

Alpha Beta Members Discuss Book and Upcoming Meetings by Carol Hughes

The Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society met via Zoom on September 12. Co-President Lou Ann Jacobs announced that the October and November meetings will also be zoomed.

Carol Hughes led the discussion of *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly who was inspired by real life World War II heroine Caroline Ferriday of New York to write her book. Early in the novel Kasia, a Polish teenager, becomes a courier for the resistance. A third character, German woman doctor Herta Oberheuser, secures a Nazi government medical position at Ravensbruck, a concentration camp for women. These three women are on a collision course when Kasia is sent to Ravensbruck. This historical novel holds the reader's attention as the chapters switch back and forth among these three women.

After the war, the real Caroline Ferriday aided Polish women who had suffered very painful experimental surgeries at Ravensbruck by bringing them to the US for restorative surgery. Also, she was instrumental in Dr. Oberheuser's license being revoked and getting Germany to grant the Polish women reparations.

At the business meeting, International Projects Co-Chair Kay Hammer (Fairbury) said that those wishing to support a well in Malawi should send their donation checks to Treasurer Janet Kilgus.

Membership Chair Louann Harms (Fairbury) reported that Carol Hughes and she were speakers on the panel in the state Zoom presentation on Collegiate Membership. Louann is also contacting past chapter grant and Florence A. Cook grant recipients and will invite them to become collegiate or active members.

Reporting for Legislation, Lou Ann Jacobs reminded members that ballots will be available on September 24 if choosing to vote by mail. She also advised looking over the Fair Tax issue which is on the ballot.

State Legislation Chair Janet Kilgus shared that the Legislative Seminar for Illinois will be on Zoom rather than in Springfield and will cover five sessions on October 17, 20, 22, 24, and 27.

Women in the Arts Chair Barb Baumann (Minonk) announced that in June the Creative Arts Retreat sessions had to be held over Zoom, but she and a number of members participated.

Marianne Hall (Dwight) led a brief installation for 2020-2022 officers who are as follows: Co-Presidents--Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal) and Karen Harms (Fairbury), 1st Vice President – Marcia Wahls (Lexington), 2nd Vice President – Carol Hughes (Roanoke), Corresponding Secretary – Jan Liston (Bloomington), Recording Secretary – Lila McCulley (Minonk), Treasurer – Janet Kilgus (Fairbury), and Parliamentarian—Sue Coons (Normal).

The next meeting will be on October 17 at 10:00 am and feature member Kate Walter who will present the program: "Classroom Teacher in Illinois to Case Manager in Indiana." She will also share the differences between teaching in Illinois and Indiana.

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 www.dkg.org or contact Carol Hughes at chughes@mtco.com.

Photo: Alpha Beta Chapter discussed *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly who was inspired by the real Caroline Ferriday who helped the Polish women who had suffered experimental surgeries at Ravensbruck. Also, Kelly researched Caroline's mother and her aid to Russians who fled from Communism in World War I and wrote *Lost Roses*. Kelly's book, *Sunflower Sisters*, centers on the grandmother, a nurse who joined the war effort during the Civil War and will be available in April 2021.

New York Times bestseller

"Extremely moving and memorable . . . should appeal strongly to
readers of Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* and Anthony Doerr's
All the Light We Cannot See." —*Library Journal*

LILAC GIRLS

A Novel



MARTHA
HALL KELLY