



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 1

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

July 2024

Officers 2024 — 2025

President:

Linda Klinefelter

President-Elect:

Roxann Harr

Secretary:

Christy Holy

Treasurer:

Sandy Lawrence

Assistant Treasurer:

Brandi Larson

Director: 2 year

(one year remaining)

Patty Lebowitz

Director: 2 year

Kathy Purcell

Director: 1 year

Colleen Blazier

Director: 1 year

Virginia Kostanich

Immediate Past-

President:

Shirley Legg

Newsletter Staff:

Kathy Purcell

Susan Coffee

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”
~Phil Jackson

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to July and happy summer to all of you!

This is my first President’s Message for our newsletter, and I would love to be an inspiration to all of you—but I know that many of you are vacationing, gardening or enjoying leisure summer days. Having someone providing inspirations in your summer bliss is not what you want to hear. Yet, I do want to inspire you! I want to encourage you during our summer break to reach out to at least one person who you think might enjoy becoming a part of our organization. Yes, I know that some will look at you and only see work, but that is when you do the “Three Minute Elevator Speech.” Share how our work opens doors for women and girls.

Your example can be as simple as sharing about committed funds to First Step. Those funds support young families, and those young families have girls, and we are providing support to their growing foundation. Or share how a past scholarship to a Sequim High School graduate became a donation from that same graduate who had become an employee of the Gates Foundation.

As a member, you know many of our successes! Share those successes and yes, acknowledge those successes took work—but remember my words from my installation... “The ‘we’ in our journey of sowing seeds happens when we plan as a team, work as a team, play as a team and celebrate as team.”

While you enjoy your summer, sow some seeds that might generate a new member, and think of the words of Maya Angelou: “Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it.”

Happy July 2024!



~President Linda



“Stories connect us at a human level that factual statements and logical arguments can’t possibly match.” ~Steve Woodruff

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's July. In the Soroptimist world, that means the beginning of a new Soroptimist year. July 2024 also marks the beginning of a new Soroptimist biennium.

Before we turn the page, I want to comment on a couple of things from 2023-2024. First, Secret Pals. My office is a drop-off and pick-up location for Secret Pal gifts. I enjoy being the middle-(wo)man for this program. Seeing the smiling faces of the givers and the receivers makes me smile also. The Secret Pal program has been going on for several years. I've never tried to guess who my Secret Pal was. However, this year I had an inkling—but I was wrong.

My Secret Pal this year gave me so many gifts; I was a bit overwhelmed. One of the items I received was a lovely necklace. The chain looks like it is thin rolled pewter and the pendant is a pewter looking (Can you tell I'm not an expert on jewelry?) flower with a purple stone in the center. Did she know purple is my favorite color? I had this necklace for many months. But I had to wait to find the right outfit to accent it. For the installation I purchased a new blouse. The special necklace made its debut—with the new blouse—at the installation. I wondered if my Secret Pal would be there that night.

The big reveal of Secret Pals came days after the installation. I was blown away when I learned my Secret Pal had been Patty Lebowitz. She had been standing next to me during the installation, as we are both directors on the board. Speaking with Patty after the big reveal, she said she hadn't noticed the necklace. When I described the pendant, Patty said it had been part of a set and one of the earrings had gotten lost; she had it made into a necklace. I got to be the recipient of her creative repurposing; it made the installation all the more meaningful.

Speaking of meaningful, when Linda asked me to do the Inspiration for the installation I was honored. I found a wonderful poem (see the last page of this newsletter) that seemed to capture the meaning of her theme: Sowing Seeds for the Future. When I read the poem, I stumbled on a word I didn't instinctively know—bindweed. From the audience, Sandy Lawrence spoke up, saying the word and adding some info about it. I got through the rest of the poem smoothly.

The Installation event is a time of welcoming in the new board, but it is also a time of honoring several people. Photos of those honored are on page 10 of this newsletter. Another thing that was presented at the installation was a traditional year-in-review video with photos from the past year. You can view the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGEyZj9xs4Y&t=1s>.

Some reflections . . . I was thinking that sometimes when we find out we're wrong about something—like my incorrect inkling about my Secret Pal—the right answer turns out to be wonderful . . . Sometimes if we refocus our thoughts and leave ourselves open to new possibilities, we end up with something perhaps even more beautiful—like the solo earring becoming a lovely necklace . . . Sandy speaking up about bindweed reminds me how we all support one another, stepping in to assist where we can, allowing others to continue with grace. And we often learn something in the process. I am grateful to be part of this spirited club and look forward to Sowing Seeds for the Future with all of you. Just think of all we will grow together!



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



"The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness." ~Dalai Lama

CALENDAR

JULY

19-21 Lavender Festival
Booths at Fleurish

AUGUST

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

*Evening Meeting



"Purpose is the most powerful
motivator in the world.
The secret of passion
truly is purpose."
~Robin Sharma



"Nothing contributes so much
to tranquilize the mind as a
steady purpose—a point on which
the soul may fix its intellectual eye."
~Mary Shelly

Celebrate Life!

JULY

Athena Dunn
Jane Manzer
Kris Osborn
Kathy Purcell
Janet Wicker

AUGUST

Amanda Beitzel
Colleen Blazier
Janet Real
Cat Xander



We want all members to help identify women who will benefit from our Continuing Education (CE) Scholarship!

The applicants must have been graduates of Sequim High School or live in Sequim, have financial need, have completed 24 semester or 30 quarter units of post-secondary education and be enrolled for next year. Applications for the CE scholarships are available now through **August 15th** on our website at www.sisequim.com. The club has allocated \$9,000 for CE scholarships and a directed donation has added \$3,000 so we will be awarding \$12,000 in scholarships.

SAVE THE DATE

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

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

**Where: Kris Osborn's Beautiful Property and Barn
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Address: 1195 Taylor Cutoff Road, Sequim**

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



*“Build for your team a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another and of strength to be derived by unity.”
~Vince Lombardi*

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



48TH BIENNIAL SIA Convention
Reaching Higher
Bellevue, WA
July 24-27, 2024

D1

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

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting
TBD
February 2025

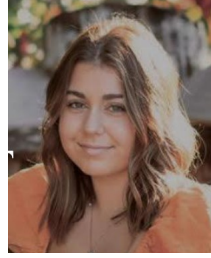


NWR Conference
Valley River Inn
Eugene, OR
April 24-27, 2025

2023-2024 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Felicity Brown \$2,000
attending Peninsula College
and majoring in addiction studies



Willow Robert \$1,000
attending Washington State University
and majoring in nursing



Jennifer Gomez \$1,000
attending Western Washington
University and majoring in nursing



Candence Rogers \$1,500
attending Peninsula College
and majoring in technology



Destiny Henrickson \$1,000
attending Peninsula College
and majoring in nursing



Esperanza Salazar-Garibay \$2,000
attending Peninsula College
or Centralia College
and majoring in criminal justice



Jessica Lack \$2,000
attending Western Washington
in Bellingham
and majoring in animal studies



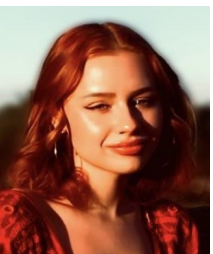
Emma Sweeny \$1,000
attending Hawaii Pacific University
or Peninsula College
and majoring in nursing



Teagan Moore \$1,000
attending Eastern Washington
or Dental School
and majoring in dental hygiene



Ava Welch \$1,000
attending Peninsula College
and majoring dental hygiene



Ava Pettet \$1,000
Attending Peninsula College or
Shoreline Community College
and majoring in dental hygiene

Scholarship is to be created not by compulsion, but by awakening
a pure interest in knowledge.” ~*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

MORE FROM AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Letter from 2023 High School Scholarship recipient:

I have been doing well. I am very happy at PSU, pursuing a degree in Art Practice like I'd planned. My first year has been an absolute joy, and I am going to be returning to continue my education in the fall. I've been furthering my interest in Comics and Comic Illustration and have had many classes that have helped me on this journey.

I've maintained good grades and have been having the happiest time in my life.

I do feel it important to tell you that I've been going by Tommy as opposed to my old name.

Thank you for checking in, and I'm sorry it took me so long to reach back out. It has been a hectic year; I've been very busy. I am still endlessly grateful for the support given to me by Soroptimist.

Thank you,
Tommy D. Hough

A Donor Valuing Education

This year a donor gave us \$1000 for a scholarship in honor of **Margaret Preston**. Margaret Preston was the Director of Nursing for the U.S. Public Health Service. Mrs. Preston was instrumental in both the Dungeness Valley Health and Wellness Clinic and the Sequim Dog Park. She passed away this year. **Emma Sweeny**, who plans to become a nurse, received the scholarship.

Women we helped become Winners



**Yang Zhang and Corenna Messinger Norby
at their pinning ceremony**

Two of Peninsula College's most recent class of nurses prove how valuable Soroptimist support can be. Each of these young women received two scholarship awards from our club. At the Pinning Ceremony at Peninsula College, Yang Zhang and Corenna Messinger Norby both received the President's Medal for Scholarly Excellence with cumulative GPAs of 3.85 or above. Yang also received the Littlejohn Professional and Academic Excellence Award. This award is given to the student who demonstrates outstanding professionalism in the practice of nursing and significant high achievement in nursing courses.

*“Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul, the blueprints of your ultimate achievements.”
~Napoleon Hill*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

July 1 has come and gone; Shelle and Sandy are completing the dues submissions for 2024-25, so our new membership year has begun. In addition to renewing members, we have one new member already! Kelli Ward, who attended installation with her husband and son, submitted all of her application requirements so is now a member and will be inducted at our first meeting.

In addition to Kelli, we have a couple of prospective members we anticipate joining soon. Shawn and I are also contacting other women who have expressed an interest in our club to see if they want us to continue sending them information and keeping them on our prospective members list. Unfortunately, the list of 10-12 women who expressed interest in the club at our Soroptimist Table at the Garden Show has disappeared.

If you know of anyone who might have signed that list, PLEASE pass along their names to us as soon as possible. And if you have friends or acquaintances, or know of people who are interested in membership, please let us know and feel free to invite them to drop by our fundraiser at Fleurish Lavender during the festival. As to renewals, some members didn't reply to repeated attempts to contact them after the initial renewal e-mail went out, one has moved from the area, and one other member, Kathryn Paccelli, is taking a year off as she finds her plate more than full right now. What's most important is that we're going forward with a new board and a membership committed to "sowing seeds for the future!!"

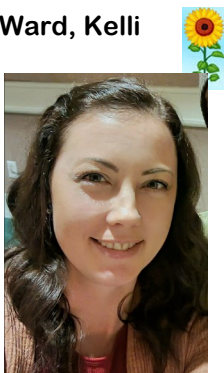


~Jane Manzer & Shawn Dredla, Membership Co-chairs

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." ~Maya Angelou

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Ward, Kelli



Kelli is Sequim born and raised and first learned about Soroptimist in high school. Kelli has two children, a son and a daughter, and she helps with Administration and Marketing for her husband's business, ONA Landscaping. She graduated from Peninsula College in 2012 and worked for Platypus Marine as Special Projects Coordinator then quit to stay home with her young son, whom she now home-schools. She has a passion for photography and has recently been trying to sell some shots she's collected over the years. Many of you know Kelli as the coordinator for the Holiday Joy program of Healthy Families of Clallam County. She was a sponsor for several years before becoming the coordinator. In the past she worked with Sequim Little League applying for grants, was on a scholarship committee for

Sequim Education Foundation last year, and regularly volunteers with Center Valley Animal Rescue. According to Kelli, the best advice she's received or has given is: "Experience is a great teacher, as long as you are learning what you can from it." We wholeheartedly welcome Kelli to SIS and know she will become a valuable member of the club.

MEMBER NEWS

Soroptimist

Soroptimist International of Sequim recently installed their new officers for the business year 24-2025. Linda Klinefelter-President, Roxann Harr-President-Elect, Sandy Lawrence-Treasurer, Brandi Larson-Assistant Treasurer, Christy Holy-Secretary, and board members Colleen Blazier, Virginia Kostanich, Kathy Purcell and Patty Lebowitz were installed.

The officers and the board are excited with the upcoming planning of the 2025 Garden Show, the return of Tea with She an event designed to serve the older members of our community and supporting agencies who align with our mission. Last but certainly not least, our constant and continued efforts to support women and girls with awards and scholarships.

If you or someone you know are interested in becoming a part of wonderful organization, you can contact our membership committee at membership@sisequim.org

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The current monthly newsletter for the Sequim Chamber of Commerce includes an article about our new board and invites people who are interested in becoming part of our wonderful organization to contact: membership@sisequim.org. Thank you, President Linda, for getting this out to the Chamber members!

HAPPY DOLLARS

This is a new column recently added to the Soropti-Scoop; it is called **Happy Dollars**. The backstory. At the end of our club meetings members are asked if they have something they are happy about and if they would like to share with a Happy Dollar donation. Not all members are able to attend all meetings, which means they miss out on hearing the happy things. It was suggested that the information be included in the newsletter so all members get a chance to experience the shared joy. This also allows us to learn more about our members, strengthening our club overall.

06-11-24 Meeting

Jeanne Martin—Happy Dollars for Shelle’s service to the club.

Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols—Happy Dollars for Live Your Dream Award recipient Corenna Messenger’s nursing pinning and receiving a Presidential Medal for Academic excellence at PC for nursing.

Cat Xander—Happy Dollars for Live Your Dream Award recipient Zang Zhang’s nursing student pinning at Peninsula College.

Jane Manzer—Happy Dollars for girls of the month Mia Kirner and Emma Gilliam—her mom, Keisha, is a former member—and for all the hard work members are already doing for next year.

Linda Klinefelter—Happy Dollars for members stepping up and having patience with her.

Shelle Paulbitski—Happy Dollars because she’s happy not to be treasurer anymore.

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET UPDATE

Susan Coffee has been performing various co-chair duties for the last month and has now officially agreed to co-chair the Medical Loan Closet. I am so happy to welcome her to the position!

May was another busy month at the Medical Loan Closet. We gave two wheelchairs to our local CERT groups. We have five more wheelchairs set aside to give to CERT groups. We also provided four wheelchairs to Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County and gave them three pairs of wheelchair footrests so they could put three of their wheelchairs back in service. In addition, we donated additional walkers and other equipment that will be shipped to a medical organization in Guatemala.

We received **180** calls, lent **83** items, and had **99** items returned. We received **\$985** in donations from our generous community. We are continually amazed and touched by how generous the people in our community are.



~Chris Snow, MLC Chair



“I believe the world is one big family, and we need to help each other.” ~Jet Li



TEA WITH S.H.E. (Soroptimist Helping & Empowering) IS COMING BACK!

Linda Klinefelter and Christy Holy will be meeting in July to gather ideas and prospects for the event and then in August the co-chairs will invite the entire committee to plan and execute the return of Tea with S.H.E.



~Christ Holy and Linda Klinefelter, Co-Chairs

“One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today.” ~Dale Carnegie

2025 GALA GARDEN SHOW (GGS) PLANNING HAS BEGUN

Late in the summer of 2023, a fellow Master Gardener (MG) asked if I would be liaison to schedule MG speakers for the Soroptimist Gala Garden Show. I said yes and became not only involved with the GGS but joined SIS also. Working the GGS with the club members and volunteers was rewarding and a lot of fun. I felt the show was impressive with its variety, beauty and size—as well as a successful fundraiser. So when we were asked in the Pathways group what committees we were interested in, GGS was my first choice.



Being co-chair gives me the chance to work with Kathy Purcell and all of the club members who volunteered for GGS committees. Everyone is generous with their time and expertise which I truly appreciate! An example is Natasha spending a very hot Sunday morning with my son Mathew and me inventorying GGS supplies in the storage unit. She and her husband had already tidied up the unit which made it so much easier to find the items to be listed and counted. Shelle even showed up and we looked through some information from previous shows and found some helpful binders from past shows. There is lots of stuff in the unit that still could be gone through, inventoried, disposed of and replaced. We talked about another work party in the fall, if anyone is interested in participating.



Kathy and I (mostly Kathy) have been making progress on filling the committee positions. Our first core group committee meeting will be in August. We've received a few art submissions and are in the process of confirming a contract with the Featured Speaker, Sue Goetz. And as you all know, there is so much more to do.

Thank you, being a part of SIS and contributing toward running this event makes me feel proud, challenged and excited.



~Roxann Harr, GGS-Co-chair



THE GGS WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK! CHECK IT OUT:
www.sequimgardenshow.com

2025 GALA GARDEN SHOW PLANNING STARTS WITH CO-CHAIRS

In early 2024 I started thinking about the 2025 Gala Garden Show. Natasha had done such a wonderful job leading the GGS Core Committee through our comeback year. But she had put in her time. I was thinking of co-chairing the 2025 show but needed to find a partner. My mind immediately went to Roxann Harr. I had worked with her briefly on a few things related to the GGS speakers.

The first I heard of Roxann was in the fall of 2023; she was going to be the liaison between the Master Gardeners and our club for our speaker series. I was told once she accepted that role, she went to our website and read all about who we are and what we do. That impressed me. She did homework that wasn't even assigned. That got my attention. When Roxann was inducted into the club, she commented that she wished that what we offer had been available when she was growing up. That got my attention. She is a person who sees the great value in what we do—and she wants to be a part of it. Roxann is thoughtful, respectful and engaging.

Before I could ask if she would consider co-chairing the GGS with me, Roxann accepted the nomination for club President-elect. It didn't feel right to ask someone to take on both roles. Though I did it when I was President-elect—twice, I had already been in the club for a while. In late April Linda stopped by my office and mentioned Roxann had said something to her about chairing or co-chairing the 2025 GGS. My ears and heart perked up. Linda suggested I contact Roxann. I did just that, and Roxann agreed to co-chair the 2025 GGS with me. Since then, we've had many conversations and two ZOOM brainstorming meetings—the last one running nearly two hours.

Roxann asks a lot of questions, which is great! She is like a sponge—she absorbs the information. Yet Roxann goes beyond that. She embodies the info and offers suggestions on how things might be done a little differently. She is forward thinking and has good ideas that come from her life experiences. I am grateful to be working with Roxann and look forward to working with all the 2025 GGS Core Committee. We will all be Sowing Seeds for the Future—together.



~Kathy Purcell GGS Co-chair



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

“Set your expectations high; find men and women whose integrity and values you respect; get their agreement on a course of action; and give them your ultimate trust.” ~*John Fellows Akers*

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

You brightened my day... thanks

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Sequim Puppy Raisers! It is much appreciated & will be put to good use

Deb Cox, club leader

Hello! I just wanted to thank whom ever was involved with making this donation happen for us! It will not go to waste!
-Ann Wren



Our 2024-2025 Board. Pictured from left to right is **Patty Lebowitz-Board Member, Kathy Purcell-Board Member, Colleen Blazier-Board Member, Linda Klinefelter-President, Roxann Harr-President-Elect, Christy Holy-Secretary, Sandy Lawrence-Treasurer, Virginia Kostanich-Board Member, Brandi Larson-Assistant Treasurer** and the potential newest member, Libby.

INSTALLATION



**2023-2024 PRESIDENT'S AWARD
SHELLE PAULBITSKI**



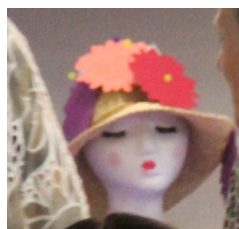
**2023-2024 CLUB WOMAN OF
DISTINCTION AWARD
CHRIS SNOW**



GIFT TO THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT



**GIFT TO SHELLE PAULBITSKI
IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR
HER MANY YEARS (SEVEN)
AS TREASURER/ASST. TREASURER**



**A HAT FULL
OF FLOWERS
WITH GOOD
WISHES FOR
PRESIDENT
LINDA**



**SPECIAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
BY SOFIE'S FLORIST**



For more photos click [here!](#)



July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Athena Dunn Jane Manzer Kris Osborn Kathy Purcell Janet Wicker 	1	2	3	4 Happy 4th of July 	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Lavender Festival Fleurish	20 Lavender Festival Fleurish
21 Lavender Festival Fleurish	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Amanda Beitzel 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

The Grace of Seeds by: Andrea Skevington

Seeds are blowing in the breeze,
gentle, white and light.
Fairies, I used to call them as a child,
back when the world was full of seeds,
and butterflies, and glimmers of enchantment.

I breathe slowly and long
into all this ripening.
All this, all, glows with a deeper life –
light and colour under the skin,
shining with a song
of greening and ripening.

Each seedhead releasing a kind of
forgiveness that falls with the seed,
falls to the earth bearing
new beginnings, seventy times seven.
Life wills to live, despite all we have done.
Life uncoils again, and again.
I am humble before it.
Before the caterpillars on the toadflax,
the frog stirring beneath the strawberries.

The world is indeed full of grace.
We do not deserve these chances, again,
and again, and again. And yet,
deserving is not the point. Seeds fall,
it is the very nature of things,
and blow on the breeze. Each one
offering multitudes. It is the way of seeds.

Might this grace, one day, even today,
catch us in its loving web as the trumpets of
bindweed blaze out a song of liberation,
and the blackbirds tumble fearlessly,
hungrily, in the hedge's ripeness?

For the seeds float still, and
the air is still full of enchantment.
Life whispers, it calls us, it sings to us.
Does it know we will turn towards it,
at last, wooed and wonderstruck,
and learn we belong, have belonged
all along?
We might, we may, we can.
Those dry seeds show us how.



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