



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 11

Soroptimist International of Sequim

**Celebrating 78 Years of Service**

May 2025

## Officers 2024 — 2025

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Linda Klinefelter

### **President-Elect:**

Roxann Harr

### **Secretary:**

Christy Holy

### **Treasurer:**

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### **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

*“Caring has the gift  
of making  
the ordinary special.”  
~George R. Bach*

## President's Message

I can hardly believe it is now May, 2025. This month tends to be quite busy for my family and me, but I always take the time to reflect on one special day: Mother's Day. Although my mom has passed away, I use that day to honor the people who have nurtured me in countless ways and significantly impacted my life and made me a better person and mother. This includes my mother, grandmother, best friend, daughters, and many others, both women and men, who have provided nurturing. They have supported me during both good and challenging times.

Nurturing is often seen as a role specific to mothers, but I believe it is a fundamental human quality that sustains us all. As Soroptimists, we engage in various acts of nurturing. Our scholarships and awards provide support that nurtures! Our Medical Loan Closet helps, and our Tea with SHE event creates connections with all things that nurture. Nurturing others is a vital aspect of all our lives, and we all play a role in this important work.

As Soroptimists, we embody the spirit of nurture, wholeheartedly committed to uplifting women and girls and our community. While some of you may not identify as traditional mothers or even female, you have embraced nurturing roles with grace and compassion. You have listened, offered a helping hand, and made a profound difference in the lives of others. I want to express my heartfelt admiration for each of you and the invaluable gifts you so generously share. Your dedication is truly inspiring!

When we all nurture, we all grow! I wish you all a beautiful and fulfilling May!



~President Linda



*“Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water—  
it will make ripples throughout the entire pond...” ~Jessy and Bryan Matteo*

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's May. It is the month of Mother's Day and flowers nurtured by April showers. Some of those showers have spilled into May.

May I explain . . . One morning last week I took food out to Stu, the stray cat that adopted us. I put the bowl down. Stu came up and rubbed his head on my hand and then went to his bowl. While he was eating, I noticed what sounded like rain, but I didn't see it raining. It was early enough that it was still a bit dark, but the porch light didn't indicate there was rain. Then I realized it was rainwater dripping through the gutter.

After feeding Stu I took Blue out in back and we walked around the north 40. I was wearing my jacket which serves as both raingear and a windbreaker. We walked around the perimeter, Blue sniffing and adding his own version of water to the mix. As we rounded the corner to head back, I thought I heard something hit my jacket. I looked at my right arm and indeed, there were some wet spots on the sleeve of my jacket; it had started to rain. I was thinking about how things can quickly change.

Speaking of change . . . we changed the format of our 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday get-together in April. Normally when we have five Tuesdays in a month, we have an evening get-together on that 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. This time we changed things to a late afternoon community outreach that we called Sip with Soroptimist—you can read about it on page 4 in this edition of the newsletter. It was partially a recruitment event, but it was also a time to educate the public about who we are, what we do, the impact we make, and how they can be a part of it—even if they aren't members of the club. We were glad that people made time in their busy schedules to stop by to share and learn.

Speaking of busy schedules . . . the last week of April was a busy one for our club! It started with the Northwestern Region Conference April 25-27—you can read about it in the reports on pages 10 and 11, with photos on page 12. Then, two days later, on April 29, we had our Sip with Soroptimist—as mentioned above. That was followed the very next day by our Tea with SHE Senior Resources Health Fair—you can read about that on page 7. Phew!

And that doesn't include the seemingly behind the scenes activities of our Medical Loan Closet, Awards and Scholarships committee, our president presenting donations to local organizations, etc. We are a busy club.

I was reflecting on the dripping rainwater, and it reminded me of the on-going impact that is made by the things that we do. A scholarship allows a female student to get an education which gives her more opportunities; recognizing a Girl of the Month gives her more confidence in herself which leads to expanding her vision of what she can do and be; our donations to local organizations whose missions align with ours transform into resources for women, who are then better equipped to provide for their families.

The rain on the sleeve of my jacket reminded me how something small can bring us back to the present moment, wash away old beliefs and arm us with new, creative possibilities. This month may we all find joy in every present moment and may we all feel nurtured and loved as we continue Sowing Seeds for the Future.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



**"The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself."**  
~Henry Miller

## CALENDAR

### MAY

- 9 Board Meeting
- 13 Business Meeting
- 27 Program Meeting

### JUNE

- 6 Joint Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting
- \*20 Installation of Officers 2025-2026

### \*Evening Meeting



**"Everybody has a creative potential and from the moment you can express this creative potential, you can start changing the world."**  
~Paulo Coelho



**"The point is to be involved in the moment."** ~Dougray Scott

*Celebrate Life!*

## MAY

Pauline Geraci  
Jan Hartig  
Shirley Huntley  
Linda Klinefelter  
Jeanne Martin  
Kelli Ward

## JUNE

Jess McNeil  
Natasha Nichols  
Caroline Smith



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



“As my mother says, “You give back, you don’t give up.” You can always choose to help others. If you do, it will change you.” ~*Susan Ford*

## SAVE THE DATE

Installation of the 2025-2026 Officers  
and Board of Directors  
Friday, June 20, 2025 / 5:30 p.m.  
Creekside Haven / 1195 Taylor Cutoff Rd. Sequim

Hi everyone, as you know I have been elected to be President of our club for the 2025-2026 year. Installation is scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30—Kris Osborn has graciously offered her barn for the venue. Shawn Dredla is heading up the Installation Committee. My theme for the year is **Empowering Through Encouragement** (many thanks to Kathy Purcell for her help with this). Watch your inbox for an official invitation with more details.

I want to thank all of you for your support and hope you can attend.



~Roxann Harr, President-elect



**EMPOWERING**  
  
**Through Encouragement**

## MAY PROGRAM MEETING

Our May program will have **Elisia Anderson** and **Kelsi Millet** from First Step Family Support Center - Promoting the healthy development of children and families on the north Olympic Peninsula by building family strengths. May is **Maternal Mental Health** month, and they will discuss the impact of maternal mental health symptoms / disorders and the work that First Step is doing to combat this challenge.

Elisia Anderson is the Executive Director of First Step Family Support Center, and finds joy in leading a team of compassionate people as they support families to reach their goals. Kelsi Millet is the Director of Family Well-Being at First Step Family Support Center and in addition to the Community Connections Baby Shower, leads Olympic Connect and Family Resource Centers at First Step which house a suite of programs intentionally designed to support each and every family in our community.



~Roxann Harr, President-elect





## McKINNEY VENTO STUDENTS

We have begun exploring what Soroptimist can do for McKinney Vento girls, since they are exactly in line with the Soroptimist Mission and Vision: girls who face obstacles and who need our support to succeed.

Because of privacy laws, the girls have to sign a release in order for us to contact them. We received eight releases. After contacting them via text (as recommended by the MKV staff) we were able to meet with five of them. Cat Xander, Roxann Harr, Jane Manzer and Janet Real formed teams of two to meet with each of the girls.

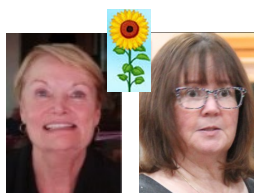
It was a truly moving experience to hear from these girls about their goals and their needs. All were special and their goals ranged from Veterinarian to becoming an Elevator Mechanic!

## 2025-26 POTENTIAL PROGRAMS

Overall we found two areas in which all the girls could use help: Scholarship Notebooks and completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Very few McKinney Vento students do a Scholarship Notebook, so that is a possible area where Soroptimists could help, support and encourage students next year. The Awards & Scholarship Committee will be meeting with a FAFSA expert in mid-May to see whether there is a role for us in supporting that process.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

One non-educational request came from the YMCA Youth and Family Resource Navigator Faith Abken, who works in conjunction with McKinney-Vento. They keep a small stock of clothing on hand to provide when there are immediate demands on campus. Abken says they need leggings in sizes 20 and up, as there have been a number of situations where these have been required and there are none available.



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

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*“Take the first step, and your mind will mobilize all its forces to your aid. But the first essential is that you begin. Once the battle is started, all that is within and without you will come to your assistance.” ~Robert Collier*

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## MEMBERSHIP STEALS THE SHOW AT THE 5<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY EVENT

Hello Springtime! The Membership Committee planned a Recruitment Event for the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month—April 29<sup>th</sup>, called “Sip with Soroptimist” held at Olympic Cellars. There were 35 people in attendance and only half were Soroptimist members. Guests dined on appetizers from Riverhouse Bakery and Bistro and had a complimentary glass of wine. Some were the recipients of a raffle prizes—including a painting donated by Sandy Lawrence which depicted Olympic Cellar wine labels. President Linda gave an awesome presentation about Soroptimist and our work in the community. As a result, eight prospective members signed up! Way to go, Membership Committee!! PS—a dues renewal email has been distributed to members! Please get in your dues by June 15<sup>th</sup>.



Watch the video here:  
<https://youtu.be/fpzVUpXgYc>



~Shawn Dredla, Membership Co-chair







## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Glen Varvil was officially inducted into the club at our April 8, 2025 business meeting. He's already smiling! Welcome, Glen!

*"Each one of us can make a difference.  
Together we make change." ~Barbara Mikulski*

## HAPPY DOLLARS

April 8, 2025

**Roxanne Harr:** is grateful for voting in the board officers for next year.

**Virginia Kostanich:** is happy for a successful Gala Garden Show.

**Jeanne Martin:** is happy for another great Soropti-Scoop and Treasurer Sandy's job on the budget.

**Jane Manzer:** is happy that Mayme's sister is a Grand Pioneer of the Irrigation Festival.

**Shawn Dredla:** is happy for how vibrant our club is.

**Cat Xander:** is happy for having the best and most creative secret pal.

**Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols:** is grateful and loved her garden art gift and the support she felt when she had to drop out of this year's GGS for health reasons.

**Linda Klinefelter:** is grateful her phone calls turned out to not be the emergency she thought they were.

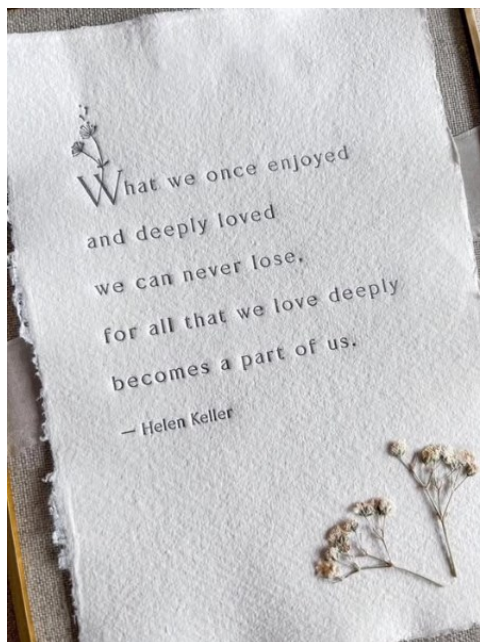
## FRIENDSHIP CONNECITONS

Paul and I moved to Des Moines, WA, in 2019. We moved into Wesley Retirement Facility, which is just a few miles from our youngest son and his young family. Paul died in 2021, and I continue on with a slower life, although I still squeeze in a getaway now and then. Mark and Sheila live close with their young family, so it is nice to attend sporting events the grandchildren are involved with.

I am involved in some activities here and am doing well health-wise. I still remember the great activities I had involved with SI! Living in Sequim was a pleasure!

My best wishes to all who are still around!

~Loella Hanson



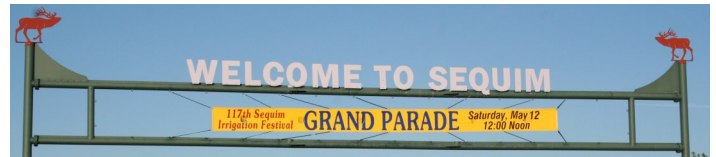


## BLAST FROM THE PAST GRANT OF FRIENDSHIP

Back in the olden days, there was a wonderful Soroptimist Grant of Friendship (GOF) program. It was developed to foster a spirit of friendship and unity among Soroptimist of all countries. It promotes and encourages cultural exchanges and fosters International Goodwill and Understanding.

In 2003, I was honored to be chosen for Germany's GOF. I spent three wunderbar weeks in Germany visiting 11 different Soroptimist clubs. My "home base" was in Wuppertal (near Cologne) since I stayed with the president of the local SI club. One of the highlights was participating in a formal ceremony when a new club was chartered (in Munster) when they joined the European Federation. I met the Governors of Germany and Hungary when I performed a candle lighting ceremony.

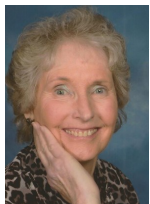
In 2012, we sponsored **Andrea Sachs** from Plauen (northern Germany) as a Grant of Friendship visitor. She happened to be here during the Irrigation Festival, so these pictures are from her GOF visit. Andrea and I still correspond today and I hope to see her again when I'm able to return to Germany.



Street Banner 13 years ago



Those Were The Daze



~Colleen Blazier



Candle Lighting



Being On Guard



A Ride with the Corvette Club



Beary Sweet



No Horsing Around



Dressed in Their Finest

"Ultimately, it's a sense of camaraderie and friendship with local people that is core to my journeys." ~Tim Cope



## TEA WITH SHE SENIOR RESOURCES HEALTH FAIR

The **Tea with SHE** committee held an informative **Senior Resources Health Fair** on Wednesday, April 30th from 1-3 pm at the Trinity United Methodist Church. About eighty people attended the event. The day started with presentations by three speakers. **Mark Karjaleinen**, fire-fighter and paramedic from Clallam County Fire District 3 spoke about the Community Paramedicine Program, which manages non-emergency calls. **Petra Reninger** from the Olympic Area Agency on Aging talked about the little-known resources that the agency provides, including legal and financial services, and help finding caregivers for those who want to age in place. Sequim PD volunteer **Linda Spreine** concluded the speeches with information about the Project Lifesaver Program.

Participants also got the opportunity to visit tables hosted by **Olympic Medical Center, Barb Paschal, Clallam Transit, Shipley Senior Center, Nourish, Volunteer Hospice**, and the **Medical Loan Closet**. Surveys were handed out to get ideas for future Tea with SHE events. Thank you so much to everyone who attended and all who worked together to make this event a great success!



~Christy Holy,  
Tea with SHE Committee



*“Health is the thing that makes you feel that now is the best time of the year.” ~Franklin P. Adams*



## MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET SHARES AT TEA WITH S.H.E. SENIOR RESOURCES HEALTH FAIR

This month's highlight was hosting the Medical Loan Closet table at the April 30<sup>th</sup> **Tea with SHE—Senior Resources Health Fair**. We shared our table with Priya Jayadev, Executive Director from Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County (VHOCC), and together we had an exciting time of sharing information about our services with the many attendees. We took the names and phone numbers of people who needed our services and talked with a past SIS member who wishes to come back and volunteer at the MLC. Altogether, a lovely afternoon!

We thought March was one of our busiest months in recent years with **196** calls. In April we answered **232** calls, lent **128** items and had **119** items returned. You must go back to October 2019 to find a busier month; it had **242** calls. We received **\$685** in donations from our generous community.



~Susan Coffee and Chris Snow,  
MLC Co-chairs

*"It's not how much we give, but how much we put into giving." ~Mother Teresa*



Pictured: Kim Rosales, Preschool Director,  
President Linda Klinefelter and  
Mary Budke, Boys & Girls Club Executive Director

Soroptimist International of Sequim is thrilled to announce the presentation of a check for \$12,600 to the Great Futures Preschool of the Boys & Girls Club of the Olympic Peninsula in Sequim. This substantial funding will serve as scholarship assistance for children enrolled in the program, fostering their early educational journeys. Our club firmly believes that investing in education at the preschool level lays the foundation for a brighter, more successful future for these young learners.



Presented donation to Tim's Place which will be used for scholarships for female attendees.





Pictured Left to Right: Tracy Sheldon, PBH Development Director, Linda Klinefelter, President of Soroptimist International of Sequim, and Patty Jordan, Child & Family Services Supervisor

Peninsula Behavioral Health (PBH) is proud to announce a generous gift from Soroptimist International of Sequim that will support the creation of two vibrant, child and youth friendly treatment rooms at PBH's Sequim office. This investment will help transform clinical spaces into safe, welcoming environments where children and families can begin to heal and grow.

The \$9,000 contribution from Soroptimist International of Sequim will fund critical elements for the new rooms, including furnishings, play therapy materials, trauma recovery resources, and tools to support Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). These spaces are designed to provide PBH's clinical team with the tools necessary to connect with children who are struggling with trauma, often without the words to express their pain.

"Supporting women and children in our community is central to the Soroptimist mission," said Linda Klinefelter, President of Soroptimist International of Sequim. "We are honored to contribute to this project, which will directly impact the lives of children and families in Sequim by providing them with access to compassionate, high-quality care."



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**"Rather than push your kids into things, create environments of high-trust where they can thrive. Where they can take their passions and apply them." ~Richie Norton**

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## FIRST TIME ATTENDEE REFLECTION ON THE NWR CONFERENCE

Reflecting on my experiences and insights from our recent Northwestern Region conference, I hope to share thoughts that will both inform and inspire you regarding the endeavors of Soroptimist.

First, my participation in the various workshops left me with a profound sense of accomplishment regarding the efficiency with which we operate our club. Not only do we excel in organizing business meetings, but we also maintain an impressive record of keeping our gatherings streamlined, informative, and respectful of our members' time.

The numbers reflecting the efforts of Soroptimist are indeed encouraging. We have seen substantial annual growth as we strive to meet our Big Goal. Notably, the **Live Your Dream Awards** have **increased by 10%**, reaching **30,000** recipients. Additionally, the **Big Goals Accelerator Projects** have also **grown by 10%**, now involving **150,000** participants. While these figures are commendable, several ideas were presented to help further enhance our impact:

- Consider giving more awards than we did in the previous year.
- Explore potential sponsorship opportunities.
- Engage local businesses as sponsors.
- Involve local businesses in the awards process.
- Extend invitations to these businesses to participate as judges.

These suggested initiatives can help us continue our vital mission and expand our reach within the community.

I am excited to share the inspiring impact of the Live Your Dream Awards across the United States, with a special focus on our vibrant Northwestern region.

To date, we have awarded an astounding **\$3.1 million** in cash grants to over **220** remarkable women who are heads of their households, all striving to further their education. Since the program's inception in 1972, we have proudly contributed more than **\$44 million** in support to empower over **43,000** women.

In the Northwestern region alone, we have given **208** LYD grants, a remarkable **15% increase** from the previous year. These grants total **\$427,650**, marking a **17% rise** compared to last year. Additionally, we have provided **\$21,550** in invaluable goods and services to Live Your Dream recipients, highlighting an extraordinary **100% growth** from last year.

I was emotionally moved by the stories shared by the Live Your Dream recipients. Many of their experiences brought tears to my eyes, both from the sadness of what they had endured in the past and from the inspiration of their strength to make positive changes for themselves and their families. Our recipient, **Julia Hendricks**, shared a powerful story, and I felt honored to sit next to her. Each of the women truly exemplified strength, resilience, and passion.

What is most heartening is the profound impact these awards have on the lives of recipients: **74%** have secured higher-paid employment, **86%** have reported an improved standard of living, and a remarkable **93%** have experienced a boost in their self-esteem.

Last but certainly not least, Roxann and I attended a workshop on the Dream It, Be It program. During the workshop, I had a fortunate encounter with the president of the Moses Lake Club, and we plan to have a Zoom call with her soon. This conversation inspired us, and we began brainstorming the possibility of implementing a Dream It Be It program ourselves (more to come).

To sum up the three days...it was well worth my time, and I was most honored to represent our club alongside Roxann Harr and Sandy Lawrence.



~President Linda





## FIRST TIME ATTENDEE REFLECTION ON THE NWR CONFERENCE

President Linda, Treasurer Sandy and I traveled to Eugene Oregon for the 106<sup>th</sup> Northwestern Region Conference last weekend. The weather was splendid when we got there and the hotel was buzzing with excited Soroptimist from WA, OR, ID, and MT but I don't think we had anyone from Alaska.

Friday was jam packed with opening ceremonies, business sessions, and more. Linda and I attended the First Timers breakfast reception, met some interesting ladies and discovered we got special perks like moving to the front of any line. We only exercised that perk once at a food line; it was rather awkward.

During the day we discussed the five issues that all clubs seem to deal with:

- No one wants to lead – it's always the same people.
- Nonparticipation of members
- Someone goes on and on and we want them to stop.
- Dominant and quiet people, how to balance them.
- It's always been done that way.

Since I'm fairly new to the club, I would challenge our members to think about these issues and see if you feel our club needs to address them. I will say that I am amazed members don't want to lead such a wonderful group as ours. The accomplishments and good we do in the community are heartwarming and something that I think we are all very proud of. On top of that, what a great group of people we have in our club to work with! As for having members that don't participate, I think bringing in new members will help, which we are actively working on. So, if members are getting burned out, they can step back and take time to recharge.

The cheers at the end of Friday's tailgate party were very enthusiastic! District 1 outdid themselves with a rousing cheer "We Are District One" set to "We Will Rock You." I texted a photo to my husband who wrote back "SIS BOOM BAH!"

Saturday had some pretty tired Soroptimist ladies, but the business sessions were very informative, and the Live Your Dream Award Luncheon and presentations were of course very emotional. Julia and her husband were there, and she chose to speak, which was nice.

Later we attended a Dream It, Be It session which had Linda and me bursting at the seams with ideas for our club. I'm sure you will hear more about them in the near future. Our last session was with comedian Sharon Lacey titled Say Yes to Stress, which was hilarious. It also got us up and out of our chairs, which was a welcome change from many long hours of sitting and listening.

Sunday morning was the Rose Ceremony, which was lovely, and the Region Committee Reports were informative. District 1 talked about adding a new club within the next year.

Overall, the conference was a little overwhelming and there was a lot of information to digest but I gained useful knowledge that can be used in our club and enjoyed meeting members from other districts, learning how they do things. Looking forward to the next conference.



Roxann Harr, President-elect



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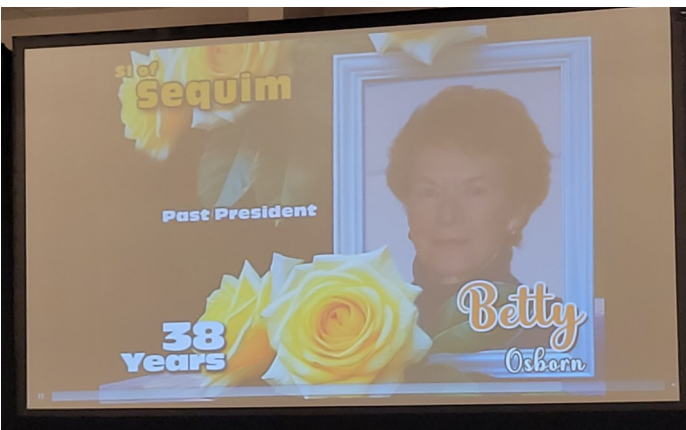
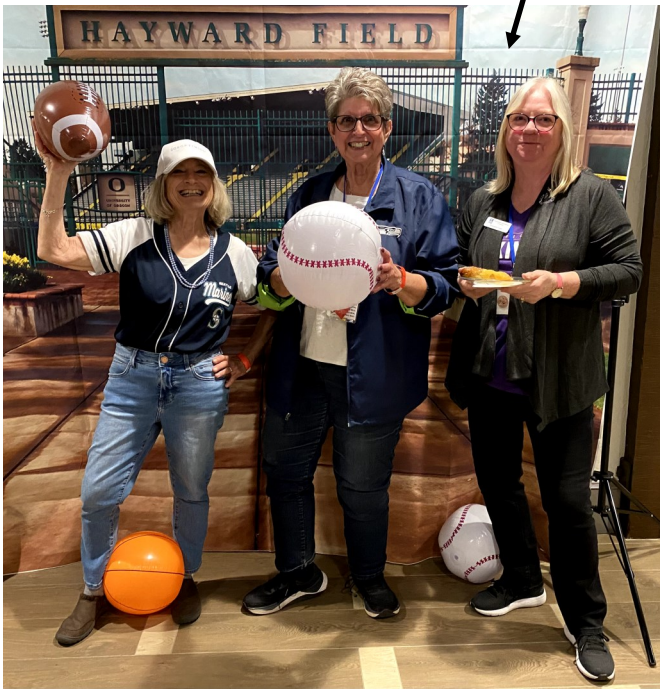
**"Ask [students] to go to places, to see things for themselves, to actually experience the learning, to play, to inquire."**  
**~Diana Laufenberg**

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Julia with husband Erin

F  
U  
N



The Yellow Rose Ceremony  
Remembering Betty Osborn





## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Dear Linda + Sequim Soroptimist,  
Thank you for the community service letter! I enjoyed working for the Soroptimist girls at the Gala Garden Show! Let me know if there are any other events you need help with! ♥

Sincerely,  
Tiffany Lane

March 30, 2025



Dear Linda and all Soroptimists, 3/30/25  
Your generous donation was such a blessing! We met the challenge for matching funds so have enough now to complete the pavilion and add the Sequoia Log to the playground.  
What a joy this playground has been for ~~so~~ many!

Thank you  
for so much help  
with the pavilion




With much  
love? Thanks, Myles and ~~so~~  
many other children!



# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH</b> Pauline Geraci Jan Hartig Shirley Huntley Linda Klinefelter Jeanne Martin Kelli Ward				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 BOARD MEETING	10 VIP Luncheon—Irrigation Festival Parade
				15	16	17
11	12	13 Business Meeting	14	15	16	17
	19	20	21	22	23	24
18						
25	26	27 Program Meeting	28	29	30	31

# June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH</b> Jess McNeil Natasha Murkuloff-Nichols Caroline Smith	2 	3	4	5	6 BOARD MEETING	7
8	9	10 Business Meeting	11	12	13	14
15 	16	17	18	19	20 Installation of 2025-2026 Board of Directors 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## Mindfulness by Line Gauthier

regrouping  
i take a deep breath  
like nothing else matters  
owning the moment

basking in its magnificence  
relishing in the focus  
the intensity of being present  
the pulsating rhythm of consciousness  
and synchronized openness

making peace with time  
letting go of the past  
of what's ahead of what's next  
experiencing life in segments

having sublimely discovered  
the secret to stretching time  
measuring life in instants  
and gaining a feeling of...

if not control at least harmony  
as it becomes a way of life  
showing me what's most rewarding



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