



The Mu Tauker

The Mu Tauker editor Lavonne Dennis
lavonnedennis1@gmail.com

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,

I love waking up to a cool, crisp morning, the sun just rising over the horizon, and the sounds of birds singing in the trees. The holiday season is here. I enjoy this time of the year because I enjoy cooking and especially eating all the holiday foods. I remember standing on a flour box in my grandmother's kitchen watching her prepare for the holidays. Since then I have wanted to follow in her footsteps. Cooking has become *me* and helped me to follow my passion for family and the real meaning of the holiday season.

Our program last month was great. State Representative Lance Gooden, our guest speaker, provided current information for teachers. He answered questions from the floor from our members. He is fighting for active teachers and retired teachers. A thank-you goes to members who helped as hostesses for this meeting. A large array of cookies and treats was provided.

Our November meeting will be an exciting meeting. Author Meg Mojica Calvin will provide the program. Meg is a Mabank High School graduate and the daughter of Dena Mojica. Don't miss her talk on November 13 at the Tri-County Library at 4:45.

A special thank-you goes to all members who helped with the Hurricane Relief Member-to-Member Program for our Delta Kappa Gamma sisters affected by the storm. It takes special people like you to make the world a better place for us all.

Don't forget your donations for Forever Families. They are still in need of diapers (sizes 3-5), hygiene products, makeup, detergent, shampoo, wipes, and paper products. We need to continue to remember the basic needs each month. There are 11 family units and 16 children and others on a waiting list. Mrs. Groom would love to have any chapter members come and visit.

See you on Monday, November 13, Tri-County Library.

Have a happy and restful Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving.

Love,

Barbara



Mu Tau Meeting

Monday

November 13, 2017

4:45 PM

Tri-County Library

Hostesses: Nancy McDonald, Beverly Hart, Thelma Stegman, Melody Stephenson, Mindy Marder

Meaningful Moments

Janice Beasley

Program

Author Meg Calvin



Find us:

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

www.dkg.org

www.dkgtexas.org

Happy Thanksgiving!



Jean Robinson will continue to collect cash donations for ASTEF.

Mu Tau calendar 2017-2018

November 13, 2017 Author Meg Calvin

New member prospects submitted to Membership Chair

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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Young Miss Calvin works with Mommy's book, **The Bluebonnet Child**.

Mu Tau Executive Board 2016-2018

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Barbara Jedlicka

First Vice President

Mindy Marder

Second Vice President

Libby Horton

Recording Secretary

Beverly Hart

Corresponding Secretary

Sherry Purselley

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Parliamentarian

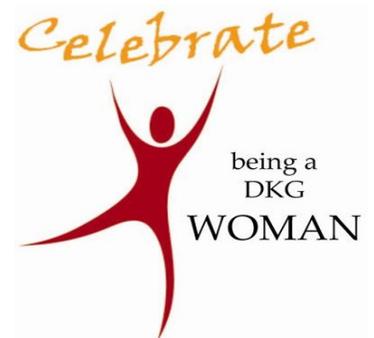
Mary Ann Gregg

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

October 16, 2017

The October regular meeting of the Mu Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma was held at the Tri-County Library with sixteen members and one guest in attendance. Refreshments were provided by the Hostess Committee: Barbara Jedlicka, Shawnn Oliver, and Melinda Robertson.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Jedlicka at 4:54 p.m. Monica Fortenberry filled in for Secretary Beverly Hart, who was on vacation. Meaningful Moments were presented by Nancy McDonald.

Our guest speaker, State Representative Lance Gooden, was welcomed. Mr. Gooden has served three terms in the Texas House of Representatives and will be seeking re-election in 2018. Mr. Gooden provided members with a recap of the last legislative session and the special session. He explained that the majority of the Senate is pro-voucher and pro-charter schools and wants to spend less on public education.

Representative Gooden said that some of the victories from the last sessions were not passing bills, but killing bills that were not favorable for public education and retired teachers. He also explained that he and other legislators had to negotiate with the Senate to get the \$212 million funding for the retired teacher health insurance for the next two years. He also worked closely with Tim Lee, who represents TRTA (Texas Retired Teachers Association.)

Mr. Gooden encouraged members to vote in the Republican Primary because it is crucial to getting your candidate elected. He also encouraged members to be pro-active by staying informed and contacting their elected officials about legislation that affects teachers and education. He said that it made a huge difference last session when legislators received thousands of emails concerning funding retired teacher insurance.

Members thanked Representative Gooden for his service and for continuing to fight for public education, teachers, and retired teachers. We also expressed our appreciation for his taking time out of his busy schedule to speak with us about the legislative updates. It was an excellent program and very informative.

The business meeting began with acceptance of the September minutes as written in The Mu Tauker. Corresponding Secretary Sherri Purselley shared two written correspondences; the first was a letter of resignation from Bickie Roberts. Melody Stephenson moved that we reluctantly accept. Lavonne Dennis seconded, and the motion passed. The second correspondence was from Erin Cox McKenzie stating that she is currently teaching GED classes at Navarro College on Monday evenings, preventing her from attending meetings and being an active member this year.

Next on the agenda was the treasurer's report given by Treasurer Janice Sutton. Janice reported that the present balance in the treasury is \$1,495.23. The written and verbal reports were accepted.

Committee reports included President Barbara Jedlicka's informing us that she had received information from our new Area 1 Coordinator Janice Sutton about scholarships available for members wanting to go back to school. Barbara also shared that she had received a letter from the Global Awareness Committee stating that they are seeking teachers to travel to China this summer to teach Chinese English teachers for five hours a day. The salary will be \$750.00 for two weeks. President Jedlicka informed us that we had received a request to consider taking the Executive Board General Business Committee for the Waco convention June 14-16. Members agreed that we would help with this committee for the convention.

In New Business, Treasurer Janice Sutton announced that she is taking checks for Hurricane Harvey Relief. As our Area 1 Coordinator, Janice shared that our Area Workshop is scheduled for August 4th, and is tentatively planned to be held in Mabank.

Membership Chair Libby Horton reminded members to bring completed prospect cards to the November meeting. Prospective members will be presented at the December meeting.

President Jedlicka invited members to enjoy refreshments before heading home. The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Monica Fortenberry, substituting for secretary Beverly Hart

Barbara Jedlicka, president



Why I Decided to Be a Teacher

by Judy Vestal

I want to share a little bit about why I became a teacher. Growing up, I was surrounded by lots of children. My Mom (who will turn 90 this month) had a daycare in our home. She kept mostly teachers' children, so I got to see some amazing role models and how they raised their kids. I looked up to them so much and thought it was so cool to see them come to my house.

My Mom was one of my most important role models as well. She took care of me when I was born with hydrocephalus and almost didn't survive, so they tell me. I was the youngest of four, and my siblings didn't ever let me forget that I was spoiled rotten. I know that is why I have such a close bond with my Mom. She had a big influence on my life, and all those teachers' children as well. They still tell me to this day.

I went to TVCC (or HCJC, as it was called back then) for two years then on to the University of Texas in Austin. My sister and her husband were also going to be teachers, so they convinced me to come to U.T. I never imagined that I could go to such a big school. I did go, and graduated from U.T. It was a BIG accomplishment for this shy, small-town girl from east Texas.

I then came back home in 1982 to search for a job. I interviewed with Nat Roach (what a nice man), and he gave me my first job in Mabank teaching first grade. Wow, I thought I had really made it big! I taught in Mabank for two years and then on to the big city of Eustace. I have been there ever since.

This is my 36th year to teach. I have had some wonderful mentors like Janice Beasley, whom I admire so much. I can't believe that my teaching career is almost coming to a close. Where did the time go! I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it, and even though as teachers and educators we have to battle for everything on behalf of our students, I can't imagine doing anything else. I always marvel at the progress a first grader makes from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. It really feels that we can make a difference in a student's life.

I now am the RTI teacher for 2nd graders. I take small groups of students all day and reinforce reading skills. I feel as though I have died and gone to heaven. They can actually do things for themselves! I love, love, love it! It's amazing what drill and practice can do.

I can honestly say I am proud to be an educator and advocate for children. It has been an honor and a privilege to be part of this wonderful club. I also want to thank those teachers that came before me and showed me how to gain respect as a teacher. I am proud to stand with all my Mu Tau sisters and call myself a "Teacher."

November 8

National Parents As Teachers Day

National STEM/STEAM Day

Why is it important for kids to belong to a team or group?

by Thelma Stegman

Belonging is defined as being a member of a particular group, organization, or class. According to Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, belonging is a need that has to be satisfied before any other need is fulfilled. These stages help parents and teachers understand how to best take care of young children and their needs. Schools offer students a variety of options to help students belong to a team or a group. Belonging to a team or group benefits kids in a variety of ways. It helps them earn better grades, have better social skills, improve behavior, be more positive in their attitude, and helps prepare them for adulthood. It teaches them how to interact and communicate with others effectively, which can help them in their adulthood.

Growing up in Kemp, Texas, and amidst several educators in my family, I was fortunate to know what it felt like to belong. In high school, I was involved in many sports and organizations in which teamwork and school spirit were vital in order for these to be successful. Continuing to college, to follow in the footsteps of many family members in education, I participated in softball, which also involved teamwork. After graduation, I obtained a job as a Special Education teacher and an assistant softball coach. In both of these positions it was important to teach the students a sense of teamwork and belonging. How was I expected to teach students a sense of teamwork or belonging? How does any teacher or coach teach students this? I believe these are the most difficult things to teach students. A teacher can teach students academic subjects with few difficulties, but to teach them about teamwork and belonging is extremely difficult.

As I began teaching and coaching, I reflected back on the teachers, coaches, and family members that inspired me. The main thing that I remembered is how being a part of a team or organization made me feel important and helped me understand the importance of working with a team. My goal was to inspire my students and athletes to experience this sense of importance and working with a team to help them be productive in their adulthood. I coached a young lady named Lauren Norwood all four years of high school while teaching and coaching at Mabank High School. Coming in her freshman year to high school, she had played only infield in softball. I saw potential and determination in this young athlete. I knew that in any position she played she would be successful if she was pushed to be her best. After graduating high school, she went to college to become a teacher and also played college softball. When she graduated, she came back to Mabank High School to teach and coach. One day I asked her why she decided to become a teacher and a coach. Her response was, "I wanted to be like you. You taught me self-confidence and how hard work can pay off. I had never played outfield a day in my life, but you pushed me so much that I earned a spot on varsity my freshman year. When I messed up, you were there to teach and guide me. When I was successful, you were always there to cheer me on. You taught us to cheer on our teammates to help them be more confident and help them when they are down. You told me once that I could do anything that I set out to do. You were the reason I wanted to play softball in college and become a softball coach. Me believing that I could do anything I set out to do helped me become the head softball coach that I am today."

Belonging to a team or group can inspire kids in more ways than you know. Isn't that why we become teachers? To teach kids that they belong, feel important, and inspire them to be better should be part of a teacher's responsibility of teaching teamwork. As teachers, we want them to be satisfied, fulfilled, inspired, and to become successful in their life. This is never easy for teachers or coaches, and we are continually looking for ways to teach this to our students or athletes. You may not be successful with each student you teach or coach. If you can teach a handful of kids that they belong and that they are important, then I believe you have fulfilled your purpose for becoming a teacher or coach.

Gratitude

by Mary Ann Gregg

November has arrived. Trees are obediently dropping their leaves. Costumed children gathered candy last week. Families are planning the holidays. Active duty teachers are counting the days until Thanksgiving break. Some have accepted a social media Thankfulness Challenge to post something they are thankful for during each day of November. It is the beginning of The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, or is it?

On Halloween day, eight people riding bicycles were mowed down as they rode through the Hudson River Bike path in New York. On Thursday morning in Payne Springs, two innocent girls lost their lives at the hand of their own mother, and our whole community is grieving the unspeakable loss of these precious angels. Today, as 26 members of the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs were attending service, a gunman opened fire and took their lives.

Several Mu Tau sisters are bravely battling cancer. Mu Tau sisters have family and friends battling illness, grieving losses of all kinds, and struggling to make sense of life in 2017. So I ask this question honestly. How can we feel thankful in the face of these endless, senseless, unfathomable tragedies?

You may be surprised at my answer, but you may not be able to feel thankful right now. You see, feeling thankful is just that, a feeling. If you find it difficult to feel right now, you are not alone.

I leave you an idea for navigating this “Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” and that is **gratitude**. Gratitude is a response. Gratitude is action, not a feeling. Gratitude is the act of service you perform for others because you know you have been blessed and are paying that blessing forward. Gratitude is patience and understanding extended in situations where there is none.

I hope you will join me in being ever so grateful this season. I am grateful to be a Mu Tau sister and, in time, I hope to feel thankful again.



Mu Tau listens to Representative Lance Gooden as he explains the most recent legislation regarding “pub ed” and some of the political process in Austin.

Mu Tau birthday in November

Judy Vestal, 11/21

Happy birthday, Judy, and many more! Celebrate! Have some cake.



89th Texas State Convention
Waco Convention Center
Waco, Texas
June 14-16, 2018



Mu Tau helps with Executive Board General Business Committee.

Meet Meg Calvin ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Daughter of Dena and Santos Mojica (Dena is Assistant Superintendent of MISD)

Granddaughter of Brenda and Guy Hargrove

Lived eight of her early years in Germany

Attended FUMC of Mabank, participating in all youth activities

Graduated from Mabank High School

BA from Southwestern University in Winfield, Kansas

MA in Children and Family Ministries, Bethel Seminary, Minnesota

Director of Children Ministries at FUMC in Winfield, Kansas, for past 20 years

Married to Garret Calvin

Mother of Henley (See page 2.)

Author of *The Bluebonnet Child*

Mu Tau's guest speaker for November!

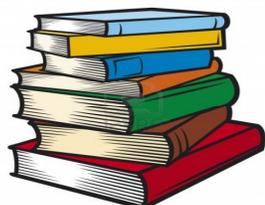


DKG

The 2018 DKG International Convention will be held in Austin, Texas July 16 - 20, 2018, at the new JW Marriott Austin. Those members interested in helping with this convention, please 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.

