

Theta Lambda News

Winner of the 2012-2013 Five-Star Award with the Seal of Merit

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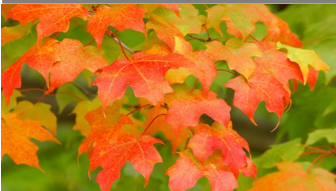
October 2013



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Meeting Information	1
Meeting Highlights	2
Martha Jenkins	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Reminders!	3
October Out of the Ordinary Celebrations	4

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President's Message

Dear Theta Lambda Sisters,

October is one of my favorite months! Living in Texas since 1979, I still remember the crisp cool air and the leaves sharing their brilliant colors of gold, red, and orange growing up in Iowa. It was magical! The first few years I lived here my friends and family would send me boxes of those glorious leaves! I still miss it today; however the smell of fall lingers in my memory. What a gift!

We are fast approaching the season of giving, but for Theta Lambda, we are beginning a bit early! For our next meeting on October 21st, we will endeavor in the spirit of giving once again. Mark Spilman will update us with what is currently happening at Open Gate. Please bring new or gently used coats, jackets, hoodies, or blankets to our next meeting to help meet the needs of their clients. Mark will also ask for volunteers and assistance on a project at his new school. I'm in!

As you pass the various "dollar" stores while running errands, please check for underwear and socks to purchase! We will donate these items to elementary school nurses. I know Fort Bend ISD has their own program called Sharing Dreams, but not all schools have the same volunteerism. I am not sure what Alief ISD has in place either.

At our wonderful September meeting, Catherine shared with us her "rainbow connection" and I loved how it touched our hearts! She also talked with us about "us being the change" for schools in Africa! I know my container is beginning to have a hefty weight to it! Please bring the coins you have collected to our October meeting! I also want to thank our hostess, Catherine Hague and our hostesses Nancy Dobbs and Lillie Beth Wilson. I hope you have checked out the pictures on our website from our meeting thanks to Nancy Dobbs!

On Saturday, October 26th, Catherine, Jan, and I will attend the GHACC luncheon honoring our new state president, Nancy Newton! Jan Randolph and Mary Herlitz will be honored for their 25th anniversary of being members of DKG. I look forward to sharing the day with them plus getting a larger picture of DKG at the Alpha State level. Brenda Pearson, our area coordinator, was truly amazed at our fabulous program in September and the generosity of our members. Her words touched my heart..."this is like coming home to friends and family...not just colleagues!" Brenda also agreed...we are small, but mighty!



Faithfully,
Laura Downes
Theta Lambda President

Come join us for

Theta Lambda's October meeting!

Where: Home of **Lillie Beth Wilson**

When: **Monday, October 21, 2013**
5:30 Refreshments
6:00 Business meeting

Hostesses: **Jan Randolph**
Miriam Watson

Inspiration: **Stacy Frenchwood**

Program: **Open Gate**

Mark Spilman, guest speaker

Meeting Highlights

Monday, September 16, 2013

Theta Lambda members and guests met in the home of Catherine Hague at 5:30 p.m. on the evening of Monday, September 16, 2013. Guests for the meeting were Sheri Walters, Kim Winans, and Brenda Pearson. Hostesses for the meeting were Nancy Dobbs and Lillie Beth Wilson. Following a light dinner, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President, Laura Downes. Carol TenBrook began the meeting with an energizer from The Art of Being and motivated members to consider the great expectations of the beginning of the year. She was acknowledged for her sharing of the memorable events on her vacation in Italy.

Sandra McConnell reviewed the budget and the members approved the 2013-14 budget. Sister Jane Meyer made the motion and Robin DeLaRosa seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter. Lillie Beth Wilson took attendance at the meeting. Stacy Frenchwood was congratulated on her recent selection as principal at Miller Intermediate School in the Alief Independent School District.

Theta Lambda is taking an active role in supporting early career educators. "Thinking of you gifts" were made by Laura Downes for members to give to beginning educators. Some members gave personal e-mail addresses to share with new educators desiring support and encouragement.

Catherine Hague introduced the members to the Delta Kappa Gamma International Schools for Africa-Schools for Change program. A collection container was given to each member to collect change each month and the monies will be donated to UNICEF.

Committee members were challenged to contribute to a program this year. It was announced that the October program will be on the Open Gate community outreach program that the members supported last year. Mark Spilman, the director, will be the guest speaker. Members were asked to bring a gently used coat for an adult and/or a blanket to the October meeting. Ages of needy persons range from 16-22 years of age.

Brenda Pearson, Area 18 Coordinator, visited the meeting. She congratulated the chapter on being small, but mighty in accomplishing so much each and every year. She discussed the Annie Calling initiative to reach out to past members and encouraging them to come back to the chapter. This a state initiative and she said research has shown that the reach out to previous members is more successful in the recruitment of members to each chapter. Nancy Dobbs, Laura Downes, Sandra MacConnell, and Miriam Watson will assist in contacting past members.

Sandra McConnell informed members that a founder of Theta Lambda had passed away. Martha Jenkins passed away at the age of 94.

Laura encouraged the chapter to "connect" with communities by bringing children's socks and underwear to the next meeting. They will be collected and taken to nurses in clinics in local schools.

There were two scholarship drawings. Michelle Glick and Robin DeLaRosa were the winners.

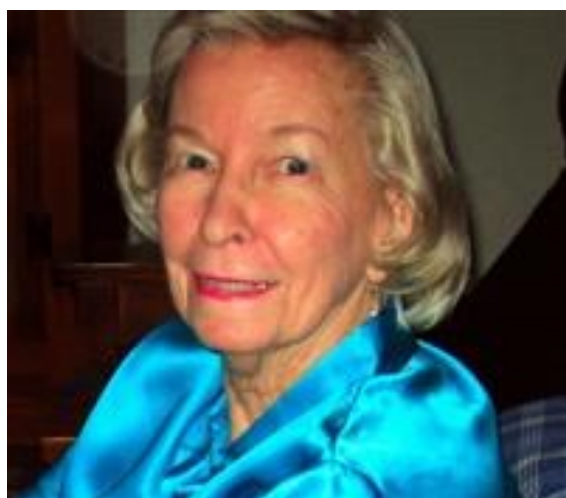
The Greater Houston Area Council will be hosting the state president on October 25 and 26, 2013 at The Houston Racquet Club. Jan Randolph and Mary Herlitz will be honored for twenty-five years of service to Theta Lambda and Delta Kappa Gamma. Theta Lambda is supporting the event through contributions for the centerpieces.

Catherine Hague presented the program for the meeting. It was entitled The Rainbow Connection. Believing everyone has a story, she had her fifth graders interview residents at Colonial Oaks. They wrote about their experiences with the elderly. Sixteen students volunteered and formed relationships that will always be remembered. These interactions were captured in video and shared at the meeting. The program was enjoyed by members. The meeting was closed at 7:45 by Laura Downes, President.

Submitted by Lillie Beth Wilson, chapter secretary

Martha Alice Ethridge Jenkins

11/11/1919 - 8/21/2013



Martha Alice Ethridge Jenkins died August 21, 2013 at her home in Houston with her son Palmer William Jenkins and longtime caregiver Leticia Lopez at her bed side. Sister Terry of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word was at hand to bless the departing soul and the bereaved remaining.

The third of 6 children born November 11, 1919 to William Lynnton Ethridge, Sr. and Lilah Gladden in Monroe, LA, Martha left us with wonderful stories of her summers at the Oak Ridge, LA farm of her grandmother, Lallie. After moving to Houston she attended San Jacinto High School, and then graduated from Rice University across the street from her house at Ashby and Rice Blvd. While at Rice she met Palmer Wyatt Jenkins of Sugarland, TX. After a courtship, on the eve of WWII she married Palmer and followed the newly enlisted naval cadet to California, Moscow, Idaho, and back to the shores of the Pacific. There she waited for her husband to return safely to her and bore her first son, Palmer William on August 1, 1944. After returning to Houston a second son, Thomas Wayne was born to the couple.

Subsequently, Martha taught 5th grade at Mark Twain Elementary school for 35 years. After 61 years of marriage, her husband Palmer died, June 6, 2003. He was put to rest in Riverview Cemetery. She will join him there Tuesday, August 27, 2013.

Sadly, we recently have lost our one remaining Theta Lambda charter member, Martha Jenkins. Martha was initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma on April 20, 1968, when our chapter was organized. She remained active in chapter activities until her retirement from teaching. In 1979, she requested a change in her membership to reserve status when she was no longer able to attend evening meetings. She had been in ill health for several years after a bad fall in 2009. Her obituary follows.

Martha is survived by her two sons, three grandchildren, one great grandchild, and eleven nieces and nephews.

Martha was preceded in death by three brothers, Lynnton Ethridge, Jr. and Evans Ethridge, both of Monroe, LA, and John Ethridge of Bigfork, MT; two sisters, Jeanne Neimann of Brenham, TX and Pat Andrews of Pasadena, CA.

Private graveside services were held Tuesday, August 27, 2013, at Riverview Cemetery under the direction of Mulhearn Funeral Home, Sterlington Road, Monroe.

Reminders!!

Can you bring some of these items to the meeting? These are the things we are collecting to support various service projects this year. Thanks for your generosity!

- New or gently used coats, jackets, hoodies or blankets
- New packages of underwear and socks for elementary schools
- Spare change for schools for Africa

TREASURER'S REPORT - October, 2013

Checking balance reported in September.....	\$1756.05
<u>Receipts</u>	+ \$1772.35
Dues Collected	\$1734.00
Fall Luncheon	30.00
Raffle	8.00
Dividends for September	.35
<u>Disbursements</u>	- \$1463.20
State/International Dues	\$1454.00
Postage stamps	9.20
Current checking account balance	\$2065.20
Current Savings Balance	\$1048.16
Current CD Balance	\$1554.75
Total assets of chapter	\$4668.11

October Bizarre and Unique Holidays



October 14: Celebrate **National Dessert Day** today. For just one day, forget about the calories and high fat content in many desserts. Then, tomorrow you can go back to your diet.



October 16: National Bosses Day

What Makes a Good Boss? Here are some attributes people say make for the best boss:

- Fair
- Honest
- Understanding
- Approachable
- A good communicator



October 19: Evaluate Your Life Day gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect upon our life, where it's been, and where it's going!

October 21: National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day celebrates a delicious Fall dessert. In October, pumpkins are literally glowing. So, why not put two of your favorites together.....pumpkins and cheesecake!? They make a great dessert. They are both nutritious and healthy.



October 22: National Nut Day is today. This day honors (???) all of the nutty people in the world. It gives recognition to all the kooks, loony birds, and daffy people in your life. Show them you care today. (I'm expecting card and phone calls!!)



October 25: (last Friday in October) **Frankenstein Friday** celebrates the birth of Frankenstein and its creator. Frankenstein is one of the best known horror characters, dating back to the 1800's. We can't imagine the Halloween season without the presence of Frankenstein, lurking somewhere in the darkness.

October 26: Make a Difference Day! Initiated in 1990, this is a national day devoted to helping others by doing volunteer work in the community. The activity can be almost anything. On this day, millions of Americans participate in community improvement projects.



October 30: National Candy Corn Day is today. Enjoy a handful of this sweet fall treat. And what perfect timing! **National Candy Corn Day** comes just a day before Halloween. That means you can eat plenty of it, before you go out Trick or Treating.



October 31: Increase Your Psychic Powers Day is today. Go ahead and guess, errr read my mind....if you can. (Ever watch Long Island Medium?)