

The Reporter

The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International

Epsilon Kappa
Chapter #130

Texas 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: Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow

Chapter Theme: Women Educators ... inspire and be inspired

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Editor

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President's Message

We have read and understand our mission and vision statements, but what do they mean to each of us? How do we promote professional and personal growth of women educators? What can we do to encourage excellence in education? How do we, as educators, provide leadership so that we make a positive impact on education? The answers to these questions can be found in the collective attributes and skills of the members in our organization.

An effective organization capitalizes on its members' qualities including their flexibility, adaptability, and resilience. Organizational success depends on mutual trust and respect, a sense of purpose, and engaged collaboration. The members of our chapter have consistently demonstrated all of these qualities and behaviors. We can observe these qualities in action at chapter meetings when we visit with other members and ask about their work and family. They are expressed when sharing a book in the book lovers' group. They are nourished and sustained when we learn something new from one of our speakers.

We have the ability to establish meaningful opportunities to promote growth for our chapter members both professionally and personally. And in that incremental growth we impact education on a daily basis.

We seem to be most effective when we collaborate to accomplish our organization's mission and vision. At our December meeting Cara Hamlin and Hilda Diaz will share their experience and knowledge. They plan to demonstrate the many ways changing technology affects our everyday lives and impacts education in the classroom to motivate the 21st Century learner.

"If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people." (Chinese Proverb)

When we share our new "discoveries" with one another, we learn from each other. We become more willing to take risks and less afraid of making mistakes. When we fall, we hope and trust that others will be there to help us get back on our feet.

Our organization provides many opportunities to nourish personal and professional growth. Please review the exemplary programs developed by our Educational Excellence committee described in this newsletter. What other opportunities do we want our chapter or DKG to provide for personal growth? If you have suggestions, please share them with one of our chapter officers. If you enjoy working with other women educators, you might consider leadership. There are many leadership opportunities in Delta Kappa Gamma at the chapter, state, and the international levels. Some require more time, effort, and commitment than others, but some require only a very short-term commitment and responsibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your president for the remainder of the biennium. Thank you, Cheryl Lane, for your leadership as president and for the many progressive programs you have scheduled for the coming year. Also, thank you all for the excellent qualities you bring to this organization.

- Kathy Mihalik

December Meeting

Please join us at Pillow Elementary on Thursday, December 6th, for an engaging and hands-on learning experience. Hilda Diaz and Cara Hamlin will be presenting “Hands-On Technology – Integrating STEM, Robotics, Coding, & Motivating the 21st Century Learner.” Bring a device (we will have some laptops/ devices available) to learn about ways to enrich your classroom with coding, robotics, and other STEM activities. It’s hard to keep our students engaged in the classroom as their needs evolve as well as the means by which they are motivated. We hope that you walk away from this presentation with at least one thing that you can use with your students.

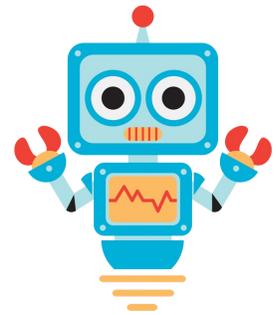
Thursday, December 6, 2018, 6 pm

Location: Pillow Elementary’s Computer Lab

3025 Crosscreek Dr, Austin, TX

Program: Hands-On Technology – Integrating STEM, Robotics, Coding,
& Motivating the 21st Century Learner

Presenters: Hilda Diaz & Cara Hamlin



DKG Toy Drive

After our great November meeting about Asylum/refugee families and their Children in Central Texas’ schools, we are pleased to announce that we will sponsor a Christmas children’s book/toy drive for Walnut Creek’s Asylee Refugees/Asylum students. Please consider participating in this fun and rewarding event!

Purchase a toy or book (or more than one) for a boy or girl to bring to our December meeting which will be at Pillow Elementary. If you cannot attend our December meeting, you can drop off items between December 11th - 18th at the Walnut Creek Elementary School office. Ms. Jennifer Samaniego, 4th grade teacher, will save them for us. We will be giving them out December 19th. Please do not wrap the gifts so we will be able to sort them.

Walnut Creek has a total of 52 Asylee Refugees/Asylum students.

PK-10 Students
KG- 5 Students
1st - 9 Students
2nd - 13 Students
3rd- 6 Students
4th- 6 Students
5th- 3 Students



*Any extra toys and books will be given to Wooldridge’s Asylee Refugees/Asylum students.

Thank you so much for your help. The children who receive the toys or books will truly be blessed this holiday season.

Seasons Greetings

October Meeting Highlights



Past International President Evelyn Barron introduced our October meeting speaker, 2018 - 2020 International President Cathy Daugherty



Janet Bernard lighting the candles on the Induction table



from left --- Terrie Bovinich sponsored Judy Struve and Sarah Cable was sponsored by Cara Hamlin



Elizabeth Newell sharing memories of Maria McPhail



Judy Wallace shared happy memories of her mother, Margaret



Gracia Esquivel treated us to a 1958 trivia game in honor of Epsilon Kappa's 60th birthday

November Meeting

Our November meeting focused on how asylum and refugee families with children are being supported in Austin's schools. Maria Arabbo, our speaker, is the Refugee Family Support Services Specialist for AISD. Maria's own family came from Argentina so she is very familiar with the hardships of dealing with new cultural norms plus learning another language. She explained the three categories for those who come to this country. A refugee is forced to flee his/her country due to persecution, war, or violence and gets that designation before arriving here. An immigrant is someone moving from one country to another. An asylum seeker applies at the border to enter; it is a very complex system that may take years. Each member of the family must go through every step of the process and if there is a problem the whole family has to restart. They also must repay the government. Ms. Arabbo's office now oversees some 1,040 refugee children on 99 campuses. There are services for 18 languages. This includes parent/teacher conferences, disciplinary issues, registration aid, special education assistance, and other interpretation needs. Walnut Creek, one of our schools where we have mentees, is one of the schools with the highest need for services. <https://www.austinisd.org/refugee-immigrant-services>

Not only does Ms. Arabbo help students to settle into an educational situation, she works with adults seeking a way to support their families through her involvement with the Multicultural Refugee Coalition. Three programs are set up to extend the skills that many adults already have. Open Arms helps people set up small businesses like sewing textiles and creating products that can be sold through stores such as IKEA. New Leaf lets those with farming experience grow produce on land near Elgin that can be sold at Farmers' Markets throughout the area. Shared Voices uses those with knowledge of several languages to be translators or interpreters for businesses in Austin. This model is working well as about 60% of their budget comes from the earned incomes of the workers and 40% from donations.

Epsilon Kappa presented Ms. Arabbo with a donation for the Multicultural Refugee Coalition in appreciation for her very informative program. <https://www.mrcaustin.org/>

Book Lovers

Just a couple of weeks ago our small group of women read and discussed *Ticker: the Quest to Create an Artificial Heart* by Mimi Swartz. At first we were unsure if this would be too "medical" and hard to read. Instead it was written in Texas Monthly style of someone who can tell about candid conversations and clarify research into complex issues with precise everyday language. We were fascinated by the strong personalities who added so much to the worldwide acceptance and use of artificial parts that are now routinely used in heart procedures.

Our next book is *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. The author reveals the grueling way of life she thought was normal. Controlled by a father and older brother who believed the government was coming to confiscate their land, guns, and stop their home schooling, she eventually breaks from the family. But it is an agonizing awakening to the differences she finds within the mainstream Mormon life and what her father practiced. We probably will have a discussion at the end of January or the beginning of February.

Submitted by Bernadine Eaton

ASTEFL Update

Did you know that ASTEF awards grants to women in Texas to help defray costs toward a bachelor's degree and/or a Texas teacher certificate? The ***Aspiring Educator Grant Guidelines and Application for 2019*** are now available on the ASTEF Forms page at <https://www.astef.org/forms.html>.

If you know of a deserving woman in Texas who is **not** a member of DKG and who is pursuing a bachelor's degree and/or a Texas teacher certificate to become a teacher, please go to the website and review the guidelines. The applicant must be sponsored by a TSO member (i.e., a DKG member in Texas). Applicants may apply for a 3- or 6-hour award for up to four years (must apply each year) or for a one-time award to pursue alternative teacher certification in Texas. The **deadline** to submit the applications for the Aspiring Educator Grant is **March 1, 2019**. Help facilitate effective education in Texas by sponsoring a prospective educator!

ASTEFL has applied for its very first grants from foundations that award grants for educational purposes. The purpose of the grant requests is to increase the total amount of funding that can be awarded for Project Stipends with the goal of increasing the number of chapters awarded and thus the number of educators and students served across Texas. ASTEF V.P. for Programs, submitted a Letter of Interest to the Sid W. Richardson Foundation in Fort Worth, TX. Unfortunately, the foundation regrettably informed us that they cannot consider funding at this time due to other priorities. Also a Letter of Inquiry was submitted to the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation located in Houston. We have not received a response from them as of the date of this article.

Also as of the writing of this article, we are writing a third application to the Ed Rachal Foundation, whose founder believed deeply in education. Cross your fingers!

Texas areas raised a total of \$5,154 for ASTEF Project Stipends at the various Area workshops this past summer and early fall. Epsilon Kappa coordinated the ASTEF Raffle and Silent Auction for the Area 7 Workshop. We raised a total of \$913, which consisted of \$150 for the Silent Auction of the original watercolor painting by Lucille Edgarian, Debbie Sansom's beautiful Mom, and the hand-woven basket donated by a member of another chapter, plus \$763 for the raffle items. Thanks to all chapter members who helped with this special event! It was a huge success!

ASTEFL will be having another online auction as part of our February Giving Month this year! I will let you know when it starts and ends so you can bid for something online to support ASTEF. If you have something you would like to donate to the online auction, let me know. I'll be most happy to accept the item and submit it under your name as the donor. New and older antique items sell very well. Maybe you have something special in your China cabinet that you could donate rather than taking it to Goodwill!

As always, thank you for supporting ASTEF! We couldn't do our work without you!

Submitted by Dr. Earin Martin

Epsilon Kappa Foundation Update

Members of Epsilon Kappa donated almost \$3000 to the **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** this year along with their dues payments – a new record! Donations designated for the Phyllis Richards Leadership Fund build the endowment to provide grants for our chapter members to attend various DKG leadership events. Donations to Foundation Projects are used to purchase classroom supplies and instructional materials for early-career educators participating in the chapter's SEE Project.



If you have not donated to the foundation this year – or would like to make additional end-of-year donations in honor or in memory of friends or family members – you can find a contribution form on the Epsilon Kappa website (www.epsilonkappatx.com). All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for generously supporting the work of **your** chapter foundation!

Submitted by Evelyn Barron

Membership Happenings

In September, Evelyn Barron and Marcia Kirkland hosted the new member orientation meeting in their home to welcome prospective members.

October's Induction at DKG Headquarters introduced us to Sarah Cable and Judy Truve. Sarah is currently the lead counselor at Pflugerville High School. Judy retired from the Texas Education Agency, after working as a speech therapist, special education teacher, and consulting at a regional education service center. Currently she contracts with districts to assist with accountability issues and special education concerns.

In November, Norma Jost, invited Sara Bires to attend and after the holidays another orientation will be scheduled for her and other prospective members.

Pam Kelly emailed all members a prospect card in September to use to recommend someone for membership. Please complete the card and return it to Pam with names of potential members. Use the Delta Kappa Gamma business cards to provide more information for prospective members. Add your name and contact information on the back. Invite them to attend a meeting with you. Be invitational, send the Membership Committee names of those you work with, folks you speak with from other organizations you attend, as well as friends. Share with others what DKG means to you.

Submitted by Pam Kelly

International Conference July 17–20 in Costa Mesa, CA

DKG holds international conferences in the odd numbered years and this summer the International Conference in the southwest area is in Costa Mesa, California. As Southwest Regional Director, Marilyn Gregory is planning this conference which will be held July 17-20, 2019 with the theme - Technology. Speakers, workshops and takeaway presentations will center around technology but other topics will also be offered. Workshop presenters are needed and the application can be found on the international website under Costa Mesa, CA. The Hilton Orange County is the main hotel and Southwest, United, American, Delta, and Frontier airlines fly into John Wayne Airport with the hotel van to transport members to and from the airport. Room reservations as well as the conference reservation will be open in mid-January. Sandi Causey will be contracted to do the registration and Deb Acevedo-Tamminga will be the music chair in charge of the choir. Plan to attend, learn about technology and support these Epsilon Kappa chapter members.

Do you want to be a workshop presenter? Submit your application before the Jan. 15th deadline. Go to the dkg.org website. Look for the International Conferences under Events on the main menu. The CA-Technology is our International Conference for the Southwest Region.

Submitted by Marilyn Gregory

New Collegiate Member Status Broadens Eligibility for International and State Scholarships

You may have already heard by now that the 2018 International Convention amended the DKG Constitution to include a new classification of Society members: **Collegiate Members**. Chapters can now induct *collegiate members*.

A collegiate member may be an **undergraduate or graduate student**. The **undergraduate** student collegiate member must be enrolled within the last two years of her undergraduate education degree in an institution offering an education degree and have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education. The **graduate** student collegiate member must have graduate standing in an institution offering an education degree and have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education.

A collegiate member will pay discounted dues (they are the same as reserve dues) and may participate in the activities of the Society except holding office, with the exception of Parliamentarian, which is not an elected office.

This is really good news, not only as an avenue for increasing chapter membership and helping to provide sustained professional and personal development, as well as encouragement and networking, for our eager upcoming teachers, but also in facilitating eligibility for international and state scholarships.

I have been informed that the TSO Executive Committee voted in October that the years a collegiate member pays dues may count toward eligibility for **TSO scholarships**. This could mean that after a collegiate member completes her college program, gets certified, gets a job as a teacher in the state of Texas, and becomes a full active TSO member, she may already be eligible for some TSO scholarships. The 3, 6, and 9-hour TSO **graduate** scholarships require only 2 years of membership by June 1 of the scholarship year to be eligible. This is a valuable benefit to membership for these beginning teachers who want to pursue an advanced degree!

For **International scholarships**, an applicant is required to be an active member for a minimum of 3 years if pursuing **doctoral studies**, and be an active member for a minimum of 1 year at the time of application if pursuing **other graduate studies**. Based on tentative readings and opinions by international leadership, it appears that a collegiate member would be eligible for a **graduate** scholarship from International after her first year of membership!

Once we recruit and induct the collegiate members, or any new member for that matter, we need to encourage them to be **ACTIVE** members of Epsilon Kappa by attending meetings and perhaps serving on a committee and/or participating in projects and activities. Not only is this **ACTIVE** involvement in the chapter required for their application for a scholarship, but it also helps them become acquainted with our great chapter members, programs, and activities and learn the real benefits of being a member of DKG.

Submitted by Earin Martin

Upcoming Epsilon Kappa Chapter Programs

When: Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11:00 am

Where: Saltgrass Steakhouse, 10614 Research Blvd.

Program: The value of gender diversity: why empowering women matters, and how each generation is uniquely suited to effect change

Speaker: Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette (President of Huston-Tillotson University)

When: Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10:00 am

Where: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Hatlen Room, 1100 W 45th St.

Program: Mental Health Panel: How do we assist our students and children in the ever-changing world of technology?

Speakers: Elementary and Secondary Counselors from different districts

When: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 10:00 am

Where: Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters, 416 W 12th St.

Program: Initiation, Awards, etc.

Speaker: TBA

Saturday, May 4, 2019 – Founders Day at University of Texas Thompson Center

Member Spotlight



Phyllis Richards, still going strong at 98



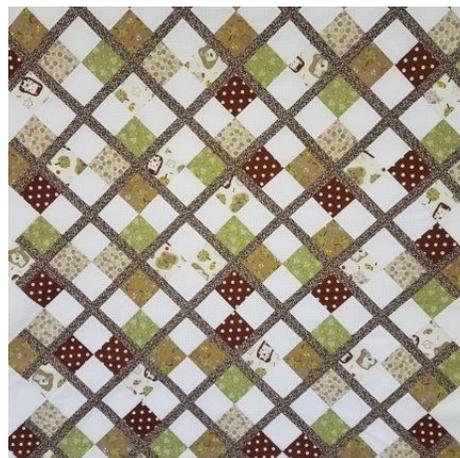
Julia Mellenbach still enjoys being a member at the age of 102

Getting to Know Our Members

When I am not working on the next edition of the DKG newsletter, I spend my time working on crocheting stuffed animals for the children of my family, friends and co-workers. Here are a few of the critters I have made:



More recently I have started quilting and am really enjoying it!



Submitted by Diane Sidoroff



Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, Jan. 11th. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at diane.sidoroff@gmail.com or to Kathy Mihalik at kmihalik@airmail.net

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!

Epsilon Kappa Chapter The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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Chapter Website: <https://www.epsilonkappatx.com/>

Let's Celebrate!

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

Claudia Knowles	12 - 04	Debbie Tonne	01 - 02
Sandi Causey	12 - 08	Jenna Rice	01 - 06
Kathy Mihalik	12 - 08	Marilyn Gregory	01 - 08
Ann Lilie	12 - 19	Martha Dolman	01 - 11
Janet Bernard	12 - 22	Jo Watts	01 - 23
Luisa Hernandez	12 - 26	Charlotte Hanna	01 - 26
		Jeanette Abrajan	01 - 27

