

The American Blind Bowling Association

70th National Tournament Anniversary



The Blind Bowler **October 2016**

Theresa Metcalfe, Editor
PO Box 19516
Chicago, IL 60619
773-860-4490

70th ANNUAL ABBA TOURNAMENT

Phoenix, Arizona

May 25-29, 2017

Start planning **NOW** to attend
ABBA's next annual
tournament. There will be lots
of fun & surprises as we
celebrate
70 years!

Come & have fun in Phoenix, nicknamed
Valley of the Sun – with 300 days of sun-
shine each year!

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****Members include all past Presidents**

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Membership fee - \$5.00

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Membership fee - \$6.00

EDITOR'S WELCOME

"It's on Again!"

The time has come to dust off the bowling ball, shine up the bowling shoes, and press the bowling shirt to a nice crisp. The new bowling season has commenced, and after my summer, I am ready to knock down some pins; what about you?

This bowling season is primed to be one of the best every. I am excited about the 70th National Tournament Anniversary, and I know the ABBA committees are working hard to make sure we have the time of our lives in Phoenix next year. Look for exciting sneak peeks of what's to come in Phoenix in each issue of "The Blind Bowler", as well as bowling stats, information from bowling leagues around the country, and much more.

Happy reading and great bowling...I will see you on the lanes!

~ Theresa Metcalfe, editor~

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

A new season has begun, and I do hope all is well. As we all know change is inevitable, and the ABBA is no different. However, we are changing for the better. I am constantly working on ways to reach out to all membership to find ways to improve our organization. We need all members to assist in helping to bring about change, because as you know a silent voice does not get heard. During this season, I hope we all can band together to help ABBA grow and change some of the ways things are done for the better.

We have an exciting tournament coming up in Phoenix, Arizona, our 70th Annual Tournament. While some of us, includ-

ing myself, have not reached the age of 70, the ABBA has reached this milestone. So, come out and enjoy an exciting time in the “Valley of the Sun”. Oh yeah, don’t forget to bowl well this season!

~Robert R. McDonald, President~

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

WELCOME TO THE 2016 - 2017

BOWLING SEASON!!!

SPECIAL REQUEST: FOR ALL WHO KNOW THE POWER OF PRAYER, PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS: Our Blind Bowler editor, Theresa Metcalfe and her family, Michael Hawk’s family and members of Portland Blind Bowlers, AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HAD LIFE THREATENING INJURIES OR LOST LOVED ONES.

League & Area Association Secretaries, Active Life members, Officers, and Tournament Directors have all received: The Average Book and August Packet, which is inclusive of information and forms needed for the new season.

➤ **A few reminders again from REIC:**

- ✓ ***Minutes should be maintained for all league meetings.***
- ✓ ***A prize list should be approved by the league at least by the 5th week of the bowling season. It can be amended at a later date.***
- ✓ ***The fiscal year for ABBA is August 1st through July 31st of the following year.***

- ✓ *Leagues should review and update their by-laws or constitution on an annual basis per ABBA bylaws Article IV, Sec. 3.*

Policy Statement F-3, Financial Reports From Member Leagues, approved in November 2011: Leagues under ABBA's 501c3 status must submit a brief Fund Raising Guideline explaining how the proceeds will be used.

This information should be recorded in the meeting minutes. The league's fund-raising guideline should be sent to the ABBA Secretary-Treasurer if the league plans to raise more than \$1,000 in a year; however, that amount does not include prize money.

- ✓ *League secretaries must file the 990 EZ form with the IRS each year. If this is not done, the league is removed from the list of ABBA leagues covered by the nonprofit status. Leagues not covered under the 501c3 status do not have to follow this procedure.*
- ✓ *The 2017 Convention/Tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24 – Monday, May 29, 2017. The reservation cutoff date is May 3, 2017 (all information is from the contract).*
- ✓ *The Mid-Year is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2016 – Saturday, November 19, 2016. Both the Mid-year & National Tournament hotel information are the same; however, the reservation cutoff date for the Mid-Year is October 26, 2016.*
 - *Hotel – Crowne Plaza Phoenix Airport – Phone numbers are (602)273-7778 or toll-free, 1-855-586-8475. You must identify yourself as a member of ABBA to receive the group rate – Cost for November is \$109 + 12.57% tax, and the cost for May is \$99 + 12.57% tax for Single/ Double rooms. All reservations will need to be guaran-*

ted by credit card or first nights reservation. If a reservation must be cancelled, please notify the hotel by 3pm the day prior to arrival in order to avoid being billed for the first night's stay. Check in is 3pm and check out 12pm (noon).

Mid-Year Schedule

Hopefully, the names of the meeting rooms will be provided soon; if not, you will receive the information upon your arrival. All meetings (except the Board meeting), will be held in the same room. All times and committee meetings are tentative, pending confirmation by President and committee chairs.

Thursday, November 17th

-Possible visitation to the bowling alley (if transportation can be obtained; Tournament Director will notify everyone.)

Friday, November 18th

9am – Tournament Committee

11am – Finance Committee

Lunch – On Your Own

1pm – REIC Committee

2:30pm – Legislative Committee

3:30 – Public Relations Committee

Saturday, November 22nd

*The Public Relations Committee will present informational sessions on “Negotiations” and other items which will help the membership. More information will be provided by the Public Relations Chair.

2:00pm – 5:00 pm - Mid-Year Board Meeting – Robert McDonald, President

Mid Year Meeting - REMINDER

- ✓ League representatives (1 for every 4 blind & sighted members) Each league is entitled to one (1) Director who can vote at the Board meeting.
- ✓ Checks will be mailed within a week of the Mid-Year Meeting.

Expansion Possibilities

There is a possibility of new leagues forming in Mississippi, North Carolina, and Washington State.

Rail News

People across the country are purchasing rails, especially the VA facilities. Many who have called wanted the procedure for ordering rails, please pass this information on to anyone who wants to purchase a guiderail:

1 – Send request to Rozella Campbell at abasec.trea@yahoo.com. State number of rails needed, location, receiver, address & telephone number.

2 – You will receive a reply with total cost inclusive of shipping.

3 – Then, you must send a check or money order made out to ABBA to: Rozella Campbell, 2829 Tall Oaks Ct., Apt.11, Auburn Hills, MI 48326 (we do not accept credit cards).

4 – Upon receipt of money, the rail manager will be contacted to ship rail(s). The turnover time is approximately seven (7) days.

**Corrections: June Packet, Average Book & August Packet
Average Book Corrections or information received**

***Gold Metal TF - High Single game goes to Maggi Ostrowski, Top Cats, PA**

***Amy Snow PF - Average is 95 not 168**

Listed below are those who won awards after the printing of the April Blind Bowler (if visual status is not listed it was not provided).

<u>Bowler</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Bowled</u>	<u>League</u>
<i>Plus 60</i>			
Andrea Marley	109	175	Greater Cleveland - Ohio
Keith Blackwelder T	82	147	Daytona Beach - FL
Kati Lear T	61	122	Daytona Beach- FL
Rich Patterson TM	81	146	Delaware Valley - PA
Wilbert Turner TM	104	169	Greater Cleveland- Ohio
Joe James SM	119	191	Greater Cleveland- Ohio
<i>75over</i>			
Charles Clark TM	78	158	Chicago Spare Chasers - IL
Linda Smith PF	94	184	Lansing 300 - MI
Mario Diming SM	167	242	Chicago Tappers- IL
Ramona Morgan SF	100	178	Chicago Tappers- IL
Wayne Morgan SM	129	204	Chicago Tappers- IL
<i>Bronze</i>			
Bill Jorgensen SM	187	257	Chicago ALBA- IL
Janet Wright TF	98	154	Colorado Association
Jeremy Clemons SM	178	251	Chicago Spare Chasers- IL
Maggie Cicala PF	113	189	Delaware Valley - PA
William Bryant PM	130	194	Chicago Tappers- IL
Yvonne Hamm TF	91	154	Tulsa Strikers - OK
<i>Silver</i>			
Alice Kelly TF	103	159	Raleigh Outlaws - NC
Bill Jorgenswen SM	188	278	Chicago ALBA- IL
Evell Jones PM	179	251	Chicago ALBA- IL
Frances Council PF	118	207	Raleigh Outlaws - NC
George Brucker PM	151	225	Top Cats- Pittsburgh
Herbert Everett P	160	242	Raleigh Outlaws - NC
Howard Denning PM	156	230	Chicago Braille Center- IL
Jayne C Leute SF	149	234	Lansing 300 - MI
Jeff Miller SM	194	268	Colorado Association
Mike Staab PM	164	245	Top Cats - PA

Peter Jorgensen S	187	266	Chicago ALBA- IL
<i>Triplicate Chevron</i>			
Charles Gant PM	126	124x3	Lansing 300 - MI
Chris Wellmann SM	160	170x3	Baltimore Blind Bowlers - MD
Fred Nickl TM	102	112x3	Chicago ALBA- IL
Joe Kucinkas	167	174x3	Philadelphia Area PA
Mshenda Diming PM	125	115x3	Chicago Tappers- IL

****Additional Corrections will be listed in the next issue****

Please note: Regardless of the award being submitted, all information needs to be supplied, (reason for all the ? marks by names). Once again, Jackie can be either male or female and although the award is for a Triplicate, I still need the average . Please supply all information on all forms, thank you.

I am available by phone and text at (248) 410-2411, and e-mail at abbasec.trea@yahoo.com, everyday except Sunday and holidays.

~Rozella Amerson Campbell, Secretary Treasurer~

TOURNAMENT NEWS

This year is the 70th Annual National Tournament. It is being held in Phoenix, Arizona. We are staying at the Crowne Plaza Phoenix Airport. The rate per night is \$99 plus tax. We are bowling at the Brunswick Desert Sky Lanes. Phoenix is called the Valley of the Sun and it is going to feel so great to be bowling in the Valley of the Sun and knocking those pins down. The National Tournament Committee has been working very hard to make this one of the greatest tournaments in ABBA history. Please remember that every member of our organization that is blind or visually impaired can apply to Challenged Athletes Foundation. The website is challenge-dathletesfoundation.org. Also, for members who have never

been to a national tournament they can apply to the past presidents committee for funding through the Wayne Keeney fund.

So, everyone has been asking me what is in Phoenix, well there is the Grand Canyon, for which we are looking at tour pricing. There are also a lot of Native American museums and art. Phoenix also has casinos, and I know a lot of members love going to cities that have casinos. I have also discovered a company called Arizona Brew Tour. They have public and private tours of breweries in Phoenix. I am expecting additional information from the owner so we can hopefully arrange a tour for our group. Lastly, those members who love music might be interested in going to the music instrument museum. This museum has instruments from all the cross the world. In a nutshell, those are a few things to do in Phoenix. I cannot wait to see everyone in Phoenix.

~AJ Inglesby, National Tournament Chairperson~

HAPPENINGS AT THE MIDWEST

Hope everyone had a good summer, it was hot.

Congratulations to the winners of the MBBA High 3 Games Series Awards for 2015-16 season. As always we look forward to some good bowling from all and having fun while doing it.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Di</i>	<i>Se</i>	<i>To-</i>		<i>Prize</i>	<i>League</i>
	<i>v</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>tal</i>	<i>over</i>		
Kim Maclin	B	F	301	148 pins	\$25.00	Alton Area Blind Bowlers
Mary Waske	A	F	519	129 pins	\$25.00	Chicago Alba

Peter Jorgensen	A	M	692		\$25.00	Chicago Alba
Evell Jones	B	M	667		\$25.00	Chicago Alba
Tim Kase	B	M	452	158 pins	\$25.00	Milwaukee Beer Barrels
Jeff Spantikow	B	M	605		\$25.00	Milwaukee Beer Barrels
Janice Erkillia	E	F	358		\$25.00	Minneapolis Blind Bowlers
Elaine Vining	A	F	587		Plaques	Minneapolis Blind Bowlers
Robert McDonald	C	M	589		\$25.00	Peace Breakers
Brentin McDonald	A	M	583	208 pins	\$25.00	Peace Breakers
Courtney Thompson	C	F	531		\$25.00	Peace Breakers
Tina Gruchow	D	F	376		\$25.00	Rock County Railers
Mike Stabb	B	M	581		\$25.00	Top Cat Blind Bowlers
Maggi Ostrowski	E	F	412		\$25.00	Top Cat Blind Bowlers
George Brucker	B	M	586		\$25.00	Top Cat Blind Bowlers

The 60th annual Midwest Blind Bowling Association Tournament will be held in Livonia, Michigan, from March 17, 2017 through March 20, 2017. The host hotel will be the Radisson Detroit-Farmington Hills, located at 31525 West 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334. The telephone number is (248) 553-0000. The room rate will be \$89.00 per night for a Single or Double and \$119.00 per night for a king size suite. The tax rate is 13%. The total cost for a Single or Double will be \$100.57 per night and \$134.47 per night for the Suite. The hotel has an indoor pool, hot tub, restaurant, and bar. The hotel is located 7.4 miles from the bowling alley. A complementary shuttle is available for bowlers going back and forth

to the bowling alley. Reservations can be made now by calling the hotel using the telephone number listed above.

The bowling center will be Merri Bowl, 30950 5 Mile Rd, Livonia, MI. 48154, 734-427-2900. They have a bar and grill, 42 lanes and lots of room to store rails and bowling balls.

I will send out new information as it becomes available.

~Submitted by Thomas Lester MBBA Sec/Treasurer~

FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

My fella bowling friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to another great bowling season. I hope each of you had an enjoyable summer and are now ready for a fun filled bowling competition for the 2016-2017 bowling season. There are many tournaments around the country and I hope that you will participate in as many as possible. Bowling is an option available that allows us to participate with both family and friends, thus making it an awesome choice.

Our 2017 annual tournament will be in Phoenix, Arizona, which is a long way from home for many of us. However, it is good to experience something different. So you ask the question, what can I do in Phoenix except bowl? I am glad you asked! Phoenix is near the desert, and there are jeep rides to the desert, excursions to the Grand Canyon, boat rides and dinner cruises. The HardRock Cafe has a special seating for only \$24 per person and it last about two (2) hours. There are also museums, the musical instrument museum, for example; casinos, and lots more. More detailed information will be shared in the coming months.

Secondly, our current president, got off on a rough beginning with some of you, but he has stepped up his game and he is

now making a very big effort to help you feel like that this is your organization. Last month, he held the first membership conference call. Many of you did not participate, but hold on, another one is coming. The intent of this call is to encourage our membership to feel comfortable with having a voice in the direction the ABBA is moving. Every member's opinion counts; yes, including yours! I am asking that leagues around the country consider sending a delegate to Phoenix for the Mid-Year convention to help make our organization greater.

Also, just yesterday I received a call from the University of Utah regarding a project that some students are currently working on. The project is an adaptive that will allow blind/visually impaired folks to bowl independently. To assist with their research, you will receive a survey. Please give the survey your best attention. Oh yes, if other people are trying to make bowling more fun and accessible, why not us!

Additionally, I need your feedback on our website. So check it out and tell me your thoughts and suggestions. We are always striving to make it better.

Last but not now least, we are selling \$50 tickets for the 400 Stimulus Raffle. This is a fundraiser to help cover our operational expenses, while helping the ABBA grow. What's in it for you? Well of course, the prizes; which include monetary prizes of \$2500, \$2000, \$1500, \$1000, and \$500. The odds are pretty good because there are only 400 tickets and five (5) prizes. Your chances are better with this raffle than the lottery. Many people play the lottery and have played for years with little return. You can also win all five (5) prizes if you buy five (5) tickets; what luck that would be. If you need tickets, please contact Wilbert Turner at [216-212-4959](tel:216-212-4959) or Tanya Wilson at [336-817-6138](tel:336-817-6138).

I hope to see you in Phoenix in November, as well as in May.

Sincerely,

~Wilbert Turner, Chair~

CHINESE AUCTION

A big thank you goes to all of you who supported the Chinese Auction at the tournament in Tampa last May. Thank you to those who donated the 30 items we auctioned and also to those who bought tickets. With all of your wonderful support, we were able to increase the ABBA Tournament Fund by \$1,645!

It's not too early to start thinking about how you can help with our next tournament in Phoenix. Since this will be the 70th annual tournament, we want to make it an extra special event!

Please contact me with questions about the Chinese Auction, or if you would like to donate something for the next tournament. Janice Erkilla – 612-722-3041 OR rerkill@comcast.net

SBBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The SBBA Bowling Tournament will be held November 11th thru November 13th, 2016 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We will be staying at the Best Western Ocean Sands Beach Resort in North Myrtle Beach, 1525 S. Ocean Blvd, telephone # is [843-272-6101](tel:843-272-6101), and the cut off day for the motel is October 10th. The hotel offers a free breakfast and is close to restaurants. The rooms are ocean front and only \$71.96 plus tax. For more information please call Howard Beares at [410-538-4147](tel:410-538-4147) or e-mail sandymcdan01@yahoo.com.

~Submitted by Sandy McDaniel~

LOVERS LANES INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Whether you missed coming to Tampa Bay for the 2016 ABBA National Tournament & Convention, made it here for that event but didn't do and see all that you wanted, or simply need a break from the bitter cold in the dead of winter...we invite you to join us for the very first annual Lovers Lanes Invitational Tournament (LLIT) in sunny Saint Petersburg, Florida. The first LLIT will be held President's Day Weekend, February 17-20, 2017, with room rates of \$69/Standard & \$109/Suite per night (available from Valentine's Day through 2/23). The bowling center is 10 minutes from the beach, so bring a love-one or come alone and leave with a warmed heart. Stay-tuned for details via "The Blind Bowler", Bowling Talk, ABBA Website, LLIT Facebook Event Page and/or Warren Davis blindsightmngmnt@aol.com [\(727\)-470-2907](tel:(727)470-2907)...Much Obliged!

UPDATES FROM THE LOST ANGELES BLIND BOWLERS

Greetings bowlers,

I hope everyone had a great summer break. On behalf of the Lost Angeles Blind Bowlers, I would like to welcome everyone back to a new, fresh season of bowling. It is with great pleasure that I share the league officer line up for this season. Our president is Laura Russell, Vice President, Dave Mejia, Secretary, Linda Keeney, and Tournament Director, John Mavis. Everyone is looking forward to the National Tournament being in Phoenix this year. I know we will have a lot of members attending because it is not across the country, me being one. I am looking forward to a great bowling season and hope that all of you are as well.

~Respectfully submitted by Kylie Sykes~

NEWS FROM THE BOWLERS OF OREGON

We are happy to announce that the Portland Blind Bowlers of Oregon have expanded to form two new leagues, the Eastside Blind Bowlers and the Westside Blind Bowlers.

The Eastside Bowlers are excited to begin bowling on Monday afternoons in the newly remodeled King Pins Bowling Center on the eastside of Portland, while the Westside Bowlers will continue to bowl on Wednesdays at the Sunset Bowling Center on the westside of Portland.

After many years with the Portland Blind Bowlers, our secretary, Jeanne Daggett has had to retire from our league. Sadly, her husband, Perry Daggett, passed last year and she decided to move to Washington State to be close to her daughter, Linda, her granddaughter and other family members. Jeanne and Perry were due to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They will both be missed. Jeanne began bowling in 1976. She was the secretary and treasurer for most of that time. She has been a loyal and dedicated member of both ABBA and the NWABA. She has been the backbone and champion for the Portland Blind Bowlers for so many years; it is difficult to imagine our league without her. Luckily, she visits often and is always available and ready to help and advise. We appreciate and celebrate this wonderful woman who inspires us to continue our bowling traditions.

We would also like to share some sad news, Michael Hawk, a man who truly loved bowling, passed away unexpectedly this month. He was a kind and giving person who enjoyed life. We will miss him and his friendship very much.

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## **THE LOSS OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN**

**“Grief is like the ocean; it comes on waves ebbing and flowing. Sometimes the water is calm, and sometimes it is overwhelming. All we can do is learn to swim.”**

**— Vicki Harrison**

### **Velma E. Allen-Swift**

**Superwoman is defined as “a woman with exceptional strength or ability, especially one who successfully manages a home, brings up children, and has a full-time job.” My mother was the epitome of a superwoman, and so much more.**

**My mother was a people magnet. People loved to be around her and talk to her because she was an understanding, caring, and loving woman. She gave great advice and was a vault with secrets. She believed in fairness and treating people like you wanted to be treated.**

**Her beliefs and compassion made her great at her job. She worked for the State of Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services for 26 years until her retirement in 2010. However, she also assisted her husband, Jimmie Swift, at his snack shop everyday before she went to her job and after she got off work. She continued to assist him until he retired in 2013.**

**My mother was a member of ABBA for over 30 years. She loved bowling, so much so that she became a left-hand bowler after a work related injury prevented her from bowling with her right hand. What she loved most about going to the bowling alley every weekend was the people. She would frequently go from lane to lane talking and laughing with the other bowling members. During her bowling tenure, she served as league secretary, and later the league treasurer.**

**On July 25, 2016, my mother succumbed to stage four pancreatic cancer, but she left here with no regrets because she lived her life like it was golden. She spent her last year traveling, spending time with family, and basically doing whatever that heck she wanted to do. It was a privilege to call her mother, but an honor to call her my best friend, and she is truly missed everyday.**

~~~~~

BORN IN THE 70S!

While ABBA is celebrating it's 70th National Tournament this bowling season, I thought it might be fun to see what great things were created/founded during the 1970s.

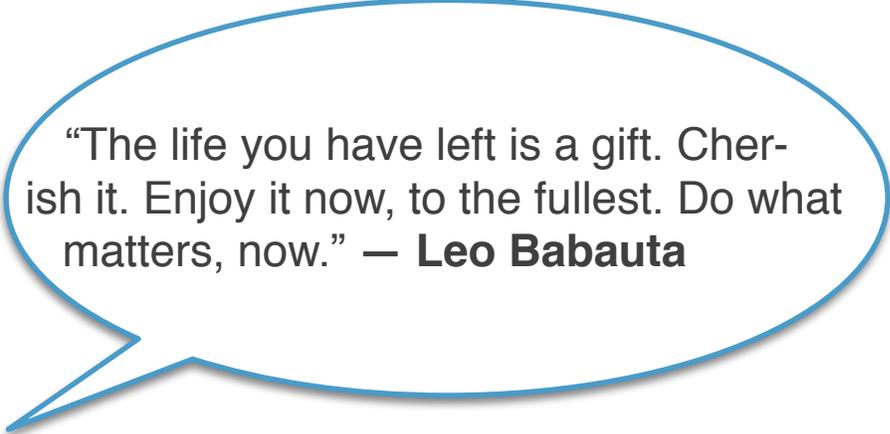
- **Carnival Cruise Line - Carnival's first ship the TSS Mardi Gras, ran aground on a sandbar outside the Port of Miami during the maiden voyage in 1972.**
- **Apple - Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak formed Apple Computer in 1976 to sell the Apple I personal computer kit.**
- **FedEx - Federal Express was founded in Little Rock, Arkansas by Fred Smith in 1971.**
- **Aerosmith - An American rock band.**
- **Diane von Fürstenberg - Created the "wrap dress" that revolutionized American women's apparel.**
- **Tape Talking Books - In 1977, the first cassette title recorded at 15/16 ips on four tracks was put in circulation. The first title, *Roots* by Alex Haley, required five cassettes, six hours of playing time each.**

CLOSING WORDS

A special thank you to everyone who has sent their condolences to my family and me. Your kind words have been a great comfort during this difficult time.

I hope you have found the information included in this issue informative. Your comments and ideas are always welcomed, so contact me if you have thoughts to share. Please submit articles for the January edition by December 15, 2016 via email to mrs.metcalfe625@gmail.com. “The Blind Bowler” request can be sent via email or mail: PO Box 19516, Chicago, IL 60619. If you need to speak with me, I can be reached at (773)860-4490. Please inform me of address changes as soon as possible. I look forward to hearing from you!

~ Theresa Metcalfe, editor~



“The life you have left is a gift. Cherish it. Enjoy it now, to the fullest. Do what matters, now.” — Leo Babauta