

Eta Mu Musings

VOLUME LIII

AUGUST-
SEPTEMBER
2021

NEWS OF ETA MU CHAPTER AREA XVII DKG CA

DKG CA-Invitation to a New Beginning

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA
SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL

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



Vision Statement:
Leading Women
Educators
Impacting Education
Worldwide

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Welcoming Words from Our Presidents



We're so excited to be meeting in person this September for our Eta Mu kickoff brunch. More details on time and location will follow but rest assured that it will be a fun and inspirational event. In addition to the kickoff gathering, your Program Committee has planned a full year of meetings and activities that you won't want to miss. Theresa Foote will present the full 2021-2022 calendar of events at the kickoff, and it will also be posted to our Eta Mu website soon after.

After responding to the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) committee's Evite invitation, some of your Eta Mu sisters got a head start on meeting together recently by having lunch and then attending a Gallo performance. You can read more about the Gallo gathering in this newsletter.

One advantage of having so many of us fully vaccinated is that this event and future VAPA activities should be able to be enjoyed once again after more than a year of isolating ourselves. So be careful out there, mask up as needed, and be ready to engage with your Eta Mu sisters once more!

Judy Trask and Linda Chrabas, Co-Presidents

DKG California: Educational – Professional - Making an Impact

CURRENT NEWS AND EVENTS

Summer Lunch and Gallo Performance

Eta Mu Members Combine Support of the Visual and Performing Arts with Sisterhood.



The Visual and Performing Arts Committee (VAPA) added a summer event to give us an opportunity to meet up before the official start to the Eta Mu year. On Sunday, July 25th, after gathering for lunch downtown, several Eta Mu sisters attended the YES Company's 30th Anniversary Concert Spectacular at the Gallo Center for the Arts. The performance presented "greatest hits" from their previous

musicals, and the level of talent shown by our community's youth was impressive.

Our seats were close to the stage, which made for exciting viewing in more ways than we expected. Near the end of the show, Peter Pan flew over our heads several times and sprinkled silver chunks of glitter on our section while belting out "I'm Flying". Fortunately, the large size of the glitter made it fairly easy to shake off before leaving the theater, although some of us unknowingly walked to our cars with a bit more sparkle than when we arrived at Gallo!

OPEN HOUSE RUSH

to recruit new members








NEWS FROM DEBBIE MAR, V.P. FOR MEMBERSHIP

Eta Mu will hold an Open House/Rush for potential new members on Thursday, August 26th, from 4PM-6PM at Lynn Lysko's home. There will be a video presentation about our organization. Wine and snacks will be served. Please be thinking about how to connect with the teachers from the local schools and invite them to this event.

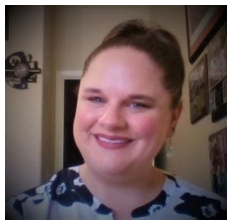


DKG California: Educational – Professional - Making an Impact

Delta Kappa Gamma Eta Mu Chapter Proposed Events 2021-2022

August 26	 RUSH - Open House for Membership Recruitment
September 11 or 18	Kickoff Brunch
October 23	 Poet Laureate Speaker & Poetry Activity
November 13	 Mystery Dinner
December 17	 Cookie Exchange & VAPA event @ Gallo Arts
January TBD	@Butlers' Pantry – Olive Oil/Vinegar Tasting
February 11	Chinese New Year Cooking Demonstration 
March 16	Potato Fest and Bunco Night 
April 9	Paint Night 
May 14 or 21	Installation Event 
June 4	Garden Party 

MEET HEATHER NONACA, AREA XVII LEGISLATIVE CHAIR EDUCATIONAL LAW AND POLICY ADVOCATE, ETA MU LEGISLATIVE CHAIR



Heather's Educational Background

Heather Nonaca (No-knock-uh) found her love for teaching while coaching her alma mater band and color guard at Grace M. Davis High School after graduation. She then worked as a tutor and student mentor at Modesto Junior College, where she earned her AA degree. After finishing at MJC, she transferred to CSU, Chico where she earned two bachelor's degrees in Religious Studies and Social Science. She returned to the Central Valley to pursue her Single-Subject Teaching Credential at CSU, Stanislaus and worked for Modesto Parks and Recreation as a Recreation leader in the afterschool program, working with elementary and middle school students.

Heather then worked at Ronald E. McNair High School in Stockton, for the next eight years, teaching AP US History, World History, and Geography. After the birth of her son in 2018, she made the move to California Virtual Academy, where she has been teaching High School US History for the past two years.

Heather also serves CA DKG as a Bill Evaluator. She was recently awarded the Career/Professional Service Chapter Award and is in her second term as the Area XVII Legislative Chair. She is passionate about inclusive education, fostering critical thinking in her students, supporting local communities, classic cars, traveling the world with her husband, reading with her son, and iced coffee!

When asked about how she became involved in DKG, Heather told her story.

While working at Modesto City Parks and Recreation at Mark Twain Junior High for the afterschool program, Mark Heinzinger came to observe. When Mark was introduced, Heather thought, "How many Heinzingers can there be? It is such a unique name." Although she had never met Mark before, recognizing the name, she went up to him at the end of the session and asked if he knew Kathleen Heinzinger. Mark replied, "That's my wife."

At the time, Kathleen was working at Salida Elementary School and needed some help in her classroom. Mark got Heather in touch with Kathleen, and she started helping in Kathleen's elementary classroom, observing, and using the time towards her credential hours. During that time Heather and Kathleen became close and that's when Kathleen started talking to Heather about Eta Mu and DKG. Later Heather was invited to a meeting and Kathleen introduced her as her former 4th grade student. According to Heather, many people can't say that their relationship with their 4th grade teacher is special. She knows years later that hers really *is* special. Heather joined Eta Mu in 2016, and soon after took the position of Legislative Chair for the chapter.

When asked what she liked about her position as Legislative Chair, Heather talked about how it relates to her teaching career.

As a history teacher, even before she had the legislative position, Heather always tried to keep tabs on what was happening in the country and around the world, to stay informed. She says, "bringing current events into the classroom to discuss with my students has always been important to me, so I just kind of saw the legislative chair position as an extension of that." To her, the legislative position is as much for the chapter as it is serving a purpose for her in her classroom. The position keeps her informed about what's happening at state level as well. She says, "sometimes we're focused more on what's happening at the national level." Heather really likes how the position has made her "zoom" in specifically on what's happening in our smaller community. She was also excited about Legislative Chair because she had the sense that it was not as popular a chair position as it should be. She feels good just bringing awareness of the position and what it has to offer to the chapter. Heather was thrilled when Area Director Carol Vieira asked her to be the Area Legislative Chair. Heather regularly shares DKG California and International's work on legislature and law with *Eta Mu Musings* and on the Eta Mu website. She has developed presentations to keep members informed. She wants all DKG members to be aware that we have a lobbyist advocating for women educators and that we can, and should, voice our opinions on legislation affecting California teachers and women.

What are some highlights of your teaching career?

Whenever Heather can get a student excited about history, that's a win for her. When she was teaching at McNair High School, one of the things that she always loved doing with her classes was mock trials. Students had to argue their point of view and they really got passionate about taking their roles seriously. Heather also enjoys conducting Socratic Seminars with her students, which involve reading and discussing articles in detail. She says, "What's great about teaching history is that it's not like math where there's always a right or wrong answer. . . . I always love it when my kids walk away more confused from a discussion than when we started because that lets me know that their critical thinking muscles are kicking in." She often tells her students, "There's not a right or wrong answer here. There are well supported and ill supported arguments. So, if you can make an argument and support it, awesome." Heather also loves it when her students teach her, when they come back and show her something that they've found interesting or that's connected to the content. She loves growing with her students. She says, "I just love fostering curiosity in my students. If I can foster a sense of curiosity about history in my students, that's when I feel like I've really accomplished something."

What are your biggest challenges?

Heather thinks that balancing motherhood and a career and trying to fulfill both of those roles with the same amount of energy and passion is really challenging. She has had to set some boundaries this past year when it comes to work to make sure there's more of a balance between work and family. Heather knows that becoming a mother has made her a better teacher, because she knows from experience what it means to trust somebody else with your child. She says, "Parents are trusting us with their most precious beings on the planet. Everybody wants what's best for their child. And so, when I have children in my classroom, it makes me even more intentional about doing what's best for the students. I always try to ask myself if my choices are what's best for me or for the student. Is this assignment what's best for students? Is it *really* encouraging critical thinking? Is it *really* teaching them how to write?" While she had always thought of her students as her children, that feeling has just intensified since becoming a mother.



What advice would you give to a new teacher?

"Find a mentor. Get to know the staff at your school and find somebody that is willing to listen and give advice. You don't necessarily have to have the intent of doing whatever they suggest that you do, but it's just nice to have somebody that you can talk to. Somebody that can serve as a sounding board for your ideas and/or concerns. Someone that you can go to when you have a question or when you have ideas. Something as simple as knowing who to ask if you want a certain resource for your classroom. Like, do you know who does the purchase orders? Because teaching can be so isolating. It's you, alone, in a room. You're the only adult in the room in most cases. And so, I think it's just important to make sure that when you're outside of that room, that you start to build a community of people that can help you be better at what you're doing, and that can support you along the way. It may not even be the people you would think of; it might be the librarian, a teacher in a different subject area, the principal's secretary, or it could be the person that serves the meals in the cafeteria." Heather views Eta Mu as an extension of that classroom community and appreciates the knowledge and sense of empowerment that surrounds her within the women of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Heather is currently the Area Legislative Chair and has informative presentations on Eta Mu's Website. Check out all her presentations about DKG's Educational Policy at <https://www.etamucaliforniadkg.org/purposes-of-dkg-and-legislative-action.html>.



DKG California has a Legislative Advocate, Martha Zaragoza-Diaz, Lobbyist. You can find out more about DKG's Legislative Platform at <http://www.dkgca.org/ed-law-policy.html>.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulate Lynn Lysko on her new job. Lynn will now be the Site Coordinator/Assistant Professor for the University of Pacific Tiger Teach Program.

Member Birthdays

Happy Birthday to You! 🎂

July:

- o 2 Debbie Mar
- o 18 Linda Collins
- o 24 Karen Moore
- o 27 Sally Price

August:

- o 6 Mercedes Hart
- o 16 Pat Elston
- o 16 Deb Dooley
- o 22 Marla Romanoff-Kitzmann

September

- o 2 Carol Wharton
- o 4 Karen Mendonca
- o 14 Janice Chan

Belated Birthday Wishes to those whose birthdays were not listed in the last edition.



DKG Supports Schools for Africa

Eta Mu will collect donations for Schools for Africa at the September Kickoff Meeting. Delta Kappa Gamma International supports Schools for Africa through member donations.



The Schools for Africa project is a partnership between UNICEF, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and the Hamburg Foundation (now the Peter Krämer Stiftung). Schools for Africa aims to provide quality education to millions of children in Africa with a special focus on the most marginalized. To date, Schools for Africa has helped more than 30 million children achieve the dream of an education. It supports the work of UNICEF to build and furnish schools, train teachers, facilitate school access to disadvantaged children especially girls and marginalized children, provide access to clean water and supply students with school materials. More information on the Schools for Africa program may be found at www.schoolsforafrica.com.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nonaca's News



Greetings Sisters! Here are a few Legislative Updates

DKG CA, Educational Law and Policy News:

No updates from our Legislative Advocate at this time.

Stanislaus County News

Next Election is Tuesday, September 14, 2021. More information can be found here:

<https://www.stanvote.com/pdf/voter-guides/20210914.pdf>

You can check your voter status here: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>

DKG U.S. Forum Connection

1. DKG US Forum Connection Summer 2021 Issue:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6013504257ba7877baf64a0a/t/60d2cfe63760345231ba2255/1624428519328/US+Forum+Connection+Summer+2021.pdf> Now Available! Please see attached.

2. US Forum members in attendance at the International Conferences in Portland on July 9th and San Antonio on July 24th voted to accept changes to the US Forum Operational Guidelines. You can view those guidelines here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6013504257ba7877baf64a0a/t/60d2c9177432020014c6463c/1624426775914/US+Forum+Proposed+Guidelines+2021.docx.pdf>

Current National Legislation to follow:

S. 1585: Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act

Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act: This bill requires institutions of higher education (IHEs) that participate in federal student-aid programs to share contact information for suicide prevention resources with students. Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy, John(R-LA) Introduced 05/12/2021; Passed/agreed to in Senate Voice Vote 05/12/2021. Sent to House. Source: Congress.gov

H.R. 5 Equality Act: This bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation. Sponsor: Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1] (Introduced 02/18/2021) Cosponsors: (224) Committees: House - Judiciary; Education and Labor; Financial Services; Oversight and Reform; House Administration; Passed in the House 02/25/2021. Latest Action: Senate - 03/17/2021 Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held. Congress.gov



Stay Well Sisters!

Heather Nonaca



AREA XVII NEWS



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE AREA XVII FALL LUNCHEON 2021

We are planning a Fall Luncheon on Saturday, October 23, at San Joaquin County Office of Education's Locke Auditorium. Details are coming and registration will be via Google Forms. We have a wonderful speaker, Lisa MacKenzie from the Choose Love Movement who will speak on the topic "Choosing Love in Our Brave New World."

Meet Lisa



Lisa MacKenzie is one of the curriculum writers for the Choose Love for School Program. While piloting the original Choose Love Enrichment Program several years ago, Lisa developed a Social Emotional Learning/Trauma Sensitive program to serve students with extreme social-emotional and behavioral needs, which earned the

Distinguished Schools Award for her school.

Lisa has spent her entire career, of over 30 years, helping struggling students become successful in school and life. She is a special education teacher, author, speaker, and nationally recognized educator. Lisa has her Master's Degree in Special Education. She holds her Mild/Moderate and Multiple Subject credentials, a supplementary autism credential and single-subject science credential. In addition, she is a certified behavior specialist and mindfulness instructor.

Fun Facts Lisa Shares:

- I'm a co-author of the best-selling book, "Setting Limits in the Classroom" with my husband, Dr. Robert MacKenzie, which is used in university credential programs throughout the United States.
- Whenever I get a chance, I go to the ocean. It is my sanctuary.
- I love to scuba dive, snorkel, kayak, surf, or anything else in or on the water.

MEMBER RESOURCES

Upcoming Events

Look for Evites for locations and RSVP online

September TBA
KICKOFF MTG

October VAPA
FocusPoetry

October 23rd
Area XVII Fall Luncheon

November 13
Mystery Dinner

December 17
Christmas Cookie Exchange and Opus Handbell Ensemble Concert

UPCOMING DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

“Reimagined” Leadership Retreat - Open to ALL Inquiring, Aspiring, and Inspiring Leaders - Virtual - January 21-22, 2022

DKG CALIFORNIA CONVENTION: Unlocking Our Imaginations

2022 Burbank Airport Marriott
April 29-30-May 1, 2022

Watch for more information on **Tech Café Meetings** the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 10AM. Each session will offer training on a technology topic.



**International Vision Statement:
Key Women Educators Impacting Education
Worldwide**

DKG California: Educational – Professional - Making an Impact

ETA MU SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY

Eta Mu Continues to Support the Modesto Gospel Mission



A collection was taken in July for the Mission's Back to School Shoe Drive. Thank you to all the members who were able to participate. Thanks to the generosity of our Eta Mu sisters, our chapter was able to donate \$160 and 4 pairs of shoes to the Modesto Gospel Mission's Kick for Kids event! This was in addition to the \$385 that was donated during our June Garden Party. We started contributing to the Mission in support of their women and children's programming in 2008. Since then, Eta Mu has donated untold quantities of books and educational supplies, backpacks, and close to \$7000. What a wonderful legacy of generosity and concern for the homeless women and children in our community, in addition to those children in the neighborhood of the Mission who need an extra measure of security and access to resources. Thank you for your heart!

Modesto Gospel Mission offers "New Beginnings" to many in our local community.

The Fall Gala evening will be filled with testimonies of transformation by men and women who have stayed at the Mission. There will be a worship concert from award-winning musician [@philwickham](#), a silent auction, and food from our very own Chef Carlos. This is a special night that will be entertaining and fun, but will also inspire people in our community to become the hands and feet of Jesus alongside the Modesto Gospel Mission.

2021
FALL
GALA

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE
MODESTO
GOSPEL
MISSION

September 25th
Doors Open @ 5PM

GROSSROADS
GRACE
1505 Moffat Blvd
Manteca, CA 95336

TICKETS ON SALE
July 19th @ 1PM

SCAN QR TO
PURCHASE

FEATURING
PHIL WICKHAM

VISIT WWW.MODESTOGOSPELMISSION.ORG/GALA FOR MORE INFO.