



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 7

Soroptimist International of Sequim

**Celebrating 75+ Years of Service**

January 2023

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*“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*

## Message from the President — A Personal Year In Review

2023 is here and I hope everyone had wonderful holidays, even if it was a little cold and icy. OK, who am I kidding, it was a lot of cold, snow and definitely icy. Every year I hear this has been an unusual year for weather and then I begin to wonder. Since I moved here six years ago, it has been unusual weather every year and it makes me wonder, is it because I moved here? No, it has to be because someone else moved to the area, not me!

I usually do a review of what I did at the end of the year, just to see where the time went. This year was full of procedures, which I hope will not repeat for awhile. Covid is on the back burner, not forgotten by any means, just not as big as an issue as a couple of years ago. It is doubtful that it will go away, and it will probably be like the flu, a booster every year for the latest and greatest virus. People started traveling again, as seen at Christmas time with the meltdown of the airlines and the long waiting lines. If you were in those lines, I hope you brought something to eat and drink while waiting.

I lost three long-time friends this last year to cancer, not a fun disease and it doesn't care who it takes. I will miss them, but they are in my memories forever. One of my other long-time friends was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and all I can say is "I am there for you."

So what does 2023 hold for me? Well, the traveling bug is very strong, so I will be hitting the road with my puppy and husband once I have completed my term as President. We had to cancel so many of our trips due to Covid, so now it is time to get those trips taken and off my bucket list! My current calendar also shows a lot of meetings in my future. The hybrid meetings seems to be working without issue at this time, (I hope I didn't jinx myself by writing that).

With all that being said I think 2023 is going to be a busy year. More fundraisers are planned, and we have our NWR Conference in April. I do look forward to the coming year and what it holds for me. Now if I could put winning the Lottery as a check off on my bucket list I would be happy!

Happy 2023!



President Kim  
**Change is Always Good**



## Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

Have you ever noticed how often weather comes up in conversation? It's actually often a conversation starter. We might hear things like: Did your power go out in last night's windstorm? It's so nice to see the sun after so many days of clouds and rain! How much snow did you get at your house?

Weather is something that is part of everyone's life, though it can have different results at different times.

A child—or the child within—might wish for a white Christmas. There is a feeling of peace and calm watching snow fall—and kids like to build snowmen. There must have been a lot of kids wishing for that last month. The Monday night before Christmas it started snowing. By morning the lower elevations had only a few inches of snow, while higher elevations had as much as a foot.

Rob, Blue and I headed into town Tuesday mid-morning. The highway was sanded in some—but not all—places. We had planned to go to the office for a while and then do a Costco run. Based on the condition of the highway we decided to go to Costco first, and to try surface streets. We discovered they were in worse shape than the highway. The parking lot at Costco wasn't fully plowed; we found a spot where it was. I got the items on our list and we headed down Washington Street to go to the office. As we got closer to Sequim Avenue we saw multiple cars ahead that were sliding. We decided to go back home instead.

Tuesday night into Wednesday more snow fell. The sun came out for a while, but the temperature got down into the teens. It was recommended that folks stay off the roads unless it was necessary. We stayed home Wednesday. I've mentioned before that Blue likes the sun. I took him out to go potty. He walked around, sniffed and then laid down—in the snow! After a few minutes of shivering, I nudged him, and we went back into the house.

With all the snow and the poor road conditions some people were homebound. This went on for several more days. However, Thursday and Friday we did make it into the office. The highway was clear, and although the surface streets were still a bit snow-packed and icy, we only had a few blocks to travel off the highway.

I was thinking about Blue not being concerned about the snow when the sun was out. He wanted to spend some time outside feeling the warmth of the sun's rays. It brought to mind how we, as Soroptimists, keep our goals in mind and take action even when there are obstacles. We feel the warmth of our unity. We can weather anything together.

The amount of snow at different elevations makes me think of our club. The higher the position within the club, the more we weather—though we do not do it alone. This is something to keep in mind as we move forward planning next year's board, committees and activities. Whether you are able to be involved a lot or whether you are able to be involved a little, your participation is important and valued.

I was looking at the word **weather** and saw it has three words within it: **we at her**. This made me think of our focus on improving the lives of women and girls. This gives new meaning to starting up a conversation about **weather**. Wishing all of you good weather as we change into the new year knowing Change is Always Good.



Light and Love,  
Kathy Purcell, Editor



“Without commitment, you cannot have depth in anything, whether it's a relationship, a business or a hobby.” ~Neil Strauss

## CALENDAR

### January, 2023

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

### February

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

### \*Evening Meeting



“Surround yourself with good people. Whether they're the best or not, people are capable of learning if they've got good hearts and they're good souls.”  
~Kid Rock



“An inexhaustible good nature is one of the most precious gifts of heaven, spreading itself like oil over the troubled sea of thought, and keeping the mind smooth and equable in the roughest weather.”  
~Washington Irving

# Celebrate Life!

## JANUARY

Susan Coffee  
Kathy Cunha

## FEBRUARY

Becky Acher  
Jan Chapman  
Missy Church-Smith  
Sherry Lacey  
Patti Lebowitz



## HOLIDAY JOY

As you know, this was Beverly Hoffman's last year leading Holiday Joy, something she has done with precision and love. Under her leadership since 2007, "Holiday Joy has gifted 1873 victims/family members with presents/food to the tune of close to \$250,000.00 plus hours of planning, shopping, wrapping, and delivering the packages." That's amazing community support for the agency, helping them to gain grants too. Going forward, Beverly will be transitioning Holiday Joy coordination to a woman named Kelli Ward, and we will work with her on the 2023 Holiday Joy.

Concerning Holiday Joy 2022, our club can be oh, so proud of the support we provided to victims of domestic violence, best described by this list:

- SIS supported 12 of the 31 family sponsorships this year
- 26 of our members took part either individually or in teams
- In addition, 6 former members took part either as individuals or with teams of current members
- Of the 31 family sponsorships, the Soroptimist groups supported 11
- Of the 101 people sponsored, Soroptimist gave gifts to 44 people

In summation, quoting Beverly Hoffman, "Soroptimist have not only been steadfast but generous in their sponsorships!"



~Jane Manzer, Holiday Joy Volunteer Coordinator



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



## SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

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**Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting**  
TBA  
February 25, 2023



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



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

Dublin, Ireland • 27-29 July 2023

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*"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*

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## UPDATES FROM SOME OF OUR 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Rachel Blume** received the Professional/Technical Scholarship at Peninsula College twice and an additional \$1000 award from us last year.

“Life is so good. My schooling is going very, very well. I had a setback last quarter due to Carpal tunnel relief surgery. I had to learn how to weld with my left hand because my right hand hurt so badly after the surgery. But despite the setback I still finished with a 3.99 GPA. I got a 4.0 in my welding competencies and got a 98% missing one in my final exam.



“I’m very excited but a bit anxious to graduate. I’m scared for the transition of going into the industry full-time but also so excited. This year is going to be full of change, lots of hard transitions and excitement for myself and my family.

“Thanks for checking in.”

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**Corenna Messinger** received a \$2000 Continuing Education scholarship in 2022 for her nursing program at Peninsula College.

“Fall quarter was both difficult and awesome! I learned so much and I got a 4.0 GPA! Next quarter we start clinical rotations, and I am so excited to get back to doing patient care and getting some hands-on experience. One quarter down and five to go! Thanks so much for all your support.”

As a single mother, Corenna has applied for the Live Your Dream Award. The recipients of those awards will be chosen in February.



**Yang Zhang** received a \$2000 Continuing Education scholarship in 2022 for her nursing program at Peninsula College. She hopes to eventually become a doctor:

“I am very excited to share my fall quarter with you. Although the nursing program study schedule was very intensive, I was so happy that I could learn different practical skills and knowledge every day and my life is fulfilled with hopes. We had five courses in fall quarter, nurse 101(3.7); nurse 111(pass); hum131(4.0); psych 141 (4,0) and nutrition121(3.9).

“It was a very challenging quarter to me. I still felt the language barrier during my study, but I am improving every day and believe it is just temporary.

“My two kids were sick in turn last quarter, so, most of the time I was studying while taking care of my children. However, I was very optimistic, confident and passionate all the time. The winter quarter will start on January fourth, and I can’t wait to learn more and share more with you! I will keep in touch with you. Again, thank you so much.”


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**“It was character that got us out of bed, commitment that moved us into action, and discipline that enabled us to follow through.” ~Zig Ziglar**

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## THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

My husband, Rob, had a stroke in early November. Once the club found out, members called, sent emails, cards—and prayers. Linda Klinefelter organized meals for us for a month. I received several anonymous gift cards to QFC (grocery store)—one return address showed Santa - North Pole. The meals ranged from multiple varieties of chicken, ham with mashed potatoes, soup, chili, a beef barley stew, mac & cheese, pot roast with broccoli on the side, salads, quiche, lasagna. And it wasn't just members who participated in the 'meals on wheels'—several past members also provided food. I was so overwhelmed by the outpouring of caring and compassion, my heart overflowed with your love. For some reason it was connected to my eyes, because they started to leak. Even now as I write this that is happening. Rob's right side was affected and he is in a wheelchair—for now, but he is improving and getting stronger. We celebrate each seemingly small improvement. knowing each one compounds the last. Our heartfelt gratitude to you all. 



~Kathy Purcell



## PATHWAYS ARE ON THE MOVE!

It has been a joy to gather and create plans to serve our community. We are excited to share that we have two organizations to serve in 2023! These are opportunities to gather, enjoy each other and help those in need.

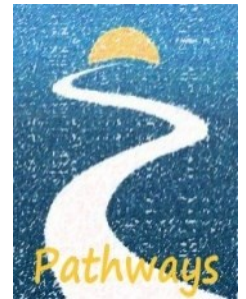
### OPPORTUNITY #1 JANUARY 2023

*First Step Family Support Center*

Sunni Becker is heading up a service event, complete with PIZZA! First Step, an organization that delivers diapers all over the Olympic Peninsula needs help sorting diapers.

We will be gathering at a hanger by the Port Angeles airport to sort diapers for delivery. There will be pizza, fun, and most of all, a great time together!

When: Tentatively we will be gathering later in January, on a weekday. Watch for an update from Sunni and be ready to plug in for fun!



### OPPORTUNITY #2 May 2023

*Kathleen Sutton Fund Spring Luncheon*

Location: Sequim, Venue TBD

When: Saturday, May 6, 2023

Keynote Speaker, Dr Scott Ramsey, of the Hutchinson institute for Cancer Outcome Research in Seattle will be sharing about Financial Toxicity and its relation to cancer survival.

The Kathleen Sutton Fund helps women undergoing cancer treatments by paying transportation expenses. There is no income limit to qualify, and they have a 6 month look back period in providing financial help to women living in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason Counties. Their goal of this luncheon is to increase awareness in our community and increase the number of individual women receiving assistance.

We have the opportunity to help with this event by decorating, getting the word out, being a welcoming face at the event and enjoying really good food!

More information to follow.



~Cheryl Easterling, Pathways Committee Member



## MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

Our diligent volunteers braved wind, cold, and rain, but were stymied by the snow storm we had late in December. We had to close the Closet for several days while the snow melted, and we were once again able to dispense medical equipment.

We would like to thank Jane Manzer's husband Fred for fixing many broken deluxe cruisers. Chris Snow and Jane acquired new skill sets for the future as Fred also showed them how to adjust the brakes on deluxe cruisers and knee scooters.



We continued to have a very busy month at the Closet! We received **140** calls during the month of December. We lent **100** items and had **70** items returned. Our extremely generous community donated **\$1,140** in December. Donations included **\$500** from a grateful individual who had borrowed equipment during the year and several other significant contributions.



Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County (VHOCC) volunteer, Frank Finney, is now coordinating the shipping of excess medical equipment overseas with Gateway Medical Alliance. Frank and another VHOCC volunteer loaded excess MLC equipment in December. The Gateway truck was scheduled to pick up MLC and VHOCC equipment the next day. Consolidating the equipment at the VHOCC facility is appreciated by the Gateway volunteer as he now makes one stop instead of two or three.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow,  
MLC Co-chairs

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*“A man is truly ethical only when he obeys the compulsion to help all life which he is able to assist, and shrinks from injuring anything that lives.” ~Albert Schweitzer*

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## NEW MLC MEMBER REFLECTIONS

In early December I began my first shift at the medical loan closet. With the help of Chris Snow and Becky Archer, I learned the ins and outs of the program and gained valuable knowledge about the types of equipment we offer. I soon learned the differences between devices such as toilet risers and toilet rails. I met clients anxious about upcoming procedures and eager for support, in addition to checking in equipment no longer needed.

Most notably to me, I was able to match someone in need of a hospital bed with someone looking to part with one, helping coordinate delivery through civic groups in our community. I have really enjoyed my experience working with this fantastic organization and the wonderful patrons they serve. I look forward to my continued service in the new year!



~Patty Lebowitz, MLC Member



Dear Soroptimist Sisters,

I was waiting to update you on news from Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation until my visit to Chiapas which just took place at the beginning of December. It is always so rewarding to be in the beautiful city of San Cristobal de las Casas, especially at this time of year. I spent two days attending workshops. The first day was with the women of the cooperative and the second was with our 14 scholarship recipients. I was able to interview all of them individually, and it is always wonderful to hear how much they value their educational opportunities and how appreciative they are. Although we are in our “wind-down” phase, nothing has changed. The children’s programs continue in the communities and scholarships are all funded. We continue with the mini-libraries and the eye exams and glasses. We are also getting ready to remodel the meeting house in San Cristobal that we helped purchase 10 years ago. Renovation is badly needed.



Mujeres is now entering its 19th year. We will not forget your past support.

Judith Pasco, Board Chair  
[www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org](http://www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org)  
[mujeres@olypen.com](mailto:mujeres@olypen.com)

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“To become a leader, renovate your mind with painting of peace and roof your heart with ceiling of love. No love, no leader!” ~*Israelmore Ayivor*

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## FUN IN FUNDRAISING

Kudos to the entire group of fundraising volunteers for a terrific return on our See’s candy investment. We should give ourselves a big hand for the money we netted! We had planned on doing only the Greywolf bazaar but then we reacted quickly and thanks to speed-of-light reactions, we grasped the opportunity and were able to get in on the Elks Lodge sale. We made almost as much in one day there as we did in two days at Greywolf. And, the online sales netted almost half as much as the bazaar sales. We have raised almost enough to cover one high school scholarship, a total of **\$1545!!**

Going forward we will do online sales for Valentine’s Day and likely Easter, since they take little to no effort. It is just a matter of telling people about it and encouraging them to tell their friends, neighbors and family.

And don’t forget we’re looking at a shredding event coming up in April, as well as a booth at the Irrigation Festival.



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

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” ~*Thomas Edison*



## WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim,

The Board and Staff of First Step Family Support Center THANK YOU for your GENEROUS DONATION to our work with children and their families on the North Olympic Peninsula. We are committed to helping children thrive and we know that if we can assist parents in their important role we can indeed have an impact on the future success of children. Thank you for YOUR GIFT to help build family strengths!

The following quote is from one of the families that we serve:

"I fully, 100% support the program and recommend it to my pregnant friends when they say they worry about the same things that First Step helped me with. To all of First Step, I and my little family would like to say, Thank You for everything and you are amazing."



Thank you for your kindness,  
Elisia Anderson, Executive Director

HANDWRITTEN NOTE:

*Thank you so much for all of your support! It means so much to our team and the families we serve.  
In gratitude,  
Elisia*

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim,

Thank you for your generous November donation of \$2,000.00 for the Soroptimists Dignity Program. Your support makes it possible for us to continue to provide for our community.

We often have women who come to the food bank who are surprised and grateful that we have feminine hygiene products. These products are expensive and essential to many women, and it is a blessing that we can provide them. With your support, we can offer pads and tampons to women of all ages.

Please know we are deeply grateful for your support. You provide for your neighbors in amazing ways and we could not do our work without you.



Thank you,  
Andra Smith, Executive Director  
Sequim Food Bank

HANDWRITTEN NOTES:



*Thanks for your continued support! Our visitors are so grateful knowing feminine products are available here! Andra*

*Thanks for all you do for the Community  
Sequim Food Bank Board*




















**"Thankfulness creates gratitude which generates contentment that causes peace." ~Todd Stocker**



# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Happy New Year</p> 	<p>2 BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Susan Corfee 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</p> 	<p>Human Trafficking Awareness Month</p> 	<p>Human Trafficking Awareness Month</p> 	<p>Human Trafficking Awareness Month</p> 

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 National Weatherperson Day</p> 	<p><b>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH</b>            Becky Archer            Jan Chapman            Missy Church-Smith            Sherry Lacey            Patty Lebowitz</p> 	<p>7 National Periodic Table Day</p> 	<p>1 National Freedom Day</p> 	<p>2 National Groundhog Day</p> 	<p>3 National Carrot Cake Day</p> 	<p>4 National Homemade Soup Day</p> 
<p>6 National Chopstick Day</p> 			<p>8 National Kit Flying Day</p> 	<p>9 National Pizza Day</p> 	<p>10 BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>11 National Inventor's Day</p> 
<p>12 National Plum Pudding Day</p> 	<p>13 National Cheddar Day</p> 	<p>14 Business Meeting</p>	<p>15 National Wisconsin Day</p> 	<p>16 National Almond Day</p> 	<p>17 National Caregivers Day</p> 	<p>18 National Red Sock Day</p> 
<p>19 National Lash Day</p> 	<p>20 President's Day</p> 	<p>21 Fat Tuesday</p> 	<p>22 National California Day</p> 	<p>23 National Chili Day</p> 	<p>24 National Tartar Sauce Day</p> 	<p>25 National Clam Chowder Day</p> 
<p>26 National Pistachio Day</p> 	<p>27 National Strawberry Day</p> 	<p>28 Program Meeting</p>				



# To the New Year

By: W.S. Merwin

With what stillness at last  
you appear in the valley  
your first sunlight reaching down  
to touch the tips of a few  
high leaves that do not stir  
as though they had not noticed  
and did not know you at all  
then the voice of a dove calls  
from far away in itself  
to the hush of the morning

so this is the sound of you  
here and now whether or not  
anyone hears it this is  
where we have come with our age  
our knowledge such as it is  
and our hopes such as they are  
invisible before us  
untouched and still possible



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