



ZETA ZETA NEWS

Delta Kappa Gamma, CA State, Area III, Zeta Zeta Chapter

Mission Statement: The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

DKG Vision Statement

Key Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide

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Zeta Zeta Update



We are skipping busy December for a meeting, in hopes that you all will join us on **THURSDAY, January 16th** to hear our own Karen Yee's daughter, **Joanette Sorkin**, speak on Neurodiversity and Autism. It should be very interesting and informative. For those of you in the classroom, most of you have dealt with children on the autism spectrum. You may get some tips and understand autism better. If you are retired, you may know someone in your family who is autistic, or a friend's child, or maybe even an autistic adult..

MENU:

Veggie Pastas \$38

Deep Fried Prawns w/ French Fries \$47

Chicken Piccata \$45

*Dessert included (ice cream)

House wine = \$10.00@glass + taxes & tip. Salad and soft drinks are included. Parking is complimentary.

Please send your check made out to **DKG/Zeta Zeta** to **Denise Dolan**, by **Thursday, January 9th** or sooner along with your **menu choice**. Her address is **P.O. Box 551, Alamo, 94507**.

January Meeting Schedule

5:30 Social

5:45 Icebreaker

6:00 Dinner, Speaker, & Business Meeting

Opportunity Drawing Contributors are listed on the next page along with other Zeta Zeta information.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING CONTRIBUTORS:

JANUARY: Gina Jaber, Gail Kamerer, Valerie Kellner, Kit King, Cyndi Koby, Mary Anne Kolda, Roseann Krane, Patt Low, Eldene Lucchese, Cindy Luengo

Each contributor should bring a gift of their choice-worth no more than ten dollars, OR \$10 in cash, all WRAPPED, so the winners will not know what they are picking until it's unwrapped.

“CHANGE FOR CHANGE”

Don't forget to save coins for our “Change for Change” jar. Total money collected will be sent in by **Georgia Moore** to Delta Kappa Gamma's Global Awareness called **GIRLS Project** which replaces Schools for Africa. GIRLS stands for **G**irls Initiative to **R**evitalize **L**earning and **S**uccess. The money collected will support quality learning for girls across Africa, including technology and leadership training. For more information, contact Georgia.

Purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma

1. To **UNITE** women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship.
2. To **HONOR** women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education.
3. To **ADVANCE** the professional interest and position of women in education.
4. To **INITIATE**, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavor in the interests of education and of women educators.
5. To **ENDOW** awards to aid members in pursuing personal and professional growth and to provide grants to non-member women educators.
6. To **STIMULATE** the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in relevant programs of action.
7. To **INFORM** the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively to support a sustainable world society.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



DKG Zeta Zeta Chapter 2024 - 2025 Diana Sawin

What exciting programs we have experienced in 2024. **September 11** we held our first Zeta Zeta Chapter Meeting with **JR Wilson**, retired Army Veteran founder of Delta Veterans Group. In 2015, **Stand Down on the Delta** was initiated with over 350 homeless and at-risk veterans and their families who participated. **October 19**, Area III DKG members from nine chapters attended our 2024 Fall Conference. DKG International Speaker **Dr. Marine' Avagyan** spoke about her personal journey experiences from two DKG members and their profound influence of mentorship and sponsorship. **November 20**, our dinner presentation **Kaleidoscopes, Then and Now** by member **Pat Seaman** with hands on demonstration was outstanding! **Angel Tree Project** Chairs, **Margaret Batesole and Terry Magnin** requested and collected \$50 & \$25 gift cards from **Target and Walmart** from members at our November dinner meeting. The donations of gift cards were delivered to be distributed by the VESTIA (Volunteer & Emergency Services Team in Action) program who give them to the appropriate needy children in December for the holiday season. The total amount collected over \$2,800. WELL DONE!

Looking ahead in 2025 from Co- President Sue Robinson

Our Zeta Zeta chapter has more in store for our wonderful members in the new year! We have our **Thursday, January 16th** chapter meeting at the Brass Door where we will hear **Joanette Sorkin** discuss the fascinating topics of Neurodiversity and Autism. This may be a good meeting to invite guests! **Wednesday, February 19** will be a Zoom meeting with **Rachel King** to discuss what our chapter can do to help with **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**! We look forward to organizing a community outreach with promoting literacy in mind. **Wednesday, March 19** will be another Brass Door meeting to celebrate Founder's Day and hold our annual Induction Ceremony. **Thursday, April 17** is our last Brass Door chapter meeting where **Dayna Wilson** will present helpful hints on downsizing and relocation. Our **DKG Convention** will be held in Los Angeles at the LAX Marriott from **May 2-4**. This year's theme is Reaching New Heights Together where participants attend lectures and workshops, among other interesting activities. Lastly, our Fiesta meeting at **Carol Rowley's** lovely home is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 14** where we will celebrate our chapter service award recipients! We look forward to seeing everyone there!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Warmly,

Diana Sawin & Sue Robinson





Courtney Fischer

Courtney Fischer was inducted into Zeta Zeta Chapter in February of 2023. She did her undergraduate work at Sacramento State and got her Masters and teaching credential at St. Mary's College. She has been teaching First Grade at Montair Elementary School in Danville for 9 years (some years a K-1 combination class). Courtney has served on various SRVUSD committees and teams. In December, her team presented at the California School Board Association in LA. about how reading is being taught with a balance between phonics and knowledge based skills. Courtney still enjoys shopping, hiking, and wine tasting, Courtney really enjoys the social aspect of our chapter and the philanthropic projects. It was a joy to talk with her.

Some exciting news: Courtney is getting married to Andrew Jensen on July 12, 2025 at Nella Terra Cellars in Sunol. They were set up by one of her co-workers who has known Andrew since 1st grade. They met in January of 2024; and it was a "when you know, you know" moment! They got engaged at the end of September at Courtney's cabin in Clearlake. Romantically speaking, they were on the top of a hill overlooking the lake when he popped the question! Her parents were there to celebrate with them afterwards. Within a few months of meeting each other, they met each other's parents. Andrew's mom is actually a kindergarten teacher at Country Club!. Their parents get along great, too. As a couple, they like to try different restaurants and travel when they can. (They recently went to Hawaii and are going to Bora Bora on their honeymoon!) They have a cat and Golden Doodle that keeps them busy.

When interviewing Courtney for this article, we talked about ways that our chapter could attract current teachers. Courtney commented on how so much is put on teachers that she hesitates to ask them, as it's one more thing to do. A couple of ideas we discussed were to have a discretionary (scholarship) fund to pay for dinners of interested teachers...rather than having our members pay or the guest pay. Another idea would be to have a *meet and greet* "happy hour" after school to inform teachers about DKG and "how we roll." It would be a short time to get together, but participants would have a snack, meet some of our members, and hear about our wonderful international organization! Membership could work out the details of this idea.



ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Margaret Batesole & Terry Magnin

The Angel Tree Program has been in Contra Costa County for over 20 years in association with Children and Family Services (CFS) to provide children in foster care with holiday gifts. The donations of gift cards are distributed by the VESTIA (Volunteer & Emergency Services Team In Action) program who gives them to the appropriate needy children. VESTIA has a new Program Coordinator named Cynthia Smith, who was the contact person for Margaret and Terry.

Thank you all for our generous donations to VESTIA ANGEL TREE PROJECT! We have just completed the totals. **We had 33 contributing members, and we delivered**



\$2200 in gift cards to Cindy Perailde, President of VESTIA. With the help of our special DKG member donor, we were able to reach this goal. Thank you all again!! What a joy it was to have our DKG sisterhood make such a generous donation for these Foster Youth. *(Margaret, please verify total.)*

Blessings to you all throughout the holidays until we meet again in January 2025. Yikes, 2025!!



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

ZETA ZETA PROGRAMS 2024-2025

DATE & PLACE	PURPOSE/ GOAL	PROGRAM	MEMBER CONTACT(S)
January 16, 2025 - Brass Door (THURSDAY)	Goals 2 and 7	Joanette Sorkin on Neurodiversity and Autism	Karen Yee
February 19, 2025 - ZOOM (WEDNESDAY)	Goals 2, 6&7	Rachel King on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.	Diana Sawin, Gina Jaber
March 19, 2025 - Brass Door, (WEDNESDAY)	Goals 1, 2, & 6	Induction, Founders' Day (Wear a hat!)	Carmen Curtis, Sandy Madewell, Diana Sawin
April 17, 2025 - Brass Door (THURSDAY)	Goal 1 and 6	Dayna Wilson on Helpful Hints on Downsizing and Relocation.	Terry Schmitgal
MAY 14, 2025 - Carol Rowley's Home - (WEDNESDAY)	Goal 1 & 2	Fiesta at Carol Rowley's & Chapter Awards	Carol Rowley, Carmen Burks, Sue Robinson

What's Happening? Courtesy of Terry Magnin, Nov.Meeting

Lola Ganse had a wonderful trip to Ithaca, New York to visit her grandson at Cornell University for parents weekend with his Mom and two sisters. 🏠 She and **Roseann Krane** went to Cambodia and Vietnam together on a Gate 1 tour. They had a fun time and good memories. 😊 🍲

Stephanie Brown-Myers will gather with her family for Christmas. Her son and his family have moved from Gig Harbor, Washington to Riverside, California so they hope to see more of one another. 🎄 🚚

Roseann Krane had a great time with **Lola Ganse** in Cambodia and Vietnam in October. Then she enjoyed India with her sister. In April she is going to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Bali. You can go with her if you sign up in 2024. 🌴 ✈️

Carol Rowley had a wonderful Viking Cruise from Norway to Barcelona! At the end of the cruise they took a train to Madrid and stayed for two days. She highly recommends it. 🚢

Christina Clemens went urchin culling for kelp restoration by scuba diving. Then she went to a new marine lab that is growing the sunflower star to hopefully be released in the ocean to bring back urchin balance. 🐚

Kit King is looking forward to the holidays. Last year she was in rehab for her fractured femur!! 🎉 🎄

Jean Van Nostrand is watching her four year old grandson during the week days. She is having Thanksgiving at her house. 🏠 🦃

Margaret Batesole and her husband renewed their wedding vows in a "simple secret special" event for just family and their three pups! She wore a gorgeous "perfect fit" \$20 wedding gown from the thrift shop. 🧝

Sandy Budde is so excited to have thirty five family members at their home for Thanksgiving! Kids, grandkids, nieces and cousins are coming in from around the country. She will have four of them staying in her house all week and is feeling truly blessed. 🦃 🙌

Pat Hanson went with fifteen of her family members to the Michigan/USC football game. They had a great time and Michigan is a very friendly college community. 🏈

Karen Yee and her husband traveled across Canada last month. It was a wonderful trip, saw fall colors, took a Montreal Bagel cooking class and loved Nova Scotia. 🍩 🍁

Courtney Fischer got engaged and is planning a wedding for July 12th. 💍. (See details on page 4.)

BRASS DOOR RESTAURANT



MENU CHOICES



Opportunity Drawing :-)



2 Bucks a Book Display
Thank you, **Cyndi & Gail**.

Angel Tree VESTIA
Thank you,
Margaret, Terry &
all of **you** who
donated gift cards.



ZZ Directories
Thank you,
Roseann, for all
your time and effort.



Zeta Zeta Photo Gallery Kaleidoscopes (by Pat Seaman)







Kaleidoscopes...
All Ages, Sizes, Shapes,
Colors and Prices!
What a collection, Pat.
Thanks for sharing!



A BIG Thank You to Joannie Wedell and Karen Yee for taking such great pictures. Joannie, you are amazing, coming with your sister when you were not very long out of knee replacement surgery. She took wonderful pictures for you.

Now about the repeal of GPO and WEP and its REPEAL!
Karen Yee's comments are in yellow...it continues on to the next page.
Hope this helps.

More than 2.8 million public sector employees in 26 states were impacted by GPO and WEP. Educators were affected in 15 states because they pay into their state pension system, but not into Social Security.

- WEP assumed that none of these public employees earn Social Security benefits*—which failed to take into account that many educators hold second jobs and summer gigs that require them to pay Social Security taxes. The provision was often devastating to career-changers who did not receive the full benefit of the years they did pay into Social Security.
- GPO reduced spousal or survivor benefits. More than 70 percent of those affected by GPO lost their entire spousal or survivor benefit.

Continued on next page...

* Since the start of 2023, NEA members had hundreds of face-to-face conversations with lawmakers and rallied on Capitol Hill. In 2024 alone, members made hundreds of thousands of calls to encourage their members of Congress to support the Social Security Fairness Act. This historic repeal of GPO and WEP will benefit the profession indefinitely, says Anita Gibson: "Our years of advocacy have finally fixed this, not only for our current retirees, but for future generations of educators."

* Karen's comments:

These are quotes from NEA highlighting their dedicated member advocacy. We can celebrate their work in concert with many other organizations across the state and U.S. representing public servants i.e. firefighters union, postal workers union, Cal RTA, and many more...my opinion .

Her recollection of the SSA's explanation for WEP during congressional hearings was not that they assumed public employees would not pay into S.S. It was that public employees WOULD NOT NEED S.S. BENEFITS if they had an other source of retirement income. Paying them S.S. benefits along with their other sources would be unfair to the spouses who chose to stay home and not work outside of the home.... Luckily our congressional representatives did not buy into that.



See you all in the new year :-)
Since I'm such a dog lover, I got this from my vet...
Hugs,
Your editor, Kit