

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 26, Issue 8

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75 Years of Service

February 2022

Officers 2021— 2022

President:

Cat Xander

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Kim Renfro

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Assistant Treasurer:

Open

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(one year remaining)

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Director: 2 year

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Director: 1 year

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Director: 1 year

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Past President:

Kris Osborn

Newsletter Staff:

Kathy Purcell

Susan Coffee

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

"The spark divine dwells in thee: let it grow." ~ Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Message from the President

A recent Sequim Gazette carried the sad news that the Sequim Kiwanis Club has disbanded for the second time. The first time it lasted 40 years, from 1975 to 2015. This time it only made it five years and had dwindled to eight members.

That news should make us even prouder of our 75-year record! Our membership has grown from the original 31 holding around 50. Our members are sticking with us—19 current Soroptimists are either Silver Sisters (10+ years) or Golden Girls (15+ years)! And we still have around 30 members attending each Zoom meeting.

But Zoom makes recruiting new members a little harder. So how do we keep our club vital and growing in an online world? Michael Brand, who works with non-profits to get more people, get more money, and get more done, says that what people desire most is an opportunity to connect with one another. People like bonding with other people. It's human nature. If we create opportunities for people to connect, they'll open up and feel more comfortable.

Can we "grow" our own members by keeping in touch with scholarship recipients? We already know they are great women and girls who have a lot to offer. Email makes keeping in touch far less of a burden than it was even a few years ago.

Many of those women received awards because they are low income and are working toward economic empowerment—so here's a thought—why not give each of our scholarship recipients a year of membership in our club that they can claim any time within three years of graduation or the completion of their program? If we stay in touch, we can remind them of the offer, and if we are lucky enough to have to limit it, we could offer 10 free memberships in any year; that's less than \$2000.

Budget discussions will start soon. The gift from Judy Gates opens a more wide-ranging discussion than before. Could it be a good time to carry out our Gala Garden Show theme by planting the seed of membership for our scholarship recipients?



President Cat

A Brand New Normal



Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's February—the month of hearts and flowers. Many of us remember writing messages on valentine cards given to other students in the class—some of those were secret. That made me think of the first kind of writing I did.

It started with a tablet—not a Samsung or iPad, but a tablet of paper bound at the top. The paper wasn't white like notebook paper; it was sort of an ash color, similar to that used for newspapers. Each page had lines on it. First there is a straight solid horizontal line across the page, followed by a dashed line and then another straight solid horizontal line; this repeated all the way down the page. The dashed lines were especially helpful when learning to print lower case letters—or capital letters such as B, E, F, G, H, K, etc.

My first writing tool was a pencil; it had an eraser which was helpful at times. I wanted to learn more about pencils, so I went online. Here's some of what I found: "From earlier times, and in particular the Middle Ages, lumps of lead have been used for drawing or planning manuscripts. Lead leaves a dense silvery line that can be overwritten in ink or paint.

"The word 'pencil' comes from Old French pincel, and Latin penicillus or a 'little tail,' and originally referred to an artist's fine brush of camel hair in the Middle Ages—although the use of a form of brush for drawing goes back to the early petrograph or cave paintings. From that the stylus developed, sometimes being made of lead, hence our erroneous term for the writing core of a pencil. The 'lead' in the pencil is actually a mixture of graphite and clay—the more graphite, the softer and darker the point."

Thinking about pencils brings to mind something I said when I was installed as club president the first time (2000). "The synergy in our club is strong; it's like if one of us drops a pencil, another member catches it before it hits the floor." Maybe that makes us pencil-pals instead of pen pals.

Over the years I have penned many articles for the Soropti-Scoop. Many words have spoken to me, revealing more meaning than meets the eye; some words play a double role (homonyms) and both are staged to add to the plot. I wonder where this story will lead.

Speaking of lead This month we will be establishing our Nominating Committee for the 2022-2023 board. That means there are numerous opportunities for members to lead our club. No one person does any job alone. We all support one another. Please consider accepting a nomination if asked, or volunteer to be nominated. The Nominating Committee will be glad to pencil you in while you think about it.

I was thinking we are a bit like pencils. At the core the more we work in unity, the softer our differences become, and the stronger our mission appears at the point where we show up. Pencils don't have lead; nothing weighs us down. We won't hear anyone telling us to get the lead out. It's no secret we have been a vibrant, active, giving club over the last 75 years. We will continue to put our hearts into what we do, as we lovingly write our future together, watching it flower into a Brand New Normal.



Light and Love, Kathy Purcell, Editor



"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." ~ Alvin Toffler

CALENDAR

February 2022

- **Board Meeting**
- **Business Meeting**
- 22 Program Meeting
- 26 Area Meeting-Virtual

March 2022

- Board Meeting
- 8 **Business Meeting**
- Program Meeeting

*Evening Meeting



"Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing." ~ Benjamin Franklin

Providing Encouragement Nurturing Caring nspiration

"If you wish to be a writer, write." ~Epictetus

Celebrate Life!

FEBRUARY

Becky Archer Jan Chapman Missy Church-Smith Sherry Lacey Patty Lebowitz Joan Miller

MARCH

Kathryn Pacelli Laura Rundle Anji Scalf Gerry Sladowski



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



MLC Closed. We will reopen once the infection rate reaches the "Moderate" range.

"Truly loving another means letting go of all expectations. It means full acceptance, even celebration of another's personhood."

~Author Unknown

UPDATE ON CELEBRATING OUR 75th

It's going to be a busy April and May! The Virtual Garden Show has speakers on April 23rd and 30th, and the Online Garden Show Auction will run from April 27th to May 1st. The Sequim Museum and Art Center will have a display about our club during April and May. On May 10th, COVID permitting, we will top the celebration off with a 75th Anniversary Happy Hour from 4-8 p.m. at Kris Osborn's lovely barn/party venue.

We are trying to get everyone in town to participate in the VGS and Auction, but the Happy Hour will be limited to current and former members of Soroptimist International of Sequim. We have addresses for about 175 former members! Save the Date/s postcards will go out to all of them in a few weeks, and we will follow up with a formal letter in late March.

The committee thinks that current members might like to write a brief personal note to some of the past members. Each past member will receive from the club our formal letter. Any additional notes can be sent by you. Members who have moved out of town will likely be especially glad to have a note from us. An e-blast of all the members we have found—including their addresses—will be forthcoming.

More details to come as we get closer to the event, and if all goes as planned, there will be some of Kathy Purcell's wonderful end-of-the-year videos playing around the barn, so people can gather and reminisce about their years in the club.



~Cat Xander, 75th Chair 💘



"The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate." ~ Oprah Winfrey

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Peninsula Area Meeting Virtual February 26, 2022



NWR Conference Hilton Vancover Vancouver, WA April 28 - May 1, 2022

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS GIRLS OF THE MONTH

January Girl of the Month SYDNEE PRICE



Soroptimist International of Sequim is pleased to honor Sydnee Price as our January 2022 Girl of the Month. Sydnee is not only a member of Honor Society but participates on the swim team, golf team and founded the Sequim High Reading Society. She is an avid

volunteer and can regularly be seen volunteering at our local food bank. Although, she has yet to decide on her college choices, she is presently eyeing the University of Washington or Gonzaga University.

February Girl of the Month AIDYN SHINGLETON



Meet Aidyn Shingleton, Soroptimist International of Sequim's February Girl of the Month. Aidyn is an active volunteer in the community working to support animal welfare and raising funds for the high school cross country team.

She is a member of Honor Society and Interact which is a community volunteer club, and a member of the cross country and tennis teams. Aidyn will be attending Western Washington University with a focus on environmental science.

"Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

MEMBERS ENCOURAGING MEMBERS—STAYING CONNECTED

FEBRUARY? Really? Where does the time go??! Cat is halfway through her term as our President, yet it seems like she just got started.

As we continue to meet online, I'm reminded of how difficult it is to bring in new members when they can't attend our meetings in person, meet and interact with our members and enjoy the great breakfast that Linda and her committee put out for every meeting. Yet we have managed to welcome several new members over the past two years. And the advent of our new Pathways Committee has been a great way for these new members to learn about being a Soroptimist and our mission of serving the women and girls in our community.

Our existing members are our best recruiting tool! We are fortunate to have members who are passionate about being a Soroptimist and don't hesitate to share the message about what we do and the impact we have in our community. Keep it up ladies!



~Jan Chapman, Membership Committee



"Through our great good fortune, in our youth our hearts were touched with fire. It was given to us to learn at the outset that life is a profound and passionate thing." ~*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

PATHWAYS COMMITTEE UPDATE

January's Pathways Committee meeting had a little bit of everything: learning about the present, reviewing the past, and planning for the future.

Kathy Purcell represented the Public Awareness committee, and Linda Rotmark the Awards and Scholarships committee in brief and informative presentations to the group. Linda and Kathy both conveyed their excitement about what they do for SIS and the greater community; it was informative and inspiring to learn more from them.

Pathways' members briefly reviewed our fall/winter service project, the Toys for Kids drive to which so many SIS members generously contributed. Thank you all again for your support!

Finally, committee members are looking to the future by considering options for our spring service project. Pathways' members are passionate about serving the community, and discussion on this topic was wideranging! Our plan is to make our final decision at our February meeting. Of course, we'll be sure to keep our SIS sisters and brothers informed, so watch this space!



~Pam Hursey-King, Pathways Committee



"With time, many of the facts I learned were forgotten but I never lost the excitement of discovery." ~*Paul Berg*

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

The Closet continues to be closed for equipment returns and donations. We are taking care of people with emergent needs for medical equipment. During January, we received \$180 in donations. We received 64 calls during the month of January. We loaned 28 items in response to emergent needs and received 7 items.





~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-Chairs

"We should all do what, in the long run, gives us joy, even if it is only picking grapes or sorting the laundry." ~ E. B. White

GARDEN ON THE ROOFTOP

I would imagine many of our members are asking about the rooftop garden. It is winter and things slow down except for some exceptional weeds. Our member, Jess McNeil, has worked to keep the weeds down in the side areas and I recently made a walk through to ascertain the condition of the containers. We hope to return in the spring and do some long-needed replacement of a few planters. Yet, in the meantime, we will soon address the deadheading and preparing of the hydrangeas for the coming of spring. When springs is nearer, I will send out a request for members to help to do weekly maintenance. Until then, Holiday Inn and the staff appreciate our commitment.



~Linda Klinefelter Rooftop Garden Co-Chair



MUJERES ACTIVITY

Dear Soroptimist sisters and brothers,

We are happy to report that we are starting the new year very positively. Six children's programs have started in January . . . all of them continuations of programs that have been running for years. Two additional programs are running in the community of Crucero. A scholarship recipient is teaching computer skills, and a second program moves into its second year teaching basic learning skills to adult women. We will continue our tradition of funding workshops, both for the women in the cooperative as well as the scholarship recipients. Last year we purchased six laptops that replaced old models, and we have budgeted for two more this year. In addition, we are increasing the number of books in the mini-libraries that complement the children's programs. Eye exams and glasses will continue to be offered. Fourteen girls are on scholarship with us this year.

Omicron has affected the return to the classroom. The students learn much better with "in-person" teaching and all are hoping to resume those classes soon. It's hard to believe that we are in our 17th year! We are so grateful!

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

"Responsibility to yourself means refusing to let others do your thinking, talking, and naming for you; it means learning to respect and use your own brains and instincts; hence, grappling with hard work." ~Adrienne Rich

VGS and AUCTION April 27th thru May 1, 2022

The beginning of Spring is March 20, 2022, about 50+ days from now! For the gardeners out there, I know you are thinking about what you will plant and when—so many things to do in the yard or garden, where to start? You are not the only ones out there thinking about this. But while you are out there shopping, think about what you can donate to the Garden Auction.

For all you gardeners out there, we are looking for donations of planters to go into our auction. So, if you have not notified Cat Xander of your donation, please do so now.

We are also looking for: anything garden (tools, garden supplies, anything a gardener would need to make their garden bright and beautiful).



So, you're not a gardener, maybe you have the ability to bake or cook up an item that can be donated. Use that wonderful imagination and let Cat Xander or Kim Renfro know what you would like to donate.

We appreciate all you do.



~Kim Renfro, VGS Chair



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH OUR COMMITTED FUNDS WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

From 2003-2007, Soroptimist International supported a non-profit committed to helping women survivors of war. In what Soroptimist International called the most "personal" of projects they engaged in for four consecutive years internationally, they directly sponsored 2,000 individual women in Bosnia, Rwanda and Afghanistan through Women for Women International (WFWI). Since and including that time, Soroptimists have contributed millions of dollars to the organization, whether through a club or personally.

By sponsoring a woman for one year for the small amount of \$420, her life can truly be transformed. She'll learn an income-generating skill, she'll have a safe place where she can share her feelings and learn from other women, and she'll learn more about her rights and her innate worth. She'll hopefully become a leader for other struggling women in her community. She receives a small stipend (about \$10/month), and she may get help on basics such as food, clean water, clothing, medicine and shelter.

Currently, WFWI is working in the conflict-affected countries of Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzgovina, Kosovo, Iraq, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and South Sudan. As you can imagine, marginalized women in these countries are in need of safety and health help during the pandemic and WFWI is distributing hygiene kits, organizing women to sew masks and produce soap, broadcasting radio programs to reach women in remote areas, and providing emergency cash to thousands. They are also breaking women's isolation by helping them use cellphones to set up groups and establish communication trees to stay connected.

Since we are Soroptimist INTERNATIONAL of Sequim, our club has been supportive of budgeting committed funds to sponsor women in other countries with the same mission we pursue locally. Over the past seven years, our club has sponsored women in six countries and this year we are again sponsoring two women with our payment of \$840. One of them is an Afghan woman with the first name of Parwin. We haven't received any other information on her, but I've been told she is unmarried with no children, but is living in extreme poverty and her goal in the program is to lift herself out of poverty. In-person regular programs in Afghanistan are on hold, but WFWI is negotiating with the new government and doing everything they can to ensure the safety of women in the program and their in-country staff and families. This includes providing solar-

powered phones so while isolated, women can connect with each other and to WFWI staff, as well as get vital safety information. In speaking with WFWI staff in Washington, DC, I was also informed that we may be reassigned to another sister in place of Parwin, depending on the viability of the program in Afghanistan. But we can know that we've already provided Parwin with some support, and WFWI is doing all they can for women in Afghanistan.

Our second sister we're sponsoring this year is Fatima Hassan in Iraq. Pictured is the information card I received, along with notepaper and an envelope to use when corresponding with her. If I receive any communication from Fatima in return, I'll be sure to share it with the club.

You can learn more about WFWI (and donate or sponsor a sister on your own) by going to www.womenforwomen.org, following on Facebook or Instagram (WomenforWomen), or going to www.youtube.com/WomenforWomenIntl



~Jane Manzer, Committed Funds Liaison





FATIMA IS ONE OF MANY
WOMEN LIVING IN IRAQ who
have survived war and
overcome hunger and abuse.
Your sponsorship will help lead
Fatima on a path to a better,
brighter and happier future.

- She is 31-40.
- She is married
- She is the proud mother of 2 boys and 3 girls.
- And she is grateful for your support.

A Season for Nonviolence—64 Ways in 64 Days—Daily Commitments to Live By

These principles for nonviolence were adapted by the Denver Area Task Force for: A Season for Nonviolence - January 30-April 4, 1998. It was inspired by the 50th & 30th memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- 1 —Today, I will reflect on what peace means to me.
- 2 Today, I will look at opportunities to be a peacemaker.
- 3 —Today, I will practice nonviolence and respect for Mother Earth by making good use of her resources.
- 4 —Today, I will take time to admire and appreciate nature.
- 5 Today, I will plant seeds—plants or constructive ideas.
- 6 Today, I will hold a vision of plenty for all the world's hungry and be open to guidance as to how I can help alleviate some of that hunger.
- 7 —Today, I will acknowledge every human being's fundamental right to justice, equity, and equality.
- 8 —Today, I will appreciate the earth's bounty and all of those who work to make my food available (i.e., grower, trucker, grocery clerk, cook, waitress, etc.)
- 9 —Today, I will work to understand and respect another culture.
- 10 —Today, I will oppose injustice, not people.
- 11 —Today, I will look beyond stereotypes and prejudices.
- 12 —Today, I will choose to be aware of what I talk about and I will refuse to gossip.
- 13 —Today, I will live in the present moment and release the past.
- 14 —Today, I will silently acknowledge all the leaders throughout the world.
- 15 —Today, I will speak with kindness, respect, and patience to every person that I talk with on the telephone.
- 16 —Today, I will affirm my value and worth with positive "self talk" and refuse to put myself down.
- 17 —Today, I will tell the truth and speak honestly from the heart.
- 18 —Today, I will cause a ripple effect of good by an act of kindness toward another.
- 19 —Today, I will choose to use my talents to serve others by volunteering a portion of my time.
- 20 Today, I will say a blessing for greater understanding whenever I see evidence of crime, vandalism, or graffiti.
- 21 —Today, I will say "No" to ideas or actions that violate me or others.
- 22 —Today, I will turn off anything that portrays or supports violence whether on television, in the movies, or on the Internet.
- 23 —Today, I will greet this day—everyone and everything—with openness and acceptance as if I were encountering them for the first time.
- 24 —Today, I will drive with tolerance and patience.
- 25 —Today, I will constructively channel my anger, frustration, or jealousy into healthy physical activities (i.e., doing sit-ups, picking up trash, taking a walk, etc).
- 26 —Today, I will take time to appreciate the people who provide me with challenges in my life, especially those who make me angry or frustrated.
- 27 —Today, I will talk less and listen more.
- 28 —Today, I will notice the peacefulness in the world around me.
- 29 —Today, I will recognize that my actions directly affect others.
- 30 —Today, I will take time to tell a family member or friend how much they mean to me.
- 31 —Today, I will acknowledge and thank someone for acting kindly.
- 32 —Today, I will send a kind, anonymous message to someone.
- 33 —Today, I will identify something special in everyone I meet.
- 34 —Today, I will discuss ideas about nonviolence with a friend to gain new perspectives.

- 35 Today, I will practice praise rather than criticism.
- 36 —Today, I will strive to learn from my mistakes.
- 37 —Today, I will tell at least one person they are special and important.
- 38 —Today, I will hold children tenderly in thought and/or action.
- 39 —Today, I will listen without defending and speak without judgment.
- 40 —Today, I will help someone in trouble.
- 41 —Today, I will listen with an open heart to at least one person.
- 42 Today, I will treat the elderly I encounter with respect and dignity.
- 43 —Today, I will treat the children I encounter with respect and care, knowing that I serve as a model to them.
- 44 —Today, I will see my so-workers in a new light—with understanding and compassion.
- 45 —Today, I will be open to other ways of thinking and acting that are different from my own.
- 46 —Today, I will think of at least three alternate ways I can handle a situation when confronted with conflict.
- 47 —Today, I will work to help others resolve differences.
- 48 —Today, I will express my feeling honestly and nonviolently with respect for myself and others.
- 49 —Today, I will sit down with my family for one meal.
- 50 —Today, I will set an example of a peacemaker by promoting nonviolent responses.
- 51 —Today, I will use no violent language.
- 52 —Today, I will pause for reflection.
- 53 —Today, I will hold no one hostage to the past, seeing each-as I see myself-as a work in process.
- 54 Today, I will make a conscious effort to smile at someone whom I have held a grudge against in the past.
- 55 —Today, I will practice compassion and forgiveness by apologizing to someone whom I have hurt in the past.
- 56 —Today, I will reflect on whom I need to forgive and take at least one step in that direction.
- 57 —Today, I will forgive myself.
- 58 Today, I will embrace the spiritual belief of my heart in my own personal and reflective way.
- 59 —Today, I will enlarge my capacity to embrace differences and appreciate the value of every human being.
- 60 —Today, I will be compassionate in my thoughts, words, and actions.
- 61 —Today, I will cultivate my moral strength and courage through education and creative nonviolent action.
- 62 —Today, I will practice compassion and forgiveness for myself and others.
- 63 —Today, I will use my talents to serve others as well as myself.
- 64 —Today, I will serve humanity by dedicating myself to a vision greater than myself.

A SEASON FOR NON VIOLENCE



carry the vision

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Becky Archer Jan Chapman Missy Church-Smith Sherry Lacey Patty Lebowitz Joan Miller National Strawberry Day President's Day National Floral Design Day National Periodic Table Day Mon Business Meeting Program Meeting National Gumdrop Day National Freedom Day bruary 202 Tue National Groundhog Day National Pizza Day National Dog Biscuit Day National Almond Day Wed National Chili Day National Carrot Cake Day National Umbrella Day RANDOMACTS. 균 BOARD MEETING National Clam Chowder Day National Inventor's Day National Batterhy Day ī

National Chopstick Day

Sun

National Cheddar Day

National Muffin Day

National Pistachio Day

National Lash Day

National Play Outside Day

Sat

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Kathryn Pacelli Laura Rundle Anji Scalf Gerry Sladowski 13 National K9 Veterans Day 6 National Dress Day 20 International Day of Happiness 27 World Theatre Day Sun 21 World Poetry Day 14 National Napping Day 28 Respect Your Cat Day 7 National Cereal Day Mon 22 Program Meeting 29 15 World Consumer Rights Day 8 Business Meeting International Women's Day Zero Discrimination Day Tue 2 National Read Across America Day 9 30 23 World Meteorological Day 15 National Napping Day Wed 10 National Landline Telephone Day 24 International Day of Achievers 16 National Panda Day 31 National Crayon Day World Wildlife Day 굺 11 World Plumbing Day 4 BOARD MEETING 18 Fr. 26 Wear a Hat Day 12 National Girl Scout Day 19 National Let's Laugh Day Girl Scouts Sat

March 2022

It Takes Courage by Author Unknown

It takes strength to be firm, It takes courage to be gentle.

It takes strength to conquer, It takes courage to surrender.

It takes strength to be certain, It takes courage to have doubt.

It takes strength to fit in,
It takes courage to stand out.

It takes strength to feel a friend's pain, It takes courage to feel your own pain.

It takes strength to endure abuse, It takes courage to stop it.

It takes strength to stand alone, It takes courage to lean on another.

It takes strength to love, It takes courage to be loved.

It takes strength to survive, It takes courage to live.





Soroptimist International of Sequim PO Box 126 Sequim, WA 98382

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