

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.

Investing in Dreams

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Volume 28, Issue 4

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

October 2023

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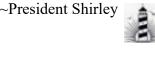
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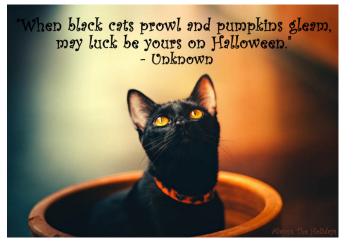
"Every day is Halloween, isn't it? For some of us." ~*Tim Burton* A Message from the President

September was a busy month for me. I'm thinking since October is Halloween month maybe something lighthearted is in order as we see the change in seasons. Halloween is my favorite holiday, and I would leave decorations out year-round if I didn't enjoy pulling them back out from storage with delight the next year. I've provided some clips that express the Halloween spirit. I love Lucy's wisdom in The Great Pumpkin.









"It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown." ~*Lucy Van Pelt* "A person should always choose a costume which is in direct contrast to her own personality." ~*Lucy Van Pelt*



Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's October, the first full month of fall. The orange, gold and rust colors that have been dotting the trees for weeks, now have taken over the green. It's October and fall is blooming—we see it not only in the trees, but also on the ground as the leaves leave their branches. It's October, which brings us Halloween. Ghosts and goblins are showing up on the scene—and pumpkins.

Pumpkins seem to symbolize Halloween. They are a perfect fruit for creative carving. Some folks shape happy faces on their pumpkins while others create scary faces. Some put a light inside the carved-out pumpkin—allowing the face to be more pronounced. We have seen such jack-o-lanterns on the porches of our neighbors—or maybe on our own.

Most of us have Halloween memories—maybe it was the costume our mom sewed for us when we were 6 years old; or the time we got to go trick-or-treating with our cousins when we were 9; maybe it was sewing our own costume as an adult; maybe it was winning a prize for the best costume at a Halloween party we attended; maybe it is decorating our home for Halloween.

There is one memory in particular that sticks with me. It happened in October 2016. First a little backstory: In June of 2016 we adopted our current dog, Blue; he was $2\frac{1}{2}$ at the time. He loves squeaky toys. The first toy he ever received was a bear with a squeaker inside, a gift from then club member Jan Chapman. BTW: Blue still has that toy. He has several soft toys with squeakers in them.

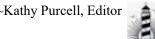
Now on to the memory At the beginning of October in 2016 I brought a few Halloween decorations to the office. One of them was a small bear. It dons a Halloween costume that looks like a pumpkin. The hood part of the costume comes up over the bear's head and has some green leaves on top. I placed the Halloween bear near the front edge of my desk. I went to the back to get some water and while there I heard a noise in the front office. When I walked to the front I saw the business card holder—which had been on my desk near the front edge—was on the floor and business cards were strewn around. I looked up and saw Blue carrying the Halloween bear by the green leaf on the costume. It doesn't have a squeaker in it, but for some reason he claimed it as his. Maybe he thought it was a relative of his first bear.

I knew at that moment the Halloween bear was no longer mine. I used to put the Halloween bear on my desk so I could see it; looking at it always made me smile. Well, seeing Blue enjoying the Halloween bear gave both of us joy. He still plays with the Halloween bear—and not just in October.

In the Soroptimist Northwestern Region, October brings us district meetings. There are four districts in our region and four weekends in October—what a perfect match. This month is often referred to as Soropt-Oberfest. Some members might wonder what the advantage is in attending a district meeting. It provides opportunities for members from throughout the district to share what's happening in their clubs—what's working and what's not. We get to put faces to names of people we've corresponded with via email. We make notes at the various workshops and presentations—but it is impossible to jot it all down. Luckily all of those are available on the region website after the district meetings. There are so many resources to bring back to our clubs.

We are still gearing up for our 2023-2024 Soroptimist year. If we're feeling a little rusty that's ok; rust is a fall color. We can remember that like the fall leaves, as a club we are grounded. It is safe for us to leave our known branch and branch out into something new. We have opportunities to creatively carve how we will participate this year. We get to help shape things for our club and our community. Like the jack-o-lantern, let's let our inner light shine through. We get to season our activities, joining together for a colorful year as we are Lighting the Path Forward.





"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." ~*L.M. Montgomery*

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 3 GGS Core Meeting 8 am KSQM
- 6 Board Meeting Business Meeting
- 10 (GOM Sept & Oct)
- 20-22 District 1 Meeting Clearwater Casino, Suquamish
 - 24 Program (Domestic Violence Awareness)
 - 31* 5th Tuesday

NOVEMBER

- 7 GGS Core Meeting 8 am KSQM
- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting



"Halloween is not only about putting on a costume, but it's about finding the imagination and costume within ourselves." ~*Elvis Duran*



"Magic is really very simple; all you've got to do is want something and then let yourself have it." ~Aggie Cdrodmwell

Celebrate Life!

OCTOBER

Jeanie Blaurock Debbie Cottrell Shawn Dredla Shelle Paulbitski

NOVEMBER

Sunni Becker Mayme Faulk Shirley Legg Wei Lindstrom



Note the phone number for our MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET





"Pumpkins in October, as fat as the full moon, they sit on our doorstep at night and glow." ~*Richelle Goodrich*

WELCOMING LESLIE BOND TO OUR OCTOBER PROGRAM MEETING

Please join us for the October 24th program meeting when Leslie Bond, the new Executive Director for Healthy Families. will be joining us. Healthy Families of Clallam County (HFCC) provides free and confidential services to individuals and families affected by domestic violence, sexual



assault, child abuse and general crimes. Healthy Families is a 501(c) (3) Nonprofit Organization serving Eastern and Central Clallam County. Ms. Bond will be sharing up-to-date information on their services, and we also asked her to share about Holiday Joy. If you are a new member, you will want to hear all about Holiday Joy.



~Linda Klinefelter, Board Member



"Most people will tell you growing up means you stop believing in Halloween things - I'm telling you the reverse. You start to grow up when you understand that the stuff that scares you is part of the air you breathe." ~Peter Straub

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

District 1 Meeting Clearwater Casino Suquamish, WA October 20-22, 2023 Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting TBD February 2024



NWR Conference Lake Washington Hyatt Renton, WA April 25-28, 2024

CONTINUING REPORT ON CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

We gave a total of nine Continuing Education Scholarships. Five of them were for \$1000 each.

New recipients are:

JoNell Hill



She is at Washington State University Pullman. She is studying psychology with the aim of helping students with problems like: mental health, education, housing, food scarcity, and moving on in life (like going from a small-town school to a bigger college). JoNell experienced many of those problems and is happy that she has built a good support system at her college. She has accumulated a lot of student debt during her first three years and could not cover her cost of food and housing this year without additional help.

Samantha Salazar



She is working towards a Master of Arts (MA) in Professional Writing with two emphases: Poetry and Grant Writing. She moved back to Sequim from Idaho to take care of her grand-parents and is currently working at WorkSource Clallam. Her program is "low

residency" and is located at Western Connecticut State University.

Karlie Viada



She is the first person to receive a Continuing Education Scholarship immediately after high school. That's because she finished her AA with Running Start at the same time she graduated from high school. See her letter for details of her school and plans.



~Athena Dunn & Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarships Co-chairs

Hello.

Our mission in the University of Portland School of Nursing is to create an equitable, inclusive, sustainable and just healthcare system. The University of Portland's vision is to prepare today's students to solve tomorrow's problems by teaching us to show mutual respect, to honor differences, and to be informed about the diverse population we serve.

In exciting news, I have met with my nursing advisor who wants to send as many nursing students abroad to Austria next fall as she can! The school has made the program very accessible to all students, so I'm taking the leap and submitting my application!

Thank you for helping me gain access to such amazing opportunities, I'm reaching for those opportunities because I want to show those who have gotten me this far just how much their support means. Me and my community, we're in this together.

Sincerely, Karlie Viada

PAYING IT FORWARD



The mission of Soroptimist International is to "provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. "As a firstgeneration college student raised primarily by a single mother, scholarships (such as the scholarship I received from Soroptimist International of Sequim) helped make college an accessible reality for me. Growing up in the small town of Sequim, my upbringing was largely marked by the unexpected deaths of my two sisters, as well as grappling with my parents' divorce and the impact of addiction issues in my immediate family. However, college opened doors that pushed me to move forward and carve out my own life path, including travelling internationally, earning my master's degree, and growing

a fulfilling career at the Gates Foundation. I am deeply grateful for the support of the Sequim Soroptimists in my own journey and wanted to pay it forward to support the empowerment of other women and girls in my hometown through my 5- year milestone award.

~Fallon Schneider, Past Scholarship Recipient

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Linda Zabora (BZ)



My name is Linda Zabora, but I go by BZ. I have been in Sequim for over 24 years. I am retired, but I have been involved with real estate and sales. I heard about Soroptimist from friends and my husband used the Medical Loan Closet. I volunteer at the Olympic Theater Arts and Discovery Memory. I love arts and theater.

"Halloween was confusing. All my life my parents said, 'Never take candy from strangers.' And then they dressed me up and said, 'Go beg for it."" ~*Rita Rudner*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Well, we have started the year off with a BANG as they say! We inducted three new members and will be inducting Sam Fouts this month, so that's four new members. So exciting! These newest members are all

friends of their current sponsor, so be on the lookout for potential members! Jane and Shawn hosted the first Business Meeting back, after our summer hiatus, and provided delicious scones from "The Beth Bread"—and Brandi, our newest member, had a homemade breakfast casserole that was scrumptious!! Patty Lebowitz will be hosting the next meeting. If you would like to host, please let Shawn or Jane know. The rosters are here at last! If you'd like an additional roster, it can be yours for \$3.00. We will be distributing at the meetings and if you can't make a meeting, we will make an effort to get it to you. Happy Fall, ya'll!





~Shawn Dredla and Jane Manzer, Membership Co-chairs

PATHWAYS UPDATE

The Pathways Committee is happy to announce that we have a new meeting location—the conference room at The Lodge at Sherwood Village, 660 W. Evergreen Farm way in Sequim. This year we'll be meeting on the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon.

Amanda Beitzel, Shawn Dredla and I met on September 2nd with Brandi Larson and a friend of hers who is a prospective member, Sam Fouts. These two young ladies are like a breath of fresh air with their enthusiasm and passion and will be excellent additions to our Soroptimist mission. And we haven't even gotten started yet!

While munching on some delicious sweets made by Amanda, we each briefly shared information about ourselves. Brandi is married to Ryan York and has a daughter Kelsie (6), daughter Emy (4) and son Jaxson (6 months). She's very busy with her family but also works as a residential loan officer at Sound Community Bank. She loves reading, singing, hiking, science, and singing jazz. However, cooking is her passion, which she's already passing on to her daughters.

Brandi met Sam at work and already recruited her to become a member. Sam became passionate about serving others while living in Alaska and is excited to continue those efforts locally. It will be exciting to learn more about her in the coming weeks as she subsequently joined our club. Debbie Cottrell and BZ Zabora are also becoming members, and we're excited to meet them at the next meeting on October 7th.

Congratulations to each one of you! We look forward to working with these women during the year as they learn more about the Soroptimist mission and organization. We'll delve into those aspects of Pathways in the coming months.



~Jan Hartig, Pathways Co-Chair

"Clothes make a statement. Costumes tell a story." ~*Mason Cooley*

MEMBERSHIP COOL STUFF—A LOOK AT RUTH MOGAN

You hear me mention the value of the CD the club has in the name of Ruth Mogan but most of us have no idea who she was. It is always nice to put a face with a name. This picture of Ruth was given to me by

Mayme Faulk, who was a member at the time Ruth was a member of our club, joining in the early '70s. Ruth's career took her to serving as the secretary for Sequim High School.

Because of her love for education and her passion for Soroptimist, Ruth gave us two endowments. The first, received in 1988, was \$8,000. We received an additional \$25,000 from her estate in 2002. Over the years the \$33,000 has grown, but we are allowed to only withdraw amounts over \$33,000. The club has withdrawn monies to fund the scholarships that meet Ruth's criteria—those scholarships are to be awarded to a high school graduate pursuing a career related to the general business field.



Ruth's generous donation has provided countless young women the opportunity to achieve their goals through education. Her legacy lives on to empower even more women.



-Shelle Paulbitski, Treasurer



MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET UPDATE

September may be the beginning of fall in Sequim, but not at the Medical Loan Closet. We continue to have a very high call volume as we received 186 calls during the month. We lent **115** items and had **108** items returned. Our generous community donated **\$340** in September.

We currently have nine members on the MLC Committee and are planning a team building luncheon in October. We would love to have at least two or three more members. If you are interested in learning about the MLC, please call Chris or Becky.





~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs

"The farther we've gotten from the magic and mystery of our past, the more we've come to need Halloween." ~Paula Guran

MLC VOLUNTEER REFLECTION

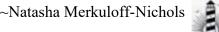
So, I couldn't resist, and finally volunteered for the MLC! What an adventure! First, I got to know all the stuff inside the "Closet." Only it's not just one Closet: it's several! In addition to the main Closet, there is the "overflow" Closet and then the "need to be repaired" Closet. There's even a place for items which will be donated to less fortunate countries of the world! Imagine that!!



I had no idea there were so many different types of wheelchairs, walkers, toilet risers and shower chairs. But MLC Co-chairs Chris and Becky made it easy to figure out and soon, I was ready for my first Closet day. I found I had to come out of the Closet several times, to take back items that were being returned, and also to help folks put items they were borrowing into their cars. Putting a full-sized wheelchair into a Rav-4 is quite a feat!! Then go back into the Closet to record what came in and what went out. Not hard at all! The best part was getting to talk to the folks who are using our services. Stories from "my sister is here from Kentucky and my toilet is too low," to "my husband just got home from the hospital, and he can't put weight on his leg yet." The visitor who was the most fun for me was a Russian lady, with whom I got to chatter away in Russian for a while. It was good for me; I get very little practice speaking my native tongue.

Folks are so happy to donate in appreciation for the use of the equipment. Thanks, Becky and Chris for letting me learn a whole new slice of life!





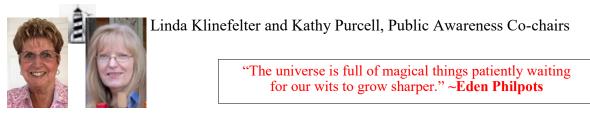
"There is a child in every one of us who is still a trick-or-treater looking for a brightly lit front porch." ~*Robert Brault*

SHARING THE NEWS...

Is your committee submitting something to the public or to the paper? If so, the Public Awareness Committee requests your submissions be sent to our committee prior to publication. The PA Committee is here to make sure we correctly promote the mission of the organization according to Soroptimist International and we meet the Associated Press guidelines for publication. Using the following is most helpful in writing a successful article.

- Answer the question of Who, What, When, Where and Why. **the 5 Ws**
- If you identify a person in an article, you give the first and last name and thereafter, they are identified with last name only.
- If you submit a picture, you identify the subjects from left to right.

Thank you,



WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

As the correspondent with the two women SI Sequim sponsors through Women for Women International, I receive regular communication from the organization. I wish I could share everything with you all, because it's so moving, but here's a little information on a couple of programs, aside from the sponsorship program, which I find very profound.

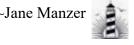
Change Agents—a grassroots advocacy training program for marginalized women in communities affected by war and conflict. Women become leaders in their own community, helping other women to know and claim their rights, sharing information on preventing violence to women, and affecting decisions that affect



their lives. Upholding, protecting, and promoting their rights helps them change their lives. One group of women in Nigeria identified a change they wanted to see in education for their community, especially the girls. Recently, the first time in over 50 years, a humble school has opened, thanks to the dreams of WFWI-educated Change Agents, and half of the enrollees were girls. Read more about the school on our club's FaceBook page, or watch this short video to learn about Change Agents generally. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sBToiyKrsI

#SheDares —A global campaign to galvanize support for women survivors of war who dare to stand up for their rights and bring about change. "Women's rights are under attack across the world, whether it's our right to speak up against injustice, choose what to wear, or decide what happens to our bodies. But women dare to challenge oppression with acts of defiance — even in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances." For a \$25 minimum one-time donation, you can help and also receive a hand-made by women survivors of war #SheDares bracelet. If you'd like to know more about this campaign, or to donate, go to: <u>https://www.womenforwomen.org/SheDares</u>





WHAT IS UP IN OUR REGION?

The District #1 Meeting is just a few days away. If you really wanted to attend, there is still time to put in a late registration. This is a great way to immerse yourself in all things Soroptimist, meet new friends with the same mission for women and girls, and have a fabulous time. We join organizations because we have a passion for the mission, we have a want to learn, and we have a need for social interaction. This yearly meeting will provide all of the above.

The next Soroptimist meeting will be in February when we hold our annual **Area Meeting**. Greater Kitsap is the host for our Area this year. Stay tuned for more information in the next few months.



We hold our annual Region Conference in April. This year it will be held in **Renton**, at **the Lake Washington Hyatt on April 25-28, 2024**. This is a wonderful location for a conference of women coming from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Northern Idaho and Montana. Save the date!

The 48th Biennial Convention of Soroptimist International of the Americas will be held in **Bellevue, WA, USA, July 24-27, 2024.** Soroptimist International of the Americas has over 1,000 clubs in countries across North America, Latin America and the Pacific Rim who work to economically empower women and girls.

Our Region is privileged to have two of our own coordinating the event next year. Congratulations to Karen Hall of SI of Olympia, Washington, and Teresa Heidt-VanderSchoot of SI of Bend, Oregon, who will be planning and preparing for this annual conference of the Americas!



~Sandy Lawrence, D1 Site Coordinator



BOO!

BY EMMA WALSH

Here you are, dressed up for the night, You knock and knock hoping to fright, Instead I am dressed up too, I give you a fright when I yell BOO!

Fall and Winter Fundraising

The Yum-raising has already started! Visit our online store, **Sweet Shoppe**, at See's Candies. <u>https://www.yumraising.com/secure/soroptimisti_soroptimist_international_of_seq67/NatMer9563/</u>



Orders placed now will be shipped after November 10, 2023. The last day to order is December 1, 2023.

We will also be selling See's Candies at the Masonic Lodge in Sequim during the Falalala Llama Christmas Bazaar on November 18, from 9:00am – 3:00pm and selling at the Sequim Elks Lodge on November 25.

If you can volunteer for one of these dates, let Sandy or Natasha know.



Great news! We have opened our online fundraising campaign for **Wreaths and More** at Lynch Creek Farm. Every time you shop online through our group's fundraising page we receive 15% of your qualifying purchase. It really is that easy!



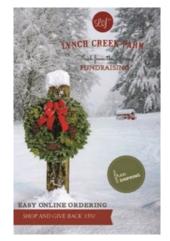
Take advantage of the Pre-Order Special

Pre-order any of the holiday products by 11/10 and receive free standard shipping! Every fresh wreath ordered by 11/10 will also receive a free rustic wreath hanger!

Does not apply to dried floral wreaths or to swags. After Nov 10, you'll pay a flat rate of only \$4.95 per item for standard shipping.

Ordering online is easy. Order now and select a later ship out date. You can support our efforts via our **online storefront** at <u>www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/300926</u> Click one of the picture links, or use the Shop Online button.





THE SHOW IS ON THE ROAD

No, this is not a roadshow, but things are moving ahead on our path to a successful 2024 Gala Garden Show! Letters were sent out October 1, 2023, to the vendors from our last show. They have until November 1 to send in their paperwork if they want to secure the same booth(s) they chose last time. On November 1, letters will be sent out to any other previous vendors inviting them to participate in the 2024 GGS. Others who are interested in being a vendor at the show can contact <u>vendor@sequimgardenshow.com</u>. This is a juried show and 75% of the products offered must be garden related. We are looking into the possibility of doing some online advertising of the show through the online newspaper; more on that next month.

The goal of the Gala Garden Show is to raise funds that will allow us to provide continuing support for women and girls in Clallam County through such programs as: scholarship funding for high school seniors, as well as women returning to school and funding and support to community agencies whose missions align with ours. In late September we sent out a letter to local businesses inviting them to be sponsors of the show. To date we have received \$4,925 in cash sponsorships! That's a wonderful start and we are well on our way to reaching our sponsorship goal. We will be looking for members to assist in follow-up phone calls to those who have not responded to our mailing.

Early in the Gala Garden Show history our club found speakers who did presentations at the shows related to

various gardening topics. Many of those speakers were Master Gardeners (MG). At some point the MG offered to handle getting speakers for us other than the Featured Speaker whom our club would find. It was the beginning of a wonderful collaboration. This year the MG liaison is Roxann Harr. She was a Master Gardener before she moved to Sequim. Though she is not 'home grown,' Roxann has embraced Sequim and its ground conditions.

Our Featured Speaker for the 2024 GGS is Karen Chapman, CPH. She is a life-long gardener and an experienced garden educator. She is the owner of Le Jardinet, a landscape and design consultant service based in the greater Seattle area. She has authored several books and her recent book, Deer-Resistant Design, will be the foundation for her presentation for the 2024 Gala Garden Show. Attendees will learn how to garden in and around our visiting deer population. Karen Chapman's presentation is sponsored by Cascade Bark in Sequim.

Although March seems a long way down the road, as with any journey, it starts with placing our feet on the path and stepping forward. All members of the club are part of this journey, and we look forward to traveling on it with you.

~Kathy Purcell & Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols, GGS Co-chairs

The next GGS Core Committee Meeting is November 7 at 8 a.m. at the KSQM Meeting Room!

"There is magic in the night when pumpkins glow by moonlight." $\sim Unknown$





Octobe 2023

29	22 District 1 Meeting Clearwater Casino, Suquamish, WA	15	00	1 BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Jeanie Blaurock Debbie Cottrell Shawn Dredla Shelle Paulbitski	Sun
8	23	16	ۍ ا	Z	Mon
31 *5th Tuesday *5th Tuesday		17	10 Business Meeting (GOM Sept & Oct)	3 GGS Core Cmt Meeting 8 a.m. KSQM	Tue
	25	18	1	4	Wed
	26	61	12	J	Thu
	27	20 District 1 Meeting Clearwater Casino, Suquamish, WA	13	6 BOARD MEETING	Fri
	28	21 District 1 Meeting Clearwater Casino, Suquamish, WA	14	7	Sat

November 2023

Shirley Legg Wei Lindstrom	BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Sumni Becker Mayme Faulk	Sun
6 6 20 13	8	Mon
7 GGS Core Cmt Meeting 8 a.m. KSQM 14 Business Meeting 21		Tue
22 15 8	-	Wed
9 16 16 23 UHANKSGIVING	2	Thu
10 BOARD MEETING 17 24	ι.	Fri
11 11 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 1	4	Sat

Jack-O-Lantern by Ilene Bauer

Buy a pumpkin, big and round; Choices at the stands abound. Pick one with a solid stem – You'll know when you've found a gem.

Cut a circle 'round the top; Dig inside – remove the glop. Separate each slimy seed; Patience is what you will need.

Rinse and dry this pumpkin treat; Spread them on a cookie sheet. Shake some salt and let them bake; Undersalting's a mistake.

Meanwhile, get your sharpest knife; Time for Jack to get a life. Carve a face with sneer or grin, Then you poke a candle in. Now your Jack-O-Lantern's set; Admiration's what you'll get. While you're feeling downright boasty, Munch some seeds, all nice and toasty.

Some traditions never die; This one has a reason why: Every year at Halloween, Jack-O-Lanterns steal the scene!





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. Soroptimist International of Sequim PO Box 126 Sequim, WA 98382

To a Person Making a Difference for Women