

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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*from our President*



## “Thank You for Being a Friend”

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This devotion captures our friendships through Alpha Tau:

*“God designed us for friendship and loves it when we connect and encourage each other. You’ve probably noticed how you feel better after hanging out with good friends, but did you know that scientists have discovered that our brains release neurotransmitter chemicals called oxytocin and dopamine when we enjoy time with friends, face to face? These chemicals help us feel calmer and happier. There are so many benefits to developing close friendships. Not only is it good for us emotionally, it’s also practical. Friends can help us with both big and little struggles, and you can help your friends, too! Together, we can better get through this thing called life.”* From Grace Chapel, Englewood, CO.

### Calendar

May 9, 2023  
Travel Tips

### Meetings

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

Isn’t it wonderful that we can gather with a group of educators each month? Our friendships continue year after year and bonds us closer with like interests, time together, common goals, a love for learning and sharing, and welcoming new educators into our society. I realized at our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday bash, how lasting and important these friendships are.

We develop friendships all through life. We remember childhood friends, college friends, neighborhood friends, church friends, teaching friends, and Alpha Tau friends. Cherish these acquaintances and reach out to those you haven’t heard from. AND...always leave room in your heart for new friendships!

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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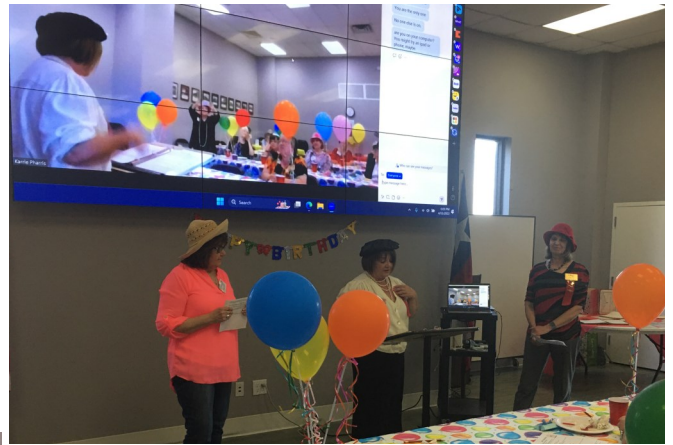
# April 2023 Meeting

Alpha Tau chapter met on April 11, 2023, to celebrate our 90th birthday! Thanks to our esteemed visitor, Liz Garrett, Area 9 Coordinator, who related tales of the appropriate dress for teachers when she first started her teaching career, which spanned over 40 years. Hose and dresses or skirts were required. Later slacks that were part of a suit were allowed, followed by jeans Fridays. Now almost anything goes as long as you are covered. How did we teach wee ones, sitting on the floor and doing all kinds of activities in a dress and heels? Well, we did.



A sumptuous light meal with a candle lit cupcake was provided by our hostesses along with lots of balloons and favors with a party atmosphere revealed in the pictures below. Marnie Cushing set up a photo booth making black and white pictures of yesteryear. Two tables were set up with documents, scrapbooks and pictures from past years, which are kept in the chapter archives. Karrie Pharris led the program with a power point video using old pictures, and gathered testimonials from members which were read by Karrie, Cathy Stewart and Vivian Themer (see below). Sondra Perry played music from bygone eras. And all of us did wear hats and clothing suitable for the occasion.

Our Birthday Bash was a success! And Bettye Penny won the raffle door prize.





**Please Remember  
in Your Prayers**



✝ Please remember in your prayers the family of **Sharon Ann Kraus**, who was a proud Delta Kappa Gamma member in our Texas State Organization for almost 40 years.

**Lynda Anderson** needs our thoughts and prayers to help her recover from a recent disastrous fall. Lynn is a member of Zeta Gamma, Area 1, and the TSO Committee Chair for Programs and Service Projects.

We remember **Jerri Coates** in our prayers. She is recovering from a recent hospital stay.

Remember **Marnie Cushing** (who is only 35+ days away from retirement) as she cares for her mother who fell and broke her arm.

Also remember **Aydee Reyna** and family in prayer. Her aunt died.

Remember in your prayers **Donna Morehead**, Pi Chapter of Amarillo, who mother passed recently. Donna has been active in TSO, area and local groups.

*Please remember all our sisters in prayer.*



**12 Janice Dowlearn**

**17 Marnie Cushing**



**Alpha Tau  
Quilt Raffle**

Drawing on Tuesday,

**May 9, 2023**

at the Alpha Tau meeting.

**Tickets on sale NOW.**

Arms length (18 tickets) for  
\$20 or \$5 per single ticket



*The pieced top from this quilt came from the family of longtime Forney resident, Duane Penny, and includes vintage fabrics. Many of the swatches of this quilt are believed to be feed sacks, which housewives of the Depression Era used to make clothing and other household items. The backing is newly added, and was chosen to coordinate with the colors of the top. 69" x 85"*

Supporting the Alpha Tau Chapter "Grants for New Teachers" and chapter projects.

**Alpha Tau Minutes—February 7, 2023**

Meeting was called to order by President Cathy Stewart at 5:30

President Stewart welcomed guests and thanked the hostess committee.

Pledges were led by Sondra Perry.

Inspiration was given by Vivian Yancey.

President Stewart introduced the program and the speaker, Laura Buie. Mrs. Buie shared the historical aspects and craft of Bobbin Lace.

First Vice President Karrie Pharris presented details about the March outing to be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Dallas Arboretum beginning at 10:00 a.m. More information will be sent at the beginning of March.

Second Vice President Aydee Reyna presented members with awards for 10-year increments of membership and members with 50 years or more: Karrie Pharris—20 years; Bettye Penny—40 years; Adeline Roberts—55 years; and Linda Quattlebaum—55 years.

Corresponding Secretary Suzy McCook asked members for personal information to add to the Tales.

There were no changes made to the January minutes—minutes were accepted.

Treasurer Jerri Coates (Pepe Le Pew) explained the annual fundraiser—Quilt will be raffled—18 tickets for \$20 or \$5 per ticket. Drawing will be held in April.

Financial report was not available.

New Business:

President Stewart also explained the fundraiser.

Vivian Themer shared with members a tutoring opportunity with the Genesis Center in Kaufman.

President Stewart shared that The Alpha Tau's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday will be held at the April meeting.

President Stewart stated the State Convention will be held June 14<sup>th</sup>—17<sup>th</sup> at McAllen, Texas.

Motion was made by Bettye Penny: Alpha Tau will donate a \$10 and \$15 gift card to the ASTEF Fundraiser at the State Convention. Vivian Themer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vivian Themer will purchase the gift cards and send cards to the designated ASTEF officer.

President Stewart held the drawing for the door prize—Bettye Penny won the door prize.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

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

*Let the Journey Begin*

*Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow to Enhance Education in Kaufman County*

**Alpha Tau Meeting Agenda****May 9, 2023****Kaufman County Library 5:00-6:30**

5:00 Doors Open--Socialize--Light Meal

5:30 Meeting Called to Order: President Cathy Stewart

Welcome Guests

Thank You to Hostess Committee: Green Team: \*Karrie Pharris,  
Bettye Penny, Jo Lynn Maddin, Nancy Shaw, Virginia Fineout,  
Cathy Stewart (Aydee Reyna, Mollie Kasper)

Pledges:

Inspiration:

Greeter:

**Board Reports**

1st Vice-Pres.—Karrie Pharris

2nd Vice-Pres.—Aydee Reyna

Corresp. Secy.—Suzy McCook

Secy.—Rachel Calvery

Treas.—Jerri Coates

Money on hand \_\_\_\_\_

Raffle Tickets

RAFFLE

**New Business:** Cathy Stewart—Questionnaire**Program:** Karrie Pharris—Summer Something—Travel

Door Prize

6:30 Meeting Adjourned: Delta Kappa Gamma Song

**Alpha Tau Minutes****April 11, 2023**

After a light dinner, meeting was called to order by President Cathy Stewart

President Stewart welcomed Area Coordinator, Liz Garrett.

President Stewart thanked the hostess committee for the decorations and dinner.

Pledges were led by Jana Garner.

Inspiration was given by Marnie Cushing.

President Stewart reminded members about the DKG State convention in McAllen in June.

Area Coordinator Liz Garrett spoke reminding us how life for women was, especially in the area of dress.

There was no business meeting.

The Quilt drawing was postponed until the May meeting since Jeri Coates was unable to attend tonight.

The program was the 90<sup>th</sup> celebration of Alpha Tau and included a video of memories, personal testimonials of members, and an array of interesting memorabilia from the archives.

Door Prize was drawn—Bettye Penny was the winner.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 after the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma Song.



# Peggy Johnson



I was born at Barberton, Ohio, December 31, 1944. My Dad had one request to my Mom and her doctor and that was to be sure I was born before midnight so he could count me on his income tax form as another deduction for the whole year. He was happy because I was born at 5:30 p.m. I was never really sure if it was because I was his new daughter or a deduction.

My family moved to Paris, Texas, when I was in the 3rd grade. It was a change for me because while I went to school in Ohio, I had to go by my given name, Sandra, but when we moved to Texas I could go by my nickname, Peggy. My name was changed by my older brother. My grandmother was keeping him at the time and telling him a nursery rhyme that had a little girl named Peggy in it, so when I was brought home he insisted my name was Peggy and it stuck. My real name is Sandra Elaine. Doesn't everyone have an alias? As it has been said many times, "I was born a Yankee but got to Texas as soon as I could."

I graduated from Paris High School in 1962 and married my high school sweetheart on December 18, 1965. I was finishing my student teaching so I chose that date so we could have 2 weeks off for Christmas and a honeymoon. But that, of course, it don't work out because that year classes were not dismissed until 3 days after my wedding, therefore, it was a one night honeymoon.

My first teaching job was a third grade classroom at a small school outside Paris called Blossom. Since I was the last teacher hired, I also had to teach an American Government class to juniors and seniors in the high school, keep a study hall with 54 students and be the cheerleader sponsor. I think I was their sponsor because I had a "cool car." I was their transportation to all out of town games. That was before buses.

My next teaching job was in 1967 when I returned to my old elementary; East Paris Elementary was the school I attended from 4th through 8th grades. My principal had been my 7th grade teacher. He thought it was very funny to have a student of his become a teacher at the school. During the first fire drill my class and I had to slide down a second story outdoor slide to escape. Another time my class was having a dress rehearsal for a play when he rang the fire alarm again. My class and I had to file outside all dressed in costumes.



At the end of the year, my husband, Ron Johnson, and I moved to Terrell, He was the new human Resource Director at Terrell State Hospital, a position he held for 47 years. I taught in Terrell ISD for 7 1/2 years, mostly 2nd and third grades. Then I took off for 6 1/2 years while raising our two daughters. When I decided to return to work, I taught in Scurry-Rosser ISD; 1st and 2nd grade split class for 3 years and 1st & 3rd grades for 1 year. This is where I learned that sometimes cows had to be convinced that the playground was only for kids. I had never been that close to cows before.

I moved back to Terrell ISD after both my girls were in school. Both daughters were featured twirlers for the Fighting Tiger Band and both graduated from Texas Tech, carrying on the tradition as twirlers for the Going Band in Raiderland.

My oldest daughter, Kelly, had been a human resource director at Allen and Coppell for 29 years. She gave us twin grandchildren. Kaitlyn graduated in Communications from Oklahoma State University and will enter law school this fall. Carson will study in Australia this summer, then receiving his degree in Computer Engineering with a Computer Science & Math minor from Texas Tech in August. Poor guy—Australia—somebody has to go there.

My younger daughter, Karen, earned her degree in Broadcast journalism and worked at TV stations as a news reporter in Sherman and Klein. Next she initiated the Journalism program at Terrell High School; this broadcast program received national awards for programming. She has since been an assistant principal at Celina, Van Alstyne and Houston ISDs. She moved on to Region 10 and is presently the Communications Director for Anna ISD. Her children, Reese and Nathan, are busy with the high school world. Reese is 17 and is 1st lieutenant for the drill team and Nathan, 15, plays high school football and hockey.



Kelly & family

When I taught in Terrell, it was mostly in 1st grade, spending 25 years for a total of 33 years of teaching. Retiring in 2005, we soon moved to Royse City for the small town atmosphere. How wrong I was! When we moved here the population was about 3000 and now it is 20,000. I spend most of my time attending grandkids' activities. I also love to spend time playing bridge.



Karen & family





On April 18, 2023, the groundbreaking for the Donald P. & Vivian N. Themer Middle School of Forney happened. The school will open in the fall 2024.



For your viewing pleasure our **Birthday Bash Memories** are available in an attachment sent with these May 2023 Tales.

## Broccoli Salad

Vivian Themer

- 4 large bunches of fresh broccoli
  - 1- 8 oz. package of grated cheddar cheese (I have used Mexican Blend cheese too)
  - 1 small package of real bacon bits (needs to be real)
  - 1 small package of slivered almonds (I have used pecans too)
  - 1- 8 oz. package of dried cranberries
  - 1 bottle of Kraft Poppy Seed dressing (I have also used Paul Newman's Poppy Seed Dressing)
- Cut broccoli florets off or cut broccoli into small bite size pieces. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients and mix.

Note: You can add more of the ingredients—do what you want. I doubled this for the Alpha Tau meeting.



*Members of the Kaufman County Retired School Personnel attended the Day at the Capitol on April 12th. We met both Rep. Keith Bell and Sen. Bob Hall to thank and ask for their continued support of the concerns of our retirees. This is the closest we have come to having a COLA and perhaps an additional check. It has passed both houses and is now at the Appropriation Committee. A COLA will not only benefit us, but also the future of our active teachers.*

Thank you to the Kaufman County Retired School Personnel for stopping by my Capitol Office on Wednesday to discuss my continued support of retired school personnel in HD 4 and across Texas! ~ Representative Keith Bell

Shown above are: Denise & Randy Perry, Karen Bedford, Texas Rep. Keith Bell, LuAnne Bourland & Joan Moore.

# Alpha Tau Programs 2022-2023

Date	Program	Hostess Committee
✓ 9/10/2022	Area Workshop Wylie, TX	
✓ 10/11/2022	<b>New Teacher Grants, Bettye Penny</b>  <i>Location - Crandall Community Room</i>	<b><u>Red Team:</u></b> *Ann McDonald, Vivian Yancey, Sondra Perry, Joan Moore, Laura Buie, Jerri Coates, Suzy McCook, Peggy Johnson  (Rachel Calvery)
✓ 11/8/2022	<b>“The Door” Pregnancy Center, Vonnie Salguero</b>  <i>Location - Spellman Museum, Forney</i>	<b><u>Gold Team:</u></b> *Jane West, Judy Jedlicka, Vivian Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton, Alberta Smith, Janice Dowlearn  (Marnie Cushing)
✓ December 3, 2022	<b>Christmas Brunch</b>	The Local Café, Forney HS, Forney 10 a.m.
✓ 1/10/2023	<b>Fit for the Future - Flisha Stewart</b>	<b><u>Green Team:</u></b> *Karrie Pharris, Bettye Penny, Jo Lynn Maddin, Nancy Shaw, Virginia Fineout, Cathy Stewart  (Aydee Reyna, Mollie Kasper)
✓*February 7, 2023	<b>Member Craft/Presentation</b>	<b><u>Red Team</u></b>
✓ March 18, 2023	<b>Dallas Arboretum 10-2</b>	
✓4/11/2023	<b>90th Birthday Bash</b> Alpha Tau is 90 years Old!! <i>Officers</i>	<b><u>GoldTeam</u></b>
5/9/2023	<b>Summer Somethings</b> Travel Agent, Traveling Tips	<b><u>Green Team</u></b>

\*February 7 is a date change from the 3rd Tuesday.