



# Gamma Nus

Gamma Nu Chapter 85, Area III  
Volume 75, Issue 7

Texas State Organization  
February 2015

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Baytown, Texas

## President's Message

Dear Gamma Nu Sisters,

Close your eyes and think of February. What image comes to mind? I see red and pink hearts.

I have tried this with other months, but nothing seems to stand out as much as the hearts for February. You can tell, I am retired and have a lot of time to think.

My second thought is---February Gamma Nu Auction! WooHoo! This is my favorite meeting of the year. If you can only attend one Gamma Nu meeting, this is the one you won't want to miss.

Our auctioneeress (not a real word, but it fits Mary Jane) is ready to help us raise money for our scholarships and projects. Bring a friend, your checkbook, and be a part of the excitement,

Thursday, February 12.

P.S. Kathy Littlefield, I will be looking for German Chocolate Cake!



## Red Roses to .....

**Adela Pirzadeh** for conducting the Gamma Nu part of the joint meeting in my absence.

**Betty Jo Watts**, our Area 3 Coordinator, for making the trip to Baytown to be at the meeting in January.

**All Gamma Nu Sisters**, who braved the bad weather and represented our chapter at the January meeting.

**Epsilon Psi members** for hosting January's meeting.

**Melissa Botkin** for receiving her doctorate in December.

### Gamma Nus Editor

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**Happy Birthday to You!**  
**February**

7 Susan Passmore  
 10 Mary Margaret Hooks  
 17 Sandra Bell  
 21 Nancy Bolding  
 27 Mona Bonds

**Next Meeting**  
**February 12, 2015**  
First Christian Church, 201 Forrest Ave.  
5:15 p.m.

**Encourage: Maintain and increase funds for scholarships and chapter projects**  
Fundraiser/Scholarship Auction

**February's refreshments** will be furnished by the Yearbook, Hostess, Courtesy, and Rose Committees. Karen Stephens will be contacting members to help with these later this week.



**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.

**Gamma Nu Member's Bucket List**

Every member of Gamma Nu should have "Gamma Nu Auction" on their Bucket List!!! If you have never attended a Gamma Nu Auction then you truly have not lived a full life!

They are fun, the auctioneer is awesome, and they are an excellent way to bring out the "best" in the members! (Just wait until two members want the same item! You will see sides of members you did not know existed!!! Jekyll and Hyde come to mind!)

So do not miss this exciting opportunity on Thursday, February 12 at 5:15!!

**AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

Members are asked to contribute an item(s) for the auction. Baked goods, Valentines Day items, jewelry, scarves, etc are some of the things we have had in the past and have all been good items for auction. These are just suggestions, I'm sure you can think of other things that would work. Can't think of anything to bring, don't worry we always need people to bid. Have a friend at work that needs an exciting evening, bring her with you! I promise, the meeting part will be brief. Put 2 hearts on this date on your calendar, so you don't miss it. See you then!

## Happy St. Valentines Day

**Have you ever wondered about the real story of St. Valentine's Day? Why is it referred to as "St. Valentine's Day" in one sentence and "Valentines Day" in another? Was it something made up by the greeting card companies and when did it all start? Flowers, candy, red hearts and romance. That's what Valentine's day is all about, right? Well, maybe not.**

**The origin of this holiday for the expression of love really isn't romantic at all -- at least not in the traditional sense. The true story is very touching and may surprise many of you. Read on for a whole new feeling about St. Valentine's Day!**

"The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian Martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus.

Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ; not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned.

During the last weeks of Valentinus's life a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength.

"Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked one day.

"Yes, my child, He hears each one."

"Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about!"

"God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said.

"Oh, Valentinus, I do believe! I do!" She knelt and grasped his hand.

They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!"

"Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed, and he knelt in prayer.

On the eve of his death Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He signed it, "From your Valentine." His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship. On each February 14, Saint Valentine's Day, messages of affection, love, and devotion are exchanged around the world."

[www.olrl.org/lives/](http://www.olrl.org/lives/)

**Isn't it interesting how many of our customs and holidays have a religious beginning? And to think they have survived over thousands of years. How many of the customs which we are creating today will survive this test of time? I hope mini skirts, high heels, loud music, and sagging pants on guys die a quick death and soon!!!**

**Do you enjoy doing crafts and visiting with other  
Delta Kappa Gamma Members?**

**Epsilon Sigma of Area 3 is hosting a Crafts Day!**

*Saturday, March 7*

*9 am to 3 pm*

*(registration begins at 8:30 am)*

*Santa Fe Fire and Rescue; Station 1*

*12506 Hwy 6*

*Santa Fe, TX 77510*

**Come join us and begin your Spring and Easter decorations.**

**We will be making projects which you can do on your own and projects which will be directly taught. Projects will include a 3-D Easter Egg, Duct Tape Journal, Duct Tape Rose, Bookmarks and more.**

*Registration is \$18 and includes coffee/juice bar, lunch, snacks, drinks,  
and ALL supplies needed for your projects!*

*Make checks payable to: Barbara Derrick; put ASTEF in memo line*

*All proceeds go to support ASTEF (Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation) Project Stipends*

*To save your spot, please email: [BLSDerrick@aol.com](mailto:BLSDerrick@aol.com)*

*Send name, chapter name, and fee to:*

*Barbara Derrick; 4214 Bolton Ave, Santa Fe, TX 77510*

*Deadline is February 28*

*For question & more information please call 409-925-5514*

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## **Gamma Nu Chapter Joint Meeting with Epsilon Psi**

**Minutes  
Thursday, January 22, 2015 at First Baptist Church**

**Call to Order:** Epsilon Psi President Paula Jackson called the joint meeting of Gamma Nu and Epsilon Psi chapters to order.

**Welcome:** President Paula Jackson welcomed the following guests: Betty Jo Watts, Area 3 Coordinator and Kelley Rogers from Kappa Chi. Adela Pirzadeh, 1st Vice-President of Gamma Nu introduced the following guests: Crystal Garcia, Ben Garcia, Michelle Stav and Clint Green. Betty Jo Watts brought greetings from Alpha State and encouraged members to attend the State Convention in San Antonio, Thursday, June 25 through Sunday, June 28, 2015. President Paula

Jackson turned the meeting over to Adela Pirzadeh, 1st Vice- President of Gamma Nu, to conduct the Gamma Nu business meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** The November minutes were approved and will be filed for audit.

**Treasurer Report:** Mona Bonds reported that the Treasurer's Report is on the website and will be filed for audit.

### **President's Report**

Grants in Aid: Wynona Montgomery presented the awards to Crystal Garcia and Michelle Stav.

- Crystal Garcia is a second year teacher at Alamo Elementary. She will use the grant money to purchase a guided reading book library for her classroom. Crystal Garcia was accompanied by her husband, Ben Garcia.
- Michelle Stav is a second year teacher at Goose Creek Memorial. She will use the grant money to purchase keyboards for her classroom. Michelle Stav was accompanied by her fiancé, Clint Green. Each grant recipient received \$300.

### **Committee Reports**

- Banquet: Margaret Ehlig invited all to attend the Founder's Day Banquet, which will be held at the Monument Inn on May 14, 2015, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The "early bird" cost is \$25. Deadline for the reduced cost is April 1, 2015. After April 1st the cost will be \$28.

Send attendance form and check or money order to Mona Bonds.

- February Auction: Brenda Hastings-Gongora invited all in attendance to the February 12th meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the First Christian church. This meeting is the Gamma Nu auction. Proceeds of the auction go to scholarships. Once again, Mary Jane Etheridge will be the auctioneer.

### **Announcements**

Thoughts of Others: A red rose was honorably presented to Melissa Botkin for completing her doctorate in Educational Leadership. She humbly accepted.

Paula Jackson conducted the Epsilon Psi business meeting.

### **Program**

Dr. Greg Poole, Superintendent of Barbers Hill ISD, congratulated Cara Skinner, Epsilon Psi member, on the publication of her young adult book GENERAL HOUSTON'S LITTLE SPY. Dr. Poole acknowledged being a Texas history fan and shared a book he brought about Dr. Ashbel Smith, which he gave to the member with the closest birthday. Dr. Poole spoke on the latest legislatives trends in education including PK, higher education, school choice, etc.

**Adjournment:** Epsilon Psi President Paula Jackson adjourned the meeting. All members sang the Delta Kappa Gamma Song.

**1st Vice-President**  
**Adela Pirzadeh**

**Recording Secretary**  
**Brenda Hastings Gongora**