

# Etagram

California State

Area XII

Eta Chapter

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

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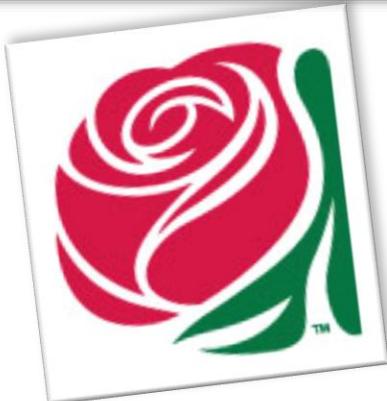
Etagram Editor is Shannon Ramos  
at [inga92648@yahoo.com](mailto:inga92648@yahoo.com)

## DKG California

Women Educators On the Move

Making It Happen

Together



## President's Message

### Goodbye and Hello

As it is the end of December, I suppose it is the time of the calendar year to think of the past and anticipate the future. In 2017 I have said hello to new opportunities, challenges, and friends and some tearful goodbyes. The recent passing of our dear Barbara J makes the goodbyes hit close to the heart, especially when you don't get the opportunity to say them. Barbara and I ended up in Office Depot together a month or so ago and I made the time to stop and chat with her as she was copying items for church school. Her calm demeanor, smile and bubbly laugh always made me feel happy and I am sad that I won't see her again. Reflecting on my short times with Barbara brought to mind the quote about people not remembering what you said, but remembering how you make them feel. Without Eta I'm guessing I would not have met Barbara and so many other wonderful women to lift me up and give me those feelings of happiness. I'm so glad I chose to say "hello" to DKG all those years ago! I ask for each of you to come to Eta meetings and events with a smile and a laugh, ready to buoy each other up in feelings of happiness and sisterhood and maybe even invite an educator to join you in saying "Hello!"

Fondly,  
Kris

### Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Promotes Professional and Personal Growth  
Of Women Educators and Excellence in Education

### International Vision Statement

Key Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

# New Members

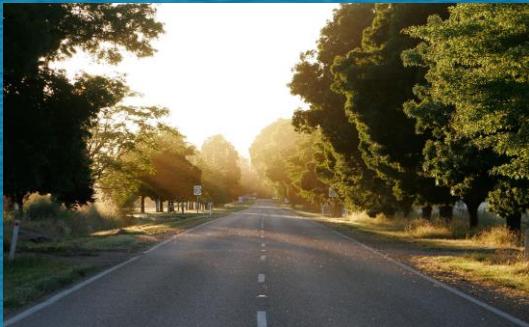
Pat D

When you meet Pat you soon learn that nurturing others is something Pat does naturally. Her warm and positive personality will draw you in. Pat grew up in a large family in Wisconsin. She attended Univ. Of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. Where she studied nursing before eventually moving on to major in special education.

Pat began her career as a director of a home for special needs adults and speaks fondly of the time she spent working with these amazing people. After leaving Wisconsin, Pat moved to California with her husband Michael. Here, she continued her work as a special education teacher in Long Beach. Eventually she moved to Kindergarten where she has worked for the last 20 years. She developed a kinder “garden” on the playground at Birney Elementary. Each of her classes get to see the fruits of their labor as they learn and work in the garden throughout the school year.

Along with gardening, Pat loves to cook and bake. She is always trying out new recipes with Michael.

In her free time, Pat can be found walking her sweet dog Nixon or along the beach with Michael looking for shells and sea glass. Pat loves traveling with her husband and friends, listening to good music, going to the theaters and exploring things unknown. We are excited to have Pat join ETA chapter.



Some People Cross Your Path and Change Your Whole Direction

Melinda M.

It is exciting to welcome another new member to Eta Chapter. Melinda M. was born and raised in Long Beach. She attended San Diego State University for her undergraduate studies. Melinda returned to Long Beach and received her teaching credential through California State University at Long Beach. Part of her credentialing program included student teaching in England. Melinda's career with LBUSD started as a teacher's aide during her college years. Melinda started in 1984 at Roosevelt Elementary teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. In 1989, Melinda transferred to Keller Elementary and taught kindergarten until the school closed in 2012. She is presently at Burcham Elementary where she has taught Transitional Kindergarten and now is one of only four teachers in the district teaching Early Transitional Kindergarten. Melinda will be celebrating her 30th wedding anniversary this year to Rick, her wonderful husband. She has a beautiful daughter, Marie, who is currently enrolled at CSULB. The four-legged family member is their golden retriever, Bently. Melinda loves to spend time with her extended family, whether wine tasting in Santa Inez, celebrating the holidays or coming together for football games. We are fortunate to have Melinda be a part of our Eta family.

## Monica D

Many of you knew Monica Daley long before she joined Eta. You may have met her when she first started working with LBUSD as a teacher's aide at Burnett ES or later when she was teaching at Starr King ES or Kettering ES. I met her working together on a project with the mentor teacher program. She quickly moved to the administrative track and was principal at Newcomb, then Hughes MS, and retired 2 years ago from Millikan HS.

She is retired, but hasn't stopped working—she interviews prospective teachers and investigates grievances for the district. She has accepted a couple of short-term assignments as principal. She is also on the Board of Directors with Leadership Long Beach where she works closely with the youth program and leads the weekend retreat that kicks off the 10-month program.

It's not all work for Monica though. She stays busy with her large family and wide circle of friends. She's a frequent visitor at the Crystal Cove cottages. This year she delivered winter supplies to the Dakota Access Pipeline protest, caught the eclipse in Oregon, vacationed in Lake Tahoe, went whale watching in Baja California, and wine tasting in Sonoma. She rides bikes, plays golf and bridge. For a good time, play a couple rounds of "Balderdash" or "Cranium" with her.

It's hard to go anywhere in Long Beach with her and not run into someone she knows or who knows her. I'm sure if you don't know her already, it won't take long before you do.

## Jared Boxes By Kris D

It is that time of year again! You are on the hunt for the fun little items that will fill a plastic shoe box and light up a child's heart and soul during a time of illness. Not only do you help a child, you help the parents too...

*"When my 6 year old son returned from surgery, the nurse gave him a Jared Box and his spirits soared! He was thrilled and excited to find all the goodies inside. He couldn't believe they were actually for him. Needless to say, this gift made his stay easier, made him feel special and kept his mind occupied with fun thoughts, instead of the reason he was in the hospital. You are doing such a good deed. You make boys and girls happy every single day!"*

*"You have no idea how you touched those who receive your box. My son, Ryan, is 5 and was scared to death to be in the hospital. His Jared Box was the bright spot for him. He played with it the entire time. What a wonderful tribute to your friend Jared. I am sure he has a big smile on his face too."*

*"My son Eli loves his Jared Box. It means a lot to him to have a box that belongs to him, in a place where he has no control or say over what happens. The joy you give him daily is priceless. Thank you and God Bless."*

All quotes from <http://www.thejaredbox.com>. This link also provides packing instructions and shopping suggestions.

Empty Jared Boxes will be available at our January 16 meeting and filled boxes should be brought to our February 24 meeting. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity towards the youngest patients at Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach.

# Calendar

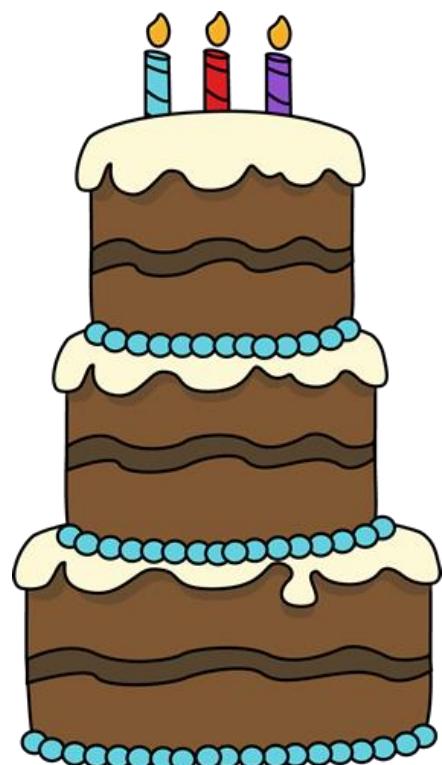
Date	Time	Program	Location
January 16 Tuesday	5:45 pm	Healthier in 2018	Newcomb Academy
February 24 Saturday	9:00 am	PEP (Past Eta Presidents) Auction and Breakfast Jared Boxes Collected	Westminster Village Town Hall
March 21 Wednesday	5:45 pm	Fraud Chapter elections	Newcomb Academy
April 13 Friday	6:00 pm	Bunco for BARK Social Evening and Fundraiser	Alida's home
April 21 Saturday	9:00 am	Area XII Conference Installation of chapter officers	The Grand
May 4-6	Friday-Sunday	DKG California State Convention	Irvine Marriott
May 10 Thursday	5:45 pm	Summer Reading Book Fair supporting BARK	Barnes & Noble, Marina Pacific Mall
June 2 (tentative) Saturday	11:00 am	Grant Recipient Luncheon Executive Board Recognitions	TBA
July 16-20, 2018		DKG International Convention	Austin, TX

Happy Birthday Sisters!

February Celebrations for Rose V. Leslie J.  
Charlotte N.

March Celebrations for Shelley F., Sara F.,  
Pat D., Barbara F., Emiko F., Chris G.,

April Celebrations for Masumi H., Lucy W.,  
Vanessa Q., Shannon R., Sheila H.



# Committee News

## Hands Across the Border

By Marlene D.

Hands Across the Border has a long and interesting history of teachers helping other teachers across the border in Baja California. Members of Area XVI from San Diego and surrounding cities began reaching across the border in the early 1990's to assist the DKG International Expansion Committee in establishing chapters. This was the beginning of the annual celebration of Hands Across the Border. Through the years life-long friendships and a legacy of understanding between Delta Kappa Gamma sisters has developed on both sides of the border. The annual celebration has evolved from meeting in the homes of local Area XVI chapter members to the present when the celebration is held in a hotel venue. Chapters from Area XVI have collected funds, school supplies, and sponsored sisters from Across the Border to attend events and activities in California. In recent years Area XII Chapters including Eta Chapter have collected school supplies and gift cards and delivered them to the celebration. Julie D. Kris D. and Marlene D. recently traveled to San Diego to attend this historical celebration. Hands Across the Border is a celebration you don't want to miss!

## Meet a Legislator

Felice Strauss has set up a meeting with Assemblywoman Garcia at 1:00 pm on the 19th of January in her district office.

Her office is [8255 Firestone, Suite 203](#), in Downey. Phone number is 562-861-5803.

Felice will have some questions prepared to ask Assemblywoman Garcia.

Please email Felice Strauss ([felicerob@aol.com](mailto:felicerob@aol.com)) by January 12 if you would like to attend.



## Health Benefits to being Happy by Alyssa Shafer (found in *The Secret of Happiness*)

- ♥ Your Brain Gets Trained to be More Positive
- ♥ Your Heart Will Work Better
- ♥ You'll Sleep Better
- ♥ You'll See the Doctor Less
- ♥ Your Hormones Become More Upbeat
- ♥ You'll Be More Comfortable

# Committee News

## Early Career Educators Committee by Louise M

Good news! We have honored 9 new teachers and made their day! Per their requests, we have sent gift cards from Amazon, Target and Lakeshore (an e-card) to the 9 Early Career Educators who had responded to our survey. (I still have one to deliver to Burbank.) In addition we have given a bag of books from Betty Ann to the teacher at Whittier and a huge box of books donated by Miep for the teacher at Hamilton. It was made possible by a generous donation from Nancy H as well as the \$150 that was allotted to our committee. We still have \$55 in our account in case something comes up later. Pat yourselves on your back for helping to make this happen.

## World Fellowships By Karen E.

The World Fellowship Program began at the 1946 convention in San Francisco with the approval of a project to aid women in war torn countries. Four German women educators, with financial assistance from DKG members, spent eight weeks of study and visitation in Sweden in the spring of 1948.



The World Fellowship fund is used to grant fellowships to non-member women educators who are not citizens of the US or Canada. This program makes a global impact on women, their lives and their country.

Through the years, the program has grown and more than 500 women from over 100 countries have received fellowships to enable them to pursue advanced study in the United States and Canada.

DKG ETA Chapter has a continuing recipient assigned to us to support this year. Last year we reached out to her by sending her cards of support and encouragement. Her name is Sheema Khawar and her home country is Pakistan. She currently is attending San Diego State University and is in the Master's program for Women's Studies. Sheema's birthday is January 24. We will have birthday cards available at our January meeting for you to sign and wish her well.

## Nominations Committee 2018-2020

By Peggy H

January Chapter meetings Recommendation forms will be available for all members

During the month of January the ballot will be prepared.

March - The membership will vote on the new Board for the 2018-2020 Biennium. The votes will be tallied and the new Board will be presented to the Members at large.

April - The installation of the new Area XII officers will be installed at The Grand at our Area XII Conference



# Eta Happenings

## Books and Bears by Cheryl J.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, ETA Chapter held their annual holiday brunch at the Long Beach Yacht Club. We started the morning with a fun activity. ETA members and their guests divided into groups. Each group was assigned a day from the song, “The 12 Days of Christmas”. It was their task to think of a way to act out what was sent to their “true love” on that day. Fun ensued as we sang the song and each group acted out their day.

After a delicious brunch, we were delightfully entertained by the Lakewood High School Madrigals under the direction of Ralph Siemsen. What a talented group of young people! Their splendid performance put us all in the holiday spirit.

Thanks to the generosity of ETA members and their guests, we collected over 200 books and over 200 stuffed animals. These were donated to For the Child which services children in crisis. Isabel Pasillas, a representative of For the Child, spoke to us regarding how our donations are used to benefit children.

ETA Chapter is once again grateful to Lucy W. for arranging our use of the Long Beach Yacht Club.

The magical Madrigals



Our Hard Working Partridge in a Pear Tree Duo-Miep and Linda



## Dinner and a Play by Cheryl J.

In November, some ETA sisters and their guest enjoyed an evening of sisterly fun. We began the evening by meeting at The Crooked Duck in Long Beach and enjoyed food and drinks. We then walked next door to the Long Beach Playhouse to see “Arsenic and Old Lace”. This “cuckoo” comedy was written in 1939 and premiered on Broadway in 1941. You might have seen the 1944 film version starring Cary Grant. It is a dark comedy about two elderly sisters who poison lonely gentlemen with arsenic. Then their brother, who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, buries the “malaria victims” in the “Panama Canal locks” in their basement. The play was enjoyed by all the ladies. A big thank you goes out to Alida S. for getting the play tickets and making restaurant arrangements for dinner.



# “WITMD”

I recently came across a gem that I found at one of our Barnes and Noble Fundraisers and wanted to share some of its jewels. The book is entitled “What I Told My Daughter” edited by Nina Tassler. This book is filled with letters and essays from various women, many whose names are very recognizable and others with high credentials in a variety of fields. They offer insight, reflections and lessons for us all.

This first selection is from Mona Sinha. She is a financial and leadership development expert. Her accomplishments range from helping setting up Impact Investment Exchange Asia, the first social stock exchange in Singapore to a founder of the Asian Women’s Leadership University in Malasia. She was an investment banker at Morgan Stanley and worked in marketing at Proctor and Gamble.

As I read her letter, two things came to mind: the women we support in World Fellowship. Their journey, the risk-taking and the sacrifices are exemplified in Mona’s letter. I also thought of her role as a mentor. How appropriate for our society! I can attest that someone’s confidence can lead you on a path you never thought you were able to take. Enjoy! ~Shannon R.

## Letter to My Girls

To my dearest Anya and Riya:

“Be the change you want to see in the world” Mohatma Ghandi’s simple words have been my inspiration in life. I hope that as you find yourself on the cusp of adulthood, you, too, will find a simple truth to guide your life choices. I love that you are twins, yet very different human beings. I hope that you will forever treasure the closeness of your unique relationship.

My life as a child was not as simple as yours. I was born the third of three girls in Calcutta. Society at large, chucked regretfully as I should have been the much sought-after boy. I grew up with the burden of being the “daughter who should have been the son” and as such felt that I had to fulfill that role. Thankfully, I excelled in school and took on leadership roles, but sometimes it felt like an act to please everyone else around me.

My acceptance into a prestigious college in India was once again proof that I could be as successful as the “boy.” However the stifled academic environment and rote learning were huge intellectual disappointments. Furthermore, the murder of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 and the subsequent politicization of the campus made learning even more difficult. I decided to take a bold step to leave and attend college in the United States. I decided to apply to women’s college and when Smith College in Massachusetts admitted me with a full scholarship, I felt truly blessed. I love the rebellious women that were Smith alumnae-Gloria Steinem to this day is a huge role model. It was at Smith, free from expectations of parents and society that I was able to explore, take risks, and discover my authentic self. It was at Smith that I finally proved that you didn’t need to be a boy to make a difference.

Smith allowed me to be genuine-to find innovative solutions to problems that were difficult, to discover who I really was, to find my voice. I had to speak up when I was not awarded enough financial aid in my sophomore year. On another occasion, I had to find a way to get into a program in Washington D.C. , that had never hosted a scholarship-supported international student. I also had to interpret the *Bhagavad Gita* for a friend who asked about Hinduism in a way that I had never before considered. These are the experiences that freed me and made me determined to allow you, my girls, to shine in any way that you please as you find your passion for life. Anaya, I can how your compassion for others will take you far. Riya, I see how your grit and determination, displayed so vividly on the soccer field, will motivate you to push forward. Keep these qualities and develop them further as they will help shape you.

My decision post-college to pursue investment banking was extension of my confidence in my ability to compete in a largely male-dominated world. At Smith, I had been told I could do anything, encouraged by the many female role models ( professors, advisors, staff, and alumnae) who supported me and pushed me. As I began my first job on Wall Street, I realized that gender equality was great in theory but not really played out in practice. I learned a tremendous amount and enjoyed working in the intense atmosphere of mergers and acquisitions, but faced sexist comments and was often solicited to engage improperly. It was hard and often with a thumping heart that I had to stand my ground with some pretty influential men, but in the long run it stood me in a good stead. My belief in myself and my determination to be true to my own values enabled me to earn respect. I did not play the game. That in a nutshell is the most important lesson of leadership and life.

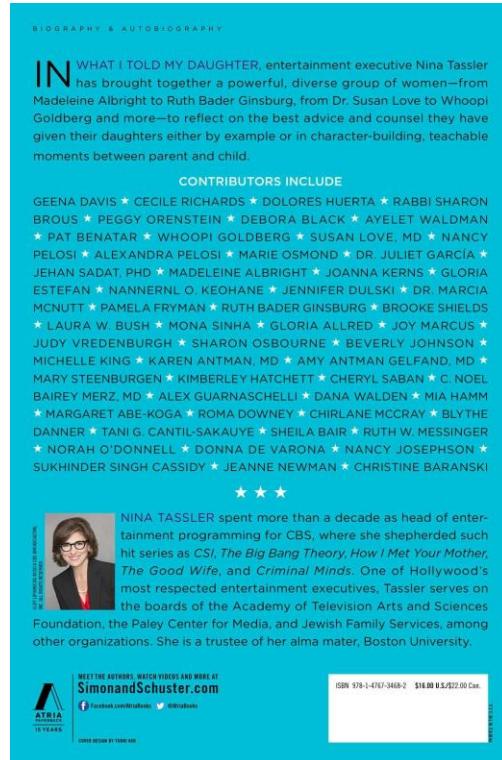
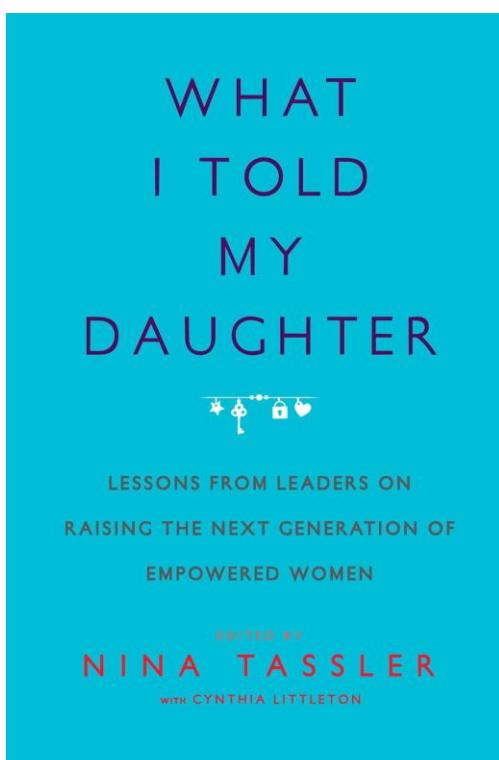
As I have transitioned from working on Wall Street to restructuring businesses in Asia to finally dedicating myself to investing in women's education and development as leaders and entrepreneurs, I have learned that being authentic and understanding a few simple truths are the tenants of a successful life.

- Technology will give you many tools but may hamper your creativity and ability to think out of the box
- Be careful not to limit yourself to easy answers. Take risk and know that it's okay to fail sometimes.
- Fear is not a reason to not do something
- Use love and compassion even when all else fails
- Respect the choices that people make, especially if they diverge widely from your own. When you respect others fully, only then will you be respected back.

You often ask why we have so many young women stay at our house-sometimes for a few days, sometimes for an entire summer. These are my mentees-girls and women I advise and support as I see the sparkle within them that they have yet to discover themselves. My greatest joy is to see my mentees fly and achieve something that they thought was impossible for them to do. I want to be their safety net as I am ours. I want to be their rock as I have so hugely benefitted from my own rock of family-your dad, your brother, and you two.

I hope you live a life that is whole. I hope you find joy every day, in things both big and small . Live a life that excellence, as defined as your own expectation of what that means.. Build a life that cherished the lessons of the past to reap the dreams of the future. Fill your life with compassion, determination, grit and strength of character to ease the world of its' many worries.

I regret that I won't be there to see your lives completely lived. But I hope that the lessons I teach you from my life bring to you something that you can use in your own. I hope you enjoy many moments of happiness and feel the thrill of changing something that is wrong. Make the right choices for yourselves and know that I love you and will always remain your biggest supporter.



# SAVE THE DATE!

Calling All Wonder(ful) Women!!

Saturday, April 21, 2018 will be the Area XII installation of officers for the new biennium. Put the date on your calendar to enjoy a wonderful breakfast, entertainment and the installation of our Chapter's newest officers; our Wonder Women!!!



**May 4 – 6,  
2018**



**DKG California  
Convention  
  
Irvine  
Marriott  
  
Keynote Speakers,  
Interest Sessions,  
Professional  
Development  
Workshops and More!**

**Attention All Eta Chapter Winter Olympians  
and Guests**

Our annual Past Eta Presidents (PEP) Auction will be Saturday, February 24, 2018.

Come join us in Pyeongchang, South Korea

(Otherwise known as the Westminster Town Hall  
5200 Blackpool Rd., Westminster, CA 92683)

We will be competing to see which country (Eta Sister) will be going home with the most prizes. Perhaps even the coveted "HAND".

The biggest winners will be those having a good time socializing with her Eta sisters.

The Olympic Ceremonies will begin **at 9:00**.

Brunch will be provided by former  
Gold Winning Past Eta Presidents.

Bring either a secret item to be auctioned off during our live auction competition

**OR**

An item to be part of the silent bidding competition.

Remember, this is our major fundraiser to support the "Grants in Aid" we provide for future student teachers.