

Hello TOPS Friends:

Wow! 4th of July! Happy Independence Day! Six months down already. Time does fly when you are having fun, as the saying goes! Thanks to all for greeting me so warmly at your recent SRD's. I had a terrific time! Each and every SRD was fabulous! Great job everyone! We are now gearing up to head to IRD in Milwaukee, WI. We are excited about honoring all those who are celebrating special achievements. A highlight of this IRD will be the unveiling of the Esther S. Manz Memorial Garden at TOPS HQ. Thanks to all who contributed to the garden. It is not too late to add to the growth of this amazing work of art! Let me know if I can assist you in doing so.

I wish you the best of luck as you prepare to welcome your new officers the first meeting in August. Elections are underway. If you choose to help your chapter by holding an office or serving on a committee you are choosing to help yourself as well. Please do not be afraid to grow where you are planted. You will love the experience!

Let's talk about TOPS Retreats!! We are fortunate to have the retreat program available to us. Please plan to attend one soon! You can find out more information about retreats by looking in your TOPS News, checking out the retreat section on the TOPS website (www.TOPS.org) or asking your field staff. One retreat, in particular, I would like to tell you about is the Men's Retreat especially for our male TOPS friends. This will be held September 14-19, 2014 in Aurora, Nebraska. Men, please plan to join us....ladies, if you know of any male TOPS members who would be interested, please let them know about this great opportunity! Information about the the men's retreat and about ALL the great retreats offered may be accessed by downloading information from the TOPS website: www.tops.org or you may send or fax the coupon from TOPS News to US Registrar Hortensia Contreras at TOPS HQ. Her fax is 414-482-3955 and phone is 414-482-4620, ext. 13, email is hcontreras@tops.org. I, myself, will be attending the Lake George, NY retreat in October. Hope to see many of you there!

Have a wonderful Independence Day celebration with family and friends. And, if you see a serviceman or veteran, don't forget to thank them for what they have done to secure our freedom and independence!

I will share all the wonderful news from IRD upon my return! More soon!

Judy Pettit, RD