

Alpha Tau Chapter 43 Area 9

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Kaufman County, Texas

Texas State Organization

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



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from our President

Thinking About Christmas Traditions

I was curious about what defines the word tradition. Tradition – transmission of custom or belief from generation to generation. How exciting to think some of our traditions will continue for generations!

We have several Christmas traditions that we look forward to every year. About 10 years ago, we asked my son to bring his camera and tripod to take a family Christmas picture. We all wore Christmas shirts or sweaters. We took pictures of each individual family, a picture of us with the grandchildren, just the grandchildren, and one of everyone together (one serious and one funny). We now do this every year. With our grandson being absent with the Marines, we hold a picture of him so he is still in the pictures. Last year, the hot water heater broke as we were getting ready for picture causing such a commotion. We did get back to our pictures, later wishing we would have gone outside and took our picture around the hot water heater! What a memory!! I print the pictures and give them to each family. It is so fun to look back and see how we have changed through the years.

A humorous tradition involves our grandchildren. The one who finds the pickle tree ornament gets to open the first present. What's comical is that the pickle has teeth marks from our grandson biting into it when he was around two.

I didn't think we had many traditions, but realized we have more than I thought. I just didn't view them as traditions!

I enjoyed hearing about the following traditions from some of our members:

Joan Moore – We have 10 young adults who love to play games after lunch. Each year my sisters and I come up with games with prizes for them to enjoy. The laughter makes all the effort worth it. They are all so competitive. Their love for each other makes Christmas so special for us.

Vivian Themer – I love Christmas, and I love traditions! We have several, but one that has been carried on from my grandparents to my family and continues now is....On Christmas Eve, it is a challenge to be the first to wish everyone in your family "Christmas Eve Gift!" There isn't a prize! The joy is being the first to wish those you love the gift of love as our Christmas season begins! My sons call me or should I say text now (which we call it cheating!), my sister calls me, my niece calls me, and many other family members! It is a wonderful tradition! I get to talk to many of my family and share a short message, and of course the best is to wish them a blessed Christmas and remind them the reason for this beautiful season is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! And, the best of course, is to be the first to say, "CHRISTMAS EVE GIFT!"

Laura Buie – The Chocolate Tree. When our grandchildren were very small, we decided to surprise them one Christmas by decorating a small cedar tree in the middle of our woods with chocolate ornaments. They reached the special tree by following the winding path that we had decorated with bright Christmas ribbons. It was fun watching them collect the beautiful ribbons along the way not knowing there was another surprise waiting. It was a joy seeing the delight on their little faces when they reached the tree and discovered the branches of the tree decorated with brightly wrapped chocolates! The grandchildren are all young teens now, but they still get excited on Christmas looking for the bright ribbons marking the path to a taller Chocolate Tree in the woods!

Enjoy making and keeping your family Christmas traditions to pass from generation to generation.

May the Lord bless your family this Christmas as we remember the greatest gift of all, the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ!

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Calendar

December 3, 2022
Christmas
Gathering 10 am,
The Local Café,
Forney HS

January 7, 2023
Executive Board
Meeting

January 10, 2023

February 7, 2023

March 2023 Outing

April 11, 2023

May 9, 2023

Meetings
2nd Tuesdays
Sign-in & visit 5:00
Meeting begins 5:30
Kaufman County Library
Community Room
3790 S. Houston Street
Kaufman, TX 75142

Mission Statement: 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

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Christmas Brunch

Saturday December 3, 2022

10 a.m.

The Local Café

Forney High School

1800 College Avenue (FM 741) Forney

Tell Karrie NOW if you plan to attend.

Cost: \$16; pay Jerri Coates.

Directions to Forney HS: I-20 to FM 741 exit north, proceed on 741, FHS is on the left just past Lakepointe Church.

Or: Hwy. 80 W, exit left on Gateway, right on 1641, left on Monitor Blvd., right on 741 (College), left at FHS.

December Birthdays

13 Judy Barton

27 Joan Moore

31 Peggy Johnson

January Birthdays

4 Aydee Reyna

17 Linda Quattlebaum

24 Judy Jedlicka



Please Remember



in Your Prayers

Please keep John Cockle in your prayers as he recovers from heart crises. He is the Bell Man who has a shop at DKG conventions.

Please keep Cindy Drum and husband, Morris in your prayers as he recovers from a fall. She is from Area 10 and is an ASTEF Director.

Please keep Vivian Yancey in your prayers as she navigates the road to better health.

Please remember all our sisters in prayer. Those listed above have been mailed a card from Alpha Tau chapter.



January Meeting

January 10, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Kaufman County Library

Hostesses: Green Team: *Karrie Pharris, Bettye Penny, Jo Lynn Maddin, Nancy Shaw, Virginia Fineout, Cathy Stewart (Aydee Reyna, Mollie Kasper)

Fit for the Future with Flisha Stewart

All About Us

Vivian Yancey and Peggy Johnson made a trip to Texas Tech to visit Peggy's grandson.

Ann & Ken McDonald visited granddaughter, Mattie, in Weatherford, OK, to watch her piano recital.

Laura Buie is so excited to share that the recent rains have helped my new Bluebonnet patch that I planted back in September. There are hundreds of little Bluebonnet seedlings coming up! I just know that Lady Bird Johnson would be so proud... Keeping Texas Beautiful!





Alpha Tau welcomes Peggy Johnson

at her induction at the November meeting. Peggy taught many years in Terrell ISD.

Shown are: Aydee Reyna, Sondra Perry, Vivian Yancey, Peggy Johnson & Cathy Stewart.



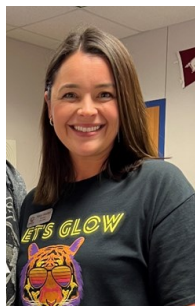
Teacher Grant Honorees



Teacher Grant honorees at the November meeting include:

Katie Hartzell, Math Scurry-Rosser HS, **Briana McCarty**, Science Scurry-Rosser HS, **Digna Connell**, Kindergarten, Criswell Elem. Forney, **Monica San-Martin Duran**, Kindergarten Dual Language, Criswell Elem. Forney, **Kylene Forbing**, Criminal Justice, Crandall HS, **Lindsey Baumgartner**, 2nd Grade, Phillips Elem. Kaufman, **Darcie Steiner**, Speech, Elem. Kaufman.

Families are welcome to celebrate with us. Left to right below top row: Briana & James McCarty with son, Wyatt, Darcie Steiner with her Mom, Cindy Darraugh, and Katie & Will Hartzel, bottom row from the October meeting, Imunique and Jackie Harris, Angie Miller Cutchall, Courtney Bain & husband.



November Meeting

November 8, 2022, Alpha Tau Sisters met at the Spellman Museum in Forney. This was a very happy, busy time, enjoying food, fun and fellowship. After inducting Peggy Johnson into DKG and recognizing Teacher Grant honorees, members were given a tour of The Door-Life & Pregnancy Resource Center, one of our focus projects for this year. JoLynn Maddin won the door prize. Thanks to all who helped make this a special time.



THE DOOR

Life & Pregnancy Resource Center

We enjoyed a tour of The Door Life and Pregnancy Resource Center in Forney at our November meeting. Vonnie Salguero, Interim Director/Client Services Director, and Shelley Hunt, Chairman of the Board, provided information about the center.



We had the opportunity to visit the house that was beautifully remodeled by supportive volunteers. The lobby was furnished with comfortable furniture. The training room was set up with technology for training clients and volunteers. There was a counseling room to provide the privacy needed. They are in prayer for the provision of a sonogram for the center.

The community is excited to have The Door available for young parents in their need for spiritual, emotional and medical guidance to provide the best for their baby.

Pray The most important way you can join with us. We cherish your prayers for us and those we serve.

Volunteer We have many volunteer opportunities.. There is a place for you at The Door-Life and Pregnancy Resource Center.

Donate Support us financially by becoming a monthly partner, Give for specific needs or give As you are blessed.



Venmo: https://account.venmo.com/u/The_Door-LPRC

Square: <https://thekeyholders.square.site/>

Mail checks to: P.O. Box 3241, Forney, TX 75126

Phone: 469-632-1032

Alpha Tau Meeting Minutes 11/8/2022

The regular meeting of the Alpha Tau Chapter was called to order by President Cathy Stewart at 5:00 pm at the Spellman Museum in Forney. Jane West led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge. A total of 23 members (including our new member) [85.7%] and 13 guests were present.

President Cathy Stewart thanked the hostess committee: Jane West, Judy Jedlicka, Vivan Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton, Alberta Smith, Janice Dowlearn, and Marnie Cushing.

Marnie Cushing shared the inspiration. She discussed the recent tragedies in Crandall, mentioning her grief for the families & friends of the victims, and even for the person who struck the young man. "All are suffering. It is difficult to understand why these things happen, except that we live in a broken and sorrowful world, EXCEPT that we put our faith in God. Thanksgiving is coming, and we will gather with our families. Use this as a reminder to love on your people, and not take a single moment for granted."

Door prize recipient: JoLynn Maddin

Teacher Grant recipients were presented.

Marnie Cushing introduced Kylene Forbing, a Criminal Justice teacher at Crandall High School.

Aydee Reyna introduced Digna Connell and Monica San-Martin Duran, both 1st grade teachers at Criswell Elementary in Forney.

Mollie Kasper introduced Darci Steiner, a speech teacher and Lindsey Baumgartner, and 2nd grade teacher, both at Phillips Elementary in Kaufman.

Bettye Penny introduced Scurry-Rosser High School teachers Katie Hartzel (Math) and Brianna McCarty (Science).

Aydee Reyna led the **new member induction** of Peggy Johnson. Sondra Perry, Vivian Yancey, and Cathy Stewart participated in the induction.

Karrie Pharris shared the Christmas brunch information. The brunch will be held at 10:00 on 12/3/2022 at *The Local*, a restaurant run by the culinary arts program of Forney High School. The cost is \$16 per person. RSVP by 11/18/2022.

Karrie Pharris introduced program The Door Pregnancy Center. Members drove to The Door (13340 FM 740, Forney) where Vonnie Salguero, director of the Center, and Shelly Hunt explained the Center's mission and gave members a tour of the facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Mollie Kasper (Acting secretary in absence of Rachel Calvery)

N.B. The business meeting section was suspended until January.

Alpha Tau Programs 2022-2023

Date	Program	Hostess Committee
✓ 9/10/2022	Area Workshop Wylie, TX	
✓ 10/11/2022	New Teacher Grants, Bettye Penny <i>Location - Crandall Community Room</i>	<u>Red Team:</u> *Ann McDonald, Vivian Yancey, Sondra Perry, Joan Moore, Laura Buie, Jerri Coates, Suzy McCook (Rachel Calvery)
✓ 11/8/2022	“The Door” Pregnancy Center, Vonnie Salguero <i>Location - Spellman Museum, Forney</i>	<u>Gold Team:</u> *Jane West, Judy Jedlicka, Vivian Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton, Alberta Smith, Janice Dowlearn (Marnie Cushing)
December 3, 2022	Christmas Brunch	The Local Café, Forney HS, Forney 10 a.m.
1/10/2023	Fit for the Future - Flisha Stewart	<u>Green Team:</u> *Karrie Pharris, Bettye Penny, Jo Lynn Maddin, Nancy Shaw, Virginia Fineout, Cathy Stewart (Aydee Reyna, Mollie Kasper)
*February 7, 2023	Member Craft/Presentation	<u>Red Team</u>
March	Outing - TBD	
4/11/2023	90th Birthday Bash Alpha Tau is 90 years Old!! <i>Officers</i>	<u>GoldTeam</u>
5/9/2023	Summer Somethings Travel Agent, Traveling Tips	<u>Green Team</u>



Recipes

Pumpkin Pie

Ann McDonald

My family loves pumpkin pie. Their favorite is the recipe on the back of the Libby's pumpkin can. Follow the recipe exactly for best results and of course, top with fresh whipped cream.

Here is the recipe on the Libby's can of pumpkin.

- 1 unbaked 9 in. pie crust (4 cup volume)
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 3/4 c. (16 oz. can) Libby's Solid Pack Pumpkin
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp. ground cloves
- 1 1/2 cups (12 fl. oz. can) undiluted Carnation Evaporated Milk

In large bowl, combine eggs, pumpkin, sugar, salt, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, and evaporated milk; pour into unbaked pie crust.*

Bake in preheated 425⁰ F. oven for 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350⁰ F. Bake for an additional 40-50 minutes, or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Top cooled pie as desired.

*Note: When using metal or foil pie pans, bake pie on preheated heavy cookie sheet for a more evenly baked crust. (Thinner cookie sheet may buckle.)

Blueberry Muffins

Karrie Pharris

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 stick butter, melted | 2 eggs |
| 1/2 c. vegetable oil | 2 c. sugar |
| 1 Tbsp. baking powder | 4 c. flour |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 ts. Butter flavoring | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 14 oz. can blueberries
(I use frozen wild blueberries) | 1 c. buttermilk |

Preheat oven to 400⁰. Drain blueberries, reserve juice. Mix oil & butter in a large bowl. Add eggs and beat well. Stir in dry ingredients. Add juice, buttermilk, vanilla and butter flavoring. Carefully fold in blueberries. Fill greased or sprayed muffin tins 2/3 full. Bake 18-20 min.

Cranberry Walnut Shortbread

Laura Buie

- 1 c. unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 c. powdered sugar
- 2 1/4 c. flour, sifted
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. orange zest
- 3/4 c. dried cranberries, chopped
- 3/4 c. walnuts, chopped

In a bowl, beat together butter and sugar until fluffy. On low speed, mix in flour, salt and orange zest until just combined. The dough will be thick. Stir in chopped pecans and cranberries.

Place on parchment paper and take 1/2 dough; form it into a log about 1 to 1 1/2 inches diameter. Repeat with the other half of the dough.

Wrap and place in refrigerator for at least 4 hours. Can freeze up to 2 months. Thaw in fridge overnight.

Preheat oven to 325⁰; line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Slice dough 1/4 to 1/3 inch thick. Place on sheet 2 inches apart. Bake 14-17 minutes, until lightly brown around the edges.

Cucumber Sandwiches

Suzy McCook

- 2 English cucumbers, thinly sliced
 - 16 oz. Onion and chive cream cheese
 - 8 oz. Sour cream
 - Dill weed
 - 1 loaf wheat sandwich bread
 - 1 loaf white sandwich bread
- Cut crusts off bread. Mix cream cheese & sour cream until smooth. Slice cucumbers.
- Spread cheese mixture on both slices of bread. Add 4 slices of cucumber, one in each corner of the bread. Sprinkle dill weed onto cucumber slices. Cover with other slice of bread and cut in half or quarters.
- Chill covered until ready to serve.

Makes about 12 whole sandwiches per loaf. Recipe can be cut in half according to needs.

A favorite for a crowd.





Recipes



Microwave Fruit Salad

Joan Moore

Pour each section into crockpot.

3 medium apples - cored and sliced

1/2 or more cups of sugar

Cook in the microwave covered for 3-4 minutes

1 can pineapple chunks - drained

1 can whole berry cranberry sauce

1 can sliced peaches plus juice

1 tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. allspice

8 whole cloves

Cook uncovered in microwave 3-4 minutes

1-2 sliced bananas Cook 2-3 minutes uncovered in microwave.

Add chopped nuts - optional

Keep warm in crock pot.

Top individual servings with whipped cream or whipped topping.

Heavenly Hash

Jane West

Have everything cold. The amounts are approximate.

Pint of whipping cream - whipped

Powdered sugar - add to whipped cream to taste
(I use two heaping tablespoons)

Grapes - cut in half (about 3 cups)

Can of chunky pineapple

Can of mandarin oranges (cut in half)

2/3 bag of mini marshmallows

Sprinkle top with chopped maraschino cherries
(I almost cover the top or mixed in.)

Pimento Cheese

Betty Penny

It's not a written recipe.

Just has cheddar cheese, pimentos, mayo, finely chopped green peppers and a little grated onion. I don't use a lot of onion. Just have to taste it to see if you need to add any more.

My sister, Ann, said it's a combination of our mother's and James' when he worked at Bass Drug in Terrell years ago.

Christmas Sausage Bread

Vivian Themer

2 cans of crescent rolls

1 ½ pounds of sausage

2 eggs beaten

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese (*I use the Italian cheese blend*)

2 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese (*I use a little more.*)

2 tsp. parsley flakes (*I use a little more than this.*)

2 tsp. basil (*I use a little more than this.*)

2 tsp. minced garlic or garlic powder (*I use a little more than this.*)

Lightly flour and roll crescent dough into a 15 X 15-inch square. Fry sausage crumbling as you fry. Drain well!! Add beaten eggs to sausage. Spread over dough leaving some edging on dough for rolling and tucking at ends. Sprinkle remaining ingredients over sausage. Roll into a jelly roll tucking in ends. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes or until bread is golden brown.

Recipe Note: I have been baking this bread for about 40 years now. When I say I use a little more, it is because I truly don't measure any longer. I just judge it. I usually start at the corner of the sausage and just sprinkle over it until I get to the end corner. You don't want to overdo because the seasoning will overpower the bread. I bake this Christmas morning—a tradition and family favorite!! Enjoy!!

Green Bean Bundles

Sondra Perry

3 cans whole green beans

1 lb. bacon cut in half (not thick sliced)

About 9-12 beans to a bundle; makes about 20 bundles

Marinade:

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup butter

1/2 tsp. garlic salt

1 tsp. soy sauce

Put bundles wrapped in 1/2 slice of bacon into a 9x13 pan. In a saucepan, heat and whisk marinade ingredients until combined. (Make sure butter gets mixed in well.) Pour sauce evenly over bundles. These are best if marinated overnight in refrigerator, but you do not have to marinate overnight if you do not have time. Bake uncovered at 350° F. for 30-45 min. or until bacon is browned.