



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

Mary Ann's Mantra

Dear Sisters,

Grit and resilience in children was the topic of a recent TED talk and a paper published by the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. It was grit, not IQ or talent, that determined how successful students would be in school and beyond, according to Angela Lee Duckworth. Duckworth was a 7th grade math teacher who used her classroom experience to drive her graduate work in psychology to discover why some students succeeded and others didn't. Her work continues now to discover just how we are to teach kids to become grittier. Her theory is that children need to try and fail and learn how to get up, dust themselves off, and try again.



Resilience, as defined by the Center on the Developing Child, is the ability to overcome serious hardships. Resilient children were found to have healthier development in all areas as opposed to children who were not resilient.

So, as women educators, how do **we** become grittier and more resilient so that we may impart that grit and resilience to the new teachers we mentor, to our parents, and to our students? Perhaps a quick look at our Delta Kappa Gamma Founders will refresh our memory of women who stood up to and challenged the status quo—women who did not give up after a failed attempt. Interestingly, the common thread that ties grit, resilience, and our Delta Kappa Gamma Founders together is relationship. Without stable, supportive relationships, grit, resilience, and our Founders come up short. These three don't exist without a foundation—being in relationship with others who are committed to the success of the others in the relationship.

Dear Sisters, I am proud to be a member of the Mu Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. I have been blessed to receive support and encouragement from so many of you. Each day that I feel more resilient, I have you to thank for showing excellent examples of grit, courage, leadership, and bravery. I look forward to cultivating those foundational relationships with you as we continue our work in this biennium.

Cheers!

—*Mary Ann*



Mu Tau Meeting

Monday

October 15, 2018

4:45 PM

Tr-County Library, Mabank

Hostesses: Libby Horton, Angela Barton, Tana Hoelscher, Erin McKenzie

Meaningful Moments

Judy Vestal

Program

Tai Chi with Judy Colvin



Find us: <http://dkgtxmutau.weebly.com>

Webmaster Pam McBride

www.dkg.org

www.dkgtx.org

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Do a self-check and get your mammogram.



Mu Tau calendar 2018-2019

October 15, 2018	Tai Chi with Judy Colvin
November 12, 2018	In Remembrance
December 10, 2018	Christmas Social
January 7, 2019	Executive Board Meeting
February 11, 2019	Emphasis on ASTEF and Singing
March 18, 2019	Apps with Pam McBride
April 15, 2019	Initiation/Patti Belknap
May 6, 2019	Founders Day/Janet Burgess
June 20-22, 2019	90th TSO Convention, Arlington, TX
July 17-20, 2019	Southwest Regional Conference, Costa Mesa, CA

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Thoughts from the AC:

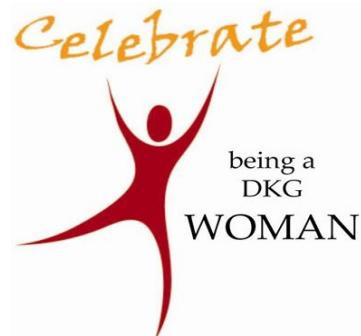
As Area Coordinator, I have had the privilege of visiting almost all of the chapters in Area 1. It has been a wonderful experience, and I have met so many dedicated and busy DKG members in the East Texas area. Many chapters are larger than Mu Tau, and all are older. However, I am always so proud to say that I am a member of Mu Tau chapter wherever I go. Our chapter has so many ladies who are willing to help with whatever is needed for the chapter, community, schools, or individuals. We have wonderful programs, meaningful projects, and participation at all levels of the Society. Thanks to all of my Mu Tau sisters for all you do to improve our chapter and our Society. You make me so proud and grateful! Keep up the good work!

—Janice



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**

September 17, 2018

The Mu Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International was held on September 17, 2018, at the Mabank Tri-County Library. The meeting was called to order at 4:45 by President Mary Ann Gregg. Seventeen members registered attendance.

Jean Robinson presented "Birthday Bash with Cupcake Stash" in recognition of the 19th birthday of Mu Tau. We enjoyed cupcakes, and she asked us to share our thoughts about gifts we have realized from Mu Tau, gifts of friendship, accomplishing DKG purposes, and networking with lots of different people from a variety of places.

The May chapter minutes were approved as written in the September Mu Tauker.

Robin Welch, who has 23 years teaching experience, shared Meaningful Moments by playing a song from the Kemp senior class assembly called "Humble and Kind" by Tim McGraw, a great message for all of us. Notes were read from Judy Vestal and Barbara Jedlicka, thanking everyone for thinking of them in the loss of their loved ones.

Treasurer Libby Horton shared an oral and written report balance of \$294.46. She reminded everyone to pay their dues of \$100.00 for 2018-2019, due by November 1. We also received our new membership cards with payment. Janice Sutton made the motion to accept the proposed budget, seconded by Jean Robinson. Janice also noted that the deadline for applications for the Leadership Seminar is October 15. The seminar will be held in Frisco in February.

Mu Tau members shared information from TSO and DKG International conventions. Our own Jean Robinson was recognized at the state convention for being a 50-plus-year Delta Kappa Gamma member and was awarded a rose and certificate. Congratulations, Jean! Thanks to all the members who participated and helped with the state convention, especially Area Coordinator Janice Sutton. It was a success!

Judy Sullivan presented a copy of **Horton Hears a Who** to each of our members, a donation from her friend Eston Williams. Melody Stephenson gave an update on Forever Families and stated that they are in need of some auction items for their September 29th banquet. Melody made a motion to accept a donation, and Lavonne seconded the motion, to purchase an auction item for Forever Families. The motion passed.

Crystal Thompson was our guest speaker. She prepares cupcakes and specialty cakes for all occasions out of her home. She has a variety of delicious cupcakes that we got to sample, such as yellow raspberry, fresh strawberry, and snickerdoodle, to name a few. She hopes to have her own shop in the Lake Area in the near future. If you are in need of special treats, give Crystal a call. A special thanks to her for coming and sharing.

The door prize winners were Kathy Clardy and Nancy McDonald, who received gift certificates to Victorian Lady Tea Room. Thank you to the Executive Board members, who brought punch and extra snacks for us.

We adjourned at 6:25 pm with the group singing of The Delta Kappa Gamma Song, standing hand in hand.

Judy Vestal, Recording Secretary

Mary Ann Gregg, President



Mu Tau birthdays in October

Kindy Marder, 1/27

Jean Robinson, 10/15

Janice Sutton, 10/16



Happy birthday, October girls!

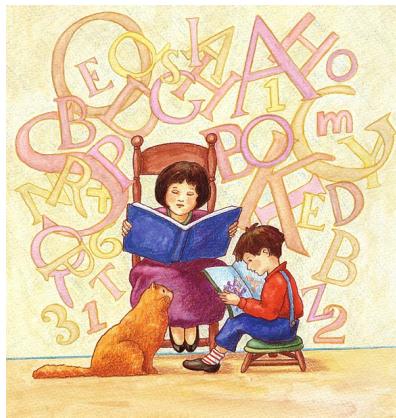


Recommended reading for Mu Tau women who deal with young children, whether you are teacher, sister, aunt, mom, or (Delta Kappa) gramma :

Why Am I Me? by Paige Britt

This book explores questions about differences, diversity, and acceptance—and oneness; in short, about loving our neighbor.

BOXTOP\$ for education



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

Remember :

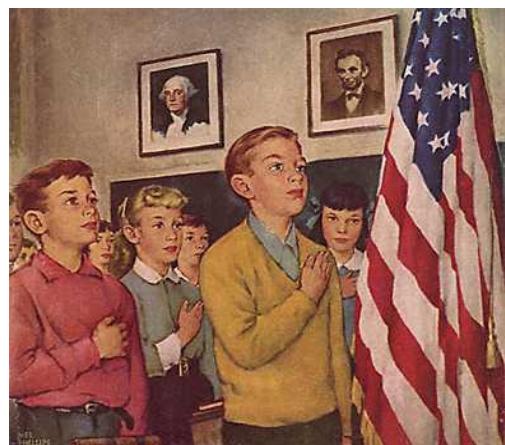
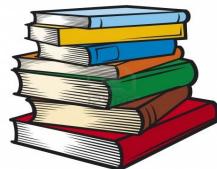
Deadline to apply for Leadership Seminar is October 15.

Jean says wear comfortable clothes and shoes for our meeting. Our presenter will have us MOVING about! Nothing strenuous, just perhaps new and unaccustomed for some of the veteran DKGs.—Oh, and fun, of course.

Thelma will have a box for collecting items for Forever Families. You know, anything that is used up and has to be replaced regularly, like paper products and diapers.

When ordering books, remember that **Amazon Smile!** benefits an organization of your choice. Why not make your choice Delta Kappa Gamma as some of us in Mu Tau have done?!

Note: Boxtop\$ help our schools help our kids. Save these coupons and bring them to Sherri Purselley.



Bring the books to Mindy Marder; reading helps people in our communities to become better readers and perhaps better citizens.

She Watches Me

I was asked to write about the changes in my life over the past year. The past year has been very unusual for me for sure. I finished my doctoral degree, struggled with infertility, and was promoted to a central office position from being a principal all within the same year. As I was to do fertility treatments, they said not to begin or end college or change jobs. I did it all and wouldn't change a thing. Yes, it was stressful, but I think having so much going on actually helped because I couldn't get too stressed about any one thing that was happening.

As I thought about writing this, the words that kept coming to mind were "She watches me." My husband and I have been married now for 15 years, and it took some time before we were able to have our first child, Hunter Elizabeth. We both are very driven people who are typically successful in whatever we do because of our work ethic. When we struggled to have a child, I think we always knew we would be successful at that as well, because we knew that we would do whatever it took to make our family complete. I remember the day I got the news that IVF was the only option. I sat in my car crying and telling my husband about it on the phone. He never hesitated. He said, "We are going to do it." I thought, "How in the world can I do this?" Not only was it physically and emotionally challenging, but also it was very expensive. I'm so glad we did it! As Hunter watches my every move, I think about being brave and being a strong person for her to look up to. That's very important to me.

The past year has been a challenging but rewarding one for me in so many ways. For the past 5 years I worked towards reaching my goal of obtaining a doctoral degree. Balancing work, home, and college again was challenging, but it was very doable. I scheduled time for myself to do my college work a couple of nights a week and then one day on the weekend. When getting a doctoral degree, there isn't anyone who holds your hand, so I had to stay really focused and hold myself accountable. In the end, as I look back, I have very fond memories of the time I spent on this degree, and I know that I did it for myself. I didn't complete it to get a better job, to be called "Doctor," or for any other reason. I did it because I looked up to a professor I had in college and knew that I wanted to be like her one day. On the day of graduation a "Doctor" gave a speech that I will never forget. He talked about being humble. I thought it was so fitting and perfect. School was never easy for me. I've always had to work hard for what I have, and this was no different, which makes it so rewarding in the end. Once I finished school, my husband told me, "I bet you are ready to go back again, aren't you?" I laughed and said, "I've always enjoyed school, so I know I will miss it."

A year ago my husband and I vacationed to New York. While walking through Times Square, I told him that it would be a neat place to take our child if we had one when they were older. He said he thought we should take them when they are young so they can know all of the opportunities out in the world. From someone who has worked so hard for everything he has, that spoke volumes to me. Yes, of course, I want my child to know she can do anything. As I said before, I am very aware of Hunter's watching my every move. I want her to see and know that she can do anything if she works hard. That's why it was important to me to finish my doctoral degree. That's why it was important for me to do IVF to have a child even though I hate needles. All 100 plus needles was so worth it. I want to be the parent who says, "Wow, congratulations! You must have really worked hard on that." She watches me!

Travel with DKG

"You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!"

— Dr. Seuss, **Oh, The Places You'll Go!**



Travel in DKG offers a world of experiences for all members. Conventions are held in wonderful cities, and in addition to the informative breakout sessions, time is always allowed for sightseeing.

My first International Convention was held in New Orleans. My roommate, whom I had never met but teamed up with to save expenses, was Emma Jovan from Dallas. I was so glad she didn't snore! We checked out Bourbon Street and Brennan's Restaurant, had morning coffee and beignets at the market. We witnessed a funeral group parading through the streets on its way to the cemetery with a jazz band playing music slowly and mournfully. Thirty minutes later the parade returned, but the music was loud and jazzy with much gaiety and dancing, so, of course, we joined in. Workshops were presented by members in the U. S. and foreign countries. I was hooked!

I loved the St. Louis, Missouri, Southwest Regional event, where we took the Hallmark Artist Tour and bus ride out to Independence to the Harry S. Truman Library. It was a treat to see that sign "The buck stops here" still sitting on top of the President's desk.

Of course, the trip to Hawaii for another Southwest Regional was made more exciting as my husband, Ray, tagged along to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. We were both impressed and emotional as we visited the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument and the **U.S. Missouri** Memorial in Pearl Harbor. We, of course, enjoyed a luau and dancing the hula at night. We loved the sweet-smelling leis!

In Little Rock, Arkansas, Libby Horton and I enjoyed watching the ducks march into and out of their pond at the Peabody Hotel where we stayed. We took a tour through the Bill Clinton Presidential Center on the banks of the Arkansas River. This convention was an International Rules and Bylaws re-writing year, and since we ran out of time at the business meeting, we were asked to put on our pajamas and meet back again at 9:00 p.m. that night. We finished voting and finally got to bed around midnight. Lots of excitement at that one!

Jan Jones, Libby, and I had the thrill of going to Spokane, Washington, for a Southwest Regional meeting. We had fun walking through their beautiful parks and taking an evening trip out to the Hoover Dam for a spectacular light show.

Other places I have attended DKG Regional or International meetings have been New York, Chicago, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Toronto, and Salt Lake City. Hotels give members special rates, and the tours are reasonable. In addition to conventions, our Foundation (ASTEF) offers trips in Texas as well as other places of interest. Check their information at www.ASTEF.org for upcoming trips. Foreign travel may be found on the DKG website, also.

And it is always so much fun traveling with Nancy McDonald and Janice Sutton to meetings!

So, ladies, pack your bag and "Get on your Way!"

—Jean Robinson



Houses of Hope

by Sherri Purselley

In the fall of 2017, I was sitting in the chemo lab getting another of my many infusions. I was being treated for stage III breast cancer. As I reclined back in the chair, I began browsing the internet for sites that could offer help and hope to breast cancer patients. I stumbled upon www.LittlePink.org. I believe this was Divine intervention.

The founder of the organization was Jeanine Patten-Coble. She was a high school history teacher who had been diagnosed in 2009. She was a survivor and the author of ***Struck by Hope***. Her own battle had inspired her to create the non-profit organization Little Pink Houses of Hope. They were awarding cancer patients and their families a free week-long retreat in various locations across the country. The goal was to relax, reconnect, explore, and forget about cancer!

Who wouldn't want to win that? To apply, you had to write an essay, fill out the form, and meet the deadline. What did I have to lose? I wrote my essay and submitted my form by the time the infusion was done, all the time thinking I'd never win anyway!

By the spring of 2018, I had all but forgotten about the application. I had just gotten home from another infusion and was in my recliner when the call came. Out of thousands of applicants, mine was one of approximately 200 chosen. I was in the preliminary stage for qualifying. I just needed to send in some medical paperwork for final approval.

By May 5th, two weeks after completing my *last* chemo treatment, Danny and I were packed and on the road! We were leaving Texas for Scottsdale, Arizona. Three things stood out to me as we headed on our journey. First, my husband had only once before taken a week off from work for a vacation. As a daily commuter (200 plus miles) for work, he was very reluctant to drive anywhere out of the county that didn't involve hunting or fishing! Second, as we drove through Aledo, the road sides and ditches were covered in beautiful pink buttercups, as if a sign welcoming me along the way to our Little Pink Retreat. Third, as we drove through West Texas, he was willing to stop and let me visit with a dear friend that I hadn't seen in years. What? Who was this man? He was a get-from-point-A-to-point-B (without any distractions) kind of guy. However, since my being diagnosed, he had become more sensitive and caring to my needs.



When we arrived in Scottsdale, we met at the Temple Kol Ami with the 11 other winning families for this week's retreat. Each family was assigned a volunteer, or Volun-STAR as they called them. This person would show me to my new home, escort me to events, and make sure I had everything I needed for a fun and successful week. As luck would have it, our Volun-Star was Jeanine, the founder herself! Coincidence? After a few introductions, the Temple members served us a delicious homemade dinner. We were given our itineraries and had some time to visit and sign up for the events we wanted to attend. Then we were off to our new home.

As Jeanine showed us around our luxurious and spacious ranch-style home, she assured us that she would take good care of us this week. The dining table was covered with gifts! Homebaked goods, homemade cards, bath and beauty products, along with 2 Little Pink jerseys. There were pool towels, souvenir water bottles, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a bag to hold it all. The kitchen was stocked with all the breakfast foods and drinks we had requested. We were already feeling that we were being treated like the rich and famous, *not* people dealing with the hardships of cancer.

Monday was a relaxing day of paddle boarding, picnics, and a cruise of Saguaro Lake. After showers and naps, all the families and volun-Stars later met for dinner hosted by Carrabas. It was delicious!

Tuesday was a day of shopping at the mall and a picnic by the Splash Water Pad. Each lady was taken to the Kendra Scott Color Bar and treated to one free piece of jewelry of our choice--any style, any value! Later, the volun-STARS grilled us hamburgers and hotdogs at the Railroad Park. We closed the night with a train ride and games.

Wednesday was breakfast and makeovers at the Gulick Brothers Salon. Lunch was graciously hosted by Chick-Fil-a. Afterwards, Danny and I found a Bass Pro Shop and then went to explore the local botanical gardens. Dinner was date night with our spouse. We received a \$100 gift card to Olive & Ivy, a delicious Mediterranean restaurant by the water canal. After dinner and dessert, we took a late-night stroll by the water.

[Continued on page 8]

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Thursday was a fun day of painting and crafts at Pinspiration. We put on painters' jumpsuits and went into the black light splatter room and made our own original designed canvas. Lunch was just a block away at the Mellow Mushroom pizzeria. After going home to change, Danny and I found a mountain and hiked part way up a trail. Later, we had a great evening riding on a chartered bus to the MLB stadium, where we watched the Arizona Diamondbacks play ball. We even made signs and were recognized guests featured on the big screen!

Friday started off with individual photography shoots for each family. When we met up later for our catered lunch at The Shelter church, we were surprised to be serenaded, and joined in on some dancing. We closed out our last night together at the McDonald's Dude Ranch riding horses. As we returned, we were greeted by Jeanine with a souvenir photo and a catered dinner from Carrabas. As we sat under the stars, several ladies shared their stories and what this week away from cancer had meant to them.

I was truly honored to be CHOSEN for this retreat and truly BLESSED to attend! I needed this time away from my daily life, commitments and routines for many reasons. I had lost my mother soon after starting my battle with cancer. I had not allowed myself time to truly grieve. I was too busy being strong planning a funeral, taking care of her estate, and preparing to sell her house. I was too busy being strong trying to attend and take care of my youngest son's senior high school activities and events. I was too busy being strong continuing to teach during two flu outbreaks that shut down our school district. I was too busy being strong fighting chemo and surgeries and radiation and more chemo and surgeries to be really present in my life! I was too busy being sick to attend my eldest son's wedding in Alaska. I was too busy being sick to celebrate my own birthday and 30th wedding anniversary. By the time I finished my treatments, we had become empty nesters. My husband and I were trying to learn to reconnect again. But with all the nasty side effects and after effects of cancer on the patient and caregiver, we didn't enjoy much of anything but rest!

This week was an amazing experience that allowed us moments and time to actually fall in love all over again. We were cared for by compassionate and loving volunteers, sponsors, and donors. We were treated like royalty! For a type-A personality who normally likes to be busy, all this cancer business was *not* the type of busy I had ever planned. I was also someone who was normally in charge I liked being in control. Cancer shows you that you're **not** in charge or in control of anything but your attitude, and it's exhausting trying to be strong! This week, though, allowed me time to step back, relax, show up, and **just be present!**

I am so thankful, grateful, and blessed for being the recipient of such a life-changing experience. It was at the perfect timing to give closure to **my** battle with cancer. I gained new sisters in this fight, some not as lucky as I. My cancer was curable. I was nearing the end of my year and a half journey, while many still had so far still to go or were running out of time with their fight. We laughed, we cried, and we prayed for each other. I left the retreat full of **hope** for all kinds of things but especially for my future. We had achieved Jeanine's goals for Little Pink Houses of Hope! We had relaxed, we had explored, and we had definitely re-connected! But mostly, just for a little while, we forgot we had cancer!



Celebrating our birthday---



Our beautiful Mary Ann presides at her first official chapter meeting, to start our birthday celebration.



Jean had us thinking about our gifts as Mu Tau members.



Robin gave us a very special Memorable Moment, playing "Humble and Kind."



And Judy gave us each a very special gift.



Mu Tau charter members recognized at 19th birthday party



Mu Tau members serving at TSO level

Pride in our big picture

Libby Horton, Scholarships

Melody Stephenson, Program

Jean Robinson, Nominations

Janice Sutton, State Personnel

Area 1 Coordinator



TSO

The Fall edition of **LONE STAR NEWS** is available only online.



DKG International

Please go to the website for abundant information about current and upcoming events.

To access Members-Only page of DKG website: Your User Name is your member number found on your membership card. The password is dkg2014society. [You may want to shop in the DKG store. Who knows?]

Lots of pictures from both **TSO** and **International Conventions** are still available online. Spend an interesting and entertaining few—or several—minutes looking at photos of our sisters. See how many Mu Tau members you can find!



A flash from the past—remember this?

Libby with the money. What? Our treasurer? How perfect is that?!

