

CITY OF LACEY
Official Proclamation

WHEREAS, Bronka Sundstrom, Holocaust survivor, was born in Sandomierz, Poland, on August 15, 1925, and is the youngest of 9 children to a Jewish family; and

WHEREAS, Sundstrom was in seventh grade when Nazi Germany invaded Poland in 1939. She and her family would endure dreadful living conditions, including abuse, neglect, and hunger for the next six years; Bronka and her sister were the only survivors of her family; and

WHEREAS, After Sundstrom was rescued by British troops in 1945, the Red Cross took her to Sweden to regain her health; there, she met her husband, Ank Sundstrom, who taught her everything from cooking to riding a bike and driving a car, and even how to ski; and

WHEREAS, Bronka and Ank Sundstrom emigrated to the United States in 1948, settled in a cabin in Tacoma, WA, had their son Allen, and enjoyed a wonderful life and retirement together; they became the oldest climbers of Mt. Rainier; and


WHEREAS, Sundstrom loves the great outdoors and believes that “the mountains teach us of independence, strength, confidence, and beauty”, and in 2016 at age 91 she hiked unassisted from Paradise to Camp Muir and back; an 8 to 10-hour climb at an elevation of over 10,000 feet; and

WHEREAS, Sundstrom remains an active resident of Panorama where she walks the Chehalis Western Trail almost daily and loves to greet anyone who slows down to meet her; she loves sharing stories about Mt. Rainier, hiking, and the importance of keeping one’s self physically fit as we age; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Ryder, Mayor of the City of Lacey, on behalf of the Lacey City Council, do hereby proclaim, May 21, 2023, as

Bronka Sundstrom Day

in the City of Lacey and encourage community members to honor Sundstrom’s strength and bravery for the hardships she has witnessed and endured in her lifetime, and to also share in her love of nature and people in our community.



Mayor Andy Ryder
May 21, 2023

