

# 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.**

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**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



"An essential part of a happy, healthy life is being of service to others."  
Susan Patton Thoele

As we, Theta Alpha members, prepare for the Family Gateway Project and prepare to give of ourselves to lighten the "load," if only for a few hours in one day, of those children and their families who presently find themselves in the bonds of homelessness, may we do so with love and with compassionate hearts. Our hopes are that the children will remember the splendid, enriching activities that we have so whole-heartedly prepared for them. Most of all, our hopes are that the children will remember that there are those who care about them and who want to spend some quality time with them. May our smiles and embraces remain forever in their hearts as their smiles and embraces will remain in ours. Hopefully, we will be the light at the end of the tunnel, if even for one day.

Saturday, March 15, 2014 will be one of Theta Alpha's most rewarding contributions to the community: the project for which we have been planning during the year- the project at the Family Gateway Center, a shelter for children and their families who are temporarily experiencing homelessness. (Please see the related article about the details for the project.) Theta Alpha members will gather at Family Gateway at 8:30 a.m. to set up the educationally enriching activities for the children and their families who presently reside at the center. The activities will reflect the western and Native-American themes.

One of the star attractions will be Kristi John's daughters, Sage and Sierra

John. They enthusiastically consented to share their Native-American traditions with the children at the shelter. Sage and Sierra will dress in their traditional tribal clothing and will share wonderful Native-American stories with the children and their families. I know that the children (and we Theta Alpha members) will be enthralled with and in awe of this splendid opportunity to experience the Native-American culture. I can hardly wait to see the children's surprised faces as they encounter Sage and Sierra's presentations! Sage and Sierra will definitely make a lasting impression on the participants at Family Gateway!

Be sure to come dressed in your red shirts or tops, complemented with a bandana or Native-American accessories, ready to enthusiastically greet the eager children and their families as they engage in a world that is very possibly totally unique to them. What a thrilling experience this will be for both the children and for Theta Alpha!! Will see ya'll Saturday!!

If you have in mind a prospective member who you have delayed asking to visit our Theta Alpha Chapter, this Saturday, March 15 would be the perfect time to have her come along with you to witness the true Theta Alpha in action! It isn't too late to initiate new members for this year as we still can initiate in May. Let us reach out and extend our hands to some passionate educators who not only would receive benefits from DKG, but also would benefit DKG and Theta Alpha Chapter!

Spring is full of many reminders

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

## March Meeting Details

It's time to gather around our campfires and do the "Riding the Happy Trails with DKG" with a special focus on Native Americans project. Our project is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2014 at Family Gateway. We need all members to participate in order to have a successful event and to leave our campers excited and joy filled. Please plan to arrive at least by 8:30 a.m. to set up our campfires and to decorate the areas. Don't forget to bring the children books you are donating. Please bring your Recommendation for Membership forms if you have any to submit, so we can vote on them after we get through. After the project we will gather for lunch at the El Fenix restaurant at 1601 McKinney Ave. downtown Dallas. By the way don't forget to send Marilyn Bishop your \$25.00 if you are attending the Spring Brunch.

### March 2014 project

**Date:** March 15, 2014

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Place:** Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center  
711 South St. Paul Street  
Dallas, Texas

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the "Happy Trails"!!

Dianne McCorcle  
Program of Work

## Birthdays

### March

3 - Babs Arnswald  
5 - Ann Wyatt  
7 - Kendall Hasse  
12 - Janet Roark  
14 - Anita Rangel

### April

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



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

for the forthcoming DKG activities: Don't forget to purchase your DCCC Spring Luncheon ticket; sign up at the April meeting for the Area IX Workshop; and be sure to register for the 85th Texas State Convention in Lubbock. You should have received your Lone Star News in the mail as of now. The TSO Convention registration form and an abbreviated schedule of the convention are included in the Spring Lone Star News. Don't wait too late to procure a hotel reservation in order to receive the DKG convention discount on your room. (Please see related newsletter articles on the DCCC Spring Luncheon and the Area IX Workshop.)

In closing, I leave you with this thought from Mother Teresa: "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

Peace and blessings,  
Bev Hagood, Theta Alpha President



Kathy Nichols talking about poverty at our January meeting.



Leslie Valentincic and Carolyn Johnson talking before the meeting in January.

# Remember to VOTE!

The runoff elections will be coming up -- if you voted in the Primary election this week, you need to vote for those contests in that party. However, if you did not vote in the Primary, you can vote in either party.

Also be aware that early in May there will be elections for city and school board positions. The filings have been listed and you need to start asking questions about their position on educational matters for the local district.

Hattie M. Hammer  
Legislative Contact

## Membership

Hello Ladies!

I hope everyone is enjoying this fabulous weather that decides to flip back and forth between beautiful sunny weather and extreme bitter coldness with ease! Just a reminder to bring any membership forms you have collected to the meetings in March or April. Our goal is to try and initiate new members sometime in April or May, but before we can get that process started, we need potential members! Please bring them to the March and/or April meetings so they can experience our phenomenal chapter firsthand!

Also, we are low on door prizes, so if you come across anything in the next few weeks that you would like donate as a door prize, please bring them to the April meeting! I look forward to seeing everyone at our March meeting!

Leslie Valentincic  
Corresponding Secretary

WHAT IS HAPPENING SEPTMEBER 20, 2014?

AREA 9 WORKSHOP!!!!

SIGN UP NOW!

YOU WILL BE EDUCATED, INSPIRED, AND ENCOURAGED

(AND YOU WILL HAVE FUN.)



# From Your A.C.



I have been hearing a lot of bragging here lately. Apparently there has been quite of bit of teamwork occurring in the chapters in order to meet the deadlines for forms, lists, and reports. Music to my ears. I am proud to tell you that Area 9 is at 100% for chapter profiles, which is great considering only four of the 26 chapters in Area 9 meet in January. Congratulations, chapters!!

By now many of you have nominated or elected new officers for the next biennium. If you are not in the "officer" category there are many, many roles to fill in your chapter. The more I visit chapters the more I am convinced that the interests and passions of members are met through the programs and projects. It requires the diligence and creativity of committee chairs and committee members to plan, prepare, and deliver programs and projects that reflect those interests and passions. It is not too early to consider what your role will be in the next biennium. Annie Webb is looking for YOU.

**DKG question:** Which committee is responsible for preserving the history of the organization at the chapter, state, and international levels?

**Membership Idea:** SIGN UP!!!! SIGN UP!!!! SIGN UP!!!! LEARN ABOUT YOUR DKG!

AREA 9 WORKSHOP AREA 9 WORKSHOP  
AREA 9 WORKSHOP  
WHEN ? SEPTEMBER 20, 2014



**ASTEFL celebrates you as a donor!**  
**Submit your ASTEF gift by April 1 to be recognized in Lubbock!!**

## DCCC Spring Luncheon Reminder

As of Marilyn Bishop's last count, Theta Alpha Chapter has 11 members attending the DCCC Spring Luncheon April 5, 2014. There is still time to place your name on the list of those attending the luncheon. I will be collecting the money (\$25.00) for the tickets at the March 15, 2014 gathering at the Family Gateway Project. If you cannot attend the project, please send an email to me that you will be attending the luncheon. You can give Marilyn the money for your ticket at the luncheon. Marilyn needs to send (by snail mail) the count of the attendees in by March 20, 2014.

You don't want to miss this lovely luncheon. Theta Alpha will be celebrated at the luncheon with two of its members, Barbara McIntosh and Dianna Stouffer, receiving their 25 Year Certificates. Leslie Valentincic will fill the luncheon hall with melodious music as her deft fingers gently strum her celestial harp. She will honor Theta Alpha by providing the relaxing entertainment for the luncheon. Kristi John's expertise has been called upon to help design the graphics and the layout for the luncheon program. (We may even have some members receiving scholarships!)

The Texas State Organization's most illustrious State President, Nancy Newton, will enlighten the luncheon attendees with her engaging insights. Now how can you not attend this delightful luncheon?! In addition to all of the above, you will have the opportunity to chat and dine with the world's greatest group of women educators and friends! What a very special event the DCCC Spring Luncheon will be!! Please make a special effort to attend the luncheon April 5, 2014 in support of our Theta Alpha members who are being honored.

Bev Hagood, Theta Alpha President

## Area IX Workshop- Something for Everyone!

It is not too early to mark your calendars for the Area IX Workshop which will be held September 20, 2014 at Plano Senior High School in Plano, TX. The workshop will be from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; registration is \$12.00. The registration fee will be collected at the April 26, 2014 meeting by Registrar, Patti Belknap. There will be important sessions for the new biennium officers and sessions to inspire and engage supporting members. You will be surrounded with enthusiasm and with that good ol' DKG spirit that will gear up all of us DKG members for an exciting fresh biennium. Make plans to register April 26, 2014- Don't miss out on this nourishing workshop that will feed the DKG soul!

## **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 Annual Community Project**  
Family Gateway Center  
711 South St. Paul Street  
Dallas, TX  
March 15, 2014- 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**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)

**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

**DCCC Spring Luncheon**  
Brookhaven Country Club  
3333 Golfing Green Drive  
Farmers Branch (Mapsco 13L)  
April 5, 2014- 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Area IX Workshop**  
Plano Senior High School  
2200 Independence Pkwy  
Plano, TX  
September 20, 2014- 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## "Riding the Happy Trails with DKG" - Theta Alpha Project

Theta Alpha Sisters, don either your western or Native-American regalia, saddle up your ponies, and mosey on over to the Family Gateway Center, 711 South St. Paul, Dallas, Texas this Saturday, March 15, 2014 for the exciting wild west roundup that Theta Alpha will provide for the residents at the shelter. Theta Alpha is honored that it can help to enrich the lives of the children and their families, who are temporarily experiencing homelessness, with nurturing, educational activities for a Saturday morning. So com' on ya'll and let's have a rip, roaring grand time with the children and their families (50-60 participants) at the Family Gateway Center!

Details and logistics of the project: (Please wear a red top with either a bandana or a Native-American accessory so that the participants can easily identify us.)

**\*Date:** Saturday, March 15, 2014  
**\*Location:** Family Gateway Center,  
711 South St. Paul, Dallas, Texas

You may temporarily park in front of the entrance to unload your supplies. Please park in the parking lot across from Family Gateway. Use the parking spaces to the left of the donation depository. Those are reserved for Family Gateway.

**\*Arrival and Setup:** 8:30 a.m.-9:50 a.m.  
Set up the "campfires," decorate your background (may use tape on the walls), post name of "campfire." You may use as many round tables as your "campfire" requires. Marilyn Bishop will provide the red checkered table coverings.

**\*Participants:** 10:00 a.m.- 11:20 a.m.  
Participants will circulate on their own to various "campfires." Will divide the total group into two different groups for Native-American storytelling. (The name tags will have a color designation for the groups. Before the participants begin their activities, they will be informed about how they will be divided for the storytelling sessions.) The storytelling sessions will be in a separate room from the rest of the activities.

While one group is listening to the stories, the other group will be visiting the "campfires." After the first group is finished listening to the stories, the second group will go to the storytelling session; the first group will then circulate the "campfires." (After the story telling is over, we may have all of the children in the activities room trying to finish up visiting the "campfires." Hopefully, they won't all descend on the same "campfire!")

**\*Break:** 11:20 a.m.-11:40 a.m.  
Clear off tables so that we can have everything set up for lunch which begins at 12:00 p.m. Family Gateway is allowing us to use the kitchen and the kitchen facilities for serving lunch. Janet Roark, Ann Wyatt, and any of the rest of us can help serve. The chef, Devon, will be available to help us with whatever we need. We will use the Family Gateway serving trays.

**\*Lunch:** 12:00 p.m.-  
We will all help with lunch wherever we are needed. The participants will use the tables, of course. There should be plenty of food for all of us, also. We can "mingle, mingle" with the families.

**\*Clean-up:** 1:00 p.m.-  
The participants should be finished and leaving the lunchroom by 1:00 p.m. Our chapter will need to stay to help with the clean-up. Kathy Kidwell, the Volunteer Coordinator, who will be there Saturday informed me that it shouldn't take us very long with the clean-up.

**\*Celebrate:** 1:30 p.m. or 1:45 p.m.-  
Theta Alpha will caravan to El Fenix to celebrate, evaluate, and debrief our Family Gateway Project!

### Directions to Family Gateway Center:

Most of the members know the directions to First Presbyterian Church of Dallas so I will direct everyone from the church. The church is at the corner of Harwood and Young in downtown Dallas. If you are taking the Griffin Street exit, go to Harwood, turn left and go to the light at Young. The First Presbyterian Church is on the corner of Young and Harwood. Take a left on Young, go to St. Paul, take a left on St. Paul, proceed two blocks, and you will see Family Gateway on the right hand side of St. Paul.

If you are coming down Harwood from the other direction, go to Young. The First Presbyterian Church is on the corner of Young and Harwood. Turn right on Young and go to St. Paul. Take a left on St. Paul, proceed two blocks, and you will see Family Gateway on the right hand side of St. Paul.

(Please watch for an updated email that will be coming very soon. It will list all of the "campfires" and will request that everyone who is participating in the project please confirm their attendance.)

Thank you to everyone who is helping our with this most worthy project! The children are looking forward to our coming to the center!

Bev Hagood, President



**Delta Kappa Gamma  
Theta Alpha Chapter Minutes  
February 15, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Theta Alpha chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was called to order at 10:35am by Beverly Hagood, President. The recording secretary, Kristi John, was present and recorded the minutes. Inspiration was given by Ruth Kahn.

Beverly Hagood welcomed 18 members. Members reported on others who were unable to attend. The January minutes were approved and will be filed as written. Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, read an invitation given to the chapter for an upcoming social.

Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, was present and reported there is a quorum. Dianne McCorcle reported to the chapter about the Chapters project. Members were encouraged to discuss what they were going to do for their "campfires" and supplies needed. The project venue will be Family Gateway in Dallas, Texas.

Beverly Hagood then reported that the Spring Luncheon will be held on April 5th, 2014 at Brookhaven Country Club and tickets will cost \$25.00. Please send payment to Marilyn Bishop, Co-Treasurer, as Mary Myers will be out of town. Beverly also reported a date change for the Field Trip in April, now on April 22nd. Leslie Valentincic encouraged members to invite guests and reported that the brochures were on the Chapter website. Patti Belknap, Parliamentarian, reported on her trip to New York for the National CTAUN conference and shared the titles of several books she purchased that were recommended to her by a teacher at the NATO school.

Michelle Grandinetti, Area IX Coordinator, reported on the upcoming Area workshop to be held on September 20th, 2014. Registration will be due by June 5th, 2014 and will be \$12.00. The workshop will be located at Plano Senior High school. The Chapter has been asked to help with several parts of the workshop and Lambda Zeta would help. Baudelia Luna, Immediate Past President, then gave a report on ASTEF, and the levels of donations accepted. Debra Rangel gave a book talk on the book "Heaven is for Real" by Todd Burpo. Leslie Valentincic then called numbers for door prizes.

The meeting adjourned with singing the DKG song at 12:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristi John, Recording Secretary

**Accolades to February's Meeting  
Participants**

Theta Alpha sends accolades to all of the participants in the February 15, 2014 meeting. Ruth Kaun's words of wisdom were most inspirational and unforgettable. Baudelia Luna and Dianne McCorcle focused Theta Alpha on the importance of ASTEF by relating pertinent information to help the members better understand ASTEF and how ASTEF benefits members across the state. Their program was so inspiring that Theta Alpha had two members contribute to ASTEF right away! Way to go, Theta Alpha!!

Patti Belknap updated the Theta Alpha members on her memorable experience at the CTAUN meeting in New York. It was a once-in-a-lifetime event for Patti, full of pathos and passion. Debra Rangel opened new doors for the members with her touching Book Talk, Heaven is For Real.

Theta Alpha's project for "Kindness Month" (March) is the Family Gateway Project. Members will provide for the children and their families who are residing at the Family Gateway Center various cultural and educational activities which reflect the western and Native American themes. The Family Gateway Center is a shelter for children and their families who are temporarily experiencing homelessness. Dianne McCorcle reminded the members to bring Hygiene Boxes for Captain Hope's Kids Project any time during the rest of the biennium.

Jan Gentry, Achievement Awards Committee Chairman, passed out Nominations Applications for the annual Theta Alpha Achievement Award. The nominees will be voted on at the April 26, 2014 meeting.

During the remainder of the meeting, the members finalized the details of the March 15, 2014 project which will be held at the Family Gateway Center. The tantalizing refreshments provided by the Alpha Family (Catie King, Chairman, Janet Roark, Ann Wyatt, Cathen Jones, Minithia Nelson, and Babs Arnswald) sustained the members throughout the meeting (nibble, nibble, nibble).

Many thanks to all of the members who participated in Theta Alpha's February meeting!!

Bev Hagood, Theta Alpha President

## The Dallas County Coordinating Council's annual spring luncheon

Just the facts...



### Who?

Members of the 14 Dallas County chapters of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Texas State Organization: Epsilon, Delta Omicron, Delta Pi, Delta Rho, Delta Tau, Eta Zeta, Eta Eta, Theta Alpha, Iota Nu, Kappa Upsilon, Kappa Phi, Kappa Psi, Lambda Theta, Mu Omicron

### What?

The Dallas County Coordinating Council's annual spring luncheon, 2014 theme: "Reflections of Delta Kappa Gamma"

### Where?

Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 Golfing Green Drive, Farmers Branch 75234

Link to map: <http://goo.gl/maps/MY6dv>

### When?

Saturday, April 5, 2014,  
10:30 a.m. registration and fellowship,  
11 a.m. luncheon and program



### Why?

- Enjoy fellowship with Dallas County sisters,
- Reflect on "Where Do We Go from Here?" with Nancy Newton, 2013-15 TSO president and 2014 DCCC luncheon speaker,
- Recognize 25- and 50-year members,
- Present chapter presidents,
- Honor a Friend of Education,
- Award Cora McFarland scholarships

### How?

Make your reservation (\$25) with your chapter treasurer. All reservations are due to DCCC by March 20.

## Meet Nancy Newton

Newton's goal? "Expand the Vision: Educate, Inspire, Encourage" as TSO president for 2013-15 and DCCC luncheon speaker on Saturday, April 5, 2014

### Q - Tell us about your family.

A - I met my husband, Ed, on a street corner in downtown Dallas on New Year's Eve 48 years ago. We have been married for 47 years and have two wonderful sons, Michael and Tim.

Both of our sons are ordained ministers. Mike now teaches international business classes for Texas Woman's University, and Tim is junior high social studies teacher for Holy Cross Christian Academy in Burleson.

We were blessed with a lovely daughter-in-law 14 years ago. Jenifer was a third-grade teacher at Lake Dallas Elementary in Lake Dallas ISD. Currently Jenifer is a stay-at-home mom selling Premier Jewelry. She and Tim were married on our 33rd wedding anniversary. And, they have the two most beautiful children, Stephen (10) and Anna (6). Pictures available for viewing on request.

### Q - What does DKG mean to you?

A - I was raised in Mena, Arkansas, where I was initiated into Kappa State in 1982. The chapter was filled with women whom I had honored and respected since I was a child. It was a most heady experience to become a friend and coworker with my former teachers.

I have served as president of Iota Pi, coordinator for Area X, co-chairman of the Texas State Organization Program of Works Committee, chairman of the TSO Leadership Seminar, and chairman for the 2012 TSO Convention at Las Colinas. I have been a member of the membership, necrology, and leadership seminar committees for Alpha State. In June 2010 I received the State Achievement Award. I was TSO second vice president for 2009-2011 during Dr. Vicki T. Davis' biennium as state president.

You might be interested to know that Dr. Davis and I have been friends since high school, when we served as area FHA officers together. Vicki was first vice president, and I was fifth vice president. Her area of responsibility? Programs. Mine? Communications—I published the newspaper.

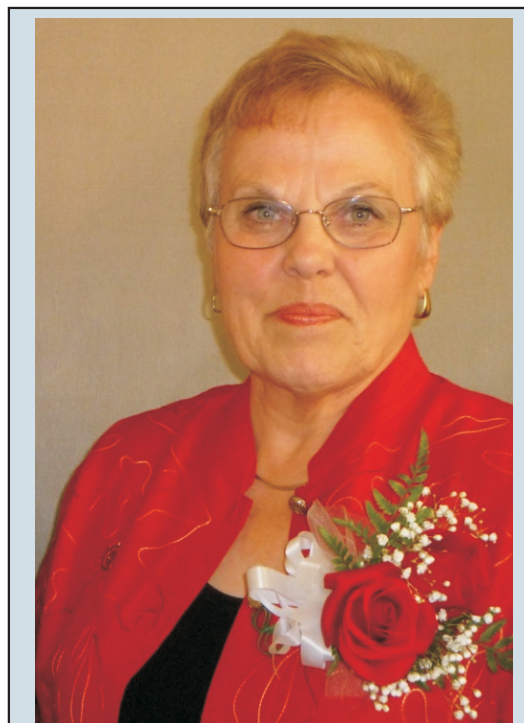
### Q - Tell us about your education and your work as an educator.

A - I am a graduate of TWU, where I majored in home economics, which I never taught. Following graduation, I served on the staff for four years. I have a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Michael and I made history as the first mother-son graduates from TWU.

I taught special education, first, fifth, and fourth grades. I retired from Crowley ISD, where I spent the last 13 years teaching fourth grade. Altogether, I taught for 32 years in Arkansas and Texas.

### Q - Besides family and DKG, what do you do for fun?

A - For fun I enjoy reading English cottage mysteries. And, if I had a million dollars, I would travel—first-class and full-time—storing up memories and seeing all the great sights in the world I've seen only in *National Geographic* magazines and on television.



Newton at a glance...

- ✓ I met my husband, Ed, on a street corner in downtown Dallas on New Year's Eve 48 years ago.
- ✓ It was a most heady experience to become a friend and coworker with my former teachers.
- ✓ I majored in home economics, which I never taught.
- ✓ If I had a million dollars, I would travel—first-class and full-time.