

Eta Delta Data



Eta Delta Chapter 172 Area 3, Houston
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Texas State Organization

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 educators worldwide.

Ann Mahan, editor, annmahan@comcast.net



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jane Flinn

Dear Sisters,

Even as a native Houstonian, I love fall. Two of my favorite holidays come in the fall. Touches of color accent the landscape. I delight in the joy, wonder, and excitement of the children who come to our house to trick-or-treat. Fall brings the promise, albeit fleeting, of cooler weather.

In November, Thanksgiving brings time to enjoy and give thanks for family and friends. This year, I am especially thankful for the birth of Linnea, my granddaughter. Always on my list of thanks, I include the teachers who open the doors of learning to their students. Each day dedicated professionals reach out to their students to broaden their horizons and take them to higher levels of learning.

I also give thanks for Eta Delta and each of you. Being a member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International through Eta Delta is a privilege. I am thankful that Jane Humphries considered me to be worthy of becoming an Eta Delta sister. Each of you is a blessing to me through your presence at meetings, support of our chapter projects, and your dedication to education.

This year as you celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, enjoying a bountiful meal, and/or cheering for your favorite football team, I encourage you to take time to make a list of all that you are thankful for. I hope that Eta Delta is included as it is on mine.

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you.

Jane

Happy Thanksgiving

**CHAPTER MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2014**

TIME: 9:45-11:30

LOCATION: **ST CHRISTOPHER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
1650 Blalock Road
Houston 77080

INSPIRATION: Jane Hall

PROGRAM: *Taking Care of Self*

PRESENTER: Campbell Wellness Center Representative

HOSTESSES: Elizabeth McDowell*
Dede Drexler
Ann Mahan
Jane Hall

DIRECTIONS: (SEE PAGE 6)

REMINDERS:

- We need to "break the bank" by feeding our piggy lots of nickels, dimes, and quarters at each meeting.
- Bring *Taking Care of New Teachers* form.
- Wear your key pin and a friendly smile.

Projects 2014-15

At the October meeting, the chapter decided specific details for Eta Delta's projects. Money donated for library books will shift from Red Elementary to Durham Elementary and Box Tops for Education will go to Bane Elementary.

Toiletries will now go to LOTS (Lord of the Streets) providing services for **men** and **women** down town who are

homeless. More women, many with children, feel safer because of LOTS.

Have you heard . . .

- **Donna Patch** will be at Moody Gardens in Galveston October 31-November 2 attending the Texas Council for Social Studies State Convention.
- **Michelle Smith** put her Houston house on the market the last day of May, sold the house in one day with a cash offer for their asking price! Talk about amazing! She had bought her house in Maryland in December; now she has major renovations to complete. She has been so busy that she hasn't had time to look for either a job or a new chapter. Michelle sends her regards to all.
- **Debbie Elrod** will introduce two acts as she ice skates for the December 5th-6th production of Nutcracker Suite in Memorial City.
- **Elizabeth McDowell** is spearheading a program to benefit teachers with 1-3 years of experience.

Just a thought . . .

Our DKG Founders joined together to fight for what we now call "Gender Equality." Their immediate concerns were with policies current in the state of Texas 1929: equal pay for equal positions, contract terms and guarantees equal to those of males, equal opportunities for greater advancement in leadership roles, equal rules for women with those of males.

Although major strides have improved the working options for women, gender equality continues to be an issue. A look at our vocabulary provides a hint to the monumental task of using neutral language. HuMAN. MANkind. FeMALE. Even with *SHE* and *Her*, *he* is present. The record of civilization's events is recorded in *HIS*tory, but the one revered, respected, and honored is the *HER*o. Heroes fight injustice, protect the innocent, and champion the less fortunate. Here's to *HER*oes!

ASTEF: *Colonial Williamsburg*

The 2014 ASTEF trip to Colonial Williamsburg October 5-10 was a unique experience for the program directors and for us. We were the first all-teachers, all-from Texas group. Even the men had some teaching experience. **Ann Mahan** and **Brenda Paulk** joined other DKG sisters—seven men joined us—all from Texas.

The first evening, we introduced ourselves. Brenda revealed the recent death of her husband (April 2014) and how the ASTEF trip was part of her moving on. The next morning, Carolyn Adkins told Brenda that she, too, had lost her husband suddenly and knew what Brenda was experiencing, but Carolyn

reminded Brenda that all of her DKG sisters were there to support her. That was special.

The best invention since travel began is a special hearing device—much like early hearing aids—that we wore. The guide or lecturer wore a headset microphone and even outside, we could hear clearly without needing to be up front. The earpiece was so comfortable that we often forgot that we were even wearing it!

Best of all, the weather was perfect—not a cloud in the sky. Although temperatures were slightly above the expected, breezes kept everything comfortable. The only "bad" thing about the trip was having to go home!



Ann Mahan and Brenda Paulk are of like mind with young student Thomas Jefferson in Colonial Williamsburg.

Life-Long Learning

Ann Mahan

To walk in Williamsburg is to walk in the shadows of great men, great ideas, and great actions, but visiting the places and seeing the sights is only part of the experiences. ASTEF in cooperation Road Scholar created a program that added the insight into the 18th century.

Lectures by archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians connected the importance of Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown to the establishment of English colonies and the eventual creation of the United States from those colonies.

Each morning, an expert presented a lecture; each afternoon we visited the historic place. At times, archaeologists were still at work unearthing new finds; the 18th century developed dimension. Real people, not just names with dates, lived and died to follow a dream. From the first explorers at Jamestown, to the important people and ideas in Williamsburg, to the soldiers fighting at Yorktown, our country began.

Each evening, a character stepped out of the pages of history to tell about how things were for the average person, especially women. Each one researched original documents to provide an accurate presentation—period dress, artifacts, even attitude according to the social status. An African-American storyteller and singer and a musician who played instruments

likely used in common settings and taverns entertained us. An expert in 18th century cooking not only brought cookbooks and utensils, but also the ingredients for a trifle and invited the class to help whip the cream, cut the cake into cubes, layer the custard, preserves, and sherry. The result was delicious! A bundle of fine sticks whipped the cream as well as a mixer and tasted as good. (Brenda Paulk whipped the cream!)



By Ann Mahan

The Man Who Loved Jane Austen
Sally Smith O'Rourke

Prologue: May 12, 1810

In the dark of night, Jane “a respectable young woman by any standard, the unmarried daughter of a clergyman,” imagined the scandal should anyone see her out alone at night. She was on her way to meet a young man—an action thirty-four year old Jane “had never before dared nor even considered.”

Jane arrives at her meeting point to find **not** her young man, but Simmons, a servant who has come to return to Jane her undelivered letter to the gentleman, and to tell her that the young man has left town. The man who had “reawakened her girlhood dreams of love and romance. . . could not stay and she could not go.”

Present Day

Eliza Knight is a New York artist with a cat named Wickham. At an antique warehouse, an old-fashioned scarred rosewood vanity (dressing table) “calls” to her. In her apartment as she examines her new treasure, Eliza discovers a piece of newspaper dated 7 April, 1810, stuck to the drawer liner. The mirror, in less than ideal condition, yields “a slim packet of thick, sepia-toned paper tied together like a Christmas package with a crisscross of bright green ribbon”—letters that are addressed to Miss Jane Austen, Chawton Cottage and to Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy, Chawton Great House. Because *Pride and Prejudice* was Eliza’s favorite novel, she understands the magnitude of her find. Eliza’s imagination swirls “with what ifs and could bes” even as she knows “it was patently absurd; because . . . Darcy was after all a fictitious character, wasn’t he?”

Eliza’s knowledge of Jane Austen is limited so she decides to search the web for information, but where to start with “the million and a half” sites? She selects Austenticity.com because it promises “Everything you ever wanted to know about Jane Austen.” Eliza posts a message: Was Darcy from *Pride and Prejudice* a real person? SMARTIST@galleri.com

Through her continued research, Eliza learns that “most scholars believed Jane Austen peopled her novels with characters from her own life.” She waits for an answer to her question hoping to learn Austen had done just that with Darcy.

The reply to her query is “A very strange question . . . I happen to be firmly of the opinion that he was. But then I am slightly *prejudiced*. Why are you interested?” signed [F. DARCY@PemberleyFarms.com](mailto:F.DARCY@PemberleyFarms.com)

Angry because she thinks her question wasn’t taken seriously, Eliza is even more intent on learning more. She goes to the New York Public Library’s exhibit “The World Of Jane Austen, A Woman of Two Centuries.” In a display case is an original letter from Jane Austen. To Eliza’s untrained eye, the writing appears to be the same and thus her letter seems to be authentic. To know for sure, she must submit her letter for “laboratory testing and forensic comparisons.”



November Birthdays

<i>Debbie McCart</i>	10
<i>Joan Watson</i>	15
<i>Shirley Felcman</i>	16
<i>Tonie Maheshwari</i>	29

The Best Selfie

By Ann Mahan

Alexander Pope said, “a little learning is a dangerous thing.” Today, with instant communication, the latest discovery or development in health and well-being spreads like wildfire. “Trusted” celebrities such as Dr. Oz advise us to improve our health—the “secret” to living better. But which “study” to believe? Drink coffee, don’t drink coffee. Take don’t take vitamins, take vitamins.

We are accustomed to checking the facts, to doing the reasonable thing, but we are bombarded with conflicting authorities. So, what *is* the solution? Common sense is often our best authority. We are what we eat and do.

What to eat? Everyone agrees that a balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, lean meat, and multigrain cereals is best. However, buying small quantities is often more expensive; buying larger quantities is wasteful. Buy organic as the best thing to be healthy. Again, studies say organic is not necessarily better. Ideally, we would eat from our garden; in reality, buying fresh locally grown is probably the next best choice. Fresh is best, but frozen is often equitable.

What to do? Exercise. Working teachers are constantly in motion, but retired teachers no longer have that level of activity. The one exercise that seems to have the approval of all medical authorities is walking. Any speed, any length of time is better than staying put. A walking companion tends to shorten the time and increase the distance.

The common sense solution is to cook your food, eat anything your grandmother would recognize, wash it down with water, and walk it off!

[Note: this was written before the Oct. 29, 2014, issue of Time magazine, which carried an article with similar suggestions.]

Eliza is “a dreamer, so it was the romance of the letters, not their physical characteristics, that had caught hold of her imagination” Nevertheless, she understands the implications for the academic community of having an unopened letter written by Jane Austen and she vows to seek expert authentication.

Continuing through the exhibit, Eliza begins a conversation with a tall, handsome gentleman who seems to have considerable knowledge of Jane Austen and her time period. His authority and her conviction that her letter is authentic makes Eliza realize she must reconsider the reply from F. Darcy.

Sally Smith O’Rourke’s *The Man Who Loved Jane Austen* is an entertaining narrative as Eliza and F. Darcy seek to discover the truth about Austen’s Mr. Darcy. A popular writing technique in the time of Jane Austen was the use of letters to develop characters and explain background information. The author uses the 21st century equivalent—emails. The validity of Darcy as a person has kept Austen scholars searching and speculating, and O’Rourke presents an interesting solution to the conundrum—if only a fictional one.

For those who love *Pride and Prejudice*, you will also enjoy reading *Death Comes to Pemberley* by P.D. James to find out what happens to the characters *after* Austen ends her novel. James captures the “feel” of Austen’s writing style without straining the modern reading sensibilities.

(I hope you watch the PBS version of *Death Comes to Pemberley*, also.)



ETA DELTA 2014-2016 OFFICERS	
<i>President</i>	Jane Flinn
<i>First Vice President</i>	Debbie McCart
<i>Second Vice President</i>	Martha LaRue
<i>Secretary</i>	Debbie Elrod
<i>Treasurer</i>	Nancy Malone
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Donna Patch

Eta Delta Website
dkgalphastateetadelta.weebly.com

Alpha State Headquarters in Dallas
alphastatetexas.org

International Headquarters in Austin
dkg.org

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Remember to Vote!



LOOKING AHEAD

86th Texas State Convention
 June 24-27, 2015
 Grand Hyatt San Antonio
 San Antonio

87th Texas State Convention
 Dallas

88th Texas State Convention
 Houston

Southwest Regional Conference
 July 22-25, 2015
 Hyatt Regency Hotel
 Wichita, Kansas



- Bring new teacher recommendation for gift basket. **(Taking Care of New Teachers form)**
- Bring **Box Tops for Education** for Bane Elementary.
- Daylight Savings Time ends November 2nd, turn clocks **back** one hour. Get an extra hour of sleep.



Free Clipart from google.com , dreamtime.com , holidayspot.com; clker.com

ETA DELTA CHAPTER MINUTES October 4, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Jane Flinn at 10:07 a.m. There were 12 members present. The total membership at the current time is 37 members and 5 reserve members.

INSPIRATION: Shirley Moan inspired the members with her wonderful history of her classroom experiences as a beginning teacher until the present time. She described the many changes in education and children she taught.

THANK YOU FOR TODAY: Jane thanked Debbie McCart for sharing her home for the meeting and the Executive Board for providing the luncheon. She thanked everyone there for their participation.

PROGRAM: Debbie McCart presented "Taking Care of Loved Ones: Wills and Bequests." She shared the rationale for having our affairs in order and a handout outlining the steps for wills and bequests. She provided coupon for an attorney who can give assistance to those who like to take advantage of this service.

BUSINESS MEETING

- **MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING:** Debbie Brand made a motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting. The motion was seconded. The minutes were accepted.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:**
 - Nancy Malone presented the treasurers report. She reported that the audit was completed in July.
 - Nancy also distributed the order form for DKG jewelry as requested last spring. If the jewelry is ordered as a group, there is only one shipping cost. She suggested that anyone ordering jewelry add \$2.00 for shipping to their order to cover shipping costs. Orders are due at the December meeting.
- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**
 - Jane distributed Breast Cancer pins to the members present. She asked those who attended the Area III Workshop to share the sessions they went to and what they learned.
 - Jane explained the new format for the meeting. We are experimenting with having the program prior to the business meeting.
 - Jane shared the Hold Harmless Agreement she was asked by International to sign. The chapter agrees to "hold harmless" the State and International offices in the event that the chapter is found to have committed plagiarism.
 - The potential for Texas hosting an International Convention was discussed. Jane voted in favor of this on behalf of Eta Delta.

- The purpose of the ASTEF Piggy Posse was explained. Ann Mahan donated a piggy bank to fill. Members can donate change at each meeting. At the end of the year, the money collected will be donated to ASTEF for the Projects Fund.
- Eta Delta's Annie Award will be featured in the *Lone Star News*.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Program:**
 - Debbie McCart shared that there will be a list of programs in the yearbook. The program for November is, "Taking Care of Yourself."
 - We are taking nominations for a new teacher to receive a gift basket in December. These nominations are due at the November meeting.
 - Other meetings include Taking Care of Teachers, Legislative Update, a Birthday program, and, in May, a possible message from "across the pond" and we will correspond with that chapter.
- **Membership:**
 - There were 12 members present. 25 members were absent. The total membership at the current time is 37 members and 5 reserve members.
 - Shirley Felcman has requested Reserve Member status.
 - Please send biographical information to Ann Mahan.
 - Members were reminded to donate a quarter to the red box if they are not wearing pins.
- **Technology:** Leigh Elizondo discussed the need for the chapter to be mindful of copyright and what it means. She gave members a form to sign giving permission for what may be shared on the web site.
- **Correspondence:** Debbie Elrod read a note of thanks from the State Delta Kappa Gamma ASTEF office for a donation made by Bonnie Moore in honor of Eta Delta.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

- **Reserve Member Vote:** A motion was made to make Shirley Felcman a Reserve Member. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously
- **Budget:** Shirley Moan presented the proposed budget. The budget was accepted.
- **Projects for the Biennium:**
 - A motion was made to move the book project including the existing \$142.62 from Red Elementary to Durham Elementary in Houston ISD. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
 - A motion was made to collect Box Tops for Education for Bane Elementary School in

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- A motion was made for donate toiletries to Lord Of the Streets. Lord of the Streets provided services, clothing, and meals to men and women who are homeless in downtown Houston. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

For all we have, we are



Directions to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

FROM 290

- Take the Cypress N. Houston exit and turn South (Home Depot/Comcast will be on your left)
- Continue across Hempstead Hwy and the railroad tracks; the road will become Blalock.
- Proceed several miles (crossing Clay, Emnora, Hammerly and Campbell).
- Turn left across median into St. Christopher's parking lot.

FROM I-10

- Take the Blalock exit and turn North
 - (Adams Car Repair will be on your right)
 - Continue down/up Blalock across Westview and Long Point.
 - Turn right into St. Christopher's parking lot.
-