



**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women

# Soropti-SCOOP

*A Communiqué by  
women and men dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls  
through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.*

Volume 23, Issue 7

Soroptimist International of Sequim

**Celebrating 70+ Years of Service**

January, 2019

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*"If it doesn't  
challenge you,  
it will not  
change you."  
~Tamika L. Sims*

**Message from the President**

**The Government Shutdown**

Most of you know I'm not an openly political person. I am, however, a firm believer that every party or faction has ideals that are assets and some that are liabilities. I believe that every party has members who are compassionate and productive and, sadly, some who are not. No matter what your stand is on any issue, the worst approach is to stand and throw stones! So many innocent bystanders are harmed when we do that.

The government shut down has provided us with a perfect example of why working together is better than digging our heels in and attacking each other.

Our governmental leaders are, every one, so passionate about what they believe is right that they often forget that accomplishing the job is much more important than accomplishing the job in their own away. It is a rare, if not nonexistent, issue that requires us to stand alone to defend the process rather than to sit together and work out a solution.

Our government has so many opportunities to help others and quite frankly they miss out on many of them simply because they aren't willing to try it someone else's way. They need to look at things from a perspective different than their own. This means that not only would they be stretched to cooperate and work together, they may even be asked to compromise, not to compromise their ideals and goals, but to compromise on the execution of the plan in order to reach their goals. When others are given a chance to voice their opinions, make suggestions, and highlight their own passions, they can become a real part of the larger good.

All of the challenges that I've been talking about can apply to any organization, any governing body, any club. We must always be mindful of the pitfalls that challenge our government. We, as Soroptimists, should try never to forget our ultimate goal of improving the lives of women and girls all over the world.

Hopefully the government will take a page from our book and learn to work together toward a common goal. I know it's a struggle for them. They are, after all, all politicians, but if they try, they can handle it. That is why we pay them the big bucks, right?

President Gena  
*"We Rise by Lifting Others"*



*"We must be willing to learn the lesson  
that cooperation may imply compromise,  
but if it brings a world advance, it is a gain  
for each individual nation." ~Eleanor Roosevelt*

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's a brand new year—2019! Add those numbers together (2 + 0 + 1 + 9) and you get 12—a perfect dozen. There are dozens of reasons people decide to join Soroptimist. Likewise, there are dozens of ways for members to make a difference.

Most of you know I am on the board of the Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation. (MdMOF). Twice a year the women and girls the foundation helps send letters. In the past much of this correspondence was general and many letters were similar or—in some cases—exactly the same.

This does not mean the women were not truly grateful. When a new practice is begun there is a learning curve and sometimes, trepidation. Having an example is helpful, especially in the beginning. These ladies took the time to hand write the notes. It has meaning to both the recipient and the sender. The note is a gift. It is the completion of the circle, joining the giver and the receiver in the cycle of caring.

The first week of December Judith Pasco, the MdMOF chair, stopped by my office to read some of the letters that had just arrived. Many were well-written, but one in particular stood out to me. It was from Gabriela Entzin Velasco. She is studying architecture. In her letter she says the class is more difficult than she originally thought it would be—and her grades would reflect that. Her goal—and promise—is to raise her grade going forward. Gabby loves to learn and explore things. She also tells us the most important date of the year for her is December 24. Her favorite season is winter and she likes to drink coffee.

In less than 200 words we learn a lot about Gabby. Her education is important to her, as is her family and tradition. She is open to new avenues of learning. What she shared, some would consider as failure, but Gabby did not see it as the sum total of who she is. She showed strength, courage and determination.

This glimpse into who Gabby is left me feeling grateful for the opportunities I have to assist others in their education, discovery and growth. I felt the bond that is created when we reach out to others and give from the heart. You can read Gabby's letter on page 6 of this edition of the newsletter.

It's a new year and we will meet many people like Gabby—our Girls of the Month, the recipients of our Live Your Dream Award, our Youth Citizen Award winner, our High School and Continuing Education Scholarships, our VoTech Award—to name a few.

There are dozens of ways we make a difference in our community and our world. When we join together in our efforts we make a larger difference—it is like multiplying 12 x 12. Our *net* result is a greater collective impact that improves the lives of women and girls. It all adds up. In the end we recognize we Rise By Lifting Others. Thank you all for being part of the successful equation.

Light and Love,  
Kathy Purcell, Editor



**“Love springs from the inside. It is the immortal surge of passion, excitement, energy, power, strength, prosperity, recognition, respect, desire, determination, enthusiasm, confidence, courage, and vitality, that nourishes, extends and protects. It possesses an external objective—life.” ~Ogwo David Emenike**

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- 4 Board Meeting
- 8 Business Meeting
- 22 Program (TBD)
- 28 Deadline for submission of articles for the *Gazette* (GGS) tab
- \*29 5th Tuesday

### FEBRUARY

- 8 Board Meeting
- 12 Business Meeting
- 23 Area Meeting
- 26 Program—LYDA



*We Rise By Lifting Others*

**\*Evening Meeting**

**“Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.” ~Nido Qubein**



**“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”  
~Mahatma Gandhi**

*Celebrate Life!*

**JANUARY**

- 6 Rose Jaeger
- 17 Kathy Cunha

**FEBRUARY**

- 2 Becky Archer
- 2 Cindy Rodes
- 11 Missy Church-Smith
- 12 Su Howat
- 15 Theresa Alcayaga
- 17 Joan Miller
- 22 Jan Chapman
- 22 Sherry Lacey
- 25 Maureen Gebbia



**JANUARY'S FIFTH TUESDAY**

The 5th Tuesday get-together for January will be held at 5:30 p.m., **January 29, 2019 at Solana clubhouse.** It will be a potluck Social.

This has been a busy holiday season. Let's just get together and take time to catch up with each other and relax. Please bring snacks, salads, or desserts and of course your favorite beverage.



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*“I'm definitely a people person. I love socializing and being around people and having a good conversation.” ~Emily Deschanel*

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Note the phone number for our  
**MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET**  
**360-504-0231**



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*“Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.”*  
*~Goran Persson*

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**SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER**



Peninsula Area Meeting  
Port Angeles Yacht Club  
Port Angeles, WA  
February 23, 2019 / 10am—3pm



NWR Conference  
Skamania Lodge  
Stevenson, WA  
April 25-28, 2019



**21st Soroptimist International Convention**  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
July 18–21, 2019

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### GIRLS OF THE MONTH—November and December

#### Emily Bundy



**Emily Bundy** is a focused young adult with aspirations of becoming a pediatric surgeon. She is a member of Honor Society, student body president, serves as a student liaison for several community boards and actively volunteers in the community. She has narrowed

her choice of colleges to three possibilities and will be majoring in anatomy and physiology.

#### Allison Van de Wege

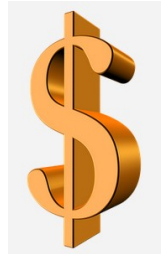


**Allison Van de Wege** has been extremely involved in student government since 2015, student representative for Clallam County for the League of Women Voters, volunteers at the Sequim Food Bank and teaches dance at Aspire Academy. Allison, who lets no

grass grow under her feet, will be attending Western Washington University in the fall and will be majoring in Environmental Education.

### INFLUX OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

We've received an unexpected cash infusion into the scholarship funds to be directed toward continuing education and used within this fiscal year. We're planning to direct these funds to assist an individual currently pursuing vocational training, perhaps through our VoTech program. Jeani Penn is working with me to identify an individual who could benefit from additional funding (to remain or progress in a Peninsula based vocational program). A desirable outcome is to keep our local VoTech scholarship winners in the area as they graduate and pursue their careers.



~Sharon Jensen, Awards and Scholarships Chair

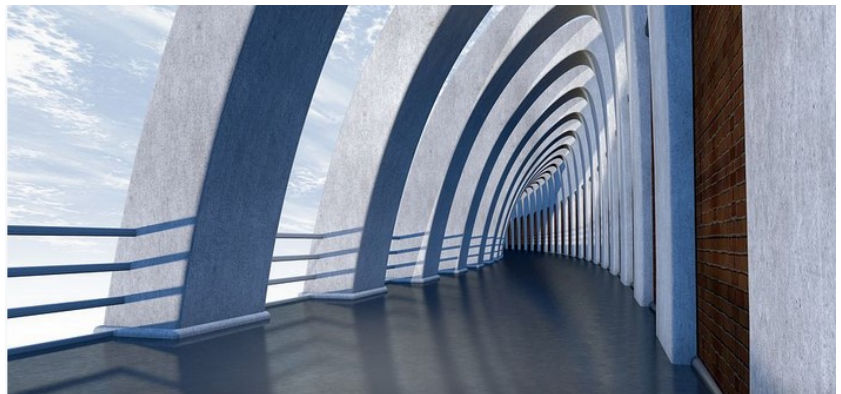


**“True scholarship consists in knowing not what things exist, but what they mean; it is not memory but judgment.” ~James Russell Lowell**

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

**SAVE THE DATE:** A new members Orientation that is planned for **February 19, 5:30 to 6:30 pm.** More details will follow in the next *Soropti-Scoop*.

~Membership Committee





## FEATURING OUR BOARD

We want to acquaint our membership about our board members—especially those who are new to our board. Each month we will be featuring a board member.

### DAVE FICKES— Board Director



I believe we all have a story to tell, but not all of us embrace that philosophy. This seemed to be the case when I had to corner Dave Fickes at the dessert counter at our Christmas party. Sweets can be such an influencing factor when you want something from someone. When I reminded Dave about my inquiries, a Cheshire grin came over his face and he said, “Oh yes, your email!” I was reminding him I was doing a board member feature and yes, I was right, we all have stories and his is most interesting.

Dave is a talented man and we have benefited from those talents. He spent most of his career in direct marketing and retail building of computer systems and doing data analysis for companies like Target. The last ten years of his career, he worked remotely for a small software development and consulting firm out of Minneapolis, which allowed him to move to Washington. Eight years ago he came to Sequim and as many of you know, his wife, Pauline Geraci is also member and owns and operates Fit4Life. It has been this experience which has allowed our Soroptimist organization to benefit from his skills and talents in computer science.

As I previously indicated, everyone has a story to tell and Dave’s talents in computer science do not end there. He is an author! This past year, he has published three trivia books through Amazon. Now, I know why he has all those answers when we play those trivia games! I cry FOUL!

Mr. Fickes is a very active member of our club. Not only is he a board member, but he is a member of the membership and the finance committees. He utilized his experience in computers and did the research and helped acquire the new audio/video computer equipment. Also, Dave was one of the primary folks who researched selling wine at the Lavender Festival and Gala Gift Show. He is most active in our organization and is always willing to lend his talents; however, don’t play trivia with him—I believe he will win.

Linda Klinefelter, Public Awareness Chair



“Computers are magnificent tools for the realization of our dreams, but no machine can replace the human spark of spirit, compassion, love, and understanding.  
~Louis V. Gerstner, Jr.

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## LEADERSHIP AWARENESS

As we shift and guide our organization into the new year, as the chair for Public Awareness, I want to share my perspective of what public awareness means to our organization and what we can do to grow and build on our foundation.

We, as members of Soroptimist, are most proactive in achieving the goals we have for our organization. I know we all want to carry out our objectives, but to do that it means leadership. We are guided by many in our organization who are strong and are directed to bring our intentions to fruition. Yet, often positions of leadership are difficult to fill. Part of the aim of public awareness is to make you AWARE how important it is that we all consider leadership roles. As we approach the half-way mark in our 2018-19 business year, I hope all of you will give thought to choosing some form of leadership for the 2019-20 year. We, as members of Soroptimist, are stakeholders. So as stakeholders, I know we all have skills and talents to offer to move our organization even farther, higher and greater in obtaining our goals.

~Linda Klinefelter, Public Awareness Chair



## MUJERES UPDATE

*Dear Soroptimist Sisters,*

*Our scholarship recipients write the Mujeres' board two letters a year. The Christmas letters have come in and I would like to share one of them with you.*

*Out of the 17 letters we received, it was difficult to choose just one. The letters are lengthy, with details of the girls' lives, some challenges they face, and how their educational careers are going. These letters are in sharp contrast to the ones we used to receive, as they were short and as Kathy Purcell described them, "rather cookie-cutter" in content. The following letter is from Gabriela Entzin Velasco. She started on scholarship with us in 2010, as a 6th-grader. She now studies architecture at a university in Tuxtla Gutierrez. As you read, please remember that your support of Mujeres contributes to Gabi's education. I translated the letter from Spanish, which is Gabi's second language. Her first language is Tseltal, a Maya language. The photograph is Gabi at her mother's graduation from university in July, 2018. Her mother was also a scholarship recipient.*

Dear Godmothers,

I hope that you are in good health and in the company of your loved ones.

This semester of my education was very intense and difficult, but increasingly interesting. I loved the topics that I studied. I learned to design basic installations of a house and it was interesting because it seems something so simple, but in reality it is very complex. I should tell you that this time I am going to have a bit lower grade, but I promise to make it up in the following semester. I have as a goal to increase my grade point average and become an exchange student to another country. I love to learn and explore new things, visit new places. I like to feel free to learn more things about myself and society and to discover little by little who I am.

The most important date of the year for me is approaching.\* Soon we will be in winter. It's my favorite season. I love the cold climate and I love to drink coffee.

I appreciate the time you take to read this letter, and all the support you have offered.

I wish you a merry Christmas and prosperous new year and that all your goals and dreams will be realized.

Respectfully,  
Gabriela Entzin Velasco

\*December 24



*And I echo Gabi's wish for 2019!  
Judith Pasco, Board chair*

[www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org](http://www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org)  
[www.mujeres@olypen.com](mailto:www.mujeres@olypen.com)

**“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” ~John F. Kennedy**

## AN UPDATE FROM FBLA

Dear Soroptimists:

The Sequim High School (SHS) Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America is an organization that brings together business and education through leadership and career development opportunities. We greatly appreciate the support of the Sequim Soroptimists this past year. Your contributions allowed us to participate in the annual student leadership conference in Bellingham, WA. This conference is not only an incredible networking opportunity but allows students to compete in business related events.

We had great success at this conference. **Erin Dwyer** competed in Introduction to Public speaking, Impromptu Speaking and Graphic Design; **Eva Lofstrom** competed in Introduction to Public Speaking; and **Kianna Miller** competed in Introduction to Public Speaking, Impromptu Speaking and Client Service. All three did well with Kianna and Erin advancing to the finals and Kianna placing 7<sup>th</sup> in State in Impromptu Speaking.



The FBLA officer team of **Kianna Miller** (President), **Vita Olson** (Vice President of Executive Council), **Eva Lofstrom** (Vice President of Financial Affairs), and **Erin Dwyer** (Vice President of Public Relations), past competitors in Regionals and State, have returned this year to promote the incredible opportunities the organization has to offer. In addition, Brianna Cowan (Vice President of Records) and Hannah Hampton (Vice President of Sales and Marketing) have joined the officer team.

Our efforts and success in SHS FBLA have led a 200% increase in membership—to 18 active members in the 2018-2019 school year. This year we look forward to opening a Student Store at the High School. The small store will be operated entirely by FBLA and sell food and snacks to Sequim High School students. We look forward to the opportunity to learn about business management and fundraising for conferences this next year.

FBLA has provided some incredible opportunities for students that were made possible, in part, by your support. Thank you so much for all you have done for the Sequim Community!

Sincerely,  
Kianna Miller (President)  
Vita Olson (Vice President of Executive Council),  
Eva Lofstrom (Vice President of Financial Affairs)  
Erin Dwyer (Vice President of Public Relations)  
Brianna Cowan (Vice President of Records)  
Hannah Hampton (Vice President of Sales and Marketing)

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*“The best way to predict the future is to create it.” ~Abraham Lincoln*

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## A NEW ORGANIZATION AT SEQUIM HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Soroptimists:

**Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)** is an international organization with the mission of empowering students to become leaders in the global health community through education, collaboration, and experience. This school year, 2018-2019, Mrs. Gould, a science teacher at Sequim High School, started Sequim's first HOSA chapter. The group now includes eleven official members, 90% of whom are female.



HOSA is not only an opportunity to work with medical professionals in the community but includes annual state and national leadership conferences where students are able to learn and compete with various medical skills. We are so excited to participate in the State conference in Spokane during March, an incredible opportunity for networking, meeting other students interested in similar professions, and to represent Sequim High School.

Thank you so much for your support of the Sequim Community!

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Sweet (President)  
Brianna Cowan (Vice President)  
Vita Olson (Secretary)  
Erin Dwyer (Treasure)

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*“There are certain things that are fundamental to human fulfillment. The essence of these needs is captured in the phrase ‘to live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy’. The need to live is our physical need for such things as food, clothing, shelter, economical well-being, health. The need to love is our social need to relate to other people, to belong, to love and to be loved. The need to learn is our mental need to develop and to grow. And the need to leave a legacy is our spiritual need to have a sense of meaning, purpose, personal congruence, and contribution.” ~Stephen R. Covey*

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# CHRISTMAS PARTY

More photos at:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/108582458@N03/albums/72157705449806734>



## GALA GARDEN SHOW UPDATE

The holidays were a time to be with family and friends. We trust you all shared many loving experiences with them. Now that January is here, it's time to focus on our club's 21<sup>st</sup> Gala Garden Show.



- Chris Snow and Elaine Churchill, our Vendor Registration Team, report that ALL inside booths were secured by the end of December. This is very exciting! We've not had this happen before.
- Though sponsorships continue to arrive slowly, we are grateful for every donation. It's never too late to make or acquire a donation.
- Connie Van Roosendaal and Caroline Smith, our Raffle Team, is gearing up and has some great ideas.
- Jan Chapman has the Speakers' list/bios/photo ready.
- Linda Klinefelter is on task organizing the *Gazette* tab. Remember the deadline for getting articles to her is **January 28, 2019**.
- Missy Church-Smith, our super-stalker Volunteer Coordinator, has been busy for a while and will continue to encourage ALL members to sign up for working the show.
- This month the signs and banners will go to be updated. The posters will be designed using the featured artwork.
- We are doing something slightly different this year. We are asking vendors to park in the grassy area to the north and west of the Boys & Girls Club and NOT in the B&G Club parking lot and NOT in the elementary school parking lot next door; we are giving vendors a sign to put inside their cars that says VENDOR. Also, we are asking ALL members to NOT park in the B&G Club lot and NOT in the elementary school's lot. This will leave more spaces open for patrons. There are several off-site areas for members to park. A map will be provided closer to the show.
- The next Gala Garden Show Core Committee meeting is Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the First Security community room in Sequim.

Thank you all for doing your part to make this a great show.

~Su Howat & Kathy Purcell, Gala Garden Show Co-Chairs



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*"A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them." ~Liberty Hyde Bailey*

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## WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Soroptimists,

Thank you so much for honoring me for the month of November. Your generous gift and support are greatly appreciated for my collegiate journey.

Happy Holidays,  
Emily Bundy

Dear Soroptimists,










May God shine afresh in our hearts, His miracle of love at Christmas and in the new year. Thank you again for awarding my daughter Sara a scholarship in 2015.

The Thomas Family

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2	3	4 BOARD MEETING	5
6 Rose Jaeger 	7	8 Business Meeting	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Gala Garden Show Core Committee Meeting 8:30 First Security Community Room	17 Kathy Cunha 	18	19
20	21	22 Program Meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28 Deadline for submission of Gala Garden Show articles to Linda Klinterfelter for the Sequim Gazette tab.	29 5th Tuesday Potluck Social	30	31		

# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 	4 	5 	6	7	8 BOARD MEETING	9 
10 Joan Miller 	11 Missy Church-Smith 	12 Business Meeting Su Howat 	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 Theresa Alcayaga 	16 Peninsula Area Meeting
17 Joan Miller 	18 	19	20	21	22 Jan Chapman Sherry Lacey 	23
24	25 Maureen Gebbia 	26 Program Meeting Live Your Dream Award 	27	28		



**Plain Old Oyster**  
*by Unknown Author*

There once was an oyster, whose story I'll tell  
Who found that some sand, had gotten into his shell.

It was only a grain, but gave him great pain,  
For oysters have feelings, although they are plain.

Now, did he berate the harsh workings of fate  
That had brought him to such a deplorable state?  
"No," he said to himself, "Since I cannot remove it,"  
I'll lie in my shell, and think how to improve it."

The years rolled around, as the years always do  
And he came to his ultimate destiny .... stew.  
Now the small grain of sand that had bothered him so,  
Was a beautiful pearl all richly aglow.

This tale has a morale, for isn't it grand  
What an oyster can do with a morsel of sand?  
Think...what could we do, if we'd only begin,  
With some of the things that get under our skin.



**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women

Soroptimist International of Sequim  
PO Box 126  
Sequim, WA 98382

*improving the lives of women and  
girls through programs leading to  
social and economic empowerment.*

To a Person Making a Difference for Women