

the Key

Spring 2025
KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA

PAGE 28

Power Play

*We all win
when women's
sports win.
These rockstars
are making
sure of it.*





2024

LOOKING BACK

Members of Delta Omicron Chapter, *Iowa State*, welcome new members on Bid Day, Aug. 22, 2024, on campus in Ames, Iowa.

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FROM TOP: ALAMY STOCK PHOTOS;
AUDRA MELTON; ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



ON PAGE 24

“As a freshman in college, my first time alone and trying to figure things out without my parents around, I learned from Kappas that the process isn’t nearly as lonely if you find a squad.”

—**Stephanie Stuckey**, *Georgia*
CEO OF THE STUCKEY’S CORPORATION

Spring

2025, Volume 141, No. 1

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Faces of a Star

BY RICHARD BRODY

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Vintage Revitalization

BY MICHELLE HISKEY

22 Stephanie Stuckey revived a floundering family business and brought back an iconic candy brand many remember from childhood road trips.

Power Play

BY DAN MORRELL

28 Bigger stages. Louder voices. A new era for women’s sports is here, and two athletes are leading the charge.

COVER: SEAN MCCABE



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FEEDBACK



Sisterly Advice

In response to Gal Pal's question in the fall 2024 edition of "Ask Clara" (Page 16), I think you missed the mark. When I move, the first thing I do to meet new people is look up the local Kappa alumnae association.

Living in a city, she's likely to have many sisters nearby just waiting to take her in as a new friend. Don't forget about the network we have once we get out of college and into real life. Good luck, Gal Pal! Wherever you are, Kappa friends are there!

—Loyally, Katie Stehli Regan,
Denison

The Key x Two

My daughter pledged at Mu Chapter at Butler University in the winter of 2024. I am a Mu Chapter alumna ('96) and

we just received our copies of *The Key*! It brought a huge smile to my face when I opened the mailbox and saw *both* of our copies!

—Amy Schernekau Cascarano,
Butler

Went Kappa

From the moment I set foot into Kappa's room during open house, I felt so welcomed for who I am, which set the tone. Because my mom is a Kappa, I grew up reading *The Key* and learning about amazing and inspiring

women. When I walked into Zeta Pi Chapter, I realized that I had found my home and that it was the same home I had read about throughout my childhood."

—Davina Trimble,
College of Idaho

CORRECTIONS

Mary Milam Whiteside Lee, Texas, was listed in the fall 2024 issue "In Memoriam" in error. Also, Beta Delta Chapter, Michigan, was listed as Delta Nu Chapter on Page 13. *The Key* apologizes for these errors.

theKey

Volume 141, No. 1
Spring 2025

The Key is the first college women's fraternity magazine, published continuously since 1882.

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The Key (ISSN 1063-4665) is published by the Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity and Foundation, 6640 Riverside Drive, Suite 200, Dublin, Ohio 43017. Printed in the United States of America, copyright Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity 2016. Subscription price is \$3.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
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The Ties of Sisterhood

Creating positive change together

LIKE THE BRILLIANCE OF A SINGLE BLUE THREAD LINING an owl's nest, some things, no matter how small, hold a sweet significance beyond their aesthetic or monetary value. I have a blue thread—it's actually two small ribbons: one dark blue, one light blue.

The ribbons are 35 years old, an initiation gift in 1990. My original key badge that was once the star of this trio was lost years ago (now since replaced). Nestled among my jewelry, the ribbons serve as a fond reminder of a day I did something new, a day I found a home among a sisterhood.

We moved frequently growing up, so by college, gaining over 100 friends almost instantaneously was a dream come true. I'd never lack for Friday night plans or karaoke singing partners.

But as much as we hold on to the mementos and memories (and they're great!), the value of a sisterhood of Kappas is far greater. It lives in our hearts and is best when shared widely.

I had the opportunity this fall to be on the receiving end of the service of sisterhood, a gift of love and care that is rare today.

When Hurricane Helene devastated our local community, Kappa was there for me in too many ways to count. I share this in the hopes of paying it forward. I am inspired by and committed to the bold dreams we can achieve together.

It starts by being there for one another. Whether it's fires in California or the devastation in the Southeast, we have a special bond and a unique opportunity to make an impact. Through the Kappa Foundation, we aim to create a world where women achieve their potential and are able to meet the challenges in our communities, too. Time and again, Kappa connects us to strong women who inspire positive change in our lives.

In this issue, you'll meet **Jill Lansing Lucken**, *Iowa State*, the Foundation's new Executive Director. Jill brings a wealth of Kappa experience to the role. "I deeply understand the importance of our mission to support sisters through educational programming, scholarships, and preserving our rich history. I look forward to working with our dedicated donors and volunteers to continue growing these vital initiatives," she says.

A common thread in this issue is women breaking barriers, leading in traditionally male-dominated fields, and reshaping industries through bold decision-making and innovation.

Among these Kappa trailblazers are **Kelley O'Hara** and **Rachel Quon**, both *Stanford*. Former soccer teammates, Kelley and Rachel reflect on the explosive growth of women's sports—and how greater media coverage is fueling the movement. **Stephanie Stuckey**, *Georgia*, took a risk to revive her family's struggling roadside business, Stuckey's, using her leadership skills and entrepreneurial mindset.

Gena Rowlands, *Wisconsin*, redefined acting through her collaborations with husband John Cassavetes, pushing artistic boundaries and portraying deeply complex female characters.

Each of these women challenged expectations and carved out new paths in their respective fields. Whether on the field, business, or the arts, their stories emphasize the power of resilience, mentorship, and transformative leadership.

Kristin

—**Kristin Sangid**, EDITOR



SISTERHOOD YOU
CAN COUNT ON

Dana Hersh Jones, *Indiana*, was hired by KPMG as an audit associate after graduating in 2004. "I was paired with a mentor, **Tess Boeke Boland**, *Illinois*. Tess has served as my mentor for over 20 years. She has been a partner in KPMG for several years, and with her help and guidance, I was also named partner in 2021. She has been a big part of my life and our story shows the power of sisterhood through the years."

“I think about how important it was to have those really smart and caring and can-do women around me all the time.”

—**Katie Reneker,**
Colorado College
FOUNDER OF CARMEL
BERRY COMPANY



THE
mix



ISTOCKPHOTO



Berry Entrepreneurial

CALIFORNIA-MADE, FARMER-FOCUSED CARMEL BERRY IS
SHAKING UP THE ELDERBERRY INDUSTRY

IT FEELS GOOD TO KNOW WHERE YOUR FOOD COMES FROM. For Katie Reneker, *Colorado College*, she's so close to the source, she may have picked the food herself. Several years ago, Katie started Carmel Berry, which offers handcrafted elderberry and elderflower products.

Katie has taken her business, Carmel Berry, to new heights by ensuring her elderberries are grown in the U.S.



What makes Carmel Berry unique is that products are 100% American-grown through a supply chain Katie actually helped grow as well.

She's simultaneously on a mission to create delicious, freshly processed elderberry goods that promote health while also supporting the community, farmers and the planet.

"We are definitely pantry as well as wellness," Katie says. There are elderberry and elderflower syrups—perfect for craft cocktails and mocktails—and preserves using organic, native elderberries handpicked at peak flavor in the spring. The mash created from squeezing the berries is used to create an infused balsamic vinegar, which has garnered a very loyal following.

And in 2024, Carmel Berry added immune support gummies to its product line, managing to pack them with nine times more elderberry than other brands on the market. "I am proud they are all-American-sourced with truly good ingredients without preservatives, thickeners, or artificial sweeteners," Katie says, adding that even the Carmel Berry packaging is environmentally conscious. "I take the approach that I don't want to do it if I can't do it right."

Her elderberry mission started when her kids (now teenagers) were little and constantly getting sick. "My youngest would come home from preschool sick and then the whole family would be sick. We'd get over it a month later and then start the whole cycle again. So, I was looking for natural immune boosters when I learned about elderberry, but it was all imported. We live in Carmel Valley, where elderberry grows everywhere." Katie started making her own fresh



"I am proud they are all-American-sourced with truly good ingredients without preservatives, thickeners, or artificial sweeteners. I take the approach that I don't want to do it if I can't do it right."

elderberry syrup. "The difference was night and day. It was so good."

But Katie didn't just stop at creating products that were good for her family.

She got to thinking about why no one in the U.S. was using local berries to create elderberry products for consumers. Through her research, she found that farmers weren't growing elderberry commercially in the U.S.

Despite not having a business background—she worked as a first-grade bilingual teacher and then in adult education early in her career—Katie knew she'd have to partner with farmers to get Carmel Berry into production. "Elderberry seemed to be a niche crop that could be beneficial for farms looking to diversify," she says. "But I knew that farmers need a little bit

of help. If they are going to try a new crop, they need a bit of research on that.

"And I do what I can to support the research side of it so that when farmers put something in the ground, they have as much information as possible," she added, noting that she works closely with researchers and students at UC Davis and the University of Missouri. "We have sponsored equipment trials for big juicing machines or post-harvest destemming machines."

Today, Carmel Berry partners with local farmers offering hundreds of workshops and continues microgrant funding to ensure the elderberry supply chain remains strong and thriving.

"It took about five years to grow a supply chain because I refused to buy imported when I know the quality is far superior when the product is locally

Katie has not been afraid to get her hands dirty, literally, as she developed and grew her company in a sustainable way, both in a planetary and manageable way.



“There is a lot of education that goes on with what elderberries are and why they are important, and the piece of working with farmers has filled that education love for me.”

grown,” Katie says. “I really stuck to that. And I only grew Carmel Berry as the supply chain would allow. This is a small but mighty community.

“There is a lot of education that goes on with what elderberries are and why they are important,” she added. “And the piece of working with farmers has filled that education love for me.”

Katie herself has learned a lot since starting her business and knows she will continue to. “I have learned the true value of having a really great team when you are running a small business. We have had supply chain challenges and learned through all the licensing and permitting, all that nitty-gritty that goes into a business. And to do it in a small, woman-owned business without big investors is extremely challenging. Every single day there’s something else, and I am



learning something new every single day. But, I love that.”

Just as she sees education influences in running her business, Katie can see Kappa’s influence, too. It’s part of the reason she is particularly proud to be a certified woman-owned business. “The women I was with at college are strong, smart women and were really supportive,” she says. “I think about how important it was to have those really smart and caring and can-do women around me all the time.” Katie’s mother is also a Kappa, graduating from the University of Kansas in the 1970s. “I have seen the depth of their friendship my whole life,” Katie said of her mother’s sisterhood bonds.

It’s that sense of community Katie now gets to foster day in and day out in her own way through Carmel Berry.

“I really love doing workshops or pop-ups where we do tastings,” she says. “And we have had so much fun doing farm tours. It’s not just our customers that come out, but our retail partners from grocery stores, restaurant workers, and chefs. And, of course, the farmers are there. They all come together, creating community, learning about elderberry together.”

—By **Katie Mills Giorgio**,
Drake

Carmel Berry products are available on the West Coast in grocery retailers. They also ship in the U.S. directly through carmelberry.com.

COURTESY CARMEL BERRY

Know It All

TEST YOUR KAPPA IQ

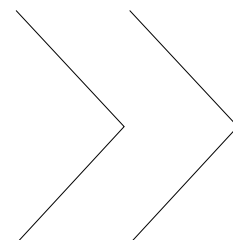
Put your Kappa knowledge to the test. Even if trivia isn't your thing, find out if these tales are Kappa fact or fiction. Ready, set, go!



- | | | | |
|----|---|------|-------|
| 1 | The Founders' original badges have all been lost over the years. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2 | Two fashion designers have designed handbags for Kappa Conventions. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3 | Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," was an early alumna initiate of Kappa Kappa Gamma. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4 | Kate Shelley, <i>Simpson</i> , became a railroad heroine at the age of 17. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5 | There has never been a first lady who was a Kappa. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 6 | The well-known "Kappa Rap" was crafted in collaboration with rapper 50 Cent. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 7 | The Campbell's Soup Company was founded by a Kappa, which is why there's a fleur-de-lis on the label to this day. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 8 | Princess Margaret was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 9 | Alpha Chapter in Monmouth, Illinois, is our oldest chapter. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 10 | Kirstin Maldonado is part of Pentatonix and is an alumna of Beta Xi Chapter, <i>Texas</i> . | TRUE | FALSE |



When it comes to telling Kappa fact from fiction, we went straight to two of the wisest owls around. Kappa Archivist and Museum Director Kylie Towers Smith, Simpson, and Stewart House Director Dr. Mary Osborne, Monmouth, weighed in to set the Kappa record straight.



Know It All

THE ANSWERS



1 FICTION. thank goodness. Anna Willits Pattee's badge was bestowed to the Fraternity and presented at the Centennial Convention in 1970 as a gift from her granddaughter, Frances Pattee Putnam, *Monmouth*.

2 BOTH. Some Kappas believed that Kate Brosnahan Spade, *Kansas*, designed the Convention tote bag for the 2004 Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. And while she did attend the Convention in 2004, where she received the Alumnae Achievement Award, she did not design a bag for the event—darn! But Punch Hutton, *Northwestern*, designed a cloth zip-top bag for the 2016 Convention, when she received the Alumnae Achievement Award. Offered in the Blue Owl Boutique at Convention, it sold out quickly.

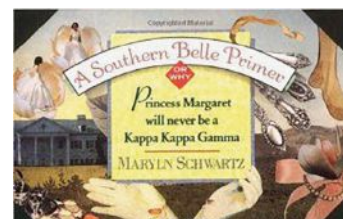
3 FACT. “Mrs. Julia Ward Howe has conferred upon us the high honor of becoming a member of our chapter,” wrote the sisters of Phi Chapter, *Boston*, in 1884.

4 FACT. Before Kate became a Kappa, she saved the lives of central Iowans after a storm washed out a train bridge. Kate bravely crossed the ravaged tracks with only a lantern to guide her. She alerted the operators that incoming trains needed to be stopped before they plummeted to disaster.

5 FICTION. In fact, there have been a couple. Lou Henry Hoover, *Stanford*, was a Kappa. Lucy Webb Hayes, *Ohio Wesleyan*, was another first lady (the wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes) who was a member of Kappa. She was the first first lady, in fact, to have a college degree. Maryon Pearson, *Toronto*, is the wife of the 14th Prime Minister of Canada.

6 FICTION. That rap is pure Kappa talent. Shelley Keller Zych, *Baylor*, wrote the “Kappa Rap” and recorded it with two of her Baylor sisters—Katie Whitmire Keil and Hannah Lee—in a music video directed and produced by Bailey Eubanks. Watch it on YouTube.

7 FICTION. While the soup brand chose a fine icon for its label, Kappa has never found a connection to it.



8 FICTION, LITERALLY. *A Southern Belle Primer or Why Princess Margaret Will Never Be a Kappa Kappa Gamma* was a bestseller published in 1991. While that is truly the title of the book, Princess Margaret is not a member.

9 TRICK QUESTION. While Alpha is our oldest chapter, it was disbanded by 1880 by order of the college. The chapter returned to campus in 1934. Delta Chapter, *Indiana*, founded in October 1872, holds the distinction of oldest continuous chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

10 FACT + FICTION. While Kirstin is a founding member of Pentatonix, she is an alumna of Beta Theta Chapter, *Oklahoma*—not *Texas*.

Lou Henry Hoover speaking from the President's Study in the White House on a special Girl Scouts program. She is with Lois Kuhn (left) and Peggy Starr, who informed her what the organization had done to help the Woman's Division of the President's Emergency Committee, March 23, 1931.



Kappa Kandy

SWEET SELECTIONS FOR SISTERS EVERYWHERE



Something Treasured

Tuck mementos from baby's first year away for safekeeping.
// savor.us // \$105



Bib Me

Dress for dinner with no stress and no mess.
// crateandbarrel.com // \$13



Cute Hoot

Start their love of owls early with this sweet organic cotton rattle.
// estella-nyc.com // \$25



Sock Til You Drop

First steps are steady with grips to prevent slips.
// bombas.com // \$24

COURTESY: SAVOR; CRATE AND BARREL; ESTELLA; BOMBAS



Scrolling Smart

A THERAPIST'S GUIDE TO HEALTHIER SOCIAL MEDIA HABITS

YOU'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE—SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE bad for your mental health. Despite having more virtual friends than ever, studies show social media can lead to loneliness, disconnection, and endless comparisons. Ugh! Since our phones and computers are part

of our daily lives, learn how to scroll smarter. Read on to see how to focus on the positive aspects of social media, create intentional interactions with your devices, and foster a healthy relationship with yourself in a digital-dominated world.

Start With Awareness

There's power in awareness. The key to growth is the ability

to innovate and create solutions that don't already exist. This can be as simple as making a checklist of things you could or should be doing before mindlessly picking up your phone and opening your favorite social app.

Some people make a checklist for their kids before they can play their video games or go on YouTube. Do the same for yourself. Make a list that includes

things like going for a walk, reading a chapter in a book, or texting a friend just to check in. Come up with four real-life social activities you can do before scrolling online. This can teach you accountability, particularly for real-life relationships and interactions.

Treat It Like a Treat

Social media is an indulgence.

DAN SHIPLE, THE ISHOP

It's something you get to do after you've completed or accomplished other things. It's not the first thing you get to do each day. Just like you don't allow yourself to overindulge in other vices, do the same for social media. Change your mindset to think that hopping online is something you only get to do sometimes. This can help you decrease the dopamine hit you're seeking when you click on your favorite social media icon.

Make It Boring

It's so easy to get sucked in. Thankfully, there are a whole host of ways to make social media a less appealing option when you are feeling bored or looking for a distraction. Mute people or brands that don't make you feel good or seem to influence your spending habits for example. Not that you need permission, but you can also unfollow accounts that aren't serving you.

You are being manipulated by the algorithm when you're on social media. When we stop to think about it, many of us might say, "Ew, I don't like being manipulated like that." Use that mindset to help refine how (and how often) you spend your time online. Create less excitement on social, and replace it with real-life people and experiences.

Just Do It

Sometimes it's as simple as counting down...3...2...1...and

then closing out of the app to stop your social scrolling. I set a timer on my watch for 15 minutes. I do this for lots of tasks, but it can really help when you are online. When the timer goes off, you either get off the app or hit repeat. Focus on a growth mindset. If you don't get off the app this round, do it the next round. You can also rely on built-in timers to let you know when you've hit your daily limit.

A social media detox is never a bad idea. Taking a 30- or 60-day break can help build different habits and allow you to reflect.

Don't Blame It on the Phone

And remember, this isn't just about your phone, but how you relate to it. Relationship to self is a huge piece of this. It's hard to make real social connections online. And it's hard to connect with others if you can't connect with yourself.

Becoming more aware of your digital habits empowers you to make better decisions and find balance, using your time wisely and living a more connected, fulfilling life—on and offline.

—By **Audrey Grunst**, Loyola, with **Donna Rose**, UCLA
Audrey is a licensed clinical social worker and author of 5 Steps to Grow a Resilient Mind. Her practice, Simply Bee Counseling, is based in Chicago.

More Digital Detox Ideas

SKIP NEXT UP
Use Unhook for YouTube to remove recommended videos.

ACCESS APPS
through your web browser instead of downloading them.

MONITOR your screen time with built-in tools.

SET YOUR PHONE to airplane mode during meals, workouts, or bedtime.

TURN OFF push notifications.

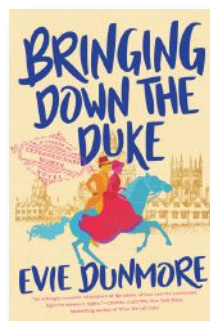
GO RETRO and switch your phone to grayscale or black and white to make apps less enticing.

DEDICATE ONE day a week to being device-free.

BOOKS

Watched That? Read This!

If you binged these TV shows, pick up the books for your next read.

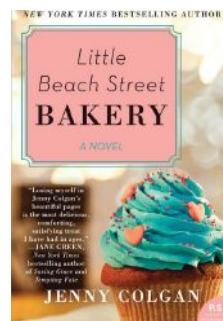


Bringing Down the Duke

BY EVIE DUNMORE

TV BINGE: "Bridgerton"

You'll swoon over this historical romance set in 1879 England about extraordinary women and handsome, frustrating men.

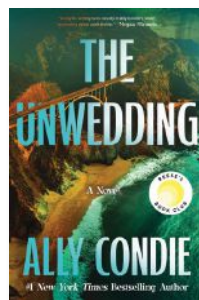


Little Beach Street Bakery

BY JENNY COLGAN

TV BINGE: "The Great British Baking Show"

This contemporary romance about building a new life, one loaf of bread at a time, will have you asking for seconds.



The Unwedding

BY ALLY CONDIE

TV BINGE: "Only Murders in the Building"

This whodunit is set in a luxurious resort in Big Sur where a recent divorcee discovers the body of a groom-to-be in the pool.



With the Fire on High

BY ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

TV BINGE: "The Bear"

Savor this contemporary young adult poetic novel that finds the recipe for balancing culinary talent, pride, and feeding your soul.



Ask Clara

ADVICE FOR ANY OCCASION

Clara Pierce, Ohio State, was Executive Secretary of Kappa Kappa Gamma from 1929 to 1969. She urged members to “aspire nobly ... adventure daringly ... but serve humbly.”

Dear Clara: I got a promotion at work (yay!). Now that I’m working in a leadership role, I’m starting to struggle with impostor syndrome. How can I overcome these feelings and lead effectively? I am truly so excited to be in this new position and I want to do my best.

—*Feeling Like an Impostor*

Dear Impostor,

You’re not alone. Many leaders, even seasoned ones, grapple with impostor syndrome. Remember: You were chosen for this role because of your capabilities and potential. To build your confidence, jot down a list of your strengths and accomplishments—big and small. Embrace challenges as opportunities to learn and grow.

Don’t be afraid to ask for help or mentorship—it’s a sign of strength, not weakness. When you focus on your team’s needs and empower others, you’ll naturally step into your leadership role. Be patient, give yourself grace, celebrate your progress, and lead with authenticity. You’ve got this!

Dear Clara,
One of my best friends has been making passive-aggressive comments toward me lately. I’ve noticed it typically happens when I’m excited to share something, like good news

or a recent accomplishment. I’m not sure if it’s intentional or not, but it’s been bothering me. Any tips for addressing it?
—Disgruntled Bestie

Dear Bestie,

Dealing with passive-aggressive behaviors can be tough, especially when it’s coming from a close friend. It’s best to address it directly so it doesn’t continue to negatively impact your friendship. Approach the conversation with empathy, sharing how you feel when they make dismissive comments when you’re sharing something you’re excited about. If this doesn’t help, be more direct and say something like, “That remark felt hurtful and the behaviors you’re showing toward me are making me feel less valued. Let’s talk about what’s really going on.” If they don’t respond well, it may be time to set boundaries because protecting your well-being is vital—even if it’s hard.

Dear Clara,
I’m newly married and so happy my husband and I have a home together to call ours. I am having a little trouble adjusting to living with him. As to be expected, he does get on my nerves at times (and I’m sure I get on his, too). For

example, when it comes to cleaning up, can I please come home to no socks on the floor? How can I handle this in the best manner?

—Sock Handler

Dear Sock Handler,

Ah, the joys of marital bliss! Who knew that your soul-mate’s socks could migrate so far from the laundry basket? Remember that you’re both still adjusting to sharing space. Communication is key for addressing both small annoyances and bigger issues. Set aside time to chat about the big stuff and the little quirks. Set aside time to talk about household expectations, including sock placement. Embrace compromise—perhaps you’ll establish a system that works for both of you. When discussing these matters, use humor when appropriate but also be clear about what you need. And remember, you’re probably both learning to accommodate each other’s quirks. With patience and open conversation, you’ll find your rhythm together. And when all else fails, remember laughter is the best medicine.

{ Have a question for Clara?
thekey@kappa.org }

JONATHAN BARTLETT



FROM THE ARCHIVES

World's Fair Winner

The 1939 World's Fair was held in Queens, New York, a spectacle celebrating "The World of Tomorrow." **Emily Eaton-Hepburn**, *St. Lawrence*; **Henrietta Herzberger Davis**, *Colorado*; and **May C. Whiting Westermann**, *Nebraska*, attended Panhellenic Day on July 13, 1939. The Greater Women's Committee for the World's Fair sponsored an essay contest. Henrietta (age 23) entered and won second place with her essay on freedom of speech, which was later published in *The Key* (Vol. 56, No. 3, p. 252).

—By **Kylie Towers Smith**, Simpson

Emily, Henrietta, and May at the
New York World's Fair, July 13, 1939

KAPPA ARCHIVES

THE



FACES

OF



MANY



GENA ROWLANDS

Long before her later-career role in “The Notebook,” Gena Rowlands’ *Wisconsin*, collaborations with the actor and director John Cassavetes changed the history of cinema. **BY RICHARD BRODY**

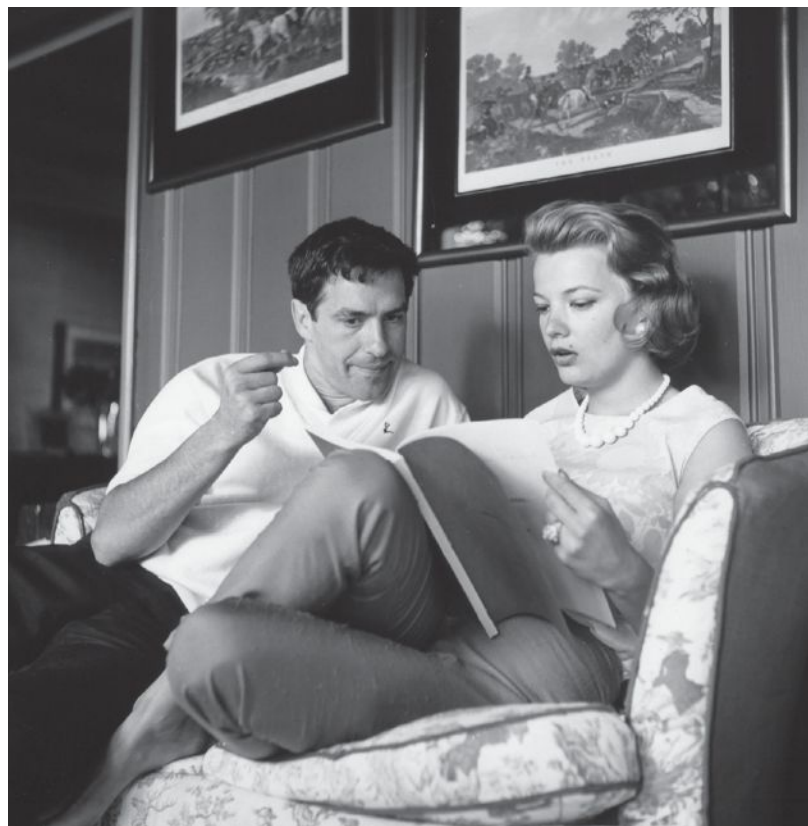
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ENA ROWLANDS, WHO DIED in August, at the age of 94, is of all the actresses I've ever seen onscreen, the greatest artist. She's the one whose performances offer the most surprises, the most shocks, the most moment-to-moment inventiveness, and, above all, the most almost-unbearable force of emotional expression, combining extremes of strength and vulnerability, of overt display and inner life. Her

mighty talent is also a peculiar one, the strangeness of which is exemplary of the art of movies: It might never have come so fully to light were it not for her marriage to John Cassavetes and for the movies that they made together—especially the personal six that extend from “Faces” (filmed in 1965, released in 1968) to “Love Streams” (1984).

That's not at all to diminish Rowlands' art or its basis in her innate talent and hard work but to locate its essence in the nature of cinema: It's an art of collaboration, in which more or less every major artistic advance has resulted from two or more people making common cause. It doesn't have to be romantic, of course, but it should come as no surprise that this couple, married for thirty-four years until Cassavetes' death in 1989, should be responsible for the most profound movies about love that exist. They met in 1951 at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where they both studied, and married in 1954, when she was twenty-three and he was twenty-four. To do so, Rowlands broke her own vow not to marry in order to focus on her career.

Rowlands quickly got a career, on live TV dramas, on Broadway, and in Hollywood movies. Cassavetes had a similar acting career, although his Broadway experience was mainly behind the scenes, and he also made a pioneering independent film, “*Shadows*,” between 1957 and 1959 (she had only a bit part, uncredited). They started a family (eventually having three children, all of whom went on to work in film) and moved to Hollywood, where, in the early sixties, Cassavetes directed studio pictures, an experience he hated. They both continued their acting careers, and then, in 1965, they put their own money into “*Faces*,” much of which was shot in their own house. It took three years to complete, not least because the first cut ran eight hours; Cassavetes ultimately got it down to just over two. The movie, about the fraying of a marriage, is a drama of romantic frustration, longing, and pursuit—the story of a businessman, Richard, who runs away from his wife to spend a night with Jeannie, a sex worker, at her well-appointed home, while his wife has an affair with someone



In Cassavetes' films, Rowlands was able to give of herself comprehensively, to be herself and to allow the wildest extremes of feeling to overwhelm her on camera.

she meets in a nightclub. Rowlands, in her first real independent-film role—as the sex worker—achieved hitherto-unimaginable heights in movie performance.

Contrary to myths about Cassavetes' films, they're not improvised. The script for “*Faces*” was two hundred and fifteen pages long, and Cassavetes wrote the dialogue. What's not written out is the actors' physical behavior. They're free to live out the action uninhibitedly, with Cassavetes' camera following them in their lurches and dances, their tussles and their embraces. The entire cast, featuring veteran actors (such as John Marley, as the husband) and nonprofessionals (including Lynn Carlin, as the wife), performs with unreserved energy and passion, but it's Rowlands who, in just a few scenes, expands the boundaries of movie acting. The role is one that has the notion of performance built into it—Jeannie is performing love and desire for her client—but the story involves an emotional reality that bursts through this convention-bound relationship.

The sex worker with a heart of gold is a well-worn type, of course, something that the movie confronts head on, yet there's nothing hackneyed or even familiar about the way that Cassavetes films this character—or

PREVIOUS SPREAD: ALAMY STOCK PHOTO (C)



Gena and her husband, John Cassavetes, collaborated on 10 films, which opened up her career with roles that showcased Gena's talents playing complicated female protagonists. It is said her favorite role was "A Woman Under the Influence," which Cassavetes wrote for her.



about how Rowlands brings her to life. Jeannie's tragedy is that she is unable to fit into the conventional contours of her transactional role and instead brings her whole self, all her torrential, impulsive emotionalism, to her work. Her intensity provokes Richard into a wrenching-away of façades and engenders a contact of souls far more galvanic than the contact of bodies—until the transactional and the conditional snap back. Rowlands pours herself completely into Jeannie's ratcheted-up gaiety and forceful control of tough situations, her rapturous tenderness and devastated disappointment. Cassavetes' filming matches her beat for beat, throb for throb, leading to a close-up of such melodramatic starkness and catastrophic self-awareness that, to my mind, it's the close-up of close-ups, the one that could stand for the entire historical repertoire of cinematic intimacy, of the art of the face.

In Cassavetes' films, Rowlands was able to give of herself comprehensively, to be herself and to allow the wildest extremes of feeling to overwhelm her on camera. This isn't solely because of the couple's personal bond. It's also because Cassavetes, behind the camera, is giving of himself completely, too, in his responsiveness to the people he's

filming and the situations that they create. She and he seem almost to be meeting at the surface of the image, yielding a sense of shared risk, shared vulnerability, and equality.

Rowlands' performance in "Faces" set the definitive tone for Cassavetes and his films, as well as for herself. In Cassavetes' 1963 studio movie "A Child Is Waiting," Rowlands, who co-stars, is skillful and focused, with a strong presence but an unexceptional manner. In "Faces," more than a star is born—she reveals an entire new dimension of acting. She wasn't in his next film, "Husbands," from 1970 (in which he co-stars with Peter Falk and Ben Gazzara), but his performance confirms her influence. He was already highly original, but "Faces,"

THIS SPREAD: ALAMY STOCK PHOTO (4)

Gena and her husband were also pioneers of independent filmmaking in the 1970s and '80s. Their collaborations allowed them to pursue passion projects that later resonated with audiences.



The couple's films don't talk politics, but the way that they defied movie conventions to depict experiences with unprecedented intensity gives them a manifest social and metapolitical power.

in which he doesn't appear, produced a watershed in his own performances, and in the acting of his movies in general—a form of acting that the entire future of cinema would be forced to reckon with.

By the time Rowlands and Cassavetes made their next movie together, “Minnie and Moskowitz” (1971), they had turned forty, and, in that post-sixties moment, with its slogan of never trusting anyone over thirty, the suburban world of “Faces” was already old-fashioned. Yet, as if to overcome the facile determinism of a generational dividing line, it was this cinematic couple that was singularly rejuvenating the art of movies, dispelling pretenses of comfort and tranquillity to give full and florid expression to the stifled emotions that it concealed. The couple's films don't talk politics, but the way that they defied movie conventions to depict experiences with unprecedented intensity gives them a manifest social and metapolitical power.

In their 1974 drama “A Woman Under the Influence,” Rowlands, playing the wife of a construction foreman (Peter Falk), confronts the raw and repressive power of working-class masculinity, in a performance that, for all its fury and reckless playfulness, has a finely composed dramatic arc and a manifest virtuosity. Despite this sense



of more careful composition, its scenes from a marriage and its vision of family life are nearly unbearably painful to watch; they were agonizing for Rowlands to portray. In 1976, Rowlands was in the room when Cassavetes was interviewed about the film by a journalist from *Le Monde*, who asked her if she'd thought of directing Cassavetes in a movie. She first jokingly pretended to strangle her husband, then earnestly said that she didn't want to direct, then added, “No, sometimes, after difficult scenes, I'd like to turn the camera on John, especially to get revenge ...”

Having taken naturalistic drama to unprecedented extremes, the couple next explored the very nature of performance, in “Opening Night” (1977), surely the most powerful and imaginative movie about actors—and about

Gena, whose full name was Virginia Cathryn, also relished her role as a mother. She and John had three children, all of whom work in show business.

ALAMY STOCK PHOTO (4)



A Legacy in Close-Up

From her searing performance in “A Woman Under the Influence” to her unforgettable collaborations with John Cassavetes, Gena Rowlands built a filmography defined by raw emotion, fearless characters, and timeless artistry. Here are the films that made her iconic:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| “The High Cost of Living,” 1958 | “Night on Earth,” 1991 |
| “Shadows,” 1959 | “Ted & Venus,” 1991 |
| “Lonely Are the Brave,” 1962 | “Silent Cries,” 1993 |
| “The Spiral Road,” 1962 | “Something to Talk About,” 1995 |
| “A Child Is Waiting,” 1963 | “The Neon Bible,” 1995 |
| “Tony Rome,” 1967 | “Unhook the Stars,” 1996 |
| “Faces,” 1968 | “She’s So Lovely,” 1997 |
| “Machine Gun McCain,” 1969 | “Paulie,” 1998 |
| “Minnie and Moskowitz,” 1971 | “Hope Floats,” 1998 |
| “A Woman Under the Influence,” 1974 | “The Mighty,” 1998 |
| “Two-Minute Warning,” 1976 | “Playing by Heart,” 1998 |
| “Opening Night,” 1977 | “The Weekend,” 1999 |
| “The Brink’s Job,” 1978 | “Taking Lives,” 2004 |
| “Gloria,” 1980 | “The Notebook,” 2004 |
| “Tempest,” 1982 | “The Skeleton Key,” 2005 |
| “Love Streams,” 1984 | “Paris, Je T’aime,” 2006 |
| “Light of Day,” 1987 | “Broken English,” 2007 |
| “Another Woman,” 1988 | “Persepolis,” 2007 |
| “Once Around,” 1991 | “Olive,” 2011 |
| | “Yellow,” 2012 |
| | “Parts Per Billion,” 2013 |
| | “Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks,” 2014 |



an actress—that exists. Rowlands plays Myrtle Gordon, an actress cast in the lead role of a play by an elderly playwright (Joan Blondell), the subject of which is the character’s transition from youth to maturity. The role terrifies Myrtle, emotionally and professionally: She feels that it will mark the end of her career as she knows it, and it also forces her to confront her own age (which is unspecified, but Rowlands was in her mid-forties). It’s also the story of Myrtle’s terror and horror at one particular moment of stage business—when a co-starring actor named Maurice (Cassavetes) is supposed to slap her.

What Myrtle does, in the face of her resistance to the play’s text and to its direction, is to explode the play in real time, forcing Maurice and the rest of the cast to improvise along with her, to the horror of the playwright but to the delight of the audience in the theatre where the play is opening. Those improvisations (most of which were indeed written) range from the dangerously passionate to the uproariously capricious—and Myrtle delivers them as if directly addressing the audiences attending the play and breaking the fourth wall, and forces Maurice to do the same. It’s as if the actors are tipping their hands at movie viewers as well, suggesting the vast personal realities that fuel great screen performances. Most actors and most filmmakers, bound by industry norms or crowd-pleasing conventions, don’t even hint at such realities, but Cassavetes and Rowlands broke open the screen to let them flood into the world at large. The essential art of Rowlands, the art that she and Cassavetes shared in public and in private, was the art of life, the art of love. —


Gena’s acting career spanned more than seven decades in films, TV, and stage productions. Her four Emmy Awards and two Golden Globes are just part of her transformative legacy in Hollywood.

Excerpted from “How Gena Rowlands Redefined the Art of Movie Acting” by Richard Brody, The New Yorker, ©Condé Nast



RECLAIMING A

ROADSIDE LEGEND

A woman with shoulder-length brown hair and bangs is smiling and looking off to the side. She is holding a red mug with both hands. She is wearing a dark blue t-shirt with a circular logo that reads "WORLD FAMOUS CANDIES Stuckey SINCE 1937 PEACAN CO. EASTMAN, GEORGIA USA". The background features a wall with a patterned wallpaper and a dark wood panel. The table in front of her has a blue and white checkered tablecloth.

STEPHANIE STUCKEY,
Georgia, used moxie
to rescue a family's
Southern roadside chain.

WRITTEN BY
MICHELLE HISKEY
PHOTOS BY
AUDRA MELTON

Two white lines forming a stylized arrow pointing to the right.

As Stephanie revives the iconic brand for the modern era, she's leaned into the nostalgic colors, phrases, and kitsch that made Stuckey's a road trip icon for decades.



STEPHANIE STUCKEY

had a two-hour drive ahead of her. She was headed toward her company's factory when she stopped at an Atlanta coffee shop to tell her surprising story of saving her family business: Stuckey's, the iconic chain of roadside attractions that came to fame in the '60s through the '80s for pecan candy and novelties.

Though she lacked specific business skills, Stephanie made a gutsy bet on herself to rescue Stuckey's, finding can-do women along the way who filled her gaps, and turned a business on the brink of bankruptcy into profitability.

"Unexpected opportunities can sometimes be signs of what you're supposed to be doing," she says.

Her success is rooted in nostalgia for road trips, souvenirs and memories.

A PHONE CALL OUT OF THE BLUE

In 2019, Stephanie was a year past her divorce and taking back her last name. A lawyer and environmental advocate, she was serving as chief resilience officer for the city of Atlanta when she got an unexpected phone call from her father's former business partner.

Would she like to buy Stuckey's? Her father and his partners had retired years ago, and the partners had a 49% stake to sell her.

As she mulled the deal, "I really drew on what I learned as a Kappa," she recalled. "As a freshman in college, my first time alone and trying to figure things out without my parents around, I learned from Kappas that the process isn't nearly as lonely if you find a squad."

So she reached out to her current squad, including financial advisers, and invested her life's savings into buying her family's company. Her dad sold her his shares almost a year later to make the purchase complete. Despite having a well-known brand, Stephanie faced sketchy tangible assets. The company "headquarters" was a falling-down warehouse crudely connected to a doublewide trailer functioning as the "office." It was freezing in the winter partly from insulation falling from the trailer underbelly, forming a nest for eight feral cats. Because the factory once made hair combs, a scrim of black plastic soot lingered on boxes of Stuckey's inventory—inventory that couldn't be tracked as the company lacked software for that.

"I had the keys to my kingdom, but it was a mess," Stephanie said.

"We were out of compliance with federal franchise laws, and I spent the first year figuring out I didn't have the resources or capital to revive the dozen original Stuckey's locations left. The remaining franchises were gas stations that paid us to slap our name on the front, and many looked terrible." She made the decision to debrand the least viable ones.

"I pivoted. I got a business partner, and now I have a couple more, and we bought a manufacturing facility," Stephanie said, noting that federal COVID-19 funds available for food manufacturing in rural America helped. "We started making the product to control the margin and quality. Then, we started shipping not only to our stores, which we now license, but also selling through distributors to grocery stores, convenience stores, and specialty gift shops. Our brand is growing."

A key squad member joined in 2022: sales director Arleen Meier Poquette, *Bowling Green*. A business development specialist for food manufacturers, Arleen and Stephanie often snap to mean "ditto," like they did during their collegiate days. Arleen sees similarities between the Kappa and Stuckey families. "Whether it's the memory of six Kappa women across the bridge at Monmouth or Stephanie's grandparents at a roadside pecan stand, no one wants to lose the history or be stuck in the past," says Arleen. "We have to step forward into the future."



Stephanie has learned much in her time since taking over and reviving the family business, including the importance of finding the right team to work with.

the business as a roadside stand in 1937 selling his wife's pecan candies to automobile travelers. While the brand grew for many decades, Stephanie's grandfather sold the stores the year before her birth. But seeing her name so prominent along the highway throughout her childhood, Stephanie understood the legacy.

Stephanie's father, W.S. "Bill" Stuckey, was elected to Congress for five terms. So Stephanie moved with her family to Washington, D.C., where she wore a uniform to the all-girls National Cathedral School, learned French, and eagerly anticipated the college Greek scene in her return South. She enrolled at Vanderbilt, where the Kappas stood out.

Stephanie attended a congressman's speech on campus, but when so few others showed, she ended up in a roundtable with future Vice President Al Gore. "He really made an impression on me, and I ended up becoming an environmental advocate."

Politics and the R.E.M.-driven indie music scene beckoned her home, and she transferred to the University of Georgia for her senior year. Through the Kappa network, she and Amy became roommates. Amy welcomed Stephanie with a display of her Kappa scrapbook and a welcome note, and Stephanie's dad sent a case of pecan log rolls—the company's most popular candy.

A STICKY LEGACY

After receiving her law degree from the University of Georgia, Stephanie worked in public sector roles, including as a Georgia state representative, director of sustainability, and adjunct law professor, along with being a board member for several organizations. She took her husband's name and had two children. On their road trips with family or friends, she never passed a Stuckey's without stopping. She recalls one particular trip with Amy along the East

Back in the day, Stuckey's promoted through bright billboards and turquoise rooftops. Now Stephanie sells the brand's candy and kitschy souvenirs by starring in her own amateur video posts. Social media storytelling, especially on Instagram, comes naturally to Stephanie, who has more than 10,000 followers of @stuckeystop so far and more than 120,000 followers on LinkedIn.

"Stephanie used her life savings to buy out investors, so she has more skin in the game than a family name," said her best friend Amy Smith, *Georgia*. "How many people in their upper 50s figure out how to build a viral social media presence that earned national media attention for the Stuckey's comeback story—without a team of marketing pros? How many women would post a picture wearing little makeup, in a hairnet with vinyl gloves and rolled-up sleeves, learning how to make candy on a production line? Stephanie's sharing her corporate transformation journey with us—including the struggles—and her time-tested recipe for achieving ambitious career goals."

FAMILY HISTORY

Stephanie grew up in the heyday of her family's business. At the height of their success, there were 368 Stuckey's stores, touted by more than 4,000 billboards across more than 40 states. Her grandfather W.S. "Sylvester" Stuckey, Sr., a farmer in Dodge County, Georgia, started





Today, Stuckey's makes and sells their iconic pecan log roll, along with sea salt, kettle-glazed, and honey-roasted pecans—all made in-house from pecans grown in Georgia.




Within six months of taking over the business, Stephanie was able to pull the company into profitability by focusing on the production of its iconic pecan candies.

efforts. It highlighted her doggedness. Stephanie has worked in recent years to build partnerships and acquire companies that expand their ability to process pecans. Today, Stuckey's boasts some 60 licensed locations, 5,000-plus retailers, a food manufacturing facility and distribution center in Wrens, Georgia, and a pecan and candy plant making Stuckey's products. You can find stores located as far north as Illinois, as far south as Florida, and as far west as Texas and Missouri.

Toward the end of 2024, Stuckey's put a hold on sales because demand for their products outpaced production. More machinery and capacity were imminent. "The power company comes tomorrow," Stephanie said as she prepared to continue driving to her factory.

There she would turn some rejected products into dollars by filling \$24.99 "mystery boxes" with nostalgic souvenirs that were just taking up warehouse space. One lucky box giftee could get a John Wayne bobblehead (eBay price: \$250). This idea turned \$40,000 in sunk costs into a \$60,000 profit. "I had six cases of Britney Spears T-shirts," Stephanie said. "Thank God she made a comeback, and I was able to sell those."

Like Stephanie answering the phone in 2019, the mystery box giftees had no idea what they were in store for. Each box symbolizes Stephanie's efforts to create and market new Stuckey's memories.

"You take all this disparate stuff that's not working, and you figure out how to put it together, package it, and sell it," she said of entrepreneurship. Her advice to others: "Pay attention. Say yes to opportunity but know you're not alone. You have people who want to see you succeed, including your Kappa sisters." 

Coast: "We stopped at every single one from Georgia to D.C. and again on the return trip," Amy said. "She wanted to understand if a customer's experience was consistent. She would go check out the merchandise, store layout, and restrooms. She'd talk to customers and report back to her father. She did it on her own because the business was in her blood."

At one point before her takeover, some Stuckey's roofs were painted red because her father had bought the company back in the 1980s, acquired franchise rights to interstate Dairy Queen restaurants and merged the two brands.

"I disagreed and told him I thought the Stuckey's name could stand on its own," she recalled. "But I did love seeing a whole new generation rediscovering the fun of a road trip."

DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK

In 2022, The New York Times ran a 2,000-word story on her turnaround



THE REVOLUTION MUST BE TELEVISED



Former soccer stars-turned-media makers
RACHEL QUON and **KELLEY O'HARA** on the forces
behind the dramatic rise in women's sports—and
why coverage is critical to growth

INTERVIEW BY Dan Morrell **ILLUSTRATION BY** Sean McCabe

Kelley is one to stop and take a selfie with fans, as she did here at the International Friendly Soccer Match between the United States Women's National Team and the Haitian Women's National Team at Ford Field in Detroit back in 2015.

When Rachel Quon, *Stanford*, was drafted by the Chicago Red Stars before the National Women's Soccer League's (NWSL) inaugural 2013 season, she found out about her second-round selection the same way everyone else did:

A SOCIAL MEDIA POST.

The draft event itself had no pomp, lacking any fan or player presence, and took place at 9 a.m. EST—which was 6 a.m. for Rachel, who was still a student at the time. “So I didn’t get up, I didn’t hang out with my friends. I just literally woke up and was refreshing Twitter, saw that I was drafted, and then got up and went to class.”

Twelve years later, women’s sports are no longer a media afterthought. Viewership is up significantly across televised women’s sports, including the NWSL (18.7 million viewers in 2024—five times more than in 2023), college basketball, and the WNBA. Globally, women’s elite sports are projected to generate over \$2.35 billion this year—a 140 percent increase since 2023. There are cultural touchstones, too: Earlier this year, Chicago Sky forward Angel Reese became the first-ever female athlete to have her own signature McDonald’s meal.

And while it might seem, says Olympic gold medalist and former professional soccer player **Kelley O’Hara**, *Stanford*, that growth has been at “hyper speed” in recent years, the product has always been there. “But the investment has not,” she says. Now there is money being spent on marketing and media, garnering real coverage and attention, and enticing big brands to get into the action. “It’s like a flywheel—it’s going to enable and perpetuate growth.”

Both Rachel and Kelley have watched the movement grow both as players and now on the media side, with Rachel working as head of operations at the multimedia platform Just Women’s Sports and Kelley hosting the company’s “Sports Are Fun!” weekly podcast. In this interview, the duo talks to *The Key* about the approach of Just Women’s Sports, what makes the elite women’s sports fan different, the deep impact of expanded coverage, and the game plan for going big.





SCOTT HASSE/ZUMA WIRE/ALAMY LIVE NEWS

Kelley, you retired from the NWSL last year and took on this podcast host job. What attracted you to the role?

KELLEY: I've been working with Just Women's Sports since the beginning. [Founder] Haley Rosen originally called me and said, "Hey, I have this idea: Four percent of media coverage goes to women's sports in terms of sports media coverage and I want to change that." This was 2020, so I was still playing. And I didn't know that number, but I felt that number.

And this light bulb went off. I was like, "I'm all in. I want to help as much as possible, I want to be a part of this." For me, it's just about being part of the answer, the solution—giving more coverage where it's necessary and providing the kind of coverage I'd have wanted as an athlete when I was playing.

In addition to increased coverage and viewership, there has also been an uptick in the participation rates of girls in sports, which are now at their highest rate since 2013. Why is media so important for the progress and advancement of women's sports?

Just Women's Sports launched in 2020 and continues to grow media coverage with podcasts, video series, and exclusive interviews, including Kelley's podcast "Sports Are Fun!"

KELLEY: When I was a kid, I didn't see female athletes on television. My first memory of seeing a female athlete on television was the 1996 Olympics. It was the gymnastics team; I was obsessed with them. That was the moment that I wanted to become an Olympian, and I said, "I'm going to do that one day." Now imagine if I had that all day, every day. So I think that the coverage and the media are so integral to encouraging girls and keeping them in sports.

RACHEL: People say this all the time: What girls can see is possible—that's what they're going to want to do. They're seeing people play at the highest level of the Olympics and then come back to the WNBA and play in front of them in their hometown. I think that's super important for girls and boys to see in the day-to-day, not just every four years when a World Cup or Olympics happens.

How is the consumer of elite female sports different? What makes this audience distinct?

KELLEY: It is very social-first, which is why we wanted to make "Sports Are Fun!" We talk about things that are happening online. You have the games, but then you also have all the storylines that are happening off the court or the pitch. For us, it's connecting on all the different levels that make sports fun and making sure that we're covering all those storylines.





Kelley knows the critical role fans play in helping advance a sport. Now teamed up with former collegiate teammate Rachel Quon, the two are part of a framework to bring more attention to women's soccer in the media.

It's massive. If we continue to get investment from brands, not only will money come, but the money will allow the leagues to do more and the players to do more.

RACHEL: These are the next-gen fans. They are mobile-first. They are not necessarily talking about full games, but about the highlights and the culture and the moments around the sports. So yes, we want to be talking about the analysis of the games, but this next audience also cares about what's happening around the sport. That's the next step for women's sports—not only is it the day-to-day coverage of the news, but it's also the storytelling around the players and around the culture and fashion. That's a huge thing that you see in men's sports but we need to take that to the next level for women's sports, as well.

Access to live broadcasts has long been an issue for women's sports. Almost a fifth of U.S. fans (18%) have said live airings of women's sports aren't easily accessible to them, so there's unmet demand. What needs to happen for that to change?

KELLEY: I think it's a matter of leagues figuring out what is best for them and then the legacy media players actually realizing it's great to have women's sports on their channels and to prioritize those.

RACHEL: That was honestly what made Haley start thinking about Just Women's Sports. She played professional soccer and wanted to watch her former teammates. And she would have to go to every individual team, find where they were playing, and there just wasn't a one-stop shop. So first, I think it's building out this ecosystem of information that is being synthesized in one place. Look, it's good for the WNBA to have different places where people can watch, but I do think it will eventually come down to a few big players and a bunch of different streaming options. It is hard for the casual fan to follow that.

Kelley, your show is sponsored by TurboTax. Angel Reese has a new McDonald's meal out. What does the presence of these big brands mean for women's sports media?

KELLEY: It just shows that people want to get involved. People want to get in there and be part of this ecosystem because we have the most engaged fans and consumers. And I think that brands are starting to realize, oh, this is a train we need to get on because we don't want to miss it.

RACHEL: It's massive. If we continue to get investment from brands, not only will money come, but the money will allow the leagues to do more and the players to do more. It will allow media companies like us to do more in terms of the different storytelling around the athletes. And it's good for the athletes, too, who will want to continue to share more. And it will keep them playing longer, honestly.



With 214% audience growth and 175 million monthly video views, Just Women's Sports is sticking to its mission of making it easy and fun to be a women's sports fan.


As we've discussed, we have seen rapid growth in recent years. But what is your ideal vision for women's sports in 5 or 10 years?

RACHEL: In five years, I want to see the more casual fan, that is maybe watching a game or two, become more of a core fan of women's sports and consume women's sports content more frequently. I think on the media side, that means there is storytelling 24/7. The perfect example is in the NBA off-season: You turn on ESPN, and the NBA is still the top conversation because of trades. We want to make sure that's what you see around women's sports in five years—even

I want to see the more casual fan, that is maybe watching a game or two, become more of a core fan of women's sports and consume women's sports content more frequently.

if it's the off-season, even if it's not a big tournament like the Olympics or World Cup, you are seeing the storytelling. You're having the chatter, you're having analysis, you're having the debate. We want to talk about sports because that's what's fun, and we want to see it happening 365 days of the year.

KELLEY: I think the ideal vision would be a way bigger salary cap for players, and all the different leagues and franchises having really robust and healthy operating sides. You want these teams to feel like they're being run well and have the right people in place.

And then just the continued growth in viewership and attendance. Again, if you spend the dollars to put the team out there, the people will come. You see with the [WNBA's New York] Liberty: The Liberty was playing in a rec center four or five years ago, and now they have the most fun game environment of any sporting event I've been to. Truly, Barclays is rocking every single time they play. And to me, I'm like, that's the example. I want to see every team having that fandom and that support—and having that type of environment. 

JANE GERSHOVICH (2)



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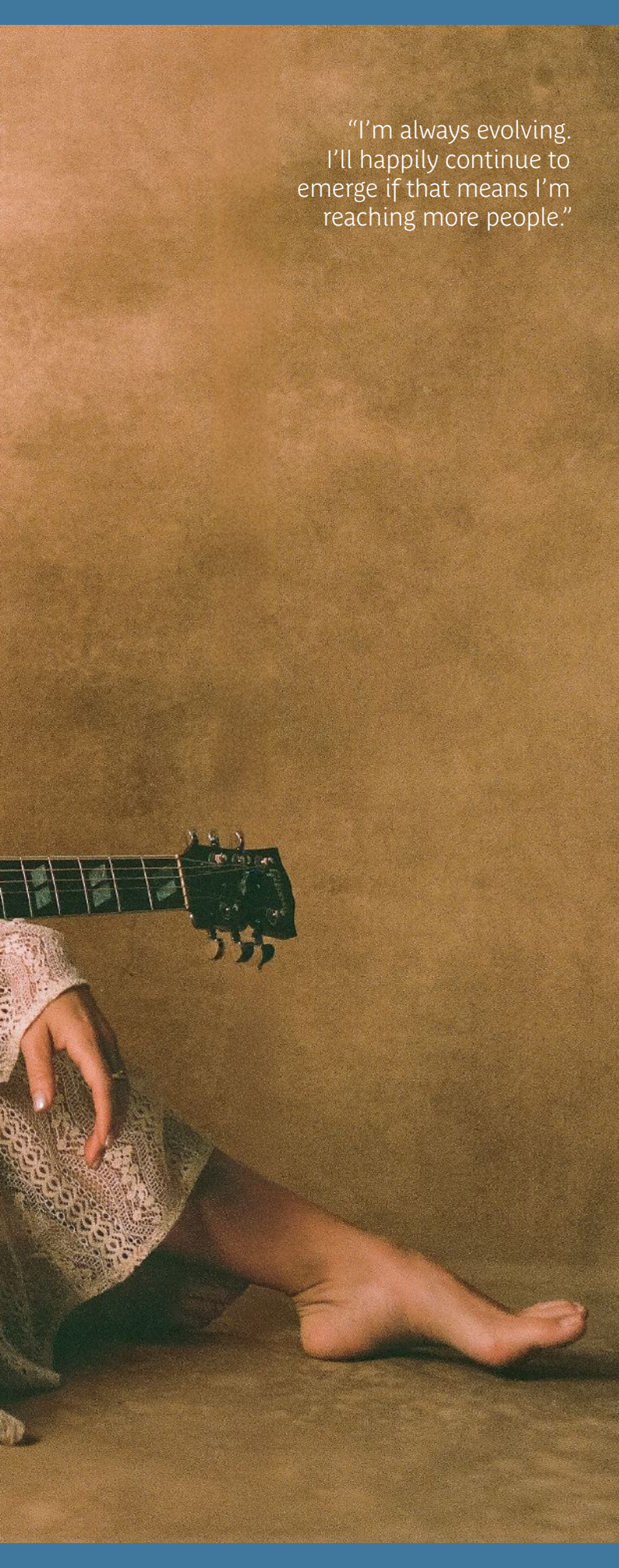
Cultivate creativity
at work and in life

Kappas Connect

Send us your
unexpected Kappa
encounters!

thekey@kappa.org





"I'm always evolving.
I'll happily continue to
emerge if that means I'm
reaching more people."

ON TOUR

A Music Maven Calls the Shots

Maggie Rose has crafted a sound all her own

By Steve Wilson

A SINGER-SONGWRITER WHO HAS thrived in the music industry for 17 years and counting wouldn't seem like an obvious candidate for *People* magazine's latest list of emerging artists. But then, Maggie Rose, *Clemson*, isn't most singer-songwriters. Throughout a career that began in Nashville, she's emerged again and again with an ever-changing sound that's gone in directions well beyond mainstream country.

"I'm always evolving," she says on a video call from her office in Nashville. "I'll happily continue to emerge if that means I'm reaching more people."

Maggie's most recent upgrade, 2024's "No One Gets Out Alive," has won over critics and fans new and old—and received a Grammy nomination. The songs go further into the realms of soul and Laurel Canyon-style pop than she's ever ventured, with heavy shades of Carole King, Sade, Joni Mitchell, and even the Beatles (especially when the full-fledged symphonic Macedonian orchestra kicks in). The end result sounds

so lush and joyful that it's easy to forget this is essentially a breakup album, one that's less about wallowing and more about overcoming.

"A lot of it is about gratitude and processing heartbreak and loss," says Maggie. "Some people that I loved had passed away during the pandemic, and other relationships that I thought would last forever didn't. So it's about the poignant beauty of life and that simultaneous joy and pain."

When discussing the broken bonds Maggie alludes to in her lyrics, she won't name any names, save for one: Nashville itself. She's had a tumultuous affair with the city's country music machine from her promising start as an Americana prodigy. Though Maggie and husband Austin Marshall love calling the city home and have thrived in its many musical scenes, the mainstream Music Row side of Nashville never quite knew what to do with her. Maggie had the misfortune of pulling into town just as the bro-country trend man-spread

SOPHIA MATINAZAD



Maggie Rose's 2024 album "No One Gets Out Alive" continues to surprise listeners and the industry.

its way across radio, all those rooster crows crowding out her first album, "Cut to Impress." "Music is cyclical, but that cycle I'm still waiting to end," she quips.

Making a good-enough dent in the charts and getting regular invites to play the Grand Ole Opry and CMA Fest didn't cut it for Maggie. Rather than squeeze herself further into the mold, she broke it wide open. Maggie steered her second album, "Change the Whole Thing," in a roots and blues direction, then showed off her soul and R&B chops with the third, "Have a Seat." Along the way, she's shared the stage with a wide array of artists from across the music spectrum: Dave Matthews Band, Kelly Clarkson, Sheryl Crow, Heart, Joan Jett, Neko Case, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Eric Church—the list goes on.

By following her muse, Maggie has benefited from a

"I had a good support system starting out, and Kappas were part of that. It was nice when I knew I was leaving Clemson to have a group of women that were so supportive. They still come to my shows when I travel around."

growing willingness among music listeners to look past genre and not get hung up on categories. "If you're an artist who's been making music for a long time and you're evolving, you're going to have a lot of different iterations of your music that you get to show over the years," she says. "There's consistency in the evolution, too. Just by changing and pushing the envelope that can be one's brand."

Maggie developed her musical versatility as a teen in Potomac, Maryland. While still in high school, she joined the BStreetBand, an East Coast Bruce Springsteen tribute band that, in the egalitarian spirit of The Boss, let her slip some of her own country-flavored


songs into each rock-pop set. "I don't know how excited the Jersey Shore beach bars were to see me take the stage in my little sundress as a 15-year-old, but I needed that experience so much," she says.

Maggie went on to Clemson University on scholarship as a vocal performance major, where she didn't hesitate to pledge Kappa. Though she left school partway through her sophomore year to take the professional plunge in Nashville, she made lifelong friends with her new sisters. "I had a good support system starting out, and Kappas were part of that," she says. "It was nice when I knew I was leaving Clemson to have a group of women that were so supportive.

They still come to my shows when I travel around."

A similar sense of sisterhood informs Maggie's podcast, "Salute the Songbird," which she started as a creative outlet when her touring schedule momentarily dried up during the pandemic. Talking shop—and anything else under the sun—with other women in the biz gave her so much inspiration that she kept doing the show between gigs and studio time. She's produced a steady flow of free-ranging interviews with the likes of Melissa Etheridge, Nancy Wilson, Ani DiFranco, Lisa Loeb, and plenty others. This year, she's recorded the show's fourth season in front of a live crowd at Chief's in Nashville, a far cry from those initial Zoom meetups. "It's creatively motivating for me," Maggie says of the show.

Maggie has returned to touring with a vengeance, finding time between gigs to polish additional tracks for a deluxe version of "No One Gets Out Alive" as well as new songs for a future album that's sure to be another welcome departure. It's all part of her partnership with Virgin Music Group and the label One Riot, which signed Maggie with no expectations about what box she should be filling. Maggie, who's learned the hard way that "it begins and ends with you," wouldn't have it any other way.

"The last three albums, the last 10 years of my career, have been the ones where I've gotten to really call the shots and do things my way," she says. "It takes that long, especially when you move to Nashville as a teenager and you want to be an artist who has something to say. I went through a lot of experiences that gave me just that." 



IN brief



MEET JILL LANSING LUCKEN

New Foundation Director

The Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation is excited to announce that **Jill Lansing Lucken**, *Iowa State*, has accepted the role of Executive Director, effective January 2025. Along with the Foundation Board of Trustees and Foundation staff, Jill is working to further the Foundation's mission.

Jill brings more than 25 years of fundraising and volunteer engagement experience to the

Foundation. She most recently served as executive vice president for district councils at the Urban

Land Institute, where she oversaw district councils across the Americas region, working with

more than 45,000 members in the land-use industry. Jill also demonstrated exceptional leadership at the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, where she progressed from executive director of the Minnesota/Dakotas chapter to vice president of chapter growth and development, consistently achieving significant revenue growth even during challenging times such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Having served Kappa in various volunteer roles over the years, I deeply understand the importance of our mission to support sisters through educational programming, scholarships, and preserving our rich history."

As a dedicated alumna, Jill has served Kappa in many roles. She was a Leadership Consultant from 1997–98, recently served on the Foundation Scholarship Committee as the Undergraduate Need-Based Assistant, and has been a reader for Kappa's need-based scholarships.

"I'm thrilled to bring my experience in nonprofit leadership and donor engagement to the Kappa Foundation," Jill says. "Having served Kappa in various volunteer roles over the years, I deeply understand the importance of our mission to support sisters through educational programming, scholarships, and preserving our rich history. I look forward to working with our dedicated donors and volunteers to continue growing these vital initiatives."

JOANNE BRAKE



PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

100 Years of Sisterhood

THE PALO ALTO ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION turned 100 this Founders Day! The group's longest-standing member of 69 years, Jeanne Spaulding (seated with flowers), made the Founders Day extra special. Jeanne recently turned 100 years old, as did her chapter, Gamma Xi, *UCLA*. The celebration included a table of historical records and memorabilia, and 41 Kappas attended, including collegians from Beta

Eta Chapter^A, *Stanford*, and a representative from Eta Nu Chapter, *Santa Clara*. Eight Kappas were honored with 50-, 65-, and 75-year anniversary pins and tributes by their sponsors. A bottle of The Fleur Napa Valley (Kappa's wine brand) was presented to the hostess as a thank-you gift. Congratulations on 100 years of the Palo Alto Alumnae Association and the sisterhood that grows ever stronger.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

NAMI Award for Austin Alumnae

THE AUSTIN ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION was honored with the 2024 Trailblazers for Mental Health Award at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Texas event in December. The association's mental health advocacy included organizing a team of 100 walkers—including alumnae, collegians, and their families—to participate in the September NAMIWalks event. The association also supports various NAMI programs through

proceeds from events like Kappa Settings and a pickleball fundraiser. Hoots and salutes to the Austin Alumnae Association for partnering with NAMI and contributing to the ongoing transformation of how mental health is approached and discussed.

DUBLIN, OHIO

JED Visits Headquarters

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNER THE Jed Foundation (JED) visited

Kappa Kappa Gamma Headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, in September 2024. An important partner in mental health advocacy since 2021, JED staff members expressed gratitude for Kappa's unwavering support. Dr. Thea Zunick, director of community giving at JED, and Adele Shepen, JED's chief growth officer, met Kappa's educational, executive, finance, and philanthropy teams. They explored new ways to collaborate to benefit Kappa's collegiate members, alumnae, volunteers, and staff. They also discussed new avenues for Kappa to support JED's lifesaving work.



COURTESY PALO ALTO ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION; KAPPA HEADQUARTERS; AUSTIN ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

key

ACHIEVEMENTS

Emma Lembke

WASHINGTON UNIV. (ST. LOUIS). In her senior year of high school, Emma co-founded the LOG OFF movement, an initiative helping teens cultivate healthier relationships with social media. LOG OFF received a grant from the Archewell Foundation (co-founded by Meghan

Markle, *Northwestern*). Emma's advocacy work has led to an invitation to the White House, a testimony on online safety before the Senate, and a spot on *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 list.

Elizabeth "Lizzy" Schiller

WHITMAN. COMBINING CRE-

ativity with environmental activism, Lizzy founded the nonprofit Cards Against Climate Change. It makes it easy to have a positive impact on the planet through sustainable gifting. Each card raises awareness about climate change and supports an environmental nonprofit organization. Visit cardsagainstclimatechange.org.

Alison Barr Beitzel

INDIANA. ALISON LOVES DINNER parties and making charcuterie boards. She launched Babs Boards in 2021, turning a passion project into a post-retirement career. She's expanded from preparing boards to teaching more than 100 charcuterie classes (including one at Wrigley Field), sharing charcuterie tips and tricks on local TV stations, and hosting

grilling classes. Learn more at babsboards.com.

Carol Pierce Goglia

WASHINGTON AND LEE. AS PRESIDENT and CEO of the nonprofit Catch Up & Read, Carol champions education and empowers the next generation of students, ensuring they're reading on grade level by third grade. In 2024, Carol's dedication and service earned her the Diamond Award from the Dallas Mavericks Women of Mavs Empowering Network, honoring her for "living the 4Cs of character, clarity, compassion, and champion."

Catherine Roberts Givens

FLORIDA STATE. Catherine is making history as the first female city manager of Coral Springs, Florida, where she oversees a \$300 million budget and leads the

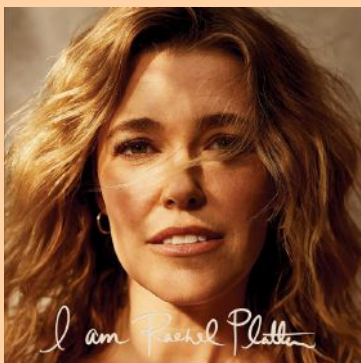


YOGIS UNITE

KRISTIN BARNETT "KB" WILLIAMS AND LARA HEIMANN

INDIANA AND DURHAM

KB and Lara are on a mission to educate others about sustainable movement and optimal posture. Lara founded the LYT Method in 2008. Her style of yoga is grounded in the pillars of physiology, kinesiology, and neurology. KB has since joined Lara as the COO and business partner. Together, they've trained more than 800 LYT teachers in more than 50 countries, empowering others to feel at home in their bodies.



ALBUM DROP

RACHEL PLATTEN

TRINITY

Rachel rose to fame with her platinum hit, “Fight Song.” After taking a courageous seven-year hiatus to focus on mental health and motherhood, she is back stronger than ever with “I Am Rachel Platten.” This independent album on her label tackles parenthood, depression, and personal triumph. Her new tour began in March 2025. Look for her in a city near you.

strategic planning process. Over her nine years with the city, she worked as director of budget and strategy, assistant city manager, and deputy city manager. Catherine manages key initiatives, including the sustainability action plan and economic development. She’s dedicated to serving the community where she lives, works, and raises her family.

Dayna Mintz Quanbeck

UC SANTA BARBARA. DAYNA WAS promoted to president of Roth’s, the growing women’s footwear and accessories brand. Having previously served as COO and CFO for the company, as president, Dayna will oversee the deployment of growth capital and manage Roth’s finance, logistics, data analytics, retail, international, and technology divisions.

Nyakio Grieco

OKLAHOMA. BEAUTY INDUSTRY West named Nyakio the 2024 Entrepreneur of the Year for her trailblazing leadership, dedication to empowering diverse voices in beauty, and advocacy for clean, inclusive products for all skin types and tones. Nyakio is the founder of three skin care and beauty brands: Nyakio, Thirteen Lune, and Relevant Skin.

Debra Lynn Henno

UCLA. DEBRA HAS BEEN NAMED one of the top 100 designers for *Luxe Interiors + Design* magazine. Her work was featured as the cover story of the August 2024 issue. Debra has assisted clients in California with remodels, new construction, and furnishings, in which she has been able to transform proper-

ties, as well as the lives of her clients and everyone involved.

Faith Cosior

CLEMSON. AN INNOVATIVE architecture major, Faith has pursued sustainable design since witnessing damaged coral at Australia’s Great Barrier Reef. Her research includes a project addressing bird-glass collisions through ceramic “fritting” technology. Faith served as president of Clemson’s American Institute

of Architecture Students chapter and co-fundraising chair for Pickens County Habitat for Humanity. Her “Biophilic Gateway” visitor center design in Carson, Washington, aims to achieve Petal Certified Living Building Challenge status.

AMIRA DIAMOND

COLGATE. AMIRA CO-DIRECTS Women’s Earth Alliance, empowering over 52,000 women across 31 countries to



HIGH COURT HONORS

JUDGE M. MARGARET MCKEOWN

WYOMING

Senior Judge M. Margaret McKeown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit received the prestigious American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Ethics and Professionalism Award at the Supreme Court, recognizing her exemplary work advancing legal ethics and professional standards at the circuit, national, and global levels.

drive climate solutions. Recently honored with the Heinz Award for Environment, Amira's work has helped millions access clean water, sustainable farming, and energy solutions while challenging traditional top-down environmental approaches.

Rachel Wright

KENTUCKY. RACHEL WAS recently sworn into the bar of the United States Supreme Court, joining an elite group of lawyers authorized to practice before the highest court in the U.S. Rachel serves as the policy director of Right On Crime.



GOLDEN MOMENT

NIKKI OCAMPO

CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE

As a film production major, Nikki had the opportunity to present trophies at the 82nd Golden Globes. She learned behind-the-scenes aspects of the show, met actors, and celebrated film and television in a room full of individuals she's admired for years.



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Mental Health Awareness Month

Find a moment of calm with *The Key to Calm*, a mental health and well-being activity book curated by Kappas for Kappas. It makes a great gift for yourself and/or your chapter and association members! Minimum order of 10.

MAKE A note

Bloom Where It Began!

JUNE 17 AT 8 P.M. ET

Minnie Stewart's family home sits on nearly an acre of green space awash in seasonal color throughout the year. Join us for a livestream tour with **Dr. Mary Osborne**, Monmouth, Stewart House Museum Director, to see what's in bloom. kappa.org/stay-connected/events/

Summer Reading

JUNE 17, 2025

Dive into *We Might Just Make It After All*, a new memoir detailing the friendship between the late **Kate Spade**, Kansas, and Elyce Arons, Chi Omega. The pair co-founded the luxury accessories brand Frances Valentine in 2016.



Leadership Academy

SEPT. 25-28, 2025

This isn't your typical leadership program. It's all about boosting your skills in a unique camp setting with Kappas. Join in on the fun and get ready to amp up your leadership vibes. There are a limited number of alumna spots. Register by June 30 on kappa.org.



Save the Date!

JUNE 25-28, 2026

Earmark your planner because we're going to Orlando, Florida, for the 76th Biennial Convention at the Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek. Keep your ears up for more information beginning this fall.



Amendments to the Fraternity Bylaws and Standing Rules

NOV. 1, 2025

Recommendations for amendments are due to the Bylaws Committee by Nov. 1, 2025. A form will be provided in fall 2025 on the Kappa website for submission. Proposed amendments approved by Fraternity Council will be provided to chapters, associations, Advisory Boards and House Boards in March 2026.

IN memoriam

*** Akron, University of**

Easterling, Carol Bird, '62, d. 7/24
Pender, Merle Kucheman, '40, d. 9/24

Alabama, University of

Allison, Maye Hill, '60, d. 7/24
Buttrey, Anne Trabue, '67, d. 8/24
Hawkins, Caroline Porch, '68, d. 7/24
Kendall, Sandra Fitzpatrick, '60, d. 9/24
Marks, Lee Wilson, '64, d. 7/24
Matthews, Jane Foster, '54, d. 12/23
Newton, Helen Blount, '51, d. 9/24
O'Melia, Appie Haas, '60, d. 7/24
Smith, Elsie Williamson, '60, d. 9/24

Allegheny College

Terry, Beth Ann Sutherland, '59, d. 10/24

Arizona State University

Carty, Stephanie, '11, d. 5/24
Moore, Gail West, '59, d. 7/24

Arizona, University of

O'Hara, Kathleen Igoe, '65, d. 4/24
Phillips, Vim Merritt, '46, d. 9/24
Siroky, Gayle Runke, '57, d. 9/24

*** Arkansas, Univ. of, Little Rock**

Harper, Barbara Graupner, '74, d. 7/23

Arkansas, University of

Bass, Alethye Anderson, '61, d. 11/24
Boatman, Molly Penix, '62, d. 6/24
Davis, Sarah Hagy, '60, d. 10/24
Dollins, Linda Grohoski, '59, d. 6/24
Johnston, Ann Ritter, '58, d. 6/24
Langley, Ruby Bishop, '44, d. 12/23
MacLaughlin, Diane Demier, '53, d. 5/24
Martin, Ann Sedwick, '60, d. 5/24
Milligan, Virginia Darby, '59, d. 10/21
Morman, Blanche Burke, '62, d. 7/24
Shock, Elizabeth Hall, '98, d. 4/24

Auburn University

Massey, Lesley Bradford, '74, d. 8/24

Baylor University

Porter, Patricia Myers, '79, d. 11/24
Potts, Deborah Reese, '77, d. 8/24

Bucknell University

Coleman, Jane Kohler, '50, d. 10/24
Kopf, Betty Kraber, '54, d. 6/24
Staley, Madeleine Rothschild, '49, d. 5/24

Butler University

Dicks, Marilyn Norris, '58, d. 8/24
Gasper, Joan Anderson, '49, d. 6/24
Gustafson, Gloria, '52, d. 8/24
Haverstick, Ginsel Barnett, '51, d. 9/24
Hinkle, Lynnette O'Neill, '52, d. 10/24
Ribordy, Carolyn McClurg, '51, d. 7/24
Shriver, Sharon Steinberg, '58, d. 5/24

California State University, Fresno

Belli, Janet Starn, '62, d. 7/24

California, U. of, Berkeley

Edmondson, Sue Martin, '50, d. 8/24
Goldsmith, Leigh, '91, d. 9/24
Hynes, Gray Burnham, '55, d. 3/24
Kimball, Emilie Hubbard, '45, d. 10/24
Lind, Florence Fussell, '44, d. 9/24
McCormick, Jeanne Welch, '53, d. 10/24
McLellan, Callie Tilden, '52, d. 4/24
McMurtry, Sherry, '62, d. 9/23

Peckham, Nancy McCune, '49, d. 4/24

California, U. of, Los Angeles

Houghton, Barbara Bray, '51, d. 6/24
Robinson, Jean Mahoney, '56, d. 9/24

Carnegie Mellon University

Mengato, Mary Grosswege, '49, d. 9/24

Cincinnati, University of

DeCamp, Gayle Worsham, '58, d. 8/24
Happensack, Holly Toepfert, '81, d. 5/21
Roberson, Gigi Gysin, '43, d. 8/24
Stephenson, Janet Gingerich, '52, d. 4/24

Clemson University

Fonvielle, Donna Brooks, '70, d. 11/24
Moyd, Diane Andress, '74, d. 8/24
Wert, Britta Ziemer, '92, d. 10/24

*** Colorado College**

Weathers, Donna Duncan, '59, d. 3/20

Colorado State University

Cona, Joyce Williams, '59, d. 12/23
Gibbs, Mary Pender, '57, d. 8/24
Murray, Nadine Hough, '57, d. 5/24

Colorado, University of

Bryan, Amanda, '76, d. 12/23
Cheroutes, Betsy Barnard, '61, d. 8/24
Lieser, Patricia Roberts, '55, d. 12/21
Scroggie, Linda Lawrence, '58, d. 8/24
Sparn, Elizabeth Bergman, '44, d. 7/24
Teets, Patricia Sawyer, '56, d. 12/23

*** Connecticut, University of**

Bence, Joan Beehler, '50, d. 8/24
Harding, Sara Harman, '69, d. 1/24
Hartwell, Fran Wilson, '60, d. 10/24

Cornell University

Frazier, Keo, '97, d. 6/24

Denison University

Bowman, Barbara Hedrick, '59, d. 5/24
Coy, Ellen Kroehle, '43, d. 10/24
Dickes, Sue Foltz, '51, d. 9/24

DePauw University

Casagrande, Pamela Mills, '57, d. 4/24
Claudon, Martha Soldwedel, '50, d. 6/24
Law, Carol Ritter, '53, d. 5/24
McNamara, Emily Parker, '56, d. 6/24
Miller, Lee Amory, '50, d. 6/24
Thompson, Ann Huesmann, '50, d. 4/23
Wood, Jane Ehmann, '50, d. 5/24

Drake University

Cook, Barbara Wood, '59, d. 10/23
Robertson, Janette Schlunz, '56, d. 7/24

Durham, North Carolina, Delta Beta

Charles, Alexandra, '99, d. 9/21
Kercher, Diane Grotz, '61, d.

Emory University

Frith, Patricia, '60, d. 5/24

Florida State University

Jones, Tawney Siviter, '68, d. 4/24
Kelley, Nancy, '69, d. 9/24
Kissel, Lynda Gross, '67, d. 4/24
Wanicka, Anne Rollins, '58, d. 6/24

George Washington University

Callagy, Sharon Doran, '54, d. 9/24
Goldberg, Emily, '08, d. 4/24

Hopkins, Judith Wilhoit, '53, d. 5/23
Maroshek, Marie Seltzer, '61, d. 5/24
Peeler, Lillian Menne, '54, d. 10/24
Unger, Patricia Boyer, '49, d. 3/24

Georgia, University of

Barnett, Ivey Jernigan, '58, d. 6/24
Dryden, Abbie Alexander, '51, d. 4/24
Hegarty, Constance Boyd, '59, d. 5/24
Hodgson, Susan Boyd, '68, d. 7/24
Morgan, Judi Elder, '75, d. 9/24
Philips, Catherine McMillen, '59, d. 10/24
Reid, Marion Rauers, '67, d. 5/24

Hillsdale College

Adams, Sharon Ledbetter, '75, d. 1/23
Foster, Elizabeth Gard, '76, d. 3/21
Schaefer, Jacqueline Cameron, '54, d. 6/24

Idaho, University of

Allred, Ruth Christensen, '65, d. 10/24
Kelly, Jo Pennington, '56, d. 5/24
Vollmer, June Sleeman, '56, d. 8/24

Illinois Wesleyan University

Martin, Lauren, '09, d. 5/24
Morton, Doris Freese, '55, d. 10/24

Illinois, University of

Dameron, Jennifer Sherlock, '93, d. 11/24
Flynn, Carol Houlihan, '64, d. 3/23

Indiana University

Ashley, Susan Rogers, '61, d. 6/24
Branson, Mary Lewis, '43, d. 12/22
Franklin, Carol Conner, '57, d. 7/24
Lacy, Francine Slagle, '68, d. 4/24
Spurrier, Betty Haggarty, '51, d. 7/24
Tyte, Virginia Hoadley, '48, d. 5/24

Iowa State University

Lafferty, Judy Peters, '59, d. 9/24
Schlemeier, Nancy Early, '47, d. 2/24
Twetten, Sandy Story, '52, d. 10/24
Zelle, Carolyn, '71, d. 8/24

Iowa, University of

Hart, Marjorie Jacobson, '44, d. 10/24
Knop, Kathryn, '72, d. 6/24
Mechtenberg, Gina, '99, d. 10/24
Parsons, Sandra Steffensen, '58, d. 5/24
Robken, Faun Cook, '71, d. 3/24

Kansas State University

Allen, Joan Durham, '60, d. 8/24
Coffin, Anne Lyon, '52, d. 7/24
Manka, Carolynne, '58, d. 12/23
Miller, Jean Shenk, '56, d. 2/24
Tidwell, Mary Lambert, '53, d. 6/24
Warren, Jane Denton, '53, d. 8/24
Wilson, Anne, '62, d. 8/24
Yoakum, Paula Winter, '76, d. 8/24

Kansas, University of

Davis, Betty Everly, '44, d. 5/24
Durrett, Janice Moses, '51, d. 2/24
Eschenheimer, Barbara Huston, '61, d. 9/24
Laird, Diane Stryker, '47, d. 4/24
Lott, Merikay Boucher, '59, d. 6/24
Mullikin, Diane Gard, '51, d. 5/24
Whittier, Marg Welch, '59, d. 6/24

Kentucky, University of

Breidenstein, Melissa Mendez, '83, d. 11/23

Collins, Janie, '45, d. 9/24

Evans, Piper McDonald, '64, d. 5/24
Lemay, Mary Schrider, '53, d. 8/24
Moore, Ann Fincel, '54, d. 11/24
Robinson, Ann Morrow, '53, d. 10/24
Shaffer, Martha Hackworth, '52, d. 11/23
Walker, Ellen McConnell, '41, d. 9/20

Louisiana State University

Cockerham, Sally Saunders, '67, d. 7/24
Gayle, Gin Martin, '41, d. 5/24
McCowan, Mary Hebert, '62, d. 10/24
McMahon, Barbara Allen, '58, d. 5/24
Phelan, Elizabeth Thriffley, '76, d. 8/24
Thriffley, Ardyn Sutherland, '49, d. 7/24
Wentz, Joyce Clack, '58, d. 6/24

*** Maryland, University of**

Burnside, Jean Culbert, '47, d. 2/24
Chase, Eben Burnside, '60, d. 3/23
Kowalyk, Ellen Johnson, '52, d. 5/24
Rovelstad, Sheila Wright, '69, d. 5/24
Smith, Mary Evans, '51, d. 8/24

Massachusetts, University of

Bates, Nancy Allen, '51, d. 7/23
White, Lorraine Guertin, '45, d. 4/24

Miami University

Granger, Margene Williams, '44, d. 6/22
Rae, Alice Seidler, '60, d. 7/24
Russell, Patricia Morrey, '50, d. 2/20
Tallberg, Janet, '70, d. 8/24

Michigan State University

Barnes, Madeline Waffle, '42, d. 10/24
Mills, Diana Tower, '60, d. 9/24

Michigan, University of

Cancilla, Mary June Simpson, '46, d. 8/22
Shambes, Georgia, '52, d. 4/24
Smythe, Patricia Arrington, '54, d. 11/24

*** Middlebury College**

Barker, Cynthia Camp, '65, d. 1/23
Clayton, Catherine Courtney, '50, d. 11/22

Minnesota, University of

Martinovich, Jane Sugden, '55, d. 2/24
Nelson, Helen Field, '68, d. 6/24
Suess, Judith Bryant, '52, d. 8/24

Mississippi, University of

Gooch, Nancy, '54, d. 9/24
Hartman, Vicki Thomas, '62, d. 5/24
Krawitz, Claire McLendon, '82, d. 10/24
Martin, Jan Holmes, '55, d. 9/24
Sullivan, Lara, '88, d. 9/24
Ward, Carroll Payne, '61, d. 7/24
Wilson, Dally Wade, '71, d. 4/24

Missouri, University of

Callis, Susan Schien, '59, d. 4/23
Jayne, Marietta Jonas, '41, d. 8/24
Meyers, Mary Healey, '77, d. 9/24
Spight, Carol Baughman, '72, d. 4/24
Williams, Mary Ann Dunn, '50, d. 8/24
Willson-Mick, Patricia Deatherage, '56, d. 9/24

Wing, Gladys Northcott, '45, d. 6/24
Winship, Jaci Nordine, '77, d. 9/24
Young, Ginnie Proctor, '54, d. 5/24

Monmouth College

Balch, Linda Kemmerer, '61, d. 9/24

Bollman, Lynda Pepper, '74, d. 9/24
Laxson, Jean Walker, '42, d. 8/24
McLallen, Lorraine Bernklau, '56, d. 6/24

*** Montana, University of**

Allen, Lynn Castle, '56, d. 11/22
Leuthold, Joanne Jensen, '56, d. 10/24
Ryan, Lynn McCaffery, '55, d. 6/24

Nebraska, University of

Anderson, Patricia Holmquist, '50, d. 6/24
Bunten, Mimi Duteau, '52, d. 3/24
Porter, Nancy Gardiner, '53, d. 7/24
Potmesil, Harriett Ackerson, '52, d. 3/24
Taylor, Suzanne Sickel, '58, d. 5/24

New Mexico, University of

Cooper, Jane Bliss, '40, d. 11/24
Johnson, Leslie, '87, d. 2/24
McCarty, Elizabeth Seligman, '71, d. 11/24
Muth, Carla Peterson, '61, d. 10/24
O'Rourke, Melissa Williams, '67, d. 12/23

North Carolina, University of

Wolfe, Amy Wearmouth, '89, d. 9/24

*** North Dakota State University**

Etzel, Veronica Peters, '56, d. 6/24
Gullekson, Kaye, '64, d. 10/24
Hunter, Nancy Neuman, '65, d. 9/24

Northwestern University

Baird, Carol Falley, '50, d. 9/23
Block, Judith Stofer, '60, d. 6/24
Curtis, Eve Sutherland, '75, d. 9/24
Ford, Judy Schnell, '58, d. 6/24
Hack, Julianne Seashore, '47, d. 11/24
Heyn, Gretchen, '65, d. 9/24
Mastick, Helen Branson, '50, d. 8/24
Watkins, Fay Walker, '52, d. 10/24

Ohio State University

Blue, Sally Griffiths, '58, d. 10/24
McNeilly, Katherine Wilson, '64, d. 5/24
Pressler, Patricia Riggs, '53, d. 9/24
Rinehart, Lois McDonald, '41, d. 5/24
Sheridan, Mary Ellen McIlvaine, '51, d. 9/24
Stevens, Marian Spelsberg, '53, d. 9/24

Ohio Wesleyan University

Allen, Sue Mills, '66, d. 12/23
Alton, Christie Lichliter, '59, d. 7/24
Graham, Stephanie Schmidt, '74, d. 11/23
Reddaway, Frances Leet, '52, d. 2/24
Worcester, Ginny Perry, '78, d. 10/23

Oklahoma State University

Ball, Willi Jones, '55, d. 6/24
DeVaughn, Judith Ford, '63, d. 7/24
Friday, Jane Wilson, '57, d. 10/24
Watson, Margaret Dunn, '68, d. 6/24

Oklahoma, University of

Carr, Anna Samter, '56, d. 4/24
Goldsmith, Linda Seger, '56, d. 9/24
Kennedy, Jane Lukens, '52, d. 7/24
Kinscherff, Ann Denny, '55, d. 3/24
Loyd, Annabelle Perry, '53, d. 9/24
Sappington, Jennie Chelf, '01, d. 8/24
Schmidt, Margaret, '80, d. 9/24

Oregon State University

Brunkal, Judith Baker, '59, d. 5/24
Dennis, Ruth Alcorn, '44, d. 2/24

Flomer, Ardath Wilkerson, '56, d. 7/24
Olson, Nancy Williams, '54, d. 10/24
Ordeman, Alice Kropp, '53, d. 9/24
Randolph, Margaret Mathews, '41, d. 12/22

Oregon, University of

Lovell, Mary Robinson, '42, d. 7/24
O'Leary, Joanne Gary, '49, d. 7/24
Oller, Jean Johnston, '41, d. 9/23

Pennsylvania State University

Cleeland, Nancy Embick, '46, d. 9/24
Forsyth, Gail Green, '52, d. 7/24
Klein, Valerie Hobbs, '52, d. 8/24

*** Pennsylvania, University of**

Greenbaum, Sonia Carter, '47, d. 6/22

Pittsburgh, University of

Johnson, Beth McNeil, '51, d. 8/24
Wendel, Joan Mattner, '49, d. 6/24

Purdue University

Appling, Medrith Noble, '44, d. 7/24
Fox, Elizabeth Roll, '72, d. 9/24
Lugar, Sally Schnaiter, '53, d. 5/24
Meriam, Jane Wallace, '56, d. 9/23
Pingry, Eloise Ryder, '45, d. 5/24
Pritchard, Donna Moore, '62, d. 8/24
Richards, Jeannie Steiner, '55, d. 10/24

*** Rollins College**

Bodison, Marjorie Rogers, '59, d. 5/24
Roth, Julie Van Pelt, '57, d. 7/24

*** San Jose State University**

Lucas, Phyllis Johnson, '53, d. 9/24
McFaddin, Audrey Fleming, '53, d. 5/24

South Carolina, University of

Dial, Meredith Coulter, '07, d. 8/24

Southern California, U. of

Mispagel, Ann Thomas, '58, d. 10/24
Mitchell, Joey Roberts, '49, d. 6/22

Southern Methodist University

Black, Carolyn Cave, '53, d. 10/24
Boynton, Lucinda Feste, '76, d. 8/24
Cantwell, Joanne Cave, '49, d. 3/22
Dickson, Susanne Evans, '54, d. 10/20
Finley, Cynthia Cole, '66, d. 6/24
Guillot, Becky Nichols, '64, d. 6/24
Happe, Mary Hawkins, '72, d. 7/24
Layard, Patricia Malone, '62, d. 4/21
Lico, Margy Ruether, '79, d. 5/24
Pipes, Lucilee Winerich, '56, d. 4/24
Smith, Ann Grant, '54, d. 9/24
Solomon, Leann Taylor, '49, d. 1/21
Stevenson, Joan Bush, '49, d. 8/24

St. Lawrence University

Tomion, Nancy Mattison, '54, d. 10/23

Syracuse University

Fream, Sue Peterson, '58, d. 9/24

Texas A&M University

Spencer, Jennifer, '83, d. 5/24

Texas Christian University

Alt, Nancy Nash, '63, d. 5/24
Askew, Becky Beckering, '59, d. 6/24
Bottom, Stephanie Hall, '85, d. 8/24
Cundiff, Janet Barnes, '55, d. 7/24
Fielding, Chelsea, '06, d. 10/24
Harper, Lynn, '63, d. 9/24

Shaddock, Phyllis Dunlap, '63, d. 9/24
Spellings, Karen Cox, '66, d. 5/24
Wetsel, Betty Clapp, '59, d. 5/22

Texas Tech University

Bell, Karen Hardwick, '78, d. 4/24
Westerfield, Sonja Wiseman, '57, d. 6/24
Young, Billie Moorman, '56, d. 9/24

Texas, University of

Beckworth, Martha Brindley, '62, d. 6/24
Chandler, Mary Strauss, '61, d. 4/24
Chilton, Ray Taggart, '60, d. 4/24
Ellis, Betsy Marsh, '61, d. 6/24
Grevelle, Garnett Brown, '61, d. 5/24
Kampmann, Wister Howell, '46, d. 9/24
Marks, Carolyn Williams, '57, d. 11/24
Maynard, Virginia Irwin, '49, d. 10/24
McCaslin, Anne Ellsworth, '67, d. 6/24
Scott, Carol Norwood, '13, d. 9/24
Touhey, Terry Walsdorf, '59, d. 4/22
Winn, Mary Smith, '60, d. 6/24

Toronto, University of

Williams, Joan, '49, d. 5/21

Tulane University

Pool, Judith Billings, '53, d. 2/24
Powell, Diane Garrett, '62, d. 11/24

Tulsa, University of

Holmes, Carlyne Lea, '51, d. 9/24
Lienhard, Carol Bratton, '53, d. 6/24
Singleton, Patricia Kallenberger, '60, d. 6/24
Stephens, Sadie McCaslin, '55, d. 8/24
Turner, Betty Seever, '51, d. 11/24
Waidner, Maralee Layman, '54, d. 8/24
Wantuck, Roma Seay, '53, d. 10/24
Wortley, Jean Towers, '49, d. 1/22

Utah, University of

Darger, Frances Johnson, '42, d. 7/24
Mercer, Shirley Osmond, '50, d. 6/24
Russell, Joanne Bryant, '50, d. 1/24
Spinola, Ann Openshaw, '59, d. 5/24
Tanner, Madlyn Gillespie, '58, d. 9/24

Washington State University

Edens, Norma Fendler, '52, d. 5/24
Guy, Rose Mary Van Winkle, '71, d. 10/24
Tulloss, Marcia Weigelt, '50, d. 4/24

Washington, University of

Backschie, Diane Smidt, '56, d. 5/24
Douglas, Gladys Lucchesini, '52, d. 8/24

West Virginia University

Cooper, Katherine Spears, '67, d. 10/22
Curry, Jane Ruckman, '55, d. 5/24
Davis, Sally Radford, '56, d. 5/24
Haden, Sandy Michael, '71, d. 7/24
Jones, Nancy Bennett, '57, d. 10/24
Nickerson, Ann Bergdoll, '54, d. 8/24

Westminster College

Dant, Beth Gilmore, '82, d. 9/24

Whitman College

Christopher, Sonja, '56, d. 4/24
Yang, Kyong, '90, d. 10/23

William & Mary, College of

Jeffries, Barbara Wallace, '61, d. 4/24

King, Pauline Morgan, '52, d. 5/24
Parmentier, Gale West, '60, d. 10/24
Sherman, Hilde Beckh, '49, d. 10/24

Wisconsin, University of

Bolan, Cristen, '89, d. 6/24
Cassavetes, Gena Rowlands, '49, d. 8/24
Henderson, Suzanne Filek, '56, d. 4/24
Johnson, Margaret Hobbs, '55, d. 5/24
Mead, Nancy Peterman, '56, d. 5/24
Quarry, Joy Hickok, '46, d. 5/24
Sanders, Ann Smith, '58, d. 9/24

Wyoming, University of

Clyde, Araminta Willis, '55, d. 9/24
Gligorea, Sally Hartwig, '50, d. 2/24
Isherwood, Marnie Erickson, '59, d. 9/24

* Indicates inactive chapters.

These names were submitted from April 30–Nov. 30, 2024.

Where to Send

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Artful Work

These wildly creative Kappas have transformed artistic passions into thriving careers, proving that creativity isn't just a skill—it's a way of life. From painting vivid landscapes to reimagining Broadway sets into bespoke accessories, their artful work breathes new life into the world around them. We caught up with these dynamic women to discover how they've shaped their artistic journeys and embraced living a professionally creative life.

Kelly Johnston
WASHINGTON

{

FACING OFF

}

Jen Wheeler Kahn
USC (CALIF.)

Painting. For the past decade, I've primarily used water-soluble oils. I also enjoy gouache paint, acrylics, charcoal, and pencil.	What's your creative medium?	My genesis in the arts started on stage. Now my creative medium is textile work, upcycling Broadway sets and costumes into bags and accessories.
Large-scale canvases. There's a physicality that comes into play. It feels all-encompassing, and I like how it challenges me.	Fave project?	We have a wonderful partnership with <i>Wicked</i> on Broadway. We upcycled the retired Emerald City costumes into the most stunning bags. I wanted to keep them all.
Nature is always my starting point. I'm fascinated by the way sunlight sparkles on the water's surface and delicate clouds reflect vibrant colors as the sun rises and sinks in the sky.	Where do you find inspiration?	The show the backdrop came from. What can I glean from the story it tells? How do we pay tribute to that as we find a new life for it?
Taking walks around Bainbridge Island, where I live. It fuels my paintings. I'm constantly taking photos on my phone and re-visiting them in my studio as inspiration.	How do you recharge?	Play with my boys, ages 5 and 7, who have endless energy and creativity. I also go to the theatre looking at the stories and architecture of Broadway.
Just go for it! Make creativity a daily habit. Art needs to be explored by doing. It's so good for our brains and souls.	Advice for other creatives?	Your passion qualifies you for a seat at the table. Start small. Test your idea with an audience. Use that data to make it better. Then keep going.

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