

ETA TAU 5 STAR NEWS

February 2021

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Volume 55 Issue 5 Eta Tau Chapter Austin, Texas February 2021

Texas State Organization Area 7 No. 187

International Theme: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

State Theme: YOU are the key

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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.

February Meeting

When: February 15, 2021 7:00 PM

Where: Home

How: Virtual via WebEx (6:45 PM)

Program: Book Discussion –
The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek
by Kim Michele Richardson

Inspiration: Debbie Koehler

For the February meeting:

Laura will send an email with the WebEx link to the meeting. She will open the link at 6:45 and the meeting will start at 7:00.



**Be safe...
Stay healthy!**





A Letter from Laura

by Laura Packard



Dear Eta Tau Sisters,

The speaker at our January meeting, Erica Blue, Executive Director of Austin Sunshine Camps, filled us with information about the camp's history and mission and all that they offer to the children of the Austin area. Because I had asked her to tell us something that our little chapter could do to support them, she shared their desire to create a little quiet community room where kids could escape the hustle and bustle of camp life for a little while and asked us to help them equip and furnish it. Here is the message I received from their Programs Officer and Program Director:

“We are so so so excited that you have interest in helping us to create our quiet room/circle room. Camp can be a loud, boisterous place, and we are thrilled that we might be able to have a space where kids with auditory processing differences can go to re-focus and where all of our campers can go to relax and have quiet time. We are also thrilled to be able to provide beautiful, well-written books with main characters that look like our kids.”

I will send the link to their Amazon Wish list in a few days, and then we can discuss it during our meeting on the 15th.

Speaking of our meeting on the 15th, I hope everyone is getting a chance to read [The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek](#) for our discussion. Our Area Coordinator, Carole Lowe, chose our February meeting to visit us this year because she wanted to read the book and join in the discussion. I am in the process of re-reading it. It is just as good the second time!

Happy Valentine's Day, Ladies. See you on the 15th!

Laura





Roses to.....



Debbie Koehler...for sharing a meaningful inspiration on measuring success at our January meeting.

Marion Horowitz and Emily Farnsworth...for collecting the gift cards and delivering them to CASA



Membership News

Cathy Harris' husband, Roy, passed away on Thursday, February 4. His funeral will be on Saturday, February 13 at Cook-Walden Funeral Home in Pflugerville. Our prayers and sincere sympathy our extended to Cathy and her family during this difficult time.

Where have you been??? What are you doing????

Please send your news to dwslathar@sbcglobal.net . Eta Tau members love to hear about others' travel adventures, stories of grandchildren and family, professional news, and anything else you'd like to share.

February Birthday Greetings



1st Lois Mayes

February



February is Giving Month

ASTEF is asking members to open their hearts by opening their pocketbooks to support the work of the Foundation. This year's theme is **Follow the Yellow Brick Road to...Scholarship, Leadership, and Projects!** Giving is from Feb. 1-Feb. 28. All donations must be postmarked by Feb. 28 to count towards the Giving Day goal of \$10,000. When you go to the website (<https://www.astef.org/>), you can use the "DONATE" button for a donation to the Projects fund, or use the "Giving Month Donation Form" to help support the Scholarship Fund, the Project Fund, or the Leadership Fund. There will also be an **ASTEF online auction** beginning Feb. 21.

Individuals or chapters giving \$25.00 or more will be recognized in the TSO Convention program. Your contribution will impact Texas education, educators, and students now and in the future!

Remember...all donations made to ASTEF are tax deductible.



February is American **Heart** Month. This is the 56th year of the existence of American Heart Month...uniting to fight heart disease and spread awareness. Every year, 1 in 4 deaths are caused by heart disease. Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women. Heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy choices and manage their health conditions.

For more information and to find out what you can do today to lower your risk for heart disease go to [American Heart Month](#)



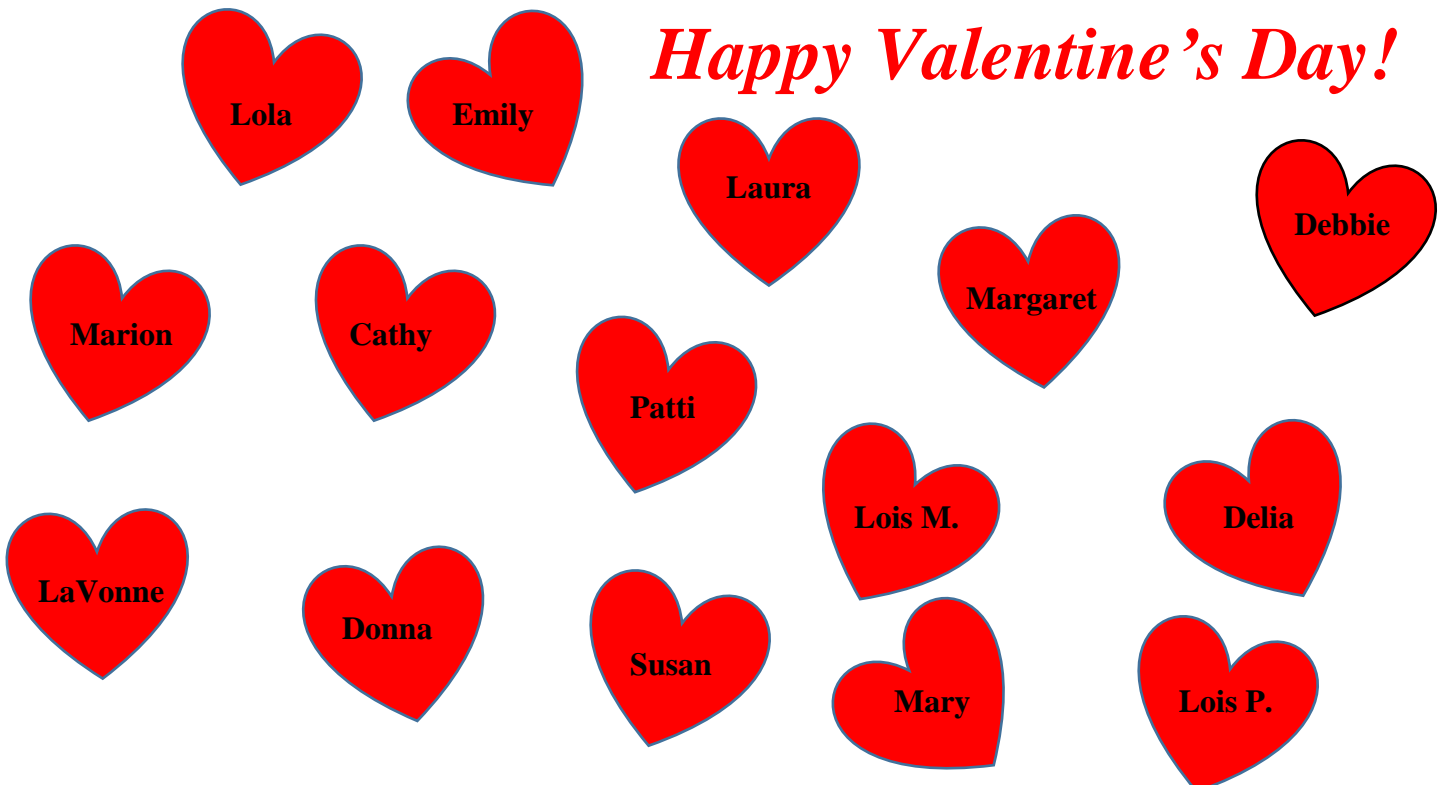
Are you making your plans to attend the 92nd Annual TSO Convention?



What you need to know.....

- ❖ **June 17-19, 2021**
- ❖ **Denton Convention Center – 3100 Town Center Trail 76201**
- ❖ **Hotel – Embassy Suites 3100 Town Center Trail [Register Now](#)
844.684.9427 (Only king size rooms are available)**
- ❖ **Unifying Project – *CASA of Denton County* - Collecting gift cards**
- ❖ **Visit the *Convention Website* (<https://dkgtexas2021convention.weebly.com/>)
for all the updated information including *The Key* – a newsletter designed to
provide information about Denton and the convention.**
- ❖ **Start making your plans **NOW!****

Happy Valentine's Day!



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!

February 15, 2021 – Eta Tau Chapter Meeting - Virtual

March 15, 2021 – Eta Tau Chapter Meeting

April 19, 2021 – Eta Tau Chapter Meeting

May 1, 2021 – Founders Day Luncheon – Chez Zee, Austin, Texas

June 16-18, 2021 – 92nd Texas State Convention – Denton, Texas

July 21-24, 2021 – International Conference – San Antonio, Texas

Chapter Officers 2020-2022

President: **Laura Packard**

Co-First Vice Presidents: **Emily Farnsworth/Marion Horowitz**

Second Vice President: **Debbie Koehler**

Secretary: **Lois Mayes**

Parliamentarian: **Mary Wallace**

Treasurer: **Cathy Harris**

Past President: **Patti Groce**

Lone Star News is available online at www.dkgtexas.org.

Delta Kappa Gamma websites:

www.etatautxweebly.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

Send your Eta Tau committee reports and membership news to Donna Slathar. The deadline for the January newsletter is March 1, 2021. dwslathar@sbcglobal.net



(A **business** meeting was not held on January 18. The following are notes taken from our meeting.)

Delta Kappa Gamma International
Eta Tau Chapter
January 18, 2021

Notes from the meeting

The meeting was held virtually on WebEx due to the Covid-19 virus. There were 10 members present. Debbie Koehler's inspiration was "The Real Measure" about success. Marion Horowitz introduced the speaker, Erica Blue. She is the CEO of The Sunshine Camp. The camp was founded in 1928 by the Young Men's Business League and has been in operation at Zilker Park since then. There is also a camp at Lake Travis. They serve low income children ages 8 to 15 and aid them to build self-esteem. About 1,000 children attend each year. The camp is free and is supported by fund raisers. Each session is a 5 day overnight experience. There are 3 objectives for the program, Community, Compassion and Creativity. Zilker Lodge is available for rent when the camp is not in session. Currently the staff wants to create a quiet space for the children. The room would be used as a peace making circle room. They are in need of comfy chairs, mood lighting, tablets and SEL books. Discussion was held concerning how Eta Tau can help with the project.

Susan Harmon has officially transferred to Eta Tau Chapter. She was welcomed to the group. Members have checked on the four individuals who are unable to attend because of health issues or family situations. Sixteen names for potential members were submitted. Emily Farnsworth presented 3 names, Donna Slathar 2, Debbie Koehler 3 and Laura Packard 8. Suggestions were made concerning the best way to approach these women and encourage them to join Eta Tau. Laura Packard reminded the group to read The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek and be prepared to discuss it at the February meeting. Carole Lowe, Area 7 Coordinator, will attend. Bill Knolle returned the archives to Donna Slathar. They had been stored with Janie Knolle. Members are encouraged to attend the TSO Convention in Denton, June 17-19, 2021. The International Conference will be in San Antonio, July 21-24, 2021. One will also be help in Portland, Oregon. The Conference in Finland has been canceled due to the Pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Mayes