



Alpha Tau Tales



Alpha Tau Chapter 43 Area 9
Organized April 15, 1933
Kaufman County, Texas
Texas State Organization

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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Calendar

September 12, 2023
October 10, 2023
November 14, 2023
December 2023
Christmas Brunch
January 9, 2024
January 27, 2024
Executive Board Meeting
February 13, 2024
March 2024
"OC" Forney ISD
April 9, 2024
May 14, 2024

Meetings

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



Alpha Tau – Ring out the Old, Ring in the New

2023 was a memorable year for Alpha Tau, having reached our chapter's 90th birthday in March! We started off the year with exercising with Flisha at our January meeting... Fit for the Future! Our own, Laura Buie, shared her crafting of bobbin lace. Before dismissing for the summer, the May program consisted of activities for "Summer Somethings."

We gathered back in September with Flamingle activities. Our November meeting was awesome with a large number of teacher grant award recipients attending. The Christmas brunch drew a large gathering in December at the Chisholm Country Store.

Now for 2024!! The new year will begin with our Bee-Happy presentation from the founder and director, Shelley Brookins. Bee-Happy is a day program for adults with special needs. February is Keno night. If you can play Bingo, you can play Keno. More information to come about Keno night. Our Area 9 Coordinator, Janie Wigley, will attend in February. March brings our Alpha Tau outing to Opportunity Central, a part of Forney ISD. This is a college and career center, multi-purpose complex, student-run business hub, with fine arts spaces. We will enjoy a tour, shopping, and lunch at this innovative center. In April we will have our birthday celebration and book study. May will bring the introduction and induction of the new Alpha Tau officers.

The Regional Area Workshop will be held in June at the Dr. Gene D. Burton College and Career Academy on John King Blvd. in Rockwall. I have been a part of the monthly Zoom planning meetings, and it is interesting to experience the mechanics of this meeting from the food to the breakout sessions to the activities for the day. Alpha Tau is in charge of the photo op. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, June 22, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This workshop will be in lieu of the State Convention this year. We will break for the summer and 2024 will continue in September with a new list of programs to be enjoyed by all.

Please make Alpha Tau a part of your New Year!!

Love and blessings,

Cathy Stewart

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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January Meeting

Tuesday

January 9, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Kaufman County Library

Hostesses: **Gold Team** – Vivian

Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton, Jane West, Judy Jedlicka, Patty Cave, Janice Dowlearn, Suzy McCook, Alberta Smith (Mollie Kasper)



4 Aydee Reyna

17 Linda Quattlebaum

24 Judy Jedlicka

BEE-Happy Day Program

REALITY

170,000 unduplicated individuals are on waitlists for enrollment into IDD programs in the State of Texas.

Texas with IDD spend over 15 years on a wait list for government funding to allow them to go to a day habilitation center.

These individuals are living on a fixed disability income so attending day habilitation without government assistance is next to impossible.

FACTS

Texas is home to more than 500,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Texas has ranked 49 or 50th across the nation in funding for IDD since at least 2007.

26% (one in 4) of adults in the United States have some type of disability.

www.beehappydayhab.org

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember all our sisters in prayer, giving the hope of a healthy and happy life for themselves and their families in 2024.

Remember Sondra Perry in your prayers as she recovers from COVID and strep throat.

Pray for our teachers and students and for a safe productive and smooth school year.

Happiness is something to do, someone to love & something to look forward to.

Christmas Brunch

On Saturday, December 9, 2023, Alpha Tau sisters met at the Chisholm County Store for a Christmas Brunch.



Shown are left to right: Jana Garner, Vivian Themer, Laura Buie, Cathy Stewart, Nancy Shaw, Bettye Penny, Karrie Pharris, JoLynn Maddin, Suzy McCook, Jerri Coates, Judy Jedlicka & Patty Cave.



Alpha Tau Teacher Grant Recipients 2023



Crandall ISD

Stephanie Reyes
Amber Ragsdale



Forney ISD

Kate Massengill
Krystal Ramm



Kaufman ISD

Brandi Krenek
Channing McConnell



Scurry Rosser ISD

Jennifer Henderson



Terrell ISD

Rachael Newland
Heather White

At our November 14 meeting, we honored our Teacher Grant Recipients and their families. The recipients who were unable to attend that meeting were given their awards personally at each school by Bettye Penny.



Stephanie Reyes
Noble Reed Elementary
Crandall ISD



Karen Massengill
Johnson Elementary
Forney ISD



Krystal Ramm
Johnson Elementary
Forney ISD

All About You

Rachel Calvery's daughter, Bellami, had an emergency appendectomy December 13th. Thanks for prayers. She is home and doing well.

Very proud parents, **Laura & John Buie**, attended a ceremony at the Mesquite Fire Department where their son, Ron, was honored in his new role as a Captain. "It was a very emotional evening watching our daughter-in-law pin Ron with his Captain's badge."

Cathy Stewart has been Zooming with the Northeast Regional Area Workshop Committee.





Alpha Tau Meeting Agenda

January 9, 2024

Kaufman County Library 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Soaring to New Heights to Enhance Education in Kaufman County



5:00 Doors Open—Socialize--Light Meal
 5:30 Meeting Called to Order: Vice President Karrie Pharris
 Welcome Guests
 Thank You to Hostess Committee:
 Gold Team: Vivian Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton,
 Alberta Smith, Janice Dowlearn, Jane West, Judy
 Jedlicka, Suzy McCook, Patty Cave, (Mollie Kasper)
 Pledges:
 Inspiration:
 Introduce returning member, Patty Cave

Program: BEE-Happy Day Program, Presented by Shelley
 Brookins, Founder and Director

Board Reports:

Vice President: Karrie Pharris
 February Meeting - Keno Nigh
 March - Outing, Opportunity Central
 Other items

Second Vice President: Aydee Reyna
 Present Membership Awards

Corresponding Secretary: Suzy McCook
 Secretary: Laura Buie
 Treasurer: Jerri Coates
 Budget
 Money on hand _____

Old Business: Will continue meetings on Zoom and in person

New Business: Karrie Pharris
 Fundraiser - quilt raffle
 Regional Area Workshop - June 22, Rockwall

Raffle

Adjourn 6:30

Membership Goal - percentage of members in Attendance will increase, members will be celebrated, and members encouraged to attend Alpha Tau activities.

Projects - The Door, Pregnancy Center; Care bags for homebound members .

Alpha Tau Minutes for November 14, 2023

Attendees: Laura Buie, Jerri Coates, Virginia Fineout, Judy Jedlicka, Peggy Johnson, Molly Kasper, Suzy McCook, Ann McDonald, Joan Moore, Bettye Penny, Sondra Perry, Aydee Reyna, Nancy Shaw, Cathy Stewart, Patty Cave

The meeting of the Alpha Tau Chapter was called to order by President Cathy Stewart at 6:02 pm at the Kaufman County Library Community Room. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge were led by President Cathy Stewart.

President Cathy Stewart welcomed everyone in attendance, returning member, Patty Cave, and our Grant Recipients from the Kaufman County School Districts. This month's hostess committee, the Red and Green team, were thanked for the food, and Aydee Reyna for all the work setting up the Zoom and preparing care bags.

The inspiration was given by Nancy Shaw who shared how thankful she was for her Alpha Tau sisters.

Second Vice-President Aydee Reyna presented members with Membership Awards:

Jana Garner - 5 years
 Suzy McCook - 25 years
 Ann McDonald - 25 years
 Jane West - 35 years
 Virginia Fineout - 40 years
 Joan Moore - 45 years

Program: Bettye Penny introduced each of our Grand Recipients. President Cathy Stewart thanked Bettye for putting the Grant program together, and everyone who helped (Vivian Yancey, Marnie Cushing, Vivian Themer, Mollie Kasper).

Forney - Kate Masengill, Krystal Ramm
 Crandall - Stephanie Reyes, Amber Ragsdale
 Scurry/Rosser - Jennifer Henderson
 Terrell - Rachael Newland, Heather White
 Kaufman - Brandi Krenek, Channing McConnell

Board Reports:

First Vice President: President Cathy Stewart filled in for Karrie Pharris. The December meeting will be a Christmas Brunch at the Chisholm Country Store on December 9th at 10:00 am.

The January Program: Bee Happy: Adult Day Program in Kaufman for individuals with special needs.

Please read & study these minutes prior to the next meeting in order to accept with or without changes

Second Vice President: Aydee Reyna items to make bags for our five homebound members. The bags will be delivered.

Corresponding Secretary: Suzy

McCook reminded everyone to send news for the Tales. Treasurer: Jerri Coates sent her friend, Sammy Scarecrow, to help present the budget. Balance: \$3373.30 Suzy McCook moved to approve, and Judy Jedlicka seconded. Budget was approved by unanimous vote.

New Business: President Cathy Stewart asked the chapter to look over the handout listing the various committees for 2023-2024. If there are any changes that need to be made, let Cathy know.

Joan Moore expressed her thanks to everyone who helped with getting Proposition 9 passed!

There were no objections to the September minutes, so those will stand as written.

President Cathy Stewart read over new amendments. Cathy asked for any discussion. Suzy McCook moved to approve, and Joan Moore seconded.

President Cathy Stewart discussed the date of the next Northeast RAW (Regional Area Workshop) June 22, 8:00 am to 5 pm, to be held in Rockwall, Texas. She encouraged members to save the date.

Door Prize was drawn: Winner Bettye Penny

Meeting Adjourned at 6:27 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Acting Secretary Laura Buie

The Adventure of a Lifetime

Where to begin? Should we begin with the beginning of the trip or with the preplanning or just dive right into the journey?

Preplanning, you realize that you will be on a plane, bus or ship from September 29-October 22, so what to pack? Not as much as we did pack. And our bags were not weighed once we left the United States. Hmmm ... ponder that.

We flew to Honolulu, browsing downtown one day and took a tour of the Pearl Harbor Memorial the second day. Oh! What a wonderful, prayerful and sacred place. Our tour ended with us boarding the Celebrity Solstice cruise ship departing at midnight. That was October 1.

We sailed and sailed under beautiful skies of the South Pacific. There were several series of interesting lectures, mostly about the South Seas, French Polynesia, New Zealand and Australia, all our future ports of call. One lecture series was by author, Cathy Aces, who related so many familiar details about different types of mysteries, characters and authors.

Of course, there was an endless supply of food, a casino, swimming pools, exercise areas, spa, croquet & bocce ball, dance lessons, the cleverest contests, theater shows, movies and just about anything you could think of.

In French Polynesia, stops included Moorea, Raiatea and Papeete (on Tahiti). These are all part of groups of islands out there in the middle of the ocean that we have all read about. We had to cancel our excursions in these places, but that did not keep me from viewing from my veranda the islands and all the machinations on shore and ship. Truly fascinating all around. *(I had contracted COVID 19 October 5 from someone on board and the ship folks were wonderful! If you get sick, do it on a ship that has the best hospital and doctors anywhere. I felt really bad and, believe it or not, called the medical unit. They came to me and wheeled me to the hospital where they tested me and gave me Paxlovid and other things and took me back to my cabin. I felt fine the next day but was quarantined until the 10th to my room. Fear not, these folks called every day, along with customer relations, and room service made sure I had lots of food (meals) water and Sprite. Marvin had to eat in the cabin but could roam the ship wearing a mask. We were not charged anything and received a \$1200 credit for time lost in quarantine. Can you imagine?!)*



New Zealand was so beautiful and our favorite place. We toured Auckland and met with a friend who visits the U.S. every few years. Taking a ferry ride from one side of Auckland, we reached the shore to board our ship once more. That night we sailed to the Bay of

Islands, where, the next day, we took an excursion boat to see and sail through the Hole in the Rock along with other islands, listening to the history and what is happening today. This place is primordial. One island was supplied with opossums to take care of some infestation years ago. Well, they just finished eliminating all the opossums humanely to return the island to its original condition. New Zealanders are environmentally efficient and try to keep these special islands as they were from the beginning of time.

The next port was Sydney, Australia, where we toured the city and then the Blue Mountains and the



zoo for two days, leaving our ship to sail on to Japan. If you watch the new *NCIS: Sydney*, we've been all over there. Our hotel was downtown in the World Center area. We

could not make the third day of explorations of vineyards, just pooped out. Leaving our hotel at 4 a.m. on October 22nd, we made our way to the airport, where we flew to Melbourne and later that day, on to DFW, a 20+ hour flight. Whew! That was a doozy!

Somewhere along the miles and countries, we lost track of what day and time it was because we crossed the equator twice and the international dateline twice. We had no October 13th, but flying back on the 22nd, arriving on the 22nd, regained that day.

One take-away from this spectacular journey was the fantastic kindness and concern shown by all kinds of people. We met so many really nice folks from all over the world. This was truly the adventure of a lifetime renewing faith in mankind and very much aware of the goodness and blessings of the Lord.

Suzu McCook



Alpha Tau Hostess Teams 2023-2024

Date	Program	Hostess Teams
9/12/2023 ✓	Flamingle Kaufman County Library Community Room	Gold Team *Vivian Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton, Alberta Smith, Janice Dowlearn, Jane West, Judy Jedlicka, Suzy McCook (Mollie Kasper)
10/10/2023 Canceled	Craft 1st Baptist Church Terrell ROC	Red Team *Joan Moore, Ann McDonald, Vivian Yancey, Sondra Perry, Laura Buie, Jerri Coates, Peggy Johnson (Rachel Calvery)
11/14/2023 ✓	Friendsgiving Event Teacher Awards KCLCR	Green Team & Red Team above *Marnie Cushing, Karrie Pharris, Bettye Penny, Jo Lynn Maddin, Nancy Shaw, Virginia Fineout, Cathy Stewart (Aydee Reyna)
12/9/2023 ✓	Christmas Brunch	Chisholm Country Store 10 a.m.
1/9/2024	BEE-Happy KCLCR	Gold Team
2/13/2024	Keno KCLCR	Green Team
March, 2024	March Outing	Opportunity Central "OC" Forney ISD www.theoc.net
4/9/2024	Birthday Celebration Book Study—KCLCR	Red Team
5/14/2024	Officer Installation Fun & Games-KCLCR	Mixed Team



Northeast Regional Area Workshop
Saturday, June 22, 2024
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Dr. Gene Burton College and Career Academy
2301 John King Blvd.
Rockwall, Texas
Cost: \$50 if paid before May 15, 2024
On site registration: \$65.00