



# The Mu Tauker

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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,

Happy 2017. I hope you have had a great start for this new year. There are many new and exciting things happening during this new year. It is time for us to catch up on the news that has been happening since we last met.

Our executive board met in January to discuss the upcoming activities for our chapter. We will be voting on new members in February. Our reports for the year were submitted on time, and we are ready for all the awards. Remember to try to make every effort to attend every meeting so you don't miss out on the important programs.

Our program for the February meeting will be DKG Sweet-HEARTS. The February meeting will also include ASTEF's Day of Giving project. The ASTEF Board (our own Jean Robinson) has designated February as fundraising day to help with their projects. Our Little Free Libraries were funded by an ASTEF grant, so we know how important that money is!

State Convention is only a few months away. Plan on going to Houston for the exciting meeting on June 22-24, 2017. Information can be found in the **Lone Star News** and is also available on the state website at [www.dkgtxas.org](http://www.dkgtxas.org).

See you at the February meeting.

Hearts and flowers to each of you.



—Barbara



#### Mu Tau Meeting

**Monday**

February 13, 2017

4:45 PM

Tri-County Library, Mabank

**Hostesses: Felecia Erwin,**  
Shawnn Oliver, Sherri Purselley, Bickie Roberts, BJ Williams

#### Meaningful Moments

Janice Sutton

#### Program

ASTEF Giving Day;  
Love DKG; DKG Sweethearts

Find us:



<http://dkgtxmutau.weebly.com>

Webmaster Gaye Stegman

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

[www.dkgtxas.org](http://www.dkgtxas.org)

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

ASTEF representative Jean Robinson has ASTEF pins for you to purchase: \$3.00 each.

Remember, too, that Jean carries the clutch for your monetary contributions to ASTEF.



## Mu Tau calendar 2016-2017

**February 13, 2017** ASTEF Giving Day; Love DKG; DKG Sweethearts

**March 20, 2017** Be Well, Be Strong, Be Safe

**April 17, 2016** My Heritage by Gloria Campos

**May 15, 2017** Celebrating the DKG Founders

**June 22-24, 2017** 88th Texas State Convention, Houston, Texas

**July 4-7, 2017** Southwest Regional Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii

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At Mu Tau's December meeting, Julie Groom tells of life at Forever Families.

### 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**

Sherry Purselley

**Treasurer**

Janice Sutton



**Parliamentarian**

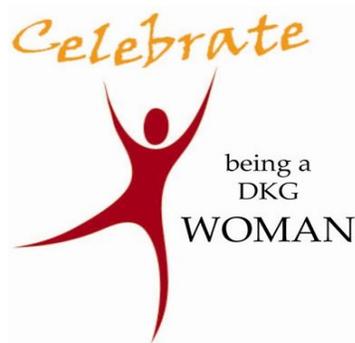
Mary Ann Gregg

**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

## MU TAU CHAPTER MEETING

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

December 12, 2016

The Mu Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International held the December 12, 2016, meeting at the Mabank Tri-County Library in Mabank, Texas, at 4:45 pm. The meeting was called to order at 5:20 pm by Mu Tau Chapter president Barbara Jedlicka after the hostess committee served a variety of delicious snacks. Hostesses were Gaye Stegman and Barbara Jedlicka, who generously filled in for Lavonne Dennis.

President Jedlicka welcomed eleven Mu Tau sisters and guest speaker Julie Groom to the meeting. Thirteen registered their attendance. Recording secretary Beverly Hart was present.

Mary Ann Gregg provided the Meaningful Moments, sharing "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" is the time to share our gratitude for the many people, relationships, blessings, and the true meaning of Christmas, our Savior. It is a time to continue to express our thanks from the Thanksgiving season and spread joy, peace, and love throughout the Christmas season and into the New Year.

The November minutes were approved as written in the December Mu Tauker. No written correspondence was shared. Treasurer Janice Sutton presented an oral and written treasury balance of \$1,203.12, reflecting all chapter dues and all State and International obligations to date are paid.

Libby Horton, Membership Committee chair, reported that the names of prospective members are due by January. Applicant names can be emailed to her. The names of applicants will be shared with membership during the February meeting, voting conducted in the March meeting, and the installation of new members in the April meeting.

It was announced that Libby Horton has been accepted to the Leadership Seminar this year. Congratulations were expressed to Libby for this earned accomplishment.

Congratulations to Mu Tau sister Mary Ann Gregg for receiving the recent honors:

- \* Teacher of the year from her Kemp Elementary School Campus
- \* Kemp ISD District Teacher of the Year
- \* Selected as a finalist for Region 10 Teacher of the Year.

Jean Robinson, ASTEF representative, reported Mu Tau had collected and sent a contribution by check of \$140 to ASTEF. Collections will continue for the "Classy Clutch" campaign, February through May of 2017.

Program guest speaker Julie Groom, from Forever Families, was introduced by Jean Robinson. Julie and her husband have long family history ties to the Mabank area. Julie shared the history, purposes, achievements, and concerns of the lake area Women in Crisis Center located in Kemp. The center serves women in crisis with drug addiction and their children. The center works with state CPS personnel from Texas and other states to provide mothers in crisis with the protection, shelter, food, counseling, education, emotional support, and legal support to aid them in their 6-12 months recovery commitment. Career counseling and training are necessary to learn the skills to support themselves and their children.

The center can accommodate only twelve families at one time. Each family is provided an apartment to live in and the support of the larger family to provide community meals, childcare, and educational opportunities. The residents are taught skills to break the cycle of abuse and take control of their lives.

The Forever Families Center is always in need of diapers (currently Pull Ups size), paper products, cleaning supplies, and money. Mu Tau members were invited to visit the center and meet the staff and families. Donations were collected by Mu Tau sisters and given to the Forever Families Center.

President Jedlicka adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm with the group singing of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Beverly Hart, recording secretary

Barbara Jedlicka, president



## Nature vs. Nurture

by

Libby Horton

Nature vs. nurture is an age-old debate. However, I have my own perspective, which is life experience, and really is devoid of science. You see, I am an adopted child. I was 10 days old when my parents were able to “pick me up.” For them, they never had to approach the “birds and the bees” talk as they always told me about the “day they GOT me!” Adoption runs in my family. My mother was adopted due to her parents’ death in the 1918 flu epidemic, and I have an adopted older brother.

For the sake of brevity I will not go into the details of all those adoptions, but, suffice it to say, I totally am grateful that adoptions exist. Now don’t get me wrong: God was gracious to me in allowing me to bear two biological children. In fact, I asked my doctor if my mother could come into the delivery room with me since she had never had a baby. You should have seen the look on his face.

Now the cycle of adoption continues as my son and daughter-in-love have one beautiful adopted girl and are expecting a son in March. In my opinion, you would never know that my granddaughter is not a biological child. Her actions, words, and deeds are mirrors of her family. When I go to her school to pick her up, her teacher says, “Oh, she looks just like you,” and I just say thanks.

I saw the “adoption” bond each year I worked in school. Most teachers would say, “MY KIDS,” referring to present and/or former students. Although there were no legal papers to sign that the child became a part of the family, the dedication to the child by the teacher was equal to the adoption process of parents. There was no biological connection, but the “nurture” connection was alive and strong. True teachers devote themselves to the nurture of their students as well as their academic preparation. That connection plays a huge part in the ability of a student to learn.

It has been said, “No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.” A great teacher cares; she nurtures and therefore she teaches. It is my privilege and honor to be included in the company of teachers who love their students and *nurture* them.



### All in the Family

Mady and Nana on Hey, Hey Ride, Mother’s Day, 2016.

Libby’s granddaughter “Princess” Mady Horton on her 5th birthday, 2016.

Baby brother arrives soon.



## Making the Year of the Rooster Something to Crow

by  
Beverly Hart

A New Year's Resolution is a tradition in which a person plans to do an act of self-improvement or something nice starting New Year's Day. New Year's Eve has been a time for looking to the past, and more importantly, looking forward to the coming year.

The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions, 4,000 years ago. They held celebrations making promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises are said to be the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions.

Thousands of years ago, circa 46 B.C., the ancient Romans introduced the month of January as the beginning of the new year, named in honor of the god of time, Janus. The two faces of Janus allowed him to gaze on the past year and to the future year. Life and death, beginnings and endings—that is what time ultimately is all about. At no moment do these two extremes intertwine more than with the New Year. For early Christians, the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's mistakes and resolving to do and to be better in the future. Despite the tradition's religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are a mostly secular practice. Instead of making promises to the gods, most people make resolutions only to themselves, and focus on self-improvement.

A general consensus of the top ten resolutions is:

1. Spend more time with family and friends. As Girl Scouts learn: "Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other is gold."
2. Fit in fitness. Regular exercise has been associated with more health benefits than anything else known to man, keeping one more mentally and physically healthy.
3. Tame the bulge. Cook Smarts (cooksmarts.com) delivers meal plans by email.
4. Quit smoking. On average, smokers try about 4 times before quitting for good.
5. Enjoy life more. Given our present hectic and stressful lifestyles, this resolution is important for a happier and healthier balance to body, mind, and soul.
6. Get out of debt. This promise will repay itself many times throughout the year.
7. Learn something new: take a course of study, read a book, learn a new craft, keep learning and motivating yourself.
8. Help others. A popular, non-selfish resolution is to volunteer in your community, church, or school. Clean out unwanted items, and donate items no longer used.
9. Get organized. Whether in your home or work, reducing the clutter can help bring peace and more efficient time-management, allowing more time for family, friends, and self.
10. Get professional help for self and family if suffering from any substance abuse.

The New Year is a time to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make in our lives and to resolve to follow through on these changes. To customize our resolutions is to make them fit with the important goals in our personal lives. The most difficult task is to continue the commitment. New Year's resolutions tend to be a statement of our motivation for good intentions and a way of cheerleading for our self. Some professionals advocate sharing our goals with a supportive friend or family. Framing our intentions in positive phrases can be helpful. Example: The goal is not stated as losing 20 pounds of weight, but be more active and eat healthier foods to feel better and have more energy to do the things we enjoy.

I make my list of New Year's resolutions each year with very good intentions. If I accomplish one, that is progress. Working to achieve my goals is a process. If I do not stop trying, I am working in the right direction. Each day is an opportunity for good intentions. Some days are just more productive than others!

Justin Watts, a University of North Texas faculty member, stated in a **Dallas Morning News** article January 1, 2017, "Remember that change is a process, not an event. It takes time, and there will be slip-ups. Learn from them and keep going." According to recent research, (<http://www.statisticbrain.com/new-years-resolution-statistics/>), while as many as 45% of Americans say they usually make New Year's resolutions, only 8% are successful in achieving their goals. But that dismal record probably won't stop people from making resolutions anytime soon—after all, we've had about 4,000 years of practice.

This Year of the Red Fire Rooster, 2017, began January 28, according to the Chinese Zodiac calendar. The United States Postal System is commemorating this year with a Red Fire Rooster stamp. The Red Rooster is one of the twelve years cycle of animals appearing on the Chinese Zodiac. My wish for Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and our Mu Tau Chapter is that through all our many actions, deeds, and commitments we all have something to "crow about" throughout this Year of the Red Fire Rooster. [See **Project Spotlight**, page 7.—ed.]





Look what happened in our Mu Tau family in December—a very merry Christmas to celebrate !

Baby Thelma Stegman has two Delta Kappa Grammas!—as well as a Delta Kappa Gamma Mama!



And then some grammas are doubly blessed, such as Mindy with Eli McDade Marder and her future DKG girl Madelyn Marie Marder . Eli came in November; she arrived in December.



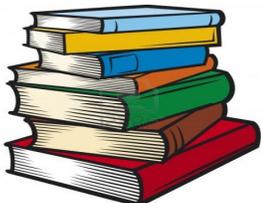
And there was a lovely wedding as well, beauty all around. Proud mom Janice Sutton with daughter Mindy and very proud Aunt Nancy McDonald.

Do ask about the wedding that took place in Oxford, Mississippi!

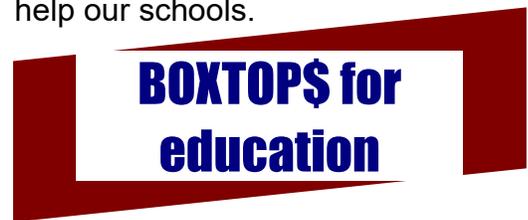


Bring **USED** books to help stock Mu Tau's Little Free Libraries at Northpark and Cherokee Shores!

**Note the change:** The Boxtop\$ go to Shelley Purselley. Boxtop\$ help our schools.



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



## Mu Tau birthdays

### January

Judy Sullivan, 1/6

### February

Cindy Clayburn, 2/19

Libby Horton, 2/8

DeAnna Smith, 2/25

Sandy Weaver, 2/19

Happy birthdays, belated or not. Light up the candles and eat cake!



## The Society

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

Deadline for submitting articles for **The Bulletin** is March 1, 2017. See Journal Submission Grid for guidelines for publication.

Check out **Project Spotlight**. See if this is something Mu Tau would like to crow about.

Take a look at all the places where Conventions will be happening this year—fabulous! Spearfish, SD; Talinn, Estonia; Myrtle Beach, SC; Windsor, Ontario; and Honolulu, HI. Of course, Honolulu is planned for us.



Our true home in Austin, Texas: The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters. And we can visit!



## Texas, Our Texas ([dkgtexas.org](http://dkgtexas.org))



**Texas State Organization**  
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Explore the Possibilities: Let Our Vision Light the Way

State Scholarship Applications are due March 1, 2017. Go to the TSO Scholarships page for all applications and for all you need to know in order to file an application.

It is time to plan your attendance at the Convention in Houston, set for June 22-24. Go to the Convention Website to get information, and check it often for updates.

Find the **Winter 2016 Lone Star News** ONLY online.

The 2018 Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention is an excellent opportunity for all Texas chapters to show their stuff! If you'd like to be part of the inner circle, contact Joann Brooks at [joannbrooks@verizon.net](mailto:joannbrooks@verizon.net). You know that this is BIG!

