



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 7

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

January 2024

Officers 2023— 2024

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Open

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(one year remaining)

Natasha Merkuloff Nichols

Director: 2 year

Patty Lebowitz

Director: 1 year

Kathy Cunha

Director: 1 year

Linda Klinefelter

Newsletter Staff:

Kathy Purcell

Susan Coffee

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

**“From small beginnings
come great things.”**

~Proverb

New Beginnings

by Gertrude B. McClain

It's only the beginning now
...a pathway yet unknown,
At times the sound of other steps
...sometimes we walk alone.

The best beginnings of our lives
May sometimes end in sorrow,
But even on our darkest days
...the sun will shine tomorrow.

So we must do our very best
Whatever life may bring,
And look beyond the winter chill
...to smell the breath of spring.

Into each life will always come
A time to start anew,
A new beginning for each heart
...As fresh as morning dew.

Although the cares of life are great
And heads are bowed so low,
The storms of life will leave behind
...the wonder of a rainbow.

The years will never take away
Our chance to start anew,
It's only the beginning now
So dreams can still come true.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's January 2024! It is a time to reflect, review, renew, refocus. We've turned the page on 2023. Or have we? Is 2023 really just history? Are you puzzled by my questions? Let me expound on this.

Becky Archer stopped by my office to pick up a Secret Pal gift this week. Her daughter and granddaughter had been visiting over the holiday and had just left. We chatted about how it is nice when family comes to visit, but it is also nice when they leave. I commented that it often seems we enjoy their visit more after they have gone. This is mainly because so much is going on while they are with us, we get lost in the activities. Once they leave, we have time to reflect and revisit things—and we often find more meaning than we thought.

She mentioned that they had done a lot during the holiday visit. I commented that she probably has a lot of photos. (You know me and photos—there's always Kodak moments, even if it is with a Canon camera, or a cell phone.) Becky said yes, taking out her cell phone and looking for some photos of her granddaughter; the photos seemed to be playing hide-and-seek. She finally found a great one of the two generations of girls. Such a precious photo!

Becky said they went ice skating—quickly adding that she didn't skate—they did. She was smiling from the inside out. I was so happy to see that. I put my arms around her, and we shared a hug, exchanging a bit of additional energy and caring.

This incident happened in 2024—but it was about the 2023 holiday; it doesn't seem like 2023 is in the past. There was reflection and review, a renewal of memories. If you are still puzzled, here is another memory from 2023.

Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols opened her home to the club for our Holiday Party last month. (Thank you, Natasha!) She presented a baked potato bar; she provided the baked potatoes and rest of us brought garnishes for them, salads, bread, cookies, etc. There was something for every palate. I had dusted off my camera and brought it along. Jane Manzer borrowed it for a bit and even got a few pics of the photographer. A compilation of the photos was made into a video and sent out to the members on Christmas. In case you missed it, here is a link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78KkJxYUckk>

We had a gift exchange and the thing that struck me was most members got something they needed/wanted/could use. Jan Hartig got an Elegant Gourmet book; she said she was going to buy one, but now she has one! Roxan got oven mitts; she said she actually could use them. Amanda got a tabletop bowling game; she said her granddaughter would enjoy playing that when she came to visit. Linda Klinefelter's gift was some chocolate—a kind very similar to what her mom used to buy during the holidays and dole out to her and her siblings.

One of the items that probably wasn't on her list for Santa was a puzzle that Janet Wicker got. Even that was fitting because Janet was puzzled when we had her stand up and Jane Manzer gave her a gift from the club in gratitude for her 40+ years as a Soroptimist.

All of this occurred in 2023. Is it really only history just because the calendar has changed? Are you still puzzled? Taking it a step further I take the word puzzle and find meaning in it.

Our club is like a puzzle; each of us is part of the picture. Each of us has a place. Each of us has something to offer. Each of us is necessary! Some of us are idea people—bringing up new possibilities. Some of us are planners. Some of us are doers—bringing the ideas/plans into fruition. Some of us are all of these. When we recognize our part and accept our importance to the whole, the picture of our club is complete.

As we begin the new year let us reflect, review, renew and refocus on our mission and our Unity. Joining together we are strengthened as we continue Lighting the Path Forward.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



**"The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away." ~Pablo Picasso**

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 2 GGS Core Meeting
9 am 1st Security Bank
- 5 Board Meeting
- 9 Business Meeting
- 23 Program Meeting
Human Trafficking
Awareness
- 30 5th Tuesday

FEBRUARY

- 6 GGS Core Meeting
9 am 1st Security Bank
- 9 Board Meeting
- 13 Business Meeting
- 27 Program Meeting

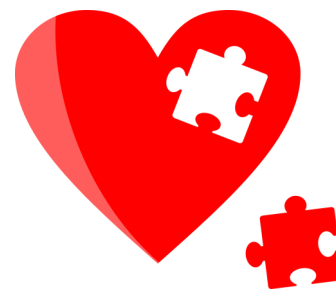
*Evening Meeting

Lighting



the Path Forward

**"Love is our true destiny. We do not
find the meaning of life by ourselves
alone—we find it with another."
~Thomas Merton**



**"There is only one meaning of life:
the act of living itself."
~Erich Fromm**

Celebrate Life!

JANUARY

Susan Coffee
Kathy Cunha

FEBRUARY

Becky Archer
Sherry Lacey
Patty Lebowitz



IT'S A BIG DEAL

You know when someone wants to emphasize a project, a sale, or a major endeavor they often use the line “It’s a Big Deal.” Well, this month we have a Big Deal, and it is our program for **January 23, 2024**.

Our club has invited Mark Nichols, Clallam County Prosecutor, to come and educate us about human trafficking in Clallam County and throughout the State of Washington. He will not only be talking to the members of our club. We have sent out invitations to the Lions Club, Rotary Clubs, members of the Sequim Chamber of Commerce and our two sister clubs in Port Angeles to hear him speak.

The polarisproject.org identifies the fact that human trafficking can happen to anyone, but some people are more vulnerable than others. Significant risk factors include recent migration or relocation, substance use, mental health concerns, involvement with the child welfare system and being a runaway or homeless youth. Often, traffickers identify and leverage their victims’ vulnerabilities in order to create dependency. I encourage all our members to come and attend our January 23rd program meeting at 8 a.m. Bring a neighbor or friend and learn what you can do to prevent human trafficking.



~Linda Klinefelter



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



“Men more frequently require to be reminded than informed.”
~*Samuel Johnson*

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting
Hosted by: Greater North Kitsap
TBD
February 24, 2024



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

MEET THE DECEMBER GIRL OF THE MONTH

KEIRA MOREY



Keira Morey is a junior at Sequim High School. Her exciting goal is to become an imagineer for Disney, designing rides and future parks. Keira is planning to reach this goal by gaining a degree in architecture.

At Sequim High, she is very active in sports and won the Most Inspirational Girls Swim award for 2023. On the varsity tennis team, she describes the feeling of the power of the racket as being like wielding a sword.

A major volunteer activity is working as a soccer referee for the Sequim Junior Soccer and Storm King in the spring and fall. Keira is in the leadership class and a member of the Interact Club, participating in their school and community volunteer activities.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT UPDATES



I sent an end of quarter/semester email to all the scholarship recipients for the last couple of years. I invited them to share how things are going for them. Below are replies I received.

~Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarship Co-chair



Ava Bower Sequim High School 2023

Good morning, and happy holidays to you all! I greatly appreciate your check in, and I'm glad to tell you all that I have found my place at Western Washington U and I'm honored to credit a large part of that to you! I have just finished my first term which went smoothly but certainly did not bore me. Joining the graphic design club has expanded my abilities past what I thought was possible and is setting me up for a successful personal portfolio. If spending so little time here has brought me this level of excitement currently and for the future, I cannot wait to update you all about the events to come! Again, I am forever appreciative of your support and I wish you all a great New Year!

Alexandra Salas Sequim HS 2023

Happy holidays Soroptimists!!! Thank you so much for keeping in touch with me! I am doing well! Last week was finals for me, and I passed all of them! I am very proud of myself for accomplishing this first quarter successfully! I am currently back home in Sequim spending quality time with my family! I am loving Western, it really is the right place for me:) I just wanted to give thanks again because I will always be grateful for your kindness, generosity, and support to make my dreams come true! You have really impacted my life in such a positive way, achieving this goal of mine is my way of expressing my thankfulness! I plan to head back to Western January 9th, it's nice to be back in Sequim! I hope you all are doing well and have a wonderful Christmas! Please keep in touch:)

Christina Caples Sequim High School 2023

Hi! Thank you so much for reaching out to check in. School and such went really well this last quarter and I am hoping that this next quarter will go just as well! Your support has really helped this year and I could not be more grateful. Thank you and happy holidays!

Karlie Viada Continuing Education 2023

Happy holidays. It's such an honor to be a part of the Soroptimist's Vision. I am home for Christmas break and diving head first into work and also working on the first draft of a book! It's always been my dream of becoming an author and I'm finally going for it.

School is going so well! Finals were difficult but showed me that my work this semester paid off, it was an opportunity to see just how much I've learned. My favorite class was called Search for Justice, a history course where we read literature written during the time periods we were discussing and applied it to historical contexts.

I presented a power point on leadership that I created with a randomly assigned team in my nursing class. It was a great opportunity to build community and practice public speaking skills. I could see a role model for who I'd like to be in the future in each and every one of my professors. It was truly a great semester.

Petra Bernsten
Continuing Education 2023

I have just finished my 3rd semester of my degree, and am loving it! I started my first internship this semester [in male fertility], and am continuing with it next semester. Next semester, I am taking some pretty tough classes. I am taking Organic Chemistry & Problem Solving 2, Microbiology, Molecular Biology lab, Introductory Biochemistry, and my internship. I may be receiving an internship to work in Seattle this summer, but I cannot apply till February, so wish me luck! And of course, I am still wrestling and Nationals is coming up soon in March! Super excited to wrestle in Louisiana! Thanks for checking in.

Samantha Salazar
Continuing Education 2023

I just finished up my first semester of graduate school with a 4.0! I start the next semester in January. I'm learning a lot and meeting my goals. Thanks so much for checking in.

I want to express how critical the scholarship has been for me. I had financial aid planned for this coming semester that ultimately fell through. Without your scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to make next semester work for me. I'm so grateful for everything you all have done for me.

Elizabeth Sweet
Continuing Education 2020 & 2021

Thank you for checking in! After I graduated this spring from UW with degrees in neuroscience and political science, I interned over the summer in Congress in Washington, D.C.! I returned to WA and have been working for a mental health nonprofit! And in the new year I'll start a data equity and research fellowship! Hope you and your fellow Soroptimists are also doing well!

Megan Bland
Continuing Education 2022 & 2023

I am doing well. I won't lie this semester was brutal. However, I did it, and still maintained my 4.0 GPA. I am now on break and am going to enjoy the holidays with family. I will also be working at Jamestown Family Health Clinic during break as well. Thanks again, for supporting me. I really appreciate it.

Yang Zhang
Continuing Education 2022 & 2023

The fall quarter was flying, and I couldn't believe I had already gone through it. As always, I look forward to sharing with you what I have been learning and my academic performance by the end of the quarter.

We had three classes, and I reached my quarter goal. NURS 211- Lab (Pass), NURS 201-IV theory (4.0), and PSYC 242 (4.0). There are two imperative reasons that I got improvement in my school performance. First, my English has been significantly improved over the past one year. Since the in-person class began, it offered me more opportunities to practice my English in all aspects, such as speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Second, the mind-set change in academics reduces my fear and pressure on exams. I was too focused on the scores; as a result, the nervousness and fear had overridden me, and I ended up with a poor outcome. I had inner dialogue and deep reflection during the summer holiday and realized that I must manage my mind and all I can do is do my best; there is no regret and shame even though the results are not what I expected after all the hard work. Surprisingly, I am doing better and better at each exam since the focus shifted from the score to my effort. Additionally, I became more and more confident in clinical practice as our lab skills increased, such as hanging up IV piggy bags, inserting Foley catheters, and assessing the patients.

I plan to have a relaxing break, spend more time with my children and my husband, eat healthier, exercise regularly, do some sewing sometimes, and study medication for a couple of hours daily.

Kaelyn Davila
Continuing Education 2022

I decided to postpone further degrees for now. I just want to focus on adjusting as a new nurse and being in the ICU. Things have been going great and I feel really lucky to have such a supportive work environment there. I will always appreciate your assistance in my nursing education and speak highly of you to others!

I'm excited to pursue opportunities in my unit and see what ultimately lights my fire as a nurse. The last 5 months have been a roller coaster of learning and I plan on using work experience to guide me to a specialized degree down the line. Maybe I'll even become a Nurse Practitioner!

“It's not enough to be up to date, you have to be up to tomorrow.” ~David Ben-Gurion

MEET THE DECEMBER GIRL OF THE MONTH

Jessica Furnish-Coda Continuing Education 2022

My family and I are doing great! I graduated at Western Washington University last year with my BA in Human Services. This year I continue to work on taking addiction studies courses at Peninsula College. I have been working at Jamestown Healing Clinic for almost 2 years now as a substance use disorder professional trainee.

Rachel Blume Professional/Technical 2021 & 2022, Continuing Education 2021, Runner up Live Your Dream 2022

Thank you for checking in on us! I decided to allow my daughter who had turned 17 to finish up her high-school and Running Start here in Sequim so we've postponed the move [to Bremerton] for two years. It gave me a chance to continue my education and more. I'm doing an undergraduate degree in Biology! I'm really enjoying going to school. Since my security clearance is still pending for my job with PSNS it made it easy to make the decision.

I appreciate your continued support.

*“People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child—our own two eyes. All is a miracle.”
~Thich Nhat Hanh*

MEMBERS, PLEASE ENGAGE!!

Do you know that one of the CORE VALUES of Soroptimist is FELLOWSHIP? Do you know there are only TEN (10) meetings left this club year? (The two Port Angeles clubs meet weekly, so they have many more meetings than we do before the end of June). Since the hybrid option is available to all, we urge every member to make an earnest effort to attend each—either in person or online. This is where fellowship happens and is cultivated, thereby building on the Soroptimist pledge of SINCERITY OF FRIENDSHIP. If there's something those of us on the membership committee (see your roster) can do to help you to engage and attend meetings, please reach out to one of us!!!!

Thanks to our meeting hosts, the directors on the program committee, and some heads of fundraisers, we've had some good times building friendships and enjoying one another's company thus far this year—beginning with the Lavender Festival in July and most recently the Holiday Party in December. Now we've got a couple of important things coming up where we can interact with and educate each other and the community. One is the Human Trafficking Awareness event on January 23rd and the other, of course, is the return of our Gala Garden Show, March 15-17. Our club no longer has attendance requirements, and we don't have strict service requirements (as other service organizations do). However, we do have expectations that members make a concerted effort to engage as often as possible and certainly take part in the Garden Show. It's to the enrichment of the Soroptimist experience for all of us. And you are an important part of that experience.



~Shawn Dredla & Jane Manzer, Membership Co-chairs

“Believe that you are here for the right reasons and that your participation in life is valuable to those around, you will become better in every phase of life.” ~Senora Roy

TWO WEEKS AFTER CHRISTMAS

It was two weeks after Christmas, and the Soroptimist sisters were out.
Not a gift was present, and no lights were hung about.
One sister sighed and said to the other, "Halloween is done and thanksgiving too,
even Christmas has gone... Boo hoo!

The other sister frowned and thought for a moment.
"That is true," she exclaimed, "but we have something much more potent."

"It is, after all, a brand new year!"
The other gave a slight nod, her eyes sparkling wide. I suppose we should cheer;
We have many reasons....
Why, I almost forgot, it's always giving season."

We have guest speakers and events, many coming soon.
We have scholarship winners. We have meetings on Zoom.
Opportunities abound, and sisters a plenty....
Oh, let's stop for a moment. There is coffee; I need a venti!

Now I heard things happen fast; I can feel the countdown.
As the Garden Gala approaches in our giving little town,
Everybody helps, but lets not forget
We get practice with our diaper stickering event!

January 26th, from 9 to 1
You bring helping hands, and we will bring the fun.
Snacks to be provided by a volunteer few.
If it isn't enough to finish, then we will do a week two.
February 2nd time's the same as the last,
only if needed, but always a blast.

Feel free to ask questions and reach out anytime.
To your Pathway sisters, who may still have Christmas on the mind.
Watch your emails, open them quick.
We will soon be sending our sign up schtick.



-Brandi Larson, Pathways Committee



MEMBERSHIP—COOL STUFF

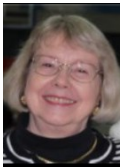
SWEET MEMORIES

For the Holidays (and to help with our See's Candy sales) I purchased 20 small boxes of See's to give to the Field Arts & Events Hall staff that I work with most days. As you're likely aware, the small boxes are not wrapped but they are decorated with various holiday scenes and the word "See's" is on the end of the box.



As I gave them to each employee, they expressed happiness and joy, usually saying "I love See's" or words to that effect. Then they would say "My Grandmother used to give See's to me." or "My Mother loved See's" and then they would share their sweet memories. For me it was really nice to hear the staff's happiness in receiving a small box that recalled these happy stories from their earlier life.

My mother, when she received a box of See's, would put it in the freezer. Each morning she would take one piece out to enjoy sometime later in the day when she was ready for a treat. She had great discipline (more than I do!) in sticking to that one piece per day rule. A box of See's gave her enjoyment for a long time.



~Jeanne Martin



"Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end." ~Author Unknown

SOROPTI-MISTER BEING MISSED

Many of you heard or read that Dave Salmon passed away this past October. Dave was the husband of Ann Salmon, one of our club's previous Life members. Dave was a staunch supporter of our club, participating in many of our activities. He was deeply involved with the Sequim Free Clinic, which you can read about in their fall newsletter here: <https://www.sequimfreeclinic.org/post/please-enjoy-our-2023-fall-newsletter> [excerpt from that newsletter below]. Dave was a community-minded person as well as a Soropti-Dude; though he is missed, his spirit remains with us. Thank you, Dave! ~kp

In Loving Memory of Dave Salmon

It is with heavy hearts that we pay tribute to a remarkable individual who played an invaluable role in our organization. Dave Salmon, a dedicated board member from 2012 to 2021, was not just a colleague and a friend but a shining example of selflessness and commitment.

Continued on next page



MEMBERSHIP—A NEW YEAR—TWO NEW COLUMNS

HAPPY DOLLARS

We are adding a new column to the Soropti-Scoop called **Happy Dollars**.

The backstory: At the end of our club meetings members are asked if they have something they are happy about and if they would like to share with a Happy Dollar donation. Not all members are able to attend all meetings, which means they miss out on hearing the happy things. It was suggested that the information be included in the newsletter, so all members get a chance to experience the shared joy. This also allows us to learn more about our members, strengthening our club overall.

Patty Lebowitz: happy dollars for 34-year anniversary December 9 and guest Tracy Sheldon

Jane Manzer: happy dollars for amazing group of members new and old.

Virginia Kostanich: happy dollars for having a week with family in Oregon.

Kris Osborn: happy dollars for being in Washington wishes it was warmer.

Jean Martin: happy dollars for Holiday Joy.

Shawn Dredla: happy dollars for everyone being together and all the enthusiasm.

Amanda Beitzel: happy dollars for 47-year anniversary December 10.

Janet Real: happy dollars for new great-grandson.

“The most important thing in communication is hearing what isn’t said.” ~Peter Drucker

FRIEND CONNECTIONS

A suggestion was made to add a new column to the newsletter that would have info from former members—kind of like Happy Dollars, but in written form. Although they are no longer official members of Soroptimist, they are still a part of the Soroptimist Family. Friendships that grew while they were members didn’t disappear when changes in their life called for more of their attention. The new column is titled **Friend Connections**.

An email was sent out inviting former members to share what’s happening/happened in their life. It said they can write about something great that’s happened or something not-so great that’s happened. For the great things we celebrate with them; for the not-so great things we encourage and support them. Staying connected is important. It keeps us healthy. Below are a few replies I received. ~kp

What a nice idea!
~Jennifer Weir

What a super, super idea. Thanks for all you do, Kathy!!! I’ll try to think of something interesting enough to write about.

~Jeani Penn

Hi Kathy,
I would love to contribute! Company now, please remind me after Christmas!
I hope all is well with you!

~Deb Carlson

Kathy, thanks for keeping me on the Soropti-Scoop list. I enjoy reading the issues and keeping informed about SIS. As you may have heard I will continue to be an annual donor and to participate in the Holiday Joy program with Cat, Janet R, and Janet W. as long as they want me to.

I admire what SIS is doing for our community and abroad and will continue to support your effort financially. But my time is limited, volunteering for three other organizations and traveling rather extensively. In fact, I will be away most of the first half of 2024.

Happy New Year to you.

~Rosie Tomlin

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET UPDATE

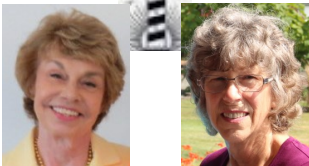
December was a very good month for both the Medical Loan Closet and the Sequim community. Kudos to Chris Snow who orchestrated a request for a \$2,500 grant from the Sequim Dungeness Hospital Guild and to Jane Manzer who initiated the proposal for a grant. If we receive a grant from the Guild, we plan to purchase up to 12 wheelchairs of various sizes to replace wheelchairs that are well past their service life. The wheelchairs that we “retire” will be given to the Sequim CERT organization for use by their search and rescue teams to transport injured people to medical support. A win-win for everyone.



The Closet will start the new year with clean and well-organized storage facilities. In mid-December, Frank Finney, from VHOCC, picked up excess equipment from the Closet to be shipped overseas via the Gateway Medical Alliance organization.

Becky and Chris will attend the Pathways meeting in January to inform new members about the Closet and let them know how they may be involved.

We continued to have a very busy month. We received **136** calls during the month of December. We lent **76** items and had **68** items returned. We received **\$505** in donations from our generous community.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs

“All our relationships are person-to-person. They involve people seeing, hearing, touching, and speaking to each other; they involve sharing goods; and they involve moral values like generosity and compassion. ~*Brendan Myers*”



The VHOCC van loaded with excess MLC equipment for shipment overseas.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR REGION

Have you visited the Northwestern Region members only website lately? It has changed and is very easy to navigate. When you log in as a member, you are able to access all of these resources. Our Region Leadership makes it very easy to “learn the ropes” and obtain valuable information.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ✓ NWR 2023-2024 ANNUAL DUES FORM | ✓ 2024-2026 NWR NOMINATION FORM |
| ✓ 2023 DISTRICT MEETING INFO | ✓ 2023 LYDA REGION INFO |
| ✓ 2024 NWR CONFERENCE | ✓ CLUB TREASURER INFORMATION |
| ✓ SIA DECLARATION FORM | ✓ SIA 2023-2024 FORM 5008 |
| ✓ CLUB LEADERSHIP PAGE | ✓ WA NONPROFIT CORPORATION ACT AT A GLANCE |
| ✓ NWR CLUB LEADERSHIP GUIDE 2022-2024 | ✓ DONATION FORM NWR LYDA AWARDS |
| ✓ LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY | ✓ AREA MEETING HANDBOOK |
| ✓ SOROPTIMIST NWR BYLAWS | ✓ LEADERSHIP TIMELINE 2023-2024 |
| ✓ 2024 NWR Conference Info | ✓ CLUB OFFICER SUCCESSION PLANNING TRANSITION CHECKLIST |
| ✓ SIA RESOURCES | ✓ WOMAN NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE |
| ✓ NWR YOUTUBE CHANNEL | |

The next meeting is our Area Meeting. Our area runs from Gig Harbor to the Olympic Rain Forest (Forks). This year, the area host is SI of Greater North Kitsap. The meeting is February 24, 2024. More information will be coming from our host this month. It isn't a business meeting, but an opportunity to meet and have round table discussions amongst our area clubs.

In spring, our Northwestern Region holds its annual conference. This year is an election year. Our club delegates will get to choose our next District Director, District Secretary, Region Secretary, Region Treasurer and future Governor. Stay tuned for “the call” to conference. {Like, come all ye}

**STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH SOROPTIMIST
NORTHWESTERN REGION BY VISITING THE NWR
FACEBOOK PAGE**



~Sandy Lawrence



SEES-ING THE MOMENTS

So Soroptimists, we earned over **\$1600** from our See's Candy Sales this year, thanks mainly to Sandy Lawrence. Sandy was indefatigable in finding holiday bazaars and craft fairs at which to see our wares. And at each bazaar and craft fair, you members stepped up to help Sandy “woman” the booth to ensure we had enough folks to serve all our customers. Special thanks to Shelle Paulbitski who made the money part of the sales smooth as silk. The online orders helped with our overall profits, too. Our online See's Yum-Raising store profits were **\$280.40**. This year's order for candies was a big one, so the challenge was great. But we did it. We have seven boxes left, which will be distributed to businesses who have helped us in the past: The Stow Place, All Safe Storage, KSQM, The Sequim Gazette, First Security Bank, Kitsap Bank.... and honestly, one more that I can't remember.



We also sold holiday wreaths online, and members ordered them to be sent clear across the country. The wreaths were beautiful, with glowing lights on them. The Wreaths and More shop at Lynch Creek Farm profits were 15% of total sales netting us **\$47**.



~Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols & Sandy Lawrence, Fundraising Co-chairs

“The road to success is always under construction.” ~Lily Tomlin

GALA GARDEN SHOW UPDATE

Planning is picking up a notch as the GGS Core Committee enters January—with only 73 more days until the Garden Show itself. Jeanne Martin, the Volunteer Coordinator, has prepared the scheduling sheet, so expect to hear from committee members about volunteering for a variety of tasks before, during and after the show. Posts are appearing on Facebook every two weeks, with posting becoming more frequent as the weeks go by.



So far, we have received **\$9375** from sponsorships, with **\$750** coming from former members! Our thanks go out to Patty Lebowitz who has almost singlehandedly brought in many of the sponsors. Please, if you stop into a business or go shopping with a friend or family member, ask them if they'd be interested in sponsoring the show. **YOU** are our best salespeople!!! **YOU** know what our mission is and what we spend our money on! Let's see if we can break \$10,000 in sponsorships by the end of January!!!

We have received **\$5655** in vendor registration payments, which just shows you that booths are selling fast. However, if you know of someone who has a garden-related business An arborist? A landscaper? Someone who sells garden artwork? A garden pond business? ask them if they'd like a booth. This is an all-club member effort, so let's look around and get some more sponsorships. More information about both sponsorships and vendor registration can be obtained by going to sequimgardenshow.com.

We welcomed Deb Alwine and Lori Oakes from the Port Angeles Noon club to our January 2, 2024, GGS meeting. They're planning on serving two soups, muffins, Cesar salad, coffee and tea. Save the date cards, flyers, car signs and garden signs will start appearing at meetings..... this gives you added incentive to come in person to a Soroptimist meeting!

If you're interested in seeing how hard this group is working, our next meeting is Tuesday, February 6th at 9 a.m. in the meeting room of First Security Bank. Please come join us!



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

**“Before the reward there must be labor. You plant before you harvest.
You sow in tears before you reap joy.” ~Ralph Ransom**

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim,

Your generous donation of \$2,000 has nurtured and touched our community with food during this season. November is a time of thankfulness and love, of family and friendship—of togetherness. Many of us are without one or more of these things—perhaps it's friendship we're lacking; perhaps family; perhaps food. Each of these aspects of life is of importance, and your gift helps ensure families can gather during this season and share friendship, love, and a meal.

We are always grateful for your thoughtfulness, and especially this time of year. As our neighbors turn to the Sequim Food Bank, we are able to meet them with warmth because of the support you have given us throughout the year. Please know your gift is making a difference.



Here's to you—may you celebrate a season of fulfilling abundance in every way.

Thank you,
Andra Smith,
Executive Director, Sequim Food Bank

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Susan Corfee Kathy Cunha						
7 Distribution of January Soropti-Scoop	8	9 Business Meeting	10	11	12 BOARD MEETING	13 Pathways Meeting
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 5th Tuesday	31			

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Becky Archer Shery Lacey Patty Lebowitz</p> 				1	2	3 Pathways Meeting Deadline for articles for Soropti-Scoop
4	5	6	7	8	9 BOARD MEETING	10
11 Distribution of February Soropti-Scoop	12	13 Business Meeting	14 	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Area Meeting
25	26	27 Program Meeting	28	29		

Each Moment Is Precious by Patricia A. Fleming

Live in the moment,
Just take it all in.
Pay attention to everything,
Right there and right then.

Don't let your mind wander
To what's coming next.
Cherish this moment
And give it your best.

Don't let tomorrow
Make you rush through today,
Or too many great moments
Will just go to waste.

And the person you're with,
In that moment you share,
Give them all of your focus;
Be totally there.

Laugh till it hurts,
Let the tears drop.
Fill up each moment
With all that you've got.

Don't miss the details;
The lesson is there.
Don't get complacent;
Stay sharp and aware.

It can take but a moment
To change your life's path.
And once it ticks by,
There is no going back.

In just 60 seconds,
You may make a new friend.
Find your true love,
Or see a life start or end.

You become who you are
In those moments you live.
And the growth's not in taking
But in how much you give.

Life is just moments,
So precious and few.
Whether valued or squandered,
It's all up to you!



Soroptimist International of Sequim
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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.

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