

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*

## 'Tis the Season for Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday!! November brings Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving brings thoughts of family, friends, and thankfulness.

I read a devotion by Rick Warren on gratitude/thankfulness. He said, "The healthiest human emotion is gratitude. It actually increases your immunities. It makes you more resistant to stress and less susceptible to illness." I researched this further and found that when we express gratitude our brain releases dopamine and serotonin, the two crucial neurotransmitters responsible for our emotions, which enhances our mood, and makes us feel happy.

I am thankful that I made it through the October meeting and that you all were so helpful. As I muddled through my first meeting; I only felt acceptance from my Alpha Tau Sisters. I am thankful for family, friends, health, what Jesus has done for me, my country, my town, my neighbors, and that our Marine grandson was able to come home for a visit after 2 ½ years.

I enjoyed hearing from some of our Alpha Tau friends about what they are thankful for: Suzy is very thankful for family, good health, and wonderful friends.

Joan is especially thankful that God has blessed her with friends to support and encourage her through the ups and downs of life. She continued, "Faithful friends are there before we even realize we need them and there long after others have forgotten our needs. Friends make times of joy even happier and times of sorrow bearable. Thank you, God, for my friends."

Laura stated, "This month my family has so much to be thankful for...our sister finished her last treatment of chemo, and the doctors are very pleased with her progress!"

Rachel is thankful for her family.

Jane West says, "I'm thankful for sunrises because . . . well, I've one more day!!!"

Being thankful is good for our health! It is good for our state of mind! Gratitude is a good thing to stop and ponder during Thanksgiving and throughout the year!

Thanksgiving Blessings,

Cathy



### Calendar

November 8, 2022-  
Spellman Museum Forney

December 2022  
Christmas  
Gathering

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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## November Meeting

November 8, 2022

5:00 p.m.

**Spellman Museum Forney**

200 S. Bois D'Arc St.

**Hostesses:** \*Jane West, Judy Jedlicka, Vivian Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton, Alberta Smith, Janice Dowlearn (Marnie Cushing)

**Program: The Door Pregnancy Center**

Directions: Hwy. 80 to Pinson Rd., left on Pinson over the bridge to Pacific (688), left on Pacific, right on Bois D Arc. Museum is on the right.



## November Birthdays

**13 DeLois Stolusky**

**27 Suzy McCook**

**27 Vivian Themer**

**30 Nancy Shaw**



**Don & Vivian Themer** made a trip to Fredericksburg in October.

**Jane West** will soon have 2 new additions to her family. Her oldest two grandkids got engaged this summer.

**Marnie Cushing's** daughter, Jade, turned 30 recently.



**Greg & Karrie Pharris** visited Martha's Vineyard & Boston in September. "We enjoyed the cool weather and sitting on the porch of the hotel gazing at the water &

boats."

**Judy Barton** will enjoy a 10th great grandchild in January.



thank you!

**Virginia Fineout** says thank you so much for the much needed goody bag she received. **Adeline Roberts** also thanked everyone for remembering her. She plans to try to come to the meetings.

**Betty Penny** is taking her daughter, grandson & granddaughter to Palestine to ride the train.



**Sondra Perry's** granddaughter, Julie Perry, will wed in November. She was a recipient of the DKG high school scholarship several years ago. She is studying to be a nurse practitioner and works at Baylor in the Neuro ICU.



## All About Us

**Vivian Yancey**, who leads the Terrell FUMC Women's group, gave a magnificent rendition of *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg. Over 100 ladies attended this event in September and were mesmerized by the story and performance. Much research was done on the famous WASPs of WWII, who trained and worked out of Sweetwater, Texas. The Sweetwater airport houses the excellent National WASP museum.



**Nancy Shaw** and her husband enjoyed 8 days in Turks & Caicos with their youngest son and family. They were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary which occurs in November.

**Janice Dowlearn** enjoyed a trip to Newport, Rhode Island, in September.

September found **Marvin & Suzy McCook** on a delightful cruise with their children for a week followed by a grand tour of Utah's fantastic national park scene. What beauty on land and sea!



**Ken & Ann McDonald** drove to Durham, N.C., Labor Day weekend to celebrate the marriage of their grandson, Mason Bivens, and Lauren Vinson. Both are F-15 Strike Eagle pilots in the USAF.

Welcome to **Peggy Johnson**, our newest member who will be inducted at the November meeting.



# October Meeting



Busy, busy and so much fun! Oh the stories told and laughter shared!! Journeying Jerri along with her sidekick, Jakarta Joan, both wielding machetes and bush gear, explained Jerri's absence in previous meetings and gave the treasurer's report. Jerri had sent Pepe LePew, a chef, Hip Hop DJ, and Anna Hiss to report on money. Cathy received her president's pin from Vivian.



We celebrated two of our new teacher honorees, who received their \$100 checks and told us about their hopes and experiences. At left is Courtney Bain with her husband. She is a Crandall High School inclusion teacher. Courtney hopes to help and guide her students as they progress through high school. At right is Imunique Harris with her mother, Jackie Harris, who is a seasoned middle school teacher in Winona and accompanied her daughter for this honor. Imunique is a kindergarten teacher at Wood Elementary in Terrell and her goal is to survive. Happy teachers having fun.

Shown above are happy sisters who enjoyed Joan's tale of her small grand nephew confusing Jesus with Chucky Cheeses. There were several drawings for prizes: gift cards for the "get-to-know-you" activity; a dozen eggs from Laura's bounty went to Nancy, Cathy, Bettye, Jane and Joan, and the door prize winner was Bettye.







# Amanda Lewis

Amanda Lewis was nominated and inducted as an honorary member of Alpha Tau chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in May 2022. She is the Mayor of Forney, Texas, and recently became the Executive Director of the Genesis Center North Texas.

Amanda graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Finance from Texas Tech in 1995 and received a Master's of Science in Healthcare Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio in 1997.

She has worked at the Dallas County Office of Budget and Evaluation and in the Parkland Health and Hospital System, leaving there in the role as its Budget Director and managing multi-million dollar budgets and staff. She turned her focus to community service as a Board Director and Treasurer with Sharing the Love Foundation (a youth empowerment group in Forney and Terrell), Board Director and Secretary for the Forney Economic Development Corporation, a Board Director and Treasurer with Forney Community Ministries, a Board Director with Hunger Relief Ministries and a volunteer with the Genesis Center. Her seven years as a volunteer at the Center guided her into her current position.



"I am overjoyed to return to Genesis Center North Texas and lead with a common vision alongside the board and staff to better meet the needs of the women and children as well as the community at large. I can't wait to see where the Lord leads us all as He is truly present among us in this ministry."

## Teacher Grant Program

Each year Alpha Tau honors beginning teachers with a \$100 grant award. Recipients are chosen by their respective school districts as most deserving of this recognition. Honorees are invited to join Alpha Tau sisters at the October or the November meeting, where they will detail their experiences, hopes and dreams for their future in education.

### Crandall



Courtney Bain  
Math Inclusion  
Crandall HS

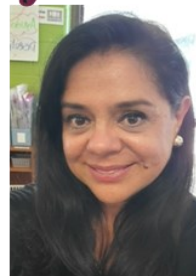
Kylene Forbing (not shown)  
Crandall HS

### Forney



Digna Connell  
1st Grade  
Criswell Elementary

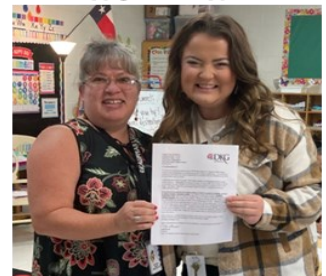
Criswell Elementary



Monica San Martin-Duran  
1st Grade Dual Language  
Criswell Elementary

Criswell Elementary

### Kaufman



Lindsey Baumgartner  
2nd Grade  
Phillip Elementary

Phillip Elementary

### Scurry-Rosser

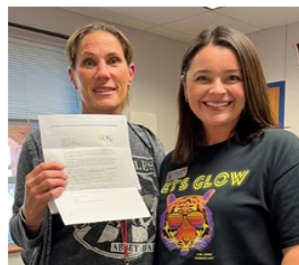


Katie Hartzel  
Math  
Scurry-Rosser HS



Briana McCarty  
Science  
Scurry-Rosser HS

### Terrell



Angie Miller Cutchall  
Kindergarten  
Long Elementary



Imunique Harris  
Kindergarten  
Wood Elementary

## Alpha Tau October 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

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

There were 19 members, and 4 guests present.

Guests were welcomed. Vivian Themer presented new president, Cathy Stewart, with a President's pin.

Working Members were celebrated, and Marnie Cushing shared what she is currently doing at Crandall ISD.

President Cathy Stewart thanked the hostess committee.

Ann McDonald led the pledges.

President Cathy Stewart shared the new position on the hostess committee which is the Greeter. Sondra Perry served as greeter tonight.

Laura Buie shared an inspiration with the members including a poem, and a personal story about a harvest festival. Afterwards, she shared her harvest with members by giving away 5 dozen eggs.

Vivian Themer explained the Teacher Grant Program and introduced the members to introduce the Grant recipients.

Grant Recipients Courtney Bain, Crandall High School math inclusion teacher, and Imunique Harris, Terrell ISD Wood Elementary Kindergarten teacher, shared their current teaching positions and their educational plans, and both were presented with a \$100.

A "get to know you" mixer was completed among members.

First Vice President Karrie Pharris shared with members the program plans for November and December. She also presented a prospective member, Peggy Johnson. Members unanimously affirmed her to become a member.

Corresponding Secretary Suzy McCook asked members to share joyful information with her for The Tales. She also thanked Karrie for creating the Hostess committee teams. The website has been updated.

President Cathy Stewart asked for discussion on May minutes. There was none. May minutes will stand as presented.

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

Treasurer Jerri Coates stated money on hand is \$2682.30 She presented the 2022-2023 budget for approval. There was no discussion. Members voted unanimously to accept the budget as presented.

There was no Old Business.

New-Business:

Joan Moore shared with members the upcoming voting dates. She also shared priorities that the Texas Retired Teacher Association is keeping and those being a cost of living raise and affordable health insurance.

President Cathy Stewart reviewed **goals** and projects for the year. Archives: Current archives will be inventoried and a list created of items on hand to determine an appropriate storage plan for all items. Membership: The percentage of members in attendance at meetings will increase; members will be celebrated; members will be encouraged to attend all Alpha Tau activities.

Rachel Calvery will continue to oversee the Facebook Page

Drawings for the member mixer game and the door prize were held. Bettye Penny won the beautiful fall blooming Chrysanthemum plant.

Committees met.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30

Respectfully Submitted by Vivian Themer, Parliamentarian, Acting Secretary due to absence of Secretary, Rachel Calvery

## Alpha Tau Meeting Agenda

**November 8, 2022**

**Spellman Museum in Forney**

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

5:20 Aydee Reyna presents membership awards

5:30 President Cathy Stewart:

Welcome Guests

Thank You to Hostess Committee:

Gold Team: Jane West, Judy Jedlicka, Vivian Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton, Alberta Smith, Janice Dowlearn (Marnie Cushing)

Pledges: Jane West

Inspiration: Marnie Cushing

Greeter: Judy Jedlicka

## *Let the Journey Begin*



Door Prize

Vivian Themer - Grant Awards

Aydee Reyna - member induction, Peggy Johnson

Karrie Pharris - Christmas Brunch Information

Karrie Pharris - Program - The Door Pregnancy Center

(Drive to The Door for presentation) 13340 FM 740, Forney

(There will not be a business meeting this month with our busy agenda. Four business meetings are required, and the next business meeting will be in January.)

# 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  (Rachel Calvery)
11/8/2022	<b>“The Door” Pregnancy Center, Vonnie Salquero</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	Christmas Brunch	
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	Outing - TBD	
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>