



# Theta Alpha Chatter

*Expand the Vision: Educate, Inspire, Encourage*

Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

**The Delta Kappa  
Gamma  
Society  
International**

**Texas State  
Organization**

**Theta Alpha Chapter  
Chapter 193  
Area IX  
Dallas County**

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

**Chapter President:  
Beverly Hagood  
rhagood@swbell.net**

**Editor:  
Kristi John  
Corps-wife@msn.com**

**Correspondence sent to:  
Leslie Valentincic  
lvalentincic@gmail.com**

**Chapter Website:  
dkgthetaalpha.weebly.com**

**Theta Alpha Chapter  
Meeting Dates  
2013 - 2014**

**August 17, 2013  
September 21, 2013  
October 19, 2013  
November 16, 2013  
December 21, 2013  
January 18, 2014  
February 15, 2014  
March 15, 2014  
April 26, 2014  
May 17, 2014**



## Message from the President



Hurry here, hurry there with our busy, involved lives (especially at the end of school)! Then- behold- the glory of Nature's loveliest- the Texas bluebonnets!! Peace surrounds us as we take some time to revel in the beauty that announces "Spring is here!" in Texas.

Ol' Man Winter held on as long as he could, but finally Spring gave birth to beautiful new life. As we behold the new life with which Spring has blessed us, let us relish this Spring as well as all the future Springs of our lives!

Sharing genuine spiritual fellowship with our Theta Alpha members and other chapters' members was one of the highlights of the annual DCCC Spring Luncheon. Theta Alpha members who attended were as follows: Babs Arnsward, Patti Belknap, Marilyn Bishop, Cathy Criner (State Membership Chair and guest of Michelle Grandinetti), Michelle Grandinetti, Bev Hagood, Hatti Hammer, Kendall Hasse, Kristi John, Sandra King, Baudelia Luna, Dianne McCorcle, Mary Myers, Linda Robards, Dianna Stouffer, and Leslie Valentincic. Those members who couldn't attend were all missed at this special event. Luncheon speaker, TSO President Nancy Newton, reminded the attendees that there is "power in one" when reaching out to present members as well as prospective new members.

Dianna Stouffer and Barbara McIntosh were honored for having achieved 25 years as a member of DKG. Congratulations to Kendall Hasse for having received a Cora McFarland Scholarship! Leslie Valentincic was spotlighted as the entertainment during the luncheon as she soothed everyone with

lovely pieces for the harp. (Many thanks to Kristi John for designing the luncheon's splendid "Reflections" program!)

Theta Alpha is excited about announcing that three new members will be initiated at the April 26, 2014 meeting: Barbara Cadman, Nicole Rutledge, and May Shen. Respectively, their sponsors are Baudelia Luna, Immediate Past President; Kristi John, Recording Secretary; and Dianne McCorcle, First Vice President. What an exceptional way to celebrate Theta Alpha's birthday- with our experienced members welcoming three outstanding educators into our spring garden!

As Theta Alpha celebrates its birthday in April, both the charter members and the past presidents will be remembered. The fortitude and dedication of the Theta Alpha members and past presidents have been an inspiration to DKG and to the community due to the strong foundation built by our charter members.

Be sure to attend the April meeting as Catie King, Second Vice President, leads us in Theta Alpha's birthday celebration! Happy Birthday, Theta Alpha!

Have you made your reservations for the TSO State Convention June 19-21 in Lubbock? If you haven't, it still isn't too late...but don't delay! (Register by May 1 to get the discount rate.) Theta Alpha always has such a fantastic time as its members gather with one another and with other state members for inspiration, encouragement, fellowship, and just plain ol' fun!! Theta Alpha doesn't want any of its members to miss out on this exciting

**An Honorary Professional Society of Key Women Educators**

## April Meeting Details

As I write this article, I'm wondering where has Spring gone since my heater is running full blast and I was so cold earlier today. I do see lovely signs of spring all over especially with the bluebonnets sprouting all over the highway. Spring brings the DCCC Brunch (and a lovely time was held by all who attended) and Theta Alpha's birthday celebration. Our April meeting will not be held the third Saturday of the month as usual, but the last Saturday of the month. Information follows:

### April 26, 2014 \*\*\*date change\*\*\*

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: First Presbyterian Church of Dallas  
1835 Young Street  
Dallas, Texas

**Agenda Initiation:** Theta Alpha celebrates birthdays of chapter; Voting for Achievement Award.

**Hostesses:** Delta Family - Mary Myers, Joan Huntley, Donna Lucas, Debra Rangel, Anita Rangel, Marsha Pool.

Also, Beverly Hagood is inviting us to the "Devout Dallas with Rosemary Rumbley" program at First Presbyterian Church of Dallas on Wednesday, April 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

I hope to see you all at this month's meeting as we welcome three new members!

P.S. Please bring your Birthday boxes for Captain Hope's Kids!

Dianne McCorcle  
Program of Work



A few members of Theta Alpha at the DCCC Luncheon.

### President's Message (Cont'd)

event! Check your Spring Lone Star News for the registration form.

Remember that Theta Alpha's garden can blossom and bloom only when all members attend the meetings to share bright, brilliant ideas that will help maintain the garden. It would be a gardener's delight to see each and every lovely Theta Alpha blossom at the April 26 meeting!!

Come early or come late; leave early or stay late! Hoping to see all of you Saturday, April 26! Wishing all of you a blessed Passover or a joyous Easter!

Peace and blessings,

Bev Hagood- Theta Alpha President

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## ALERT: Local Election Ahead

May 10 will be the city and school board elections. There will be a voters guide available at [dallasnews.com/local/voterguide](http://dallasnews.com/local/voterguide).

In order to compile this guide candidates in 52 races across Dallas and the larger suburbs were invited to response to a set of questions about their background and policy positions.

Get ready for six weeks of unseasonably brisk local politics and a dusting of new political fliers and door hangers across North Texas. Remember these elections are important -- they will decide our city and school tax rates, hire and fire city hall and school district leaders, etc.

Be sure to be involved and vote!

P. S. May 18 early voting starts for primary runoff elections (Voter registration closes April 28). Election Day is May 27.

Hattie Hammer  
Legislative Contact

# Upcoming Events

## \* Texas State Events

**85th Texas State Convention**  
Lubbock Convention Center  
Lubbock, TX  
June 19-21, 2014

## \*International Events

**2014 International Convention**  
JW Marriott Indianapolis  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
July 28-August 1, 2014

## \*Theta Alpha Chapter Events

**Theta Alpha "Field Trip"**  
First Presbyterian Church of Dallas  
1835 Young Street  
Dallas, TX  
April 22, 2014 (Speaker: Rosemary Rumbley- "Devout Dallas")- 6:30 p.m.  
Meal- \$7.00 (Reservations required by April 16, 2014) RSVP to rhagood@swbell.net

**Theta Alpha April Meeting**  
First Presbyterian Church of Dallas  
1835 Young Street  
Dallas, TX  
April 26, 2014 (Theta Alpha's Birthday)- 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## \*Area IX Events

**Area IX Workshop**  
Plano Senior High School  
2200 Independence Pkwy  
Plano, TX  
September 20, 2014- 8a.m.-12:30p.m.



Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley

Dinner Program,  
Tuesday, April 22-  
6:00 P.M. Byrd Hall  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Dallas, TX

As an extra event for Theta Alpha Chapter, Theta Alpha members are invited to attend an evening dinner and program at the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, TX to be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. The dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. with the program beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner will be \$7.00 per person; reservations must be made in advance by noon Wednesday, April 16. (To make a reservation please email Bev Hagood at rhagood@swbell.net. Bev has to call in the reservations by noon Wednesday, April 16. Please email your reservation to Bev by Tuesday evening, April 15.)

The program will feature noted local educator, author, actress, and speaker, Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley. Dr. Rumbley is known to be one of Dallas' most sought-after speakers. A voracious reader, she is never lacking for material for her speeches, and she has the ability to weave humor into her presentations. Tuesday's presentation will be about the first church, cathedral, and synagogue in Dallas.

Because of the large number of people expected to attend, Theta Alpha members who wish to attend this event will meet at 5:45 p.m. in the Commons Area of the First Presbyterian Church. There is handicapped parking on all levels of the parking garage. To access the Commons Area more easily please park on Level 2 of the parking garage and enter through the double glass doors. The members will meet and go together to Byrd Hall (which will make everything much simpler). Please plan to be part of this most enjoyable evening.

# Membership

After discussing what we could do to attract new members to Theta Alpha, you all came through with three possible new members at our Family Gateway event in March. We voted to invite all three to join our wonderful chapter and orientation(s) are being planned as we speak.

Please come to our April meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Dallas to welcome them into Theta Alpha! Also, we only have a few door prizes left so as you are spring cleaning and come across forgotten treasures, please consider donating them to our wonderful door prize stash!

Leslie Valentincic  
Corresponding Secretary



**The Area Workshop is coming!!!**

**Informative Sessions!**

**Great Presenters!**

**Prizes!**

**Fun!**

**Friends!**

**When: September 20, 2014**

**Where : Plano Senior High**

**SIGN UP NOW!**

## From Your A.C.

In case you do not recognize it, that big yellow/orange sphere in the sky is the sun. It is nice to actually get to see and feel it again.

I know that it is always there, but it is still nice to see it not covered by gray clouds. Being a good Texas girl, I don't handle well a lack of sunlight for very long, so like many people I have been out basking in the sun's warmth and brightness.

While walking, I remembered a comment a chapter president made. She was speaking to her members and expressed that what she loves about DKG is that it is always there. She added that it never shuts down, and that is how she wants to be for her students, family, friends, and chapter members. I like this thought.

You have just elected new officers. You have guaranteed that the purposes of the organization, the work of your chapter, the friendships and the loyalties that have developed over the years, and the new relationships that are budding will continue. You have confirmed that you always want to be there shining brightly and spreading your warmth.

Happy Spring, Area 9  
Michelle Grandinetti  
Area 9 Coordinator

**DKG question:** Where are three places that you can learn more about your organization and have bunches of fun? (Hint – one is in June, one is in July, and one is in September)

### Birthdays

#### April

- 10 - Donna Lucas
- 15 - Kristi John
- 16 - Jan Gentry
- 17 - Dianna Stouffer

#### May

- 2 - Mary Myers
- 5 - Barbara McIntosh
- 13 - Beverly Hagood
- 24 - Baudelia Luna



## "Riding the Happy Trails with DKG"

- RECAP of Theta Alpha's "Happy Trails" with the Family Gateway Families!

Although the project day, March 15, 2014, began with drizzle and overcast, gloomy clouds, it ended on an upbeat note for all of the family participants at the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center and for the Theta Alpha members! Observing the children's delighted smiles after receiving as many books as they desired and guiding their active involvement in all of the well-planned fun/educational "campfires" made "riding the happy trails" at Family Gateway a truly inspirational time for all. Theta Alpha members and the children interacted so beautifully that the children and their families reluctantly said, "Goodbye" to Theta Alpha.

Along with Theta Alpha members James (Recording Secretary Kristi John's husband), Sierra, and Sage John (Kristi's teenage daughters) generously volunteered with the project. Also, prospective member, Barbara Cadman, pitched in to help wherever she was needed. Throughout the year all Theta Alpha members were involved in the collection and the contribution of books for the project. Approximately 30 to 35 children and their families living at the shelter for the homeless attended the event.

The theme for the event was "Riding the Happy Trails with DKG" which was centered on either western or Native-American activities at various "campfires" (centers). Each "campfire" was manned by two or three of the 22 project participants. The "campfires" were designed to be educational as well as enjoyable for the young "braves" and "maidens." As the "braves" and "maidens" entered the "campfire" area, Barbara gave each one a "Wanted" nametag to wear and a red bag (furnished by Michelle Grandinetti) to use for their completed activities at each "campfire."

Since Theta Alpha Chapter values the importance of exposing children and their families to literacy, two literacy "campfires" were available for the participants. Theta Alpha members collected journals, pens, and over 200 books throughout the year in anticipation of the Family Gateway project. "Books Galore Campfire" assisted by Ruth Kaun, Susie Branch, and Carolyn Johnson was one of the favorite "campfires" for the children and the caregivers. "Journals and 'Writing Sticks' Campfire" was well-attended by all of the participants who enthusiastically decorated their journals. Sandra King and Dianne McCorcle reminded the "braves" and "maidens" to be sure to record all their memorable experiences in their colorful journals.

The Native-American storytelling "campfire" was a unique attraction for the Family Gateway children and

their families. Sierra and Sage John dressed in their traditional native tribal dresses (Paiute) and read traditional Native-American legends to the children.

Other Native-American "campfires" in which the children and their families engaged at their leisure and found enjoyable and stimulating were the following" (1) "Making Native-American Headbands" (Leslie Valentincic, Kathy Nichols); (2) "Catch a Dream in a Dream Catcher" (Baudelia Luna, Hattie Hammer, Bev Hagood); (3) "Making God's Eyes" (Kendall Hasse); and (4) "Creating Native-American Beaded Bracelets and Necklaces" (Patti Belknap, Linda Robards). A western themed "campfire" was the high-action "Herding Sheep" (Michelle Fernandez, Michelle Grandinetti) which simulated trying to "herd" sheep (made out of balloons) into a pen. What a spirited activity!

After about an hour and forty-five minutes of enriching activities, Theta Alpha treated the entire "tribe" to a hardy lunch of hotdogs, chips, fresh fruit, cookies (donated by Linda Robards), ice cream, and bottled water. After a lively morning, Marilyn Bishop, Ann Wyatt, and Janet Roark served famished "braves," "maidens," their families, and other clients living at the shelter. A total of about 40 persons gathered for the tasty meal. During the meal Theta Alpha members enjoyed spiritual fellowship with the families.

As the "braves" and "maidens" gathered up their belongings, they hugged the Theta Alpha participants and thanked them for "riding the happy trails" with them. As the members departed, the children's comments of "Thank you!" "Do you have to go?" "Please come back soon." "You were the best group- you brought books!" followed the members. It was difficult for most of the members to have to say, "Goodbye."

To evaluate the effectiveness of the program/project Theta Alpha members and the volunteers convened at El Fenix to share a delicious meal and genuine spiritual fellowship with one another. Theta Alpha concluded that the children were excited about all of the activities and eager for the chapter's return!

Member comments" "Working with homeless children is an excellent way to expand my horizons." (Baudelia Luna); "The project brought into focus the influence of poverty on education and literacy." (Dianne McCorcle); "After a morning of fun activities and after hearing 'Thank you' from all of the children, you knew this one day had been very special to them." (Linda Robards)

Thank you one and all, dedicated Theta Alpha members, for so generously giving of your time and talents to these fragile children and families who are going through some very difficult times in their present lives. This day was memorable for Theta Alpha as well as for the Family Gateway children.

Bev Hagood, President



### Delta Kappa Gamma Theta Alpha Chapter Minutes March 15, 2014

The special meeting of the Theta Alpha chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was called to order at 12:20pm by Beverly Hagood, President. The recording secretary, Kristi John, was present and recorded the minutes.

Beverly Hagood welcomed and thanked members for being present for our project "Riding the Happy Trails with DKG" at Family Gateway Center in Dallas, Texas. Leslie Valentincic reported to the members present about three prospective members: May Shen, Anna Nicole Rutledge, and Barbara Cadman. Leslie then asked the sponsoring member to report on the prospective members. Susie Branch made a motion to accept the new members for membership. The motion was seconded by Linda Robards. Ballots were then cast, counted and the majority agreed on membership.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45pm with an announcement of where lunch would be held and by singing of the DKG song.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristi John, Recording Secretary

(Below)Kendal Hasse receiving her scholarship at the DCCC Luncheon.



(Above) Sierra and Sage John reading the children at Family Gateway.



(Above) Carolyn Johnson and Susie Branch giving books to the children at Family Gateway.



Left: Nancy Newton and Beverly Hagood at the DCCC Luncheon.



(Right)Dianna Stouffer receiving her 25 year membership certificate at the DCCC Luncheon.



The members of Theta Alpha at Family Gateway for our Chapter project on March 15th, 2014 in Dallas, Texas.