

OCTOBER-
NOVEMBER
2020

Eta Mu Musings

NEWS OF ETA MU CHAPTER AREA XVII DKG CA

DKG CA - Crossing Bridges Together!

ETA MU, DKG
CALIFORNIA

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



Hello, Eta Mu sisters. It was so good to see several of you in person at the socially distanced Kickoff in September. Of course, many of you are still sheltering in place. We miss you but want you to be safe during this pandemic. As the adage says, "This too shall pass." As we wait for that, we are planning a Zoom meeting in November, so hopefully most of us will connect virtually at that time.

Eta Mu recently received a Celebration of Life booklet from DKG honoring Nila Rossiter's passing. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention in Philadelphia, a printed program was sent to each chapter. Linda Chrabas forwarded it on to Nila's brother.

A signup sheet for Eta Mu committees was passed around at the Kickoff, but more help is needed to complete a few of the committees. Your Co-Presidents will be contacting those who aren't yet on a committee to ask for your assistance. Committee membership won't take up much of your time throughout the year, and it's an essential part of keeping our chapter running.

Pat Elston sent an email to all members requesting any personal or professional news for the upcoming newsletters. Please contribute to Eta Mu Musings. This is *your* newsletter.

Theresa Foote will also be contacting members to serve as co-hostesses for future meetings. Eta Mu sisters never fail to support one another, and the Executive Board is very grateful for that!

Current Events on page 2 will provide information about the latest meetings.

Judy Trask and Linda Chrabas, Co-Presidents



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

ETA MU EVENTS

September Kickoff Outdoor Luncheon



On Saturday, September 12, 2020, Eta Mu members gathered in Judy Trask's backyard for a socially distanced meeting to kick off the new Eta Mu year. Following a brief DKG video encouraging each member to reach out to one potential new member (*Each One Reach One*), the meeting agenda was handed out. Co-President Linda Chrabas welcomed everyone before chapter business was presented, discussed, and voted on as needed. Before adjourning the meeting, Adele Little read a moving Inspiration. Members then enjoyed an assortment of bottled and canned drinks with delicious deli sandwiches and chips, individually bagged from O'Brien's Market, and delivered to the meeting by Theresa Foote. Kathleen Heinzinger kindly provided dessert for this first gathering that served as a wonderful time of fellowship (and catching up) for all present.

October Painting in the Garden Membership Fine Arts Activity



Although Covid restrictions put a damper on Eta Mu's original plan to gather in April for a paint night at Pinot's Palace, that did not stop the Program Planning Committee from coming up with a social distancing plan for a similar activity. One of our Eta Mu sisters, Deb Dooley, offered her backyard for a time of "painting in the garden" led by a local artist, Pam Phillips who will be showing members how to paint poppies. Pam will encourage all to explore their inner artist. All materials will be provided as well as drinks and snacks.

The event is on Saturday, October 24 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Those who paid the fee for Pinot's Palette earlier don't owe anything more. Sorry, if you have not RSVP'd to this fun "artful" event. It is fully booked.



*Celebrate Being
a DKG Woman*



*Happy
Birthday to
You!* 🎂

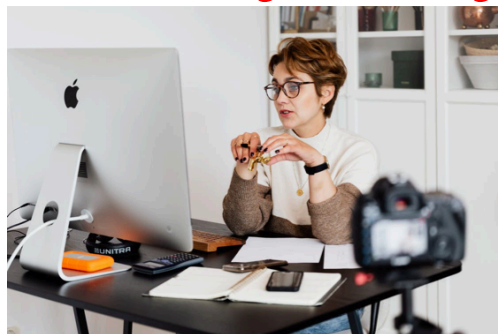
October

- o 3 Theresa Foote
- o 16 Susan Neufeld
- o 17 Judy Trask
- o 17 Trudi Sigmon

November

- o 5 Elena Vasquez
- o 30 Adele Little

November Virtual Meeting “Teaching During the Pandemic”



On Thursday, November 12, at 7:00 PM, Eta Mu will have its first ever virtual meeting via Zoom. Many of you may have used this free video conferencing software to keep in contact with friends and family during the pandemic and so are proficient in using it. Others may want some help in getting connected. If that's the case, just contact Judy Trask within a day of the Zoom meeting and she can talk you through the setup. During the virtual meeting, Eta Mu members will share what it's really like teaching in virtual classrooms! We will also induct our new member, Julie Kelley, at that time. Save the date, set aside a special treat to munch on, and we'll see you then! Look for your Zoom invitation.

MEMBERS' NEWS

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Meet Mercedes Hart
Advocate for English Learners*



Mercedes, a native of Spain, studied Spanish composition, Latin translation, and math at Valencia University in Spain as a Spanish major. After coming to the United States, she studied at Modesto Junior College, then earned her Bilingual Teaching Credential at California State University, Stanislaus. While



teaching preschool, she also earned her MA degree in counseling.

Mercedes began her career as a bilingual teacher at a Head Start program. Over the years she taught pre-school, Kindergarten, 1st-2nd grade, and 7th-8th grade with an emphasis on English as a Second Language.

During her many years as a teacher, Mercedes advocated for English Language students and ESL programs. She pushed for the integration of ESL students into mainstream classes and had to fight against discriminatory practices and systems for resources for ESL students, at a time when ESL programs had not yet been developed. Though she officially “retired” in 1998, she continued to work for Ceres Unified School District at Mae Hensley Junior High for the next 7-8 years to help with ESL testing.

In 2003, in addition to public school teaching, Mercedes began an ESL community program with Lauren Willoughby to provide outreach by teaching non English speakers how to communicate in English at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Modesto, CA. Mercedes continues to meet with students of this program to this day and gains great joy in the progress that her students make, some of whom have gone on to gain their United States citizenship.

At age 92, she was told by her doctor she might have only 1-2 years to live. At her doctor’s recommendation she had heart surgery inserting a valve into her heart allowing the blood to flow more freely to all parts of her body. Now she’s feeling well and plans to continue tutoring English to Spanish speaking women once she can learn how to Zoom.

Submitted by Debbie Mar, VP Membership



MEMBER TO MEMBERS

- ☺ Member Sheila Efflandt is at The Grove, an extended care facility. She is bed-ridden and no longer uses her cell phone. It is not possible to speak with her on the phone, but she does appreciate cards and letters. The Grove’s address is 2801 Lou Ann Drive, Modesto, CA 95350.
- ☺ Julie Kelley, who attended our June Garden Party has accepted the invitation to membership. She will be inducted at our November Zoom meeting. It will be a first for Eta Mu.
- ☺ 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. However, if you missed the September donation date, 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.

Upcoming Events

Look for Evites for locations and RSVP online

State Events

October 17th
DKG CA Free Online Technology Workshop

Register by Oct. 10

Chapter Events

October 24
PAINTING IN THE GARDEN

November 12
TEACHING DURING THE PANDEMIC

December 8
CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

Area XVII Fall Meeting

Area XVII held its Fall Meeting on Zoom. In addition to the Area's Chapters' Presidents, Leadership team members are Area Director Carol Vieira, Area Treasurer Joann Duer, Area Recording Secretary Diane Meier, Area Corresponding Secretary Kathleen Heinzinger, Area Legislative Chair Heather Nonaca, Area Conference and Luncheon Co-Chairs Gloria Bracco and Pat Elston. Area Leadership positions change in June 2021. If you are interested in joining the team, now is the time to contact your Area Director and find out what you can do. There are vacant positions.

The main topic of the meeting was how to raise funds for Early Career Educators Awards. The group brainstormed ideas and will continue to work on a plan to successfully raise funds and involve chapters.

DKG EMERGENCY FUND

Following a 1948 flood that destroyed Vanport, Oregon, a plea for help in the DKG NEWS resulted in more than \$3,000 that became the Emergency Fund. The fund continues as natural disasters affect members. Contributions demonstrate the Society's "genuine spiritual fellowship." Members who sustain major losses from floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires and other natural disasters may be recommended by their chapter and state organization presidents to receive U.S. \$500 from the DKG Emergency Fund.

View the UTube Video [DKG Emergency Fund](#) or sign to DKG.Org, and use this link [Emergency Fund](#), to find out more about the fund or donate.

Connecticut member, 2015

"I am also grateful to know that I have support of fellow Society members."





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Hello Sisters,

I hope this finds you well with your home smelling of pumpkin spice and apple cider. Here are a few notes to keep in mind as we roll into election season:

1. The General Election is November 3, 2020.
2. Per the [Governor's Executive Order N-64-20](#), all registered voters will be mailed a vote-by-mail ballot (I got mine this week. Have you checked your mailbox?)
3. Please review the table below for important election deadlines.

California Election Deadlines

Election Date	Voter Registration	Vote-by-Mail Ballot Request	Completed Ballots, Including Vote-by-Mail Ballots
November 3, 2020 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Presidential Primary Election	Online or Postmark by October 19, 2020 or You can " conditionally " register and vote at your county elections office after the 15-day voter registration deadline.	Must arrive by October 27, 2020	Personally delivered ballots: Must be delivered by close of polls on November 3, 2020; Mailed ballots: Must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020, and received by your county elections office no later than November 20, 2020.



4. Official Voter Information Guide can be accessed here: <https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>
5. For information about dropbox locations, polling places, voter registration, and to check your voter status check out this website: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>
6. Did you know that you can track your ballot? You can follow your ballot as it is mailed, received, and counted through this website: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>
7. Most importantly, use your voice and vote!

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 <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

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]
Stay Well!

Heather Nonaca

Legislative Chair Area XVII, Bill Evaluator



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



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Visit DKG
Websites

dkgca.org

dkg.org

Save the Date
APRIL 30-MAY 2, 2021
DKG CA CONVENTION



Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel

MEMBER RESOURCES



November 1, is the Deadline for Penne Ferrell Award Nominations

The Penne Ferrell Literacy award is for an educator who is in her first through third year of teaching who is not a current DKG member. The award is intended to finance the cost of books, e-books, or reading apps. These **reading/literacy** resources are intended to supplement curriculum or for a classroom library. The recipient may receive an award for an amount up to but not exceeding \$200.

What is the Application Process?

- All applications must be submitted **electronically** at <https://goo.gl/forms/>.
- All applicants must be recommended by a current DKG member.
- The information of the recommending DKG member and the applicant is required to complete the form.

You can find out more information and the form on the [DKGCA.org](https://dkgca.org) website page, [Member Resources](#). Scroll down the page to the chart and look for November 1.

Join the DKG California Leadership Team

Olithia O'Toole Nominations Committee Chair says, "This is a pivotal time for our country and our DKG California organization. Our state leaders are doing a phenomenal job, but we also need your support and leadership to sustain us in the coming biennium and help us remain focused on our DKG CA mission."

If you are interested in a role in a statewide or area leadership position, you may nominate yourself and/or nominate or endorse another qualified and interested member using the [Leadership Nominations Form](#)-- The deadline for submission of applications for a position on the 2021-2023 DKG California Leadership Committee is November 1, 2020. All members of DKG California are encouraged to "Aspire to Inspire DKG California leaders!"



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