



Soropti-SCOOP

A Communique by
women dedicated to improve the lives of women and girls
in local communities and throughout the world.

SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Vol. 16, Issue 7

Soroptimist International of Sequim

January 2012

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Directors: 2 year

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Directors: 1 year

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Directors: 1 year

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Kathy Purcell

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*"I wake up every morning with a great desire to live joyfully."
~ Alexandra Stoddard*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Soroptimist Sisters,

Happy New Year! A new beginning, another chapter, a year stronger, wiser, more beautiful in generous, evolving spirit, that's us! The new year for me always conjures up new ideas, lofty plans, fresh organizational skills, infinite time available, trips, projects and the energy and body of my youth. Then, about a week later, I look at things more realistically. Last year's lingering projects might get completed. I'm a homebody; clutter is my friend and I'm still living in the large end of my closet. That's all ok with me. My life is blessed, just as it is.

We're in a pretty great spot, we girls. We, collectively, have opportunities all year long to make positive changes in the lives of those around us. We have experience to draw on, enthusiastic energy to keep us going, a plethora of giving hearts to complete our missions. Some people search their whole lives for a way to make a difference. We, as Soroptimist, are lucky to have the history and vision of our organization to present numerous opportunities to make those changes, improve lives and reap the benefits that giving creates. How lucky are we?

Thank you all for your endless efforts, time, caring and compassion in club endeavors. It takes a village, I am fortunate to be part of yours.

I wish you all the simplicity of knowing who you are and what you have and loving it, just as it is.

President Deb



*"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*

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's January – a time when we traditionally make New Year's resolutions – such as to exercise more, or to stay in touch more with those we love. It is also a time to look back on the old, reflecting on what was joyous, so we know what to continue to carry into the new.

Speaking of traditions and looking back, there are a few members' traditions that our club got to share over the holidays. We experienced three of these traditions at our Christmas Party – and one kind of overlapped another.

Flashback to our Program meeting in November...President-elect Shelle announced that the entertainment at our Christmas Party would be our members. I heard that and tuned out. I'm not a singer, nor a drama queen – what did I have to offer that would be considered 'entertainment'? Then, after the Girls Circle Graduation, President Deb asked several of us if we were going to do something at the Christmas Party. She suggested it could be just reading a poem. She said the impromptu entertainment was a family tradition. Deb told us they would raid the closets, dressing in outrageous outfits and doing improvisation. That's all I had to hear. If this was a family tradition for Deb, I would join the cast.

Two days later I was talking with my sister Donna in Illinois. I mentioned that I was going to look for a Christmas story or poem to read. She said she had received one in an email that she thought was funny. Donna sent it to me in case I wanted to read it at the party – which I did. A video of this was shared with club members via email. I sent it to Donna and she commented that she particularly liked the sound effects of the crackling fire.



The second tradition was Barb Thompson reciting a poem – from memory! She had found it years ago in a magazine; it was so meaningful, she had made it her own. The poem touched all of our hearts. A video of this was also shared with club members. A copy of the poem is on **page 10**.

The third tradition was fruit candy which was a family tradition for Ann Salmon. She told us how her grandchildren – including two sets of twins – helped prepare some of it the previous week. And Ann brought some of that fruit candy to the Christmas Party! Ann's story and the recipe are on **page 13**. I included both Ann's rendition and that of her daughter. It helps show the true meaning and value of their tradition.

I am grateful for traditions and for the willingness of our members to share theirs. It brings us all closer. In our unity we experience our strength. As we head into a new year we can resolve to exercise our freedom to stay closer to those who are important to us. In our sharing we become fully involved in life.

With Gratitude and Love,
Kathy Purcell, Editor

“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

CALENDAR

JANUARY, 2012

- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting
(GOM Dec & Jan)
- 24 Program Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 6 Night At The Theatre
- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting

* EVENING MEETING



“fully involved!”

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



“Wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving.” ~ Kahlil Gibran

Celebrate Life!

BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY, 2012

- 5 Tracy Russell
- 6 Rose Jaeger
- 10 Kate Creasey
- 27 Andrea Alstrup

FEBRUARY

- 11 Missy Church-Smith
- 22 Jan Chapman



STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Our club received a message from the Noon Club in Port Angeles regarding a silent vigil they are coordinating in Port Angeles. They are hoping this event will increase awareness of the issue, and some of their message is quoted in the following info about the event: **When?** Wednesday, January 11th, 2012 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Where?** “At the Liberty Bell in Port Angeles” **Where’s that?** Just north of the old courthouse on Lincoln Street, across the street from the Safeway parking lot. **How?** “We need a sea of red t-shirts and black pants on women to possibly stretch a line of bodies down the sidewalk. Please help us get the word out to see how many Soroptimist we can get to this SIA Event.” **Need a Red “Stop Trafficking” T-Shirt?:** The Noon Club has them for sale for \$15 and has extensive sizing available, so if you want one, let Jane know and she can pick them up in Port Angeles or arrange for them to have one for you at the vigil. **Watch for the Press Releases and let’s join hands with our neighboring Soroptimists to call attention to these crimes that have such horrendous consequences for women and children here in the Northwest, perhaps in Sequim, and throughout the world.**



Jane Manzer, Human Trafficking Chair

“Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there.” ~Virginia Burden

Note the phone number for our MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

504-0231

2012 AREA MEETING

SI Greater North Kitsap has volunteered to host the 2012 Area Meeting this year. It will be held on **Saturday, March 3, 2012** at the new **Poulsbo City Hall** – which is right in downtown Poulsbo allowing for easy after meeting shopping trips. Mark your calendars to save the date.



GREAT VALENTINE’S GIFT

tickets to
A Night at the Theatre
SPITFIRE GRILL
Monday, February 6, 2012
\$30.00



SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



Human Trafficking Conference
Portland, OR
Jan. 13 – 15, 2012

2012 Northwestern Region Conference
Spokane, WA
April 27 – 29, 2012



Soroptimist International of the Americas Convention
Honolulu, Hawaii
July 18 – 21, 2012

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

VIOLET RICHARDSON AWARD

The application process for the Violet Richardson award closed on December 3, 2011. A total of five applications were received. The scoring committee, which was comprised of five Soroptimist members, met on December 28 to review and score the applications. An announcement of the recipients of the award will be in next month's newsletter. The first place winner will be sent onto the region on/or before the due date of January 10, 2012 to participate in the Violet Richardson Regional Award. The award recipients and the volunteer organization of the first place recipient will be invited to our February Program Meeting.

Linda Klinefelter, Awards & Scholarships Co-Chair



MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER



STILES, Anne

Anne graduated from nursing school in 1974. Two years later she joined the Air Force and remained on active duty for 6 years. In 1977 she was assigned to a base in Italy where she met her husband Jerry – who was stationed in Germany! They were married in 1980.

Anne and Jerry lived in the Los Angeles area for almost 15 years, where Anne worked in oncology research at the John Wayne Cancer Institute and the UCLA Department of Oncology. After leaving nursing in clinical trials in 2000, Anne became an independent auditor, monitoring research trials for several large pharmaceutical companies.

In 2004, Anne and Jerry moved to Sequim (actually Diamond Point) and began a very long process of remodeling and rebuilding their home, which is hopefully coming to an end! Anne now has the time to become involved with volunteer organizations and is excited to become a member of Soroptimist. The organization appeals to Anne as she is in wholehearted agreement with our mission to improve the lives of women and girls.

“Unselfish and noble actions
are the most radiant pages
in the biography of souls.”
~David Thomas

STILES, Anne (Jerry)
14 Barberry Lane, Sequim
Hm: 683-7080
E-mail: annestiles@aol.com
Birthday: 3/17

Bell-Ringing for the Salvation Army



What a fun day!!
We rang bells...sang...danced
...wished passers-by “Merry Christmas”
...and raised more than \$500.00 for the Salvation Army!
The highlight of the day was being joined by WIN girls...who donated their time and beautiful singing voices to create a magical holiday mood in front of Safeway entrances! Many thanks to ALL of you who graciously participated in our annual Day of Bell-Ringing...

The rewards...
...smiles on the faces of shoppers
...funds raised for needy families
...thanks for our personal blessings
...appreciation for Soroptimist Sisters



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
...from the WIN Team



PROGRAMS – LOOKING BACK; LOOKING FORWARD...

It was quite a busy December and boy did it fly by! Beginning the month with the Silpada Trunk Show, participating in Holiday Joy, Girls Circle graduation, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army and, of course, the Christmas Party. And mixed in with all of that is each of our own personal activities for the month. Whew!



See's Candy took on a life of its own and kept Colleen hopping. I am thankful to Colleen for her dedication to our club and for all that she did to ensure we had candy on the shelf. Who knew that moving to a new location would cause such a flurry – or was it a storm – of sales. And thanks to all of the club members who responded when the call for help went out.



Moving into 2012 . . .



A representative of the American Red Cross is scheduled to speak at our January program meeting.

Our Night at the Theatre is coming up **Monday, February, 6**. We need to **SELL, SELL, SELL** those tickets. Each member has a part to play in the success of our sales so be thinking about people you know who will want to buy a ticket or two, three or four! A pair of tickets would make a great early Valentine gift.



As we move into the New Year, we will be looking for more members to get involved in programs so if you have a particular talent, interest or skill, let me know so we can put you in a spot you'll enjoy.

Shelle Paulbitski, Programs Chair

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” ~ St. Francis of Assisi

WE'RE SHAKEN' AND A MOVIN'

There's been a whole lot of shaken' going on since See's candy was moved to Artisan Creative Consignment. Kate Creasey has verified the deposit and expenditures to confirm that over **\$2000.00** has been our profit for the past 7 weeks. The community and loyal See's customers have made this the best Christmas ever.

We are now moving and shaking into Valentine's Day with the Pre-order forms. They are available at Artisan Creative Consignment for any member requests. The newly formed See's Committee will place the Valentine's order so the candy will arrive by **February 1st**.

We will be asking members to help with the See's Candies Committee. If this will continue to be our only on-going fund raiser, there needs to be more members to make it happen.

I would like to extend my gratitude to several members that helped with the movin' as they picked up large candy orders at either the Federal Way or Lynnwood See's store. Thank you to: Shelle Paulbitski, Tracy Russell and Barbara Thompson. In addition several other members called when I asked for assistance getting the candy here; I sincerely appreciate you.

Colleen Blazier, See's Chair



Kathleen Westley-Ringer, See's Account Executive, helps rewrap the Christmas candy.

MLC – A FIRST TIMER’S VIEW

I just finished my first week at the Medical Loan Closet. This service is the very reason I joined the Soroptimist. What I didn't know was how rewarding it would be, what a valuable service it is, how so many appreciate what we do – and how fun it would be meeting all the folks who have a need. I can honestly say there wasn't a grouchy person in the whole bunch. At the end of the week I wondered how other communities get by. Although my week wasn't particularly busy (the week before Christmas) I had the opportunity to see how the "operation" works and can see that this is a service every neighborhood should be lucky enough to have. I realize that it is the users who should appreciate us, but I came away being grateful for being a part of something so worthwhile. I can't wait to get involved in other Soroptimist activities. What a wonderful group we have!!!!!!

Jeani Penn, MLC Member

*“Gratitude is a vaccine, an antitoxin, and an antiseptic”
~ John Henry Jowett*



MEMBER REMEMBERED

Something happens to a person when she/he becomes a Soroptimist. It is a discovery of sorts of our interconnectivity. Once we are awakened to the feeling, we experience life differently and we are never the same. We know we have a common goal and that each of us is an important part of the whole. We care and support one another.

I was reminded of this when we received a note and a check from the husband of a former member of our club. Ginger Alexander was a member prior to my joining, but it is obvious she had the Soroptimist spirit, and so does her husband, Don. He appreciates and values the care we have given through our Medical Loan Closet. How wonderful that we were there to help Ginger – and Don. I recognize the love in his heart gives him strength.

We are grateful for Don's generosity and kind words; below is the note he sent. His donation will help us to continue to provide service to others during their time of healing. ~kp

Thank you so much for all the good work you do. Your medical loan closet has helped my family several times over the years - most recently in October and November when your love and caring helped to comfort Ginger in her passing.

Please accept the check in her name, Ginger Alexander, to help continue the good work in the medical loan closet.

Sincerely and with a kind heart to you all,
Don Alexander

LIVE YOUR DREAM ART CONTEST

We took the challenge of creating a logo for "Live Your Dream" to the Boys & Girls Club and had a great response!

This is the first year our club participated in this Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) event. SI Sequim member Kristal Van Selus, the Program Director at the Boys & Girls Club, presented the contest to the kids, and they took it from there. Over 50 young boys and girls let their creative juices and imagination flow.

In thanks for their participation, Christmas cookies and milk were served at a gathering of the budding artists. Two entries garnered equal votes by the SI Sequim Board, and the winners each received a gift card for Papa Murphy's pizza.

Given the success of our first participation in this event, surely we will do so again!

Shelle Paulbitski, Programs Chair

Professional artists will judge the artwork submitted by the clubs to SIA. Finalist entries will be posted at LiveYourDreamCampaign.org, where visitors can vote on their favorite design in each age category. Soroptimist will announce the winners on this website on March 8, 2012 (International Women's Day). There will be one student winner in each of the five age categories. Each student will receive \$100 and the winner's school will also receive \$100.



THE TOP TWO



*“Life is the art of drawing without an eraser.”
~ John W. Gardner*

HOLIDAY JOY

A big thank you to all of you who helped make this year's Holiday Joy a huge success.

I asked those who worked with me on Family Day to relay any special moments they may have witnessed. My article would be too long if I told the full stories so here are some short notes.

A young boy about 7 years old fell totally in love with a sleeping Santa and Mrs. Claus while shopping for gifts to give his mom. The Clauses snored while they were sleeping and their abdomens went up and down. The boy was so excited. He knelt down and played with them, taking their shoes off and laughing every time they snored. Yup, he was sure his mom would love them.

A mom with her three kids called at the last moment to say she was bringing two more girls for the event. She had discovered them with their dad sleeping in a car. The mother took the girls into her already small home so they would have a warm place to sleep. In the days following the event the girls were placed with their maternal grandmother.

A nice young man about 16 or 17 years old came with his male guardian, an older man. He brought the boy to the agency where he would meet his mom. Child Protective Agency had separated the mother-son because of addiction. Her friend took her son in, becoming his guardian, and helped him become a responsible young man. After selecting gifts for his mom, he saw a **Christmas tree** in the middle of the table and asked if that was available, and it was. His eyes lit up and a big smile came to his face as he started to figure out how he could get it to his car without his mom seeing the tree. When he finished his shopping and came back to get the tree, he found that some worker bees had decorated it. He was so excited; his joy filled up the room. The mom and son are both hoping to be reunited soon.



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Kathleen DeJong, Holiday Joy Chair



The Christmas Tree



“Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas.” ~Peg Bracken



HOLIDAY JOY FAMILY DAY

Dear Soroptimists,

As someone who likes words, I relish the way some words sound, like *cashmere* or *aubergine*. Then there are those words that carry such intensity of meaning that somehow the word seems too small for such a large concept. *Soroptimist* is one such word. Your organization takes the strength of each of you individually, and somehow that energy is exponentially larger than the sum of parts. By touching hands and hearts, your group expands and extends efforts in so many ways. I see your effect in stories highlighted in our local newspapers and know there are many more stories that are quietly being played out.

I love the way that you move into the larger world with your projects...Mujeres de Maiz, I believe, is one of those causes. Then you work at the local level, too, as you do with Healthy Families. You also seem to promote excellence in young women, encouraging high schoolers to move to a deeper integrity in their thinking/action. You're just amazing.

As I think of the roster of the Soroptimists, I think of so many of you who have helped with Holiday Joy these past three years. You have been more than generous with your commitments of time, energy, and financial support. This year Kathleen DeJong was the liaison between your organization and me. She was absolutely great, and it was a joy to work with her. As you know, she's not only capable, but she has this wicked sense of humor that makes me laugh. Even more important, she has a heart that beats with a good dose of love.

So many of you helped as sponsors, as donors, as helpers with Family Day, as supporters. I thank each of you for your kindnesses. This year Holiday Joy made it possible for 106 to have a special Christmas. You were instrumental in that endeavor.

May your year be filled with bright blessings.

Sincerely,
Beverly Hoffman
Volunteer coordinator of Holiday Joy for Healthy Families of Clallam County



MUJERES TRIP

Hello Soroptimist Sisters,

The past several Decembers I have led small groups to San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. It is something I love to do because I have the chance to share a beautiful place with fascinating culture AND moreover, it allows the group participants to see firsthand some of the work that Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation is doing there.

Now as you know, Soroptimist has been a loyal Mujeres supporter for six years. For quite a while I had been hoping to have a Soroptimist along on one of these trips. So I was delighted that Sandy Reed, and her husband, Jim, came along. I'm not going to say much about the trip....I'll let Sandy do that. You've heard a lot from me over the years and I'm sure you want to hear Sandy's perspective in an upcoming edition of the *Soropti-Scoop*.

I will mention that we were there during the Festival of the Virgin of Guadalupe. She's the Patron Saint of Mexico and the festivities around the December 12th holiday are pretty amazing. I am including a photo of the Church of Guadalupe, which will give you an idea of the beauty of this festival.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support. I do plan to take another small group next December.....

Happy 2012 to all,
Thanks to all of you....
Judith Pasco, Board Chair
Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation
www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org



BELL RINGING - A SAFE-WAY TO CELEBRATE

Every year, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, you can see people standing in front of grocery stores ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Members of our club are some of those people. Several years ago, for some reason, Safeway in Sequim would not allow anyone to ring bells. So...our club decided to sing! In fact, Kate Creasey and Barb Thompson put together song books for us. We've continued the tradition of singing ever since – even though we can now ring bells again. Actually, we sing and ring.

A few interesting things happened this year – such as a man asking for Missy's and Cathy Angel's autographs, and Shelle inviting a man to join the singers. Oh, and there's the missing song books. For a couple of days it wasn't clear where they had gone after the bell ringing was over.

I would like to thank this year's bell ringers: Cathy Angel, Amanda Beitzel, Colleen Blazier, Missy Church-Smith, Kate Creasey, Linda Klinefelter, Sandy Lawrence, Betty Osborn, Shelle Paulbitski, Kathy Purcell, Ann Salmon, Barb Thompson, Dorothy Ward. And special thanks to all the WIN girls who joined us. The amount that was collected while we were ringing/singing was over \$500.00. It was a great time of sharing Love - which is the spirit of the holiday - with the community.

Kathy Purcell

"Life is a song. Love is the music." ~Author Unknown



"Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles." ~Author Unknown



"The total person sings not just the vocal chords." ~Esther Broner





Christmas Party



The Warmth of Friends



I saw the ghost of Christmas past
glide by our lighted tree
Her arms were filled with dolls and toys
and all were meant for me
I sensed the rustle of her skirts
Her blouse was trimmed with lace
And when she turned to smile at me
she wore
my mother's face.

BARB'S POEM

Just as this vision slipped from sight
I heard my daughter call
Wild footsteps clattered on the stairs
Shrill giggles filled the hall
She burst into the gift-filled room
and squealed in glad surprise
And all the Christmases to come
were mirrored in her eyes.

How swiftly pass the rainbow years
like splintered shafts of light
As fleeting as the gentle ghosts
that whisper in the night
I draw my child into my arms
and hold this moment fast
Against the time
my face will be
her ghost of Christmas past.

GIRLS CIRCLE CIRCULATING



SI/Sequim partnered with SI/Port Angeles and SI/Port Angeles Jet Set to sponsor the first Girls Circle in Clallam County. On Thursday, December 15th, 2011 members of all three clubs attended the graduation of the first seven girls to complete the program. Although they have finished the training session, it is more of a beginning than a completion. The girls will now take what they learned and apply it to their day-to-day lives.

Our first exposure to Girls Circle was at last year's Area Meeting. It's interesting because the meeting's theme was "Circle of Life". The Soroptimist club in Port Townsend sponsors a Girls Circle program and they presented it to us at that meeting. The Girls Circle in Port Townsend is a Jefferson County Juvenile & Family Court intervention program. Their documentation states: "Girls Circle brings girls together with peers and adult women in a support group modeled to counter trends towards self-doubt, help maintain authentic connections and allow for genuine self-expression." A seed was planted for a similar program in Clallam County.

That seed began to grow as the two clubs in Port Angeles corresponded with our President Deb. Each of the three clubs voted to contribute \$500 to get the first Girls Circle started in Clallam County. That became a reality in October, 2011. Our \$500 contribution will cover two sessions of 12 week classes. Although the \$1500 was a start, more money is needed to keep the program going. A few ad-hoc fundraisers were organized to augment the startup money – including a hot dog and soda barbeque sponsored by Angeles Furniture. It says a lot about a program when it has support from people in the community, and it says a lot about the community. At a few of our club meetings we designated our Happy Dollars for Girls Circle; we collected \$225. In addition, members of our club donated bottled water and snacks, as well as magazines and art supplies for some of the activities.

Each Girls Circle semester runs 8 to 12 weeks and has a predetermined curriculum. The curricula address areas of girls' lives including friendship, self-image, body-image, relationships, assertiveness, and self-talk. Weekly themes are integrated into the Girls' Circle format, and verbal and creative activities focus on the theme for the week.



As graduation drew near, the clubs started thinking about gifts for the graduates. Members from all three clubs made contributions – such as coupons from "The Elegant Gourmet" and wrist bands that said "Courage".

At the graduation Vanessa Jones, the Girls Circle facilitator, presented each graduate with a Certificate of Completion and a gift bag. Graduates were invited to comment on their experience with the Girls Circle program. One girl said she was grateful for what she learned and now she has information to pass along to her friends.



One of the members from the PA club told her story of growing up in an abusive household and how she could have wound up getting into serious trouble. She is a successful business owner and is in a loving marriage. She also told us of twin brothers whom she knows. One of them is a doctor, the other is in prison. They both grew up in the same environment. Their individual choices took them to where they are now. She explained to the girls – and to all of us – how our choices affect the outcome of our life. It was very heartfelt and made a big impact.



As the girls took out items from their gift bags we saw lots of smiles. A few of the girls exchanged some of the items, getting their favorite color or design. We could see how comfortable the girls were with one another. Bonds created in such an intimate setting can be life-changing. It was quite inspiring to see their transformation.

~continued on page 12



GIRLS CIRCLE ~continued from page 11

I looked up Girls Circle online and found some interesting information. It was started by Giovanna Taormina and Beth Hossfeld, two moms in the San Francisco Bay Area. They began with a small group in their own neighborhood, gathering so the girls could talk about what was on their minds. This was not to tell them what to do, but to give them a chance to open up and express what was most important to them. The idea was to offer the girls a safe place to share and provide an opportunity for them to figure things out for themselves. The results made such an impact that they decided to share it – and Girls Circle was born. That was in 1997. You can see an interview with Giovanna Taormina at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afAKZGrgd_I

Girls Circle can benefit anyone, but has proven to be a particularly successful program for at-risk young girls. As they gather in a support group setting they address self-esteem, locus of control (the sense that one has influence upon one's own experience), self-efficacy, body image satisfaction and social support. Afterward, girls who have been part of Girls Circle often feel more comfortable talking with adults. Perhaps this is because the girls have learned to respect themselves. They have more self-esteem and realize they have choices – as well as the freedom to choose. And they know they have support.

The three Soroptimist clubs have seen the results of Girls Circle in our own community and we will be working to keep the Girls Circle going in Clallam County. This is a program that truly fits our mission to improve the lives of women and girls. ~kp

Learn more about Girls Circle at: <http://www.girlscircle.com/>.

TEEN CREED

Don't let your parents down,
They brought you up.

Be humble enough to obey,
You may give orders someday.

Choose companions with care,
You become what they are.

Guard your thoughts,
What you think, you are.

Choose only a date
Who would make a good mate.

Be master of your habits,
Or thy will master you.

Don't be a show off when you drive,
Drive with safety and arrive.

Don't let the crowd pressure you,
Stand for something,
Or you'll fall for anything.

~Author Unknown

GARDEN SHOW

2012 is here!! And planning for the Gala Garden Show is shifting into high gear. On **January 9th** the Core Committee will hold a breakfast meeting to discuss the various projects already underway.

One project just completed is the painting of this year's Adirondack chair. The beautiful artwork was done by Chris Blendermann, a friend of Amanda's. The scene on the chair ties in very nicely with the featured artwork for the show, and both should generate a lot of interest.

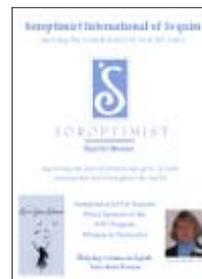


The sign-up sheets for jobs during the show will start appearing at the second meeting in January. Remember **EVERYONE** works **both** days during the show, so be sure to put your name down in more than one time slot. It takes the entire membership to staff the Garden Show, our largest fundraising event.

The Garden Show locomotive is picking up steam and setting sights on the third weekend in March - ALL ABOARD!!!

~The Menage au Trowel

Now is the time to think about being a **Soroptimist Member Supporter** of the Garden Show. With a donation of \$100 you can have your business featured on our special Recognition Board of Soroptimist supporters. The board displays an 8 1/2 X 10 poster of your business (or a personal photo if you don't have a business to feature), business cards, or brochures. A few sample posters are shown. A communication will be going out shortly with more detailed information. We appreciate your consideration.



“My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view.” ~H. Fred Dale

A SWEET FAMILY TRADITION

Making Fruit Candy was a wonderful tradition in my family when I was growing up in Pennsylvania at “Toad Hall” – our home by the stream. The tradition has been passed down to our daughters and now their children. We made the Fruit Candy one afternoon (just before Christmas) after our older twins got home from school.

They were so good and had such fun making this! It is easy to do with any age group. You can add any dried fruits to this recipe. Our daughters are not fond of dates and figs, so they have been left out of our original recipe. I added the dried cranberries for color. You can use any kind of nuts you want. We always stuffed the fruit with walnuts. It will keep ‘forever’ – great to mail in soft packs.

I did all my shopping at Costco except for the raisins. We packaged in Ziploc bags, but you can use Tupperware (red lids make the present bright). Add a ribbon and you are ready to give to relatives, teachers and friends. Be sure to save some for yourself. I think it is yummy!

Have fun! Our grandchildren had a ball – from almost age 4 up to 13!

~Ann Salmon

Fruit Candy... a tradition passed down to the Salmon girls...

My name is **Katie Salmon-Newton**, daughter of Ann Hudson Salmon. Every Christmas during my years at home, a steadfast tradition was to make Fruit Candy. It is something that my great grandmother Mary Townsend Mason passed to my grandmother Polly Mason Hudson who passed it on to my mother, then to me and my sister, and now to our children who are Newtons and Sharpes. I love the fact that this simple little holiday treat ties us all together throughout the generations.

It is a sweet treat that is easy to make, but takes some time. I think that the time it takes is a blessing, as we tend to talk and reminisce as we create. Fruit Candy has changed a bit through the years. Originally, my grandparents used dates, but I don’t like them, so I gave them the ax and added in dried cranberries instead!

To make fruit candy, you need the following ingredients:

- 3.5 lbs. prunes (Costco bag),
- 3 lbs. apricots (Costco bag),
- 1 lb. golden raisins,
- 1 lb. dried cranberries,
- 1 lb. walnuts, and a few cups of sugar.

Fill a large bowl with the sugar. Toss in the cranberries and golden raisins to coat them with sugar. Sift them out into your finish bowl. Then comes the messy part. Break the walnuts into smaller pieces (about 1/4 of a nut). Open up the apricots, press a walnut piece into the center of each and pinch back together. Find the hole where the pit was removed in each prune and shove a walnut into the hole. When the apricots and prunes are stuffed, toss them in the sugar bowl to coat. Then sift them out into your finish bowl. Toss all the finished fruit to mix them up and toss in any leftover nuts into the mix. Keep the mix in a cool location, but do not refrigerate. Eat, share, and enjoy!



ANN BROUGHT SOME OF THE FRUIT CANDY TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

“Family traditions counter alienation and confusion. They help us define who we are; they provide something steady, reliable and safe in a confusing world.”
~ Susan Liberman



“Of course if you like your kids, if you love them from the moment they begin, you yourself begin all over again, in them, with them, and so there is something more to the world again.”
~ William Saroyan

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p> 	2	3	4	<p>5 Tracy Russell</p> 	<p>6 Rose Jaeger BOARD MEETING</p> 	7
8	9	<p>10 Kate Creasey Business Meeting</p> 	11	12	<p>13 Human Trafficking Conference</p> 	<p>14 Human Trafficking Conference</p> 
<p>15 Human Trafficking Conference</p> 	<p>16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> 	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	<p>24 Program Meeting American Red Cross</p>	25	26	<p>27 Andrea Alstrup</p> 	28
29	30	31				

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Wear Red Day 	4
5	6 Night At The Theater Spitfire Grill 	7	8	9	10 BOARD MEETING	11 Missy Church-Smith 
12	13	14 Business Meeting 	15	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day 	21	22 Jan Chapman 	23	24	25
26	27	28 Program Meeting Violet Richardson Award Winners	29			

PROMISE YOURSELF (the Optimist Creed)

Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel like there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living person you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, and too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.



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SOROPTIMIST

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To A Woman Making A Difference For Women