

Rays of Friendship

Volume 20, Issue 4

January, February, March - 2006



"Rays of Friendship" is the official newsletter of the Springfield Women of Today

Dear Springfield Women of Today Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that your new year has started out great. We're gearing up for our fourth quarter of the 2005-2006 year. Where has the time gone? I'm starting to believe the saying, "the older you get the faster time flies." It seems that it was just the other day I took the position as Springfield Women of Today President, now I'm on the last leg of my term. It has been a wonderful experience and I thank all of you who have been very supportive and helpful through this year. I couldn't have done it with out YOU and YOUR FRIENDSHIP.

Springfield Women of Today had a lot of excitement over the holidays. We started with November 28, 2005 passing out programs, pink ribbons and seating people for the one-act play about breast cancer and life by Judith Schlessinger Dyer. This was part of the UIS Cancer Awareness Program. It was very enlightening and educational. We had a wonderful Christmas Social at Tea Thyme Tea Room in Springfield on December 13, 2005 as well as making \$67.00 in a raffle basket with the proceeds going to POAC. I appreciate all who came and joined in the fun. This year we had two adopt-a-family(s) for Christmas. Thank you so much for all your giving and time put in on this project. We did it again and made two families in need very happy this Christmas season. A project like this is the true meaning of the season. You're the best organization a girl/guy could ever have. Another project we completed before Christmas was our Home Interior Candles sales, with the proceeds also going to POAC. Our annual Barnes & Noble gift wrap was held on December 18, 2005. I truly appreciate all those who helped in these projects over the holidays.

Since we are about to start our last quarter we need to give our all. We need to get our project reports done, certifications, STEP and nominees of awards/incentives to the proper person for year end National Convention in Green Bay, Wisconsin. I would like to see Springfield Women of Today bring home lots of awards this year. I know we can do it! Sunday, February 5, 2006 we are having our second certification party at Tish Carneghi's at 1:30 P.M. I hope to see lots of you there finishing up your certifications for this year 2005-2006.

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I believe we have a few more projects to finish up such as Avon, Pampered Chef and the on-going projects (Cookbooks, Free Cycle and FundingFactory). And I don't want us to forget about our February Allstate. I would like to see a good group of the Springfield Women of Today membership at this February 10th and 11th Allstate in HFG area. State President Janet Esper does a fantastic job keeping the meeting moving and she is very generous with her awards/incentives. I look forward to seeing you there. Please see the enclosed registration in this newsletter for the February Allstate. Now's the time to "Keep on Keeping on!" We have one last push in March to get new members. Please be thinking of someone you could bring to a meeting, social, or function of Springfield Women of Today.

Always remember that the rainbow is God's promise to us. The rainbow means many things to different people, but for Springfield Women of Today it represents: **Respect**, **Accept**, **Important**, **Noteworthy**, **Beautiful**, **Opportunity**, and **Wonderful**. Let's continue to generate "Rays of Friendship" along life's journey.

Lisa Clark
2005-2006 President
Springfield Women of Today

Sudoku - New Hit Puzzle

Sudoku is sweeping the country right now. Are you tired of the crosswords that insist you know the name of the linebacker from 1973 whose name sounds like a fish? Or what Russian Czar invented the caviar spoon? Well, Sudoku is a pure math crossword. No tricks - just logic.

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 thru 9 – NO ZEROS and no repeat numbers.

Just to start you off, here is an easy, beginner's level puzzle. The solution may be found on page 7. NO FAIR PEEKING. Try it first!

5	3	4			8	7	9	
					9		8	
8						2		
				1			4	
9								7
	7		5					
		3						4
	1		2					
	2	9	4			8	5	1

Here's How to Play

A column is 9 cells tall. A filled-in column has one of each digit. That means that each digit appears only once in the column. There are 9 columns in the grid, and the same applies to each of them.

7
8
5
6
4
3
9
1
2

7	4	6
8	9	3
5	1	2

A box contains 9 cells in a 3x3 layout. It works the same as a column.

7	4	6	1	5	2	3	9	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

A row is 9 cells wide. It works the same as a column.

Janet Esper - Chairman of the Board / Parliamentarian

"We Did It Together"

WOW, I can hardly believe that the year is half over already. I had a wonderful Christmas with my family. I had all 9 grandchildren here for the better part of the week.

My grandson Grant from West Virginia and Gregory played PS2 most of the time and got along beautifully. It was remarkable to see the 2 talking and understanding one another. Gregory sort of took on the big brother role and enjoyed teaching Grant, who is 6, how to work the controls and how to just play the game. Grandfather and I took all of them to the Lincoln Presidential Museum and had a great time. Gregory doesn't understand why they call it a museum if there aren't any dinosaurs in it. So at Easter when Melissa and the kids come home again, we will take them to the museum with the animals in it.



As Chairman of the Board, it is my job to prepare a slate for the 2006 - 2007 year. What office will you take? Take some quiet time and think about it. Are you willing to step up and serve the community and nation as our creed states? How about strengthening your talents and believing in the future? You have a lot to share and we would be happy to give you that opportunity in Springfield Women of Today. After the 1st of February, I will be calling on every one of you about becoming an officer. I will have the perfect job for you. Or - you can have your bid ready to send the 1st of February and make the job a little easier for me.

Springfield is putting on the May Allstate for Illinois, aren't you excited? I am! We always do an awesome job, and this year is going to be even better. We will have several National Guest in attendance, so you won't want to miss it. Thelma and Becky are Co-Chairing the event so let them know how you can help out. Nancy and Debbie F. will be doing most of the cooking - I can't wait for the home made noodles and rolls. Anyway, we will need volunteers to make this a fun filled weekend.

I appreciate all you do for this organization - Thank You!

Debbie Funsch - Programming VP

Project reports are flying in for the many events the chapter has held or participated in over the last few months. We have had so many great events that is hard to decided which to send on to national for judging. Of course all go to the state so we can share what our chapter is doing, in our spare time.

Thank you to all who are doing the reports and submitting them. I know many of you look forward to those PIECE'S of CAKE when you have turned in the project reports.



Until next time, think of a new project Springfield Women of Today can participate in and then you will see that Programming is a Piece of Cake.

Ruth Hopper - Public Relations Director

We did get some good PR for our Christmas Social and Adopt A Family Christmas. If you have a project that needs promoting please contact me and I will do what I can to get it in the paper.

Ruth Hopper - Funding Factory

498-8438 or ruthhopper@hotmail.com

We are still collecting ink jet cartridges and cell phones. Over the past year we have raised \$316 for our membership. This has been so easy we will be continuing the collection. So keep collecting and bring them to the meetings. This is an easy way to recycle (Focus on Women) and make money.

Calendar of Events

- February 2 1:30pm - *Certification Party, Tish's Home*
- February 14 *Membership Meeting – Ryan's Steak House*
- February 11 *All State "Heart to Heart for Friendship" HFG Women of Today hosting at Marie Irwin Center in Homewood*
- March 10 *Article Deadline for Articles for the IWT Newsletter*
- March 14 *Membership Meeting – Speaker Janeen Burkholder, Volunteer Coordinator at Springfield Art Association*
- April 11 *Membership Meeting*
- April 15 *Article Deadline for articles for the SWT Newsletter*

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Membership Promotions from USWT

The United States Women of Today has notified the Springfield Women of Today of the following Membership Promotions. Please contact Paula Funsch or Nancy Martin with your ideas and interest in participating for the SWT members and chapter.

Ongoing:

M&M = N - Night: (Membership & Memories; use your imagination)

Any chapter that holds or has held an M&M - M-Night any time during the 2005-2006 year and has members join from this M&M-Night, their chapters name will go into a drawing for a supply of items, for another type of M-Night. Deadline to USWT is May 1, 2006. Drawing will be held at the Annual Convention in June.

In February: LOVE WOT

A challenge to you and your members – is that for everyone who recruits a member in the month of February, they will be rewarded by having their name listed on a Scroll that will be displayed at the June convention in Wisconsin for everyone to see that they took the challenge to help increase membership. When the totals come in the state with the most recruiters will be given a gift basket of wonderful items. So put this challenge out to your chapters. If we all take the step to ask just one person to join. Our numbers would double in no time at all. So let's start out the 2006 year with the biggest month of new members ever. (If a person signs more than one member, their name will be listed each time they sign a new member.)

SO WHO'S NAME and STATE, IS GOING TO BE ON THE SCROLL THE MOST – Yours?

March Madness:

Let's make this challenging to see who can do the most promoting of Women of Today during this emphasis month of membership.

Any chapter holding an M-Night in March will be recognized at convention with their M-Night description and details of the event in a special M-Night booklet that will be distributed to the states at year-end for new M-Night ideas for other chapters across the states to utilize.

Each chapter participating in this challenge, their chapter's name will be placed into a drawing for 50- real \$1 bills.

So get your thinking hats on and start planning those M-Nights in March and have your chapter's name placed in the drawing to win \$50 for your chapter.

April – Shower's of M&M's

The person who recruits the most members during April will be showered with M&M items. You will receive a tub full of M&M logo items. Yes, it will be more than the candy.

Please contact Paula Funsch at funsch@warpnet.net or Nancy Martin at njmartin64@msn.com.

Thank you for your ideas of what USWT Membership Promotions you would like for the Springfield Women of Today to participate in during 2006!

Member's Corner

Winter Dreams of... Somewhere Else?

I have pondered over this question for some time. I'm not much on winter months, because of the cold weather and lack of sunlight. I would love to go to the Hawaiian Islands for the winter months. I have been there and it is paradise on earth. The weather is warm, the scenery is breath taking, and the air is clean. I would love to cruise around each of the islands. When I went to Hawaii I was only on the island of Oahu, but it would be wonderful to visit all the Hawaiian Islands. I feel this would be a wonderful place to go over the winter months.

Lisa Clark

I would have to say anywhere than Illinois and not busy. I want to do nothing and re-coupe from the many family events held over the holiday months.

Surprisingly last year we went to Branson in February and it was very warm the week we were there. It was middle to upper 60 during the day. I walked laps around the outside of the condo complex with a sweatshirt and shorts on. Each morning I sat on the balcony with a cup of coffee and enjoyed the area scenic view and read the daily paper.

This time of the year is an off season for this area and it was just relaxing to be there.

This coming February we are planning another trip to the Nashville area. So with it being a little more east we will see what comes of the temperatures there. I was there about 9 years ago and it snowed 3 inches and it shut the city down. They don't have equipment for snow. Besides there are many outlet malls in Nashville to walk around in if it is cold outside.

Debbie Funsch

Where to be during an Illinois winter?

Humm, it's something to ponder. Let's take a look at this problem with a logical approach. Illinois is way far north of the equator, but not quite half way to the North Pole. So, that makes it cold in the winter – right? But wait. I distinctly remember going out in my shirt-sleeves just a few days before New Year's Day. So, I guess what I'm saying is that Illinois isn't all that cold. But, then again, I haven't been swinging in my hammock and sipping an ice cold Corona while listening to the salt waters splash on the breaker walls below me. Illinois isn't exactly known for its surf, you know. And, what's with this dark by 5:30 stuff. That's nutz. But, then again, it's dark all the time at the pole so I guess I can't complain too much. But wait, it's light until 10 pm in Curacao and the waters are warm and the beer is cold and the people are warm and the nights are cool and the lobster is warm and... did I mention the cold beer?

Ok, the votes are in. All the voices in my head have come to a common understanding. I'm an Illinois boy and I fiercely defend the seasons here as being the best place to be at all times and for all people – bar none. If you wish to discuss this position with me further, please wait until spring when I return from the Caribbean.

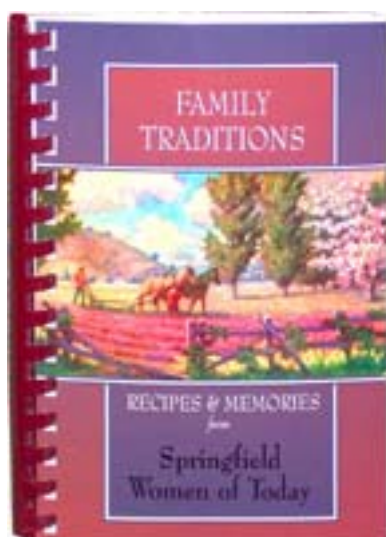
J. Mitch Hopper

Where Oh Where Would I Go?

If I could go anywhere in the winter months where would I go? That's easy, someplace warm with lots of history and things to do. I used to immediately say Cancun, but I have visited all of the tourist attractions there so the only thing left to do is lay pool side and let the sun surround me and drink a few fruit drinks.

I have always wanted to take All of the grandchildren to Disney World - at the same time - and let them do almost anything they would want to do. Larry and I have been there a few times, so I think we would enjoy it. But would we take the grown kids? Maybe, depends on what kind of mood we are in. Disney World is built around a wild imagination and fun thoughts, so they would have to leave the "time outs" at home along with the bossy attitudes. However, getting there would be the problem. Grandfather would most likely want to take the Harley so that means I would have to drive with all of them except the one sitting behind him. But if we could afford to take them, then I would think we could fly down and back. Wouldn't that be a hoot? Can you imagine, getting locked in the tiny restroom, not wanting to stay buckled up, throwing things back and forth, and of course getting hungry and complain about only peanuts to eat. I wonder if they serve Mountain Dew? That would really get them going strong. We would take up 3 rows of 3 seats across. A first class night mare. Maybe we will just wait until they are older and can take care of themselves.

Janet Esper



Family Traditions Recipes and Memories

Hundreds of unique and delicious recipes from

The Springfield Women of Today

Plenty of copies are still available for sale.

Don't be the last kitchen on your block to get this wonderful collection of recipes form some of the best chefs on Earth!

Remember - Hanukah and Christmas are right around the corner.

Go to our website for ordering information.

www.brainmist.com/swt

"Winter Travels"

This is easy! Warm weather, sandals, shorts, swim suit, wet suit, eating seafood, watching seafood (and maybe sharks), water, coral, sun, relaxation, lots of walking, shopping, new places to go and see, new friends to make and we leave in one week!

Ruth Hopper

Sudoku Puzzle Solution
From page 2

5	3	4	1	2	8	7	9	6
1	6	2	7	5	9	4	8	3
8	9	7	6	4	3	2	1	5
2	5	6	3	7	1	9	4	8
9	4	1	8	6	2	5	3	7
3	7	8	5	9	4	1	6	2
7	8	3	9	1	5	6	2	4
4	1	5	2	8	6	3	7	9
6	2	9	4	3	7	8	5	1

Send This to a Friend



USWT CREED

We the United States
Women of Today,
Are dedicated to serving
our community and nation,
Are committed to strengthening
our individual talents,
And stand united by
Our friendship and belief
in the future.

The Springfield Chapter of The Illinois Women of Today

Fold Here and Staple

From:

To: