



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

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 24, Issue 9

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 70+ Years of Service

March, 2020

Message from the President

Officers 2019 - 2020

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**“A leader is powerful
to the degree he
empowers others.”
~fortune cookie**

It March, Women’s History Month. We all have women in our lives who have made an impact—who have brought out the best in us. It might have been a mom, aunt, sister, teacher, friend, co-worker—or maybe even someone we didn’t like very much at first. They taught us how to be kind, compassionate, tolerant, thoughtful. They taught us how to think for ourselves—but not think only of ourselves. They taught us the value of mistakes—for lessons always come from them. They taught us that people are more important than profit. They taught us how to be authentic and show up as ourselves—warts and all. They taught how to discover our own strength. They taught us to be leaders.

All these things came into play this week as the board wrestled with the possible cancellation of our 22nd Annual Gala Garden Show because of the coronavirus. The age group most affected by the virus is 60 years and older. That is the demographics of Sequim.

Cancelling the show would be unprecedented and there would be repercussions. It would have an adverse effect on some vendors—our partners whose presence is an important part of the event. A lot of expenditures had already been made in preparation for the show—by vendors and by our club. This is our major fundraiser—it funds over 3/4 of the community giving that we do on an annual basis including scholarships and other need-based programs.

While Washington State has the most cases of coronavirus in the US, there were no known cases in Clallam County. However, a notice from the Clallam County Department of Health & Human Services dated 3/5/20 says: “... we suspect that COVID-19 is present in our community in low levels. We anticipate that we will see more of this virus and that it will place a significant stress on our healthcare system.” Many other local events were being cancelled.

It was a very challenging decision. In the end the board voted to cancel the show; we feel it is in the best interest of the health of those in our community—including our members. It was a very difficult decision and we recognize it will have an impact on many people. But the safety of the community has to be our primary concern. The majority of the responses—from club members, vendors and members of the community—show approval of this decision. We are grateful for the understanding shown by our community. We will march on together.

It’s March. That means the Nominating Committee is seeking members to fill positions on next year’s board. Being a leader doesn’t mean you have to know everything—or that you have to do everything—or that you have to be perfect. Each of us has a set of skills. You don’t need to have every skill set to be a leader. President-elect Kris shared a comment made by a woman she knows that went something like: “I am a C student, but I’m smart enough to surround myself with others who know a lot more than me.” No one person does the job alone. It is important that we support our club leaders who step up—warts and all. We can then fill in with our own skill sets where needed.

We have the opportunity to reflect the things we’ve learned from the women who made a difference in our lives. We can show kindness, tolerance and understanding as we continue to discover our inner treasures and united strength.



~President Kathy

Discovering Our Inner Treasures (DO IT!)



“People underestimate their capacity for change. There is never a right time to do a difficult thing. A leader’s job is to help people have vision of their potential.” ~John Porter

**This month we hear from Deb Carlson
President 2011-2012**



As a Firefighter for 28 years, living 24 hours a day in a fire station with sometimes 22 men that I wasn't in love with, the very best thing we could hear was the tones going off and the call "fully involved structure fire!" That meant we could kick it in gear and work off all the pettiness and drama that being unbusy can cause, use our training and skills, rely on our ever important teamwork, help other people who needed us

and come back to the house feeling exhausted but renewed in spirit and camaraderie. Clean slate.

Just like here. My goal that year was to get all members involved in our projects and events. I've always said you get out of it what you put in, if you're not feeling needed, rewarded, useful...do more. It's a direct connect.

Each year, for many years, we do the same events, same fundraising, give financial support to all of the organizations who do so much for our sweet little town. We did them that year also.

My favorite moment, my proudest moment during my year as president, was the response from our members to an unsanctioned request when Joplin, Missouri endured a category 5 tornado that destroyed their town and left most homeless with nothing. I called the Joplin Soroptimist President and asked how we could help. Within minutes of speaking to our members we had \$2500 in personal checks to send to their club to do the best they could to whomever needed it most. Other clubs did the same. They received \$30,000 from Soroptimists to share with neighbors and friends, and their own club members who were devastated, lost children, lost everything.

They sent a lovely thank you DVD to every club who contributed, showcasing the individuals and their stories who were touched by the kindness of strangers. It doesn't get any better than that. It's why we're here. I was, and still am, so proud of the big hearts of our ladies, my friends, my Soroptimist sisters.

Thank you, Jane Manzer, for being my mentor and sponsor and dear friend.

Fully Involved Ladies, or why be here?

~Deb Carlson



CALENDAR

MARCH

- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting

APRIL

- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting (GOM Mar & Apr)
- 28 Program (TBD)

***Evening Meeting**



"When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better."
~Author Unknown



"Never, never rest contented with any circle of ideas, but always be certain that a wider one is still possible." ~Pearl Bailey

Celebrate Life!

MARCH

Rita McCabe
Susan Mesches
Kathryn Pacelli
Laura Rundle
Anji Scalf
Gerry Sladowski

APRIL

Linda Rotmark
Chris Snow



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



*“As long as we are persistent
in our pursuit of our deepest destiny,
we will continue to grow.
We cannot choose the day or time
when we will fully bloom.
It happens in its own time.”
~Denis Waitley*

GALA GARDEN SHOW UPDATE

For 21 years Soroptimist International of Sequim has had an annual garden show. Happening the third weekend in March, the Gala Garden Show has ushered in the spring. The show takes months of planning by many people—vendors and speakers, in addition to our club members. The weekend attracts vendors and patrons from as far away as Oregon. All was moving forward for this year’s show. Then the coronavirus hit the US—Washington was the first state where it appeared. Washington has remained the place with more cases than any other state. The governor declared a State of Emergency.

Although there were no known cases in Clallam County, a notice dated March 5, 2020, was put out by the Clallam County Department of Health & Human Services. It says: “... we suspect that COVID-19 is present in our community in low levels. We anticipate that we will see more of this virus and that it will place a significant stress on our healthcare system.”

We looked at other local events to see if they were still going to happen as scheduled—many were being cancelled. The coronavirus is still new and there are a lot of things unknown about it. We realized a cancellation of the Gala Garden Show would have an impact on a lot of people—but the coronavirus has the potential to have an impact on a lot of people also. The proceeds from the Gala Garden Show amount to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the money we give back to the community in the form of awards, scholarships and committed funds to other non-profit organizations.

It was a very difficult decision—a few of us on the board have been on the core committee for the garden show for years—the board decided to cancel the 22nd Annual Gala Garden Show. Chris Snow reported that when notifying the vendors “most knew the call would probably be coming and they understood. They all want to be a part of whatever event we replace this one with. Many expressed concern and sympathy to us as an organization because they know what a great fundraiser it is for us and the young women who receive our scholarships.”

The majority of the comments from the public have been positive and supportive as well. One woman said she was glad we cancelled the show and chose the safety of the people. We are grateful for the support of the community as we live through this experience together.



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

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



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

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Brianna Jack



Soroptimist International of Sequim is pleased to announce our Girls of the Month. January's Girl of the Month is Brianna Jack (left). Brianna is a member of Honor Society, cheerleader for four years as well as a captain this year and is Commissioner of the LINK program. The LINK program connects upper classmen with Freshmen and Sophomores and assists them as they navigate through high school with the goal of success for their high school years. Brianna has been accepted to the University of Idaho.

Kianna Miller



February's Girl of the Month is Kianna Miller (right). Kianna volunteers with Clallam County Mosaic's Night to Shine, Fort Discovery Unity Effort, Trey Green Guild, Soroptimist Gala Garden Show and at Helen Haller Elementary school. In addition, Kianna has received awards for her poetry and recognized with an award from Future Business Leaders of America and is a member of the cheerleading squad. In the fall of 2020, Miller will be attending Western Washington University.

MEMBERSHIP

DESAUTEL, Malen



Originally from the Philippines, Malen moved to the Sequim area eight years ago. She has three children, and she works in the banking industry. She is active in the Rotary Club and other professional organizations.

Other interests include sewing and making jewelry. SIS will benefit from Malen's volunteer experience with the Sequim Bank, Save the Kids, and WAG. Like many of us, she heard about our organization through friends. All of us at SIS welcome Malen and look forward to working together.

NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE

The New Members committee met for lunch Thursday, February 20th. This was to get to know each other and discuss the future of the committee. There has been a great response recently to the request for items for First Steps and is and was greatly appreciated. Plans to continue support for community organizations are ongoing. Keep your eyes open for future plans. Thank you.



~Liz Troberg, New Member Committee



AREA MEETING CONNECTION

At the Area Meeting last month, I met up with an old SI/Corona, CA friend, **Teresa Costa** from SI/North Kitsap. We were at SI/Corona for 15 years together before she moved to Bainbridge. Also, there was a lady at our table from the same club, SI/North Kitsap. Before she moved, she was from Kingman, Arizona, part of the Golden West Region. Once a Soroptimist, always a Soroptimist.



~Shawn Dredla



“The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances; if there is any reaction, both are transformed.” ~Carl Gustav Jung

MEMBERSHIP

In the course of a recent conversation with a friend who lives on Bainbridge Island, we talked about what SI of Sequim (SIS) “does.” She had heard of the Medical Loan Closet, and the scholarships. But she had no idea of the number of other organizations our group supports. I was again reminded of the ever-growing impact of SIS, as we “touch” more and more people in the course of all our activities and donations. This is the perfect time to reflect on our amazing, talented and generous membership. A neighbor had commented last year that when people say “yes, but how can I make a difference; what can one person do,” she says you can do “good.” That is the perfect description of SIS members. We do “good,” in every sense of the word. We do good works, make good friendships, make the Sequim area a better (gooder) place. Thank you one and all for everything good that you do.



~Mary Fasching, Membership committee Co-Chair



“Friendship is made fast
by interwoven benefits.”
~Philip Sidney

DIGNITY FOR WOMEN PROGRAM

A big thank you to the members who brought diapers to the February 25 breakfast meeting in support of the Dignity for Women project. The Food Bank is very appreciative of our efforts to help women in the Sequim community.



~Elaine Churchill and Becky Archer, Co-Chairs for Dignity for Women Program

“The most luxurious possession, the richest treasure anybody has,
is his personal dignity.” ~Jackie Robinson

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

Think about all the ways that SI of Sequim (SIS) makes our presence known in the community. There are annual events such as the Gala Gift Show, Gala Garden Show and VIP Luncheon. There are special presentations hosted through the Tea with SHE, Domestic Violence Awareness, and Human Trafficking Awareness Projects. There are the rewarding feelings we feel when we work with students in the schools and when we award Scholarships and Awards to aspiring young women. Then there is the Medical Loan Closet...to us the MLC is the everyday face of SIS. Our volunteers are serving our community every day of the year through the loaning of equipment to residents in our community. If you would like to be a part of this valuable service to our community, please contact either Becky Archer or Chris Snow. The commitment is a few hours a week for one week out of every 13. We would love to help you get your face out to the community!

February activity at the Medical Loan Closet was brisk. We returned **211** phone calls, loaned **104** pieces of equipment and had 132 pieces of equipment returned. We received **\$290** in donations.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-Chairs



BUDGETING PROCESS

According to our club by-laws, "In March of each year the Finance Committee and Treasurer shall submit a draft budget to the Board for review and revision." With that direction, using responses from committee heads and community partners, and referring to the recently-completed survey, the committee went to work. We had a couple of several-hour work sessions dedicated to the budget, along with our regularly-scheduled committee meeting the night before the Board meeting. It's a difficult task, especially for Treasurer Shelle Paulbitski, who makes the calculations and designs the presentation. Much thought and discussion goes into almost every single figure on that draft budget, particularly after cancelling the Garden Show.

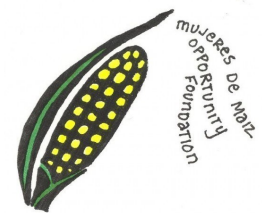
Thanks to our healthy bank account and our other fundraisers, we were able to make revisions to our original draft (Plan A) that still preserve the better part of our awards, scholarships, and community service programs. It may be Plan B, but we are a club of members who can make best of the situation. We try to keep the mission of our club and Soroptimist International of the Americas in general at the core of our thinking and through discussion come to agreement as to reasonable, supportable recommendations. In that it's a *proposed* budget, we're making a number of projections based on past and current income as to funds we expect to receive and we're making informed suggestions as to how much and where to spend both the funds coming from members and the funds we earn from the community. But it is subject to change. After the Board has reviewed, revised and approved the draft budget, it will be submitted to the Membership for review in April. Stay tuned, stay informed, and stay in touch with your Directors!

~Jane Manzer, Treasurer Shelle Paulbitski, Kathy Cunha, President-elect Kris Osborn, Janet Popelka, and Janet Real

MUJERES UPDATE

Dear Soroptimist Sisters and Brothers,

One of the best things about Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation, is the proposals we receive from our coordinator in Chiapas. During our 15 years in operation, these proposals always hold something unexpected. The women and girls on scholarship that run the children's programs have had great, creative ideas over the years. Every year, we receive detailed year-long curricula for each children's program.



For those of you unfamiliar with our children's programs, here is the "short" explanation. Scholarship recipients are required to do community service as part of their "giving back" to their communities. The majority run programs for primary school children. These programs meet for three hours on a Saturday or Sunday with an aim to strengthen academic skills and encourage children to stay in school after the 5th grade. These programs have been running for 12 years. We fund these programs which also include a meal.

This year we were delighted to see some new topics that will be presented in addition to the old ones (math, Spanish, etc.) Here are some titles of the new lessons: Care of the Environment, Biodiversity, Water Cycles, The Importance of Water, Oceans, Continents, and on a different theme—Care of Your Body. So, we were asked what we thought about the idea of mini-libraries. They would start out small and have two types of books. The first books would have practice possibilities for math and Spanish. The second type of books would deal with the new topics they will be studying. Books are expensive in Mexico, so we are starting with their suggestion of 10 to 12 books for each of six children's programs. The board was very enthusiastic about this, and we hope to build on these little libraries in the future.

Many thanks to those of you who volunteered for our annual Mexican breakfast, March 1st. You are a great support to us.

Judith, Board Chair
www.mujeresdemaizof.org/
mujeres@olypen.com

**"When you have mastered numbers, you will in fact no longer be reading numbers, any more than you read words when reading books You will be reading meanings."
~W. E. B. Du Bois**

PENINSULA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

While gathering information on potential recipients of FY 2020-21 committed funds from our club, I learned a great deal about Peninsula Behavioral Health (PBH) and wanted to share some of it with you. Because of the generosity of anonymous directed donations combining with our committed funds during a couple of recent years, we are listed as one of the Founding Donors on the “Wall of Hope” sculpture at the new Youth Services Center lobby (see photo). The Youth Services Center in Port Angeles opened in August 2019. Prior to that, our monies were used to provide art and therapy materials for children being served at the Sequim office.



Many Sequim youth and families are served in Port Angeles also, especially with the opening of the Youth Services Center. The services PBH provides are homeless outreach, 24/7 crisis intervention (including a 6-bed respite center that provides a safe, monitored space for someone having a mental health crisis, avoiding costly hospital stays or emergency room visits), adult outpatient counseling and case management, youth and family mental health services, and medical and pharmacy teams. In addition, Peninsula Behavioral Health has three supported living homes as well as a 19-bed assisted living facility where residents receive care and support while maintaining as much independence as possible. Some 2018 statistics of services are: 3,425 local clients, 900 children served, 192 people helped through homeless outreach services, 8,250 crisis contacts, and 70,861 services provided. Aside from those statistics, PBH serves the community by offering free Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid classes, helping any of us recognize and respond to signs of mental health and substance use in peers.



~Jane Manzer, Finance Committee Chair

“A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.” ~Charles H. Spurgeon

SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for all the kind and loving condolences that have been extended to me with the passing of my Dad.



~Linda Klinefelter



PUBLIC AWARENESS

WOW...it is March! I find that hard to believe—and I find it even harder to believe we are about to enter the 22nd year of our garden show. I remember going to my first Gala Garden Show; it was before I became a member—but it was one the reasons I did become a member. Historically, my career has had me working in the non-profit world, and “the mission” has always been a part of my life. It didn’t matter what non-profit I was associated with, I always felt I had to be committed to the mission. It all started when I applied for employment with any agency. I carefully and meticulously researched the history of the nonprofit because I felt, if hired, I had to be committed to their mission. It has been that way with my membership and activities in Soroptimist. I am most committed to our mission! I am also most committed to the garden show because the proceeds support women and girls with scholarships and awards.

As we enter March, we will begin daylight savings time...ahhhh, longer days, which I love. We will celebrate the first day of Spring on March 19th and we will celebrate the 22nd year of our Gala Garden Show that same week. As we celebrate, I ask that you bring your commitment to the mission of Soroptimist. Roll up your sleeves and give your all to the garden show, so we may pass the fruits of our labors to some great young women who have dreams.



~Linda Klinefelter, Public Awareness Chair

“I hope you will go out and let stories happen to you, and that you will work them, water them with your blood and tears and you laughter till they bloom, till you yourself burst into bloom.” ~*Clarissa Pinkola Estes*

GALA GIFT SHOW

The Gala Gift Show core team had their after-event debrief the other day. It was a very successful fundraiser, yielding about \$8,000. We exceeded our budgeted amount, largely due to our fabulous sponsors; Hurricane Ridge Veterinary Clinic, The Engstrom Company, Linda Chapman Design, Cruising by Melody, Lodge Chiropractic, Lovie’s Limoncello, and Pacific Northwest Veterinary Hospital.



The exhibitors were very satisfied, enjoying the caring they receive from our exhibitor support teams. This year’s variety of entertainment was fun and sometimes interesting. The bake sale décor was stunning, and our Raffle was “the bomb” as well.

Some of the crew are returning and already planning for next year. However, many have been on the core team for years. It is time for new ideas and new chairmanship. For 2020 the 9th annual Gala Gift Show will be Saturday, December 5. If you want to be involved, helping to plan this event, please let me, or Deb Carlson know of your interest.



~Sandy Lawrence

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Friends,

Thank You! We are grateful for your February gift of \$250.00. Your thoughtful and regular support of the Sequim Food Bank makes all the difference in the world.

Last year, 12,800 visits were made to the Sequim Food Bank by families in our community. Sometimes it is hard to believe we are able to help so many — which could not be done without our community's support. Your partnership allows us to ensure we are able to help with a steady support of balanced foods including milk, eggs, and fresh produce, while also affording us the ability to collaborate with other organizations to help meet additional needs as we learn them.

Thank you again for your support and help as we work toward our vision that "No one goes hungry in our community." Please know your help is making a lasting difference.

Thanks you for your support of our teens who volunteer here and of our mission. We appreciate your continued support!

Sincerely,
Andra Smith
Executive Director



Hello, Kathy and all of our friends at SI of Sequim!

We're so glad that many of you were able to come to the Area Meeting. We sure had a fun time and we hope that you did, too. Thank you for attending and giving us the opportunity to hear about all of the great things that you have been doing. It keeps our enthusiasm high—your successes make us all feel like winners!

Most gratefully
Anne McLellan and all of us at SI of Port Orchard

Soroptimist International of Sequim,

I would like to thank you again for selecting me as your January Girl of the Month and for inviting me to attend your meeting. I had a lovely time and enjoyed meeting everyone. You are a wonderful and strong group of women and I so admire what you're doing as a club.

Thank you,
Brianna Jack

Dear Soroptimist of Sequim,

On behalf of the North Olympic Foster Parent Association (NOFPA) and all foster children, we thank you for all that your organization has done for NOFPA in the past year. We are now thanking all of you for your wonderful \$500.00 donation that we received for our Sequim Clothing Closet and our teenage girls.

We have also provided below the North Olympic Foster Parent Association Mission Statement.

MISSION STATEMENT
PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE, EMPOWER AND
SUPPORT ALL FOSTER CHILDREN AND
FOSTER FAMILIES

The NOFPA is organized exclusively for the charitable purpose to benefit Foster Children, Foster Parents, Adoptive Parents and Relative Care Providers of Washington State Foster Care.

- ⇒ To promote close contact and the exchange of ideas and experiences between Foster Families and all other interested in enhancing foster care.
- ⇒ To promote better understanding in the community toward Foster Children and Foster Families through education, research and community advocacy.
- ⇒ To support Foster Families in order to enrich the quality of life for Foster Children.




We appreciate all of the time, effort and contributions from organizations and people such as you in helping our foster children in need.

With our blessings and many thanks again,
Kimberly Ferdig, Secretary

Carol A. Pope
Grant Coordinator



March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Rita McCabe Susan Mesches Kathryn Pacelli Laura Rundie Anji Scalf Gerry Sladowski</p> 	2	3	4	5	6 BOARD MEETING	7
	9	10 Business Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						
29	30	31				

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
<p>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Linda Rotmark Chris Snow</p> 	<p>APRIL IS: NATIONAL HUMOR MONTH</p>	<p>GO ORANGE for April In support of the ASPCA Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month ASPCA</p>	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 BOARD MEETING	11
<p>12 </p>	13	14 Business Meeting (GOM Mar & Apr)	15	16 102 NWR Conference Hyatt Regency Renton, WA 	17 102 NWR Conference Hyatt Regency Renton, WA 	18 102 NWR Conference Hyatt Regency Renton, WA 
19 102 NWR Conference Hyatt Regency Renton, WA 	20	21	22 	23	24 102 NWR Conference Hyatt Regency Renton, WA 	25
26	27	28 Program Meeting	29	30		

The Flower at My Window by: Lucian B. Watkins

O! my heart now feels so cheerful as I go with footsteps light
In the daily toil of my dear home;
And I'll tell to you the secret that now makes my life so bright—
There's a flower at my window in full bloom.

It is radiant in the sunshine, and so cheerful after rain;
And it wafts upon the air its sweet perfume.
It is very, very lovely! May its beauties never wane—
This dear flower at my window in full bloom.

Nature has so clothed it in such glorious array,
And it does so cheer our home, and hearts illumine;
Its dear mem'ry I will cherish though the flower fade away—
This dear flower at my window in full bloom.

Oft I gaze upon this flower with its blossoms pure and white.
And I think as I behold its gay costume,
While through life we all are passing may our lives be always bright
Like this flower at my window in full bloom.



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

*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