



Delta Theta Chi Sorority
Electra Province Pleiad
Winter Edition 2024



President's Message



Dear Electra Province Sisters:

Congratulations to Electra Province on our successful 93rd Fall Conclave "*The Art of Giving*" in Kansas City, Missouri October 4-6. We were blessed with several Sisters visiting from other provinces: **Celaeno Province:** National President Connie Cripe and Celaeno Province President Deb Hood; **Alcyone Province:** National Vice President Linda Colton, Province Corresponding Secretary Shelley Nelson, and Rebecca Rowan; **Taygeta Province:** National Trustee Becky Cooper; the **National Executive Secretary-Treasurer** Cindi Cook and **Electra Province National Trustee** Cathie Barber.

Thank you all for traveling to Kansas City in support of Electra Province. What a perfect way to celebrate each other, sharing traditions and exchanging or exploring new ideas, as well as strengthening and forming the bonds of Sisterhood.

A big Thank You to everyone for your generous donations at Conclave to Amethyst Place and support of the Saturday evening live landscape painting ... demonstrating "*The Art of Giving*". Thanks to your generosity on Saturday evening, all funds collected were donated to ArtKC. More details can be found in this issue of *The Pleiad*.

How exciting to announce Electra Province has gained five new members since October 2023. Two Sisters were Initiated prior to 2024 Conclave, with one Sister Initiated Friday evening of Conclave. Please join me in Welcoming: Kim Garcia (KS Beta); Sam Larson (NE Eta) and Kristy Moreland (MO Delta). We still have two Pledges to be Initiated: Sara Marsh (KS Alpha) and Tiffany Agee (NE Eta). We will keep you posted of these events as soon as the information is available.

Thank You to the KS Kappa Chapter for conducting the Memorial Service at Conclave honoring the dedication and years of service of Pauline Robinson (March 3, 2024) and Marie Beuchat (June 18, 2024) both from the KS Alpha Chapter. They will truly be missed.

Congratulations to the newly installed 2024-2025 Board of Directors: Vice President Brenda Thompson (KS Beta); Educational Director Julia Ourecky (NE Eta); Recording Secretary Tammy Cocannouer (KS Beta); Corresponding Secretary Cindy Whiteley (KS Kappa); Treasurer Vicki Lignitz (KS Kappa); and Immediate Past President Gail Allen (KS Kappa). Thank you for the honor of representing Electra Province as President. I look forward to continuing working with this fabulous group of dedicated and energized Sisters.

At the post-Conclave meeting of the newly installed Board members, I asked Vice President Brenda and Educational Director Julia to begin working on their 2024-2025 Membership Theme and Educational Program so this information can be sent out to each Chapter the first of January 2025 as we begin a new year, allowing each of you a few more months to prepare your Chapter to actively plan, support, and participate in both of these important year round programs. So, mark your calendars and share this important information with everyone.

All Electra Province Sisters are "*beautifully rooted*" in the many traditions of Delta Theta Chi Sorority, each bringing their own unique attributes, knowledge, dedication, passion and support of our Sisterhood. Each of us are responsible for sharing and growing our Sisterhood to help sustain this wonderful "women supporting women" organization, and the many ways we support literacy, educational scholarships, and the needs of our local communities. Thank you, everyone, for all you do to support these many wonderful programs.

I hope you are all enjoying the Electra Province Social Media posts, with the first post published June 2024. A big Thank You to Gail Allen (KS Kappa) and Julia Ourecky (NE Eta) for shining a light on Electra Province Sisters, sharing monthly Province, Chapter and World events, Founder's Day celebrations, chapter educational programs, social events and philanthropic efforts. If you are viewing these posts on Facebook or Instagram, please be sure to click "Like", add a "comment" and then "Share" to post on your Facebook to help promote DTC and Electra Province activities. By doing so, you will be helping increase the number of "followers" of Electra Province. It has been interesting to watch these numbers grow since June. If you don't have access to Facebook or Instagram, you can also view these posts on the Electra Province website. For any questions or suggestions, please reach out to your chapter's Social Media contact person, or to Electra Province Social Media Chairs, Gail Allen or Julia Ourecky. Thank you Sisters, for all you do to help keep us informed and connected!

With the Holiday season upon us, please remember to share "*The Art of Giving*" to those less fortunate to help make their Holidays a little brighter. I would encourage you to pick up the phone and call Sisters on the Isolation/Shut-In list or mail a card with a personal note. If you live near one of these dear Sisters, perhaps a little in-person visit, bring a poinsettia plant or freshly back Holiday bread, cookies or fresh fruit. The best "gift" of all is a little bit of your time. If you don't have this list or know someone who should be added to the list, please reach out to Teresa Carter (KS Beta).

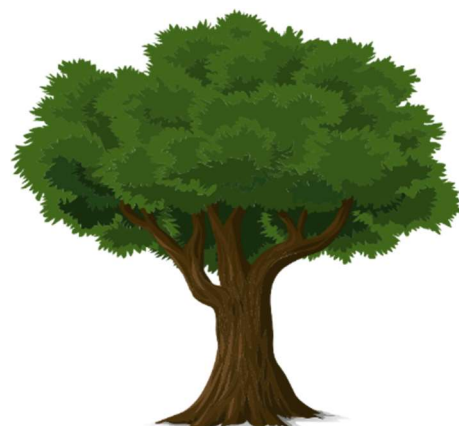
May each of you be blessed with the precious gift of time with Family, Friends and Sisters. May you be surrounded by all of your loved ones, remembering and sharing precious memories of those who are no longer with us, and make new memories. We all have so much to be Thankful for ... we are truly blessed.

Happy Holidays to all and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

In Sisterly Love,

Cheryl

Cheryl Neeley, MO Delta Chapter
Electra Province President



Vice President's Message

Hey girls,

For those that don't know, I am the Electra Province Vice-President this year. I will be sending out the Membership theme sooner than usual so watch your email.....I know you are excited!

Since the Pleiad theme for this addition is "Beautifully Rooted", I would like my beautiful sisters to think back to a time when we had to add more chairs to the Conclave meeting room to accommodate over 50 sisters in one room. What wonderful memories those are for me! Yes, our sisterhood used to be a lot bigger and we had so much fun, so many sisters to visit with. Ahh, those were the good ole days.

I recently told a KS Beta sister why I enjoy going to Taygeta Province Convention each year. It's because they have so many sisters come to their convention that it reminds me of how Conclave used to be at Electra. Our Conclave could be that way again, but I need your help!

To have more sisters at Conclave to visit with, we need more sisters in our chapters. There are so many women that need us. They need the sisterhood, they need a break from their husbands or children, they need an opportunity to do more community service, they need a chance to learn new things and read more books. Do you know of any women who meet that criteria? If you answered 'YES', then what are you doing to make sure they know about us? If you answered 'No', then are you thinking hard enough?

Let that sink in a minute..... Are your own judgements getting in the way?

My goal for Conclave 2025 is to have at least 5 new sisters to initiate. What are you going to do to help me reach that goal? I challenge each of you to make it your goal to offer our sisterhood to other women. What are you waiting for?

I know I would be lost if I didn't have my sorority sisters in my life. Do you feel the same way? What are you going to do about it?

Your beautifully rooted in DTC sister,
Brenda Thompson



Educational Director's Message

Hi Sisters!

The office of Educational Director is beautifully rooted in the sorority's history. It has been a pillar of educational guidance for members for almost as long as DTC has been around. The Achievement Contest began as educational tableaux (still scenes "acted" on stage while a narrator reads about the poses held), then transitioned into closer to what we know now: as acted skits presenting the educational material. Themes have varied over the years across a myriad of topics, and I am looking forward to announcing the theme of this year's contest in due time. I am also excited to see what further advancements the Achievement Contest makes as our sorority continues to keep moving forward through the future, including announcing the new name of the contest beginning this year to be the Educational Contest. Throughout this year I will continue to work on my goal of further educating our membership by providing educational reports to read.

Julia Ourecky
Electra Province Educational Director

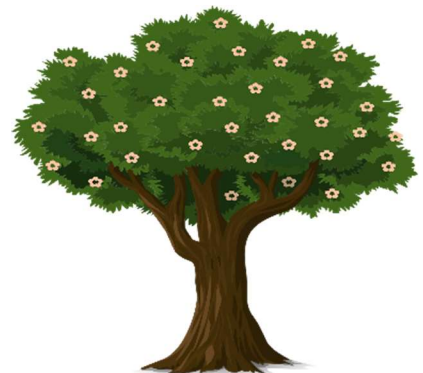
Corresponding Secretary's Message

Yes, I feel much more rooted in Delta Theta Chi at all levels now that I have discovered first, Zoom meetings then Google Meet. Of course, we also have Facetime and WhatsApp. So, to stay rooted since we moved to Denver, CO. I had to make the effort to water my roots, or they would just dry up. After 32 years in this fantastic, beautiful sorority, I found I cannot live without my sisters, and I then made a decision to make my roots grow again. How, you ask? I jumped back on the board and found I can do the office of Corresponding Secretary from a distance.

As you all know or heard in our officer's reports, I now try to touch base with the chapter corresponding secretaries for updates and information, or just to chat. I also contact our sisters that cannot get out much and are limited in their contacts with other sorority sisters.

I find that sometimes I call instead of using email or text messages when I have a question just because I want some fertilizer on my roots. It helps me flourish. My face points toward the sunshine as I continue to grow more roots as a person and as a sister.

Cindy Whiteley,
Corresponding Secretary, Kansas Kappa



Recording Secretary's Message

Sisters,

I barely remember a time growing up when I didn't hear my grandmother Syble or my aunt Linda talk about sorority. Stories of fun times with LaVerne Gates, Fran Thompson and Gracene Sims, and my aunt's bestie, Carolyn Brooks. This made joining DTC so much sweeter and felt as if I had known these ladies my whole life.

I've had the pleasure of learning about sorority from Charter members, Dorothy Smith and Mary Miller, working on committees with Melba Agee, Millie Fey, Selma Moore and Judy Palmquist, listening to the dry wit of Millie Sharp and observing the quiet strength of Eveyln Kirkpatrick and Ann O'Bleness. Just a few ladies who were so beautifully rooted in sorority. Also watching other beautifully rooted sisters from other chapters such as Connie Rake, Susie Sidesinger and Ruby Cohn only solidify my understanding of what Delta Theta Chi stands for.

Recording Secretaries, please forward your Chapter minutes. Your minutes are an integral part of your Chapter roots. What you write helps us determine how healthy your Chapter is and tells others if you need additional nutrients to help growth. Let us know what is going on in your Chapter, send out flyers, or invitations to your social events, post on the Province Facebook or Instagram page, you never know when we may show up.

I love and appreciate all those sisters who help establish the beautiful roots of our sorority and love watching and supporting each of you as we continue to grow and branch out in our sisterhood.

Tammy Cocannouer,
Recording Secretary, KS Beta



Treasurer's Message

Greetings Sisters!

I began my article with great aspirations, then reality brought me back to earth. (It was a hard landing!) Then as I was typing, I brushed my keyboard with my sleeve, and it all went blank. Naturally, I had not done a "Save as" so nothing was automatically saved as I grappled with my article. Consider me extremely frustrated even though I was not far into composing my article.

Thank you for electing me to serve another year as your Treasurer. I truly enjoy working with my fellow Board members.

The main tradition of the treasurer is to hold a fund raiser each year at Conclave to augment the Electra Province treasury. The EP Board decided not to hold a fund raiser, so it wasn't in conflict with our supporting the Missouri Delta's "The Art of Giving" program fund raiser. Your EP Board meets monthly, and we will be brainstorming regarding a fund raiser for the 2025 Conclave. Oh, my gosh! Did I just type the year 2025?

Now on the personal side of traditions. I find that some years I'm so excited to bring out and up from the basement the Christmas decorations. This year the excitement waned. Perhaps because the temperature was warm for so long before dipping into more winter-like temperatures. The snow I experienced on Thanksgiving weekend did not elevate my holiday spirit. The snow was pretty and with no little wind, it staged a pretty landscape.

However, it was only a few days ago that I put effort into decorating the house a little. As I was getting down tubs labeled "Christmas Stuff", I unpacked a box containing a snowman. This snowman was a gift from my big sister, Iris Ozmun, many years ago when the Kansas Theta Chapter was active. Displaying the snowman brings back so many good memories and always makes me smile as I remember Iris and my other KS Theta Sisters. And should it snow while the snowman is on display, I put the blame squarely on him.

Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Sisterly Love,
Vicki Lignitz, KS Kappa



Immediate Past President's Message

Hello Sisters!

Dear Sisters, your role in our sisterhood is not just essential but invaluable. Sisterhood, an intrinsic bond among women, is not just a concept but a living, breathing foundation for personal growth and resilience. It's rooted in our shared experiences and mutual support, creating an environment where each of us can thrive.

This interconnectedness not only strengthens our relationships but also cultivates a profound sense of belonging. The collective wisdom and encouragement within our sisterly bonds empower us to navigate life's complexities with confidence and grace. You are not just a part but a vital part of this empowering network.

Despite the lull between the conclave and the holidays, your board is not resting. We are actively working on our objectives from the previous year and creating new ones for the upcoming sorority year. These new aims will bring positive changes and excellent prospects for our sisterhood. I am eagerly looking forward to the upcoming monthly subjects we will post on, and I am fortunate to have been retained on the social media committee. I've added a couple of the cookbooks to my Santa wish list! Hopefully, this is a gentle reminder to like and share the posts to strengthen our sisterhood and to show your support for our active board.

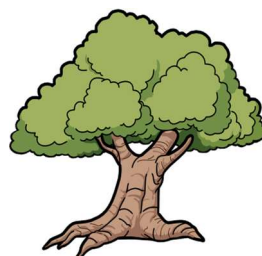
My tremendous responsibility as the keeper of the Bettye Bielfeldt award and photo album is to ensure Electra Province keeps honoring those worthy women. The Bettye Bielfeldt Award, named after our esteemed sister, symbolizes our sorority's ideals and the honoring of exceptional efforts. It is a prestigious recognition of a sister who embodies the spirit of our sorority through her actions and contributions. I congratulate Janelle Clark, the 2024 Bettye Bielfeldt winner, as she has always embodied the sisterhood of Delta Theta Chi.

Letters are needed for the Bettye Bielfeldt Award next year. I encourage you to consider the sisters in your chapter who exhibit Bettye's enduring traits. These women encourage the rest of us to take on the challenges ahead because they show similar courage, character, and dedication to Delta Theta Chi. We will be accepting letters until midyear, which will be held in March. To nominate a sister, simply write a letter detailing her qualities and send it to me. Your nominations are a powerful way to recognize and celebrate the exceptional women in our sorority. Please send me your nominations!

I hope everyone has a holiday season full of love, laughter, and shenanigans!

Love, Gail

Electra Province Immediate Past President



Province Trustee's Message

Sisters,

I believe that our roots are strong, but we need to keep moving with the times if we are going to continue to grow. I, as Electra Province Trustee, could not be prouder of what our Electra Province Board accomplished last year. I know that our National President has been very impressed with where we are going. I hope we can keep repopulating the leaves on the tree and continue to grow.

Don't forget to talk about Delta Theta Chi wherever you go and whoever you talk to. You never know when that seed you plant by your conversation may sprout it's own roots. We must be continually vigilant about looking for prospective members. My biological sister who just moved to Pennsylvania has joined a quilt guild out there. She is hoping to talk up our sorority and possibly recruit enough members to start their own chapter. Yes, they may be "senior citizens", but I'm sure they have daughters and granddaughters that might be interested.

We must all keep looking or our roots will shrivel even more than they have of late.
Hold high the torch!

Cathie Barber

Electra Province Trustee



Conclave Chairperson's Message

To all my Electra Province Sisters,

I wanted to say Thank You for supporting the theme for Electra Province Conclave this year: The Art of Giving. We hope everyone was able to build and create more meaningful memories here in Kansas City, Missouri. The women's shelter, Amethyst Place, was very grateful to receive all the items that were brought to help support their cause for single mothers trying to get back on their feet. This included bedding (sheets, comforter and pillows), bath and kitchen towels, cleaning pads, utensil set, toaster, swiffer mop and cleaning pads, cleaning supplies, paper products, and a variety of non-perishable food products. They were extremely thankful for the swifters as they need those to help keep all their housing clean and tidy.

The other organization that we were raising funds for, ArtsKC, was very happy to receive their check in the amount that was raised Saturday! Our live entertainment that evening could not have been even possible without our local artist and Honorary Member, Marylin Mahoney. She did an amazing job recreating a landscape image that she personally took at a local park by the Missouri River. The success of this event would not have been possible without all of your generous hearts and donations.



Thank You!

*Fraternally,
Eileen Neeley*

2024 Electra Province Conclave Chair



Kansas Alpha Chapter

The Kansas Alpha Chapter celebrated 90 years in the Sisterhood of Delta Theta Chi in July 2024. Some members had been in our chapter for more than 50 years, some as long as 65 years, which demonstrates the strength of being rooted to each other. Members volunteer and support the community by joining groups that share their love of music, literature, and the arts – such as the Topeka Literacy Council, Topeka Shawnee Choral Society, Washburn University.

We have members that love sharing and discussing books they have read at our chapter meetings. They encourage us to discover different genres. Reading books is an avenue to travel to places which we may never get to see in person, and hopefully stimulate our imagination. When we share information with one another we become 'rooted' with one another.

May each and everyone have a Blessed Christmas and Joyful New Year.



In Sisterly Love,
Reporting, Janelle Clark, KS Alpha



Kansas Kappa Chapter

The Kappa's are currently root-bound and want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We'll do better for the Spring Pleiad.

"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of family,
and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit,
become a child again at Christmastime."

– Laura Ingalls Wilder



Kansas Beta Chapter

“Rooted in traditions” perfectly describes the Kansas Beta Chapter. The current members of chapter for the most part, had the benefit of knowing and learning traditions from 3 past National Presidents, LaVerne Gates, Syble Cocannouer and Gracene Sims. Many of us also knew the first winner of the Bettye Bielfeldt award, Melba Agee, and one of our Charter Members, Mary Miller. To say they didn’t pass down traditions would be a great misrepresentation.

Some of the traditions they taught us were:

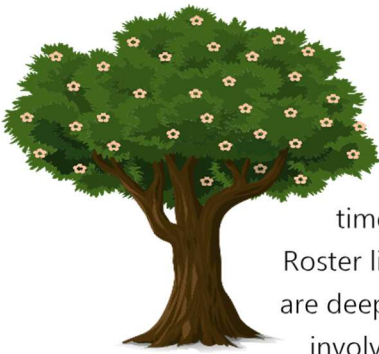
1. Always attend Conclave – you better have a good excuse for missing.
2. The 2nd and 4th Tuesday nights are for chapter meetings – just don’t schedule anything else on those two nights.
3. Serving on a chapter committee is mandatory!
4. Serving as a Chapter Officer is a learning experience and should be done when nominated, if possible.
5. Serving as a Province Officer is a privilege and should be experienced by everyone.
6. The first meeting of the year is ALWAYS a business meeting, and the last meeting of the year is ALWAYS installation of officers.
7. Dress appropriately for chapter, province and national meetings.
8. Clothing, shoes, and jewelry are never worn with installation robes; however WHITE underwear must be worn with the KS Beta grace’s robes. LOL
9. Per Gracene, Past National Presidents should be referred to as “Tarnished Brass”.
10. Hugging is always an appropriate greeting.

Of course, over the years we have developed new traditions. Some take root, some haven’t. Some wither and die after a few years, but the deep-rooted ones given to us by our past 3 National Presidents, those ladies of such grace and love, continue to grow and root new women to our sisterhood.

Teresa Carter, Reporting



Missouri Delta Chapter



The roots of the Missouri Delta Chapter have been deep in Delta Theta Chi for 88 years. I actually knew and met one of the charter members, Dorothy K. White. By the time I met her, she was living in Southern California. You will find her name on the National Roster listed as a member of CA Iota and National President 1969-1973. The roots of MO Delta are deep in helping to reorganize our Sorority. Gail Orr, another Sister who I knew, was much involved in the reorganization and the second National President 1955-1959. I cannot forget Pauline Hill Burke, who served as National Executive Secretary-Treasurer. I do not know when she took that position, but I believe she retired as NEST about 1969. When I joined DTC, I was living in Omaha, so I do not know all the MO Delta Sisters that may have served as National Trustee.

However, I do know that Dorothy Fiechtl, Cheryl Neeley and myself are past National Trustees. Not known to any of us was Pauline Duer, who was Province President 1938-1939. There are other MO Delta Sisters that have served as Province President, but I will list only names that some of you are more likely to remember: Dorothy Fiechtl (1968-69), Dorothy McCready (1974-75), Maxine Harsh (1980-81), Judith Hurlbert (1985-86), Maurine Davis (1995-96), Darlene Meineke (1997-98), Cheryl Neeley (2012-13, 2024-25), Mindy Neeley (2015-16, 2022-23), and Eileen Neeley (2018-19). I also was Province President (1969-70) but at the time I was a member of the NE Epsilon Chapter in Omaha.

It is difficult to tell of any MO Delta traditions as our chapter has changed over the years. When I joined our Chapter in 1993, it was a tradition that the first meeting in September was a potluck luncheon provided by the officers. We always met on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays and our sorority year was September through June, taking July and August off. As a way to keep increasing our treasury, we held Ways & Means luncheons. Everyone paid \$10 except the hostess, and beverages were \$1.00 for an alcoholic drink and \$0.50 for a soft drink. Depending on how many attended, we could most times make \$100. We had a fine for those Sisters who did not wear their badge to a meeting. Do you remember Pamper Chef parties? We held many of those to, again, help the treasury. Now that we are smaller, and because not all of our members are able to host in their homes, we no longer have Ways & Means luncheons. None of us like driving in the ice and/or snow, so now our sorority year is March through December, taking January and February off. Recently we discussed our small treasury and realized we had not raised chapter dues in many years. That has now been corrected with a dues increase taking effect this 2024-25 year. We have in the past had a voluntary assessment. That somehow got dropped but the assessment has once again been started in hopes of increasing the treasury.



I believe the constant tradition for our Chapter has been our support of literacy and community service. At one time one of our Sisters helped teach adults to read. Through her volunteer work, we had other instructors be guest speakers for educational programs. We have provided dictionaries to individual students (way before computers). Several years ago we began to support women (with or without children) who were in need of help and support. We currently are supporting Amethyst Place, a nonprofit recovery housing program in Kansas City, MO. They help women who are recovering from substance abuse. These women, and their children, live at

Amethyst Place in an apartment. When they are able to live on their own, they leave and are able to take the personal effects from the apartment. Therefore, there is always a need for items for kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms and living spaces. Our Chapter has donated items on a monthly and bi-monthly basis for many years. If you remember from the past Conclave, those attending were given the opportunity to make a donation to Amethyst Place.

Many of you did and the MO Deltas thank you. Mark Neeley (Cheryl's husband) was kind enough to make the actual delivery of these items. He reported that the staff was overjoyed to receive these items, particularly a swifter broom. Who knew that a single item would be so appreciated.

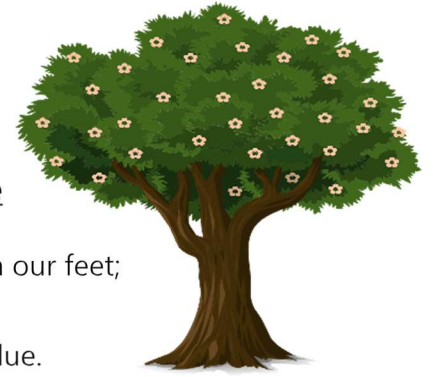
Our Chapter is honored to have two school teachers as members—Eileen and Mindy. Eileen is in a Missouri school district and Mindy in a Kansas school district. These districts have restrictive budgets and sometimes are unable to provide all the tools that teachers need for their classrooms. The MO Delta chapter has provided (and will continue to provide) papers supplies and reading materials to Eileen and Mindy for use in their classrooms. And giving support does not stop with our Chapter Sisters. Luke Neeley (Mindy's husband) will take time from his work to appear in Mindy's classroom and read stories to her students. And we cannot forget the contribution that Mark Neeley makes when he appears in December at Eileen's classroom dressed as Santa Claus and entertains the children, including passing out his handmade gift items.

Each time The MO Deltas are together, it is truly a good time of Sisterhood, and somehow it always is educational (whether we planned it that way or not!). What makes our Chapter a part of DTC is that we share the same standards and ideals as all the other Chapters in Electra Province and those Chapters in the other Provinces. We always hold high the torch to continue to grow in numbers and to further our education.

Chris Durbin
MO Delta President

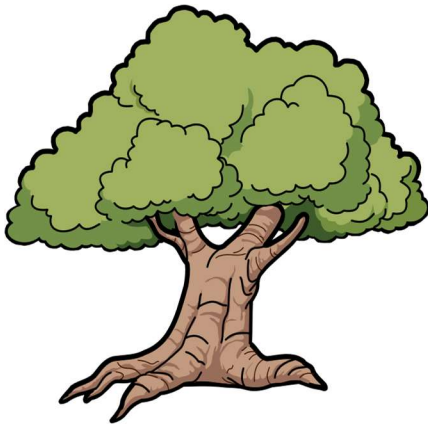


Nebraska Eta Chapter



"A Winter Bluejay" by Sara Teasdale

Crisply the bright snow whispered, Crunching beneath our feet;
Behind us as we walked along the parkway,
Our shadows danced, Fantastic shapes in vivid blue.
Across the lake the skaters Flew to and fro,
With sharp turns weaving A frail invisible net.
In ecstasy the earth Drank the silver sunlight;
In ecstasy the skaters Drank the wine of speed;
In ecstasy we laughed Drinking the wine of love.
Had not the music of our joy Sounded its highest note?
But no, For suddenly, with lifted eyes you said, "Oh look!"
There, on the black bough of a snow flecked maple,
Fearless and gay as our love, A bluejay cocked his crest!
Oh who can tell the range of joy Or set the bounds of beauty?



Nebraska Zeta Chapter

"Trees" by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

PROVINCE INFORMATION

DTC Book Club



All DTC Sisters & Little Ones are Invited to the

Annual December
Holiday Story Time
and Favorite Holiday Memories

Thursday, December 19, 2024
7:00 p.m. CST

Contact cheryl.neeley@yahoo.com for the link
to an evening of celebration and Sisterhood!

Website Links & Emails

National:

Website:

www.deltathetachi.com

Facebook Group:

Delta Theta Chi – Sisters

Electra:

Facebook Group Page:

Electra Province of Delta Theta Chi

Instagram Group Page:

electraprovince.dtc

Social Media Email:

dtcepsocial@gmail.com

Scholarship Email:

dtcepscholarship@gmail.com