

Eta Mu Musings

FALL 2023 VOLUME LVI, No. 2

NEWS OF ETA MU CHAPTER AREA XVII DKG CA

DKG CA - Our Compass is on New Horizons

**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

A "TOP TEN" DKG CA NEWSLETTER 2021



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Welcoming Words from Our Presidents



Hello, Eta Mu Sisters!

The holidays are fast approaching. As we await Thanksgiving, there's an opportunity for you to gather together with your Eta Mu sisters for another November event, the Modesto Gospel Mission and Volente Coffee Roasters Tour, on the 18th at 10:30 AM. As a service project, Eta Mu members who wish to participate will be donating men's and women's socks to the Socks for Veterans program at the Mission. More information on this upcoming event will follow in an E-vite.

Another much anticipated holiday get together is our annual December Gallo event. This year it takes place on December 17th when Eta Mu members attend a matinee performance of "Winter Wonderettes", a Musical. There will be a deadline for our program co-chairs Kathleen Heinzinger and Denise Carlson-Nieto to obtain a block of tickets for us to purchase, so stay tuned for that information.

As always, carpooling is available for these holiday activities. Finally, your Eta Mu Executive Board wishes you a wonderful Hanukkah and Christmas this year. There will be even more "fun, food, and fellowship" Eta Mu activities and service projects to participate in after the New Year festivities.

Blessings, Judy and Linda

DKG California: Educational – Professional - Making an Impact

CURRENT NEWS AND EVENTS



A Note from the Editor

I want to thank Heather for making sure the last newsletter was sent out in a timely manner. It feels good to be able to sit down at the computer and use my arm again. My goal after this newsletter is to update the website. If you are interested in working with me on any of these tasks, please let me know.

ETA MU Kickoff Breakfast to Begin 2023-24



From left to right: New Eta Mu sisters Wendy Taro and Andrea Cadrett, Founding Sister Adele Little and new Eta Mu sister Caralyn Mendoza.

The Founder and The Future

On September sixth, the women of the Eta Mu chapter gathered for brunch at the beautiful home of Marla Rucobo. It was a lovely day, and they knew it would be special as they were welcoming three new sisters... and honoring one very remarkable sister; chapter founding member, Adele Little would be receiving her DKG 55-year pin.

The Founder

Adele Little is the chapter's only remaining founding member and has been an active part of the organization since helping found the chapter on April 20, 1968. Since that time, she has held nearly every position in both the chapter and the area organizations and continues to serve on various committees. In

Debbie Mar's presentation of her 55-year pin, she highlighted Adele's amazing achievements in both education and the community of Modesto, calling her "an inspirational, very positive, spiritual and blessed person." During her teaching career, she was an educator of the first water, first as a classroom teacher, then a reading teacher and later taking on the role of Director of State and Federal Programs. Adele has been generous to the community as well, continually demonstrating her dedication to literacy for her community. She has been the community's Adult Literacy Program Director, sat on the board of the Adult Literacy Network, and worked with Stanislaus County Partners in Education (SPIE). Her contributions to the community led to her being named as one of the Outstanding Women for Stanislaus County 2009, and the recipient of the Jean and Clyde Dunlap Award for her dedication and devotion to literacy-- an honor that is well-deserved. All Eta Mu sisters continue to benefit from her knowledge and guidance. To make this event even more meaningful, Adele donated her previous pins to the chapter, that they may be used to honor the commitment to DKG of others.



Debbie Mar awards Adele Little her 55 year pin as Linda Chrabas looks on.

The Future

The three women who were welcomed into Eta Mu are equally remarkable, each in their own way. Caralyn Mendoza is the newly dubbed Assistant Superintendent of Finance for the Newman Crows Landing School District. Caralyn has worked hard to ensure that the students at her school district have a solid education and are prepared for a career-- or college-- beyond their high school years.

Serving in an agriculture forward community, Caralyn hopes to develop a district farm which would serve two purposes: helping students to learn agribusiness and agriculture and providing the opportunity for students to participate in a “farm to fork” culinary education. She already is posting pictures of the delicious items that budding culinary students create with the hash tag

#eatlearngraduate. Caralyn is married to her husband Armando and together they have three children, Nelson, Rebecca, and Diego. We are pleased to welcome Caralyn to our chapter and look forward to her contributions.



Wendy Taro is a long-time educator of Modesto City Schools. She was a classroom teacher for over twenty years before transitioning to her current position as MTSS Instructional Coach at Martone School in Modesto in order to support the

students who need it the most. Known for going above and beyond, Wendy recently received the MCS Hero award for her continuing efforts on behalf of the students and staff of Martone. Wendy is always a positive influence on her friends and colleagues, ready with a funny story, joke, or a warm smile. She is an avid traveler with her husband Rob, recently hiking through several National Parks including Zion National Park. Wendy and Rob have two adult daughters, Nicole and Renee. We are so excited to have Wendy join our chapter, sharing her unique gifts and talents!

New Eta Mu sisters Wendy Taro, Andrea Cadrett and Caralyn Mendoza

Andrea Cadrett is a respected kindergarten teacher at Agnes Baptist Elementary in the Stanislaus Union School District. She has sat on so many site and district committees that she has actually lost count! Her dedication to education and her students earned her the “Teacher of the Year” award for Stanislaus County in 2017. She continues to

mentor new teachers within her district. One of Andrea's favorite things to do is to "glamp" with her husband, John, enjoying the freedom to load up their fifth wheel and go to campgrounds around the state to enjoy nature-- and a good book! John and Andrea have two adult children, Matthew and Julia. Andrea's wealth of knowledge and dedication to education will benefit all of our members. We are lucky to have Andrea join our chapter!


With the leadership and guidance of all of our Eta Mu sisters the future of this chapter is bright indeed. May we all continue to live this year's motto "We rise by lifting others!"

Article submitted by Dawn Pitcock

Mark Your Calendar for Fall and Winter Events

Below is a listing of the dates, the program, the service project, and the DKG Society International Purpose that we are fulfilling as we meet and work together as a chapter.

<p>Saturday, November 18, 2023 Time 10:30 AM</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour and Volente Coffee Roasters • Volente Coffee. Roasters is a social enterprise of the Modesto Gospel Mission. • There will be an Executive Committee meeting after the program. 	<p>Modesto Gospel Mission 1400 Yosemite Blvd, Modesto</p> <p>Service Project - Socks for Veterans. Please donate socks for men or women</p> <p>Purpose 7</p>
<p>Sunday, December 17, 2023 2:00 p.m., followed by dinner.</p> <p>Dinner location TBD</p>	<p>Winter Wonderettes a Musical</p> 	<p>Gallo Center, 1000 I St., Modesto Foster Family Theater</p> <p>Purpose 1</p>

<p>Thursday, January 18, 2024 5:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>Soup Supper</p> <p>Program - Trauma Informed Instruction</p> <p>Speaker - TBD</p>	<p>Home of Heather Nonaca 4305 Crown Valley Way, Modesto</p> <p>Service Project - Gospel Mission Collection, monetary donation or toiletries for women or children. For monetary check donations, please make the check payable to Modesto Gospel Mission.</p> <p>Purpose 7</p>
<p>Friday, January 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, January 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.</p>	<p>Dr. Rosa Perez-Isiah Educational Leader for Social Justice, Author, Consultant</p>	<p>Virtual Leadership Seminar "Leadership and Gender Diversity: The Power of Leading Like a Woman"</p>

<p>SAVE THE DATE</p> <p>Friday, May 3, 2024, to Sunday, May 5, 2024</p>	<p>DKG CA Convention <i>Our Compass Is On New Horizons</i></p> 	<p><i>Santa Clara Marriott</i> <i>2700 Mission College Blvd</i> <i>Santa Clara</i></p>
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Member Highlights

Membership Milestones



Thank you, sisters, for your years of support, dedication, and caring to your Eta Mu sisters. We have anniversary pins for you.

Adele, Charter Member, 55 years
Bev, 25 years
Denise, 5 years
Heather, 7 years (will receive her 5 year pin)!
Janice, 17 years (will receive her 15 year pin)!
Joyce, 20 years
Linda, 15 years
Lynn, 15 years

Marla, 10 years
Mary Lou, 28 years (will receive her 25 year pin)!
Pat 18 years, (will receive her 15 year pin)!
Susan, 26 years (will receive her 25 year pin)!
Trudi, 16 years, (will receive her 15 year pin)!
Valerie, 18 years, (will receive her 15 year pin)!

As Adele did when she received her 55 year pin, sisters above, please return your previous pins at a meeting or program.

If we missed your milestone, please tell the Membership Committee. Thank you.

Eta Mu Directory

Please complete the Eta Mu Directory form. All sisters need to complete the form. If you have any questions, Dawn and Wendy B. will bring their iPads to our November 18th Eta Mu Program to help you.

The link:

<https://forms.gle/UgtgLDBD9WAIxPL6>

Google Form Instead of Evite

Due to the changes in Evite, you will be notified with an email or text with the link to a Google Form. Please complete all the information on the Google Form. It's very important to complete the form in order to have enough food and to know who will attend. We have exciting, fun, and informative programs and delicious dinners planned for 2023-2024.

Member Birthdays: Happy Birthday to You!



October

- 3 Theresa Foote
- 16 Susan Neufeld
- 17 Trudi Sigmon
- 17 Judy Trask

November

- 30 Adele Little



December

- 16 Joyce Brooks



SISTER TO SISTER

Celebrate our members!

Carol Wharton had her art selected for the annual Fall Art Show at Mistlin Gallery. This annual event showcases the exceptional talent of CCAA members in an open-themed, juried art show at Mistlin Gallery. It's a platform for artists to connect, compete for cash prizes, and share their unique artistic expressions with the community. The event is for celebrating the power of art and



Carol Wharton with "Blueberries
from San Gemini, Italy"

fundraising. It fosters creativity and enriches our local art scene.

Carol also displayed two paintings at the Area XVII Fall Brunch Art exhibit.

Congratulations Carol, an inspiring key woman educator!



Carol says: On Saturday, November 4, River Lights Chorus will be performing for Bristol Hospice. They're having A Celebration of the Moments. We'll be singing in 2 sets. The show goes from 11am-1pm. It's for those who have lost loved ones.

The program will consist of music, poetry, and amazement.

For more information, please feel free to contact Carol

Adele says: Many thanks to all the Eta Mu sisters who have provided meals, time, and other support to Stan and me as he deals with his health challenges following hospitalization in July. I appreciate all that you continue to do for us. Stan is making progress in his strength and capabilities. At age 91, he has remarkable resilience.

AREA NEWS



AREA XVII HOSTS SUCCESSFUL FALL CONFERENCE

DKG members from Area XVII gathered at the Martin Petersen Event Center in Modesto California for their annual area event. Entitled "*Empowerment Through Art*", the program featured guest speaker Amy Bultena, the Director of Arts at Stanislaus County Office of Education. Her topic was the importance of arts education. Amy noted that students often express trauma they have experienced through art. She led those present through an art activity which had even the most reluctant participant creating art. A handout as a guide showing the potential meaning of different colors and shapes that could be used to develop the art was provided.



Artwork by members in Area XVII was displayed throughout the event. Each chapter contributed a centerpiece which often involved an art theme.

A basket raffle was held to support Early Career Educator Awards.



EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY UPDATE

Greetings Sisters! Here are a few Legislative Updates (“Nonaca’s News”)

What’s happening in the CA Legislature?

As of 9/24/23: The Legislature completed its work Thursday, September 14, 2023, and reconvenes on January 3, 2024. Below is the current status of the bills DKG California is monitoring. The Governor must act on bills on his desk by October 14, 2023. A final report will be provided by October 31, 2023. [Current bill status report](#) on the educational bills DKG CA is watching. **You can learn more about each bill by searching for the bill [here](#)



CA Senate Has a New President Pro Tempore

The next Senate President Pro Tempore will be [Sen. Mike McGuire](#) (D-Healdsburg). The date he will take over as President pro Tempore has yet-to-be-determined in 2024. Current Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins terms out of office next year. Expect to see change of committee chairpersons next year. This change represents a second shift of power in the Legislature this year. Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) is now Assembly Speaker. Assemblymember McGuire terms out in 2026. His primary interests are the environment and climate change. Please note he was a school board member and his wife is an elementary school principal.

DKG CA, Educational Law and Policy News

I am currently reaching out to all DKG Legislative Chairs to identify our chapter legislative representatives so that we can provide them with training and resources. If you are interested in the work of the Educational Law and Policy Committee and would be interested in helping me represent *our* chapter’s Legislative Committee, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/2UC7CNdMT2yzosCU9> . **Complete this survey by 11/1/2023** so that we can add you to our official directory and invite you to our **next training opportunity on 11/11/23**.

August 2023 DKG US Forum Connection.

DKG US Forum invites you to the National Legislative Seminar.

March 10-13, 2024
Washington D.C.

Learn to make a difference.
Speak up, stand up, soar!



Mark your 2024 calendars for an exciting opportunity to enhance your advocacy skills, learn from experts about federal legislation related to education, women, and children, speak with your legislators, and visit key historical sites in Washington, DC.

Please know that as a member you have the right to request that DKG take action on any proposed legislation that aligns with our Legislative Platform. If you have input on any legislation that you want DKG to explore, you can let me know or you can contact our Legislative Coordinator, Hazel Powell, directly at teampowell@aol.com



Heather Nonaca heathernonacadkgca@gmail.com 209-324-3837

Area XVII Legislative Chair
Bill Evaluator

Eta Mu Chapter, Area XVII, Five Star Chapter
California State Organization
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

change the world.” -Malala Yousafzai

“One child, one teacher, one book and one pen, can

DKG STATE NEWS

Virtual Leadership Development Seminar

January 19-20, 2024

Leadership and Gender Diversity:

The Power of Leading Like a Woman

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rosa Perez-Isiah

LDC is delighted to have Educational Leader for Social Justice, Assistant Superintendent, Actionable Equity Advocate, Author, and Speaker Dr. Rosa Perez-Isiah as this year's Keynote Speaker. Focusing on the topic of "Leadership and Gender Diversity: The Power of Leading Like a Woman," Dr. Perez-Isiah will help participants



- Discover the unique strengths of authentic female leadership.
- Our diversity and unique perspectives are valuable assets in reshaping the educational landscape.
- When we bring our many strengths and insights to the forefront, we excel and transform organizations.
- Move beyond traditional models: Harness the transformative power of women's authenticity in leadership.

Seminar Agenda

Friday, January 19, 7:00-8:00 PM

- **Optional Social/Networking**

Saturday, January 20, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- 9:00 - 10:00 Welcome & Introductions
- 10:00 - 12:00 Keynote Address, Questions & Breakout Discussion
- 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch (on your own)
- 12:30 - 1:50 Breakout Group Activity & Action Planning
- 1:50 - 2:00 Closing & Feedback

***This event is open to women educators at all levels. Membership in DKG is not required for attendance.**

**** DKG California Leadership Seminar Award is available for members in good standing for at least two years prior to applying. More information is available here: [DKG California Leadership Seminar Award](#).**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Eta Mu Sisters would like you to sign up for the Comfort Kit Drive. We already have members signed up for Saturday December 2, to help give away kits.



Love Stanislaus County
KIDS PROGRAM

COMFORT KIT DRIVE

DECEMBER 2ND, 2023
Centenary Church (1911 Toyon Ave., Modesto)

Hundreds of children in our area enter foster care every year with nothing or with just a few belongings in a garbage bag. The Kids Program believes in the power of showing love to these kids during this scary time by offering a comfort kit filled with items to meet both physical and emotional needs during this life changing transition.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

DONATE
Become a sponsor or give a donation of any amount. Your monetary donation will help supply comfort kits and other needed items to kids in foster care. Donations are tax deductible.

GIVE ITEMS
Love to shop? Sign up to give individual items or make a full kit on your own!
Engage your congregation, book club, or classroom and help us gather the items we need.

VOLUNTEER
Volunteer to help assemble comfort kits at the event!
We are also looking for volunteers to help with set up the week before.

Questions?
Call (209)232-5521
Or email us at jill@lovestanislauscounty.org

OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS

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