

The Candlelight Ceremony

Ms. C / Mrs. Schumann to light their candle

Some of you have seen this ceremony performed for many years; and for others of you, this is your first chance to witness one of the strongest traditions held in Golden Girls. As each of us holds a candle, a single flame is lit and passed on from girl to girl and friend to friend. The light starts with the Seniors, those girls who have endured the challenges and struggles for the most years. Their experience and strength has served as a backbone of encouragement and leadership and as an example for the team to follow. *(Seniors light their candles)* The flame is passed on from the Seniors down through the ranks...to the Juniors, *(PAUSE and request that the Juniors light their candles)* Sophomores, *(PAUSE for lighting)* and then to the Freshmen. *(PAUSE for lighting)*

The flame is a symbol of many things. First of all, it is a sign of the passing on of another year. As the light is passed from girl to girl, so also have the days passed

on to weeks, months, and for some of us, years. The passing of the light is a symbol of the passing of another year, a year filled with experiences, dreams, and never passing memories. As the light is passed through the ranks, from Senior to Freshmen, the girls pass on the responsibilities and goals of their classes. The Seniors pass their wisdom and leadership on to the Juniors as the Juniors pass on their dreams and accomplishments to the Sophomores, and the Sophomores pass their experience on to the Freshmen. And as for the Freshmen, I am sure they will be glad to pass on Freshmen initiation to the new members. The flame is also a symbol of the unity and closeness shared by the members of this team. Before each performance, the team gathers in a circle, and joins hands, spirits, and with it, their hearts. As we lift our candles in unison, the one flame is not longer visible but has turned into a multitude of light and with it, each individual girl has turned into one team. Its been said that, “a good team beats with one heart.” The light is a symbol of that unity within a single heart.

The song we sing is also a tradition; its entitled “Pass It On.” It begins like this: “It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and then all those around will warm up in its glowing...” It continues by saying, “I wish for you my happiness that I have found...” The happiness that we have found is one that cannot be easily expressed in words but we would like to attempt to pass this feeling on to you with our candlelight ceremony.

Christina Murdock to come forward to begin

“Pass It On.”