

The Reporter

The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International

Epsilon Kappa
Chapter #130

Alpha State
Austin, TX
Area 7

International Mission: Delta Kappa Gamma promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education

International Theme: DKG: Leading Women Educators, Impacting Education Worldwide

State Theme: The Heart of the Society is its Members

Chapter Theme: Forward With Heart (Health, Education, Achievement, Reflection, Teamwork)

Volume 60, Issue 3

Dec / Jan 2016 - 17

President's Message

We look forward to the holidays and 2017 with anticipation and excitement. Indeed, our children - those we teach, mentor, raise and love - are our future. On Veteran's Day, I was in a school district in West Texas and had the opportunity to attend their celebration of the veterans in their community.

The superintendent was the master of ceremonies. The color guard had a flag from each of the armed services: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, National Guard, Coast Guard, and MIA/POW with the United States and Texas Flags. The music for each branch of the service was played for the students. All of the children in the district participated from prekindergarten to twelfth grade.

Some grades sang, there was a skit, the band played and one of the drummers was blind. The entire program was signed because three students were hearing impaired. The younger students sat on the gym floor, each with an American flag. The high school students sat in the upstairs section above the floor on one side, and facing them on the other side were members of the community.

Facing the children were the veterans, some dressed in their

uniforms. One of the veterans told the children that when they were deployed, they had no running water, air conditioning, or beds to sleep on. The police department showed the students how to correctly fold the American flag.

This is small town America, where education is valued, the community comes together to support one another, and the love of our country is proudly displayed. It was a welcome tribute to those who served our country honorably. Education does make a difference.

As Carolyn Pittman shared with us in September, I make a difference. YOU make a difference. And I am proud to belong to Epsilon Kappa chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International – Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide.

Forward with Heart

Pam Kelly



My First Year in Epsilon Kappa

by Norma Jost

I missed the Epsilon Kappa chapter October 2015 initiation meeting at Headquarters because I was on a PDK International study tour of Berlin, Prague and Kraków. These are highlights of my first year in this chapter and ...names are being withheld to protect the innocent and not leave anyone out.

- Installed with another member at the November 2015 meeting. Getting instructions in the hallway at the Travis State School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- The amazing December meeting, food and decorations (I had to leave early to sing at the Capitol with Tapestry Singers).
- Becoming a SEE Mentor and doing my best to mentor sweet and wonderful new teachers; delivering valentines to several Austin ISD schools named after DKG Founders - WOW.
- Having animated discussions with the Lunch Bunch including one about WWII that is still on my mind.
- Installed as the chapter secretary after a little persuasion - I knew I had a lot to learn.
- The most amazing roommate, lots of wine & coffee, singing awesome songs with the choir, a baseball game, great sessions, hearing about an unbelievable taxi ride, and making new friends at the state convention in Frisco, TX.
- An interesting drive home from the state convention in Frisco, TX.
- Receiving the sweetest, most thoughtful notes in the mail.
- Experiencing the Area 7 workshop in Marble Falls, TX by helping with the auction section. Interesting sessions, meeting more amazing women.
- Another interesting drive home from Marble Falls...
- Became the green team leader for the 2016-2018 meetings which means I contact the members and we host one meeting per year - realized it a little late but am getting things together.
- Doing the best I can to capture the meeting minutes. Still need to get them done sooner and will do that starting in December.

I have noticed at every event that all members are honored, remembered, and treated respectfully. I'm so looking forward to my second year!

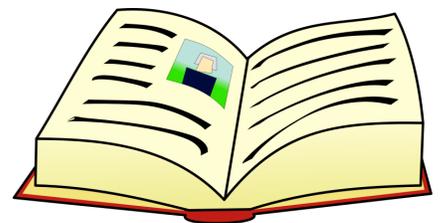
Book Lovers

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race. This is the book chosen as our next discussion piece. Most of these black women were teachers before they were recruited or sought the jobs of being a human "computer." Several helped the war effort in the 1940's; others were essential to the space race of the 1960's. Each had to overcome prejudice due not only to color but gender. If you don't get to read the book, a film will open on Christmas Day, focusing on the intense pressure to get a man into space. It will feature Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monae, Kirsten Dunst, and Kevin Costner. Quite a lineup of stars! Music by Pharrell Williams.

So read, and/or go to the movie and join us for a discussion of many issues. We will meet on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon in January at a home to be determined. Just watch for an announcement or contact Bernadine or Sandi.

Submitted by Bernadine Eaton

Creative Commons Image



News Eye on the Web

Submitted by Kathy Mihalik

Teacher Technology Award

DirectStarTV will award \$1,000 Visa Reward Cards to three winning entries in an essay contest. Open to any full-time K-12 grade teacher, the contest involves simply writing a 400- to 500-word essay. The prompt is:

Write about what new technology would mean to your classroom and how you would use the grant to address a learning challenge.

Ideas for how technology will facilitate a more constructive learning environment will vary, but all submissions should include:

- An observed learning challenge that is amplified by inadequate technology.
- The specific technology or technologies you plan to implement.
- How this technology will support your teaching efforts.
- The anticipated impact improved technology will have on your students.

The website provides a sample of what they are looking for and more details. Participants have until February 24, 2017 to submit their essay using the online form. So put your thinking cap on and get busy writing today!

For more information go to: <http://www.directpackages.com/teachers-grant/>

Have you ever wondered.....?

If you're a teacher of young children, check out the free website **Wonderopolis**. Created by the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL), Wonderopolis is a website that poses a question, the Wonder of the Day, and then explores it in a variety of ways. Young children can also pose their own questions. The content is multidisciplinary and aligned to the STEM Educational Quality Framework and Bloom's Digital Taxonomy. Each Wonder includes detailed but easy to read information to answer that day's question, follow-up activities for kids to do, and related Wonders to explore.

What is especially great is its treatment of vocabulary words. Words that students may not know in the reading are highlighted and provided in a Wonder Words vocabulary list on the side. Students can even take a quiz to see if they understand the words. There is also a knowledge quiz at the end to measure comprehension.

For more information go to: <http://wonderopolis.org/>

October Meeting Highlights



Julia Mellenbruch Phyllis Richards, and Maria McPhail celebrating 90 plus birthdays.



Getting ready for initiation ceremony



Honorary Dr. Gene Nelson with Dr. Earin Martin



Celebrating new members and 90+ member birthdays



New members being initiated

Member News

Tracey McGuire Wilson, a member of Epsilon Kappa, has been hired as Membership Services Supervisor at International Headquarters. She previously worked at the McCombs School of Business at UT. Congratulations, Tracey. We are so proud of you.

Julia Mellenbruch was inducted into the Taylor ISD Hall of Fame in October. She was on the news and on the Taylor ISD website. She was a duck that graduated from High School in 1933. She remembers that the football boys gave her roses.

Epsilon Kappa welcomes Carolyn Newhouse, who transferred from Dayton, Ohio, and attended our November meeting. Carolyn and Jo Watts are working together on the December meeting silent auction.

Epsilon Kappa Member Spotlight

Gene Nelson Jones

Gene Nelson Jones was initiated into Epsilon Kappa in 1964 and joined the ranks of the 50+ members in 2014. Now 94 years young, Gene was honored at the October chapter meeting along with the other chapter members who are 90+ years old.

The only, or one of the only, students to enter UT Austin at the early age of 15 in 1937 due to her father's persistence, Gene was very interested in early childhood education and was a student of one of our DKG founders, Dr. Cora M. Martin, in the Curriculum department. Born **Winna Gene Lee**, she married **Wilbur Nelson**, a U.S. Post Office employee, her senior year in college. Wilbur passed away in 1971, and Gene later married **Charles Jones**, who is also deceased.

Pursuant to her interest in early childhood education, Gene received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from UT Austin. With a Master's Thesis entitled *A Study of Kindergarten Children as Revealed by Their Choices of Activity*, she received her Master's degree in 1961.

Gene's proud legacy includes teaching at UT in the Curriculum and Instruction Department as an Assistant/Associate Professor, retiring from UT in 1976. In addition, Gene helped in the design of a wing for Kindergartners at Casis Elementary and, along with Epsilon Kappa member Dr. Phyllis Richards, helped get the Head Start program started in Austin, including training Head Start teachers.

Gene has 2 sons born in the mid 40s – James and Lenard, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

I have had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Gene over the last couple of years during my term as chapter president, when I discovered that Gene lived just a few blocks from me. Gene lamented more than once that she was disappointed in herself that she never completed her doctorate in education. So, to remedy that disappointment, at least in part, Gene was presented with an "honorary doctorate" in education at the October chapter meeting by the authority vested in "Dr. Earin M. Martin, Immediate Past President of the Epsilon Kappa Chapter, Alpha State, of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International* and UT Austin Doctor of Education Alumni," finally making her educational "journey" complete.



GENE LEE NELSON

Photo in 1942 Cactus showing Gene as president of the Association for Childhood Education at UT Austin

Submitted by Earin Martin

We Have a Chapter Set of Musical Instruments

Submitted by Deb Acevedo-Tamminga and Charlotte Brown

Thank you to our members who helped create a chapter set of musical instruments at our Monday, November 7 meeting. Members decorated, painted, or made the following types of instruments:

Hand Drums with tappers
Jingle Bells
Shakers
Sand Blocks

Rhythm Sticks
Coconut shells to use as clip cloppers
Decorated Seed Pods with scrapers
Rain Sticks

Charlotte Brown organized the activity and provided art supplies, and Deb Acevedo-Tamminga found the directions and items needed for the instruments.

The instruments will be used at future meetings to enhance our musical moments.



Chapter members have fun making instruments. A variety of instruments were painted and decorated by the group.



December Meeting

Silent Auction and Right/Left Holiday Game Ornament Exchange

We will be holding a silent auction at our 10 a.m. Saturday, December 10 meeting at Deb Acevedo-Tamminga's home (1716 Cliffwood Drive, Austin). Members are asked to bring an item to donate to the silent auction. If you donate an item, please be ready to provide Jo Watts with a recommended starting bid (could be as small as \$1.) Enter your silent bids while we all enjoy our refreshments and even during our meeting until Jo announces the closing time. Funds raised from the auction will be donated to The Refuge.

All members are requested to bring a wrapped ornament (new or used) which will be used in an ornament exchange game. We will sit in a large circle where a story will be read about how we got some of our holiday carols (Deck the Halls, Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman, and The Wassail Song). Our wrapped ornaments will be passed around the circle during the reading; and when we hear the word right/write, left, back, or cross we'll pass the gift in that "direction." Of course, we'll sing the carols, and finish with opening the last wrapped ornament we receive.

Submitted by Deb Acevedo-Tamminga

Directions to Home of Deb Acevedo-Tamminga

1716 Cliffwood Drive
Austin, Texas 78733
512 263-9421 (home)
512 797-7896 (cell)

From Capital of Texas Hwy go west on Bee Caves Road (FM 2244) to Cuernavaca

Take a right onto Cuernavaca

Take a left onto Lakeridge (Montessori school is at the corner)

The street will go up and down some hills then curve to the right becoming Lisa.

Take Lisa to Cliffwood where you can only turn right.

The house is not visible from the road. Watch for the white mailbox marked 1716 (on the left side of the street).

Park along the street and around the corner from the address. The driveway is very narrow and tricky.

Walk down the driveway. **Warning:** The driveway is made of loose gravel. Please watch your step.

Once you reach the cement pad enter the house from the right. If you go left, you'll end up at the office door.

When you reach the front door, come on in. The living room is to your right.

ASTE F's First Weekender in Galveston

In October, fifty-four ASTEF members and guests made their way to Galveston for a fun-filled weekend. Among those were three Epsilon Kappa members – Maurine Atwood, Elizabeth Newell, and Evelyn Barron – as well as International President Carolyn Pittman.

The welcome dinner on Friday evening featured a visit from the famous pirate Jean Lafitte. Tours on Saturday provided opportunities for participants to learn about the history of the island and visit historic landmarks -- The Grand 1894 Opera House (our favorite); the Rosenberg Library and Galleries (where teachers were delighted to encounter an ongoing book sale); and Moody Mansion (where we enjoyed a lovely catered lunch in the ballroom). An afternoon harbor tour brought sightings of many dolphins. Travelers also had time to visit the Strand, where the quarterly Art Walk was taking place.



International President Carolyn Pittman finds new friends on the streets of Galveston

On Sunday morning we took a bus tour of the city, featuring both historic homes and beautiful tree sculptures done since Hurricane Ike in 2008. Inspiration for the tree sculptures came from carvings done in Biloxi, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Stay tuned for information about another ASTEF Weekender next year.



Submitted by Evelyn Barron

Recipe to Share

Chicken Cheese Ball

- 1 10-oz. can white chunky chicken, drained
- 1 8-oz. package cream cheese
- 2 1-oz. envelopes Ranch dressing mix
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

Combine drained chicken, cream cheese, and dressing mix. Form into ball and cover with chopped pecans. Refrigerate. Serve with crackers.

Submitted by Evelyn Barron
from *Delta Kappa Gamma Entertains*, compiled
and published by
Southeast Region State Organizations, 2007



Creative Commons Image

Programs / Educational Excellence

At our November meeting, we were privileged to hear from Brooke Crowder, Founder and Executive Director of The Refuge. The Refuge is a center designed as a place where “child survivors of sex trafficking can find safety, and have access to the proper therapeutic services for healing from the trauma they’ve endured. The primary purpose of The Refuge...is to develop The Refuge Ranch, a long-term therapeutic ranch just outside the city of Austin, with on-site comprehensive services for girls ages 11-17, who are survivors of sex trafficking.” Ms. Crowder shared some sobering facts with us. Currently, there are 47,000 children reported missing in Texas. It is estimated that 1 in 7 of those children are or will become human trafficking victims. The average age of a child that is lured into trafficking is twelve. One of the reasons for the young age is access to social media. It is the fastest growing crime in our country. In the U.S., there are currently 300-350 beds available for child victims to recover and receive therapeutic services. In Texas, there are currently 24 beds available. The Refuge just broke ground and it is projected to open in the Summer of 2017. It will be able to hold 48 girls when it is at capacity. The U.T. Charter School will provide on-site classes. There will be a variety of therapeutic services on site, including art and equine therapy, as well as an on-site medical community. Ms. Crowder mentioned one of the ways that we can fight human trafficking is to enable and educate our students/children to understand that they’re a target. It’s never normal for an older man to be interested in a teenage girl. Pay attention to any changes in behavior, new tattoos, new clothing, jewelry, etc. One way that we can partner with The Refuge is to share awareness. Home gatherings are opportunities for representatives of The Refuge to come and share in a simple and relational way. Another opportunity down the road is to become a trained volunteer. There will be a great need for tutors for the girls, once The Refuge is up and running. To learn more about The Refuge, please visit their website, <http://therefugeaustin.org/>.

Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 10:00 am

Location: Deb Acevedo-Tamminga’s home - 1716 Cliffwood Drive Austin, TX 78733
Topic: Decking the Halls Right and Left

Members attending need to bring a wrapped ornament to exchange. If donating an item for the silent auction, please email Jo Watts, jwatts35@austin.rr.com.

Saturday, February 4, 2017 - Luncheon at 11:00 am

Location: Saltgrass Steak House - 10614 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759
Topic: Cyberbullying/Anti-Bullying Legislation

Presenter: Kathy Martinez-Prather

For our February meeting, we will be having our annual luncheon at Saltgrass Steak House at 11 am. Our speaker will be Kathy Martinez-Prather. Ms. Martinez-Prather is the Director of Texas School Safety Center. She will be speaking about proposed legislation regarding anti-bullying measures for the upcoming session. At this summer’s Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention, a resolution was adopted calling for action against bullying/cyberbullying on the behalf of chapters, states, and the members of DKG.

Submitted by Cara Cowan

Looking Ahead

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Sat, Dec 10 at 10 am
Holiday meeting
Home of Deb Acevedo-Tamminga
- Sat, Jan 7 at 1 pm
Executive Board meeting
Home of Pam Kelly
- Wed, Feb 1
Scholarship applications
due to TSO and/or
International
- Sat, Feb 4 at 11 am
Chapter Luncheon
Saltgrass Steakhouse

JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Epsilon Kappa's February Luncheon

Saturday, February 4, 2017
11:00 a.m.

Saltgrass Steakhouse
10614 Research Blvd.

- Menu choices to be determined in January, but will be comparable to the following:
Soup and Sandwich
Grilled Chicken Salad
Hill Country Chicken Salad
Tenderloin Tips
- Cost: \$16 per person – drink, dessert, tax and gratuity included
 - Send check for \$16 payable to **Epsilon Kappa** to
Marcia Kirkland
12314 W Cow Path
Austin, TX 78727
 - Deadline for payment – Monday, January 30, 2017
- Email marciakirkland@gmail.com with any questions or concerns



**Epsilon Kappa Chapter
The Delta Kappa Gamma
Society International**

Diane Sidoroff
901 Creekbend Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Chapter Website: <http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/>

Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, Jan. 20. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at diane.sidoroff@gmail.com or to Pam Kelly at epsilonkappapres@gmail.com.

During this year, members may be asked to submit articles about their reflections of meetings or other DKG activities. We want to involve as many people as possible to highlight the diversity of our chapter. Also, let us know about your Life Milestones, whether you have attended a meeting or not. News is always appreciated.

Please contact Marcia Kirkland if you wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter, though we are trying to “go green” and send most by e-mail. Thanks, Marcia, for your help with communications!

Let's Celebrate!

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in December and January:

Rosemary Cuellar-Torres	12-02	Debbie Tonne	01-02
Dr Claudia Knowles	12-04	Jenna Rice	01-06
Sandi Causey	12-08	Marilyn Gregory	01-08
Kathy Mihalik	12-08	Martha Dolman	01-11
Leyla Cohlma	12-10	Julie Jistel	01-16
Ann M Lilie	12-19	Jo Watts	01-23
Mary Tracy-Harney	12-19	Charlotte Hanna	01-26
Carol Staskus	12-22	Jeannette Abrajan	01-27
Janet Bernard	12-22		
Luisa Hernandez	12-26		



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™