



Eta Mu Newsletter

California State Area XVII Eta Mu Chapter www.etamucaliforniadkg.org Volume LI, no. 3, Dec/Jan 2019-20
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Mission Statement

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

International Vision Statement

Key Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

DKG California Vision Statement

DKG California - Educational - Professional - Making an Impact

California Biennium Theme

Crossing Bridges Together



Presidents' Message

Greetings, Sisters, and may I indulge in a moment of triteness and ask how it can already be December, 2019???

As we enter into this holiday time, I'd like to challenge everyone as they move between different festive occasions in the coming weeks. When you're sitting at that dinner table or checking out at the store or gathered with a group for a special event, will you take a moment to look carefully into the eyes of the person on your right, your left, or straight across from you? Now think about what you might notice. The color? The shape? Are they bloodshot???? In all probability, all the details you'd anticipate noticing are physical.

It has been said that the eyes are the window to a person's soul. And whether that adage originated with Shakespeare or Cicero, or is an outgrowth of guidance from the Biblical books of Proverbs and Matthew, there is an unmistakable truth, that when two people truly make physical and emotional eye contact, real connection, relationship, and mutual understanding happen.

How many of you have ever insisted that your child or a student look at you when you were seeking to share information or during a "correction" event? How often have you wanted to turn off the TV to talk with a spouse or relative? How many of you are watching during a meeting to see if I actually look UP from my notes??? We NEED that eye lock to confirm that communication is truly happening, don't we? To affirm CONNECTION!

Unless one has been trained to work in the art of subterfuge, the natural instinct to hide feelings, information, reactions, and/or avoid attention is to avert one's eyes! When we look at our digital society, the number one complaint is that everyone is always looking at devices instead of people. Is it any wonder that people lament the loss of sympathy, empathy, compassion, and societal cohesion? Our priority seems to be on how fast we connect to the internet rather than on the depth of our connection with each other!

Each of us have those whose lives she touches, whether in the classroom, the church, the chapter, or the home. May I inspire you to make a goal of really looking INTO the eyes of those around you every day. Everyone has a secret mountain she's struggling to climb, everyone has joys, thoughts, wishes, ideas to share - IF someone takes the times to see them peeking shyly through those lashes. We can enrich our own lives and those of the people around us one "eye-lock" at a time!

May these coming weeks be filled with expected and unexpected joys and special memories in the making!
Janice Freeman, Co-President

Gallo “Yes, Virginia”/No Host Dinner



When: Sunday, December 15, 2019, 3 p.m.

Where: Gallo Center for the Arts
1000 I Street, Modesto

“Souper” Supper/Trip Around America Presentation



When: Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 6 - 8 p.m.

Where: Judy Trask's home
3316 Matalea Court, Modesto
209-918-5532

Co-hostesses with Judy Trask are Mary Lou Dieterich, Deb Dooley, and Theresa Foote. An Evite for this event will be sent out at the beginning of January.

Save the Date

2020 DKG California Convention
May 1 - 3, 2020
Santa Clara Marriott Hotel
Exploring New Pathways
Speakers / Breakout Sessions
Professional / Personal Development
Fellowship and Fun

Member Updates



Janice Freeman recently enjoyed a wonderful visit with Ty George at her apartment at Bethel Retirement Community. She took her a bouquet of red roses and presented her with her 10 Year Membership pin. As you can see from Ty's radiant smile, she was very pleased! She and Janice spent a nice time working together on her membership biography form, and Janice hopes to have the finished product posted on our Eta Mu website soon. As many of you already know, Ty is having cardiac surgery on Dec. 11th. You may send cards to her at Bethel Retirement Community/AL #215, 2345 Scenic Drive, Modesto, CA 95355.

Kathleen Heinzinger and Janice Freeman visited Nyla Rossiter recently with a bouquet of red roses to encourage her as she goes through intense chemo for a recurrence of cancer. Nyla was very talkative and very pleased with the flowers. She is experiencing some challenging side effects from the chemo, but is hopeful it will be effective at re-establishing remission. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Kathleen also had a lovely phone conversation with Betty Harrell on December 1, 2019. Betty is doing well except she has vision and hearing challenges. She does go out during the day for Red Hat Society events and to go shopping. Betty's wonderful neighbor drives her places, cleans her home and helps her as needed. She enjoys her visits with her son, granddaughter and great-grandchildren. We miss having Betty at our meetings and events and hopefully she can join us during a day event.

Janice Freeman, Berliotz (Janice's kitty, wearing his Santa outfit) and Kathleen Heinzinger visited Maureen Donovan. Maureen was thrilled to see Berliotz and to have him sit on her lap. Berliotz is handsome, mellow and friendly. Maureen also enjoyed visiting with us, too! A friend of Maureen's had stopped by the day before to hang 3 angels on the fence outside her window. Maureen also sees beautiful bougainvillea and has her pink flamingos. We so enjoyed Maureen's positive attitude and infectious laugh. Her room was decorated for fall and soon another friend will visit to decorate for Christmas. Maureen loves to have visitors and to receive cards.



Birthdays

DECEMBER	12	Nancy Lee	JANUARY	16	Judy Aprile
	16	Joyce Brooks		20	Mary Lou Dieterich
				28	Roberta Bica
				29	Ty George

Merry Christmas!



It is with a sincere heart that I write this letter to you as we are in a critical month here at the Modesto Gospel Mission. For many of us, Christmas is a time of joining as a family and celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is a time in which our favorite traditions are represented – whether that is through decorating, baking tasty treats, caroling with friends, going on a family trip to choose a tree, or opening gifts. It is safe to say that this season represents joy – but does that joy exist for the homeless and low-income population? Christmas time for many of the individuals we serve is a dark time that brings feelings of **emptiness** and **hopelessness**. It is a time in which the traditions we have grown to love often are unavailable to them. However, because of each of your generous hearts and support, we can fill that gap with hope and love during this Christmas Season. Because of you, 235 men, women and children will wake up in a warm bed on Christmas morning here at the Mission, and over 2,000 will receive meals and gifts to take home to share with their families to begin new traditions. Most importantly though, it is because of your partnership and our joint calling, that we can share the real reason for the season, the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, who brought true light into a dark world. Jesus said it best in John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

On December 23rd, the Modesto Gospel Mission will be hosting our annual Christmas event, “**Christmas at the Mission – Gift Drive and Give Away**” in which we will provide the community with a hot meal and give Christmas presents to over 2,000 men, women and children. What a time of blessing this is for the people we serve and to our donors and volunteers! In addition to the homeless in our community, this event also meets the needs of those that are battling the reality of poverty in disadvantaged and often dangerous neighborhoods such as the Airport District. It’s hard to believe, but even here locally, we have individuals and families who struggle with hunger and the basic necessities of life. The Modesto Gospel Mission’s doors are always open 24 hours a day to provide Rescue from homelessness and hunger.



Justin Philips

“Last Christmas, my wife, our 4-year old daughter, and I were living in a tent near a local park. For my wife and I, it was a time of darkness and hopelessness. For our daughter, it was really all she knew. I remember the feeling of waking up on Christmas morning and doing my best to make it special for my little girl. Someone donated a few small gifts to my daughter and I desperately wanted to be excited to give them to her, but the overwhelming feeling of hopelessness was crushing. In my daughter’s eyes, we were on a long camping trip; but in reality, I couldn’t find an escape. Shortly thereafter, I was informed of a life-changing program through the Modesto Gospel Mission and was challenged to give it a shot. A lady from a local church offered to watch my daughter so that I could get my life on track. I have now been in the New Life Program for over 10 months and that darkness that I felt has been replaced with hope. I have been redeemed! This year I am excited to spend Christmas with my daughter and the Mission has provided me with gifts to give my little girl. This year the feeling of hopelessness doesn’t get to take the joy of that moment away from me because Jesus has restored my life!”

As we head into Christmas and the end of the year, please remember that the Modesto Gospel Mission is offering life transformation to people just like Justin every day, **but we need your help**. We rely on you to make tax-deductible contributions at the end of the year to carry the Modesto Gospel Mission into the next year. Please consider making a year-end donation to us so we can move forward into 2020 on strong footing. We love you and appreciate you!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God bless you with His grace and mercy during this time that we celebrate the birth of the long-awaited King and Savior, Jesus Christ, and as we move into a fresh, new year.

Sincerely,

Jason Conway
Executive Director
New Life Program Graduate 2008
#mymission

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation of shadow due to change.”

James 1:17