



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 3

Soroptimist International of Sequim

**Celebrating 75+ Years of Service**

September 2023

## Officers 2023— 2024

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Shirley Legg

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**Director: 2 year**  
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**Director: 1 year**  
Linda Klinefelter

Newsletter Staff:  
Kathy Purcell  
Susan Coffee  
Jane Manzer  
Pat Willis

*“Everyone has  
been made for some  
particular work, and the  
desire for that work  
has been put  
in every heart.”  
~Rumi*

## A Message from the President

At our gathering last Tuesday, I was touched by the number of years so many of our members have been actively involved in Soroptimist. If I were to add up the number of service years, it would undoubtedly be in the tens of thousands of hours and beyond. The dedication and passion for the Soroptimist mission was very evident. On my way home, I was contemplating what drives those who have made room in an already busy and active life for volunteering in the service of others. How is the time found among all that is required in life?

Volunteerism is an extra-curriculum activity that we choose to find the time to fit into a filled agenda. I concluded that it is because it is a passion that comes from the heart. There is no limit to the heart’s capacity for caring and generating more time in a day than the defined 24 hours and the flexibility in making the impossible happen.

## The Heart of Flexibility

The heart of a volunteer beats with flexibility,  
Ready to adapt, with so much ability,  
To face the challenges, that come their way,  
And make a difference, day after day.

They know that change is inevitable,  
And adaptability, so very essential,  
To work with different people, in different ways,  
And make the most, of every single day.

For the heart of a volunteer, is a heart of gold,  
So open-minded, and ever so bold,  
To see the world, in so many ways,  
And make connections, in so many arrays.

They listen with patience, and speak with care,  
And offer support, for those in despair,  
They find solutions, where there is doubt,  
And offer guidance, when others are without.

For the heart of a volunteer, knows no bounds,  
It turns challenges, into opportunities that abound,  
It takes risks, with so much grace,  
And leaves behind, a positive trace.

~continued on page 3

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's September; we're in the last weeks of summer. Have you noticed any changes? They start very subtly. It might be slightly cooler in the early morning. The light of day waits a bit longer to make an appearance and it disappears a little earlier in the evening. If you don't get up early, you wouldn't notice the temperature or the time the day breaks with its light. I am one of those who gets up early. And I have noticed the changes. I now use my headlight when walking with Blue.

The other day Blue and I were on a morning walk. He seemed to sniff everything—though he spent more time on some things than others. At one point he was walking in a grassy area, and I noticed him just lay down. That was a bit odd for him. I waited a while—maybe a minute—and then gently nudged him. He got up and we continued the walk.

Our club is continuing its walk—stepping into the 2023-2024 Soroptimist year. We were on hiatus, enjoying the summer sun and fun with family and friends. Just as the seasons in nature change, so too do the seasons change in our club. We had our S.T.A.R.T. (Soroptimist Team And Reunion Time) Meeting late last month. See the report and photos on pages 7-8 of this newsletter. Thank you to Linda Klinefelter for taking (most of) the photos and to Natasha for the article.

Our first business meeting of the year is next Tuesday. We'll soon have our Member Roster books which provide a wealth of information—not just who is chair/co-chair of which committee; not just birthdays; not just members' information with photos. It also includes a calendar for the year.

Of note coming up is: the District 1 Meeting, October 20-23, 2023 at the Clearwater Casino and Resort in Suquamish, WA. See page 6 for more information. Also, the 2024 Gala Garden Show. What? That's not until next March! The actual show is in March of 2024, but preparations have been in the works for a while. The featured artwork has been chosen—see page 9; we've secured a featured speaker; vendors have been contacted to let them know we're planning the show and applications will be sent out the beginning of October; sponsorship letters went out this week. Several Platinum sponsors have already sent their donations. Check out [www.sequimgardenshow.com](http://www.sequimgardenshow.com) to see who they are.

As we continue to walk forward through the Soroptimist year, we might be like Blue and stop to sniff out what opportunities there are for us. For some things we'll stop momentarily but move on; for others we'll stop a bit longer breathing in the surroundings and briefly participate. For still others we'll sit down and gather more information from what's available and proceed ahead with focus.

Moving through the seasons of our year, each of us seasons our club activities with our individual talents, changing things for the better along the way. Working together we are Lighting the Path Forward.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



**“Time has been transformed, and we have changed; it has advanced and set us in motion; it has unveiled its face, inspiring us with bewilderment and exhilaration.” ~Khalil Gibran**

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

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

### OCTOBER

- 3 GGS Core Meeting  
8 am KSQM
- 6 Business Meeting  
(GOM Sept & Oct)
- 10 Business Meeting
- 20-22 District 1 Meeting  
Clearwater Casino,  
Suquamish
- 24 Program (Domestic  
Violence Awareness)
- 31\* 5th Tuesday

## Lighting



the Path Forward

\*Evening Meeting

**“...there ain't no journey what don't change you some.” ~David Mitchell**



**“Small changes and small steps can create massive impact.”  
~Melissa McCreery**

# Celebrate Life!

## SEPTEMBER

Cheryl Easterling  
Pat Willis

## OCTOBER

Jeanie Blaurock  
Debbie Cottrell  
Shawn Dredla  
Shelle Paulbitski



~continued from front page

So let us honor, the heart of a volunteer,  
And all they do, year after year,  
For their flexibility, and willingness to adapt,  
Helps make the world, a better place, without a mishap.

For the heart of a volunteer, is a heart that gives,  
And with every step, they leave a mark that lives,  
A mark of hope, of love, and of light,  
That shines so bright, in the darkest night.

So let us celebrate, the heart of flexibility,  
And all the volunteers, who make it a possibility,  
For with their kindness, and their compassion,  
They bring us closer to a world in action.

~Anonymous



~President Shirley



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“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”  
~*Elizabeth Andrew*

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



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“The world is hugged by the faithful  
arms of volunteers.” ~*Terri Guillemets*

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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  
February 2024

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

## CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Soroptimist International of Sequim started giving scholarships for Continuing Education about 2010. It was a great idea! The award is unique and valued highly by recipients. Many of the women say that they had saved enough money or found scholarships through their high school to pay for the first year of post-secondary education but did not have enough for subsequent years. In their applications, they report that they have had to take out loans, so they start the following years already in debt. As a result of such a clear need, our club budgeted \$12,000 in 2023-24 and awarded scholarships to nine women.

We have already received one response to the email notification: “I am so grateful that you came to this decision. Your organization is changing my education experience in the best way possible! Words cannot thank you enough.”

Our top two scholarships went to **Petra Bernsten** and **Yang Zhang**.

### Petra Bernsten



Petra Bernsten will receive \$2500 to continue her work at WSU Pullman in Molecular Biology and Wrestling. Savings from her two jobs give her barely enough money to meet expenses this year, so our scholarship is a big help. Petra said “As a

woman in a male-dominant sport, we are looked down upon, and not held to the same expectations as the men are. However, I hope to prove everyone wrong and inspire women around the globe as I excel as a woman in STEM and a woman in wrestling.”

### Yang Zhang



Yang Zhang will also receive \$2500 for the nursing program at Peninsula College. This is her second Continuing Education scholarship. Zhang is from China and is married to an American. She has had to overcome the obstacles of language, motherhood, and financial need to obtain excellent references and a 3.93 GPA. Her long-term goal is to become a doctor.



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

### Success by Demetrios Trifiatis

As a general rule  
we are all alike  
with our faults and merits  
abilities and drawbacks  
excesses and deficiencies  
talents and ineptitudes.

Successful becomes the one  
who discovers early his inclination  
focuses his attention on it  
works uninterruptedly  
is trained unceasingly and  
unconditionally devotes himself to  
the advancement of his trade  
no matter what his trade  
happens to be!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are so excited to be back for a brand-new year!! As I am writing this, I see a theme here—community, service, and friendship. There is so much going on!! We had over 20 members attend the S.T.A.R.T. (**S**oroptimist **T**eam **A**nd **R**eunion **T**ime) meeting and two guests who are interested in joining the club. It's not too late to get those applications in for Secret Pals.



Jane and Shawn will be hosting the Business Meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>. What does hosting a meeting mean—providing a pastry, or fruit, or whatever your heart desires, for those in attendance. Let us know if you would like to host/co-host a meeting. We will be inducting three new members at that first meeting back, **Brandi Larson, Debbie Cottrell, and BZ Zabora.**

And, lastly, the 2023-2024 Rosters will be coming out shortly. Please join us to welcome our newest members!



~Shawn Dredla and Jane Manzer, Membership Co-chairs

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*“Happiness is a by-product of an effort to make someone else happy.” ~Gretta Booker Palmer*

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## AUGUST MLC UPDATE

In August, the Medical Loan Closet committee welcomed **Gerry Sladowski** as our most recent volunteer. She will make a fine addition to our current roster of volunteers and will begin working at the Closet during our next rotation.



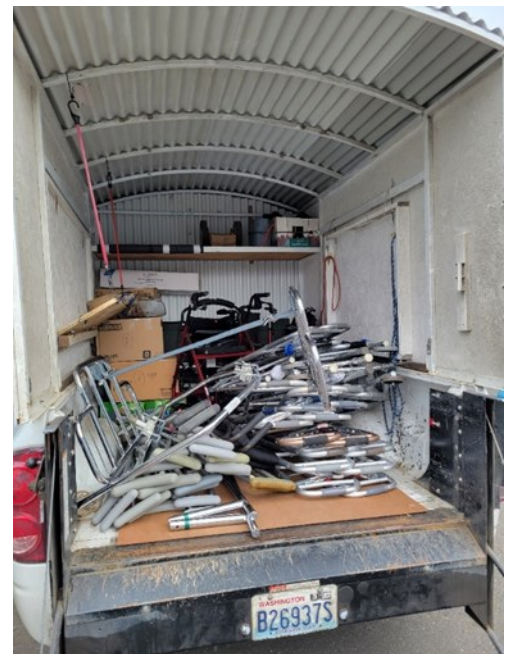
Our volunteers continued to be extremely busy in August. We received **196** calls during the month; lent **116** items; and had **131** items returned, including **9** donations. We received **\$445** in donations from our generous community.

On August 8th, the Volunteer Hospice van was loaded with equipment that is excess to our needs. We donated 15 walkers, 12 pairs of crutches, three four-wheel walkers and two wheelchairs to Gateway Medical Alliance. The equipment will be shipped overseas for use by various medical groups. Our thanks to Frank Finney, from VHOCC, for coordinating the pickups with Gateway.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs

*“Loving-kindness and compassion are the basis for wise, powerful, sometimes gentle, and sometimes fierce actions that can really make a difference – in our own lives and those of others.” ~Sharon Salzberg*

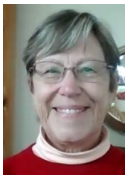


## SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM MEETING

Tim's Place is a respite ministry designed to provide a place of love and community for people living with all types of memory loss, including Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinson's, stroke, and age-related dementia. Along with a trained group of loving, giving, and capable volunteers, a sense of community is created, where people living with memory loss are remembered for who they are, not for what they are no longer. Tim's Place stimulates cognition, nurtures growth, and provides purpose and meaning for participants with memory challenges, as well as dedicated volunteers who serve as intentional companions.

Rhonda Heyn is the Executive director of Tim's Place. She previously worked in sales but had to give up her career when she was unexpectedly thrust into the role of full-time caregiver to her in-laws. She realized very quickly that there are few resources available to aid caregivers. When she moved to Sequim, she realized that there were even fewer resources available to assist caregivers in their duties. She teamed up with Trinity United Methodist Church of Sequim to create a program that would provide respite for caregivers, and a safe and engaging environment for people living with dementia.

Learn more about Tim's Place by visiting their website at [www.timsplace-sequim.com](http://www.timsplace-sequim.com) or their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084607475809>.



~Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols, Board Member



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*“A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another up.” ~Mother Teresa*

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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:

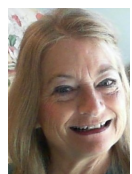
Go to Clearwater Web Site: [www.clearwatercasino.com](http://www.clearwatercasino.com). Click on **Stay & Play**

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



## THE S.T.A.R.T. – MEETING AFTER THE SUMMER HIATUS

It seemed like the entire club gathered for the “S.T.A.R.T.” (Soroptimist Team And Reunion Time) of our '23-'24 year! Even though there were no special assignments for food to bring, as always, all the bases were covered—from appetizers, to salads, to main dishes to dessert. We met two guests: **Sam Fouts**, a co-worker of our new member Brandi Larson, and **Donna Delleree**, a friend of Sandy Lawrence. Sam works for Sound Bank, along with members Brandi Larson and Athena Dunn; Donna is retired and a volunteer teacher at Shipley Center. She teaches seated dancing—so those of you who think that exercise only involves lots of running and jumping, think again!

Another lovely aspect of the evening is that we got to listen to each other briefly describe our journeys, with quick stories and tales. We learned how long we'd all been in Soroptimist, (spoiler, Janet Wicker takes the prize for the longest SI member, while Mayme Faulk and Natasha Nichols tie for second longest SI members). We also learned that President Shirley apparently has a “shady past” with another club. No details were provided.

Many thanks to all of you who contributed food and drink to this event, and to those of you who pulled it together—especially President Shirley. She reminded us all to gather for the START of the new year, and that new members are necessary for the continued success of SI/Sequim.

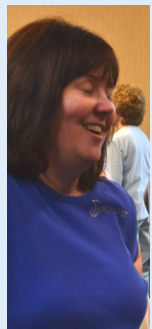


~Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols





# S.T.A.R.T. Meeting Soroptimist Team And Reunion Time





## A BIT OF HISTORY ABOUT THE GGS FEATUED ARTWORK

In 1999 Laurel Black, a local graphic artist, designed a pansy that became the de facto logo for the Gala Garden Show. You can see the pansy on the street banners, magnetic car signs and yard signs. In 2003, the iconic symbol was used in the design of the Flower Power t-shirts. Now all Soroptimist members wear these at the Gala Garden Show.



When starting to organize the 2006 show, the club decided to involve the community more. A decision was made to solicit artwork that would be used for publicity for that year. A call for artists went out and the submissions were reviewed by the garden show core committee. The first artwork chosen was a design by Cindy Manguitz. It went on all the printed materials and was incorporated into the header on the website. Creative Framing did the matting and framing for all the paintings while they were in business—another community seed that helped the show blossom.



Even though we got a bit of a late start with the artwork contest this year and the time for art submissions was shorter than normal, we still received 11 entries. Usually the artwork is put on display boards, and we have an in-person meeting of the GGS Core Committee to view and vote for their favorite submission. In the interest of time, this year the artwork was scanned and sent via email to club core committee members to review. They also received a written description of and inspiration for the artwork. Each entry had an interesting and heartfelt inspiration. Members were asked to indicate their first, second and third choice. The entry that received the most votes (12 total) was La Fleur Garden Cart by Chawn Vance.

The winning entry is an 8 x 10 drawing done with alcohol ink pens. It is a whimsical piece showing a garden cart with pots of various colored flowers. Here is what Chawn, the artist, wrote as her inspiration for the piece: “I have always loved to draw old buildings, houses, antiques, old carts and bicycles. I had drawn an antique lemonade stand about 40 years ago using pen and ink. I decided to change the cart to a flower cart and used the flowerpots on my back deck as my inspiration. Thus, my La Fleur Garden Cart.”



We are in the process of getting a bio and photo of Chawn to put on the garden show website and on Facebook.

We thank all the artists who submitted their artwork. Keep expressing your creativity!



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



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**The next GGS Core Committee Meeting is October 3 at 8 a.m. at the KSQM Meeting Room!**



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“The artist must create a spark before he can make a fire and before art is born, the artist must be ready to be consumed by the fire of his own creation.” ~*Auguste Rodin*

# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Cheryl Easterling Pat Willis						
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	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Program Meeting	27	28	29	30

# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Jeanne Blaurock Debbie Cottrell Shawn Dredia Shelle Paulbitski	2 	3 GGS Core Cmt Meeting 8 a.m. KSQM	4	5	6 BOARD MEETING	7
8	9	10 Business Meeting (GOM Sept & Oct)	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 District 1 Meeting Clearwater Casino, Squamish, WA	21 District 1 Meeting Clearwater Casino, Squamish, WA
22 District 1 Meeting Clearwater Casino, Squamish, WA	23	24 Program Meeting (Domestic Violence Awareness)	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 *5th Tuesday 				

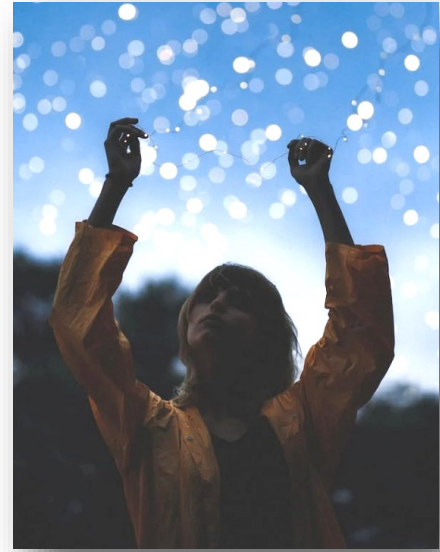
## Quest of Curiosity by Shane Smith

The questions posed at the end  
express the curiosity  
that lingers in the mind.

Seeking answers,  
they unravel the mysteries of life  
leading to new discoveries.

Like stars in the night sky,  
they illuminate the path of knowledge,  
guiding us  
through the realms of uncertainty.

With each question,  
a journey of exploration begins,  
igniting the spark of wonder  
and sparking a quest for understanding  
that knows no bounds.



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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