



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 9

Soroptimist International of Sequim

**Celebrating 78 Years of Service**

March 2026

## Officers 2025 — 2026

**President:**

Roxann Harr

**President-Elect:**

Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols

**Secretary:**

Christy Holy

**Treasurer:**

Sandy Lawrence

**Assistant Treasurer:**

TBD

**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

Jan Hartig

Jane Manzer

Pat Willis

**“I do not wish  
them [women] to have  
power over men;  
but over themselves.”  
~Mary Wollstonecraft**

## President’s Message

Dear Members,

Can you believe it’s already March? As we dive into this month, our focus naturally shifts to the Gala Garden Show. The experience, dedication, and creativity that go into making the GGS a success are truly remarkable. Each year, I find myself more impressed by the talent and effort that make this our largest fundraiser. We’re eagerly anticipating a fantastic turnout and a wonderful show for everyone involved. And, of course, I look forward to the joyous celebration of our hard work at the end of the month!

March brings with it other significant events as well: St. Patrick’s Day on the 17th and the Spring Equinox on the 20th. However, the most important observance this month is Women’s History Month. This annual celebration, recognized in the United States, Germany, and Australia, aligns with International Women’s Day on March 8th, which is also observed in Canada in October.

The origins of Women’s History Month in the United States date back to 1911 when International Women’s Day was first celebrated. However, it wasn’t until President Jimmy Carter issued a proclamation in 1980 declaring the week of March 8th as National Women’s History Week that we truly began to honor the contributions of women. In 1987, Congress passed a resolution officially designating March as Women’s History Month.

This year’s theme, as proclaimed by the National Women’s History Alliance for 2026, is “Leading the Change: Women Shaping A Sustainable Future.” What an awe-inspiring theme it is! As we celebrate our 80th anniversary next year, I reflect on how our club embodies this theme. What could be more impactful for a sustainable society than empowering girls and women? By providing education and resources, we help them thrive as individuals and vital members of our community. We equip them with the skills necessary to support themselves and their families, while also contributing to nonprofit organizations that uplift families in need, shaping a brighter future for daughters, sisters, and wives everywhere.

So, as we approach March 8th, International Women’s Day, let’s take pride in the work we do through our club. Let’s honor and appreciate the achievements of women throughout history who have paved the way for us. Together, we are part of this incredible narrative of change and empowerment.



Warm regards,  
President Roxann



## Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's March—Women's History Month. You can find a little history about that in President Roxann's article. There are many colorful women who have shaped our country's history. Quotes from several of them are scattered throughout this newsletter.

Speaking of color, last month's color, with Valentine's Day, was red which represents passion, energy, courage and strength. Hmm, sounds like Soroptimists. This month, with St. Patrick's Day, the color is green which represents rebirth, revitalization, renewal, progress and growth. Hmm, sounds like Soroptimists. The green is not only with leprechauns and shamrocks; we see it showing up on plants and in trees. Every color has many different shades, depending on the amount of each primary color within it. Mother Nature is happy to produce them for us. All we need do is open our eyes and become aware.

We'll be keeping our eyes open a little later going forward as we turn our clocks ahead an hour the first Saturday in March. We're effectively moving an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening. About two weeks later, on March 20, 2026, Spring officially begins.

The evening of that very day, something magical will be beginning! Setup for our 27th Gala Garden Show will be happening! We will be seeing a lot of green that weekend—for us at the entrance, at the raffle area, at the Soroptimist booth; and then there is the green the vendors will be garnering through sales of their wonderful plants and wares and also in the cafe. This is our main fundraiser and all members participate in some way. The GGS Core Committee has been working tirelessly creating the framework for the show. They will be joined by other members—and a few family/friends—to fill in the frame through working at the two-day show. This is very exciting! Even though this is our 27th year for the show, there are always new things to see.

March is also the month a slate of officers and board members for the upcoming Soroptimist year is initially presented to the members at the business meeting. My first year in the club I was a director on the board; my second year I was secretary; my third year I was president. There hadn't been a president-elect from the previous year. There was a need and I filled it. Back then I was very green, very new—I said I was so green I was blue and yellow. There was growth within the club and within me that year. It was fun and I learned a lot. I learned the president doesn't do the job alone. The board and the members are supportive; there is a synergy that changes the color green more to the red—passion, energy, courage and strength arises.

I mention all this because there are a couple open positions on the slate of officers for next year. We have a few established leaders who have already accepted nomination for positions. Some people work more quietly from the sidelines and that is fine; in fact they are necessary. Some people are leaders, but they might not recognize it within themselves. I ask each of you to look within yourself. If you feel green, let me tell you, once you are on the board, that color will change quickly.

When President Roxann chose her theme "Empowering Through Encouragement" she had in mind the women and girls we assist in getting access to the education they need. I recognize that, but I see it as more. I see it as each of us empowering one another—our own members—through encouragement. We are in this together and I'm grateful to be a part of it with all of you as we continue to create more club history.



Light and Love  
~Kathy Purcell, Editor



**"The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live."**  
~Ethel Percy Andrus

## CALENDAR

### MARCH 2026

- 3 GGS Core Cmt Mtg
- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting
- 21-22 Gala Garden Show
- \*31 GGS Potluck Celebration

### APRIL 2026

- 7 GGS Core Cmt Mtg
- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 23-26 NWR Conference  
Grouse Mtn Lodge  
Whitefish, MT
- 28 Program Meeting

### \*Evening Meeting



**Through Encouragement**

**"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."**  
~Marcel Proust



**After all these years, I am still involved in the process of self-discovery. It's better to explore life and make mistakes than to play it safe. Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life.**  
~Sophia Loren

*Celebrate Life!*

**MARCH 2026**

Brandi Larson  
Stephanie Soha

**APRIL 2026**

Christy Holy  
Chris Snow



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



*“A small body of determined spirits  
fired by an unquenchable faith  
in their mission can alter  
the course of history.”  
~Mahatma Gandhi*

**A REMINDER—2025-2026 MEETING LOCATION**

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

**See you March 10th.**



**AFTER GARDEN SHOW CELEBRATION**

By March 31st, we will have  
(somewhat) recovered from the  
Great, Gigantic, Gorgeous Gala  
Garden Show!!



And right in time for a fifth Tuesday, March 31st,  
we'll be celebrating our accomplishment  
by gathering at  
Debbie Cottrell's dad's place from  
5pm to 7pm.

He has graciously opened his home to us so the  
least we can do is bring lots of terrific potluck stuff  
and entice him to eat some!! Let's divide up the  
duties:

- A-H Appetizers and/or Salads
- I-N Main Dishes
- O-Z Desserts

All: Bring your own drinks

Wear your glad rags and come ready to celebrate  
our 27th year of garden showing!!

**SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER**



**NWR Conference**  
Grouse Mountain Lodge  
Whitefish, MT  
April 23-26, 2026



**49th Biennial SIA Convention**  
Incheon, South Korea  
July 22-25, 2026

## THIS YEAR'S LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD RECIPIENTS

Our Live Your Dream Award winners have been selected! This award is part of the Soroptimist International program and it is designed to help women who are the primary support for their dependents. Award funds are not limited to tuition, but can be used by the recipients for any purpose that will help them complete their educational goal.

Winners are selected by a panel from outside the club. Ours included a range of women from a nurse practitioner to a mortgage broker. We hope that these women will learn about Soroptimist and the needs of the women and girls we help.



**Carrie Johnson** is our top recipient and will receive \$3000. Her application has also won one of the Regional prizes in the amount of \$1,500. This is the third year SI/Sequim's winner has received a Regional Award.

Carrie is in an online Bachelors program in Teaching and Education from Western Governor's University. She is working on two degrees, one in K-8 education, and one in K-12 Special Education.

Carrie is now a Special Education para-educator for the Sequim School District. She is the sole support for the two children she has living at home. She is also very active in the community as a 4-H leader and on boards for the local PTA and a local preschool, and volunteers at a local kids' summer camp.

She has just a few classes left and one of them is Student Teaching. She cannot work at the school during student teaching, so the Live Your Dream Award will help her pay her bills while she completes her unpaid student teaching.

With that degree, she will be able to give her kids what they need and deserve.



**Rachel DeJarnat** is in the Nursing Program at Peninsula College. She is the sole support for her four children and her husband. He has been ill and currently stays home to care for the kids.

She also works full time at the Life Care Center in Port Townsend. Her goal is to become a nurse in the ER setting, with the ultimate goal of becoming an Anesthesiology nurse or a CRNA.

Her \$2000 Live Your Dream Award will help her reach her dream of becoming a nurse and making a significant difference and positive impact on the lives of others.



**Kaelyn Davila** is in an online Bachelor's program in Nursing at Oregon Health and Science University. She is the primary support for her four year old child and her husband provides childcare.

She is currently working full time as an ICU nurse, and feels that the most rewarding part of her job is facilitating death--helping patients and families by outlining expectations and answering their questions.

Her dream is to enter a Master's Degree Program so she can help reform how palliative care is provided and to co-op a hospice house with other nurses in Clallam County. Her \$1000 award will help her pay for more schooling.

## PROVIDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The Mission of Soroptimist is to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. This year the Awards & Scholarship committee identified the HOSA – Future Health Professionals (formerly known as Health Occupations Students of America) conference in Spokane (March 2-4) as an opportunity for access and training. Soroptimist funds were used to pay registration fees for students to take part. Sequim HOSA took 55 students (47 HS and 8 MS) to the conference.

The focus of the organization is to encourage high school and middle school students to pursue their interest in biomedical professions. Over 3,700 students from across the state of Washington participated. Students get to take part in competitive events, attend a huge range of healthcare related workshops and speakers and socialize with like-minded peers.

Many of these students are passionate and determined to pursue careers in healthcare. Many will become health professionals on the Peninsula, and our grant is not only an investment in education, it is also an investment in the future healthcare of our area.

Information from the Sequim Education Foundation (SEF) Teacher Grant Report by Laura Gould.



~Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarships Co-chair



## MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

### PAMELA MAGNUSSON



Our newest member, who we hope will be inducted at the GGS March 31st celebration, is Pamela Magnusson. Pamela has been in the Sequim area only since June 2025, but met Susan Coffee and became acquainted with the Medical Loan Closet. Her background includes time as an RN, in addition to experience as an optician, a florist, and an office manager/owner. Pamela has quite a few years of volunteer experience with a food pantry, a thrift store, and Seattle Children's Bargain Boutique. She moved here to be closer to her brother, who lives in Sequim, while she has a daughter in Renton, WA and a sister in Gig Harbor, in addition to a son in Sherman Oaks, CA.

It seems Pamela didn't even list all of her talents/skills/passions but here's the impressive list: volunteering, nursing, sewing, crocheting, quilting, crafts, watercolor painting, gardening, floral arranging, jewelry making, Bible studies, meeting with friends & many more. The best advice she's received or has given is "Today . . . Choose Joy!"

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We had 24 members in person and four attending via Zoom at the terrific program meeting February 24th. Please continue to come a little bit early so that we can greet and get to know one another. For those of you who weren't there, I mentioned that Becky Archer is the Sunshine person on the Membership Committee—she sends birthday cards on behalf of the club, but also sends cards of sympathy, congratulations, etc. However, if she doesn't know when a card sent on behalf of the club would be appropriate, she can't always know who needs one. Please remember to let her know if a member could use a card.

Don't forget, the Membership Committee needs new leadership next year. Shawn has been heading this up for too many years and I've joined her for a few of those. It's good to have fresh ideas and allow others a chance to grow within the organization. If you've even been entertaining taking on the chair of this committee or there are two of you willing to co-chair, PLEASE let Shawn or me know and you can shadow us for the rest of the year.



~Jane Manzer and Shawn Dredla, Membership Co-chairs

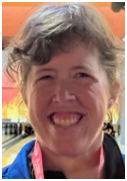


***I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.***

***—Audre Lorde***

## PATHWAYS REPORT

Shirley Legg chaired a successful meeting with Shelle Paulbitski and Sandy Lawrence. Shirley's friend is building a shelf for the pantry at the free clinic. It is our job to bring food for the pantry. We talked about money and budgets and fundraising. We discussed how money is invested. And talked about the garden gala that's happening in March. We also discussed the speech I will give at our Soroptimist meeting in March about Special Olympic sports. I love being a Special Olympics athlete.



~Stephanie Soha, Pathways Committee



### **A Place at the Table**

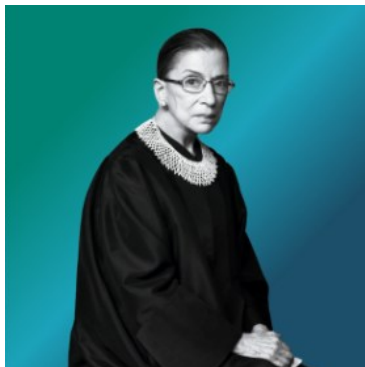
When my daughter joined the meeting,  
She didn't just take a seat -  
She found a place to belong.  
Numbers may not always make sense to her,  
But kindness does.  
Inclusion does.  
Being valued does.

You welcomed her voice,  
You honored her effort,  
And you made her feel like an important part of the team.

What may have seemed like a small moment  
Was something very big to her -  
And to me.

Thank you for seeing her,  
For including her,  
And for reminding her that she matters.

With heart felt gratitude ~ Lucinda Soha



***Women belong in all  
places where decisions  
are being made.***


***~Ruth Bader Ginsburg***

## PATHWAYS PROJECT PROGRESSES

The Pathways Committee continues to move forward with their community project....building up and stocking the free pantry at the Sequim Free Clinic. A big thank you to Shirley Legg who connected us with Ed Alder who was able to build us some additional shelving. Ed recently delivered the shelving to the clinic. Thank you. Ed!!!

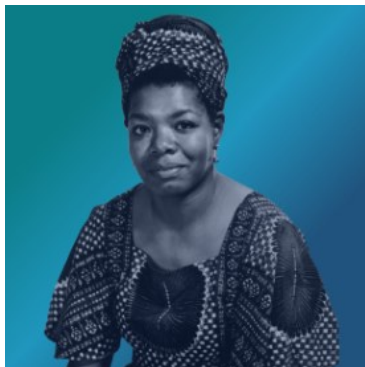
Thank you!



Denise Bayer, Pathways Committee 



Pictured from left to right: Denise Bayer (Soroptimist), Ed Alder (carpenter), Suzanne Plemmons (Soroptimist) and Sara Nicholls (Executive Director Sequim Free Clinic).



***Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possible, without claiming it, she stands up for all women.***

***—Maya Angelou***

## HAPPY DOLLARS

### February 10, 2026

**Shawn Dredla** – is happy to be off to Arizona soon to meet up with a friend. Also happy she has sold her Field Hall tickets as Happy dollars.

**Jane Manzer** – has lots to be happy about: she liked Patty’s tomato soup at the Medical Loan Closet move and lunch. She recently had eye surgery to take care of floaters and is doing well.

**Jan Hartig** – is happy to have played the piano to accompanied her granddaughter on her sax who won an excellent grade at a state competition.

**Janet Real** – is happy we ordered an enough GGS t-shirts to save 60 cents per shirt.

**Connie Tallman** – is happy to have brought food for the Sequim Free Clinic’s little free pantry and reminded us to help.

**Chris Snow** – is happy the MLC is moved.

**Susan Coffee** – is happy for Chris’s organizing skills that assured a smooth move.

**Roxann Harr** – is happy she and husband are going to Great Britain for two weeks date to be determined.

**Becky Archer** – is happy about how well the MLC moved thanks to Chris Snow, Susan Coffee, and Elaine Powlesland’s coordination. Becky is off to Palm Springs for a week to catch up with her husband’s family.

### February 24, 2026

**Sandy Lawrence** – is happy her sister-in-law’s house sold. Her husband is having heart surgery in early March..

**Jane Manzer** – is happy about how great the speakers were. Also a special shout out to Becky Archer who sends cards to anyone who has a birthday, death in the family or is sick.

**Becky Archer** – is happy about the speakers and she had a lovely time in Palm Springs with family.

**Stephanie Soha** – is happy about a handmade birthday card from Shawn.

**Lucinda Soha** – is happy about what a thoughtful and beautiful card Shawn made for Stephanie.

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“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.” ~*Dalai Lama*

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## TEA WITH S.H.E.

**Tea with SHE** is excited to announce our April event! Our Spring event will air on the radio on **April 29th at 12:30**, featuring **Chief Mike Hill** of the Sequim Police Department. Listeners can tune to KSQM 91.5 FM and hear about the latest phone scams. Chief Hill indicates there are lots of scams going around. You will hear how to identify a phone scam and what to do about it. Make sure to save the date for this insightful radio show so you can stay up to date and safeguard yourself.



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



## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

### Moving Day!

Between February 3rd and 9th, we put in a tremendous effort to relocate, clean, and store all MLC equipment from The Sequim Stow Place to our new home at **425 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 1B**. We deeply appreciate Roxann, Brian, Matthew, and Kyle Harr for their invaluable assistance. Brian created a layout of the new space, managed both the removal and reinstallation of equipment racks, and his family helped transport the equipment. Our volunteers are also grateful for the space heater donated by the Harrs.

Fred and Jane Manzer, along with Jeff and Shawn Dredla, assembled four new storage racks—thank you! We're also thankful to Debbie Cottrell, who lent her support on February 6th to move items, thoroughly cleaned the new bathroom, and provided new cleaning supplies. Fred and Jane Manzer further contributed by helping with the move and donating a wonderful desk and bookcase for the Admin area. Michele Donnels, Natasha's daughter, generously gave a variable height table for our Admin workspace. Mark Kajalainen assisted with transporting equipment in his large trailer. Patty Lebowitz, Rich Snow, Becky Archer, Loree Conrad, Suzanne and Chris Plemmons, and Virginia Kostanich all pitched in on moving day, helping haul, clean, and store equipment. This project truly exemplified the SIS team's collaborative spirit.

Looking ahead, our MLC building and parking signage will be installed by March 4th, we will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Chamber of Commerce, and there will be an article in the Sequim Gazette.

During our first three weeks at the new MLC location, visitors shared positive feedback about our space. Soon, we'll complete the transformation by hanging Gala Garden Show artwork from ten previous events on our walls. These framed posters will brighten the room and inform visitors about another way SIS supports the community through its Scholarship Program.

### February Activity Overview

Our call and equipment volumes remain steady. During the month, we answered **187** calls and lent **76** items. We received **88** equipment returns or donations and received **\$1,395** in contributions from our generous community clients. One person who made a generous donation wrote in his thank you card to our MLC member **"Thank you for being so kind. I wish you and your charity the best."**



With gratitude,



**Susan Coffee, Elaine Powlesland, and Chris Snow**  
*Medical Loan Closet Co-Chairs*

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**"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."**

**~Andrew Carnegie**

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**Mark, SuSan and Roxann moving out**



**Matthew and Roxann ready to Load**



**Fred with his first delivery**



**Mark unloading one of many deliveries**



**Chris and Rich in front of Mark's load**



**Jane, Virginia & Loree with lots of buckets!**



**Fred, Mark and Matthew – almost done**



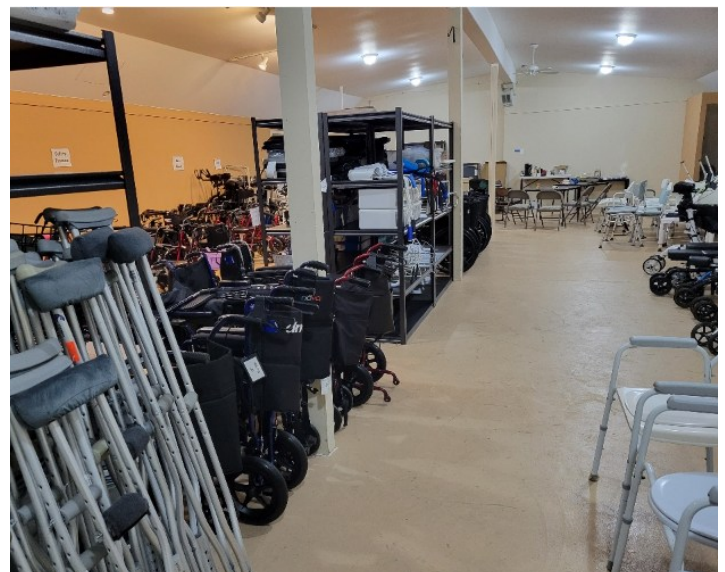
**Susan, Loree and Elaine setting up Admin**



**Patty, Chris, Becky & Elaine – all smiles**



**Soup and sandwich Lunch time!**



**Shaping up and the end of our first day. More work to do!**

## WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

I just received hand-written letters from the two women we support in Nigeria who I communicate with on the club's behalf.



~Jane Manzer, Women for Women International Liaison



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Dear Sister,

Greetings to you hoping that you and your family are doing fine. I am also very grateful to you for choosing to support me through the WFWI program.

My name is Fadila Kabirua. I am a 37 years old mother of 7 children of ages 18, 17, 15, 11, 10, 5 and 10 months old. I am originally from Niger state but live in Rigachikum with my family. I sell corn, flour, and soup condiments while my husband is a tailor.

I joined the WFW program to improve my level of education and right awareness and to also learn business skills to expand my business. I am grateful for your kindness and I will make you proud. My warm regards to your family.

Your sister,  
Fadila

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Dear Sponsor,

How are you and your family how is your work and everything out there. Hope all is well with you as expect. I write this letter to thank and appreciate you on what you chose to do for me and my family, we are very grateful, may God bless you and your family.

I, Maryam Abubakar, am married with 3 beautiful daughters. I am 26 years of age, the oldest daughter is 6 years now and she is in primary 1 and the youngest ones is not yet to start schooling.

I am residing at Kaduna state of Nigeria together with my family. And I don't have any source of income as well as my husband is a small scale farmer.

I want to achieve a lot in this organization of women for women international. Few of them are farming skills and techniques, business strategies, knowing my rights as a woman and lastly, I want to use my monthly stipend as capital to start up a business.

Thank you once again, wishes you and your family blessing, may God reward you abundantly. Thank you.

Your sister,  
Maryam Abubakar

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT—AREA MEETING, FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

Good morning, everyone! I'm Roxann Harr, President of Soroptimist International of Sequim, and I'm delighted to share some of our recent activities and initiatives with you today.

To start, our membership stands at 48, including four new members this year, one is here with us Denise Bayer. We are grateful to offer both in-person meetings and Zoom options, ensuring everyone can participate. We meet twice a month at 8:00 AM for our business and program meetings, which provide an excellent opportunity for us to connect and collaborate.



As many of you know, we are eagerly preparing for the 27th Annual Gala Garden Show on March 21 – 22nd! This event is a highlight of our calendar, and we have an exciting lineup planned. This year, we will feature five speakers, including four knowledgeable Clallam County Master Gardeners, along with our special guest, Ciscoe Morris. Last year, we welcomed around 2,000 attendees, and we're hopeful for an even greater turnout this time around.

This year, our Board has been actively engaged in shaping the future of our club. During a recent retreat, we reflected on our current initiatives while also setting goals for the future. We distributed a member survey and received a remarkable 75% response rate! We are currently reviewing the suggestions and ideas to improve our programs.

We are proud to report that we awarded three Live Your Dream awards this year and are set to launch our inaugural Dream It Be It program in May. Our newer members are particularly passionate and eager to enhance our outreach efforts. They are already talking about updating our website and exploring platforms like Next Door and Facebook to connect with young girls regarding our scholarship and award programs.

Another exciting development is the successful relocation of our Medical Loan Closet which has been in operation for over 50 years. We have moved from four small storage units to a larger, more organized facility, which has created a lot of enthusiasm within our club. We will celebrate this milestone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in partnership with the Sequim Chamber in early March!

This year has also been fortunate for us regarding legacy giving, which has enabled us to increase our awards, donations, and scholarship amounts. We look forward to continuing this growth and enhancing our community impact.

We recently celebrated our achievements with a lovely Christmas party for our members, fostering a sense of community and gratitude among us. Additionally, we've hired a bookkeeper to assist with our financial management, ensuring everything runs smoothly.

While many of the ideas we pursue may not be new, they are certainly vital. We aim to find an online document storage solution, create fillable forms, and promote leadership opportunities for our members. We have a new chair for our fundraising committee, Shirley Legg, along with several energetic members eager to contribute their ideas.

We are also in the process of establishing a Tech Committee to focus on social media strategies, document retention, design standards, and more. This initiative will help us stay current and effective in our outreach efforts.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation and fellowship within our club. The dedication we show in supporting the girls and women of Sequim is truly inspiring, and it fills me with pride to serve as their President. Together, we are making a significant difference in our community.

## AREA MEETING REFLECTIONS BY ATTENDEES

### Chris Snow:

I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of the meeting and how well it was organized. I wish I could have stayed to hear the afternoon speaker from OMC. Perhaps in the future, if there is a large piece of the program that is for a select group of members (current and past club Presidents and voting delegates) they could schedule that piece for the last thing in the day so those who have no need to stay for that piece can leave.

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### Natasha Merkuloff Nichols:

\* When someone says no you can't do it that way.... is that a rule from SIA or Club Bylaws or is it simply "we've always done it this way"

\* No one fails being President or Secretary or whatever. We just need to find people to fill the holes. And learn to say to people Say, Mary Smith, I'd like you to do THIS for me..... or FIND OUT about THIS for me.

\*I don't ever want to hear anyone say "what if I do it wrong..."

\*Survey SIA asked members who have left SI why they left. Answers were:

- Wanted to be heard
  - Expected more civility
  - Wanted my time to be valued
  - Wanted more celebrations, more fun
- 

### Patty Lebowitz:

I sat with five ladies from the PA Jet Set Soroptimist club, none of which I knew before yesterday. It was fun to get to know different ladies. The program was informative, especially about the skit about how to add your name to the ballot at regional conference. I'm glad I went.

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### Cat Xander:

I most enjoyed the Club reports. I think we should try a barn dance. It was amazing the a club with nine members could put on that event and earn \$12,000!

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### Denise Bayer:

I enjoyed hearing from each of the clubs out on the peninsula it gave me a better understanding of the Soroptimist presence in the area. I was also intrigued by the Operation Uplift presentation.

### Shirley Legg:

This was one of the better area meetings I've attended. Sharing info from other clubs is valuable. I rate it a B+ I also found the Elk member gentleman's information interesting and his sharing of good work the Elks do. So much of this does not filter down to the community.

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### Linda Klinefelter:

While I was unable to stay the entire day, I know I missed the "meat" of the program in the afternoon session. Attending the meetings reminds me that there are many like me who believe in community, and a community thrives when we all pitch in. Being a part of Soroptimist, I am reminded that there are many like-minded people like me.

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### Shawn Dredla:

I was reminded from another Club that members want to be heard, they want their time valued, they want to feel valued, and they want to have more fun and celebrate more. If we can accomplish this in everything we do, we can have a successful Club.

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### Christy Holy:

I met women from all over our area and was inspired to be reminded that you don't have to know everything to run for an office. You have lots of support.

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### Jan Hartig:

I really enjoyed learning about the history of the Naval Lodge and Dr. Carleen Bensen's venture in the medical field. Wow!

The most meaningful part was meeting ladies from the other clubs. I would like to have seen a more interactive exercise between the members, like a one-on-one or very small group. The whole morning was spent geared toward just a few people who are going to be delegates at the conference.

The PA club did an excellent job coordinating the event, and the food was really good.

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### Sandy Lawrence:

What I came away with was a sense of local camaraderie and generosity. Everyone seemed to have a true interest in learning what each area was about and their successes.



Operation Uplift board member Kristi Toth



Dr. Carlene Bensen, newly elected Board Commissioner of OMC



District 1 Director Sandy Jennings



Sandy Lawrence doing role playing with Sandy Jennings

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*"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere." ~Chinese Proverb*

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## SOME 2026 GALA GARDEN SHOW NEWS

The GGS Core Committee met on March 3, 2026, for the final meeting prior to the Gala Garden Show.

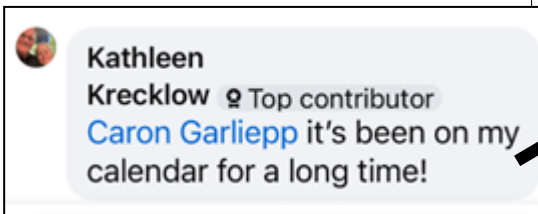
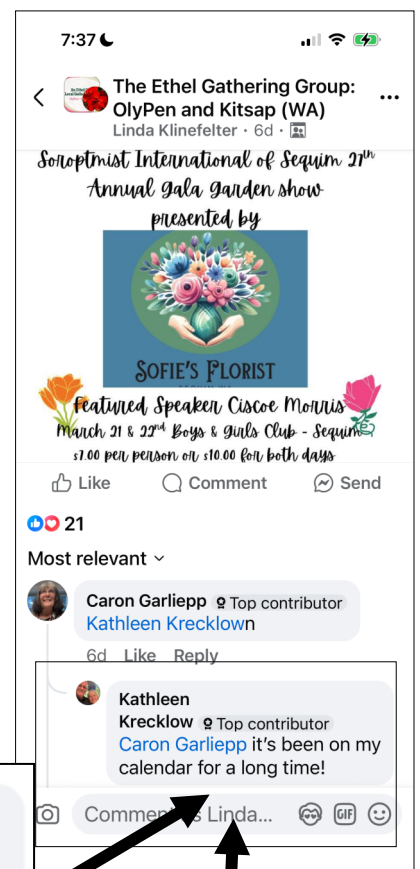
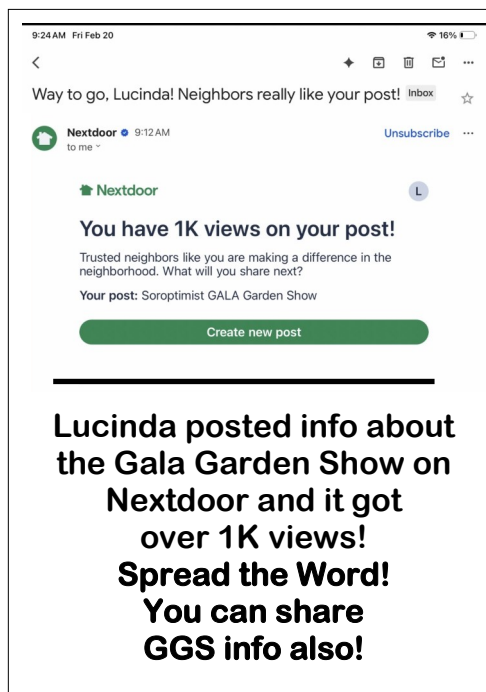
### Here are some highlights:

- Cash Sponsorship total to date is \$13,755.
- We have 50+ Vendors!
- Reviewed setup times for Thursday and Friday.
- Chris Snow updated the Volunteer Schedule for Thursday.
- Members of the High School Interact will be helping with setup and tear down.
- Checking how many chairs we've requested. Do we need more for Ciscoe?
- Shawn Dredla is checking with one of the vendors for placement of electronic sign.
- The insert in the Gazette will be out March 11.
- We will be selling bottled water at the Soroptimist booth.

*"A garden must combine the poetic and the mysterious with a feeling of serenity and joy." ~ Luis Barragan*



Roxann Harr and Kathy Purcell, 2026 Gala Garden Show Co-chairs



**A response to a Facebook post!**

**FINAL GGS MEETING DATE:**  
April 7 Debrief

**Note the April 7 date for FINAL 2027 GGS Core Committee Meeting.** This will be a debrief. Bring your notes on pros and cons about the show. **Please try to work your schedule so you can be part of the review. It is important to have as many of the core committee members present so we get a full picture.**

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Dear Soroptomists of Sequim,

Thank you so much for your donation to The Friends Place! Your generous support allows us to provide those in need with financial assistance for our program. Thank you for all of your wonderful contributions to our community!

Sincerely,  
Rhonda Heyn - Director - The Friends Place

Thank you so much for all the wonderful gifts you provided to my family. It has brought my children + I much joy, and I am forever grateful Christmas was still magical for my children this year. Thank you so very much!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Peninsula Behavioral HEALTH  
Hope starts here

Gala  
May 7, 2026

SAVE THE DATE  
SAVE THE DATE  
SAVE THE DATE

Golf  
Tournament  
Aug. 14, 2026

Annual Gala

Keynote: Award-winning ESPN broadcaster Lauren Sisler  
Thursday, May 7, 2026  
5:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
Field Arts & Events Hall  
Tickets \$135pp & sponsorship opportunities available  
Catered by Chef Michael McQuay of Kokopelli Grill  
PeninsulaBehavioral.org/events

2ND ANNUAL  
GOLF  
TOURNAMENT  
2026

Tee up for a Cause!  
Friday, August 14, 2026  
12 PM - 6 PM  
Peninsula Golf Club  
\$105pp & sponsorship opportunities available  
PeninsulaBehavioral.org/events



***It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.***

***-Eleanor Roosevelt***

# Save the Date

*Sequim Education Foundation's*

# Hopes & Dreams

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Teaching Grant Fundraiser Dinner

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 5:00-8:00 pm

Guy Cole Center

202 N. Blake Ave, Sequim, WA

Join us in supporting Sequim educators and help fund innovative teaching grants that make every school in our district shine. Together, we're giving students the tools they need to succeed and create bright futures!

*The Sequim Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that raises and distributes funds to address the financial gap between state funding and the needs of Sequim students through teaching grants and scholarships.*





*Inspiring and supporting a lifelong love of learning*

# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Brandt Larson Stephanie Saha 	2	3 GGS Core Committee Mtg 1st Security Bank 9 am	4	5	6 BOARD MEETING	7
8	9	10 Business Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Gala Garden Show Setup 	21 Gala Garden Show 
22 Gala Garden Show 	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 GGS Potluck Celebration				

# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH</b> Christy Holy Chris Snow 			1	2	3	4
5 	6	7 GGS Core Committee Mtg Debrief	8	9	10 BOARD MEETING	11
12	13	14 Business Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 <b>NWR Conference</b> Grouse Mountain Lodge- Whitefish, MT	24 <b>NWR Conference</b> Grouse Mountain Lodge- Whitefish, MT	25 <b>NWR Conference</b> Grouse Mountain Lodge- Whitefish, MT
26 <b>NWR Conference</b> Grouse Mountain Lodge- Whitefish, MT	27	28 Program Meeting	29	30		

# Spring Sings

© Tiffany Santa Cruz

Spring sings  
Its gentle breeze  
Butterflies of Glazing wings  
Birds cheerfully sing their  
Lighthearted songs  
As they soar across the meadow  
Of elegant flowers  
Delivering the message that spring is near  
The flowers danced of such joy  
The silent dance  
Moved the lake  
The water was sparkling  
For the flowers danced gracefully  
Across it  
Spring sings its gentle song.

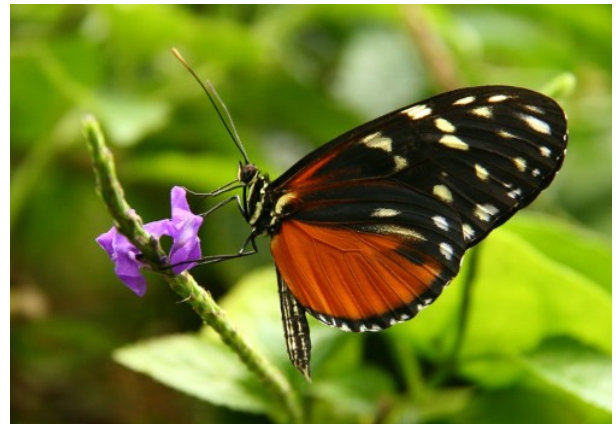


Photo by Cindy Rhodes



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