

## GREAT START – August 2008 FCWCC Member Meeting

As women, what do we do in the face of tragedy  
or sorrow? We somehow rise to the occasion, don't we?  
And provide solace for others, a soft shoulder,  
or a strong arm to carry the weight of woe and worry.

When little faces turn up to us for strength,  
what do we give them? We give them strength.  
We lead busy lives, with dinner to make,  
and homework to watch over, baths to give,  
bottles to warm, backs to rub, stories to tell,  
snuggles to snuggle, and big wide hugs to wrap up in.

And that's just the end of day – we also shop,  
and work, deal with deadlines and projects, phone calls  
and customers, spreadsheets and CPAs.  
We do a lot as women. When we need to cry,  
where do we go, and how do we find the time  
to mourn when mourning is due?

We don't always. We get caught up in providing,  
and when we least expect it, we will remember  
that someone or something dear to us is missing.  
The slightest thing can trigger a memory,  
a plate of her special cookies on sale at a bakery,  
his favorite soccer team winning a match.

And tears will come. Right when we're making gravy  
for dinner, and a little one is showing us his painting.  
And we will smile with delight at great artistry,  
and hold our loved ones close. Because this is life.  
This is now. These are the ones who need us.  
Our losses, our lost loved ones remind us daily  
to shower our blessings on the loved ones we still hold.

And we muddle through. And we call a girlfriend  
when we have a chance, and cry together  
or remember together how great it has been to love.  
This is what we do as women bearing heartache.

## GREAT END

We only experience joy to the degree that we are hollowed out by sorrow. Sorrow  
builds our capacity for deep joy! So radiate your warmth! Give voice to your joy.  
Let your heart speak your volumes of ups and downs in theme park fashion –  
find your roller coaster or your merry-go-round analogy and let your hair fly and  
your scarves flutter and smile.