



MARCH / APRIL Newsletter 2020

Fourth Edition 2019 -20



Virginia Macagnoni

BETA SIGMA
45th anniversary
2 charter members
are still active today
May 3, 1975 - 2020



Wanda J. Grogan



Rachel Rotz



Congratulations
Rachel and Liz

Rachel is the recipient of a
GSO \$2000 scholarship.

Liz and her students were
chosen as the *2019 Rivers*
Alive Georgia winner for
their clean up event.

Keep up the fantastic work!

Liz French



A Message from Marta:

Dear Sisters,

This is the last newsletter of my biennium as your president. I never thought that this position was going to be so rewarding and represent for me such an interesting learning experience. The years passed and all the goals that we endeavored to reach together showed me what an amazing group of ladies you are!



Looking back at these years, it is fair to say that you brought Beta Sigma Chapter to shine. At the 2019 GSO State Convention our leading women were recognized and the chapter received three certificates of recognition! Beta Sigma encouraged our active members to apply for the opportunities offered at GSO level to stimulate excellence in education. Two of them did, and their applications for the Boylston Grant and the 2020 GSO Scholarship were awarded. Congratulations!

As Beta Sigma sisters we impacted the lives of students and teachers at Gaines and Hilsman Schools, provided supplies for Project Safe victims of domestic violence and donated funds and volunteer time supporting Books for Keeps. Your kind heart and generosity came through time after time, after time. I cannot thank you enough for that!

With Diane at the helm of Beta Sigma we will enter in the new biennium. I am sure that her leadership style will keep everyone involved and energized.

I look forward to the time when we can celebrate together all that we have achieved. This will happen, hopefully, in the near future. Until we are able to see each other again, stay healthy, be inspired, and savor each day with no rush.

With kindest thoughts,

Marta



On the next page please see the poem that Marta has shared.

ESPERANZA

POEMA de ALEXIS VALDÉS

Comdiante Cubano, actor y ahora poeta)

Cuando la tormenta pase
Y se amansen los caminos
y seamos sobrevivientes
de un naufragio colectivo.

Con el corazón lloroso
y el destino bendecido
nos sentiremos dichosos
tan sólo por estar vivos.

Y le daremos un abrazo
al primer desconocido
y alabaremos la suerte
de conservar un amigo.

Y entonces recordaremos
todo aquello que perdimos
y de una vez aprenderemos
todo lo que no aprendimos.

Ya no tendremos envidia
pues todos habrán sufrido.
Ya no tendremos desidia
Seremos más compasivos.
Valdrá más lo que es de todos
Que lo jamas conseguido
Seremos más generosos
Y mucho más comprometidos

Entenderemos lo frágil
que significa estar vivos

Sudaremos empatía
por quien está y quien se ha ido.

Extrañaremos al Viejo

que pedía un peso en el mercado,
que no supimos su nombre
y siempre estuvo a tu lado.

Y quizás el viejo pobre
era tu Dios disfrazado.
Nunca preguntaste el nombre
porque estabas apurado.

Y todo será un milagro
Y todo será un legado
Y se respetará la vida,
la vida que hemos ganado.

Cuando la tormenta pase
te pido Dios, apenado,
que nos devuelvas mejores,
como nos habías soñado.

HOPE

POEM by ALEXIS VALDÉS

(Cuban Comedian, actor and now poet)

When the storm passes
and the roads are tamed
and we become survivors
of a collective shipwreck.

With a weeping heart
and the blessed destiny (astride)
we will feel fortunate
just for being alive.

And we will embrace
the first stranger (that comes our way)
and we will praise the luck
of still having a friend.

And then we will remember
everything we lost
and once and for all we'll learn
all that learned we have not.

Then we won't have any envy
because all have suffered the same
there will be no apathy,
we will be more compassionate
The common good will be worth more
than what we could never get.
We will be more generous
and far more committed.

We will understand how fragile
it is to be alive

We will sweat empathy
for those here and those who have
passed

We will miss the Old Man

who begged for a coin at the market
the one whose name we never knew
but who always stood by your side

And perhaps that poor man
was your God in disguise.
You never asked his name
because you never had time.

And everything will be a miracle.
And everything will be a legacy.
And life will be respected,
the life that we have all earned.

When the storm passes
I ask you, God, in grief,
that you return us better humans,
the way you dreamt us to be.



March 10th Beta Sigma chapter members and their friends donated over 400 used books for the *Books for Keeps* book sale held in August. Several members enjoyed lunch together after the book collection. Diane and Fred Lutz were able to get the books to the BFK warehouse that same day.

THEN EVERYTHING CHANGED



THE WORLD SHUT DOWN.

Meetings cancelled. Normal routines changed. Quarantines. Social Distancing. Wearing masks/gloves for protection against Covid-19. Shortages of sanitizers, paper products, food in the grocery. Closure of many businesses. Stock market drops. The list goes on.

Beta Sigma Chapter members have been resilient throughout all this. Take a look at some of the things that we've been doing.



Mary Burton



Mary and Ellen have been sewing masks for those that work in hospitals.

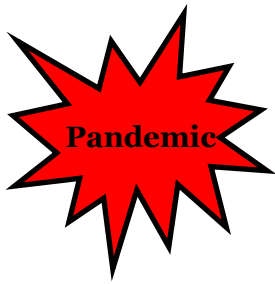


Ellen Stoll

Evelyn Wood



Evelyn enjoys a beautiful day outside with her dogs; a quick break from taking care of her family, health needs and five acres. Evelyn appreciates all the emails and beautiful cards she received.



Continuing to move forward ...

Many of the ladies have taken this shelter in place time to clean out and organize closets, read a good book, cook a new recipe, or work outside.

Mary Jim Combs-Tate



France Boney



Dana McDougal



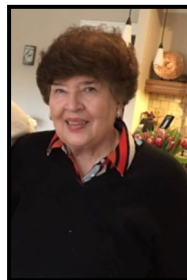
Mary Jim is trying to get her taxes completed as well as sorting through boxes in hopes of downsizing a little.

France has read novels (in French) that she had previously enjoyed. She will be happy to share... if you can read French! She also likes to go for walks.

Dana has battled an upper respiratory infection, (not Covid19) while enjoying the book *Belgravia* then she saw it on PBS. She also recommends reading, *Tell Me Who I Am* and *Redhead at the Side of the Road*. She's also taking care of her dogs. She has extra ironing if anyone needs the practice.



Pam Sezgin



Carolyn Howell



Jane Kelly



Sandra Gardner

Pam continues teaching for UNG through internet distance learning. Having taught online classes before, she's an expert at this. She'll continue teaching this summer.

Carolyn continues to send cards to family and friends in our country and abroad, cares for her dogs, watches old movies, and keeps up with the news.

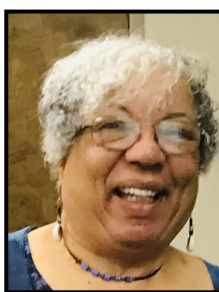
Jane counts her blessings and appreciates the caregivers, doctors, and nurses on the front line of treating the virus patients. She loves talking with her grandchildren. She recommends reading, *Around The World on a Bicycle* (1934) by Fred Birchmore, an author she knew. His *bicycle* is in the Smithsonian.

Sandra gets out daily in her yard with her dog, enjoying the sunshine and cooler temperatures. She also enjoys family visits.

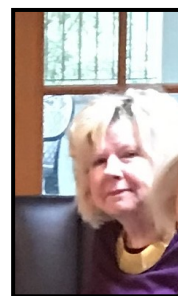
Still on the move...



Carolyn Ashley



Freda Giles



Linda Griffith



Carolyn has completed the UGA Master Gardener program. Congratulations!! We may see some of her talents around her sorority house on the corner of Milledge and Baxter. If you read *Southern Living*, check out page 104 of the April 2020 issue. The sorority house is pictured next to the bulldog.

Congratulations to Freda as she will be on the OLLI board starting July 1. She's wrapping up her OLLI discussion group via Zoom, been involved with her church to assemble COVID-19 response kits for clients of their food bank.

Linda has enjoyed working in her yard and seeing the flowers bloom. She likes to travel so social distancing has given her time at home.



Marta Patino-Douce



Diane Lutz



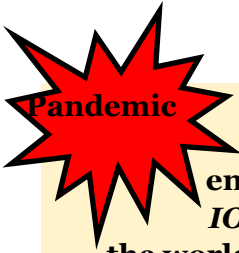
Audrey Hughes

Marta has been enjoying the outdoors - painting railings and windows on her home, walking through the GA State Botanical Gardens, Watson Mill Park, and making preserves. She's glad to be home as she was on one of the last flights from Argentina. She keeps in touch with her mother and family in Argentina.

Besides working with Marta on DKG, Diane has checked on DKG members, friends, family and done weekly teleconference Bible and prayer time with friends. With the cooler weather, she's enjoyed working outside to plant flowers (and pull weeds). She's also done some crafts/ sewing and loves to read daily.

Audrey has been doing on-line teaching with her middle school students. Some mornings she's delivered food to students who usually get meals at school. Audrey will be teaching at Clarke Middle School in the fall.

We're still going ...



Joyce Reynolds, like many of our members, has been able to sort and clean out closets (she has 3 left to tackle), has tried different recipes, and enjoyed watching movies. She recommends reading, *Death of an OBNOXIOUS TOURIST* by Maria Hudgins and *The Little Book of PANDEMICS* (50 of the world's most virulent plagues and infectious diseases) by Dr. Peter Moore. Joyce said this would be 51 with COVID-19.

Liz French has also been teaching digitally. She has continued her forestry class with online resources and forest management video games, educational fun for all. Liz said her high school should receive designation as an official K-12 Tree Campus this year. In her free time, she and her husband are improving their tennis skills.

Many of our other members have been social distancing, staying healthy, and enjoying the beautiful weather. Let's continue to keep in touch.

FOOD for THOUGHT

Mary Burton has been doing some online ordering. She shared these 3 sites: *Athens Locally Grown*, *Collective Grown*, and *Soul Miners Eden*. Type in one of the names on Google and a website will come up.

Pam Sezgin has found an online site to order fish from Alaska. She's due to get her order soon so call Pam if this is of interest.

Looking Ahead: Georgia State Organization

GSO Leadership Training will be a video series. More information coming.

DKG 2020 International Convention
Philadelphia, PA July 7-11.

GSO State Executive Board Meeting
Macon Saturday, September 26.

BETA SIGMA CHAPTER

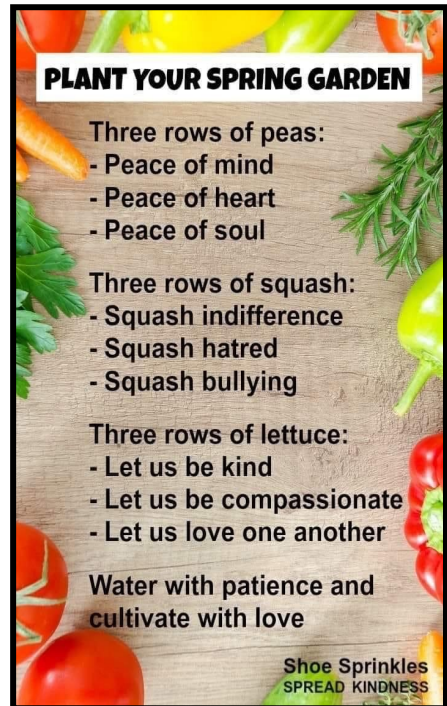
More details coming soon:

Committee reorganization
End of year activity/Installation of officers
Programs /meetings development
Recruitment

Looking forward to a time we can be together.

Happy Mother's Day

May 10th



MOVING ON!

Rachel Rotz defends her dissertation in late June. She is moving to *Florida Gulf Coast University*, Ft. Myers, FL in July. She will be an Assistant Professor of Hydrogeology in the Marine and Earth Sciences Department. Rachel will be transferring to a DKG chapter in FL. We are grateful to her for our BS website. We wish her the best. She will be greatly missed.

Fair Winds and Following Seas.