

~ Fall 2021 Newsletter ~

# CVAP

## *A Message from President Stephanie Carter*



With fall upon us, and our being able to meet together again in person, I keep thinking “Sisterhood.”

Sisterhood is many things. It’s also different things to each of us. For me it’s knowing I have a friend right there whenever I need one. It’s a shoulder to lean on. It’s a long-term friendship and a newfound friendship – both equally important and treasured.

As members of CVAP we are continually learning about each other and those in our community. We give without expecting anything in return. Recently, we did get something in return - scholarship recipient ... Lane Theel

pledged Delta Gamma at the University of Santa Barbara.

Her heartfelt joy and excitement at having pledged was the biggest return we members can receive. She emailed Joyce Johnson and Linda Simmons, our scholarship chairs, with her good news. They both sent her congratulatory emails and included me in all of this. I then emailed Lane and her response to me was one of the best emails I have read in months!

So as we sail into our 2021/2022 season remember to always look forward. Our goals to donate Toys for Tots at our December luncheon and books for children for Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital Indio at our February luncheon will make a big difference.

We follow this with our March 2022 Benefit to raise scholarship money for graduating senior young ladies in May of 2022.

When people ask me why I joined a sorority or why are you still involved, I smile and tell them about the friendships I have made during and since college. I tell them about it being more than just traditions and friends but learning and giving back.

So from where I sit and type this I want you to remember ...

*Individually we are one drop.  
Together, we are an ocean.*  
Author unknown

May our 2021/2022 season be a tidal wave of friendships working together.

Fraternally,  
Stephanie Carter

CVAP President 2020 – 2022

## **INTRODUCTION TO OUR BOARD**

The following are the officers who will be planning and carrying out our events for the 2021 - 2022 year. The Elected Executive Board was nominated by the Nominating Committee in February 2021 and were elected by email vote in April.

### ***Elected Executive Board***

President .....	Stephanie Carter, ZTA
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs.....	Ann Dew, AΦ
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Membership.....	Giorgi Duvall, KΔ
Recording Secretary.....	Linda Simmons, ΔΓ
Corresponding Secretary.....	Cheryl Johnsen, AΓΔ
Treasurer.....	Pamela Sinco, AΦ
Assistant Treasurer.....	Gail Hughes, XΩ
Benefit Treasurer.....	Jane Auerswald, AΓΔ

### ***Appointed Chairs***

Benefit Coordinator .....	Lisa Corcoran, ΣK
Collegiate Files, SCCAP Rep. ....	Ginger Whelan, KΔ
Communications – Website .....	Bridgette Roman, AΔΠ
Communications – Email/Facebook...	Ramona Frost Ruiz, AΓΔ
Communications – Telephone .....	Jodie Miller, KAΘ
Financial Advisor .....	Karen Gonzales, AΓΔ
Historian .....	Chris Bergsma, KΚΓ
Luncheon Arrangements .....	Tootie Killingsworth, KΔ
Luncheon Notice Emails & Pink Cards	Bridgette Roman, AΔΠ
Luncheon Reservations .....	Ginger Whelan, KΔ
Hostesses .....	Judy Chamberlain, AΓΔ
New Member Chairwoman .....	Margaret Kelso, AΓΔ
Newsletter .....	Karen Gonzales, AΓΔ
Nominating Chairwoman .....	Debbie Cox, ΠβΦ

Out and About Chairwoman .....	Peggy Buenzli, ΑΓΔ
Parliamentarian .....	Debbie Cox, ΠβΦ
Patron Program .....	Joan Tegen, ΚΚΓ
PHD Liaison .....	Peggy Buenzli, ΑΓΔ
Publicity .....	Martha Blackburn, ΖΤΑ
Scholarship Chairwoman .....	Linda Simmons, ΔΓ
Sorority Membership Awards .....	Joyce Johnson, ΑΦ

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Toys for Tots (Dec) .....	Judy Austin, ΧΩ
Books for Children (Feb) .....	Laurie Anderson, ΑΧΩ
Spring Farewell Party (Apr) .....	Judy Sanders, ΚΚΓ

## **Patron Program**

**BY JOAN TEGEN**

The word “Patron” is defined as “a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, cause or activity.” For CVAP our purpose is to raise funds for scholarships for Coachella Valley high school senior girls furthering their education at four year colleges and universities. The “Patrons” are all of us who give financial support to this cause. This November our Patron Program Chairperson, Joan Tegen, ΚΚΓ, sent all of us information about the program and asked us for donations for the 2021-2022 year. It is important to know that every dollar donated will go directly to scholarships and therefore are fully tax deductible. Recognition of the donors will be given at our May 2022 luncheon when we will have the opportunity to meet the scholarship recipients.

## **Books for Children**



This year’s Chairman of the Books for Children project is Laurie Anderson, ΑΧΩ. She has chosen the Loma Linda University Children’s Health – Indio as the recipient of our book donations for 2022. Books can be brought to the February luncheon and Laurie will see that they are delivered to the Indio facility.

Due to COVID restrictions only new books will be collected, ranging from board books for infants and toddlers to books and graphic novels for adolescents. For anyone who would prefer to donate a Barnes & Noble or Target gift card, these will also be gratefully accepted and appreciated. Checks are to be made out to LLUCH.

In 2019 we were able to give close to \$800 in donations and books. Let's see if we can exceed that total in 2022.

Checks and gift cards can be mailed to Laurie or brought to our February 10 meeting at Monterey Country Club. If mailing, Laurie Anderson's address is 38435 Fawn Springs Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92260.

Laurie sends a huge **Thank You** for all of your generosity.

## **2022 Scholarship Benefit**

Plans are underway for the 2022 CVAP Scholarship Benefit which will be Saturday, March 19 at Avondale Country Club in Palm Desert. Lisa Corcoran, ΣK, will once again be heading up the plans for this event.

The 50's and 60's themed evening will feature the music of The L. A. Party Dolls who romp through the great music, fabulous hair, fashion and dances of that era. Get out your poodle skirts and dust off your saddle shoes for a fun evening of reminiscing and resurrecting the Jitterbug, the Cha-cha, and the Lindy Hop.

There will be no Silent Auction as many of our usual donors have not recovered from their losses during the COVID shut down. However, we will have a spectacular Raffle, a Live Auction and the Wine Pull which was so popular at our last benefit in 2020.

The Live Auction will feature some familiar items such as golf at Bighorn Golf Club, a piece of jewelry from El Paseo Jewelers, and high-speed thrills at the BMW Performance Center in Thermal.

For the Raffle we are planning to have a GIFT CERTIFICATE TREE and two MONEY TREES and a MONEY HAT.

You will not want to miss this event which promises to be our best fund-raiser yet. Mark your calendars now for the evening of Saturday, March 19, 2022.

## **MEET OUR NEW CVAP MEMBERS**



**Pam Blodgett , Alpha Chi Omega  
University of California, Santa Barbara**

Before coming to the desert my hometown town was Los Altos Hills, California. I was born nearby in Stanford. I attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, where I majored in Spanish and history and pledged Alpha Chi Omega.

I was an elementary school teacher and taught for 31 years in the San Jose Unified School District. I was also in the

travel industry as well as an agent. Although I retired in 2010, I still plan dream trips for my clients today. I am always furthering my education with courses involving Africa and currently, Japan.

I've been married to my high school/college sweetheart for 50 years. Our son and daughter are adults now with two grandkids who are the apple of our eyes. A granddaughter, 4, and a grandson, 7, make us smile and laugh all the time. They live in Bend, Oregon.

I look forward to meeting new folks. We're newbies here in the desert having moved here in 2019. We were ready for a change and having come to the desert many times prior to the move we both agreed this would be the place.

We continue our travels and continue our learning of other peoples and cultures.

## **Shirley Bowman, Delta Gamma University of Nebraska**

Growing up in Lincoln, Nebraska, it was only natural to attend the University of Nebraska. My Mother had been a Delta Gamma and I hoped to be the same, and am. My Dad said my other choice would be Delta Tau Delta. I graduated in 1952 with a major in Education.

In 1953 I moved to Denver, shortly after meeting and marrying Tom Bowman, a Sigma Chi from Tulane University. We had three children and now eight grandchildren - all good-looking, smart and talented 😊.

During the years I have been very active with Delta Gamma: volunteering at the Anchor Center for Blind Children, for 20 years chairing the Preschool Vision Screening Program, President of the Junior Alumnae and the Senior Alumnae, and chairing quite a few Founders Day luncheons here in the desert.

We first came to the desert in 1978 for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary, renting with my parents and brother at Sunrise Country Club, then we bought our own condo there in 1995 when my husband retired, and have been coming to the desert for 5 months of the year ever since. We both played tennis and golf, but now only golf occasionally.

This summer we moved to a retirement center in the Denver area, Holly Creek, and out of all six units on our floor, three of us are Delta Gammas! We love our new place!

**Patti Deckett, Kappa Alpha Theta  
University of California Santa Barbara**

Patti grew up in Northridge, CA but spent most of her adult life in Playa del Rey. She attended the University of California Santa Barbara where she pledged Kappa Alpha Theta. She began her Theta life as social chairman, then house manager and finally President of the chapter. Thinking that she wanted to be a teacher, she majored in Combined Social Science, but that desire lasted only until she was given her first semester of kindergarten.



She went on to jobs in property management, insurance and the smart card division of Citibank New York. She moved on to become an Executive Assistant/Chief of staff. The first for the CEO of

Gensler, one of the largest architectural firms worldwide. Gensler designs included the Staples Center and LA LIVE projects, The Las Vegas City Center, Shanghai tower and even the Palm Springs Airport. After 17 years at that job she decided she wanted to do something different and became the Chief of Staff for women's rights Attorney Gloria Allred which included many high caliber clients and a huge media profile. That was her most rewarding job until retirement two years ago.

Patti has been married to Mike for 35 years. They have had a second home here for the last 10 years and the last two years have been full time residents. They came here for the clean air, beautiful weather, cost of living, and to get out of the political and economic crisis that is LA.

They love cruising, boating and jet skiing, culinary adventures, entertaining, ice hockey and dogs.

**Carolyn DiMario, Alpha Chi Omega  
Indiana University**



Carolyn Rish DiMario graduated from Indiana University with a major in English and many wonderful experiences with her sisters in Alpha Chi Omega.

She is from Wabash, Indiana, a small town on the "banks of the Wabash" and of the Wabash Cannonball fame.

She taught junior high school in San Fernando Valley for five years. The rest of her career was spent in marketing for Pac Bell and Southern California Alcohol and Drugs. The weather in Indiana and the lure of adventure brought me to California. Their retirement brought them to the desert full-time two years ago. Carolyn has a son and daughter and five grandchildren.

Since she is no longer working, she has joined the "ladies who lunch".



### **Barbara Flanagan, Delta Gamma University of Alabama**

Barbara grew up in South Pasadena, CA. She attended the University of Alabama where she pledged Delta Gamma. She also attended UCLA and California State University, Los Angeles. She received her Master's Degree at Azusa Pacific. Her major in education led her to a teaching position right here in the Coachella Valley in Indio and Palm Desert.

Barbara is one of the founding members of Animal Samaritans and started its Humane Education Program and Animal Companion Therapy Program. Barbara lives in Palm Desert with her rescue dog and cat. She has two children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren and is now looking forward to being a member of CVAP.

### **Nancy Harris, Gamma Phi Beta University of Arizona**

Nancy was born and raised in Ventura, CA. She attended the University of Arizona where she majored in Business Administration and pledged Gamma Phi Beta. After college she moved to West Los Angeles and worked for a few attorneys and an Investment Banking Firm in Century City.

After divorcing her first husband, she married again and moved from West Los Angeles to Palm Desert. That was in 1985.



For the past 34 years Nancy has been working for The Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation, a charitable organization in Rancho Mirage giving grants in California and Oregon. She is currently the President of the Board of Trustees.

Nancy is divorced and has no children.



## **Elaine Hodges, Chi Omega San Diego State University**

Originally a Hoosier, born and raised in Indiana, Elaine became a Californian at the age of 12. After residing in the Los Angeles area, Elaine went to San Diego State University where she joined Chi Omega Sorority while majoring in Social Science/Education. Following college she remained in San Diego where she married, raised two children and had a rewarding career in K-12 education.

Elaine was a teacher, principal, district administrator and longtime administrator in the area of curriculum and instruction at the San Diego County Office of Education.

After a 30 year marriage to her first husband, Elaine divorced then met the love of her life, Jim Hodges, with whom she's been married for 20 years. Elaine and Jim have had wonderful years in San Diego; followed by a retirement move to Desert Horizons Country Club in Indian Wells. They maintain numerous friendships both in San Diego and the desert, in addition to traveling extensively! Elaine's daughter, Shannon Irish, is a physical therapist in Vail, Colorado; and her son, Ryan Irish, is an airline pilot in Honolulu, Hawaii. Both have significant others, but haven't blessed Elaine with grandchildren! Elaine loves to entertain, golf, play bridge and mahjong, read, and of course travel!

## **Pattie Kelleher, Delta Delta Delta UCLA**

My hometown was all over Southern California. Some of the towns I grew up in are: Palos Verdes, San Marino, Manhattan Beach, Westwood and the San Fernando Valley. I put myself through college and finished at UCLA with a BA in Sociology with minors in Business and Psychology. Here I pledged Delta Delta Delta.

I started early in my 20's working as an Advertising & Marketing Director for many Advertising Agencies, Restaurant Companies and Promotion firms. While I was having my three children, I worked as a Ministry Director at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California which was very rewarding! In addition, I worked for a national ministry for mothers, MOPS (Mother's of Preschoolers), helping start groups all over California, Nevada and Arizona.

I have been single after being divorced in 2007. I have three wonderful children: Ryan (UCSB 2018), Jack (BERKELEY 2019), AND Addie (UCLA 2022). No grandchildren, yet!

I have been coming out to the Coachella Valley since the 1980's for Spring Breaks, Work Projects and Conferences. I fell in love with the desert and also would visit my father's home before he passed away. I continue to love working more in the desert

and have sold real estate here for the past 20 years as an investor and broker.

I still work full-time as a real estate broker & investor everywhere in Southern California and the Coachella Valley. I call myself the "Traveling Realtor" and go wherever my clients need me. I love helping others with all of their real estate needs! I have many other areas I love to do in the "fun" category! I love food and wine! In my family, we learned young about wine with family history in Napa/Sonoma. This is a fun "Hobby" with benefits! I do wine tastings in people's homes. I look forward to meeting everyone in our chapter and CVAP! Cheers!



Georgann and Patrick Lovejoy

### **Georgann Lovejoy, Delta Gamma USC**

I was born in Los Angeles and raised in San Marino, Ca. I attended USC where I pledged Delta Gamma sorority. My major in Education and English led me to a teaching career.

My husband and I met on a blind date while in high school. We married when I graduated from USC and I'm still married to this same man I met when I was 16.

I taught 4th grade in La Canada while my husband got his doctorate from USC. We have two children and two grandchildren. Before building our home in Palm Desert in the Indian Ridge Country Club, we lived in Pasadena and then Lake Arrowhead. I am very happily and busily retired.

### **Ingrid Olsen, Delta Gamma USC**

I am a native of Austria and immigrated to the US with my parents in 1957. I attended USC where I was a Design major and pledged Delta Gamma. I went an extra year to get my teaching credential. I taught art for 10 years at Nellie N. Coffman Middle School in Cathedral City and two years at Palm Valley School in Rancho Mirage.

I did some design work for the Living Desert, but I am most proud that I created an Art department at the Braille Institute where I worked over 30 years. Presently I am on the board.

After I married my husband, Fred, who had property here in the desert, we built our studio home where we have resided over 50 years. My husband is a Ceramic artist, lecturer and author. Sadly our son died so we have no grandchildren



## **Beedy Ritchie, Delta Gamma University of Colorado**

I was born in Washington, DC. lived in DC, New York and Los Angeles before moving to Palm Desert permanently in 2015. We decided on the desert because I had five sorority sisters here, the people are super friendly, the weather is wonderful, and what's not to like?!?!

At the University of Colorado, I graduated from the business school with a major in marketing. I did Special Events during the Reagan Administration and with the American Film Institute.

My wonderful husband is Bruce Neiner who was CFO of the American Film Institute. That is where we met. He loves working outdoors. We both play golf together and try to get that little white ball in the hole ---- eventually.

Between us we have six children and grandchildren ranging in age from 60 years to five months. The children live in Beverly Hills, Orlando, Washington, DC and Darien, CT. The grandchildren range in age 17 years to five months and include five boys and one girl.



## **Patricia Thinger, Delta Gamma University of Colorado Boulder**

I am originally from the Pasadena, California area. I attended the University of Colorado Boulder with an English Literature major and taught English at Arcadia High School.

My husband and I moved to the desert in 2001 and he died several years later. He was a great golfer and I am mediocre but I do enjoy playing here at Indian Ridge Country Club.

I have been an active member in the Delta Gamma group here in the desert and have two Delta Gamma daughters, one who graduated from the University of Colorado and one who graduated from Arizona State University.

I'm looking forward to meeting and socializing with members of Panhellenic.

## **Additional new members include:**

**Killian Chatterton, Delta Gamma  
Southern Methodist University**

**Ann Cooper, Delta Gamma  
UC Santa Barbara**

**Sandy Kachlein, Delta Gamma  
University of Washington**

**Vashti Key, Delta Delta Delta  
University of Oregon**

**Claire Price, Alpha Chi Omega  
Cal State University Chico**

**Nancy Ringman, Delta Gamma  
University of California Irvine**

**Pamela Ruehrdanz, Delta Gamma  
University of Southern California**

## ***CVAP MONTHLY LUNCHEONS***

***In case you missed one of our  
Thursday Luncheon Meetings,  
here is what you missed:***

### **October 14**

CVAP's first meeting of the new season was held at Desert Willow Golf Resort. Our guest speaker was Ellen Goodman the Director of the Palm Springs Unified School District. She shared how they managed their scholarship program as well as introducing us to the California Colleges Blue and Gold scholarship program for students with limited incomes and the PSUSD mentoring program. She was very well received.

### **November 11**

Our second meeting was held at Smoke Tree Ranch in Palm Springs. This luncheon was for our new members who joined in 2019, 2020 and 2021, giving them an opportunity to become acquainted with our membership and for us to get to know them. There were 16 new members and three potential new members at the luncheon. The three potential new members have now joined our ranks.

## December 9

Our Christmas celebration was held at La Quinta Country Club. Grayse on El Paseo provided models for showing us their beautiful clothes.

## ***SORORITY MEMBERSHIP AWARD***

Our 2021 scholarship recipient, Lane Theel, has pledged Delta Gamma at the University of California Santa Barbara. She will be receiving her Sorority Membership Award next spring.



## ***SCCAP -- Southern California Council of Alumnae Panhellenics***

**By Ginger Whelan, KΔ**

The October 27, 2021, meeting was a hybrid of in-person and ZOOM attendees. There were 14 Alumnae Panhellenics represented. The meeting was hosted by the Redlands and the San Bernardino Panhellenic groups.

There were some bylaw changes introduced and, per policy, they will be voted on at the April 2022 meeting of SCAAP. Of particular interest is the deletion of Collegiate Files / Recommendations position as one of the purposes of SCAAP. With currently 20 of the 27 NPC groups no longer using references during recruitment, providing references for local women going through recruitment is no longer necessary and will not be part of SCAAP's official purpose.

There were representatives from three SoCal colleges reporting on fall recruitment: California State University Long Beach, UC Irvine, and San Diego State University. All three reported a hybrid recruitment, fully digital except for the final "bid" round which was in person. After two recruitments (2020 and 2021) dependent on ZOOM, it has become the method of choice – many Potential New Members (PNMs) and collegians prefer it. Numbers of women pledging were all up slightly with many houses reaching both quota and total numbers.

All three representatives reported no use of references or legacies for PNMs. UC

Irvine's representative reported that their Greek system is well over 90% women of color and almost none know anyone to provide them with references so they stopped using them some time ago. Also, there is a huge emphasis on diversity and inclusion (all campuses have paid positions now) and this training is mandatory throughout the system. There is a great interest in not appearing to be elitist. In fact, these Panhellenic/IFC directors regard all houses as part of the same group. So, NPC groups are just part of a large Greek system that includes STEM houses, culturally alternative groups, and local groups, all on the same campus.

### **Are you on Facebook?**

Visit our page to view upcoming event information and view fun photos of past events. Our Facebook page is maintained by Ramona Frost Ruiz, ΑΓΔ; contact her if you have postings to share.

[Click Here to go to CVAP Facebook](#)

We also have a website you can visit for information, click on the link below.

<https://www.cvap4scholars.org/>

To access previous newsletter, click on this link below:

<https://www.cvap4scholars.org/newsletters>