

DIVERSIONS

Mother's Day gifts benefit breast cancer research

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation has announced its 2002 Mother's Day program, which benefits breast cancer research and community outreach programs nationwide. The foundation's Mother's Day Tribute Card is a simple and meaningful way to show support for the fight against breast cancer and to honor those who are waging the battle against this disease.

In addition to these specially designed cards, this year the foundation offers a Komen Pink Ribbon Watch and matching tin for Mother's Day, as well as other Mother's Day gift ideas.

For a suggested minimum donation of \$10 per card, the Komen Foundation offers a Mother's Day Tribute Card. It's a way to send Mother's Day wishes and at the same time notify family members and friends that a generous donation

has been made in their honor. This spring, the foundation also unveils its new Komen Pink Ribbon Watch and matching gift tin as a fashionable way to show support for the fight against breast cancer and as a timely reminder of the importance of early detection.

The watch, which is designed by Relic, a division of Fossil Inc., features an iridescent pearl dial adorned with a small pink ribbon and gold-tone, adjustable band. Each watch comes in a matching pastel gift tin and is available for \$65.

Additional Mother's Day gifts such as the Milestones to Wellness™ Marble Magnets™ (\$15 for a set of 13) and Push Pins (\$15 for a set of nine), Seeds of Hope Garden Kits (\$10) and a variety of pink ribbon merchandise are also available.

To buy the card, watch or other gift items, visit the Marketplace section of the foundation's Web site at www.komen.org. To order by telephone, call toll-free (877) SGK SHOP.

"The foundation's Mother's Day fundraising program is a simple way to honor mothers, sisters, daughters and friends, while helping to bring us one step closer to finding a cure for breast cancer," said Susan Braun, president and chief executive officer of the Komen Foundation.

"As part of the Komen Foundation's 20th anniversary, we are thrilled to offer these beautiful Mother's Day tribute cards and exciting new gift ideas for all of those interested in supporting our fight against breast cancer."

All of the net proceeds from the sale of each item supports breast cancer research, education, screening and

treatment programs.

As a pioneer in the funding of groundbreaking breast cancer research, the foundation is often the only source of funding for cutting edge projects that may lead to landmark discoveries in the quest to find a cure for this life-threatening disease.

This year, more than 20,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and an estimated 39,600 women will die of breast cancer, making it the leading cause of death among women ages 40 to 59.

The foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died of breast cancer at the age of 36. Since its inception to the end of its fiscal year 2000, the foundation has raised more than \$430 million to support breast cancer research, education,

screening and treatment.

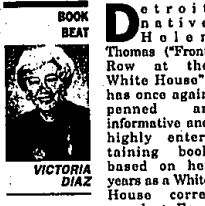
The foundation is an international organization with a network of more than 75,000 volunteers working through more than 100 U.S. and a growing number of international affiliates and Komen Race for the Cure® events to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease.

In addition to funding research, the foundation and its affiliates fund non-duplicative breast health education and breast cancer screening and treatment projects for the medically underserved in their communities.

For information about breast health or breast cancer, call the foundation's toll-free Breast Care Helpline at (800) IM AWARE, or visit the Web site at www.komen.org.

Correspondent shares funny presidential moments

"Thanks for the Memories, Mr. President," by Helen Thomas (Scribner, \$24).



John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush, "Thanks for the Memories, Mr. President" gives us a peek mostly at the humor of each Chief Executive, as witnessed by Thomas herself, plus several of her fellow journalists. This is a kind of "fly on the wall," off-beat account of the presidency, put together by a journalist who has

covered nine administrations. Within its pages, readers get the opportunity, for example, to attend press conferences firsthand, hop aboard Air Force One, and even take a white-water rafting trip down the foamy Colorado River as Lady Bird Johnson beautifies America.

John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, in Thomas' view, "were the best at deflecting the sometimes bitter criticism associated with hard-driving politics and at easing the tension." Lyndon Johnson's humor could be raw and peppered with epithets, she says, yet she never encountered a president who compared with the tall Texan as a storyteller. In the short chapter on Richard Nixon, Thomas initially observes that "even his closest comrades could not remember many laugh lines" (except maybe unintended ones, like the time he intoned — at Charles deGaulle's funeral — "This is a great day for France.")

■ Within its pages, readers get the opportunity, for example, to attend press conferences firsthand, hop aboard Air Force One, drop in on Gridiron Dinners, and even take a white-water rafting trip down the foamy Colorado River as Lady Bird Johnson beautifies America.

Gerald Ford, she recalls, possessed a gift for withstanding the humor poked in his direction after he literally tumbled off the just-landed Air Force One, or sent errant golf balls flying in the direction of spectators' noggings.

Ford's successor, Jimmy Carter, was often upstaged by his mother, Miss Lillian, or his brother, Billy, in the humor department.

George Bush, according to Thomas, "was the founder of a dynasty of disjointed communi-

cation." And Bill Clinton, when he turned the humor on himself, often showed his most appealing side, in Thomas' opinion. ("My doctor ordered me to shut up, which will make every American happy," the laquacious president once declared when stricken with laryngitis.)

For crying aloud
By far the funniest chapter in this book is the one devoted to

the malapropisms of our current Chief Executive. A warning: Do not read this section of the book in public, unless you're willing to be stared at (nervously) by entire groups of people. It's more or less just a listing of the spoken oddities we've come to expect from "Dubya," but it's guaranteed to make you laugh till you've cried. (For example, just how many people do you know who say things like, "I understand small business growth. I was one.")

"Thanks for the Memories, Mr. President" also includes a taste of the humor of former First Ladies (beginning with Jackie Kennedy, who often shared her husband's wry wit), and also recalls some comic moments with vice presidents.

Thomas could have used more

diligent editing so that some repetition could have been avoided on these pages. And several of these stories we've heard before from other sources, if we've been paying attention — although that doesn't really cut down on the fun.

If you're looking for light reading that's not worthless fluff, you're sure to find it in "Thanks for the Memories, Mr. President." And, again, that concluding chapter is sure to stir the ambitions of any reader who believes you need a handle on the English language to become President of the United States.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia resident and writes about books, movies, theater and travel for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

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