



President's Message

Thoughts from the Doll Room

Kindred spirits are not so scarce as I used to think. It's splendid to find out there are so many of them in the world.

L.M. Montgomery, from *Anne of Green Gables*

The inspiration for this year's convention was based on the quote above from Lucy Maud Montgomery's classic novel, *Anne of Green Gables*. Like many of you, this book was a childhood favorite of mine. I admired Anne's plucky determination and unquenchable optimism. Her search for finding a true "kindred spirit" was one of the central themes of the book.

The *Oxford Dictionary* defines a kindred spirit as a person whose interests or attitudes are similar to one's own. As doll collectors we belong to a unique group of individuals who share the same interests. It brings to mind my own memory of the first time I attended convention. I remember arriving on my own and knowing no one. Yet I immediately had a sense of belonging. I recognized among the thousand or so people in attendance that I was with a group of individuals who were just like me. They were, truly, my "kindred spirits."

Every year approximately ten percent of our membership travels to convention. It is my sincere hope that every member of UFDC has the opportunity to attend at least one of our annual conventions. It is an experience that will never be forgotten. Walking into the salesroom for the first time is an exhilarating assault to the senses. There are exhibits to see, programs to attend, meals events to participate in, dialogues, seminars, and workshops led by experts in the doll world and the list goes on. Our Convention Coordinator, Barbara Stone, gives you a glimpse as to what is being planned for the 2016 convention in this issue so please take a moment to see the doll collector delights that are being offered in Washington, D.C.

This issue also marks the return of Cynthia Musser as *DOLL NEWS* Editor. Cynthia brings with her a wealth of publishing experience, and with her own high standards of excellence, I know every issue will be one to study, read, reread, and cherish! Thank you Cynthia for taking on this challenging job and welcome back to the editor's position.

Getting back to my own first convention story I must share with you how it ended. As I mentioned I arrived on my own. I remember anxiously lining up for a meal event feeling a little like a fish out of water while all the other people chatted with their friends. Suddenly two ladies, who were standing in front of me in the line, noticed I was alone. "Do you want to sit with us?" they kindly asked and from that moment on they took me under their wing and made me feel like we had been friends forever. I have never forgotten that, but I have learned over the years that this is the kind of people "doll" people are. We are in many ways like a family. We celebrate when a friend finds that special doll and we sympathize when that one doll gets away. We enjoy being together at doll club, doll shows, doll luncheons, regional conferences, and our annual convention. We travel miles to attend anything "doll" related and wouldn't dream of missing a club meeting or reading an issue of *DOLL NEWS*. Many of us save our pennies all year so we can go to a convention. We love to share, to learn, to teach, and work together to preserve our hobby and its future. And we have been doing this for sixty-six glorious years!

This takes me back to Lucy Maud Montgomery who wrote in her novel *Anne of the Island* that: "Kindred spirits alone do not change with the changing years." This is in some ways a metaphor for UFDC. While the organization does change in that it continues to grow and adapt to the times it finds itself in, the heart of the organization or its "spirit" remains what it has always been -- a collective of individuals who believe in the goals of the organization to educate, preserve and conserve but who also share in the sheer joy of doll collecting with other kindred doll enthusiasts.



Till the next time,
Your President,

Janet