



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 6

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 77 Years of Service

December 2024

President's Message

Officers 2024 — 2025

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**“Love is the magician
that pulls man out of
his own hat.”
~Ben Hecht**

Oh, my goodness a casual acquaintance wished me “Happy Holidays” and yes, it is that time of year. I love December! I love the magic of the holidays. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, there is magic to be had. Whether it is the sparkle of the Christmas lights, the glow of the Menorah or the vibrant colors of Kwanzaa and you entwine it with goodness, it becomes magical memories.

December for us for over twenty years was the preparation of bringing Santa to life and the magic that came with it. My hubby played Santa, and I joined him as Mrs. Claus for the last five years of his adventures. Then COVID hit and the Santa suit was relegated to a special bag. We don't do Santa anymore because of health reasons, but I am delighted that a friend requested the use of the suit this year. It is a beautiful suit made of velvet and touched with real fur. The occupant of the suit jingles because of the special leather belt enhanced by bells that give it such a special magical touch. As a child and as a young adult, Christmas was the celebration of Christ but when my hubby started performing as Santa, I was privy to experience a special kind of magic. The joy and innocence we experienced with children was as pure as the first snow of winter. Some things are meant to happen and the Santa I came to know (and love) has perfect round cheeks, big bright blue eyes and yes, he had a magical connection with children. He could make you a believer of Santa!

My favorite story of Santa and the magic he brought comes from the innocence of a child. One year, while we still lived in Tennessee after the conclusion of Santa duties, we all trekked off to a beautiful lodge in Georgia with my sister and her husband. On Christmas day, still decked with his beautiful white beard, my hubby donned on a bright red dress shirt and slacks and a beautiful silk tie with Christmas embellishments. While eating dinner, a young family was seated at the neighboring table with a little girl of about four or five. During our entire meal she would watch my husband intently, often displaying a cute shy smile. My hubby would smile back, and he even gave her a wink or two. The wonderment was magical to watch. We finished our meal and as we were walking out and not quite out of sight, my hubby in his best Santa voice shouted out “Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.” To our delight, we heard the squeal of a child's voice and the words “I told you so.” It was magic at its finest!

Magic is important these days! The definition of magic is the power to influence the course of something by a mysterious action. You have the power to do something mysterious and magical by touching someone's life through your volunteer activities. Participating in Holiday Joy or even taking an angel from a local angel tree is making magic for someone. Even a smile during the holidays as you hurriedly rush through the grocery aisle can be magical and powerful. Remember, making magic isn't just left to the holidays. We all have the ability to make magic all year long, through simple acts of charitable kindness and giving. May you be the giver and the recipient of magic all year long. Happy holidays!



~President Linda



Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's December. The holidays are here. We're in the Season of Light. That might sound odd because, for those of us in the northern hemisphere, December is the month with the least amount of daylight. Many of the holidays are celebrated with lights: Christmas with Christmas tree and advent wreaths, Hanukkah with the menorah, Kwanza with the kinara.

The holidays are a time of peace, love and coming together—a time of giving and receiving, of caring and sharing. It is wonderful to see family and friends and feel the comfort of their presence.

Some people say that the holidays have become too commercialized. They grouse about how Christmas trees have been in stores since before Halloween. I have fond memories of Christmas trees from childhood. In preparation we would buy boxes of silver tinsel. Going to pick out a live tree was exciting! The Christmas lights and ornaments would come out of hibernation. The grown-ups put the lights on the tree. My siblings and I got to adorn the tree with ornaments. Then came the tinsel. My youngest brother encouraged us to separate the tinsel and place each strand individually on the branches. That really filled out the tree and made it beautiful. Decorating the tree was more than buying the tree; it was more than just a task—it was a catalyst for strengthening our family bond. It created an environment where we felt peace and love.

It's easy to understand how peace and love can be felt when we're dealing with family and friends. What about when we're dealing with other people?

This past week a truck pulled into the parking lot at work. There were two dogs in the passenger seat with their heads sticking out the open window. Blue saw the dogs and started to grumble. A woman got out of the truck and came to our door. I opened it and invited her in. She was a bit frazzled. Though she did take some time to pet Blue.

She was a victim of a scam. She had called a phone number and given the person access to her computer. Once she realized it was a scam, she hung up the phone and turned off her laptop. She called her bank to put a hold on her account. They told her to take the computer into a repair shop and have it redone. We chatted for a while. I asked her some questions, filled out a work order and explained what we would do. I mentioned to her that this kind of thing happens often. I asked if I could come out to meet her two dogs. She said yes.

The female dog (almost 12 years old) was monopolizing the open window. The male dog (6 years old) squeezed his head out. I got to pet both and give them some 'good dog' comments. The woman was noticeably relaxed by then. I had lightened her spirit. She reached out her hand, touched my arm and said, "I'm glad I met you." We both smiled. We felt the comfort of each other's presence.

I was thinking about the tinsel on the Christmas tree; it made me think of how when we each contribute what we can as individuals, we make what we do together more meaningful. As we move through days with less light, let us remember we are the light for one another. Let us carry the Season of Light forward while we continue Sowing Seeds for the Future.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas." ~Peg Bracken

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024

- 3 GGS Core Committee Meeting—1st Security
- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting
- 14 Holiday Party 1-4 p.m. Natasha's Home

JANUARY 2025

- 3 GGS Core Committee Meeting—1st Security
- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting

*Evening Meeting



"A Christmas candle is a lovely thing; It makes no noise at all, But softly gives itself away."
~Eva Logue



"Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most."
~Ruth Carter Stapleton

Celebrate Life!

DECEMBER 2024

Dave Fickes
Virginia Kostanich
Sandy Lawrence
Elaine Powlesland

JANUARY 2025

Susan Coffee
Kathy Cunha



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



“Love is what’s in the room with you
at Christmas if you
stop opening presents and listen.”
~*Author Unknown*

A REMINDER—2024-2025 MEETING LOCATION

We now meet at
Fifth Avenue Senior Independent Living
500 W. Hendrickson, Sequim at 8 a.m.
Stay healthy;
wearing masks to the meeting is welcomed.
See you on **November 12th**.



HOLIDAY JOY

New SIS member Kelli Ward coordinates the Holiday Joy program through Healthy Families of Clallam County. Last year they delivered gifts to 38 families. This year's gift forms from clients have started to filter into the agency, and as of November 25th, 22 families have sponsors. But there are still two single women, a couple, and three larger families that are in need of sponsors.

If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Kelli (kward1222@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Remember, there are many ways to participate! You can sign up as an individual sponsor or partner with another SIS member(s). In my household, we decided to sponsor a family instead of exchanging gifts this Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help bring Holiday Joy to these families. Thank you to those who generously gave so a family could have a merry Christmas.



~Roxann Harr, President-Elect



SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting
TBD
February 2025



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

FINDING AN AVENUE FOR FINDING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Three years ago we decided to have the Peninsula College Foundation oversee our Professional/Technical awards. It was proving nearly impossible for us as a club to reach the appropriate women for this award. The Peninsula College Foundation, on the other hand, has the ability to advertise this scholarship through all their outlets and to contact professors for recommended students.

We received thank you letters recently from our two recipients.

In addition to what Jessica said in her letter, we know that she is a single mom with four daughters. She left school at 15. She has made the President's List for six consecutive quarters, excelling in addiction studies. Her goal is to pursue a bachelor's in mental health and eventually earn a MA to help others in social work.



~Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarships Co-Chair



“When it all boils down, it’s about embracing each other’s stories and maybe even finding that synergy to collaborate for the common good.” ~Dhani Jones

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION FROM PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL AWARDEES



Dear Members of Soroptimist International of Sequim,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the generous \$2,000 scholarship awarded to me for my college education. This scholarship is not only a financial blessing but also a tremendous encouragement as I continue my journey as a first-generation college student.

As I fund my education entirely by myself, this scholarship significantly alleviates my financial burden, allowing me to focus more on my studies and less on financial stress. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity by excelling academically and contributing positively to my community.

Your support brings me one step closer to achieving my dream of becoming a mental health counselor. With your assistance, I can continue to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to make a meaningful impact in the field of mental health, helping others navigate their challenges with compassion and understanding. Thank you once again for believing in me and supporting my educational endeavors. I am deeply grateful for your generosity and for the difference you are making in my life.

With sincere appreciation,
Sarah



Dear Peninsula College Foundation Donors,

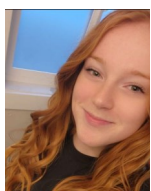
I'm writing you this note to thank you for not only considering me for this award and choosing me to receive it, this is truly a great honor. This will make a remarkable difference for me this coming school year and I couldn't be more grateful. My only financial support is through work study which is 12 hours a week so it is a challenge for me at times so you can see how this will make an amazing difference for me in my college situation. The difference you guys are making in the lives of students you help is astounding and life changing. Again thank you so much for this award !!!

Thank you!
Jessica Lynn Johnson

GIRLS OF THE MONTH

Soroptimist International of Sequim is pleased to announce Nevaeh Owens as their November Girl of the Month and Olivia Baras who is December's Girl of the Month.

NEVAEH OWENS



Nevaeh Owens has been on honor roll since the 6th grade. She is on varsity basketball and has lettered in both basketball and softball. Veterinarian science is her favorite class, and she hopes to attend Washington State University with the goal of becoming a veterinarian.

OLIVIA BARAS



Olivia Baras is on honor roll with a 4.0 and has been on the soccer team and is now continuing a second year on the basketball team. Baras has a great love of music and is part of the Vocal Ensemble and volunteers as choir officer and with the American Sign Language Club at the local elementary school. She wants to attend Peninsula College and then transfer to Washington State University focusing on American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter studies as well as a teaching career.

“The value of life is not in its duration, but in its donation. You are not important because of how long you live; you are important because of how effective you live.” ~Myles Munroe

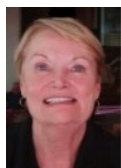
DONATION STEMS FROM SOROPTIMIST SHARING

Exciting News! The club just received a \$5,000 donation from Glen and Tena Varvil. It is to establish a scholarship in honor of Glen's mother, who was a teacher. The **Norma Varvil Scholarship** is to go to a student majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math as the Varvils' desire is to equip the student with the education that will put her in the position to get a good job with a future.

Mr. Varvil wants to make the amount of the scholarship significant enough that it will make a difference in her ability to continue in school and he intends to make this a renewable grant, providing the student makes appropriate progress.

The Varvils plan to make this scholarship a beneficiary in their will, so that it will be able to continue for many years. As Glen put it “We can't look into the future and know how much we will have left after we pass, but we do want to give something back since we both received some help ourselves....”

They chose our club to receive the funds to honor Norma Varvil because of a conversation with former member Linda Chapman about Soroptimist. They weren't ready to do anything at that time but remembered us and were impressed by our scholarship program. This wonderful gift proves that you should share good news about Soroptimist whenever you can—like bread upon the waters, you never know what will come floating in!



~Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarships Co-Chair



ROSTER UPDATES/CORRECTIONS

Shirley HUNTLEY's phone numbers are both incorrect in the roster. Check the members only online roster for correct phone numbers if you need to contact her.

Brandi LARSON is no longer at Sound Community Bank, so please cross out the 3 lines between "Cell:" and "Email:"



“Christmas—that magic blanket that wraps itself about us, that something so intangible that it is like a fragrance. It may weave a spell of nostalgia. Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance—a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved.” ~Augusta E. Rundel

PATHWAYS COMMITTEE REPORT

November 20, 2024 recap meeting

Pathways had a wonderful second meeting at Hurricane Coffee. Kelli Ward, Deb Alwine, and I attended along with Cat Xander and Kris Osborn.

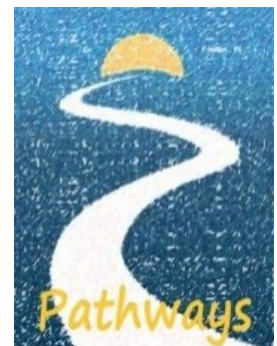
Cat and Kris spoke about the Scholarships and Awards Committee. Their passion was contagious as they shared about the young women who are being served. They also shared details about the logistics of the scholarship application process. Of note was the organization of the committee. From the candidate selection process to the ease of participating in the group, each step is intentional and meaningful. Thank you both for sharing your vision and excitement for helping others!

We reviewed research thus far on possible projects: Healthy Families, Tim’s Place, Sequim Education Foundation and Natures Academy-Unbound Horizons. While we had thoughtful conversations and a desire to choose a project, we felt it best to wait until our next meeting to allow more time to review additional organizations. We hope to get started with a project sometime in January or Early February.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 11, at 3:30 at Hurricane Coffee.



Cheryl Easterling, Pathways Committee



“The spirit of Christmas is found when we lift the load of others.” ~Toni Sorenson

HAPPY DOLLARS

November 12, 2024

Virginia Kostanich—was happy to able to spend time with friend of 46 years.

Natasha Merkloff Nichols—happy for the 4 dozen cookies Jeanne Martin baked for her husband's birthday.

Jane Manzer—grateful for the man who wrote the Rave in the Sunday PDN about the Medical Loan Closet.

Chris Snow—happy for the restructuring of the medical loan closet by Shawn and Jeff Dredla, also her granddaughter loved the "Gathering Place" playground.

Roxann Harr—happy because Sunday she did nothing and it was wonderful.

Becky Archer—she's back from Pennsylvania and North Carolina and getting ready to head to California to visit her son and friends.

Cheryl Easterling—happy her granddaughter and her best friend are coming for Thanksgiving. She's looking forward to baking and spending time with them.

Deb Alwine—happy to be spending a week with her nephew who needs 24/7 care.

Soroptimist Jet Set representative—gave happy dollars for our allowing them to sell their coupon books to us.

Shawn Dredla—happy for everyone who made it to the meeting.

Sandy Lawrence—reminding us of the See's candy sale November 23 & 24 at the Masonic Temple and the Elk's Club November 30-31.

November 26, 2024

Roxann Harr—happy for her son moving to his own apartment.

Jane Manzer—happy for her son, who just sold his company.

Natasha Merkuloff-Nchols—happy for her family who have moved to Sequim, from Santa Rosa.

Linda Klinefelter—happy because it is Thanksgiving.

Chris Snow—she is thankful for Medical loan closet volunteers.

FRIEND CONNECTIONS

An update from past SIS member and past president of our club.

Hi everyone. I am keeping busy with Soroptimist here in Spokane, acting as Co-President. I am involved with a couple of other non-profits as well. I am still helping with my two grandbabies in Tucson. Fortunately, they come here often.

It is a privilege to watch them grow up, now 4 and 2 years old. Tim and I are traveling more. This last year we did a trip to Central Europe and then with friends to the Canadian Rockies. Lately I have been making small quilted blankets to donate to the Pediatric Emergency unit at the hospital. Staying busy. Wish you all a happy 2025.



~Rose Jaeger

2009-2010
President Rose's
Theme



Planting Possibilities

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET GETS RAVE REVIEW AND ADDITIONAL SAFETY FEATURE

November saw a big improvement in the safety and storage of the equipment in two of our four units at the MLC. **Shawn and Jeff Dredla** installed sturdy hooks for hanging items, installed shelving, relocated a small storage rack, and moved a large storage rack to a better location. Their work made the MLC safer, better organized and resulted in more efficient use of the space. Thank you!

We received a “Rave” in the Peninsula Daily News. It read, *“A rave to the Sequim Soroptimists for the Medical Loan Closet. Your assistance during medical challenges is truly appreciated. Everything is organized beautifully and is in good shape. This is a wonderful service and good organization to donate to.”*

A letter was sent to the Sequim-Dungeness Hospital Guild to let them know that we have purchased all the wheelchairs that their \$2,500 grant made possible.

Our call volume was **156** calls in November. We lent **118** items and had **98** items returned. We received **\$308** in donations from our generous community.

We invite you to consider becoming a MLC volunteer. It is an extremely rewarding experience! We provide training and continued support as you impact the quality of life of our community members.

~Susan Coffee and Chris Snow,
MLC Co-chairs



“Our many different cultures notwithstanding, there’s something about the holidays that makes the planet communal. Even nations that do not celebrate Christmas can’t help but be caught up in the collective spirit of their neighbors, as twinkling lights dot the landscape and carols fill the air. It’s an inspiring time of the year.” ~**Marlo Thomas**

TEA WITH SHE'S COMEBACK



First, this summation of our Tea with SHE event comes with a huge thank you to the committee and to all the members who stepped up when several committee members were faced with emergencies. Christy and I are filled with lots of gratitude and appreciation for the time you gave this event.

I think all who were in attendance would say it was a resounding success. One hundred women and ten men were present. The speakers were knowledgeable, many questions were asked, and informative handouts were provided. It was most rewarding to hear attendees expressing they appreciated the valuable information that was presented. Last but certainly not least, we received a \$5,000 donation from one of the attendees with the specific request that it will be for scholarships with STEM students.

Thank you everyone...job well done!



~Christy Holy and Linda Klinefelter, Co-Chairs

**"It's not about presents but it is about your presence.
Therein lies the spirit of the holiday season."
~Julianne O'Connor**



Garden Show Flower Power T-Shirts

It is time to order t-shirts for the Garden Show. I will be taking orders until January 28th. You can order by sending me an email (jack.janet.real@gmail.com). There are four different styles to choose from: short and long sleeve classic fit and short and long sleeve feminine fit.

The base prices are as follows and they include the charge for screen printing:

Short Sleeve, cotton, classic fit -	PC54	\$ 9.13
Long Sleeve, cotton, classic fit -	PC54LS	\$14.63
Short Sleeve, cotton, feminine fit -	LPC54	\$ 9.13
Long Sleeve, cotton, feminine fit -	LPC54LS	\$14.63



The above price is based on ordering twelve or more shirts in any style.

If fewer shirts are ordered, the price will increase (for example: if eleven shirts are ordered, the cost of each shirt will increase by approximately \$4.00, if six shirts are ordered the cost will increase by \$5.00, and if three shirts are ordered the cost will increase by \$8.00). An additional \$1 is added for size XXL and \$2 for 3XL. Tax will be added. I will not collect for the shirts until they are delivered.

Each type of shirt is available in a range of colors specific to the style selected. To find the colors, go to <http://www.captaints.com> and click on CATALOG. Type in the style # (shown above) and click on the image of the desired shirt. The colors available will display. Hold the cursor over the color you want and the color name will display.

Please avoid ordering light colored shirts as our logo is in white and will not show up well.

Please send me the following information when ordering a shirt: your name, style of shirt, the color desired, and your size.

I will bring examples of the different shirts to the January business meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Thank You,
Janet Real, GGS T-Shirt Coordinator



“Christmas is a whisper of peace and a sigh of hope on the lips of love.” ~Richelle E. Goodrich

FUTURE GGS MEETING DATES:

January 7th
February 4th / March 4th

Note the future dates for upcoming GGS Core Committee Meetings. Please try to work your schedules around these dates. For continuity and effectiveness, it is important to have as many of the core committee members present as we get closer to the show.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

See's Candies

Thank you, Linda Klinefelter, Shawn Dredla, Patty Lebowitz, Jess McNeil and Natasha Merkuloff-Nicols for helping out at the See's Candies Sales these past two weekends.

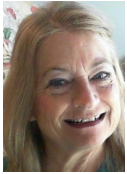
We purchased \$2,196.00 of See's Candies. We had \$2044.00 in cash sales and deposited \$882.00 in card sales minus the PayPal/ Zettle fees for a total of \$2926 in sales. That equals \$730.00 in profits. We have \$162 in profits to reap.

The following candies are left to sell:

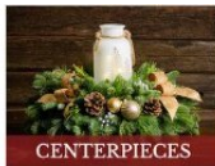
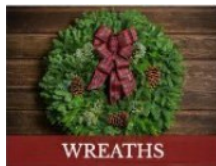
- 1 – Truffle (taken) \$18
- 7 – Twinkling Ornament boxes (\$12.00 each) \$84
- 4 – Skiing Reindeer Boxes (15.00 each) \$60

Anything left will be brought to the Business Meeting on Tuesday, December 10.

There is still time to order your **Holiday Wreaths** from Wreaths and More. We make 15% off of any sales. Click the link https://lynchcreekwreaths.com/?campaign_id=6785185 to order your wreaths.



~Sandy Lawrence, Fundraising Committee



SHREDDING EVENT

The month of May seems like a long time in the future, but it's only FIVE months. Put this date on your calendar NOW!

May 3, 2025 from 9 a.m. to noon.



~Jan Hartig, Shredding Event Coordinator



“When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things—not the great occasions—give off the greatest glow of happiness.” ~**Bob Hope**

December 2024

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

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Susan Coffee Kathy Cunha		7 GCS Core Committee Mtg	8	9	10 BOARD MEETING	11
5	6					
		14 Business Meeting	15	16	17	18
12	13					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Program Meeting	29	30	31	

Recipe for Christmas All Year Long

by Joanna Fuchs

Take a heap of child-like wonder
That opens up our eyes
To the unexpected gifts in life—
Each day a sweet surprise.

Mix in fond appreciation
For the people whom we know;
Like festive Christmas candles,
Each one has a special glow.

Add some giggles and some laughter,
A dash of Christmas food,
(Amazing how a piece of pie
Improves our attitude!)



Stir it all with human kindness;
Wrap it up in love and peace,
Decorate with optimism, and
Our joy will never cease.

If we use this healthy recipe,
We know we will remember
To be in the Christmas spirit,
Even when it's not December.



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