

The Reporter

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: You are the key

Chapter Theme: Women Educators and Learners... inspire, create and empower

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 3

DEC./JAN. 2020-21

The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International

Epsilon Kappa
Chapter #130

Alpha State
Austin, TX
Area 7

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President's Message



2020-2022 Epsilon Kappa
president, Hilda Diaz

A couple of years ago I met a teacher who was adamant to teach her students about "Growth Mindset." A growth mindset, proposed by Stanford professor Carol Dweck in her book *Mindset*, describes people who believe that their success depends on time and effort. People with a growth mindset feel their skills and intelligence can be improved with effort and persistence. They embrace challenges, persist through obstacles, learn from criticism and seek out inspiration in others' success. I didn't necessarily see the importance then, but after the crazy and overwhelmingly stressful circumstances we faced this year, I definitely understood it! I saw how some people were able to rebound and adjust after COVID hit, while others seemed devastated and without the desire to keep going, not willing to try.

I questioned myself every so often, especially at this time of the year, and now I want to ask you, "What did you accomplish this year?" The end of the year always comes as a time of reflection for me. Did I learn/try something new? Did I fail in something? What can I improve?

2020 has definitely been the year that challenged the whole world, but at this moment, I want to do a deep reflection and think. How did 2020 change/challenge me? In hindsight I reflect on the way I faced challenges. I know I was determined to look at opportunities and push myself to new limits. I didn't let the "new" stop me from trying; I tried my best to stay positive, not just for me but for my family and my colleagues as well. That attitude made me feel I had a "lighter" load to carry, as I was navigating and adjusting to the new normal. I had opportunities that allowed me to grow professionally, which led me to adjust and find a new balance between my personal and professional life.

The beginning of a new year comes with hope and a clean slate. Now it is time to set new goals, so the questions change: What do you want to accomplish this new year? Are you going to acquire a Growth Mindset? How do you want to remember 2021? It is all up to you as to how you face the new opportunities and challenges to come. Remember to stay positive, take risks, don't worry about making mistakes, do not settle, always go for more! Make this new year be your best one yet!

Have a blessed and joyful Christmas season. May you be filled with joy and excitement and the hope of a new year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

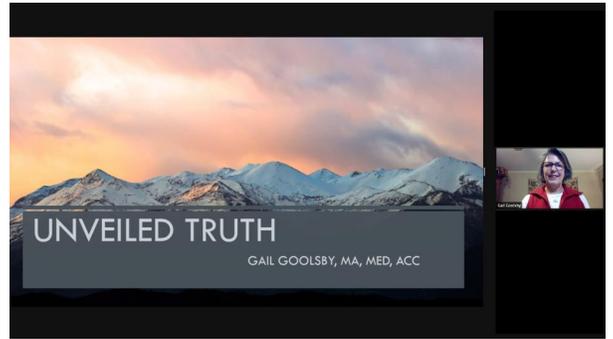


—Hilda Diaz

Image from Creative Commons

November Meeting Highlights

Our November meeting featured a great presentation by Gail Goolsby, recipient of the 2020 Educators Book Award. She told her story of living and working in Afghanistan for 7 years. The author is a DKG member who currently lives in Wichita, Kansas. For a link to her book *Unveiled Truth: Lessons I Learned Leading the International School of Kabul*, go to: <https://www.amazon.com/Unveiled-Truth-Lessons-Learned-International/dp/1734243619>



The meeting began with a remembrance of Epsilon Kappa’s honorary chapter member Barbara Braden, who passed away on October 29th. She served as a 2nd grade teacher for over 30 years in the Austin ISD.

Then a fun business meeting ensued! Recipients of the S.E.E. gift cards talked about how they used the funds for their classrooms and schools. Marilyn gave an update on the US Forum’s upcoming Zoom presentation of “Amending the Gap: The 19th and 28th Amendments” by Dr. Gayle Seymour from the University of Central Arkansas. Marilyn also shared her photo *Buttermilk Falls* that is in the DKG Art Gallery.

Members engaged in a lively discussion on how to celebrate at our December meeting with songs and activities from around the world. Watch the Zoom meeting that is posted on our chapter’s website for the wonderful ideas that were discussed. epsilonkappa.com

Check out new information posted on the state and international websites dkgtexas.org and dkg.org. Both the *Winter 2020 Lone Star News* and *2020 Nov-Dec DKG News* are there.



Epsilon Kappa Good News!



Epsilon Kappa Supports Area Schools and Teachers

Using profits from sales of DKG facemasks, Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation gave an H·E·B gift card to each school where a chapter member is employed. School principals were asked to use the \$50 gift card to purchase treats for the entire staff.

Treats for teachers at West Cypress Hills Elementary School, “school home” of Epsilon Kappa member Linda Holt



Coffee, doughnuts and juice for staff at Padron Elementary, where our own Gracie Esquivel is a first-year principal



“Thank you on behalf of all Walnut Creek Teachers and Staff.”

Dr. Dinorah Bores, Walnut Creek Principal



Morning delivery of hot chocolate and doughnuts to teachers at Walnut Creek Elementary



Epsilon Kappa gave \$25 Target gift cards to 21 early-career educators at Walnut Creek, Wooldridge, Cook, and Guerrero Thompson Elementary Schools. Teachers purchased a variety of needed classroom supplies.



Play-Doh, cardstock, beads, and more Play-Doh — basic supplies for elementary classrooms



Rings for obstacle course at recess and a book to enhance STEM lessons — for Ashley Busby’s second-grade class at Wooldridge

“Thank you SO much for the \$25 Target gift card! I am so grateful that you thought about us mentees here at Cook. We really appreciate it.”
Destiny Nickles, 1st Grade ESL,

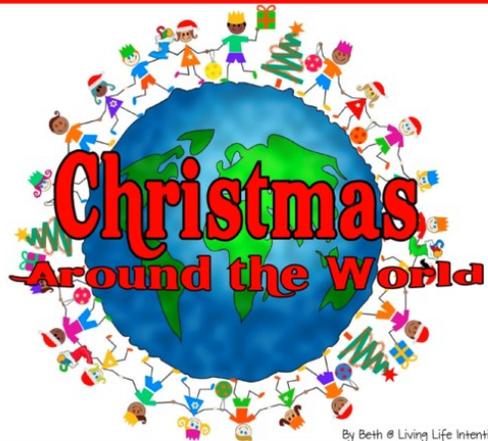


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Upcoming Meeting December Meeting

December 12, 2020

Time: 10:00 am

Location: ZOOM Meeting

Program: Christmas around the world • Sharing Stories • Singing Carols

More information to come!



**Mark
Your
Calendar**



Upcoming Epsilon Kappa Chapter Programs 2020—2021

*Note: The December meeting will be on Zoom.
We will keep you posted on future meetings.
Thanks to our members for being flexible.*

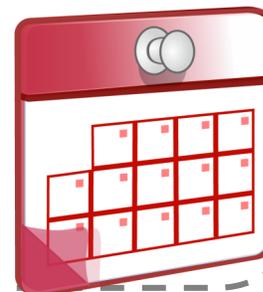
Saturday, December 12, 2020, 10:00 am – Zoom meeting
Program: Celebrating Christmas Traditions • Sharing Stories • Singing Carols

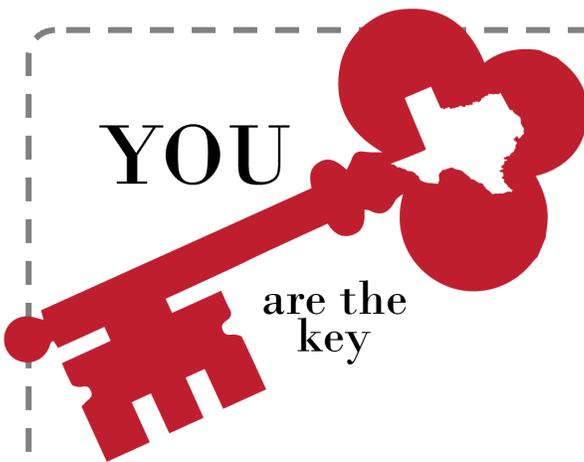
Saturday, February 6, 2021, 11:00 am – Saltgrass Restaurant
Program: Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) – a program that helps the entire school community build relationships and helps students to be aware of their behavior and classroom/school expectations.
Speaker: Michelle Brooks, 3rd grade teacher, Georgetown ISD

Saturday, March 6, 2021, 10:00 am – Huston–Tillotson University
Program: Touring Huston-Tillotson and visiting with students in the educator preparation program

Thursday, April 8, 2021, 6:00 pm – TBD
Program: Recognizing Achievers • Induction of New Members • Presentation of Member Awards and Outstanding First-Year Teacher Award
Speaker: Sandi Causey

Saturday, May 1, 2021 – Chez Zee Party Room
Founder’s Day Celebration
Speaker: Becky Sadowski, DKG Int’l President
Event Sponsored by Coordinating Council of Austin





Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, January 15th. You can send your submissions by email 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**

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

Looking for New Members

As a new school year begins, Epsilon Kappa wishes to invite new members to our chapter. We hope to identify potential new members, invite them to an orientation session, and induct them into membership at our April meetings. Please let Bernadine Eaton, Membership Committee chair, know about any potential members. It is always nice to have several new members, since that makes it more fun for them. ANYONE can invite a new member, so look around at school, church, community and tell women educators about DKG!!

Let's Celebrate!

December...

- 4 Claudia Knowles
- 8 Sandi Causey
- 8 Kathy Mihalik
- 19 Ann Lilie
- 22 Janet Bernard
- 26 Luisa Hernandez

January...

- 2 Debbie Tonne
- 8 Marilyn Gregory
- 11 Martha Dolman
- 13 Danielle Sanders
- 19 Sue Bires
- 23 Jo Watts
- 26 Charlotte Hanna
- 27 Jeanette Abrajan

