

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: Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow

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

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Editor

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President's Message

Welcome to the year 2018, as we embrace **Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow**, our state theme. This year Epsilon Kappa nominates new officers to lead our way into a new biennium. Please thoughtfully consider a leadership role in our chapter. We are all here to support and assist you with your responsibilities. You bring your individual personality, ideas, and expertise to share. Our chapter is so blessed to have so many super ladies always willing to help with any task.

The Texas State Organization Convention, "Building Bridges," is in Waco, June 14-16, 2018. New officers will be offered training opportunities. Events begin on Thursday midday and end with brunch on Saturday. Founders' Banquet will be an evening of Denim and Diamonds, in lieu of formal attire. Need CPE credits? There will be lots of opportunities to receive them in this jam packed fun filled 3 days at the Waco Convention Center. Register soon!

Remember that the Delta Kappa International Convention is at the J.W. Marriott, July 16-20, 2018. The International Convention Committee is counting on us to show our warm Texas hospitality, by being table hostesses and helping with registration, being greeters and many other tasks. If possible, plan to lend a hand the week before the convention to assist with needed tasks. If you have never attended an international convention, this is your opportunity to see the Opening Ceremony with all of our sisters from around the world. It will warm your heart to see how Delta Kappa Gamma Society International truly promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education worldwide. Don't miss it!

Like music? Save the date, Wednesday, July 18, 2018 from 6:30- 9:00 pm at the international convention to hear The Sights and Sounds of Austin, sponsored by the DKG Educational Foundation.

Forward with Heart...as we bridge yesterday and tomorrow!

Pam Kelly

NOTE: Important date change for our **April Meeting**.

We will now be meeting on **Saturday, April 14th**
(instead of April 21st).



December Meeting Recap

Our December 2nd meeting was a spirited and giving affair. We were privileged to meet in Joan Burnham's home. The December hospitality group provided some yummy brunch treats. Jo Watts and Marilyn Gregory ran our silent auction. Several hundred dollars was raised to benefit SEE. Members also brought books to donate to Libraries of Love. Upon later receiving our generous donations, Trudy Marshall exclaimed, "The books are great...Some kids in Uganda will definitely be reading!...We also received the books through Amazon! Please let everyone know they are very much appreciated. The kids love those with African settings and kids. Many thanks! 20,000 students will have new books this year! Thanks for helping make that possible."

Jeannette Abrajan led us in Kagan icebreakers, and modeled some great make-and-take activities for our students to get to know one another, as well as review for assessments.

Deb Acevedo-Tamminga led us in the entertaining and interactive "Twelve Days of Christmas," where we had musical instruments, and even modeled our squawking abilities throughout all of the days. Much fun was had at our December meeting.

Submitted by Cara Hamlin



Members enjoying refreshments at Joan Burnham's home



Participating in a sing-a-long



Checking out the silent auction items



February/March Meeting Preview

Please join us for our luncheon at Saltgrass Steakhouse on Saturday, February 3rd. Lake Travis ISD Deputy Superintendent Mary Patin will be presenting: “School of Innovation Overview. What is It? How is it Beneficial? How Does it Change Instruction?” Lake Travis was one of the early adopters of the District of Innovation Initiative. Ms. Patin will help us to understand what a District of Innovation is, how it changes the modern-day classroom, and clear up any misconceptions.

Saturday, February 3, 2018 - Luncheon at 11:00 am

Location: Saltgrass Steak House - 10614 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759

Topic: School of Innovation Overview. What is It? How is it Beneficial? How Does it Change Instruction?

Presenter: LTISD Deputy Superintendent Mary Patin

On Thursday, March 8th, at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI), we will have the privilege of hearing from a panel of experts on school choice. Our speakers range from a charter school principal, a state representative, and the Director of Government Relations for TFT. We will be exploring school choice, as well as what can public schools learn from charter schools and vice versa. In an effort to maximize our time with our experts, we will be taking questions early for our panel (we will also take questions at the meeting). Please go to this link: goo.gl/5tDeaw

You can also scan this QR code to submit your questions (just open your camera on your phone and put it over the picture):



We will also have a Facebook Live video available for this meeting, for those who can't attend and want to video-conference. More information will be shared on our Facebook page, as well as emailed out at a later date. If you're on Facebook, and currently not a member of our Facebook group, please search for the name, Epsilon Kappa Texas Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, and request to join.

Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 6:00 pm

Location: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired - 1100 W. 45th St. Austin, TX 78756 (Hatlen Room Outreach Center, Building 605)

Topic: School Choice: How Does it Benefit Public Schools, How Does it Hinder Them? What Can Public Schools Learn from Charter Schools and Vice Versa - School Choice Panel Moderated by Claudia Knowles

Submitted by Cara Hamlin



SEE Project Update

Despite having to postpone our original plan to deliver cookies to all our SEE mentees right after the MLK break, all 41 educators got a taste of deliciousness from the bakers of Epsilon Kappa. The onslaught of ice and a delayed opening of the next day meant that we packed and delivered in one day. Plastic containers were very quickly filled with a variety of cookies and “tossed” in Hershey’s kisses. Then it was off to six AISD elementary schools. Because of student testing, it was decided to leave the gifts in the teachers’ boxes. We found that not all slots are the same! Some are very short in height and can not accommodate large containers. The office staff assured us they would deliver them to each recipient. Next time we will have to include these worthy ladies, too. In a little over two hours the complete circuit was made.

Thanks to the 12 chapter members who provided either dozens of cookies or monetary donations used to purchase the containers and extra candy. We are fortunate to have willing helpers.



Submitted by Bernadine Eaton & Marcia Kirkland

Give From Your Heart During ASTEF Giving Month

February is “ASTEF Giving Month.” Now is the time to dig into your purses and make a tax-deductible contribution from your heart to ASTEF. Anytime during the month of February, you can donate online while in your PJs via the “Donate Now” tab on the ASTEF website using any major credit card (<http://www.astef.org/donate-now.html>). If you prefer to write a check and mail in your contribution, you can use the *Contribution Form for Individuals* on the ASTEF Forms page at <http://www.astef.org/forms.html>. The Contribution Form and check must be received by TSO Headquarters in the month of February in order to count toward Giving Month.

You can also share this information with non-DKG members who are interested in supporting educators and students in Texas. Remember, your continued contributions allow ASTEF to award scholarships, leadership opportunities, and stipends to worthy chapter projects! What better way to help positively impact education in Texas?

And mark your calendars for the “**online auction**” to be held **February 12 through February 28**. Due to the abbreviated convention this year in Waco, this online auction and fundraiser will take the place of the silent auction that is usually held at the TSO convention. If you’ve seen the auction items in the past at TSO conventions, you know there can be some wonderful items! Items will be fewer, but there will still be jewelry, art, gift cards, designer handbags, a Bed and Breakfast stay, and other interesting items. Go to the ASTEF website, www.astef.org, to learn more about the items available and to place your bid!

Submitted by Earin Martin

Spotlight on Carolyn Wilson

I can never remember a time when I didn't want to be a teacher! I taught my dolls, my dog, my brother, and any cousins or neighbors who would let me. Growing up in a small East Texas town in the 40's and 50's, I loved school! My first grade teacher had taught my father, my mother and my brother. I lived a block away from the 1st through 12th grade school and when I heard the bell ring, I could start out and be in my classroom before the tardy bell rang. My father owned a small grocery store and he allowed me to work there growing up. I learned a great deal about the economy, making change and a tremendous amount about people!



Following graduation from high school (there were 10 in my graduating class), I attended college in Austin at the University of Texas and graduated with a degree in Home Economics Education and Elementary Education. On my first day of class, I could not find room 201 and when I asked a student, he pointed upward---I had never been in a two story building before! One of my professors was Dr. Phyllis Richards and I was fortunate to work for her. I loved every minute at UT-----sometimes my classes had more students than there were residents in my hometown!

My first job was in Abilene teaching home economics! Abilene High School had been the state football champion for several years and many a biscuit lateraled out of my cooking lab to passing football players! It was so different in those days---the worst thing a student did was chew gum in class. I met my husband in Abilene and taught there another year and then we moved to the Houston area where we raised three children--using all the child development skills I had learned at Texas University plus a little of Dr. Spock!

We lived in Bellville, Texas, when our children were young and I was a stay-at-home mom. Discovering the town did not have a library, I gathered a group of interested moms and we raised the funds to build a small library. As we knew it would, the library continued to grow and provide programs for young children and adults. By the time our children were in high school, we were living in Katy, Texas, and I began substituting in the schools. I was offered a job in an elementary school while working on my master's degree at St. Thomas University in Houston. As time went by, a chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma was formed in Katy and I was invited to join the Lambda Chi Chapter. It was rewarding to be with my educator friends who valued the same things I did.

We relocated to Austin in 1987! It was so different from my remembrances of college days! All of our married life, my husband and I had laughed and remarked, "If you are good all of your life, when you die, you go to Austin!" Here we were---alive and in Austin! It was exciting to be a part of a 'young thinking' city. I signed up to be a substitute teacher and quickly found 'my people' in a chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma! I was hired to teach 4th grade at Forest Trail Elementary which, at that time, was a 3 - 5 school. Later, our school transitioned to a K - 5 campus and I taught 1st grade and looped with my class to 2nd grade!

When I retired in 2001, my principal cried! I told him that I had never seen fall leaves and as a child, I thought the pictures in my books were a figment of someone's imagination! That following Fall, I did make a trip to upstate New York and took a thousand pictures!



Every semester, my former principal called to see if I would come back to teaching. After five years of retirement, I was tired of volunteer work and we had finished traveling our "bucket list" of travels----and I was bored, so I said, "Yes!" I returned to Forest Trail and was trained to

Continued on page 6

Spotlight (cont.)

deliver a program to children with dyslexia. This was of great interest to me because my oldest son was dyslexic as a child. We did not know anything about dyslexia or how to help him. At the end of the 20th century, medical research was active in finding the cause of dyslexia and programs were being developed to help these children! This work became the source of my passion! As a retired teacher, I only teach half-time which is fine with me! I am singing on my way to work each day and my heart melts which I hear one of my students say, "I CAN READ!!"

Turning 80 years old this year, 2017, I feel like I am 30 and feel so lucky that I can still serve children. Teaching does this for me!!!

Submitted by Mary Harney

Calling for Nominations for Outstanding First-Year Teacher

It's time to nominate promising, exemplary first-year teachers for the **Epsilon Kappa Outstanding First-Year Teacher Award**. The award will be presented at the April chapter meeting.

The objectives of the Outstanding First-Year Teacher Award are to recognize an exemplary first-year teacher and to address the following Purposes of the Society:

To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education

To advance the professional interest and position of women in education

Nominees must demonstrate:

Enthusiasm and dedication

Active interest and involvement in professional growth

Care and concern for students

Knowledge of subject matter

You can access the nomination form online on our chapter website at

<http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/documents-and-forms.html>.

Nomination forms are due to Cara Hamlin, Chair of the Educational Excellence Committee, no later than **February 15**.

You can mail the completed form to Cara at 1519 Emperor Ct. Round Rock, TX 78664 or via email as an attachment to cararcowan@gmail.com.

So put your thinking caps on and nominate someone, male or female, in your school or community. Remember, the person can be a first-year teacher who meets the criteria in any field of education.

Submitted by Pam Kelly and Cara Hamlin

Book Lovers

The Book Lovers group will meet on February 25 at 3:00 pm at Sandi Causey’s home. We will be discussing Jennifer Chiaverini’s *Enchantress of Numbers* and the culture and traditions that influenced the perceptions about Ada Byron King, Countess of Lovelace. Her mother, who wanted no sign of the Byron “passion,” controlled her life even during her marriage. Though she was heralded in intellectual circles, the society dismissed her contributions, especially her detailed analysis of how to program the first computer. Just because she was a woman, no one believed she could have solved the problem on her own. Thankfully, her achievements are now recognized as the start of new technology that is shaping our future. Read the novel and come join us for lively conversation.

Submitted by Bernadine Eaton

Please Volunteer to Serve Your Chapter

Time is of the essence for you to volunteer to serve as an **officer, committee chair, and/or committee member for the 2018-2020 biennium**. Every member is encouraged to serve in one or more of these capacities to help maintain a healthy chapter.

We must have the slate of officers determined no later than March 1 in time to elect officers at the March meeting and install them at the April meeting. Even if you have served as an officer in the past, or if you are new and have not yet had the privilege of serving as an officer or committee chair, **now is the time to share your leadership skills and talents with chapter members**. Some offices and committee chairs require little work, while others allow you to spread your wings a little more!

If you are not able to commit to an officer position at this time, at a minimum please let me know which committee(s) you are interested in serving as chair or member. For a description of committee responsibilities, please view the “Chapter” tab on the chapter website at <http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/our-chapter.html>.

Even if you can’t attend all of the meetings, each and every one of you has some special gifts that can help Epsilon Kappa be the best it can be! Please volunteer today!

2018 - 2020 Epsilon Kappa Nominees		
Chapter Officers	Nominations Committee	Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation Board of Directors
President - Cheryl Lane First Vice - President - Norma Jost Second Vice - President - Gracie Esquivel Secretary - Ann Lilie	Pam Kelly Kim Thonhoff Debbie Sansom	Carole Deuser Joan Burnham

Submitted by Earin Martin

Save the Dates 2017—1018

March 2018

Meeting: Thursday, March 8, 2018 - 6:00 PM

Location: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired - Hatlen Room

April 2018

Meeting: Saturday, April 14, 2018 - 10:00 AM

Location: Delta Kappa Gamma International Headquarters

September 15, 2018

Meeting: Area 7 Workshop

Location: Patsy Sommer Elementary, Round Rock.



**Mark
Your
Calendar**



Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, Mar. 16th. 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!

Epsilon Kappa Chapter The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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

Web Watcher

Texas State Historical Association has a fabulous website for all things history in Texas. I came across this site recently when I was reading a book that referred to an incident at Legion Valley, Texas. Google Maps was not able to help me locate Legion Valley, but a search introduced me to this website with information well beyond what I was looking for! The website has resources for educators with links from a list of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fourth and Seventh Grade. The Texas Day By Day section is updated with fun Texas History facts daily. You can subscribe to get a free email daily or weekly with this information. There is also a free *Texas Day by Day App* to keep you updated with Texas History. This is what you get for free, but if you want to join TSHA, membership levels include an Educator Level for \$40 annually. Check out this website and enter a search for Annie Webb Blanton!

<https://www.tshaonline.org>

[www.educationworld](http://www.educationworld.com) is another site that is worth considering. There are tabs for Teacher Essentials, Administrators, Technology, and Professional Development. I am a fan of the Administrators section; its “What’s New,” and “Hot Topics” sections keep me updated on the latest information in our field with easy to read articles. I signed up for the weekly emails and get them delivered to my inbox on Saturday mornings. This website is FULL of ads, so as always, be careful where you click.

Submitted by Mary Tracy-Harney

Let’s Celebrate!

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in February and March:

Dr Glenda Bell	02-12	Lilian Villafuerte-Abregu	03-06
Rebecca Blackmore	02-13	Kitty Mellenbruch	03-17
Ely Rodriguez-Villafane	02-17	Dr. Phyllis Richards	03-30
Mary Louise Poolman	02-18	Gracie Esquivel	03-30

