



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
Update pg. 1

J. R. Wilson, Delta Veterans
Group. Pg. 2

Co-President's Letter pg.3

Spotlight on
Jean Van Nostrand pg. 4

Impt. Information pg. 5-6

Programs & Purposes pg. 7-8

Kids Against Hunger.Pg.9

AREA III CONVENTION pg.10

Legislation pg. 11

ZZ Photo Gallery pgs.,12-14

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.dkg-zetazeta.org
www.dkgcalifornia.org <http://www.dkg.org>

Co-Presidents:

Sue Robinson

zzdkgprez@gmail.com

Diana Sawin

d.sawin@comcast.net

Editor: Kit King

ktkng4653@gmail.com

Zeta Zeta Update



We had a great first dinner meeting for the 2024 - 2026 school year at the Brass Door on September 11th. We welcomed a new member, **Jean Van Nostrand**. Jean signed up to be our new representative for T.H.A.T Program. Read about Jean as she is spotlighted this month. We heard a wonderful speaker, **J R Wilson**....so amazing that you can find out more about him and his friend, David on the next page.

In October we have two fabulous events coming up:

Kids Against Hunger on **Monday, October 14** with Zeta Mu Chapter. More info on page 6. Details about signing up are included on page 9.

On **Saturday, October 19th** we have our annual **Area III Conference** at the San Ramon Community Center with a dynamite speaker and lots of activities. We will be honoring one of our own so be sure to come. Info on pg. 10

We have many wonderful programs planned for the year. Many thanks to the Program Committee headed up by Co-Vice Presidents **Sandy Budde** and **Terry Schmitgal**. Other members working hard were **Cindy Luengo**, **Terry Magnin**, **Diana Sawin**, and **Kit King**. A list of programs for the year was handed out at the meeting and can be found inside this newsletter on page 7.

Zeta Zeta Committees are almost complete. We still need someone who will chair the legislation committee, and a few more blanks in three committees. If you are interested, a copy of the 2024 -2026 committees will be sent out with this newsletter. *Hint: If everyone will do a little bit, no one will be burdened with a lot to do.* Call, text, or email **Kit King** if you wish to sign up for one of the empty spots.



We heard **J.R. Wilson**, Retired Army Veteran, at the September 9/11 dinner meeting. Many of us were moved to tears hearing about how veterans were faring upon returning home from combat. When J.R. told us how he came home to Contra Costa County, and noticed an increase in homelessness among our Veterans. He decided to take action and founded Delta Veterans Group in 2012 with the intent of bringing the first ever "Stand Down on the Delta" in Contra Costa County and our Veteran community. After three long years of planning, Stand Down on the Delta finally made its debut in September of 2015. Stand Down on the Delta 2015 brought in over 350 homeless and at-risk of becoming homeless veterans and their families for four days of housing, employment, health, education, recovery, and legal services.

J.R. Wilson is the Founder and CEO of Delta Veterans Group. Through this organization J.R. brings Contra Costa County "Stand Down on the Delta", a four - day event next year where Veteran's receive services in Medical, Dental, Housing, Job Placement Opportunities, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Counseling.

Check out this website:

www.deltaveteransgroup for videos, articles and ways to volunteer to help our veterans.



J.R. also brought a friend named David, once homeless, who spoke to us how he changed his life after attending the Stand Down in 2015. He was proud to say that he is moving to his first home in South Carolina with Precious, his white cockatiel. He said he is grateful to mentor J.R. Wilson and fellow veteran friends he has made at "Stand Down on the Delta."

We hope to have many volunteers for his next Stand Down to help homeless veterans feel appreciated and valued!

★ Letter from our Co-Presidents: ★

Sue Robinson & Diana Sawin

Sue Robinson was thrilled to be present at the first ZZ meeting at the Brass Door on September 11! The tables were decorated in sparkly patriotic red, white and blue stars and stripes. It was wonderful to see all of your beautiful smiling faces! Special thanks to **Christina Clemens** for being our techie that made it happen and **Stephanie Brown-Myers** for introducing our guest speakers from Delta Veterans Group, **JR Wilson and David**. It was a special night!!

We enjoyed a social mixer and got to catch up with each other before the reports from our various committees. **Nancy Myers** reported out on the Zeta Zeta Budget where we are now using more funds to help members attend field trips such as **Kids Against Hunger (October 14th)** and the DKG Convention in May. Thank you, **Diane Drain**, for continuing to champion this worthy cause (KAH)! As for backpacks, **Rosanne Fissore** is heading that committee and will be collecting this year. We also have a new line item for Classroom Mini-Grants/Scholarship to support working teachers with workshops or classroom projects!. We will hear more about what we can do at the November meeting.

Christina Clemens reported that the **DKG Area III Conference (page 11)will be held October 19 at the San Ramon Community Center**. Hoping to have a good number of members attending! The DKG California Convention is being held May 2-4, 2025 in Los Angeles. That will be a wonderful

weekend! **Kit King** passed out our fabulous programs/meetings for the year and the Committee Sign Up sheet. Special thanks to all who have secured a spot on a committee! If any member wishes to add/change their name, please contact Kit.

Stephanie Brown-Myers introduced our guest speakers **J.R. Wilson**, President and Founder of Delta Veterans Group, along with veteran **David** and his sweet cockatiel, Precious, to our members. After a moment of silence for the lives lost on September 11, JR explained how he started the Delta Veterans Group. He then showed slides/video showing the Stand Down on the Delta event where volunteers work to bring housing, employment, health, recovery, education, and legal services to hundreds of at-risk veterans. David was one of those veterans and shared his personal journey. It was extremely moving. Members are encouraged to sign up in March 2025 for next year's event that takes place in September.

Our next Brass Door dinner meeting will be November 20. **Sandy Budde** will introduce **Pat Seaman**, who will present a variety of Kaleidoscopes. Bring a friend for this hands-on experience. Thanks to all who brought in travel size unopened toiletries for Monument Crisis Center! Remember to bring your Target/Walmart \$50 gift cards in November for the Angel Tree Gifts.. Stay healthy and safe!

Diana & Sue



Jean Van Nostrand



Jean Van Nostrand Van Nostrand is our newest DKG/ Zeta Zeta member who just joined at the September meeting. She will be formally inducted in March of 2025. She is very special to your editor, as not only did I have her son, James, in my classroom at Golden View Elementary (SRVUSD), but I had the pleasure of teaching with her. Jean is always friendly and was an excellent teacher of science (12 years) and the regular classroom grades 1 through 5. She taught school for a total of 23 years, beginning with a bilingual Spanish class in Salem, Oregon. Jean is in her first year of retirement.

Jean got her BS degree in Business Administration and Accounting at Cal State East Bay, and her MA in School Administration at the University of Phoenix. She joined DKG/Zeta Zeta because she knows some of our members and has a great respect for them. Additionally she loves philanthropic projects and wants to continue to help in education during her retirement. Jean is our new THAT representative, which emphasizes teachers helping another teacher.

Some of her interests are, of course, reading, traveling, theater, and her four grandchildren. (Her four range in ages from 1 1/2 to four years old. Wow! 3 boys and one girl - young and filled with energy!) Her favorite place to go is camping at Yellowbottom, on the Wild River in the Cascade Mountain Range. She also enjoys going to Merida, Mexico. Her favorite live theater was seeing Les Miserables!

Active in community service, Jean has been a CERT member (Community Emergency Response Team), a leader for Boy Scouts (District Award of Merit), and is a Precinct Inspector for Elections. She was chosen as Rotary Teacher of the Year just this year before retirement.

Jean is a wonderful addition to our membership. Introduce yourself to her and get to know her. You will love her!



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. Eugenia is no longer with them, and they have a new Program Coordinator named Cynthia Smith, who will be the contact person for Margaret and Terry.

Our DKG sisterhood has donated almost \$2000 in both 2022 and 2023. We hope to match this goal in 2024. It is an important part of our mission to help these children in need.

A total of 550 children were recipients of these cards this last holiday season. Thank you all in advance for your contributions.

Margaret Batesole and **Terry Magnin** will be collecting gift cards to **Target and Walmart** for **\$50** at our November dinner meeting. They will deliver the donation cards in December for the holiday season. If necessary, either one will pick up your donation or you may mail to **Margaret Batesole**. If you are interested in supplying NEW clothing items, that is another option. Margaret will answer any questions and get sizes for you if that interests you. Enjoy these last HOT FALL DAYS until we collect in November. (By the way, they are accepting gift cards at any time now.)



Teachers Helping Other Teachers (THAT) HOURS

Jean Van Nostrand - THAT Representative

QUESTION?

Have you done any **volunteer work or serving teachers in some way**? Many of you were **helping understand homework with your children or grandchildren**, and their teachers benefitted. Others of you are volunteering at the **San Ramon Valley Museum, the Old Tassajara Schoolhouse., or helping in the classroom**. Be sure and fill out **THAT hours** on the computer if you are helping teachers:

Go online at www.dkgca.org. At the top you need to click **Members** and the password is **sisterhood**. This information is turned in to DKG-CA by April 1st of next year by our **THAT** representative. This form is to be completed by each individual DKG California member who has provided volunteer hours to support

another education professional. Your entries are automatically time stamped. Hours may be submitted as frequently as you wish. The Committee's **THAT** report at the annual DKG California Convention is based on the total hours submitted by **April 1st**. All entries are automatically added to the **THAT** database; therefore accuracy of data entry is very important.

Be sure to capitalize the first letter of your name and your chapter's name (Zeta Zeta). This information will be used to print certificates. By the way, **Diana Sawin** usually brings her laptop to the meetings and she will help you see how easy it is to do. Or call **Kit King** or Jean Van Nostrand and they will talk you through it.

“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 (See article below from **California Connections** on the **GIRLS Project** that replaces Schools for Africa.)



Global Awareness Committee



International Convention Adopts New GIRLS Project

The July 2024 DKG International Convention adopted a new Society project: Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success (GIRLS), in partnership with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The latter organization is pioneering new solutions that will help leverage additional capital to advance gender-equitable education systems that empower girls in Africa.

The GIRLS fund replaces the Schools for Africa project, to which DKG California contributed thousands of dollars. As before, DKG members' contributions will continue to be sent to UNICEF, but the new flexible funding will now address the harmful social norms that impede the prosperity of girls as well as the barriers and bottlenecks facing them. The money raised will support quality learning for girls across Africa, including technology and leadership training.

Investing in girls' secondary education helps develop the knowledge and skills needed for life and work. Boys and men are also engaged in addressing gaps and needs in underserved areas. The new funding model allows UNICEF to work hand in hand with local governments and communities to deliver on their priorities in girls' education.

For more information, see the Global Awareness Resources page at www.dkgca.org. You will find activities and ideas and an excellent video that can be used for chapter meetings.



Important dates to celebrate: World Children's Day, November 20, 2024, and International Day of Education, January 24, 2025.

*Dr. Evelyn LaTorre, Alpha Omega Chapter, Area III
DKG CA Global Awareness Committee Chair*


Global Awareness Committee



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

ZETA ZETA PROGRAMS 2024-2025

DATE & PLACE	PURPOSE/ GOAL	PROGRAM	MEMBER CONTACT(S)
September 11, 2024 - Brass Door (WEDNESDAY)	Goals 1 and 5	KICKOFF, Committees, J.R. Wilson, President/CEO Delta Veterans Group	Sue Robinson & Diana Sawin , Stephanie Brown-Myers (Committees: Kit King)
October 14, 2024, KAH with Zeta Mu Chapter (MONDAY)	Goals 1 & 7	Kids Against Hunger (Pack food for needy children both locally and internationally)	Diane Drain
October 19, 2024 - San Ramon Community Center (SATURDAY)	Goals 3, 6, & 7	Area III Fall Harvest Conference: Dynamite Speaker - Marnie' Avagyan, Fellowship, Fun, Shopping, Chapter Baskets, and Silent Auction	Christina Clemens, Diana Sawin
November 20, 2024 - Brass Door (WEDNESDAY)	Goal 6 and 7	Pat Seaman on Kaleidoscopes	Sandy Budde
January 16, 2025 - Brass Door (THURSDAY)	Goals 2 and 6	Joanette Sorkin on Neurodiversity and Autism	Karen Yee
February 19, 2025 - ZOOM (WEDNESDAY)	Goals 2 and 6	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



Did you know that DKG International changed the wording of our **last 3 Purposes** (5, 6 & 7) to read as written below?

MORE INFORMATION FOR YOU!



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.



IMPORTANT Latest NEWS!

Roseann Krane has printed the directories before going on multiple trips. They are lovely...thanks so much Roseann! We will be passing them out at the November meeting and other events. It's too expensive to mail them, so if you can... come and get them yourself or have a friend pick them up at the meeting. (**Will get it early if you come to KAH event!**)

Roseann also informed me that she CAN ONLY publish newsletters on our website that have pictures of members doing something that is associated with our chapter. No more personal pictures of activities, travels, or daily member happenings. Boo hoo...maybe we can share those in another kind of email that will not be published. We can discuss this with the Area III or International.



BACK BY POPULAR REQUEST

Sandy Budde, Terry Schmitgal, Co-Vice Presidents in charge of **Programs** - and **Diane Drain** have arranged for our Zeta Zeta Chapter to pack food for **Kids Against Hunger**, again due to popular demand **on MONDAY afternoon, OCTOBER 14th** with **Zeta Mu Chapter**. Our packing begins at **4:30 pm** so be there 5 or 10 minutes early. We will pack until **6:00** and then whoever wants to do so will go to dinner together.

Several of you will want to carpool (arrange it yourself) to 1258 Quarry Lane in Pleasanton. Be at the facility by 4:25 PM and help send food to children in needy areas of the world. **You may need to leave by 3:30 PM or earlier from your home due to traffic on 580.** Questions? (925) 400-7201. This activity fulfills DKG/ZZ Purposes 6 & 7.

Fifteen people will be paid for from our chapter funds. If you want to donate to this worthy endeavor, please bring a **\$20** donation check made out to **Kids Against Hunger with you**. Funds will go towards buying supplies used to pack food. Bring a friend, spouse, or relative...the more the merrier!

Please let Diane Drain know via email or text if you want to come...We have 16 so far...It's not too late to sign up by contacting Diane by text or email.

Whoever packs KAH food, will receive the directory that Roseann has finished. It has colored pictures and is cool!

Stephanie B- Myers
Jackie Adams
Rosanne Fissore
Cyndi Koby
Bobbie Mortensen
Mary Anne Kolda
Jean Van Nostrand
Ann Schinske

Gina Jaber
Kit King
Donna Bell
Valerie Kellner
Carmen Curtis
Margaret Batesole
Terry Schmitgal
Diane Drain



Directions:

From Danville, San Ramon, Alamo, Walnut Creek area:

√Take **680 S**

√Merge on **580 East**

√Exit 47 - **Santa Rita Rd.** (Go 2.09 miles),
√Left on **Valley Avenue**, (0.44 miles - If you reach Francisco St. you've gone about 0.1 miles too far.)

√Right on **Quarry Lane**. (Quarry Ln is 0.1 miles past Kolln St)

* *Carpool suggestion - back of Park and Ride in Danville at Sycamore and Camino Ramon.*

ATTENTION: The links to register online and through the mail don't work below as this is a screen shot of the flyer. Here are the two conference links:

[Registration by mail.](#)

[Registration online](#)



DKG CA Area III Fall Harvest

Conference

October 19, 2024

San Ramon Community Center

12501 Alcosta Blvd.

San Ramon, CA 94583

Check-in 9:00

Program and Lunch 9:30-12:30

Please join us to be inspired by our motivating speaker! In addition, we will honor Chapter Members, enjoy fellowship with friends, share a meal together, participate in a Silent Auction, and relish Chapter Basket opportunities!

“Inspired to Soar and Determined to Achieve: Ask ‘Who, Not How’”

Get ready for an inspiring keynote by Dr. Marine Avagyan, where she explores the power of mentorship and sponsorship, especially for women. Drawing from her journey as a first-generation immigrant to an award-winning educator, she shares actionable advice and stories. Discover how Delta Kappa Gamma connections can elevate your impact!



Dr. Marine Avagyan
Photo used with permission

Plan today to see this dynamic speaker!

In addition to our inspirational speaker and opportunities to engage in thoughtful discussion, your registration fee of \$50 includes a delicious lunch prepared by Simple Elegance.

Lunch includes coffee, tea, water, breakfast pastries, and a boxed lunch.

All registrations must be received by October 4, money by October 8, 2024. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$60 with no guarantee of a boxed lunch.

TO REGISTER ONLINE, CHOOSE FROM OUR LUNCH MENU, AND SEE THE PAYMENT OPTIONS, click [HERE](#).

To access a printable version of the registration form, click [HERE](#).

Questions? Diana Sawin will respond to questions at: d.sawin@comcast.net; for questions regarding payment: marilynreiddkgca@gmail.com.

Proceeds from the silent auction support area mini-grants, student teacher scholarships, and stipends for DKG workshops.

Legislation Update

Karen Yee is Co-President of CAL Retired Teachers Association with **Nancy Myers**. They are both busy gals. Karen is going to be in charge of nametags for our meetings and doesn't have time to report out on legislation. Also she is helping all of us by taking pictures along with two other members when present at meetings. Until someone steps up

into this Legislative Chair position, we will use the CA State's **California Connection** which most of you get digitally. Below is a screen shot of their recent article. There must be one of you who is willing to report out on current or pending legislation that is important for our chapter to be informed and know about. Karen will help you. :-)

Educational Law and Policy



DKG California Continues to Advocate

The California legislature had until the end of August to pass legislation this session. Bills must be signed or vetoed by Governor Newsom by September 30. Some of the bills DKG supported did not make it out of the appropriations committees, largely due to the budget shortfall. DKG's Legislative Advocate, Martha Zaragoza-Diaz, will continue to monitor the legislation. Follow her reports at www.dkgca.org. The only proposition on the November ballot with a direct impact on schools is Proposition 2, a statewide school bond.

Martha and Kathy Kinley will attend the Retired Educators meeting September 19 in Sacramento

and will meet with CalSTRS Board and staff members and representatives of other education organizations. The progress of legislation affecting current and future retirees and CalSTRS implementation of Artificial Intelligence as a means to better serve members will be discussed.

At the federal level there is still hope to get HR 82, which repeals the WEP/GPO, to a vote through the discharge process. The new US Forum Chair is Pat Bennett Forman. April Coleman from Arizona is the new Southwest Representative. We are fortunate to have our own Sheila Gaiser as a member of the Legislative Committee.



Dr. Kathy Kinley, Epsilon Sigma Chapter
DKG California Educational Law and Policy Chair
kathykinleydkgca@gmail.com

PHOTO GALLERY FROM 9/11 MEETING



LtoR clockwise: David with Precious, his white cockatiel; J.R. Wilson, our speaker; **Karen Yee** with Precious on her right hand in front of JR, and **Joannie Wedell** showing Precious to J.R.





Snapshots of our
members at
September 11th
Brass Door dinner
meeting.





Can you identify?

Sue, our president talking with Margaret about Angel Tree gift cards? How about Diane and Nancy encouraging us all to attend KAH? Christina, our Area III Director? Our newest member, Jean? Clever Cyndi with her designer book covers? And our two hospitality mavens?

