



SOROPTIMIST NEWS

Soroptimist International of Port Townsend/East Jefferson County

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

Web site: soroptimistpt.org

June 2013

PRESIDENT: Penny Westerfield

EDITOR: Ella Sandvig

REPORTER: Betty Oakes

Schedule for June

6-6 : Program Meeting

6-13 : Business Meeting

6-20: No Meeting

6-27: No Meeting



June Birthdays

6-16: Diane Kenyon

5-23: Pat Durbin

JUNE HOSTESSES

Ella Sandvig

INSTALLATION

Watch your emails for the date of Installation of officers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is being written just after Betty and I returned from the NW Region Conference held on the Celebrity Solstice on a cruise up the Inside Passage. What a glorious trip! The weather was spectacular and the waters were calm. There were 300 Soroptimists on board and the meetings were planned well enough that everyone was able to enjoy the ship and shore excursions without missing anything.

Betty and I had the honor of meeting Alice Wells the Soroptimist International President (not SIA, SI! The big kahuna!) who heard about our cruise and wanted to join. We were seated at the same breakfast table so were able to chat with her; she was wonderful. Alice later gave a somber keynote address about the atrocities that are still being done to women and girls in certain countries. Violence against women affects 1 in 3 globally. We have a lot of work to do.

One of the great things about a Region Conference is the honoring of the Violet Richardson and Women's Opportunity Awards winners. Hearing all their stories is so uplifting and inspiring and learning of their successes and triumphs reinforces in my heart the reason I'm a Soroptimist. This is why we do what we do! In our Region alone, since 1972, we have awarded over \$30 million dollars in Women's Opportunity Awards.

Wearing SI logo apparel on the ship afforded everyone the opportunity to spread the word about what Soroptimist is. On another morning at breakfast, a woman at the table said she had received a Soroptimist scholarship at a time when it was badly needed in her life. Now years later, she and her husband have recently moved to Everett and were looking forward to settling down and she was now ready to give back. Was there a Soroptimist club in Everett? When she gave me her contact information, it turns out she is a cardiologist! Soroptimist had a part in that!

Can you believe it's June? The triathlon looms and another year is about to begin. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your support and look forward to working with you all again. We have good things ahead of us!

Best, Penny

June Member News

By: Betty Oakes, Reporter

From Ruth Gordon: A little over two weeks ago Ruth's mom had a catastrophic stroke, with complete loss of the use of her left side. After she completes three weeks in an excellent rehabilitation hospital in Tyler, Texas Lois will return to her home to live with her granddaughter, Lauren. Lauren has quit her job in Seattle and gone home to pack, work her last week at the Virginia Inn, and get back to Texas to take care of Lois before Ruth leaves to come back to Port Townsend. The excellent therapeutic staff at the hospital has Lois up and walking (with loads of help). She is able to raise her left arm to shoulder height, dress herself (mostly), and other wonders that just did not seem to be possible a couple weeks ago. Every bit of progress has been hard won, but there is just no doubt that Lois is getting physically stronger and mentally clearer every day. The whole family is extremely grateful to Lauren for her gracious choice to move to Texas. After many decades of fierce independence, the time has come for Lois to have some help, and there just isn't anyone better to help her remain in her home and retain her dignity than Lauren. Ruth sends her thanks to all her SIPT sisters for prayers and good wishes, and will see you again the second week of June.

From Alyce Hansen: Alyce did the Rhody Officials' Run in 2:25, and then worked at a water station during the run so she would have a new shirt to advertise Port Townsend at the Women's National Bowling Tournament in Reno this week. The standings will be announced in July when all the events are over. The PT team enjoyed the compa-

ny of a team from Vermont during the event, and went back the next day to cheer them on when they bowled the doubles and singles in the afternoon. We had bowled the doubles and singles at 7 a.m., so got through about 10 a.m. We got up at 4:30 AM to be at the alley by 5 AM for pictures, etc. It is certainly a FULL day by the time you go to the River Walk, the Antique Car Museum and other spots. No good shows in town, so no choice there. The cat was happy to see me when I returned home.

From Betty Oakes: Wow, what a wonderful cruise! My first trip to Alaska and wow! We had wonderful, sunny weather and the wool hat, gloves, etc. did not get used, nor the umbrella. The Region conference events were held in the huge 1000+ seat theater so it looked sparse with our 300 rattling around. We had special entertainment from the aerialists/acrobats from the ship's show for our opening ceremonies and a special cocktail party just for us on the first night. The ship was beautiful, food plentiful and delicious, and of course I had the best cabin-mate ever! We took 3 excursions: A bus trip to Mendenhall Glacier, a "Duck" tour of Ketchikan, and a train ride from Skagway to White Pass--all with fantastic scenery.

From Barb Reavis: Hi Ladies, a short update. We have been in Seattle since May 14th. Most of the outpatient workup is done now. It looks like he will be admitted next week for more chemo and then the stem cell transplant. It is a very organized, efficient, professional process and we are so grateful that he was given this opportunity. The first week was exhausting as he still needed IV antibiotics twice a day, blood transfu-

sions, medication to boost his stem cell production etc. etc. etc., plus labs and other evaluations. Many days we needed to be at the clinic by 7:30 AM and not get back until 9:30 PM. The last week or so has been much better, thank heavens. We are staying at a facility that is associated with the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance--rather like an oversized motel room--with a communal kitchen area downstairs. They do provide a shuttle back and forth to the clinic every 20 minutes, to the grocery store a couple of times a day and also to the UW Med Center. We have taken full advantage of that.

Our treat is a weekend home this weekend--his counts are OK and no extra treatments. Most likely we won't be home again until he is actually discharged--which could still be 6 weeks to several months away. We are very much looking forward to seeing our dogs and I'm actually looking forward to working in the yard--even if it does rain. "Hi" to everyone. I do think of you all often.

From Judi Morris: Milt and I are basking in the sunshine of Scottsdale AZ. Having a great visit with daughter #2. We stopped in Valencia on the way south to attend our grandson's college graduation. Visited with granddaughter, her husband and soon-to-be-born daughter, Eva. We will see our son and grandson here and again in Huntington Beach on the way home. We will also see Jenni, so will have seen almost all the kids and grandkids. Hope the house sells while we are gone.

Foster Kids Birthday reminders:

June:

Steven (3 on June 16th)—Betty
 Harry (17 on June 21st)—Ella
 Ivan & Isa (boy and girl twins turn 1 on June 21st)—Joy

July:

Malachi (8 on July 4th)—**Need a volunteer**
 Kannon (boy, 4 on July 12th)—Betty
 Landon (boy, 1 on July 16th)—**Need a volunteer**
 Lyric (girl, 13 on July 18th)—Ruth
 Justus (girl, 3 on July 31st)--Cammy

SECRET SISTER NEWS



Alyce Hansen says: "A big thank you to my special secret sister for the birthday bouquet. I am enjoying!"

Pat Durbin says: "I would like to thank by secret sister for the gift certificate to one of my very favorite restaurants. We had a quiet birthday evening, but as soon as Frank is feeling better we will take advantage of it.

He is beginning to come off some of the medications and is expected to start feeling a little stronger when they're all out of his system. Our best news was that the MRI o 5/1 showed NO cancer, and the tumors receding gradually."

Bickie Steffan says: I would like to thank my secret sister for the birthday card and gift certificate that was waiting for me when I returned from Palm Desert."

2013-2014 OFFICERS

- President: Penny Westerfield
- President-elect: Wendy Duede
- Recording Secretary: Katy Gifford
- Treasurer: Diane Kenyon
- Asst. Treasurer: Open
- Director: Pat Durbin
- Delegate: Wendy Duede
- Past President: Betty Oakes
- Life Member Rep: Ella Sandvig

A big thank you to all for stepping up and serving.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

By Anne Burkart

The scholarship committee (Betty, Ruth & Anne) has reviewed portfolios and selected Britta Jennsen of Port Townsend HS as the winner of the \$1000 renewable scholarship. This is the scholarship money Soroptimists is administering from the Judge Tom Mahon funds.

Britta is an outstanding student academical-ly, who has worked tirelessly to improve girls' self image and self esteem in addition to a myriad of other leadership roles at school and in the community. She is a perfect example of someone committed to making the world a better place for women and girls.

Bickie and Penny, if either of you would like to present the award from Soroptimists that would be great. If not, one of us from the "committee" will be happy to represent the club. The awards ceremony will take place Monday, June 3 at Blue Heron Middle School commons from 6 - 7:30 PM. Please

let me know ASAP so the correct name can be included in the printed program.

This year's crop of students is truly outstanding. Making a selection was definitely a challenge. We wish we had the funds to award each and every applicant a scholarship.

Reviewing portfolios is always an uplifting experience as it gives us faith that the future of our world will be in good hands.

Anne



WHY GOD MADE MOTHERS

Answers by 2nd Grade Children

-She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.

-Mostly to clean the house.

To help us out of there when we were getting born.

HOW DID GOD MAKE MOTHERS?

-He used dirt just like for the rest of us.

-Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.

-The same way he made me – he just used bigger parts.