



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gaining Momentum

These things sneak up on a person: one minute it's the beginning of the club year, we're getting started on committee work, wrapping up last summer's pillow booth, and the next darned minute: it's Christmas! We're fully into our club season, and a look at our SI-Ashland website page begins to tell the tale: there are icons to click for Soroptimist Strong Girls Strong Women, the Violet Richardson Award, the Women's Opportunity Award, the Ruby Award for Women Helping Women, and the Graduate Fellowship Award. All these icons are the public "face" of all the committee work going on behind the scenes as we gather information, solicit participation, and seek nominations for this incredible array of projects and awards. And, of course, that ain't all! There are a lot of other committee projects happening—now behind the scenes, but eventually evident as projects are developed, funded and implemented as we progress through the year.

The point of this exercise is to highlight the momentum our club gains as we move from launch to orbit in our club year. We'll take a breath for some holiday fun and camaraderie at our Christmas "Party of Parties" on December 16th, but once we're back in session on January 6, 2010, we're back in full swing. It's just amazing to me how we build momentum—when it needs to happen, Soroptimists make it happen. Need some help picking up bowls at the Clayfolk show? We show up! Need to put together lunches in a hurry for Wine Walk? Stand back—we're there! Gotta get East Main cleaned up? Hey, that's done. So, put on your dancing shoes for our holiday gathering, rest up for the couple weeks that club is "dark," then get ready to really put the pedal to the metal for the heart of our club year!

Mel

PS

I have a few things tucked under the glass on the top of my desk - mostly reference stuff - but a couple things that make me smile. One little clipping says: "A little song, a little dance, a little seltzer down your pants."

Attributed to Chuckles the Clown



CALENDAR

Dec 2 12:00*	Business Meeting
Dec 3	Lunch Buddy I
Dec 9 12:00*	Julie Norton, on health hazards (pesticides in water, e.g.)
Dec 10	Lunch Buddy II
Dec 16 12:00*	Christmas Auction & Party of Parites
Dec 17	Lunch Buddy Makeup
Dec 23 12:00*	NO MEETING
Dec 25	CHRISTMAS 
Dec 30 12:00*	NO MEETING
Jan 4 5:30 pm	Board Meeting @ Polly Arnolds

*Meeting at
La Casa del Pueblo

SAVE THE DATE:

FEB 6, 2010
AREA MEETING
TWIN CREEKS
CENTRAL POINT

Know Your BOARD

Susan Hollandsworth
Secretary

Primary responsibilities: to prepare and distribute minutes of board and club business meetings.

by Sue Kurth

Because of Sesame Street, Susan Hollandsworth, principal at Helman Elementary School and the club's secretary, is an inspiration to young and old. "In 1970 I was a young woman in a dead end job--working in an office doing light typing, filing and, if you remember those days," Susan said, "bringing coffee to the boss, cleaning the toilet, and doing personal errands." While home on her lunch hour, Susan watched the very first Sesame Street shows and "was hooked." She knew she wanted to teach children, so she enrolled at Southern Oregon College and earned a Masters of Education. Susan taught grades 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8 for 16 years. At one point, 4' 11" Susan Hollandsworth accepted the position as the high-jump track coach. She admits, "I couldn't jump over the bar if my life depended on it!" In 1996 after going to U of O to get the necessary credentials, she became a public school administrator. "Ashland Middle School hired me as an assistant principal, and then I was assigned to Lincoln Elementary School. Now, I'm just beginning my fifth year at Helman Elementary," she said.

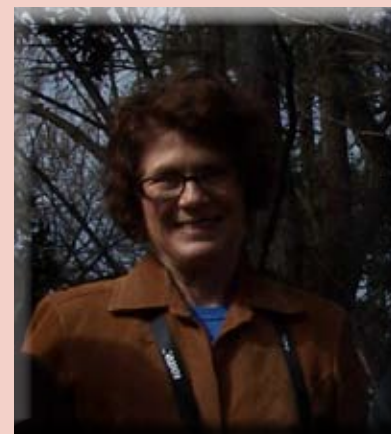
Besides being very active in the Soroptimist Strong Girls Strong Women program, Susan is working on a Reading Endorsement through the online course *Read Oregon*. Susan said, "I plan to retire someday and would love to supervise student teachers for SOU. A huge dream of mine is to write childrens' books. And all because of watching Sesame Street on my lunch hour."

Born in Santa Cruz, CA, Susan spent her 5th birthday on the island of Guam

and then moved with her family to Talent, OR, five miles from where she would raise her family years later. "I grew up from age nine through high school in Lake Oswego, OR," she said. Typical of the time, when she was 12 years old, when her mother went to work, Susan assumed responsibility for watching her two younger brothers. Susan remembers, "I started babysitting for \$.35 an hour at age 11 and have been working ever since. I enjoyed school especially my 3rd grade year. I learned to play the harmonica and got to do harmony rather than the melody plus my teacher said I had very good diction. Funny what you remember."

After graduating from high school, she felt perfectly comfortable just staying at home and had no particular plans for college. Her parents had a different idea, however. In 1965 they deposited her on the steps of Southern Oregon College. "That experience changed my life," she said. "I discovered my love of science and learning. I met David in 1971 and we have been together ever since. We raised two girls, Jillian, 33, and Kerry, 30. We've been in the same house since 1975 so the girls went through the Ashland School District."

When asked about the most outstanding/rewarding experiences she's had as an educator, Susan responded, "This question was the hardest to answer. During the past 10 years, perhaps 15 students from my days in the 1980s at Hanby Middle School have come into the school. It's funny because they change so much and grow into wonderful adults that it is hard to recognize these young people. They all remember me and say Mrs. H? Do you remember me? Of course I do!! Or at least I try very hard to place them.



BOARD...CONTINUED

I find it incredibly rewarding to hear them retell experiences about our classes. We had good times and I know I helped them through some difficult teenage situations. I'll never forget the parent who came to his 8th grade son's parent conference. I was trying to be tactful about his son's marginal progress when he said, "Look, I don't know much, but this I do know...my son needs to know a h... of a lot more than me so would you please make sure he learns to read better?" I kept that promise—his son learned to read better."

Clearly as a teacher, administrator, and now a Soroptimist, Susan will continue to influence the lives of many young girls, but what women influenced Susan? "I actually have several women who inspired me, she said, "My mom who took me to the library every day the year we lived in Talent. Our neighbors thought it strange, but my love of books and reading was born early on. Then, of course, my nana who taught me how to play the piano when I was 6 or 7. My aunt had a big influence on me as well. She was an early childhood teacher in San Francisco, and later in her career became the Director of Early Childhood Studies at Portland Community College. I admire Eleanor Roosevelt, Jane Goodall, Oprah Winfrey, Princess Diana, Queen Noor to name a few.

Susan choice of drinks is a glass of red wine. She prefers, "Red wines with a rich deep robust flavor—Roxy Ann, Truim, Beringer are all good. I enjoy wineries and trying new tastes. Liquid Assets is a fun place to go for that."

When asked how she would like to be remembered, Susan, quite candid in her response, said, "I hope that the students I have worked with both as a teacher and as a principal these 31 years will remember me for caring if they learned or not; for my fun and passion for teaching and learning. To my grandchildren who call me Noni, I hope they will remember me for fun, affection, and play: making playdough, constructing Lego Star Wars sets, going to the petting farm, teaching them how to swim, bookstore and toy store raids, and riding around in the mini cooper with sun roof open. Just lots of fun and love."



CONFERENCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING



Soroptimist International Northwestern Region
presents, the Annual Northwest Conference Against Trafficking

Saturday, January 9, 2010
9a.m. to 5p.m.

*Breakout Sessions, Keynote Speakers,
Exhibit Expo, and Award Luncheon*

"Look Beneath the Surface"
Inform, Educate, Protect



Cathy Standiford



Jane Velez-Mitchell
Host of "Issues" on HLN



Dallas Jessup



Emcee: Priya David, KOIN6



William Hillar

For Information
626.644.3472

www.NWCAT.org
Registration opens next week

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Iris Akana 5th
Joy Dobson Way 9th
Sandry Schorovsky 19th

On December 1st, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Alabama to a white man—giving birth to the Civil Rights movement.

"I would like to be known as a person who is concerned about freedom and equality and justice and prosperity for all people."

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Mark your calendars! December 16 will be our Party of Parties sign up PARTY.

We have 13 fabulous parties for you to consider. There will be something for everyone and you won't want to miss this meeting. Pre-notice will go out by the first week in December so you can read through the Party descriptions and be prepared to come early to the meeting to guarantee you get the party you really want to enjoy.

If you haven't signed up to host a party, please bring a nice silent auction item on the 16th. We want to make sure that everyone is able to participate in our operations fund raising.

The fund raising committee is excited about the new venue and we hope club members enjoy this as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. We have some very resourceful club members and I think you will be delighted.

— Vicki Smith


& Christmas AUCTION

REGIONAL MEETING

2010 Northwestern Region Conference

April 23-25, 2010

(a no-host day tour is being planned for Thursday, April 22, so you will want to arrive early if you wish to participate.)

Additional information has been posted at:
<http://www.soroptimistrv.org/home/simeetings.html>

PA TASK FORCE

The Public Awareness Task Force is putting on a TV Ad Campaign in January on KOB Channel 5. A prototype of the ad is on our Home page--scroll to the bottom of the for a YouTube link--click on it and see what we are up to. Please realize this is a prototype and has not yet been customized to:
soroptimistRV.org.



**PLEASE
TURN OFF CELL
PHONES
AT MEETINGS**

NEWEST MEMBER

Suzanne McQueen

Hello! I look forward to getting to know you all better!

A mother of three, ages 26, 24, and 14, I've lived in Ashland for almost 22 years and feel blessed to have had a terrific career here. Starting out as a hairdresser, I eventually owned two small hair salons before building The Phoenix, an Aveda salon and spa in 1996. In 1997 I co-founded and taught at the Oregon Institute of Aesthetics, a facial-licensing school now located in Talent. In 2000, it was a great honor to receive the Service Business of the Year Award by the Ashland Chamber. I am a past president of Women Entrepreneurs of Oregon and mentor for Southern Oregon Women's Access to Credit. Currently, I am a member of University Toastmasters. I sold The Phoenix in 2003 and after a much-needed break, am writing an empowerment book on an entirely different way to view the female cycle.

I joined Soroptimist because I am eager to continue my journey of mentoring women on a broader scale. I see the need, locally and globally, to help women "own" their own bodies both personally and politically, in order to reduce unwanted pregnancies, sex slavery, rape, domestic violence, and gender discounting. My passion is teaching girls and women individually or in groups about their reproductive focus, personal vision, relationships, business skills, why they must know themselves better, what they deserve, and how they must change the world for the better.



LONGEST (LIFE) MEMBER

Virginia Vogel

Who is the Queen of SIA finances from year one? Who has filed more 1099s and explained more financial reports than anyone in club? To whom must all recent and past treasurers bow down in thanks?



If you said Virginia Vogel to all of the above, you would have only a beginning of why the Health Committee has chosen to honor Virginia with a gift to Ashland community Hospital's Lights for Life.

Virginia has been a member of SIA since July 1, 1962. She was president in the club year 1981-82. She started having 2 business meetings a month (don't know how long that continued). It was a busy year as that was the beginning of applying for a grant from the department of transportation to upgrade the 15 passenger Senior Van to the 24 passenger bus. Those buses were supported by SIA for many years until the city took over the transportation system.

Also during her presidential year there was a net gain of 9 active members from 54 to 63. Dues were \$30 and the OSF scholarship that year was \$7,079.

Virginia is a professional leader in being a "woman CPA" when girls were not expected to understand money matters. Virginia is certainly a perfect example of a Soroptimist Strong Woman.

—Polly Arnold

By Sara Brown

Lunch Buddies

With the sign-up of our newest Lunch Buddy mentor from an online resource called VolunteerMatch, we now have 42 girls being served in the Lunch Buddy program: 17 Soroptimists, 15 AAUW members, and 10 women-at-large from the community. That compares to 35 last year. We now have mentors for all the grades 2-3 girls whose parents want them to be in the program. At our December committee meeting, we'll discuss whether to expand the mentoring part of SSGSW to the older girls.

Community Dinner

The November 10th, second annual Community Dinner was well attended by approximately 150 SSGSW girls from grades 2-5, their parents and siblings, volunteers and Helman Elementary School staff. Soroptimists decorated the cafeteria, served a lasagna dinner and cleaned up. Special thanks to Peggy Cossolias for organizing the serving process; Linda Anderson for taking pictures; and our Soroptimist/Helman members, and Susan Hollandsworth for driving all over Medford to get the best prices on the food. A highlight of the evening was the presentation by

the grades 4-5 girls demonstrating their science prowess—hats off to Trish Dorr & Michelle Cuddeback, Helman teachers, for producing the event.

Why is the Community Dinner important? Because it symbolically binds Soroptimist to the parents and the school as a partner in the development



of the girls in the SSGSW program; because as our signature project it gives us an opportunity for great PR; because it's an opportunity to also publicly

thank the non-Soroptimist Lunch Buddies who attend.

Books

Next week we'll give a book with a positive female character to every kindergarten and first grade girl at Helman. Each book will have a bookplate with the girl's name and identifying the book as a gift from SI Ashland. Thanks, Linda, for designing and printing the bookplates. In January we will give a collection of books and small bookcases to six girls who the school has identified as not having the means to provide books for at home reading. Thanks, Sue Kurth, for working with AHS wood shop to build the bookcases.

Careers

Polly Arnold and Vicki Smith are working with Susan Hollandsworth, Trish Dorr and me to design and organize our winter Careers after school program for the grades 4-5 girls. You'll hear more about this next month when we'll be asking for volunteers to accompany the girls to the various locations around town to meet and learn about the career choices of some Ashland women.



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF ASHLAND

meets at noon on Wednesdays

from September through June.

Please contact Marilyn Bailey at **482-9450**

for additional meeting or club details

or send us an email at **siashland@gmail.com**.

Our mailing address is:

P.O.Box 544, Ashland, OR 97520.

Editor: Linda Anderson
landerson77@mind.net



**Advertising: \$50 for 1 year—
contact Linda Anderson and pro-
vide her with your business card or
other art work.**

RAYMOND JAMES

FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Member FINRA/SIPC

BARBARA M. OLDFIELD, ChFC

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT/BRANCH MANAGER

108 E. Hersey - Suite 3
Ashland, OR 97520

barbara.oldfield@raymondjames.com

www.raymondjames.com

541.488.6768

888.549.9672

Fax: 541.482.1460

SOROPTIMIST 101

The health committee reported that they had given their annual \$2,000 to the Community Health Center. I thought I would give a little history between SIA and the CHC. Our club has provided support at various levels for at least 20 years. At one time we were able to provide enough funding so that CHC had a Soroptimist Day one Wednesday a month for a year. They promoted this very well.

A real win-win situation occurred when Peg Crowley, the director, came to me about one of their patients. She could not afford to pay anything towards her health care but was willing to do any kind of work to pay off her sliding scale fee. Peg was wondering if we had anything she could do. It turned out she was a good seamstress, so of course we went for the obvious. We came to an agreement on how much credit she would earn for each of the pillows she sewed. Her self-esteem rose greatly because she was paying her way. CHC was happy that she was continuing her medical care and those of us who had been sewing pillows were very, very happy that we had many fewer to sew. I believe she did this for two years.

The Community Health Center has two programs that we have supported through the years, A Medical Home for Every Child and Every Woman Needs A Medical Home. (This might not be the exact wording). The first well-child check-up or first annual exam, including pap, is covered free of charge under these programs. The support we give helps to pay for these first time free and very necessary exams. I believe that for the last several years the money has been used for women's annual exams with the hope they will continue their preventive care.

—Mavis Cloutier

