



# Soropti-SCOOP

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

SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Vol. 10, Issue 6

Soroptimist International of Sequim

December 2006

## Officers 2006 - 2007

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Colleen Blazier

**President-Elect:**  
Kathy Purcell

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**Directors: 2 year**  
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**Directors: 1 year**  
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Kathy Purcell  
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Heather Cerutti



I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book  
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.  
And that is when I realize that these names are a part  
Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.  
For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime,  
And in that meeting they've become the Rhythm of the Rhyme.  
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim  
I really feel I am composed of **each remembered name**.  
And while you may not be aware of any special link  
Just meeting you shaped my life more than you can think.  
For once you've met somebody, the years can't erase  
The memories of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.  
So never think my Christmas greeting is just mere routine  
Of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in between.  
For when you read this greeting that comes addressed to you  
It's because you're on that list of folks I am indebted to.  
For I am but a total of many Soroptimist I've met,  
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.  
And whether I have known you for many days or few.  
In some way you had a part in shaping things I do.  
And every year when Christmas comes I realize anew  
The **biggest gift** life can give is **knowing members like you**.  
And may the spirit of Christmas that forever and ever endures  
Leave its richest blessings in the heart of You and Yours.

*President Colleen*

Wordsmithed from an anonymous author



## Letter from the Editor

Do you have a favorite Christmas song or maybe a favorite Christmas story? One Christmas song that is meaningful to me is The Little Drummer Boy. No, it's not because I dated a drummer (I never have), but because the song tells a story – a Christmas story. And I find stories very meaningful.

President Colleen told me her friend Mary decorates for Christmas on Christmas Eve. Wow! That seemed odd and a bit sad to me because it wouldn't give much time to enjoy the tree, the lights and ornaments, etc. During my weekly Saturday phone conversation with my older sister Donna, I mentioned Mary's Christmas Eve tradition.

Donna told me when she was young, and Grandpa was still alive, that's what they did too. She and our brother Bob would go to bed early Christmas Eve. Because the tree was purchased so close to the holiday, the only trees left were a bit, well, like "Charlie Brown" trees. Grandpa was a carpenter so he would drill holes in the tree and add extra branches. When he was finished, the tree was full and beautiful. Grandpa created it using his tools and his imagination! Mom would wake up Donna and Bob late Christmas Eve – the house was decorated, the lighted tree surrounded by presents. Santa had visited while they were sleeping. To me this was an amazing story I had never heard before. I wasn't there to experience it then, but I experienced it now, at least on some level, some 50 years later.



Donna went on to tell me that Mom used to buy Christmas gifts, wrap the boxes and hide them in the closet. Donna would find the gifts and secretly unwrap them to see what she was getting. She said she was still able to appear surprised when the gifts were opened for real. Donna said one year she unwrapped a gift in the closet and found a Madame Alexander, "Alice in Wonderland" doll that she really wanted. When gifts were handed out Christmas Eve, the doll was not one of them. Donna's heart sunk. Of course she could not say anything; that would have given away her secret. The following day Mom handed Donna another gift – the doll! I asked Donna if she told Mom about her antics. "Not when I was a kid!" Donna exclaimed. When I asked if she thought Mom knew about her being a closet Sherlock, Donna replied, "Mom's always know".



I'm 12 years younger than my sister Donna. One of the great things I remember about Christmas is Mom drawing a nativity scene on the big front picture window and using Temptra paint to fill it in. She painted a story – the Christmas story – in beautiful stained-glass. Mom did that for many years.

~continued on page 3

## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER, 2006

- 1 Board Meeting
- 5 Business Meeting
- \* 11 **CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Sunland Foursome  
Clubhouse

### JANUARY, 2007

- 5 Board Meeting
- 9 Business Meeting  
(GOM Dec & Jan)
- 28 Program -  
The Dream Center
- \* 30 SOCIAL

### \*EVENING MEETING



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A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;  
It makes no noise at all,  
But softly gives itself away.  
~Eva Logue

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# Celebrate Life!

## BIRTHDAYS



### DECEMBER

- 12 Heather Cerutti
- 23 Cynthia Bidegary
- 30 Laura Maroney

### JANUARY

- 3 Nan Cramer
- 6 Rose Jaeger
- 10 Kate Creasey
- 21 Dovie Carson
- 30 Brenda Dunlap



## You're Invited to a Christmas Party MONDAY



December 11, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.  
Sunland Foursome Clubhouse  
Catered by Café Café - \$17  
Bring clothes for the Kids Kloset  
or a check to Salvation Army Soup Kitchen



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O Christmas Sun!  
What holy task is thine!  
To fold a world in the embrace of God!  
~Guy Wetmore Carryl

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SAVE THIS WEEKEND

ROOMIES NEEDED APRIL 27 – 29, 2007

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Note the phone number for our  
MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

**504-0231**



### A Christmas Story

*~continued from page 2*

I like sharing stories because that inspires others to share too. When we share our stories, we can see how interconnected we really all are. We can see our common humanity in the accounts of other people's lives. Sharing our stories draws us closer together.

I like the story in the Little Drummer Boy song. It reminds me of what it means to be a Soroptimist. We offer the best of what we have to give, the best of who we are. So as we continue to play our drums, let's be sure to share our stories. And the music we make will be in harmony.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and many meaningful stories.

With Gratitude & Love,  
Kathy Purcell, Editor

## GIRL OF THE MONTH

### Courtney Breithaupt

Soroptimist of Sequim is proud to announce their November student of the month:



My name is Courtney Breithaupt and I'm a senior. I live in PA with my parents Stephen and Bobbi and my brother Jacob. I currently am taking classes with the intent of pursuing a career in veterinarian medicine and hope to attend WSU. After I have completed five more years of specialty education and training I would like to pursue animal therapy or the field of malnutrition of baby animals.

I have been actively involved in numerous clubs or organizations, including ASB Senator, Link Crew, FFA President, Select Choir, Youth Group, and High Five Friday. My sports activities are track, pole vault, shot put, javelin and wrestling stats. My hobbies include: fishing, reading, friends and listening to Country music. I also have a new hobby that my dad introduced me to, and that is trapshooting.

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*Love is what's in the room with you  
at Christmas if you stop opening  
presents and listen.  
~Author unknown, attributed to a  
7-year-old named Bobby*

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Amanda and Carina

## WIN REPORTER BECOMES EXCHANGE STUDENT

Dear SI Sisters:

Wow! This is the only word I can think of that truly describes my whirlwind trip to Germany. I left on July 22, 2006 and arrived back in the "good ole" USA on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Although it was only three and a half weeks, the time away from family and friends made it seem a lot longer.

I spent only two days in Amberg before being whisked away to Berlin for a school field trip. We stayed in a Holiday Inn that seemed like something out of the future. It had very odd shaped furniture and it resembled something like an apartment. We spent 5 days in Berlin and got to choose which tours we wanted to experience. My favorite experience was seeing the Berlin Wall and "Checkpoint Charlie". It is beyond me to think of what this wall represented to these people – separated from their families for decades, some even giving their lives to escape to freedom. How easy it is for us to sometimes forget the very freedoms we take for granted. This is a "life lesson" I will not soon forget!

Carina was a delight to have as an exchange partner. I was able to experience her lifestyle and see many other cities and towns. Germany is home to some of the most beautiful architecture in the world and I would encourage everyone to experience it, at least once. Our time in the USA was a lot of fun as well. Carina was astounded by our "closeness" as a family and as a community. She shared with me that it was really hard for her to leave. I believe I will see her again some day!

I would like to give you my sincere thanks in helping me achieve my goal of visiting Germany. The money that was donated by you, as well as the WIN Scholarship, helped me finalize my trip plans and got the ball rolling. I will treasure this experience always and will tell everyone of the generosity of so many here in the Soroptimist club of Sequim. You are a blessing to me and to so many others in this community and the world!

I look forward to the upcoming year in WIN and the projects that I can give my time to, with the Soroptimists. I am here for you, just as, you were there for me.

Lovingly,  
Amanda Cerutti

## LIFE MEMBER HONORED

At our October 24<sup>th</sup> Program Meeting, we experienced bittersweet feelings as one of our Life Members attended her last meeting with Sequim Soroptimist (before she moved to Vancouver, WA). Marcia Beggs came to share a few stories and allow us to share a few of our own.

President Colleen spoke with Marcia this week and here's what she had to say: "Marcia was so touched by everyone's kindness and the lovely gifts, that she went home and cried. She and Ed are adjusting and doing well. I love to hear that laugh (of Marcia's) so I try to think of funny stories to tell her. Marcia expressed her appreciation for everything we did to make her feel so special."

Marcia Beggs lovingly handled the Medical Loan Closet for years. Her dedication and service is a symbol of what SI Sequim is all about. At times, Marcia had been known to receive six calls a day. We will miss you dearly, Marcia. Thanks for all you have taught us. ~kp



A kiss for love and you're on your way...

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Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time.  
~*Laura Ingalls Wilder*

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## REACHING ACROSS THE BORDER

At our October 24<sup>th</sup> Program Meeting, we met several women from the Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation. Their focus is women and girls in Chiapas, Mexico. It was a pleasure to be able to hand over a check to help them in this important work. ~kp



Dear Sequim Soroptimists:

Thank you for inviting us to give a program about our organization and for your very generous donation of \$250 to be used in our work of providing educational scholarships to indigenous women in Chiapas, Mexico.

Mil gracias,  
Pat Lang  
Secretary  
Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation

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The message of Christmas is that the visible material world is bound to the invisible spiritual world.  
~*Author Unknown*

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## Soroptimist International of Sequim Hands Out Hope

Violence against women has many faces and even when it is recognized, sometimes victims don't know where to turn for assistance. But help is just a phone call away. There is a national, as well as local family violence, hotline. The challenge is to get the information into the hands of those who need it.



*The Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence* is an ongoing effort to raise awareness about a seldom addressed issue: violence in the workplace.

A new study from the U.S. Department of Labor found that about 25 percent of all large U.S. employers (more than 1,000 workers) had at least one incident of domestic violence in the workplace last year, and that more than 70 percent of all U.S. workplaces have no formal program or policy that addresses workplace violence.

In an effort to spread the word about the *Workplace Campaign* and the resources available to women in domestic violence situations, Soroptimist International of Sequim prepared a hotline card and an information sheet which included a purple ribbon. Purple is the color symbolic of domestic violence prevention.

This year on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, members of Soroptimist International of Sequim spent the day at QFC in Sequim. There we handed out the hotline cards and information sheets about *The Soroptimist Workplace Campaign*. In addition, we sold raffle tickets for a purple quilt which was handmade by a 93 year old friend of President Colleen.

Members also handed out the cards and sold raffle tickets at Safeway on November 18. Over \$250 was raised and will help fund additional accommodations sponsored by the Serenity House in Sequim.

If you picked up the Sequim Chamber of Commerce November newsletter, you may have noticed the article about Domestic Violence Awareness and the *Soroptimist Workplace Campaign* that we submitted.

It had a dual purpose – to inform the public about this often neglected issue and to inform them about the Soroptimist mission. We are proud to be improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world. As Soroptimist International of Sequim enters our 60<sup>th</sup> year of service to Sequim, we are focused on helping educate women that they have a right to feel safe and to live free from violence.

Kathy Purcell  
Program Chair



## 'Tis the Season for personal giving!

This year, give yourself a gift of membership in the Laurel Society. In return you will receive a beautiful pin (a symbol that 'you care'), a special newsletter and invitations to special events. When you donate to the Laurel Society you know the funds go to fulfill the Soroptimist mission to "improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world." The main programs supported with this money are: Women's Opportunity, Violet Richardson Award and Club Grants.

Why not share the joy, and challenge your fellow club members to join you? SI Cook Inlet in Alaska embarked upon a 2 year program and had members donate monthly or quarterly directly to the club treasurer, who then forwarded the monies to SIA quarterly. The anticipation increased as the time drew near for all the members to be pinned at the Region Conference in Tacoma in 2006.

Leah Benesch (SI Cook Inlet president) related, "I think what kept everyone going was planning the presentation, going to the conference together, wearing Kuspuks (Alaska native costume for a party) and the anticipation gave all of us a feeling of being a part of something."

The Attache' (entry level) is for a contribution of \$1,000. Remember for just \$20 a week, you too can join the Laurel Society in less than 1 year! For more information on how you can join, please contact your district representative, me or go to the SIA website.

Let me know about your creative ideas to become a member of the Laurel Society.

Suzanne Sullivan  
SIA NWR Fundraising Committee Chair  
Suz3v@yahoo.com

A volunteer, sharing my time, talents and treasures.  
Small contributions collectively, make huge differences!

### The Levels of Laurel Society

| Contribution      | Membership Status | Designation |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| \$1,000 – 2,499   | Attache           | Sapphire    |
| \$2,500 – 4,999   | Envoy             | Ruby        |
| \$5,000 – 9,999   | Diplomat          | Diamond     |
| \$10,000 – 24,999 | Ambassador        | Pearl       |
| \$25,000 or more  | Inner Circle      |             |



## Soroptimist Emerging Leaders Sought for 2007!

The second Soroptimist Emerging Leaders Forum will be held on August 23, 2007 in Philadelphia. This full day workshop will include workshops dealing with skills important to leaders such as public speaking, conflict resolution, how to run an effective meeting and tips for pursuing leadership opportunities in Soroptimist. This is the day prior to the two-day Soroptimist Skill Building event. Selected participants will receive travel expenses, meal for one day, two night stay in the hotel, interpretation and materials.



One participant from each region will be selected by the SIA President, President-elect and Executive Director to participate in this event. In order to be eligible to participate you must be committed to the Soroptimist mission to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world, not held a leadership position beyond the club-level and joined Soroptimist in the last five years.

For more information, you can find the application and instructions in the library of the member's only section of the Soroptimist web site under Membership>Member Benefits>. Don't delay! Applications are due to Soroptimist Headquarters by February 15, 2007. Contact [siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org) with additional questions!



Let Christmas not become a thing  
Merely of merchant's trafficking,  
Of tinsel, bell and holly wreath  
And surface pleasure, but beneath  
The childish glamour, let us find  
Nourishment for soul and mind.  
Let us follow kinder ways  
Through our teeming human maze,  
And help the age of peace to come  
From a Dreamer's martyrdom.  
~*Madeline Morse*



We hear the beating of wings over  
Bethlehem and a light that is not of the sun  
or of the stars shines in the midnight sky.  
Let the beauty of the story take away all  
narrowness, all thought of formal creeds.  
Let it be remembered as a story that has  
happened again and again, to men of many  
different races, that has been expressed  
through many religions, that has been called  
by many different names. Time and space  
and language lay no limitations upon human  
brotherhood. ~*New York Times, 25  
December 1937, quoted in Quotations for  
Special Occasions by Maud van Buren,  
1938, published by The H.W. Wilson  
Company, New York*

## A White Christmas in November

Ho, ho, ho. With all the snow and cold we've been having here in Sequim, Santa may be getting confused on where the North Pole is...Hard to believe he and the reindeer will be visiting in just a few weeks. The weather prompted President Colleen to cancel our November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. In response to her email notification, a few members sent her some photos of the white blanket Mother Nature draped at their homes. Here's some of them. ~kp



Above submitted by President Colleen



Above and Below submitted by Kathleen DeJong



Above and Below submitted by Gail Frick



Above and Below submitted by Kathy Purcell



## Soroptimist Summary A monthly e-newsletter November 2006

SIA will be communicating with you more frequently through e-mail. You are part of a global organization, where each member's collective efforts change women's lives in concrete ways. As an added benefit, you will get to learn more about what's going on in the organization, as well as how our work and programs positively affect women all over the world. Below is an excerpt from the first Soroptimist Summary e-newsletter with the latest information!

### MEMBER BENEFITS

Soroptimist has entered into a relationship with Women & Wine®, which offers wine clubs, wine-country travel and signature hotel packages complete with wine tastings, gourmet fare and spa pampering. Women & Wine is a great company to partner with for recruitment ideas, retreats and fundraising activities, and Soroptimist members who join will enjoy special purchases and more. To learn more about, visit [www.WomenWine.com](http://www.WomenWine.com) or e-mail [julie@womenwine.com](mailto:julie@womenwine.com).



Interested in networking with more than 40,000 Soroptimists and developing new business relationships? Soroptimist's new Member-2-Member Marketplace gives you the opportunity to reach a targeted demographic of business and professional women who are dedicated Soroptimists just like you! Visit the Member-2-Member Marketplace in the members-only section of [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org) today to learn more about this exciting new member benefit.



### You are invited to participate in the first Soroptimist Snapshot!

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Soroptimist Snapshot, a monthly survey that will give us a better picture of the organization by helping us learn more about you—our members—and what you expect from your Soroptimist membership.

These brief surveys will only take a few minutes to complete, and your responses will help us develop products, services and partnerships that enrich the Soroptimist membership experience.

To access the first Soroptimist Snapshot, click the following link or cut and paste it into your browser:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/recipient/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB225SEE48YSS>

We look forward to receiving your feedback!

## SELF SACRIFICE

It occurred to me the other day that many of our holidays celebrate those who have made sacrifices for the betterment of others. Veterans' Day, Independence Day, President's Day, Easter, Martin Luther King Day, and many others serve to honor these individuals. Looking around our world, it is clear that the world is better directly due to the willingness of our ancestors to sacrifice. Soldiers fought enemies at home and abroad and social leaders took risks knowing they would be mistreated and scorned.

After realizing the costs involved, I questioned why people would do this. What would make someone give their time, energy, money and sometimes their very life to other people?

I came to the conclusion that their reward was the act of willingly giving of themselves. I would argue that this is among the most rewarding and fulfilling things any human can perform. It's ironic, but as long as we serve only ourselves, we will go through life unfulfilled and empty. I believe that the only way to live life to its fullest is to give freely of ourselves, talents and gifts to others - even when it costs us. The return far outweighs the expense.

To do this, you don't need to be a player on the international political scene or a great warrior. In fact, many of us do it every day. Take a minute and think of all the sacrifices that mothers, fathers, police officers, nurses, teachers, cooks and many others do each day to make our world better. It's what these people do in their everyday lives at the small level that makes the real difference.

Think about your own life and the times you most felt truly rewarded and fulfilled. I'll bet my last dollar it was when you did something nice for someone else. Now, do you remember what it cost to make that happen? Bet you can't!

Ralph Waldo Emerson had this to say: "Self-sacrifice is the real miracle out of which all the reported miracles grow."









Think about that this week!

Donald Kopf, Ph.D.  
Psychologist  
email: [DrKopf@DrKopf.com](mailto:DrKopf@DrKopf.com)








Isn't it funny that at Christmas something in you gets so lonely for - I don't know what exactly, but it's something that you don't mind so much not having at other times. ~*Kate L. Boshier*

# December 2006

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu                   | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|--|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| Universal Human Rights Month  |  |                                  |   |                       | 1<br>BOARD MEETING<br><br>UN World Aids Day | 2   |
| 3<br>UN International Day of Disabled Persons   | 4<br>Business Meeting<br>UN Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Development                                | 5   | 6   | 7<br>Pearl Harbor Day | 8   | 9<br>UN International Anti-Corruption Day   |
| 10<br>UN Human Rights Day<br><br>SI President's Appeal Project Punjab                                   | 11 Christmas Party<br>    | 12<br>Heather Cerutti            | 13  | 14                    | 15  | 16<br>First Day of Hanukah<br><br>Bell Ringing @ Safeway |
| 17  | 18   | 19  | 20<br>UN International Human Solidarity Day | 21                    | 22<br>First Day of Winter                   | 23<br>Cynthia Bidegary                                 |
| 24  | 25<br>Christmas Day<br> | 26<br>First Day of Kwanzaa<br> | 27  | 28                    | 29  | 30<br>Laura Maroney                                    |
| 31 New Years Eve<br> |  |   |   |                       |   |   |

# January 2007

| Sun   | Mon                                      | Tue  | Wed   | Thu | Fri                | Sat   |
|---|--|--|---|-----|--------------------|---|
|   | 1<br>Happy New Year!                     | 2  | 3<br>Nan Cramer<br>    | 4   | 5<br>BOARD MEETING | 6<br>Rose Jaeger<br> |
| 7   | 8  | 9<br>Business Meeting  | 10<br>Kate Creasey<br> | 11  | 12                 | 13  |
| 14  | 15<br>Martin Luther King Day<br>Observed | 16   | 17  | 18  | 19                 | 20  |
| 21<br>Dovie Carson<br> | 22                                       | 23<br>Program Meeting<br>Dream Center  | 24  | 25  | 26                 | 27<br>UN Int'l Day of Com-<br>memoration in memory<br>of the victims of the<br>Holocost                 |
| 28  | 29                                       | 30<br>Brenda Dunlap<br>EVENING SOCIAL<br> | 31  |     |                    |   |

## A Prayer of Love

Heavenly Father, Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together .

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.



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

SOROPTIMIST

**Best for Women**

*improving the lives of women and  
girls in local communities and  
throughout the world.*

To A Woman Making A Difference For Women