



# KAPPA ALPHA THETA

## Houston Alumnae Chapter

### KITE TALE

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Hello Theta Sisters,

We are finally able to turn the calendar to a new year!

We all wait to see what 2021 will bring to us as survivors of the pandemic, citizens of Houston, and members of the Houston Alumnae Chapter. Oh, what we have missed! Our Fall Feast, which is usually such fun, was canceled in late October. Most of you would have looked forward to attending our annual Christmas Luncheon, where we celebrate our new members and share the Christmas spirit at a Theta's lovely home. And there would have been Christmas parties enjoyed by our Nite Kites and Young Thetas groups too. Alas, none of this occurred. We can look back on what was a troubling year for all of us, but now we can also look ahead.



And there is so much to be excited about, at last! I know several Thetas who have received their vaccinations, which will be how we begin the process of gathering again. And there are upcoming activities, which, while still virtual, will be fun to engage in together. Every week brings the possibility of more interaction between us, and not just over a Zoom call. That said, I seriously don't know how we would have managed without Zoom...it has been a lifeline for this chapter, and may be something we will keep going forward. I can think of multiple ways that it can be useful for us in planning and coordinating our events. And anyone in the chapter is welcome to use it, if you want to get together with Theta friends. Please let me know if you want to schedule a casual get together. I am happy to share the account with any Theta who wants to plan a small event.

And, mark my words...we will have events in our future! Stay tuned for news about **our Founders Day**, which has been postponed from January to MAY 5, 2021. Mark your calendars NOW, and save the date. It is easy to remember...it's also Cinco de Mayo! A fabulous Founders Day Committee will be spending several months to plan the best Founders Day ever, celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday as a chapter. You don't want to miss it. I will share more details in the coming months about our plans. So, do not fret. We are still here, and we are still active, just not together. Brighter days are ahead for us all. The ties that bind us linked heart to heart.

*"Hope reminds us of the  
power of love and clears the  
path toward the highest good  
for all"*

*Gabrielle Bernstein*

## FOUNDERS DAY 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!

We have so much pride in our Houston Alumnae chapter. I have been told countless times by other Thetas that they wish their chapter was as successful as ours. And they always want to know what the reason is for our success. My only answer has been “we love working together.” Simple, but true. Yes, we had the Antiques Show to keep us busy and productive for 67 years, and literally hundreds of luncheons, meetings, events, and get-togethers to attend. But it was our “Can DO Spirit” and the desire to spend time with women we respected and admired that held us close. We knew that we could get things done, and the results were always spectacular. Just think of it...we have given MILLIONS of dollars to local charities, and have been named as one of the finest philanthropic institutions in Houston! Yes, we love working together. Not just on giant events like the Antiques Show, but on something as small as a meet-up for coffee together.

So, to look back at our 100 YEARS as the Houston Alumnae chapter, we are turning our Founders Day into a big Birthday Party! A very dedicated committee, has already started the preparations, and we have some fabulous ideas that should make this a very special event. Of course, we will retain parts of our Founders Day program that are important: the lighting of the candles to our Founders, the Friendship Fund, Theta of the Year and Twin Star awards, and most definitely, honoring our 50 and 75 Year Thetas.

You will be receiving a letter soon, asking you to make a charitable gift to our four Permanent Beneficiaries (Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, Texas Children's Hospital Cancer Center, Child Advocates and Theta Foundation). ALL the funds that are raised will go to our charities, and not be used to stage our Founders Day. **I hope you will respond generously, as this is our only philanthropic event for 2020-2021. Underwriters who have also paid their dues this year will be able to attend Founders Day at no charge. This is our birthday gift to YOU!** It promises to be a grand celebration, not only for our Chapter, but of our “Can DO Spirit.”

I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait! Save the date: **May 5, 2021, 6:00 pm** at the Junior League of Houston.

## CARE AND CONCERN

### NOVEMBER, 2020

**BETSY EVANS ACHE...**ENCOURAGEMENT AFTER HER FALL

**BETH WELSH BLACK...**COMFORT AFTER FRIEND'S DEATH

**NANCY ANN SHARP...**ENCOURAGEMENT AFTER LUMPECTOMY

**JANE FALKENBERG JOSEPH...**ENCOURAGEMENT AFTER HAND SURGERY

**SUSAN BROWDER DRIVER...**ENCOURAGEMENT AND PRAYER AFTER FRACTURED SHIN BONE

**SUSIE ADAMS SMITH...**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BIRTH OF HER GRANDDAUGHTER, ARDEN SMITH, IN RALEIGH, N.C.

**ANNE BINFORD HALVERSON...**LOVE AND COMFORT ON THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND, MIKE HALVERSON

**NANCY HALVERSON BORNMAN...**LOVE AND COMFORT ON THE DEATH OF HER FATHER

**MARILYN PERKINSON KERR...**COMFORT ON THE PASSING OF HER BROTHER, DOYLE PERKINSON

**COLBY DOYLE...**COMFORT ON THE PASSING OF HER UNCLE, DOYLE PERKINSON

**HELEN JOAN HERB LAWSON...**PASSED AWAY IN DALLAS, SMU THETA

### DECEMBER, 2020

**JULIA RIGNEY HILTON...**JOY ON THE BIRTH OF HER DAUGHTER, MACKIE WINFIELD HILTON

**ELIZABETH (LIZ) WINFIELD RIGNEY...**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BIRTH OF HER GRANDDAUGHTER, MACKIE WINFIELD HILTON

**SUZANNE FITZ GERRELL CARAM...**HUSBAND, JOHN, MAJOR HEART SURGERY

**CHERI CATHRINER FOSSLER...**ENCOURAGEMENT AFTER SURGERY

**LINDY WYATT-BROWN NEUHAUS...**ENCOURAGEMENT DURING HUSBAND'S ILLNESS

### JANUARY, 2021

**JEANNIE WILLCOX OSBORNE...**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BIRTH OF HER GRANDSON, JOHN BROOCKS OSBORNE, IN NORTH CAROLINA

**NANCY COLLINS CRAIG...**ENCOURAGEMENT AS SHE CARES FOR HER HUSBAND, JOHN, IN ILLNESS

**SUZANNE HARDER HILL...**ENCOURAGEMENT IN MOVING AND CARING FOR ILL HUSBAND, TOM

**MONISA COX CLINE...**ENCOURAGEMENT AS SHE TRAVELS BACK AND FORTH TO ORLANDO CARE FOR HER DAD IN REHAB AND BE WITH HER MOM

**MARY KATHRYN WARING BUE...**PASSED AWAY, THETA AT UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

**ELIZABETH HARRISON BLAKEMORE...**CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF HER MOTHER, KAREN KROMER HARRISON

**CHRISTINA BROPHY O'SHELL...** LOVE AND COMFORT ON THE DEATH OF HER FATHER ON JANUARY 25TH

**LET'S TALK SCHOLARSHIPS!****THETA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE**

Theta Foundation's 2021 Scholarship Application is now available! Theta **collegians and alumnae** who will pursue undergraduate or graduate study during the 2021-2022 academic year are eligible and encouraged to apply. Ensure that your sisters are aware of this exciting opportunity! *Theta Foundation scholarships cannot be used for membership dues.* Review the [Apply for Scholarships & Grants page](#) on the Theta website for more information or contact Theta Foundation Programs Manager [Mary Kate Smith](#) with questions. These are both Merit and Needs based scholarships.

**\*YES, ALUMNAE, YOU CAN APPLY FOR A GRADUATE LEVEL SCHOLARSHIP IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO SEEK A GRADUATE DEGREE.**

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**HOUSTON ALUMNAE PANHellenic FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS (HAPF)**

Applications and information can be found at [www.houston-panhellenic.org/scholarships](http://www.houston-panhellenic.org/scholarships). The Houston Alumnae chapter sponsors a \$2,000 scholarship, and would love to see a young Theta receive it. Applicants may live in Harris and surrounding counties. This is a needs-based scholarship. Please share this information with any Theta collegian you know, it is a GREAT scholarship!

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, FEB. 16, 2021, SO TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.**

*If you are interested in Theta Foundation's Scholarship Program, you can help determine who the recipients are! Please see below:*

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**Houston Chapter Scholarship Application Review Committee**

Volunteer to Serve NOW!

Every spring, volunteers are needed to read and score scholarship applications from Thetas across the country. There were many volunteers who signed up on our dues form Interest List last fall. Do you recall if YOU signed up? If so, **Christie Parker** ([cnp713@outlook.com](mailto:cnp713@outlook.com), 713-553-3466) is Chairman of the ARC Committee this year, and she would love to hear from you. You can also sign up now if you missed signing up in the fall.

This volunteer job requires 5-10 hours of your time over a 2 1/2 week period, from March 19<sup>th</sup>-April 7<sup>th</sup>. You will be so impressed with the young women who are applying for scholarships, and furthering their educational opportunities. The applications are all read online, and the scores you give each applicant are tallied with other volunteers' scores to give a total point number to each applicant. All work is done at your convenience, in your home or office. There are no meetings to attend!

This is truly a meaningful way to give back to Theta, and to these young women. Here are quotes from some of this year's recipients, along with their photos.

"My name is **Kelley Skinner**, and I was most humbled to receive the Mary Margaret Perry McDonald scholarship. This blessing will help with the last few semesters of school, and allows me to help my parents pay for my school. Most of my time is spent playing for the UTD Women's Basketball team, being devoted to my faith organization, and Kappa Alpha Theta. I am so thankful and grateful for your generosity."

"I was so grateful to have received a Theta Foundation scholarship! The funds helped go towards my medical school tuition at UT Health - Houston. After graduating college, it has been nice to know that Theta truly does have my back throughout higher education and my career goal of becoming a physician." **Malvi Mehta**



**Kelley Skinner**



**Malvi Mehta**



**HOUSTON ALUMNAE PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIPS**

continued

"Receiving support in such a physical way from a place that became my home meant so much to me and was a huge blessing for me during college. I was given more freedom to pursue my friendships, my chapter, and my studies through the gift of my scholarship. I am so thankful for everything that Theta has done for me- I would not be the woman I am today without the transformative friendships I received through the women in my chapter."



**Molly Murphy**

## Thank you to 2021 Nominating Committee Members

Cathy Bell  
Elyse Kalmans  
Vicki Lange  
Maura McCarthy  
Christina O'Shell  
Krissi Reid  
Mary Kristen Valentine  
Monisa Cline, Ex-Officio  
Dinah McClymonds, Ex-Officio  
Suzanne Caram, Chairman

**THETACONNECT**

A NEW WAY TO BE ACTIVE IN THETA!

While ThetaConnect has been in operation for months now, I am highlighting it as a great way to be an active Theta, without a longterm commitment. It offers Thetas who are unable to attend our meetings a way to share their talents and knowledge with other Thetas of all ages. You can be a mentor to a young Theta, someone looking for a new employment opportunity, even someone who has moved to Texas or Houston, who needs some guidance. You can even connect with Theta sisters from your college years, another opportunity to remain close, even though you are scattered across the country.

In ThetaConnect you can:

- ☐ Offer to be a mentor (meet for coffee, review resume's, introduce connections, and more)
- ☐ Post job openings
- ☐ Promote your Theta-owned business
- ☐ Create interest groups to share your career knowledge and facilitate professional discussions
- ☐ Offer resources that can help younger members start and build their careers.

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, you can learn more by going to [www.thetaconnect.org](http://www.thetaconnect.org) to sign up and participate. There are over 3600 Thetas currently signed up.

**Let's Get Social!****Let's Talk!**

**Please follow the Houston Alumnae of  
Kappa Alpha Theta on social media and  
tell others!**

Houston Thetas on Instagram

Houston Alumnae of Kappa Alpha  
Theta on Facebook

## Directory Updates

### New Address:

Lois Wright  
3222 Georgetown  
Houston TX 77005

Cynthia Hazard  
4402 Jane St.  
Bellaire, TX 77401

### Paid dues:

Kim Massingill Klevenhagen  
11 Buffalo Ridge Cir  
Houston TX 77056-1005  
713-419-0408  
[kimklevenhagen@gmail.com](mailto:kimklevenhagen@gmail.com)

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Joanna Carlock Veening  
3604 Amherst St  
Houston TX 77005  
[joannac531@icloud.com](mailto:joannac531@icloud.com)

Hillary Belk  
225 S Heights Blvd, #1220  
Houston TX 77007  
281-639-9159  
[hillary.e.belk@gmail.com](mailto:hillary.e.belk@gmail.com)



## **WELCOME SPRING 2021 NEW MEMBERS**

**Alexa Anderson     Houston Christian High School     SMU**

**Megan Maclay**

**Loyola Marymount**

### **LUNCH DATE WITH THE CHANEL SISTERS!**

We have a treat for you **on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>**! Join us for a Zoom talk on a new enchanting book by a local author, Judithe Little. Did you know that Coco Chanel had a younger sister, Antoinette? Well now you can learn more about both of them. And more about Judy and how she went about writing and publishing her book. Fascinating.

Our very own Cindy Burnett will be interviewing Judy during **the noon lunch hour**, so please feel free to join our casual lunch-bunch, even if you can only peek in for a few minutes. We are scheduling this at noon for the convenience of our *working Thetas*, so please come to the party! There will be a brief introduction, then Cindy and Judy will carry the conversation while we nibble away. We will be able to ask questions at the end of the interview, of course.

There will be an email blast with the Zoom link sent a few days in advance to the entire chapter, but you will want to save the date and time NOW, so you can attend.

Thank you to Cindy Burnett for helping facilitate this program for our chapter.

## Special Interest Groups

Bible Study	Is not meeting at this time. Bible Study looks forward to meeting in person when city and St. Luke Methodist Church guidelines indicate.
Bridge	Is not meeting at this time.
WildKats Investment Club	What is the difference in a market order vs. a limit order? Join the fun of the Theta “Wildkats” investment club. It’s been around since 1997 and always welcomes new members. You can visit one of our Zoom meetings and see if it might be something you would be interested in. As one member declared, it has empowered her to feel confident in investing and through the years, she has learned so very much. Meetings occur the second Wednesday of the month from 11:30 – 2:00; we meet monthly from September through June. Please contact Melissa Jones for the zoom invite! <a href="mailto:markandmelissajones@gmail.com">markandmelissajones@gmail.com</a>
Mah Jongg	We play every Monday afternoon, starting at 1:00 pm. During the pandemic, we have only been playing online (REAL MAH JONGG, subscription required), and play until 3:00 pm or so. This is an established group, but when members are unable to play, there is room for others, even if they can only play on a irregular basis. If you are interested, please contact Dinah McClymonds at 832-242-3191, or at <a href="mailto:Dinahmcc49@gmail.com">Dinahmcc49@gmail.com</a> . A second group may form. Please check the next Kite Tale.





### **NANCY DREW, GIRL DETECTIVE, THETA STYLE!**

If you have been reading my email blasts, you know that we are still trying to solve the ongoing mystery of a Theta charm bracelet that was found in a garden in West Houston last fall. I am using the word STILL, because we have only solved part of the mystery. With the help of Mary Kay Mraz, Katy Bate, Jackie Gerber, Lee Fenton, and several others, we have determined that the bracelet belonged to Karen Hausman Garver Lebhan, Alpha Nu, Montana, 1960.

Apparently, the instinct to find as much information about Karen and her family is intriguing to these local Thetas, as I have received an incredible amount of information from them. Thanks to the internet, Facebook, Linked In, and databases of all kinds, we have the names and contact information of Karen's children. They are Chris and Lisa Garver of Sugar Land, and Tanya Garver Younce, who appears to now also live in Houston. Unfortunately, every phone number I have called has been disconnected. And all the emails I sent to them bounced or were not answered. The Facebook pages for Karen's children have not been updated for years, so they are not active online. Even so, I left Facebook messages for both Lisa and Tanya, including a photo of the missing bracelet, but have not received any replies. In fairness, Karen's family seems to have moved many times over the years. It is no wonder that there are so many old phone numbers and addresses in their history.

If anyone has a way to "crack the code" and get more information without paying for it (Whitepages.com, for example, charges for complete contact information), then please let me know. At some point, we will just have to close the book on the missing Theta charm bracelet, but it has been a great way to keep us occupied in the last couple of months. And, I might add, it has provided an opportunity for some of our members who have not been actively involved in the chapter to jump in and help. Thank you ladies!

