



VOLUME 55 ISSUE 5

# Zeta Tau News

Delta Kappa  
Gamma Society  
International

April 2017

Chapter Number 163 Area 18  
Houston, Texas  
Alpha State, Texas

IN THIS ISSUE

## Presidents' Corner

Martha Meyer and Donna Handlin, Chapter Presidents

April Showers...

We are so excited that Zeta Tau is being showered with blessings this spring! We had a phenomenal meeting in March where we were showered with gardening wisdom by Theresa See, Master Gardener with the Harris County Extension Office, and planted pots with peppers and ground cover! How is your garden growing? It was such a fun meeting with gardening treats thanks to our creative sister, Terrie Cardwell! Who knew that Peeps and pudding cups would make such a fun and tasty spring treat? The chapter was also showered with great ideas for the Annie Award and ASTEF Scholarship by Risa McCann, our Area 18 Coordinator. We enjoyed having Risa with us and hope that she gets to join us again soon! Fingers crossed that our award and scholarship applications are approved! Wouldn't it be great to have funding to help Woodview Elementary with a 4<sup>th</sup> grade Texas History project next year?

We're being showered with new members! Our next meeting is April 18 at Memorial Drive Christian Church.

This is our annual initiation ceremony and we have several new members joining us. How exciting! Our initiation ceremony will be followed by a salad supper with dessert. If your last name begins A-M, please bring a salad; last names N-Z, please bring a sweet treat.

And we're being showered with new friends! What fun it will be to meet DKG sisters from around the Lone Star State! The State Convention is just around the corner. Please send in your registration as quickly as possible – the deadline is May 16<sup>th</sup>. We would love to have every member attend since this convention is in our own backyard. Several of our members are in charge of committees at the convention and need volunteers! Please take time to join us June 22-24 at the Westin Galleria! The registration form can be found in the Spring Lone Star News at: <http://www.dkgtexas.org/uploads/4/2/8/3/42835841/spring.Isn.2017.pdf>

Donna and Martha

- CONVENTION UPDATE
- CHANGES IN LEGISLATION
- GLOBAL AWARENESS



DKG

**Expand the Vision: Educate,  
Inspire, Encourage**

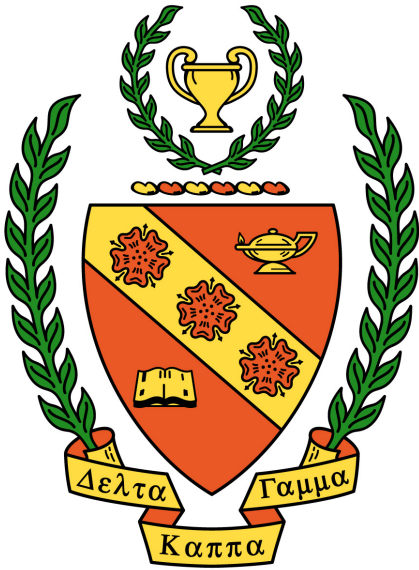
### Mission Statement:

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.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April  
18<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Drive Christian  
Church at 4:30pm.**



Initiation is COMING!!!!

The following prospects will be initiated into the Zeta Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma on Tuesday April 18, 2017:

- Diana Guarniere – Sponsor Julie Eisenhauer
- Jane Cooper – Sponsor Julie Eisenhauer
- Robyn T. Flowers – Sponsor Martha Meyer
- Ann Brown – Sponsor Donna Handlin
- Lanie Van Wart – Sponsor Elke Eisenhauer

Please make every effort on being present at such a special time for our new sisters. Think back to when you were initiated and how special you felt being surrounded by a new family. Don't forget your pins and your salad or sweet treat! Thank you Terrie Cardwell for organizing with your church.

See everyone on Tuesday!

### 2017 CONVENTION UPDATE



Convention update  
Paula Ely

We have many of our members involved in the State Convention here this summer. We, that are not involved directly need to be calling these members and asking what we can do to help out.

These members are:

- Pat Osborne
- Julie Eisenhauer
- Mary Ann Slaughter
- Terrie Cardwell
- Diana Apsey
- Donna Handlin

Look up their contact information in our directory and call and ask if there is ANYTHING you can do to help them out. Let's all remember that a "sister" is someone who is always there when we need them. Let's make this a Zeta Tau Proud summer convention!

Please remember that a DKG sister never says NO! Let's support those Zeta Tau sisters who have worked tirelessly on making Houston convention a total success. We cannot do this without YOU!!!!



Global Awareness  
Pat Osborne

At the 2017 TSO Convention in Houston this summer there will be a Global Awareness Symposium on Thursday. The purpose is to inform members of current global issues. There is no charge for the Symposium and it will be held in the Westin. The agenda includes speakers, a panel and breakout sessions about current global issues. Members will also participate in an onsite action project. The International Speakers Fund (ISF) is sending a keynote speaker from Germany. Should be very interesting! Global Awareness trivia fact: Did you know that DKG has five Regions and five Regional Conferences? Can you name them?



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## Important information about Legislation

**Diana Apsey**

Julie Eisenhower, Pat Osborne, Diana Guanieri and Diana Apsey just returned from the TRTA Convention and Rally Day at the Capitol. The news for retired teachers is not good. Here's what we know as of April 4:  
If no new money is added to TRS-Care, our premiums go up to \$1400/month.  
If new money is added as per House Bill 3976, TRS-Care will change drastically. There will no longer be tiers as we know them. The monies for the House Bill to come out of the \$12 billion Rainy Day fund. The Senate is still in process of creating a bill.

Instead the plan will be based on age:

Pre-65 will have a high-deductible (\$4000) plan with 80/20 coverage after reaching the deductible with a \$7050 maximum outlay. The premium for current retirees would be \$430/month, though the House Bill has it starting lower the first year and

gradually going to \$430/month after 4 years. New retirees would start at \$430/month.

65+ will all be put on Medicare Advantage with a premium of \$146/month. That's it; right now there are no other choices!!! That's why it's imperative for you to contact your senator or representative and share how this would affect you. If you don't know who represents you, go to [trta.org](http://trta.org) where there's a link that will give you that information. To keep updated, you can also sign up for the "Inside Line" at the TRTA website.

On another note, there is also a push again to change our pension from defined benefits (pension) to defined contribution (403b). Senator Bettencourt from Houston has introduced this legislature. TRTA does not believe this will pass this year, but thinks there will be a big push in 2 years.

All teachers, retired and active, need to pay attention to the work of the legislature, spread the word, and let their representatives hear their concern. It's your future!!!

Newsletter Editor is Elke Eisenhower. Please send ideas and articles for upcoming newsletters to: [elke.eisenhauer@gmail.com](mailto:elke.eisenhauer@gmail.com)



ASTEF has joined with Kroger and Ralph grocery stores to earn funds every time someone shops for ASTEF. This is an easy way to earn funds that support member scholarships, Aspiring Educator awards, leadership events and training, and projects that impact Texas students, children, and educators across the state. It only takes a minute to apply for a Community Rewards card or to connect your current card to ASTEF. ASTEF's donation number is 99982. Step by step directions are on the ASTEF website ([www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org)). Members still receive fuel points, discounts, senior citizen discounts, weekly specials, and all benefits from Kroger.



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Check out the latest news on the [dkgtxas.org](http://dkgtxas.org) or [dkg.org](http://dkg.org) (international website). Anything you want to know about the

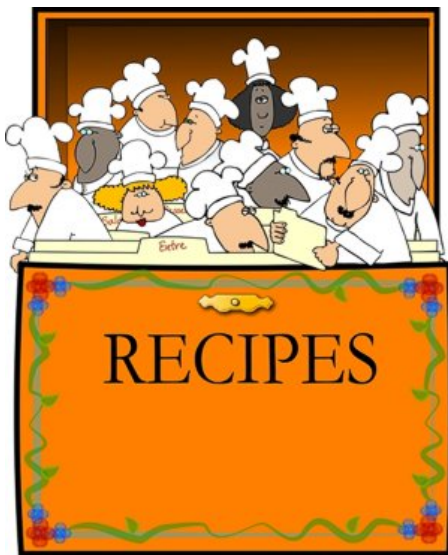


Society can be found on those two sites. Just cruised them to get a feeling for the scope of activities and projects in which the Society is involved.



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Just a reminder that Zeta Tau is in charge of setting up the State Personnel Dinner and getting guests seated at 7:00 PM Friday night. Our two presidents are excused because they will be getting set up for President's Presentation. I will be seeking some volunteers to help set up the room between 4:30 and 5:30. More to follow.



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A yummy idea shared by  
MaryAnn Slaughter

Hot Chicken Salad

8 cups cooked, diced chicken

½ cup lemon juice

2 teaspoons salt

3 – 4 cups mayo (I use low fat kind)

5 cups diced celery

2 cups sliced, toasted almonds

1 tablespoon onion juice or onion powder (Beth Brown says onion juice at HEB)

2 cups grated shredded cheddar cheese

3 cups crushed potato chips

Mix all together except last 2 ingredients. Place in a greased 9x13 baking dish. Cover with cheese and chips. Cook for 20 – 30 minutes at 375 degrees or until bubbly. Very tasty!

YUMMY!!!! Thanks for sharing, MaryAnn!!



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Here is a sweet poem that was shared by Sharon Sharaden

### GOD WENT TO BEAUTY SCHOOL

By Cynthia Rylant

He went there to learn how to give a good perm and ended up just crazy

about nails

so He opened up His own shop.

"Nails by Jim" He called it.

He was afraid to call it

Nails by God.

He was sure people would

think He was being

disrespectful and using

His own name in vain

and nobody would tip.

He got into nails, of course,

because He'd always loved

hand---

Hands were some of the best things

He'd ever done

and this way He could just

hold one in His

and admire those delicate

bones just above the knuckles,

delicate as birds' wings,

and after He'd done that awhile,

He could paint all the nails

any color He wanted,

then say,

"Beautiful,"

and mean it.



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**If you missed the last meeting, Terrie Cardwell did our inspiration and was kind enough to share it with us. Great job, Terrie!**

## **Students Are Like Mustard Seeds**

**By Terrie Cardwell**

Imagine that one mustard seed held in your hand can also represent just one student. It may be a student in your classroom right now, or one you taught in the past. The Apostle Paul taught that “**faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”. You have hopes for your students and you teach them even though you may never know the impact you have had on their lives.

We are in the midst of the season of Lent, a time for reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. It is a time of the year when Christians focus on simple living, prayer and fasting to become closer to God. God has spoken to us through scripture, saying “If you have even the faith of a small mustard seed, you can move the mountains”.

**Mustard** is an ancient plant, known for its small size and has been used as a symbol of greatness in the Bible and in literature. It is a plant that is full of appeal for contemporary gardeners. The plants are easy to **grow** and produce seed in as few as 60 days. The greens are edible, the flowers attractive, and if the seeds are allowed to mature on the plant, they will self-sow and still provide plenty for **mustard** making. Mustard is the smallest of all

seeds, but when planted in the right environment, it can even grow to a big tree. So the size of the seed is not a hindrance for the heights that can be reached.

Mustard seed is whole from within and not hollow. This seed even though very small is hard enough that it is difficult to break with simple hands. That is mainly because, it is not hollow from within. Anything that is not strong from within can easily be destroyed.

Mustard seed does not get influenced by the other seeds around it. There is something called companion planting. This means that certain kind of vegetables and plants can be planted together, because they might benefit each other. But there are some plants that can never be planted together as they influence the growth of the other. For example, a tomato plant is very sensitive to water and a watercress needs its roots to be immersed in water. They both cannot be paired in planting as one’s environment will destroy the other. Certain plants cannot be planted near a black walnut tree or even near its roots because they will take the toxins produced by the walnut tree. However, a mustard seed can be planted anywhere with any other plants. It will not take the characteristics of other plants. How often are we influenced by others in our society? But a person with a faith as small as a mustard seed will not be affected by others. Think about these characteristics and compare that mustard seed with your faith. Remember God does not look for big faith, but simple and strong faith. Next time, when you look at the mustard seed, ask God to make

your faith perfect and whole like that small seed that has a great potential.

So listen to that last thought in a different light – as if the seed were your student. Think about these characteristics and compare that mustard seed with your student. Remember that we can’t work with just certain kinds of students, always bringing us joy and satisfaction. We will have many kinds of students. There will be those who are delightful to have in class and very simple to teach. You will also have strong willed students with behavior problems and learning challenges that make your job of teaching them very difficult and frustrating at times. Some teachers will give up on difficult students. Other teachers will go above and beyond the call of duty to help that difficult student learn. If we are focused on the unseen potential of each and every student, growth will happen. If we have faith in ourselves and the potential of our students, we can have a positive impact on our future.

Keep this mustard seed and look at it often. Think about these things the next time you look at the mustard seed. Ask God to make your faith perfect and whole like this small seed that has a great potential. Ask God to guide you in teaching your students to help them realize their potential.

**Even in the midst of the chaos that comes with the closing of another year, be like that mustard seed and keep the faith.... even faith the size of a mustard seed.**