



The Mu Tauker

The Mu Tauker editor Lavonne Dennis
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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Texas State Organization

Area 1 Chapter 307 Mu Tau Chapter

Cedar Creek Lake Area

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

Barbara's Blog

Dear Mu Tau Sisters,

The leaves are changing colors, the weather is getting cooler, and the holiday season is upon us. This is my favorite holiday of the whole year. The cutting of the Christmas tree, the baking of holiday treats, and the wrapping of all the presents are some of my favorite times. I enjoy the family gatherings and time together. Family is so important to me, and I still have very special memories from the past that mean so much to my family and me. We spend time making candy and special treats to give as gifts and remember all the times we spent together. I hope you have special memories to look back on this holiday season.

We had a very special guest speaker last month. Meg Calvin presented a program on the Bluebonnet Child, with an oral and visual presentation on how the local church can help as a supplementary family to "Bluebonnet Children," whose families may have abandoned them emotionally or otherwise. Meg was raised in Mabank, attended local schools and Mabank First United Methodist Church. She signed personal copies of her book ***The Bluebonnet Child***. The book gives each of us a helpful look as to what we can do in our own community to advocate for the needs of every child to grow and be nurtured in faith and love even in hard times.

Janice Beasley presented Meaningful Moments from Steve Goodier's "His Teacher's Hand." We all have had the experience at some point of realizing the impact our being there has meant in the life of a student. We hardly think about the impression we leave with a child until a moment like this. The simple smile or a special look will help tell our story.

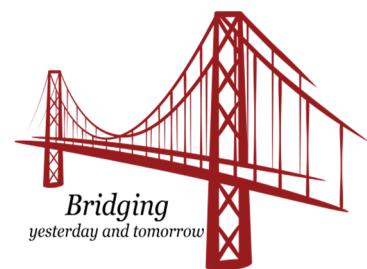
Thanks to our hostesses for the treats provided during our meeting.

Our meeting this month will help provide supplies and gifts for Forever Families for Christmas. We need to continue to help by providing needed supplies for the home and for the families living there. Forever Families provides a home for families in crisis. Eleven family units and 16 children currently live there. A special thanks to Monica and Melody for helping at the home.

Don't miss this month's meeting.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Have a safe holiday.

Love to all, *Barbara*



Mu Tau Meeting

Monday

December 11, 2017

4:45 PM

Tri-County Library

Hostesses: Monica Fortenberry, Angela Barton, Kathy Clardy, Erin Cox, Libby Horton

Meaningful Moments

Thelma Stegman

Program

Society Business



Find us:

[http://
dkgtxmutau.weebly.com](http://dkgtxmutau.weebly.com)

www.dkg.org

www.dkgtx.org



Jean Robinson will continue to collect cash donations for ASTEF.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!



Mu Tau calendar 2017-2018

December 11, 2017 Society Business

Slate of officers and new member prospects presented

January 15, 2018 Executive Board Meeting

February 12, 2018 ASTEF and Stem

Election of officers and new members

March 19, 2018 Pride in the Big Picture

April 16, 2018 Initiation at FUMC, Mabank

May 14, 2018 Celebrating the DKG Founders

June 14-16, 2018 TSO Convention, Waco, Texas

July 16-20, 2018 International Convention, Austin, Texas

August 4, 2018 Area 1 Workshop, with AC Janice Sutton

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What It's All About—What We Are All About

by Shawnn Oliver

I look around my classroom and see the sweet little faces each day that need reassurance, need a confidence boost or just a little hug to make it through the day. Before I became a teacher and was on the other end (as a parent), I didn't realize the responsibility we carry each day as a child's teacher. We love each child as our own; we discipline in love and teach more than our given subject.

I look back on my experiences as a student and now realize the dedication it takes to invest in the lives of our students. I had teachers that gave so much of themselves in and out of school. It is so hard sometimes to allow a child to leave for the weekend, only to know that you'll be starting all over come Monday.

There are times of tears, laughter, excitement, and of course those fervent prayers that do not go unheard. We must stay strong and keep pressing forward. We are molding the lives of the students that are going to be our future leaders, and we need to recognize the huge contribution we are making in each life that we encounter.

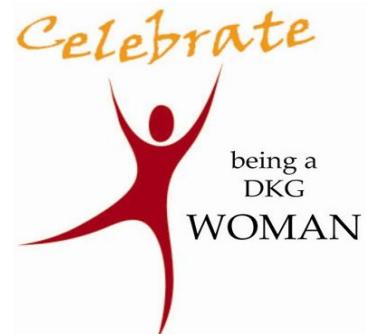
"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up just as in fact you are doing."

—1 Thessalonians 5:11



Mu Tau
Executive Board
2016-2018

President
Barbara Jedlicka
First Vice President
Mindy Marder
Second Vice President
Libby Horton
Recording Secretary
Beverly Hart
Corresponding Secretary
Sherri Purselley
Treasurer
Janice Sutton
Parliamentarian
Mary Ann Gregg
Immediate Past President
Janice Sutton
The Mu Tauker Editor
Lavonne Dennis



Mu Tau Projects

Little Free Libraries
Boxtop\$ for Education
Mu Tau Grant-in-Aid
Schools for Africa
SEE
Forever Families

MU TAU CHAPTER MEETING

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

November 13, 2017

The Mu Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International held the November 13, 2017, meeting at the Tri-County Library in Mabank. Fifteen members and four guests registered attendance. The hostess committee, Nancy McDonald, Mindy Marder, Melody Stephenson, Thelma Stegman, and Beverly Hart, invited members and guests to enjoy the fall-themed refreshments. The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm.

Mindy Marder introduced the guest speaker, Meg Calvin, author of THE BLUEBONNET CHILD. Meg was raised in Mabank and attended the local schools and Mabank First United Methodist Church. Meg gave an oral and audio-visual presentation of the background and meaning of the bluebonnet child. The bluebonnet, Texas state flower, grows in very poor soil. Not even unkempt soil prevents the bluebonnets from producing lovely, colorful blossoms. The bluebonnet children are from neglectful home environments and abusive families. Bluebonnet children need the supplemental help from extended family, a teacher, or a church ministry. Building up the local church to serve as a supplemental family to the Bluebonnet Child is her calling. The Triple A Approach is used to teach adults to be *Aware* of the child's story, to *Advocate* for the needs of the child, and to *Articulate* how the healing power of Christ is at work in the lives of bluebonnet children. Meg presented a very heartfelt and dedicated approach to guide adults: to be advocates of the bluebonnet children, to help all children grow and to be nurtured in faith and love, to blossom and survive even in difficult circumstances. She signed personal copies of THE BLUEBONNET CHILD after her presentation.

Janice Beasley shared the Meaningful Moments by reading Steve Goodier's "His Teacher's Hand." A first-grade teacher gave the class a fun seasonal assignment to draw a picture of something they were thankful for. One child, with sad eyes, drew his picture of an empty hand. Later, as the class tried unsuccessfully to guess whose hand it was, the little boy looked away and murmured, "It's yours, teacher." She was reminded how oftentimes she had taken his hand to walk with him, shown him how to hold his pencil, and held his hand for support. Children and adults may not always express thanks, but they remember the hand that reaches out to them.

President Jedlicka welcomed guests, Meg Calvin, Dena Mojica, Hilary Strum, Brenda Hargrove, and chapter members. The October meeting minutes were approved as presented in November's The Mu Tauker newsletter. President Jedlicka shared correspondence from DKG International that Keeley Barr had transferred her membership to Zeta Gamma. Jenny Harstrom resigned due to the family moving and her new position as principal in Forney. Mindy Marder moved to accept Jenny's resignation with regrets. Melody Stephenson seconded the motion, and it passed. A resignation letter from Cindy Clayburn was read and accepted stating she was not able to attend meetings regularly. Carol Voris-Render had left a voicemail with Janice Sutton stating her resignation.

Treasurer Janice Sutton gave a written and oral report stating a treasury balance of \$1,020.03. State and International fees of \$1,873.20 have been paid, meeting the deadline.

Libby Horton, Membership Committee chair, updated members on the present membership campaign. She has received five prospect cards and will continue to accept cards until a week before our December meeting.

President Jedlicka shared that Mu Tau Chapter has committed to helping with the next state convention. Mu Tau Chapter continues to support Forever Families with volunteers and donations of supplies. Additional support is being planned for the holidays. Members were informed that our chapter website needs updating and someone is being considered for that position of webmaster. Donations continue to be accepted for sponsoring Delta Kappa Gamma members affected by the hurricanes. Chapter treasurer Sutton has sent \$360 from our chapter member donations to date and continues to take donations. Jean Robinson will send collected donations for the Stay at Home Tea fundraiser to ASTEF.

Door prize gift certificates to the local tea room were won by members Libby Horton and Mary Ann Gregg.

President Jedlicka dismissed the meeting at 6:36 pm with the group singing of The Delta Kappa Gamma Song.

Beverly Hart, recording secretary

Barbara Jedlicka, chapter president



The Tapestry

by Kathy Clardy

Picture with me a beautiful, intricately woven tapestry. Burgundy, forest green, rich purple, and chocolate brown threads come together to form a magnificent wall hanging. Shimmering in the sunlight, a subtle, almost-forgotten golden thread catches our eye.

Much like a tapestry, a person's education consists of "threads," or subjects that are woven together to create their tapestry. Often, the almost forgotten thread is music. What would happen if it were left out of the tapestry? Does it have any benefits?

Benefits of Music

1. Higher intelligence through increased creative thinking, problem solving/math skills, and physically stronger brains
2. Higher perception of life including better attitudes and strong desires to achieve
3. Higher perception of compassion for others, including empathy for other cultures and races
4. Higher ability to deal with physical, mental, and emotional stressors of life (Music acts as a stress reliever!)
5. Higher spatial intelligence, which is essential for advanced mathematics problems and more

(Oh, we could keep adding to this list.)

Take a long look at your personal "tapestry." That golden thread—**music!**—probably exists in one way or another, adding beauty as well as other rewards to your life.



Best Christmas Ever

by Judy Sullivan

In the fall of 1969, we left Fort Sill, Oklahoma, with a new baby, an old car, a five-dollar used baby bed, and \$761, John's severance pay from the army. Those were all of our worldly possessions.

Two years before, John and I were teaching in Elmhurst, Illinois, and saving money for a house. At age 26, John was drafted into the Vietnam War Era. That's when our "*lean*" years began. After John's basic training at Fort Leonard Wood ended and he was assigned to Fort Sill, I quit my teaching position, and we used our savings to rent a small house off base.

After the service, we moved back to Illinois and resumed our teaching careers and once again began saving money for a house. We rented a house called the "doll house," which was appropriate considering its miniature size. One evening I was bathing our young son in the tub. He kept fussing and whining, which was unusual since bath time was typically an enjoyable time. When I was drying him, I noticed he had little cuts on him. That's when I peered down on my hollowed engagement ring and realized the swirling, murky water must have devoured my diamond. The prongs had been cutting him throughout his bath. Like the diamond, my heart sank. There was no way we could afford to replace the diamond. So I put the setting in my jewelry box and tried to forget about it.

Now, my wedding band looked like a slim washer, so every time I looked at it, I'd dream about replacing the stone in the engagement ring. Time has a way of moving on and changing our priorities, especially now, having two young children and finally building our first house. I kept telling myself that someday we'd replace the diamond.

It was that first Christmas in our new home when John took the ring and had a new diamond placed in the setting. It was the last present that I opened that morning, and it filled my heart with joy.

It represented all we had been through and all our years to come. We celebrated our 51st wedding anniversary this year, and I still have that diamond ring and my washer wedding band. To this day, it remains my best Christmas present ever.



Mu Tau December birthdays

Erin Cox, 12/2

Beverly Hart, 12/2

Linda Robinson, 12/3

Your birthstone: turquoise, tanzanite, or zircon

Your flower: narcissus or holly

Mu Tau January birthday

Judy Sullivan, 1/6

Your birthstone: garnet

Your flower: carnation or snowdrop

Happy birthday, Mu Tau Sisters, and many more! Celebrate! Have some cake!



89th Texas State Convention

Waco Convention Center

Waco, Texas

June 14-16, 2018 **Mu Tau** will help with the Executive Board General Business Committee meeting.

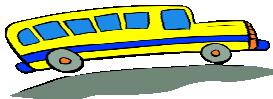


Be there or
be **VERY**
square!



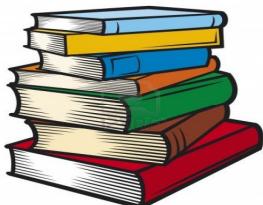
DKG

The 2018 DKG International Convention will be held in Austin, Texas, July 16-20, 2018, at the new JW Marriott Austin. Members interested in helping with this convention should contact Convention Chair JoAnn Brooks at joannbrooks@verizon.net.



Remember to bring your donations for Forever Families, money for the purchase of clothes appropriate for job interviews, and items that must be replenished in day-to-day living with mothers and children of ages 0-7.

Bring **USED** books to help stock Mu Tau's Little Free Libraries at Northpark and Cherokee Shores.



The used books go to Mindy Marder; books help people in our communities to become better readers and perhaps better citizens.

Note: The Boxtop\$ go to Sherri Purselley. Boxtop\$ help our schools help our kids.

**BOXTOP\$ for
education**