



Bits & Pieces

THURSTON COUNTY SCHOOL RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
www.thurstoncountysra.org



DECEMBER 2011



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Good heavens! It's nearly Christmas! Where has the year gone? It seems as though this year began only yesterday. A brisk walk outside soon alerts us to the fact that winter is almost here. The bright sunny days and cooling raindrops sometimes shock us. From inside it looks warm, but when you step outside, the wind and the whirling leaves announce that even colder days are just ahead.

We are so pleased with our mini-grant program. Isn't it great that we were able to fund twenty awards this year? [See page 3.] It will be a joy to hear about how the funds were used when the recipients attend our April 2012 meeting. Thank you, **Joanne Borden**, **Jo Edwards**, and **Liz Eaton**, for the work you've done again so far this year on the mini-grant committee.

Have you visited our WSSRA office lately? It seems a bit strange to see the changes there. We all miss having **Karen Keller** at her desk dealing with membership questions. Happy retirement to you, Karen! Our new membership coordinator is **Michele Hunter**, our former office assistant. Thank you, Michele, for taking on this task.

Tara Teitzel, our new office assistant, is there to greet us with her great smile and to send us to the correct person. Welcome aboard, Tara! Hope you don't develop "telephone ear."

Michelle Guerin and **Debbie Burgess** are staying on as office manager and accountant. We really appreciate you. You have both helped us many times. It is nice to know that business will go on and run smoothly. Many rah-rahs for all of you!

WSSRA and TCSRA continue to be strong groups. This strength is due to the commitment each member has made to our organizations. Together we are able to do so much. Let's keep on being united, a group of people to be heard as we support each other and our causes, a force to be recognized!

Helena Wilson, Your Unit President

HOLIDAY PROGRAM: MUSIC AND BOOKS

At our December luncheon we'll welcome back the **North Thurston High School Choir** for another wonderful program. Formed in 1978 and now under their new director, **Rachel Landowski**, this choir has grown into an active and highly regarded vocal ensemble.



Landowski

Rachel holds a Bachelor of Music Education with an emphasis in choral music from Washington State University and is currently studying for her master's degree. She directs three choirs at North Thurston High School and the seventh and eighth grade choirs at Chinook Middle School. She's excited to continue the standard of choral excellence at her schools this year and is committed to promoting music education as a vehicle for student growth and enrichment.



Laclergue

Jane Laclergue from **The Fireside Bookstore** will also join us with her recommendations for good reads. That she would one day own a bookstore was in the cards early in Laclergue's life. The North Carolina hospital where she was born later became the county library. Her nose often in a book, her high school superlative was not "Most Popular" but rather "Most Studious." In 1975 Laclergue moved to Olympia and to the true bliss of being a staff member at The Fireside Bookstore. She became the owner in 1995 and is proud of her store's reputation for customer service with special orders, gift wrapping, and package mailing.

Ronald Crawford, Program



Friday, December 9, 2011

LUNCHEON MEETING
PANORAMA RESTAURANT

Punchbowl at 11:30 AM
Luncheon at 12 noon

Menu: Green salad with garlic bread
Lasagna and broccoli

Dessert: Chocolate mousse

(\$13 includes tax and gratuity)