



Theta Nu News

Texas State Organization
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

Theta Nu Chapter #205 Texas Area 1, Smith County, Texas December, 2023. Volume 36 Issue 4
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TSO Goal 2023-25: Reach to renew, respond, and relate. Jackie Joyner-Kersey said, "It's better to look ahead and prepare rather than look back and regret." Are your programs so interesting that no one will want to miss them? How can your chapter be more visible in the community? Do you often invite non-members to attend your meetings? What can your chapter do in a non-traditional way to promote and retain membership? Let's SOAR to new heights! The future is NOW.

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Bev's Buzz



Hello Everyone!

When I talked with Sharon the other day, she had a wonderful take on the holidays in general.

"I think the months of November and December are misnamed! In my opinion, they should be named Family and Friends Part 1 and Family and Friends Part 2!" I thought to myself, yes! I am in total agreement to that and why have I not ever read that before somewhere like on Pinterest or Facebook!. I think we would probably all agree with that statement. I absolutely loved the months of November and December during school, but they were so jam packed with special activities, even though I loved it I was sometimes a little overwhelmed. I guess that is also how the holidays are for most of us during these two months; go, go, go, special activities, friends gatherings, family gatherings, church gatherings and



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more and more. It is nice that all of those gatherings are stretched out over Part 1 and Part 2 so that we can all recover from our overload!

So, plan to join us for Family and Friends Part 2 at 4:30 on the 7th in the month previously known as December! We'll have a wonderful time and perhaps we won't be so wild and crazy as the grandkids were for Family and Friends Part 1! We'll laugh and enjoy each other's company without the loud voices and the wrestling on the floor part!

Hope to see you then! Bev



Busy November for Theta Nu

- Published the November Chapter Newsletter.
- Sent required copies of the newsletter to TSO personnel.
- Met as a Chapter with Zeta Gamma on 11/2/23 with a quorum.
- Continued the Sweet Sister Campaign
- Theta Nu Book Club met; *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee.
- Delivered monthly "Thinking of You" treat to Landon
- Donated used glasses to the Lions Club for the One and Done November project
- Posted at least weekly to the Theta Nu Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/453559393293006>
- Registered to volunteer for the Salvation Army Ring the Bells event on December 14
- Texted members when needed.
- Prepared November update to chapter website <https://thetanutx.weebly.com>



Change of Plans for December Meeting

Sometimes what seems like a good plan in August doesn't work out five months later. Our December meeting is still on Thursday, December 7 at 4:30pm. But we will be meeting at the La Hacienda restaurant in Whitehouse for an informal get together. As part of the program, please bring a wrapped package of notecards that we will exchange and plan to make a donation to the World Vision International. If our chapter donates at least \$110, we will provide a dairy goat and 2 chickens and thus help a family from another country break the cycle of poverty.



December One and Done

The One and Done projects for December are to make a monetary donation to World Vision International at our **December 7 meeting** and to ring the Salvation Army Bells on **December 14 at 2:00pm** at Brookshires in Whitehouse preceding the Theta Nu Book Club at 4:30..



November Meeting Minutes

Theta Nu Chapter Minutes
November 7, 2023

The monthly meeting of Theta Nu Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was held jointly with the Zeta Gamma Chapter on November 7, 2023. at 5:30 at St. Mary Magdaline Catholic Church. The purpose of the meeting was four-fold: to learn the basics of Bunco, to raise funds for chapter projects, to share gently used books, and to provide an opportunity for members of both chapters to become better acquainted.

Respectfully submitted, NancyB, Secretary

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Avenue M Report

DKG International recently asked Avenue M to survey its members, analyze membership demographics, and create a plan of action for recruiting, engaging, and retaining members. The full report can be found at <https://bit.ly/3Qlx3lq>. Implementation of the plan will begin in January and continue in stages through 2024.

A series of town hall meetings and focus sessions will help continue the conversation about the future of DKG and how best to implement the report's recommendations.

**AVENUE M REPORT
NOW AVAILABLE**

Collegial Exchange

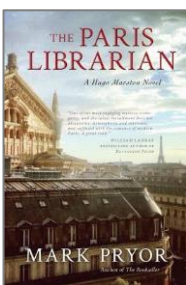
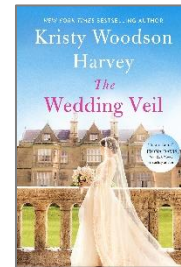
Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." So, exercise your brain by reading the latest issue of the Collegial Exchange that is available online at <https://publication.dkg.org/Magazine/90-2/index.html>. This issue includes "Educators' Health: The DKG Answer," "Sandbagging: A Metaphor for Understanding Trauma," "An Intelligent Approach to Artificial Intelligence," "Charlotte's Web: A Model of Servant Leadership," and the "Gift of Literacy," and more.

Theta Nu Book Club

The Theta Nu Book Club selection for December is *The Wedding Veil* by Kristy Woodson Harvey. "A novel that follows four women across generations, bound by a beautiful wedding veil and a connection to the famous Vanderbilt family."

Join us at La Hacienda on December 14 at 4:30 for a book and a bite to eat. You might be interested in watching these YouTube videos about Biltmore.

- Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate: 6 Years to Build, 43 Bathrooms. <https://bit.ly/3QUUgHc>
- Inside the Biltmore: America's Largest Mansion! <https://bit.ly/3RcXirM>
- Biltmore Upstairs Downstairs Tour. Biltmore Estate Behind the Scenes Tour Asheville North Carolina. <https://bit.ly/40TPD4W>
- Christmas at Biltmore 2023: "Behind the Magic:"Biltmore, Asheville, NC. <https://bit.ly/47K98iG>
- "Vanderbilt" by Anderson Cooper. <https://bit.ly/3SPmrtT>



January's book is *The Paris Librarian* by Mark Pryor. "Hugo Marston's friend Paul Rogers dies unexpectedly in a locked room at the American Library in Paris. The police conclude that Rogers died of natural causes, but Hugo is certain mischief is afoot.

As he pokes around the library, Hugo discovers that rumors are swirling around some recently donated letters from American actress Isabelle Severin. They may indicate that the actress had aided the Resistance in frequent trips to France toward the end of World War II. Even more dramatic is the legend that the Severin collection also contains a dagger, one she used to kill an SS officer in 1944. Hugo delves deeper into the stacks at the American library and finally realizes that the history of this case isn't what anyone suspected. But to prove he's right, Hugo must return to the scene of a decades-old crime."

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Sisters Across the Borders: Did You Know?

“Education is a challenging career, and retaining quality teachers is an issue worldwide. According to Richard Ingersoll, the rate in U.S. of beginning teachers leaving the profession in the first year is a little more than 10%; with 33% leaving by Year 3 and 46% by Year 5. In addition, around 15% of U.S. teachers overall leave the profession each year. (Is There Really a Teacher Shortage, Ingersoll, 2003, p. 14)” **Theta Nu gave a \$150 award to a beginning Whitehouse ISD teacher in August 2023.**

Contributed by CindyS, TSO Global Awareness Committee.



Life Tips for Members:

- Rescue Lost Instruction Manuals. over 2 million manuals. manualslib.com
- 20 Things Baby Boomers Still Do But Sounds Completely Stupid to Millennials <https://bit.ly/3Sy8noB> I know we have members who are not baby boomers so maybe this will help you understand your “elders!” Of course, this “scientific research” [wink!] was done by the website “Frenz Hub.”

Landline Phones	Catalog Shopping	Snail Mail	Typewriters
Paper Maps (Atlas)	Writing Checks	Printed Newspapers	Manual Shift Cars
AM/PM Radio	Yellow Pages	In-Person Banking	Rotary Phones
Cable TV	Physical Libraries	In-Person Conversations	Physical Photo Albums
VHS Tapes	Tangible Books	Fax Machines	Cash Transactions



January- 3 - Cathi P
21- Sue S

February - 27 - Megan S

DKG Links:

Theta Nu Website: <https://thetanutx.weebly.com>

Theta Nu Twitter (X): <https://twitter.com/thetanutexas>

Theta Nu Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/453559393293006>

TSO Website: <https://dkgtexas.org>

TSO Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tso.deltakappagamma>

DKG International: <https://dkg.org>

DKG International Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dkgorg/>

DKG International Twitter: https://twitter.com/dkg_si

DKG International Blog: <http://dkgsi.blogspot.com/>

DKG Podcast: <https://dkgsi.podbean.com/>

DKG International YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DKGAustin>



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Tis the Season

'Tis the season-the season for bell ringin'! Sorry, that doesn't rhyme very well! If you have always passed by the Salvation Army bell ringers and thought, "I could do that!" but never have, now is your chance!

Theta Nu is signed up to ring the bells at the Brookshire's in Whitehouse on Thursday, December 7 from 2 o'clock to 4 o'clock. Then, feel free to stay for book club by walking over to La Hacienda. However, even if you can only ring for 15 to 20 minutes, please join us!



By Cindy Loughmiller

Speaking of ringing bells, I googled other reasons for ringing bells. See if any of these ring true for you (pun intended!)

- Something "rings a bell,"—it reminds you of something, but you can't remember exactly what it is.
- Ringing a bell can mean achieving a success.
- It is an allusion to hitting the bull's eye and causing a bell to ring in target shooting.
- Ringing a bell can signify a great accomplishment for those fighting cancer.
- We can "hear the bells on Christmas Day "; we can hear them "jingle all the way "; or, hear them say "throw cares away. "

So, here's to ringing in a blessed Christmas season – and we can even ring in the new year! Thankful for this sisterhood of teachers and friends. Happy Holidays to you and yours!



Photo from Van Tx

Graphic Credits:

Holly. <https://bit.ly/49UJutu>

Christmas Trees. <https://bit.ly/49Rtfxa>

Fir Trees. <https://bit.ly/3Re9mcm>



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December Kindness 2023

MONDAY



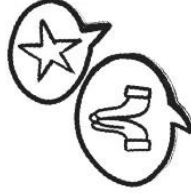
4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

TUESDAY



5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

WEDNESDAY



6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

THURSDAY



7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

FRIDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

SATURDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

SUNDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2024



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

Declutter 365 Missions: Declutter Your Home In 15 Minutes A Day

Find The Full Getting Started Guide & FAQs Here: <https://www.home-storage-solutions-101.com/declutter-365-faqs.html>

What To Declutter In December 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Quote of the month: The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. — Lao Tzu						
4 Week #49: <u>Holiday Decorations & Gift Wrap</u> and declutter Christmas decorations	5 Declutter Christmas ornaments, wreaths and garland	6 Declutter Christmas lights and outdoor decorations	7 Declutter or organize gift bags and boxes	8 Declutter and organize extension cords and power strips	9 Get clutter out of house by donating, selling or trashing	10 Declutter or organize gift wrapping supplies
11 Week #50: <u>Home Inventory</u> and begin creating home inventory (use checklist)	12 Take photos/ <u>video of home contents for inventory</u>	13 Cont. taking photos/video of home contents, plus declutter items inherited from others	14 <u>Fill out home inventory forms</u> , plus continue to declutter inherited items	15 Cont. to fill out home inventory forms, plus declutter items in boxes and storage containers	16 Declutter excess cardboard or other saved boxes and packaging	17 Copy/back up home inventory docs/files on and off site
18 Week #51: <u>Pets</u> and gather emergency supplies and first aid kit for pets	19 Declutter pet supplies and toys	20 Clear and organize space for pet supplies and toys	21 Declutter and organize stationery, cards to be sent	22 Declutter and/or store cards received (including Christmas cards)	23 Get clutter out of house by donating, selling or trashing	24 Declutter suitcases/bags
25 (Christmas) Week #52: <u>Family Calendar</u> and declutter your Christmas mess...like ripped up wrapping paper	26 Put away or set up Christmas presents	27 Clear space for and set up family calendar	28 Declutter unused musical instruments	29 Create Christmas decoration storage inventory	30 Get clutter out of house by donating, selling or trashing	31 Write New Year's Goals, including why you want to declutter, plus turn hangers in closet backward