

Eta Mu Musings

VOLUME LIII
No 5

NEWS OF ETA MU CHAPTER AREA XVII DKG CA

DKG CA-Invitation to a New Beginning

APRIL-MAY 2022

**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



Hello, Eta Mu sister

Changes have been made to this year's program. Your Executive Board will be working with local chapter Alpha Epsilon to plan a joint Garden Party to end our DKG year. The current plan is to meet at an outdoor picnic area (to be determined), with both chapters providing brunch items for the meal. So, Save the Date—Saturday, June 4th at 11 AM—and come enjoy a lovely time with some fellow DKG sisters.

An earlier plan was to have a joint installation of officers in May with all the Modesto chapters, but it was decided that we will save that for a future year. Meanwhile, May is still the planned month for our Eta Mu installation of officers, with more information to follow on the date and time of that meeting.

Lynn Lysko, who will be moving to Texas, is stepping down as treasurer at the end of this biennium. Marla Rucobo has agreed to be appointed treasurer for the upcoming biennium.

Judy Trask and Linda Chrabas, Eta Mu Co-Presidents

DKG California: Educational – Professional - Making an Impact

CURRENT NEWS AND EVENTS



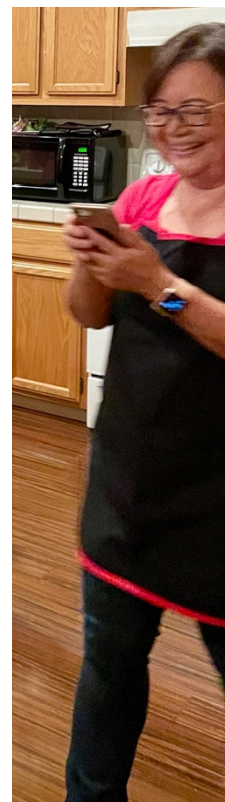
新年快乐 and 恭喜发财

or Happy New Year and Happiness and Prosperity!

Thanks again to the culinary marvel who is Eta Mu's own Debbie Mar, our February meeting at Judy Trask's home was a delicious celebration of the Chinese Year of the Tiger. Amidst the brilliant gold and red decorations, we had a wonderful feast that Debbie prepared for us with her trusty Instapot. (I am convinced that should she ever need to augment her income to support her travel bug, all she'd need to do is hire out to do infomercials on Instapot cookery!)



This evening's main course was a complex poached treatment of chicken that won't be found in most Asian restaurants due to the multiple and time-consuming steps involved. It was so tender and delicious! The "supporting cast" to this star was comprised of rice, broccolini, and hand-made egg rolls with two lovely sauces. We were also treated to plum wine and our dessert choices were fortune cookies and ginger cookies.



It was truly "Debbie Mar Night" because our program for this meeting was a fascinating introduction to Montenegro that Debbie provided. She had just returned a few days earlier from a short-term mission trip to Podgorica, Montenegro's capital city. For those of you unfamiliar with Montenegro's location, it is directly across the Adriatic Sea east of Italy. Her slide show was full of stunning scenery and charming architecture, often dating to medieval times. I'm sure many of us have added Montenegro to our bucket list of places to visit after hearing about her trip!



Submitted by Janice Freeman

March Meeting and Good Eating



(and Bunco, too)



Submitted by Judy Trask

Our March meeting combined an annual event, the Potato Fest, with a fun-filled Bunco night at Denise Carlson-Nieto's home. Denise introduced her guest and work colleague, Wendy Pryschuk, as a potential member. Also present was non-member Vicki Bauman, who was nominated by Janice Freeman for the Area XVII Public Service Award.



Wendy and Denise

After two years of Covid restrictions and concerns limiting attendance at Zoom and in-person chapter meetings, it was wonderful to have more than twenty women present. We enjoyed getting caught up on what everyone has been doing as we ate our stuffed baked potatoes.

After the business meeting, Bunco was fast paced and didn't allow for much conversation, but those of us who were at the same table with Mercedes Hart were treated to her multi-lingual songs and chants meant to spur on her dice as she shook them in her hands. At the end of the round, our evening concluded with Janice Freeman handing out prizes to the Bunco winners.



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

by Linda Chrabas

GOODBYE and HELLO Our Co-Presidents Linda and Judy

Your Chapter Co-Presidents, Judy Trask and Linda Chrabas, are saying goodbye to “Invitation from a New Beginning” and hello to “Living Out of Our Imaginations” as Co-Presidents once again for the next biennium. We’ve certainly learned that leading during a pandemic encouraged greater flexibility and creativity by all of the members of our Eta Mu Chapter of DKG International. We found innovative ways to reach out and stay connected during times when staying apart seemed safer than being together. Now, we look forward to this biennium where our imaginations can live out louder than ever before.

Here is a little bit of our back story in education and DKG. We are anticipating two great years of serving as your Co-Presidents.

Judy Trask hails from Birmingham, Alabama. Listen carefully and you might hear that southern drawl. Remember the mystery dinner set in New Orleans? Judy’s family moved to California when she was eleven. Teaching easily fit Judy’s energetic and positive personality. She earned a BA in Liberal Studies from California State University, Stanislaus, along with a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. She received her MS in Education for Online Teaching and Learning from California State University, East Bay.

Judy taught grades K-3 in the Delano Unified School District. She also served teachers as a BTSA Mentor where many newly credentialed teachers benefited from her training and support in their professional development. Judy was an Online Instructor for Walden University’s Master of Education program. From kindergarten to college, Judy’s extensive range of educational knowledge reached a wide variety of students and teachers. Judy was Delano Teacher of the Year nominee two times in her career.

Judy first joined DKG in 1989. She was a member of Beta Zeta Chapter in Area VII where she served as Co-President and First and Second Vice President. When she and her husband Ray moved to Modesto in 2006, Judy transferred to Eta Mu and soon was serving in many offices: Recording Secretary, Vice President for Programming, the Communication Committee, where she produced many newsletters for our chapter, and current Co-President for a second biennium.

Judy is active at CrossPoint Community Church where she is a Women’s Bible Study small group leader. She has volunteered at Gallo Center for the Arts and is currently a facilitator for a long-standing community book club. Reading, traveling and “golfercize” are some of her hobbies. She and Ray have traveled much of the world. They recently returned from Spain in



December and are planning on spending June in Tahiti. Judy is looking forward to the California DKG Convention in Burbank held the last week of April.

Ray and Judy have been married for fifty-two years. Their romance began their senior year of high school. Memories of their Senior Prom still bring a warm smile to Judy's heart.

Co-President Linda Chrabas was born in Utica, New York. And no, this is nowhere near New York City where a definite accent can be acquired. Linda always desired to be a teacher; she loved learning and reading and continues in this mode to this day. Linda graduated with an BA in English from U Albany, then received an MS in English Education from Syracuse University. She has a lifetime credential in English in New York. She also attended SUNY Cortland for an administrative credential. In 1986, Linda moved to California where she earned a Single Subject Secondary English Credential from CSU Stanislaus.

After answering a newspaper ad for teachers in California, Linda joined Modesto City Schools at La Loma Junior High where she taught grades 7 and 8 for twenty years. There she held various positions from Department Chair, District Mentor, and Curriculum Coordinator for 7-8 Language Arts. Linda has served with the California State Education Department as a CLAS team member and with the California Literature Project as a Teacher Leader. Upon retirement Linda became a consultant for SCOE for the Williams Act. Moving to California opened many opportunities for Linda to grow as an educator. She has been honored during her 40-year-career in education: Who's Who Among America's Best Teachers, California GATE Teacher of the Year for the San Joaquin Region, Johns Hopkins Award for Teaching Excellence, and Middle School Teacher of the Year nominee.

Linda enjoys volunteering for many community events in Modesto. At CrossPoint Community Church she has served in Women's Ministry, Women's Bible Study leader, Children's Ministry and as a Chaplain in the Congregational Care Ministry. She has been a mentor at the Gospel Mission, an usher for the Gallo Center for the Arts and an evaluator for the Academic Pentathlon. She is a Friend of the Modesto Library. Currently she is an ESL tutor for an Afghan woman through World Relief. Linda never misses a Modesto Symphony Orchestra performance. She enjoys reading and listening to books. Journaling keeps her grounded and helps her remember daily blessings. Pilates and her personal trainer keep her moving in the right direction. Always UP.

Linda was proud to join Eta Mu in 2007. She has served as Recording Secretary and on various committees. She is in her second term as Co-President.



Like Judy, Linda is an avid traveler heading to Arizona for her reinstated annual brother-sister trip. She and Judy laughed at their December fiascos: Judy and Ray were caught on the Grapevine the same day Linda was flying from Boston (her second attempt) going through LA. Close but not quite reaching our planned goals. Linda will be heading to San Diego in May for a birthday week with girlfriends. In July it's Massachusetts and family time. Of course, she will be at the California DKG Convention at the end of April with Judy and several other members. She is looking forward to meeting new sisters and to bringing back fresh ideas for our Chapter.

"We wish you well this summer. We'd enjoy coffee and a chat anytime."

MEMBER NEWS



Chapter officers for the upcoming 2022-2024 biennium were elected at the March meeting:

- Co-Presidents - Linda Chrabas and Judy Trask for a second term as co-presidents
- Co-Vice-Presidents, Programs - Denise Carlson-Nieto and Kathleen Heinzinger
- Vice-President, Membership - Theresa Foote
- Secretary - Dawn Pitcock

Marla Rucobo has accepted the appointment as Treasurer. Janice Freeman will continue as Parliamentarian as she is the most recent “past” president.

CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS FOR 2022



Congratulations to Members of Chapter Awards

At our upcoming June Garden Party, co-presidents Linda Chrabas and Judy Trask will present two Chapter Service Awards. These awards align with Purpose II of the Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International: *To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education.*



Spring Birthdays

Happy Birthday to You! 🎂

April 🌧️

🌻 13 Janice Freeman

🌻 7 Carol Vieira

May 🌸

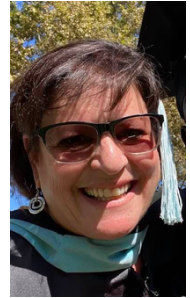
🌻 9 Bev Eaton

🌻 10 Linda Chrabas

🌻 17 Denise Carlson-Nieto



Lynn Lysko has been chosen to receive the Service to Chapter Award for a member who has served in a leadership role at the chapter level in two or more capacities. She has been a member of Eta Mu since 2005. During that time she has served as President, Co-President, First Vice-President/Programs, and is currently our chapter Treasurer.



Janice Freeman has been chosen to receive the Public Service Award for a member or non-member who is making an outstanding contribution to the community, especially with youth and/or education. Since her retirement from teaching several years ago, Janice has remained active in community organizations and educational projects such as the Stanislaus County Office of Education's 6 Cups to College Mentoring Program.

Eta Mu is proud to recognize these two outstanding women. Their efforts to represent our chapter well are much appreciated.

From Modesto Gospel Mission"

Eta Mu, Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, donations in the amount of \$785 were given after our last meeting to support the Modesto Gospel Mission. The [April newsletter](#) details the exciting and transformative work done in our community. Thank you, Sisters!

LOCAL NEWS

CELEBRATE LITERACY AWARDS

The 23th annual Celebrate Literacy Awards Presentation was held via Zoom on Friday, March 4, at 1:00 p.m.

The winner for ESL was Arazo Ekhlash, nominated by Chong Yang, ESL Instructor at LearningQuest. Arazo, her husband, and two children are refugees from Kabul,

Afghanistan. In Kabul, Arazo studied law at a private university to learn about her community and empower Afghan women by teaching them about women's rights. She also volunteered in a women's rights community where she taught Afghan women to write, improve their knowledge, and manage their time between housewife duties and studying. In the U.S., Arazo found that the English she learned in Afghanistan was not adequate. She enrolled in the ESL Program at LearningQuest. Her listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills have improved. She can now go to stores by herself, make appointments, read a magazine or book, and write an essay. Arazo is now determined to get an HSE diploma. She is currently on the waiting list for an online computer programming class. She also wants to study for U.S. citizenship. She is determined, compassionate, and hardworking.

The winner for Literacy was Laura Soto.

Laura Soto, nominated by Rose Jurado, LearningQuest Literacy Site Coordinator, was born and raised in Mexico City. In 2004, in fear for their safety there, Laura and her family moved to the U.S., settling in Modesto. Laura quickly realized that not knowing any English brought many new challenges. She worked in a warehouse assembly line where she could not communicate with her colleagues. She learned some English when her children began school, but she wanted to learn for herself. Laura received her High School Equivalency in Spanish at LearningQuest. In 2018, she entered the LearningQuest literacy program where she improved from second grade to eighth grade level. She continues with her tutor who says she is "incredibly responsible, very intelligent and dedicated." During the pandemic, she and her tutor continued lessons by phone. Laura says, "It is very important to learn English and to grow and move forward in any area and achieve your goals."

Nicholas Garibay and Adilene Zamora Ortiz received the award for high school equivalency.

Nicholas Garibay was nominated by Vanessa Carmona, Transitions Specialist at LearningQuest. Nicholas had to drop out of high school to become his father's primary caregiver. After his father's passing in 2007, Nicholas went through some hard times. By 2021, Nicholas had been incarcerated three times. In March 2021, Nicholas was released from prison after a six-year incarceration. Nicholas decided to apply for a Workforce Development grant to help pay for his continuing education. He was told he needed a High School Equivalency diploma to be eligible for the grant. Workforce personnel referred him to LearningQuest. There Nicholas very quickly excelled. He passed all his tests on the first try, was able to graduate within five weeks, and received the grant for Cal-Trade Welding School where he has been a student since October 2021. Once certified as a welder, Nicholas has a job prospect with PG&E. Because of his good behavior and positive outcomes, his three-year parole period has been reduced to one year which will end on March 7, 2022. Nicholas is very motivated to better his life for himself and others. He recently became engaged and looks forward to the future.

Adilene Zamora Ortiz, nominated by Courtney Saint-Smith, Lead High School Equivalency (HSE) Instructor at LearningQuest. At age 16, Adilene was living in Mexico, trapped in an abusive relationship, and forced to drop out of high school. For six years, she lived in impoverished conditions, working in the fields to support herself, her son, and her abusive partner. After a move to San Diego, she had to be in line at 5:00 a.m. to cross the border for work, not getting home until 11:00 p.m. When her son was almost three years old, Adilene

gained the strength and momentum to leave the abusive relationship. She relocated to Salinas where she began a GED program and then to San Jose where she attended a school for Medical Assisting. This was not a good fit for her. She dreamed of attending college and law school, so she needed the HSE. After the birth of her daughter, Adilene's loving, supportive husband changed his work schedule to accommodate her participation in LearningQuest's HSE program. In just five months, Adilene improved in all her CASAS scores and earned the HSE diploma. Adilene is a model student, recognized for her determination, strength, and inspiration to others. She plans to begin classes at Modesto Junior College this year.

The Betty Mulnix Service Award was presented to John Arnold. John, who has been a tutor since 1985, began tutoring at LearningQuest in 2018. In the past three years, John has tutored an entire immigrant family--husband, wife, and young son. He meets with the family as a whole, sharing storytime books with the child and making it a family tutoring session. John loves tutoring; his passion is contagious. John says, "For me the tutoring relationship is very special. It is pure fun to see my students light up when they manage to demonstrate improvements in reading. Also, sitting down with another person for 90 minutes each week almost always results in great conversations about every imaginable subject. I always get as much enjoyment out of my students as they do from me." The family says John is a mentor and friend who walked into their lives. He tutored the wife to pass her citizenship test. He brought children's books to their child. He taught them the language of living and working in the U.S. Their son refers to John as his "English Grandpa." When he did his Pre-Kindergarten homework, he listened to a recording of "Grandpa John" tutoring him in English. John has also invited the family to share Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July with his own family. John richly deserves this award for his exemplary dedication and service.

The Jean and Clyde Dunlap Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Cause of Literacy was presented to Catherine Ferrell, KidsQuest Program Coordinator and Learning Specialist at LearningQuest. From childhood, Catherine wanted to be a teacher. Her academic accomplishments include a BA in English Communications, K-12 multiple subjects and reading specialist credentials, and MA in Reading Leadership. She taught for 40 years, serving as a K-8 mentor teacher and instructional coach and as adjunct reading professor at a university. In 2019, after retirement, Catherine joined the KidsQuest program at LearningQuest, a program that provides free one-on-one tutoring for children with dyslexia. Catherine has expanded KidsQuest programming, recruited tutors, and garnered new students and the trust of their parents, fundraised, and communicated the goals and needs of the organization. Catherine has studied cutting-edge strategies to address learning disabilities. Catherine has always gone above and beyond to help parents looking for answers, tutors who have questions or need support, and children who are struggling with reading. She has developed a toolkit with links for parents and spends time giving them hope and resources to help their child. She draws on her years of teaching and continues her education, reading books and participating in online training to learn new skills to benefit dyslexic children. She launched a new class for LearningQuest's Reading and Spelling Academy. She implemented a Normed Dyslexic Index that gives more insight into ways that children learn. She has developed trainings to teach Barton Method and Structured Word Inquiry, strategies that are especially effective with dyslexic or struggling readers. She is developing a Parent Academy that will offer information sessions and resources on a variety of educational topics for families. Additionally, she has created resources on dyslexia for

pediatricians. Catherine has been a passionate and resourceful person in the world of literacy who is currently making a great impact in Stanislaus County.

Scholarship Award

A scholarship in the amount of \$500 was awarded to Enjila Farokh Ahmadi, a refugee from Afghanistan who wants to pursue her career goal of establishing a privately owned fine arts/design business encompassing projects from jewelry to home décor. In addition to fine arts, she desires to obtain skills in entrepreneurship, financial management, office and staff management and human resources and assets management. She envisions turning her business into a publicly owned corporation within 10-15 years. Enjila began classes at Turlock Adult School to help with linguistic and communication skills. She has advanced from ESL to Basic Adult Education to the high school diploma program. She has also received assistance in the transition to Modesto Junior College where she plans to enroll in Fall 2022. Enjila has had to adjust to a new culture and educational system. She has a strong desire to succeed and has used all available resources.

Article by Adele Little



L VE Stanislaus County Volunteer Day - April 30, 2022

Eta Mu - It's not too late to volunteer to show some love to our community!

On the last Saturday of April cities across Stanislaus County come together to love on their cities through multiple volunteer efforts. These efforts include clean-up projects, appreciation projects, special community needs projects and so much more.

Love Stanislaus County is pleased to have 8 cities in Stanislaus County confirmed to participate in this years' volunteer day on April 30. If you want to know more or are looking to get involved reach out to your event city leader listed below.

**Our volunteer days are just a few weeks away
Visit our website to find a way to help!**

[Volunteer | Love Stanislaus County | California](#)

AREA NEWS

AREA XVII SERVICE AWARDS

Area XVII Service Awards for 2022 were given to outstanding women leaders who made significant contributions to community organizations.

Barbara St. Urbain is the recipient of the *Area XVII Professional Service Award*. Barbara's recommendation lauded her as one "go-getter" DKG member. Barbara is a member of the Tau Chapter. Barbara and her chapter spent months planning the Stockton Teacher Mentor Corps, a volunteer tutoring program. Unfortunately, due to the lack of volunteers, this amazing program did not make it. (If another chapter would like to begin the program, Barbara would happily share what was created.)



That didn't stop Barbara! She has always been interested and concerned with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Barbara assembled a committee that included her chapter, the American Association of University Women, (AAUW), Stockton Branch, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University of the Pacific. This DEI committee meets twice a month to discuss DEI topics and to see how to make changes in the chapter and in the community.



Kathy Hobby is the recipient of the *Area XVII Public Service Award*. Kathy is the Fund Development Specialist for the Stanislaus County Education Foundation. She oversees fundraising to support programs and events that reach more than 17,500 students. The programs include both the YES Company and Outdoor Education at Foothill Horizons. Kathy also oversees Science Olympiad, Academic Decathlon, Mock Trials, and the Harold Pope Junior Relays. With Kathy's hard work, these programs and events will long be remembered by youth of Stanislaus County.

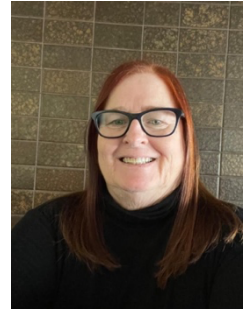
Vicki Bauman is the recipient of the *Area XVII Public Service Award*. Vicki is Director III of the Prevention Programs Department for the Stanislaus County Office of Education. She is the County Coordinator for Tobacco Use Prevention Education and Regional Lead for Student Mental Health, Safe Schools, and Healthy Start. Vicki oversees After School Education and Safety Programs, 21st Century Community Learning Centers and ASES, After School Programs, Foster Youth and Homeless, and the Student Attendance Review Board. Vicki founded the Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is an innovative program designed to develop the leadership potential of high school juniors and seniors and brings together



youth, and public and private organizations. She was instrumental in bringing FOCUS (focusing on children under stress) to Stanislaus County.

Two Area XVII Leadership Team members were selected for their service to DKG in the area.

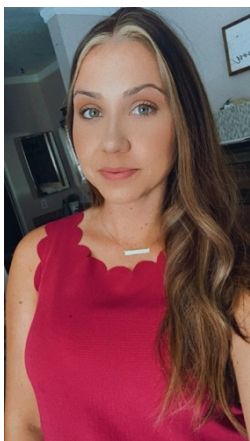
Carol Vieira is one recipient of the *Area XVII Service to Area Award*. Carol has been a member of the Eta Mu Chapter since 2007. For the chapter, Carol was chapter President for two biennium, Secretary and Parliamentarian. Carol was the 2019-2021 Area XVII Director and is currently the Treasurer for Area XVII. Carol's positive attitude and enthusiasm are always appreciated, especially when she willingly stepped in at different times to be Area XVII Director and then Area XVII Treasurer when both offices became vacant.



Heather Nonaca is another recipient of the *Area XVII Service to Area Award*. Heather has been a member of the Eta Mu Chapter since 2016. Currently Heather is the chapter's Legislative Chair and will continue to be Legislative Chair for the next biennium. Heather is on the Area XVII Board as the Legislative Chair and is a Bill Evaluator for DKG CA. Heather's reports are creative, interesting, and very informative. She provided a Legislative Presentation to the Epsilon Nu Chapter.



DKG CALIFORNIA HONORS MADISON ORTEGA WITH AREA XVII OUTSTANDING STUDENT TEACHER AWARD



Madison Ortega is the recipient of the Area XVII Outstanding Student Teacher Award. Madison is a science student teacher at the high school from which she graduated. She was a microbiologist before becoming a teacher. Madison brings excitement into the classroom. Her University Supervisor shared that Madison has a very positive rapport with students and staff and is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about science. Her students demonstrate highly responsible and productive behaviors and are fully cooperative. The Principal shared that Madison knows how to adjust to different personalities, how to dig deep for personal resources, and connects with her colleagues. Her Cooperating Teacher shared that Madison truly cares about the students and the school. She always takes time to listen to the students and always seems to go the extra mile for the students and other faculty.

Submitted by Kathleen Heinzinger, Area XVII Membership Chair

AREA EARLY CAREER EDUCATOR AWARDS

Three area early career educators nominated by Area XVII Chapters are being recognized with the ECE Award. Each will be honored by the local chapter and receive a check for \$175 and recognition from the Area Director and Area Awards Committee. Recipients may use the check to support their classroom or education.

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FROM THE
heart♥
NOT FROM THE BOOK

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CLARE RAGGIO



Clare Raggio was nominated by Eta Mu member Pat Elston. As an educator, Clare is an enthusiastic teacher who motivates her students to set high standards for behavior and achievement as she offers them the resources and support that will help them succeed. Her classroom is a caring environment where critical thinking and collaboration abound. Clare enjoys working with her 8th graders in science and language arts as she develops a curriculum that accommodates different choices to meet the varied needs of her students.

Eta Mu will honor Clare at their end of the year meeting.

MAELEE RAPHAEL



Maelee Raphael was nominated by Zeta Rho member Ruth Diekman. Maelee loves working and interacting with her special education students. She is excited to select appropriate items to enhance the music component of her work with the students in her class. She works cooperatively with other staff members.

Zeta Rho members visited her classroom and made a presentation honoring her. She will be attending Zeta Rho's chapter meeting on April 5, 2022.

KAELYN TAYLOR



Kaelyn Taylor was nominated by Tau chapter member Jackie Sinigagli. As an educator, Kaelyn's priority has been to be a champion and advocate for all her students. She motivates her students to set high standards for behavior and offers them resources that help them to be successful. Kaelyn thrives in the areas of critical thinking, collaboration, and organization and uses those skills both inside and outside her classroom. Her teaching style emphasizes fostering a classroom environment built on communication and teamwork that drives the learning process for all her students. Her goal as an educator is to

inspire her students to challenge themselves both academically and personally so that they are able to see the potential that she sees in each of them.

Kaelyn enjoys watching her 6th graders eagerly finish their books, exchanging them for the next one in the series. She has many who beg to go to the school library just to see if that next book is finally available for them to check out. This year she is happy to have a student who has just entered the U.S. and speaks only Spanish. This young man loves to read and as his teacher, Kaelyn wishes to have a variety of books in her classroom library, English and Spanish, for each of her students to enjoy.

TAU chapter honors our STEP teachers at our annual Christmas gathering. Kaelyn attended in person and thanked the members for their support.

SEVEN PURPOSES OF DKG

1. *To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship*
2. *To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education*
3. *To advance the professional interest and position of women in education*
4. *To initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators*
5. *To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators*
6. *To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action*
7. *To inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society*

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Greetings Sisters! Here are a few Legislative Updates (“Nonaca’s News!”) that I’d like to share with you:

DKG CA, Educational Law and Policy News:



1. March CalSTRS Report from Pat Geyer:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xeeAFVJMsPnw6ozNxT_KB5V6QcjXo8i7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106859412705279073174&rtpof=true&sd=true

2. The Opportunity Institute’s Report on California’s Pension System:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55f70367e4b0974cf2b82009/t/62278ebde0b28522f0375a32/1646759632945/CA+Pensions+Summary+Slides.pdf>

3. March 25th Issue of CDE Today Highlights: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ct/>


State Superintendent Thurmond Supports Bill to Add 10,000 Mental Health Clinicians to Workforce

On March 8, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and Senator Mike McGuire (D-North Coast) joined mental health leaders and professionals to urge support of Senate Bill (SB) 1229, which would provide grants of \$25,000 to aspiring mental health clinicians who commit to serving two years in communities of high need. Seeking solutions to lower student-to-counselor ratios in schools is not a new effort or one unique to California. However, through SB 1229, California is pursuing an ambitious plan to help recruit 10,000 professionals to help support the growing mental health needs of students. [Read more on the CDE news release](#) or [watch the archived press conference on the CDE Facebook page](#).

State Superintendent Thurmond Names Alice Waters California Education Ambassador

On March 9, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond recognized Alice Waters—chef, author, restaurateur, food activist, and educator—as an Ambassador to California Education, during National School Breakfast Week. Waters and Thurmond visited Michelle Obama School in the West Contra Costa Unified School District earlier this week, where they helped launch Project Cereal, an initiative with partner Conscious Kitchen, which is one of the nation’s first programs to feed students organic foods daily. Waters joins distinguished Education Ambassadors Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Dolores Huerta, Dr. Karen Korematsu, and Betty Reid Soskin in demonstrating outstanding dedication and contributions to support California’s students. [Read more on the CDE News Release web page](#).

Strengthening School Communities for Resilience—April 13 and April 28

The California Center for School Climate (CCSC), a CDE initiative, provides free support and training on school climate and data use to LEAs in California. The CCSC invites California school, district, and county office of education staff to attend a free two-day virtual event, *Strengthening School Communities for Resilience*. The event will include virtual sessions on topics related to restorative practices, family engagement, and culturally responsive practices. Each day will offer two concurrent sessions from which to choose. Please register via the [CCSC registration web page](#)  for one webinar session on each day. For more information, contact Hilva Chan, Education Programs Consultant, at hchan@cde.ca.gov.

2022 Classified School Employees of the Year Applications Open—Deadline April 8

Applications for the 2022 Classified School Employees of the Year (CSEY) Program are open. Presented by the CDE, the California School Employees Association, and California Casualty, the CSEY Program highlights the contributions of classified school employees who support the education of California's more than six million public school students. The program identifies and honors exemplary classified school employees throughout the state in the following nine occupational specialties: paraprofessional, clerical and administrative services, transportation services, food and nutrition services, custodial and maintenance services, security services, health and student services, technical services, and skilled trades. The deadline for applications is Friday, April 8, 2022. The 2022 CSEY application and more information are available on the [CDE CSEY web page](#).

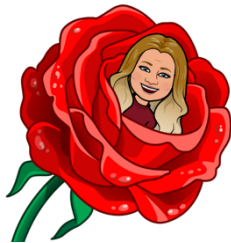
4. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Child Care Bulletin (CCB) 22-07: Changes to California Migrant Alternative Payment Programs

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Child Care and Development Division (CCDD) has recently posted the following document on its Internet website: [CCB 22-07: Changes to California Migrant Alternative Payment Programs](#).

The purpose of this CCB is to provide information about the implementation of SB 393, signed by the Governor on October 5, 2021, pertaining to the California Migrant Alternative Payment Program (CMAP). Pursuant to SB 393, payments made by the CMAP program shall not exceed the applicable market rate ceiling, and the total cost for administration and support services shall not exceed an amount equal to 21 percent of the total contract amount.

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



Stay Well Sisters!

Heather Nonaca

Area XVII Legislative Chair
Bill Evaluator
Eta Mu Chapter, Area XVII, Five Star Chapter
California State Organization
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
hnonaca@gmail.com

209-324-3837


“One child, one teacher, one book and one pen, can change the world.” -Malala Yousafzai

SAVE THE DATES! MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

*Look for Evites
and RSVP online*

 **April 29-May 1**
**DKG California
Convention**

 **May TBA**
**Installation of 2022-2024
Chapter Officers**

 **June 4, 10am**
**Brunch with Alpha
Epsilon**



2022 DKG California Convention

UNLOCKING OUR IMAGINATION



April 29 - May 1, 2022, at Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, Burbank, CA

Registration Opens March 15, 20

- ***Visit the Member Art Gallery***
- ***Be inspired by keynote speakers***
- ***Celebrate Distinguished Service, Membership, and Chapter Achievements***
- ***Experience entertainment and music***
- ***Visit the DKG California Store and the vendor marketplace***
- ***Connect with DKG members from all over California***

BECOME INVOLVED WITH DKG

Update Your Member
Information at
MyDKG at dkg.org

Click to watch the video tutorial.



Updating your information will allow other DKG members to find you. Your information is only available to DKG members.

Cafe Chats via Zoom

Hosted by the Leadership Development Committee



Open to ALL Members
Interested in Learning, Leadership,
Networking

6:00 PM- Informal Chatting

6:30 -7:30 PM - Program

Upcoming Cafe Chats (Click on the date to register and receive the Zoom link):

[Thursday, April 7](#) - Preview of the DKG CA Convention (Convention Arrangements and Executive Committees)

[Tuesday, May 10](#) - Chapter Planning for 2022-23, Transitioning Leadership

Please Register for each Cafe Chat you plan to attend. Once you Register, the Zoom Link will be emailed to you. You will find the schedule and registration [here on DKG CA's website.](#)

Join a Tech Café Meeting

Meetings are the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 10AM. Register for a session [here](#) and a Zoom link will be sent to you.

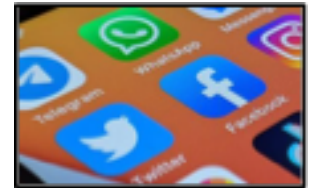


April 23* **NEW TIME 8:30-9:30 am**

Using Google Draw to make unique images for projects, Stacey C.

May 14 Social Media 101, Jacqueline S.

June 11 Poster My Wall - Creating Posters and Flyers, Sandra F.



The DKG Store is now the Rose Boutique. Orders for DKG items can be placed online. Just go to [DKG California's DKG store page](#) to view items and place an order. A link also can be found on the homepage of dkgca.org. Just click on the button for the Rose Boutique.



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