

Theta Lambda News

Winner of the 2011-2012 Five-Star Award

Volume 43 Issue 7

Area 18, #203

April 2013



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Editor:
Carol TenBrook
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April meeting!

Where: Painting with a Twist
3569 Hwy 6, Sugar Land

When: Monday,
April 15, 2013
5:30—8:30 p.m.

Hostesses:
Stacy Frenchwood
Jayati Sengupta

Inspiration:
Sister Jane Meyer

Program:
Celebrate! Theta Lambda's 45th
Birthday Celebration!

President's Message

Dear Theta Lambda Sisters,

I'm anxiously awaiting our party at "Painting with a Twist!" in Sugar Land.

Stacy Frenchwood and **Jayati Sengupta** are bound and determined to make this party one we will never forget! I for one...believe them!

Please come prepared to learn about each other, celebrate our sisterhood in Theta Lambda, and paint a masterpiece sure to become a family heirloom! You don't need to bring anything but yourself, maybe a bit of wine, possibly a beret, and the positive attitude of "**Laissez les bons temps rouler!**"

Again, I want to thank our wonderful hostesses, **Mary Herlitz** and **Alex Velazco**, and our liaison for Highlands Elementary, **Robin DeLaRosa**, for providing the venue and our wonderful speaker, **Ellen Rothberg**. I especially want to thank our Area XVIII Coordinator **Terrie Cardwell**, for taking the time to meet our chapter members! She was such a delight.

One of our keywords in our society is friendship or fellowship. It is one of the society's purposes and we speak of it during our initiation's ceremony and at our Founder Day's Celebration in May. April 15th is the perfect meeting to bring a guest to learn more about Delta Kappa Gamma and to see how much fun she can have with our group! We know how to work hard and to play well with others. Please let **Stacy** know if you are bringing a friend. If you haven't visited "Painting with a Twist" website, please look at the photos they have posted! I see everyone smiling as they show off their finished products!



Faithfully,
Laura Downes
Theta Lambda President

Happy Birthday, Theta Lambda!

Meeting Highlights

March minutes for Theta Lambda-submitted by secretary, Lillie Beth Wilson

Members and guests met at Highlands Elementary in Fort Bend ISD for the March 18, 2013 Theta Lambda meeting. **Laura Downes**, president, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Guests in attendance were Area XVIII coordinator, **Terrie Cardwell**, **Sally Kubiak**, and guest speaker, **Ellen Rothberg**.

Robin DeLaRosa arranged for members to meet in her school. Hostesses were **Mary Herlitz** and **Alex Velasco**. **Alex Velasco** presented the energizer for the meeting. **Sandra MacConnell** presented the treasurer's report. The report was handed to members as well as published in the prior newsletter.

Terrie Cardwell encouraged members to attend the state convention this summer. She asked each chapter to contribute a \$25 gift card for the raffle program planned for the convention. She also congratulated Theta Lambda on our newsletter.

The minutes from the February meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Stacy Frenchwood reminded each of us to join in the April birthday celebration on April 15, 2013 at Painting With a Twist. Dinner and dessert will be provided.

Laura Downes discussed how we wished to support early career educators. The names of **Laura Thomas** at Palmer Elementary, **Jenny Culberson** at Highlands Elementary, and **Jenny Nagel** at Quail Valley Elementary were presented. In a motion by **Sister Jane Meyer** and seconded by **Catherine Hague**, it was approved that the early career educators be invited as guests to the birthday meeting in April.

Catherine Hague and **Laura Downes** are attending the state convention in June. **Sandra MacConnell** moved that Theta Lambda propose an extra \$475 to cover some of the convention expenses to send the president and vice president to the convention. **Sister Jane Meyer** seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The amended rules were discussed and **Carol Ann Shipp** will be notified to send the documentation to the state.

Carol TenBrook discussed the newsletter and a new category for acknowledgement called "the Seal of Merit." Members were asked to submit journal articles, poetry, prose, or other writings for consideration for inclusion in the newsletters.

A motion was made for Theta Lambda to contribute \$25 for Schools for Africa." **Jodi Knuppel** moved and **Lillie Beth Wilson** seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The program for the evening was presented by **Ellen Rothberg**, Highland Elementary's counselor. Her topic was bullying. She is a well known author on the topic and presented interesting data and suggestions of how to work with students encountering bullying in their lives.

The May meeting will be in the home of **Sandra MacConnell**. The new member/members will be initiated at that time.

Following the drawing of the door prize, **Laura Downes** adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Did You Know?

Little bits and pieces to keep you up-to-date on DKG!



Don't you just hate when you send an email to a friend or colleague and it is returned as undeliverable? This happens frequently, especially among large groups or companies. Delta Kappa Gamma is no different. Missed emails can mean missed opportunities.

In the March 2013 issue of *Communiqué*, the International Communications and Publicity committee is asking that all current members update their email addresses in the Society database. Here's what you need to do:

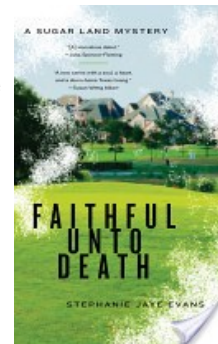
- Send an email to: mem@dkg.org
- Submit your contact information—preferably **NOT** a school email which often has a firewall that blocks incoming messages
- Mention your **DKG member number** (found on your DKG membership card or in the Theta Lambda yearbook)

That is all there is to it!

Check it Out!!

Submitted by Lillie Beth Wilson

Sugar Land author, Stephanie Jaye Evans, has two novels worth reading! Of course they are set in Sugar Land and as you read you will recognize many of the local landmarks in your own back yard! Both of her children went through the Fort Bend ISD system! Her two books are titled, Faithful Unto Death and Safe from Harm. Both books feature a fictional Sugar Land minister by the name of Walker (Bear) Wells. Suspense magazine says, "Extremely readable with great characters that you love and hate (even when it is the 'holiest'). In addition the author certainly teaches readers about the vibrant attitudes, policies, loyalties and entertaining attitudes that dwell in the Lone Star State."



Annie Webb Blanton

Women Shaping History in Texas is an exhibit running through May 19th at the **Bullock Museum** in Austin, Texas. In this exhibit, there is a display containing items that belonged to our own Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, on loan from Society headquarters. If you are planning a trip to Austin soon, check it out!

Monday - Saturday 9am-6pm
Sunday Noon-6pm

For more information, go to

<http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/about-the-museum>

DKG is on Facebook



If you are a Facebook user, here's another source for DKG news and pictures.

<https://www.facebook.com/dkgorg>

**TREASURER'S REPORT
April, 2013**

Checking balance reported in March		\$ 2422.69
<u>Receipts</u>		+\$.51
Mar. Dividend	\$.51	
<u>Disbursements</u>		-\$ 223.40
Convention raffle donation	\$ 25.00	
UNICEF contribution	25.00	
Newsletter mail-outs (ink, paper, postage)	53.40	
Convention registration/events (Laura and Catherine)	120.00	
Current checking account balance		\$ 2199.80
<u>Savings</u>		
Previous Savings Balance	\$ 1046.61	
Dividend	.51	
Current Savings Balance		\$1047.12
Previous CD Balance	\$ 1550.37	
Dividend	1.31	
Current CD Balance		\$ 1551.68
Total assets of chapter		\$ 4798.60

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What kind things are you doing for others?'"
Martin Luther King



April Birthdays

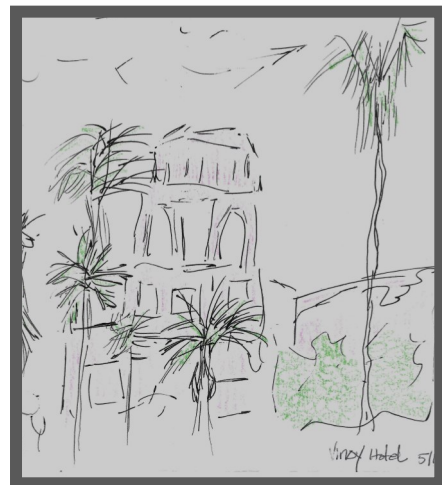
- 12 Jodi Knuppel
- 25 Alex Velazco
- 27 Sister Jane Meyer

April is National Poetry Month!

I WILL DO MORE

I will do more than belong-I will participate.
 I will do more than care-I will help.
 I will do more than believe- I will practice.
 I will do more than be fair- I will be kind.
 I will do more than forgive- I will work.
 I will do more than earn- I will enrich.
 I will do more than teach- I will inspire.
 I will do more than give- I will serve.
 I will do more than live- I will grow.
 I will do more than be friendly- I will be a friend.
 ~William Arthur Ward

**CAN
YOU
NAME
THE
ARTIST?**



One of our Theta Lambda members drew this charming sketch. She is a past president and very involved in our chapter. You can read an article written by her in this issue of Theta Lambda News. Who is she?

CONTRIBUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

To support the mission of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Theta Lambda Chapter makes contributions to various funds at both the State and International levels. We are able to do this through our members' support of our fund-raising activities.

State funds include:

Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation (ASTEF) is the fundraising entity that assists Texas State Organization in fulfilling its purposes. ASTEF accepts and distributes money for Texas State Organization Scholarships, Leadership, and Projects. <http://www.alphastatetexas.org/astef.html>

Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund provides scholarships for members residing in a Latin American Country who wish to further their educational advancement.

Leadership Seminar Fund provides opportunities for professional and personal growth of members which is beneficial to both the individual member and the Society.

State Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for members who wish to pursue graduate studies, continuing adult education, and educational travel.

International funds:

Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation provides funds to support Projects that carry out the Mission and Purposes of the Foundation. <http://dkgef.org/about.html>

Emergency Fund provides assistance for members who have sustained major losses from floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, wild fires, and other natural disasters.

The Golden Gift Fund is a stipend given to members attending the Leadership Management Seminar. There is also money available to pursue special projects that will help members develop their skills and meet specific educational and professional goals.

International Speaker's Fund facilitates and funds the exchange of Society speakers among member countries and helps to unite women educators of the world.

World Fellowship Fund provides aid and fellowships for women in other countries to enable them to pursue advanced study in the United States and Canada.

Schools for Africa is an international partnership program with UNICEF, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and the Hamburg Society which helps the children of Africa receive a quality education.

Information provided by our treasurer Sandra MacConnell

Photos from our March 18th meeting at Highlands Elementary



Pictured: Theta Lambda members **Jodi Knuppel**, **Lillie Beth Wilson**, Area XVII Coordinator, **Terrie Cardwell**



Pictured: **Ellen Rothberg**, guest speaker and author, and Highlands Elementary counselor with **Robin DeLaRosa**, Theta Lambda member and our Highlands Elementary liaison.

April 2010 Newsletter Article-From the President (published in the TEPSA Journal, 1998)

Lest we forget- Reflections of a principal past and TAKS monitor today!

During a walk-through in the third grade, I saw her. Beneath the soft denim hat trimmed with bright yellow sunflowers could be seen Arianda's large twinkling brown eyes. Originally registered in my school last year, she was only a name because she was enrolled in the home-bound program. Houston was a home away from her country in Central America. Her new address was M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. After months of therapy and surgeries, she was released to begin school. Teachers kindly helped classmates understand the wispy hair, hat, and modified schedule. Though her English was limited, she loved learning in ESL classes. I was glad she was in my school and sorry I knew her only by name last year. As she became familiar with routines, the twinkling eyes were complimented by broad smiles. No moments were lost as she made every day count. Children partnered with her and gladly gave up an active recess to talk and play games. A visit to third grade wasn't complete without a glimpse at the "blue hat" bowed student intent on learning and living.



There was an absence from class. Teachers received a note stating she was in the hospital for a routine check-up. A few days later, I was called to the office. Standing at the registrar's desk was her uncle. He told me the medical report—the brain tumor had returned and the family was given no hope. Sadly, they packed Arianda's bags and ventured south to their home for the remaining days of her life. We had no good-byes—only images of the little girl in the denim hat. Over 16 years have passed and I can still see her in my mind.

Within our classrooms in 2013 there are many children who enter with special needs. It has been said that it is important to learn how to count and also what counts! Educators should be held accountable for the determination of proper forms of assessments to measure student achievement. It is our professional responsibility to concentrate on making decisions for children that are child-right. Throughout schools we find "data charts" that reflect trends among subgroups, overall school averages and comparison of students to each other. Educators look at the "pluses" and "minuses". They hear reflections, explanations and expectations. Educators must be optimists and realists as we accept the challenges of increased student achievement. I once saw a quote that said, "The secret of leadership is working with things as they are not as you wish they were, nor as you think they ought to be; for the impossible dream can be attained only in possible stages." For all we can expect progress; for some, like Arianda, the steps are small and will not make the "state and district" grade. As we walk and observe in classes on STAR days, I think of the Arianda's that are nameless for me in that school and the efforts made for comfort, curriculum, community, and celebrations in the life of each child. Thank you for the priority each of you places for the children in your lives.

By Lillie Beth Wilson, current secretary for Theta Lambda Chapter of DKG