

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DECEMBER 2013

This is being written the day after Thanksgiving, what has now become Black Friday created by the retail community. Thanksgiving seems to get pushed aside more and more each year as store executives want to get into our pocketbooks more and more. Today I'm seeing articles in the on-line papers about violence that has broken out in crowds waiting for the stores to open, or, once inside, fighting over items on the shelves. People have been seriously hurt, and let's not forget about the poor woman who was trampled to death five years ago as the crowds rushed into one store.

While all this can be depressing, it helped me focus on Thanksgiving and the true meaning of the Christmas season. News is so immediate and instant now-a-days that it's easy to get swept up in the moment and the drama and get all bent out of shape by how horrible the country has seemingly become.

What the news never seems to focus on is all the good that happens. One of the things I enjoy about attending Soroptimist conferences and meetings is truly seeing how collectively we all do amazing things. It's easy to start feeling that our club is so small, how can we be making a difference. But we do. As I like to say, we may be small but we're mighty! It's the collective impact of the Soroptimist mission that makes the world a better place. We must hold on to that.

I wish all of you a happy holiday season filled with love, caring, and sharing.

Penny

December Member News

By: Betty Oakes, Reporter

From Janet Jacobs: Returned sick from 3 weeks in Italy. I traveled all over the place starting in Milan, then Cinque Terra, Florence, Pisa, a week at an *agriturismo* in Tuscany where we did most of our own cooking and had classes in olive oil tasting and pasta-making plus side-trips to Etruscan museums, hill towns and Siena; then to Sorrento, Pompeii and Naples finishing in Rome. It makes me tired just "talking" about it. My targeted date to leave for Arizona is November 18th and I hope to see everyone this month before she leaves.

I arrived in Arizona after a week on the road visiting and dropping off quilts here and there. My wonderful secret sister went to the trouble to find me a Chanukah card which was waiting for me at my son's. My daughter was also here from Denver so it was nice to have both kids with me for the double holiday.

From Judi Morris: Here is an update on our grandson Connor: He has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. It is around his kidneys, liver and chest cavity, plus there are bright spots in his arm and leg bones. He started chemo November 22nd and will have an aggressive series of treatments for a month, then weekly for 7 months. They are watching for leukemia as they do further testing, but the treatment is the same, so we are attacking it even if we don't know it is there yet. The doctors say they have cured this in the past and expect to do so with Connor. Let's pray that is the case. And update: We had some good news you can add: His head MRI and spinal fluid tests were clear. YAY!! He started his first drip chemo on November 25th. They will be standing by with an anaphylactic shock kit in case he has a reaction to this new drug.

From Bickie Steffan: I would like to thank my secret sister for the greeting cards I receive. They always make me smile. Thanks.

From Joy McFadden: We had a great Thanksgiving with friends and family and then we did it again Friday with a "planned over" dinner with some friends not able to come over Thursday. Mike and I are planning to brave the expected whether Monday and head to Ellensburg for a State Conservation District Meeting, but we will be back in time for our Soroptimist Christmas Party on Wednesday!

From Barb Reavis: Bob and I want to wish everyone a lovely holiday and all the best in the New Year. We have so much to be grateful for. Bob is still cancer free and now "has hair"! Enough that actually required a haircut. We were able to get tickets to see Chihuly and his team at work in his art museum in Tacoma last month. He doesn't blow glass himself anymore but it was fascinating to be in the hot room and watch the whole process. We are hoping to leave next week and head to Sacramento, CA, for a couple of weeks. At one point all of our kids and grandchildren will be there, so we will have a "few" Christmas celebrations with them. Happy Holidays, Barb

From Pat Durbin: Frank and I are doing okay, but our days are filled with Physical, Occupational and Speech therapy appointments and practices.

In between all that I'm still overseeing the Christmas Victorian Home Tour on December 14th. I have lots of volunteers helping this year, but there is still some organization required on my part. I hope everyone will tell their friends and family to attend. It's from 1-5 and tickets are \$20.00 at Vintage Hardware.

From Anne Burkart: Mike and I are in Palm Desert enjoying BEAUTIFUL almost 80 degree weather. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving here with our daughter, Olga and Mike's brother, Bill. Our grandsons are with their dad in Chicago this week, but will be home today, so we'll see them on Tuesday when we go to Orange Co. for a doctor

appointment for Mike. We are here until next Thursday and will call Bickie and hope to get together with her and Gary. Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and you're not freezing. We'll be home Dec. 7.

From Ruth Gordon: I have been going to work and coming home and going to bed. For some reason these short days are just kickin' my butt, as it were! I think if my life were turned into a pod cast EVERYONE would find it preferable to go home and go to bed early!

From Carol Wise: What an incredible holiday! The weather is fantastic and just today turning ccccccold. What's that!!!

Lance is doing fantastic and I am commended for an appearance in Maryland for Christmas with Serafin included....don't EVEN think I wouldn't have Ginger! J Biz is crazy and I'm thankful for the business, the friends and for simply being alive. Blessings to all and HAPPY SHOPPING!

From Me (Your reporter Betty): Penny and I spent a week on Maui the first part of November. It had been a long time since I had been there (over 20 years) and Penny had never been—so we saw all the sights, saw the banyan tree in Lahaina, took the long and winding road tour to Hana (on a tour bus, thank you), went to a Luau and met some really nice people. Felt good to be warm!

FOSTER KIDS BIRTHDAYS:

December:

Syia turns 5 on December 29 (Judy C.)

January:

Hunter (male) turns 10 on January 20 (Anne)

Sophia turns 5 on January 26 (Barb)

Thanks Ladies!