



Soropti-SCOOP

*A Communique by
Women Making A Difference*

Vol.7, Issue 5

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Summer 2004

Officers 2003 - 2004

President:

Gail Frick

President-Elect:

Sandy Reed

Recording Secretary:

Dale Simon

Corresponding Secretary:

Alex Priest

Treasurer (Service):

Marie Angier

Treasurer (General):

Casey Murphy

Directors: 2 year

Megan O'Donnell

Directors: 1 year

Jane Manzer

Directors: 1 year

Rhonda Carrell

Directors: 1 year

Jeanne Martin

Past President:

Leah Tuttle

Newsletter Staff

Kathy Purcell

Colleen Blazier



A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

At the end of April, Linette Zimmerman became the new governor of our Northwestern Region. She likened the story of "Soroptimist" to an *unending story*. We are familiar with the history of our organization through our past – our yearly chapters. It's hard to think of ourselves as being the creators of the next chapter, but that's what we are. This next year's chapter will flow forward as outlined by International, National, District, and our own local club. However, each of us, as members of this club, adds our own flavor, spice, intrigue and drama. I'm excited about how this next year's chapter will unfold and predict it to be one of the more interesting chapters in the book.



Presidents:
Sandy Reed (incoming)
& Gail Frick (outgoing)

One of the threads that flows through this *unending story*, is that of friendship. First comes the commitment to the Soroptimist ideals, which then nourishes our intertwining friendships. We believe in what we do through our club, and those member friendships add joy to our activities.

So...as friends, let's clasp hands and start creating our chapter in the unending story.!

President Sandy.

Coming Soon!
A new look to www.sisequim.com!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends:

Have you ever thought of a cliché and wondered if it was true. For instance: What goes around, comes around. I wonder if that's why a boomerang is shaped the way it is...

Last Friday evening I had the joyous honor of attending the high school graduation of Kim Dornbush, a young woman I have known since she was a freshman. Kim and I were matched as mentor/mentee four years ago as part of the WIN (Women In Networks) Program. Kim chose me because my business name included the word computer. Kim has always had an interest in computers. I smile now because we hardly ever talk about computer related things.

I met Kim, her mom and sister Heather (dad was at work) one Saturday afternoon in the fall of 2000. I was just starting my term as president of SI Sequim. The first outing for Kim and me was lunch at Burger King. I remember she had chicken strips. We both shared things about our families and things we liked – for instance: my favorite color is purple, her nickname is Princess.

That first year Kim's choice of future profession changed frequently – as is expected. Through all her exploring, her parents were there for her. It is refreshing to see the family support system Kim has.

In the spring of 2001 SI Sequim had a Women of Distinction Luncheon. I invited Kim and Jodie (her mom) to attend. While giving my opening greeting (as president), I introduce Kim and Jodie, mentioning the importance of parents and the gratitude for what they give.

Over the past four years there have been many things Kim and I (and her family) have shared: birthdays; holidays; movies; writing letters. Last year Kim joined me when I went back to Illinois to visit my family. Many of these things have been included in previous Soropti-Scoop articles.

Recently I read a book that a friend lent me: *"When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough"* by Harold Kushner. Toward the end of the book, there is a paragraph quoted from a book called *"Seasons of a Man's Life"* by Dr. Daniel Levinson which says:

"Being a mentor with young adults is one of the most significant relationships available to man...The distinctive satisfaction of the mentor lies in furthering the development of young men and women, facilitating their efforts to form and live out their dreams...More than altruism is involved: the mentor is doing something for himself. He is making productive use of his own knowledge and skill...He is learning in ways not otherwise possible. He is maintaining his connection with the forces of youthful energy in the world and in himself. He needs the recipient of mentoring as much as the recipient needs him."

After reading this (and changing the gender of course :>), I see a lot of the benefits I have felt in being a mentor. When reflecting back on the last four years and my friendship with Kim, I must say there were times that I was the mentee and she was the mentor. Maybe this shows it is true: what goes around, comes around.

Over the years, I have learned a deeper respect for my Soroptimist Sisters and a greater appreciation for the many who have been mentors for me. Thank you all! And thank you Kim (and family).

Light and Love,
Kathy Purcell
Editor

CALENDAR

SUMMER 2004

HAVE A
SAFE
HEALTHY
RELAXING
SUMMER

ENJOY

Newsletter Staff

Kathy Purell
Colleen Blazier



Heather, Dad, Kim and Mom after Kim graduated

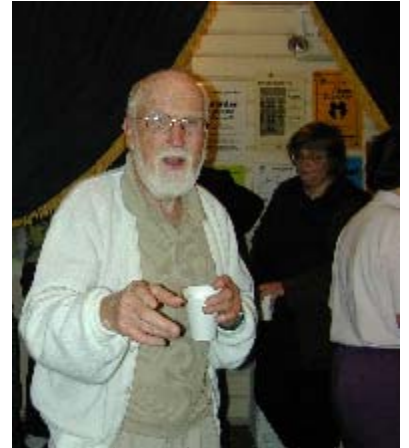
NIGHT AT THE THEATRE (NATT)

This year's Night At The Theatre (NATT) was a singing success! The play was Side by Side by Sondheim. Some people may have called it a music medley but it was more like multiple mini-plays. As each song was sung, the performers took on the character of the person singing. The theatre was packed. It was a thoroughly entertaining experience for all who attended. Thank you to all our club members for participating. Special thanks to the NATT Committee headed by Alex Priest, our resident entertainer. The money collected added over \$900 to the General Fund.

Here's some photos taken during intermission



Sandy Little talking with a friend



"You're not going to take my picture." (Well, yes.)



Betty Osborn, Judy Ogilvie, Sandy Reed and (new member?) Carol Dries

Celebrate Life!

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

- 2 Janet Wicker
- 4 Dale Simon
- 15 Laurel Bentsen
- 17 Kathy Purcell
- 18 Peg Rinker
- 28 Jane Manzer

AUGUST

- 1 Gail Frick
- 1 Patsene Twiss
- 17 Frances Well
- 19 Colleen Blazier
- 30 Betty Osborn
- 30 Ann Salmon

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Sherry Schubert
- 20 Suzanne Little
- 23 Sally Sue Barry
- 23 Patricia Carson
- 29 Leah Davis

"The Sweetest Little Bookstore in Sequim"



SEE'S CANDY

There's a new candy bar in town and it can be yours for mere peanuts. Yes, \$1.00 will get you the newest See's delight – a peanut brittle bar. Just like your other See's favorites, the new bars can be purchased at the *"Sweetest Little Bookstore in Sequim"* a.k.a. **Pacific Mist Books**. This past year, See's Candy sales brought in more than budgeted! This gives us more money that will go back into the community in the form of scholarships and to various organizations we support. We appreciate our loyal (sweet) See's customers, even if you are a first time buyer.

SCHOLARSHIP NOTEBOOKS



Sandy Reed



Jane Manzer



Mayme Faulk and Jeanie Blaurock

There are six scholarships that SI Sequim gives at the end of the school year. The recipients of those scholarships are decided upon by a group of SI Sequim members who volunteer to meet in early May to read Scholarship notebooks. There is a list of criteria provided to each volunteer. Choosing who will receive the scholarships is very difficult. There are so many worthy candidates. It is a unique experience to read the notebooks. You get a glimpse into the minds and hearts of the future leaders of our community.

This past May a group of volunteers met at Bank of America to take part in the reading of the Scholarship notebooks. Jeanie Blaurock provided a wonderful buffet – as she has done for many years. In addition to giving us a chance to learn about the young adults soon to graduate, the evening provides an opportunity to work with other Soroptimists and learn a little about them as well.

This year we gave a seventh scholarship – The Elaine Carlson Memorial Scholarship – a one-time scholarship in memory of our dear Soroptimist Sister. The money for this \$2,000 scholarship came from members of the community, from individual club members and from the SI Sequim club as well.

This year's scholarship recipients

2003 - 2004 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ruth Mogan Memorial Scholarship

Meredith Martineau

Sequim Soroptimist Fine Arts Scholarship

Benjamin Schadler

Tom Southard Memorial Scholarship

Danielle Burke

Sequim Soroptimist Vocational Scholarship

Joel Meyers

Linda Wood Memorial Scholarship

Victor Lemus

Kathro Stevens Medical Scholarship

Leanne Schaafsma

The Elaine Carlson Memorial Scholarship

Amelia Robertson



MAKING HISTORY

Have you ever wanted to make history? Or wanted to help in the making of history? We were given the opportunity to do the latter at our last Soroptimist meeting this year. Nine Sequim students were heading to Washington, DC for the National History Day Contest. SI Sequim helped get them there with a donation of \$250. Jeanne Martin, one of our eagle eye members, read about the group in the local paper and brought it to the club's attention. Carol Sanders, a good friend of Jeanne's (who you may recognize as a strong supporter of our WIN Program) gave each of the students one of her beautiful maps of Washington, DC.

Two of the students (both from Sequim Middle School) were finalists: Whitney Macauley – Grand Coulee Dam – Miracle in the Sun and Taylor Ackley – Matthew Brady, The Eye of History.

It is wonderful that we can be a part of this exciting time for our local students. It's one of the many benefits of being a member of such an active Soroptimist club.



Did you know that there's a National History Day website? The site is not just about the contest. As the website states: "National History Day is not just one day, but a yearlong education program that makes history come alive through educator professional development and active student learning." You can learn more about it at www.nationalhistoryday.org.

KIDS KLOSET



Imagine, if you will, that you are a child who has been put into a foster home unexpectedly. All you have are the clothes you are wearing. The reasons why you are in this new environment are confusing and emotional. You want to fit in. You want to be loved. You want something normal.

Now imagine that you are taken to a place where you can pick out an outfit to wear. It is **YOUR** decision. **YOU** get to choose. It can be a step in the direction to a normal life.

The Foster Parents Association has a local exchange closet which provides clothing for boys and girls sizes 4-16. The clothing is available at no charge to foster children (and foster parents). How is the Foster Parent Exchange Closet possible? It is because caring people in our community donate clothing.

Children are placed in foster homes daily, so the need for clothing is on-going. Sherry Schubert, one of our sister Soroptimists, has been a foster parent for over 30 years. She brought this need to our attention at a recent club meeting.

A suggestion was made that a collection of clothing be taken at the beginning of each season. Individual members of the club who choose to participate can go shopping to purchase an outfit for a child; the new clothing would go into the closet.

Members of the club were excited about the idea. We get the joy of looking for and purchasing new clothing and the kids get the joy of choosing what they want to wear. It's a win-win situation! We call this new project: Kids Kloset.

Many members brought kids' Summer clothes to our recent Soroptimist meetings. Members will be reminded about the Kids Kloset in the fall and interested members can purchase a new "Fall" outfit for the kids.

This is just one area in which we can participate. There are many things that can be done to help such as becoming a foster parent, or a respite for a foster parent. If you would like to learn more, just contact the local DSHS.

Pictures from the Installation Dinner where incoming President Sandy Reed announced her theme:



The Sincerity of Friendship



INTERNET COORDINATOR UPDATE

What happens after you achieve a goal you have set? You set another goal. Several years ago, the Northwestern Region set a goal to have a region intranet. In January 2003, that became a reality thanks to Kathy Sechrist (Region Web Developer) partnering with Paul Want (Region System Admin). We are blessed to be the recipients of what their combined talents, tenacity and insights have manifested.

Even before the Northwestern Region (NWR) Website went live, a decision had to be made on how to inform the members about the website. It was then that the Internet Coordinator (IC) position was created. It is the job of the IC to keep the club's information and individual members' information up to date on the site. Another job of the IC is to inform the members when new features are available on the NWR website.

During my first year as our club's IC, at the end of one of our regular meetings, I did a little training session. A brochure (designed by your IC) was handed out. We had a laptop computer (that had a modem) and a projector – provided by (not yet president) Gail Frick. It was a live presentation which included some unplanned error messages. One of my goals back then was to encourage all members who had internet access, to go to the NWR website. I have been lax in following up on that goal. It is time for me to refocus.

Most of you know that I have accepted a job on the district level. There is a newly created position of District Representative for the NWR Website. Governor Linette asked me if I would represent District 1. The position is so new that an exact job description is not yet defined. However, a couple of things are known. Anyone in the district who has a question about the NWR website, will contact this person. At the District Meeting, this person will give a training session about the NWR website. The training info will be prepared by Kathy Sechrist and Ann Thatcher (Region Information Manager). All four districts will use the same material.

I officially accepted the position at the Region Conference in Spokane. As far as I know, no club in District 1 has had 100% of its members access the NWR website. My goal is to have SI Sequim be the first club to do that! In order to accomplish it, I need your help. I am not asking for anyone to memorize the website, only to log in to see how easy it is. Once you know how to access this site, you will know it is there for you. I will make myself available before or after business hours to help anyone who wants to come by my shop; I can walk you through the process. Please contact me to set up a convenient time. As a TEAM we can achieve it.

Kathy Purcell
Internet Coordinator

Have you been to the NWR Website?
www.soroptimistnwr.com

RELAY FOR LIFE



Members of SI Sequim and the two Port Angeles Soroptimist clubs band together to fight Cancer

REACHING OUR GOAL

Soroptimist of Sequim joined the two Soroptimist clubs in Port Angeles for The American Cancer Society sponsored Relay For Life. We were initially contacted in December and asked if we would once again participate in the annual event. The board was approached and Casey Murphy eagerly agreed to co-chair our team. Blake Sand and Gravel sponsored us and paid our registration fee.

It wasn't difficult to have 17 members sign up to walk during the 24 hour event. We had a Soroptimist walking on the track during the entire marathon. We blended our walk schedule with the Port Angeles teams and it was a wonderful success. Fortunately, this year the weather was cooler and we even had a little rain. We had tents, and our Soroptimist banner which cheered on the participants. Jeri Bawden had our banner made – pictured with this article – note it reads: "Band Together to Fight Cancer". We sold bandanas to lend with the Western theme of this year's event.

Marsha Robin from the morning (Jet Set) club stayed on site during the entire 24 hour marathon. Her enthusiasm and energy was contagious. It was delightful to meet the members from the Port Angeles clubs. We shared a wonderfully moving experience particularly with the luminari. That contemplative walk (in silence once the lights are turned off around the track), when the candles are lit is truly a moving experience.

The bags are decorated with pictures and only limited by the imagination of those that lovingly created them. It is a celebration for those that have overcome cancer and in remembrance of those that have left us. The Survivors Walk leaves me in awe as the cancer survivors join hands rejoicing in the spirit of encouragement and understanding.

A very special thank you to Casey Murphy for her help organizing the walk schedule and attending the monthly Relay meetings in Port Angeles. Our club representatives were: Sherry Schubert, Susie Bliven, Dale Simon, Gail Frick, Sandy Reed, Cindy Bidegary, Sally Sue Barry, Annie Knight, Betty Osborn, Nanc Smith, Leah Tuttle, Ann Salmon, Brenda Dunlap, Kate Creasy, Sharon Vera, and Megan O'Donnell.

Our club has now collected \$3,300.00 in donations for the fight against cancer. Your generosity will enable the American Cancer Society to direct more funds to the important work of research, education, advocacy and patient services. Thank you all for making this an overwhelming success!

Colleen Blazier
Relay For Life Co-Chair

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

As spring was “busting out all over” so was the Medical Loan Closet. We have received a tremendous number of donations and I am very grateful for the new additions to our medical equipment inventory. Jerry Carlson has called this morning to say he has met a person that has a wheelchair and several other items to donate. With this newest addition, we will have 39 wheelchairs! Last week, there were only two chairs in the Medical Loan Closet. This is an extremely busy time of year for us.

Soroptimist will partner with The Sequim Sunrise Rotary to help with the Amigo’s Project. Dave Salmon (Ann’s husband) has discussed the acute need for medical equipment in Mexico and elsewhere. We are doing a little late spring house cleaning as containers are also being shipped to Sierra Leon under the watchful eye of Doug Hanson (Louella’s son).

We truly have an extensive outreach program. Some of our equipment is not desirable because the walkers don’t fold for easy transport and there are a number of wooden crutches. The Rotary club provided the opportunity to select medical equipment items that had been donated for their annual garage sale. Now, we can send them to others in need.

This past year, we have been able to meet the needs of approximately 300 residents. The Medical Loan Closet committee has been wonderfully responsive to request for assistance. I would like to thank the committee and I am so pleased that they all agreed to serve another year. The week “on call” schedule is shared with: Sally Sue Barry, Suzie Bliven, Kate Creasey, Louella Hanson, Jane Manzer, Peg Rinker and Sherry Schubert.

We also have a lifetime member that served on the committee and continues to be a medical equipment resource. Marcia Beggs and Dorothy Herritt quietly worked (behind the scenes) for many years and single handedly ran the Medical Loan project. Marcia recently called the Senior Center to be sure they have her number as a resource for needed equipment. She recently had a birthday; she is 85 years young and continues to be an inspirational friend.



Marcia Beggs at her Birthday Party

With encouragement from Kathy Purcell, the Medical Loan Closet now has a logo. It will appear on our brochure and accompany the articles in the Soropti-Scoop. It seemed appropriate as the hand is extended in helpfulness and accepted in appreciation. It truly seems like caring is part of the cure.

Blessings in Friendship,
Colleen



IN GRADITUDE

Here are some of the letters we received as responses to our gifts to the community.

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim,

Thank you so much for such a generous gift. I am very much looking forward to college. Thank you for helping my dream come true!

Meredith Martineau

Dear Soroptimists:

We sincerely want to thank you for your recent contribution in the amount of \$300 to Parenting Matters Foundation. Your donation helps us to fund this program which reaches out to parents trying to help them be excellent parents.

One of our goals this year is to increase the number of times we give books to each child. We are also trying to complete the Children's Park and the Family Park.

Our primary goal is to reach out to parents through our newsletters. This year we have expanded the number of newsletters we do at the elementary level from 4 to 9. We have also begun a newsletter for middle school students. Thanks to some of you we will be able to do that 6 times this year. We hope next year to expand it even further. Our next goal is to make sure the same kind of help is available to parents of high school age students. Parenting doesn't get easier as children get older.

Your organization has just been wonderful over the years. We appreciate all the support. Your help is very deeply appreciated.

With great appreciation,
Cynthia D. Martin, Ph.D.
President, Parenting Matters Foundation

Dear Soroptimist Members,

Recently I was the recipient of the 2004 Sequim Soroptimist Fine Arts Scholarship. I'd like to express my sincerest gratitude for donating this scholarship to my education. It was not wasted. My parents and I greatly enjoyed the complementary breakfast you held. Thank you, and God Bless.

Sincerely,
Ben Schadler

The Whole Club!
Soroptimist of Sequim

Good Morning:

The first indoor Kid's Irrigation Festival Day on May 1 was a rousing success – with much thanks to you as a sponsor. We had over 500 kids and their families enjoying everything from bead work with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, to dipping animal cookies in two chocolate fountains. There were giant trucks to touch, motorcycles to dream about and books for families from United Way.

Your sponsorship allowed us to handle mailings, flyers to schools, rent space at the Boys & Girls Club, hire balloon entertainers, jugglers and a singer, decorate the room, signage, garbage pick up and more.

Again, thank you so much for your support. Sorry that we received your donation after the deadline for the Sequim Gazette insert. We'll be better about notifying you next year.

Hattie Dixon and Caroline Chaney
Co-chairs, Kid's Irrigation Festival Day

Here is an excerpt from the June 2004 issue of *The International Soroptimist* magazine.

From the International President

The many activities of Soroptimists worldwide continue to be exciting and productive. I am proud to read of the many achievements of Soroptimists (as individuals and clubs) in advancing human rights and the status of women. Your enthusiasm and energy really do result in a better world for women and girls.

I'd like to share with you the importance of our programme focus goal in the area of economic and social development.: **Women will live and work in safe and equitable environments with equal opportunities for advancement.**

Of the world's 6 billion people, 2.8 billion live in absolute poverty defined as living on less than \$1 a day (World Bank, World Development Report 2003: Sustainable Development in Dynamic World). There is extensive evidence that persistent gender inequities exist. Women often have limited access to resources including capital (i.e. credit and land), insufficient market knowledge, lack of skills and technologies, thus constraining their ability to participate in economic growth. Legal rights and protections providing women the same rights and protections offered to men must have the support of local cultural and legal systems and be incorporated into human rights legislation and economic governance structures.

Fifty percent (50%) of the 6 billion population is under 25, 2.5 billion live in the south and 2 billion live in cities. "The largest cohort of youth the world has ever known is heading into reproductive ages" (USAID Report: Women, Men and Development).

This tremendous growth in the number of young and old comes at a time when the productive age population is shrinking – particularly in countries impacted by HIV/AIDS. Who will support widows when property laws do not ensure them ownership of the land for which they have worked a lifetime? Progress in the areas of legal reforms and rights, economic opportunities and women's participation in politics and government are further deferred by such challenges as HIV/AIDS, continual internal, regional and national conflicts, trafficking and rapidly moving globalization.

Soroptimists are taking action and will continue to bring about change through awareness, advocacy and action. I urge each club to review the objectives adopted by SI under this goal: **develop programmes and partnerships to eradicate the extreme poverty and hunger of women and girls; improve societal and workplace conditions to enable women to achieve their potential; increase women's involvement in management and decision-making.** *How did your club do in meeting these objectives? How would you grade yourselves?* I've learned of many outstanding projects and educational programs which have been carried out. Please celebrate these accomplishments in your club, your area/region/union and your Federation. You are truly making a difference in this world.

Joan Conner, President
Soroptimist International

NOTE CARDS AND LAPEL PINS ARE HERE!

In the Spring 04 issue of the Soropti-Scoop we heard about Project Independence: Women Survivors of War, the 2003 – 2007 SI Quadrennial Project.

Through Project Independence Women Survivors of War, Soroptimist International and Women for Women International are combining the forces of thousands of individual women to support women survivors of war in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Rwanda. Over the next four years, Project Independence will raise at least \$1.2 million to provide nearly 2,000 women with the skills they need to rebuild their lives after war.

One easy way for us to participate is through the purchase of note cards (\$15 pk/12) and lapel pins (\$5 each). Many of you pre-ordered these items and they are now here! We ordered extras so why not get a pin to give as a special gift – even it's for yourself; or get the note cards to use for those notes you want to send over the summer. You can purchase the note cards and lapel pins through Kathy Purcell at Computer Solutions. Checks are payable to SI Sequim.

100% of the proceeds from your purchases will be forwarded to SIA HQ for this project. Everyone is encouraged to join in this important Quadrennial Project.



Project Independence
Women Survivors of War Note Cards



Project Independence
Women Survivors of War Pin



Soroptimist International of Sequim
P.O. Box 126
Sequim, WA 98382

To A Woman Making A Difference For Women