



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 27, Issue 6

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

December 2022

Officers 2022— 2023

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Kim Renfro

President-Elect:
Shirley Legg

Secretary:
Pat Willis

Treasurer:
Shelle Paulbitski

Assistant Treasurer:
Open

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(one year remaining)**
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Director: 2 year
Natasha Merkuloff Nichols

Director: 1 year
Kathy Cunha

Director: 1 year
Patty Lebowitz

Past President:
Cat Xander

Newsletter Staff:
Kathy Purcell
Susan Coffee
Jane Manzer
Pat Willis

**“Openness and participation are antidotes to surveillance and control.”
~Howard Rheingold**

Message from the President

Here it is December already! What happened to the year? Usually I wonder what I did during the year, but I don't have to do that this year, since my time was taken up with a multitude of issues. So, I am definitely looking forward to the new year and doing some traveling in the fall of next year.

In the coming year, I am hoping that we have more people active in our club and committees. This year has been dismal for committees— literally a handful of people are running the club right now. I know everyone has been busy with getting life back to normal after Covid, but I am hoping that people will start to commit to being on a committee again.

Since we have been doing more public fundraisers, all I have heard is that people have missed our Gala Gift Show and our Garden Show. I am concerned and I would like to have more people involved in the club and committees. I know many of you are burned out or tired and don't have the energy to put into committee work. But I am asking for people to think about the club and what you have to offer; no matter what small part you play or have time for, we need you. So, start thinking about what committee you would like to serve on for the 2023-2024 year. If we have no volunteers again for the Gift Show or the Garden Show, I fear they will disappear from the community that looks forward to seeing us at these events.

I am only saying this now, since I want our club to be successful in 2023-2024 with helping women and girls to be empowered in their lives. But as a club we need to survive and grow. So, start to think about what committee you want to be on and make a new year's resolution. Think about, how can I help grow our club and to continue to help and aid women and girls? How can I continue to make a difference? Let's see a future Gala Gift Show and a future Garden Show. Let's see more people involved in our committees and choosing decisions that will make us a better club now and for the future.

Remember we do great things, let's continue to do great things!



President Kim
Change is Always Good



Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

What comes to mind when we hear or see the words Ho, Ho, Ho? If it's in March, June or September, we might think it is a reply to something funny—sort of like Ha, Ha, Ha. However, when we see or hear it at this time of year, we think of Jolly Old St. Nick. Though we might laugh at his saying those words and jiggling his belly like a bowl full of jelly.

The holidays are here. It is a time of family, friends, compassion, caring and traditions. Last month President Kim mentioned traditions in her article. I'm going to share a Christmas tradition/memory from when I was young. On Christmas Day my family would go to my dad's mom's house. Grandma Rose would always have a beautiful tree; there were lots of presents under it. But none of them could be opened until after dinner—and after the dishes were washed, dried and put away.

The Christmas meals were always delicious and there were special things like yams with marshmallows, green beans with almond slivers, and homemade pumpkin pie. The dining room had a long table, but it only fit the adults. There was a card table set up for the kids. One of the things I recall is that there was Mogen David wine for the adults. I don't know where that tradition started. To include the kids, we were each given a glass of grape juice—since it kind of looked like the wine.

After dinner it was time to clean up and do the dishes. I remember helping carry plates and silverware to the kitchen. Some of the food needed to be put into containers and refrigerated. There was a lot of chatter and laughter while we worked together. When that was all done, it was time to give out the presents.

Truth be told, I can't remember the presents; what I do remember is the jovial tone of voices, the mirth and the camaraderie when we did the dishes. That was the best gift of all. It was the gift that touched my soul so deeply, that I started experiencing the same thing whenever the family got together—whether for an anniversary, a BBQ, or just for fun. Sometimes I would stand in the background and just listen to the voices—not eavesdropping to hear the words being said—just noticing the tones and the laughter. It always made my heart glad.

Our club has been having hybrid meetings this year. While some members choose to attend the meetings in person, I have been one of the Zoomers. Near the end of our last meeting, the microphone at the in-person part of the meeting was just close enough to one of the tables that I could hear voices. I couldn't tell the words that were being said but I could hear the jovial tones, the mirth and the camaraderie. It lightened my spirits and gladdened my heart. I felt the unity. I was smiling from the inside out. What a great gift that was! Even though I wasn't present in person at the meeting, I still received the gift. I am grateful for that and for all of you.

That gift is there for all of us. We just need the presence of mind to recognize it. During this time of family, friends, compassion, caring and traditions, let us remember the strength of our unity. That unity will carry us through all the changes in the future, reminding us Change is Always Good.

Wishing you a Happy Ho, Ho, Ho, Holiday Season.



Light and Love,
Kathy Purcell, Editor



“So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.”
~Baha'u'llah

CALENDAR

December, 2022

- 9 Board Meeting
- 13 Business Meeting
- *20 Holiday Party

January, 2023

- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting
- 24 Program Meeting
- *31 Fifth Tuesday

*Evening Meeting



“He who experiences the unity of life sees his own Self in all beings, and all beings in his own Self, and looks on everything with an impartial eye.”
~Buddha



“What an enormous magnifier is tradition! How a thing grows in the human memory and in the human imagination, when love, worship, and all that lies in the human heart, is there to encourage it.”
~Thomas Carlyle

Celebrate Life!

DECEMBER

Dave Fickes
Sandy Lawrence
Elaine Powlesland

JANUARY

Susan Coffee
Kathy Cunha



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



“Celebrate the happiness that friends are always giving, make every day a holiday and celebrate just living!”
~Amanda Bradley



Mark Your Calendar!
SIS Holiday Party
December 20th
5:30 to 8:00
The Holiday Inn

Details . . .

It's a Potluck ~ please bring a dish to share!

Champagne, wine from Olympic Cellars, water and non-alcoholic beverages will be served ~ You are welcome to bring your own wine if that is your pleasure.

Dress up or dress down ~ but do dress in holiday colors! A prize will be awarded to the one voted “best dressed” for the occasion! Hats are encouraged!

A recent conversation Kim and Shirley had with Andra at the Food Bank brought to light the need for baby things — disposable diapers, baby food and baby formula. This is the season of giving so please bring something for the babies — a rattle or teething ring for baby would be nice, too!

Since we are focusing on baby items, we'd like everyone to bring a picture of themselves (ages 1 to 4) to the party. Let's see who can put your name with your picture. Please write your name on the back of the picture and put it on the table face up. No peeking!

Hope to see everyone there

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting
TBA
February 25, 2023



NWR Conference
Davenport Hotel
Spokane, WA
April 20-23, 2023



SI Convention
Challenge the Future
Dublin, Ireland
July 27-29, 2023

LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD

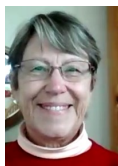
Hooray! This year we have EIGHT applicants for our Live Your Dream Award! This is a great increase—one year we had to ask SIA for a candidate and last year we were thrilled to have four applications. Hopefully the increase means more local women are hearing about the award.



Applying for the LYDA is not easy. It requires the applicant to write essays, submit a lot of financial information and find two people who will complete and submit some very specific references. It's tough enough that some other clubs didn't find any applicants.

We have been approached by the Whidbey club asking if we had any applicants to share. We also have been informed that the Forks club may need some help. We'll review the situation and of course, share our applicants. That way more women will be able to receive funding toward their goals.

The judging panel will convene in the next few weeks to commence reviewing the applications we keep.



~Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols

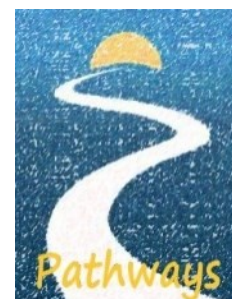


“Your dream is a reality that is waiting for you to materialize. Today is a new day! Don’t let your history interfere with your destiny! Learn from your past so that it can empower your present and propel you to greatness.” ~Steve Maraboli

PATHWAYS PROJECTS CHOSEN

Shelle Paulbitski was our guest Soroptimist this month. She did a great job of explaining the Bylaws and Standing Rules and answering our questions. Since these documents are in the process of being revised, she suggested that we wait until that has been completed to really delve into them. I mean, we all look forward to this ‘light reading’, right?!

And the big moment you’ve all been waiting for—ta da!—the two 2023 service projects that we are passionate about are—(drum roll, please)—First Step and Kathleen Sutton. Both projects are short term, requiring a commitment of only a day or two.



First Step Family Support Center will be receiving large pallets of diapers sometime in January. At a time yet to be determined, we will volunteer for one day for a sorting and labeling party at their warehouse in Port Angeles. We’re calling it a party so we can recoup and celebrate afterwards, possibly having pizza somewhere.

Kathleen Sutton Fund is planning a Spring Luncheon on May 6, 2023, to gain more visibility in Sequim. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Scott Ramsey, Director Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research, who will speak on the effects of stress on patients with cancer. Our commitment involves helping with the needs of a typical event, such as setup, serving, table decorations, etc., and spreading the word about the event to our friends and the community.

We are very excited about these two events and welcome any additional volunteers from the membership who would like to share our enthusiasm. Plus, it will give us a chance to get to meet other members in person. It’s a win-win situation!



~Jan Hartig



MEMBER – COOL STUFF

According to the *Sequim Gazette*, more than 800 families received Holiday Meal Bags in time for the Thanksgiving weekend thanks to a community effort of dozens of people. An estimated **755** families received meals at Carrie Blake Community Park on November 18, and another **100** bags were delivered. Club member **Linda Klinefelter**, along with her husband **Larry**, were among those who delivered the bags. This made a big difference in so many people's lives. ~kp



“Putting forward your positive energy connects you back to basic human values which we all share. Good Deeds Day shows that no matter the size of the gesture, a smile that brightens someone else's day or volunteering in your community, we can all take active part in making a difference.” ~*Shari Arison*

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

Winter is here and our volunteers are dressing much warmer now. We have been watching the weather and won't meet people at the Closet if the pavement is icy. People have been very understanding and appreciate being told that we'll call them to reschedule their appointment if it isn't safe for us to meet them.

We had another busy month at the Loan Closet. We received **150** calls during the month of November. We lent **118** items and had **129** items returned. We received **\$425** in donations from our generous community.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs

“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.” ~*Sally Koch*

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL UPDATE



Our club currently sponsors two women through Women for Women International who are at present completing their year-long education and training. Their pictures from the online communication platform are below. We've not received any letter back from Shorash, but we did receive one from Rose. Rose lives in Nigeria, where women lack access to education and health services, face common discriminatory practices, and struggle to gain economic opportunities and equality. This program helps women like Rose, and she expresses her thanks very well. Although her letter is written in her own hand and in English, it won't be very readable when reduced in size, so here's what she said:

"Dear Sponsor,

Greetings to you and your loved ones. Hope you are all fine. My name is Nash Rose Markus, age 35, married, blessed with 5 children, 1 boy, 4 girls. I and my husband are all farmers. Having been enrolled into this program will enable me and my family lives a better life. During the pandemic, we all are suffering for lack of food etc. We all appreciate you as a family for supporting me.


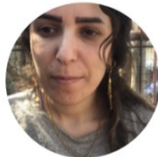
*Your sister,
Nash Rose Markus"*

Once Rose and Shorash graduate from the program, we will be sponsoring another two sisters. Our club committed the funds - \$840 - to support them in 2023, as we have done in past years. Once we've been assigned those sisters, I will let you know about them in a future newsletter.



~Jane Manzer
Women for Women International sister liaison



YOUR CURRENT SISTER(S)	
 Rose Nash	 Shorash ALI
COUNTRY: Nigeria	COUNTRY: Iraq
ENROLLMENT DATE: February 1, 2022	ENROLLMENT DATE: March 1, 2022
GRADUATION DATE: January 1, 2023	GRADUATION DATE: February 1, 2023
MARITAL STATUS: married	MARITAL STATUS: married
CHILDREN: 5	CHILDREN: 5
WOMEN'S GROUP: Dogo Nahauwa 4	WOMEN'S GROUP: Kawrgosk 38
WOMAN ID: 510296	WOMAN ID: 513087

"You can do anything as long as you have the passion, the drive, the focus, and the support."

~Sabrina Bryan

HOLIDAY JOY

Some Healthy Families of Clallam County clients will soon be receiving Holiday Joy from Soroptimist International of Sequim! Teams have probably finished shopping and maybe even wrapping by now. As a reminder, gifts are **to be delivered** to Healthy Families at 1210 E. Front St., Suite C in Port Angeles by noon on **Wednesday, December 14.**

I will be going to Port Angeles once between when you get this newsletter and December 14th, so I'm happy to deliver your gifts to the agency for you. Just let me know. Whether delivering to me or to Healthy Families, please pack wrapped gifts in a larger box and label.

Other reminders via Beverly Hoffman: Please e-mail Beverly the general amount your team (or you individually) spent on gifts; no receipts necessary. This helps Healthy Families show community support when writing grants. Also, if you'd like to include food items, stockings, or an encouraging note, please do so, but giving cash is discouraged.

If you have any questions or would like me to deliver your gifts to Port Angeles, contact me asap.



~Jane Manzer
Holiday Joy Volunteer Coordinator



“There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.” ~Khalil Gibran




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SEE'S THE MOMENT

Who can take tomorrow? 🎵🎵🎵 Dip it in a dream 🎵🎵🎵

[Sweetness in a package] 🎵🎵🎵 Eat up all the creams 🎵🎵🎵

Our Soroptimists (The Candy Man) (can) could
They mix it all with love... And make the world taste good 🎵🎵🎵

Num, num, num, num, num....

In November our fundraising committee sold See's Candies at the annual Greywolf PTA bazaar. With more candies to sell, we secured a front lobby space at the Elks annual gift bazaar for the next weekend. Many boxes of candies were sold.

Special thanks go to our candy hawkers: Jeanne Martin, Lisa Martinez, Jane Manzer, Sunni Becker, Kim Renfro, and Shirley Legg.

We couldn't have accomplished any of this without Patty Lebowitz (who sold candy both weekends) and Shelle Paulbitski. These ladies found these venues to sell our wares. Treasurer Shelle spent a good part of both weekends making sure candies were sold and credit cards were charged. Sandy spent her weekends in Sequim, too. Even though Natasha couldn't be here for the sales, she put her time in getting the candies ordered, and posters out so we could market our sales. What a team!

Who wants candy?

We still have a box of candy to sell. For our club, we have reduced the prices a bit on the sleigh boxes so that we can still show a bit of profit. A variety of peanut brittle, truffles, toffee-ettes, sleigh boxes and dark chocolate balls will be available for purchase at our business meeting on **December 13**. Ask your neighbors if you can pick some up for them!



~Sandy Lawrence and Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols,
Fundraising Co-chairs

Truffles - 7 @ \$16.00 each
Toffee-Ettes - 1 at \$27.50
Sleigh Boxes - 10 @ \$11 each
Peanut Brittle (small) - 4 @ \$9.25 each
Dark Chocolate Balls - 1 @ \$9.50

“Chocolate is a living matter; it has its own inner language. Only when it feels the object of intimate attention, and only then, does it cease to bewitch the throat and begin to dialogue with the senses.” ~Alexander Von Humboldt

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Olympic View Community Foundation, it is our great pleasure to thank you for your recent \$1,000.00 donation to the Clallam County Child Advocates Fund to support local foster children. What a generous gift!!



As you know, the Clallam County Child Advocates is a volunteer fundraising and support group that provides assistance for foster youth in Clallam County. OVCF is proud to serve as the non-profit Fiscal Sponsor for this local group.

Funds raised are used for items and programs such as basic necessities, shoes and clothing, sports fees and uniforms, music and art classes, extracurricular activities, Christmas gifts, and many other purposes that allow full participation by foster children. These items and activities help prevent the foster children from “feeling different” from their peers, and support the kids’ progress, feelings of acceptance, and self-esteem.

We are very appreciative that you care about these vulnerable kids! All of the funds donated for these vital “extras” come from generous community members and organizations like you.

Thank you again for your gift which benefits foster children in Clallam County.

With much gratitude,
Sheila Edwards, Director
Olympic View Community Foundation

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim Members,

Thank you so much for your amazing donation to Unbounded Horizons Scholarship Fund.







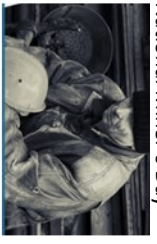























Your donation directly impacts the lives of trauma survivors, enabling them to attend a life-changing healing retreat. We could not do it without your support!!

Sincerely,
Donna Lawson
Executive Director, Nature’s Academy


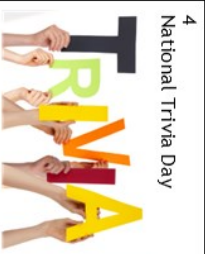





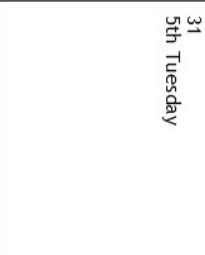



“Make it a habit to tell people thank you. To express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you’ll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you’ll find that you have more of it.” ~Ralph Marston

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Dave Fickes Sandy Lawrence Elaine Powlesland</p>				<p>1 National Pie Day</p> 	<p>2 Faux Fur Friday</p> 	<p>3 Make a Gift Day</p> 
<p>4 National Cookie Day</p> 	<p>5 International Ninja Day</p> 	<p>6 National Miner's Day</p> 	<p>7 National Illinois Day</p> 	<p>8 National Brownie Day</p> 	<p>9 BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>10 SI President's Appeal</p> 
<p>11 National App Day</p> 	<p>12 National Poinsettia Day</p> 	<p>13 Business Meeting</p>	<p>14 Monkey Day</p> 	<p>15 Bill of Rights Day</p> 	<p>16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day</p> 	<p>17 National Ugly Sweater Day</p> 
<p>18 Chanukah Begins</p> 	<p>19 National Oatmeal Muffin Day</p> 	<p>20 Holiday Party</p> 	<p>21 Winter Solstice</p> 	<p>22 Forefather's Day</p> 	<p>23 National Roots Day</p> 	<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> 
<p>25 Christmas Day</p> 	<p>26 National Candy Cane Day</p> 	<p>27 National Fruitcake Day</p> 	<p>28 National Call a Friend Day</p> 	<p>29 Tick Tock Day</p> 	<p>30 Bacon Day</p> 	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p> 

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Happy New Year</p> 	<p>2 BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Susan Coffee Kathy Cunha</p> 	<p>3 National Drinking Straw Day</p> 	<p>4 National Trivia Day</p> 	<p>5 National Bird Day</p> 	<p>6 BOARD MEETING</p> 	<p>7 National Tempura Day</p> 
<p>8 National Argyle Day</p> 	<p>9 National Apricot Day</p> 	<p>10 Business Meeting</p> 	<p>11 National Milk Day</p> 	<p>12 National Marzipan Day</p> 	<p>13 National Sticker Day</p> 	<p>14 National Dress Up Your Pet Day</p> 
<p>15 National Bagel Day</p> 	<p>16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday</p> 	<p>17</p> 	<p>18 National Thesaurus Day</p> 	<p>19 National Popcorn Day</p> 	<p>20 National Disc Jockey Day</p> 	<p>21 National Hugging Day</p> 
<p>22 National Polka Dot Day</p> 	<p>23 National Handwriting Day</p> 	<p>24 Program Meeting</p> 	<p>25 National Opposites Day</p> 	<p>26 National Peanut Brittle Day</p> 	<p>27 National Chocolate Cake Day</p> 	<p>28 National Kazoo Day</p> 
<p>29 National Puzzle Day</p> 	<p>30 National Bubble Wrap Day</p> 	<p>31 5th Tuesday</p> 	<p>Human Trafficking Awareness Month Paradise Educare Report</p> 	<p>Human Trafficking Awareness Month Paradise Educare Report</p> 	<p>Human Trafficking Awareness Month Paradise Educare Report</p> 	<p>Human Trafficking Awareness Month Paradise Educare Report</p> 

A Low-cost Christmas by Robin Davis

December comes every year
Bringing joy laughter and cheer
Filling hearts with lots of love
Shining like an angels love

Christmas is a time to show
Others your sweet inner glow
Giving presents you don't wrap
Not falling in the buying trap

Free gifts are the very best
Come on put it to the test
Give someone the present of
Kindness wrapped in heartfelt love

Hugs fit every shape and size
Return this gift—you'll be surprised
At how this will mean so much
From a warm and gentle touch



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