



President Monica Wertz Short Thoughts for 2022



I was recently given a book entitled *The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen*. It contains short quotes, one for each day of the year. As I reflect on our work as DKG sisters, I am reminded of the good work we have done and the true spirit of our members. I am

reminded of the many projects such as “Books for Bunnies,” “Outfitting Oklahoma,” “Walk with Me,” “It’s a Wrap,” “Upsilon Helps Louisiana After Ida,” “Bags of Blessings,” etc.

I share with you a few short reads:

* Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving? Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love.

* You must remember to love people and use things, rather than to love things and use people.

* Nothing ever happens in the world that does not happen first inside human hearts.

* Love cannot remain by itself it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.

* Once a man ceases to be of service to his neighbor, he begins to be a burden to him.

* Help someone in distress and you lighten your own burden; the very joy of alleviating the sorrow of another is the lessening of one’s own.

DKG sisters... I am blessed to have you as colleagues and most importantly as a *true friend*. Stay well, and continue your individual journey of service to others. *You* are making a difference every day of the year.

Membership Meetings Scheduled

As many of you are already aware, our next membership meeting, January 15 at 10:30 am, will be by Zoom. Judy Rongey emailed an e-invite for the meeting. If you haven’t already done so, please respond with your RSVP.

Of course, this is disappointing but hopefully the state convention in March and the GNOAC meeting in March (of which Upsilon

is the hostess) will go on as planned and in person.

The Christmas luncheon and auction was well attended and successful and was a great time of fellowship and Christmas cheer. Apparently, this will be the last time that we have our luncheon in that room as TPC is renovating the space.

As highlighted in the last newsletter, the International Convention will be in New Orleans this summer and there is much

preparation to be done. Refer back to the last *Upsilon Update* to learn about the fleur-de-lis decorations that need to be prepared as table centers. Be sure to talk to Judy about how you can help out.

There will be lots to do, and this will truly be an “all hands on deck” event. 2022 will be an exciting and event-filled year for our chapter and state. Let’s make it a great one!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Christmas Visits with Miss Weide | 2 |
| Goodbye to DKG Sister Frances Trox- | 2 |
| Trauma Doesn’t Stop... | 2 |
| Congratulations Erika Spengler! | 3 |
| Partner in Education Award | 3 |
| Bags of Blessings | 3 |
| DKG Society International Purposes | 4 |
| Save These Dates! | 4 |

Convention Dates

Louisiana State Convention
March 11-13, 2022

DKG International Convention
July 12-16, 2022

Christmas Visits with Miss Weide

Several DKG sisters took the opportunity in December to visit with Miss Weide and shower her with some Christmas cheer and pass on greetings from the membership.

Loretta Brehm and Mary LeBlanc brought her a Christmas sweater that lit up with Christmas lights which she insisted on wearing right away and delighted in showing off to all her friends.

Fatih Moran reports: Fay (Champagne) and I purchased Kathleen's (Deroche) beautiful lap quilt and gave it to Ms. Weide for Christmas. She was delighted and held it the whole time we were there; didn't let it go. She thought it was so beautiful, and it is. She couldn't believe Kathleen made it in 3 days. She said she would have taken a lot longer to do it. We also gave her the Santa ornament and Monica's fruit bag. She was so happy



Goodbye to DKG Sister Frances Troxler

Frances Maria Miano Troxler, a native of Garyville, and resident of Gramercy, Louisiana died peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, December 23, 2021 at the age of 79. She was born on November 2, 1942. She devoted her entire life to God, her family and her students.

She worked for over 30 years within St. James Parish Public School System as a teacher, Administrator, Principal and Chapter One Director. She was a long time member of Louisiana Reading Association. She served as a lector for many years at Sacred Heart Church.

Kathleen Deroche, Terri Meaney and Janet Small attended Frances' funeral and performed the DKG ritual, presented the rose, and gave the explanation about sharing the DKG jewelry. The family was touched and treasured the ceremony.

Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door - Book Review

Recipient of the 2021 Delta Kappa Gamma Educators Book Award.

This book explores how educational institutions have failed to recognize and effectively address the symptoms of trauma in students of all ages. Given the prevalence of traumatic events in our world, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Gross argues that it is time for educational institutions and those who work within them to change their approaches and responses to traumatic symptoms that manifest in students in schools and colleges. These changes can alter how and what we teach, how we train teachers, how we structure our calendars and create our schedules, how we address student behavior and disciplinary issues, and how we design our physical space. Drawing on real-life examples and scenarios that will be familiar to educators, this resource

provides concrete suggestions to assist institutions in becoming trauma-responsive environments, including replicable macro- and microchanges.

Book Features:

Focuses on trauma within the early childhood–adult educational pipeline.

Explains how trauma is often cumulative, with recent traumatic events often triggering a revival of traumatic symptomology from decades ago.

Provides clarifications of currently used terms and scoring systems and offers new and alternative approaches to identifying and ameliorating trauma.

Includes visual images to augment the descriptions in the text.

Gross is an author, educator and

advisor on a wide range of topics in education. Her current research and work focuses on the impact of trauma on student learning, psychosocial readiness and health. She served as a college president in Vermont and a Senior Policy Advisor to the US Department of Education (Obama Administration). She was a tenured law professor for two decades. Her newest book, a sequel to her 2017 book *Breakaway Learners*, is titled *Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door* and will be released in June 2020 by Columbia Teachers College Press. The hallmark of Gross' work is her linkage of theory and practice, demonstrating the value of real in-the-trenches experiences to educational policy. She also authors a children's book series titled *Lady Lucy's Quest*. She was a visiting faculty member at Bennington for Spring 2016.

Congratulations Erika Spengler!

Erika Spengler was recognized with an award of 20 years of teaching in St. Charles Parish Schools by the School Board at their meeting on November 17, 2021.

Erika graduated valedictorian of her class at Destrehan High School where she also served as drum major of the marching band and was selected all state band in her senior year.

She graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama where she was in the marching band for four years. She studied in London at the University of Greenwich during her fifth year in college when



she traveled all over Europe.

Erika has received a master's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University and a master's degree from the New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

After college, Erika began teaching second grade at Mimosa Park

Elementary in St. Charles Parish for two years. Then she moved to China for three years where she taught English as a second language in a high school where she lived in the dormitory with the students. While in China, Erika traveled all over Asia.

After China, Erika returned to teach gifted education at Lakewood Elementary in St. Charles Parish for 16 years. She is now in her 3rd year teaching gifted education at Norco Elementary School.

For eight years Erika has participated in archaeological digs in Israel in the month of June with the New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

Partner in Education Award

Teachers are often viewed as being totally responsible for how a student turns out.

We all know that is not the case.

A partnership between and among teachers/schools, parents/guardians, and the community must exist for the best development of a well-rounded student.

Today we recognize an exceptional representative of the community component, Lieutenant Annette Askew of the Westwego Police Department.

Lt. Askew has gone above and beyond her duties as Supervisor of School Resource Officer Division, and D.A.R.E. Officer to enrich through education, the lives of not only the students, but their parents, and in conjunction with the teachers as well.

Her 25+ years of shaping lives in a positive direction are well respected by the community and school system. In her official law enforcement capacity she serves as an authority figure while demonstrating genuine caring and compassion, and is guided by her faith.

In addition to her own family, Lieutenant Askew has brought into her home and family, children who were in severe predicaments through no fault of their own, giving them structure, and love, and raised them as her own.

Upsilon Chapter is proud to congratulate (recently promoted,) Lieutenant Annette Askew, and recognize her as our Partner in Education for 2021.

Bags of Blessings

DKG Upsilon delivered Bags of Blessings to Southeastern Louisiana University's Lions' Connected Students and Options Cleaning Krewe!

The Bags of Blessings project was one of two (the other being postponed) chapter service projects in which the membership collected

items such as toiletries, snacks, etc. and presented them in individual bags to special students. The goal was to pass on to others the blessings that have been shown to us.

As you can see from the pictures, they were very well received!



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Purposes

UPSILON UPDATE

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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 endeavors in the interest of education and women educators.
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators.
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action.
7. To inform members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.



Save These Dates!

We all get so busy that it's easy to let important dates slip through the cracks if we don't write them down in our calendar right away.

So to make sure that we don't miss any wonderful opportunities to get together with our sisters at any upcoming events, be sure to mark these dates.

January 15, 2022, 10:30am Zoom Meeting

March 11-13, 2022, Doubletree Hotel, Lafayette – State Convention

April 23, 2022, 11:00am GNOAC Meeting, Boomtown Casino, Acadia Ballroom, Belle Chasse

May 7, 2022, 11:00am Kitchen Table Café, 7005 St. Claude Avenue, Arabi - Membership meeting

July 12-16, 2022, New Orleans, LA - DKG International Convention

