

May 8, 2012

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Message from Jane B. Short

I hope you are having a nice spring! Spring in Big Sky began around the middle of March; it started to get unseasonably warm, and even with all the snow on the ground, the pollen came out and gave me an allergy cold. By the time we arrived in Tennessee, forget about spring, it was just plain summer, and the pollen has been nonstop. I am STILL trying to get rid of my allergy cough! My allergist is aptly named: Dr. Fortune (really!).

We had a fun time driving back to TN. We stopped to ski at Grand Targhee and Beaver Creek (which was new to me); it was actually pretty good spring skiing if you were willing to wait until lunchtime to go out and had a bathing suit to ski in. We enjoyed some time at Jackson, WY, and we stopped in Salt Lake City to pick up Brock's mother. She was able to celebrate his birthday with him, and she was able to experience Moab with us. We celebrated my birthday in Beaver Creek.

Since arriving in TN, I have been busy doing yoga, biking, sailing, and run/walking. I visited my parents, who live in Florida, at the end of April. They're hanging in there, but I have a lot of worries about them. Brock's mother has also had some health issues lately. We will make another trip to Florida later this month for some beach time. We are driving back to Montana in mid-June, and I'm looking forward to that! So that's what's new with me, what about you? Let me know what's going on in your life.

Welcome to renewing member **Dorothy Larson Bell** of Glasgow, and new member **Maryanna Wuttke Kurtz** of Havre – we're so glad to have you both! Our total membership is now 20!

Please see page 2 for some exciting plans I'm making for us to have a reunion in Glacier National Park. I hope you'll join us! Also on page 2 is a discussion about our Alpha Chindness project for this year – I hope you will participate! Also on page 2 is a note that I will be attending the Alpha Chi Omega National Convention in July in St. Louis. This will be the 7th convention I've attended. I'm looking forward to seeing some of the women I've met in past years, as well as making some new friends. Join me!

I am sorry to report that we have lost our dear friend Jane Ann Maguire Swan, who was probably the oldest living Alpha Chi Omega in the State of Montana. She was 92 years old. Please see more about that, and news from other members, on page 3.

Happy Mother's Day!

Loyally,

Jane Bonnell Short

Glacier Park Reunion!

Mark your calendars; we are having a reunion at Glacier National Park, and you and your family are invited. Here's what we have planned so far:

Aug. 7 – Arrive in Kalispell; not sure where we're staying yet. Available for dinner.

Aug. 8 – Stay at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish (which is one of the official lodges of Glacier); golf.

Aug. 9 – Stay at the Grouse Mountain Lodge, golf, and hike on west side of park.

Aug. 10 – Stay at St. Mary Lodge, drive on Going-to-the-Sun Highway, hike at Siyeh Pass along the way.

Aug. 11 – Stay at St. Mary Lodge, drive to Waterton for a meal at the Prince of Wales Hotel and a hike in this area.

There are other accommodations available in Whitefish and St. Mary, and at St. Mary there is a pet-friendly hotel.

Please let me know ASAP if you are interested in participating and, if so, which days. We will have as many meals together as possible and can modify the plans if someone has an extraordinary idea. If you wish to stay in the park's accommodations, you should make your reservations as soon as possible, as things are filling up fast. The number I called to make reservations is: 406-892-2525.

Bonnie and Matt Rigg live in Kalispell, so they will help us come up with some interesting activities and places to eat in that area.

Alpha Chindness Project

I believe in performing one random act of kindness per day, do you? If so, I have an idea for today's random act of kindness (or "chindness")!

Let's help Amy Woodell of the University of South Carolina, by supporting her charity "Clothed In Hope." This organization provides hope and helps alleviate poverty among Zambian women through vocational training in sewing. If you would like more details on this, please refer to our last newsletter. If you would like to participate in our Alpha Chindness project, please send me a check of any amount you feel is appropriate, and then I will send a check to the charity on behalf of our chapter. Thank you so much! Your participation in this is optional but would be much appreciated.

If you have any other suggestions for something nice we can do for another Alpha Chi Omega as an Alpha Chindness project, please let me know.

Past recipients of our Alpha Chindness projects have included Phyllis Burroughs (illness), Jane Ann Maguire Swan (illness), and Anne Freeman Ball (new baby). We even awarded 25, 50, and 60 year pins to our own members.

Alpha Chi Omega National Convention

As of June 1, I am the new Province Alumnae Chairman for Kentucky and Tennessee. As a requirement of my new position, I will be attending our National Convention in St. Louis July 13-16. I will report to you on what happens when I return. Let me know if you need any information or if you need me to pick up anything Alpha Chi-related for you. Let me know if you are planning to attend – I'd love for you to "Meet Me in St. Louis!"

Member News

- “Dear Jane, I have been more than remiss in not timely notifying you of the death of my mother **Jane Ann (Maguire) Swan**. She died the end of September last year in the house she was born in 92 years before. She always smiled in remembering your kindnesses and those of the Montana Alpha Chi’s. Enclosed is a check in her memory. Thank you for keeping alive her memories of AXO, **Scott Swan**.” Scott sent us a check for \$27, which I sent to the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation in Ann Swan’s memory. Ann was one of our Alpha Chindness recipients in 2011. Many thanks to those of you who helped to make Ann’s final memories of Alpha Chi Omega happy ones.

A Christmas Letter from the **Kent** Family:

We hope this letter finds you in great health and enjoying a wonderful holiday season. Our family has had another amazing year with huge growth by both children.

Allen continued from last year working from home. We enjoyed having him around but his enthusiasm for the work declined. In August he began a new job for PPL Montana as a Senior Compliance Professional. When it comes to computers, your guess is as good as mine if you want to figure out what he does. The work has slowed down but he is finding some calm in working for a local company. He is back to working downtown, which I think he likes better; less time that I bother him on a daily basis.

Noelle started the year by starting her own business with Tupperware. It has been fun and much more exciting than she ever thought. Adding on providing a wee little baby childcare to the daily grind, to help supplement the kids’ activities; making her very busy keeping up with everyone’s schedule.

Max finished off the 4th grade with remarkable grades and continues to excel. His capacity to read is astounding. Max has started the 5th grade and has shown excitement for the new and marvelous things he has the opportunity to learn. Still achieving high grades. He turned 11 in November and just before his birthday he was invited to test for his high brown belt in Taekwondo. He had amazing focus and determination and received his last belt leading to his black belt. He now struts a brown belt with a black stripe. His instructors have the most amazing and wonderful things to say about him and he has begun helping teach the beginning junior classes. Max is truly incredible in all he does.

Frannie is growing by leaps and bounds! She is a sponge for information and now tells me where to turn and go while driving; I am not sure this is something I will enjoy as she grows. She turned 3 in July and wants to go swimming all the time. As she began to potty train her motivation came from dancing; Frannie is now in a dancing class learning ballet steps and tap. Her BFF (best friend forever), Zoey, and she are thrilled to be dancing together. She also started preschool and loves it. Frannie attends preschool at our church so she knows her way around and is very decisive about knowing and doing it all herself.

Merry Christmas and may you be truly blessed in the New Year!

Allen, Noelle, Max, & Frannie Kent

Note: please see their photo on the next page. Noelle has not yet renewed her dues, but I miss her so much and hope she still will. Her letter was so beautiful that I had to include it. Last year I waited too late to include her letter, so I had to make it up to her this year by including her first.

Birthdays!

- Kristin Piatkowski May 15
- Kristin Hagwell Stayner June 27

Events

- Mother's Day May 13
- Memorial Day May 28
- Father's Day June 17
- First Day of Summer June 20
- AXO Convention in St. Louis July 13-16
- Glacier Park Reunion Aug. 8-11

MAY 2012

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