



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 29, Issue 2

Soroptimist International of Sequim

**Celebrating 75+ Years of Service**

August 2024

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**“Once you start  
working on something,  
don’t be afraid  
of failure and don’t  
abandon it. People who  
work sincerely  
are the happiest.”  
~Chanakya**

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Can you believe we are already in August? We see lots of “Back to School” signs which means parents, students and teachers are preparing for the start of school.

When I think about the start of school, I return to my memories as a teen. The summer before my freshman year and every summer thereafter until graduation, I worked so I could purchase school clothes. I worked hard and very seldom spent money on frivolous expenditures because I so wanted to be in style. I always looked forward to my shopping trips for school clothes because it represented a successful summer. On the first day of every new high school year, I would pick my favorite outfit as I felt it represented the start of a new year.

The forgoing memory brings me to our START (Soroptimist Team And Reunion Time) meeting. It means a new year filled with lots of projects, working together as a team and striving to celebrate our hard work. It is the start of our new year and if our year is to be successful, we must all come together.

I invite you all to take that first step to a new and successful year by attending the START meeting. Our START meeting is set for August 27<sup>th</sup>, and we will meet at Creekside Haven in the barn. This is Kris Osborn and her husband’s beautiful bed and breakfast. The address is 1195 Taylor Cutoff Road, Sequim. In-depth parking instructions, time and food instructions will be included further in the newsletter.

## SEE YOU AT THE START MEETING...



~President Linda



**BOARD MEMBERS**—Reminder—We meet on the Friday before our business meetings. In September that will be September 6<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 1<sup>st</sup> Security Bank in their Community Room at 9 a.m. Please mark your calendars.

In addition, if weather becomes an issue as we enter the winter months, we will consider a Zoom meeting.

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's August. Every month has some sort of holiday or days of celebration, so I looked up August on almanac.com. Below are some dates and info that I found.

**August 11** marks the end of the Dog Days of Summer, which began on July 3. Those days often have very hot and humid weather in the Northern hemisphere, coinciding with the rising of Sirius, the Dog Star. That explains the name Dog Days of Summer; it has nothing to do with our pets.

**August 19** brings National Aviation Day, chosen for the birthday of Orville Wright who piloted the first recorded flight of a powered heavier-than-air machine in 1903.

**August 26** is a particularly notable date—it is **Women's Equality Day**. Monday, August 26, 2024, marks the 104<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. According to the website: Ratification came in Tennessee in 1920, where Tennessee state legislator Harry T. Burn, age 24, cast the deciding vote after reading a letter from his mom, Febb E. Burn. "*I know that a mother's advice is always safest for a boy to follow,*" he said, "*and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification.*"

This was a big deal. The country's 26 million voting-age women were enfranchised by this change in the Constitution. Longtime suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt summed up her experiences this way: "*Never in the history of politics has there been such a nefarious lobby as labored to block the ratification.*" Upon ratification, Catt founded the League of Women Voters, an organization now dedicated to providing impartial, in-depth information about candidates, platforms, and ballot issues.

Our Soroptimist organization hadn't been founded yet at the time, but Catt certainly would have made a good member. What a great example of believing in a cause that is greater than yourself and doing the work to further that cause. Her actions empowered women and the results continue to empower women today.

Here are a few somewhat strange August celebrations (my comments in parentheses):

- Aug 12:** Vinyl Record Day (We will accomplish some groovy records this year.)
- Aug. 13:** International Left-Handers Day (It's the right thing.)
- Aug. 20:** International Geocaching Day (Let's find the treasures together!)
- Aug. 31:** National Trail Mix Day (We feed off of one another's kindness and support.)

The Dog Days of Summer may be ending, and Sirius may be moving; however, our club members are stars, serious about moving forward to start our new year. Like the Wright brothers, our new board will be piloting us through our flight ahead, powered by our combined energy and actions.

I was thinking about AUGUST and our S.T.A.R.T. meeting this month. An acronym for AUGUST came to mind: **A**lways **U**ncovering **G**ifts **U**nitng **S**oroptimist **T**ogether.

In the early 1900s Carrie Chapman Catt planted a seed which we have seen grow. What a great example for all of us. There is a lot more growth ahead. Let us remember to continue planting our own seeds for the future.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



"Because it proves that you don't need much to change the entire world for the better. You can start with the most ordinary ingredients. You can start with the world you've got." ~Catherine Ryan Hyde

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST

- 14 GGS Core Committee Meeting—1st Security
- 17 Board Retreat
- \*27 S.T.A.R.T. Meeting

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 GGS Core Committee Meeting—1st Security
- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting
- 24 Program Meeting

### \*Evening Meeting



"I have always been delighted at the prospect of a new day, a fresh try, one more start, with perhaps a bit of magic waiting somewhere behind the morning."  
~J. B. Priestley



"The essence of the beautiful is unity in variety."  
~W. Somerset Maugham

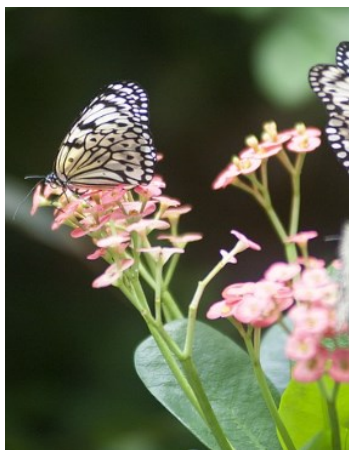
*Celebrate Life!*

**AUGUST**

Amanda Beitzel  
Colleen Blazier  
Roxann Harr  
Janet Real  
Cat Xander

**SEPTEMBER**

Cheryl Easterling  
Pat Willis



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



“Reunion reveals friendship potentials  
that haven't yet been emerged  
in the past.”  
~*Toba Beta*

**S.T.A.R.T. (Soroptimist Team And Reunion Time) Meeting  
Tuesday, August 27, 2024**

**Where: Kris Osborn’s Beautiful Property and Barn  
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Address: 1195 Taylor Cutoff Road, Sequim  
START Meeting – August 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

The gate code will come out in an eblast. Please have people park up by the gate in the parking area and walk down to the barn. If there are physically challenged attendees, they can give me a call (408) 206-7330 before the day of the event and Kris will walk through driving down closer to the barn.



**Potluck: Hors d’oeuvre, salad, hot dish or dessert. Punch will be provided but you are welcome to bring wine.**

If your last name starts with **A through M** – Bring an hors’ d’oeuvre, salad or hot dish. **N through Z** – Bring Dessert.

“Always say ‘yes’ to the present moment...Surrender to what is.  
Say ‘yes’ to life—and see how life starts suddenly to start working for you  
rather than against you.” ~*Eckhart Tolle*

**SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER**

**D1**

**District 1 Meeting**  
Embassy Suites  
Lynnwood, WA  
October 18-20, 2024

**Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting**  
TBD  
February 2025



**NWR Conference**  
Valley River Inn  
Eugene, OR  
April 24-27, 2025

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

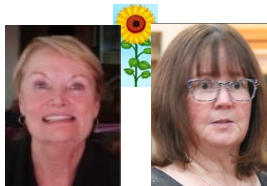
### CONTINUING EDUCATION APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline to apply for our Continuing Education Scholarships is right around the corner—August 15th. We have \$12,000 allocated to these scholarships so we can help several women and we can use more applicants. Please think of your neighbor’s kids, grandkids, the children or grandchildren of friends, your manicurist or server at your favorite restaurant as potential recipients and let them know about this scholarship.

Applications for this award are at [sisequim.org](http://sisequim.org). There are three major requirements to qualify for the application: 1) Applicants must live in Sequim or have attended high school in Sequim, 2) They must have completed at least one year of post-secondary education (24 semester units or 30 quarter units), and 3) They must need financial support to continue in school.

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We heard from one of last year’s high school scholarship recipients, Ava Bower. We gave her the chance to go to college that she would not have had without our support, and she learned a lot about herself.



~Cat Xander and Kris Osborn, Awards & Scholarships Co-chairs

*Hello to the Soroptimist International of Sequim. I'd like to update you about my first year at Western. I had the experience of taking some interesting classes while waiting for the opportunity to enroll in the Graphic design major. However, my first year proved that I was going to benefit from taking a different path in life. I have moved to be closer to my family in Texas and I have started Cosmetology school in Whitehouse TX. I appreciated your support very much for my first year and for the opportunity to have that experience at a university!*

*Thank you again,  
Ava*

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## REVVING UP TO START OUR YEAR

Well, this month we get to celebrate the START meeting where all members get together for a gathering just before the real work starts in September! We get to find out what each other did throughout the summer and get caught up on each other’s lives. A way for all members to interact together.

Another way for us to interact is the secret pal program. Please think about whether you want to participate in this rewarding adventure. Please keep an eye out for potential new members and send them our way! We currently have 39 members. See you all at the START meeting!



~Shawn Dredla & Jane Manzer, Membership Co-chairs

**“Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending.” ~Carl Bard**



## PATHWAYS COMMITTEE REPORT

Pathways was pretty busy for the 2023-24 year, and we expect to have just as many newcomers this year. However, we need your help in recruiting. Take every opportunity that comes up to talk about our Soroptimist club and the good we do in the community. Nail salons, hair salons, grocery stores—anywhere you shop or mosey around town is a good place and time to spread the word.



**Kelli Ward** is definitely one of our new members whom we look forward to getting to know, and there are several other women in the wings. We will have a committee meeting soon after the START meeting and welcome **Pauline Geraci** and **Cheryl Easterling** to our little group. We're excited about having a new location for our regular meetings.



~Jan Hartig, Pathways Committee Co-chair



If you know of a prospective new member for the club, please invite her/him to the START meeting! It will be held in the lovely barn at Kris Osborn's Creekside Haven 1195 Taylor Cutoff Road, Sequim. This would give the prospective new member an opportunity to meet with members in a relaxed and fun environment.

## MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET UPDATE

July was a very busy month at the Medical Loan Closet. We received **198** calls, lent **132** items (compared to **83** items last month), and had **107** items returned. This was the sixth highest month of loans since 2019! We received **\$686** in donations from our generous community. We also received non-monetary thank-you of a large box of fresh vegetables from one person's garden and a plate of freshly baked lemon bars from another client. We are continually touched by people's generosity and kindness.

**Debbie Cottrell**, our newest MLC team member spent two weeks at the Closet with Chris. Debbie will make a valuable addition to our team! I must say I have never seen so many people with broken legs, ankles and feet. We loaned many wheelchairs. We also loaned equipment to people who are fighting cancer. So many people are going through tough times. Their stories make each MLC volunteer feel so blessed for their own good health.

We have now given twelve wheelchairs to our local CERT groups. This has freed up space at the MLC so we are now ready to purchase more of the wheelchairs that the Sequim-Dungeness Hospital Guild made possible with their generous grant.

We have an excess amount of shower chairs and bathtub benches. If you need a chair/bench, or have a friend who needs one, please let Chris or Susan know. We would love to find homes for this equipment!



Susan Coffee and Chris Snow, MLC Co-Chairs

*"Living is the art of loving. Loving is the art of caring. Caring is the art of sharing. Sharing is the art of living." ~Booker T. Washington*

## TEA WITH SHE IS COMING BACK!

**Tea with SHE**—The Committee for Tea with She is pleased to announce their fall presentation—**Aging in Place**. This program will provide information for our older population on what they can do to safely stay in their home. Mark your calendars for November 20, 2024, Trinity United Methodist Church, 100 S. Blake, Sequim from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Come and listen to:



- Dr. Loraine Lovejoy-Evans**—Physical therapist and author of “*No Nursing Home for me.*” Strategies to manage pain, improve functional mobility and keep you living independently.  
**Dr. Monica Dixon**—Nutritionist speaking on eating healthily to stay healthy.  
**Chief Mike Hill**—“When to Hang up the Keys”



~Christy Holy and Linda Klinefelter, Co-Chairs

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“I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.” ~*Lily Tomlin*

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## 2025 GALA GARDEN SHOW SEEDS PLANTED

The 2025 GGS Core Committee will have our first meeting next week. Thank you to all the members who agreed to be on the committee. All of you are important to setting things up for a successful show. It will be held at the Sequim Boys & Girls Club, March 15-16, 2025. Some sub-committees have already been busy over the summer. We have received many entries for our Artwork Contest. At our meeting next week, we will be viewing those and choosing the one that will be our featured artwork for the 2025 show. Roxann Harr is working on securing Sue Goetz as our featured speaker. She also has three Master Gardener speakers lined up and maybe a landscape designer. There might be a demo class by Sofie’s Florist. Over the summer the GGS website was redesigned. Check it out, the new format looks great! We are checking the yard signs and magnets to determine if we need to order any new ones. We’ll have more to share in next month’s newsletter.



~Roxann Harr and Kathy Purcell, GGS Co-Chairs

Our first 2025 Gala Garden Show Core Committee Meeting will be **WEDNESDAY, August 14, 2024** / 9:00 a.m. at 1st Security Bank!

THE GGS WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK! CHECK IT OUT:  
[www.sequimgardenshow.com](http://www.sequimgardenshow.com).



## LAVENDER WITH A FLEURISH

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

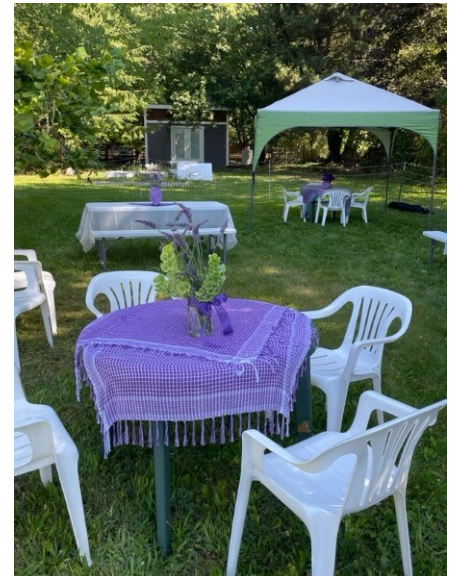
We raised the prices for our alcohol products by \$1 this year and kept the same baked goods prices. We constrained the baked goods largely to products that have sold well in prior years, both with and without lavender, but we also had several new items. We had no more than four members working at a time in two four-hour shifts each day. Overall, the weather was good, but customer traffic was down somewhat from last year. Unfortunately, the farm was not on the route for buses this year, and that impacted traffic and sales.

We had gross sales of \$3,302 and net income of \$2,554, which was a 22% decrease in sales and a 20% decrease in net compared to last year. While the sales were somewhat disappointing compared to last year, this was still the second-highest sales and net we have had in the years we have had a booth at the farm. Another factor that may have both helped and hurt us was that the farm was unable to get a regular food vendor this year, which didn't help traffic but made us the only place to eat something.

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

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

~Dave Fickes, Lavender Festival Booth Co-chair





## FIRST-TIMER'S SIA CONVENTION REFLECTIONS

I had the opportunity last week to attend one day of the 48th Soroptimist International of America's Biennial Convention. It was held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Bellevue, WA, and was well attended by women from all over.

The day started off with a general session titled "Making an Impact," led by Bobbi Enderlin, SIA President, SI/Benicia CA. She, SIA President-elect Ginger Cole, and members of the Board spoke about the "Live Your Dream" award, and we heard two of the recipients tell their stories. I'm sure I wasn't the only one to have tears in my eyes. The young women were so inspiring; it really solidified my desire to be a part of this organization's mission.

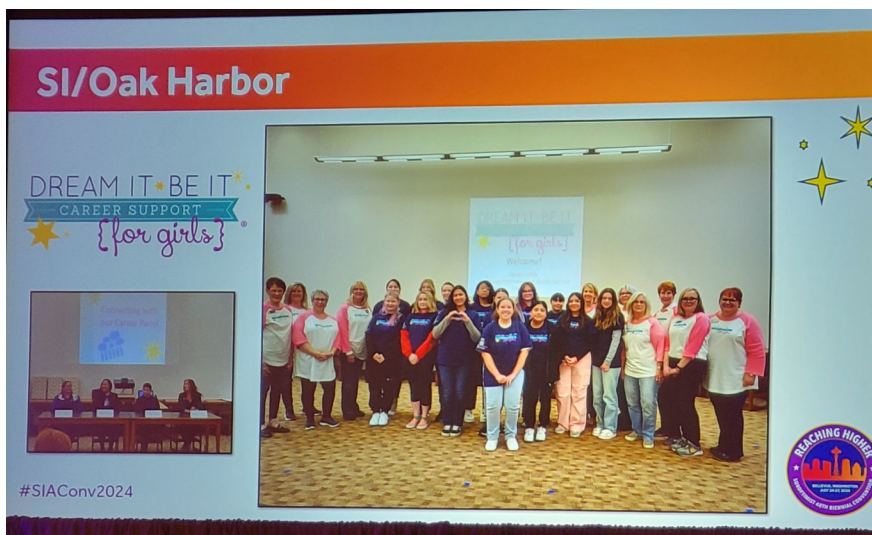
The program "Dream It, Be It" (DIBI) was highlighted, showing a spectacular art project done by a group of girls in California with the help of SIA and many other non-profits. The mural they painted on the side of a building with spray paint was really amazing. During the presentation, the goals of the DIBI program were explained, as well as statistics showing its effectiveness. I came away from the session interested to learn more about Dream It, Be It.

Over the remaining afternoon I attended workshops that covered many of the programs offered by SIA and how successful they are. One was titled "Insight Into the Future of SIA's Programs," and covered the "Big Goal" of investing in half a million dreams through access to education. The presentation highlighted ways to adapt programs to local needs, prioritize diversity, and respect privacy while sharing participant stories. The last workshop I attended covered membership basics, recruiting, retention and engagement. The new database and member portal is promised to have all types of information, examples, and data to help members start or improve these programs.

There was a lot of information that helped me understand how large and successful SIA is and for someone as new as me, how it works all together. It was nice to see several local speakers from Oak Harbor and Port Orchard. I also met ladies from Guam, California, Iowa and Canada.

Thank you to the Board for supporting my attendance at this convention. It was very beneficial to my understanding of the organization.

~Roxann Harr, President-elect



**"When you learn something from people, or from a culture, you accept it as a gift, and it is your lifelong commitment to preserve it and build on it." ~Yo-Yo Ma**



## SIA CONVENTION, JULY 2024

It was exciting to be able to attend two days of the 2024 SIA Convention. The convention was attended by over 700 women from all over the (North, Central, South) Americas. Included in our Federation is Japan, Taiwan, Korea and the Philippines. Many of those countries sent large groups to attend the convention. Our Region did a fabulous job hosting this grand event.



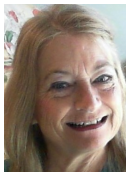
The General Session on Saturday was all about *Making An Impact*. Ginger Cole, our SIA President-elect, spoke about the ways we as Soroptimists make an impact on the world's women. It was a chance to show how our Dream It, Be It and Live Your Dream Programs make an impact. 93% of Live Your Dream (LYD) winners said it increased their confidence and self-esteem. 81% completed their education and improved their standard of living. 96% feel safe. 56% are survivors of gender-based violence. "Great numbers encourage donations."

After the general session, we broke out to attend the various workshops offered by SIA board members and volunteers from our Region. Saturday's workshops began promptly at 8:00 a.m. I learned about Furthering our Mission through Strategic Alignment, and a session on Membership Basics with emphasis on making a quality membership experience, which led to the late morning Keynote speaker.

Robyn Benincasa presented *Inspiring Greatness Through G.R.I.T. (Guts, Respect, Innovation and Teamwork)*. She left me with a few thoughts about creating the passion to pursue the impossible, having the "guts" or courage (you either are born with it, have built it, or had to borrow it at some time). Respect comes with resiliency (defined not by the setbacks, but by the comebacks). Innovation flourishes with hope of success versus the fear of failure and Teamwork which is all about "we" thinking versus "me" thinking.

Of course, having a special invitation to the Pretty in Pink Laurel Society party was a blast. They had a live band, lots of international appetizers, and dinner. The rest of the convention put on their denims and diamonds for a dance party that lasted far past my bedtime, especially with an early Region Picture Call at 7:00 a.m.

All in all, it was a very successful convention. I have lots of stories to share about the people and their hopes and insight into the future of Soroptimist.



~Sandy Lawrence, Treasurer



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**"Get over the idea that only children should spend their time in study. Be a student so long as you still have something to learn, and this will mean all your life." ~Henry L. Doherty**

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### WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim.



I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. Thank you so much for believing in me and my education!

Sincerely,  
*Jenny Gomez*

# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH</b> Amanda Betzel Colleen Blazier Roxann Harr Janet Real Cat Xander				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 GGS Core committee Meeting—voting for the Featured Artist	15	16	17 BOARD RETREAT
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 S.T.A.R.T. Meeting 	28	29	30	31

# September 2024

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



**DOG DAYS OF SUMMER** by: Eric Paepflow

As the summer sun  
Raises high in the sky  
Noses lift to sniff the breeze  
As it drifts slowly by  
With squinting eyes  
And twitching nose  
And the warmth of the ground  
Beneath our toes  
We lie here and rest  
And soak in the sights  
Keeping a watchful eye  
For squirrels and birds that fly  
And as we lie and rest  
In the long cool grass  
We raise our eyes to the sky  
And watch, as the clouds drift slowly past  
As we warm our bones and feet  
And spend the dog days of summer  
Soaking in the sun and drifting off to sleep



Soroptimist International of Sequim  
PO Box 126  
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.*

To a Person Making a Difference for Women