

# Eta Mu Musings

NEWS OF ETA MU CHAPTER AREA XVII DKG CA  
*DKG CA - Crossing Bridges Together!*

APRIL-MAY 2021

ETA MU, DKG CALIFORNIA

*"DKG California –  
Educational – Professional -  
Making an Impact"*

[etamucaliforniadkg.org](http://etamucaliforniadkg.org)

[Eta Mu's Facebook Page](#)

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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## *President's Message*



Many of us have at least started the Covid vaccination process by signing up for appointments and many others are experiencing the joy of being fully vaccinated. Our world is slowly opening up, and one day virtual gatherings will be a thing of the past. Once masks are no longer needed, we'll even start wearing lipstick again!

Until then, Zoom has been our friend in allowing a version of normalcy in sticking to our chapter's schedule of events. It gave us a way to play virtual Bingo for our March meeting, which was a lot of fun. April will be an in-person gathering, outdoors, to work on a Little Free Library project. More information on the Bingo activity and the upcoming meeting can be found in other articles in this newsletter.

Sad news was shared with members by email recently. Our Eta Mu sister Trudi Sigmon suffered the loss of her husband Steve, also known to his friends as Jody. Please reach out to Trudi to support her during this difficult time.

Judy Trask and Linda Chrabas, Co-Presidents

# ETA MU EVENTS

## Cooking a Chinese Noodle Bowl via Zoom



A virtual Chinese Cooking Class was Eta Mu's fantastic February program. Debbie Mar, a member of Eta Mu, demonstrated how to make a Noodle Bowl, a quick and healthy dish. The informative and fun cooking class was attended by an Eta Mu member that was on vacation in Palm Springs! Several sisters prepared their own meal along with Debbie while other sisters sat back and enjoyed watching. Pat Elston and Theresa Foote who cooked along with Debbie, shared that their Noodle Bowl was delicious!

## March Madness Bingo

Even though Covid restrictions led to the cancellation of our annual Potato Fest followed by games of Bunco, your Executive board was not thwarted. An evening of virtual Bingo took the place of that gathering, and it was very fruitful for some Eta Mu sisters. Adele Little immediately won two \$10 gift cards in a row, later adding a \$50 gift card to her collection of prizes. At that point she graciously retired to give others a chance (or as she put it, "To cook dinner for Stan."). From then on it was Kathleen Heinzinger's turn to go on a winning streak, ending up with \$10 and \$50 gift cards as well as sharing half of the \$75 gift card with Carole Vieira, who tied Kathleen in the final game of blackout Bingo. Many thanks are owed to Theresa Foote, who made sure everyone received a Bingo card via email to be printed out at home and who also served as the Bingo caller. She even won a \$10 gift card as she balanced her duties as caller with playing along with us!

B I N G O				
4	22	31	49	72
11	27	42	60	74
7	18	FREE	50	73
9	29	40	53	70
6	26	37	46	67

# MEMBERS' NEWS

*Celebrate Being  
a DKG Woman*



*“DKG California  
– Educational –  
Professional -  
Making an  
Impact”*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



*Mary Lou Dieterich*

*An educator who has made an impact*

**By Debbie Mar, V.P. Membership**

Few people have had the honor of having a school named after them. Our featured member this month, Mary Lou Dieterich, had no clue whatsoever that she was in the running. When the Stanislaus Union School Board made the announcement, she was in utter shock! Perhaps the many who knew and worked with her were not as surprised, but this should give us a clue as to the kind of person she is. She is known among her peers for her deep compassion for children with reading disabilities and her dedication to the teachers under her leadership.



Mary Lou joined ETA MU back in 1995, a year before she retired. She was invited by our charter member, Adele Little, who at the time was project manager for Stanislaus Union School District. She became an active member and had served for two years as treasurer. Now she believes she is older and slower and is reluctant to Zoom as it seems to be the only method of meeting together.

When asked about the highlight of her teaching career, it conjured up memories of her first teaching assignment in a small town in North Dakota. It was a mixed grade level schoolhouse with 15 students ranging from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. Her job description also included teaching choir to about 8 high school football players. At the time, the coach insisted the boys take her class. Although reluctant at first, they were very respectful and did try to participate. Later, Mary Lou and her husband moved to Minnesota where she taught a 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade combination class to 24 quiet children. After the birth of their first child, Karen, her husband, Bob, was hired by Modesto City Schools. Since they needed to hire substitute teachers, she was hired as a sub at Lincoln Elementary School for 6 weeks. Her principal was Alberta Martone. Later she continued to sub for 4-5 more years while also working on her credential. She recalls being sent all over Modesto wherever a sub was needed. “It was the best education I could have had,” said Mary Lou. By observing how other teachers managed their classrooms, she gained the much-needed experience she felt she was missing. Some teachers were extremely organized while others were sloppy. She was determined that she would have a well -organized

## Upcoming Events

Look for Evites for locations and RSVP online

### Chapter Events

April 17   
Build a Little Free Library

May 10  ?  
Murder Mystery Dinner

June 5   
Garden Party

classroom for her students. She also taught piano in her spare time until her son was 5 years old and had started kindergarten. Bob had a buddy named, Ken Cline, who was then the Principal of Chrysler Elementary School. He suggested Mary Lou come to see him. She ended up at the district office with Superintendent George Eisenhut and signed a contract. She spent 22 years at Chrysler, first as a classroom teacher, then teaching Reading, Math, and Language to Title 1 students and Early Childhood. She eventually moved up to the position of Vice Principal and shortly after, became Principal. Since Mary Lou had not learned to read until she was in third grade, she has had a real compassion for helping children with the same handicap.

Her greatest challenge was in teaching reading to older children, especially the ones who at 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades were still not able to read. These were the ones with whom she would begin with the structure of reading, guiding them step by step. She remembers fondly a 6<sup>th</sup> grade boy who could not read. He was extremely interested in Outer Space. At the time she had a cousin who worked for NASA. She arranged to have him bring her books about Space to draw him into reading. He was quite fascinated by them. Unfortunately, his problems were too great. She heard later from his sister that he had passed away. This broke her heart as she had become so attached to him.

Her advice to new teachers starting out in education is go out and get as much experience as possible before you take on a full-time job in Teaching. Also, ask older teachers whom you have confidence in-pick their minds and listen to their advice.

During the past year, Mary Lou has spent time with 3 different groups. One group is her Bible Study at her church, another is a group of neighbors who get together on Friday nights for goodies and drinks and the third group is her former core staff people from Agnes Baptist Elementary School consisting of the Computer Teacher, the Secretary, the School Improvement Secretary, and the In-School Suspension Aide. She also attends church on Sundays.

Looking back, Mary Lou still wonders how she attained the honor of having a school named after her. "I was never on for a show. Maybe it was because I was loyal to my students and treated School Board Members the same way," she said. She was a strong advocate for the teachers, insisting she would not discuss a matter with the parents without the teacher present. Or was it perhaps it was the DEFINITIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN the school had in place which had detention for minor offenses and In-School Suspensions for major offences.

Her Special Awards include:

In 2003 Certificate of Merit North Dakota State University at Valley City, North Dakota and the Alumnus of the Year Award.

In 2013 she was named among the Outstanding Women Award for Stanislaus County.

In 2015 She received the Betty Mulnix Award from the Literacy Network of Stanislaus County.



## MEMBER TO MEMBERS

- ☺ Mercedes Hart is back at home, doing well, and even driving herself to the grocery store.
- ☺ Adele Little took part in the 2021 Literacy Network of Stanislaus County Literacy Celebration!
- ☺ Sadly, Trudi Sigmon's husband of fifty years passed away on March 18 soon after being diagnosed with cancer. Let's keep Trudi in our prayers as she copes with her loss.

## NEWS ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS

### Build A Little Free Library

Our April meeting takes place outdoors, so if you feel comfortable gathering in person, please join us at Theresa Foote's home on Saturday, April 17th to build a Little Free Library. No carpentry skills are required. That's totally in Theresa's skill set, and she'll have everything ready for us to assemble. (Think Ikea, only easier.) At this time, we're checking to see if it can be placed at a school for students to use, otherwise it may be erected on an Eta Mu member's property for neighborhood children. The purpose of a Little Free Library is to have a free book exchange in an easily accessible location. There is even a Little Free Library at the South Pole! You can read more about it here: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/this-little-free-library-at-the-south-pole-is-the-first-in-antarctica/>





## Join STEP's Social Justice Educator Zoom Sessions!

We are pleased to announce that our STEP Committee will be presenting a series of three social justice workshops on Zoom. Please join us for these interactive workshops to push yourself outside of your comfort zone and into the growth zone, while considering what Annie Webb Blanton would do! Members and non-members are welcome. Sign up at [DKGCA.org](http://DKGCA.org).



April 21st, 6:00-7:00– **Unconscious and Implicit Bias** with Gloria Brown Brooks

April 28th, 5:00-6:00- **Diversity and Love** with Lisa MacKenzie

May 19th, 6:00-7:00– **White Privilege** with Sara Hackett

LEADING WOMEN EDUCATORS,  
SAVE THE DATE!!!

**DKG CALIFORNIA VIRTUAL CONVENTION**

April 30, May 1 and 2, 2021



DKG 2021  
*Embracing  
the  
Journey*

**NEED TO KNOW**

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$25

ONLINE PAYMENTS ONLY!!!

NOTE: ALL REGISTRATION AND FEE PAYMENTS WILL BE ONLINE ONLY DUE TO THE VIRTUAL FORMAT.

OUR VIRTUAL CONVENTION INCLUDES...

- LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
- CELEBRATIONS
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
- SPECIAL SPEAKERS
- MEMBER ART GALLERY
- AWARDS
- SOCIALS...
- AND MORE!



**REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 6**  
[WWW.DKGCA.ORG](http://WWW.DKGCA.ORG)



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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. May Convention Legislative Sessions:** A Legislative Update session will be offered. You can find more information about the convention at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yu7avf2u>

**2. Legislative Study Session: June 22-24, 2021, Sacramento, CA:** Learn about the legislative process, become informed of educational issues addressed in current legislation, and visit with your legislators. There is a registration scholarship available: Application must be submitted by April 15, 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/4k9pfhfu>

**3. 14 bills were sent to DKG CA evaluators in mid-March to review.** Those bills include the following:

- AB 295 (Jones-Sawyer) Public postsecondary education: pilot program for free tuition and fees: working group. (I-1/21/2021)
- AB 309 (Gabriel, J) Pupil mental health: model referral protocols. (I- 1/25/2021)
- AB 312 (Seyarto) Teacher credentialing: basic skills proficiency test: exemption. (I-1/25/2021)
- AB 403 (Kalra, A) Fair Access to College Textbooks Act. (I-2/3/2021)
- AB 444 (Assembly Committee on PERs)
- AB 498 Teachers: Computer Science Access Initiative. (I-2/9/2021)
- SB 540 (Limon) Pupil instruction: improving pupil success: grant program. (A-3/8/2021)
- AB 551 (Rodriguez, F) Teachers’ Retirement System: individual retirement plans: administration. (I-2/10/2021)
- AB 552 (Quirk Silva) Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Partnership Program. (I-2/10/2021)
- SB 70 (Rubio, S) Elementary education: kindergarten. (A-3/2/2021) Status: Senate Education Committee
- SB 229 (Dahle) Pupil health: mental health services: grants. (A-3/9/2021)
- SB 364 (Skinner) Pupil meals: Free School Meals For All Act of 2021. (A-3/10/2021)
- SB 579 (Allen) School safety: bias-related discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying: model handout. (I-2/18/2021)
- SB 699 (Eggman-Talamantes) School climate: statewide school climate indicator: surveys. (I-2/19/2021)

\*AB: bill originated in the Assembly \*SB: bill originated in the Senate \*You can find more information about each bill at this website: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

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 of the bills above, or have other bills in mind 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](mailto:teampowell@aol.com)

## DKG U.S. Forum Connection

**1. February 24, 2021, DKG US Forum** hosted a zoom program titled, “Legislative Issues for Our 117<sup>th</sup> Congress,” featuring Dr. Sylvia Johnson, a lobbyist for the National Education Association. Due to a technology glitch, many members were unable to log on. However, you can view Dr. Johnson’s ppt from the program at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y77zxmam>

### Stay Well Sisters!

Heather Nonaca



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

## AREA XVII NEWS and LOCAL EVENTS

The next Area XVII meeting is scheduled for April 24 via Zoom. The main topic of discussion will be planning an event for Fall 2021. We are looking forward to holding a luncheon with a speaker. Look for news about this exciting event.

Long time Area XVII Treasurer Joann Durer is gravely ill and has resigned her position. She is under the care of home hospice and has been given months to live. It will be a loss for all DKG.

### Stanislaus County Commission for Women celebrated the outstanding women in our county on March 21

If you'd like to learn about the amazing women that were honored at this celebration, click here for a recording of the program: <https://www.stanislauswomen.net/>

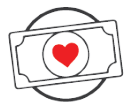


VOLUNTEER

### Love Modesto April 24



SPONSOR



DONATE

Our community needs us now more than ever! There are a lot of really important projects to choose from and more will be added in the coming days to help our community during these challenging times.



Our 8am Virtual Rally will be held at [LoveModesto.com/virtual-rally](http://LoveModesto.com/virtual-rally) before you go to your project locations at 9am.

GO to Love Modesto to see all of the April 24 projects being offered. For each project you will see a description, time and project location. All of our projects should end around noon. If you have any projects you would like to see this year, you can [Suggest a Project](#).

Click on the "Sponsor" or "Donate" button if you are able to support our efforts to bring our community together to LOVE MODESTO.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to [Contact Us](#).

## Watch "2021 Literacy Network of Stanislaus County Literacy Celebration!" on YouTube

Eta Mu member Adele Little took part in this event celebrating literacy. Adult literacy providers nominated outstanding student achievement in literacy. All nominees and award winners are presented. In addition, two outstanding literacy service provider winners are celebrated too!

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## MEMBER RESOURCES

*Visit DKG  
Websites for  
more  
information  
on events and  
opportunities*

*[dkgca.org](http://dkgca.org)*

*[dkg.org](http://dkg.org)*

### *DKG California*

### *Scholarships and Awards*

The Spring deadline is coming up for DKG California Scholarships and Awards. DKG CA offers active members (initiated at least 2 years prior to June 1 or December 31 of the year of application) a Ph.D./Ed.D. Scholarship (\$4,000) or a Master's Degree Scholarship (\$2,000). For more information and the Google application form go to the [DKG California Scholarship](#) information page. Google forms must be submitted before June 1.