



# Gamma Nus

Gamma Nu Chapter 85, Area III  
Volume 77, Issue 8

Texas State Organization  
April 2018

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Baytown, Texas

## President's Message

March winds brings on April Showers, which brings on May flowers and the passing of the gavel. We had a wonderful time dining with our sisters in March for National Nutrition Month. We also learned new and revisited proper dining etiquette; from the proper silverware to use, to how to hold the folded napkin in your lap, and where you should place the napkin when you leave the table until you return. If you were not there, you were missed, and you missed an informational lesson given by our very own, Brenda Hastings-Gongora.

During the month of April, we celebrate National Earth Day. There are several things which contribute to the earth. One is how to conserve Monarch Butterflies. This will be the topic of our program by our own Lori Janick.

We will be installing our new Biennium 2018-20 officers. I hope each of you can take a moment to stop by and participate in at least one of these events at First Christian Church.

Sisters don't forget to register for all the upcoming important dates:

- Meeting the President on April 22, 2018.
- State Convention scheduled for June 14 -16, 2018.
- International Convention scheduled for July 16 - 18, 2018.

Remain involved on the Local, State, and International level.



## Red Roses to .....

- Our sisters (Brenda Hastings-Gongora, Adela Pirzadeh, Karen Stephens, Kathy Littlefield, Lilia Crow, Carol Mitchell), who prepared the meal for our program "Let's Dine Together".
- Lovely Memory Red Rose who provided some items for an evening of fine dining.
- Brenda Hastings-Gongora for our history lesson on etiquette versus manners.
- Bull's Eye Red Rose team for bringing raffle items.
- Music committee for their selection "Food Glorious Food" from the musical "Oliver."
- Gamma Nu Member for the month of March - Elizabeth Roan
- Members who have still been sending in auction money as a donation to help reach a goal of \$2000, we are at \$1,700.
- Nomination committee for presenting us with a cabinet of veteran and rookies for 2018-20 that we have voted upon.

**Happy Birthday to You!**  
**April**

**19 - Erica Smith**

### Gamma Nus Editor

Brenda J. Clem  
4701-6 Bush Road, Baytown, Texas 77521  
Email: [brndajclem@aol.com](mailto:brndajclem@aol.com)

### Gamma Nu Website

[www.gammanutexas.weebly.com](http://www.gammanutexas.weebly.com)

**Next Meeting**  
**April 12, 2018**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**First Christian Church**  
**201 Forrest St.**

**Program: Celebration of Earth Day**

Lori Janick will present the program on Monarch Butterflies and the importance in conserving them.

**Installation of New Officers**

**Music Committee** - Musical Selection

**Refreshments/Collect** - Spanish Dress Team

**Inspiration/Gifts** - Devotion Team

**Bay Area Relay for Life**

**Don't Forget!!**

- ❖ Gamma Nu has signed up to be a Luminary Club for Relay 2018. Our goal is \$500 and as of now we have received **\$295**. If you have not bought your Luminaries, please do so as soon as possible.
- ❖ The price increased to \$15 after March 30. You can give your forms to Pat Thomas at the April 12 meeting, and she will deliver them to Carolyn Francis for you.
- ❖ You can also order luminaries *online after February 2* at the secure Relay website: [www.relayforlife.org/bayareatx](http://www.relayforlife.org/bayareatx).
- ❖ Be sure to credit the Gamma Nu Luminary Club Team for any luminaries you order online.
- ❖ Just be sure to type Gamma Nu in the box for luminary clubs!

**Gamma Nu Officers**  
**2018-2020 Biennium**

- President—Brenda Hastings-Gongora
- 1st Vice President—Adela Pirzadeh
- 2nd Vice President—Nancy Bonds
- Recording Secretary—Ann Garrett
- Corresponding Secretary—Natalie Gomez-Salazar
- Treasurer - Mona Bonds
- Parliamentarian - Kay Hill

**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.

## ANNUAL FOUNDERS' BANQUET

The banquet theme is **"Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow"**.

It will be hosted by Epsilon Psi on **Thursday, May 10, 2018**. It will be held at:

Eagle Pointe Conference and Banquet Facility

12450 Eagle Pointe Drive

Mont Belvieu, Texas 77523

**The Reservation Form is on the website. Please follow the directions as to the form and payment.**

It will be a great meal and a fun evening of fellowship with our sisters in Epsilon Psi.

### In the News By Karen Stephens

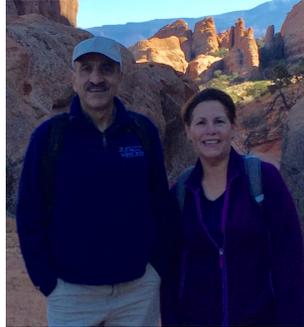
Many of our members are not only active in our chapter but are very involved in our community. Perhaps you've read some of the articles about happenings at GCCISD written by **Susan Passmore** or seen her leadership endeavors as President of the Pilot Club of Baytown. **Wynona Montgomery** has likewise been featured in many activities involving the West Chambers Pilot Club. In December, **Katherine George** and **Wynona Montgomery** were featured in an article about Storybook Christmas along with Epsilon Psi members. Last July, **Billie Brinkley** was featured in articles about the Art League and was instrumental in arranging our October meeting at the Art League building on Texas Avenue. **Kay Hill** was spotted in a picture along with 70 other travelers in a trip to Cape Cod last August. **Sandra Bell** and **Kathy Clausen** have been featured in a variety of articles involving their involvement with the Rotary Club and the American Diabetes Association. And in case you missed it, **Sandra Bell** was named the Refiner of the Year in 2016 for her volunteer work in our area. In July two of our members, **Billie Brinkley** and **Brenda Hastings-Gongora** were pictured with the Mission Viejo Book Club. Our **President Faith Smith-Chew** along with **Brenda Hastings-Gongora**, **Wynona Montgomery**, **Nancy Bonds**, **Pam Ansley**, **Natalie Salazar**, and **Kay Hill** represented Gamma Nu at the state convention in Houston last June. This past December, students at B.P. Hopper Primary posed with **Principal Maria Rosas** for a Career Day photo. Last May, **Margaret Ehlig** was featured with **Susan Passmore** as she received bicycle helmets for students who will win a bicycle in a perfect attendance drawing at the end of school. During a Martin Luther King lesson, **Lilia Crow** was featured reading a book about his life to her kindergarten students.

Not only have some of our members been recognized in the **Baytown Sun** but also some of their family members have been featured for a variety of events. **Ricky Clem (Brenda's husband)** has been pictured in his role as President of the Baytown Classroom Teachers Association and as a newly elected School Board Trustee. **Eric Henrichsen, Roseanna's son**, has been showcased as he follows in his grandfather's footsteps and helped many of his students and parents, from Stephen F. Austin, who were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Not only has **Andrew Beck, son of Christine Beck**, been awarded numerous medals for his art work but also is on the Robotics Team and was involved in collecting food in December for the Share Your Holiday Food Drive.

As you can see I have been holding on to these articles for a long time. It has been interesting reviewing how active our members are outside of Gamma Nu. I apologize to those of you I might have missed in the Baytown Sun. Sometimes I just got overwhelmed, but I'll continue to scan the Baytown Sun as the months pass.

## *Gamma Nu Member of the Month*

### *April 2018*



*Adela Pirzadeh and husband Jay*

### **The Five W's of a DKG Woman Educator Worksheet**

#### **Who was I before joining DKG/Gamma Nu?**

Prior to joining DKG/Gamma Nu I was a wife, mother, and an elementary school teacher.

#### **What were you doing before joining DKG/Gamma Nu?**

My first five years of teaching were as a fourth grade bilingual teacher in Crystal City, Texas. I then started my career with Goose Creek as a fourth grade Bilingual ESL teacher at Travis Elementary. The following year I went on to teach language arts at Crockett Elementary. There I taught three years until the bilingual program moved to Lamar Elementary. I remained at Lamar as a third grade and second grade language arts teacher.

#### **Who did you become because of joining DKG/Gamma Nu?**

I have met and collaborated with a variety of women educators. This has enabled me to become better informed about issues relevant to women educators and the educational community. I have been able to participate as a DKG/Gamma Nu member in supporting a variety of educational programs.

#### **What have you been doing since you joined DKG/Gamma Nu?**

I taught second and fifth grade language arts at Lamar elementary until 2015 when I retired after twenty eight years of teaching. I also joined MANA mentoring organization for young Latina girls (Hermanitas) and became the liaison between MANA and our Gamma Nu chapter. I conducted the program that presented the Hermanitas to Gamma Nu. Our chapter donated funds which helped the group in attaining airline tickets to the MANA National Convention in Washington, D. C. It would be the first time that many of the Hermanitas flew in an airplane. I also spearheaded the project in which Gamma Nu adopted the Hermanitas with the aim of supporting them in their educational endeavors. One activity was touring the IMPACT Early College High School and the Lee College Campus. The Hermanitas were also treated to a Manners and Etiquette workshop. Both events were smashing successes thanks to the generous collaboration of Gamma Nu sisters, Laura Reyes and Brenda Gongora! Hermanitas shared that they learned so much and enjoyed the presentations tremendously. Being a part of this project was one of the most rewarding moments of my life. I am also enjoying keeping busy as a part time tutor. I love working with the kids. The most important part of my life is the time spent with family. A year ago our son Amir got married so our family grew by one lovely young lady named Sara Beth and a grand dog named Fender. Lastly, my husband, Jay, and I are on a quest! We are working on visiting and hiking in as many of our wonderful nation's national parks as possible. We have fallen in love with nature's beauty!

#### **When did you know you wanted to be a DKG/Gamma Nu member?**

I decided to join the chapter when I learned about all the positive ways in which the organization contributes toward supporting women educators, school children, and the community.

#### **When did you become a DKG/Gamma Nu member?**

I became a member in 2008

**Where were you in your educational career before becoming a DKG/Gamma Nu member?**

I had been a Bilingual-ESL teacher for twenty years and had taught second through fifth grade in two districts. I was a mentor, counselor, and a friend to new bilingual teachers on our campus. I think I was more like a mother figure to many of them. I served as a team leader, ILT member, and UIL instructor. In many cases I served as a counselor-advisor to many of my students' parents.

**Where have you excelled since becoming a member of DKG/Gamma Nu?**

I have served on several committees. I was Membership and Hostess & Hospitality Chairperson. I also served as First Vice President. This next biennium I am again going to again take the position as First Vice President for our chapter.

**Why did you want to become a DKG/Gamma Nu member?**

I wanted to be involved in contributing to the community. I also knew some of the members and realized that DKG/Gamma Nu was an outstanding organization.

**Why do you remain a DKG/Gamma Nu member?**

I remain in Gamma Nu because I believe in its Mission and Vision statements. I also enjoy the fellowship and the friendships that I have gained since joining the chapter.

**State and Area Officers**

*Nan Meharg has asked to have the email addresses of our State and Area Officers listed for you.*

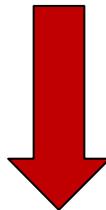
Kim Birkelbach-(Area 3 Communications Committee Member)  
20823 Twisted Leaf Drive, Cypress, TX 77433 [kjbirkelbach@gmail.com](mailto:kjbirkelbach@gmail.com)

Mandy Story-(Communications and Publicity Chair)  
908 E Ikard, Henrietta, TX 76365  
(Hard Copy)

Dr. Joe Murphy-(Alpha State President)  
2334 Summit Forest, Frederickburg, TX 78624  
(Hard Copy)

Carol McMillan-(Lone Star News)  
PO Box 443, San Augustine, TX 75972  
(Hard Copy)

Denise Charlston-(Area 3 Coordinator)  
[DRKUNI@aol.com](mailto:DRKUNI@aol.com)



Keep going - - there's more to come!!!

## Reminders

### Gamma Nu

- The second and final Executive Board meeting will be held following the regular meeting on Thursday, April 12, 2018.
- The Founder's Day Banquet will be hosted by Epsilon Psi. It will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2018, at Eagle Pointe Conference and Banquet Facility. The time will be 6:00 p.m. and ticket information will be available soon.

### President's Reception

The GHACC event is now on Sunday, April 22, 2018. **This is a date & location change from Saturday, April 21**, so President Dr. Jo Murphy can be in attendance. The schedule is as follows:

#### **Sunday, April 22, 2018 - President's Reception**

- 1:00 p.m. Doors open for set-up committee
- 1:30 p.m. Chapter President's Meeting with President Jo Murphy. This is for out-going and in-coming Presidents.

**Please note: Immediately following this meeting, Group B will elect the 2018 - 2020 GHACC officers**

- 2:00 -4:00 p.m. Reception for all members of Area 3 & 18
- **4:00 p.m. Clean up Committee**
- Location: **Zion Lutheran Church, 5050 East Sam Houston Parkway South, Pasadena 77505**
- **Cost \$10.00 per chapter** (to help with cost of reception expenses along with 2016-18 chapter dues) due by Saturday, April 10, 2018. If your chapters has outstanding balance of outstanding 2016-18 Chapter dues . please include this along with an approximate number of members attending from your chapter.
- Mail payment & number attending to: Ellen Laughlin, 2119 Tall Ships Dr., Friendswood, 77546 by Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

### DKG State Convention

- The DKG State Convention will be held on June 14-16, 2018, in Waco, Texas. Please register at: [www.dkg.texas.org](http://www.dkg.texas.org).
- The Area 3 attendees expressed enthusiasm for holding a mini-STAAAR event. The Ad Hoc committee felt the greatest attendance might be Saturday, April 28. The event will be one day only. It will have 3 sessions with 3 activities to choose from each time. The last (4<sup>th</sup>) session will be a group project which will focus on a product to be given to Early Educators throughout the Area. It might be a lot of EE's. A Continental Breakfast would be included during check-in, as would a lunch during the day. The Ad Hoc planning committee needs input from chapter members regarding how many would attend. The time would be 8:30 – 3:30 at a location to be determined.

### DKG International Convention

The DKG International Convention will be held on July 16-18, 2018, in Austin, Texas. Please register at: [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org).

### Texas State Organization

The Executive Committee has chosen to suspend the President's Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE) for the 2017-18 year. In addition, the Seal of Merit for outstanding newsletters has also been suspended. The Executive Committee will continue to honor the 5-Star recognition. This change was decided on the amount of work it put on the chapter editors.