



SLF's FANCY NEWSLETTER February 2009

I stand on her shoulders. I'm a chip off her block. My mom Teddy was active in our Fairmount Hill neighborhood. Especially at Baker and McKinley schools, and down at Bush Barn with the *Salem Art Association*. Mom was also active at church—St. Paul's, to be exact. She was one of the first volunteers recruited by June Hughes for the *Helping Hands* clothing program 40 years ago. She teamed with best-friend Nancy Lindburg to form the backbone of the *Arts and Architecture Commission* at St. Paul's. She designed the logo, the banners and many Calligraphy-works at the *St. Mark Lutheran Fine Arts Commission*. Mom was a charter founder of the *Capital Calligraphers Guild* and tirelessly served as a teacher/mentor to many professional and lay artists. She also swung a mean tennis racket, picking up the sport during the '70s when women were beginning to express their talents in expanded ways. But first and foremost, Mom was a great mom.

She and Dad were always in the bleachers at my baseball and basketball games. She was there when Chuck, Sarah and I came home from school. Mom made me take Spanish, typing, and piano lessons, all of which have served me well in adulthood. She encouraged me to work from an early age—paper routes, berry fields, house-painting—and she taught me to drive. She inspired my desire to write, as did her father with her. Mom was born in Hawaii but her favorite time of year was Christmas . . . so it was fitting that she would say “Aloha” two eves before her 75th Christmas. Mom was sick for years with a disease called ‘Ataxia,’ which slowly weakens the body's nerve functions: eyesight, balance, hearing, speech—everything eventually. A tough assignment for an expressive Renaissance Woman who loved to sing, explore, envision and create. Mom (and Dad) bore the cross of Ataxia with a humble grace and a marriage commitment that have deeply inspired me, Jennifer and the boys. Hundreds packed Mom's memorial service January 10 at St. Paul's—not because she was merely popular. But because she was a true friend who gave richly to her family, friends and neighbors in the community. My life and work are a testimony to her love and talents. Should ever you catch me doing something spontaneous, creative or joyful . . . give a wink to Teddy. Love you Mom—

What's Your Neighborhood? Sam

A TIP OF THE HAT TO THREE BRIDGE-BUILDERS. Last month three of our dear friends and colleagues were honored by the community. *Ryan Collier*, SLF's past president and attorney *par excellence*, was honored by the Marion County Bar Association with the prestigious Wallace P. Carson Award. *Gregg Peterson*, a long-time SLF board member from the McKay Area, was elected president of the local NAACP chapter and appointed to the Marion County Children and Families Commission. And *Sue Miller*, of Family Building Blocks, received the coveted Athena Award from the *Statesman Journal*. Three friends, three servant-leaders, three tremendous bridge builders. Salute!

SAVE THE FANCY DATE—MAY 15! Hope we're not sounding like a broken record, but we've been publishing “May 15” for several months to make it easy for folks to remember the date. Now that it's 2009 please put “Fancy Dessert” on that third Friday in May, 6:45 p.m., Salem Conference Center. We are putting out the call for Table Captains and would welcome your partnership. Simply call or email Julie@salemLF.org to reserve a table for 10—no charge. Our Dessert Committee is working on new and nifty concepts for this year's event, which has forged a strong reputation for “never a dull moment and full of surprises.”

“CITY-AS-NEIGHBORHOOD”

—LIGHTNING RODS AND THE SIX KEYSTONE AREAS—

YEAR-END MATCHING CAMPAIGN: GOOD NEWS AND . . . The good news is that we successfully matched the \$25,000 private donation that had to be raised by December 31. In fact, we received \$41,750 from a total of 94 donors—thank you! We weren’t successful (yet) in matching recent grant funds, but we still have time in first quarter ‘09. Speaking of those grants, we were blessed with good news from *The Collins Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), and Pioneer Trust Foundation*. Collins has affirmed a 3-year grant of \$20,000, \$15,000 and \$5,000 toward the *City-as-Neighborhood Initiative*. Similarly, OCF made a first-year grant of \$20,000 with a chance for SLF to apply for another \$10,000 in 2010. Pioneer Trust Foundation (\$1,000) became grant #14 in 2008, all of which augment our 3-year grant from *M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust* to underwrite SLF’s staff expansion. We are very grateful for these grants and ask for your prayers in 2009 as the economy will make grant-seeking (and private funding) much more difficult.

While we’re on the subject of money . . . and charitable donations . . . may I encourage you to keep giving to your favorite charities despite the downturn. I’m especially concerned for our local churches, many of which are reporting major budget shortfalls (and cutbacks!) It’s during tough times like these that we need our churches strong and vibrant to respond to community needs. Please, please maintain (increase?) your church giving as a testimony of confidence in God’s sovereignty and provision. Let’s be counter-revolutionaries and ‘buck the trend’ of pessimism and scarcity that dominate the headlines. Salem-Keizer’s churches are making a major impact for the Kingdom, and now is *not* the time to shrink the outreach. Jennifer and I are practicing what we preach and it’s a great (if scary) feeling!

CaN CENTERS UPDATE—NEW SITE. “CaN” stands for “Churches-as-Neighborhood” Centers and the idea is catching on. With the addition of *West Salem Foursquare* and its powerful ‘Dream Center’ format, there are now 13 churches who have partnered with SLF to deliver consistent services to their neighbors. All CaN churches were doing good works before joining the program; they’ll all continue to serve their neighborhoods long after the SLF support ends. We simply have the privilege of working with sites for three years to help start programs and expand site capacity. We’re currently co-funding four sites: *West Salem Foursquare, Our Savior’s Lutheran, Emmaus Community Church* (at Leslie) and *Christian Center of Salem*. West Salem’s outreach includes a Saturday-morning Kids Club, monthly events and supports for at-risk families in the Edgewater District, and a twice-monthly Free Medical Clinic. We’re especially excited about the medical-clinic model, which is inspiring one (and possibly a second) replication in other sections of town. A key partner in the CaN Centers Program is the *Marion County Children and Families Commission*.

‘RAISING A COMMUNITY’—THE STORY CONTINUES. We hope you enjoyed the six-month series in the *Statesman Journal* that chronicled our community’s pain (and the mighty efforts to respond). Never has a community newspaper made such a major commitment to covering an issue so deep and so wide. SLF was proud to be part of the core team that helped shape the series. Attached are the two op-ed articles that SLF submitted, which appeared on the Opinion Page of the paper. We are always open to feedback and critique.

‘READING FOR ALL TAKES COUNTY BY STORM. Perhaps you’ve seen the red tubs at meetings and meeting places. Perhaps you’ve heard a presentation by one of the many volunteers. It’s not a ‘new’ program. Rather, it’s a unifying rally-cry to lift all reading programs and the awareness of literacy. Reading to tots. Reading in school. Reading at home. Adults learning to read. Reading in English and Spanish. Reading Buddies. SMART. HEART. RIFF. Dr. Seuss Read-a-thons. All this and more are cheered under the ‘Reading For All’ banner. Are you a reading volunteer? Does your church host reading programs or send folks to the nearest school? Can your business or Neighborhood Association get on board? Contact Cathy Crocker at 503-588-7975 (ext. 5) to connect. And make plans to attend *The “Reading For All” Conference at McKay High on Saturday, Feb. 28*. Also known as the “No Child Left Behind” Conference, this school-community partnership event is building bridges galore and serving kids, families and neighborhoods well.