



# SOROPTIMIST NEWS

Soroptimist International of Port Townsend/East Jefferson County

P.O. Box 624, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Web site: [soroptimistpt.org](http://soroptimistpt.org)

May 2011

PRESIDENT: Pat Durbin  
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## Schedule for May

- 5-05 : Region Conference  
Report-Barbara, Betty and Pat
- 5-12 : Business Meeting
- 5-19: Rep from Guardian ad Litem program
- 5-26: Dinner Meeting at Penny Westerfield's home

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## May Birthdays

- 5-2: Kay Pownall
- 5-4: Alyce Hansen
- 5-14: Anne Burkart
- 5-23: Pat Durbin

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## HOSTESSES - MAY

Penny Westerfield  
Ruth Gordon

## HOSTESSES-JUNE

Ella Sandvig

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have just returned from an inspirational four days at our Northwestern Region Conference in Vancouver, Washington with Betty and Barbara.

What a treat it is to attend one of these sessions and meet women from all over the Pacific Northwest who share our concern for women and girls.

This year's conference theme of Beatlemania, which augmented Governor Sue Riney's theme "Sing until the Whole World Hears."

Sue Riney is a remarkable lady. She has been involved in local theatre groups for many years, and is an accomplished entertainer in addition to her day job. Her entire family supports her Soroptimist efforts, and her husband and son were on site with their production company to orchestrate all the audio/visual bells and whistles of putting on a conference for 400 men and women. Yes, that's what I said, men and women. There were several gents there, and both Sue's husband and son are registered Soroptimists.

The Beatlemania theme produced some awe-inspiring moments as various clubs performed Beatle songs onstage for our entertainment. These performances also produced some aweful performances...but we won't go there.

One of the keynote speakers was an expert on Beatle history who relayed five of the best decisions the Beatles ever made, all of which contributed to their phenomenal success at such early ages. The message was tied to SI and how we could achieve success in our clubs executing the same methods. Not only was the speaker informative, but he was

also very entertaining. He almost lost control of the evening at one point when he possibly underestimated the capability of Soroptimists to have fun.

On a more serious note, the Friday speaker was Dawn Shiller, whose autobiographical book, *Journey through Wonderland* has had major success as a tool for raising awareness of human trafficking. She was a victim, beginning at age 14, of a predator who was tied to pornography and murders in the Hollywood drug culture. A movie about her story was released in 2003 as “Wonderland,” starring Kim Boswell and Val Kilmer. She wrote the book because she felt the movie did not do justice to the brutality inflicted on her and made the predator “too nice.” She wanted the real story to be told.

The weekend was a series of emotional highs and lows for everyone attending. Seeing the big picture of Soroptimist involvement in helping women and girls is something I wish each and every one of you could experience at least once. Even though our club is small you would see how significant a part we play in the broad scheme of helping women and girls in local communities and around the world.

If the 108 clubs in the Northwest Region each help only one woman or girl through our effects and multi-layered programs, it will help not only that one woman, but her family, now and in the future. It makes me very proud to be part of this international organization.

Pat

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## SECRET SISTER NEWS

Alyce Hansen says; “Thanks to the Easter Bunny, I’m enjoying the Easter basket placed on the top of my car (in the carport) on Easter morning. What a nice surprise from my Secret Sister.”

Penny Westerfield says: “I want to thank my Secret Sister for the awesome birthday present!! It was such a surprise and I’m deeply touched. Thank you SS!! Can’t wait to use the gift certificates! Woo Hoo!”

Anne Burkart says: “I have the world’s best Secret Sister. Once again she made my day with beautiful lilies for Easter. Many, many thanks for her thoughtfulness all year long.”

Ella Sandvig says: “Thank you (I think it was you!) for the eleven beautiful Rotary Roses that appeared on my door step on Easter! There was no card – but you can’t fool me!”

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## MEMBER NEWS

by Betty Oakes

Diana Kenyon became a grandmother in October. She spent Easter with daughter, Jenna, in Olympia.

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## GARDEN PARTY!

by Joy McFadden

The few of us who were able to attend got quite a few weeks pulled. There are more out

there for us to get out though. I will not be able to attend the second Saturday in May because of a family wedding in Bothel that day. Please let me know if you are willing to help out without me this month or would you prefer to reschedule. We really will get too far behind if we skip a month at this point.

This is a great community service project we have been doing the past several years and it can really be a fun time as well. Please let me know your thoughts.

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### **KUDOS TO:**

President Pat and husband Frank who were awarded a Historic Preservation honor for the wonderful restoration job they did on their home.

It's not only Victorian, it is also warm and inviting.

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### **CINCO DE MAYO**

Celebrate this Mexican holiday on May 5<sup>th</sup>  
It's a good excuse for a party!!

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### **WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY AWARD**

by Ruth Gorden

The 2011 winner of our club's Women's Opportunity Award is 30-year-old Holly Varah. Holly is a first year student at Peninsula College with her sight set on a degree in industrial design. She and her young daughters, Tiger and Violet recently

moved into a Habitat for Humanity home in the Rosewind Community.

When they were accepted into the Habitat Program Holly and the girls were living an "off the grid" lifestyle in very basic conditions out in the country. Holly managed the Upstage kitchen, regularly working nights for years. But in a pretty quick succession of events, they were offered the chance to move into an existing Habitat home that had been bought back by Habitat, gaining an instant extended family, big shared garden, weekly shared meals and lots of support when they joined Rosewind's co-housing community.

Holly decided to go to college, lost her night job and went to school full time as a result. Winning the WOA was a very timely validation that Holly is truly following her star to a happier life for her and her young family.

Many members had the pleasure of meeting Holly and her family at the March dinner meeting at Pat Durbin's house. The girls were full of stories about their lives at school and at their new home. It turns out that Ella's daughter is Holly's daughter's teacher. Small world!

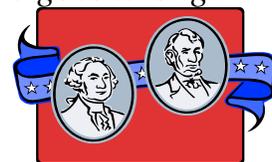
*(Note from Ella: Tiger's classmates were pretty envious when she told them she had dinner with the teacher's mother!)*

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### **A QUOTE**

*"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."*

*(Abraham Lincoln)*





**YOUR DELEGATES AT REGION**

Barbara Reavis, Betty Oakes and Pat Durbin. Who knew they would meet the Fab Four!!!

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**BUMPER STICKERS FOR WOMEN**

*SO MANY MEN, SO FEW WHO CAN AFFORD ME!*

GOD MADE US SISTERS, PROZAC MADE US FRIENDS.

MY MOTHER IS A TRAVEL AGENT FOR GUILT TRIPS!

PRINCESS ( HAVING HAD SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE WITH PRINCES) SEEKS FROG!

COFFEE, CHOCOLATE, MEN...SOME THINGS ARE JUST BETTER RICH.

HOW CAN I MISS YOU IF YOU WON'T GO AWAY?

DON'T TREAT ME ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU WOULD THE QUEEN.

IF YOU WANT BREAKFAST IN BED, SLEEP IN THE KITCHEN.

DINNER IS READY WHEN THE SMOKE ALARM GOES OFF.

GUYS HAVE FEELINGS TOO. BUT LIKE...WHO CARES?

*(these were sent by Anne Burkhart)*

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**MISSED MEETINGS?**

If you haven't been attending lately –we miss you.

When we have speakers it is embarrassing to have a low turn out. Plus, you are missing out on good information about your community.

There are always good reasons to miss a meeting, but we hope you put Soroptimist meetings high on your priority list.

Coming up will be voting on a slate of officers, plans for the Rhody Parade and installation. Also we will learn who will receive our high school scholarships and this week we will hear all about the Region Conference. Our delegates had a really exciting time!

Please join us on Thursdays at noon – if you possibly can.

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**ANOTHER QUOTE**

“I know that you believe you understand what you think I said but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant to say.”

*(unknown author)*