

# SOROPTIMIST NEWS

Soroptimist International of Port Townsend/East Jefferson County

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

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

July/August, 2016

PRESIDENT: Katy Guthridge

EDITOR: Betty Oakes

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Schedule for July

**July 7:** Board Meeting (Budget & Audit Books) 6:00 PM

Peninsula Credit Union

**July 14:** Business Meeting, 11:30 AM, US Bank Conference Room

**July 21:** Dinner Meeting, 5:30 PM, Bickie Steffan's House

**August:** No Meetings

July Birthdays:

Betty Oakes (July 17)

Ruth Gordon (July 19)

Fran O'Brien (July 29)

Foster Kids Birthday reminders:

Addilyn (4 on July 4) Wendy

Malachi (11 on July 4) Katy

Hannah (11 on July 12) Janet

Landon (4 on July 16) Betty

Mary (10 on July 20) Alyce

Saphina (3 on July 24) Pat

Raelynn (7 on August 3) Ella

Kylie (6 on August 9) Katy

Kalista (13 on August 18) Penny

Eliana (7 on September 9) Wendy

Haven (5 on September 20) Pat

Alex (11 on September 20) Diane

Maci (2 on September 26) Janet



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings Sisters! I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve as SIPT's President in our 70th year of existence. (We celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 2, 2017.) During this year it will be my role to provide leadership, to guide our club to become stronger and more engaged in our community, and continue to enhance the lives of women and girls. We have a challenging task ahead of us. Our membership is dwindling and if we are to survive we must bring in more members, period. We need to brainstorm and work together to keep this club alive.

My theme, as I shared at installation, is "Shine A Light." As Soroptimists it is our duty to shine a light on the many ways in which women and girls are mistreated and oppressed. We're concerned whether it's here in the U.S. with the human trafficking issue or domestic violence, or across the world in the Congo, known as the worst place on earth to be a woman.

Conversely, it is also our duty to shine a light on the many wonderful and uplifting things that women and girls have accomplished under difficult and challenging circumstances and how our role as Soroptimists has contributed to that success and empowerment.

We can also shine a light on Soroptimism. Whether our activities are local, national, or global, our organization positively impacts the lives of women and girls in powerful ways. I believe that when people understand what Soroptimism is, they will want to become part of it. We just have to educate them. We have to shine a light.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

As I shared my message at installation, I was emotionally touched by the ideals that we all, as Soroptimist Sisters, strive to work toward accomplishing together improving the lives of women and girls. It is my hope and intent that our club will "Shine A Light" on things that matter.

I look forward to the year ahead with you!

President Katy

**Mark your Calendar:**

2016 SIA 44<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention:  
July 20-23, Orlando, FL  
Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel

2016 District 1 Meeting:  
October 21-23, Bellevue Marriott, Bellevue, WA

2017 NW Region Conference:  
April 27-30, Hilton Vancouver, Vancouver, WA

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**EDITORIAL:**

By Betty Oakes, Editor

Our Soroptimist Pledge: Since moving to the US Bank Building for our monthly noon business meeting, it has struck me that we no longer say our pledge. The only time I get to say it is when I attend a District Meeting or Region Conference. I put forward that we should resume saying this pledge at our monthly meetings, especially in light of reading Katy’s president’s message and her emphasis on Soroptimism. In case you have forgotten it—here it is:

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimism and to the ideals for which it stands:

- The sincerity of friendship
- The joy of achievement
- The dignity of service
- The integrity of profession
- The love of country

I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold and defend these ideals for a larger fellowship in home, in society, in business, for country and for God.

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(Ella Sandvig, Life Member Representative, installs President Katy Guthridge and her board (left to right), Pat Durbin, President Elect, Penny Westerfield, Secretary, Betty Oakes, Director, Diane Kenyon, Treasurer and Wendy Duede, Past President)  
Photo credit to Janet Jacobs

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**FOSTER KIDS:** I know it has been brought up at the meetings and I receive many e-mails to the effect that you would like to know exactly what to purchase for the foster kid that you have volunteered to honor on their birthday. I have asked Linda VandeLune, who is our contact person at DSHS, how best to do this. She has told me that our list cannot contain the likes and dislikes of each child, but if we send her an email requesting this information for each child, she will forward it on to the caseworker. This sometimes takes a week or so, so you need to get your request to Linda early enough to go shopping. Bear in mind that these kids ARE NOT FUSSY. They are grateful to be remembered and anything you purchase for them will be appreciated even if we don’t receive thank you notes. Since I will be out of the country for the next month, I will not be able to facilitate this for you—it will be up to each of you to contact Linda directly or to use your own good judgment in purchasing a gift. Linda’s e-mail address is: [vandels@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:vandels@dshs.wa.gov). Thanks! Betty

Sometimes life feels like this:



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**Member News:**

From Janet: Unlike Betty and Penny, my July is full of short trips. My Italy travel group, 5 of us from Port Townsend, 2 from Fox Island and 2 from Edmonds, will reunite for an Italian dinner and breakfast. There will be lots of wine and espresso! Then friends from my Alaska days, who are now in St. George, Utah, will be here for 2 days with dinners and wine tastings planned. Next is an overnight down to Ridgefield to celebrate 60 years in the same house/community for one of our friends. Last is to my nephew and niece in Boise. And my son is flying in for a James Taylor concert. Busy month!

From Wendy: I would like to thank everyone for attending the installation and for their support over the last two years. I remember how nervous I was at the first few meetings. I was afraid of not running the meetings right, and I appreciate everyone's kindness. I remember turning to you, Betty, many times, to figure out what we did next at those meetings—thank you!

My regret for the last year was the many changes at my job. It overtook everything else and some of the things I had hoped we would accomplish just got away from me. I look forward to supporting our new president. Katy will be great! In that regard, I would like to encourage everyone to sign up for committees and projects this year. When you take on that project, keep on top of it. They get away from us so easily.

I would also like to thank Janet for her hard work at making our installation so perfect! To everyone else, and you know who you are, Mahalo! It's been a fun ride!

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From President Katy: Here is what we have for committees: Please sign up where you see a blank—thank you!

**Committees:**

- Holiday Dinner (Pat)
- Directory (Janet)
- Foster Children (Betty)
- Coupon Book (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Gateway Park (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Installation (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Newsletter (Betty)
- Public Awareness (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Scrapbook (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Dream It, Be it (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Live Your Dream (Betty)
- Sister Clubs (Alyce)
- Soroptithon (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Sunshine (Wendy)
- Candle Fundraiser (Wendy)

**Hosts:**

- July: Bickie
- August: No meeting
- September: Katy
- October: \_\_\_\_\_
- November: No meeting
- December: Pat—Holiday Dinner
- January: Pat
- February: Penny
- March: \_\_\_\_\_
- April: \_\_\_\_\_
- May: Wendy
- June: Installation



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**ELLA’S BLAST FROM THE PAST:**

(Note: Three members from this program are now gone. I miss them. Ella)

We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Club Anniversary on April 26, 1997. It was held at the Port Townsend Yacht Club.

The program looked like this:

Welcome: President Fran O’Brien

Grace and Flag Salute: Carol Wise, Parliamentarian

Introduction of Head Table: President Fran O’Brien

Keynote Speaker: Julie McCulloch, Mayor of Port Townsend

Reflection of the Decades: Musical & Verbal Journey, Music by Bob Marriott

40’s and 50’s: Myrtle May (Charter Member)

50’s & 60’s: Elizabeth Ammeter

70’s: Gertrude Tjemsland

80’s: Ella Sandvig and Tora Hutchison

90’s: Fran O’Brien

Comments from the Floor.

Closing: Jan Brooks, Chair

Soroptimist Pledge

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ELLA’S JOKES: No jokes – just musings....

ELLA’S MUSINGS

Women are like apples on trees. The best ones are at the top of the tree. Most men don’t want to reach for the good ones because they are afraid of falling and getting hurt. Instead they sometimes take the apples from the ground that aren’t as good, just easy.

The apples at the top think something is wrong with them, when in reality, they’re amazing. They just have to wait for the right man to come along, one who is brave enough to climb all the way to the top of the tree.

Now, men....men are like a fine wine. They begin as grapes and it’s up to women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

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WORD ORIGINS:

TALLY: Like so many other peoples, the ancient inhabitants of France kept score of things by cutting a notch, *a taille*, into a piece of wood. In English the word originally referred to the notched stick itself; only later did it come to mean the score.