



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 12

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

June 2023

Officers 2022— 2023

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Pat Willis

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Open

Director: 2 year (one year remaining)

Sandy Lawrence

Director: 2 year

Natasha Merkuloff Nichols

Director: 1 year

Kathy Cunha

Director: 1 year

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Kathy Purcell

Susan Coffee

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

*“It’s vital that we
help them get
the right start,
nurture their
development and
provide for
their well-being.”
~Christopher Dodd*

The Gift by Li-Young Lee

To pull the metal splinter from my palm
my father recited a story in a low voice.
I watched his lovely face and not the blade.
Before the story ended, he’d removed
the iron sliver I thought I’d die from.

I can’t remember the tale,
but hear his voice still, a well
of dark water, a prayer.
And I recall his hands,
two measures of tenderness
he laid against my face,
the flames of discipline
he raised above my head.

Had you entered that afternoon
you would have thought you saw a man
planting something in a boy’s palm,
a silver tear, a tiny flame.
Had you followed that boy
you would have arrived here,
where I bend over my wife’s right hand.

Look how I shave her thumbnail down
so carefully she feels no pain.
Watch as I lift the splinter out.
I was seven when my father
took my hand like this,
and I did not hold that shard
between my fingers and think,
Metal that will bury me,
christen it Little Assassin,
Ore Going Deep for My Heart.
And I did not lift up my wound and cry,
Death visited here!
I did what a child does
when he’s given something to keep.
I kissed my father.



Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's June—a month with graduations. It could be kindergarten to elementary school; elementary school to middle school; middle school to high school; high school to college; college out into the world. For some it is a sad time as they leave behind friends and/or teachers. For others it is a happy time as they move forward to new adventures in learning.

Some people think once you walk out the doors of an institution of education, learning ends. This is not the case; learning continues in our everyday lives, even if we don't always recognize it. Learning takes place at many different levels and with animals as well as humans. Its expansion happens often.

We have several cameras set up to view various areas of our property. It is a rural area. Recently a feral cat has been visiting us, but not always at the same time, and not always every day. When we get an alert that he is heading up the driveway, I take out a bowl of food. I usually put it in the same place each time—where the driveway turns east toward the house. I don't keep the bowl out all the time because there are crows that seem to like the free meal.

Yesterday before we left work, we got an alert that the cat was walking up the driveway. We weren't sure if he would still be around when we got home. He was—we saw him on the east side of the yard. I took out a bowl of food, but it was raining so I put it on the sidewalk at the end of the house where the overhang kept it dry. Within a few minutes he walked to the west; he walked past the food bowl and stopped where the bowl usually is. He kept walking down the driveway and left. He returned an hour or so later. Again, he stopped in the usual food spot. He then walked farther east almost to the end of the yard, passing the bowl on his way. Then he turned around and headed west. He stopped at the usual spot for a few minutes. He then headed east again. This time he turned toward the house and found the food. He learned to expand his view in order to get the food.

One of our long-time customers has written a book about loop hikes in the Olympic mountains. He had me create a website for him with teasers about the book and the types of information it includes. He stopped by my office yesterday to chat. He said the book is in the final stages of the process and could be published as early as next month. He has been working on getting it published for over a year and is excited about it coming to fruition. During our conversation he mentioned that he has learned a lot. He said things he thought he could never do, he is doing. He has expanded his view of himself. I was smiling.

It's June—the month that ends our current Soroptimist year. This month our new board will be installed. It's a good time to look at where we want to serve for 2023-2024. For many of us, being a Soroptimist feeds our soul; we know the work we do is life changing. Like the cat, we can expand our view and still find the food—whether by signing up for a committee we've worked on before, signing up for a different one, or signing up to co-chair a committee. Like the author, through our work, focus and dedication we will find we're doing things we never thought we could do. As we graduate from the current year knowing Change is Always Good, we move ahead Lighting the Path Forward.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



"I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it." ~**Pablo Picasso**

CALENDAR

June

- 9 Board Meeting
- 13 Business Meeting
- *21 Installation
- 27 Brainstorming for GGS 2024

July

- 20-23 Lavender Festival
Fleurish Lavender Farm

Summer Hiatus



*Evening Meeting

"The trouble with learning from experience is that you never graduate."
~**Doug Larson**



"Learning should be a joy and full of excitement. It is life's greatest adventure; it is an illustrated excursion into the minds of the noble and the learned."
~**Taylor Caldwell**

Celebrate Life!

JUNE

Elaine Churchill
Jess McNeil
Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols
Caroline Smith

JULY

Athena Dunn
Jane Manzer
Kris Osborn
Kathy Purcell
Jolene Sanborn
Janet Wicker



Note the phone number for our
MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

360-504-0231



"The function of leadership is to produce
more leaders, not more followers."
~Ralph Nader

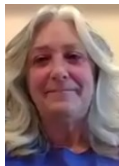
2023-2024 Board of Directors

President	Shirley Legg
President-elect	OPEN
Secretary	Sandy Lawrence
Treasurer	OPEN
Asst Treasurer	Shelle Paulbitski
2-yr Director (1-yr Remaining)	Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols
2-yr Director	Patty Lebowitz
1-yr Director	Kathy Cunha
1-yr Director	Linda Klinefelter

MEMBERS RENEWING / SECRET PALS TO BE REVEALED

Hello All! A big thank you to those of you who have turned in your renewals for the 2023-2024 club year. If you have not yet renewed, please let me know ASAP.

We will be doing our BIG secret pal reveal after the business meeting on Tuesday, June 13th. It will be fun to see who has been making their secret pal feel special all year! We will be doing secret pals again next club year so think about being a secret pal to someone and you will reap the rewards by giving and receiving!



~Shawn Dredla, Membership Chair



"The most sacred place dwells within our heart, where dreams are born and secrets sleep, a mystical refuge of darkness and light, fear and conquest, adventure and discovery, challenge and transformation. Our heart speaks for our soul every moment while we are alive. Listen... as the whispering beat repeats: be...gin, be...gin, be...gin. It's really that simple. Just begin... again."
~Royce Addington

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



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

Kathleen Sutton Fund Luncheon – May 6th at Sunland Golf Club

It was a wonderful day at the Sunland Golf Club. Great food, Wonderful Speakers and as always, amazing and helpful Soroptimist members who showed up and helped make the day a great success!

Dr. Scott Ramsey with the Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcome Research shared on the topic of financial toxicity and how it affects the survival rate of cancer patients. We heard from cancer survivors and discovered ways we can help. Our beautiful Soroptimist members helped make everything possible. Shawn Dredla and Rosie Tomlin checked people in while Elaine Churchill and Jan Hartig put on the SIS smile and greeted everyone. Cheryl Easterling was the MC and Janet Real recorded bid numbers and kept things moving with Raise the Paddle Auction. We helped in a big way! Thank you, Sequim Soroptimists!



Cheryl Easterling, Pathways Committee



Cancer Survivor, Ann Ruggles shares about her journey

PS: This will conclude the activities for the 2022-23 Pathways year. Next will be our “graduation” lunch at the Old Mill, June 10. Our new members have been hard at work this year learning about the operations of Soroptimist and contributing to the community with two charitable events, diaper sorting for First Step and the luncheon for Kathleen Sutton Fund. As co-chairs, Elaine Churchill and Amanda Beitzel are very proud of Sunni Becker, Cheryl Easterling, Jan Hartig, Lisa Martinez and Rosie Tomlin, and welcome them as active members of SIS.



Soroptimists Members

Left to right: Shirley Legg, Linda Klinefelter, Elaine Churchill, Shawn Dredla, Amanda Beitzel, Jan Hartig, Cheryl Easterling, Rosie Tomlin and Janet Real

A message from the President of the Kathleen Sutton Fund

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to our 2023 Kathleen Sutton Fund Luncheon and for helping us to raise \$14,529.05. We are excited to share some photos from our incredible afternoon!

We had a fantastic team of volunteers we'd love to thank for helping make the day possible. In addition to our KSF volunteers, we also had help from the local Sequim Soroptimists.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard behind the scenes to make the day possible!

Barbara Carr
President

“If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody.” ~*Chinese Proverb*

SOME MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET CHANGES

We are saying goodbye to two of our long-time volunteers at the MLC: Linda Naylor and Jolene Sanborn. Linda and Jolene have volunteered for many years at the Closet, and we will miss them. We wish them many fulfilling years ahead in their future pursuits. Thank you, Linda and Jolene, for your service to the Sequim community through the MLC!

Becky and Chris would like to thank our members who participated in the Irrigation Festival Parade. Neither of us was able to participate in the parade, so we really appreciate the members who walked with the MLC banner and equipment. We heard how encouraging it was for our members to hear the cheers and see the thumbs-up from parade spectators. The MLC service is truly appreciated by the community!

This month was an ‘out with the old’ as the Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County volunteer filled their van with equipment destined for overseas medical support; and ‘in with the new’ as we added a few high demand items to our inventory. The items included a bariatric transport chair and two bariatric shower chairs.

Our call volume remains very high. We received **199** calls during the month of May. We lent **116** items and had **93** items returned. Our generous community donated **\$350** in May.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow,
MLC Co-chairs

“Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one’s ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits, and know one has had a hand in them.” ~*Harriet Naylor*

Volunteers NEEDED

SOROPTIMISTS TAKING IT TO NEW HEIGHTS

We have been maintaining the rooftop garden at Holiday Inn Express since 2019. It is that time of year, and we will be needing volunteers—starting in May—to check the containers, water, dead head any of the flowering plants and if necessary, remove any sneaky weeds that show up in the containers. The hose will be accessible, and if not, then a quick visit to the front desk requesting they pull it out and over the fencing. We do not want any volunteers climbing over the fencing.

If you volunteer to water, we request that you water either Friday or Saturday. Jess McNeil will water on Tuesdays. Volunteers are needed starting from May 18th and continuing to the last week in October (October 27th). This job takes about 30 minutes so I hope many of you will consider volunteering twice. You can email me at ljk1551@live.com and if someone has already selected a date that you want, I will contact both volunteers.



~Linda Klinefelter, Rooftop Garden Chair



This is a heartfelt handwritten letter from one of the women we are sponsoring through Women for Women International. It shows the impact of our support.

WFWI / NIGERIA

NAME: ROSE NASH

MARKUS,

GROUP 4

ID NO: 6510296

Dear sponsor

Best complement of the day.

I presume you are fine, and family, I and my family are also fine.

The main point of view here is about what I learned. This programme has been helpful to me in such a way that I now know how to take care of my body and that of my children by bathing always, washing dirty clothes and keeping my house and environment clean. And also as a woman, I now know my right in the family as to also contribute to my family by giving my children must especially the females health education on how to take care of themselves and sex education.

Now that am graduating, I will put more effort on my farming work. I would love my business or farming products to be good and valuable with the help of God and also make sure that my business proceed.

Thanks for all that this group has done for me.

Yours faithfully
Rose Nash Markus

SOROPTIMIST MAKE A SHOWING AT THE IRRIGATION FESTIVAL

For the first time in a while, Soroptimists participated in the Irrigation Festival! No, we didn't compete in the logging competition, nor did we have any entrants in the fun run. We did have a booth at the arts and crafts festival, where our members sold raffle tickets for a 50/50 raffle, with the prize being 50% of all the money collected from selling raffle tickets. So, during a very cold first weekend of May, Colleen Blazier, Brandi Larson, Sandy Lawrence, Patty Lebowitz, Shelle Paulbitski, and raffle ticket seller extraordinaire Cat Xander—sold raffle tickets like crazy. Our total sales were \$500, with the winner, Spiva Cooking, one of the vendors, winning \$250 in cold hard cash!



The following weekend, which turned out to be one of the hottest yet this year, a hardy group of Soroptimists joined forces to march in the Irrigation Day Parade. We were promoting our Medical Loan Closet, and thanks to Chris Snow with cheering from Becky Archer, we had lots of items from the closet to show off. Marching, or rather riding scooters, knee scooters and other assorted medical stuff, were Shawn Dredla, Cheryl Easterling, Patty Lebowitz, Jeanne Martin, Jess McNeil, Shelle Paulbitski, Rosie Tomlin, and Cat Xander. Everyone had fun, the crowd cheered for us, and we even got a few donations en route! Let's think about doing this again next year with a bit more planning and a lot more folks!



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



KEEPING WITH TRADITION AT THE IRRIGATION FESTIVAL PARADE

In the past, we've partnered with Key Bank during the Irrigation Festival Parade. They've offered visiting royalty a room to change into their lovely gowns, and we've provided food. This year the bank was having renovations done inside, and the room was not available. However, the bank offered a tent outside for changing and a place to set up tables for food. Our club members went with it. Although we didn't have the same volume of royalty utilizing what we offered, we were there for those who needed it. ~kp



“Stay committed to your decisions but stay flexible in your approach.” ~Tom Robbins

SAVE THE DATES: SOROPTIMIST LAVENDER FARM TENT JULY 20-23, 2023! VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Lavender Farm Lavender Festival Committee is seeking volunteers to either man our Soroptimist booth or make baked goodies! Contact Pauline if you'd like to volunteer.

- We need 4 volunteers to help set up the tent and wine area on Thursday the 20th of July at 6 pm.
- We need 4 volunteers for 2 four-hour shifts on Friday July 21st, Saturday July 22nd, and Sunday July 23rd.

We are doing the Lavender Festival again at Fleurish Lavender Farm. We are selling wine from Olympic Cellars, Lavender Sangria—and we will have baked goods. This year we are taking the recipes of the best-selling baked goods from last year and sending them to volunteer bakers to make the recipes for this year's fest.




























So, we need volunteers to help set up and take down two tents and tables. We also need volunteers to bake! And we need volunteers to work at the booths.



~Pauline Geraci 



June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Elaine Churchill Jess McNeill Natasha Merkloff-Nichols Caroline Smith						
4 National Hug Your Cat Day 	5 World Environment Day 	6 World Yo-yo Day 	7 World Caring Day 	1 National Milk Day 	2 National Donut Day 	3 World Bicycle Day 
11 Nat'l Corn on the Cob Day 	12 National Red Rose Day 	13 Business Meeting 	14 World Blood Donor Day 	15 Global Wind Day 	16 World Sea Turtle Day 	17 World Juggling Day 
18 Father's Day 	19 World Sauntering Day 	20 International Surfing Day 	21 Summer Begins 	22 National Onion Ring Day 	23 National Pink Day 	24 National Praline's Day 
25 National Catfish Day 	26 National Coconut Day 	27 National Sunglasses Day 	28 International Caps Lock 	29 National Handshake Day 	30 International Asteroid Day 	

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Athena Dunn Jaime Hartzler Kris Osborn Kathy Purcell Jolene Sandborn Janet Wicker						
2 National Anisette Day 	3 National Fried Clams Day 	4 Independence Day 	5 Nat'l Apple Turnover Day 	6 Nat'l Fried Chicken Day 	7 National Macaroni Day 	8 National Freezer Pop Day 
9 National Dimples Day 	10 National Kittens Day 	11 Cow Appreciation Day 	12 Paper Bag Day 	13 Nat'l Beans & Franks Day 	14 National French Fry Day 	15 Nat'l Tapioca Pudding Day 
16 Corn Fritters Day 	17 World Emoji Day 	18 National Caviar Day 	19 National Hot Dog Day 	20 Nat'l Fortune Cookie Day 	21 SEQUIM LAVENDER WEEKEND JULY 21-23, 2023	22 SEQUIM LAVENDER WEEKEND JULY 21-23, 2023
23 SEQUIM LAVENDER WEEKEND JULY 21-23, 2023	24 National Drive-Thru Day 	25 Nat'l Wine & Cheese Day 	26 National Bagelfest Day 	27 National Love is Kind Day 	28 Nat'l Mike Chocolate Day 	29 National Lipstick Day 
30 National Cheesecake Day 	31 National Avocado Day 					

Lesson Learned Every Day

by: Catherine Pulsifer

A lesson is learned every day,
The one I learned was just today.
I learned that others can't be pressed,
To do or act as I feel best.

I've learned that people are their own,
And only I can change the known.
If I don't like how something is,
Changing me is all there is.

So next time you come across this issue,
Don't get mad and grab a tissue.
Change the way that you react,
And that will have a positive impact.

A lesson is learned every day,
What lesson did you learn today?
Whatever it is, I'm sure it's great,
Take what you've learned, don't let it wait.



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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