



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 2

Soroptimist International of Sequim

**Celebrating 75+ Years of Service**

August 2023

## Officers 2023— 2024

### **President:**

Shirley Legg

### **President-Elect:**

Open

### **Secretary:**

Sandy Lawrence

### **Treasurer:**

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### **Director: 2 year**

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### **Director: 1 year**

Kathy Cunha

### **Director: 1 year**

Linda Klinefelter

### Newsletter Staff:

Kathy Purcell

Susan Coffee

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

**“The lighthouse beam  
has become  
an archetype  
of human hope  
and steadfastness.”  
~E. O. Wilson**

## A Message from the President

This month’s president’s message gives recognition to the Medical Loan Closet (MLC) and why I find it the most personally rewarding of all the good that SIS spreads throughout the community.

When I joined SIS and was asked to choose a committee to dedicate time to, I was a bit skeptical about volunteering for the MLC. My reasons why were varied: it required a committed chunk of time; I knew very little about the equipment being loaned; being housed in a storage facility was a bit concerning. Being there alone to meet strangers was even more concerning—it is a quasi-outside service and that meant winter rain and wind.... I found it all a bit intimidating, and initially rejected this committee as an option.

However, the more I paid attention and realized the value of the MLC and its contribution to the physical well-being of the community—not to mention the longevity of its existence—I finally decided I needed to be a part of this committee. I must admit that initially it was a challenge to learn how the process worked; but once I caught on, I relaxed and enjoyed my duty weeks.

What I love most about this committee is that it is the one service SIS provides that brings us face-to-face with those we serve. Each one of our “customers” has a unique situation that brings them to the Closet. Some of them come to us for a short-term need from which they or their loved one will heal quickly; some come to us because they are having to face the cruel reality of the end of life of a loved one, and some come with needs somewhere in between. Many want to share their story of how they arrived at MLC’s door and, for those, we can provide the gift of listening and perhaps a few words of comfort. Most are verbally thankful for the service we provide. Some are repeat customers; some have a friend or family member visiting from out of town who finds themselves in need of a wheelchair for the duration of their visit. One of my favorite calls was from a woman who had just had knee surgery and said, “I feel foolish making this call, but I need to borrow a wheelchair to take to next week’s Mariner’s game,” as this was the only way she could safely maneuver the stadium. The stories I hear are varied and interesting, often heartbreaking. What I do know is that there is never time spent at the MLC that I don’t leave with a heart full of joy that I have made someone’s day just a little bit better, have mildly soothed a pain, or eased a worry. And I never pull down the door without pausing to give thanks for my own good health, knowing that life is fragile—and without a moment’s notice, I might find myself at the door. Service to others can put so much perspective into one’s own life.

~continued on page 3

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

Bonjour. Hola. Nǐn hǎo. Olá. Guten Tag. Goedendag. Shalom. Hello. These are just a few ways of greeting someone and saying hello in different languages, according to babble.com. Then there is the tail wag, which is a dog's way of greeting us and saying hello.

Dogs have a unique way of speaking to us—often it is through their actions. They have a great sense of humor—or rather—they have a way of revealing our sense of humor. Most dogs like to fetch/carry sticks. Two of our past dogs would find a tree limb—bigger than they were—pick it up and carry it around in their mouth. They were smart enough to pick it up at the center point where it was easiest to balance. Such joy on their faces! There are numerous videos online showing dogs doing [the same](#). Some people chuckle when they see such action; some people become quite animated and laugh out loud; others don't show much reaction at all.

Although different people have different funny bones, humor is a universal language. Each person reacts based on who they are and their individual life experiences. People who might normally be more introverted might laugh out loud when seeing or hearing something funny—especially if others around them are laughing. We can learn a lot from dogs.

Speaking of learning from dogs—we are in the Dog Days of summer. I've heard that term before but didn't know from whence it came or what time to which it refers. So, I went online to get some info about it.

Almanac.com tells us: *“The term ‘Dog Days’ traditionally refers to a period of particularly hot and humid weather occurring during the summer months of July and August in the Northern Hemisphere. This period of sweltering weather coincides with the year's heliacal (meaning “at sunrise”) rising of Sirius, the Dog Star. Sirius is part of the constellation Canis Majoris—the “Greater Dog”—which is where Sirius gets its canine nickname, as well as its official name, Alpha Canis Majoris. Not including our own Sun, Sirius is the brightest star in the sky.”*

All of this reminds me of Soroptimist. Like the dog with the limb, we sometime grab a large limb/project, finding the center point to become balanced. Our joy in the realization is visible. No bones about it, when we are animated in our activities, we draw in others—our animation is contagious—and united we accomplish so much more.

We do not have regular club meetings in July or August. Although this may seem like suspended animation, there are lots of activities going on during the hiatus. The Medical Loan Closet Team continues to support the community throughout the Dog Days. The Gala Garden Show Core Committee has been meeting and planning the 2024 show. Other committees are getting together to brainstorm and plan the year ahead. There is no babbling here; we understand the same language.

Just as Sirius, the Dog Star, is rising, our members are serious and rising to meet the new Soroptimist year. Together we are the brightest star Lighting the Path Forward.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



**“A sense of humor... is needed armor. Joy in one's heart and some laughter on one's lips is a sign that the person down deep has a pretty good grasp of life.” ~Hugh Sidey**

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST

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

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 GGS Core Meeting  
8 am KSQM
- 8 Board Meeting
- 12 Business Meeting
- 26 Program Meeting

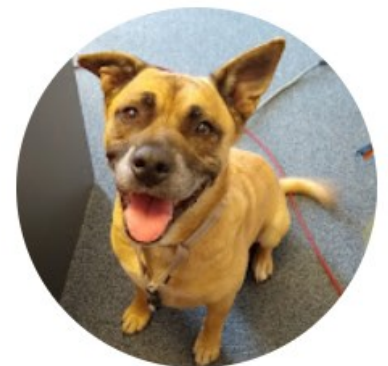
## Lighting



the Path Forward

**\*Evening Meeting**

**“Dogs laugh, but they laugh with their tails.” ~Max Eastman**



**“No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as much as the dog does.”  
~Christopher Morley**

# Celebrate Life!

## AUGUST

Amanda Beitzel  
Colleen Blazier  
Sara Ellen Peterson  
Janet Real  
Cat Xander

## SEPTEMBER

Cheryl Easterling  
Pat Willis



~continued from front page

So, what I say to those members who have the time but may be hesitant to sign up for duty is “please reconsider.” I invite you to “shadow” me for a day and witness the good that we do. Even if you may not want to be a part of this “distinguished” group, I still invite you to come stand beside me and witness the impact of this service. I can guarantee that you will leave feeling that impact on your heart and mind, and perhaps that will give you a new perspective.

And I can’t end without showering Becky Archer and Chris Snow with well-deserved praise. These ladies have kept the doors of the Closet open for many years, providing more time than can be counted. They held it all together even during the Covid-era, and have donated massive amounts of sweat, blood, skinned knuckles, bruises from head-to-toe—and I’m sure there have probably been some tears shed as well. They are an inspiration to us all—a solid and stellar example of what it means to be a Soroptimist.



~President Shirley



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“It’s always inspiring to me to meet people who feel that they can make a difference in the world. That’s their motive, that’s their passion... I think that’s what makes your life meaningful, that’s what fills your own heart and that’s what gives you purpose.” ~*Maria Shriver*

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Note the phone number for our  
MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET  
**360-504-0231**



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“Sometimes the heart sees what is invisible to the eye.”  
~*H. Jackson Brown, Jr.*

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## SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

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### D1

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

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**Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting**  
TBD  
TBD

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

## SCHOLARSHIPS—A COMMUNITY AFFAIR

Last year we received \$17,000 in donations to help us create an amazing scholarship impact of \$28,000! Those donations came in a variety of ways.

At least \$4,000 was a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD). The person was able to pass a portion of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRA directly to us. Besides being a great charitable donation, it meant they didn't have to pay taxes on that portion of the withdrawal.

Then there is the possibility of money from an employer. Last year one of our donors gave us \$5000 of her money and the company matched it—\$10,000 worth of scholarships! Some companies don't even require a match but will make a donation to the charity of an employee's choice. If you are working, or have a child or grandchild who is, encourage them to check whether their company has a program like this and remind them that Soroptimist is a wonderful 501(c)(3) charity.

Donations over \$2000 can be designated for a particular scholarship. Of course, donations don't have to be allocated to scholarships—they can go into the SIS general fund for other needs.



~Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarships Chair



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*“All scholarship, like all science, is an ongoing, open-ended discussion in which all conclusions are tentative forever, the principal value and charm of the game being the discovery of the totally unexpected.” ~Hugh Nibley*

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## MEMBERSHIP—FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Wowzah!! I can't believe that it is already August! Where has the time gone? Jane and I have met and are ready for the new club year. The Membership Committee will be meeting shortly to plan out the year. Becky Archer will be remaining as our Sunshine lady! She is the one who sends you the wonderful birthday cards.

One new thing that will be implemented this club year is to “host” a meeting. For the first club meeting in September, Jane and I will be providing a special breakfast-type treat for those attending in person, although members will need to bring their own drink. We encourage other members to host meetings as well. It'll be fun!! Also, please invite potential members to a meeting and provide us with contact information for follow-up. We are looking forward as we navigate the path to build a strong club to serve our community!



~Shawn Dredla & Jane Manzer, Membership Co-Chairs

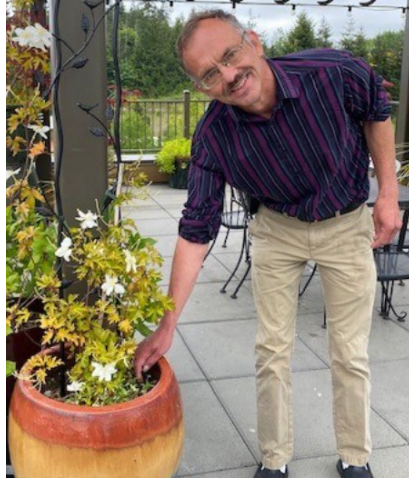
*“Sharing food with another human being is an intimate act that should not be indulged in lightly.” ~M. F. K. Fisher*



## MEMBER COOL STUFF

### THE UNSUNG HERO

As the writer, I am a little prejudiced about this unsung hero and his efforts to ensure we have a meeting room. Jess McNeil, who at a minimum of twice a week after his work schedule, checks on the Rooftop Garden. He waters, weeds, and assists in fertilizing and planting; he helps me move containers, carries supplies, and assists when I am purchasing replacement plants. Yes, he is a member and that is what members do...they volunteer. His efforts go above and beyond when it comes to the Rooftop Garden. He recently told me he checks all the containers because guests have the bad habit of putting their cigarettes out in the containers. He takes such pride in the garden and as such, I think what he does should be shared.



~Linda Klinefelter



### John & Amanda Beitzel Award Presented

On April 15th the DVHWC Board of Directors and staff celebrated National Volunteer Week by honoring its many volunteers and generous donors at the annual reception held in the beautiful Gathering Hall of Olympic Theatre Arts. It was a wonderful event with great friends, food, drink, and desserts.



One of the highlights of the event was the presentation of the John and Amanda Beitzel Award. This award was created to recognize those who display leadership, innovation, and who have made a significant impact on the clinic achieving its mission. This year the award was

presented to Patricia Lebowitz (pictured above). Patty and her husband, John, played a vital role in the establishment of the clinic as founding donors. She served on the Board of Directors from 2012 to 2021, contributing significantly to the clinic's growth and development. As the Development Director, Patty played a pivotal role in securing sponsorships for the Annual Fun Walk and Health Fair. Her unwavering commitment to the clinic and its mission is evident in the way she promotes it to everyone she meets.

### NEW MEANING TO THE THREE Rs

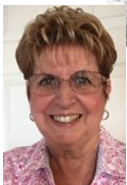
Welcome to the **3 R's**! This is a new program developed by the Public Awareness Committee (PAC) for the 2023-24 club year.

We are inviting members to **RECRUIT** a potential new member.

Once you identify that member, work on **RETAINING** them. Share the merits of our organization! Give the three-minute elevator talk; service to community, empowering women and girls, supporting programs that they may already support—and never forget to share the power of friendship. Once the new member is inducted,

the PAC will provide you and the new member with a gift card for coffee/tea **REFRESHMENTS**—hence the 3R's. Please join us this year, in our 3 R's program and make bringing in a new member/s a fun project!

**3 Rs** Recruit  
Retain  
Refreshment



~Linda Klinefelter & Kathy Purcell, Public Awareness Committee (PAC) Co-chairs

## MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET UPDATE

Becky and Chris would like to thank **Fred Manzer** for the heroic job he did repairing broken and tired MLC equipment. There were so many items that needed repair, a large trailer was needed to transport everything from the Closet to his repair shop. Thank you, Fred, for your service to the Sequim community through the repair of MLC equipment!

Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County (VHOCC) has been referring Port Angeles residents to us when they can't meet their equipment needs. We have ample inventory to help those that VHOCC can't. We also provided a few wheelchair footrests, that were in excess of our needs, to VHOCC to help them put more of their wheelchairs into service. We are fortunate to have such a good relationship with VHOCC!

Our call volume remains high. We received **187** calls during the month of July. We lent **74** items and had **114** items returned. Our generous community donated **\$477** in July.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow,  
MLC Co-chairs



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*“You will hardly find wrong people at right places. Choose to be at the right places and you will find the right people who will inspire you to make it happen!” ~Israelmore Ayivor*

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## CHIAPAS UPDATE

And the beat goes on! I was delighted to spend time in Chiapas in December 2022. Our coordinator, Carmen, and I had a number of opportunities to assess our programs and even though we are in the wind-down phase, everything continues the same. I can see that we will be continuing our efforts in Chiapas well after our 5-year estimate. The best part of the trip was when I attended a day of workshops for all 14 scholarship recipients, and I had the chance to talk with each one individually. The recurring theme that came up was their gratitude for the chance to pursue their academic goals.

We greatly appreciate all of you who have supported our work over the years. Eighteen years ago, we could never have anticipated the direction this organization would take, the progress that we continue to see, and the inestimable value of educating women and girls.

On behalf of the Mujeres' board as well as the inspiring women and girls in Chiapas,

Judith Pasco, Board Chair, Mujeres deMaiz Opportunity Foundation  
[www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org](http://www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org)  
[mujeres@olypen.com](mailto:mujeres@olypen.com)

### 2022-2023

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 14 girls and women are currently on scholarship, and we've added one new scholarship recipient
- 6 communities have weekly children's programs
- 1 community has a weekly program for adult women
- We funded 2 laptops
- 9 girls had eye exams and 3 received glasses
- We doubled the number of books added to the libraries for the children's program
- Workshops were funded for both the cooperative members and for the girls who are receiving scholarships
- The process to renovate the women's center in San Cristobal has started

## SOME UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR 2023-24

As a newly installed board member, I jumped at the chance to take on the new duties of developing programs for the months of October and January. Historically for me, I have inherent reasons for taking on October and January which promotes awareness and education for Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking respectively. I am asking all our members well in advance to mark your calendars for October 24, 2023, and January 23, 2024.

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Leslie Bond, the new Executive Director for Healthy Families, will be our speaker and will share what is new with the agency. In January, Mark Nichols, Clallam County Prosecutor will be addressing Human Trafficking. At this presentation, we will be extending invitations to Sequim Lions and both Rotary clubs, as well as invitations to the Sequim Chamber of Commerce.

In the meantime, I invite members to go to <https://polarisproject.org/> click on **Human Trafficking** and then click on **Understanding Human Trafficking**. Scroll to the bottom of the page and take the training course. It takes about 15-20 minutes but gives you a wealth of information.



~ Linda Klinefelter, Board Member



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**“Human trafficking robs victims of their basic human rights, and it occurs right under our noses. Many efforts have been focused in other regions of the world, but this is a major problem here at home.” ~Blake Farenthold**

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## NORTHWESTERN REGION UPDATE

**District 1** is hitting the road and heading to Suquamish, WA. Join us on October 20-23, 2023, at the Clearwater Casino and Resort.



Our explorations begin Friday evening with dinner and amazing activities. Saturday morning, we will have a “grab and go breakfast” that can be taken into our meeting room! And we are off and exploring! You won't want to miss anything for the whole weekend!!

Here are the online booking instructions to share with the District 1 members—  
Guests can start making reservations at any time:

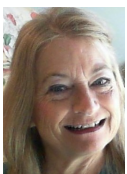
Go to Clearwater Web Site: [www.clearwatercasino.com](http://www.clearwatercasino.com). Click on **Stay & Play**

Select “**GROUP** Code” tab

Type in Group Code: **18952** That takes you to the Group’s Page

Follow prompts to complete booking

Guests may also call in toll free: **866.609.8700** and refer to the Group Code or to Soroptimist District 1 Meeting



~Sandy Lawrence, D1 Site Coordinator





## SEEING GREEN AT THE LAVENDER FESTIVAL

For the fourth year, the Sequim Soroptimists had a booth at Fleurish Lavender of Lost Mountain during the Lavender Festival. We sold baked goods made by our members, red and white wine from Olympic Cellars, lavender sangria (our own concoction from prior years), and water.

Based on our prior experiences, we streamlined the operation this year by largely constraining the baked goods to products that had sold well in prior years and having members bake the proven recipes. This reduced the number of selections, which simplified the operation without impacting sales, and it also made it simpler for customers to decide what they wanted. We still had a more than adequate selection of lavender, non-lavender, and gluten-free baked goods.

We had gross sales of \$4,225 and a net income of **\$3,188**; this was a **41%** increase in sales and a **74%** increase in net compared to last year. The significant difference is likely due to at least somewhat higher traffic at the farm, an increase in the price of our baked goods from \$2 to \$3, and a streamlined operation with slightly lower overall expenses, even with higher sales. We were also able to operate the booth with fewer members, with no more than five working at a time to handle both the baked goods and alcohol sales.

The Lavender Festival fundraiser is somewhat unique in that we encounter many local, state, national, and even international people who don't know who Soroptimists are or that they may have a local club near them—so it is a good opportunity to spread the word about who we are and what we do.

Thanks to all the members who provided baked goods and/or volunteered to work at the booth during the festival for making it a success.



~Dave Fickes,  
Lavender Festival Team  
Member





## GALA GARDEN SHOW IS GROWING

Many areas of the 2024 Gala Garden Show are growing! We've received additional entries to the Artwork Contest. It's not too late to participate. Artists can email a high-resolution photo of the artwork along with the required paperwork. Info can be found at [www.sequimgardenshow.com](http://www.sequimgardenshow.com). Look for **FEATURED ARTWORK**. The deadline is **August 19**. The Core Gala Garden Show Committee will review the artwork entries and the number one choice is scheduled to be announced by the end of the month.

Sponsorships are growing! Due to the efforts of Linda Klinefelter, Cascade Bark agreed to be a Platinum Sponsor, choosing to sponsor the Featured Speaker. Linda is working with some other businesses where she personally knows the owners. This is a good example for all of us. When we reach out to businesses where they know us, there is a personal connection, and those businesses are more likely to say yes to our invitation for them to be a sponsor. We will be sending out a mass mailing to local businesses in the next week or two.

The Vendor Recruitment Committee has grown! New member Debbie Cottrell has joined Shawn Dredla, Jan Hartig and Chris Snow.

The Core Committee members' interest is growing with each meeting, as more information is shared and discussed. We've put together a list of job descriptions so members can see what the various jobs entailed in the past. Some of the information is going to be outdated. Our goal is to update the job descriptions by the end of the 2024 show. If you are a Co-chair of a GGS Sub-committee, please keep notes about your area as we move forward so the job duties can be updated.

The GGS Core Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month. Even if you aren't on the Core Committee, you are welcome to join us and get a feel for what we're doing. You might find your interests in the Gala Garden Show growing.

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



*"It's only after you've stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform." ~Roy T. Bennett*

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**The next GGS Core Committee Meeting is September 5 at 8 a.m. at the KSQM Meeting Room!**

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### **SEEDS AND GARDENS**

by R.H. Swaney



If words are seeds,  
let flowers grow  
from your mouth,  
not weeds.  
If hearts are gardens,  
plant those flowers  
in the chest of the ones  
who exist around you.



# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH</b> Amanda Beitzel Colleen Blazier Sara Ellen Peterson Janet Real Cat Xander		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Deadline for entries for the GGS Artwork Contest
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Cheryl Easterling Pat Willis					8 BOARD MEETING	9
3	4 	5 GG5 Core Cmt Meeting 8 a.m. KSQM	6	7		
10	11	12 Business Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Program Meeting	27	28	29	30



**AUGUST** by Emile Pinet

**A**ugust feels much like a hot, humid sauna,  
**U**shering in the dog days of Summer's end.  
**G**ladiolus, little swords, sway in the breeze,  
**U**nder the mid-day heat of a blazing sun.  
**S**ummer's leaves will soon start to flaunt Fall colors,  
**T**ransforming green into scarlet and orange.



Soroptimist International of Sequim  
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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