



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 26, Issue 7

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75 Years of Service

January 2022

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Director: 1 year

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Susan Coffee

Jane Manzer

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*“I hear
and I forget.
I see
and I remember.
I do
and I understand.”
~Confucius*

Message from the President

When I picked a BRAND New Normal as my theme for the year, I was hoping that we would be able to make a big splash with our brand (Soroptimist & Live Your Dream) to celebrate our 100th Anniversary and the 75th Birthday for our club.

I pictured the board meeting and eagerly scribbling in the planners as they came up with all kinds of celebratory activities. They would need the post-it notes and pencils because we would continually be adding ideas.

The Gala Garden Show was supposed to be in-person, and we signed the contract for a bigger and brighter venue for it at Sequim High School. We had a grant to fund another successful Shredding Event. Then along came Delta and we had to cancel the Garden Show. And SIA policies prevented another Shredding Event.

But 2021 was still a great year for our club. We have had some marvelous successes and the potential for more in 2022.

We carried out the Soroptimist mission of supporting education for economic empowerment above and beyond our original budget. We helped over 100 women and girls with seven additional Continuing Education scholarships, two Professional/Technical scholarships at Peninsula College, funding for a financial workshop at Healthy Families, and support for the unhoused and transitioning students in the McKinney-Vento program.

We received an enormous financial gift from Judy Gates. Along with some financial security and the potential for providing more scholarships, her gift gave us the impetus to look at handling our finances even more effectively.

We began tracking down past scholarship recipients to better understand the effect of the scholarships we give. At the same time, with the personal contacts we are making, these women may become the younger members we all want to add to our club.

“I am a member of a team, and I rely on the team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual, is the ultimate champion.” ~Mia Hamm

~continued on page 3

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's January. We've started on the road of 2022. The Christmas holidays are in the past, though memories still remain.

Speaking of holiday memories . . . mid-evening on Christmas Day it started to rain. So much for a White Christmas. Later, the rain had a companion—flakes of snow. When I went to bed, there was just a hint of white on the front porch.

Early the next morning I turned over in bed and looked at the clock; it showed 5:00 a.m. I laid back down and pulled the covers up. What seemed like a minute later the electricity went off. Rob, Blue and I all got up. I decided Blue and I would go on a bit earlier than usual walk. I looked out the window and saw it had snowed overnight; it was still snowing. I donned layers of winter wear including boots, hat, and gloves. I put on my headlight, and Blue and I headed out.

The snow was deeper than I thought it would be, and I didn't need my headlight because everything was so WHITE! Blue was happy; he went from side to side, sticking his nose in the snow. As we walked, I wondered what the bridges would be like. Well, the snow was even deeper there. When we were almost across the second bridge, I saw something sticking out of the snow. It was a thin branch. It was sticking straight up—like it was growing out of the snow. I smiled. Perhaps Mother Nature blew it off the tree and flipped it in such a way that, like a gymnast, it ended in a perfect landing—or—someone purposefully stuck it in that place. I suppose there are a number of other scenarios. I noticed there were no footprints on the bridge.

Speaking of a number of scenarios . . . what about the scenario of numbers? I was looking at the number 2022, our current year. If we add the numbers, the total is six [2+0+2+2=6]. This led me to check out the symbolism of the number six. Below is what I found online.

“Six is the first perfect number, which is a mathematical term meaning that 6 is both the sum and product of its factors: $1 + 2 + 3 = 6$ [sum]; $1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$ [product].

Perfect numbers are known for being both harmonious and stable. The number 6 is a symbol of: compromise and solving problems; completeness; beauty and high ideals. The number 6 indicates a balanced personality. People who predominantly display features of the number six are responsible, idealist, caring, unselfish, teachers, protectors, charitable and have emotional depth.”

Looking at the number 2022, I noticed there are a lot of twos. That made me think of how we work well in teams. And the zero factors in, making me think of the times we don't participate as much but are still an important part of the activity of the club. We are perfect; we are the sum and product of all our factors.

There are a number of scenarios that lead to our success. Sometimes we purposefully volunteer to do something; other times we wind up doing something without knowing how it happened. Perhaps it was a sixth sense.

As we move forward on the road of 2022 let us remember how united we are while continuing to discover A Brand New Normal.



Light and Love,
Kathy Purcell, Editor



“When within yourself you find the road, the right road will open.”
~Dejan Stojanovic

CALENDAR

January 2022

7 Board Meeting
11 Business Meeting
25 Program Meeting

February 2022

4 Board Meeting
8 Business Meeting
22 Program Meeting
26 Area Meeting

*Evening Meeting



“I like to move forward
and notice things
along the roadside
that indicate where I should go.”
~Josh Homm



“There is strength in numbers,
but organizing those numbers
is one of the great challenges.”
~John C. Mather

Celebrate Life!

JANUARY 2022

Susan Coffee
Kathy Cunha

FEBRUARY 2022

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



Photo by Elaine Bradford

~~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.

"Successful organizing is based on the recognition that people get organized because they, too, have a vision." ~Paul Wellstone

~continued from front page

We are creating brand recognition in some unique ways, like the grant we received to fund an exhibit of our history and achievements at The Sequim Museum & Arts, and a re-purposing of our usual Gala Garden Show tabloid in the newspaper to highlight our 75th Birthday and achievements along with the information on the Virtual Garden Show and Garden Show Auction.

We are compiling a database of former members—hopefully to invite them to a fabulous 75th celebration party on May 10th, but if COVID interferes, at least to let them know what we are doing and that we value their contributions and support for the Mission and Vision of Soroptimist.

Each member is vital to success. Thank you for showing up at our online meetings. Thank you for opening your hearts (and your wallets) for Happy Dollars at meetings. Thank you for continuing to participate. (If you haven't participated yet, there will be plenty of opportunities with the upcoming Virtual Garden Show and Auction because we need wonderful things to auction off.) Thank you for caring that women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams!



President Cat
A Brand New Normal



*"Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul, the blueprints of your ultimate achievements."
~Napoleon Hill*

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Peninsula Aca Meeting
TBA
February 26, 2022

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



UPDATE ON OUR LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD

SIS has four applicants for consideration by our LYDA Community Judging Committee! The committee consists of Lydia Stanhope, Chair, and committee Members Deb Carlson, Gena Royal and Pat Schoen. Lydia has acted as the chair in the past and will expertly guide the process for SIS. I am sure some of the members are acquainted with Lydia's commitment to the LYDA from past years! The four committee members have received copies of the applications over the holidays and their plan is to convene the first week in January to discuss their findings based on the following eligibility requirements:



- The applicant has dependents (dependents do not have to be the applicant's children).
- The applicant has primary financial responsibility for herself and her dependents (and does not have to be a single parent).
- The applicant is entering or attending a high school equivalency, vocational, technical, or undergraduate degree program.
- The applicant has financial need.
- The applicant does not have and is not pursuing a graduate degree.
- The application is completed and signed and includes two references not related to the applicant.

I have also already reviewed the applications and, once again, we have viable, award-worthy, impressive women needing our assistance. As a reminder, our funding budget for LYDA 2021-22 is for two \$2,000 awards.



~Linda Rotmark, Awards & Scholarship Chair

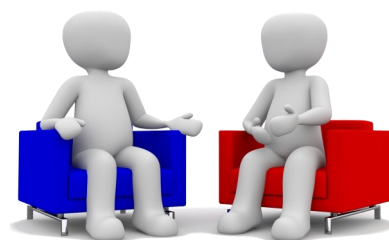


“Every woman that finally figured out her worth, has picked up her suitcases of pride and boarded a flight to freedom, which landed in the valley of change.” ~Shannon L. Alder

MEMBERS ENCOURAGING MEMBERS=STAYING CONNECTED

Happy New Year everyone! I seem to remember that last year at this time we all bid good riddance to 2020—hopeful that we would put COVID 19 behind us. But here we are, back at the same place, bidding good riddance to 2021!

As we start 2022 (another year with COVID 19 still hanging around) what does that mean for membership? I know we are all eager to gather once again, however; I think SIA is going to keep us from doing so for a while. So, it means more Zoom meetings, more online events, more effort to NOT lose contact. We need to encourage each other to attend regular club meetings, participate in committee meetings and planning events. It's what keeps us a strong, nurturing club; and makes us even more eager to gather in person, once we are given the green light.



~Jan Chapman, Membership Committee



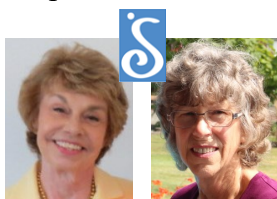
MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

One of our most loyal and hardworking volunteers will be leaving Soroptimist, and the Medical Loan Closet in January, to spend more time with her family.

Judy Field worked at the Closet for many years, in addition to serving on several other committees during her nine plus years as a Soroptimist. We want to thank Judy for the many weeks and hours she worked at the Closet to help the Sequim community obtain medical equipment. We wish her well in the future. We will miss you, Judy.



The Closet continues to be closed, except for lending equipment to people with emergent needs. The infection rate per 100,000 has reached an all time high with the new Covid variant in the mix at the end of December. The county remained in the “High Risk” infection category the entire month of December. We will fully re-open as soon as the infection rate drops into the “Moderate Risk” zone. During December, we received **\$140** in donations and had **76** calls. We loaned **19** items in response to emergent needs and received **28** items. We continue to receive loaned items when people are preparing to move out of the area, or if a family needs to return borrowed equipment after their loved one has passed.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-Chairs

“The world is always open, waiting to be discovered.” ~*Dejan Stojanovic*

PROGRAMS

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

For information about human, sex and labor trafficking, recognizing signs, survivor stories and resources, see polarisproject.org.

“U.S. law defines human trafficking as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts or labor against their will. The Action-Means-Purpose (AMP) Model can be helpful in understanding the federal law. Human trafficking occurs when a perpetrator, often referred to as a trafficker, takes an **Action**, and then employs the **Means** of force, fraud or coercion for the **Purpose** of compelling the victim to provide commercial sex acts or labor or services. At a minimum, one element from each column must be present to establish a potential situation of human trafficking.”



Our Program meeting on January 25, 2022, will have more information about Human Trafficking in Clallam County.



~Kim Renfro, Programs Chair



HOLIDAY PARTY:

Well, look at that, it is a brand new year. We did make it through another year of Covid-19, but we did have an in-person Holiday Party. It was great to see people without masks! But we missed the ones that could not make it to the event. We had approximately 17 people at the event and lots of food, as always.



For the Ugliest Sweater Contest: Elaine Churchill was the winner and Sandy Lawrence came in second place. Elaine came with a positive attitude of she was going to win! Everyone did go home with a gnome to decorate their house with or give away.

We had good food and great conversation; everyone was happy to finally catch up with one another. We hope in the near future that we will be able to get together again in-person when things again calm down with Covid. We miss each other and we love being around each other, that is what makes us a great club.

Thank you to all that came. And I hope to see everyone for next years Holiday Party!



~Kim Renfro



More photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/108582458@N03/albums/72177720295796150>



HOLIDAY JOY

Soroptimist of Sequim lived up to their pledge of “dignity of service” in terrific support of Holiday Joy yet again this year. We had 30 members take part on teams, with at least one former member and other friends and neighbors joining Soroptimist teams to provide joy this holiday for families receiving services from Healthy Families. In addition, there were club members who donated aside from being on a team purchasing gifts.



Holiday Joy, in its **15th** year, sponsored **32** families. A member/members in each family suffered some sort of sexual abuse/domestic violence. SIS sponsored **15** of the families (nearly half), buying presents for **15** adults and **31** children for a collective total expenditure of approximately **\$7,000**.

The packages were beautifully wrapped, according to Beverly Hoffman who spearheads Holiday Joy, and there was deep appreciation expressed by the clients receiving them. Many clients expressed going through a hard year, with uncertainty about Covid, jobs, children’s health, etc.

This year Holiday Joy added holiday meals for any family requesting one. Many people stepped forward with gift cards or donations that took care of those meals.

A big thank you to those of you who responded so quickly, helping Beverly in pairing teams with families, and for the compassion shown by your generosity.



~Jane Manzer, Holiday Joy Coordinator



WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim,

The Sequim Food Bank—your community food bank—is grateful for your support of our mission. We are especially grateful for your November gift of \$1,000.00 for feminine hygiene products.

Your gift provides much-needed help to the women in our community. We are grateful and humbled by your continued support of our mission, ensuring we are able to provide help to everyone in need.

We cannot continue to help our neighbors and friends without your support. Please know your gift is making a difference in our community.

Thank You,
Andra Smith
Executive Director, Sequim Food Bank

Happy Holidays!!
Just wanted to say thank you for the scholarship. I wasn't able to attend the zoom meeting and say thank you. But now that fall quarter is over and I am stress free, I send my appreciation through this card! Thank you again and merry christmas and happy new years!

- Nathalie Torres
☺

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH OUR COMMITTED FUNDS SEQUIM FOOD BANK

When you think of the Sequim Food Bank, I will bet you don't think of feminine hygiene products being offered to the women and girls who come to pick up food—but they are, thanks to former SIS member, Jeani Penn.

After learning that lower income women and girls have very few resources from which to obtain free feminine hygiene products, Dignity for Women was born.

In the beginning the committee, which also included Becky Archer and Elaine Churchill, purchased the supplies, relying on the Food Bank executive director, Andra Smith, to alert them of what was in need. Often going to two or three places to get the best price on products, the committee would use donations received through happy dollars and donations specifically earmarked for Dignity for Women to purchase the items. Although we use the term “feminine hygiene,” purchases of baby diapers were also included.



After a few years, we changed from the initial operation to including the Sequim Food Bank as a Committed Fund recipient, with the stipulation that the funds be used only for purchase of feminine hygiene products. The amount given to the Food Bank in this fiscal year is \$1,000.00. They were very pleased to receive the much-needed funds, as evidenced by Andra's smile when presented with the check. I know you can't see the smile for the mask but trust me it is there!

Ryan Rotmark, son of Linda, delivered feminine hygiene products to the Food Bank the day before Thanksgiving [see photo below]. Linda said his truck was packed. That is no wonder as the cost of the items totaled **\$1,697.77**. Thank you, **Ryan!** [See photo below.]

Dignity for Women is a much-needed answer to help women and girls. I imagine it will continue for many years to come.



~Shelle Paulbitski, Committed Funds Liaison



COMMITTED FUNDS DONATION—PENINSULA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UPDATE

Happy New Year, Linda!

I just wanted to tell you that Soroptimist made a young woman cry . . . for joy! The check went to a young single mother working two jobs. She has experienced a lot of hardship lately. She is going to buy clothing for her son, pay for childcare costs, and purchase supplies so she can complete training and education requirements needed to be a CNA.

Thank you for letting one of our therapists pass along your lovely gift. ☺

Rebekah Miller
Development Director
Peninsula Behavioral Health




More photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/108582458@N03/albums/72177720295816127>




























SEQUIM SNOW



January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Susan Coffee Katty Cunha</p> 						1 Happy New Year
2	3 Festival of Sleep Day 	4 World Braille Day 	5 National Bird Day 	6 Cuddle Up Day 	7 BOARD MEETING	8 World Typing Day 
9	10 Houseplant Appreciation Day 	11 Business Meeting Human Trafficking Awareness Day 	12 National Hot Tea Day 	13 National Rubber Duckie Day 	14	15 National Hat Day 
16	17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday 	18 National Thesaurus Day 	19	20 Penguin Awareness Day 	21 International Sweatpants Day 	22
23 Handwriting Day 	24 International Day of Education 	25 Program Meeting	26	27 Chocolate Cake Day 	28 National Kazoo Day 	29
30	31 Backwards Day 					

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Becky Archer Jan Chapman Missy Church-Smith Sherry Lacey Patty Lebowitz Joan Miller</p>		<p>1 National Freedom Day</p> 	<p>2 National Groundhog Day</p> 	<p>3 National Carrot Cake Day</p> 	<p>4 BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>5 National Play Outside Day</p> 
<p>6 National Chopstick Day</p> 	<p>7 National Periodic Table Day</p> 	<p>8 Business Meeting</p>	<p>9 National Pizza Day</p> 	<p>10 National Umbrella Day</p> 	<p>11 National Inventor's Day</p> 	<p>12</p>
<p>13 National Cheddar Day</p> 	<p>14 Happy Valentine Day</p> 	<p>15 National Gumdrop Day</p> 	<p>16 National Almond Day</p> 	<p>17 RANDOMACTSOFT KINDNESS DAY</p> 	<p>18 National Battery Day</p> 	<p>19 National Lash Day</p> 
<p>20 National Muffin Day</p> 	<p>21 President's Day</p> 	<p>22 Program Meeting</p>	<p>23 National Dog Biscuit Day</p> 	<p>24 National Chili Day</p> 	<p>25 National Clam Chowder Day</p> 	<p>26 National Pistachio Day</p> 
<p>27 National Strawberry Day</p> 	<p>28 National Floral Design Day</p> 					

Choices

by: Tess Gallagher

I go to the mountain side
of the house to cut saplings,
and clear a view to snow
on the mountain.
But when I look up,
saw in hand,
I see a nest clutched in
the uppermost branches.
I don't cut that one.
I don't cut the others either.
Suddenly, in every tree,
an unseen nest
where a mountain
would be.



Photo by Colleen Blazier



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