

# Eta Mu Musings

NEWS OF ETA MU CHAPTER AREA XVII DKG CA

*DKG CA - Crossing Bridges Together!*

DECEMBER 2020-  
JANUARY 2021

ETA MU, DKG CALIFORNIA

[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

Pat Elston, Editor

[pelston4dkg@gmail.com](mailto:pelston4dkg@gmail.com)

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## President's Message



Happy (Covid style) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and [sigh] possibly New Year! As we do our best to keep everyone safe, your executive board has had to get creative in the way we meet as a group. This has meant a November Zoom meeting with a wonderful panel of three Eta Mu members sharing what it's been like teaching virtually, as well as a change of plans to move December's Christmas Cookie Exchange outdoors. We're also looking ahead to next year's planned meetings, ready to make changes as needed based on Covid restrictions at that time.

Please RSVP to the Evite for the cookie exchange, now scheduled for Saturday, December 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM in Lynn Lysko's backyard. Each member should bring three dozen of the same type of cookies and fifteen copies of the recipe. We'll each be taking home an assortment from everyone's cookies so be sure to have baggies or containers to put them in. Bring tongs if you have them so we can avoid touching cookies with our hands, and of course we'll mask up and maintain our distance while safely socializing.

Let's continue to keep in touch and encourage one other. You're not alone, even if you're sheltering in place. Your Eta Mu sisters have got you covered in their care and concern for you.



Judy Trask and Linda Chrabas, Co-Presidents



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**

# ETA MU EVENTS



## *October Painting in the Garden -Fine Arts Activity*

Eta Mu members attended an art event, Painting in the Garden, on a lovely fall afternoon. They gathered to paint Poppies under the tutelage of local artist Pam Phillips who grew up in Modesto and taught art to elementary students in several local schools. Pam loves to paint classic cars and is intrigued with painting the reflections on them. She shows her paintings in the Mistlin Art Gallery.



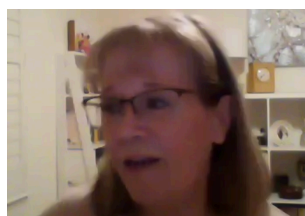
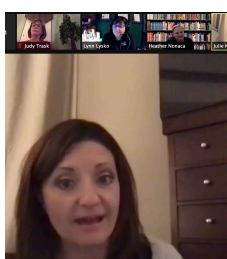
Eta Mu's fine artists at work.



## November's Virtual Meeting "Teaching During the Pandemic"



Eta Mu held its first Zoom Meeting in November. The topic was "Teaching During the Pandemic". Members shared their experiences and challenges working with students online.



Julie Kelly, Eta Mu's newest member, talked about teaching kindergarten via distance learning. She started her year with a virtual Back to School presentation with Google slides. Each day she had a plan for instruction and centers with materials that were sent home. Although Julie says it's "fun", she prefers teaching "live" with the kids in the classroom. She also said that as teachers we need to be really flexible and that we are "never done learning".

Denise Carlson-Nieto teaches English learners and supports regular classroom teachers. Denise will continue teaching via Zoom since students will be staying in their homeroom. She says teaching using Hapara has helped her grow and really stretched her. It has also been an eye-opening experience seeing family situations through the eyes of the camera. Many of the students work in challenging home environments, but they are doing their best to attend lessons and practice English. At her site students are rewarded through a PBIS(Positive Behavior Intervention Systems) program with Cub Cash that they can spend in a video catalogue. For her it has been frustrating not to sit with a kid and help them "over a hump".

Another member, Theresa Foote shared that teaching online is interesting, challenging, and rewarding. It has taught her to "think outside the box" as she plans lessons using a variety of online tools. One plus is that she is able to focus on what is essential in her 7th grade math curriculum. Using Peardeck she can see students' responses and check for understanding. Like our other teachers, Theresa says it is rewarding to see students showing up, participating, and learning. Some of Theresa's students are out of the country in Mexico and Brazil and still participating in her class.



*Celebrate Being  
a DKG Woman*



*Happy  
Birthday to  
You!* 🎂

*December*

- o 12 Nancy Lee
- o 16 Joyce Brooks

*January*

- o 16 Judy Aprile
- o 20 Mary Lou Dieterich
- o 28 Roberta Bica
- o 29 Ty George

## MEMBERS' NEWS

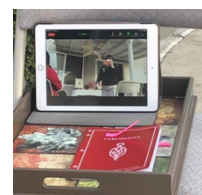
### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



*Meet Julie Kelley  
Eta Mu's Newest Member*



Eta Mu is pleased to welcome new member, Julie Kelley to our Eta Mu family! Julie was recently inducted by members of the Executive committee at an outdoor ceremony that was broadcast and recorded via Zoom. It was a first for our chapter as we kept social distance and wore masks.



Julie graduated from Oregon State University (Corvallis, OR) in 1993, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Studies/Pre-Education. She completed a 5th year Elementary Education program at Western Baptist University (Salem, OR), earning a Post-Baccalaureate degree in 1994.

Julie began teaching in 1994 for Portland Public Schools, Portland, OR. Her first 5 years of experience were at Harriet Tubman Middle School, 6th grade Language Arts and Social Studies. She served as the building TAG Coordinator (Talented and Gifted program) and on the Special Needs leadership team. Tubman MS worked closely with the Portland Police Department's G.R.E.A.T. program (Gang Resistance Education and Training), where they partnered together to provide education to students to decrease the involvement of gang activity.



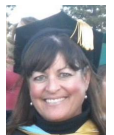
Julie spent the next 2 years in North Clackamas School District Milwaukie, OR, teaching a year of 2nd grade and a year of 5th grade. During the summer months, she taught Freshman English to students who were enrolled in a remedial program to earn their high school diploma. After taking a year off to stay home with her young children, her husband's employer relocated the family to Oakdale, CA. Julie began teaching at Big Valley Christian School, 8th grade English, as a temporary assignment until the end of the 2004-2005 school year. Over the next 5 years, she taught part-time, substituted in the Oakdale Joint Unified School District and was a benchmark specialist at Van Allen Elementary in Escalon, CA. In 2010, Julie began teaching 6th grade Language Arts/Social Studies at Big Valley Christian School. In 2012, She moved to Kindergarten, where she is currently teaching. While at Big Valley, she has taught the 6th grade school newspaper elective course, served as the Varsity High School Football team mom, and as the K-6th grade Director of Student Support, assisting Administration with various student spiritual, social, emotional, and behavioral needs. Julie has loved the wide range of experience throughout her career teaching a wide variety of socio-economic groups, diverse ethnic groups and grade levels. and looks forward to more years of teaching!

In addition to teaching, Julie participates in Women's Ministry at Big Valley Grace Community Church. She has been a MOPS steering team leader at River Oak Grace Community Church, a Sunday School teacher/Celebrate Recovery Infant care volunteer, an Oregon Statewide Writing Assessment scorer as well as a former Girl Scout Troop leader. Julie is also currently an Oregon School Athletic Association dance team Judge and Judges Director. Eta Mu is pleased to have such a fine educator as a member of our organization.



## *Traveling in a Pandemic*

### *By Dr. Lynn Lysko*



Recently, my husband Richard and I traveled to Roatan, Honduras, in Central America for vacation. Yes, we travelled during the pandemic. In all actuality, we believed it might be safer than staying in California during the uptick in COVID 19 positive cases. Here's why.

In order to be able to travel to Honduras, we were required to have negative COVID test within 72 hours of departure. In fact, to even board the plane in San Francisco, we had to provide this information to airport officials. We had been able to schedule the tests prior to leaving but were not guaranteed the results would arrive on time (through Kaiser). Plan B was to go through the new drive-through testing center at the mall, where for a mere \$499, you could get results from a test in 20 minutes. This is a great option for those who may have been exposed and cannot afford to miss work or those who have travel plans where a test is required! We were lucky enough not to have to use this option.

Upon arrival at SFO, we were required to wear masks the entire time in the airport, on the plane, and in waiting areas. We chose to wear medical-grade N95 masks for maximum protection (cloth masks are a joke – don't be tricked into thinking that they work. Few vendors inside the airport are open – not easy to find an open restaurant or souvenir shop. Travelling the first leg from San Francisco to Miami, it is to be noted that all airline personnel are wearing masks and the airline took every precaution to move people around on the plane to ensure maximum spatial distancing. Landing in Miami, all the same airport precautions were in place during the layover and again on the flight segment to Roatan. Before boarding we were again required to show our COVID test results before boarding the plane. Flight attendants handed ziplock bags with bottled water and cookies – no bar service or meals were included on any flight segment.

Once we arrived in Roatan, a small island off the north coast of Honduras best noted for its tourism and SCUBA diving, we showed our negative test results in order to gain entry. Immigration paperwork had been streamlined to be completed online – we had only to show our passports and test results to pass through. Line-ups were shorter, paperwork was well facilitated, and baggage handlers were all wearing PPE.

We felt completely safe.

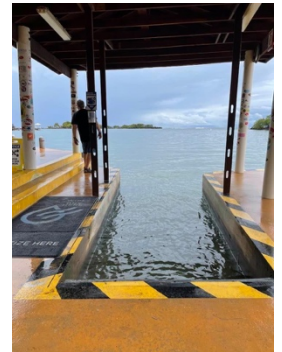
At the resort, we learned that every single person who worked there had to be tested before coming to work. Each employee worked one week a month now instead of full time. The owner of the resort had implemented a schedule where everyone would keep their job albeit on a lesser scale so that all had a chance to earn money. During the months of closure, he provided food packages to his employees' families to ensure that no one went hungry due to lack of employment. We admired his loyalty to his employees, and they all claimed that they were extremely pleased with his processes and protocols; they were glad to return to work even one week each month. The average minimum wage in Honduras is less than \$200/month at the best of times and it had been extremely rough for many during the 6-month closure of the island.

We had an incredible time meeting people from all over the US – only 20 intrepid travelers found their way to this paradise during the Thanksgiving week. We were treated like royalty, including an incredible Thanksgiving meal, excellent service all over the resort, and of course, extraordinary SCUBA diving – it's really some of the best in the world.

Return travel included all the same safety protocols, except the requirement to have a negative COVID test. We did not feel less safe but of course we never removed our N95 masks, not once in 18 hours. I thank the wonderful people in all the airports, the lovely Honduran people at the resort, and especially the airline personnel who made our travel possible, accessible, and safe!

My question is: if a small, impoverished, Central American country can figure out how to keep its citizens and visitors safe by imposing strict travel conditions, why can't other countries figure this out? Or other states? While we wait for a vaccine, life is passing by. No tomorrow is guaranteed. I believe we can still be safe and live our lives simultaneously. I will self-quarantine and continue the safe practices that I have over the past 9 months, but I do not believe life has to stop.

And I will not have an opinion about the choices you make either. For me, it's back to Zoom meetings, teaching principal courses, supervising UOP intern teachers, and a life at home getting ready for the Christmas season! Carpe Diem Sisters!



## MEMBER TO MEMBERS

- ☺ Member Ty George is feeling much better and living at Bethel Retirement Community in Modesto. She would like to attend meetings when someone can help her get to them.
- ☺ Janice Freeman says see what is going on with Modesto Gospel Mission, a community organization that Eta Mu Supports. Follow this [link](#) for the latest Gospel Mission news. Our official donation dates are September, January, and June. We will be collecting donations for MGM at our next meeting or you can mail your check to Janice. Donations are credited to Eta Mu, but you will receive a receipt for personal tax deductions.

# NEWS ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS

## Upcoming Events

Look for Evites for locations and RSVP online

## Chapter Events

December 5  
🍪 COOKIE EXCHANGE

January 13  
🍲 Super Supper

## HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE

The December Cookie Exchange will take place outdoors weather permitting. Please look to your Evite for time and location. Bring your PPE and be prepared to share your recipe.



## SOUPER SUPPER

Plans on hold????? We can only hope and pray that we can meet again to enjoy food, sisterhood, and dedication to our goals as an organization

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR DKG  
SISTERS.**

**MAY YOU ENJOY THIS HOLIDAY  
SEASON AND FIND PEACE AND  
COMFORT**







# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Hello Sisters,

I hope you this week found you surrounded by your favorite Thanksgiving treats and feelings of gratitude, despite these challenging times. Here are a few legislative updates that I'd like to share with you:

1. DKG's legislative advocate/lobbyist, Martha Zaragoza-Diaz, has prepared a presentation (as of 11/19/2020) for DKG CA that outlines the results of the 2020 National General Election, information on President Elect Biden's plans regarding education, a summary of 2020 CA legislature election results, a summary of 2020 proposition results, and updates to the CA State Board of Education and the CA Department of Education. You can view the presentation here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xSsh3hHqLcZdcnotZyjlhLcj42cfvH91gqW506FZIN0/edit#slide=id.p15> (you will need to sign in to your google account in order to view it. If you do not have a google account and would like to view the presentation, please let me know and I am happy to email it to you).

2. You can view Stanislaus County election results here: <https://www.stanvote.com/past-results/11-03-2020-results.htm>. The City of Modesto's Municipal Run-Off Mail Ballot Election will be held on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. For more information see this website: [https://www.stanvote.com/pdf/public\\_notices/2-2-21WebsiteCalendar-ModestoMunicipalRun-OffElection.pdf](https://www.stanvote.com/pdf/public_notices/2-2-21WebsiteCalendar-ModestoMunicipalRun-OffElection.pdf)

3. If you'd like to make sure that your ballot was counted, you can do so by going to this website: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>

4. For information about Thanksgiving that you can share with students, please visit The National Museum of the American Indian <https://americanindian.si.edu/online-resources/thanksgiving> which also had a great article titled, "Five Ideas to Change Teaching about Thanksgiving, in Classrooms and at Home," November 14th, 2020, 11:00AM / BY Renée Gokey, that you can view here: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-american-indian/2020/11/14/five-ideas-teach-thanksgiving/>

5. To keep up with issues that are important to Delta Kappa Gamma at the national level, be sure to get connected to the DKG Forum. The purpose of the United States Forum is to identify major issues affecting women, children, and education upon which the United States members may take action.

For DKG's US Forum you can visit

[https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/About\\_Us/Forums/DKGMember/Committees/Forums/DKG\\_Forum.aspx?hkey=fbebabfc-4645-4dbf-b320-ff80379cf918](https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/About_Us/Forums/DKGMember/Committees/Forums/DKG_Forum.aspx?hkey=fbebabfc-4645-4dbf-b320-ff80379cf918)

The US Forum proudly host two Facebook pages to meet our members' needs. The Official page, *The DKG US Forum* page, [<https://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum/>] and *The DKG US Forum Group* page [[https://www.facebook.com/groups/2269724846587657/?source\\_id=349823881770007](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2269724846587657/?source_id=349823881770007)]

## 5. Stay Well!

Warm Regards,

Heather Nonaca

Legislative Chair

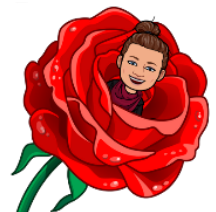
Bill Evaluator

Eta Mu Chapter, Area XVII, Five Star Chapter

California State Organization

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**

Visit DKG  
Websites

dkgca.org

dkg.org



## MEMBER RESOURCES

### DKG California Winter Leadership Retreat *Connecting Through Mindful Leadership*

DKG California will hold a Virtual Interactive Leadership Retreat presented by the Leadership Development Committee on January 15-16, 2021.

- **Register electronically** [by using this form.](#)
- There is a \$25 registration fee.

**Nurture Leadership Within Yourself and Others!**



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