

**British Columbia's Totem
Talk
Spring 2018**

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editor Lennor Stieda
rollen@shaw.ca



Women Educators International (DKG) promotes Professional and personal growth and excellence in education.



In this newsletter the April Symposium is highlighted for your reading and viewing pleasure. Thank you to all contributors.

As always, I encourage each of you to check out our wonderful website kept current by **Phyllis Stich**. <http://dkgbc.weebly.com>
Wonderful photos and updates of our 2018 symposium are there.



Attention All for our Lorrie's



Message.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE : (excerpts from her report found on our web site)

“I am poised to defend the resolution to change the name of our organization from “Delta Kappa Gamma” to “Women Educators International” (WE-I) It tells the world who we are, what we do, and the scope of our activities. I truly love DKG for the marvellous women I meet, the intellectual exchange, and the genuine fun. this is a proud, professional organization and I will diligently strive to promote it. However, I have to know that DKG is willing to adapt to a changing world. I truly believe that we are at a crossroad and we either go forward and thrive or stand still and perish.”

Lorrie will be doing two workshops in Austin. One to help promote women to enter politics and one about Educating Girls in East Africa...look for them in the conference material.

She is looking forward to seeing old friends from various parts of the world and make new ones. Lorrie still has a bed available in her room in Austin. So go ahead and register. It will be an amazing time of change and revitalization.

April Symposium
Achieving Balance as Women Leaders

Daily High 5

Charlene SanJenko from powHERhouse (moving women forward, faster, together.) was indeed our amazing leader of a day well spent. But

first I will share with you our experience at **Marilyn and Ken Rushton's** place on the Friday evening.



Charlene from Gibsons, Cathie, Heather and Lennor from Vancouver Island, members from Fraser Shores (Karin from Penticton), Burnaby and Vancouver joined in this

wonderful gathering of reconnecting.

We enjoyed amazing appetizers and topped the meal off with a delightful Blackforest Cake. **THANK YOU TO THE RUSHTONS including Misty who did not mind the crowd invasion.**



When Marilyn was asked to play and sing for us, she not only did that but shared a great story each time. So next time you talk to her ask her about the piano or ask her about performing without her braille cheat sheet.

Louise, Phyl, Orrie, Marilyn

*Heather, Cathie, Addie
(guest)*



See next photo to figure out what Karin and Charlene are laughing about.





Ken is doing a happy dance for us while Misty tries to not look.



Sheila and Lorrie arrived.



Helen and Charlene listen while Marilyn plays and sings for us.



Symposium April 28, 2018 at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club.

We started our day with three Vancouver teachers leading us in song.

The first one was **How do You do and Shake Hands** where we circulated to find someone we did not know and said our name and chapter.



Norma, Donna-faye and Helen were our song leaders.

We in British

Columbia are looking forward to having **everyone at the convention in Austin** sing the following in a round:



“Women Educators International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education”

PRESENTATIONS

Our membership chair, Norma presented **Claudia** with her 50 year pin. She proudly told of how she first became involved.



A surprise for **Sheila Pierce** was the announcement that she was being awarded the British Columbia DKG achievement award.

Seen here with Norma and Phyllis .



Excerpts from the nomination form follow:

Since being initiated into the Society in June, 2004, **Sheila Pierce** has continually demonstrated her service and dedication to the purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Service at the Chapter Level:

Sheila has been a key member in all Burnaby Chapter activities. She has brought in new members, and has been a reliable information source for members. Sheila is an organized leader, and provides thoughtful insight to many discussions, both at the Chapter and Provincial level.

Service at the Provincial/State Level:

- Provincial Past President, 2015 to the present (2 terms)
- Provincial Co-President, 2013 – 2015 (2 terms)
- Provincial President, 2011 – 2013 (1 term)

Service at the International Level (including attendance at International Conventions):

- Has attended a number of International Conventions and Northwest Regional Conferences over the past years as an involved member of Delta Kappa Gamma.

In summary, Sheila has been an active, reliable, and dedicated member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, and should be honoured for her service.

Woman of Wisdom and Passion

This year's recipient is **Daphne Bramham**

Daphne is a Vancouver Sun columnist since 1989. She is a consummate researcher on issues in the public interest such as:

Global Warming...reporting and doing data collection in the Antarctic region



Effect of plastics on environment
Reporting on the plight of families and children of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter day Saints (known as the Bountiful Community) in British Columbia
Advocating for students who are home-schooled in B.C.

Daphne has received numerous awards for her work and was granted an honorary doctorate from Capilano University .

Following are excerpts from her grateful acknowledgement for receiving this **DKG Woman of Wisdom and Passion Award**.

“ It is an honour to be recognized by an organization dedicated to education and by an organization of which my mother was once a

member in Regina. Education was highly valued in my family. Both of my parents were among the first generation in their families to receive a university education.....although my grandmother never finished high school and married at 18, she and mother remain my most influential role models. Grandma was a suffragette and even ran (unsuccessfully) for city council soon after women got the vote.

.....Being a journalist has taught me important lessons. I've learned to suspend judgment until I've had a chance to find the facts _ the real ones, not the alternatives. I have learned to listen as carefully to so-called ordinary people as to experts.

Despite being in the business where bad news is good news and cynicism is a badge of honour , I have learned that the overwhelming majority of people are good, honest and hard-working. As I've travelled, I've learned that overwhelmingly people share the same values, hopes and dreams: that we are essentially peace-loving and violence-averse. When tragedies occur whether it's the Humbolt Broncos bus crash or a chemical attack on Syrians by their own government, we all shared the same tears.

I dedicate this award to my mother and grandmother, to all of the women who helped break a trail for me and to all of the people who have trusted me to tell their stories.”



Charlene SanJenko is introduced by Marilyn.

Charlene started by telling us a little about her upbringing and life. She touched us all when sharing that two days ago she finally had connected with her birthmother by phone.

We worked in table pods to share our ideas on key points raised by Charlene. Everyone was involved and the room was buzzing. Whole group sharing and individual reflections were included throughout our day together.

As each table pod reported out these were the main points:

A sense of greater determination;

- Rebranding
- To fully recognize responsibility
- A revolution to impact the world
- Not insular but integrated
- Powerful conversion and outreach

Individually we were asked to work on a Whole-Self Health Reset.

The five categories are Body, Our Work, Home, Relationships and Joy.

From feelings to commitment to top priorities and finally **Daily High 5**. Do talk to your chapter members who attended on how you ,too ,can use this way of moving forward.

THANK YOU Charlene for being with us.

To realize how amazing our day with Charlene was read the response from Mia and Jessica and then the reflections from Sheila.

As a first time guest, I was beyond blessed by the wealth of wisdom, compassion, and commitment to activism I experienced.

Truly, there is something so special about being in the presence of such great minds that it fosters a wanting to be more and to do more for the

betterment of the next generation of not just educators but people in general.

When there is such a dedicated group of well-educated individuals who come together under one umbrella with one vision and goal in mind, which is to foster and promote leadership in individuals, there is no doubt old mountains will crumble and move.

With the present global market of disgraceful male leadership in political settings, positive change is on its way. Leave it to great, noble Canadian educators to step in the gap to be counted and to be the difference they want to see manifested in this world.

I am privileged and fortunate to be counted amongst all you wonderful women educators and thank you for the opportunity to join you this past Saturday. Though it was raining outside, inside there was nothing but luminous sunshine and hope for a better future.



With sincere gratitude, **Mia Bottarel (sitting on the left)**
Jessica is the young woman leaning in front of the window. She writes the following:

It was such a treat to attend Delta Kappa Gamma's symposium this year. As a young woman beginning her education career, I really appreciated the chance to commune with women who have gone before me, as well as to learn from Charlene SanJenko of PowHERhouse. Though much of the discussion was directed toward the generations above mine, I found myself gleaning a lot of encouragement and wisdom from this day.

What most resonated with me was the PowHERhouse Whole-Self Health Reset. Goal-setting has always been something I have struggled with, but this resource laid it out in a way that made sense to me. By setting 90-day goals in 5 areas, I have felt more focused and on track than ever. Breaking down the goals into 30-day goals and "daily high-5's" has made these 90-day goals attainable. Even in the week that has passed since the symposium, I have felt far more productive and focused.

Charlene SanJenko is passionate about empowering and encouraging women, and it showed at the symposium. I really appreciated what I was able to learn from her, and would like to sincerely thank her for not only what she brought last week, but also what she is doing for Canadian women.

Reflections on Symposium

What Are You Ready For?

DKG BC chose Charlene SanJenko as our 2018 symposium speaker. She was recommended by Lennor Stieda, who had heard her speak at an event in Victoria. I had done some on-line research for the Symposium Committee about PowHerhouse and Charlene and was looking forward to hearing her presentation. I met Charlene the night before the Symposium at Marilyn Rushton's home and found her to be a warm and engaging person and knew then that the Symposium Committee had made a good choice in speaker.

She began the presentation by telling some of the Charlene SanJenko story. As I looked around the room, I could see that she was making a personal

connection with the participants. We warmed to her and wanted to hear more. **She caught our attention** and then started to engage us. There are several levels of participation the simplest is to **inform** someone, a fairly passive level; then comes **involving, collaborating** and the highest level is **empowering**. I came prepared to be informed but over the course of the day, I moved to feeling empowered. Here are some of my reflections.

I have been retired for almost 12 years and a recent widow. I have realized that I am mortal and that I don't have forever anymore. I want my life to be full and the world to be big. It is easy to stay safe and do things I am comfortable doing. But I will reach out to others, engage with others, learn new things, meet new people, grow and change. Life is a gift. Each day is a gift and I am in charge of how I use that day and perceive that day.

Over the years I have developed a set of leadership and management skills. I do not want to lose those skills or let them get stale although I recognize that I may not always be as capable as I am now. I want to continue to help shape the world in which I live. I can do this by participating in activities that are important to me. I will need to choose wisely as I no longer have the stamina for a 12 hour work day.

I am intrigued by Charlene's suggestion of 5 intentions, 5 practices and the daily high 5. I will modify the headings by replacing business with community as a heading, since business no longer describes my intent. So now my categories will be: body, community, home, relationships and joy. I like the **balance of the 5 intentions** and I hope to lead a life that is full rather than busy. This is an excellent framework for moving ahead. For me, the question no longer is "What am I ready for?" but "What am I waiting for?"get going, girl.

I would like to thank the BC DKG Symposium Committee for choosing Charlene SanJenko as our speaker and for organizing a wonderful symposium.

submitted by Sheila Pierce of Burnaby Chapter

Our wonderful raffle baskets raised money for our **Canadian project**. **Elizabeth** is selling tickets and **Ann** is happy with the one she won. Ann



wrote to say how lucky she felt to win a board with gift cards to put in her wallet and use over time.



Wishing everyone a great May and June and looking forward to reconnecting with women from our 17 countries in Austin is your editor,

Lenor



HELP ME fly

Lyrics by David Carter, retired Elementary School Administrator
music by former music teacher in Burnaby, Patricia Rustand
and amazing harmonization by Marilyn Rushton

Verse 1:

Put my hand in yours if I begin to fall
Answer to my voice if you should hear me call
I need your love to help to see me through

I need your strength if I'm to fly with you.

Chorus:

Help me fly, my wings are not as strong
But with your love I'll try to fly along
Wait for me, my wings need time to grow
Stay with me so I'll know where to go.

Verse 2:

I can try and fail as long as you are there
I need a friend, a friend who'll always care
Please don't leave me as we lift up to the sky
I want to be a bird or a butter fly.

Chorus.

Verse 3:

We'll fly among the stars to where the rainbows bend
I'll soar so high with you, my special friend
But if I grow weak and my wings begin to pain
Let me rest so we can fly again.

Chorus.

