



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 25, Issue 4

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 70+ Years of Service

October 2020

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Message from the President

October...pumpkin spice, color changing leaves, sweaters and a nip in the air. All things fall coming our way!

While we continue to deal with the craziness that has become our lives given COVID, it warms my heart that our members continue on with activities that support our community and mission.

- * Medical Loan Closet—Reminder that the MLC is open and serving those in need. What a great group of ladies we have working shifts to make sure that items are available to the public! Our name continues to be the first given online when someone asks for help on a Facebook page asking where to find items. Our reputation is strong and one to be proud of!
- * Virtual Garden Show—A meeting every week, coordinating auction items (both items to auction and pickup once auction closes), awesome webinars with relevant speakers, interviews with scholarship winners, vendors and past chairpersons...all of this has been happening behind the scenes to pull off our first ever Virtual Garden Show! Please join me in thanking the committee for all of their hard work!

I dream of days that we're back to normal, giving hugs and mask-free smiles. Until that day happens though, we'll continue to have virtual meetings and laughs. I hope to "see" you all on October 13 at 8 a.m. for our business meeting!



President Kris
Outside the Box



*“As you move outside of your comfort zone, what was once the unknown and frightening becomes your new normal.”
~Robin S. Sharma*

“The possibility of stepping into a higher plane is quite real for everyone. It requires no force or effort or sacrifice. It involves little more than changing our ideas about what is normal.” ~Deepak Chopra

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's October; the amount of daylight hours is waning. Mother Nature is painting the landscape in oranges, reds and yellows. Fall is here. It is a contrast to the spring with its greens, pinks and yellows. One thing common to both seasons is yellow—though the bright dandelion hue is now showing up as a rich gold.

Another thing these two seasons have in common—at least this year—is gardening. Spring 2020 was different than most; we cancelled our 22nd Annual Gala Garden Show, scheduled for the third weekend in March, due to COVID-19. It had an impact on many people. An ad-hoc committee of seven formed and redesigned things into what became our Virtual Garden Show—Fall Edition. You can read more about it on page 7.

One of the treasures of the virtual platform was the webinars—presented by speakers who are Master Gardeners. Unlike our Gala Garden Shows, where I often had other duties that kept me from attending the speaker's sessions, I was able to be present for all three of the webinars. I was very impressed, and I learned a lot—on several levels. The Master Gardeners were informed and inspiring; they tapped into one another's strengths. This sounds a lot like Soroptimists.

Muriel Nesbitt's webinar was about saving seeds. She shared: "Different areas were suited to different crop varieties, so distinctions arose between varieties in different regions. Thus local varieties developed adaptations that suited the climates and soils of different areas....Seeds were family treasures, passed down from generation to generation like other family heirlooms. These heirlooms were open pollinated and replanted each year from seed. Those heirloom varieties that have come down to us today preserve some of the genetic diversity once present in these early cultivated crops."

This made me think of Soroptimists. Each club works within their community based on the local demographics and needs, while keeping the Soroptimist mission in mind. Our longer-term members are like the heirloom seeds, passing down knowledge, history, and spirit. Soroptimist clubs are pollinated and replanted each year from the seeds of the past. Each club preserves some of the genetic diversity we've always had.

Keith Dekker's webinar was about pruning. He started his webinar with humor, which drew in his audience—and he kept our attention. Some things he shared: "Avoid heavy pruning in the fall. Pruning stimulates growth. Thinning and deadwood is okay. Prune above a leaf or a branch."

This brought to mind how when membership declines, it's like pruning. It stimulates other members to step up and take on different roles. It energizes members, which in turn, attracts more new members.

During the fall tips and tasks webinar there was a panel of three, Jeanette Stehr-Green joining the two mentioned above. There were many great ideas and recommendations shared, but what stuck with me was regarding the soil. "There are different kinds of fertilizer. Have your soil tested before adding anything to your soil. Adding something that is in excess or not needed can be harmful."

This reminded me of our recent Survey Monkey questionnaires. Leadership reached out to the members to "test the soil" so to speak—to see where the mindset is of our members.

Who knew gardening webinars could be so inspiring—especially to someone like me who is not a gardener? I am grateful to all those who made the Virtual Garden Show happen. There are so many things around us that are inspiring—if we take the time to look. The number of daylight hours is decreasing this time of year. However, we can take the time to see things in a new light as we continue to live our mission Outside the Box.



Light and Love,
Kathy Purcell, Editor



**"Life is not only meant to be appreciated in retrospect . . .
There is something each day to embrace and cherish."
~Dieter F. Uchtdorf**

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 9 Board Meeting
- 13 Business Meeting
- 27 Program Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting
- 24 Program Meeting

**All Meetings are via
Zoom**



**"If everyone would look for that
uniqueness then we would have
a very colorful world."
~Michael Schenker**



**"Fall has always been
my favorite season. The time when
everything bursts with its last beauty,
as if nature had been saving up all
year for the grand finale."
~Lauren DeStefano**

Celebrate Life!

OCTOBER

Melody Albertson
Jeanie Blaurock
Shawn Dredla
Linda Naylor
Shelle Paulbitski

NOVEMBER

Mayme Faulk
Gloria Fitzpatrick
Marilyn Hooser
Wei Lindstrom



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



*“Autumn...the year’s last,
loveliest smile.”
~William Cullen Bryant*

PROGRAMS

The October 27th Zoom Program Meeting will feature a presentation/discussion on Domestic Violence. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and this year it is particularly important.

People have been at home more and together in what has been called a bubble. That means signs of violence and abuse have been harder to spot.



Because students have been out of school, teachers who are mandated reporters of suspected abuse, haven’t been able to fulfill that role. Because many workers have been doing their jobs from computers at home, bosses and co-workers haven’t seen them. And because many businesses were closed and people laid off, money has been scarce and that creates tension. And then there’s COVID-19 reminding people of their mortality and creating even more stress.

Becca Korby of Healthy Families, the recipient of a large proportion of our Shredding Event donations, as well as a member of law enforcement, will be online with us to talk about facts and figures of Domestic Violence in the era of COVID-19—and hopefully to offer suggestions of how we can safely help.

More details coming up later this month.



~Cat Xander, Programs Chair



SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

D1

District 1 Meeting
Virtual Info Coming Soon
October 17, 2020



NWR Conference
Davenport Hotel
Spokane, WA
April 22-25, 2021



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SIA CONVENTION
100th Anniversary
Fairmont Hotel
San Francisco, CA
October 1-2, 2021

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP

JONELL HILL



Soroptimist International of Sequim is pleased to announce Jonell Hill as our October 2020 Girl of the Month. Jonell actively volunteers in the community with several non-profits. This includes the

Sequim Food Bank, Dungeness Seafood and Crab Festival, the Lavender Festival and Boo Hunger (Sequim Food Bank). In addition to all her volunteer activities, Jonell has been a member of Sequim High School's golf team for the last four years. Like most students this time of year, Hill is applying to various colleges and plans to major in psychology with the goal of becoming a high school guidance counselor.

TEA WITH SHE – SOROPTIMIST HELPING AND EMPOWERING

The Tea with SHE committee met virtually in September. Due to the continued pandemic, the committee made the difficult decision to postpone the planned October 20th program, **Retirement on a Budget**, to May 2021. We will ask our speakers, a five-person panel with expertise in banking, insurance, social services, and income tax issues, to join us next year. Trinity United Methodist Church agreed to carry forward the paid rental fee to next year.



The committee will meet early in 2021 to plan for the May Tea with SHE event.



~Janet Popelka
Acting Tea with SHE Chair



“You may not have saved a lot of money in your life, but if you have saved a lot of heartaches for other folks, you are a pretty rich man.” ~Seth Parker

PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

The Pathways Committee has found a special project to work on this year. First Step Family Support Center is in need of volunteers to help sort all the donated clothing they receive from various sources. They serve all of Clallam County and the clothing covers newborn to 18 years. There is only one employee working ten hours a week to do this job. **Amanda Beitzel, Pat Zettas** and **Elaine Churchill** went to a training session and saw that there is much work to do. You can choose your own schedule, any time, any day of the week between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Masks are required, and they allow only four volunteers at a time. If anyone is interested in helping with this very worthwhile project, please contact Amanda or me, and we will give you the information you need.



~Elaine Churchill and Amanda Beitzel, Pathways Co-Chairs
pathways@sisequim.org



“Remember there’s no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.” ~Scott Adams

MEMBERSHIP

Volunteering is good for your health.

When you volunteer you have more social interaction. You meet those with a common interest to build friendships.

And, there is nothing like a sense of purpose. Many volunteers are essential to everyday work and play. Volunteering can help you stay healthy—physically and mentally. It might even help you live longer.

Many of us have experienced that warm feeling when doing something good for others. Whether it is running errands for a neighbor, volunteering with your local club, or donating to a worthy cause; we feel a real joy when helping out a friend.

These positive feelings are helping us meet our own most basic needs. What feels good, is actually good for us; the well-being-boosting and depression-lowering benefits of volunteering have been repeatedly documented. There is neural evidence suggesting a link between generosity and happiness.

During this time when we need to be vigilant about the Covid-19 virus, we may need to volunteer in small doses. Even so, there are many ways our club members are finding ways to volunteer. Their happiness is directly correlated with their giving.

Working with children may be what gives you that warm glow. Working with pets can help improve your mood and reduce stress and anxiety. Working with the elderly may be what adds love to your bucket.

Filling that bucket is directly correlated with giving freely from it. When your bucket gets low, do something for your well-being, your happiness, your joy. You'll be surprised how full it can be.



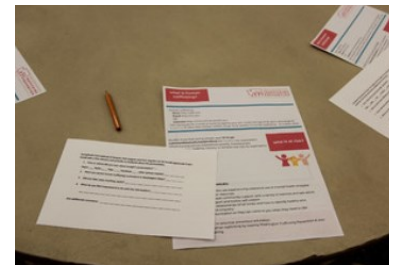
~Sandy Lawrence, Membership



“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.” ~Erma Bombeck

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

It was this time last year when we began planning for an educational forum on Human Trafficking. We did the program in January of this year. We are now in the planning stages again, except for exploring the idea of a webinar on the subject matter. We have contacted Washington Trafficking Prevention as well as reached out for collaboration from our sister organizations in Port Angeles. As the writer of this article, I am excited to share everyone is on board! We just need to work out details such as a date, cost of the webinar, advertising and of course, I need to learn how to do a webinar. Date to be announced soon!



~Linda Klinefelter, Human Trafficking Awareness Chair



FOUNDERS PENNIES ADD UP

Soroptimist celebrates Founders Day on October 3, which acknowledges the day in 1921 when the first club in Alameda County, California called to order its first business meeting. A long-time Soroptimist tradition linked to Founders Day is Founders Pennies.

The tradition of giving pennies began in 1943. Clubs collected one penny for each year of Soroptimist's existence and used that money to help re-establish clubs in Europe that had disbanded as a result of World War II. In 1946 the fund was renamed the Founders Fund. This fund provided international fellowships, scholarships and other awards to improve the status of women. Beginning in the 1960s, Founders Pennies began funding for the Youth Citizenship Awards, and in 1972 the Live Your Dream Award (then called the Training Awards Program).

Founders Pennies are now used to fund the Live Your Dream Awards and other critical SIA programs that improve the lives of women and girls throughout the world including Soroptimist Club Grants. Founders Pennies represent approximately 10% of the funds needed for SIA programs.

Each year, every Soroptimist is offered the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution of six pennies for each year of Soroptimist's existence. Our club collects Founders Pennies with our dues. ~kp



*“Nurturing a feeling makes it proliferate. Choose wisely.
Joy, kindness, love, & caring will illuminate your life.” ~Amy Leigh Mercree*

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

Our intrepid volunteers worked through unhealthy air quality, smoke, and rain to serve the Sequim community this month at the Medical Loan Closet. We would like to welcome **Melody Albertson** as our newest volunteer. In September, we lent **142** pieces of equipment and received **80** items. A total of **169** calls were answered by our volunteers. We also received **\$470** in donations.

We would like to thank our Soropti-dudes **Rick Hill** and **Paul Pacelli** for repairing our equipment when needed. Also, a very big vote of thanks goes out to **Colleen Blazier, Richard Snow, and Chris Snow** for transferring items that we cannot use at the Closet to Colleen's storage locker for pick up by Gateway Medical Alliance. This equipment will be put to good use by other people and we now have additional space to store items needed in the Sequim community. (See Colleen's article on page 8 for information related to the ongoing relationship with Gateway Medical Alliance).



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-Chairs



Colleen Blazier and Chris Snow transferring equipment from the Medical Loan Closet to Colleen's storage facility for use by Gateway Medical Alliance

THE JOY OF HELPING OTHERS

Who would ever guess that one of our signature projects is nearly 30 years in the making? The Medical Loan Closet (MLC) came into being when Janet Wicker (a golden girl) began to keep medical equipment in her storage unit on 3rd Avenue in Sequim. After there was a robbery, it was decided to move everything to the Sequim Stow Places since it had more security. Larry McHugh, owner of Sequim Stow Places, was a Rotarian and gave us a great discount—that partnership was formed when we moved into one of their units. One of the original co-chairs of the MLC was Marcia Beggs (a true golden girl). Marcia and her Soropti-husband, Ed Beggs (former mayor of Sequim and a Rotarian), basically operated the MLC from their garage. We recognized their years of service to the MLC in this picture taken (in May, 2006) with their daughter Linda, prior to my attempt to fill their shoes.



I flooded the medical market with brochures to inform the community of the equipment and supplies we had available. Brochures went to all the clinics, physical therapist offices, senior center, the library, Seattle hospitals (with discharge planners sending patients back to Sequim), Olympic Medical Center staffing—plus Port Townsend clinics and hospitals treating Sequim patients. This was all pre-Vonage [special phone service with MLC specific phone number] so as my telephone was flooded with calls (with a log of 35-60 calls) per month, it was time to form a committee and grow with the times. The MLC now has four units with 14 volunteers responding to 40+ calls a week.



Our first partnership to share our excess and unwanted equipment was with Clear Path International (CPI). It seemed that sharing these supplies kept them out of a landfill and they could provide essential support to victims of landmine accidents—which was the focus of CPI. There is a picture of Imber Mathee, the founder of CPI, with Sally Sue Barry and Louella Hanson during one of his pick-ups. Those excess supplies were stored in a small place (behind St. Joseph's Church) that belonged to Sally Sue Barry (another wonderful golden girl). She was a co-chair of the MLC with Louella Hanson (golden girl extraordinaire) for many years.



When Imbere lost his lease to the warehouse along Interstate 5, we had to find another partner. Dr. Richard Spiger, the clinical director at Gateway Medical Alliance (GMA), responded to my inquiry in March 2006. Over the years, it was necessary to move the excess equipment to All Safe Storage; each time when that unit is filled, GMA sends a truck to take supplies to a GMA warehouse in Kent, WA. A group of volunteers repairs everything before loading the items onto ship containers going to Morocco. These pictures of our MLC supplies being utilized by patients, clinics and hospitals around the country bring reality to our efforts and help us realize that caring is part of the cure. We work together to improve the lives of the poor and disadvantaged. What a joy to be a part of spreading international goodwill and understanding. It is a real labor of love.

~Colleen Blazier for MLC

“I think if something's good and you believe in it, and you care about it, and you give it love and nurture it, it's going to happen.” ~Jerry Weintraub



THE 2020 VIRTUAL GARDEN SHOW UPDATE

COVID-19 may have caused the cancellation of our 22nd Annual Soroptimist Gala Garden Show in March, but it did not cancel the spirit of the show. **“Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”** Since mid-July, we fought COVID and launched the **Virtual Garden Show** that included:

- Three webinars by Clallam County Master Gardeners
- An Online Auction of 15 packages with items that were given for our usual raffle
- Vendor and Sponsor promotions
- Videos of inspiring young women who received scholarships
- Tributes to non-profit organizations that we support

On September 27, 2020, we unveiled a two-week matching funds appeal. Our club members committed to match up to \$1,500 of donations received. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PLEDGED A MATCH!**

We know that the Virtual Garden Show will not bring in \$25,000+ net proceeds as does our in-person Garden Show, but what we DO know is that it raised a tremendous amount of public awareness.

Facebook reports (as of September 27) that in the past 28 days we:

- Reached over 15,000 people
- Had over 4,700 post engagements
- Had 82 people **“LIKE”** our Soroptimist Gala Garden Show Facebook page

If you have not done so, please **“LIKE”** our three Facebook pages: Soroptimist International of Sequim, Soroptimist Gala Garden Show and Sequim Gala Gift Show. Also, go regularly to our two websites: www.sisequim.org and www.sequimgardenshow.com to see updates. And don't forget to ask YOUR friends to do the same.

Due to COVID-19, so much of what we will do as we go forward must be virtual to keep the community and our members safe. We must be creative, learn new technologies, and persevere. Yet, we are confident that **together** we will lead women and girls to education and empowerment!

The Virtual Garden Show Core Committee
Shawn Dredla, Paulette Hill, Linda Klinefelter, Janet Popelka,
Kathy Purcell, Linda Rotmark, and Chris Snow



The smallest vignettes can express the greatest gifts.

One of our auction winners, after paying for her purchase, handed me an envelope and said, “There is something extra inside.” After her departure, I opened the envelope and inside was a check of \$70. The card said, “\$70 for the seven amazing women who produced the Virtual Garden Show.” That little vignette validated the work that came from weekly meetings, hours of work, learning innovative technology, videos and phone calls over the last four months. Our donor wished to remain anonymous, but we thank her for the special and touching recognition.



~Linda Klinefelter



FUNDRAISING

More than half of club members responded to the latest SurveyMonkeys on fundraising ideas. The Fundraising committee of Shawn Dredla, Kim Renfro, and Cat Xander are meeting to figure out next steps. Expect one of them to reach out to you for more information or help.



The big question is how to do fundraising safely. We know that big group events are out of consideration for the time being, so what do we do instead? High on the list of fundraising ideas people liked is selling See's Candies again. This year See's has three ways to sell their candy, and one involves setting up an online store where people can order and See's ships directly to them. Safe and simple, but is that the best method for us?

Also, at the top of people's preferences were the three ideas that involved making and selling baskets. A big question was whether we would be able to create a Virtual Gift Show with them in time for Christmas, or whether this might need to wait for Valentine's Day. Another was how we could do this safely—how would items be gathered, baskets constructed and wrapped, sold, and delivered. Finally, whether this might raise enough money to make it worth doing.

The Fundraising Committee needs your help (and a few more voices!) to come up with the best ways to safely raise money this year. If you have a great thought, please email us with your idea and suggestions.



~Cat Xander, Fundraising Chair



FOLLOW-UP TO BRAINSTORMING MEETING

During the program meeting in September, we worked on some fundraising ideas. One of those ideas was the Chocolate, Wine, and Jazz event. This piqued a lot of interest. Obviously, we can't do that now due to COVID, but we can be looking for a venue. Think fall, October, it's starting to get cool, everyone wants to wear a pair of jeans and boots, drink some wine, eat a little bit of food, and listen to jazz music! This place could be a barn, a big tent, somewhere that is rustic, maybe with some market lights. Keep your eyes and ears open!



~Shawn Dredla, Fundraising Committee



“Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission.” ~Henri

HOW DOES THE ROOFTOP GARDEN GROW?

Well, it is growing quite well. Spindly summer flowers were removed along with some sneaky weeds. In their place new fall violas have been planted throughout the planters. Bright orange, deep purple, blue and burgundy violas give the garden some fall color.

The garden continues to flourish (look at those beautiful hydrangeas) from all the tender care given by our Soroptimist volunteers. We also thank Holiday Inn for their new watering set-up for us! This makes it much easier to water the containers.

Thank you everyone for your time, efforts, and talents. Holiday Inn indicates they received many compliments on the garden and staff indicates, they give credit where credit is do.



~Linda Klinefelter,
Rooftop Garden Chair



“Gardens are a form
of autobiography.”
~Sydney Eddison



October 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

 <p>OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH</p>	 <p>OCTOBER NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH</p>	<p>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH</p> <p>Melody Albertson Jeanie Blaurrock Shawn Dredla Linda Naylor Shelle Paulbitski</p> 		<p>1 National Homemade Cookie Day</p> 	<p>2 Soroptimist Founders Day</p> 	<p>3</p>
<p>4 World Smile Day</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 National Inner Beauty Day</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>10 National Handbag Day</p> 
<p>11 International Day of the Girl Child</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Business Meeting</p>	<p>14 National Dessert Day</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16 District 1 Meeting</p>	<p>17 District 1 Meeting National Sweetest Day</p> 
<p>18 District 1 Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 National Youth Confidence Day</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 National Make A Difference Day</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Program Meeting</p>	<p>28 National Chocolate Day</p> 	<p>29 National Cat Day</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> 

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  National Cappuccino Day	2	3  Business Meeting	4  Veterans Day	5  National Doughnut Day	6 BOARD MEETING  World Kindness Day	7
8  National Cappuccino Day	9	10 Business Meeting	11 Veterans Day	12	13 World Kindness Day	14
15  National Raisin Bran Cereal Day	16	17  National Homemade Bread Day	18	19	20  National Absurdity Day	21
22	23  National Cashew Day	24 Program Meeting	25	26  Happy Thanksgiving	27	28  National French Toast Day
29  Electronic Greetings Day	30	BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Mayrme Faulk Gloria Fitzpatrick Marilyn Hooser Wei Lindstrom 				

Autumn's Majesty by: Patricia L. Cisco

Sun with his artistic touch,
streaks skies of blue with rosy blush,
trimming Oak and Maple too,
crimson reds with yellow hue.

Birch and Hemlock, purple and gold,
apples, pumpkins bright and bold,
burns by day and cools by night,
cloaking trees in fiery might.

Wispy winds and tumbling leaves,
cypress scents within the breeze,
starry eyes and harvest moon,
sets the stage for crickets' tune.

As spiders spin their tapestry
and crickets sing in symphony,
their final song of destiny,
it's clear for all the world to see,
Autumn's vibrant majesty!



Soroptimist International of Sequim
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SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Soroptimist®: a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

To a Person Making a Difference for Women