



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 11

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

May 2024

Officers 2023 — 2024

President:
Shirley Legg

President-Elect:
Linda Klinefelter

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Sandy Lawrence

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Shelle Paulbitski

Assistant Treasurer:
Open

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(one year remaining)**
Natasha Merkuloff Nichols

Director: 2 year
Patty Lebowitz

Director: 1 year
Kathy Cunha

Director: 1 year
Kathy Purcell

Newsletter Staff:
Kathy Purcell
Susan Coffee
Jane Manzer
Pat Willis

*"We are the captains
of our own ships
sailing the sea of life,
but in times of a stormy
weather, you will
discover true friends
when they don't hesitate
to be a lighthouse."
~Dodinsky*

The Whispering Winds by Kris Rights

Like the wind whispering through the trees,
Your spirit lifts me,
Teaching me valuable lessons.
I wait patiently to grow in the light of your eyes,
Seeking approval, knowing
There's comfort in your silent embrace,
And I listen carefully to what it offers.
I feel the joy in your laughter and trusting eyes
And learn to give of myself, for no judgment is passed.
When sadness fills my heart with disappointment
And I need protection from the storm,
It is only then I realize the depth of friendship
Sewn together with unbreakable thread.
I understand that the fabric only gets better with age,
That it should be handled with care,
And sometimes it has to rain.
I have discovered my own beauty
By lessons learned while discovering yours.
Like a beautiful sky after the storm,
Your courage to break free of the clouds
Still amazes me.
I close my eyes to feel the warmth of the sun.
Such a precious gift you've given,
Appreciating the gentleness and I sigh with thankfulness,
Recognizing my fortune.
A sisterly bond that knows only
Love that is unconditional.
Nurturing with grace and acceptance.
How lucky
To share a piece of my life with a soul that so perfectly fits mine.
A puzzle with missing pieces
Now complete.
How sad for those who are still searching.
My blessings are abundant,
And I thank God for the whispering winds,
For they remind me every day
To celebrate the gift of our friendship and to hold it close,
To never let it go.



Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's May—the month that brings us Mother's Day. It is a time of honoring those who nurture us. There is a lot of nurturing happening around us. May also brings us May flowers which have been nurtured by April showers. Mother Nature is displaying beautiful colors right now—pinks, purples, yellows, oranges, blues—using, as it were, an artist's palette to create innumerable shades. There's even some green, which complements the bright spring hues.

Even the leaves on the trees have variations in tint—the newest growth being lighter. I remember in the autumn when the leaves fell from the trees, leaving the branches bare. The trees were almost like skeletons. Now the trees are showing green leaves. Where did those leaves come from? Were they hiding inside the branches?

Going online to check I found: “While trees do rely on stored resources to some extent for leaf regrowth after winter, they also actively engage in photosynthesis, nutrient uptake and water uptake (from the soil) to support the development of new leaves. The stored energy in the form of carbohydrates provides an initial boost to kickstart leaf growth, but trees continue to generate energy through photosynthesis as the growing season progresses. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants convert sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide into glucose (a form of sugar) and oxygen.”

We are coming to the end of a Soroptimist year. In June we will be installing the officers and board members for the 2024-2025 Soroptimist year, which begins July 1. We go semi-dark for a short while. I say semi-dark because, although we don't have regular club meetings, we still have activities. We will have a booth during the Lavender Festival in July, and there will be planning for the new year happening.

The hiatus reminds me of the trees that are dormant during the winter. Our summer is like the trees' winter. Over the summer we use our stored resources, relaxing and making time to nurture our bodies and our minds. There is much hidden talent that will come forth when we regroup. Before the end of summer, we return rejuvenated. Then we actively engage in our own form of photosynthesis. Like the trees, we take in all that is around us and convert it into something sweet and life-affirming. We uptake from the soil of experience (past and present) and generate a combined positive energy that promotes continued growth—empowering woman and girls.

All of us are a bit green sometimes, especially when we take on a new job or activity—though each year some jobs and activities change. We will have opportunities for choosing new areas of growth, starting with signing up for committee for the coming year. We get to decide where we want to serve, recognizing we will be deepening our color. The soil is already rich and ready to nurture us.

My thanks to all of you who have nurtured me; what a precious gift that is. Let us remember to nurture those around us as we continue Lighting the Path Forward.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



“Find out what your gift is and nurture it.” ~Katy Perry

CALENDAR

MAY

- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting

JUNE

- 7 Board Meeting
- 11 Business Meeting
- *21 Installation

*Evening Meeting



the Path Forward

“I believe there is a spirit within us,
which we nurture based upon
our efforts and what we
bring to the world.
But it doesn't come from the outside;
it comes from the inside.”
~Michael Douglas



I believe you have to nurture
your conscience.” ~Loretta Young

Celebrate Life!

MAY

Pauline Geraci
Jan Hartig
Shirley Huntley
Linda Klinefelter
Cynthia Martin
Jeanne Martin

JUNE

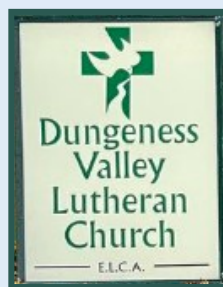
Jess McNeil
Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols
Caroline Smith



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



“No one person, no one alliance,
no one nation, no one of us
is as smart as all of us thinking together.”
~James Stavridis



NEW LOCATION—SAME TIME

Beginning **February 13, 2024**
we started meeting at
Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church
925 N. Sequim Avenue.
The church is located just south of
Hardy's Market.
We will meet in the sanctuary!

QUORUM NEEDED for our **May 14, 2024 Business Meeting.** Please attend either in person or via ZOOM.

**THE MIXING OF THE OLD AND THE NEW—JUNE 7, 2024
JOINT BOARD MEETING**

Our June 7th board meeting will be the outgoing 2023-2024 board gathering with the incoming 2024-2025 board members. This will be an **in-person meeting** and Zoom will be available for those who cannot attend in person. We will meet at **1st Security Bank** at **9:00 a.m.** Breakfast goodies will be provided. Please mark your calendar.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for **June 21, 2024** for the Installation of the 2024-2025 Officers and Board. Details will be showing up in your in-box soon!

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



SIA Convention
Hyatt Regency Bellevue
Bellevue, WA
July 24-27, 2024

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE

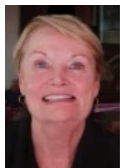
The Awards & Scholarships committee has just finished reading 42 Scholarship Notebooks from the girls in the graduating class of 2024. No names of recipients at this time, as they will be announced at Sequim High School's Awards Night in May, but we will be helping some wonderful girls with resources for their education.

Now we are seeking applicants for our Continuing Education Scholarships. This award is unique on the peninsula to the Sequim club and it was developed to meet the needs of women who are in the middle of their post-secondary education.

When students are in high school, many community groups reach out with funds and counselors can help students to find scholarships. Once through that first year, it becomes harder to search for the funds to finish the education that will help students reach their career goals.

Continuing Education awards are for women who have completed 24 semesters or 30 quarter hours of post-secondary education and who are enrolled for the next school year. There is no age limit, but recipients must live in Sequim or have attended Sequim schools. As with all scholarship awards, we want to find and help women who have financial need, strong goals and good progress toward those goals that will result in economic empowerment.

The applications will be available May 15, 2024, at www.sisequim.org and they are due August 15, 2024. Please help us get the word out to the women of our community.



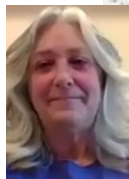
~Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarships Co-chair



“Education is a self-organizing system, where learning is an emergent phenomenon.” ~Sugata Mitra

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello all! Just a quick Membership update. We are awaiting some decisions by the board and the membership so the dues invoices will go out when I return from vacation the week of May 20th. We have extended the due date for dues payment until **June 15th**. It is imperative that you renew your membership by that date. We need to pay the region and SIA dues by July 1st or we get penalized. We don't want to have to pay any of our hard-earned money for late fees. We have several prospective members on the horizon who will be joining for the 2024-2025 club year. And, Jane and I will continue to be Membership Co-chairs for 2024-2025, so during your summer, keep an eye out for possible new members.



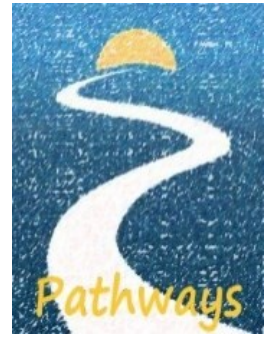
~Shawn Dredla & Jane Manzer, Membership Co-chairs

“If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.” ~Antoine de Saint-Exupery

PATHWAYS WALKING THE PATH

We had a very informative and successful meeting on April 6. Shawn Dredla discussed the Membership Committee, and Shelle Paulbitski tackled the Mission, Bylaws, and Standing Rules.

The Membership Committee is responsible for seeking new members (of course) but also includes hospitality, follow-up with prospective members, Sunshine to send cards to members for specific occasions, processing applications for new members, updating the roster, dues notices, and organizing secret pals. It's a big job, and Shawn is the right person for that committee!



Shelle is also a multi-tasker who balances being the Treasurer and staying informed about our Mission, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. Our new members are already supporting our mission by volunteering for a variety of events. Bylaws and Standing Rules are probably the least favorite discussion, but Shelle did an awesome overview and answered questions. Whenever there is a conflict about how to do things the right way, Bylaws and Standing Rules are the places to find a quick answer. Check it out sometime on our website!



~Jan Hartig, Pathways Co-chair



“Example is the school of mankind, and they will learn at no other.” ~Edmund Burke

HAPPY DOLLARS

This is a new column recently added to the Soropti-Scoop; it is 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.

04-9-24 Meeting

Amanda Beitzel—Happy dollars for Pathway members who volunteered for the shredding event, and with the hope that the next meeting will be quieter. They were replacing the roofing on the church and it was quite noisy inside.

Jeanne Martin—Happy for everyone's attention discussing the budget, over the roof noise.

Shelle Paulbitski—Happy she's going to her Great-niece's wedding and spending time with her 98-year-old mother.

Linda Klinefelter—Happy she had a great time in California visiting a longtime friend and for Jess being there for her husband.

Virginia Kostanich—Happy dollars because she's Happy.

Colleen Blazier—For the new 2024-2025 officers and board. And happy she could attend on Zoom among the noise of roof repair.

~continued on page 6

04-23-24 Meeting

Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols—Grateful she could attend the play Don Quixote with a friend.

Christy Holy—Grateful for everything in her life and how things are going.

Amanda Beitzel—Attended a free clinic event and it was mentioned they were appreciative of our donation and a reminder of the clinic’s walk-a-thon.

Jan Hartig—Sharing and appreciative that her sister-in-law was visiting, and they attended “a dog scent” event.

Jane Manzer—Was most appreciative of something, but I can’t read my notes now. So sorry Jane!

Sandy Lawrence—Appreciative of the visit of our three guests and their dogs and the informative presentation.

Cat Xander—Appreciative of the Awards and Scholarship committee and their reviewing of 41 notebooks. They have narrowed it down to 10 notebooks and will soon announce the recipients.

5th TUESDAY EVENT

Many thanks to Jeanne Martin and her work to organize a trip to the Field Arts and Events Hall for a tour and to hear the good works of Peninsula College from president of the college, Dr. Suzy Ames, and the foundation director, Cheryl Crane. This 5th Tuesday event was most informative and the following is information about the Field Arts and Events Hall in the event you are interested in having an event or would like to attend an event.

Field Arts & Events Hall is a 501(C)(3) Nonprofit organization. Federal ID #81-3062077. The mailing address is PO Box 71, Port Angeles, 98362. If you wish to be on our email list www.fieldhallevents.org is that link. You will also be able to purchase tickets using that site. They send one email per week (usually on Wednesday) to update you on the coming events - both performances in the theater and public events in the Sunset Lounge where we were yesterday afternoon.

The Waterfront Coffee Bar hours are currently 7am - 4pm Monday through Saturday. In addition to coffee beverages, they also have beer and wine available as well as a variety of scones, cinnamon rolls and other treats. Lunch offerings are salads, soups, and sandwiches.

If you need more information on booking an event, Georgia Meyers is our Director of sales & marketing for Conferences and Events and her phone # is 360-504-2415 or 651-331-1443. Her email is Georgia@fieldhallevents.org

PC Foundation ED Cheryl Crane can be emailed at ccrane@pencol.edu Phone #360-417-6400. The address for Peninsula College is 1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd., Port Angeles, WA 98362. PCF is also a 501(c)(3) organization Federal ID #91-1589749. It's a really beautiful campus and if you haven't visited it before, I suggest you check it out. There is lovely walking paths throughout the campus and the buildings are attractive and nicely spread out across the campus.



Linda Klinefelter, Public Awareness Co-chair



MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET GIVING AND RECEIVING

April was a busy time at the Medical Loan Closet. We have experienced a large number of equipment returns and donations over the last several months. So much so that we were, once again, running out of storage space. Virginia Kostanich and Chris Snow identified enough excess equipment to fill a pickup truck. This equipment will be going to Guatemala under a medical equipment collection and shipment program coordinated by Rosalie DiMaggio from Dungeness Community Church. We continue to support the donation of excess medical equipment via Gateway Alliance and are grateful to VHOCC volunteer, Frank Finney, for coordinating the shipment of that equipment.



Excess equipment on its way to Guatemala. Pictured are Martin Murray, Rosalie DiMaggio, and Chris Snow.

The Sequim-Dungeness Hospital Guild voted to award the Medical Loan Closet with an award of \$2,500 for the purchase of up to 12 wheelchairs. The new wheelchairs will replace wheelchairs that are nearing the end of their service life. The older wheelchairs will be donated to our local CERT organization. Patty Lebowitz accepted the award on behalf of the Medical Loan Closet Team on April 24th. Jane Manzer also attended the Guild meeting as a Guild member and our 'official' MLC photographer.



\$2,500 Award presentation by Guild President, Deb Carlson, to Patty Lebowitz.

April was yet another busy month. We received **177** calls, lent **129** items, and had **122** items returned. We received **\$235** in donations from our generous community.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs

“The shape and solutions of the future rely totally on the collective effort of people working together. We are all an integral part of the web of life.”
~Jacque Fresco

SHREDDING FUNDRAISER

April 27th was a rainy day, but it didn't deter the Captains and volunteers from working with zeal.

I'm always impressed with the number of volunteers who participate, and I congratulate **Shawn Dredla** (traffic), **Jane Manzer** (receipts), **Amanda Beitzel** (donations), and **Patty Lebowitz** (shredding) for organizing their teams. Most of the members were familiar with the routine and put their heart and soul into it in spite of being wet and cold. All six of the new members were indoctrinated with an easy day since there were only 157 cars that came through the line.

Cars were starting to line up around 8:00 a.m., but then it was sporadic with several cars at a time, followed by a several-minute lag—an opportune time to use the restroom and take a breather. Jason, Pam and her husband Dennis, and Dawneene from Kitsap Bank were great helpers for opening the bank door and counting the money at various intervals and for shredding.

There was a little panic when the shredding truck showed up with a small truck instead of the large truck that we ordered. With fewer people dropping off their papers for shredding, the small truck worked out great for us. The initial dollar amount collected was \$2,817.35. We didn't receive a grant this year, so the \$960 fee for the truck will come out of the gross collected. Just in case there were donations made afterward or some are mailed in, we'll have the net dollar amount by the business meeting. Next week I'll receive the invoice along with information comparing the weight of the truck last year and this year. There are a lot more shredding events happening in this area now than when this event was first started.

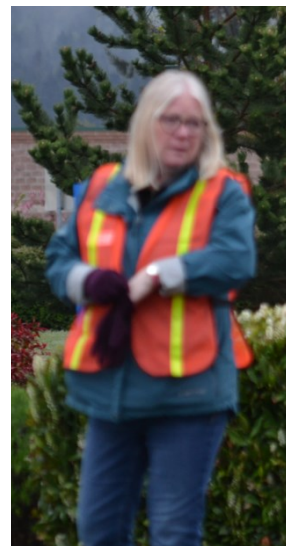
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who made this a successful fundraiser. You're the best ever!



~Jan Hartig, Shredding Event Coordinator



“The smallest of contributions made collectively makes the biggest difference.”
~Shahenshah Hafeez Khan





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Dear Ms. Legg:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Sequim Education Foundation, I send our sincere appreciation to you and your organization for your very generous donation of \$1,000.00 made to our foundation. The financial support of our many donors enables the Foundation to make possible its mission of inspiring and supporting students within our community to realize their goals in life. We applaud the members of Soroptimist International who have dedicated themselves to providing women with educational opportunities that have enabled them to achieve economic empowerment in society.

For over twenty years, the Sequim Education Foundation has been able to provide Sequim's public-school children with grants, activities, and scholarship programs proven to inspire them to achieve excellence. Our Foundation also enables teachers to develop and implement programs that will inspire their students to experience the possibilities of careers yet to be created. We continue to share a common goal of enriching the quality of education for students and educators in the Sequim School District. We thank you again for your support of the Sequim Education Foundation.

Gratefully,
Phillip Trowbridge, President
Sequim Education Foundation



Apr 2024

We, at Sequim Community Aid, thank you for your generous donation of \$2,000. Our organization is dedicated to serving the community when help is needed in unforeseen challenges. We are happy to be able to ease the burdens and help fine people get back on their feet. Your donation will go a long way in meeting those goals.

Sincerely
Volunteers at
Sequim Community Aid

Dear Member of Soroptimist International of Sequim,

Wow! Thank you so very much for your generosity and continued support. Your help and volunteer actions were so very appreciated at the luncheon. Your years of generosity and commitment to the community make such an impact.

2023 – The Kathleen Sutton Foundation was able to reimburse 317 women with over \$163,000. We couldn't make that outreach without the support of community

Thank you,
Barbara Carr
President, Kathleen Sutton Fund



Dear Members of SI of Sequim,


Thank you so very much for your sponsorship of the 105th Northwestern Region Conference. Your contribution at the Sailors level of \$250 will help us with the costs of tasty snacks.

In gratitude,
Governor Karen



“Thankfulness creates gratitude which generates contentment that causes peace.” ~Todd Stocker

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Pauline Geraci Jan Hartig Shirley Huntley Linda Kinnefeler Cynthia Martin Jeanne Martin 			1	2	3	4 Pathways Meeting Deadline for articles for May Soroptist-Scoop
5	6	7	8	9	10 Board meeting	11
12 Distribution of May Soroptist-Scoop	13	14 Business Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Program Meeting	29	30	31	

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Jess McNeil Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols Caroline Smith						1 Pathways Meeting Deadline for articles for June Soropti-Scoop
2	3	4	5	6	7 JOINT BOARD MEETING	8
9 Distribution of June Soropti-Scoop	10	11 Business Meeting	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Installation of 2024-2025 Officers and Board	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

VIOLET FRAGRANCE

by: Sara Etgen-Baker

I capture colorful moments
in network of lyrical poems,
words dance like butterflies on desktop.
Spring feelings are the most beautiful
with violet fragrance written on moss verses.

A bunch of colors ink sprinkles,
warm breath of the wind hangs up dreams,
paints pictures with paint-touched heart
and cold memories turned into
blooming buds of violets flowers...



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.

Soroptimist International of Sequim
PO Box 126
Sequim, WA 98382

To a Person Making a Difference for Women