

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.

Investing in Dreams

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Volume 24, Issue 7

Celebrating 70+ Years of Service

January, 2020

Message from the President

Officers 2019 - 2020

President: Kathy Purcell

President-Elect: Kris Osborn

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Director: 2 year Jan Chapman

Director: 1 year Melody Albertson

Director: 1 year Cat Xander

Past President: Gena Royal

Newsletter Staff: Kathy Purcell Rose Jaeger Jane Manzer Pat Willis

"Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns." ~*Author Unknown* Have you ever experienced déjà vu and not realized it? It happened to me at the Gala Gift Show last month. I was standing near the See's Candy table. I saw a woman sitting in the café area, but she was facing away from the table. She was wearing a lovely holiday sweater. For some reason I was drawn to her; perhaps it was because she looked content and happy.

I walked across the room and commented on what a festive sweater she was wearing. She smiled and said, "that's the same thing you said last year, only I was wearing a different top." I looked closer at her face and then I smiled too. It was indeed Ellie, a shopper I had met at last year's Gala Gift Show. My mind flashed back...I had seen her walking down a vendor aisle and was struck by the pure joy on her face. I stopped her in midstride and we chatted. Later I even got to meet her two daughters. It made such an impact on me I wrote about it in my editor's article for December, 2018. Back to the present...we talked for a while and we both were smiling as I left the café. I was wondering if this would become a tradition.

Later I volunteered to spell Jane Manzer at the front door—sharing good tidings with folks as they entered and exited. I hadn't signed up for doing that, but it turned out to be a blessing. I was at the door when Ellie was leaving so I got to share a hug with her. Just remembering this I find I am again smiling.

A short time later I greeted a couple coming into the show. The gentleman asked where he could find Kathy Purcell; I smiled and said he was speaking to her. He introduced himself, Rich Bemm, and his wife, Deb. He said he is a member of the morning Sequim Rotary club. Each month they choose a non-profit organization to support; they take up a collection at the meetings that month and all the money goes to the chosen organization. Rich said they would like Soroptimist International of Sequim to be the organization they supported for January.

He said that Deb's mom had recently passed away but when she was still with them, they borrowed some equipment from our club's Medical Loan Closet. Rich said all those who they interfaced with from the MLC were so kind. He recommended his Rotary club give their January collections to the Sequim Soroptimists. Wow!

He invited a representative from our club to come to their first meeting in January and tell a little about our organization. Linda Klinefelter was that person. While at their meeting Linda learned something new. A Rotarian member indicated Swedish Hospital (Orthopedic Division) provides patients with a list of options to secure equipment for their rehab. The member stated we are not on this list. Many folks from our area use Swedish. Linda shared this info with the MLC Co-chairs and they will be following-up on it.

What a blessing this is all around. We will have more opportunities to provide needed equipment for others in our community. Even though we do this at no charge, many recipients of our service make a donation—one might give five dollars, while another gives fifty. I was thinking the Rotary's gift is a bit like my déjà vu experience—something familiar but unexpected.



I look forward to a new calendar year filled with more unexpected blessing as we continue Discovering Our Inner Treasures.



This month we hear from Amanda Beitzel President 2013-2014



Joy is in the Journey....the Heart leads the Way.

Trying to jog my ancient memory of my year as president in 2013-14, I asked Kathy Purcell, our outstanding newsletter editor & archivist, to send me copies of the newsletters from that year. I quote from one of my president articles "My vision/dream for this coming year is to embrace what we are doing well and discover through our 'collective impact' what is the best use of the time, energy and talents" Some members wanted change, some

did not; some wanted fewer projects, some did not; no one wanted to feel guilty about what they could or could not do. To stimulate the creative juices, we used a number of visual aids to help members become enthusiastic about change. There was a FGM (Fairy God Mother to grant wishes), ducks (getting our ducks in a row), and a skit with geese: gathering, flapping their wings, squawking, but doing nothing—we didn't want to be like them.



Over the summer we asked members to respond to an on-line survey which addressed the issues. Using the responses, we invited the membership to several brainstorming sessions in August and September, where ideas were discussed, and members voted for their eight favorite activities. Besides our three major fundraisers—See's Candies,

Gala Gift Show, & Gala Garden Show, the following were chosen:

Christmas Party Foster Children backpacking Girls Project Healthy Families — Holiday Joy Medical Loan Closet Signature Project — focused on women and girls VIP luncheon

Optional events, if an arranger stepped up to organize (which has happened with wine events in the summer)

The idea of a signature project had been floating around the club for years. While we were doing so much soul searching, it was time to take action. As stated in the newsletter, "... the signature project might 'brand' us: get our name out in the community: be recognized as the club that focused on women and girls; provide a project of meaning to our community." At the program meeting in May, Sandy Lawrence-president-elect, chair of the program committee, and my faithful scribe—and I presented options to the 47 members in an open mic forum. It was a spirited discussion. When it came time to decide, we had a split between helping young girls & teens and mature women. We decided to do both. A.I.M. High (Affirming the Inner Me) for girls-which has gone by the way, and Mature Women-later named TEA with S.H.E. (Soroptimist Helping and Empowering)—which has survived and is going strong. As I said in my last newsletter article of 2014, "I think the highlight of this year has been your willingness to question and to care enough to speak your minds through our brainstorming, surveys, and open mic forums. The leadership can act only when you speak up. Embracing the collective voices make us strong and united...."

May you always feel joy in your heart which leads you on a journey of giving—with or without ducks and FGM.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- *20 Human Trafficking 101
- 28 Program Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 22 Area Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting



*Evening Meeting

"Sometimes, belief isn't about what we can see. It's about what we can't." ~*Takeshi Kovacs*



"The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live." ~ *Ethel Percy Andrus*

Celebrate Life!

JANUARY

Kathy Cunha Rose Jaeger

FEBRUARY

Becky Archer Jan Chapman Missy Church-Smith Su Howat Sherry Lacey Joan Miller



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



"Never forget what you are, for surely the world will not. Make it your strength. Then it can never be your weakness. Armour yourself in it, and it will never be used to hurt you." ~George R.R. Martin

CLUB PICTURE ON JANUARY 14, 2020

We are having our pictures taken by Ernst Schafer of Ernst Fine Photography at our January 14 business meeting. This is a reminder to everyone to wear your "Blues."



JANUARY PROGRAM

Identity Theft Workshop presented by Chief Criminal Deputy Brian J. King, Clallam County Sheriff's Office.



Chief King has been a law enforcement officer in Clallam County since 1995. He began his career as a Reserve Police Officer for the Forks Police Department. In 1996 he was hired as tribal police officer in La Push where he achieved the rank of sergeant. In 1999 he was hired as a police officer for the Forks Police Department where he served until becoming a deputy for the Clallam County Sheriff's Office in 2001.

SIA Convention—Early Bird Registration Deadline



If you plan to attend the 46th Biennial Convention in Bellevue in July, 2020, please note the **deadline** for Early Bird Registration (a \$75 savings) is **January 15, 2020**.

You can register at:

https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/whats-new/46th-biennial-convention/index.html

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting Port Orchard Yacht Club Port Orchard, WA February 22, 2020



NWR Conference Hyatt Regency Lake Washington Renton, WA April 16-19, 2020



SIA 46th Biennial Convention Hyatt Regency Bellevue Bellevue, WA July 22-25, 2020

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARNESS

Responding to the Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth

When I started this article for our upcoming educational event on human trafficking, I found myself reflecting on the poignant reactions of individuals hearing the words "human trafficking." Some drew judgments, others were shocked, and others wanted to know more out of curiosity, but most physically flinched just at the title of the venue. Yes, flinching because the subject matter is uncomfortable, disdainful and repulsive.

It is not the first time I have experienced flinching by individuals. When I worked in the field of cancer, people would flinch because disease and dying are difficult. When I worked with ex-offenders, people would flinch because they had difficulty with second chances; and when I worked with the mentally ill or the disabled, people would flinch because it reminded them it could happen to them. It is the same with human trafficking! When children as young as twelve can be coerced or kidnapped and made to become sex slaves, abused or even threatened with death it makes us flinch. We ask how that can happen? It happens because not all children or teens are dealt a healthy foundation to enter adulthood. When a child or a teen is dealing with poverty, abuse, parents abusing drugs/alcohol or a family member suffering from mental or physical illness, then the child/teen's skill set is compromised. Not only is their skill set compromised, but their emotional health suffers. The foregoing sets the groundwork for a predator to lay the snare.

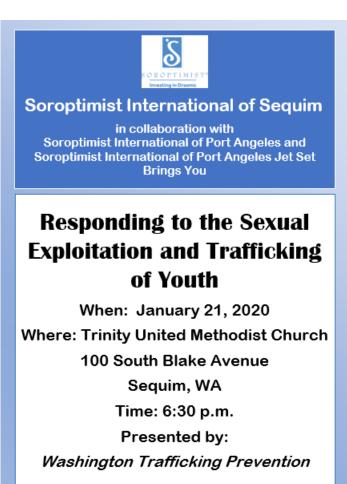
If the foregoing makes you uncomfortable due to the difficult subject matter, then even more reason for you to attend our event, "Responding to the Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth" on January 21, 2020. Did you know that Washington State is the hotspot for human trafficking due to the I-5 Corridor and major shipping ports in Seattle and Tacoma? Most of us don't, so set aside two hours. Bring a friend or a neighbor and come and learn what you can do to help eliminate human trafficking.

"Responding to the Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth" is a collaborative event with Soroptimist International of Port Angeles and Soroptimist International Port Angeles Jet Set and our club and is presented by Washington Trafficking Prevention (not-for-profit). It begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church, 100 South Blake Avenue, Sequim, WA.



~Linda Klinefelter, Public Awareness & Human Trafficking Awareness Chair

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do." ~Everett Edward Hale



AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

GIRLS OF THE MONTH



Peyton Sturm and Meguire VanderVelde

Soroptimist International of Sequim is pleased to announce their November and December Girls of the Month, Peyton Sturm, (left) and Meguire VanderVelde (right). Both young women are active in school government, volunteering and are excellent academicians. Peyton has her eyes set on attending Boise State University and Meguire is set on Western Washington.

LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARDEE CHOSEN

Alexandria Allen



Soroptimist International of Sequim is pleased to announce they have awarded their Live Your Dream Award to Alexandria Allen. Soroptimist's Live Your Dream Award is a unique education grant for women who provide the primary financial support for their families. This award gives

women the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Alexandria is previously from the local area, but now lives in Ellensburg, WA while she attends Central Washington University. While Allen is an accomplished cello player, her dream is to become a professional symphony cellist and teach cello to students of all ages and work towards providing a strong and successful future for her two boys and herself.



~Melody Albertson, Awards & Scholarships

"My soul is a hidden orchestra; I know not what instruments, what fiddlestrings and harps, drums and tamboura I sound and clash inside myself. All I hear is the symphony." ~Fernando Pessoa



2019-20 SIS Membership Team

As we enter the New Year (is it just me, or does 2020 sound like a date from Star Trek?), membership continues to focus on ensuring that goals of potential members align with our club's focus and the mission of SIA. Retention hinges on each new member's experience and involvement, as well as feeling a part of the SIS Family.

Thanks to all of you, we continue to attract wonderful new members! Club membership currently stands at 77 (73 regular members, 4 life members)! We anticipate inducting at least two more members by the end of January. New members infuse our club with enthusiasm, curiosity and energy...keeping SI of Sequim fresh and vital!

Be sure to check out photos and biographies of new members – in the Soropti-Scoop and in the Members Only/Roster Updates page of our website.



Looking forward to a wonderful and exciting 2020! Missy Church-Smith 2019-20 Membership Team Co-chair



"Knowing that we can make a difference in this world is a great motivator. How can we know this and not be involved?" ~Susan Jeffers

NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE

The New Members Club has decided to provide a donation of items to the following two organizations: First Step Family Support Center and Seventh Day Adventist Church Clothes Closet. Now is a good time to clean out your closets and donate to a worthy cause! We will have a donation box at each meeting starting January 14th. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is especially needing cold weather items as soon as possible.

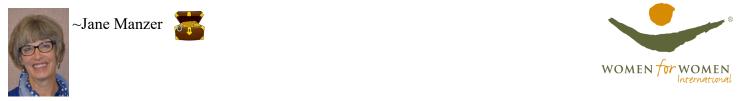


~Shawn Dredla, New Member Committee Chair 📜

ITEMS NEEDED Coats Cold weather outer clothing, gloves, scarfs... Formula Diapers, all sizes including adult Baby wipes Canned soups Socks for kids New soup cookers Containers for storing food Sleeping Bags, Personal Care Products (tooth paste/brushes, soap) Any items relating to personal hygiene. Good, wearable clothing

WOMEN FOR WORMEN INTERNATIONAL

There's been some encouraging news out of Women for Women International (W4WI), an organization we support with a small amount. A few years ago, we had just begun the sponsorship relationship with a woman in South Sudan, but due to a surge of violence there and an attack on the W4WI team, they suspended their work there for safety reasons. We were assigned a different woman in Afghanistan at that point. Now W4WI has returned to work in the South Sudan, even though it's still a dangerous place to work. They have accelerated their 1-year program to last only six months and are working with marginalized women living in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in one area of the country. The area is an agricultural zone, and many of the women have kitchen gardens from which they can sell local greens, tomatoes and other produce. They also can make and sell local donuts, called *mandazi*. This is putting women at the forefront of tangible, grassroots economic development in that area. Our club is helping to make this type of work possible and it's worth celebrating.



MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

Jeani Penn decided to take a break and has stepped down as MLC Co-chair. Jeani served as an MLC Co-chair for eight years. Everyone on the committee will miss Jeani as she has been our "Go To" person to answer questions and take care of problems that arose. We wish Jeani the best as she takes this break!

December activity at the Medical Loan Closet was not quite as brisk as prior months, but we continue serving as a needed resource to the community. We had **151** phone calls, loaned **67** pieces of equipment and had **75** pieces of equipment returned. We received \$413 in donations.



Because our committee has lost several members, we could use a couple more people. This is truly a labor of love and volunteers are continually rewarded with the expressions of appreciation that so many of our clients express at the Closet. Please think about joining us. The commitment is one week out of every 13. Please contact Becky or Chris if you would like more information about serving on this committee.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-Chairs

"As my mother says, "You give back, you don't give up." You can always choose to help others. If you do, it will change you." ~*Susan Ford*

SHARING HOLIDAY JOY THROUGH HEALTHY FAMILIES

In addition to supporting our local domestic violence advocacy agency, Healthy Families of Clallam County, with some committed funds each year, many club members support the agency's holiday

sponsorship program and the special event day for a few families in crisis. Because this is an especially stressful time for many, and one in which domestic violence occurs at a higher rate, this holiday effort is particularly valuable. **TWENTY-SEVEN** of our members sponsored a family, either individually or with others. Sponsors are furnished a list of the family members (first names only) and their wishes and/or needs. The list usually includes a wish for a Christmas decoration, something for the family, clothing needs, and toy ideas for the children. Once the gifts have been purchased and wrapped, if the receiving family wishes the sponsors can deliver, but otherwise the agency or Holiday Joy volunteers deliver the gifts to the family.

For six families selected by the agency, there is a day set aside for those families to have a "shopping" opportunity for their family members. There is an area of gifts for children where the parent will "shop" and an area of gifts for parents where the children will "shop." After selecting gifts, the children can help wrap those gifts and the parent can help wrap the gifts they've selected for the children. Several of our club members helped the

children and parents shop and wrap their gifts, which made for a heart-warming afternoon for all of us. Two other club members donated items for all of the attendees and gifts cards or gift certificates for services. Our Soroptimist club also stocks a sock tree, so all Holiday Joy day attendees select socks for family members, and one of our members bakes wonderful holiday cookies to share. Other community

volunteers provide stockings filled with goodies of all sorts and children all go home with a Christmas-themed pillowcase. It's an event, it's a bright spot in the recipients' holiday season, and the hands-on service is a blessing for us also.



~Jane Manzer, Domestic Violence Awareness Chair 🚬

Beverly Hoffman, the coordinator of Holiday Joy commented: "I think it's rather amazing that of the 45 families we sponsored, the Soroptimists sponsored 14! What a group. I also loved that for the first time Jan Chapman made chocolate star cookies. Amazingly, two little girls were named Star!"



"Inspiration is that state in which mind and heart are connected. When you feel inspired you find yourself thrust into a world where ordinary objects and events are full of light, as if illuminated from within. This inner light is truth, and when you suddenly see the truth, we gain insight, clarity, and joy." ~*Deepak Chopra*

MURERES WISHES

Happy and healthy New Year's wishes to all of you from the Mujeres de Maiz board. John Boetsch, Beth Fetrow, Steve Gilchrist, Judith Pasco, Kathy Purcell, Martha Rudersforf, and Cathy VanRuhan

Judith Pasco Board Chair Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org mujeres @olypen.com



GALA GIFT SHOW IS ONE FOR THE RECORDS!

Congratulations Ladies! Another glamorous, successful Gala Gift Show is tucked away in our memory book. Thank you to every single club member who helped make our event one that vendors and shoppers alike remember and want to return to year after year. No task is too small or insignificant to the whole. Our events require all members to step up and contribute and we did a fine job for the Gift Show. Smiling faces, helpful offers, lovely, glitzy attire, sumptuous decor, fine-tuned committees, healthy, hearty food and willing volunteers equals excellence. Thank you, Thank you.





GARDEN SHOW: Happy 2020!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday! It is hard to believe we are starting a new decade and the holidays have come and gone. The Gala Gift Show for 2019 was an enormous success and now we move towards the Gala Garden Show 2020. After seeing a double rainbow on the last day of the year, I know it will be a great year to come!

We are still looking for some positions for the GGS: <u>Volunteer Coordinator and Vendor Support Cochair</u>. I just know there are some people out there who can handle these positions, so don't be shy, speak up and let Kathy Purcell or Kim Renfro know that you are the person for these positions! We know you are out there.

Jan Chapman will be taking orders for the <u>Flower Power T-shirts</u>, so keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet if you want another T-shirt or need to order a T-shirt.

Our <u>Vendor Recruitment Team</u> has been very busy and has registered 41 vendors. They still have three indoor booths that have not been sold but expect one vendor to register soon. We have eight new vendors and four of these are nurseries.

Our long-time lavender farm vendor, B&B Family Farm, is unable to attend the 2020 show due to prior commitments, but we are excited that we will have **Fleurish Lavender of Lost Mountain** joining us this year.

Featured vendor will be: **Mike's Cedar Works** and our Featured New Vendor: **The Co-Op**. Lowell's Tools owners are retiring; we wish them all the best in their retirement and are excited to have the Co-Op as a new vendor.

We are in need of people to aid in follow-up calls to sponsors; if interested, contact Kim Renfro. We do have a script and the initial letters have gone out several months ago; we just need to follow up at this point. We are also looking for new sponsors, so if you are talking to neighbors and friends, ask if they want to be sponsors.

We do have a speaker for Sunday who will be Jeanette Stehr-Green. We are excited to have her speak to us on Sunday and look forward to her topic "Berries for All." This is in addition to our Sunday keynote speaker, Christina Pfeiffer.





~Kim Renfro and Kathy Purcell, Gala Garden Show Co-Chairs

"Life is given to you like a flat piece of land and everything has to be done. I hope that when I am finished, my piece of land will be a beautiful garden, so there is a lot of work." ~Jeanne Moreau



WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Soroptimist Members,

We would like to thank Soroptimist International of Sequim for being an important part of the project to expand the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

We are pleased to announce we have raised more than 99% of the estimated funds needed to begin construction of the expansion in April 2020! We reached this major milestone with Soroptimist's support as well as other generous individual donations, special events, and additional grants.

Sincerely, Dennis Dickson President of the Board

Annette Hanson Capital Campaign Chair

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim,

THANK YOU for your recent donation of \$750 and support of First Step Family Support Center! We truly appreciate YOU! Together, we will continue to promote the healthy development of children and families on the North Olympic Peninsula by building family strengths!

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and clients, THANK YOU for your support of families and children through First Step Family Support Center.

Nita Lynn Executive Director First Step Family Support Center



Dear Soroptimist Friends,

On behalf of the Olympic View Community Foundation, it is our great pleasure to thank you for your recent \$500.00 gift to Clallam County Friends of C.A.S.A.

As you may know, Friends of C.A.S.A. is a volunteer fundraising and support group that provides assistance for foster youth in the Clallam County C.A.S.A. program (Court Appointed Special Advocates). This aligns with the mission of Olympic View Community Foundation, to improve the quality of life in Clallam County by connecting people who care with causes that matter. OVCF is proud to serve as the non-profit Fiscal Sponsor for this local group.

Thank you again for your generous gift to benefit foster children in Clallam County

With much gratitude, Leslie Lauren Executive Director

Sheila Everett Program Director



Dear Soroptimist of Sequim,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250.00. Having involvement from supporters is a critical ingredient in any successful program. Your contribution to Parenting Matters Foundation certainly helps us and the families we serve. Our newsletter, family support classes, playground time and free book distribution all rely heavily on donations from supporters like you.

The First Teacher program reaches out to parents from the time their child is born and gives the family ideas, materials, and tools to make the critical early years most successful. Your contribution will certainly assist us in continuing to provide these services.

Sincerely, Patty Waite Executive Director



To Soroptimists,

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and volunteers of the Dungeness Valley Health & Wellness Clinic—AKA The Sequim Free Clinic, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Because of your generosity this year, we were able to provide compassionate, quality health care in the form of 1,200 patient visits. We also had an average of 68 attendees to our free monthly Working on Wellness (WOW!) forums.

We want to thank you for all you have done to support the health and wellness of our community We couldn't do it without you.



Sara Nicholls, Executive Director

To Sequim Soroptimists,

Thank you for the honor of singing at your Gala Gift Show. My friend and I had a great time. You did a beautiful job of decorating and organizing.

Happiest of Holidays, Jazzy Judy



January / 202

26	19	12	UT		Sun
IJ	20 Human Trafficking 101 Trinity United Methodist Church (Sequim) 6:30 p.m.	13	6	BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Kathy Cunha Rose Jaeger	Mon
28 Program Meeting	21	14 Business Meeting	7		Tue
29	22	15	00	1 TOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTOTO	Wed
30	23	16	œ	2	Thu
31	24	17	10 BOARD MEETING	ω	Fri
	25	18	7	4	Sat

February 202

23	16	ن	2	BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Becky Archer Jan Chapman Missy Church-Smith Su Howat Sherry Lacey Joan Miller	Sun
24	17	10	یں		Mon
25 Program Meeting	18	11 Business Meeting	4		Tue
26	61	12	и		Wed
27	20	13	6		Thu
28	21	4	7 BOARD MEETING		Fri
29	22 Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting	15	00	HAPPY NEW YEAR	Sat

The Snow Man By Wallace Stevens

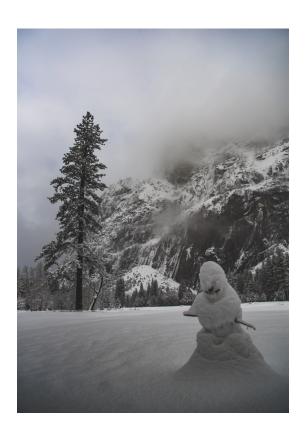
One must have a mind of winter To regard the frost and the boughs Of the pine-trees crusted with snow;

And have been cold a long time To behold the junipers shagged with ice, The spruces rough in the distant glitter

Of the January sun; and not to think Of any misery in the sound of the wind, In the sound of a few leaves,

Which is the sound of the land Full of the same wind That is blowing in the same bare place

For the listener, who listens in the snow, And, nothing himself, beholds Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.





improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Soroptimist International of Sequim PO Box 126 Sequim, WA 98382

To a Person Making a Difference for Women