



Texas State Organization  
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

# Theta Nu News

Leading women educators, impacting education worldwide

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## *Bev's Buzz*

Hello Ladies!

Goodness! It seems like it's been ages since I have seen everyone and we've had all cylinders working together and been able to have a real-live, face to face meeting. I'm missing our gathering and talking and not just communicating through our group texts! This idea then makes me think about the way we feel when a family reunion will soon take place, anticipating seeing everyone again after such a long time.



I even heard one sister from another chapter complaining about a recent Zoom meeting for the Smith County Coordinating Council. She complained sweetly but still frustratingly, "Just when are we planning on getting together to see one another in person?" This DKG sister has indeed mastered all the learning curves and ins and outs of the art of Zoom but she, like the rest of us, misses the pre-pandemic days of freedom and fellowship! Well, we are about to get our chance for that once-a-year reunion with the other Smith County Chapters in April.

Every year on Thanksgiving when I grew up all of my dad's family would come down; his brother's family, his sister's family, cousins, aunts, uncles, the whole clan. Of course, my mom started her plan for getting ready

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before the event, several months in advance. She would make lists and more lists, plan and plan and clean and clean. I never realized how much effort it took for my parents to pull all that together until I tried it myself a time or two; it's incredibly hard work!

I hear the same thing all the time from my own extended family, "We should have a get together!" What they really mean is 'you plan everything and maybe we'll come'. Times change and people change. Back then a reunion was the highlight of the year, not another appointment to try to squeeze into your already jammed full calendar. I'm thankful to have experienced some of the long-ago traditions and I'm appreciative of the effort it took to keep it up for so long.

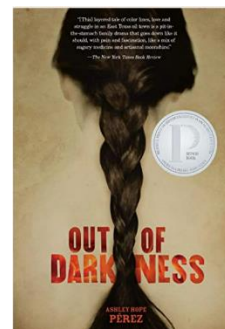
I'm told our Founder's Day Celebration was quite different long ago; long formal dresses and a great deal of structure and steeped tradition. I know Cindy Gordon and all her members have been doing just like my mom, making lists, excessive planning, and getting things ready for the rest of us to enjoy. Times have changed for many families and for DKG as well, but the objective is still the same for all of us. "Let's Gather"

So, let's gather together on [Thursday, April 20th](#) at 5:00 and see those sisters we haven't seen lately and fondly remember those we will not see again until heaven. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone!  
Beverly



## *Theta Nu Book Club*

April's selection, ***Out of Darkness***, a historical young adult novel by Ashley Hope Pérez published September 1, 2015, is the most intense and controversial book we read so far. The novel chronicles a love affair between a teenage Mexican-American girl and a teenage African-American boy in 1930's New London, Texas, occurring right up to the 1937 New London School explosion.



Upon its publication, the book was received outstanding reviews and honors for young adult literature. However, in 2021 it became the fourth-most banned and challenged book in the United States. So, not only will we talk about the book, but we'll talk about what's happening in Texas school and public libraries in relation to censorship. It's an interesting story too.

In addition to the usual retail sources, the book is also available from:  
Tyler Public Library. Libby app or Cloud Library app. <https://bit.ly/3D4qr0M>  
Whitehouse Community Library. Libby app. <https://netldc.overdrive.com/>

Book Club will meet on April 13 at LaHacienda. Come any time after 4:00; CindyL likes to get there early to make sure we get the "little room." Official starting time for book discussion is 4:30 followed by supper.



## *Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN)*

A recording of the webinar *HUNGER: Many Causes, Many Solutions* is available at <https://teachun.org/conference/2023-2/hunger-many-causes-many-solutions/> This webinar provides an overview of Hunger that affects nearly 1 billion people in the world every day. – globally and locally. It highlights initiatives by the UN World Food Programme, UNICEF, Heifer International, and other

international and local organizations to address the causes and find solutions. Take a little time to watch this webinar and then share its content with friends and with other groups such as Sunday School Classes and civic organizations.



## *Two Opportunities to Interact with World Fellowship Recipients*

On April 24 and 27, from 6 to 7:30 PM CST, the TSO has the opportunity to listen to DKG International World Fellowship recipients talk about their lives and educational journeys. Q&A time will follow the recipients sharing their stories. You can register to participate in one or both of the Zoom gatherings. Each Zoom meeting will be capped at 150 participants. Our TSO Global Awareness Committee has done a fantastic job putting this event together! Thank you to everyone involved!

**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://forms.gle/6yzeTrDtFZPo27vR7>

**REGISTRATION CLOSES:** Friday, April 21, 2023 Please allow up to 48 hours to receive your Zoom link. Also, please do not share the link with others to ensure a safe gathering space. Thanks!

**04-24-2023, 6 - 7:30 PM | Ni Komang Darmini from Indonesia.** Ni is pursuing a master's in Reading and Literacy Education in Early and Middle Childhood at Ohio State University.

**04-27-2023, 6 - 7:30 PM | Sarah Fry from South Africa and Alona Kladijeva from Ukraine.** Sarah is seeking a master's in Education Policy and Analysis (Global, International, and Comparative Perspective) at Harvard University. Alona is seeking a master's in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at the University of Arizona.



## *Theta Nu Members Selected for TSO Committees (2023-2025)*

In preparation for a new biennium, TSO-nominated President, Bonnie Moore, has asked CindyS to serve as a Global Awareness committee member and SharonG as a Communications and Publicity Communications member. Also, SharonG will join MarshaE, Area I Coordinator, in presenting two breakout sessions (*Steal This: Chapter Project Ideas* and *Projects: Big and Small*) at the TSO Convention in McAllen in June, 2023.



## *Web Watchers*

- East Spring Flower Pretzel Bites. <https://bit.ly/3Twy07v>
- 30 Creative Billboard Ads from around the World. <https://drivepedia.com/trending/creative-billboards-fb/> (Scroll through. This is just for fun!)
- Drawing a Rose the Easy Way. <https://www.facebook.com/reel/557490333007631>



## Action Items: Summary for the Month

**As an active member of Theta Nu, this is what you can do to support our chapter in April.**

- Attend the joint chapter meeting on April 20 at Roma Italian Kitchen across from the Pot Pourri House.
- Save the date for the Theta Nu's Book Club meeting. Thursday, March 9, 4:00ish-6:00ish, La Hacienda in Whitehouse.
- 1 & Done Project for April. Donate gently-used and in-style jewelry suitable for a work environment to the Christian Women's Job Corp.
- Join and read Theta Nu's Facebook page at least once a week.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/453559393293006>
- Send birthday wishes to Beverly K and Geetha R

### Ramblin' Roses



### Out and About in East Texas Terrific Tyler Part 2 ~ Cindy Swinney



This month, we'll explore cultural and recreational activities around Tyler. I must say that as I gathered info for this column, I was pleasantly surprised. The hope is that you'll see something you've never done or be reminded of an activity you've forgotten about.

Let's start with cultural offerings. Our Theta Nu poll favorites included Tyler Civic Theatre, the Cowan Center, the Rose Garden and the East Texas Symphony Orchestra. TJC's Theatre Dept. offers four plays a year and Liberty Hall offers music, comedy, theater, etc. Tyler Civic Chorale offers three to four concerts a year. Museum offerings include the Cotton Belt Depot Museum, the Earth and Space Center and Planetarium at TJC, Gallery Main Street, Half Mile of History, the Aviation Museum at the airport, Tyler Museum of Art, Tyler Rose Museum and the Goodman Museum. Have you heard of Dory's Garden? It features unique art, plants and activities. Of course, we can't forget the Discovery Science Place for the young and the young at heart and the American Freedom Museum in nearby Bullard. Seasonally, Tyler offers the Azalea Trail, the Rose Festival and some historic home tours.

Recreational opportunities are also plentiful in Tyler. The Caldwell Zoo is certainly a wonderful place to spend an afternoon. Tyler provides several parks, golf courses and top-notch sporting events at TJC and UT Tyler. We can't forget Lake Tyler and Tyler State Park. My family enjoys a picnic and paddle boating at Tyler State Park. Our city offers several local breweries and Kiepersol Winery is just down the road featuring wine tastings, food and tours of the vineyard. There are the usual suspects of movie theaters, bowling and putt-putt golf, but what about Pumpjaxe Urban Axe Throwing? Go there to experience the thrill of indoor axe throwing! You might also consider Urban Air Adventure Park for some indoor playground fun and climbing walls as well as an escape room.

Wow! That's an impressive list of activities for a town the size of Tyler! Hope this inspires you to plan some spring and summer outings without ever leaving town!

## *Some Things About Linda Tatum*



- I'm still married to my college sweetheart.
- We've lived on the same street (2 houses) in Whitehouse for 32 years.
- Raised peacocks for 15 years. Ran 2 incubators with hygrometers and 2 brooder boxes with heat lamps in our sunroom.
- Worked as a model for Herman Marcus and Thermajack while in Baylor, doing shows at the World Trade Center in Dallas on the weekends. (One perk of being a giraffe!) Taught in a modeling school after that. One of my students won a national modeling competition and landed both of us a trip to Hollywood.
- Tom and I went with a Texas Baptist Men disaster relief team to Honduras following a hurricane there. (I went as a lowly cook.) We came back forever changed, with a deep appreciation for living in America.
- I had breast cancer years ago, just as I was starting my 2<sup>nd</sup> Master's degree. I missed my first class due to the surgery but showed up at SFA for the second one...with 2 drain tubes hidden under my shirt. I had great support, including a professor who had a sister going through the same thing at the same time.
- We have an 8-year-old white Maltipoo who is trained to be a hearing alert service dog for Tom. And a 3-month-old champagne colored Maltipoo, trained to pee on a pad, sort of.
- For 10 years I was the Sunday School director at our church, First Baptist in Whitehouse. Now I am still active and sing in the choir.
- I was a speech therapist for Whitehouse for 25 years. Loved every year of it.
- I'm now working 4-5 afternoons a week for Enhabit Health. Do speech assessments on head injuries, stroke victims, etc. and set up a plan of care for their communication rehab.
- I am a serious cook. Because I'm home in the morning, I cook a full breakfast every day except Sunday. I LOVE kitchen gadgets and probably have every one known to man.
- I played the flute in high school and in the Baylor band, and now play the mandolin and banjo, sort of.
- Tom and I own a cemetery on the north loop in Tyler.

### **Never Have I Ever.**

- Tasted beer. (Just can't get past the smell.)
- Had a DWI. Not likely that I ever will since I only drink a glass of wine on occasion.
- Been to Europe

### **Don't Want to:**

- Go on any more cruises.
- Retire
- Move again.

### **Minor Regrets:**

- I did not put in a gas stove when we built our house. Real cooks have gas stoves.
- I didn't learn to say "no" earlier in life. I let too many good things take up my time instead of prioritizing the best things
- I didn't become goal oriented earlier in life. 'I wish I'd spent more time with my grandmother She was a strong, amazing enterprising woman,
- I didn't stick with piano. What was I thinking!

## All Sizes Fit ~ by Sharon Gullett

My husband and I are going through the joys and agonies of having a new house built. Designing and building a forever house has always been on my bucket list so my husband of almost 58 years, said, “You do it, and I’m fine with all your decisions.” Yikes! What a gift and what a responsibility. You can imagine all the infinite decisions that have to be made knowing that the little details are so critical, especially if you



obsess over every nail and screw!



Just today I was thinking about shoe storage in our new PB (primary bedroom) closet. You know a woman can never have too many shoes or purses nor enough space for them! Somehow, this graphic had found its way into a Pinterest search for shoe storage. Obviously, it has nothing to do with my closet, but it occurred to me that it’s a metaphor for DKG membership.

**Equality:** If you are a professional educator, young or “mature,” a newbie or very experienced, we want you to be a member. Everyone deserves an opportunity.

**Diversity:** What makes each of us unique also brings new ideas, knowledge, and experiences to chapters,

and we can learn from each other.

**Equity:** We are working hard to update our organization to fit the individual needs of today’s women educators.

**Acceptance:** Every woman needs another woman in her corner to build her confidence. There are almost 6,000 DKG women in Texas who have your back.

**Belonging:** Belonging takes many shapes, but the sense of community, based upon accepting and supporting relationships, keeps DKG relevant to its members.

Graphic Source: <https://bit.ly/3m4sAET>



## Whether You Are Working or Retired Legislation Affects You



Legislation can change the curriculum taught, the library books students have access to, the funding for private and home schools, teacher preparation programs, and cost of living increases for current TRS retirees. Want to be better informed?

The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), the Texas State Teacher Association (TSTA), Texas Classroom

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Teachers Association (TCTA), and the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) have frequently updated webpages during legislative sessions.

ATPE. <https://teachthevote.atpe.org/Our-Blog/Latest-Posts>

TSTA. [https://www.tsta.org/issues\\_and\\_action/top-education-issues/](https://www.tsta.org/issues_and_action/top-education-issues/)

TCTA. <https://www.tcta.org/capitol-updates>

TRTA. <https://trta.org/inside-line-blog/> Director Tim Lee's Legislative streams live on YouTube every Thursday at 4:00pm and links can be found on Facebook or YouTube by searching Texas Retired Teachers Association. He concentrates on retirement information coming from the legislature

Why does this matter to DKG members right now? Many DKG members are no longer active educators and are not directly impacted by new education laws, but this legislative session is critical for the future of cost of living (COLA) increases. According to Tim Lee, both the House and the Senate are enthusiastic about supporting this issue, but have different bills. Until the legislative session is ended or until the COLA issue is settled, Theta Nu will be texting links to Tim's weekly legislative updates.

TCTA published a summary of both bills (SB10 and HB600) on March 22

<https://www.tcta.org/capitol-updates/house-and-senate-committees-hear-retiree-benefits-bills-senate-version-advances> Of course, this information will continue to be updated until both houses agree.

Consider contacting your Representative or Senator and voicing your opinion on COLA and other topics listed in the first paragraph. If you want more information, contact SharonG, your TSO Legislative Committee member. She will help find the information you need.

For the Tyler area, Matt Schaefer, Representative District 6, [info@mattfortexas.org](mailto:info@mattfortexas.org), (903) 533-0992 and Bryan Hughes, Senator District 1, [info@bryanhughes.com](mailto:info@bryanhughes.com), (903) 569-8880

Photo Source: Texas State Capitol. <https://bit.ly/40SK4mF>



	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>
	24 – Beverly Kelly	12 – Linda Tatum
	28 – Geetha Ramarathnam	