

September 2023

West Area

Volume 11, Issue 1

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Beta Beta Buzz

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Oklahoma State Organization



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

Education Update

The Oklahoman

USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Aug. 6, 2023

- According to Kids Count's annual report, Oklahoma ranks 46th for overall well-being and 49th in education.
- The average Oklahoma teacher's salary is \$54,096.00. The average U.S. teacher's salary is \$64,133.00.
- The Oklahoma Department of Education reports that in the 2013-2014 school year there were 189 Emergency Teacher Certifications. In the year 2021-2022, however, there were 3,616 Emergency Teacher Certifications.
- In 2020-2021 Oklahoma per-student spending by fall enrollment was \$10,051.00. That ranks the state 46th nationally.
- The National Center for Education Statistics reports that the percentage of Oklahoma high school students that graduate on time is 81%; nationally the percentage is 87%.
- The number of Economically Disadvantaged students in Oklahoma is 390,820 or 56% of the total student population.
- The student-to-counselor ratio in Oklahoma is 374 to 1; however, The American School Counselor Association recommends a ratio of 250 to 1.



Shelly's Seeds

As the leaves turn vibrant shades of red, orange, and gold, and a crispness fills the air, we find ourselves in the majesty of fall — a season that reminds us that change can be beautiful. Whether adjusting to new administration or expectations, adopting new learning experiences that transform how we teach or transitioning to a retired lifestyle, teachers are continuously adapting to unique circumstances.

This year can be a change for Delta Kappa Gamma as we look for new ways to grow our chapter. Consider:

- Nurturing our new growth. What are we doing to make our new members feel welcomed and involved?
- Embracing diversity. One of the remarkable qualities of both our profession and chapters is our diversity. Be passionate and reach out to those who can bring unique talents to our organization.
- Planting the seeds of information about our organization in the vicinity of other educa-

tors. This information seeding may not produce members immediately, but you never know when the harvest will come.

- Looking at how our chapter can adapt to the changes in our profession and Society. Are there traditions we need to reconsider that could restrict the participation of others?
- Strengthening our foundation. Like the extensive root system that supports a tree, do we have a foundation that will support our members now and in the future? I believe we do; however, we must ensure it remains strong.

Just as we meet the changing seasons in our lives, so we also must adapt to the changes in our organization. Let us remain dedicated to the growth of our chapter so more women educators can enjoy the personal and professional benefits of our Society and our chapter.

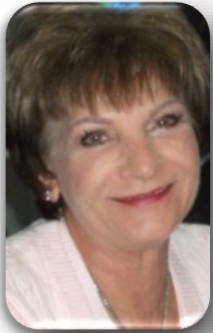
Beta Beta members make a profound difference in our profession and our communities.



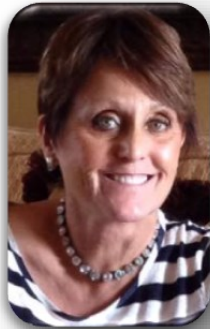
Oklahoma State Organization

Beta Beta Chapter Vision Statement
Embrace the Present, Impact the Future

Happy Birthday October



Jackie Sheehan 1



Neta Duke 5



Jennie Wilmes 13

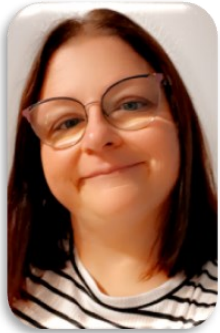


Trudy Capraro 20



Susie Grimes 21

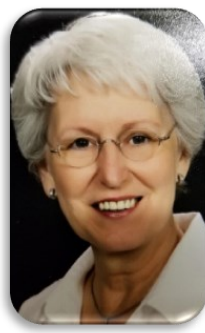
November



Shelly Hudson 6



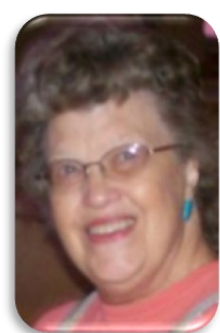
Judy Sliger 15



Phyllis Regier 16



Michelle Wallace 20



Inez Andrews 29

November Meeting Preview



The Memorial Service for chapter member **Cathy Stanford** will be held.

Bob Palmer, Oklahoma City Homeless Outreach coordinator, will present the program for November.



DKG International Vision Statement

Key Women Educators – Impacting Education Worldwide

September Meeting Review



By Geri Hough
2nd Vice-president

On September 16, the ladies of Beta Beta Chapter met for the school year's first meeting.

Julie Simeroth, Yukon superintendent's

wife and liaison for Beautiful Day at Independence Intermediate School, spoke to members about the benefits of this worthy organization. Beautiful Day organizes a

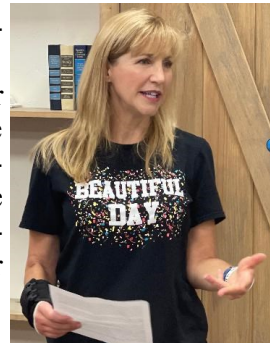
monthly birthday celebration for Independence Intermediate and Redstone Intermediate 4th grade students. This party consists of pizza for those celebrating their birthdays that month and cupcakes for all the students. This celebration is something that all students eagerly anticipate.

After Mrs. Simeroth spoke, IIS principal **Amy Young** also addressed the membership to stress the importance of these celebrations. Both women encouraged members to consider volunteering with the organization. They also explained they need a liaison for Lakeview to bring back the pro-

gram to these 4th graders also. Members enjoyed brunch, shared their brag bucks, and heard correspondence from members concerning membership and health issues.

Yearbooks were distributed.

The October meeting will be our yearly auction, with the proceeds benefiting our scholarship fund.



Julie Simeroth
Beautiful Day IIS liaison

October Meeting Preview

Make plans for the October chapter meeting—better known as the Live Auction. This important and fun meeting raises money for scholarships.

Members have a wonderful time enjoying the company of our sisters, sharing great refreshments and entering into friendly bidding competitions for some

incredible treasures.

What can you donate for the auction? Cash donations are always welcome, but the best part of the auction is the opportunity to take home extraordinary items up for bid. It's amazing how fast, loud and determined a quiet, easy-going teacher can make a bid when just the perfect item is on

the auction block!

So, look for items you might donate to the auction.

- Home-made items such as jam, pies, cakes, quilts
- Seasonal decorations such as Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Fan favorites such as Yukon, OU and OSU

Below: The bidding begins with “the signs of the times,” Christmas signs for inside or outside your home. **Shelli Selby (left)** and **Neta Duke (right)** hold up items as **Ted Lee (center)** solicits the highest bid.



Auction 2022

DKG Oklahoma State Organization Vision Statement *Serving Education...Honoring Tradition*

October Service Project

Yukon Sharing

Our October service project is Yukon Sharing. Yukon Sharing Ministry is a nonprofit organization started in 1982 by a small group of dedicated Yukon City Employees. Yukon Sharing is designed to help community members by supplying necessities for everyday living and resources necessary for independent living. They are in the heart of Yukon at 4 North 6th Street. Yukon Sharing is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Their mission is to provide a Hand Up to those in need. Many clients have had temporary setbacks due to unemployment or illness. Some clients are single - parent families with one income

barely able to pay the rent. Others are senior citizens and the disabled facing spiraling medical costs.

Yukon Sharing serves over 1,000 clients each year. They have partnerships with schools, churches, businesses, individuals and various community and state organizations to help provide food, clothing, small appliances, senior meals, emergency utility bills, rent and Christmas baskets.

Giving hearts, such as the members of this chapter, embody Yukon Sharing Ministry's efforts. It still makes their ministry as strong today as it was in 1982. In fact, Beta Beta sister Jaquita Icenhower serves on the Compassionate Sharing Board, which includes both Compassionate Hands and Yukon Sharing.

Yukon Sharing accepts monetary donations as well as the items listed below:

- Nutri Grain bars
- Granola bars
- Cheese & crackers
- Peanut butter & crackers
- Kid-friendly afterschool snacks
- Microwavable mac & cheese
- Quart-sized freezer bag

Tonya and Jennie



Celebration of Membership

Year Inducted	Years of Membership	Name of Member
1985	38	Neta Duke Roxie Yetter
1984	39	Beth Schieber
1982	41	Kay Casper Eleanor Harris Jyme Tiner Michelle Wallace
1980	43	Susie Grimes
1979	44	Debbie Schimmer



Beta Beta Chapter Member Spotlight: Elaine Regier

Elaine Regier: An Adventure of a Lifetime



show, Anette Barrios-Torres as Maria. These people were kind to us and truly appreciated our role and presence.

The director wanted to show how the nuns became part of the resistance by the show's end. This was clear during the finale as we sang "Climb Every Mountain," and the Nazi flags were ripped from the walls. What made it even more meaningful was that the sisters who removed the flags were Jewish!

The songs still go through my mind, and my sisters became new friends! Who knows? Maybe we will share the stage again someday!

Spring of 2023 brought an opportunity I couldn't pass up! I was invited to join the nuns in the Order of Lyric Theatre! Of course, this invitation came after an audition for the Nun Chorus in Lyric's production of *The Sound of Music*.

The fun began in May with a nun fitting, rehearsals and a photo shoot at St. Francis Parish. We learned how to be a nun and to sing in Latin. In addition, we experienced life backstage at the Civic Center. With downtime during rehearsals and performances, the nuns had fun with

Uno, reading, creating silly videos and getting to know each other. I was known as the Flying Nun! One nun created a private Facebook group, and we keep in touch.

There were more than 60 nuns in the chorus! Most of us were seen in the theatre on House Left or House Right and had three big scenes - the opening, the wedding, and the finale. A few sisters were in the box seat areas closest to the stage.

It was so much fun to interact with some of the other cast members, including the star of the



Beta Beta Ideas for You

Little Free Library

In my neck of the woods, you see quite a few of these. They are called Little Free Libraries and according to their website, 150,000 Little Free Libraries in 120 countries have shared over 300 million books.

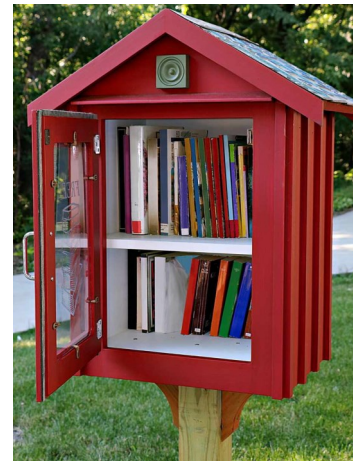
Little Free Library is a non-profit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Little Free Library book-sharing boxes are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day and are freely accessible to all, removing barriers to book access. Their mission is “to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book ex-

change boxes.”

Maybe you are interested in becoming the librarian of your own Little Free Library. You can find plans for construction on the website or even purchase a prebuilt box. Consider the shelves' height and depth, especially if you have children's or hardcover adult books. Also, it must be placed somewhere accessible to someone pulling up in a car or walking. You will be responsible for keeping the library in good condition and rotating books in and out. Waterproofing and a strong latch are also important. The website will give you lots of information and help. What a wonderful gift for every-

one in your neighborhood!
<https://littlefreelibrary.org>.

**CURICULUM OF HOPE FOR
A PEACEFUL WORLD
Vol. XXXVII, Issue 2
SUMMER 2023**



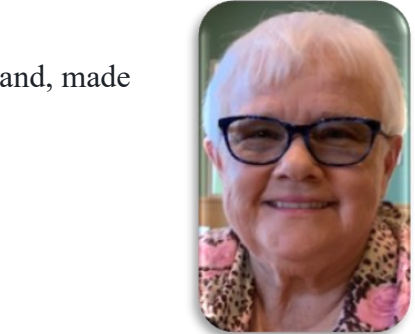
Kentucky Jam Cake

By Faye Hess

Back in my home state of Kentucky years ago, my Aunt Pearl Stuard McFarland, made this “lovely cake” for our family gathering on Christmas night.

Kentucky Jam Cake with Caramel Frosting

1 cup soft butter	2 cup sugar
3 cups sifted all-purpose flour	5 eggs
1 tsp. baking soda	1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. cloves	1/2 tsp. allspice
1 cup buttermilk	1 cup raisins
1 cup seedless blackberry jam	1 cup chopped nuts



Faye Hess

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at time, beating well after each addition. Sift flour with soda, salt and spices. Add to creamed mixture alternatively with buttermilk. Stir in jam, nuts and raisins. Pour into 4 9-inch greased and floured cake pans. Bake at 325 degrees for about 35 minutes. Cool and frost.

Icing: 2 cups light brown sugar 1 cup granulated sugar
2 tbsp. corn syrup 3 tbsp. butter
2/3 cup cream 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix all ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Cover and cook for 3 minutes. Uncover and cook to 236 degrees on a candy thermometer or until a soft ball forms when dropped in cold water. Cool for 5 minutes; beat until thick and add a little hot water.

Beta Beta International Opportunity

CORNETET INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Are you currently working as an educator? Consider applying for a Cornetet Award today. The next application deadline is November 1, 2023.

Cornetet Individual Awards (CIPD) **will fund participation in conferences, seminars, lecture series, online courses and workshops plus other non-degree programs.** This award is given November 1 and May 1

As of May 2022 over **\$764,000** has been granted as Individual Professional Development Awards.



Professional Development is defined as a *growth-promoting learning process that empowers employed educators to further excellence in education.*

Read more about the [history of the Cornetet Award](#) on the DKGIEF web page.

Things to Know About the Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award (CIPD):

1. CIPD awards are available for any employed educator, *DKG member or non-member.*
1. CIPD awards give individual educators the opportunity to participate in professional development activities through approved professional development providers such as colleges, universities, and professional organizations other than The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.
3. CIPD awards are available to fund attendance at conferences, seminars, lecture series, online courses, workshops, and other non-degree programs.
4. CIPD awards may fund travel, lodging, meals, pay for substitutes, registration fees, etc.
5. CIPD applications are submitted electronically on or before November 1 for activities occurring between January-June.
6. CIPD applications are submitted electronically on or before May 1 for activities occurring between July-December.
7. CIPD professional development *must occur after the funds are awarded.*

Are you interested in donating to the Cornetet Fund? Go to [Cornetet Fund - Donate](#) or to the the [DKGIEF Donate](#) page for various options to make a donation.

The award **may** pay for registration fees and conference-related materials, travel, lodging, food, substitute teacher, if not provided by the district, and other expenses necessary for participation in the professional development activities.

Activity occurs between:	Apply no later than:
July - December.....	May 1
January - June.....	November 1

Beta Beta Chapter
Chapter Theme: Growing Together

DKG National Legislative Seminar

**Sunday, March 10, 2024 —
Wednesday, March 13, 2024**
Holiday Inn National Airport
Crystal City
2650 Richmond Highway
Arlington, VA, 22202

The National Legislative Seminar is an exciting opportunity to enhance advocacy skills; learn from experts about federal legislation related to education, women, and children; speak with your legislators; and visit key historical sites in Washington, D.C.

The room rate is \$129.00 per night; king and two queens are offered. The hotel van picks up at Reagan Airport, and one may use

the van to return to Reagan Airport for the trip home, to catch the blue or yellow Metro line to Washington, D.C. and to link to Baltimore and National Airports.

Registration fee is \$340.00, which includes speakers, breakout sessions led by dynamic people, interactive and hands-on activities, a visit to Capitol Hill and six meals at the hotel.

Registration and room

bookings begin October 31, 2023, and end February 20, 2024. Check the US Forum website usforumdkg.org and send in your information so the registration form can be emailed to you directly.



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Future Conventions Conferences

- 2024:** National Harbor, Maryland
(Gaylord National, D.C. Area)
2026: Aurora, Colorado
(Gaylord Rockies)

OKLAHOMA EVENTS

Oklahoma State Organization Conference

Oklahoma City
June 7-8, 2024
Embassy Suites
1815 South Meridian



DEADLINES

International

November 1, 2023

- DKGIEF Cornetet CIPD application
- DKGIEF Cornetet CSPD application
- SOPs to request international speaker from International Speakers Fund

November 15, 2023

- All Treasurers to file IRS 990
(US Only)

December 15, 2023

- *Bulletin: Collegial Exchange* submissions
- DKG Ignite (LMS) application

February 1, 2024

- Scholarship Application
- Educators Book Award Submissions

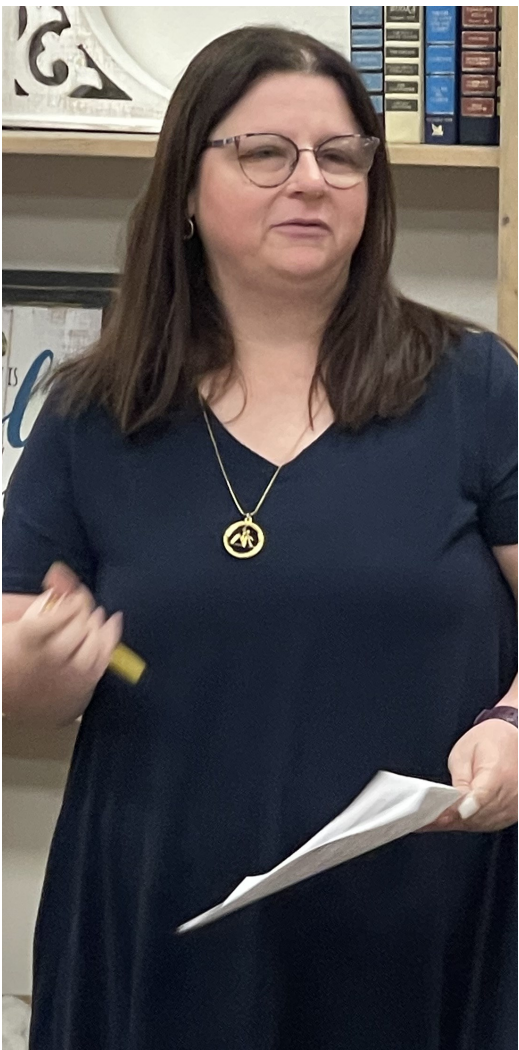
February 15, 2024

- Arts & Humanities Submissions for Spring Gallery

Beta Beta Chapter September Meeting



Left: Multitasking is a necessary skill for teachers, and it is very evident here as **Kathleen Smith**, yearbook editor, greets guests and distributes yearbooks and **Vicki Bight**, chapter treasurer, registers members and collects fees.



Left: Chapter President Shelly Hudson conducts chapter business in her well-organized and efficient manner.



Right: Kay Casper directs her attention to the guest speaker.

Vicki Bonny and **Tonya Taylor** are concentrating as the Detroit and Phoenix International Conference reports are given by chapter attendees.



Beta Beta Chapter September Meeting

Right: Trudy Capraro and Susie Grimes listen to the Beautiful Day presentation given by Independence liaison Julie Simeroth and Independence principal Amy Young.



Beautiful Day's original mission began with a simple statement to elementary school age kids: **"The day you were born was a BEAUTIFUL DAY. Your life and existence is worthy of being celebrated."** They are passionate about telling children this important message.



The best of all worlds. Shannon Sisney (left) is a new member and has so much to offer our chapter. Her knowledge of educational practices today will keep us up-to-date. Her enthusiasm and genuine interest adds to our engaged membership.

Debbie Schimmer (right) is a perfect example of our accomplished chapter member. She is an excellent mentor, sharing her knowledge and passion with new members.



Beta Beta Chapter September Meeting



Top Left: Susan Dobry and Yukon Mayor Shelli Selby listen attentively as the yearbooks are explained.



Left: Janna Connolly gives an insightful and heartening Moment of Inspiration.

Right: DeeAnn Meziere and Paula Walker thoughtfully consider the motion to make a chapter donation to Beautiful Day. The chapter donated \$50.00 and with the added donations by individuals the total was \$936.00. In a thank you note from Mrs. Sime-roth, the Beta Beta donations are able to fund 2 birthday celebrations.



Left: Okarche members Megan Henderson, our chapter's newest member, and Ann Hufnagel, chapter corresponding secretary, listen to the Moment of Inspiration given by **Janna Connolly**.



Beta Beta Chapter Chapter News



Saturday, October 14, 2023

Live Auction for Scholarship
First Baptist Church Family Life Center
9:30 A.M.

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Memorial Service for Cathy Stanford
The Homeless Project
South Yukon Church of Christ
9:30 A.M.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Christmas Party
Neta Duke's Home
6:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 13, 2024

Taylor Lane Cookie Decorating
First Christian Church
9:30 A.M.

Saturday, February 10, 2024

The 34 Project
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
Time: 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Essay Winners
West Metro Community Church
9:30 A.M.

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Orientation Tea for New Members
Kay Casper's home
10:00 A.M.

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Founders Day/Induction of New Members
South Yukon Church of Christ
9:30 A.M.



Treasurer's Report

**Beta Beta Chapter
Treasurer's Report
September 2023
Submitted October 4, 2023**

Checking Account:

Balance	\$ 981.11
Total of deposits	\$2,561.00
Interest earned	.00
Total checks written	\$1,416.12
Service charge	.00
Current balance	\$2125.99

Savings Account:

Balance	\$9,025.97
Total deposits	.00
Interest earned	\$ 14.95
Total withdrawals	\$1,000.00
Current balance	\$8,054.40

Beta Beta Chapter News



A Look Inside the 2024 International Convention in National Harbor, Maryland

The 2024 DKG International Convention comes to National Harbor, Maryland, from July 9-13, 2024. Hosted at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, attendees will enjoy gorgeous views of the Potomac River and access to waterfront terraces. The bustling town of National Harbor features malls, boutiques,

casinos, wine bars, top-notch restaurants, and so much more. And, for a dive deep into American history, Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, Virginia, are only a short drive away.

Like those before it, the 2024 International Convention promises to deliver enlightening breakout sessions, the chance to network with fellow members from around the world, and the opportunity to shape the future of

DKG as members gather to vote on proposed amendments to the Society's governing documents.

Two incredible keynote speakers are already lined up, with more excitement to come. Keep an eye on the *DKG NEWS* and www.dkg.org over the next few months for more information on this incredible, enriching event!

Gratitude Challenge

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more." Melody Beattie

The challenge put to you is this: Can you keep a Gratitude Calendar? See how many of the suggested Gratitude Exercises you can do in a month.

- Day 1:** On a sticky note, write three things for which you are grateful.
- Day 2:** Put those sticky notes on your bathroom mirror.
- Day 3:** Go one day without complaining
- Day 4:** Send a thank you card or email to someone special.
- Day 5:** Tell someone something you appreciate about them.
- Day 6:** Look at pictures from a vacation you have taken.
- Day 7:** Leave an unusually large tip.

- Day 8:** What friend are you grateful for? Tell him/her.
- Day 9:** What obstacle are you grateful to have overcome?
- Day 10:** What lesson are you grateful to have learned and why?
- Day 11:** Perform a random act of kindness. Write about what you did. How did it feel?
- Day 12:** Leave money or a note in a library book.
- Day 13:** Do something that brings you joy.
- Day 14:** Listen to a song or music that makes you happy.
- Day 15:** Spend at least 15 minutes outdoors in a place that makes you happy.
- Day 16:** Think about a favorite memory.
- Day 17:** Make a list of people in your life for whom you are thankful.
- Day 18:** Send a card to a faraway friend.
- Day 19:** Do another person's chore

- or duty for her/him.
- Day 20:** Give a compliment to a register clerk and use his/her name.
- Day 21:** Forgive someone today.
- Day 22:** Give a compliment to someone at work.
- Day 23:** Pay for someone's meal or coffee.
- Day 24:** Donate warm clothing or items you don't need.
- Day 25:** Leave a surprise for your mailman.
- Day 26:** Bake a treat for your neighbors.
- Day 27:** Leave a note of encouragement in a public place.
- Day 28:** Tell your loved ones WHY you love them. Be specific.
- Day 29:** Do a kindness for YOURSELF. Long walk, movie, nap, manicure, read, etc.
- Day 30:** Think of someone who made a difference in your life. Tell him/her.
- Day 31:** Begin a journal.