



SOROPTIMIST NEWS

Soroptimist International of Port Townsend/East Jefferson County

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

Web site: soroptimistpt.org

March 2009

PRESIDENT: JOY MC FADDEN
EDITOR: ELLA SANDVIG

Schedule for March

- 3-5 : Tik Wongplugsas, teacher from Thailand and Linda Shatto, our Women's Opportunity Award winner
- 3-8 " International Women's Day
- 3-12: Regular Meeting
- 3-16: Board Mtg, Pat Durbin's home - 5:00
- 3-19: Business Meeting
- 3-26: Dinner Meeting
TBA



March Birthdays

- 3-2 : Donna Hoglund
- 3-25: Carol Wise
- 3-28: Gertrude Tjmesland

Hostesses for March

Alyce Hansen
Fran O'Brien

Hostesses for April

Anne Burkart
Sandy Hershelman
Cheryl Bozarth

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SPRING is here this month! That means daffodils and leprechauns – what fun! Please realize, I am writing this and looking out the window at snow. There is hope though because the calendar tells me so.

Just take a look at what's coming up on the calendar for us and plan on joining in on the fun. First we have our March 5th meeting where we will be celebrating International Women's Day by presenting our Women's Opportunity Award to this year's winner. We will also have a speaker from Thailand.

March 21st and 22nd the Sequim Club will be having their Garden Show which is really fun. You may want to get a few Soroptimist friends together and car pool.

We will be having a "Garden Party" to get rid of some weeds and to spruce up the park on March 21st from 9 to Noon.

Our Soroptimist Area Meeting is Saturday, April 4th, in Bremerton. This is a one day event where we share ideas with other clubs in our area. Last year we had 7 or 8 members attend this meeting which was held in Forks. It would be great to have a number of us car pool to this year's meeting as well.

Later in April, Betty Oakes and I will be attending the Northwest Region Conference in Montana.

While we are there Brinnon will be having it's Patriot's Day Parade on April 24th. Judi Morris will be there with our banner – how many more will be joining her in this really fun down home parade.....?

We are also planning on taking part in the Rhody Festival again this year by marching in the parade and by staffing a water station for the Rhody Run.

It is my hope that EVERY MEMBER of this club will be able to join us in at least one of these joys of spring.

Gosh, in reading over the above I realize in just a two month period we will as a club be helping an individual woman, learning more about women throughout the world, serving our community by working at the park, supporting three community events, and helping a sister club with their major fund raiser. It is amazing how with all of us working together, little by little, we really do accomplish a lot. Way to go ladies!!

Joy



BELATED HOLIDAY THANK YOU
(by Sherry Perry)

This has been quite the winter for many of us, and I apologize for this belated thank you.

It was mid-December when our county's Children's Services was hit with over 500 names of children who would not be receiving Christmas presents this year. The Marine's Annual Toys for Tots Program and a local service club had delivered toys to their office, but the selection of toys for the individual children had to be done and there was virtually no one available to do that.

Thanks to our members, Pat Durbin, Judy Cavett, Joy McFadden, Kay Pownall, Judi Morris, Karen Bednarski and Karin Morgan (I hope I am not forgetting any one!) we were able to get some of the necessary work done. As I was telephoning parents to tell them toys for each of their children were ready for them to pick up, these parents were at the office often within 30 minutes. They were so very appreciative. How rewarding it was to know that these children were going to have a Christmas.

The other big thank you goes to our membership for providing funding for non-toy gifts. Several kids asked only for a "hoodie." A "hoodie" (I quickly learned) is basically a sweat-shirt with a hood. One of the teenagers wanted cosmetics – she got a cosmetic set much like the professionals use. Maybe someday she will pursue a career in cosmetology at our local cosmetology school?

Another side note: I should also thank the Soroptimisters who helped

– namely Ron Bednarski who also donated his brand new bike and Tim Perry. The bike, I heard, was given to one of the foster kids. Can you imagine his excitement when he saw that bike?



VICTORIAN FESTIVAL (by Pat Durbin)

The 13th Annual Victorian Festival will be held March 21-22. Two Historic homes will be on the tour that have never before been open to the public. One is the Dr. House home at the corner of Jefferson and Fillmore. The new house being built on Washington, right in front of it, was the center of the demolition controversy a few months ago. When you tour this house, you'll see why the replacement is so controversial. The other is the Landes house on the corner of Franklin and Polk, which has just had a complete kitchen remodel in a Victorian style. The local contractors who worked on the homes will be there to describe what was done and will have before, during and after photos.

Other educational events that would be great for young people as well, include:

- *“Trial by Fork” (Demystifying a Formal Victorian Dinner) or...how not to become a social outcast during the Victorian era because you totally messed up on which fork, knife or spoon to use. This promises to be particularly light-hearted and entertaining and is guaranteed to make us thankful we live in the 21st century.*
- *Debbie Dimitre portrays Harriet Beecher Stowe (who had a Port Townsend connection) followed by a portrayal of Harriet Tubman, the freed slave who helped so many through the underground railroad. Please tell your friends with teenagers about this. It is living history at its best.*
- *Bus Tour led by a costumed guide who is intimately familiar with all three of Port Townsend's Landmark Historic Districts (an hour and a half to two hour tour in the comfort of a 21st Century carriage). This is great for new-comers (or old timers) who would like to get a good overview of the entire community and why it is nationally recognized as a center for restoration and renovation.*

And for pure fun:

- *Victorian Grand Ball*
- *Victorian High Tea at Manresa Castle on Sunday afternoon.*



FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

If you missed this meeting, you missed a great dinner . As usual, our hostess, Judy Cavett, served an elegant meal, with Betty Oakes providing a decadent dessert. There were eleven of us around the table, discussing everything under the sun!

Evening meetings are a great chance to socialize with your Soroptimist sisters.

(The picture is not from the actual dinner)

FEDERATION NEWS

Soroptimist International of the Americas reports the following:

- *1,120 women helped through the Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards.*
- *7,414 women and girls reached through the Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls.*
- *1,328 women and their families benefited from the Soroptimist Relief Grants.*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Margaret Lobo, President of Soroptimist International has a message for us all:

YES, YOU CAN

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. REMIND YOURSELF OF YOUR ABILITIES, AND BE CONFIDENT IN THEM. YOU WILL BE AMAZED AT WHAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH.

WOMEN IN HISTORY

Sybil Ludington – Female Paul Revere

Sybil was a typical 16 year old girl in 1777. She was the eldest of 12 children and was often responsible for taking care of her younger siblings. She was putting the younger children to bed on the night of April 26, 1777, when word reached her house that the British were burning the town of Danbury, Connecticut, which was only 25 miles away. Her father was a colonel in the local militia. His men were scattered over a wide area around the Ludington house in Fredericksburg, New York (now Ludington). Sybil convinced her father to let her ride and summon the men. She rode on horseback over 40 miles on dark, unmarked roads to spread the alert. She rode alone with only a stick to prod her horse Star and to knock on the doors spreading the alert in time. Sybil Ludington was a true American Hero. There is a statue of Sybil in Washington D.C. (Constitution Memorial Hall in DAR headquarters).

WINNERS

Washington Post Contest-alternate meanings for common words:

1. Coffee, n. The person upon whom one coughs.
2. Flabbergasted, adj. Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
3. Abdicate, v. To give up all hope of every having a flat stomach.
4. Willy-nilly, adj. Impotent
5. Lymph, v. To walk with a lisp.
6. Gargoyle, n . Olive-flavored mouthwash
7. Balderdash, n. A rapidly receding hair-line.
8. Testicle, n. A humorous question on an exam.