



THE LOTUS SEED

It's Never Too Late to Grow

DECEMBER 2021



LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

Click [HERE](#) to read it.

WE WANT YOU to join our crew!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

LOTUS BLOSSOM GIVING COMMUNITY

Please support Lotus Network's Efforts
and Help Us Reach Our 2021 Goal

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

watch this Timely Topic on our website:

It's Never Too Late to See A Light at the End of Every Tunnel

Featuring a conversation with
Nhi Aronheim about her harrowing story of
survival, perseverance, and resilience.

Members click [HERE](#) to learn more.

To become a Member and access this
talk, join Lotus Network today!

Click [HERE](#) to join.

SAVE THE DATES



Spend An Evening with **Elizabeth Gilbert**

Wednesday, May 4, 2022
Paramount Theater

Stay tuned, more details to come!

LOTUS NETWORK'S 1ST ANNUAL



Tuesday, June 21, 2022
Golf Club at Bear Dance

Click [HERE](#) for details

CONNECTION CHALLENGE

This activity is a unique and creative way
to connect with the Lotus community.

Click [HERE](#) to take the challenge.



LOTUS LADIES

PERSONAL PROFILE: *Linda Pilcher*

At the seemingly invincible age of 26 and looking for
some excitement, I made a decision that would change
my life forever.

Click [HERE](#) to read more about Linda.



TIMELY TOPICS

January 6, 2022 at Noon MST

It's Never Too Late to Go Green,
how small changes have a big impact

With featured guest: **Sara Gutterman**

Sara is a visionary thought-leader and passionate advocate for sustainability
that simultaneously promotes economic growth and environmental protection.
She has been the CEO of Green-Builder Media since 2005. Sara's passion for
sustainability and experience with advanced technology has helped her set a
vision for Green Builder Media that embraces an innovative new media model,
delivering intelligent information about sustainable living to consumers across
North America. She is part of a rapidly growing community of passionate
individuals who are dedicated to affecting positive change in the world. You
won't want to miss this inspirational discussion on environmental protection and
how to improve our lives and our world.

Click [HERE](#) to learn about this event.

Join Lotus Network for our in-person Connector Event on

Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 3 p.m. MST Lakewood Cultural Center



It's Never Too Late to Be Bold,
Brave, and Brilliant

With featured guest: **Marilyn Sherman**

Author of "Why Settle for the Balcony?"
How to Get a Front Row Seat in Life"

Sip a cup of tea

View original artwork created by Essie Perlmutter and Elaine Asarch

Experience the benefits of good conversation

Honor our Lotus Ladies

Engage with "Hall of Fame" speaker, Marilyn Sherman, and learn
how to sit in the front row of your life and discover the seats of
mindfulness, optimism, and contentment.

Click [HERE](#) to reserve your ticket.





CO-FOUNDERS

LISA AND LESLIE

*The Word for December is **Connection!***

It's hard to believe we're almost at the end of 2021 when holiday gatherings and celebrations are happening. Many of us have friends and family to share this festive time with. Others not so much. One important lesson we have all learned during the pandemic is when it comes to being the healthiest we can be, our connection with others might just be one of the most important tools we carry on our tool belts.

More and more we all realize that this season is not just about the joy of opening "presents", as much as it has to do with the pleasure we get from actually sharing the same space and being in another's "presence". Isn't it time we all become more aware of the positive impact we get from connecting? So let's reach out to someone outside of our immediate circles. It doesn't require a lot of effort but the effects can be long-lasting and so meaningful.

The gift of connection has the ability to keep on giving! It can decrease the dreaded loneliness that is tied to the holidays and encourage greater feelings of happiness. Everyone deserves to be happy!

A Lotus Network member texted us this thought-provoking message and it really resonated with us. Hope it does for you as well...

This hit me...

You never really know the
True impact you have on those around you.
You never know how much someone needed that
Smile you gave them. You never know
How much your kindness turned someone's
Entire life around. You never know how much
Someone needed that long hug or deep talk.
So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for
Someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for
Better circumstances or for someone to
Change. Just be kind, because you never know
how much someone needs it.

Author Unknown

Speaking of Connecting! The invitation has been sent out for our upcoming hybrid Connector Event and registration is now open! Click [here](#) to sign up for in-person or virtual tickets! It's the first time the Lotus Network community will have the opportunity to gather together in person and to be honest we couldn't be happier! We have missed you! So please mark your calendars and join us on **January 30th at 3 P.M.** for tea, conversation, and re-connection. During the tea, you will have the wonderful opportunity to view the original artwork of two of our members, Essie Perlmutter and Elaine Asarch. We will then have the pleasure of honoring all of our Lotus Ladies and listening to our featured guest "Hall of Fame Speaker", Marilyn Sherman. Marilyn will share her encouraging words of wisdom about getting out of the balcony seat and moving to the front row seat of your life. Don't miss out and come connect with us!

It's always fun to have something to look forward to! Check out the other Lotus Network events planned for 2022. Be on the lookout for an in-person opportunity to connect with American journalist and author, Elizabeth Gilbert this coming May and in June, tee-off for Lotus Network's [Inaugural Golf Tournament](#) where you can swing into action and play a round of golf with your besties. How exciting does this all sound!

Make sure to register for our upcoming virtual [Timely Topic with Sara Gutterman](#) on Thursday, **January 6th at noon**. Sara will speak on It's Never Too Late to go Green and how small changes can have a big impact. Learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle. This session promises to teach us important lessons on how to live a greener life and help save our planet. [Click here to register!](#)

LISA AND LESLIE (continued)

Nhi Aronheim is the author of her awe-inspiring memoir, “Sole of A Survivor” and we were so fortunate to be given the privilege of presenting her as our featured speaker this past month. This indomitable strong-willed, 4’ 11” powerhouse of a woman shared her unbelievable journey from Vietnam to Colorado and her harrowing story of survival. Click [here](#) to listen to her riveting story.

We Want You! We Need You! Your Voice Matters! There are many ways to volunteer and engage with others at Lotus Network. It’s almost January and we are totally excited to announce the appointment of Janis Pluss as our chairman for Lotus Network’s Programming/Engagement Committee. This brand new committee needs volunteers to help create programming that is focused on engaging opportunities for personal growth and meaningful connections. We want your involvement... The welcome mat is out! Click [here](#) to let us know you’re interested.

Lotus Network is all about connecting with yourself and others. We encourage you to take advantage of the many programming opportunities that help to do just that!

Most importantly, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for letting Lotus Network into your world over the past year. Your financial support and time directly correlate with Lotus Network’s sustainability.

Hope your gatherings were meaningful and wrapped in the wonderful feelings that connecting brings.

We wish you a safe, joyful holiday season, and a peaceful and happy transition to 2022.

Lisa and Leslie



LOTUS BLOSSOM GIVING COMMUNITY

The Lotus Blossom Giving Community Appreciation and Gratitude go out to the newest founding members of The Lotus Blossom Giving Community: **Vicki Pepper, Jane E Rosenbaum, and Terry Rubin.**

As a young non-profit your donations will support our mission to provide women with opportunities for meaningful connections, personal growth, and purposeful living through social and educational resources.

DONATE

LOTUS BLOSSOM GIVING COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Karin Barkhorn	Jani Majewski
Lisa Cook	Julie Morse
Deborah Daly	Vicki Pepper
Cathy Fleischman	Essie Perlmutter
Sandy Fried	Lynn Robinson
Emeri Handler	Jane E Rosenbaum
Leslie Heins	Terry Rubin
Andrea Hyatt	Louanne Saraga-Walters
Florrie Katchen	Joey Wasko
Diane Levine	Tricia Youssi

CONNECTION CHALLENGE

Do a thing in-person that you usually do in a virtual or automated way:

- pick up your dinner instead of having it delivered
- buy a book at the bookstore instead of ordering it online
- go through the regular checkout instead of the self-checkout line.

Feel the connection you are making, however quick, with another human being.

Better Together.

Click here to see past challenges.

**We would love to hear about your experience around this challenge.
Please send us an email at: connectnow@lotusnetwork.org**

Source: Compendium™ “Live Inspired”



LOTUS LADIES

PERSONAL PROFILE

Linda Pilcher, who bravely volunteered to share her story as our tenth Lotus Ladies Personal Profile, is the embodiment of one of the core values of Lotus Network: It is never too late to become the person you always wanted to be. We hope that her story will inspire you to share your own story or nominate someone else whose story deserves to be heard...we believe they all do!

Linda Pilcher

It's Never Too Late to Live your Next Dream

Written for Lotus Network by Jessica Redmond of *Storyteller*

At the seemingly invincible age of 26 and looking for some excitement, I made a decision that would change my life forever. I went skydiving, but instead of the smooth landing I had been told to expect by our (later) criminally negligent outrigger, I slammed into the ground, breaking both ankles so badly that my feet were no longer connected to my body.

"Cast me up," I told the doctors at the ER, unaware of the extent of my injuries and assuming all I had done was break some bones. "I need to be ready to ski in November."

"How about we talk about you ever walking again," came the doctor's grim reply.

I did walk again, eventually, though never with the ease and comfort I once had. And the doctors were right about skiing, along with other physical activities I had previously enjoyed. Those days were over; I could continue to mourn what I had lost, or I could reimagine my life in a new way. I chose the latter, and not for the first time.

I grew up in a rural part of Iowa in what I think of as a Beaver Cleaver kind of childhood. I was waterskiing as a four year old and my dad, who had a terrific sense of adventure and liked to get us adrenaline-fueled toys when my mom was resting after an overnight shift at the hospital, got me my first motorcycle when I was only nine.

Those idyllic years were shattered by the tragic accidental death of my younger brother when I was just 17. The impact on my family was huge. For me, it meant altering my dream of going away for college, as I had planned. For my parents, with loving support and patience, it eventually led to an even stronger relationship. Life is fragile, I learned then; it should never be wasted.

After graduating from a local college, I set out on my own, first (briefly) in Texas and later ending up in Colorado. I worked hard, played hard, and made lots of new friends. It was a full life and not one I wanted to leave behind, even as I embarked on the slow, painful recuperation from my skydiving injury. My parents wanted to take me back to Iowa but I refused. My legs might have been broken but my brain worked just fine, so I kept working while navigating life in a wheelchair, then with a walker, and later on crutches. Typical movement ended for me the day I suffered that injury, but new dreams were emerging. I found outlets for adventures that did not require perfect use of my legs, one of which was scuba diving. Today, at the age of 58, I have completed 200 dives, with more trips planned for the near future.

The traditional road of marriage (I have yet to meet the man who would be my soulmate) and children didn't happen for me. However, in an unconventional way, my dream of having children in my life has been realized. As an aunt to my sister's five children and as an honorary aunt - the free-spirited Auntie Mame kind - to several others, I have developed relationships just as deep. In addition, being a single woman has given me the time to nurture deep friendships and the freedom to follow my dreams. I have needed to be brave, take risks, and accept/ask for help along the way.

One example of that took place five years ago, when I took an early retirement and moved to Cabo. I spoke very little Spanish and barely knew anyone, but I loved the place and wanted to live near the ocean. I bought a house, made new friends, and became an advocate for spay/neuter campaigns and assisting in pet adoptions in the US. Through that work, I was able to add to my tribe of beloved animal companions, a tribe which is a constant source of love, support, and joy. My animals are truly a blessing and I am so grateful for each of them.

Prior to Covid, I began to feel that as much as I wanted to be in Mexico, I missed Colorado. Mexico feeds my soul, but Colorado grounds me. I decided to return to Colorado part-time, still maintaining my strong ties to Cabo with intentions to return often for extended periods of time. It was a challenging journey, but my animals and I eventually made it back safely just as the country was locking down. In addition to spending an inordinate amount of time with my animal tribe over the next many months, I also discovered a new love: kayaking on Colorado's lakes. As had happened so often in my life, I found a new passion just when I needed it most.

It is once again time to dream new dreams. I don't know what the future holds, but I am grateful for all that has unfolded.

[Click here to read more about our previous Lotus Ladies.](#)

**To nominate a Lotus Lady, email at:
connectnow@lotusnetwork.org**

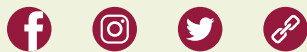




LOTUS NETWORK®

Our Mission

Lotus Network
provides opportunities
for women to create
meaningful connections,
personal growth,
and purposeful living
through social and
educational resources.



**If you are interested
in becoming a sponsor
and supporting
Lotus Network, please contact
Leslie Heins
at (303) 912-2230
or email her at:
connectnow@lotusnetwork.org**



to join our crew!

VOLUNTEER
all that is missing is U!

Your Voice Matters!

Join a Lotus Network committee and help create engaging opportunities for meaningful connections, while meeting new friends, having fun, and sharing a laugh. No experience required!

Click [HERE](#) to contact us.

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