



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 30, Issue 1

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 78 Years of Service

July 2025

Officers 2025 — 2026

President:

Roxann Harr

President-Elect:

Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols

Secretary:

Christy Holy

Treasurer:

Sandy Lawrence

Assistant Treasurer:

Brandi Larson

Director: 2 year (one year remaining)

Kathy Purcell

Director: 2 year

Shirley Legg

Director: 1 year

Colleen Blazier

Director: 1 year

Patty Lebowitz

Immediate Past-

President:

Linda Klinefelter

Newsletter Staff:

Kathy Purcell

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

*“Life is a gift,
and it offers us the
privilege, opportunity,
and responsibility to
give something back
by becoming more.”
~Anthony Robbins*

President’s Message

As the Fourth of July approaches and we take a summer break, I hope you’re finding time to rest, recharge, and enjoy some of your favorite pastimes. For me, that’s gardening—earbuds in, music or a good podcast playing, and my hands in the dirt. It’s my peaceful space to disconnect, reflect, and let my thoughts wander.

Lately, those thoughts have been full of gratitude and excitement for the journey ahead with all of you. I found myself reflecting on our wonderful Installation program—held in Kris’s barn and beautifully decorated by Shawn’s committee with garden-themed touches and balloons. It was more than just a lovely evening; it was a meaningful moment of encouragement for our new leadership team, and a wonderful welcome into my role as president. We also had the pleasure of welcoming three new members—Suzanne Plemmons, Denise Bayer, and Sara Maloney. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves and help them feel the warmth and connection that is the strength of our club.

Serving on the board or chairing a committee is a privilege—and a powerful opportunity to make a difference. As we continue our mission of empowering women and girls, I want us to build on the strong foundation our members have created. While I’m still gaining some of the historical and community insights many of you bring so effortlessly, I am confident we can carry the momentum forward for another outstanding year.

This year, the work we do through our programs and fundraising need to include a few objectives we should focus on:

- **Enhancing communication** with the girls we serve—using modern, relevant platforms.
- **Updating our technology** and exploring tools other clubs are successfully using.
- **Adapting to economic changes**, ensuring our support continues to meet the evolving needs of our community.

All of this runs through my mind as I pull weeds and sweat, and when I’m done—hot, tired, and content, I also am feeling the beginnings of excitement for the year ahead. We have challenges to face, and I have a lot to learn, but I know this: with your support, wisdom, and encouragement, we will make a meaningful impact.

Let’s make it a productive, fun, and unforgettable year.

Warmly,



President Roxann



Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's July. We've had some hot days recently. Are these "the dog days" of summer? It's more like the cat days of summer around my house. We don't have air conditioning at home, unless you count the sliding glass windows. We've had a lot of them open, including the big kitchen window that views the front porch and ramp.

I mention cat days because Stu, the stray outdoor cat that adopted us, has been quite vocal lately. The back of his two-story cat house butts up against the wall underneath the big window; one side of his house butts up against the east railing. Stu jumps up onto the top of the railing and walks up to the kitchen window. Maybe he seems more talkative now because the window is open and we can hear him better. From the railing he can step over to the top of his house. This brings him even closer to the screen of the open window.

Several days ago I was kneeling on the ramp about a foot from Stu's food dish. Something caught my eye. I noticed the top branches of the east trees were swaying; some of the lower branches were moving also, though not as briskly. That lasted for a minute or so and then stopped; the branches went back to their sedentary positions. A minute later I noticed branches moving again, but this time the lower branches were swaying more than the upper branches. As quickly as the movement started, the movement ended.

The wind has its own way; it doesn't play favorites—all branches get their time of more intensity. Because of the intermittency, I was thinking the movement of air was more a breeze, rather than the wind which we think of as more constant. Are the wind and a breeze the same or are they different? We refer to *the* wind, but we say *a* breeze. It almost sounds like *a* breeze is a subset of *the* wind.

I went online to check things out—kind of like a library but not actually checking out any book—just checking out information. I found the following definition of wind: "the perceptible natural movement of the air, especially in the form of a current of air blowing from a particular direction; natural movement of air of any velocity." I found this definition of breeze: "a light gentle wind." So, *a* breeze is *the* wind.

Watching the trees brought to mind our club. The movement at the top of the trees is like our club leadership giving us direction by focusing on our mission, through the theme of the current president. Once that is in place, the rest of us—the other branches—notice the natural movement of the air and take action. Just as the wind has an effect on people and things around it, we have an effect on people and things around us.

While I was looking online for info on the word *breeze*, the word *breezeway* showed up. The definition stated: "a roofed, often open passage connecting two buildings." This reminded me of Sorooptimists. We are the breezeways covering one another, providing open passage for connecting, enhancing what we are building together. Things are a breeze when we recognize this support. As we move through the dog days of summer, we know we will be Empowering Through Encouragement.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



"Trust only movement. Life happens at the level of events, not of words. Trust movement." ~Alfred Adler

CALENDAR

JULY

18-20 Lavender Festival

AUGUST

26* S.T.A.R.T. Meeting

*Evening Meeting



**"Big things are often just small things that are noticed."
~Ed Kennedy**



**"Those who look for the laws of Nature as a support for their new works collaborate with the creator."
~Antoni Gaudi**

Celebrate Life!

JULY

Athena Dunn
Jane Manzer
Kris Osborn
Kathy Purcell
Janet Wicker

AUGUST

Amanda Beitzel
Colleen Blazier
Roxann Harr
Janet Real
Cat Xander



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



A REMINDER—2025-2026 MEETING LOCATION

We meet at
Fifth Avenue Senior Independent Living
500 W. Hendrickson, Sequim at 8 a.m.



See you September 9th.

Save the Date

S.T.A.R.T. Meeting
(Soroptimist Team And Reunion Time)

At Shawn Dredla's Home

Potluck

More info to follow!

Tuesday, August 26, 2025



STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE FOR LAVENDER FESTIVAL

Attention Members! As you know we will be doing a fundraiser during Lavender Festival. Pauline Geraci and Dave Fickes are organizing this. Pauline would like you to respond to her directly regarding the time(s) and area(s) you can work. She would like you to let her know if you are willing to bake, volunteer or do both for the festivities. Her email address is pmgeraci@gmail.com. Remember, please respond to Pauline. None of the tasks are difficult: taking orders, collecting the money, or assembling shortcakes. We'd like two or more people who will bake the biscuits at the Boys & Girls club in Sequim. The biscuits will be made from a mix. Our club needs to have a minimum of four people in the booth at all times.



LAVENDER FESTIVAL

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER

ORGANIZATION	TIME	EVENT DATE	LOCATION
Lavender Festival Shortcake Booth	Food Servers 9AM-7PM F/SA and 9AM-5PM Sunday BAKERS: 6AM-7AM F/SA/SU	July 18-20	Carrie Blake Park

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP—\$25,000 AWARDED!

We were fortunate to be able to award 25 thousand dollars to Sequim High School senior girls for 2025!



Victoria Nava received the first **Colleen Blazier Medical Scholarship**. She will use the two thousand dollar award at Central Washington University. She was deaf as a child and had a cochlear implant. Her goal is to become a Pediatric Audiologist like those who helped her.



Caydence Barnett was one of our Girls of the Month in 2024. She will attend Peninsula College with a three thousand dollar scholarship. Her focus in music; her participation in band was pivotal in her life. She wants to teach music or do Instrument repair.



Skylar Paige Krzyworz was also a Girl of the Month in 2024. She was very active in the Scouts and will major in primary education. She received a one thousand dollar scholarship. Her minor will be Spanish or STEM.



Sophia Morton is currently a toddler teacher. She plans to attend Peninsula College with our thousand dollar scholarship to major in Education.



Isabel Turrey received a two thousand dollar **Ruth Mogan Scholarship** and will major in Graphic Design. She is part Native American, and plans a minor in ASL and Native American/Klallam Studies.



Taylor Heyting has been very active in sports. She received a two thousand dollar scholarship to major in Kinesiology at Western Washington University. Because of her injuries at various times in her sports career, she wants to minor in Psychology to become an Athletic trainer.



Jovi Weller has been very active in Scouts and in helping the community through her church. She has already experienced college by participating in the Running Start program during high school. She received a thousand dollars to begin her studies at Brigham Young University. She wants to become a Research Psychologist.



Lexi Bujanda also wants to go into Psychology. Her mother's breast cancer and subsequent unemployment means that our thousand dollar scholarship was very welcome to help her attend Western Washington.



Ivy Barrett has been an outstanding soccer player for her high school and on club teams. She received a thousand dollar scholarship to study Medicine and Exercise Sciences.



Mariana Zelada had the unfortunate experience of having a tree fall on her home, which destroyed most of the house. She participated in Running Start during high school and has the lofty goal of becoming a board certified veterinary surgeon with an interest in veterinary neurology. She received a two thousand dollar scholarship.



Joanna Morales was an Irrigation Festival Princess this year. She has also been very active at the Sequim Food Bank. Joanna received a thousand dollars to pursue her dream of studying Biology at the University of Washington.



Alexandra Rush received a thousand dollar scholarship in honor of Betty Osborne. She will attend Peninsula College. She plans to go into Urban Planning and will also study Political Science.



Sophia Treece was also an Irrigation Festival Princess. She will use her two thousand dollar scholarship to attend the Cornish College of the Arts in theater. She loves to act, and to design both costumes and characters.



Emily Cody is using her two thousand dollar scholarship to attend Chadron State College in Nebraska. She lived in Nebraska before coming to Sequim. Her goal is to make people beautiful and she says “I have my own dreams and I am not letting anything get in the way of that.”



Destinie Bernard has a most unusual job dream—she wants to be an elevator mechanic! Destinie has been living with her grandmother and discovered that she likes online classes. She had a 3.9 GPA and will probably begin school with our thousand dollar scholarship as a business major.



Justine Musica received a thousand dollar scholarship and plans to go to Evergreen Beauty School to become a medical esthetician to help people feel good in their bodies. She says “Most of my life has been me taking care of myself, so I am very good at looking out for my future and staying motivated through everything.”



Kaylie Steed sees art as her future. She has already been connected with former Soroptimist and artist Jolene Sanborn. Through her, Kaylie has the possibility of an internship at the Blue Whole Gallery. Kaylie will use her thousand dollar scholarship at Peninsula College.



SECRET PAL REVEAL

Lots of smiles on the faces of those who were able to attend the Secret Pal reveal last month. Many thanks to the Membership Committee for organizing this program. It is another way for members to connect—and it is FUN in the process. ~kp

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

DENISE BAYER



Denise Bayer moved to the Sequim area from Riverside, California in June 2024 and is a retired nurse. She has worked in many capacities within that career: Staff nurse, nurse manager, director, consultant in emergency department operations and management. On a volunteer basis, she held multiple board positions at the local, state and national levels of the Emergency Nurses Association. Denise has been married for 12 years and has two stepsons and two granddaughters. She lists talents/skills/passions of leadership, organization, knitting, crocheting, cooking, and spending time traveling with her husband, Fred. Welcome to SIS, Denise!

SARA MALONEY



Sara Maloney lived in the Sequim area between 2004-2016 and our club had occasional collaboration with her during that time. She returned to this area in June 2024 and is Director of Philanthropy for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula. Sara's career history includes five years in banking, five years managing a family business, seven years as Associate Executive Director of OMC Foundation, and 10 years in fundraising roles at two Boys & Girls Clubs. In a volunteer capacity, she has been a board member and President of the Boys & Girls Club of the Olympic Peninsula and she has also been a two-time President of the Rotary Club of Sequim. Sara enjoys reading, gardening, and hiking or walking with friends. The best advice she's received is "Build relationships (with coworkers/others based on mutual respect) not just a resume." Welcome to SIS, Sara!

SUZANNE PLEMMONS



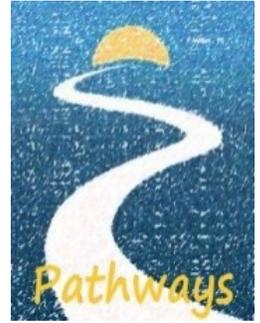
Suzanne Plemmons is a new resident in the Sequim area, having lived here for about four months, but had vacationed in the area. Suzanne and her husband Christopher moved here from Cle Elum, Washington but had lived in Kitsap County prior to that. Suzanne is a Public Health Nurse and retired as Community Health Director at Kitsap Public Health District. She learned about us by reading an article in the local paper about the Medical Loan Closet, which inspired her to learn more about our club and mission on our website. Suzanne is a current volunteer at the Sequim Free Clinic and with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and in the past has volunteered at Bremerton Food Bank, Kitsap Humane Society, Mercy Ship, and Helping Hands Nepal. She lists talents/skills/passions of teaching (with experience teaching public health nursing at the University of Kentucky and Olympic College), advocating for all types of preventive health services, gardening, and spending time with family and friends. The best advice she's received or given is: "Be kind, don't judge, be yourself." Welcome to SIS, Suzanne!

"Before deciding to do something, you should discover your true values, and then, you should search for opportunities to apply those values practically." ~Dr Prem Jagyasi

PATHWAYS WRAP-UP

2024-2025 has been an awesome year for this committee and finished with a flourish!

Earlier in the year Glen Varvil, Kecia Gilliam, Sandy Murray, and Shelley Huntington became members, although Shelley opted to start Pathways in September. Three new members were inducted at the Installation Dinner—**Denise Bayer, Sara Maloney** and **Suzanne Plemmons**.



We are excited to spend time with all of these new members to give them a thorough overview of how Soroptimist International of Sequim is organized, what we do to help women and children, and how we raise funds to accomplish that goal. Shirley Legg and I are co-chairs for the 2025-2026 year, and Shelle Paulbitski is a member.

It was a pleasure to share the workload with Cheryl Easterling this year. She's taking time off from this committee to further her education. We'll miss her smiling face and enthusiasm and wish her a successful year of study.

During August, Shirley, Shelle and I will meet to set up the schedule and get input from the members to determine a place and time to have our meetings. It's going to be another great year seeing these members get hooked on SIS!



~Jan Hartig, Pathways Committee Chair



HAPPY DOLLARS

"All who joy would win must share it. Happiness was born a Twin." ~Lord Byron

JUNE 10, 2025

Roxann Harr—is happy that her sister visited for a month leaving the next day. Lots of delayed tasks to catch up with.

Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols— is thankful for Linda's nice year as president.

Shawn Dredla—is happy because she had a great trip to Montana to visit her son, and daughter and son-in-law. They panned for gems, shot guns, and had great food.

Jeanne Martin—is thankful for President Linda, and Sandy Lawrence as treasurer, second hardest job. She is excited about all the new members.

STORAGE CLEANUP CREW

Thanks to Shawn Dedra, Jane Manzer, Kelli Ward, and Cat Xander our storage unit is cleaned out, cleaned up and looks spectacular.

Thanks ladies!

~President Roxann Harr and President-elect Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols



MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET STATS

This month Chris spoke about MLC services to the Sequim MS Support Group, a lovely and strong group of women. They were not aware of all that we do and were not aware of the CCFD3 Community Paramedic. They will be asking Mark Karjalainen to speak to them.



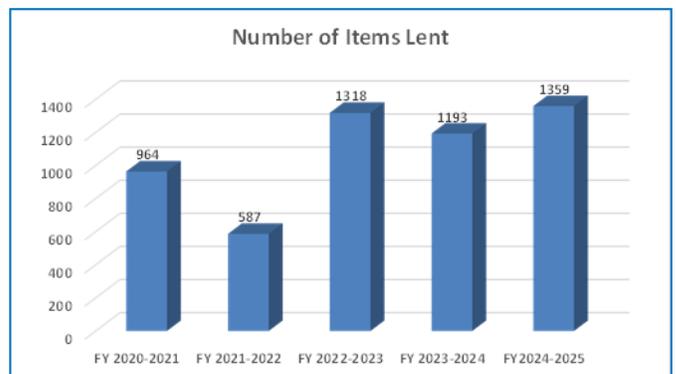
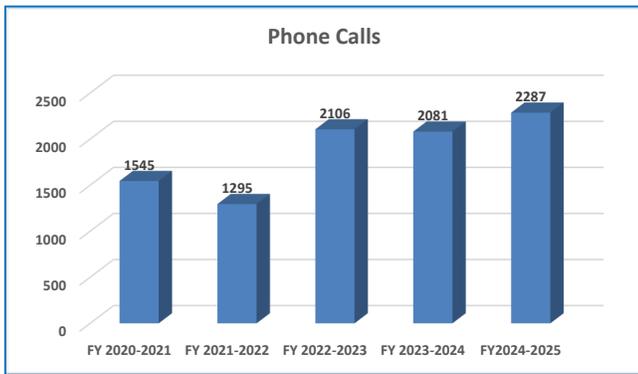
Our thanks to Jane Manzer who found people who needed two very large bariatric wheelchairs that we had for several years, with no use. Thanks to her for her patience and persistence with Craigs list and other neighborhood sale sites!

We had another very busy month. In June we answered **205** calls (an average of **50** calls a week), lent **107** items, and had **108** items returned/donated. We received **\$545** in donations from our generous community.

Below are the latest MLC charts that show the trends for the last five years.



~Susan Coffee, Elaine Powlesland and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs



“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”
 ~Coretta Scott King

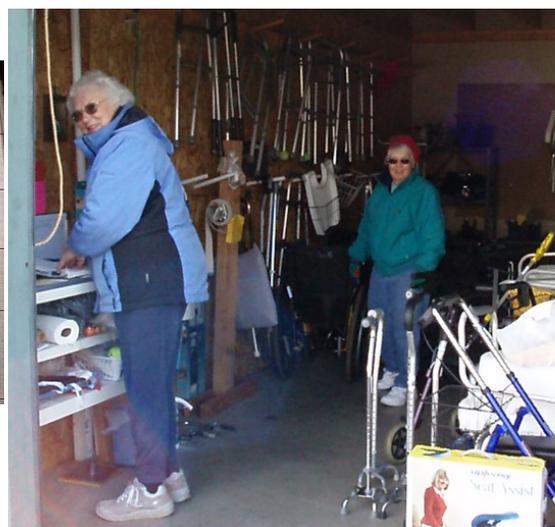
BLAST FROM THE PAST: SOME MLC CONNECTIONS



2006 Colleen Blazier, Imbert Mathee, Sally Sue Barry & Louella Hanson



2006 The first organization to deliver excess MLC equipment



2008 Louella & Sally Sue at (then) the only MLC unit



**2007 MLC Team
Colleen Blazier, Marcia Beggs,
Louella Hanson &
Sally Sue Barry**



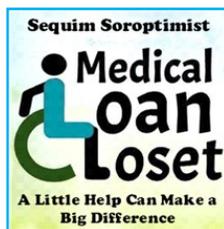
2007 Sharing MLC Equipment



MLC 2008 Load for Gateway with Sally Sue, truck driver, Colleen & Phyllis Hopfner



MLC Bandits in 2020



No Stone Left Unturned



Rich & Chris Snow Loading Up

TEA WITH S.H.E. NEXT EVENT IN OCTOBER

Tea with S.H.E. has scheduled its next event for **October 8, 2025**. Join us for **Defensive Driving for Seniors** on **October 8, 2025**, at **Trinity United Methodist Church**, 100 North Blake Avenue, Sequim, at **1 p.m.** Presenters include **Chief Mike Hill** of the Sequim Police Department. Save the Date. Pass along the information.



~Linda Klinefelter, Tea with S.H.E. Co-chair



THE IMPACT OF SPONSORING THROUGH WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

We recently received belated messages from one of the women we supported in Afghanistan last year. She graduated from the program at the end of January 2025, but due to a delay in translating her messages and the takeover of Women for Women International's office in Kabul by the government, we are just now receiving them. Because she took the time to write us back, it's nice WFWI forwarded them anyway. Here are the messages from that unnamed, for security reasons, woman we supported:

“I hope to learn a lot from this program to be able to solve my children's and family's financial problems and support my children's education. I aim to support them financially. I have eleven sons and two daughters. I am 40 years old, and my husband works as a daily wage laborer”

“Dear Sponsor,

Greetings and best wishes to my dear sponsor sister,

I am very happy and satisfied with this program. Over the past nine months, I have learned so much from it, including business, saving, and life skills. It has brought many positive changes to my life. The profession I have chosen is animal husbandry, and it is my favorite. Thank you so much to WFWI for supporting us.”



~Jane Manzer, Women for Women International Liaison



“[It's] the lens through which your brain views the world that shapes your reality. And if we can change the lens, not only can we change our happiness, we can change every single educational and business outcome at the same time.” ~*Shawn Achor*

INSTALLATION—EMPOWERING THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT



2025-2026 SIS BOARD INSTALLED



**Club Woman of Distinction
BECKY ARCHER**



**President's Award
SANDY LAWRENCE**



FINAL WORDS



PASSING THE GAVEL



PASSING THE PIN



THE YEAR AHEAD



GIFT TO OUTGOING PREZ



NEW PRESIDENT INDUCTS THREE NEW MEMBERS



More Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/108582458@N03/albums/72177720327512523/>



THE 2026 GALA GARDEN SHOW STATUS

The Gala Garden Show (GGS) is our club's main fundraiser. It takes a lot of time and effort to organize the show; this is done by the GGS core committee. Below is a list of the 2026 GGS Core Committee as of this writing. Almost half of the club members are on that list. Although the core committee does the organizing, all members are part of the event, working behind the scenes and during the actual show.



~Roxann Harr & Kathy Purcell, GGS Co-chairs

The first 2026 GGS Core Committee meeting will be **August 5, 2025 at 9 am at 1st Security Bank in Sequim**—the same location for last year's GGS Core Committee meetings. We encourage all core committee members to attend as we will be **voting on the featured artwork**.

THE 2026 GALA GARDEN SHOW CORE COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Roxann Harr & Kathy Purcell

Marketing:

Artwork Coordinators: Roxann Harr & Kathy Purcell

Newspaper: Linda Klinefelter

Radio: Cat Xander

Facebook: Kelli Ward

Marketing Materials: Jane Manzer

Signage: Glen Varvil

Distribution: Debbie Cottrell with Jess McNeil

Website: Kathy Purcell / **Proofing:** Pat Willis

T-Shirts: Janet Real

Garden Café: Rainshadow Café—Dominique Hall

Raffle: Virginia Kostanich & Kris Osborn

Set Up/Tear Down: Jan Hartig & Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols

Speakers: Roxann Harr

Soroptimist Table: Membership

Sponsorship Solicitation: Patty Lebowitz / **Thank You:** Colleen Blazier

Volunteer Coordinator: Chris Snow

Treasurer: Sandy Lawrence

Front Entrance Décor: Linda Klinefelter & Sofie's Florist

Vendor Recruitment: Shawn Dredla, Brandi Larson, & Kelli Ward

Vendor Support: Patty Lebowitz and ???

Parking & Signage: CERT & Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols

Scribe: Deb Alwine

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Dear Soroptimist of Sequim,

Thank you so much for your generous \$10,000 donation in support of Peninsula Performs! -our arts integrated learning program launching in the Sequim School District for the 25-26 school year. Field Hall is thrilled to partner with you on this important work.

Your support is making a significant difference by bringing arts learning into the classrooms, enriching education and inspiring young minds. We're truly grateful for your belief in the power of this program.

Field Hall is also excited to announce and introduce Jessie Young, our new Director of Education, who can be reached at : jessie@fieldhallevents.org.

With sincere thanks,
Kayla Oakes + FAET T---

Dear Soroptimists of Sequim,

Thank you so much for your generous support. I'm truly grateful for this scholarship, which I will put toward my journey to becoming a teacher. Your investment in my future means so much, and I hope to pay it forward by being a dedicated steward of public education and a positive force in my community.

With sincere gratitude,

Skylar Paige Krzyworz

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Athena Dunn Jaime Manzer KITS Osborn Kathy Purcell Janet Wicker		1	2	3		5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sequim Lavender Weekend July 18-20 2025	21	22	23	24	Sequim Lavender Weekend July 18-20 2025	Sequim Lavender Weekend July 18-20 2025
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Amanda Beitzel Colleen Blazler Roxann Harr Janet Real Cat Xander		5 GGS Core Committee Mtg 1st Security Bank 9am				
3	4		6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 S.T.A.R.T. Meeting 	27	28	29	30
31						

The Helping Tree (A Poem About Lifting Others) by Dallin Candland

I may not see all the seeds I scatter-
But I know where I stand.
I stretch to make the world a better place
And lend a helping hand.
I help the dreamers to dream
And the songbirds to sing.
From my branches they leap
And learn to first trust their wing.
When they fall I am here
They speak and I care.
I tell them — “Go into the world
And your bright talents share!”
My smile reminds them they’ve come a long way.
It’s an encouraging thing to hear
At the end of a rough day.
I know in time their fruits will come.
I’m just glad that through their journey I can help out some.
I am thankful for those who years ago planted me
And helped me to become-
A helping tree.



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