



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 7

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 78 Years of Service

January 2025

Officers 2024 — 2025

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Roxann Harr

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Newsletter Staff:

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Jane Manzer

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**“What we find
changes who
we become.”
~Peter Morville**

President’s Message

New Year Resolutions...

Here we are...at the beginning of a new year. New year, new paths, new adventures and changes I hope, that will be new beginnings for those we serve and support.

I am not about resolutions as they pertain to “New Year Resolutions!” I am someone who has worked in advocacy almost my entire life and I believe in making changes when we are confronted with a problem. Sometimes, we can’t solve the problem in its entirety, but we can chip away at it. I believe in striving for some progress over perfection because every step counts.

As a member of Soroptimist, I believe we are always in a state of resolution. We are committed to achieving a specific goal or objective. The resolutions we are constantly striving to achieve are giving support to women and girls through enhancing their education or making someone’s life a little better. We continue to achieve these changes with our awards and scholarships program, medical loan closet, special programs and our committed funds. The foregoing is the primary reason why I joined Soroptimists because through our support we make positive changes.

If there are resolutions to be made by me, the following are mine with our Organization: increasing community engagement, continuing to foster our partnerships, looking to where a need can be filled and to look where we can increase donors. Join me in my ongoing commitment to making positive changes in this new year.

Happiness to all of you in the New Year.



~President Linda



**“Strategy is, at some level, the ability to predict what’s going to happen, but it’s also about understanding the context in which it is being formulated. And then you have to be open-minded to the fact that you’re not going to get it right at the very beginning.”
~Martin Dempsey**

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's January. The calendar tells us it is a new year. The season that focuses on giving and forgiving is drawing to a close. The hustle and bustle of the holidays is all but a distant memory. The decorations have been taken down and put away in their special place until next year.

Just days before the year ended, we received the sad news that Betty Osborn, one of our past Soroptimist Life members, passed away. Her husband, daughter (Debbie Cottrell, who is a current member of our club), and son were with her at the time.

I came to know Betty initially through our WIN (Women in Networks) Program which began in late 1997. When I think of Betty, I think of someone with grace, compassion, and wisdom. Her smile would light up a room as well as the hearts of those in the room. I found her to be quiet and unassuming, but definite in her resolve. In the last few years that she was a member of our club, Betty talked about not renewing her membership because she felt she had nothing to offer. As we age, our physical abilities tend to be reduced. I told her that what she brings to the table is ideas and wisdom—which are important—and not everyone has those talents.

I remember many Installations of new club officers and board members that Betty attended, accompanied by her husband Ross. What great energy the two of them brought and radiated out to everyone there! And Ross is a good hugger. Ross supported our club in many ways over the years and was one of the first Soroptimisters.

The last time I saw Betty was when Debbie came to pick up a Secret Pal gift at my office and Betty was in the front passenger seat. I went out to chat with her. That same bright lovely smile was shining. I reached my hand into the car, and she met it with her hand. I could feel the energy and the love.

During the past year many of our members have had a loved one pass away. I have experienced this myself with the passing of both my brothers-in-law and within six months of each other. At the Celebration of Life for one of them, my niece made a comment that struck me deeply. She said that if we want to keep the memory of her dad alive, live like he lived.

The physical passing of a loved one changes things—on the physical plane. But there is another aspect of our loved one that doesn't change—the love. We feel it through time and space. Tears might fall, but that is just a physical manifestation of the depth of our love. Acknowledging and accepting the memories of love given and love shared bring that loved one closer than our very breath. It gives us strength.

As we turn the calendar page to a new year, let us remember love has no designated season, but rather is for all seasons. As we are Sowing Seeds for the Future, let us sow seeds of Love.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



“Spending moments with another in earnest presence is one of the simple ways we can show unconditional love. It is the memories created from these impressions that survive after all else passes.”
~Molly Friedenfeld

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2025

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

FEBRUARY 2025

- 4 GGS Core Committee Meeting—1st Security
- 7 Board Meeting
- 11 Business Meeting
- 22 Area Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting

*Evening Meeting



“A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.”
~Charles H. Spurgeon



“Love is like a beautiful flower which I may not touch, but whose fragrance makes the garden a place of delight just the same.”
~Helen Keller

Celebrate Life!

JANUARY 2025

Susan Coffee
Kathy Cunha

FEBRUARY 2025

Becky Archer
Sherry Lacey
Patty Lebowitz



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



“Sometimes, reaching out
and taking someone’s hand is the
beginning of a journey. At other times,
it is allowing another to take yours.”
~Vera Nazarian

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 **January 14th**.



GETTING WITH THE PROGRAM

For our **January 28th** program meeting we will be hearing from **Sarah Brooks**, College and Career Counselor at Sequim High School. Her presentation is on the barriers and influences to students seeking out pathways after graduation. She will also talk specifically about female mentorship ideas.

Also joining us will be Sequim School District Superintendent, **Regan Nickels**, who will outline two key funding proposals for February 2025’s special election: Proposition 1, the renewal of the Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy and Proposition 2, a new School Construction Bond Resolution. The EP&O Levy funds critical programs not fully covered by state funding, while the bond aims to address outdated infrastructure with projects like replacing Helen Haller Elementary and Sequim High School Buildings A,B,C,D and E, upgrading safety and security, improving traffic and parking flow, Greywolf Elementary HVAC improvements and cafeteria, and upgrading multi-sport athletic field facilities. These measures are presented as investments in educational quality, student safety, and community development.



~Roxann Harr, President-Elect



SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting
Olympic Rain Forest Hosting
February 22, 2025



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

UPDATES FROM PAST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Petra Bernsten has received Continuing Education scholarships from us. She is wrestling for her school and still finishing a year early. She also received one of the quilts Marti McAllister-Wolf donated. As you can see, she is very appreciative of both our scholarship and the quilt.



Hi!

Yes, wrestling season started in September! I am doing well in my classes, looking forward to graduation in the Spring. I got accepted into Pharmacy School for the 2025 Fall term. I have been using the quilt every night as my house does not hold heat at all!!! Happy Holidays to all who celebrate!

Petra Bernsten

Felicity Brown has overcome many obstacles and received a High School Scholarship. She is attending Peninsula College.



Hi, it's Felicity Brown! Thank you for the scholarship, I deeply appreciate it. College is amazing, I love all my classes except for my future math class lol. I haven't joined any of the clubs or sports but I'm interested in looking into them.

I ended up switching my degree to an AAS-T [which will allow her to transfer to a four-year university]. Instead of being a counselor, which I'm still considering, for the moment I've decided I want to be an elementary school teacher! Again, thank you for the scholarship and reaching out. Have a lovely holiday!

-Felicity Brown

Hannah Wagner received a Continuing Education scholarship which she is using at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, BC to add to the Soccer Scholarship they gave her. She is working on an MA in Business Administration and playing soccer for the school.



Hello,

I just finished up my last finals and am 1 out of 4 semesters through my program! The scholarship you gave me has helped me tremendously so far and I really appreciate it. The scholarship they gave me is a little funny because it's an international waiver rather than a scholarship. So instead of paying crazy international fees I pay domestic prices which is much nicer.

Soccer went great and yes we unfortunately just missed bronze. We have a few great players coming in next year and I think we will be able to go further. I really loved the team this year and enjoyed it a lot. I unfortunately got hurt towards the end of the year and wasn't able to play in nationals which was really sad but I'm looking forward to coming back next year even stronger.

Sincerely, *Hannah Wagner*

DONATION TO PENINSULA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

We are in the feel-good season and Cat Xander felt good presenting a check for **\$1500** to **Dr. Cheryl Crane**, Executive Director of Peninsula College Foundation. The funds will assist female students who have critical needs while attending college.



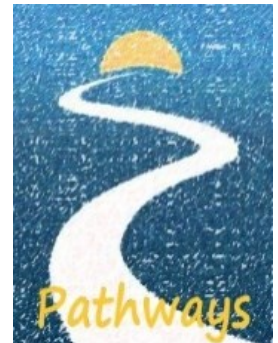
PENINSULA COLLEGE

“Inclusive, good-quality education is a foundation for dynamic and equitable societies.” ~Desmond Tutu

PATHWAYS RECAP

The December Pathways meeting was attended by Kelli Ward, Deb Alwine, and me along with Shawn Dredla and Jane Manzer.

Shawn and Jane spoke about the Membership Committee. We walked away with the importance of new member first connections. Simple yet meaningful touches make the difference with new members integrating into our Soroptimist community. Thank you, Shawn and Jane, for sharing your heart with us on the value of connection and the Soroptimist culture of serving women and our community. You make Sequim Soroptimist a welcoming organization. We decided on the following 2 projects for 2025



ART SUPPLY DRIVE January 20 - February 28, 2025

An arts supply drive for Tim's Place, an activity program for people living with memory loss due to Alzheimer's or Dementia. The supply drive will begin January 20 and go thru February 28 and will include collection boxes at various locations along with collection at Soroptimist meetings.

HEALTHY FAMILIES' ORGANIZATION DAY April 9, 2025

The second project is a storage organization event for Healthy families. This will be a one day event on Wednesday, April 9th with 2 shifts 9-12 and 12-3. This will be a time to assist with simple organization of toys and other items into the correct bins. More information on the projects will be shared as details unfold.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 15 at Hurricane Coffee at 3:30 p.m.



~Cheryl Easterling, Pathways Committee



BECOMING A MEMBER IS EASY AS 1-2-3

123

WOW! I know I always start out like that, but my goodness what a year it has been. We inducted one new member, welcomed a transfer new member, and have a third new member to be inducted soon. Membership dues from now until June have been pro-rated to \$115 if you have someone in mind that may be interested in Soroptimist. All they have to do is attend **three meetings**, which include GGS meetings or events.

Keep an eye out for a Membership Committee survey that will be coming out in the next few months. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Welcome to 2025!!

~Shawn Dredla, Membership Co-chair

“I celebrate myself, and sing myself, and what I assume you shall assume, for every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you” ~*Walt Whitman*

HAPPY DOLLARS

December 10, 2024

Patty Lebowitz----happy as she celebrated her 35th wedding anniversary and a big shout out to Lynn from the Cancer Center that stepped in as her support person at her first oncologist appointment.

Sandy Lawence—happy the See’s candy is all sold.

Shelle Paulbitski—happy she had company for her Brother-in-law’s celebration of life.

Deb Alwine is happy about how beautiful her sister’s funeral was.

Jane Manzer—happy because she will be leaving shortly to spend time with her grandsons and have lunch with Kathleen DeJong.

Virginia Kostanich—happy for all of us.

Cristy Holy—happy The Rented Christmas play she’s directing is going well.

Jeanne Martin—happy for the good works we’re doing.

Becky Archer—happy to be back from her 2nd trip and looking forward to being with her son and daughter.

Shawn Dredla—happy about shopping for Holiday Joy and the Christmas season.

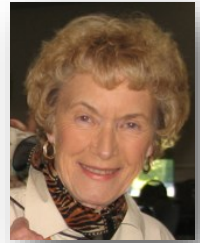
Cheryl Easterling—happy she’s completed a one-year program as a retirement charter professional. And she has been selected to a program for financial coaching; when complete she’ll be the only Edward Jones consultant in the area with that designation. Cheryl is honored to be part of a Jones coaching program.

Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols— happy because her daughter bought a “Pink House,” soon to be completely repainted.

Linda Klinefelter—happy she will be going to Vashon Island with her husband who out of the blue reminded her to bring cards to play Gin Rummy. A surprise bright spot in his Alzheimer’s journey.

REMEMBERING BETTY OSORN

Betty Osborn was a member of our club long enough to have received the Life Member designation. She left the club in 2020, but sent her daughter Debbie Cottrell, to fill that void. Sadly, Betty passed away last month, in late December. Some members—past and present—knew Betty only through their association with her in Soroptimist. Some members—past and present—knew Betty both through our club and through her profession as a financial advisor. We invite members—past and present—to share their memories of Betty. We will have a special column for this in the January, February, and March newsletters. Sharing memories helps us to learn more about Betty, allows us to process our sadness and keeps her alive in our hearts and minds. ~kp



Remembering Betty

Debbie Cottrell's mom, **Betty Osborn**, was a member of SI of Sequim for over 34 years—from February 1986 until June 30, 2020. And her husband Ross was one of the original "Soropti-misters." She was a professional woman, a financial advisor, and our family benefitted from her wisdom in that realm. She would come to our home for our meetings, and everything was always perfectly organized and professionally presented.

She also had an amazing memory. A couple of months ago she told me she had a history book about Quincy, WA that she wanted me to take to Fred. She remembered his grandparents and parents had lived there in the 40's, a tidbit he must have shared with her nearly 30 years ago. When I visited her just after she was brought home from the hospital on December 19th, she reminded me that the book for Fred was in the TV room!

Aside from being surprised at that, I was grateful to be able to hold her hand, tell her I admired and appreciated her over the years, and also tell her how much she helped our youngest son learn the value of saving money. Being able to visit her that one last time and tell her what she meant to me emphasized the importance of taking the opportunity to share with others what they mean to us.



~Jane Manzer



"The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love." ~William Wordsworth

Laziness kills ambition

Anger kills wisdom

Fear kills dreams

Ego kills growth

Jealousy kills peace

Doubt kills confidence

Now read that right to left



MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET SOLIDIFIES CONNECTION WITH CLALLAM FIRE DISTRICT 3

As previously reported, we have been in communication with Clallam County Fire District 3 about partnering with them to support the community if there is an unexpected emergency. Solidifying this relationship now allows us both to be better prepared to assist those in need.



Clallam County Fire District 3 (CCFD3) provided a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SIS and CCFD3 for signature. The MOU describes the relationship between SIS and CCFD3 relative to CCFD3 access to the MLC equipment in the event of a disaster. Chris Snow and Susan Coffee signed the MOU and the keys to Unit 31 of the MLC were provided to the CCFD3 CERT Representative. A tour of the MLC will be provided to CCFD3 points of contact soon.

As a result of the Tea with SHE event, we established a relationship with Mark Kajalainen, the CCFD3 Community Paramedic. We received two calls from Mark with a request for MLC equipment in December. We plan to ask Mark to speak at our next committee meeting so all our volunteers will have a chance to meet him and hear about the services he provides to the community. We will also discuss how we can best interface with him.

Our call volume was **175** calls in December. We lent **77** items and had **78** items returned. We received **\$612** 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

SPREADING HOLIDAY JOY

This is my second season of participating in the Holiday Joy program. My family and I decided not to give each other gifts but to sponsor a family instead. Well, the no gift giving rule between us went out the window. But we did provide gifts and a Christmas tree with ornaments for a mom and four daughters. My youngest son helped me shop and wrap presents, and my husband and I met the mother to deliver the presents in time for them to enjoy setting everything up. It was wonderful to share with my family the joy of this program and a small slice of what SIS does to help families in our area.

Our involvement was made possible by the hard work of Kelli Ward, and we are so thankful for her helping to connect us to a family in need. I asked Kelli to share some information on how the program went this season and she sent me the following:

This year, there were 32 families totaling 92 people. Soroptimist members adopted 19 of those families totaling 51 people! I heard several clients say that when they are in a better spot, they hope to be sponsors someday and that the kindness is overwhelming for them during these tough times. So thank you, Soroptimist members, for being such constant and generous sponsors!

Thank you, Kelli and Happy New Year, everyone!



Roxann Harr, President-elect



PRESENTING COMMITTED FUNDS



Soroptimist International of Sequim is a proud supporter of Healthy Families of Clallam County, and we recently presented funds to the agency. President Linda (center) presents a check for **\$2000** to **Leslie Bond**, Executive Director (right) and **Sarah McBride**, staff member (left). In addition to the donation, the members of our club participated in Healthy Families Holiday Joy program. This program provides gifts to programs participants and their family members.

“I believe that we all have a responsibility to give back. No one becomes successful without lots of hard work, support from others, and a little luck. Giving back creates a virtuous cycle that makes everyone more successful.” ~Ron Conway



President Linda (center) proudly presented a check for **\$2000** to **Wendy Sisk**, CEO of Peninsula Behavioral Health in support of their work with women and children in therapy programs. Pictured left is **Tracy Sheldon**, Development Director. This generous donation enables Soroptimist International of Sequim to continue making a positive impact in the community.



President Linda presents a Committed Funds check for \$600 to **Rhonda Heyn**, the Executive Director of Tim's Place.

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS SHARED AT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Natasha hosted our Christmas party in her lovely home again this year. The view, two Christmas trees and the festive dress of some of the guests provided the perfect holiday spirit. Thirteen members brought good food we all shared along with memories of favorite past Christmases.

Turns out, I wasn't the only one who didn't really know what a 'Dirty Santa' gift exchange was. Natasha explained for us that a gift could be taken from you by the next person in line to pick a gift. One particular gift started with me and was passed to a couple of people before it found a home with lucky Becky Archer. Sharing gifts was fun and everyone enjoyed the excitement and challenge of the game. Sometime have Sandy tell you her story about one party where she had the wrong idea about the game for a good laugh!

We were all “of good cheer!”



~Roxann Harr, President-elect



“Love so easily understands what you can see is the smallest part; you don’t need Christmas in your hands when you have Christmas in your heart.” ~*Anonymous*



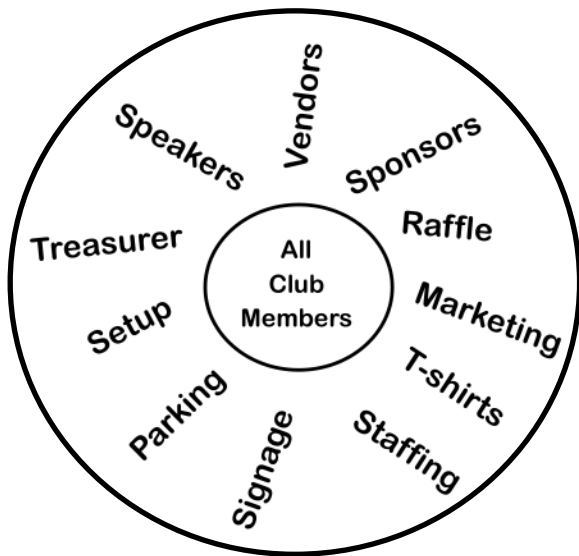


*Thank you,
Natasha!*



“Christmas... is not an eternal event at all, but a piece of one’s home that one carries in one’s heart...” ~Freya Stark

GALA GARDEN SHOW UPDATE



All club members are part of the Garden Show wheel. The club as a whole is the hub; the Core Committee members are the spokes. The hub and the spokes make the rubber hit the road to run the show. Member participation is important to the success of the GGS.

Members are strongly encouraged to wear a Flower Power t-shirt at the show. These t-shirts are for members only as they are a point of reference for vendors and visitors. If they have questions or need guidance, they will look for someone with a Flower Power t-shirt. Plus, wearing a Flower Power t-shirt shows solidarity and support of our club. Many of us already have Flower Power t-shirts, but some of us



might want a new color or we might want to replace an existing one that wants to retire after being worn at lots of previous shows. **Janet Real** is coordinating orders for t-shirts. The deadline for orders is **January 28**, so contact Janet if you wish to get a new shirt.

Jeanne Martin is the Volunteer Coordinator again this year. Later this month she will be starting to work on filling the various slots where workers are needed. Please volunteer where you can.

Yard signs and car magnets will be brought to the meetings in February, so look for those and take what you can use to publicize the show. This is a team effort.

There are a few booth spaces still available. If you know of a vendor that you think would fit the GGS theme, please let **Shawn Dredla** know.

We're always open for additional sponsors! If you know someone who likes what we do as Seroptimist, encourage them to become a sponsor. Every donation adds to what we're able to do in the community.



~Roxann Harr and Kathy Purcell, GGS Co-chairs

"Plants adapt to lean on each other." ~Avijeet Das

FUTURE GGS MEETING DATES:
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.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR REGION

Please mark your calendars to attend the Olympic Peninsula Area meeting on **February 22**. This year **SI of the Olympic Rainforest** is our host. It will be held at the Rainforest Arts Center (RAC) downtown. The address is 35 N. Forks Avenue. The meeting begins at 9 and ends at 2. More information will be coming. Let's plan to have a large group attend this year.



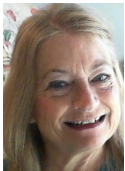
Soroptimist International
Northwestern Region
2024-2026

Our Northwestern Region Conference is scheduled for **April 24-27**, at the **Valley River Inn in Eugene, OR**. I will be calling to make reservations before the end of January. If you are interested in attending the conference, please let me know. It is possible that your attendance can be paid, or partially paid. These conferences are very informative, educational, with a bunch of fun intermingled.

Freedom Education Project (Our 2024 Region Conference Service Project) in the News! For those of you who attended the 2024 Region Conference and heard about our service project, **Freedom Education Project Puget Sound**, they were Featured in the Seattle Times Pacific NW Magazine: Freedom Education Project with 45 new students this fall ... using the supplies our Region provided.



<https://www.seattletimes.com/pacific-nw-magazine/45-new-students-join-a-now-award-winning-college-in-prison-program/> or click the photo.



~Sandy Lawrence



STUDIUM GENERALE & SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CLUBS PRESENT

**MARK NICHOLS, CLALLAM COUNTY PROSECUTOR:
RAISING AWARENESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Thursday, January 30 | 12:35 pm | Little Theater

Event Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 - 12:35 PM

Event Location: Port Angeles Campus, Little Theater

Mark Nichols, Clallam County Prosecutor will present an overview globally and locally of Human Trafficking and what impacts trafficking has on our lives and our communities.

Join us at 12:35 pm in The Little Theater on the main campus of Peninsula College

Co-sponsored with the Soroptimist International Clubs of Fork, Port Angeles, and Sequim.

For more information, please contact Kate Reavey, Coordinator for Studium Generale, at kreavey@pencol.edu ✉.

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Susan Coffee Kathy Cunha		7 GGS 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	

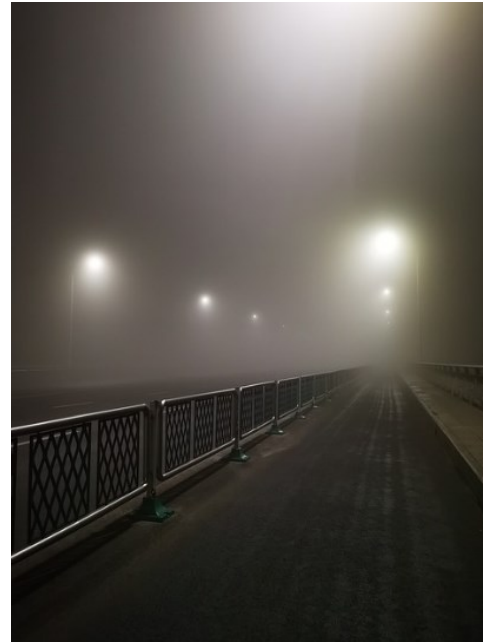
February 2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Becky Archer Sherry Lacey Patty Lebowitz						1 Deadline for articles for Soropti-Scoop
2	3	4 GGs Core Committee Mtg	5	6	7 BOARD MEETING	8
9 Distribution of February Soropti-Scoop	10	11 Business Meeting	12	13	14 	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Area Meeting Olympic Rain Forest Host
23	24	25 Program Meeting	26	27	28	

Moving on is Moving Forward

Author Unknown

Sometimes I forget that to get somewhere new,
You have to leave where you are.
And I'm trying to remember this.
To use the nostalgia that strikes me, not so randomly
To look around me and enjoy the things that are,
Rather than keeping both eyes fixed on the future;
Looking ahead to something still clearing out of fog,
Features not yet defined.
Only blurriness visible.
And temporarily looking back,
At what I feel I didn't appreciate enough, while I had it.



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Soroptimist®: a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

Soroptimist International of Sequim
PO Box 126
Sequim, WA 98382

To a Person Making a Difference for Women