



President's Message



Ever since that day in the late 1960s when I first went “where no man has gone before” I have been a *Star Trek* fan. The possibility of exploration and adventure among the stars was very alluring. I remember in particular an episode called *Shore Leave*, the story of which centered around a planet that was an amusement park for star travelers where any fantasy could be experienced. When the crew of the Enterprise learns the nature of this planet some of them express surprise that the advanced civilization that built such a planet should need to play and Captain Kirk explains to his crew mates that play is important for maintaining a healthy mind. This concept resonated with me then and continues to do so today.

I am often caught up in the more “serious” aspects of our hobby -- preservation, conservation, research and the need for development of new educational material pertaining to dolls. In the past few years I have also necessarily become immersed in the financial spreadsheets, insurance policies, organizational statistics, building maintenance, long range planning, and so forth that are a part of my daily work as a UFDC officer. All of these are worthy activities and deserving of time and attention but they have made me even more aware of the importance of the play aspect of our hobby.

Medical science and the press have in recent years released numerous studies and articles about the continuing need for purely fun recreation of all sorts to relieve stress, build up our problem solving and creative abilities, strengthen us against disease, and generally make us happier, better balanced people at all stages of life. None of this comes as a surprise to doll collectors. We have all experienced the benefit of playing with our doll collections. (Although we may refer to it as “changing our displays” so as not to prompt our family members into attempting to relieve us of our car keys!)

Play is so much more fun when the experience is shared with a friend. Spending time with our friends at doll club meetings, study groups, workshops, and luncheons is a great way to unwind and recharge. Most of us know someone who could benefit from the power of play. I encourage each of you to reach out to a friend and let them know about this important benefit of joining a doll club. If you do, you will be strengthening your club, supporting your hobby and developing a new playmate with whom you can share the joy of doll collecting.

Play on!

Linda Edward
UFDC President