawrence artist Julie Kingsbury, owner of Jewelry by Julie. She showed us some of her beautiful creations and explained how they were made- we even got to do a little shopping! The Kappas are continuing to collect money to purchase a sewing machine to benefit a family in Latin America through the Food for the Poor program. We are excited that we've almost reached our goal! We continue to support the Willow Domestic Violence Center through donations of much needed supplies, such as books, school supplies, and personal care items. Most recently, the Kappas are enjoying learning about Norman Rockwell and are busy coming up with our Achievement Contest entry. We look forward to seeing our Electra Province sisters for Conclave in October!

## MISSOURI DELTA

### MO DELTA

The hot, lazy days of summer have found the Missouri Delta Sisters hard at work. We decided that we would hold regular meetings during the summer months and have no meetings during the months of January and February. And this procedure has been working great. We decided to even try a different starting time and our first meeting in August was a 10 am brunch at Doris Waller's home. Our second August meeting turned into a total discussion on our planned achievement entry.

We have been excited about the Achievement Contest theme and the challenges of additional programs. We are happy that we were able to complete all three required programs and believe that by October we will have more information on Norman Rockwell than we really want!!!!

In July Gloria and Chris attended the Kansas Alpha's Founder's Day. In August Cheryl, Eileen and Chris made the journey to Omaha for the Nebraska Zeta's Founder's Day picnic at the Kreager home, which was an adventure since parts of Interstate I-29 were closed. The trip north was fairly easy and we did enjoy seeing some new territory. However, in getting back, the driver (Chris) sort of got confused (she couldn't find Highway 75) and ended up in South Omaha. She assured her passengers that she knew where she was and how to get back to Kansas City, and even though she still had some missed turns, they found themselves in Iowa, swiftly passing Chris's home town and finally getting back home (after a stop in St. Joe for dinner)! The Missouri Delta Sisters certainly admire the Omaha Sisters for the routes they must take to get to the out of Nebraska sorority functions.

The MO Delta Sisters have enjoyed a good summer, with one exception. We were deeply saddened by the death of our dear Delta Guy, Bill Matheson. Sister Rommie is doing very well, although she has been suffering from a pulled back and pinched nerve. Rest and medication are the doctor's prescriptions, so Rommie has missed the last few meetings. But we hope to see her, and all our chapter sisters, at our meeting in September. That month will be busy with achievement contest entry rehearsals, and then October will be here and we will all meet again in Topeka for Conclave.

## NEBRASKA ZETA

### NE ZETA

Along with business meetings, the NE Zeta Chapter had opportunities for several outings and activities. We continued our focus on Abraham Lincoln in April when we met for dinner and the movie "The Conspirator". The "Chocolate and Wine Tasting" event organized by Carla and Connie was both scrumptious and successful, as several guests and members were able to attend. In May, we were invited to American Machine Works celebration of 100 Years of business in Omaha. Congratulations to current owners Brenda & Vic Brown, and previous owners Bob & Ruby Cohn. The chapter also helped celebrate the Cohns' 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

After our summer break, we gathered for a potluck dinner preceding installation of officers in August. The following week, a "Summer Picnic" was the theme to honor our Province President, Mary Kreager, and celebrate our Founder's Day.

Members agreed to donate books purchased using funds from the Literacy Scholarship to the Joplin, Mo teachers and classrooms to help replenish losses received from tornado. We continue to discuss and look for additional and unique opportunities for literacy/book donations.

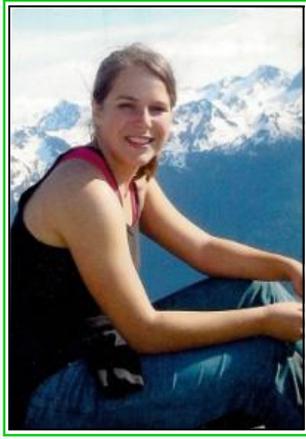


NE ZETA's celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary of Bob and Ruby Cohn. Brenda Brown, Cindy Berg, Nadyne Millar, Mary Kreager, Lana Olson, Connie James. Seated in front, Chris Durbin and Ruby Cohn

## SCHOLARSHIP

### Electra Province Scholarship 2011 Winners

#### **Irene Mutch Thomson Electra Province Scholarship Recipient:**



Nicole McClure is the recipient of the Irene Mutch Thompson Scholarship for 2011. She will be a senior at the University of Kansas this fall. She originally wanted to be a surgeon but in her sophomore year she switched gears and is majoring in Biology and minoring in Art and has decided to be a medical illustrator which will combine her creativeness with her drawing ability and her knowledge of science and the human body. She was taken under the wing of Dr. Linda Trueb who is a well-known scientific illustrator at KU. She has already illustrated one textbook with Dr. Trueb and is at work on several others. In addition to doing this she is also a waitress at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Brewery in Lawrence. Her father passed away when she was 16 and she has a younger brother that has a learning disability and Nicole has told her mother to support him because of this so she gets no financial support from her mother. She noted in her application this, "I will cook dinner for my boyfriend and me. This is homemade, healthily, delicious cooking. My last great meal was chicken and dumpling soup, made from homemade chicken stock, a whole chicken, and homemade dumplings." As you can see this is a very hardworking and ambitious young lady who is very deserving of this honor.

#### **Loretta Cutler Electra Province Scholarship Recipient:**



Austin Baughman is the recipient of the Loretta Cutler scholarship for 2011. He is the son of Dana Baughman of the Kansas Theta's in Topeka. He graduated this past spring from Shawnee Heights High School in Tecumseh, Kansas. He is going to attend Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville Community, Kansas and plans on majoring in Secondary Education. While in high school he was in marching band, jazz band, symphonic band, concert band, and as a result of this he has had the opportunity to travel to Florida to march in the Citrus Bowl parade, and to travel to Chicago to march in the St. Patrick's Day parade. He was also on the national Honor Society for all four years of high school, and is an Eagle Scout.

## NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Congratulations to Electra Province Sisters! A **Certificate of Membership Award** was presented at the National Convention in June, in recognition of **Outstanding Province Achievement** for the period of June 2009-May 2011. As you may recall, 10 women were initiated into the Delta Theta Chi at Conclave last October. The province also received a monetary award of \$25.00 for their achievement in membership during that period.

Thank you all for your prayers and words of encouragement and concern for Dick following his stroke in June. He has completed therapy and has near 100 % recovery.



Jan Ingham's quilt was made for the Mid Kansas Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure

On a personal note, I wish to extend my appreciation for all the cards and well wishes received after surgery for a total hip replacement. I am doing great and will be back in the office soon.

Vicki Lignitz,  
Kansas Theta

Thank you from the Nebraska Zetas to each of you who donated school supplies for our assistance to the homeless children who reside at the Stephen Center in Omaha. When all was put together and delivered, we know many students will benefit from 14 boxes of crayons, 1 paint box, 40 ballpoint pens, 88 pencils, 2 pair scissors, 2 geometry sets, 3 calculators, 4 erasers, 6 rulers, 14 glue sticks, 5 bottles of glue, 6 folders, 12 boxes of tissues, 2 boxes of colored pencils, 3 boxes of markers, 9 packages of loose leaf paper, 33 spiral notebooks and one plastic file keeper/lap desk. Once again we are blessed by the generosity of our sisters and by the ability to share with children, who have so little, the items that will help them in their classrooms.

THANK YOU!!!

### ELECTRA PROVINCE OFFICERS

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