

13 February 1992

Dear Ruth (Gus) and Sisters in Chapter BL:

As I reflect on this past year in the life of Chapter BL, I believe we have been working toward your theme, "As we give, we come full circle". Our members have given freely of their time and talents and we have accomplished much. I thank you, Chapter BL, for your love and support this past year. We were able to give of ourselves.

We identified a real opportunity to participate in "Help" when we agreed to assist Curt Kussow, son of one of our members, Zo Kussow. In August of 1989, at the age of 38, Curt contracted viral encephalitis, an inflammation of the central nervous system, which left him initially comatose and permanently paralyzed. At the meeting at Jean Rennebohm's in July when we were told of Curt's problems, Chapter BL decided to allocate \$1000 to help, of which \$500 has already been paid. We then submitted an application to our H.E.L.P. Fund and received the full amount of \$1700 for kitchen remodeling to provide therapy both mentally and physically for Curt. We have been able to "radiate all light possible" in our helping the Curt Kussow family.

It was a singular highlight for us to watch our own Kathy Barker preside over the State Convention in Madison. Many of our members were there to show our support for her at some time during the convention. We had four tables of our members and their BILs for the dinner. Thank you, Kathy, for a job well done. You made us all very proud of you.

Our theme this year we have called "A Celebration in Heart and Spirit". We have been able to celebrate with one of the IPS students who is at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Mabel Enwemwa, who visited our chapter and told us about her African roots. We have celebrated Christmas with Chapter V allowing us to mingle with new sisters. We will also be celebrating our 40th anniversary in May with our historian, Zo Kussow.

We have been able to celebrate again because our members have given of their time and talents. We give thanks to Connie and Forrest Todd for allowing us to have our 3rd garage sale at their home. The sale gave us \$1435 to work with, and within the next week our Ways and Means committee went to work and put on the opening dinner to kick off our new year which netted us \$163. Thus in September, Chapter BL earned \$1598 with which to start off our year. This has allowed us to give \$750 towards our projects.

Chapter BL has celebrated by receiving two demits into our chapter. Susan Denholm came to us from Chapter I, New Hampshire and Judy Nicolet from DK, Sheboygan. They are exciting women to have with us. We have 55 resident members and 8 non-resident members

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We were able to celebrate with our oldest member, Edna Rieman, when 22 members honored her on her 96th birthday at Blackhawk Country Club in December.

We are all looking forward to the viewing of the video that Sandra Balfour and University of Wisconsin IPS students made last fall which is available to all chapters. We will be seeing this video at our March meeting. Thank you Sandy, for taking an active part in the lives of our foreign students and making them feel so welcome in Madison.

The membership committee under the leadership of Carol Wilson, Connie Todd, and Martha Reynolds keeps us all informed of chapter activities through the Newsletter and organizes the "Drop-In-Luncheon" on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, where we celebrate members' birthdays occurring during that month.

It is my wish that we all truly get to know each other as sisters should, so I hope to be able to plan to have more social events for Chapter BL. We will be organizing more day trips and perhaps some social events with our Sisters and their BILs. We have done this several times and have all enjoyed the events.

And now in closing, I would like to end with a Jewish quotation: "One who learns from another, a chapter, a law, a verse, an expression, or even a single letter, must treat that person with honor and call him or her "my teacher"".

Thank you all, my teachers, in Chapter BL for a wonderful year.

Lovingly in P.E.O.

Ann N. Nelson, President

ANN:blm