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95°F
96°/60°
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 Thu
Mostly sunny
94°/58°
 Fri
Sunny most
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Friday, Jun. 27, 2008

Mothers of Twins club celebrates 50th anniversary

By Ingrid Stegemoeller, Herald staff writer

Two sets of small hands can unroll toilet paper twice as fast as one, a lesson Bell Schwenk learned from her identical twin daughters.

The Richland woman can laugh about it now that her girls are 35 years old, and she got to share that memory and many others Thursday at the 50th reunion of the Tri-Cities Twice and Thrice Mothers of Twins club.

Schwenk sat next to Teri Miller of Kennewick, whose identical twin daughters are now 27. The two hadn't seen each other in eight or 10 years, they said.

"I think you realized there was a light at the end of the tunnel," Schwenk said of meeting other mothers of twins through the club.

"I'm glad I'm looking back," Miller joked.

About 15 mothers attended the luncheon, from the original club and the newer generation of mothers.

Mothers of Twins got started in 1958, when Bobbie Hobbs' twin girls were about 17 months old.

Hobbs, of Kennewick, said she'd read about other clubs where mothers of twins formed support networks and swapped clothes and equipment, such as strollers designed for twins.

Such necessities were tough to come by 50 years ago, she said, as were two identical dresses -- department stores generally stocked one in each size.

Sandy McGetrick of Kennewick was the first mother of triplets to join the club, prompting a name change to Twice and Thrice.

On Thursday, McGetrick showed family pictures to Hobbs and Mary Felch, and the three reminisced about dozens of picnics, Christmas parties, Easter egg hunts, parades, bake sales and more.

"I liked those events more than the meetings because we really got to know each other," Hobbs said.

"I forgot we did so much," said Felch of Kennewick.

The original Mothers of Twins still get together about once a year, they said.

Jan Anderson of Kennewick, a member of the newer Twice and Thrice club, said being a part of the group gave her confidence as a mother and a woman.

"Some of my best friends now are mothers of twins," she said.

Her twins are 41 now, but "it's fun to reminisce" with other members, Anderson said.

As the members shared photos and updates, disbelieving at how fast time has gone, Schwenk and Miller offered words of wisdom for mothers with young twins.

"Sit back and enjoy them," Schwenk said. "All of a sudden they're grown up."

"It goes fast," Miller replied.

The Twice and Thrice club meets once a month and is a part of the Northwest Association of Mothers of Twins Club and the National Organization of Mothers of Twins Club.

For more information, visit www.twiceandthrice.com.

w Ingrid Stegemoeller: 582-1537; istegemoeller@tricityherald.com; Business Beat blog at www.tricityherald.com



Herald
Sandy McGetrick, left, Mary Felch and Bobbie Hobbs, all of Kennewick, look at McGetrick's family photos Thursday during a luncheon at the Tri-City Country Club to celebrate the 50th year of the Tri-Cities Twice and Thrice Mothers of Twins Club. McGetrick was the first member with triplets to join the group. See story in today's Tri-City Herald.

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