



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 11

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75 Years of Service

May 2022

Officers 2021— 2022

President:

Cat Xander

President-Elect:

Kim Renfro

Secretary:

Missy Church-Smith

Treasurer:

Shelle Paulbitski

Assistant Treasurer:

Open

Director: 2 year (one year remaining)

Linda Rotmark

Director: 2 year

Sandy Lawrence

Director: 1 year

Shawn Dredla

Director: 1 year

Natasha Merkuloff Nichols

Past President:

Kris Osborn

Newsletter Staff:

Kathy Purcell

Susan Coffee

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

***“It is through
accomplishment
that man makes his
contribution and
contribution is life’s
greatest reward.”
~John Portman***

Message from the President

This is the month that dues statements are going out for you to renew your membership. It's been another year of COVID and Zoom meetings, and many of us are wondering if we will ever get to spend time in friendship and service together again. We are talking about the possibility of hybrid meetings next year—ones that you could attend in person or watch from home on Zoom. Hybrid meetings will allow us to hold meetings in person, while at the same time letting people prevented from attending by time or illness participate online.

But just because we have still been stuck at home and on Zoom, we haven't stopped. We have accomplished many things during our 75th Anniversary Year:

- We met Merrin Packer and learned about the needs of the McKinney-Vento and houseless students. As a result of her talk, members donated \$1500 to the program. A shopping trip for three of the graduates is planned for clothes that will help them in their next phase of life. Jolene Sanborn and her husband are donating laptops for the girls.
- We had a hugely active Scholarships and Awards year led by Chairperson Linda Rotmark. One key achievement: we awarded a record NINE Continuing Education scholarships because we had so many deserving women.
- We closed the Medical Loan Closet when it was too dangerous for the volunteers, but dedicated committee chairs Becky Archer and Chris Snow and members made sure that emergency needs were met. The MLC was reopened when the county moved into the moderate range.
- We heard from some of our committed fund organizations about the needs we are helping them meet.
- We continued our support of the Dignity for Women Project through the Foodbank, including an entire truckload of feminine products from Linda Rotmark's son Ryan.
- We held an in-person Christmas party led by President-Elect Kim Renfro.
- Members sent gifts to nearly half of all the families in Holiday Joy.
- We located many of our scholarship recipients thanks to Linda Naylor and Pat Willis and found that we helped some amazing people get started on what may be world-changing lives.
- We came up with a new way to hold Tea with SHE over KSQM thanks to Patty Lebowitz and Janet Popelka. Bertha Cooper made two excellent presentations.
- We held our second Virtual Garden Show. Sponsorships increased over our previous show to over \$13,000 thanks to a hard-working Sponsorship committee.

~continued on page 3

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's May. Last month's showers have begun to fulfill their promise of growth and blossoming of flowers—with plants and trees following along. Last weekend I put on my backyard/work shoes and took Blue out for a walk in the north 40. That's what I call the large yard in back—while it isn't 40 acres, it is to the north. Blue likes to do a perimeter check periodically. He also likes to lie in the grass when the sun is out. Sometimes in the middle of our walk around the yard he simply lies down—no special spot—just when the spirit moves him. Oh, to have that spontaneity—that child-like joy. This was one of those days.

Blue decided to lie down when we were at the northern most area of the yard. While he was soaking in the rays, I raised my eyes and gazed at the landscape before me. There were several trees in view. I noticed they weren't the skeletons they once were. They were showing quite a bit of greenery—but mostly at the top. I could only see a bit of the sky through the foliage, much like the sun coming in the window through lace curtains. However, the lower branches were still waiting for leaves to show up. If Blue hadn't stopped where he did, I might not have seen that. I smiled at this knowing. His joy of being in the sun allowed me to experience some joy also. When he had his fill, he got up and we walked back to the house; I changed to my regular shoes.

Speaking of shoes . . . one day earlier this week I was getting ready to take Blue for our morning walk. I bent down to tie my shoe. Suddenly a few questions came into my head. How does one learn to tie a shoe? I tried to recall when I didn't know how to do it. How old was I when I learned it? Who taught me? What is the average age of a child learning to tie a shoe? I went to the internet to ask that very question. The consensus is, a child learns to tie a shoe at 5 to 6 years old.

I thought about how a child progresses in learning to tie a shoe. I imagine in the beginning the child doesn't do it perfectly; the loop might be a bit loose—it might even come untied. The child might forget or get stuck sometimes and an older sibling or adult steps in to assist. Over time the child become proficient at tying a shoe. There is a joy in the accomplishment of that learning. That joy is experienced by both the child and the parents.

The above situations brought Soroptimist to mind. Learning to tie a shoe reminds me of new leaders learning their roles. Sometimes things are too loose and may even need to be redone. It can take a while to become proficient, but assistance is always available. The end result is joy for everyone.

The trees with the greenery at the top remind me of our board. Those members are at the top of our club—guiding us throughout the year. They are cohesive and provide a solid front for us. The lower branches are like committees. The committee heads and committee members are formed after the board has been selected. Periodically we take a look at where we are—we do a perimeter check. We stop and think about the things that brought us joy. We think about how our showering of scholarships has empowered women and girls to grow and blossom to their full potential.

Whatever shoes we are wearing, we step forward together and continue our walk through A Brand New Normal.



Light and Love,
Kathy Purcell, Editor



“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”
~Marcel Proust

CALENDAR

May

- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting
- 24 HS Scholarships
- 31 5th Tuesday

June

- 10 Joint Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- *24 Installation of Board

*Evening Meeting



“Such happiness as life is capable of comes from the full participation of all our powers in the endeavor to wrest from each changing situations of experience its own full and unique meaning.” ~John Dewey



“Big things are often just small things that are noticed.” ~Ed Kennedy

Celebrate Life!

MAY

Marti Campbell
Judy Field
Pauline Geraci
Shirly Huntley
Linda Klinefelter
Cynthia Martin
Jeanne Martin

JUNE

Elaine Churchill
Jess McNeil
Natasha Merkuloff Nichols



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



MLC is OPEN

“Success has nothing to do with
what you gain in life or accomplish
for yourself. It’s what you do for others.”
~Danny Thomas

~continued from front page

- We held our second Online Garden Show Auction and nearly doubled the number of items. Organization by Paulette Hill, Jane Manzer, and Linda Naylor with technical support by Kathy Purcell and Kim Renfro.
- Our Facebook site has been consistently active with scholarship stories, notices and reminders of our events. Scholarship graphics by Pauline Geraci.
- We have an exhibit at The Sequim Museum and Art to honor our 75th Anniversary, thanks to creative work by Elaine Bradford.
- We have a 75th Anniversary website with our history, scholarship winners, Year in Review videos, and statistics on our community impact thanks to the work of Kathy Purcell.
- As a club, we voted to send \$10,000 to Ukraine. Our efforts to share this avenue for donations resulted in over \$40,000 from members, friends, family and the community being sent to Soroptimist International Poland. SI/Poland is using the funds to assist Ukrainian refugees. Our donations apparently inspired other organizations to collect their own donations.
- Our reputation for community service was so stellar that we received a bequest of \$120,000 from Judy Gates, funds for two \$1000 Continuing Education scholarships from an anonymous donor, and two \$1000 donations from women judging the LYDA awards to be given to those we did not choose.

Please send in your dues to continue as a part of this amazing organization, soon to be under the leadership of President-Elect Kim Renfro!

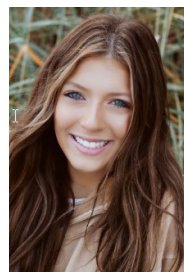


President Cat
A Brand New Normal



AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS GIRL OF THE MONTH

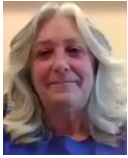
ELLIE TURNER



Soroptimist International of Sequim is pleased to announce that our April Girl of the Month is awarded to Ellie Turner. Ellie is most active in the community with service since her freshman year with the Clallam County Fire District 3 Explorer Program and the Santa Toy and Food Drive. In addition to her volunteer service, she is part of the royalty for the Sequim Irrigation Festival 2022 and received an Ambassador Award at Pierce County Daffodil Parade. Ellie plans to take her experience with Clallam County Fire District 2 and attend Peninsula College and major in paramedical science.

MEMBERSHIP—A TIME FOR RENEWAL

Can you believe that the 2021-2022 year is almost over! It has gone so quickly. By now, everyone should have received their invoices for membership renewal for the 2022-2023 year in your email. Please check the information on the invoice and mail it back to me along with your payment by June 1st. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact me.



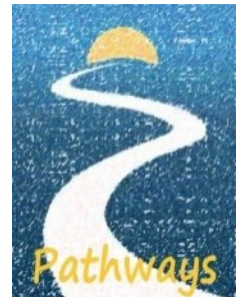
~Shawn Dredla, Membership Chair



“Renewal requires opening yourself up to new ways of thinking and feeling.” ~*Deborah Day*

PATHWAYS COMMITTEE UPDATE

April’s Pathways Committee meeting was centered on a presentation by Kim Renfro about the work accomplished by the (very busy!) Program Committee. Pathways members were particularly interested in the Holiday Joy event by Healthy Families, in which Soroptimists are often a primary source of donations. There was also discussion of the education and outreach done by this committee for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and the support for parade royalty during the Irrigation Day Parade.



Pathways members are getting ready to make their choice(s) of committees, if they haven’t done so already. All the new members agreed that the Pathways Committee has been an amazing resource for us in navigating our first year as Soroptimist members. I think all of us were a little sad to realize that May will be our final meeting. We are so very thankful to Amanda and Missy for their help and for the sense of fun they brought to our monthly get-togethers!



~Pam Hursey-King, Pathways Committee



“When you recover or discover something that nourishes your soul and brings joy, care enough about yourself to make room for it in your life” ~*Jean Shinoda Bolen*

SOME GIFTS KEEP ON GIVING

I want to thank Shawn Dredla for launching the Secret Pal Program. It has provided me so much enjoyment and hope it has for many other members. I have loved both the giving and receiving! One of the gifts I received are tulip bulbs. These weren’t just any tulip bulbs but Parrott Tulip bulbs in the most beautiful burgundy color. I planted them shortly after their arrival and ever since they started to emerge through the soil, I have checked on them anywhere from 2-3 times a week. Checking on the little fellas, provided for a diversion, enjoyment and appreciating the wonders of spring. The first two are blooming and they are as elegant as they were exhibited on the package. This gift has provided so much pleasure, especially at a time, when life has changed so much for our family. So, I again say thank you to Shawn and her wonderful idea and thank you to my secret pal.



~Linda Klinefelter



MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

Our dependable volunteers for the Medical Loan Closet worked through rain, hail, wind, and, finally, sunshine during the month of April. We were fully open all month as the Covid virus count remained in the moderate range. To protect our volunteers, we continue to require anyone picking up or returning equipment to wear a mask and stay in their car until called by the volunteer. We always need additional volunteers and will provide hands on training for new people.

Our diligent volunteers handled **138** calls this month; lent **75** items; and took in **69** returns, including donated equipment. We received **\$630** in donations.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-Chairs



INSTRUCTION AND WATERING SCHEDULE FOR THE ROOFTOP GARDEN

Please check in at the front desk and identify you are a member of Soroptimist and will be doing some maintenance and watering. The hose is on a hose-wheel mount. If you encounter any problems with getting the water to turn on, please notify the front desk and they will send up maintenance. Any deadheading or weeds can be placed in the garbage receptacles that are located by the elevator. Please do not do any weeding in the side areas. If you encounter any problems, please notify me (Linda Klinefelter). Jess waters on Tuesday, so we would prefer that watering be done Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

May 5th – Linda Naylor
May 12th – Shawn Dredla
May 19th – Linda Klinefelter
May 26th – Jane Manzer
June 2nd – Linda Klinefelter
June 9th – Natasha Merkuloff
June 15th – Linda Rotmark
June 22nd – Shawn Dredla
June 30th – Jane Manzer
July 7th – Sandy Lawrence
July 14th – Linda Naylor
July 21st – Linda Rotmark
July 28th – Jane Manzer

August 4th – Linda Klinefelter
August 11th – Melody Albertson
August 18th – Sandy Lawrence
August 25th – Shawn Dredla
September 1st – Linda Naylor
September 8th – Melody Albertson
September 15th – Linda Klinefelter
September 22nd – Shawn Dredla
September 29th – Jane Manzer
October 6th – Linda Naylor
October 13th – Melody Albertson
October 20th – Natasha Merkuloff
October 27th – Linda Klinefelter

Thank you everyone for your time and talents! We are still looking for volunteers who could be available in the event one of our regular volunteers has an emergency. Contact Linda Klinefelter.



~Linda Klinefelter, Rooftop Garden Co-Chair



“A schedule defends from chaos and whim. It is a net for catching days. It is a scaffolding on which a worker can stand and labor with both hands at sections of time.” ~Annie Dillard

GOLDEN GIRLS ARE GOLDEN TO OUR CLUB

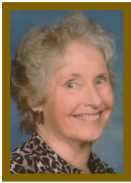
Soroptimist International of Sequim is 75 years old. We have served the surrounding Sequim area by providing monies to fund charitable projects and dedicated many hours of our time to ensure that women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential.

At the heart of our club is a group of outstanding women who have served in Soroptimist for 15 years or more. Because of their dedication we have given them special recognition. They are known as the “Golden Girls.”

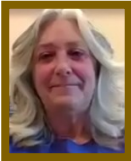
Let me introduce you to this hardworking group of special women. Their total years as Soroptimists is **309**.



Jeanie Blaurock joined in 1985. She has served for 37 years and can always be seen brightening up the Garden Show with her warm smile.



Colleen Blazier is an inspiration having served since 1996. She received the Women of Distinction and President's Award and served as President in 2006-2007. As one of our pioneers Colleen helped shape our club into the fine organization it is today. She has served on many committees giving tirelessly for 26 years. We have gained insight and wisdom from Colleen. We are grateful for her service.



Shawn Dredla, joined a club in California in 2000. She transferred to our club in 2019. She jumped right in and joined the Membership, Finance, Programs and Gala Garden Show (Vendors) committees. She served as President-elect, President and Corresponding Secretary while a member of her previous club. Welcome to SIS.



Mayme Faulk joined in 1986 giving our club her time and talents for 36 years. She has served on many of our committees. This has given us an advantage in planning future events. Recently she served on Programs, Tea With S.H.E., Hospitality and SIA 100 Year Celebration. She is a recipient of the Women of Distinction Award and is a Life Member. We are grateful to Mayme for the leadership and guidance she has given our club throughout the years.

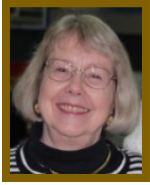


Marilyn Hooser joined in 1970. She received the Women of Distinction Award and is a Life Member of 52 years. Marilyn's participation is too vast to list but her presence is felt throughout the club. Thank you Marilyn for the countless hours of service you have given us. She recently moved to be close to her family in Tennessee. She will be sorely missed.



Jane Manzer has been a member since 2001 serving as Secretary, Treasurer, Board Member and President. She received the Women of Distinction Award as well as the President's Award. In addition to board positions, she has been chairperson of Awards & Scholarships, Membership, Finance, and of course Programs when she was President-elect. She also co-chaired the Gala Garden Show for two years with Jan Chapman. Jane said “I found there was always someone to help me out, no matter what, and there was always someone to delegate responsibilities to if need be.

Something that impacted me in the past and has transitioned into something I'm passionate about today is the beginnings of Women for Women International. Soroptimist International partnered with that organization to help them grow and develop as part of what was called the Quadrennial Project. For four years we learned about what their goals of educating women in war-torn countries were and we donated to them as a club. Now, our club supports two women in some country in crisis. This is a year-long program educating and empowering them, making their lives better. I feel it's a really important (and high return for the investment) part of what we do, because, after all, we are Soroptimist International of Sequim.”



Jeanne Martin joined in 1996. As a licensed CPA, Jeanne has been instrumental in guiding the financial direction of our club. She is a recipient of the Women of Distinction and President’s Award and has been a member for 26 years. In addition, she has held several Board positions including Treasurer for several years, and At Large Board member as well.

She explained further, “Serving on our Board helped me to understand the true Mission and Vision of the organization as well as how our club in Sequim is just a part of a much larger organization of women and the power of the larger organization.

“The most important thing that we do is ‘giving’ both of our money and our time, and the impact that has on so many other wonderful organizations in our community and in our world. Committed Funds, Uncommitted Funds, Scholarships, Holiday Joy, Medical Loan Closet, all provide a wonderful feeling and meet our core values of gender equality, empowerment, education, diversity and fellowship. This membership is a huge plus for me. The money and time given to the community resonates a thousand times over with the recipients, both locally and globally.”



Natasha Merkuloff Nichols transferred to our club in 2021. She has 35 years in Soroptimist. Natasha said she joined Soroptimist because she was an elected City Clerk and was having issues with the (male) City Administrator. “The Soroptimists supported me. Once the issue was resolved, they invited me to join. After learning about their programs, I was happy to join the group of women who had supported me during a hard time at work. I have been a member of two other SI clubs. I was President three times. I’ve been Vice President, Director, Secretary and Parliamentarian several times.

I’ve learned that the team matters; the group working together can accomplish amazing things.

“I have also chaired fundraisers, Women Helping Women Award programs, Girls on the Run events, Publicity, Finance, New Member committees and many others. My favorite SI program is Live your Dream. Listening to those stories at regional and SIA meetings is awe inspiring! I love listening to women who have overcome obstacles in their lives. Working hands-on to help women, whether in fundraisers or projects is very fulfilling.”



Kathy Purcell joined in 1998. During her 24 years as a member, she has served in all positions on the board except Assistant Treasurer. She received the Women of Distinction and President’s Awards. She is the editor of our unparalleled newsletter “Soropti-Scoop.” Her interest in writing started in her freshman year of high school and has been a big part of her life.

Kathy said, “I moved to Sequim in the spring of 1991. I contacted Soroptimist in the early part of 1992 because I wanted to get connected to the community and be part of something worthwhile. I was told I hadn’t been in business long enough. (This restriction has since been lifted.) Five and a half years later, in 1997, Louella Hanson brought me to the club.

“I attended the first WIN (Women in Networks) kick-off in November 1997, and I haven’t looked back. What attracted me the most was the focus on educating girls. I’ve been on the Gala Garden Show Core Committee since the beginning and have seen it change over the years. I have been president of SIS three times. The first meeting I attended outside of our club was actually after I was president the first time. Since then, I have held district and region level committee positions. This has given me an opportunity to work with members across the region.

“What I discovered is, it isn’t just our club members who are mission-focused, compassionate and supportive of one another. These characteristics are universal throughout the organization. It’s the trust we have in one another that allows us to put in our time and talents to organize and run our activities, events, fundraisers, etc. We don’t always get to see the fruits of our labor, but we know what we do touches and changes many lives—especially through our scholarships and awards. Education is a gift that keeps on giving. And Soroptimists are giving.”



Janet Wicker is a Life Member and has been in SIS since 1982. She received the President’s Award and has contributed to and helped shape our club’s committees by serving for 40 years.

She helps plan and implement our Program Meetings each month. This includes 5th Tuesday events, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Awareness and various presentations for our community. Janet is always ready with a smile to do her best for SIS. Her contribution is priceless, and we are grateful for her membership.

Virtual Garden Show and Auction

Another year has come and gone in a blink of an eye! The Virtual Garden Show (VGS) & Auction are now complete for 2022!

I want to first thank all the people who worked so hard on the VGS and Auction! You were all invaluable and we wouldn't have been a success without you! Secondly, a Great Big Thank You to all the people who donated items, including all those lovely planters, to our auction. Because of you we had another successful auction!



The webinars by Master Gardeners had approximately 69 attendees and our featured speaker had approximately 42 attendees! It may not seem like as many as we had in our in-person events, but we kept our name in the community and gave valuable gardening information to the attendees.

Our Virtual Garden Show ended with a BANG!

Sponsorship total: \$13,750

Vendors total: \$585

Virtual Garden Show Total of \$14,335.

Our Garden Show Auction brought in about \$9,158

The Grand Total is approximately \$23,493



The funds we raised will continue to help women and girls in our community. I am not only proud of our community for all it did in sponsorship and donors, but also of our members, who as always, exceeded all expectations!

THANK YOU!



Kim Renfro, Virtual Garden Show Chair



“Weather means more when you have a garden. There’s nothing like listening to a shower and thinking how it is soaking in around your green beans.” ~Marcelene Cox



From Shawn Dredla: “Here's a picture of my auction item, the harvest basket, in action!!! I am loving this thing!! I thinned out my kale today!”



REMEMBERING THE WORDS OF OUR MOMS

May is the month we celebrate Mother's Day. What better way to remember our mom's than with Mom-isms. You know, comments like: "Put on a sweater, you're making me cold." Or "Close the door; were you raised in a barn." Below are Mom-isms sent in by some of our members. This month especially, let us remember to celebrate all those who have nurtured us and made a difference in our lives. ♥

My Mom-ism: Always act your shoe size! [Kim Renfro] ♥

"If you keep rolling your eyes like that, they're going to stay that way"-Lurleen Osborn
Luckily for me, she was wrong! 🌀 [Kris Osborn] ♥

My mom was good at pointing out the importance of perspective. When I'd get my knickers in a bunch over the crisis in the moment, she'd say "calm down, it isn't going to matter in a 100 years." And, of course, something I find myself still saying to my adult daughter. [Shirley Legg] ♥

My Mom's favorite has always been "you'll spoil your dinner" whenever I try to eat outside of mealtimes. Of course, she's always right! [Pam Hursey-King] ♥

I'm going to count to three.....1....2.....2 1/2....3 [Shawn Dredla] ♥

No, you can't come inside; you're not dirty enough.
No dinner, no dessert.
Yes, I am the boss of you.
My house, my rules.
[Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols] ♥

Mom NEVER swore...except once: The scenerio was that family members gifted a Labrador Retriever puppy to Mom and Dad after their previous dog died at an old age. About a year later, Mom (who was an avid gardener), upon discovering holes and uprooted plants all around the yard, exclaimed "Diggin' damn dog!!!" under her breath. Though I totally feel her pain, I still laugh about that to this day!

Mom wanted Sunday to be a "day of rest." So I was not allowed to sew (which I loved; but thinking back now it also meant involving Mom when I had questions, or more specifically PROBLEMS). However, I was STRONGLY encouraged to work out in the gardens (translation: pull weeds). It did not make sense to me at the time, but now I LOVE being outside and working in the yard. I believe being outside in her and Dad's beautiful yard was Mom's solace, as working in Rick's and my yard has become mine. [Paulette Hill] ♥



"The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children." ~Elaine Heffner

TEA WITH S.H.E.—Soroptimist Helping and Empowering

Tea with SHE took to the radio airwaves in April after a two-year pandemic hiatus with not one, but two dynamic programs for older adults. Kudos to Bertha Cooper, BSN, and Cat Xander for these outstanding interviews hosted by Olive Martini, announcer, on KSQM 91.5 FM.

On April 6 the program was titled, “I Can’t Wait to Be Old . . . no one said.” Bertha focused on issues impacting women as we age. She talked about seeing aging as a life transition and understanding what is reasonable to expect and what we have the capacity to change. Bertha also addressed finding one’s purpose in these important years of our lives. The recording of this program is now on our website.

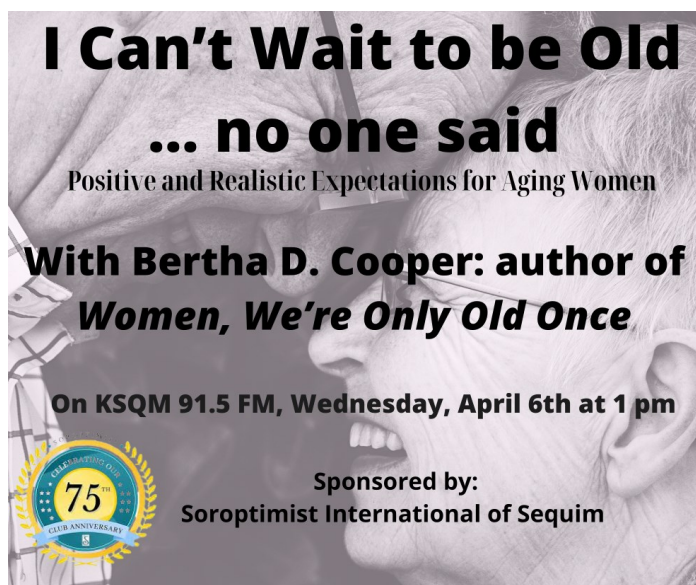
On April 20, Bertha’s timely presentation, “Old and On Pandemic Hold . . . what’s next?” addressed how older people can meet the challenges of living in the everchanging 2022 Covid world. Bertha consulted with the Clallam County Health Department on the most current advice as to how older adults can move forward as safely as possible. We hope to have the recording on of this program on our website soon.

Cat joined Bertha during both interviews and had the opportunity to inform the listening audience about our mission, as well as promote the 2022 Virtual Garden Show and Auction and our 75th Anniversary.

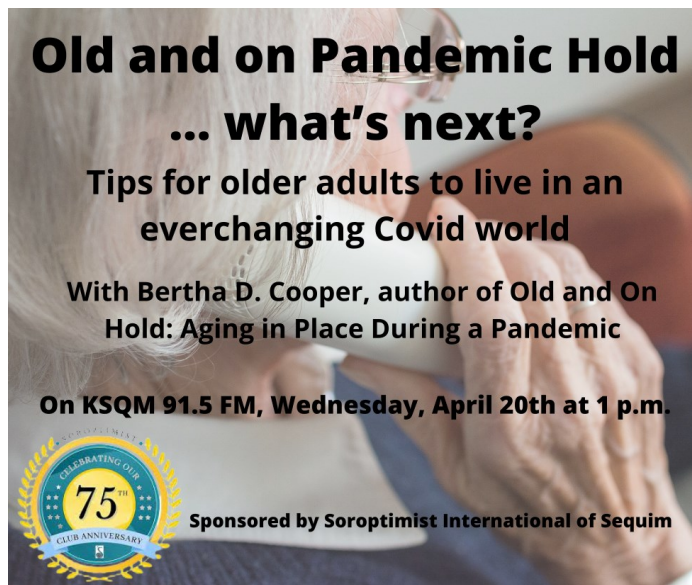

What’s in store for Tea with SHE during the 2022-2023 year? That’s entirely up to YOU! Decisions will need to be made whether it is time to go back to in-person gatherings with tea (and coffee, of course) or to stay with a radio program, as well as what topics impacting older adults are important for us to tackle. This committee will need a new Chair to lead us forward. Will you be that person? The binders from past programs are ready for you.




~Janet Popelka, Acting Tea with SHE Chair 2021-2022



**I Can't Wait to be Old
... no one said**
Positive and Realistic Expectations for Aging Women
**With Bertha D. Cooper: author of
Women, We're Only Old Once**
On KSQM 91.5 FM, Wednesday, April 6th at 1 pm
Sponsored by:
Soroptimist International of Sequim



**Old and on Pandemic Hold
... what's next?**
Tips for older adults to live in an
everchanging Covid world
With Bertha D. Cooper, author of Old and On
Hold: Aging in Place During a Pandemic
On KSQM 91.5 FM, Wednesday, April 20th at 1 p.m.
Sponsored by Soroptimist International of Sequim



Graphics by Pauline Geraci

“To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.” ~Henri Bergson

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH OUR COMMITTED FUNDS CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocates

One of the nonprofit programs that SI of Sequim has provided an ongoing, yearly donation, is the Clallam County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program. Friends of CASA fits within the SIS mission in improving the lives of women and girls and aiding in preparing them for an independent and productive life.

This CASA program is an all-volunteer program which advocates for the best interest of minor aged children who find themselves in the foster care system and have needs beyond what is available through foster care funding.

The funds contributed by SIS often go for basic necessities and extra-curricular events, fees for school photos, shoes and clothing needs, a special dress for that special occasion, or fees associated with activities outside of school that enhance a child’s self-esteem or furthers their education.

Olympic View Community Foundation serves as the non-profit Fiscal Sponsor for this caring local group of volunteers who provide for the needs of some of our county’s most vulnerable children.



~Shirley Legg



“Children are not the people of tomorrow but are people of today. They have a right to be taken seriously, and to be treated with tenderness and respect. They should be allowed to grow into whoever they were meant to be. ‘The unknown person’ inside each of them is our hope for the future.” ~ *Janusz Korczak*

THE IMPACT OF A SCHOLARSHIP

Ashley Mersher received a scholarship from SIS in 2012. During our outreach to past recipients for our 75th Anniversary, we received many replies. The one below exemplifies the impact of our scholarship. Abridged replies from other recipients can be found on the 75th Anniversary website: <https://75th.sisequim.org/>.

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim,

Congratulations on your 75th anniversary! I hope all your current and past members feel proud of the good you've done in Sequim, now for 75 incredible years. I'm lucky enough to have been a scholarship recipient of Soroptimist International of Sequim, and I know that it has supported me beyond the dollar amount.



I like to think of acts of kindness and generosity in a ripple effect. I believe if you do something nice for someone, they carry that kindness with them and unconsciously pass it on to others. This kindness may fizzle out, but it could go on for so long that it would be impossible to know exactly how much impact your one small act made. I think of my scholarship from Soroptimist in this way, too.

With the help of Soroptimist International of Sequim and other sources of financial aid, I attended a very expensive school, one that was far beyond my family's financial reach.

My diverse education molded me into someone who wanted to explore multiple interests and challenge myself. My newly formed mindset is what pushed me to volunteer for numerous Democratic National Conventions and learn about politics first-hand. It allowed me to volunteer in Ireland on a farm. It was what pushed me to run for a public office when I was just 26 and subsequently became the youngest serving Conservation Supervisor in Washington State.

That education is what pushed me to leave everything I knew and change jobs to try teaching in international schools in Hungary, rural Spain, and Romania and it was what pushed me to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship to continue teaching abroad in Eastern European countries and support children in learning a universal language, one that could open doors for them and promote international communication. That education helped me to land a job in a multinational corporation in Budapest, Hungary, where I currently reside. The biggest honor my team achieved this past year is a campaign called Család az Család, which in Hungarian means "a family is a family" to promote support for families of all types.

But when I think about my own personal achievements, I don't think about them in terms of projects, awards, or accomplishments. I think about them in words. Bravery—I can't believe how many times I left my comfort zone, left my little town to go to school in another state, moved abroad, sang in front of people, and ran for office. Heart—to give so much of myself to others without it ever feeling like a sacrifice, but rather a learning moment. From working hard with environmental nonprofits to spending extra hours helping kids. Gratitude—to always know what others have given me, appreciate it, and always try to pass the kindness on to others.

That ripple effect started long ago with a group of incredible women who took a chance on me in my small town. One scholarship presented opportunities beyond my imagination and made waves that eventually took me to a new continent and enabled me to pass on that generosity to others. I know what Soroptimist International of Sequim did for me, but I don't know the extent of what they did for every person I've come across in my life. Your ripple effect is huge.


























Thank you, Soroptimist International of Sequim, and thank you for putting your confidence in me. I'm excited to see future ripples.

With love,
Ashley Merscher

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Online Auction Ends	2 BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Martí Campbell Judy Field Pauline Geraci Shirley Huntley Linda Kierfeiler Cynthia Martin Jeanne Marti	3 National Teachers Day	4 International Fire Fighters Day	5 World Password Day	6 BOARD MEETING	7 International Drone Day
8 World Red Cross Day	9	10 Business Meeting 75th Anniversary Party	11 National Technology Day	12 World Nurses Day	13 International Hummus Day	14 World Migratory Bird Day
15 World Baking Day	16 International Day of Light	17 National Walnut Day	18 International Museum Day	19 National Devil's Food Cake Day	20 World Bee Day	21 International Tea Day
22 International Being You Day	23 World Turtle Day	24 Program Meeting	25 Geek Pride Day	26 National Paper Airplane Day	27 National Road Trip Day	28 National Hamburger Day
29 International Day of World Peacemakers	30 Memorial Day	31 World Parrot Day				

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 World Milk Day 	2	3 World Bicycle Day 	4
	BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Elaïne Churchill Jess McNeil Natasha Merkuloff Nichols Caroline Smith		8 World Oceans Day 	9 Coral Triangle Day 	10 BOARD MEETING	11 World Doll Day 
5 World Environment Day 	6 National Day of Sweden 	7 World Caring Day 	15 Magna Carta Day 	16 World Sea Turtle Day 	17 World Croc Day 	18 World Juggling Day 
12 International Falafel Day 	13 World Softball Day 	14 Business Meeting	22 World Rainforest Day 	23 UN Public Service Day 	24 INSTALLATION OF BOARD	25 International Ragweed Day 
19 Father's Day 	20 International Surfing Day 	21 World Giraffe Day 	29 International Day of the Tropics 	30 International Asteroid Day 		
26	27 Micro-Small, Medium Enterprises Day 	28 International Caps Lock Day 				

For the Bird Singing Before Dawn

by Kim Stafford

Some people presume to be hopeful
when there is no evidence for hope,
to be happy when there is no cause.
Let me say now, I'm with them.

In deep darkness on a cold twig
in a dangerous world, one first
little fluff lets out a peep, a warble,
a song—and in a little while, behold:

the first glimmer comes, then a glow
filters through the misty trees,
then the bold sun rises, then
everyone starts bustling about.

And that first crazy optimist, can we
forgive her for thinking, dawn by dawn,
“Hey, I made that happen!
And oh, life is so fine.”



Photo by Sally M. Harris



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Investing in Dreams

*Soroptimist®: a global volunteer
organization that provides women
and girls with access to education
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