



Gamma Nus

Gamma Nu Chapter 85, Area III

Texas State Organization

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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Baytown, Texas

President's Message

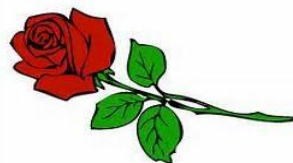
Merry Christmas!

I remember seeing the glimpses of Christmas in early October and thinking, "Already? It's too early." Yet here we are in December. I hope that each of you took the opportunity to relish the moments with family and friends as you inventoried and gave thanks for each blessing in your life. Speaking of blessings, I am exceptionally blessed. My huge extended family and close friends gathered in force to celebrate Grace Dalrymple Hastings's, my mother's, 90th birthday with joy, honor and thanksgiving.

December and traditions go hand-in-hand. I think we all have family traditions that make the holidays special. Whether it be making fruit cakes for the neighbors, or cookie day with the children, or tamale day for Christmas eve, or trim-the-tree day, or shopping for that perfect gift for each person on our list, or sending Christmas cards, and the list goes on, this time of year adds extra stress to an already busy life. One of the Gamma Nu traditions is to visit assisted living facilities and sing Christmas carols with the residents, spreading cheer and nostalgia to older community members. I have seen happy tears from the residents; that is the "joy in service."

Giving from the heart to every first grader is a long-standing Gamma Nu/Epsilon Psi tradition through the "A Storybook Christmas" project. This year the book is *Snowmen at Night* written by Caralyn Buehner and illustrated by Mark Buehner.

Brenda Hasting-Gongora, Gamma Nu President



Roses to

Each "key" Gamma Nu member who contributed to our success this year. Did you come to the breakfast? Did you give to the "Treats for Teachers" in the fall? Did you deliver snacks to a school? Did you attend a meeting? Did you nominate a new member? Did you donate a door prize? Did you contribute a snack to a meeting? Did you support the new members at the induction? Did you attend the A Storybook Christmas planning meeting? Did you pay your dues? Did you distribute the grant books to one of the Free Little Libraries? Did you send out the Gamma Nus? Did you keep the website current? Did you make decision with the Executive Council? Did you remind a member about a meeting?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then YOU get a red rose. Some of you collected a bouquet and that's what we are all about; supporting women educators and students throughout our community.

Gamma Nus Editor

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Next Meeting December 12, 2019

- ❖ 5:15 p.m. - Start at Waterford or Focused Care at Burnet Bay for Caroling! (See addresses below!)
- ❖ 5:45 ish - St. John Catholic Church
800 West Baker Road
Baytown, TX, 77520

**Program: Key to Peace: Caroling with
Nursing Home Seniors**

Refreshments: Mary Jane Ethridge, Chair

Raffle: Brenda Hastings Gongora, Chair

Added Excitement: "A Shopping We Go" -
More information on the last page of Gamma Nus!

Happy Birthday to You! December

2-Kay Hill

6-Nedra Bradley

15- Linda Arthur

22-Pat Thomas

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we approach this blessed day, may we all try to remember that Christmas is not a material thing! It is NOT what is under the tree or in the beautifully wrapped packages. Christmas is what is in our hearts and minds. A time of giving-not getting; a time of loving-even those who are the hardest to love; a time of forgiving-even those who have hurt you; and rejoicing-for all the blessings God has so richly bestowed on us.

In the words of the Grinch, "Christmas doesn't come from a store! Maybe Christmas means a little bit more!"

Gamma Nu Yearbooks

Yearbooks – The 2019-20 Gamma Nu Yearbook is complete! Karen Stephens sent it to me and am attaching it to the Gamma Nus.

DKG International has asked all chapters to **"Go Green"** and to no longer print yearbooks for distribution. If you prefer to have a paper copy, you will need to print it. For most of us, electronic is fine. I just print the few pages I need to write the Gamma Nus.

Thanks for your understanding and patience!

A Note of Thanks!!

*Many of you have expressed your thanks for the Gamma Nus and its design. I appreciate your kind words and words of encouragement. Sisters are truly the best!!
Brenda J. Clem*

Caroling Assignments

Meet at 5:15 p.m.

Waterford – 901 West Baker Road

Brenda Hastings-Gongora
Billie Brinkley
Paula Ellis
Sally Capetillo
Mona Bonds
Nancy Bonds
Kristi Warren
Terri Cooper

Focused Care at Burnet Bay – 3921 N. Main

Roseanna Henrichsen
Margaret Ehlig
Pat Thomas
Kathy Littlefield
Lori Janick
Rose Bennett
Adela Pirzadeh
Karen Stephens

If your name is not on the list – come to one of the places and join us! The more voices, the merrier we will be!!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Storybook Christmas

Friday, December 6, 2019

Place: Banuelos Elementary – Science Lab
7770 Eastpoint Blvd. - located behind
Victoria Walker Elementary

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00ish

We will work with Epsilon Psi members to place stickers in books, count books, and bag them for delivery. They will be delivered to the schools after we finish packing them.

The more people who attend, the faster we can complete this project! See you then!!

If you have a connection with a school, offer to come and read to a First Grade class or two! They would love it and it is GREAT volunteer hours! Also ask to snap a picture for Gamma Nus or the Website.



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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.

High Notes and Grace Notes

High Notes:

- Gamma Nu is happy to welcome our six (6) new members. **Paula Ellis, Rose Bennett, Terri Cooper, and Sally Capetillo** were inducted at the November meeting. **Monica O'Brien and Kendall David** will be inducted soon! Please welcome them at our meetings by introducing yourself to them.
- **Kendall David** and her husband **Derek**, welcome their new baby, **Dex**.

Grace Notes:

- Please be in prayer for **Kaitlin Burks** and her family after the death of her infant sons, Eli and Thomas Burks.

A Shopping We Go

In 2005, Brenda and Ricky Clem came to the realization their families had not been touched by cancer. To give thanks, they founded "Clem's Creations" as a way to "Pay it Forward"! They begin donating product to make handcrafted items. Brenda does needlepoint items (eyeglass cases, coin purses, cosmetic bags), handmade receiving blankets, beaded jewelry of all kinds, and Ricky makes Christmas ornaments and clocks, and hauls all their treasures. As all product is donated and made by them, they give all the proceeds to American Cancer Society/Relay for Life. This is their 15th year to "Pay it Forward" with "Clem's Creations."

They will be bringing "Clem's Creations" to our meeting on December 11th. If you have Christmas shopping left to do, or just want to treat yourself, this will be a great time to do it, and donate to Relay for Life at the same time.

They are excited about the opportunity of sharing "Clem's Creations" with Gamma Nu. They gladly accept cash, checks, and credit cards – or just donations!

So, check your Christmas list and your wish list, as Gamma Nu carols, meets, eats, and shops on December 11th!

As always - - Karen Stephens will be saving you a seat!

Reminders

Current Membership – Look for a member you have not seen in a while and give them a call about our next meeting.

Refreshment and Raffle Teams – Be sure you know when you are responsible for Refreshments and Raffle items. Everyone needs to be sure they are contributing to Gamma Nu in more ways than just their dues! A new schedule is attached as it includes our six new members!

January 9 - Joint Meeting with Epsilon Psi - Gamma Nu will host this meeting!

February 13 – Gamma Nu Auction – Start collecting items to bring to the Auction. Now is a great time to look for deals and steals! And don't forget to bring a friend!!

June 17-19, 2020 - 91st Texas State Convention in McAllen, Texas. Start looking for your roommate and watch for more information!