



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 3

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75 Years of Service

September 2021

Officers 2021— 2022

President:

Cat Xander

President-Elect:

Kim Renfro

Secretary:

Missy Church-Smith

Treasurer:

Shirley Legg

Assistant Treasurer:

Open

**Director: 2 year
(one year remaining)**

Linda Rotmark

Director: 2 year

Sandy Lawrence

Director: 1 year

Marti Campbell

Director: 1 year

Shelle Paulbitski

Past President:

Kris Osborn

Newsletter Staff:

Kathy Purcell

Susan Coffee

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

**“Unless you can find
some sort of loyalty,
you cannot find
unity and peace
in your active living.”
~Josiah Royce**

Message from the President

It was an absolutely lovely day—perfect temperature, sunshine, not too much wind—for our START meeting. But instead of meeting in the lovely garden our members maintain on the roof of the Holiday Inn, we met on Zoom. The COVID infection numbers had started to climb rapidly in Clallam County, so we sadly moved online.

But for those of you who missed it, you missed a really enjoyable experience. We were able to do a lot of the same chatting we would have done in person. We spotted four people who had gotten haircuts. Heard that Kathryn Pacelli’s new haircut came with a flight to the other side and a shopping trip.

Then we got to the good stuff—the good deeds that people had done. We shared and laughed and piled up the numbers. The 20 people at the meeting ended up compiling 1000 good deeds—although we had to draw some out of Dave. After the meeting I heard from a few more people and we are up to 1407! I’d love to get the total over 2000—so send me your numbers.

Our top two good deed doers were Kathy Purcell (are any of you surprised?) with 156 and Paulette Hill. Paulette concentrated on 30 deeds but did them multiple times apiece to end up with 115. The top 16 people received prizes that would enable them to do at least one more good deed—from notecards, to bubbles, to wash-up packages for the homeless, to lottery tickets or a balloon. It wasn’t surprising that Jane Manzer picked the bubbles since she is taking care of her grandson every Monday. Also, not a shocker that our treasurer, Shirley Legg, went for one of the lottery tickets.

We conducted a poll at the meeting to find out how members feel now about whether or not to meet in person. Six people said they were ready to meet face-to-face right now, two said they would like to wait until the risk in the county is moderate, while six more wanted to wait for low risk. Five people said they wouldn’t show up unless everyone was vaccinated.

Because people would really like to get together if it could be done safely, we asked whether they would like to participate in a small group activity—like a hike or exercise class. Most of those at the meeting said they would IF the activity was something they enjoyed. If you have a thought about an outdoor activity that would be fun, let me or anyone on the Board know.

~continued on page 3

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

We don't always know who will inspire us. Sometimes it's easy to see who does; other times it is not as obvious. I offer both sides of that coin below.

I was inspired as I read an article about a 17-year-old New York girl who won a gold medal last month during the Summer Paralympics. Her name is Anastasia Pagonis. Representing Team USA, she won the gold for the 400-meter freestyle in the swimming competition—and Anastasia is blind.

When she was 11, Anastasia started to lose her eyesight. She has a genetic autoimmune retinopathy, which means her immune system attacks her retinas. By age 14, she had completely lost her vision, and along with it, her love of swimming, social life and her independence. She went to a 'dark place' for a while, experiencing depression. Family, friends, and her doctor helped Anastasia through it.

Her experiences with swimming as she was losing her sight weren't positive. Things turned around when her parents found a perfect coach—Marc Danin. He had not trained a blind swimmer before, but he gave himself some training first by wearing blacked-out swim goggles. Anastasia started to gain back her confidence. She said, "When I jump into the water, that's my happy place. That's when I feel free. When I'm out of the water, I always have to rely on someone."

She has a constant companion in a Seeing Eye Dog named Radar. He is a Golden Lab from The New York Islanders 'Puppy with a Purpose,' and was matched with Anastasia after undergoing two years of training to assist the visually impaired.

Anastasia is also a star on TikTok. She wants to inspire people and get rid of the stereotypes associated with blindness. "I want to show people that yes I'm blind, but I'm still going to wear makeup. I'm still going to dress the way I want to. I still know trends because I have friends who can teach me and I can be a professional athlete," she said. Anastasia might have lost her optical vision, but she has a vision for her life, and she is living it.

I can see Anastasia as a Soroptimist—or, for now at least, an inspiration for us. She is similar to the recipients of our awards and scholarships. All they need is a little assistance; their drive, enthusiasm and vision takes them the rest of the way.

Another person I found inspiring is a woman whose name I will never know. Years ago, Rob and I were at a restaurant with a friend. We saw a gray-haired lady enter, walking with a walker. Our friend said she felt sorry for the woman. I piped up, "I'm not. I think it's great that she's still out and about, participating in life." To me she was a role model, someone who inspired me. I don't know the back-story of her life, but that doesn't matter. It is how she presents herself to life, by being present—living each moment—that makes the difference.

When I think of the two women above, I am reminded that each of us has a choice of how we will show up to life. When changes occur that are not in our control, we still have tools available to us. When we use our tools, we live every moment to our best, and we might just be someone else's inspiration. I mention this, in part, to encourage members to be there for one another. Working together, in unity, we build our strength; this is particularly important and meaningful as we move through A Brand New Normal.



Light and Love,
Kathy Purcell, Editor



**"Minds do not act together in public;
they simply stick together; and when
their private activities are resumed,
they fly apart again."
~Grover Cleveland**

CALENDAR

September

- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting

October

- 8 Board Meeting
- 12 Business Meeting
- 15-17 District 1 Meeting
- 26 Program Meeting
GOM Sept & Oct

*Evening Meeting



**"Our chief want is someone
who will inspire us to be
what we know we could be."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson**



**"Most people can do
absolutely awe-inspiring things.
Sometimes they just need
a little nudge."
~Timothy Ferriss**

Celebrate Life!

SEPTEMBER

Elaine Bradford
Paulette Hill
Gail Watson
Pat Willis

OCTOBER

Melody Albertson
Jeanne Blaurock
Shawn Dredla
Linda Naylor
Shelle Paulbitski



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

CLOSED Until Further Notice



Though no one can go back
and make a brand new start,
anyone can start from now
and make a brand new ending.
~Carl Bard

~continued from front page

Kim Renfro gave us an update on the Gala Garden Show. It looks like the infection rate will force it to be another online event this year. She had hoped to wait until the end of the year to make that decision, but it wouldn't be fair to vendors who have to purchase materials ahead of time. We did agree that we would do another online Garden Show Auction and her committee is working on a Plan B for the show itself.

My message this time is this—we won't have a club if you don't participate even when it is online. Some of you say you miss the informal conversations over breakfast, but I have heard from others that in an odd way, Zoom is more intimate. You get to hear what every person says, not just the ones at your table. If you make the effort to come to online meetings, we will try to make them as interesting and valuable as they would have been in person, AND we will try to make sure there is something fun or enjoyable every time!



President Cat
A Brand New Normal



SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SIA CONVENTION

Virtual
October 1-2, 2021



SI 100th Birthday Event

Virtual
October 1-3, 2021

D1

District 1 Meeting

Embassy Suites by Hilton
Lynnwood, WA
October 15-17, 2021



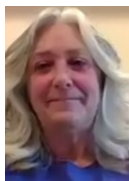
NWR Conference

Hilton Vancouver
Vancouver WA
April 28 - May 1, 2022

MEMBERSHIP MEANS CONNECTION

Are you all ready for a “brand new normal?” It’s already starting off like we are on a roller coaster, but I truly believe that if we hold on tight, we will all get through this together. And by together, I mean reaching out to each other during this time. It looks like we will probably be on Zoom for a while. So, pick up the phone, send a card (ya’ll know I like cards), leave a little gift on someone’s porch, invite someone for a picnic outside. Look at President Cat’s good deed list!

The Membership committee met at my house on August 17th and discussed ways to keep the membership engaged with each other. We will be discussing those ideas with you shortly. When we meet in person, we will continue to see Jan Chapman and Elaine Churchill smiling at us, in the early morning hours, from the registration table. Oh, how I looked forward to seeing them! Until then, “see” you on Zoom!!



~Shawn Dredla, Membership Chair



“I’m neither an optimist nor a pessimist. I am a dyed-in-the-wool possibilist! By this, I mean with an eco-mind, we see that everything’s connected and change is the only constant.” ~*Frances Moore Lappé*



PATHWAYS COMMITTEE CONNECTING

The **Pathways Committee** will meet for our monthly work session on Saturday, September 11th. **Pathways** members **Athena Dunn, Pam Hursey-King, Patty Lebowitz, Natasha Merkuloff Nichols** and **Karen Tyson** will report on their findings after contacting the 2021-22 committed funds agencies; they will then select a community project—or possible multiple community projects—which will be shared with club members at the October business meeting.

Stay tuned!



~*Amanda Beitzel & Missy Church-Smith*
2021-22 Pathways Co-chairs

“We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” ~*Walt Disney*

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

On September 6th we made the difficult decision to temporarily close the Medical Loan Closet. The decision to close is due to the rising numbers of Clallam County COVID infections and several incidents in recent weeks that have put our MLC volunteers at undue risk. If you, as an SIS member, have a need for medical equipment for your family or a friend, please call Chris or Becky. Our MLC phone-in line now directs individuals who need to borrow medical equipment to call Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County (360-452-1511).



CLOSED
Until Further Notice

We were excited to see so many new members at the S.T.A.R.T. gathering! If you are a new member and would like to know what the Medical Loan Closet is all about, please contact Becky or Chris. The MLC has been one of SIS's centerpiece community service projects for over two decades. We would be happy to provide you with a tour of the Closet and tell you about the service it provides to our community.

We loaned **74** pieces of equipment, received **94** pieces of equipment, and answered **178** calls in August. The generous Sequim community donated **\$320** in August.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-Chairs

“Any fact becomes important when it’s connected to another.” ~Umberto Eco

District 1 Meeting October 15 – 17, 2021

Northwestern Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas holds District meetings in October. Our District, (1) will hold its meeting in Lynnwood at the Embassy Suites of Hilton in Lynnwood.

About 60 days before the meeting, a “call to meeting” document comes out with a tentative agenda and workshop descriptions. We work on business, but we also make sure we have fun. This is a chance to meet Soroptimists from Alaska to Olympia.

The cost of registration is \$30, food package \$150 and room is \$134+taxes a night. The rooms have 2 queen beds (or 1 king) and a queen pullout. The third person in a room is \$15 more a night. The hotel offers hot breakfast each morning for guests.

As the Region Site Coordinator for this event, I can guarantee the hotel will be following all COVID guidelines. Our Region has included a policy of safety measures in our call document. You will need to be vaccinated, or be tested 72 hours in advance, or each day of the event prior to the start of business. Masks will be required.

Learn more about [“the call to meeting”](#) by clicking the hyperlink.



~Sandy Lawrence



**SAILING INTO OUR
BRILLIANT FUTURE!**

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

As most of you know, our club has sponsored a couple of women each year through Women for Women International, an organization which Soroptimist International partnered with from 2003-2007 to serve women survivors of war in various countries. Along with women in countries such as Nigeria and Democratic Republic of the Congo, we have sponsored four women in Afghanistan. Although we never saw their faces, we had names:

Mahboda Azizullah, Husna Qadoos, Qandi Gul Faqir Shah, and Spogmai Rozgul.

In reading an August 31 update from Women for Women International, I learned that some of their staff has remained in Afghanistan, and WfWI is adapting their program to meet the current situation. I found the following statement from the CEO quite profound: “No matter what happens, you can’t un-educate the women of Afghanistan or take away their belief in the right to go to school or to work. We don’t yet know the path to a peaceful and equitable Afghanistan, but we do know the way to get there is by investing in women. Women build peace and prosperity from the bottom up. Stronger women build stronger nations.”

If you’d like to learn more about WfWI’s particular commitment to Afghanistan, along with what they are doing world-wide, or to donate to them at this time of great need, please visit

<https://www.womenforwomen.org>



~Jane Manzer



“Strong women wear their pain like they do stilettos. No matter how much it hurts, all you see is the beauty of it.” ~*Unknown*

“Whatever most captures your mind controls your life.” ~*Kare Anderson*

WRITING A NEWS ARTICLE

As part of the Public Awareness committee, I am always looking for information that might help us better share information on our projects, activities, and the mission of Soroptimist. Recently, I encountered an article on how to write articles for your local newspaper. The article gave valuable information on how to reach the public and, I feel, it could be valuable for our members and future use.

In writing an article, the writer needs a lead sentence. One that catches the reader’s eye and makes him/her read more. Then the article suggests an introduction following by an opening quotation. The opening quotation can be from a club member, member of the community or perhaps from leadership within the Soroptimist organization.



After giving the opening quotation, the writer then needs to write the main body of the article. The meat of the story, as many would say. The body is then followed, if possible, with a “closing quotation” that validates the main body. All of this is wrapped up by a brief conclusion.

Many of us in our organization will be writing articles, especially with our celebrating 75 years of serving our community and county. We hope this information will have some benefit.



~Linda Klinefelter, Pubic Awareness Committee



WE HAVE A FEATURED ARTWORK WINNER FOR THE GGS 2022!

The Gala Garden Show 2022 Featured Artwork has been chosen. It was very close in voting, but we do have a winner, Peggy Hanson's **Sequim Demonstration Garden Artist**.

Ms. Hanson is a local photographer and graphic artist with a love of nature and wildlife. She indicated in her write-up of her artwork that during a recent trip to the Sequim Master Demonstration Garden, she came upon a local painter who fit beautifully into her photo. The individual was more than willing to pose for her picture. She then processed the photo in Photoshop and used digital editing tools to give it a painting appearance.

The artwork will be featured on our GGS website: <https://sequimgardenshow.com/>, social media website and in publications.

Congratulations to Peggy Hanson!



Spread Your Wings! We Still Need Gala Garden Show Chairs!

The GGS is moving forward, but we can still use some volunteers to head committees. If interested in the following please let us know:
Sponsorship, Marketing, Raffle/Auction, Facebook, Radio/Newspaper

See Kim Renfro for questions or to volunteer.



~Kim Renfro, 2022 GGS Chair

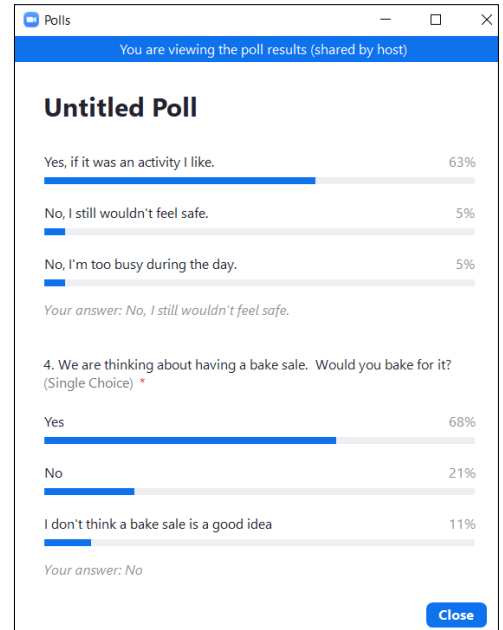
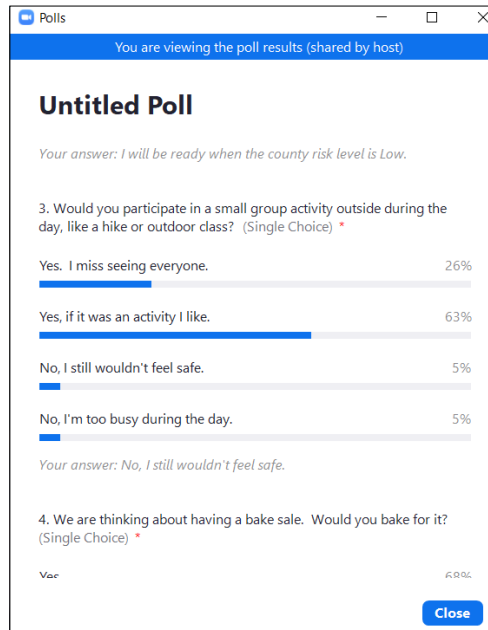
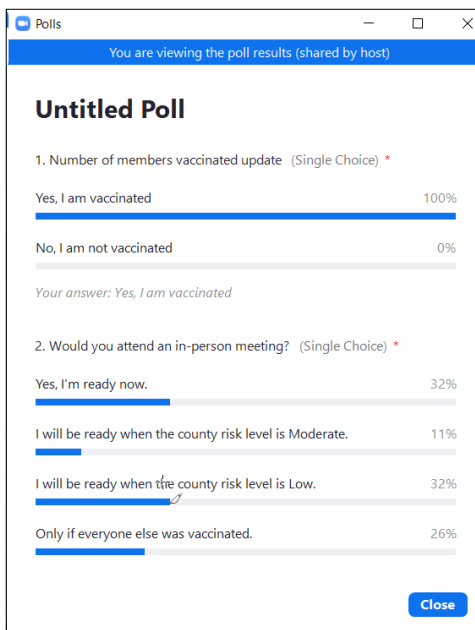


“The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before.” ~Vita Sackville-West

S.T.A.R.T. MEETING—SOROPTIMIST TEAM AND REUNION TIME



Photos from the S.T.A.R.T. Meeting here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/108582458@N03/albums/72157719821490704>



GOING ON 75

That's me and our club. I have had the privilege of reading the minutes of the club from its founding in May of 1947 through 1951. Interesting bits from the beginning:

Many people are surprised that a women's organization includes a man in its origin story. Stuart Morrow helped propel the first clubs to their founding. Stuart Morrow was in the process of organizing a men's club when he walked into the Goddard-Parker Secretarial School in Oakland, CA, expecting to find potential male members. A conversation with one of the co-owners, Adelaide Goddard, led to the idea for a women's club similar to Rotary.

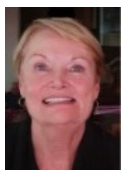


The Soroptimist clubs were organized with the same principles as Rotary and the Optimist Clubs of the time—white women, each representing a different profession or business.

Membership was made up of people in various major business or professional classifications, and there could only be one for each minor classification. Example of classifications in the new Sequim Soroptimist club—Ruth Dawley--Hardware/general hardware, Helen Nelson--Chemical Industry/drugs, Marjorie Olts--Healing arts and sciences/dentistry. The first president was Ethel Clark, and she was Fine Arts general/aesthetic dancing.

Before a member could be proposed, you had to be established in your business at least six months. In order to join, you had to fit an open classification and then pass a thorough investigation of your business standing and desirability. If you moved into another club's area and your classification was full, you couldn't join that club.
















Classifications and businesses continued to be important for many years. At the "Birthday Party" for the club in May of 1948, each member wore a hat they had decorated to match their classification. The hats were judged and at the dinner party they sold the winning hats and the tulip centerpieces as a fundraiser. Members also sold tickets for a May Day dance and pledged to decorate their establishments for Memorial Day.






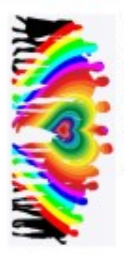




















~President Cat Xander



September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Elaine Bradford Paulette Hill Gail Watson Pat Willis</p> 			<p>1 National Burnt Ends Day</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3 National Food Bank Day</p> 	<p>4 National Wildlife Day</p> 
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7 National Grandma Moses Day</p> 	<p>8 National Amperсанд Day</p> 	<p>9 National Teddy Bear Day</p> 	<p>10 BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>11 National Make Your Bed Day</p> 
<p>12 National Grandparents Day</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Business Meeting</p>	<p>15 National Felt Hat Day</p> 	<p>16 Mayflower Day</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18 National Clean Up Day</p> 
<p>19</p>	<p>20 National Care for Kids Day</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Autumn Equinox</p> 	<p>23 Innergize Day</p> 	<p>24 National Brave Day</p> 	<p>25 National Daughter's Day</p> 
<p>26 National Pancake Day</p> 	<p>27 National Scarves Day</p> 	<p>28 Program Meeting</p>	<p>29 National Women's Health and Fitness Day</p> 	<p>30 National Love People Day</p> 		

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Melody Albertson Jeanne Blaurack Shawn Dreda Linda Naylor Shelle Paulitski</p> 					<p>1 1-3 OCTOBER 2021 SI 100TH VIRTUAL BIRTHDAY EVENT</p> 	<p>2 </p>
<p>3 National Unity Day</p> 	<p>4 World Animal Day</p> 	<p>5 National Be Nice Day</p> 	<p>6 National Noodle Day</p> 	<p>7</p>	<p>8 BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>9 Curious Event Day</p> 
<p>10 National Mental Health Day</p> 	<p>11 Columbus Day</p> 	<p>12 Business Meeting</p>	<p>13 Navy Birthday</p> 	<p>14</p>	<p>15 National Mushroom Day</p> 	<p>16 Sweetest Day</p> 
<p>17</p>	<p>18 Health Care Aide Day</p> 	<p>19 National New Friends Day</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21 National Apple Day</p> 	<p>22 National Nut Day</p> 	<p>23 National Croc Day</p> 
<p>24</p>	<p>25 United Nations Day</p> 	<p>26 Program Meeting</p>	<p>27 National Mentoring Day</p> 	<p>28 National Immigrants Day</p> 	<p>29 National Cat Day</p> 	<p>30 National Checklist Day</p> 
<p>31 </p>						

It's Really UP To You by Shelagh Bullman

One word can start a friendship,
One kiss a love affair,
One smile can bring you laughter,
One hug can show you care,
One wave of your hand can say hello,
One tear can make you cry,
One gentle touch can warm a heart,
One dream can make you fly,
One song can bring back memories,
One thought sees brighter days,
One wish can bring colourful rainbows,
One good deed can bring you praise,
One moon can light your darkness,
One star can guide your soul,
One step will start each journey,
One hope to make your goal,
One hand to hold in friendship,
One heart that's kind and true,
One Love...One friend, is all you need,
It's really up to you.



Soroptimist International of Sequim
PO Box 126
Sequim, WA 98382

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