



Western Rosemalers Association Vol. 30 No. 3 August, 2004

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It's summer time in the Northwest. We have had a very nice summer so far. The days are warm, hot even on some days. The daylight seems to last forever. It's there when you get up and lasts late in the evening luring you to eat dinner later to stay up later. The kids and grand kids are out of school. A lot of traveling, celebrating, graduations, visiting, and outside activities going on. We soak it up and gather all of this wonderful weather to ourselves unconsciously trying to store it up for the dark and rainy months we know are ahead. It doesn't work, but we try. This is the kind of weather and time of year that lures a person out to the gardens, lawns, golf course, parks, grand kids house, anywhere but the painting room or work shop. Sound familiar?

As some of you know **LaNean** and I have spent a lot of time away from home tending her sick father. As a result we have been out of contact with the rosemal group most of the summer. Fortunately we are healthy enough to do the travel and tend lawns and gardens 400 miles apart. The health of **LaNean's** father is improving, but it's not over yet. We are not the only ones. **Pat Smaaladen** and her family are struggling with the sick and aging family members also. There may other members with similar problems that I don't know about. I hope not, but these things get more and more common as we age.

**DeDe** was not so fortunate. She lost her husband this summer. Our condolences to **DeDe**. It's hard to know what to say to someone who has lost a loved one but we try. We try to convey our feelings that we stand with you **DeDe**, and we support you.

This is the first time **LaNean** and I have been to a summer meeting. I am looking forward to the program put together by **Nina**. She plans to provide information about the Vesterheim experience. She and others went to Decorah earlier and we will be treated to share what they saw and painted.

I heard from some members who would like to put together a class on design this fall. I don't know if this initial interest by some members will result in a class or not. Stay tuned.

Scheduling problems forced the change of the fall meeting to September 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be in the Sons of Norway hall in Bremerton.

**LaNean** and I hope to see you all soon — **Bill Keller** (aka Mike)

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The **Acanthus Vine** is published 4 times a year approximately two weeks prior to the coming meeting. News items that any member deems interesting or beneficial to our members is welcome. If you have e-mail, send as **Word Doc** attached to e-mail to **Barb Smith** (address above-left); or surface mail to return address on this Vine.