

### *From The Chairman's Heart*

Spring is here and with that, we've been able to look at the fantastic 2022 activity of the chapters via the CMR. Our Division Vice Chairs have tabulated the data and this team is putting together the Congress presentation and awards. Additionally, your CMR entries have helped to provide us with more fun articles for the DAR School Sparkler! I always worry about material, wanting to ensure it is fresh and informative. Alas, I need not worry. The DAR School Committee team Mrs. Wright assembled is creative, fun, and full of ideas. I guess that was a long way of saying... we have even more coming in the June Sparkler! Make sure your chapter members have a copy! All archives are on the national website under the DAR School committee, and we've also archived them on the Daughter's Online Community.



Are you going to Continental Congress? Are you wondering what events to attend? When going through your list and checking it twice, consider our Education Awards Luncheon! This luncheon allows you to see how big the heart of DAR truly is by learning about the many varied ways we touch the lives of children throughout our country. When signing up for Congress, click the button to attend our lunch!

And lastly, if you had thought about going to the Kate Duncan Smith graduation, look on their website for details. It is coming up mid-May. The KDS kids go on to do great things within their communities, state, and throughout our Nation.

Sparkle on!

Dawn Crumly Lemongello  
National Chair, DAR School



**PURCHASE A DAR SCHOOL PIN FROM THE DAR STORE  
TO SUPPORT THE DAR JEWELS**

[HTTPS://SHOP.DAR.ORG/HEARTS-SCHOOLS-PIN/](https://shop.dar.org/hearts-schools-pin/)

### *Children's Authors Every Daughter Should Know*

Hilary Clare, Virginia State Chair DAR School

DAR has many talented Daughters and Virginia DAR is no exception. Two are authors of children's books.

Cathy Schott is a Life Member in Stone Bridge Chapter. She retired from the US Air Force after 24 years of service. Always interested in genealogy, she has written and self-published four genealogy books which she has donated to the DAR Library, Library of Congress and a number of regional libraries. In 2020 she self-published Max, which features a surprise winter butterfly who goes through his metamorphosis and lifecycle process in grandma's house. She and her husband of 49 years Mark have two children and five grandchildren.

Mimi Spear is Honorary Regent of Lane's Mill Chapter. She was born in Alexandria, VA and studied history at Radford. After marrying her Vietnam Veteran husband, she was a preschool teacher and caretaker for older members of her family. Her love of genealogy started in high school along with her interest in sewing and needlework.

She lives near her grandchildren and is currently a real estate agent. She started writing children's books about her family beagle puppy, Seward. They are Seward's Farm, Seward Goes Fishing, and Seward Goes to Washington. Her fourth book, Seward Goes On Vacation comes out this month.

All of these books tell wonderful stories and are beautifully illustrated. At Virginia State Conference in March, they sold their books selling out quickly. They donated their royalties from their sales to DAR Schools which was almost \$300. Pictured are Mimi Spear, Cathy Schott and Hilary Clare, State Chair DAR School.

These gracious ladies have decided to continue to donate their royalties to DAR School. Cathy Schott's book Max can be purchased in various forms from: <https://www.blurb.com/b/10022394-max>.

Mimi Spear's Seward books can be purchased from Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Please leave a review saying you found out about them from DAR and she will donate that royalty.



# Finding Mrs. Atwell, Champion of DAR Schools

Sammy Lackner, National Vice Chair

Ella K. Young Atwell, Part 1.

In the first weeks of my new job as Mrs. Lemongello's National Vice Chair of DAR School Committee, I was given the task of helping to gather information pertaining to the disbursement of the Ella Young Atwell Funds to Crossnore and Kate Duncan Smith DAR School. I had read the name Ella Young Atwell in the National BOM Meeting Minutes in the past, but I had never paid much attention to the size of the gifts! Considering that these funds are dispersed on a Quarterly basis, the magnitude of Mrs. Atwell's gift becomes apparent. I was instantly curious about the lady herself. All of us, who delve in family history and geneology, have a bit of a "sleuth" inside.

I called Mrs. Lemongello. "Dawn, what do you know about Ella Young Atwell?" Having just completed her term as Treasurer General, Dawn had a good deal of information about Ella's gift. Mrs. Atwell passed away in 1989, and a gray binder sits in the Treasurer General's office containing the information on her will and subsequent gift to the DAR Schools. Dawn also knew that Mrs. Atwell was a Texas Daughter. But she did not know much about Ella's personal life or family either. There was an entry on Find A Grave for her husband Charles. It gave me some dates, but no photo of Ella, and no links to her parents or siblings. No children listed for her and Charles.

I began to do some searching for information about the Atwells. I enlisted a fellow chapter member, Conney Beaudry to help. We also found a wonderful article written in 1990 for the DAR Magazine by Lysabeth "Sissy" Wood, a fellow chapter member and friend of Ella's. Collectively, we were able to put together the remarkable story of a remarkable woman.

Ella K Young was born in Rayne, Acadia Parish Louisiana in March of 1893 to Dr. Warren G Young and Maude Kennedy. Dr. Young came from a long line of doctors and his family were well known throughout Louisiana. Dr. Young's maternal grandfather, Eugene Isadore Geugnon, founded the Meridional – one of Louisiana's oldest newspapers. The Young side of the family had been pioneer settlers of Vermilion Parish, and are descended from Notley Young, whose plantation bordering the Potomac river was appropriated to become the south side of the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Around 1912, the Young family made the move to Texas and settled in Port Arthur. In 1901, the little "railroad town" of Port Arthur became an "oil town" when the Lucas Gusher oil well changed everything. Oil refineries were built, and the population boomed. The growing town would certainly have been in need of physicians, and the Young family would end up making the Port Arthur area their permanent home. It is here, as a young woman in Port Arthur, that Ella would meet the love of her life.

Charles Simpson Atwell was born in 1890 in Hutchins, Texas. In 1912, he graduated from Texas A&M and went to work as a civil engineer. He was hired by The Texas Company (you know them as Texaco!) and they sent him to Port Arthur. We do not know exactly when Ella married Charles. At the time Ella joined DAR in 1938, members were not required to provide their marriage information. We do know that in 1918, Ella applies for a passport to visit Tampico, Mexico, with the intent to "live with husband" who is a civil engineer. They were a handsome couple! Sissy Wood describes Ella in her 1990 article as "a tiny person in stature, rather quiet of personality with brownish blond hair and piercing blue eyes". Charles was tall, handsome, and athletic.

Throughout the 20's and 30's, the Atwells traveled the globe. Ella's passport shows travel by ship to exotic ports of call including Buenos Aires, Shanghai, and Havana, to name only a few. Some of Charles' oil projects took place in remote and inhospitable locations, at which times he and Ella would be apart, he abroad and she in Texas.

WWII sent the Atwells in a new direction. Charles went to work for Southeastern Shipbuilding Corp. located in Savannah, Georgia. Southeastern Shipbuilding was involved in the manufacture of Liberty Ships. The Atwells bought a second home in Sea Island so they could be together. Charles built ships, and Ella volunteered with the Red Cross and Salvation Army. After the war, the Atwells would keep the Sea Island home and divide their time between Georgia and Texas.

The Atwells never had children of their own. But, as Sissy Wood writes in her 1990 article, "they began doing for the children of others." In the 1950's, they would build a library in Charles' hometown of Hutchins, finance and



maintain a dormitory at Crossnore, and fund scholarships to a local state college.

Charles died of a heart condition while traveling through Mississippi on October 10th, 1961. After Charles' death, DAR seemed to become an even more important outlet for Ella to socialize with friends and continue her philanthropic work. She had been a founding member of the Captain William Sanders Chapter in Port Arthur, as was her sister, Miss Dora Young. Ella was active in her chapter, contributing both her time and her money. She served in several leadership positions, and financed the restoration of the chapter house, White Haven. She gave money regularly to the chapter to help pay for the upkeep on the house as well. Ella was a Life Member.

Ella Young Atwell passed away in Port Arthur on New Year's Eve, 1989, just a few months shy of her 97th birthday, and only hours away from the last decade of the 20th Century. During her long life, she bore witness to the rise of America's "automobile culture", saw two World Wars, and watched humankind touch the heavens. She experienced the vastness of our world as it was before air travel made it so increasingly small. She lived a life of plenty but always with the intent, it seems, to give it all away.

Ella is buried next to Charles at the Greenlawn Memorial Park in Groves, Texas. Theirs is a modest headstone. The Atwell's monument was their generosity.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE MRS. ELLA YOUNG ATWELL IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE *DAR SCHOOL SPARKLER*.

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## *DAR Member Spotlight*

Sharon Hagenbuck

My interest in the DAR Schools was sparked in 2015 when I was asked to take over as New Mexico State DAR School Chairman. The theme that year was "Be wise, focus on the future with education," symbolized by the wise owl. That wise owl has propelled me to continue to serve as the New Mexico State DAR School Chairman to the present.



During my term as State Chairman, my focus has been to spread the word on how to support the DAR Schools. This was accomplished by giving DAR School presentations at three workshops and at many New Mexico Chapter meetings and promoting the sale of the DAR School Pins.

At our August 2022 workshop, New Mexico Daughters rose to the challenge and donated to the Hindman Settlement School during their flood crisis. As State DAR Chairman, my request to the New Mexico State Society to match up to \$500 the funds collected through passing the hat resulted in a check for \$1120 for Hindman Settlement School. Also at the workshop, my collection of past and current DAR School Pins was displayed in order to preserve the history of the DAR School Pins.

Attending the DAR School Luncheon at three Continental Congresses plus one additional virtual luncheon has been the highlight of my tenure as State Chairman. Observing the achievements of the students from each of the DAR schools further inspired me to continue to work for the support of the DAR Schools.

Personally I have been married 61 years and have two children and three grandchildren. Having retired over 10 years ago as a Certified Public Accountant, I have been able to serve two terms as New Mexico State Treasurer and also Treasurer and Historian of Charles Dibrell Chapter in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In addition, I currently serve as the JROTC Chair of my Chapter, State President of the New Mexico Society Daughters of the War of 1812, and a member of the Heritage Club. Travel tops my wish list as well as continuing with my genealogy research and support of DAR Schools throughout New Mexico.

## Contact The Committee

Dawn Crumly Lemongello, National Chair  
darschool@nsdar.org

Sammy Lackner, National Vice Chair  
darschoolnvc@nsdar.org

Tracy Suarez, DAR School Scholarship  
darschool.scholarship@nsdar.org

Jacqueline Riddell, Friends of DAR Schools  
friendsofdarschools@nsdar.org

Brook Tyler Hanna, Communications  
darschool.communications@nsdar.org

Cheryl Odell, Congress Event  
cherylodell@nsdar.org

### Division Vice Chairs

Northeastern - CT, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT  
Gwendolyn Bondi  
gekboni@gmail.com

Eastern - DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA, VA, UO  
Nancy Ball  
nanb1620@gmail.com

Southeastern - AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN  
Crickett Crigler  
cricket@crigler.me

East Central - IN, KY, MI, OH, WV  
Susan Kalmey  
bgse@bellsouth.net

North Central - IL, IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI  
Nancy Canova  
caznancy@comcast.net

South Central - AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX  
Linda Dillard  
dillard-linda@sbcglobal.net

Northwestern - AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY  
Jane Lee Hamman  
janeleehamman@aol.com

Southwestern - AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, NM, UT  
Rebecca Boudreaux-Clavel  
rbc.dar@gmail.com

## Take a Minute to share the DAR School Committee with your chapter ...

### Berry College students awarded \$20,000 for entrepreneurial prototypes

Berry College students were recently awarded a total of \$20,000 for their work to produce entrepreneurial prototypes. The donor-funded competition known as The Gadget Project, hosted by the college's Center for Student Enterprises and Entrepreneurship (CSEED), gives young entrepreneurs the chance to create and present their own tangible tool or device.

Over an eight-week period, the students transform their abstract ideas into functional prototypes, develop a business model and deliver a pitch presentation to a panel of judges.

Handley Owens, a senior marketing major from Jackson's Gap, Alabama, came in first place for the creation of her edible dog bowl. Her bowls are designed to make traveling easy for dog owners and provide enriching meals for dogs.

"I already had the idea," Owens said. "The prototype for The Gadget Project and the support from CSEED really helped me put all my plans into place."

Jonathan Langley Deagle earned second place for CUBE, a portable gift card reader. CUBE simplifies the process of checking gift card balances for customers and business owners by displaying the card's remaining amount on a screen. He is a creative technologies major from Auburn, Georgia.

Haikal Cooper came in third for his BIY (Berry it Yourself) Kit. Cooper's BIY Kit is a customizable wooden Berry logo. The kit consists of four layers of wood, with each layer depicting a personalized Berry memory. He is a mathematics major from Lawrenceville, Georgia.

-- Berry College, Photos By Rette Solomon/Berry College



### Revolutionary Robots Impress at State Competition

The KDS DAR Middle School Revolutionary Robotics Team participated in the First Lego League (FLL) Superpowered Season this year. Every year, the FLL designates a theme for the competing teams to utilize for the competition, and the team members are



challenged to create an innovative project to address a community need within that theme. The competition includes a Robot Game and an Innovation Project with a strong emphasis on core values.

This year, the FLL theme encouraged teams to consider ways to improve the journey of energy in their local communities. For their design, these students won the Innovation Project Award and also advanced to the State Competition where they students made additional improvements to their design and increased their Robot Game points significantly. With some disappointing last minute technical difficulties, the robot missed the target of optimal performance. Even with these disappointing results, the Revolutionary Robots were extremely pleased that their coach, Lisa Fountain, was selected as the State Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

-- Kate Duncan Smith School

## Quarterly Atwell Distribution - 2022 Summary

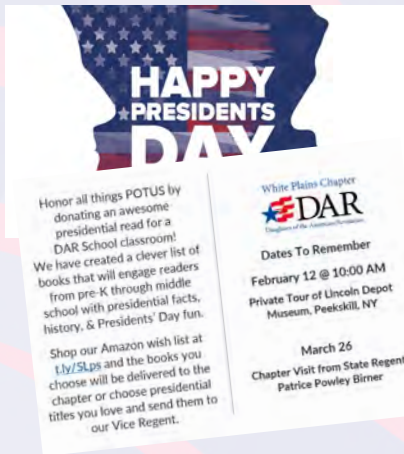
Dawn Crumly Lemongello, National Chair

Every quarter we try to keep you informed for the distributions of the Atwell Fund. You can find it them in the DAR Magazine as well as the DAR School Sparkler. It's important that we, as a membership, understand where our money goes.

In 2022, NSDAR was able to be incredibly generous to the recipients of the Atwell Fund giving \$505,289.38 with Kate Duncan Smith and Crossnore each receiving \$252,644.69. This money provided scholarships, maintenance, utilities and other needs to the schools.

## Read all about it

Brook Tyler Hanna, National Vice Chair Communications



The regent of White Plains Chapter circulated a Happy Presidents Day postcard that asked the members to honor the holiday with a presidential book purchase. Chapter leaders created a wish list of clever books they felt would engage readers from pre-K through middle school with presidential facts, history, and Presidents' Day fun. Members purchased from that list or donated books they picked up from their local bookseller.

Books were divided by title and reading level then delivered to the DAR schools who were encouraged to shelve them in their libraries, distribute them to classrooms, or donate them to students.



# News From The Schools

## Kate Duncan Smith School



The Awards Day and Graduation festivities for KDS DAR School will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

The Awards Day program will begin at 9 a.m., followed by lunch in the DAR Lunchroom. During the afternoon, the meetings of the KDS Board of Trustees and KDS Committees will be held, and tours of campus will also be available.

Graduation will be held in Patriots Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

The next morning, Friday, May 19, a groundbreaking ceremony will be held for the Centennial Campus Commons, the KDS DAR School 100th Anniversary Project.

Everyone is invited to attend. A registration form and hotel information can be found at [www.kdsdar.org](http://www.kdsdar.org).

## Hindman Settlement School

We have an exciting new opportunity for everyone to keep in touch with all the happenings here at Hindman Settlement School with our new video series called On the Forks, now premiering on our YouTube channel @hindmanschool! We hope that you will check out the first episode called "New Year, New Employees, New Content" in which we introduce you to our newest staff members, highlight our ongoing community dinners, and update you on our current recovery efforts from the flood.

Our goal with On the Forks is to give you a more inside and personal look at the day-to-day operations here in Hindman so that you have a deeper connection with all the great work taking place through our foodways, literary, and traditional arts programs, as well as all the quirks and idiosyncrasies of our staff.

## Berry College

High atop a majestic Georgia pine, Berry College's resident eagles, Ma and Pa Berry, and their newest eaglet, B16, safely rode out a ferocious thunderstorm March 3 that knocked out power on campus and brought down approximately 250 trees in the heart of campus, along the main entrance and near the eagles' nest.

We are thankful to report there were no injuries on campus, and only minimal damage to property. Berry staff and students worked quickly to clear the debris.



Photos By Matthew McConnell/Berry College

## Hillside School

Two big events have already taken place this spring. The first was when our Ninth Graders went to the Massachusetts State House In Boston to attend the Annual Massachusetts Water Summit on water conservation. They made connections with everyone from legislators to water specialists and engaged in discussions and dialogue about issues regarding water resources, climate action, and resilient communities. We also held our Winter Term Awards Ceremony in which we presented students with awards for their performances in academics, athletics, residential life, and student leadership. On the DAR front, things are finally returning to normal. During our spring break the Massachusetts CAR hosted their annual state meeting on the Hillside campus for the first time since Covid. We were also pleased to have the President General come to campus for a tour while she was at the Massachusetts State Conference. Preparations are now well underway, and excitement is building, for the resumption of our annual DAR Day on campus on May 10.

## Crossnore Communities for Children

Join Crossnore May 5th and 6th at Miracle Grounds farm on our Winston-Salem campus to purchase flowering annual and native perennial varieties, such as aster, black-eyed Susan, lavender, goldenrod, pink muhly grass, and more. All proceeds from the sale will go back into farm programming. Cash and card will be accepted!

If you would like to learn more about the work we do at Crossnore with children in foster care, check out our The Way Home podcast! You can view episodes at <https://www.crossnore.org/category/the-way-home-podcast/>.

