

March 21, 2011

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## Message from Jane B. Short

If you are a new member, welcome! If you are a returning member, welcome back! We are glad to have you as a member of Nu Sigma Nu! We currently have 23 members, and the roster is attached. I am very pleased.

Our chapter has already been at work practicing Alpha Chindness. I used money out of our treasury to send 25, 50, and 60 year pins to those of you who have not yet received them. The list of pin recipients is on page 3.

We are postponing our get-together at Chico Hot Springs, but the Hera Day in Helena took place, and a summary of that is provided by Bobby Spilker on page 2.

I'm sorry it's taken me so long to produce our first newsletter of the year. It's been a very busy winter for me. The snow's been outstanding in Big Sky (currently 110 inches on the summit), so we've been doing a lot of downhill skiing. I've also participated in a women's clinic to improve my classic cross country skiing. We've taken several road trips: we went skiing at Snow Bowl in Missoula, Lookout Pass in ID/MT, Schweitzer in Sand Point, ID, and Silver Mountain in Kellogg, ID. We spent two nights at the Snow Lodge at Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park and had a backcountry cross country skiing adventure there that wore us out. I've also enjoyed getting to know Helen Hales Elliott's daughter, Lura Turner, and her husband Steve, who have a place in Big Sky. They're from Memphis and they are fantastic skiers!

It's hard to believe, but we are already leaving Montana for the season on Friday, March 25. We have a fun trip planned for driving back. Along the way we will ski at Grand Targhee, Jackson Hole, Snow Basin, Park City, and Deer Valley; we will visit Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, and Arches National Parks in southern Utah; then we will drive through Colorado and ski at Vail, Beaver Creek, and Loveland Pass. We plan to see a Major League Baseball game in Kansas City or St. Louis. If I wasn't already exhausted, I sure will be by the time we roll into our Nashville driveway on April 6! I'm looking forward to skiing at a few new places and a few old favorite places. I've loved being out here this winter, but I'm ready for some warmer weather and some new activities. (It's going to be 80 degrees in Nashville today. That's a little TOO warm for this time of year!)

Please think of me on April 30 and wish me luck – I will attempt to run the Country Music Half Marathon again – my sixth in a row. I've had some struggles getting ready for this one: I've had to overcome plantar fasciitis. Come to think of it, wish me luck on April 1 too. On that day I turn 50 years old! I'm not too happy about this milestone, but I'm blessed with good health and happiness. Life is good!

Let's get ready for a great year! I will be in touch with you about our next Alpha Chindness activity. Please drop me a line and let me know what's going on in your life this spring. Happy Easter!

## Member News

- From **Bobby Spilker** of Helena: "We had a Hera Day gathering here at my home on March 1<sup>st</sup>. As far as we know there are seven AX's in Helena and five of us had wine and cheese at 5 p.m. Three of us (Carol Flasnick, Sally Bush and I) are from the Univ. of Nebraska. Two are from the Univ. of Washington (Carol Bondy and Karen Raphael). Leslee Haylett is from the Univ. of Idaho and Billie Shepard is from the Univ. of Oklahoma. Billie and Carol Flasnick were not able to attend as they were visiting children but they did meet with us last fall for lunch at a local deli. My husband was in the other room and commented later that he didn't know that a small group of 'mature' women could laugh so much. And laugh we did. We are a very diverse group but we had common things to talk about - like sleeping in cold dorms. It was even discovered that Karen had dated Carol Bondy's brother-in-law. Indeed, it's a small world."
- **Edna "Eddie" Currier Bennett** of Big Arm was in Arizona December thru February. Because she was ill for most of February, they came back to Montana a month early. We hope you are feeling much better now, Eddie!
- **Kristin Piatkowski** of Billings is still working at her current job at WIC in Billings but has some exciting news: she started back to grad school this spring at MSU-Billings to get a Master's in Education. Good luck, Kristin!
- Congratulations to **Bonnie Smith Rigg** of Kalispell and Miami Beach and her husband Matt on their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 23. To celebrate they went to New York City Dec. 19-24 and had a fantastic time. Gina Perrone and Grace Dennis who were sorority sisters in Gamma Omega at University of Miami and who were maid of honor and bridesmaid, respectively, in their wedding came up by train from DE and MD for a day to help celebrate. They had a great lunch with lots of laughs, walked through the stores on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, then went to Rockefeller Center to see the ice skaters and the Christmas tree. Then they flew to Nova Scotia for Christmas with Matt's brother and sister and their families.
- **Anne Freeman Ball** of Billings welcomed her son, Maxwell Thomas, on November 9, 2010 and is enjoying life with a baby.
- I have an update on **Phyllis Seeley Burroughs** of Bigfork, a member from a few years back. You will recall in the past I included several of Phyllis's witty poems in our newsletter. Phyllis was diagnosed in late 2009 with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), a type of Parkinson's. There is no proven treatment for her at this point. Phyllis is in a wheel chair and requires much assistance to move about. Her husband, Tom, is a great help. But her daughter Vicki and her family have moved in to help care for Phyllis. So now they get to spend a lot of time with 16-year-old granddaughter Kristen. However, there is a joy to report: Phyllis has had her children's book "The Case of the Enchanted Castle" published. The book is available on Amazon.com and has had a good response. She was thrilled and delighted after all her years of hard work compiling the book. Congratulations, Phyllis! This is Phyllis and Tom's 20<sup>th</sup> year in Montana since moving from Idaho Falls in 1990.

## Recipe: Puppy Chow

From **Anne Freeman Ball**, Billings, MT

½ c. margarine or butter

1 c. chocolate chips

½ c. peanut butter

6-1/2 c. Rice Chex

1-1/2 c. powdered sugar

Melt margarine, chocolate chips and peanut butter together. Pour over Rice Chex in a paper bag. Mix with powdered sugar by shaking the bag. Enjoy!

## Congratulations to our Pin Recipients!

### **25 Year Pins**

Sally Bush – 1974

Karen Rogers Raphael-Conley – 1963

Leslee Purdy Haylett – 1978

Sara Lauer Sheldon – 1967

Mona Lissa Sumner – 1962

Monika Otto Winderl – 1986

### **50 year Pin**

Marilyn Blanche Hertz – 1953

### **60 Year Pins**

Dorothy Larson Bell – 1944

Eddie Currier Bennett – 1950

Helen Hales Elliott – 1946

Rosemarie Jager Iverson – 1950

Barbara Dontigny Shook – 1951

Jane Ann Maguire Swan – 1938 (she was our Alpha Chindness “Make Her Year” recipient in 2010)

Norma “Pat” Patrick Warfield – 1945

Note: in 2 years, Jane Ann Maguire Swan will be eligible for her 75 year pin!!!

## Birthdays!

<b>Sally Bush</b>	February 3
<b>Stephanie Stephens Hockman</b>	February 17
<b>Allison "Allie" Tregger Hofman</b>	February 23
<b>Noelle Clark Kent</b>	March 30
<b>Jane Bonnell Short</b>	April 1
<b>Leslee Purdy Haylett</b>	April 13
<b>Megan Clancy Loveridge</b>	April 20
<b>Karin Mikkelsen Utzinger</b>	April 22
<b>Helen Hales Elliott</b>	April 23

## Events

<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	January 17
<b>MacDowell Month</b>	February
<b>Valentine's Day</b>	February 14
<b>President's Day</b>	February 21
<b>Hera Day</b>	March 1
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	March 9
<b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>	March 13
<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	March 17
<b>First Day of Spring</b>	March 20
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	April 17
<b>Passover</b>	April 19
<b>Good Friday, Earth Day</b>	April 22
<b>Easter</b>	April 24

### MARCH 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### APRIL 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30