



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 3

Soroptimist International of Sequim

**Celebrating 77 Years of Service**

September 2024

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**“If we’re going  
to bring out the best  
in people, we, too,  
need to sow seeds  
of encouragement.”**

**~Joel Osteen**

## The Power of a Message...

Recently, I was sharing with Kathy Purcell a picture of my granddaughter on her recent trip to Peru. It made me think about the messages we give women and girls and how it impacts them. I instilled messages in my daughter that I would have liked to have heard when I was growing up...” You can do anything you want!” “You are strong, you are smart.” “Try because when you try you learn.” Not only did my daughter hear them and act on them, but she also passed them on to my granddaughter.

Positive, powerful and inspiring messages are important! It is important we still hear them as grown women. Tell them to our children, especially our daughters, and continue those messages with our grandchildren. Even tell them to our friends, our members of Soroptimist and those in our community. Positive messages inspire and they build community.

Admiring my granddaughter in her recent photo overlooking Machu Picchu, I know my granddaughter heard positive and powerful messages and they resonated. She is a seasoned traveler and does so by herself. Adding to her most recent adventure, she has been to Thailand, the Caribbean, Iceland and Mexico. While she obtained a degree in psychology, her life took a twist and being a strong young woman, she went to work for the Renaissance division of Marriott. One of her responsibilities (what a tough job) is to develop signature drinks for their bars. Who knew what those positive messages would do!



***“A woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman.” — Melinda French Gates.***



~President Linda



## Letter from the Editor

It's September. Many students are heading back to school. They look forward to catching up with old classmates who they haven't seen over the summer and to meeting new classmates who will become friends. There is anticipation about new classes and new teachers. There will be so many opportunities to explore new horizons.

Speaking of new horizons. . . the other night I took Blue out in the back yard for his last potty break for the night. It was dark so I was wearing my headlight. He stopped in one area for quite a while, looking and sniffing around on the ground. I turned my focus in the opposite direction—I looked to the sky. I live a bit out of town where there aren't a lot of lights. That night I didn't notice the moon anywhere, but I did notice a lot of stars. Wow! There not being clouds around also played a role in the evening's performance in the sky.

I started wondering about the moon, so I went online to learn about it. I found some interesting things on spaceweather.com. The moon goes through eight different phases. The first phase is called the new moon, the time when it seems to be invisible. This is followed by the waxing crescent phase where we see a sliver of light that grows bigger and bigger through the phase. On the night in question the moon was in the early waxing crescent phase.

From spaceweather.com: "Have you noticed how our moon changes shapes throughout the month? It only seems to change as it orbits around earth. As a result, we see the sunlit portions differently. That's what gives us phases, like the waxing crescent moon. It's not the only celestial body that moves. Everything is in motion, and that means the sun and earth move too.

"The new moon is also known as the dark stage or the invisible phase. During this phase, the earth, moon, and sun form a straight line. Since the moon is on the same side as the sun, its bright side is towards the sun while the darker side is facing us on earth."

The phases of the moon remind me of Soroptimist. Our summer hiatus is akin a new moon—a time we go dark so to speak. We are aligned with family and friends, as well as Soroptimists; appearing as one, our individual light isn't always seen. Perhaps a new moon is good for us—periodically taking time to realign with what is important in our lives.

We are starting back to regular meetings which reminds me of the waxing crescent phase. We show up like the moon's slivers of light, with more light appearing over time. Everything is in motion. The shape of our club might seem to change, but akin to the moon, how someone sees us is a matter of their perception of the light. Our mission does not change.

We can look forward to our new Soroptimist year with anticipation. It's exciting to think of the many opportunities we will have to explore new horizons. We work together, aligning our actions with our mission to empower women and girls through access to education. In unity we continue Sowing Seeds for the Future.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



"Always let your inner light shine. By doing so, you not only light a path for yourself, but also light a way for others."

~Donald L. Hicks

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

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

### OCTOBER

- 1 GGS Core Committee Meeting—1st Security
- 4 Board Meeting
- 8 Business Meeting
- GOM Sept & Oct
- 18-20 District 1 Meeting
- 22 Program Meeting
- \*29 Fifth Tuesday

#### \*Evening Meeting



"Turn on the light within,  
expand your horizons  
and reach your full potential."  
~Amit Ray



"The distance between  
light and darkness is sight."  
~Matshona Dhlwayo

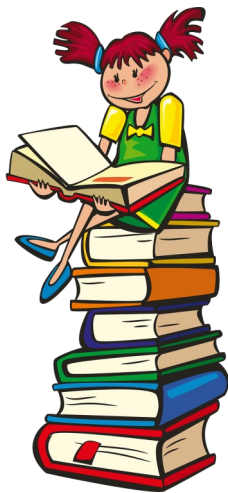
*Celebrate Life!*

**SEPTEMBER**

Cheryl Easterling  
Pat Willis

**OCTOBER**

Jeanne Blaurock  
Debbie Cottrell  
Shawn Dredla  
Shelle Paulbitski



**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 are welcomed.  
See you on **September 10<sup>th</sup>**.



**SEPTEMBER 2024 PROGRAM MEETING**

**Mark Nichols**, Clallam County Prosecutor, will be our September program speaker. I specifically asked our prosecutor to share how the Mental Health Court coordinates with Peninsula Behavioral Health (PBH). Since Soroptimist International of Sequim provides committed funds to PBH it will be an opportunity to hear how the court and our community mental health providers work together. Join us on **September 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.** Bring a friend and become informed.



~Linda Klinefelter, President



*“A healthy outside starts from the inside.” ~Robert Urich*

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



*“People are like books. The cover might give you a clue regarding the story inside, but if you don’t open the book two stories are lost.”*  
*~Craig D. Lounsbrough*

**SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER**



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

**Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting**  
TBD  
February 2025



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

# AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

## SEEKING LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD APPLICANTS

Soroptimist International of Sequim (SIS) announces that applications for the Live Your Dream Awards are now being accepted. The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award (LYDA) program is a unique education award for women who provide the primary financial support for their families. The LYDA program gives women the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. The application portal can be accessed at <https://www.soroptimist.org/our-work/live-your-dream-awards/index.html>. The deadline for applications is **November 15, 2024**.

Every year, Soroptimist International distributes almost \$3 million through the LYDA program to over 2,000 women all over the world. Locally, SIS distributes \$5,000 to women who have overcome obstacles. Recipients may be survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault, have overcome trafficking, teen pregnancy, or drug or alcohol addiction, or been abandoned by family. Recipients may use the cash award to offset ANY costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, transportation, tuition or similar expenses. “Education” is not limited to college or university; certificate or apprenticeship programs are also eligible.



Soroptimists believe that education is the pathway to economically empowering women and girls. When women learn, families live healthier lives. When girls go to school, they are more likely to get paying jobs and their financial contributions to their families—and their community—increase. When girls have educated moms, they are more likely to be enrolled in school and more likely to reach higher levels of education. When women are educated, their communities, their countries are more likely to have greater economic growth.

For more information visit the SIS website at <https://sisequim.org>.



~Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols

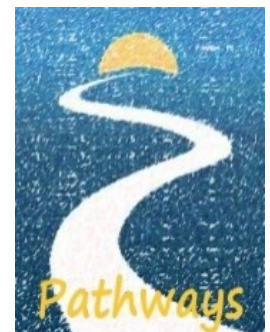


“Goals are dreams with deadlines.” ~*Diana Scharf Hunt*

## PATHWAYS COMMITTEE REPORT

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

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



~Jan Hartig, Pathways Committee Co-chair



“Of all the things I’ve done, the most vital is coordinating those who work with me and aiming their efforts at a certain goal.” ~*Walt Disney*

## MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET UPDATE

Another busy month at the Medical Loan Closet. We received **226** calls, lent **124** items, and had **89** items returned. The bank deposit was made early this month. We received **\$325** in donations from our generous community.



We were very close to running out of bedside commodes so we asked our Volunteer Hospice point of contact if they had an excess and could lend us a few commodes. VHOCC gave us eight commodes! Due to their generosity, we will not have to worry about running out of commodes for a long, long time. Thank you VHOCC!

We have purchased six wheelchairs that the Sequim-Dungeness Hospital Guild made possible with their generous grant. We will buy the remaining wheelchairs in September and October.



Susan Coffee and Chris Snow, MLC Co-Chairs

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“One can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind.” ~*Malayan Proverb*

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## TEA WITH SHE

The Committee for Tea with She is preparing for our program on November 30, 2024, regarding **Aging in Place**. The event will take place at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 100 N. Blake, Sequim from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Speakers at this event will focus on resources available to help people remain in their homes as they age. They include:



**Dr. Loraine Lovejoy-Evans**—Physical therapist and author of “*No Nursing Home for me.*” Strategies to manage pain, improve functional mobility and keep you living independently.

**Dr. Monica Dixon**—Nutritionist speaking on eating healthily to stay healthy.

**Chief Mike Hill**—“When to Hang up the Keys.”

There will be coffee and tea, light refreshments, and a drawing for gift certificates from local vendors who help seniors.



~Christy Holy and Linda Klinefelter, Co-Chairs

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“There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age.” ~*Sophia Loren*

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## THE IMPACT OF A VISION

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, I had the wonderful opportunity to receive a personal tour of the new playground called the “The Gathering Ground” given by Phil Millikan. Millikan (pictured with Linda Klinefelter) is one of the planners of the all-accessible playground for all children.

This incredible project started with a Coast Guard family who attended the adjacent church to the playground, Olympic View Church of God at 503 N. Brown Road. The family had a child with a disability, and they found it hard for their child to use the existing playground. It was upon the reassignment of the family and selling of their house they made an incredible commitment to the community of Sequim. From the proceeds of the sale of their home they donated \$10,000 to start a fundraiser to build an accessible playground. The playground is planned in three stages. The first stage, which I toured, cost \$185,000! The second stage will include a pavilion, and the third stage will include more playground equipment. The playground allows any child to access the equipment and also have hands-on opportunities with outdoor musical instruments such as chimes and conga drums. If you have a chance, stop by and tour the playground.



Phil Millikan with President Linda



~President Linda



“In good times and bad, we know that people give because you meet needs, not because you have needs.” ~*Kay Sprinkel Grace*



## BONDING AT OUR RETREAT

Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> the board met at Dungeness Meadows Community Center for a two-hour retreat. All board members (including a very cute future prospective member, Libby) attended; Karen Hogan was our facilitator.

We began the meeting with an interesting warm-up exercise: two truths and a lie. Some of us struggled with the lie part, but we learned something new about each other. We were asked to use a blank card and write a note to ourselves on what our superpowers are. When we were done, each of us passed our note to the member on our left to read it to us. It was amazing how accurately the notes described each person's strengths.



We then moved into two groups with the assignment of brainstorming ideas for possible future projects. This resulted in plenty of interesting and insightful ideas showcasing the talents of the women present.

At the end of the meeting, Christy led us in a meditation session which gave us time to reflect on all the new things we learned about each other working together as a team for the first time.



~Roxann Harr, President-Elect



*“Working with great people makes you great; you learn a lot and it also gives you the experience and confidence to move on with your own career.” ~Nas*

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*“A community needs a soul if it is to become a true home for human beings. You, the people must give it this soul.”  
~Pope John Paul II*

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## BELIEVING IN EDUCATION

I am delighted to share that we recently received a \$30,000 donation—and with that came a couple of delightful twists.

Upon receipt of the donation, I made a personal call to the donor, followed by a letter of gratitude from our organization. Our donor, Witta Priester, indicated she wanted it to be for scholarships! My letter was followed by an email to the donor asking if she objected to \$1260 of it being used—to add to our already committed funds of \$1260—for a preschool scholarship at the Boys and Girls Club for this year. She gave her resounding okay!

Not even two days later, Kathy Purcell shared some artwork that had been submitted digitally for the 2025 Gala Garden Show Artwork Contest and asked for direction. I saw the name on the paperwork and realized I could not share about our recent donation because the donor and the artist were one and the same. I felt I had to keep it under wraps until the GGS Core Committee chose the featured artwork for the 2025 Gala Garden Show. Well, if you haven't guessed by now, the artwork we chose is one submitted by our donor. This was another delightful twist!

*“Embrace the plot twists, for they hold the power to transform.” -Unknown.*



~President Linda



*“All is connected... no one thing can change by itself.” ~Paul Hawken*

## 2025 GGS FEATURED ARTWORK AND FEATURED SPEAKER CHOSEN

There were quite a few entries for our 2025 Gala Garden Show (GGS) Artwork Contest. The core committee met, and we have a winner! The chosen artwork is titled, “**Come Sit with the Crocosmia**” and was submitted by **Witta Priester**. The description of and inspiration for the artwork as shown on her application form states: “This digital watercolor illustration captures the mood of an early morning garden, where crocosmia are in full bloom and a nearby pergola filters the sunlight. The bright reds and greens are offset by the calm of Sequim’s quintessential lavender chairs and by the browns and golds of the shade patter. I invite you to sit a while.”



Come Sit with the Crocosmia

Her artist’s statement gives us a good idea how she gets inspired, “I love taking photos. By embracing my imagination and my computer-skills, I often view my photographs as starting points from which to creatively transform them into art. They are full of promise and possibility. From my optimistic, upbeat life-view, I modify the subject and its surroundings to be more expressive, more striking, and hopefully just a bit magical.”

### WITTA PRIESTER / 2025 GGS Featured Artist



Witta has participated in over a dozen print exhibitions in the last 20 years, including two one-woman shows at the Sequim Museum and Art Center. She has won numerous medals and ribbons in U.S. and international photo-competitions. In 2022, she won the Best of Show award at the Clallam County Fair and has also won a People’s Choice award. Witta also enjoys contributing to local area photo events. For example, she has been the Photography Barn Superintendent at the Clallam County Fair.

Witta is a retired Ph.D. organic chemist. She worked for Chevron Corp in San Francisco for 20+ years as a researcher, a long-range planner, and as a registered U.S. Patent Agent. She is an accomplished golfer, and after her retirement in 1999, she and her husband traveled around-the-world several times, including living in Christchurch New Zealand for 12 summers.

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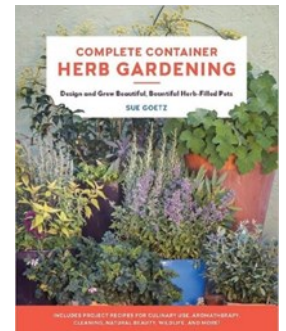
### SUE GOETZ / 2025 GGS Featured Speaker



Sue Goetz, CPH, ecoPRO, is an award-winning garden designer, writer, and speaker.

Through her business, Creative Gardener, she works with clients to personalize outdoor spaces, from garden coaching to complete landscape design. Her garden design work has earned gold medals at the Northwest Flower & Garden Festival and specialty awards, including the Sunset magazine, the Fine Gardening magazine, and The American Horticultural Society Awards.

Writing and speaking are other ways Sue shares her love for the garden by offering seminars and hands-on workshops. A published author, Sue shares her passion for herb gardens with her books *The Complete Container Herb Gardening*, *A Taste for Herbs*, and *The Herb-Lover’s Spa* book.



~Roxann Harr and Kathy Purcell, GGS Co-Chairs

Our next 2025 Gala Garden Show Core Committee Meeting will be **TUESDAY, October 1, 2024** / 9:00 a.m. at 1st Security Bank!



## A PERFECT S.T.A.R.T.

We got off to a great start with our annual S.T.A.R.T. meeting. There were twenty of us who gathered—along with two guests—sharing friendships, good conversations and a review of the work of the various committees for the upcoming business year.

We want to thank **Kris Osborn** and her husband for the use of the barn. Such a beautiful venue; and **congratulations to Kris** on her ten-year pin.

See you on **September 10th** for our first business meeting. Remember we now meet at Fifth Avenue Senior Independent Living, 500 W. Hendrickson, Sequim at 8 a.m. Staying healthy and wearing masks to the meeting are welcomed.~lk

“All the beauty that’s been lost before wants to find us again.” ~U2



“Choose to focus your time, energy and conversation around people who inspire you, support you and help you to grow you into your happiest, strongest, wisest self.” ~Karen Salmansohn

## WORDS OF GRATITUDE



*Soroptimist International of Sequim,*

*It has been a pleasure to work with Cat Xander during the 23-24 school year. We appreciate the support you provide our McKinney-Vento Students. We look forward to continuing our partnership.*



*Thank you!*

*Cathy Bowen, Sequim School District, McKinney-Vento Liaison  
Kaidence Cary, OESD 114 - Youth Services Resource Navigator*

# September 2024

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

# October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 GGG Core Committee Mtg	2	3	4 BOARD MEETING	5
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Jeanie Blairrock Debbie Cottrell Shawn Dredia Shelie Paulbrtski		8 Business Meeting	9	10	11	12
6	7					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Program Meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 5th Tuesday	30	31 		

**Waning** by: Ari

i envy the moon —  
cycling through nightly  
unseen obligation.  
subtle change,  
until her plenitude  
conjures a brief  
transfixed adoration  
and reflection.  
hallowed pardon  
knighted at the visor  
for earth's imperfect  
praise, and yet,  
the tides rise and descend,  
lunar resets  
and she phases in to greet us  
again,  
and again.



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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