



Theta Gamma Thoughts

Theta Gamma, Chapter # 195, Area V, Corpus Christi
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Texas State Organization
Volume # 51 Issue # 01 October 2018

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
2016-2018 International Theme "Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide"

2017-2019 T SO Theme "Bridging yesterday and tomorrow"

Editor: Carol Walker walkerbc64@msn.com

President's Message

Well Ladies, here it is already November! Are you tired of pumpkin spice everything? I don't think I am yet. Your Sisters met last month at Norma's home and planned the calendar for Theta Gamma this year.

We know people are busy with family including spouses, children, grandchildren and life in general, so we streamlined our events and planned meetings and activities that we felt were meaningful.

In December, we will meet on Monday the 3rd for the Chili Supper hosted by the Retirees. I know. It's not in January or on Tuesday. But it's ok to change our patterns.

We will join Beta Xi Chapter on Saturday the 3rd of February for a program on Personal Safety given by an Officer of the CCPD.

On Monday the 4th of March we will provide a meal and fellowship for the residents at the Purple Door (formerly known as the Women's Shelter). I will let you know soon what items, or supplies they are needing.

The joint chapter luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April the 13th at Mirador.

In May, on Monday the 6th, we will close our year with some membership awards, Founder's Day celebration, Chapter birthday and fellowship.

More details to follow, but we wanted to get these dates to you so you could put them on your calendar in ink!

"The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker." - Helen Keller

That, my dear sisters, is exactly what we are...honest workers moving forward with the mission and purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Forward moving ever, Laura

Next Meeting Information

Monday, December 3rd 5:30 p.m.

Holiday cheer will be celebrated with our annual chili supper hosted by the retired members at the home of Norma Janice 1410 Casa Verde Drive. We will bring towels, and whatever else Laura tells us they need ("soon") for our service project at the Women's Shelter now called The Purple Door.

The Rest of the Year at a Glance

Please put the following dates on your calendar and make every effort to keep them clear so you can attend all of them.

Monday, March 4th Meet at The Purple Door where we will serve dinner and provide fellowship with women and children in the shelter.

Saturday, February 2nd we will be guests of Beta XI and meet at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Duvesa Sanchez, 6808 Fox Hill Drive, 78413. Personal Sanchez is the topic of speaker Jay Clement of the CCPD

Saturday, April 13th Joint Chapters Initiation and Luncheon at 11:00 a.m. hosted by Beta Xi and Delta Pi at the Mirador Retirement Center at 5857 Timbergate Drive at. More information to follow.

Saturday, May 6th, 10:00 a.m. at the Home of Carol Walker, 3408 Tahiti Drive, to honor our society's founders and celebrate our chapter's birthday. Pins will be given to long-standing members of 25 years and more of which there are five.

Minutes of the Meeting

October 9, 2018 Meeting at the Home of Norma Janice

Notes: (Minutes if you prefer that term. Since I didn't take many notes and didn't see anyone else doing so I guess these are minutes.)

Laura called the meeting to order at five-forty and said we might just as well eat first since it was only Shannon, Norma, She and I who were present. Shannon had used money from the treasury to provide a "make it yourself sandwich and cookies supper" from a selection of lunchmeats, breads, spreads, and toppings which was delicious.

As we ate, Margaret, Sylvia G. and Vilma joined us. Judith dropped in on her way to chair a meeting at her church to pay her dues.

Norma proposed that, if the chapter is dissolved, we should take the Esther Jane Roark Hahn Memorial Recruitment Grant For Aspiring Educators money out of the bank and give it to the School of Education at TAMU for their scholarship fund.

Shannon reminded us that State does not want us to dissolve. Then as Treasurer, she reported that we will be withdrawing our accounts from Bank of America because they still have not paid for the book of business checks that they sent us in error and then charged us over a hundred dollars for and because their monthly service charge for our account is ridiculously high. Our business will go to the Teachers Credit Union instead.

Then with Laura's lead, we went ahead to plan the year:

October was as reported in these notes.

Monday, December 3rd Holiday cheer will be celebrated with our annual chili supper hosted by the retired members at the home of Norma Janice 1410 Casa Verde Drive. We will exchange ornaments and also bring towels, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, and books once again for our service project at the

Women's Shelter now called The Purple Door. Purposes 1,6 and 7

Monday, March 4th Meet at The Purple Door where we will serve dinner and provide fellowship with women and children in the shelter. Purposes 1, 5, 8 and 7

Saturday, February 2nd Laura is asking Beta Xi if we may attend their gathering because we wish to hear the program which is a talk on "Personal Safety: with a CCPD policeman as guest speaker. More information to follow on this.

Saturday, April 13th Joint Chapters Initiation and Luncheon hosted by Beta Xi and Delta Pi at the Mirador Retirement Center at 5857 Timbergate Drive. More information to follow.

Saturday, May 6th, at the Home of Carol Walker 3408 Tahiti Drive, where we will celebrate and honor our society's founders, our chapter's birthday, and the awarding of pins to our long-standing members of 25 years and more of which there are five.

Please put the above dates on your calendar and make every effort to keep them clear so you can attend all of them. More information will come in later newsletters.

We may be small in numbers but we can still be a viable chapter with your cooperation. And better yet if some of you come on back to us.

Carol Walker, Acting Secretary

Think Scholarships NOW!

Preference is given to relatives of Theta Gamma members but anyone who qualifies is eligible to be nominated for these chapter scholarships.

Our Esther Jane Roark Hahn Memorial Recruitment Grant is awarded to a resident of the Coastal Bend pursuing a career in the field of education. The grant is for at least \$300.00 and may be used for tuition, registration fees,

books or supplies. The applicant may be enrolled in any level of education with the transcript reflecting an overall average of at least 2.0..

Do you have a student or a family member that meets these qualifications? If so, please remember the application is due to the Scholarship Committee **before April 1.**

As a member of Theta Gamma you are eligible to apply for the May Blythe Theta Gamma Scholarship. You must have been a member of Theta Gamma for at least one year. The scholarship is for \$300.00 and may be used for tuition, fees, books or supplies at a non-society continuing professional education event, seminar, workshop, or graduate class.

Remember the scholarship does not have to be used for a formal classroom setting course. Some of you may be passing up free money. The application is due to the Scholarship Committee before April 1.

Applications are attached to the email in which you received this newsletter. Please open and print out the application you need. Fill it out and bring it to the next meeting, email, or mail it to our scholarship chairman:

Mrs. Bettie Ruth Mitchell,
4729 Sea Island Drive 78413
betmitchell@yahoo.com

The application is due to the Scholarship Committee before April 1.

Did you know?

Up to 30 International Scholarships are available annually from Delta Kappa Gamma. \$6,000 for graduate studies - \$10,000 for a Doctorate Go to the Society Website <http://www.dkg.org> Click on Committees and go to Scholarship for Scholarship

qualifications, scholarship packet, and the scholarship application process.

Alpha State Convention

90th Texas State Convention
Arlington Convention Center
Arlington, Texas
June 20-22, 2019

Quick Links to society sites:

International: <http://www.dkg.org>

State: <http://www.dkgtexas.org/>

Theta Gamma Chapter:

www.thetagamma.weebly.com

If you have changed your address, phone or email address, please notify Carol Walker at 937-3604 or walkerbc64@msn.com

I Lied to My Students Today

"They showed up filled with anxiety. So I did what any good teacher would do. I lied."

You see, today was the first day of state testing. They showed up filled with anxiety. So I did what any good teacher would do. I lied.

I lied and told them that today was my favorite day of the year. I told them that I loved the smell of fresh tests in the morning. I sang them a Christmas song, "It's the most wonderful time of the year..." I told them that they had nothing to worry about.

The truth is, they had quite a bit to be worried about. You see, there is a dirty little secret that most people don't know. But ask a Title 1 teacher about it, and they'll nod. They know.

Here it is: If you're a student from poverty, or an English Language Learner, or you have a learning disability, well, the test is stacked against you.

"No way!", you might be thinking. "That sounds like an excuse a bad teacher might make for failing test scores."

I've heard it before. But when you've been teaching for 11 years, you know.

Just hop online and take a math practice test. The first thing you'll notice is, it's 90 percent reading. They wouldn't even think about simply asking a student to multiply 394×27 . Proving that they had learned a math standard? Nah, that would be too easy. Instead, it's hidden in a five paragraph word problem that's actually testing problem-solving instead of math. Many of the problems are difficult for me; a middle-class, college educated, English speaking, White woman. My Somalian refugee students who don't hear a word of English at home? They don't stand a chance.

The reading test might ask them about museum exhibits, or board games, or karate classes (of course, this is merely speculative as I wouldn't DARE take a peek at the test we have been preparing all year for!). If they're from a middle-class family, they're probably familiar with these things. The stories make sense. They have a hook to hang their new knowledge on. However, when their parents are Mexican migrant workers working two jobs just to put food on the table; they've probably never experienced any of these things. When the choice is between paying rent or playing board games, I'm sure you know what choice they make. These students? They don't stand a chance.

The social studies test might ask them to write a letter to the Department of Agriculture, arguing the need for fresh, healthy food in their communities. If they're a student from extreme poverty, their family is most likely more concerned with putting ANY food on the table. There's a good chance that they haven't sat around the family dinner table discussing the benefits of fruits and vegetables over processed foods and artificial food dyes. They don't stand a chance.

What about the students who have learning disabilities? The students who have been evaluated by specialists and proven to have a more difficult time with learning than their peers? We spend the year teaching them where they are at and focus on making growth. They feel successful every single day. However, someone in an office somewhere decided that a learning disability = slower. Just give them a few extra minutes to take the test, that should do it! That evens the playing field, right?!? They don't stand a chance.

Now, this isn't true for ALL students. Some thrive. They wear their hardships like a suit of armor. They defy the odds. But most? They are crushed under unrealistic expectations. I see it year after year.

This year, it looked like a single tear running down the face of one of my sweetest students. When I asked her afterward why she was crying, she told me that she worked so hard, but she couldn't figure out some of the answers. She was so, so sorry that she was letting me down. She worried that her family would be ashamed of her score.

What an awful burden to place on a 10-year-old.

And for what? So that some politician somewhere can scream, "Look at these awful teachers! We need to do something about this!" Or some big testing company can argue, "Look at all these failing schools! You simply MUST continue paying us millions of dollars every year to make these tests. How else will we know what schools to fix?!?" Or our Secretary of Education can swoop in claiming, "You know what will fix this? Vouchers! You get a voucher! And you get a voucher! Everybody gets a voucher!"

Every year I get angrier and angrier. Yet every year I give it again. I don't let it defeat me; damper my spirit. And every year, when it's finally all over and done with, I DON'T lie. I look my students in the eyes and tell them how proud I am of them. I tell them that even if they don't get a perfect score, they gave me perfect effort, and that's what matters. I hug my crying student and tell her that, of course, she didn't let me down. I've never been more proud of her.

Then I go home and pray. Pray that next year will be different. Pray that next year they'll stand a chance.

This story [originally appeared on Kelsey LaMar's blog](#). Kelsey is a wife and mother of two rambunctious little boys. She has been teaching in Title 1 schools for 11 years now.

If that was interesting you might like to click on some of the following links.

[17 Ways to Help Students With ADHD Concentrate](#)



Research shows that students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) can concentrate better when they're allowed to fidget. But what if this becomes a distraction for the rest of the class? We asked our readers about this issue on Facebook and received hundreds of comments from teachers, parents, and students with great ideas for letting students quietly fidget, and here are some of our favorites:

[Recognizing and Alleviating Math Anxiety](#)



Math anxiety is much more than a dislike for the subject—it's a real problem for students, one that blocks the brain's working memory and starts a self-perpetuating cycle of math avoidance, low achievement, and fear. This form of anxiety manifests as early as kindergarten, and nearly half of elementary school children experience it.

[Why Teens Should Understand Their Own Brains. And Why Their Teachers Should, Too!](#)



A teenage brain is a fascinating, still-changing place. There's a lot going on: social awareness, risk-taking, peer pressure; all are heightened during this period.

Until relatively recently, it was thought that the brain was only actively developing during childhood, but in the last two decades, researchers have confirmed that the brain continues to develop during adolescence — a period of time that can stretch from the middle school years into early adulthood.

