



Eta Mu Newsletter

Chi State

Area XVII

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 2 Celebrate
Literacy with
Read Across
America

Mar. 8 Potato
Fest

Apr. 19 Learning
Quest



Birthdays

**There are no
February
birthdays.**

Mission Statement

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

Cooking for the Chinese New Year with Debbie Mar

When: Saturday, February 20 at 3:30 P.M.

Where: Dining Room at Neighborhood Manor
1200 Woodrow Avenue, Modesto

Contact Person: Debbie Mar



Eta Mu member Debbie Mar will host a Chinese Cooking Class on Saturday, February 20, and share her cooking expertise with chapter members. There will be about 12 cooking stations where members of Eta Mu may cook or observe as Debbie teaches how to prepare a stir fry dish and a fried rice. All you need to bring is an apron and a hearty appetite.

A \$7.50 donation will cover the the dining room rental and the ingredients. Please RSVP to your Evite online invitation by Wednesday, February 17, so Debbie and her assistants can do the grocery shopping. We will learn to make 2 items, and Debbie will demonstrate the fried rice and chow mein while the ladies are eating. We will equip each of 12 stations with a propane stove, a wok with lid, a spatula, a knife and cutting board.

January Meeting



About 20 members attended Eta Mu's January meeting at the home of Adele Little. All enjoyed an evening of food and celebration.



After a delicious soup and salad buffet prepared by hostesses Janice Freeman, Marla Romanoff-Kitzmann, Mercedes Hart, Kathleen Heinzinger, and Carol Vieira, a business meeting was held. One of the highlights was the announcement of the chapter awards by Kathleen.



The other highlight was the celebration of Mary Lou Dieterich's 80th birthday with cake, flowers, and cards from the members. It really was a warm and joyful event.



Mary Lou Dieterich Recognized for Service with the Stanislaus Family Justice Center

Mary Lou Dieterich was recognized for five years of volunteer service for the Family Justice Center. The Stanislaus Family Justice Center is a one-stop center offering help and hope for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse. The goal of the Family Justice Center is to offer victims and survivors a path to safety and hope through compassion and coordinated services. Mary Lou assists with children at the center's Kid Zone. Mary Lou's service for the past five years has been exceptional.

Eta Mu members toured the center after Carol Shipley, Director of Community Partnerships, presented Mary Lou with her award. Members learned about the services provided and opportunities to volunteer.

Member News

The recipients of Eta Mu's Chapter Service Award Recognition are **Carol Vieira** for Outstanding Service to Chapter, **Dr. Susan Neufeld** for Career and Professional Achievement, and **Mary Lou Dieterich** for Public Service. Congratulations to these members for their outstanding contributions to DKG and the community.



Eta Mu recognized **Carol Vieira**, who was initiated in October 2007, for Outstanding Service. This recognition is for a member who has served in a leadership role at the chapter level in two or more capacities. Carol has served as President, Co-President and Recording Secretary. Eta Mu appreciates Carol's enthusiasm and dedication to the chapter and to DKG Society International. Currently Carol is in her twenty-fourth year with Modesto City Schools and works as Math Curriculum Coordinator and Coach for grades 7 through 12.



Susan Neufeld, member of Eta Mu Chapter since September 2005, was recognized for Professional Service. This recognition is for a member who developed an educational project or activity that has had a positive impact on the profession and is recognized as an example for other educators. Since 2004, Susan has been director of the Abundant Books for Children (ABC) Project, the Turlock affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The ABC project provides individual children with a book each month from birth to age five. Susan makes presentations to local Head Start programs, MOMs groups, and service organizations. Once each month, she presides at an information booth at the Turlock Farmers' Market. Each fall, Susan coordinates a reading event for area teachers to encourage their students to read; in October 2015, students in 41 participating classroom read over 623,000 minutes in one month. Susan's colleagues selected her as the Outstanding Community Service Professor. Susan is a full professor at CSU Stanislaus in the Department of Advance Studies, working with graduate students. She coordinates both the Reading Specialist Credential Program and the Master of Arts in Education, Curriculum and Instruction Programs. Susan teaches graduate courses and Educational Research. Susan was initiated in the Gamma Chapter in Delta, Missouri December 1997. Eta Mu appreciates Susan's enthusiasm for reading and sharing her enthusiasm with future and current teachers, children, colleagues and families.



Mary Lou Dieterich, initiated in April 1995, was recognized for Public Service. This recognition is for a member or non-member who is making an outstanding contribution to the community, especially with youth and/or education. Until her daughter's retirement, Mary Lou devoted her Mondays to volunteering in Karen's 1st grade class for 18 years. For the past five years, Mary Lou has faithfully volunteered at the Stanislaus County Family Justice Center. Eta Mu appreciates Mary Lou's positive and cheerful attitude and her dedication to all children.

Winter Leadership Conference

By Pat Elston

I had the privilege of attending the Leadership Conference in Irvine, January 23-24. The speaker Melissa Burt-Gracik had participants take the Gallup Strengths Finder Assessment before attending to identify their strengths. The sessions focused on understanding your strengths, and how your strengths could be used for successful leadership as well as strategies for using your strengths in your work or life responsibilities. Participants also learned how working with people whose strengths are different could contribute to growth.

Mel conveyed some powerful messages during her talks. One important message was learning to say "I am enough just as I am." From the work of Brene Brown and her book ***Daring Greatly***, Mel shared Brown's research on vulnerability and the courage to put ourselves out there and try to use our strengths. I had already read Brene Brown's ***The Gifts of Imperfection***, and I think was helpful to read it before reading ***Daring Greatly***. I would also recommend watching Brown's Ted Talks.

The other important message was from ***Mindset*** by Carol Dweck; another must read, in my opinion. I read it a couple of years ago when I was working with schools and we were using the phrase, "not yet". Dweck research discusses potential and achievement and how our mindset affects what we do in life.

The conference was also an opportunity to connect with other California State DKG leaders and learn from them.