

# ETA TAU 5 STAR NEWS

**September 2023**

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International*

***Volume 58 Issue 1    Eta Tau Chapter    Austin, Texas    September 2023***

***Texas State Organization    Area 7    No. 187***

**International Theme: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide  
State Theme: SOAR to new heights**

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***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.***

## **September Meeting**

**When:** September 18, 2023 7:00 PM

**Where:** St. John's United Methodist Church  
5900 Wynona  
Austin, TX

**Call a friend and  
carpool to the  
meeting!**

***See you there!***

**Program:** Salad Supper

**Inspiration:** Lois Mayes

**Hostesses:** Mary Wallace and Patti Groce

**Door Prizes:** Mary Wallace and Cathy Harris

### **For the September meeting:**

**Bring your favorite salad**, along with copies of the recipe to share. Don't miss out on an evening of delicious food, great fellowship, and looking ahead to the 2023-2024 year for Eta Tau!





# Mary's Message

by Mary Wallace

Dear Eta Tau Sisters,

I hope you have all weathered this incredibly hot summer well and, despite the temperatures, have managed to enjoy family, friends, and fun activities. Reading has been my favorite respite on these blistering hot afternoons. Some of my favorite books have been The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave, Horse by Geraldine Brooks, and Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Please share books that you have read and loved this summer when we meet in September. I'm looking forward to reading The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki for our February book discussion.

Our Eta Tau Chapter had a very productive planning meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> at Mandola's Italian Kitchen in Cedar Park. Six Eta Tau members were able to meet and discuss our plans for the upcoming year. We have tentatively scheduled our meetings for the 2023-2024 year and will finalize those plans when we meet in September at our annual Salad Supper on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

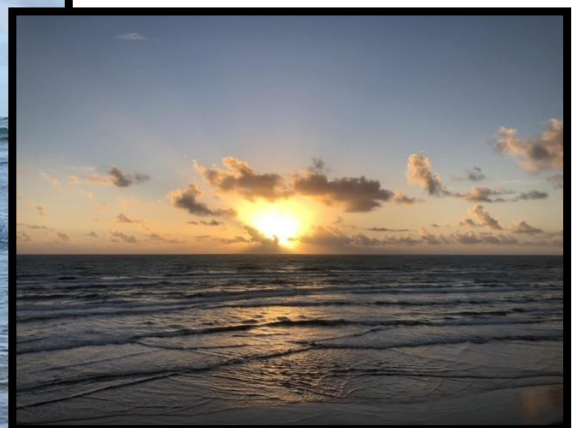
Thank you, Cathy Harris, for making arrangements for us to meet again this year at 5900 Wynona, Austin 78757, one of St. John's United Methodist Church properties, in September for our annual Salad Supper, November for our Silent Auction, and April for our Eta Tau Chapter Birthday Party. This house is perfect for our meetings – easy to find, spacious, and a full kitchen!

We were able to spend a few fun family days at the beach at both Port Aransas and South Padre this summer, but my favorite time of the year to visit the beach is October when the temperatures are more pleasant, and the beach is much less crowded. These pictures are from a few years ago. Where are your favorite places to "get away"?

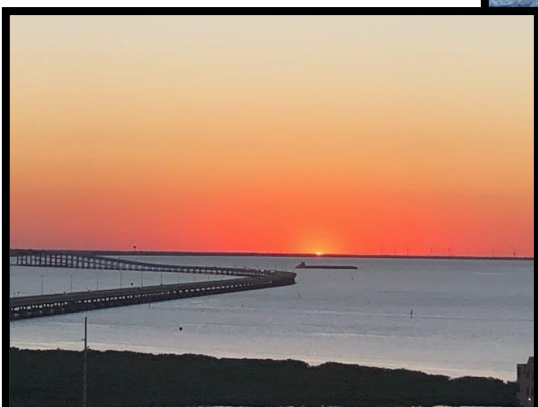
All my best,  
Mary



A Great Blue Heron taking flight from the edge of the beach



Sunset over the Gulf of Mexico



Sunset over Laguna Madre



## ***Roses to.....***

**Lois Mayes and Donna Slathar...**for hosting the April meeting.

**Debbie Koehler...**for providing door prizes for the April Meeting.

**Mary Wallace, Patti Groce, Cathy Harris, Lois Mayes and Donna Slathar...**for attending the Founders Day Brunch in May.

**Mary Wallace...**for purchasing, boxing, and delivering the books for *Libraries of Love*.

**Eta Officers and members...**for attending the Executive Board/Program of Work and Planning meeting in July to discuss chapter business and make plans for 2023 -2024.

**Cathy Harris...**for making the church arrangements for our meetings.

### ***CONGRATULATIONS, ETA TAU!***

At the Texas State Organization 94th Convention in McAllen, Texas, Eta Tau was recognized for the following honors...

**Early Bird Yearbook Award**

**Exemplary Yearbook Award**

**Five-Star Newsletter Award**

**DKG Compliant Website**

To achieve these recognitions, it takes contributions and hard work from all chapter members. Good job, Eta Tau!!



### ***To our active teachers...***

***We wish you a successful  
2023-2024 school year!!***



## *Libraries of Love*



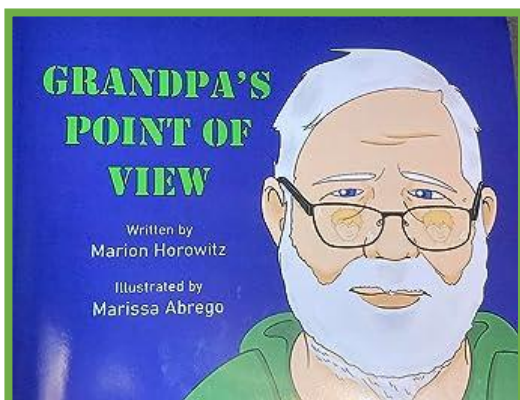
In April, our wonderfully generous Eta Tau Chapter collected \$350 which was doubled by our treasury equaling \$700! This donation allowed us to purchase 45 African themed hard backed picture books from the *Libraries of Love* wish list on Amazon. The books were delivered to Trudy Marshall, Executive Director of Libraries of Love, in July. Each book will receive a spine label and a library pocket and will be processed for shipping this fall for delivery in Africa next summer. There are now 57 libraries established by *Libraries of Love* in Uganda and Kenya!

At our Eta Tau executive meeting in July, the members present agreed that we would like to continue to support *Libraries of Love* as our service project. This will, of course, be discussed at our Salad Supper in September.

Trudy Marshall will be our guest speaker for our January Zoom meeting.



## *Membership News*



Congratulations to **Marion Horowitz** on the publication of her first book! Grandpa's Point of View is a children's book about a boy visiting his grandfather on the bay and seeing the world from a different perspective. Marion's book is available on Amazon.



# Summer Fun Summer Fun



### From Laura...

After having to cancel our trip last summer due to COVID, my family finally got to go on our Alaska adventure July 7th– July 15<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, we were able to fly there and back with all our luggage. I rented a house on the verge of the wilderness outside Anchorage for my two daughters, my son-in-law, my two grandchildren and me. The first night we watched a mama black bear and her two cubs wander through our yard and disappear into the forest. We had some wonderful day trips in the area, including hikes at the Eagle River Nature Center and other spots, a trip to the Anchorage Zoo, and a visit to a reindeer farm/animal sanctuary. A guided fishing trip and a dog sled adventure allowed us to meet this year’s Iditarod winner and a couple of eccentric Alaska residents who regaled us with their stories, but only one tiny fish was caught (by my grandson Aiden) and thrown back. The high point of our week was a glacier and wildlife cruise where we got up close to numerous glaciers. We didn’t see the whales we had hoped to watch, but we did see lots of sea otters floating on their backs so they could carry their babies on their tummies, and lots of birds nesting on cliffs along the way. It was a great adventure for the kids, and a great way to escape the Texas heat for a little while.

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### From Susan...

Dexter and I went on the Royal Caribbean Voyager of the Seas sailing from Galveston with stops at Costa Maya and Cozumel.



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### From Patti...

I've been playing Mahjong twice a week with Georgetown Newcomers. A friend and DKG sister that I taught with at Hirschi High School in Wichita Falls came to visit me. Bessie Gregg lives in Dallas now. We are birthday twins matching the same month, day, and year. We have been friends since 1975! My deer herd has increased by four babies.





# April Meeting

Our April meeting was held at St. John's United Methodist Church. We celebrated Eta Tau's 58<sup>th</sup> birthday and presented chapter awards. Nancy Varljen visited our chapter and conducted a Recommitment Activity.



Membership Chair, **Debbie Koehler**, presented perfect attendance awards to seven members. The members recognized for their strong commitment to Eta Tau were **Debbie Koehler, Susan Harmon, Emily Farnsworth, Laura Packard, Cathy Harris, Mary Wallace, and Dr. Delia Quintanilla.**



**Nancy Varljen**, Area 7 Coordinator, led the members in a recommitment activity based on the purposes of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.





# Founders Day Brunch

by Donna Slathar

The Austin Area Chapters celebrated Founders Day on May 6, 2023 at Chez Zee American Bistro in Austin. Members enjoyed a delicious brunch and guest speaker, Marianne Odom, author of Growing Up in the Lone Star State: Notable Texans Remember Their Childhoods. Laura Grayson presented "Looking Back, Looking Forward," a video honoring our Founders. Outstanding Educator Awards were presented by each chapter. Eta Tau proudly awarded **Lois Mayes** our chapter's Outstanding Educator Award.



Eta Tau members attending the brunch were Donna Slathar, Laura Packard, Lois Mayes, Mary Wallace, and Patti Groce.



Mary Wallace presented Lois Mayes with Eta Tau's Outstanding Educator Award.





Laura Packard was emcee for the event.



Mary Wallace introduced the speaker, Marianne Odom.



Marianne Odom shared highlights from her book, Growing Up in the Lone Star State: Notable Texans Remember Their Childhoods.





## **Eta Tau Committees 2023-2024**

### **Society Business:**

#### **Membership/Attendance**

Chair: Debbie Koehler

#### **Ceremonies/Necrology**

Chair: Laura Packard

#### **Nominations/Achievement Award**

Chair: Lois Mayes  
Debbie Koehler  
Laura Packard

#### **Finance/Auditing**

Chair: Susan Harmon

#### **Communications/Publicity**

Chair: Donna Slathar  
Delia Quintanilla

#### **Social**

Chair: Emily Farnsworth  
Marion Horowitz

### **Educational Excellence:**

#### **Programs**

Co-chairs: Patti Groce  
Mary Wallace

#### **Research/Chapter Rules/Archives**

Chair: Mary Wallace

#### **Yearbook**

Chair: Mary Wallace

#### **Service Projects/Global Awareness/ Personal & Professional Enrichment/ Scholarships**

Chair: Patti Groce

#### **Legislation**

Chair: Laura Packard

#### **Music**

Chair: Cathy Harris



## ***Looking for new members...***

A candidate for membership must be employed as a professional educator at the time of her election or retired from an educational position. Members can be invited at any time during the year. Note: Eta Tau has voted to reduce dues for new members to half price for the first year. Please **submit names of prospective members to Debbie Koehler, Eta Tau Membership Chair.**

## ***Upcoming Events.....Mark your calendars!***

**September 18, 2023** – Eta Tau Chapter Meeting – St. John's United Methodist Church  
(See minutes for tentative meeting dates.)

### **Chapter Officers 2022-2024**

President: **Mary Wallace**  
First Vice Presidents: **Patti Groce**  
Second Vice President: **Debbie Koehler**  
Secretary: **Susan Harmon**  
Parliamentarian: **Emily Farnsworth**  
Treasurer: **Cathy Harris**  
Past President: **Laura Packard**

*Lone Star News* is available online at [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org).

Delta Kappa Gamma websites:

[www.etatautx.weebly.com](http://www.etatautx.weebly.com)

[www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org)

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

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Credit for photos: TSO Website, Mary Wallace, Susan Harmon, Patti Groce, Donna Slathar

Send your Eta Tau committee reports and membership news to Donna Slathar. The deadline for the October newsletter is October 1, 2023. [dwslathar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwslathar@sbcglobal.net)



**Delta Kappa Gamma International**  
**Eta Tau Chapter**  
**April 17, 2023**

The meeting was held at St. John UMC. There were 9 members and 1 guest present.

We first had a dinner of chicken salad croissants, chips, fruit, and a vegetable tray provided by Donna and Lois.

**Program**

Nancy Varljen, Area 7 Coordinator, led the Recommitment Ceremony, based on the 7 purposes of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

**Call to Order**

Mary Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

**Member News**

We discussed LaVonne Rogers, how active she and her husband had been, and hope all is well with her.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the February meeting which were printed in the newsletter were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report**

Cathy Harris reported that the bank balance hasn't changed since the last report. We gave her money for dues and Libraries of Love. We decided that the chapter will pay LaVonne's dues.

**Unfinished Business**

Founders' Day Update: Laura reminded us of the May 6 event at Chez Zee, the author will sell books for \$40 (cash only) at the event, valet parking will be provided and brunch will be served buffet-style. Cathy will mail in payments she has received for Founders' Day.

**Awards**

The Perfect Attendance awards were given by Debbie to Emily Farnsworth, Patti Groce, Susan Harmon, Cathy Harris, Laura Packard, Mary Wallace, Dr. Delia Quintanilla, and Debbie Koehler.

The Outstanding Educator award was presented to Lois Mayes who had a wonderful article written about her in our last newsletter. While not a charter member, she was in the first class of initiates in 1965. Lois retired after 33 years of teaching, still teaches at the Lifetime Learning Institute, has been very active in DKG, is involved in Austin Area Retired Teachers and is truly a lovely lady.

Mary gave a history of Eta Tau Chapter. We were organized on April 10, 1965 at the Terrace Motor Hotel in Austin with 29 charter members. Both Eula Lee Carter and Phyllis Ellis officiated at the ceremony. We then celebrated Eta Tau's 58<sup>th</sup> birthday with a yummy cake provided by Donna and Lois. Cathy led the group in singing Happy Birthday.

## **Announcements**

Donna showed us pictures of her grandchild. Mary read Marion's newly published book, Grandpa's Point of View. The door prizes were won by Susan, Mary, and Donna.

The meeting was adjourned by Mary Wallace at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Harmon

## **Delta Kappa Gamma International Eta Tau Chapter July 19, 2023**

Our planning meeting was held at Mandola's Italian Kitchen in Cedar Park. Present were: Patti Groce, Susan Harmon, Cathy Harris, Debbie Koehler, Lois Mayes and Mary Wallace.

## **Call to Order**

Mary called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

## **Meetings**

The meeting dates and programs were tentatively scheduled:

September 18, 2023—Salad Supper (Business Meeting)

October 8, 2023 (Sunday)—Blanton Museum of Art field trip

November 13, 2023—Silent Auction (Business Meeting)

January 15, 2024—Libraries of Love (Virtual)

February 19, 2024—Book discussion and Business Meeting (Virtual) *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki (these 2 virtual meetings could be reversed)

March 3, 2024—Georgetown Palace Theater, *She Loves Me* (a musical)

April 15, 2024—Eta Tau's Birthday (Business Meeting)

Cathy will check with St. John's United Methodist Church to see if our 3 in-person meetings can be held there. Members signed up for inspiration, refreshments, and door prizes for our meetings.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Cathy has mailed in our dues. We now have 13 members in Eta Tau (11 active and 2 reserve).

Mary thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Harmon