



July 18, 2004 Sunday

WOMEN AGAINST MS LUNCHEON

By KATHLEEN ARENZ

Jackie Waldman came to Milwaukee on July 8 with a message of courage for anyone who has Multiple Sclerosis and for everyone who shares the hope for a cure.

It was warmly received by a crowd that FOX-6 reporter and emcee Katrina Cravy called an "awesome turnout" at the annual Women Against MS Luncheon at the Pfister Hotel.

Jackie, an attractive Dallas native, suffers from MS herself. She's made it her mission through books, lectures and appearances on "Oprah" to spread the word that the power of giving can overpower disease.

An audience of mostly women with a sprinkling of gentlemen, including Mayor Tom Barrett, listened with rapt attention to the story she told in a gentle Texas drawl of confronting her illness with chocolate eclairs and a conviction that "helping others helped me."

Her remarks about Milwaukee's signature hospitality added to her charm. "Thanks for the warmest welcome this girl has had in four years of speaking engagements," she said, adding that she particularly enjoyed the previous night's dinner with Dennis and Sandy Kuester of the M&I Bank and Colleen Kalt, Wisconsin chapter president of the National MS Society.

The "awesome turnout" included State Sens. Alberta Darling and Mary Panzer and State Reps. Sheldon Wasserman and Jon Richards. Mary Bridges was at a table with Maureen Steinhafel, who was celebrating a birthday. Pam Muma, one of the founders of the luncheon; event co-chair Patti McKeithan; and former Lt. Gov. Margaret Farrow were there, too.

Lunch was delicious from cucumber soup to sacher torte. Those who dined also included Sue Bauer, Vicky Krystowiak, Susan Paul, Cindy Johnson, Janet Larscheid, Mary Pat Brown, Denise Goergen and Susan Casper