

WINTER LUNCHEON

A very interesting program is planned for our next luncheon, scheduled for Tuesday, February 13. Our speaker, Kathryn Marxen-Simonson, representing Guide Dogs for the Blind, will talk about her involvement with the GDB, both as her time as a puppy raiser and and her own personal story with her service dog, a black lab named Nabisco. Nabisco will join Kathryn for the presentation. Kathy Loder will follow with a presentation on the Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams, a program partnering DoveLewis Emergency Animal Hospital with GDB to bring animal-assisted therapy to the community.



*Kathryn Marxen
Simonson with Nabisco*

The winter luncheon will be held at the Portland Golf Club, 5900 SW Scholls Ferry Road, Portland. The event will begin at 11:30 am. You have already received an emailed “save the date” notice; menus, details and RSVP forms will be sent in a few weeks. We hope you will join us for the luncheon to meet old and new friends and to enjoy this interesting presentation.

70 YEARS OF SERVICE

SMA members, spouses and guests celebrated our groups 70th year of service to OHSU’s School of Medicine and the community at a special dinner on November 9 at the Town Club.

The evening began with champagne as guests mingled. After the dinner, Kay Dawson narrated a slide show history of the group followed by asking members to share special memories of the SMA friends and events over the years. There were touching as well as humorous memories shared during the evening.



Special dessert served for our 70th Anniversary Dinner

SMA members look forward to many more years of service to the School of Medicine and OHSU.

SOM DEAN ADDRESSES LUNCHEON

Sharon Anderson, M.D., appointed Dean of the School of Medicine this past July was the speaker at SMA’s fall luncheon. Dr. Anderson’s talk was titled, “At the Heart of Healing: How Practicing Medicine is First About Service” and detailed her views on service and how it relates to physician wellness. During her remarks, she noted her affinity for a service-oriented organization such as SMA.

We were privileged to have Dr. Anderson as our guest at our October meeting.



*Dr. Sharon Anderson, Dean, School
of Medicine, OHSU*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A major part of the US is experiencing record low temperatures. Here in Oregon we have already had snow and ice and exceedingly chilly NE winds. The news speaks of the many homeless. In this context I was pondering on the word “blanket” and its importance as an item of warmth and protection, since it relates directly to SMA’s oldest and dearest service project. The modern definition is “a large oblong piece of woolen cloth used as a bed covering” and is derived from “blanc” (white) which first appeared in France in the 14th century. “Blanc” denoted undyed woolen cloth, (undoubtedly prickly and rough), so unlike the soft cuddly articles in our layettes. And when used as an adjective, for example, a ‘blanket policy’, blanket means affecting every member of the group. I do hope that all SMA members agree we continue on the path to accomplishing our community mission.

Pam Berg

Interest Groups. The Interest Groups are very popular among SMA members. They provide a way for members with similar interests to gather, socialize and maybe even learn something new. Threads, Garden Group, Movie Group and both morning and evening Book Groups remain active. But a few groups have recently gone “dormant”, just waiting for someone to step up and be willing to organize or host a meeting or two. Our Bridge, Gourmet and BLT, and Walking groups are ready to start back up with a willing chair. Board members and others are willing to offer support, tips and even lists of former destinations if you are willing to take the lead. Contact any board member if you want to discuss this further.

INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES and COMING EVENTS

*Interest Group contacts can be found in your Member Directory. Contact them for details on the groups’ activities, meeting locations, etc.

January

1	Movie Group
2	AM Book Group, <i>The Song of the Lark</i> , 10 am
9	Monthly Board Meeting, Trunk-key Library, noon
10	Threads Group, 9:30 am
11	PM Book Group, Party, 7 pm
22	B3 Packing, Room 2226, CDRC, 9:30 am

February

5	Movie Group
6	AM Book Group, <i>The Noise of Time</i> , 10 am
8	PM Book Group, <i>The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama</i> , 7 pm
13	Winter Luncheon, Portland Golf Club, 11:30 am
14	Threads Group, 9:30 am

March

5	Movie Group
6	AM Book Group, <i>The Nice and the Good</i> , 10 am
8	PM Book Group, <i>Buried Giant</i> , 7 pm
13	Monthly Board Meeting, Trunk-key Library, noon
14	Threads Group, 9:30 am
26	B3 Packing, Room 2226, CDRC, 9:30 am

2017-18 SMA Officers

President: Pamela Berg
Vice President: Mary Carr
Treasurer: Leslie Robinson
Secretary: Marjorie Grafe

SMA newsletters are published quarterly and sent via email to our membership. More photos and other information is available on the website. Click “Members Only” tab, the password is “smamember”.

www.sma-ohsu.org

Send articles, photos or calendar events to:
smaohsu@gmail.com

In an effort to help our members get to know each other a little better, we are offering some short profiles of SMA members.

*Our thanks to **Pam Anderson** for conducting interviews, writing the profiles and supplying photos.*

If you would like to join Pam in providing these popular profiles, please contact her for more information.



Diane Lowensohn member since 1986

It was August 1986 when Diane Lowensohn and her husband Dick moved to Portland from the San Francisco Bay area. Dick began work as a Perinatologist at OHSU and shortly thereafter Diane became a member of our group. Nancy Cutler was one of the first members Diane remembers meeting and talking with about the organization.

Now, thirty-one years later, Diane looks at her SMA involvement with a true sense of happiness. She enjoyed being on the Board and was involved with various committees between 1996-2005. She loves her time now spent with the Evening Book Group, Threads, Movie Group, B3 and the Garden Group.

Both Diane and Dick are Los Angeles natives. She moved to Portland at age 12 and attended Alameda Grade School. Her family then moved to Seattle. Diane recalls staring out the windows during class and watching the World's Fair and Space Needle being built. It was then back to LA where she graduated from Pepperdine College in 1969 with a degree in Sociology.

Diane met Dick at her first job as an editorial/administrative assistant at the USC School of Medicine and Dick was a resident and later fellow in Ob/Gyn. They married at the end of his fellowship and after three years on faculty, they moved to Chicago where Dick worked in the Ob/Gyn department at the University of Chicago and Lying-In Hospital for five years. They returned to California where Dick was in private practice at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley for three years. But Dick missed academics and they decided overall quality of life outweighed weather and that paved the way for their move to Portland and OHSU.

They settled right in by purchasing a home in Dunthorpe on an acre of land. It was here that Diane pursued her "green thumb" and became an enthusiastic gardener.

Diane was a stay at home mom, raising daughter Erin (from her first marriage) and Dick and Diane's sons, Dave and Josh. When the children were young, Diane involved herself as a school volunteer from 1970 - 2000. The highlight of those years was serving on the Riverdale School Board in the 1990s. She has been active with Congregation Beth Israel Sisterhood, a member of the Urban Tour Group for almost thirty years and has enjoyed Art Council Board work at the Portland Art Museum.

In 2010 Diane and Dick moved into a downtown condominium at The Eliot Tower, while still keeping their home in Dunthorpe. The Eliot is a real "vertical village" that keeps them busy with community life. Diane has served on the Welcoming and Social Committee and they both enjoy educational and social events in their "village".

On her 50th birthday, Diane went to Turkey with a Rick Steves group; her 60th was spent in Venice. Diane and Dick celebrated her 70th with a cruise to Croatia. Japan is now on the wish list. Diane says "My favorite trip is always the next one. I love the planning as much as the experiencing." Most of their travel days now are back and forth to the Bay area to visit their son and family and down Hwy 101 to Bandon to visit her sister and family.

Her favorite indoor activities are reading and knitting for B3 and Beth Israel projects. Her favorite outdoor activity is gardening. Diane says, "The love of gardening is still a huge part of my life. Our property in Dunthorpe continues to keep me involved in the flora and fauna - ask me about my love/hate relationship with Bald Eagles!"

"But nothing beats being with grandchildren. We went from having one granddaughter for 24 years to now having four granddaughters with one more on the way. Paradise!" sighs Diane.

Paradise is also having Diane part of the SMA. Her engaging warmth and enthusiasm bring friendship and joy to all of our encounters.