

# ROSE PETALS

## State Conference



Margaret's and Brenda's Art



Sue

Brenda and Mary



Jimmy Don from  
“Fixer Upper”

Seven members of Lambda Alpha attended the DKG State Conference in Waco in June: Brenda Lozano, Martha Lynn Lewis, Sue Thompson, Mary Moreno, Tobey Unrath, Gloria Montalbano, and Cathey Jones.

Two types of learning opportunities were new to this convention. In addition to the conventional breakout sessions, there were info blasts and webinars. Info blasts delivered information in a short amount of time in a structured and controlled way, and webinars offered professional development and personal enrichment 100% online, accessible from any Internet connection.

Featured speakers included Jimmy Don Holmes of HGTV's *Fixer Upper* fame, Dean Teague of Baylor University Law School, and Wendy Corbett, who spoke about growing up "different".

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### Mission Statement

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# International Conference Austin, Texas



Attendees Leigh LaVergne, Mary Moreno, Sue Thompson, Kathy Gardner, Gloria Montalbano, Marie Helmy, Linda Burch, Martha Lynn Lewis, Brenda Lozano, Jan Russell



Lambda Alpha's vending table in the Marketplace: Martha Lynn, Sue, Brenda



After a long day of conferencing, our leadership takes a break!  
Brenda, Mary, Sue

## The "Skittles" of De-Cluttering

S—Start Small—use behavior momentum  
K—Keep only what is necessary  
I—Identify your weaknesses  
T—Top 5 tasks—prioritize what is most critical—pick 5  
T—Tidy in Order—Discard first  
L—Lists  
E—Email yourself files  
S—Smile and reinforce yourself when you have accomplished the task



One of the many interesting 10-minute takeaways

Keynote speaker Benjamin Zander and Kathy



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## Convention Reflections



**Sue Thompson:** What a hot summer full of Wonderful Conventions! Scorching sun reflecting from the Magnolia Silos; 100<sup>0</sup> on the sidewalk thermometers as we walk to dinner; fiery peppers as the base of a barbecue dinner all were off-set by the warm-hearted gatherings in attached rooms with my Lambda Alpha sisters at the State Convention. The warmth on the smiles on the faces of DKG sisters from cold Alaska and frigid Finland; heated debates on the Convention floor and frosty dips in the hotel pool; powerful messages given by passionate speakers-these are a few of the moments that stand out in my mind about the International Convention. Both the State and International Conventions heightened my awareness of the depth of our Society, and I feel privileged to have attended them both.

**Martha Lynn Lewis:** Vendors! What a pleasure and honor to represent Lambda Alpha at both the State and International Conventions. In Waco I was able to recognize each of the Chapter Presidents by their name badges and to show them our beautiful rose cards, our DKG soaps, as well as the delicious jams and pampering sugar scrubs. In Austin the ladies from around the World enjoyed all the Texas bags, Texas placemats, Texas keychains and Texas puzzles. Everyone loved the cards and were so impressed that the cards were hand made by our chapter. It was a delight meeting all the members from all the different countries and states. I cannot thank the group enough for all the help I received to be able to attend these two conventions. Words cannot be expressed!

**Marie Helmy:** At International, the voting went on until three. By then, I think many were voting along with the proposals. It was decided to have constitutional amendments every two years instead of every four. After all the voting, I was so tired that I went across the street to have a cappuccino and missed the forums. The banquet was lovely. The choir was uplifting. Philadelphia delegation showed an inspiring video.

**Jan Russell:** This was my first International Convention for Delta Kappa Gamma, and I definitely enjoyed it despite my bad knee. I was very impressed with the hospitality and efficiency of the organizers. However, my favorite part was growing closer to my Lambda Alpha sisters. Our get-togethers were so much fun. Also, I met a ΔΚΓ sister from New York, and we have become Facebook friends. Plus, I loved singing our ΔΚΓ song with a room full of sisters.

**Mary Moreno:** After the State convention we took another road trip, this time to Austin for the International convention. This was my first International convention. It was a first for some of my Lambda Alpha sisters as well. Ten of our Lambda Alpha sisters went this time. We got there Monday afternoon and set off to find our rooms, register, unpack and get together to make plans. In this trip we spent a lot of time in the Ballroom. Oh, not dancing, but voting for changes to the DKG amendments. Some of the amendments passed and some did not like the name change to DKG Society International. We get to keep the same name for now. In a way, it was sort of fun to see and hear some pass and some not. The best part was the sisters that stood up and had something to say against or for the amendments. I will say that we all got along well and that it was fun and work. I attended six sessions this time around. Had some fun sessions like the art one where I got to create something. I enjoyed the fact that met other sisters from other chapters and from other countries. We represented 18 countries! It was very enjoyable as well as another successful trip for Lambda Alpha.

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**Leigh LaVergne:** The workshop that stands out for me (all I attended were good) is the one on building our chapter member numbers. Think “Garden of Roses”...a gathering where we expound on the benefits of and reasons for being members of DKG to invited, interested educators. Flowers adorn our meeting place. A celebratory cake (decorated with flowers) and gift bags (with goodies and informational handouts) and a flower (can be a rose) for each guest.

- 1) There are benefits and opportunities with being a member: financial, travel, leadership and more.
- 2) Opportunities: activism, publishing, recognition.
- 3) It is an honor to be invited to join...someone admired you, and felt you were a “KEY WOMAN EDUCATOR”. They noted your standards, recognized your potential, and many other qualities before inviting you.
- 4) Explain the Purposes and Vision of DKG.
- 5) Why do members join? Two or three members introduce themselves and share their reasons for joining.
- 6) Why do members remain active for years? (25+ members stand, or are featured on a slideshow.)
- 7) We support future and early educators...supplies, mentoring, encouragement, appreciation meals, “Welcome to Education” bags.
- 8) Local, state, and international projects.

**Tobey Unrath:** State Convention is a revelation of who we are as a teaching society. So many wonderful dedicated active and retired teachers gather together to continue to improve themselves, their chapters, and their profession. There were many opportunities for learning and fun. Our group of members from Lambda Alpha really enjoyed being together and thinking about possibilities for all of us. My favorite workshop involved scholarship possibilities. We played a Bingo game with a “cheat sheet” that named the different scholarships, what they were for, who qualified, and how much money they paid. With gift cards as prizes, we all were learning as fast as we could to cover the Bingo square desired. I am going to play this game in October with you at our meeting and include teachers that you and I bring that would be interested in DKG. There are scholarships available to help these younger teachers get the advanced degrees they desire. The leader of the workshop had obtained DKG scholarships for both her master’s and doctor’s degrees! This may be a great way to bring new teachers into our group. Start thinking whom you will invite. There is an excellent new video on the DKG website telling about our society and featuring teacher scholarship recipients that we will view that day, as well. You have a great group of officers this year who are “spinning their wheels” to get going. Come with us next year to the State Convention!!

**Cathey Jones:** I went to the state convention in Waco in June, and in addition to the camaraderie we enjoyed, some of the sessions were fun, too. A presentation I had looked forward to was cancelled, but the one I went to instead was lovely and inspiring. It was on the joys of journaling. It included benefits of journaling, format (where anything goes), and how to get started. There are many types of journals and many suggestions came out of the discussion. An additional session about what a chapter secretary’s role should be held some unexpected clarifications, such as that discussion and elaboration on meeting transactions don’t need to be included—It made me think of Dragnet—Just the facts, ma’am! The Ceremonies session was very direct and factual, as were the others I attended. Another great part of the convention was

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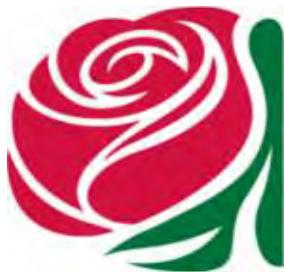
the time spent at the booth with our other members and with other sellers. I'm not the best salesperson, but I love chatting, and there were many opportunities to do that!

**Kathy Gardner:** My Takeaways from 2018 DKG International Conference – Austin

1. The breadth of the organization – Close to 2000 DKG sisters from 17 countries attended, from North America, Central America, Europe and Japan. 500+ were from Texas!
2. Benjamin Zander, noted teacher, musician, author, 1st keynote speaker, can make a random person feel celebrated. He conducted the audience to embrace *The Art of Possibility*.
3. Nadia Lopez, 2nd keynote speaker, inspired a tough community to support a school for the underserved, a student body to excel well beyond the expectations of many, and our audience to action.
4. Presenter, Edna Thayer, had us “Laughing for the Health of It”, explaining the physiological processes and the benefits of joy, the emotion and laughter, the behavior.
5. Dr. Suzanne Roy, presenter, highlighted “Adult Ways of Knowing” based on the work of Robert Kegan’s and Eleanor Drago Stevenson’s *Adult Learning and Development*. Effective educators must consider the learners’ attitudes, behaviors, expectations, and his/her “meaning-making” system.
6. Mary Jo Pollman, presenter, connected the arts to STEM with the presentation, The Young Artist as Scientist: What can Leonardo da Vinci Teach Us?
7. It’s hard to leave the Marketplace completely empty handed.

**Linda Burch:** What an amazing and inspirational time I had at my first conference of any kind with DKG! The International Convention gave almost 2,000 outstanding educators a great opportunity to learn, to network, and to grow and challenge ourselves. Some of my favorite breakout sessions and 10-minute takeaways were *Reverse Pre-diabetes*, *How to Optimize Alexa*, *Laughing for the Health of It*, and *Educating Girls in East Africa*. The Marketplace was filled with vendors of all types, offering a wide variety of items from kitchen boas to books. (Our Lambda Alpha table was the best, though.) And oh, yes, there was another opportunity the DKG conference gave us: the chance to have fun with our sisters!

**Brenda Lozano:** I attended both the State and International conferences; it was my first time at International. I really enjoyed the sessions, *So You Want to Write a Book* and *The Skittles of De-cluttering*. I didn’t realize Austin had so many good restaurants (better than Waco!). I spent some time with Martha Lynn at our Lambda Alpha booth, which was extremely successful. At State we took in around \$600, and at International we made \$950. Thanks to all who helped make the cards or helped in any way.



## *Grant-in-Aid Recipient*

After the Founders' Banquet, the Scholarship committee (Gloria Montalbano, Ruby Schaper, Debbie Connally, Karen Harrell (absent), and Kathy Gardner, chairman) met and selected **Jasmine Aurora Gates** to receive this year's Billie Golden Memorial Scholarship. She has now graduated from Memorial High School and plans to attend Oklahoma State University and pursue a career in special education/speech disorders.

The committee was impressed with the fact that she has worked with special needs athletes for the past 6 years in addition to graduating with a 5.87 GPA, was a varsity cheerleader captain, participated in the American Sign Language Club, volunteered with the Lonestars Special Needs Cheer Program and was a volunteer coach for the Houston Warriors Basketball Camp.

She shared that her parents and oldest brother are all teachers. Quoting her, "The fulfillment and hope that they describe about their jobs makes education more of a path I would like to pursue."

## *Don't Forget*

- \* Pay your annual dues (\$80) to Mary Moreno.
- \* Sign up to bring a refreshment to at least one meeting.
- \* For more information and pictures of DKG visit our great Website: <http://lambdaalphdkg.weebly.com/>

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Vision Statement:  
Leading women educators  
impacting education  
worldwide

## *Upcoming Events*

August 11 – salad luncheon, 11:00, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Guild Room, 1656 Blalock Road

September 15 – area workshop and vendor booth

September 18 – chapter meeting, 4:30, Mendenhall Community Center

October 13 – HATFL sales

October 16 – chapter meeting, 4:30, Buffalo Creek Elementary School

December 1 – Christmas luncheon, 10:45, Junior League

January 12 – chapter meeting at Tobey's home, 10:00, 2619 Manila Lane

February 19 – chapter meeting, 4:30, Mendenhall Community Center

April 9 – chapter meeting, 4:30, Mendenhall

May 7 – Founders' Day dinner, 5:30, Fratelli's Restaurant

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## *President's Letter*



As the summer comes to a close, I am excited to face the challenge of being your president for the coming biennium and appreciate the faith you have put in me. I promise that I will try my best to serve you however I can. Since May, Rosemary used the results of the April survey to plan wonderful programs for this year. Gloria, Martha Lynn, and Mary have been hard at work making a budget that we can work with. And, due to the hard work of Martha Lynn, Brenda, Mary and so many others at multiple trunk sales, the State Convention in Waco and the International Convention in Austin, enough money was raised to make this coming year's budget balanced and have a small amount to carry over for the 2019-2020 year! My hats go off to these lovely ladies. This will be a wonderful year!

If you are an active teacher I hope that you have a great year. Please let us know how we can help you. Cutting and pasting is my specialty, so I am happy to provide some assistance in this area! It is my goal for each member to choose to be a member of at least one committee and to come to as many meetings as possible. Be on the lookout for a call or text from me asking you to be on a committee if you do not make your choice at the Salad Luncheon.

Another goal I have for my biennium is to notify you of chapter news in a variety of ways – email, newsletter, and text. Please let me know if you do not want messages sent to your cell phone, or if you prefer a method of communication not listed here.

Finally, I am looking for new ideas to raise funds for our chapter's carry over. At International Convention, it was voted that state organizations without a Permanent Fund set aside funds until not less than 30% of annual income is met (paraphrasing of the new Article IV\Finance\Section F. Funds 3 b,d,d of the International Constitution). Though this charge was not given to the chapters, I have always felt that we need to have a financial carry over so that the chapter has finances to begin a new year. Therefore, I will continue to support card and other item sales, raffles at the Area 18 Conference in September, and other suggested fund raisers. Two new ideas are a “Chinese Auction” where members bring nice items to be Auctioned off to other members. This is something we will try at the January meeting held in Tobey Unrath’s home. Kathy Gardner has suggested a Girls’ Night In – a movie, wine, and snacks held at a member’s home for a competitive price. Sounds like fun, doesn’t it! Now to find the movie and location. What idea do you want to suggest?

We'll see you all on August 11 at 11:00 at the St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Guild room for the Salad luncheon, on September 15 at 4:30 for the Area 18 Conference, and again on September 18 at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center for an informative program presented by Girls Inc. of Greater Houston <https://girlsinc-houston.org/>.

*Sue*

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**July:** Margaret Rankin 6<sup>th</sup>, Camille Newman 17<sup>th</sup>, Jane Riddle 20<sup>th</sup>, Susie White 25<sup>th</sup>

**August:** Gloria Montalbano 6<sup>th</sup>, Diane Higginbotham 8<sup>th</sup>, Melissa Steger Salyer 16<sup>th</sup>, Rochelle Kyle 21st

**September:** Karen Harrell 5<sup>th</sup>, Cathey Jones 15<sup>th</sup>, Aban Rustomji 20<sup>th</sup>, Pauline Sayers 20<sup>th</sup>, Kathy Gardner 25<sup>th</sup>, Mary Moreno 26<sup>th</sup>

If we have missed someone, please let us know. We do not want to miss a single birthday.

## *News of our Sisters*

CONTRATULATIONS to Brenda Lozano, who is the 2018-19 Area 18 technology representative.

## *Favorite Finds*



My Favorite Find is Meyer's Clean Day cleaning products. I use the Multi Surface Concentrate and dilute it 10% concentrate to 90%water. I spray it on Mirrors and my tile countertops and with a quick wipe, they shine and smell wonderful. This product can be found in grocery stores everywhere. -Sue

*Let us know if you have found a product or service that you'd like to share!*

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# Minutes Lambda Alpha Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma

## Founders' Day Celebration

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Lambda Alpha members gathered at Fratelli's Ristorante to celebrate Founders' Day with First Vice President, Rosemary Nelson, calling the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m., welcoming all the eighteen members in attendance. The members were thrilled with their favors of fresh lavender bags of sachet at each place setting. A certificate announcing the Chapter was recognized for preparing a Pace slide show on the program on literacy. In honor of Barbara Bush the members all wore blue and pearls. Also, on the table was a beautiful cake made by Brenda Lozano and a wonderful arrangement of red roses to help celebrate the Founders' Day program. The main table had red candles and small vases of red roses down the center as part of the celebration. It was also announced that the chapter received the Yearbook Award. The Founders' Day program was conducted by the members in a beautiful candlelight ceremony by reading a recognition of each Founder. A delicious meal followed at this point.

The business meeting began at 6:30 p.m. by Brenda Lozano, the chapter president. The members approved the minutes from the previous meeting, which had been emailed, and they were approved as written. Clara Reimers made the motion and it was seconded by Sue Thompson. Mary Moreno gave an oral treasure's report. The balance of the checking account is \$5,105.23 and the balance of the savings account is \$3,338.68 as of April 30, 2018. In Old Business announcements were made on the State convention being held in Waco beginning June 13, and the International convention being held in Austin in July. Lambda Alpha will have a vendor booth to sell at both conventions. An update was given on fundraising as the class on April 14<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled and the craft show at John Knox church was rained out. Brenda gave a report on the GHACC reception for the State President, Jo Murphy, on April 22. This was attended by Brenda, Sue and Mary.

In new business Kathy Gardner gave a report from the scholarship committee. She has four applicants and the committee will meet after our meeting to make their decision. Rosemary passed out a survey for the chapter to have input of ideas for future programs.

An installation ceremony followed by Lambda Alpha installing their officers for the next two years. Sue Thompson will be the chapter president followed by Rosemary Nelson, First Vice President; Tobey Unrath, Second Vice President; Linda Burch, Corresponding Secretary; Martha Lynn Lewis, Recording Secretary; Mary Moreno, Treasurer; and Brenda Lozano as Parliamentarian. Sue Thompson presented Brenda Lozano with a thank you president gift for all the hard work she has done for the chapter. The Virginia Johnson Award was announced by Martha Lynn with Mary Moreno receiving it. Mary was thanked for all that she has done for the Chapter. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m., motioned by Linda and seconded by Sue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Lynn Lewis, Recording Secretary

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