

OUR SISTERHOOD'S JOURNEY THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

This program, under the name of "P.E.O. KALEIDOSCOPE", was presented by Chapter AT, GA at the Founders' Day luncheon for the Savannah reciprocity on January 16, 1994. Approximately 90 people attended.

The program succeeds on several levels. The information is interesting and varied. Watching the growth of P.E.O. as the stars are added to the map is visually absorbing; and the group singing keeps the audience actively involved.

Finding appropriate hats can be a challenge. For the 5th quarter century (1969-1994) a golfing hat was used to represent the "liberated" woman. For the next quarter century (1994-2019) we used a bicycle helmet to which was attached pipe cleaners holding whiffle balls. Staging the program seems far more complicated than it actually is.

Give this program a try. It is informative and entertaining.

CAST:

6 readers -- the first reader presents the introduction and the 1st quarter century (1869-1894) -- the 6th reader reads the next (or current) quarter century (1994-2019).

2 people to attach gold stars to the map

1 person to release balloons

1 pianist

PROPS:

Large wall-hanging map of the U.S.A. with states outlined as are the east and west boundaries of the contiguous Canadian provinces. Our map was 4'x 6'.

About 60 gold 2" self-adhesive stars were used.

Hats representing each quarter century to be worn by the readers.

Hat boxes

Song sheets.

One balloon for each project and the P.E.O. Foundation with project name written on it.

Lectern.

STAGE INSTRUCTIONS:

The cast is in place before the program begins. Readers form a seated semi-circle at stage left or right behind the lectern, hats in boxes next to chairs.

Map hangs on wall at center stage. One person is seated to either side. Piano and player are seated at opposite side of readers, as is the balloon person.

Readers rise in turn, put on hats and begin reading. Stars are attached to the map as the date of each state organization chapter is read. Group singing follows each reading.

Balloons are released at announcement of organization date of each project.

The cast leads the final song alone or joined by the entire chapter.

HAVE FUN!!!

INTRODUCTION

The year was 1869, and seven young women formed a Sisterhood, which they named P.E.O. -- making it different from the other societies on the Iowa Wesleyan University campus. What created the spark that spread this innovative society across state and national boundaries, from seven members in 1869 the number of sisters in P.E.O. today? How is it that _____ years after its founding women are still helping women to develop and expand with dignity, education and love. What is P.E.O. all about?

Well, from MARY ALLEN we received poise. She stressed the necessity for proper procedure and good order. It was she who said, "P.E.O. is love in action".

HATTIE BRIGGS suggested forming a society when she said, "Let us start an order of our own", as she and Franc Roads sat on the stile in the corner of the campus. She brought to P.E.O. its homemaking tendencies.

ALICE BIRD was the first president of P.E.O. and wrote the pledge. She was a scholar who helped shape the Grand (Supreme/International) Chapter, especially in preparation of resolutions, laws and ceremonies. From Alice Bird, P.E.O. gets its literary bent.

FRANC ROADS was a true intellectual and visionary. She was a forerunner of a new type of womanhood, helping to secure equal rights for women. She retained her intense interest in art, education, and civil advancement and often spoke at P.E.O. conventions. From Franc Roads, P.E.O. gets its vision and progressiveness.

ELLA STEWART was the only one of the seven founders who did not finish college. Although she dropped out when her father died, she never lost touch with her friends or with P.E.O. Her lifetime career, teaching at the Iowa Industrial School, was cut short by illness but from her we get our desire for social service.

SUELA PEARSON was the youngest of the seven and was considered to be the prettiest and the most popular. She was charming and talented, an excellent musician, and adept at dramatics. From Suela, P.E.O. gets its gaiety and social ability.

ALICE VIRGINIA COFFIN suggested a star for the P.E.O. emblem. She was a devoted, imaginative teacher and from her P.E.O. gets its interest in education.

We see now that these were not ordinary teen-agers. They were young women with Christian ideals and concern for higher education. Their imagination, dedication, and creativity sponsored an organization that has fit into the mainstream of American life. Let us see how it spread across the country and across the years.

In order to make a meaningful presentation for you, we have divided the years from 1869 - 2019 into 25-year segments. We shall illustrate the development of P.E.O. along with the development of the American nation and its culture.

*Enter here the number of years from 1869 (when P.E.O. was founded) to current date.

SEGMENT 1869-1894 -- First Quarter Century

1869 was a very good year! Not only was P.E.O. established, the Suez Canal was opened, the National Women's Suffrage Association was formed, and hoop skirts were giving way to bustles.

The Transcontinental Railroad was completed so the trip across the United States took only eight days instead of the three months it had previously taken by horse and covered wagon.

Grand Supreme Chapter was organized October 10, 1883.

1886 saw the Statue of Liberty gracing New York Harbor. A Georgia pharmacist invented Coca Cola, which was thought to help cure women's ailments.

In 1888, our country suffered the worst blizzard in history.

In 1891 the zipper was invented and in 1893 the Frontier was declared closed. Our United States was settled from sea to shining sea.

All during this quarter century, P.E.O. was quietly blossoming into more and more chapters. As soon as the required seven chapters were organized, a Grand Chapter (state chapter) was formed. 1890 saw Nebraska, 1893 Iowa and 1894 Missouri. Our march into the mainstream of America had truly begun.

In 1869 the Prohibition Party was formed and in 1874, the Women's Christian Temperance Union was born. This temperance movement faced an uphill battle, however, since a pint of whiskey cost only ten cents. One of the rallying songs for these organizations was "Little Brown Jug" because the words spell out the bad effects of John Barleycorn as you will see.

(Sing several verses of "Little Brown Jug")

SEGMENT 1894-1919 -- Second Quarter Century

In 1895, bicycles were the nation's newest fad. Daring young lady athletes wore divided skirts with the hems raised several inches above the ground. With the hems weighted with gunshot, a modest woman need expose only a glimpse of the ankle.

Henry Ford invented the "Tin Lizzie" in 1896. Campbell Chicken Noodle Soup appeared in the corner grocery in 1897. Jell-O became the food fad in 1902; and in 1903, the Wright brothers flew their airplane at Kitty Hawk, N. C.

More importantly, Grand Chapters were organized in Colorado, Illinois, and Kansas. Prior to 1919, what we now refer to as State Chapters were called Grand Chapters. One chapter in Colorado was so excited at their organization meeting that they forgot to serve refreshments.

1904 saw a Grand Chapter in Washington. One sister wrote that they had a B.I.L. party almost every week. California also joined the expansion.

In 1909 Oklahoma and in 1911 Oregon had enough chapters to form Grand Chapters. 1907 was also the year of P.E.O.'s first great philanthropy -- the Education Loan Fund. From the first, ELF captured the imagination of the Sisterhood -- probably because it helped worthy young women to become self-sufficient.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment was passed ? Income Tax. The Woolworth Building was opened, the tallest building in the world with 55 stories.

In 1914, North Dakota joined the P.E.O. throng and a nasty war was declared in Europe. In 1916, Margaret Sanger opened the first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, N.Y. and South Dakota organized a Grand Chapter.

In 1917, two events of note took place. Wisconsin organized their Grand Chapter and the United States joined in the European War.

By 1918, 1.4 million women were engaged in wartime work and the American workforce would never be the same again.

1919 saw the passage of the 18th Amendment (prohibition) and the establishment of the Michigan Grand Chapter. 1919 was also the beginning of the isolationist period. A popular song during that time was "And Let The Rest Of The World Go By".

(Sing "Let the Rest of the World Go By")

SEGMENT 1919-1944 ? Third Quarter Century

Having signed the armistice, following the war to end all wars, America celebrated. The country roared through the 20's in spite of prohibition, which began in January 1920. Also in the same year the women's suffrage amendment was ratified and in 1924, Clarence Birdseye introduced frozen foods.

During the decade P.E.O. added eight State Chapters: Wyoming and Montana in 1921; Indiana in 1923; in 1927 Florida, Ohio, and New York; in 1928 Texas; and in 1929 New Mexico.

Although 1927 is best remembered for Lind burg's flight, it was that year at our International Convention that Alice Cottey Stockard offered her women's school in Nevada, Missouri to P.E.O. The offer was accepted and thus began our second project.

The 20's ended with the stock market crash, and the story of the 30's was the Great Depression.

In 1931 the first edition of "Joy of Cooking" was published and the Star Spangled Banner became the official national anthem. In the same year Arizona State Chapter was formed. Further expansion included Arkansas in 1933, District of Columbia and Utah in 1935, and Pennsylvania in 1938.

In 1935 the first chapter in Georgia was organized in Atlanta.

By 1939 Hitler was being heard in Europe and from then through the end of our quarter century the country was absorbed in the Second World War. During this period two more State Chapters were recognized: Massachusetts in 1940 and New Jersey in 1942.

On her Armistice Day radio program in 1938, Kate Smith sang Irving Berlin's great song "God Bless America". Today it is our musical tribute to P.E.O.'s third quarter century.

(Sing "God Bless America")

SEGMENT 1945-1969 -- Fourth Quarter Century

World War II -- its completion with victory in Europe, Germany surrendered, Hitler dead, atom bombs unleashed, and Japan's surrender mark the first years of this quarter century.

Peace settled over the world and the post-war reconstruction began. The United States of America had taken its place as the "World's most powerful nation". Returning veterans completed their college educations, started families in what seemed to be a peaceful time. New vocabulary emerged -- "Iron Curtain", "Cold War", and fighting Communism around the world brought the country back into war in Korea and Vietnam.

During this quarter century, twelve State Chapters and two Canadian Province chapters came into being: Louisiana, Nevada, in 1946, and Virginia in 1949.

The P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Project, like other P.E.O. projects and like P.E.O. itself, did not make its debut as a full scale philanthropic and educational plan, but evolved gradually over a period of years. Its beginning was during the war years (1941-1943), but was established in 1949.

This list will jog your memories: F.D.R., Truman, Atom Bomb, United Nations, Mother Cabrini, Marshall Plan, and G.I. Bill; on TV -- Milton Berle, Arthur Godfrey, and Candid Camera; Dr. Spock and his book, "Common Sense Baby and Child Care"; and the musical, "South Pacific".

The 1950's was a time of tranquility and prosperity. Three Province chapters in Canada were organized: Manitoba, 1951; British Columbia, 1952; and Ontario, 1955. P.E.O. State Chapters organized in the 1950's were Rhode Island, 1953; Georgia, 1955; Kentucky, 1956; Tennessee, 1956; Alabama, Connecticut and Maryland, 1959.

1950's happenings: Betty Crocker Cookbook, "I Love Lucy", "Leave It To Beaver", Ike, Nixon, Salk Polio vaccine, Vietnam, change in Pledge of Allegiance ("one nation, under God, indivisible"), computers, "Back of the Bus", school integration, Dr. Martin Luther King, "West Side Story", "Annie Get Your Gun", Sputnik, Hoola Hoops, Khrushchev, Rockets/missiles, Alaska and Hawaii join USA, Nuclear Family, Barbie Dolls, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, and Arnold Palmer.

1960's was a decade of demonstrations.

The P.E.O. Foundation was established in 1961 -- an effective vehicle through which tax-exempt gifts, bequests, and devices may be received for the educational and charitable projects of the sisterhood.

Alberta Province in Canada was organized in 1963.

P.E.O. State Chapters organized were North Carolina and West Virginia in 1962, New Hampshire, 1963, and Mississippi, 1967.

The decade of the 1960's: Birth control pill; JFK--"...ask what you can do for your country"; Cuba -- Bay of Pigs; Vietnam; dance -- the Twist; first orbital flight -- John Glenn; Supreme Court -- no prayer in schools; "I Have A Dream"-- Martin Luther King; zip codes introduced; assassination of President Kennedy; Beatles; LBJ - Civil Rights Act passed; "Hello Dolly" musical; "Walk in Space"; "Sound of Music"; Medicare Social Security Bill; Anti-Vietnam War protests; race riots; Watts riot; flower children; Martin Luther King murdered; Robert Kennedy killed; hippies; Richard Nixon; man's walk on the moon -- "The Eagle Has Landed"; Woodstock.

1969 completes a century of P.E.O. "Out of the Heart, a Century of P.E.O. 1869-1969" was published showing that from a beginning of our sisterhood with seven founders, P.E.O. Sisterhood grew to nearly 166,000 members in over 4200 chapters at the end of this fourth quarter century.

(Sing "Hello Dolly")

SEGMENT 1969-1994 -- Fifth Quarter Century

The P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education was established in 1973 to provide financial resources for women in the U.S. and Canada with certain educational goals or service in the world community.

Outside the world of P.E.O., some important events were taking place during this quarter century. In 1970, women celebrated fifty years of suffrage. In 1971, Disney World opened with all of the most spectacular entertainment imaginable for young and old alike. In 1973, the U.S. ended its combat role in Vietnam. In 1974, President Nixon resigned.

And then came 1976!!! All America celebrated! It was the 200th birthday of our U.S.A. How glorious!

Then in 1979, State Chapters of Delaware and South Carolina were formed. In 1981, the first shuttle landed in California. In this year the first woman was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1986, our symbol of freedom recognized the world over was 100 years old. The Statue of Liberty, refurbished and ready to be paid homage to by millions of grateful Americans who appreciated what she stood for -- the land of the free and the home of the brave.

In 1987, Quebec became a part of Ontario Province.

During the latter 1980's, natural disasters plagued our nation. Among the most notable were the San Francisco earthquake and hurricane Hugo.

In 1990, the New England states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island banded together to become the New England Province. Also Hawaii and Alaska became subordinate chapters. The Middle East trouble was brewing and in 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait.

1991 found the U.S. deeply involved in Operation Desert Storm.

In 1991, the P.E.O. Scholar Awards was established to provide educational opportunities to women in the U.S. and Canada who are interested in continuing their quest of an advanced degree or to do research.

Then came 1993. The first woman was nominated to be Attorney General and a second woman was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Also, the year 1993 felt the wrath of Mother Nature! Weather patterns were erratic and extremes were experienced throughout this great land. The most devastating was the seemingly endless torrents of rain that caused catastrophic flooding all up and down the mighty Mississippi River causing billions of dollars in damage and lasting several months. Businesses, homes, and towns were destroyed. It was THE worst ever. As a reminder, it seems appropriate for us all to join in singing "Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head", because they really did!

(Sing "The Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head")

SEGMENT 1994-2019 -- Current Quarter Century

And what of the current 25 years leading to our 150th birthday? New, exciting, and sometimes frightening, life changes and challenges are taking place.

For the first time in U. S. history, a foreign group attacked our mainland and life as we knew it will not be the same in this quarter century.

For the second time in U. S. history, a father and son have both held the office of president.

Personal computers are found in almost all homes today, laptop computers allow us to take our computers wherever we go, and electronic mail has the communication means of choice worldwide.

Leaders of the world are wrestling with moral and ethical issues related to health, health research, even the cloning of human beings, and worldwide terrorism.

We wonder what will be in our future between now and 2019. Let's take a fun, fanciful, and sometimes serious look at the future. World powers have come together in a new alliance to try to eradicate terrorism. Their success may be slow and long in coming. In the meantime, trying to learn to live our lives as usual with the threat of terrorism is a terrifying experience.

We can properly wonder if the form of our meetings or conventions will change. Can you imagine that conference calling will be so widely used that all of us will be delegates to the International Convention, sitting in our home media centers and using electronic systems to cast our votes? Perhaps, but it is hard to believe that P.E.O.'s would ever give up a chance to meet and eat.

By the year 2019 there will probably be enough women in space that a number of P.E.O. chapters will have been formed. These will include Space Shuttle chapters and Space Station chapters. The challenges to forming a State Chapter in outer space will be formidable but they will be met and the first Interplanetary Grand Chapter will be organized.

All of this extra-terrestrial activity will spawn a new project. Naturally this project will be known as ALF, which will stand for the Alien Life Fellowship.

Although we can only speculate as to how external changes may affect our future lifestyles, we know that the constancy of our sisterhood will prevail. We meet once a year to reconfirm and re-commit ourselves to that truth. Today, yesterday, and tomorrow this renewal is the ultimate tribute we can pay to our founders.

The words of the last song we will sing together today express some thoughts about the future. We hope you've enjoyed this review of * _____ years of P.E.O. growth and some of the world events that helped to shape it.

*Enter here the number of years from 1869 (when P.E.O. was founded) to current date.

(Sing "What Will the World Be Like Tomorrow")

LITTLE BROWN JUG

My wife and I lived all alone,
In a little log hut we called our own
She loved gin and I loved rum
I tell you we had lots of fun.

Ha! Ha! Ha! You and me
Little brown jug don't I love thee!
Ha! Ha! Ha! You and me,
Little brown jug don't I love thee!

'Tis you who makes my friends and foes
'Tis you who makes me wear old clothes;
Here you are so near my nose,
So tip her up and down she goes.

(refrain)

HELLO DOLLY!

Hello Dolly; Well, Hello Dolly,
It's so nice to have you
Back where you belong.
You're looking swell, Dolly;
We can tell, Dolly,
You're still glowin', you're still crowin',
You're still goin' strong.
We feel the room swayin',
For the band's playin'
One of your old fav'rite songs
From 'way back when. So ...
Take her wrap, fellas, Find her an empty
Lap, fellas,
Dolly'll never go away ...
Dolly'll never go away ...
Dolly'll never go away again.

LET THE REST OF THE WORLD GO BY

With someone like you, a pal good and true,
I'd like to leave it all behind,
And go and find
Some place that's known to God alone,
Just a spot to call our own.
We'll find perfect peace,
Where joys never cease,
Out there beneath a kindly sky,
We'll build a sweet little nest
Somewhere in the west,
And let the rest of the world go by.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America, Land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam.
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.

RAINDROPS KEEP FALLIN' ON MY HEAD

Raindrops keep fallin' on my head,
And just like the guy whose feet are too big
 For his bed, nothin' seems to fit,
Those raindrops are fallin' on my head,
 They keep fallin'.
So I did me some talkin' to the sun
And I said I didn't like the way he got
 Things done. Sleepin' on the job,
Those raindrops are fallin' on my head,
 They keep fallin'.
But there's one thing I know,
The blues they send to meet me won't
 defeat me.
It won't be long till happiness steps up
 to greet me.
Raindrops keep fallin' on my head,
But that doesn't mean my eyes will soon be
 turnin' red.
Cryin's not for me 'cause
I'm never gonna stop the rain by complainin'
Because I'm free -- nothin's worrying me.

WHAT WILL THE WORLD BE LIKE
TOMORROW?

*---Members of Chapter?? ** _____ will sing the verses of this final song.
We invite any members present from other chapters To join in singing the refrain.--*

Tune
ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY
Irby

What will the world be like tomorrow?
Will this land of ours be free?
What will the world be like tomorrow?
Will each man a brother be?
(refrain)

Will the trees grow green and tall?
Will we learn that they belong to all?

* * *

Will the stranger always find a welcome mat
outside our door?
Will we live unafraid of what the future has
In store?
(refrain)

Will the children laugh and play?
Will there be a place to kneel and pray?

* * *

What will the world be like tomorrow?
Try and do whatever you can.
What will the world be like tomorrow?
Make a better world for every man.
(refrain)
Try and do whate'er you can.
Make a better world for every man.

* * *

** Enter here chapter sponsoring the program.

Source: Sigrid Kirk (with the assistance of Dorothy Bailey, Laura Binns, Margie Carlton, and Norma Judkins), Chapter AT, 1994