Alpha Beta Members Experience Safaris

On Sept. 9th, Alpha Beta Chapter of DKG met at the Edinger’s Filling Station in Pontiac. Three members shared their safaris in Africa. Janet Beyer (Cropsey) traveled to Uganda to see family members who were living there. She saw all kinds of animals native to Africa. Sometimes called the Pearl of Africa, Uganda also has 1,000 species of birds. Running through Uganda and other parts of Africa is the Nile River which is 4,150 miles long.

After a stop in Rome and London, Alberta Kinate (Forrest) went to the Zulu Nyala Game Lodge in South Africa which involved a weeklong safari. She recalled seeing many giraffes who can kill animals and even people with their legs. One day she observed a cheetah with a huge stomach that touched the ground, and this cheetah could live on its kill for a week. Many elephants and lions were in the area and she even saw a pet lion.

Elaine Cunningham’s (Minonk) 19-day safari began in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, a rich country because of its vast oil deposits. Its major city boasts about having the tallest building in the world with 169 floors along with many shops and beautiful buildings. In jeeps she experienced day and night safaris in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa and saw a variety of native animals. Elaine especially liked seeing elephants taking care of their babies. In one place a few elephants had been trained to lift their trunks if tourists said, “Trunk up or “Trunk down” and gave them some food. South Africa’s oldest and largest city Cape Town located on the Atlantic coast is famous for its sun, sea, and scenery. Seeing Victoria Falls and traveling to Cape of Good Hope, a rocky area on the Atlantic coast of the Cape Peninsula of South Africa, were so special.

At the business meeting, Pres. Marcia Wahls (Chenoa) had members share a favorite trip they had taken in their travels.

On Sept. 5th Wahls, Carol Hughes (Eureka), and Louann Harms (Fairbury) spoke at a meeting at Eureka College for junior and senior women majoring in education who were interested in learning why they should join DKG as a collegiate member.

For Communications and Publicity, Hughes explained the new DKG permission forms. All members need to fill out this Google form online to have their names or photos included in published articles.

Women in the Arts Chair Barb Baumann (Minonk) reported that the spring Creative Arts Retreat was held on June 20-22 at the Double Tree in Bloomington. She also asked members to submit a work of art for a virtual auction on Facebook and a live auction at the state convention. Proceeds from these auctions will be used to support the M. Josephine O’Neil Arts Award of $10,000 that goes to college women majoring in the arts.

Pres. Wahls announced that the State President Linda Adcock has a monthly Zoom to meet with members. She has suggested that chapter members do a project together. Sandy Graham (Pontiac) has an after-school program with a variety of activities for different age groups on Tuesday and Thursday at the First United Methodist Church in Pontiac. If a member would like to make a presentation, contact Sandy Graham.

The October 21st meeting will be held at the Eureka Christian Church Parish Hall with a presentation from the Peoria Abuse Center, and members will share “Tips for the Classroom” with collegiate members.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG) promotes professional and personal growth and excellence in education. The Society has chapters in 17 countries and provides grants for educational projects, scholarships, leadership training, mentoring, and global networking opportunities. For more information, visit Illinois State website: DKGIL.COM and International website: DKG.ORG, or contact Carol Hughes (chughes@mtco.com).

**Photo:** Elaine Cunningham, Janet Beyer, and Alberta Kinate discussed their safaris in Africa which will always be remembered by them.