



# 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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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.dkg-zetazeta.org](http://www.dkg-zetazeta.org)

[www.dkgcalifornia.org](http://www.dkgcalifornia.org)

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

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## Zeta Zeta Update



We had a wonderful January dinner meeting where we heard our own **Karen Yee's** daughter, **Dr. Joannette Sorkin**, speak on Neurodiversity and Autism. A retired US Public Health Service officer and skilled psychiatrist with more than twenty years of clinical experience, Dr. Sorkin has practiced psychiatry in academic, managed care, community, inpatient, outpatient, indigenous, correctional, VA and military settings. It was very interesting and informative. The minutes have a great summary of what transpired and some of the major points of her presentation. Joannette was friendly, personable and a dynamic speaker. She had credibility as she is the mother of an autistic 11 year old boy!

Our February meeting will be via Zoom on **Thursday, February 19th**. We will learn all about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program and how we can be involved. Please join us. More information in Diana's Presidents Letter, page 6

In March we will be back at the Brass Door on **Wednesday March 19**, with our Induction of **Jean Van Nostrand** and any others who are joining. It is our annual Founders Day, so please wear a hat. It's always fun to see the different fedoras! Plan for a Photo Opportunity!

### MENU:

Pasta Primavera (\$38)

Asian Chicken Salad (\$40)

Pacific Salmon (\$48)

\*Salad and Dessert included.

House wine = \$10.00@glass + taxes & tip. Parking is complimentary.

Please send your check made out to DKG/Zeta Zeta to **Denise Dolan**, by **Thursday, March 13th** or sooner along with your **menu choice**. Her address is **P.O. Box 551, Alamo, 94507**.

### March Meeting Schedule

5:30 Social

5:45 Icebreaker

6:00 Dinner,

7:00 Induction, Founder's Day Celebration, Business Meeting



### OPPORTUNITY DRAWING CONTRIBUTORS:

**MARCH:** Sandy Madewell, Terry Magnin, Lisa Maher, Karen McGregor, Charlene McPherson, Georgia Moore, Bobbie Mortenson, Nancy Myers, Carly Owens, & Helen Rees.

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.



## 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.

**"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.



For those of you not present at the January meeting, we are including a budget summary and Treasurer's Report below from our treasurer, **Nancy Myers**. **Thanks, Nancy**, for your faithfulness!

### Zeta Zeta Treasurer's Report, Nov 1, 2024 - Dec. 31, 2024

<b>Balance November 1, 2024</b>	<b>\$8,124.92</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Nov. Dinner	\$1,431.00
Dues	\$55.00
Bags	\$102.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,588.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Nov. Dinner	\$1,530.38
Website Host, Rosann Krane	\$220.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,750.00</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$7,962.92</b>



Zeta Zeta Budget /Actuals 2023/24 & 2024/25				Dec. 31, 2024
Budgeted Income	2023/24 Budget	Actual	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 Actual
Dues	\$4,675.00	\$ 4,762.50	\$ 4,814.00	\$4,859.00
Dinners	\$4,800.00	\$ 6,873.41	\$ 7,000.00	\$2,998.00
Books/Bags	\$100.00	\$ 382.00	\$ 350.00	\$198.00
Area III Mini Grant	\$300.00			
Gifts/Donations				
KAH	\$150.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 200.00	
Schools For Africa	\$250.00	\$ 128.00	\$ 150.00	
Other/ See's Yumraiser	\$200.00	\$ 79.52	\$ 100.00	
<b>Budgeted Total Income</b>	<b>\$10,475.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,415.43</b>	<b>\$ 12,614.00</b>	<b>\$8,055.00</b>
Budgeted Expenses		Actual		
Dues				
International	\$2,100.00	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$2,080.00
CA	\$1,250.00	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 1,484.00	\$1,456.00
CA Fees	\$225.00	\$ 241.00		
Area III Assess.	\$150.00	\$ 159.00	\$ 159.00	\$162.00
Dinners	\$4,800.00	\$ 6,982.19	\$ 7,000.00	\$3,245.38
Convention	\$1,000.00	\$ 770.37	\$ 2,000.00	
Directory Printing	\$200.00		\$ 250.00	\$194.14
Area III Mini Grant	\$300.00			
Website/Technology	\$200.00		\$ 150.00	\$252.16
Speakers			\$ 300.00	
Membership			\$ 300.00	
Administration	\$400.00	\$ 136.72	\$ 150.00	\$90.36
Gifts/Donations				
Schools for Africa	\$250.00	\$ 128.00	\$ 150.00	
Vestia			\$ 500.00	
KAH	\$300.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 300.00	\$300.00
Classroom Mini-Grant, Scholarship			\$ 500.00	
<b>Budgeted Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,325.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,297.28</b>	<b>\$ 15,543.00</b>	<b>\$7,780.04</b>

## Co - PRESIDENT'S LETTERS



### Diana Sawin:

On January 16, 2025 DKG Zeta Zeta members celebrated at our in person meeting at the Brass Door Restaurant catching up on “What’s Happening” in the lives of our fellow sisters. **Cindy Luengo** provided a fun Ice Breaker while guest presenter **Joanette Sorkin** was assisted by **Courtney Fischer** providing technical support prior to the program on Autism and Neurodiversity.

**Karen Yee** and **Sandy Budde** introduced Dr. Joanette Sorkin sharing background information on her extensive professional career as a psychiatrist with over 25 year’s experience in the medical field. Her presentation was amazing as she shared further information on Dyslexia and Universal Design. Most interesting we learned about classroom adaptations that would support students in the general education environment. Joanette also tied some of her topics with examples of her 11 year old son’s behavior through the years.

Thank you **Nancy Myers** for your handout with a detailed Budget / Actuals for 2023/24 and 2024/25. See Zeta Zeta Chapter Budget info on page 3 & 4. **Karen Yee** presented the updated SSA Fairness Act, WEP/GPO which repealed two federal laws that affected the retirement income of nearly 3 million public employees: teachers, classified school employees, firefighters, law enforcement officers and others who have earned Social Security benefits that have been reduced or even eliminated because they also receive a government pension.” This will make a difference in the lives of so many – today’s educators and future educators, not just retirees.” **Kathleen McCreery**, *former chair of ACSA’S Retirement Committee*.

Next month **Christina Clemens**, Area III Coordinator will share her attendance notes from the Winter Leadership Planning Session, WLPS and give us information about the DKG CA Convention taking place in Los Angeles. We encourage members who have never attended a state convention to Save the Date May 2-4, 2025. **Rosanne Saenz-Fissore** delivered hard copies of a VESTIA Backpack Program Survey with 3 options for our chapter members to consider. If we go ahead to support this outreach program, we will need a chair and someone to store the materials in their home. **Diana Sawin** spoke about her conversation with Co-President **Sue Robinson** who lives in San Clemente, regarding the SO CAL Fires. Our members present, agreed to have Nancy Myers send a check from our chapter account in the amount of \$100 to the DKG California Emergency Fund to support fellow DKG educators impacted by the devastating fires.

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Our next **zoom** meeting on Wednesday **February 19, 2025** will be a presentation on **Dolly Parton's** Imagination Library Program by **Rachel King**, Regional Director based in Sevierville, TN. In 1995, **Dolly Parton** developed the book gifting program so that every preschool child in her home of Sevier County, Tennessee, would have their own home library of books that would inspire a love of reading. Over 2.3 million children are enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and over 200 million books have been mailed since the program started in 1995. *The Dollywood Foundation 2023*. **Diana Sawin** will email a link with the date and time for our **zoom** meeting.

Thank you to **Jackie Adams, Bobbie Mortensen, Debbie Grilli** - Hospitality Committee for our treats! Happy Birthday to **Carmen Curtis** on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Congratulations to **Courtney Fischer** on her engagement!



### **Sue Robinson:**

For those of you who remember the Oakland fires back in '91, you can imagine the devastation of the LA fires this past month. My home was safe in Orange County, but I knew several families who lost their homes in Pacific Palisades. My first teaching job was there in a startup private school. There was one teacher for every grade: K-6. I taught first grade for 2 years and then second grade. We were a small tight-knit community with a very active parent group and families loved it—we all did. The school grew over the years to a two-story building, and I'm so glad now that I visited the site last summer, because it is complete rubble at the moment. The loss of this sweet town absolutely broke my heart. With everyone's help and contributions, the locals will rebuild their beloved Palisades once again. I don't know if everyone will be able to return, or if the school will, but I am optimistic. I so appreciate our chapter doing what we can to help any DKG member who may have lost their homes. A little from a lot of people will make a difference! Thank you, sisters, for your thoughtfulness and kind generosity!!



**Carmen Curtis** joined our chapter in November of 1985 and she's been a faithful member for almost 40 years. Carmen has conducted many of our ceremonies and also was Chair of the Nomination Committee for years. She has been Corresponding Secretary in the past and sponsored Kit King for membership. She has been honored by various organizations including our own Deka Kappa Gamma chapter and was chosen by Kiwanis as Teacher of the Year.

Carmen attended Drake University where she got an AA in Education. She went on to Cal State East Bay and earned a BS in German and an MS in Curriculum. She also has an Administrative Credential from UC Berkeley.

She taught school for 32 years, grades 1, 2 and 3...but mostly in Kindergarten (29 years). Carmen taught in the SRVUSD at Green Valley, Visa Grande, and Golden View and 5 more in Iowa and SoCal. She needs to be congratulated because she just turned 90 and was honored by her daughter, Jennifer, and son, Chris, with a grand birthday party of over 100 people in attendance. The picture to the right of Carmen and many from Zeta Zeta Chapter was taken there. She has 6 grandchildren and her entire family came.



Reading, gardening, and walking daily are three of her passions. She also enjoys knitting, cross stitching, and origami. Carmen is a volunteer extraordinaire! A member of the Beatrix Potter Society, Carmen has given many presentations dressed in character. She even was a featured speaker at our Zeta Zeta Chapter in the past. She has designed and sewn all of the wonderful characters in the Potter books, complete with clothes and props. Carmen also delighted the children of Shepherd's Gate with her reading of a Beatrix Potter book! Carmen has been very active in the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and been on their Steering Committee, served as Mission Chair, and has been a volunteer teacher at the One-Room Schoolhouse. She has also been involved with the Girl Scouts of America and was a leader for the Boy Scouts of America. She has taught Sunday School at Community Presbyterian Church and attends regularly. Carmen is a 50 year member of AAUW!

When asked what is her feeling about our chapter she said, "DKG/ZZ is the strongest organization I ever belonged to as more members faithfully attend chapter meetings than any other group." Carmen is generous and a very talented, loving person. She is beloved by all who know her.

## What's Happening?

Courtesy of **Terry Magnin** - JANUARY.Meeting

**Lola Ganse** spent Christmas and New Year's at her son's home in Scottsdale, Arizona where her daughter joined her for New Year's. 🥰🎉

**Carol Rowley** spent Christmas with family. She went to Hawaii in January. She had a wonderful time relaxing, enjoying the scenery, and having fun. 🌴🌲

**Kit King** had a great birthday. She went out to dinner early with her sons and husband to Forbes Mill. On her actual birthday she went to Esin's. Whoohoo... lots of good food, and she says now she needs to diet. Her older son, Grant, is in the fire zone in Hollywood Hills, so they have been praying for him. He had a friend with his wife and two daughters staying with him. They had to evacuate. Keep him, and all the people who have lost homes, businesses and even loved ones in your prayers. 🎂🎉🙏🙏

**Valerie Kellner** says she is absolutely crazy but also "in love" with Walter, her sweet Golden Rescue. He whipped us and their Kitty Molly in shape. 🐕🐱

**Gina Jaber** had the incredible opportunity to go to South Africa for seven days with African Travel Inc., one of her vendors with her new company, Alamo World Travel and Tours. It was unlike anything she had ever done! She wrote an article in the *Alamo Today/ Danville Today* newspaper. Maybe some of you saw it. 🌍🇿🇦📰

**Terry Schmitgal** is most excited about getting a second opinion on her Parkinson's diagnosis from UCSF, resulting in a prescription that totally eliminated her tremors and balance issues. 🧑🩺💊

**Kay Deehan's** daughter, Laura Deehan, met the president at the White House on 1/14/25...so exciting! At Christmas Kay (also known as Catherine) enjoyed all four of their kids being together with partners and three grandkids! It was the first time in nine years. 🌲😊

**Roseann Krane** went to Cambodia, Vietnam, and India in October and November. It was a great trip. For Thanksgiving she went to Arizona to her brother's home. She attended her aunt's funeral and visited her sister in Globe, Arizona. On Christmas her grown grandchildren and their families came to her place and then she went to Reno for Christmas with her son Tim and family. ✈️🌲🏠

**Karen Yee** is focused on rest after Thanksgiving and Christmas because of multiple family members with multiple health dilemmas. 🤒

## What's Happening? Continued...

**Sandy Madewell** had a fantastic memorable week after Christmas with two of their grandchildren (eleven and thirteen) helping them bring in the New Year! One of the highlights was their day at the Blackhawk Museum seeing amazing China and African exhibits! 🎉🎊🎈

**Joannie Wedell's** sister came to our meeting in November and her cousin came to our meeting in January as her Uber driver. Her knee is coming along and hopefully she can drive to our remaining meetings. She is giving a baby couple's shower for her son and daughter in law on February 1st for 45 people at her home and looking forward to it. 🐱🍼

**Sandy Budde** got to experience her very first "white Christmas" in Truckee with her kids and grandkids! "Tree tops glistening" and snow gently falling- so special! ❄️🧊

**Terry Magnin** went to Maui with her entire family of fifteen. She had her three daughters, spouses and seven grandchildren for twelve days for Christmas and New Year's. How special was that?! 🌴🎉



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**

### ZETA ZETA PROGRAMS 2025

DATE & PLACE	PURPOSE/ GOAL	PROGRAM	MEMBER CONTACT(S)
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



## SAVE THE DATE! DKG CA CONVENTION

MAY 2 - 4, 2025

LOS ANGELES

AIRPORT MARRIOTT

**"REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER"**

**Karen Yee** and her daughter, **Dr. Joannette Sorkin**. Mama was so proud of Joannette who was our intelligent excellent presenter for the evening.



Read Across America is coming up on March 2. Remember to READ, READ, READ!.



One of our favorite waiters at the Brass Door serving us our dessert which is always an ice cream sundae. Yum!

**Courtney Fischer** showing off her engagement ring. Congrats, Courtney!





**Dr. Joannette Sorkin** presented her findings, knowledge, and expertise as a psychiatrist and mother of an autistic child about autism and neurodiversity. Joannette also talked about Universal Design Learning (UDL) in the classroom. For more information on UDL go to [www.cast.org](http://www.cast.org).

She shared the work of Dr. David Rose on Multiple Means of Engagement. MME is the Why, What and How of learning.

