



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 5

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

November 2023

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**“The entrance strategy
is actually
more important
than the exit strategy.”
~Edward Lampert**

Change is not inherently good or bad. It’s something that is inevitable.

Change was a dominant topic at the recent district meeting with the message that change is inevitable and necessary for forward growth. Change is ongoing and a portal to sustaining an active and vibrant organization as it strives to remain true to its mission—while adjusting goals to meet the demands of the women and girls being served.

When I recently stated that one of my goals as president was to draft and adopt a new strategic plan, I had no idea that I was going to be in step with SIA. Their directive is to revive and enrich —through strategic planning—the ability to grow membership, expand visibility, increase fundraising focused on reaching the 2021-2031 Big Goal of investing in the dreams of 500,000 women and girls through access to education.

Details will follow but the district meeting was a reminder that we are a small part of the larger whole. SIS is a remote club and a tiny dot on the SIA map, but throwing a small pebble into a large pond has a positive impact on the greater whole. Our ability to impact the lives of the women and girls in our community extends beyond our small community. We know this by following our scholarship and award recipients’ post-education and training. These women often travel beyond the bounds of Clallam County to do good in the world. Even if they remain in the community, their educational experience enriches and gives back in many ways.

Much more to come as we work our way through the 2023-2024 year. There will be changes as we forge a new path forward, but let’s embrace this opportunity respecting SIS’s past—as we move forward to meet the new demands through thoughtful strategic efforts that will enhance the lives of women and girls.



~President Shirley



“You’ve got to eat while you dream. You’ve got to deliver on short-range commitments, while you develop a long-range strategy and vision and implement it. The success of doing both. Walking and chewing gum if you will. Getting it done in the short-range, and delivering a long-range plan, and executing on that.” ~Jack Welch

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's November. Earlier this month we turned the clocks back. It is said we gained an extra hour; but maybe it was returning the hour we lost in the spring. It depends on your perspective.

Perspective is an interesting word. One definition is: *“the effect of relative distance and position.”* This reminds me of something that happened the other morning. As Blue and I were walking I noticed one red leaf in the grass. It stood out because everything else around it was drab. My thoughts went to the leaf artwork projects many of us did as kids. I found myself smiling. The red leaf's position had an effect on the relative distance of my memory.

Another definition is: *“the art of representing three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface so as to give the right impression of their height, width, depth, and position in relation to each other.”* This reminds me of our hybrid club meetings. Those who attend in person see one another in three dimensions; they see one another face-to-face and can even share a hug. To the ZOOMers (the members connecting via ZOOM), the in-person members look more two dimensional. And to those who are in person, the ZOOMers look more two dimensional. Still, we all get some perspective.

Another definition is: *“the relationship or proportion of the parts of a whole, regarded from a particular standpoint or point in time.”* This reminds me of the various activities we do. It might be committee work such as seeking Live Your Dream Award recipients; recruiting new members; planning 5th Tuesday get-togethers; meeting people from the community at the Medical Loan Closet to provide them with needed items; raising funds through sales of See's Candies or through our annual Gala Garden Show or our shredding event; making the public aware about who we are and what we do as an organization.

We are all a bit like the red leaf; we show up so vibrantly we are noticed more than other things around us. Our presence makes a difference. We connect with one another and with our community. Each of us is part of the whole, regardless of our individual proportion.

We all have different perspectives; we come from different backgrounds with different experiences. Yet when we focus our energy on our mission, synergy is undeniably present.

It's November, the month that brings us Thanksgiving. It is a time for reflecting on gratitude. Expressing gratitude occurs in different ways. It's not just verbal words that speak gratitude. It can be heard in a gentle touch, a hug, just sitting with someone and being in their presence. It can be heard by running an errand for someone. The language of gratitude has many dialects.

I am grateful for words—and the many ways they are spoken. I am grateful for the patience, support and love from family and friends. I am grateful to all of you for how you lovingly show up in the world. I am grateful to be part of our club and work alongside you as we continue Lighting the Path Forward.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



“If you nurture your mind, body, and spirit, your time will expand. You will gain a new perspective that will allow you to accomplish much more.” ~Brian Koslow

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 7 GGS Core Meeting
8 am KSQM
- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting

DECEMBER

- 5 GGS Core Meeting
8 am KSQM
- 8 Board Meeting
- 12 Business Meeting
- *19 Holiday Party-5:30 pm
Natasha's home

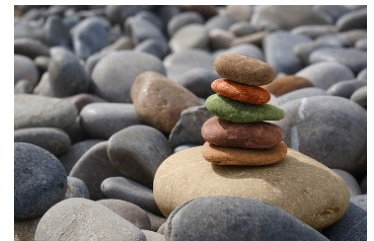
*Evening Meeting

Lighting



the Path Forward

**“Synergy is the highest activity of life; it creates new untapped alternatives; it values and exploits the mental, emotional, and psychological differences between people.”
~Stephen Covey**



“Synergy – the bonus that is achieved when things work together harmoniously.” ~Mark Twain

Celebrate Life!

NOVEMBER

Sunni Becker
Mayme Faulk
Shirley Legg
Wei Lindstrom

DECEMBER

Dave Fickes
Sandy Lawrence
Elaine Powlesland



WINTER DONATIONS

Although winter doesn't officially come upon us until December 21st, that doesn't stop Mother Nature exposing us to wind, rain, and cold temperatures. So, I want you to hold that thought and think about those who struggle when the weather gets cold.



Knowing there are many who battle to stay warm, the Sequim Food Bank is holding **a glove/mitten and sock drive**. Andra Smith, Executive Director of the food bank, will be our November speaker on **November 28th** and I would like to welcome her with a big helping of warm offerings.



Help the food bank by bringing to our meeting donations of gloves, mittens, and/or warm socks.



~Linda Klinefelter, Board Member



“All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver.” ~Fred Rogers

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



*“The wise man does not lay up his own treasure. The more he gives to others, the more he has for his own.”
~Lao Tzu*

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting
TBD
February 2024



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

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT RETURNS TO GIVE BACK

Kaidence Cary received a high school scholarship from us back in 2020-21. She was a McKinney-Vento student who had succeeded in graduating with a high GPA despite many hardships. At that time she planned to become a veterinarian. Unfortunately she owned two large dogs and was unable to find housing that would enable her to attend Yakima Valley College.

She requested to postpone her scholarship for a year and the Awards & Scholarships committee decided that she could. Unfortunately, that pushed her award into a different fiscal year and that caused some budget problems. However, it was eventually solved and she used the funds to enroll at Peninsula College.

The great news is that she is now employed by the Olympia Education Services Unit of Washington State as a Youth Services Resource Navigator! She is stationed at Sequim High School to meet regularly with the McKinney-Vento students and to help them fulfill their needs. She says it's tough to build trust but she understands the process from her own experience.

When asked how Soroptimist could help, Kaidence said that there are several needs that might be easy for us to meet. One is **adult size backpacks** with three compartments. Take them to the School District Office and tell them they are for the McKinney Vento Clothing Closet. They had plenty for younger kids but not enough larger ones appropriate for high school students. They could use clothing—like **sweatpants and shirts and leggings in neutral colors**. The Lions Club is maintaining a clothing closet and it would be great to have more high school type choices there. Kaidence also said **gift cards to Lucky Star** would be much appreciated because kids could pick out their own affordable but trendy clothing there.



~Athena Dunn & Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarships Co-chairs

“Expressing gratitude is a natural state of being and reminds us that we are all connected.” ~Valerie Elster

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WOW! What a busy month! We are all working, working, working on all types of committees, and I see the commitment to this club and the community from so many members! Speaking of members, we inducted **Sam Fouts** at the October 10 Business Meeting; **Virginia Kostanich** turned in her application that day and we inducted her too! That brings us up to 44 members! For those of you who are out there recruiting new members, please remember to advise them to attend 2-3 meetings first to see if our club is a good fit for them. Membership dues are \$165 for new members, and \$150 annually.

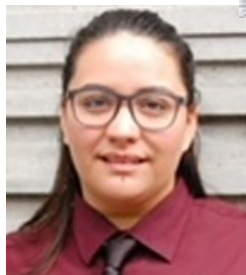
We are working on “rules of engagement” for new members and sponsors. If you would like to have input, please contact a committee member. The roster is available on-line on our Members Only (password protected) website, along with the birthday list. And the new members are on the “roster changes” page including a bio, roster info and a photo. You may have noticed some smiling faces as Membership committee members greet you in the mornings as you arrive at club meetings. Welcome to our new Hospitality committee. If you have guests, please check in for a name tag! Nice job SI/Sequim!!



~Shawn Dredla and Jane Manzer, Membership Co-chairs

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

FOUTS, Sam



Hello! My name is Sam Fouts. I have lived in Sequim for five months; I grew up in Kansas and moved here from Port Angeles. I learned about Soroptimist from Brandi Larson, a new member and co-worker. I have worked as an insurance agent and as a sales department manager. I currently work at Sound Community Bank as a Client Relationship Officer and serve as a Public Notary. I volunteer with the pet emergency group and WAG. I like cooking, reading, thrifting and collecting business cards.

The best advice I have received: *“The rising tide lifts all boats.”* ~Chinese Proverb

“I absolutely believe in the power of tithing and giving back. My own experience about all the blessings I’ve had in my life is that the more I give away, the more that comes back. That is the way life works, and that is the way energy works.” ~**Ken Blanchard**

NEWS FROM THE PATHWAYS

I do not have a template for what the pathway piece usually looks like, but as we are still getting new members and we are still in the beginning stages of putting together our service projects, I thought that we should start with a special thank you to our chair members.

I am always happy to get thoughts and suggestions, and I expect the next piece to include more updates and details about our community project. I’m not entirely sure how long these typically are?

“The past empowers the present, and the sweeping footsteps leading to this present mark the pathways to the future.” ~Mary Catherine Bateson

The holiday season is upon us, and as many of our notable community partners are well into the swing of things with fundraisers and events, we have multiple community projects to consider. We look forward to enlisting your help once we have all the details sorted out; in the meantime, we would like to give a special thank you to our committee chairs.

Thank you to Amanda Beitzel and Jan Hartig for handling their new members with grace and patience and all the kindness in the world. It can be overwhelming to be a new member and balance families, careers, and time while we try to implement our energy and passion for the good of our community. We need to help, we want to help, and we are thankful for your guidance every step of the way.

Our deepest gratitude!



~Brandi Larson, Pathways Committee



“What you pour out into the world is poured right back into you.” ~**Matshona Dhliwayo**

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

If you know of anyone in the club who is in ill health, needs a note of sympathy, or note of cheer, please contact our Sunshine Lady—Becky Archer.



THE IMPACT OF MEMBERSHIP

It's been almost six months since my husband and I moved from Sequim, and almost a year since I was an "active" member of SIS—where does the time go?? And it's time for me to share just what this club has meant to me, and how it was one of the hardest things to leave behind.

I feel so fortunate that my love of gardening took me to Henery's Garden Center the first week we moved to Sequim. There I met Rose Jaeger, an active member of SIS. I was a weekly (sometimes daily) visitor of the nursery as we landscaped two acres of pastureland. It wasn't long before Rose was talking to me about Soroptimist, an organization I was a little familiar with—I was a Girl of the Month in 1963, in Arcata, CA. Then she told me about the Garden Show, and I was hooked.

I started attending meetings in 2006 and joined the club in 2007, and Jane Manzer and I cochaired the Gala Garden Show the following two years. There was no "how to" binder, no formal committee structure, and committee meetings were not a thing. Needless to say, it was the start of a ton of organization! And lots of committee meetings! And it was a blast!

A long-winded way of saying it was Soroptimist that provided a large circle of wonderful friends, gave me a mission to work towards, and helped me realize what a valued part of the community this club is. And I am so grateful to have been a member of SIS!!



~Jan Chapman, Soroptimist at heart



MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET UPDATE

As the days grow shorter and we near Thanksgiving, it is customary to reflect upon the people or things for which we are grateful. Medical Loan Closet volunteers are no exception. We help many people in the Sequim community who have various medical needs. In the last couple of months, our volunteers received requests for equipment from two people who had broken backs and another with a broken neck. We also serve as sounding boards for individuals who have recently lost spouses, children, or parents. Some of our own medical problems pale in comparison with these issues and we are grateful to be able to help others.



Late in the month, we had a team building luncheon at Becky's house. We were able to get to know each other a little better; discussed Closet issues and concerns; and considered ideas for the future.

We continued to have a very busy month at the Closet! We received **167** calls during the month of October. We lent **70** items and had **78** items returned. We received **\$408** in donations from our generous community.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs

“Kindness is universal. Sometimes being kind allows others to see the goodness in humanity through you. Always be kinder than necessary.” ~Germany Kent

SHOWCASING SOROPTIMIST IN THE COMMUNITY

Patty Lebowitz and I represented Soroptimist at the Sequim Chamber of Commerce Showcase event on October 10th. In a couple of hours, in addition to providing general information about Soroptimist, we spoke to three young women from our local high school about scholarships, encouraged several young adult women to learn more about us and provided a plethora of information about our medical loan closet.

This three-hour event is worthy of our attendance as it “showcases” what we do for the community.



~Linda Klinefelter,
Public Awareness Co-chair



TOPPING IT OFF FOR THE FALL

Another spring and summer have left us, and I want to thank those in the membership who helped with the rooftop garden we maintain at the Holiday Inn Express. My biggest contributor was our member, Jess McNeil. He not only helped with planting, but also with watering, weeding and the overall maintenance.

We will be doing some small projects over the winter but look for my request for you to assist this coming spring.

Bundle up and enjoy winter!



~Linda Klinefelter, Rooftop Garden Chair



“How strange that the nature of life is change, yet the nature of human beings is to resist change. And how ironic that the difficult times we fear might ruin us are the very ones that can break us open and help us blossom into who we were meant to be.” ~Elizabeth Lesser

DISTRICT MEETING REFLECTIONS

The District 1 Meeting was a success. We had over 90 Soroptimist members arrive on Friday night. We learned about Scarlet Road, the highlighted charity for the weekend, had a fabulous taco bar and played a few rounds of BINGO. Meeting and greeting new and old friends is the best part of Friday night.

Besides the business of the meeting, there are always well-planned speakers. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Whitney Meissner was a hit at lunch and again during her breakout session during the afternoon workshops. The Strategic Planning workshop was very valuable as well. President Shirley will soon be using the materials provided to lead us to do some forward planning.

Nothing can describe the atmosphere and learning environment at these events. We are all like sponges hoping to absorb as much great information as we can. I really want to encourage you to participate beyond our club activities. Attend Area, Region and District meetings to be immersed in the Soroptimist experience.



~Sandy Lawrence, Delegate

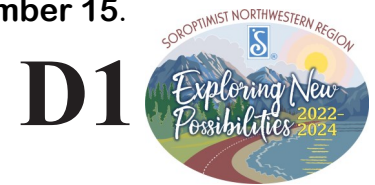


“As you navigate through the rest of your life, be open to collaboration. Other people and other people’s ideas are often better than your own. Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.” ~Amy Poehler

WHAT'S UP IN THE NORTHWESTERN REGION

The NW Region District meetings are now in the books, so to speak. There was a lot of fabulous Soroptimist information, and much of it is available on the NWR Website in our members only area. www.soroptimistnwr.org

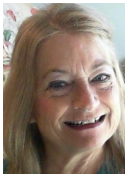
Next for our Region are the Live Your Dream Awards. The deadline is **November 15**. Women who are the heads of their household and attending college, are encouraged to fill out an application. Our Region has a goal of **100% participation** of all clubs.



Typically, in December we support the Soroptimist International President's Annual Appeal. Current President Maureen McGuire has created instead the Soroptimist International Foundation. **December 10** will now be known as **Soroptimist International Foundation Day**. See the article written by Kathy Mooney, Convention Attendee and Member of Global Connections Committee in this month's issue of The Soroptimist WOMAN.

Planning for area meetings began at the recent District Meeting. Our area, which stretches from Gig Harbor to Forks (SI Olympic Rain Forest), holds yearly area meetings in late February. Clubs within the area take turns hosting area meetings, and the host club for 2024 will be Greater North Kitsap.

Save the date for our April **Northwestern Region Conference** to be held in Renton at the **Lake Washington Hyatt Regency—April 25 – 28**. Stay tuned for conference updates.



~Sandy Lawrence, D1 Site Coordinator



“Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace.” ~Mother Teresa

WINTER FUNDRAISING

Winter Fundraising is off to a great start. We sold a bit over \$400.00 at the D! Meeting Tell and Sell. Tell and Sell happens Saturday early evening during a reception before dinner. This year there were seven tables of club raffles and sales. Our See's Candies were quite the hit.

Pick up a flyer at our business meeting and pass it along to friends. We will have a table on **November 18** at the **Masonic Lodge** in Sequim during the Falalala Llama Bazaar and Swap Meet. Anyone willing to sell candies a few hours during 9:00am and 3:00pm would be appreciated. See Sandy.

Send your friends to www.SISequim.org and click the fundraising link to order See's Candies or to order Wreaths and More from Lynch Creek Farms online.



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

GALA GARDEN SHOW UPDATE

The Garden Show Core Group heard from Jon Jaeger of Peninsula Daily News and Sequim Gazette about online advertising. He explained Geo Fencing and Social Media advertising concepts. He presented three proposals to the group for various levels of advertising. There were many questions while he was with us on Zoom. After, there was quite a discussion about the pros and cons of this type of advertising, which led to a number of additional questions. Linda Kleinfelter will be meeting with Jon in the next few weeks to get answers to our questions. She'll report back at the December meeting, at which point we will need to make a final decision.



Debbie Cortrell and Virginia Kostanich, both pretty new members, have volunteered to head up the distribution of material before the garden show; thanks to the two of them for stepping up.

We currently have 23 vendors either paid or verbally committed to participate, which means we have about 20 spots still available. Do you know of a garden-themed business? A few ideas popped up at the meeting, and members were asked to approach businesses about renting a booth.

Roxann Harr of the Master Gardeners reported she has lined up speakers for four seminars, and several volunteers for the Question and Answer session they will have. She announced that the Garden Show is on their calendar and website. They will also staff a booth at the show.

Many other items were discussed and lots of activities are taking place to get ready for the show. You're welcome to come to the meeting and dip a toe into the planning stages.

If you know of a business which is not garden related, perhaps you could ask them to become a sponsor? We take all sponsorships, large and small. Check the garden show website (sequimgardenshow.com) for specifics.

Thanks go to First Security Bank for allowing us to use their space, and their Keurig coffee maker! Paired with Patty Leibowitz' coffee cake, we were well fortified for the meeting. The next garden show meeting will be at First Security on Tuesday, December 5th at 9am. Bring your own coffee mug!!!



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

**The next GGS Core Committee Meeting is December 5 at 9 a.m.
at the 1st Security Bank!**

**“No matter what role you play in a meeting, how you show up in that role is critical to the meeting’s success.”
~Emily M. Axelrod**

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Soroptimists,

I feel short of words to express my gratitude for awarding me this scholarship which means a lot to me. I assure you I will live up to your expectations and will study dedicatedly for the cause. I will forever be in debt for your act of kindness, please, let's keep in touch!

~Alexandra Salas

Dear President Shirley and Sequim Soroptimists,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$3,245.00 via check dated September 27, 2023, to support our Maui Fire Disaster Relief fund. Soroptimist International of Maui is a 501©(3) non-profit organization.

All the monies donated will be used towards projects to provide relief to Maui residents who were affected by the wildfires. We will update you on the specifics of our community giving from this disaster relief fund as we move forward.

We truly appreciate your heartfelt words of comfort during this very difficult time for our island.

Sincerely,
Cathy Shimizu, President, SI of Maui

Members were invited to share something for which they are grateful. Sharing our gratitude spreads its meaning and impact. The words of one reflect the feelings of many.

THANKFUL For:

The fact that I am only limited to 75 words makes it hard to say how incredibly thankful I am for all who are in my life; husband, children, friends and even those who briefly enter my life. I am rich beyond measure and do not carry enough words to express thankfulness.

~Linda Klinefelter

I am grateful for my friends, my family (both born to and chosen), this amazing club, where we live, our comfortable retirement and most of all, I'm grateful for my kind, funny, gentle, helpful, skilled, loving husband.

~Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols

Gratitude Spreads

I am thankful for my health, my family, and my friends. My challenges have given me faith in my health care providers and fosters sheer determination. My family (an older brother and younger sister) are my anchors. If I start to drift; they come to my rescue. My friends bring the joy in living every day to its fullest. They keep me focused on the blessings in love and friendship.

~Colleen Blazier

“In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.”

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Summi Becker Mayme Faulk Shirley Legg Wei Lindstrom			1	2	3	4 Pathways Meeting
5	6	7 GGS Core Cmt Meeting 8 a.m., KSQM 	8	9	10 BOARD MEETING	11
12	13	14 Business Meeting	15	16	17	18 Masonic Lodge Falatala Llama Christmas Bazaar— 9:00 to 3:00 See's Candy Sales
19	20		22	23 	24	25
26	27	28 Program Meeting 	29	30		

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Dave Fickes Sandy Lawrence Elaine Powlesland					1	2 Pathways Meeting
3	4	5 GGs Core Cmt Meeting 8 a.m. KSQM 	6	7	8 BOARD MEETING	9
10	11	12 Business Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Holiday Party 	20	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

I'm Thankful for You *By Joanna Fuchs*

Thanksgiving is the appointed time
for focusing on the good in our lives.

In each of our days,
we can find small blessings,
but too often we overlook them,
choosing instead to spend our time
paying attention to problems.

We give our energy
to those who cause us trouble
instead of those who bring peace.

Starting now,
let's be on the lookout
for the bits of pleasure in each hour,
and appreciate the people who
bring love and light to everyone
who is blessed to know them.

You are one of those people.

On Thanksgiving,
I'm thankful for you.
Happy Thanksgiving!



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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
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To a Person Making a Difference for Women