



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Soropti-SCOOP

A Communiqué by

women and men dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Volume 28, Issue 1

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

July 2023

Officers 2023— 2024

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Open

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Director: 2 year

Patty Lebowitz

Director: 1 year

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Director: 1 year

Linda Klinefelter

Newsletter Staff:

Kathy Purcell

Susan Coffee

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

“Lighthouses are not just stone, brick, metal, and glass. There’s a human story at every lighthouse; that’s the story I want to tell.”
~Elinor DeWire

A Message from the President

We may be the lighthouse in someone’s storm.

A year ago, when I was asked to be president-elect I was flattered, while at the same time, terrified. What if I accepted and then failed horribly; what if I didn’t have sufficient knowledge to be president; what if I couldn’t measure up to those who came before me; what if I were an embarrassment; what if, what if... I had an ongoing conversation with myself about all the reasons I should politely decline even after I accepted. How could I possibly know everything I needed to know to be successful in this position? I was overwhelmed!

Finally, after conversations with other Soroptimists who convinced me I could do this, I calmed down, until... I was hit with an email from Kathy Purcell asking what the theme of my term was going to be. Wait! What!? And not only a theme, but I also needed a logo reflecting the theme. Something else to fret over, and fret I did.

I laid awake at night brainstorming possible themes, mentally wrote them down and then tried to connect them to how they “fit” our club and the future. I finally settled on “Lighting the Path Forward” recognizing this has dual meaning. I discussed with Kathy what the logo might be and—after giving thought to “lighting the path,” SIS’s geographic location, and my life-long fascination with lighthouses—it was clear the only possible logo was a lighthouse. Kathy immediately got to work on the design.

From a very young age I’ve always been mesmerized by lighthouses. Now granted, there are few, if any, lighthouses in Colorado where I grew up, but I read books and saw movies. As a child I visualized that at some point in my life, I would reside in a lighthouse immersed in a magical life. As an adult, having lived on both the east coast and west coast as a Coast Guard wife, it became clear to me that not only was I never going to live that mystical life, but that lighthouses, while romantic, have a serious and important job in navigation. They are a symbol of strength, hope, and awareness. Resilience to the battery of storms, dense fog, and darkness enables their light to continue to illuminate a path forward—to help those at sea to overcome fear and reflect hope and promise as they light the path forward toward safety.

And that’s where the connection came to mind between lighthouses and SIS. Despite all odds, we continue to navigate a path to serve the needs of our community and the world, as we work together to build a stronger SIS.

~continued on page 3

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

Have you ever noticed a word within a word? I'm not just talking about the word *optimist* being within *Soroptimist*. Hey, even the word within has two words seemingly hidden within it—*with* and *in*. You might be wondering why I ask that question, and why now.

First, a little bit of history—though you won't stumble on this in any history books. I have been the editor of the Soropti-Scoop newsletter for 25+ years; that's more than 37% of my life. If you read the Soropti-Scoop you know I like words. What you probably don't know is how the newsletter takes shape.

After I place an article in the draft of the newsletter, I pick out a key word from it. I go online and search for quotes about the chosen word, looking for a saying that will augment the article. When I find a quote that fits, I copy and paste it into a Word document. If I see a quote I like but that doesn't fit, I copy it anyway, so it is available to me in the future. I do the same online lookup for the poem on the back. After I place a quote in the newsletter, I change the text color in the Word document to a specific color that I use for two years. That way I don't reuse the same quotes for at least two years.

That Word document has grown to 329 pages. This is a great tool for me. Now, each month after I place an article into the Scoop, I first open the document with quotes. I look for the key word that I've chosen. If I find a quote that fits, I copy and paste it into the layout. If I don't find a quote that fits, I either go online and search or I look for another key word.

Recently I added a bunch of quotes about lighthouses to the Word document. I figured since President Shirley's logo is a lighthouse, I'd be using quotes about them throughout the year. Sometimes when I do a search for a key word in the document, I don't use the entire word.

Here comes the answer to why I asked the question at the beginning of this month's article. I wanted to find the quotes about lighthouses I had added to the Word document, but I typed only *light* into the search bar. To my surprise not only did the quotes with lighthouse come up highlighted—there were quotes with ten other words highlighted also: *flight*, *delight*, *sunlight*, *lightly*, *lightening*, *headlight*, *daylight*, *enlighten*, *sight*, *moonlight*.

This showed me the Word document tool in a different light. All these seemingly hidden words within words! It made me think about our members. Perhaps we have tools available to us that can provide more than we ever thought possible. How many of us have seemingly hidden talents within us? We have the ability to shine our individual lights for one another, allowing those hidden talents to be seen. We can be enlightened as we Light the Path Forward together.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



**“Let no man imagine that he has no influence.
Whoever he may be, and wherever he may be placed,
the man who thinks becomes a light and a power.”**
~Henry George

CALENDAR

July

20-23 Lavender Festival
Fleurish Lavender
Farm

August

1 GGS Core Meeting
8 am KSQM
19 Deadline for GGS
Artwork Contest

Lighting



the Path Forward

*Evening Meeting

**“The true delight is in the finding out
rather than in the knowing.”**
~Isaac Asimov



**“A lighthouse is not interested in
who gets its light!
It just gives it without thinking!
Giving light is its nature!”**
~Mehmet Murat Ildan

Celebrate Life!

JULY

Athena Dunn
Jane Manzer
Kris Osborn
Kathy Purcell
Jolene Sanborn
Janet Wicker

AUGUST

Amanda Beitzel
Colleen Blazier
Sara Ellen Peterson
Janet Real
Cat Xander



~continued from front page

When the “Covid Era” hit, all the world was stunned. Daily life as we knew it came to an abrupt halt. Businesses shut down; employees were forced home to work; some lost their jobs and much more. Talk about a paradigm shift! The whole world had to “figure it out.” And our club here in a remote part of the world did just that. Give us an obstacle and we will find a way—over it, under it, around it, or through it. We will find the light and forge the path. We found a way to continue to operate and continue to provide services to help fulfill the mission—the mission of helping women, girls, and others in our community and the world overcome their own obstacles and challenges in their lives. SIS, through its own strength and resilience, continues to light the path—not only for the future of the club—but through projecting light on what is Best For Women in helping to empower them in so many ways. This is a guide as they work toward navigating through life to find their own safe harbor and build strength and resilience to overcome life’s challenges and obstacles.

SIS just celebrated the club’s 75th anniversary. It is a testament to its strength and perseverance over the years. As we start a new club year, I am optimistic that we will continue to do the good work that we do. This club has a legacy of weathering storms and lighting the path forward not only for the community, but for SIS as well. As a child, when I would become frustrated with a challenge and fear of failure, my mom would say to me, “strength comes from determination.” I believe this is true of lighthouses and, more importantly, I believe this is true of this club. We’ve some challenges ahead, but we shall be lighting the path as we go—with determination toward building a stronger club prepared to better serve those who depend on our ability to do so.



~President Shirley



Note the phone number for our
MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

360-504-0231



“The light of a lighthouse is not judged by its intensity, but by the faithfulness of its rotation.” ~*J. M. Barrie*

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



SI Convention
Challenge the Future
Dublin, Ireland
July 27-29, 2023

D1

District 1 Meeting
Clearwater Casino
Suquamish, WA
October 20-22, 2023

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting
TBD
TBD



NWR Conference
Lake Washington Hyatt
Renton, WA
April 25-28, 2024

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS MOVING FORWARD

SI of Sequim is excited to announce we have awarded ten scholarships to seniors from Sequim High School. The total dollar amount given is: \$17,000 (4k from our club, 3k from one anonymous donor and 10k from another donor). The brief summaries of these young women tell only a small bit of their stories. We wish the best to all of them.



Ava Bower is probably going to Western Washington University. She fell in love with media design and graphic arts when she worked on her 8th grade yearbook. Since then, she has taken classes in the field of media design at Peninsula College through the Running Start program. She hopes to have a career as part of a team designing magazine layouts.



Christina Caples is planning to go to Western Washington University. She was on the Varsity Swim Team and the Select Choir and was one of three chosen from Sequim for Washington Music educators association all-State choir. Christina has worked at Sherwood Lodge, the Cedars at Dungeness, and the YMCA to support herself. One obstacle she faced was seeking academic support and finally getting the diagnosis of ADHD. Coming to Sequim from California, Christina loves water and plans on a major in marine biology and a minor in veterinary sciences for a career teaching people to preserve the ocean before it is too late.



Teagan Hough describes herself as a queer multi-racial artist aspiring to make her way into the film and publishing business. She has been admitted to the Honor College at Portland State to study art practice - illustration and concept art. Her notebook contained some amazing graphics using every medium from India ink to watercolor to computer graphics. Teagan also won a scholarship from the Blue Whole Gallery. Teagan is also an actress, a vocalist, and a writer.



Jelissa Julmist will probably attend Peninsula College. She is a student athlete scholar who achieved good grades while playing on championship varsity basketball and golf teams. She qualified to participate in the Future Health Professionals conference in Nashville, Tennessee and practiced by taping teammates and helping with minor injuries. She wants to study Sports Medicine and become an Athletic Trainer.



Jolie Kinkade is heading to Peninsula College. A McKinney-Vento student, she achieved a GPA of 3.29 while her family lived in an RV at John Wayne Marina and served as camp hosts. She is undecided about her career as her interests span from Fish & Wildlife to the Coast Guard to Cosmetology and her own hair salon.

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.” ~**Zig Ziglar**

“Nothing comes as an accomplishment instantly. Success does not come overnight. Patience is the key!
Grow up and be the tree; but remember it takes dry and wet seasons to become a fruit bearer, achiever and impact maker!”
~*Israelmore Ayivor*



Genesis Lopez will attend Olympic College in Bremerton and major in esthetics. One reason she chose that field is that education is not as expensive. Her father was injured on the job here in Sequim and couldn't afford for the family to live here so they returned to Mexico where she saw real poverty and a shooting. That made her realize her future was in Sequim and that she shouldn't waste the opportunities and freedom in America. Genesis returned to Sequim and lived with her half-brother to graduate.



Jenna Mason is heading to Peninsula College. She comes from the family that owns the Mason Wingwalking School—and yes, she can hang off the edge of the plane. She's also a scholar/athlete, a soccer player since the age of four, an actress, an Eagle Scout, and an active member of the Auto Shop Club. Jenna's goal is to become a welder and, she has already taken classes in the field and has a part-time job at Copper Creek Fabrication.



Alexandra Salas is a first generation Mexican American, and she is heading to Western Washington University. One obstacle she had to overcome was that her native language was Spanish, so she had to work twice as hard to comprehend her classes. Alexandra's goal is to become a sports psychologist for athletes, helping young players with their mental health. This desire grew out of her own experiences with soccer, which she has played since she was four years old.



Lauryn Stephens comes from a family of nurses and plans to go into Nursing and become an RN. She has learned much from her brother, who has Asperger's. The obstacle she has faced has been depression. Lauryn feels she has learned that she is stronger than depression and can be in control if she allows herself to be. She also continued to play winning basketball despite an injury related to the fast growth of her legs. Lauryn will either attend Western Washington University or Peninsula College.



Cherith Thomas is starting at Peninsula College. One of the obstacles she had to overcome was an abusive relationship, but therapy helped her. She has a number of interests and makes a good case for majors in psychology, early childhood education, and journalism/photography. She has also had her own garden since she was very young and a class in floral design inspired her to dream of being an entrepreneur and opening a flower shop.

“You control your future, your destiny. What you think about comes about. By recording your dreams and goals on paper, you set in motion the process of becoming the person you most want to be. Put your future in good hands—your own.”
~*Mark Victor Hansen*

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

DEBBIE COTTRELL



My Name is Debbie Cottrell. I grew up in Sequim, moved away, and came back in 2017. We moved back to take care of my elderly parents so they can age in place in their home. My mother, Betty Osborn, was a member

of Soroptimist International of Sequim for over 30 years. I have been wanting to join Soroptimist for years since it was such a big part of my mom's life for so many years. I am a Real Estate Broker at JACE Real Estate Company. In the past, I have been involved with various projects and committees such as fundraising for scholarships, food banks, and soup kitchens. I also belong to the Sequim Association of Realtors, Washington Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors. My parents live in Sequim (Ross and Betty Osborn), my brother is a high school band teacher and lives in Puyallup. I have two stepsons with my fiancé Peter Proehl whom I have been with for 20 years. I love to cook, make jewelry, and garden. I am blessed to be back here and love taking part in all that the Olympic Peninsula has to offer. My passion is selling real estate. I love my job!! Marti Campbell, a member and friend, encouraged me to join.

Best advice you have received: You will never fail until you stop trying.

BRANDI LARSON



My name is Brandi Larson. After spending three years in Idaho, I decided to move back to Sequim for the community and the partner who I fell in love with. I learned about Soroptimists at one of our monthly chamber luncheons. I am

currently a residential loan officer at Sound Community Bank. I also have experience as a banker and in hospitality services. I used to be a volunteer at a veteran breakfast program and look forward to getting more involved with my community. My family includes my husband-to-be, Ryan York, daughter Kelsie (6), daughter Emy (4), and son Jaxson (6 months). I love reading, singing, hiking, science, etc. I used to tour and sing jazz, and cooking is my passion.

The best advice I've received is: "Every time someone walks into your life, you could be the only person who makes them feel important that day... Make it count."

*"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining - they just shine."
~Dwight L. Moody*

REMEMBER TO SIGN-UP FOR YOUR FAVORITE COMMITTEES!

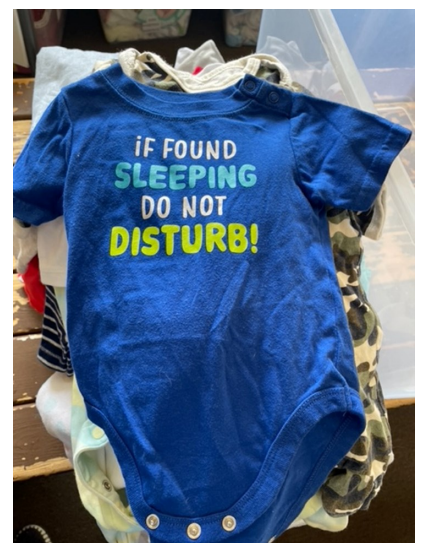
Awards & Scholarships
Finance
Fundraising
Gala Garden Show
Hotel Garden
Membership
Medical Loan Closet
Programs
Public Awareness



Watch for the 3R's

MEMBER COOL STUFF

I took photos of some onesies and one shirt Elaine and I found sorting at First Step recently. They're pretty funny/cute.
~Jane Manzer





2023-2024 Board of Directors

Directors: Linda Klinefelter, Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols, Patty Lebowitz, (not pictured Director Kathy Cunha), Treasurer Shelle Paulbitski, Secretary Sandy Lawrence, President Shirley Legg

**2022-2023 President's Award
Chris Snow**



Each year, the president chooses to recognize a member who will receive the President's Award. The recipient is someone who was helpful and supporting during the year. This year, the recognition was given to Chris Snow. Chris has been dedicated in leading, training, organizing and maintaining the Medical Loan Closet. This is a vital program provided by SI of Sequim for the local community.

**2022-2023 Club Woman of Distinction
Shelle Paulbitski**

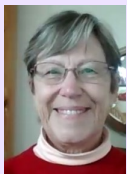


SI of Sequim is pleased to announce we awarded our annual Club Woman of Distinction Award to Shelle Paulbitski. Shelle exemplifies the mission of our organization through her dedication and volunteer work to empower and financially assist women and girls in Clallam County.



ALL THINGS LAVENDER

All things Lavender are on our minds this month, with our booth at **Fleurish Lavender Farm** on our radar right now. Pauline Geracci and Dave Fickes are once more coordinating our booth. Word has it that Dave has put in his stock of wine, ready and waiting for the “special sauce” that will make it Soroptimist of Sequim’s world-famous Lavender Sangria. Please make sure to contact Pauline about volunteering to “woman” the booth the weekend of **July 21-23**. Help is needed for all shifts, including set up and take down. We make good money at this event, money that goes for our scholarships and grants, so please help out. You’ll also be hearing about baking needs for the festival booth, so please check your email regularly.



~Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols, Fundraising



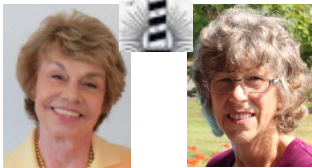
“I want to be like the lavender in a field of wheat: quiet and unassuming, yet impossible to ignore.” ~*Author Unknown*

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET STATS

In June, the Medical Loan Closet committee welcomed **Natasha Merkuloff Nichols** as our most recent volunteer. She will make a fine addition to the current roster of volunteers and will begin working at the Closet in August.

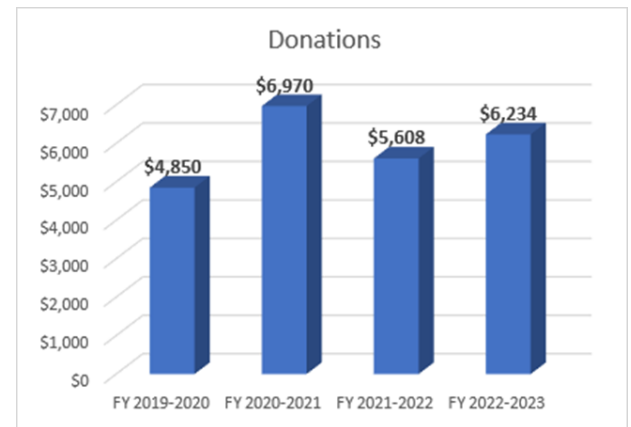
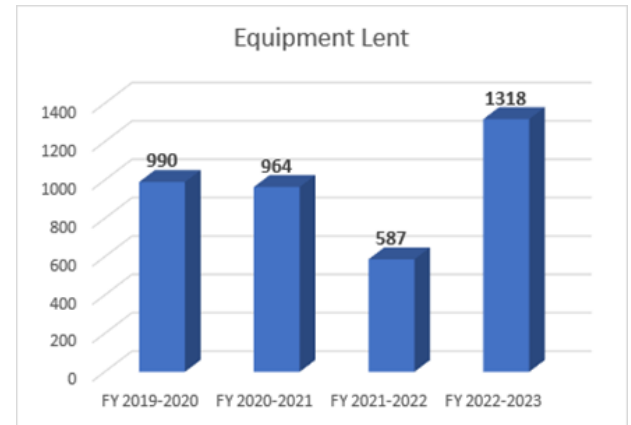
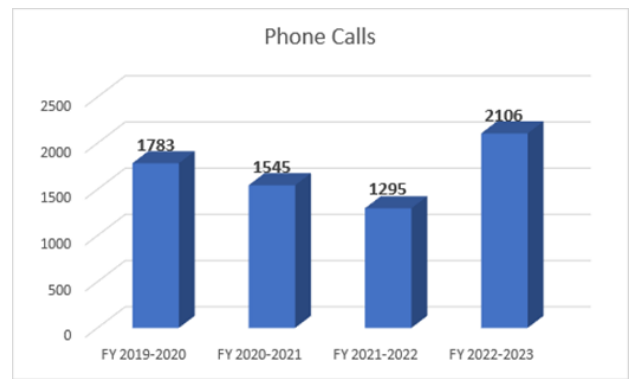
We are sorry to say goodbye to three of our long-time volunteers, **Melody Albertson, Linda Naylor, and Jolene Sanborn**, and wish them well. We also want to thank them for working at the Closet during our difficult Covid times. Their overall positive attitude and work ethic contributed so much to the smooth functioning of the Closet.

Our volunteers were very busy in June. We received **193** calls during the month; lent **108** items; and had **124** items returned—including 18 donated items. We received **\$540** in donations from our generous community.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow,
MLC Co-chairs

“Lighthouses are endlessly suggestive signifiers of both human isolation and our ultimate connectedness to each other.”
~Virginia Woolf



LIVING THE SOROPTIMIST MISSION

On behalf of the club’s sponsorship of two women survivors of war and conflict, I receive regular communication from Women for Women International (WFWI). Late in June there was an urgent call for relief funds for women in Sudan. Our club was sponsoring a woman in South Sudan early last year, but her training had to be halted because of heavy fighting. WFWI had to pull out of the country, but since then identified two organizations providing a lifeline to vulnerable women and children in a couple of regions. After some e-mails back and forth, I made a special request for some club uncommitted funds to be used for things such as emergency food kits, dignity/hygiene supplies, rape whistles, and/or trauma-informed counseling. Women who are heads of households, have disabilities, and who are in poor health are prioritized. Our finance committee and board approved sending \$200 from FY 2022/2023 and Shelle Paulbitski sent those funds on June 30th. Our club continues to live the Soroptimist mission locally and around the world.



~Jane Manzer, WFWI Liaison



“A lighthouse doesn’t save the ships; it doesn’t go out and rescue them, it’s just this pillar that helps to guide people home.” ~Lea Michele

SEEDS FOR THE 2024 GALA GARDEN SHOW HAVE BEEN PLANTED

With Lavender finishing up, we're starting to focus our sights on our signature event—the **Gala Garden Show**, to be held the weekend of **March 15-17, 2024**, at the Sequim Boys & Girls Club. We had our all-hands meeting on July 11th at KSQM's conference room. To date, we have three confirmed Platinum sponsors, thanks to Linda Klinefelter: KSQM, 7 Cedars and Sofie's Florist. We've already received the sponsorship funds from 7 Cedars! Linda and GGS Co-chair Kathy Purcell have put out the word for the Artwork Contest. Kathy has also been working on the garden show website and has sent out emails to our past vendors soliciting interest for the GGS; response to that email has been positive. So, the seeds are being planted. We have received a few phone calls from SIS members who were unable to personally attend the July 11th meeting, but reached out to say, "Just tell me where you need me." Thanks to those of you who have called, and thanks to the members who were able to attend the meeting. We still have some sub-committee Co-chair spots to fill. We have members who held those positions before who are available to give guidance. While this is our main fundraiser, it is also a FUN-raiser! Join the committee and see for yourself!



~Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols & Kathy Purcell, GGS Co-chairs

*"Normality is a paved road: It's comfortable to walk, but no flowers grow on it."
~Vincent Van Gogh*

The next GGS Core Committee Meeting is August 1 at 8 a.m. at the KSQM Meeting Room!

NORTHWESTERN REGION UPDATE

Soon we will receive the "Save the Date" reminder for our District #1 meeting in October. Please put **October 20-22** into your calendars. As I am the D1 Site Coordinator for our region, I have some teamwork planning that I'd like to share with you.



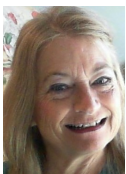
The October meeting will begin on Friday evening at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino in Poulsbo. We selected the charity "Scarlet Road" to highlight this year. Scarlet Road's mission offers the hope of freedom to those who have been sexually exploited. See more at <https://scarletroad.org/>

That Friday evening, we will bring items in order to put together what the charity calls 'Anxiety Boxes.' There will be a Taco Bar Buffet dinner and eight rounds of Bingo called by one of the Casino Bingo Callers.

Saturday will be filled with business, speakers, workshops, Tell and Sell, and dinner. If you can't spend the entire weekend, just attending Saturday will educate you in all things Soroptimist. We will take you down the D1 Highway stopping at the D1 Drive-In for BBQ lunch. Dinner will be entertaining at the "Beach Rock Inn," with a fare of salmon and filet mignon. A few raffle tickets from Tell and Sell will be drawn.

Sunday is another day of region and guest speakers on membership, public awareness, programs and fundraising. There will also be raffle drawings and future announcements.

Watch for this article in the "Soropti-Scoop" each month for your Region information updates.



~Sandy Lawrence, D1 Site Coordinator




*"The power of one, if fearless and focused, is formidable, but the power of many working together is better."
~Gloria Macapagal Arroyo*

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Athena Dunn Jane Manzer Kris Osborn Kathy Purcell Janet Wicker		4 Happy 4th of July 				1
2	3	11	12	13	14	15
9	10	18	19	20	21	22
16	17	25	26	27	28	29
23 	24				28 	22 
30	31					

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Amanda Beitzel Colleen Blazier Sara Ellen Peterson Janet Real Cat Xander		1 GGS Core Committee Meeting 8 a.m. KSQM Meeting Room	2	3	4	5 Deadline for entries for the GGS Artwork Contest
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Send digitized GGS Artwork entries to Core Committee to vote	23	24 Deadline for voting for the GGS Featured Artwork	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

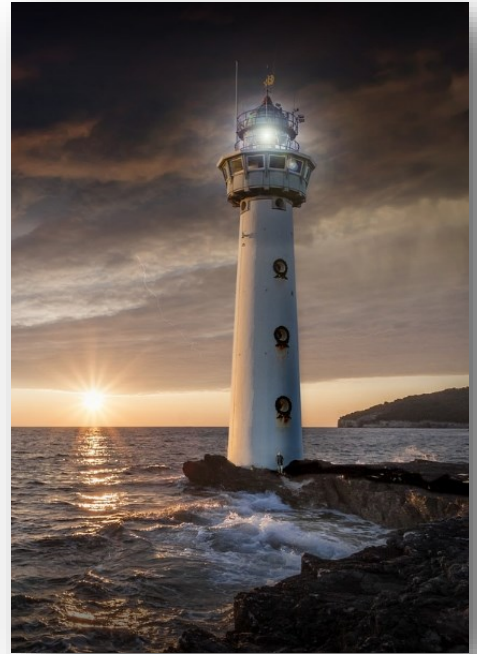
The Lighthouse by Stewart Stafford

Apart and alone,
From where the ships dock,
Stands the white sentinel edifice on a promontory rock.

Like the land's index finger,
At the extent of the sea,
Warning passing vessels where it's safe to be.

Its one luminous eye,
Swivels around its clear head,
To keep lucky sailors off the seabed.

It seeks no credit,
And needs no thanks,
Saluting proudly from above the fog banks.



Soroptimist International of Sequim
PO Box 126
Sequim, WA 98382

SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Soroptimist®: a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

To a Person Making a Difference for Women