

ETA TAU 5 STAR NEWS

April 2023

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Volume 57 Issue 6 Eta Tau Chapter Austin, Texas April 2023

Texas State Organization Area 7 No. 187

International Theme: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

State Theme: JOURNEY: Which way will you go?

Editor: Donna Slathar dwslathar@sbcglobal.net

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.

April Meeting

When: April 17, 2023 6:45 PM

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

Program: Eta Tau's 28th Birthday
Recommitment – Nancy Varljen
Perfect Attendance

Hostesses: Lois Mayes and Donna Slathar

Inspiration: Patti Groce

Door Prizes: Debbie Koehler

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

See you there!





Mary's Message

by Mary Wallace

Hello, Eta Tau Sisters!

What beautiful wildflowers are blooming across central Texas right now! I hope you have had a chance to get out and see the bumper crop of bluebonnets this spring.

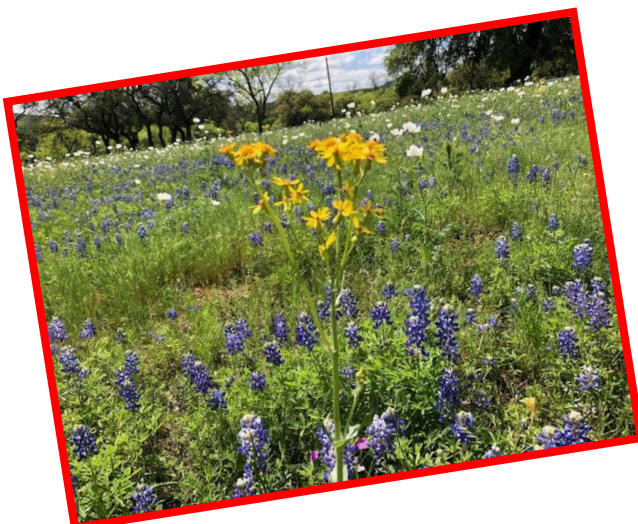


Our March meeting at the Georgetown Playhouse Theater was a wonderful experience. The play, "Silent Sky", was extremely well done. This is the first dramatic play I have seen in Georgetown, and I was very impressed with the entire production. It's such a small, intimate theater, and we had perfect seats that were so close to the stage. After seeing the play, several of us wanted to learn more about the "star" of the show, Henrietta Leavitt. Afterwards, we enjoyed an excellent dinner at Wildfire Restaurant. It was so nice to be seated at a large round table where we could see and visit with everyone at the table.

Eta Tau will be 58 years old on April 10th! I hope you will be able to attend our April meeting. In addition to celebrating our chapter birthday, Area 7's Coordinator, Nancy Varljen, will be at the meeting and will conduct a recommitment game based incorporating the DKG 7 Purposes.

I am also looking forward to the Austin DKG Chapters' celebration of Founders Day at Chez Zee American Bistro on Saturday, May 6th. A buffet brunch will begin at 10:30.

All my best,
Mary





Roses to.....

Susan Harmon...for reserving outstanding seats for us at the Georgetown Playhouse Theater.

Laura Packard...for making dinner reservations at Wildfire Restaurant after the theater.

Cathy Harris...for sending in our contributions this year and collecting money and mailing one check for the Founders Day Brunch in May.

From the Treasurer...

Eta Tau dues are now due!

If you have not done so yet, please mail your dues to Cathy. Active dues are \$85.00; reserve dues are \$38.50. Make checks payable to Eta Tau. You can bring your dues to the April meeting or send them to:

Cathryn Harris 3803 Hidden Hollow Austin, Texas 78731

Birthday Greetings



April 14th Marion

April 21st Laura

June 2nd Cathy

August 6 Mary

August 17 Donna

August 29 Delia

March Meeting

A group of 10 Eta Tau members and friends met at the Palace Playhouse in Georgetown to enjoy the performance of *Silent Sky*. *Silent Sky* is the true story of Henrietta Leavitt who recorded the changes in Cepheid stars – a scientific discovery that has had a lasting impact on the field of astronomy. The actors did an excellent job performing their characters with emotion and humor. After the show, we walked to Wildflower for a very nice dinner. It was a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon!



Libraries of Love

Libraries of Love is an all-volunteer organization. *Libraries of Love* has created libraries in 39 schools in Uganda and 7 schools in Kenya. More than 125,000 students have enjoyed reading books from *Libraries of Love*'s 46 libraries over a 16-year period. Students who attended the first nine schools which received libraries (13,000 students) have moved up to secondary schools, or have graduated from secondary. At these schools, a second "generation" of readers are now borrowing books. That has been one of its goals, younger brothers and sisters having the same access to books as their older siblings.

At our April meeting we will collect donations for *Libraries of Love* as our spring service project. Eta Tau Chapter will match our personal donations. Mary is willing to order the books from the wish list on Amazon.

If you would like more information about *Libraries of Love*, click the link to its website.
<https://librariesoflove.org/>





Lois...A Lovely Lady

My Saturday afternoon took an enjoyable turn when I sat down with Lois Mayes to talk about family, teaching, Eta Tau...her life. Sitting comfortably in her home on 41st Street, it did not take long for me to realize that she is a humble and gracious *lovely* lady.

Lois was the third daughter born to Monroe and Josie Mayes on February 1, 1938. She came into this world only 20 minutes before her twin brother, Lewis, quickly making them a family of six. Growing up next to her grandmother's house in Lampasas, Texas,

Lois describes it as a "urban farm" with cows and chickens. Her mother was a stay-at-home mom until Lois's father passed away when she was only seven years old. After her father's death, her mother had to join the work force. When her job as a civilian employee at Fort Hood ended, Josie moved her family to Austin for a new job opportunity.

At the age of 12, Lois began her education in the Austin Independent School District. She attended Baker Junior High and graduated from McCallum High School. After graduation, Lois attended the University of Texas. She obtained a B.S. degree in Elementary Education in 1960. Lois credits her mother's influence on her pursuing a teaching career as Josie was a teacher before marrying her father. It was not an unusual setting for her mother and 3 aunts (who were also teachers) to sit around the table and talk "school" at family gatherings. Lois had no doubt that she was destined to follow her mother's career choice. Several Austin schools were fortunate to have this *lovely* lady on their teaching staffs. She began her professional career at St. Elmo teaching third and fourth graders. She went on to teach at Blanton, Harris, and Pillow Elementary Schools where first grade became her passion. In 1993, she retired after 33 years.

Retirement did not mean giving up teaching for Lois. After retirement, she began taking calligraphy classes at Lifetime Learning Institute. Eventually, she took over teaching the class AND has continued to do so for the past 21 years! Austin Area Retired Teachers also has benefited from this *lovely* lady's dedication to teaching. She has been actively involved in attending meetings and serving on committees for the betterment of all retired teachers in the Austin Area.

My interest peaked when Lois began talking about her incredible, close-knit family. She is extremely proud to tell stories about her nieces and nephews and now even her great-great-nephews. Her stories reflect a mutual love and respect from the oldest to the youngest generation in her family. After 85 years, Lois is still a contributing family member. She continues to help out at her great-nephew's organic nursery in Manor doing office work and/or working with the plants. The family does not hesitate to call on Lois to help out at the family welding supply company in downtown Austin. As Lois expressed thoughts about her personal life, she thinks her greatest accomplishment has been "the influence I've had on my nieces and nephews and my greats." Lois relayed a story about her great-great-nephew. When given choices for his upcoming 9th birthday, he rejected them all. He wants to have his party at Aunt Lois's house. I don't blame him – I want to party with this *lovely* lady also!

In spite of all Lois's extracurricular activities, Lois still manages (and enjoys) creating greeting cards for family and friends. Although she no longer attends the games, she remains an avid UT fan. If her TV is on, she is probably watching one of UT's sporting events. Reading and working with the flowers in her yard fill up any free time this *lovely* lady might have left.

Lois is a dedicated member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 58 years. She joined Eta Tau the first year it was chartered in 1965. Lois's leadership in Eta Tau Chapter includes a presidency and several bienniums of being treasurer and secretary. Through the years, Lois has attended conventions and presented at many of our Area Workshops. Lois continues to exhibit her commitment to DKG by being a very active Eta Tau sister. It has been Eta Tau's good fortune to have this *lovely* lady in our membership.

As I was leaving, Lois commented, "I've not had an exciting life, just a normal one." I disagree. I think it's a lovely life for a very *lovely* lady!

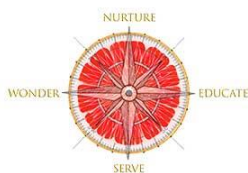
Interview by Donna Slathar





The Coordinating Council of Austin invites you to the 2023 Founders' Day Celebration

On May 11, 1929, Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, along with eleven other women educators, gathered at the University of Texas Faculty Women's Club to establish The Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Their vision was an organization which would work toward several goals — including high educational standards, gender equity in pay, professional advancement and recognition, and opportunities for continuing education. Since then, so much has changed in education and in Delta Kappa Gamma as well. Please join us for brunch on **Saturday, May 6th, 2023**, to celebrate one more year of achievements and making a difference in communities around the world. We will meet at **Chez Zee American Bistro, 5406 Balcones Dr., Austin, TX at 10:30 am**. We will be honored to have as our speaker, Marianne Odom, one of the authors of Growing Up in the Lone Star State: Notable Texans Remember Their Childhoods. She will bring copies of her book to sell and will personalize your copy if desired. Cost of the brunch will be \$30 per person, payable to your chapter treasurer by April 15.



94th TSO Convention McAllen, TX June 14-17, 2023

It's not too late to register! To avoid a late fee, register before May 15th. You can find the registration form and convention schedule in the spring *Lone Star News* or go to the website www.dkgtexas.org.

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!

April 17, 2023 – Eta Tau Chapter Meeting – St. John’s United Methodist Church

May 6, 2023 – Austin Area Founders Day Luncheon – Chez Zee American Bistro, Austin TX

June 14-17, 2023 – 94th Texas State Convention, McAllen, TX

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.

Delta Kappa Gamma websites:

www.etatautx.weebly.com www.dkgtexas.org
www.dkg.org

Credit for graphics: www.dkgtexas.org www.dkg.org
Credit for Birthday Cake graphic: Free Vectors all-free-download.com
Credit for photos: TSO Website, Mary Wallace, Donna Slathar
Credit for graphics: clipartmax

Send your Eta Tau committee reports and membership news to Donna Slathar. The deadline for the September newsletter is September 1, 2023. dwslathar@sbcglobal.net

Delta Kappa Gamma International
Eta Tau Chapter
February 20, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom. There were 10 members present.

The program, a discussion of the book, The Second Mrs. Astor: A Heartbreaking Historical Novel of the Titanic, by Shana Abe' ensued.

Call to Order

Mary Wallace then called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Inspiration

Donna inspired us with the blessing of friendship during this Valentine season.

Member News

Lois has a former Eta Tau member as a student in her calligraphy class. Many remembered her so Lois is going to ask Sherrie Shaver to attend a meeting.

Approval of Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

Cathy Harris reported a bank balance of \$3,227.70.

Committee Reports

Programs/Service Projects: Patti Groce and Mary Wallace

This was discussed under Unfinished Business.

Membership: Debbie Koehler

We have 13 members—12 Active and 1 Reserve.

Communications/Webwatcher: Donna Slathar

The International website details the conferences this July in Detroit, Phoenix, and Finland. The deadline for Project Applications is March 1 and Zoom meetings are held monthly to have a conversation with International leaders and staff. On the TSO website, there is a technology conference on March 31-April 1, the Winter Edition of the Lone Star News is available online and TSO is seeking candidates for an Executive Assistant and Lone Star News Editor/Photographer.

Donna will not send a newsletter in March, but will have one in April which will mention our annual dues.

Legislation: Laura Packard

There is nothing to report at this time.

Yearbook: Mary Wallace

No report.

Social: Emily Farnsworth & Marion Horowitz

No report.

Unfinished Business

The Production **Silent Sky** is Sunday, March 5, 2:00 pm at the Georgetown Palace Playhouse, 216 W. 8th Street. So far we have 9 attending and paid. Laura will make reservations at Wildfire for us to eat together afterwards.

Our Founders Day Brunch is Saturday, May 6, 10:30 am-1:00 pm at Chez Zee American Bistro. The speaker will be Marianne Odom, one of the authors of Growing Up in the Lone Star State: Notable Texans Remember their Childhoods. The book will be for sale for cash or check and the author will sign them. The cost for the brunch will be \$30 and money is due to Cathy by April 15 and she will write a check to the coordinating council for all Eta Tau attendees.

We were reminded that we will be collecting donations for Libraries of Love in April and funds will be matched by our treasury.

New Business

Cathy reminded us that it's time to make our chapter donations. We decided to give 3 checks of \$15 each to ASTEF for scholarship, leadership, and projects. And we will also give \$25 to International for DKGIEF.

Announcements

Patti told us a joke that many of us could identify with.

The meeting was adjourned by Mary Wallace at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Harmon

