



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 11

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 78 Years of Service

May 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

*“Learning without
thought is labor lost;
thought without
learning is perilous.”
~Confucius*

President’s Message

Dear Members,

April flew by - as it often does during our Soroptimist year. We’ve elected a new board and will celebrate their installation in June. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your president for another year, and special thanks to those who have stepped up to join the board.

In my April newsletter, I predicted a quieter month. That was before Natasha, Shirley, and I attended the Region Conference in Whitefish, Montana! Nearly 200 Soroptimists from across the Northwest Region gathered at Grouse Mountain Lodge - and it was anything but quiet.

With so many sessions to choose from, we divided and conquered to cover as much ground as possible. Time was also dedicated to electing new region and district board members. The sessions sparked thoughtful discussions during breaks and gave us valuable opportunities to connect and exchange ideas with members from other clubs.

A few highlights:

Elections:

- NW Region Governor: **Chris Christenson**
- District 1 Director: **Karen Livingston**
- District 1 Secretary: **Sandy Lawrence**
- Region Chair for Dream It, Be It: **Shirley Legg** (Additional results have not yet been posted.)

Board Procedures:

This session emphasized that we are a nonprofit corporation and must adhere to certain regulations. Members are encouraged to stay familiar with our bylaws, regularly review our articles of incorporation, and ensure smooth leadership transitions through handoff meetings. A nonprofit management platform called Club Express was also recommended and may be worth exploring.

Donor Relations & SIA’s Big Goal:

We learned more about Soroptimist International of the Americas’ ambitious 2021–2031 goal: investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education. The session outlined how progress is measured and what contributions count. More details are available on the SIA website <https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/federation-information/sias-big-goal/program-resources.html>.

~continued on page 3

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's May—the month we celebrate Mothers Day. There's something many moms do that stops their children in their tracks. When they hear their whole first name (not just the nick-name), followed by their middle name—and sometimes even their last name—they know mom is mad.

Being a word person I came up with a *handful* of (notice there are *five* LOL) acronyms for MAD that are of a positive nature: Moms Are Dedicated; Moms Accept Differences.; Moms Allow Diversity; Moms Approach Definitively; Moms Affirm Direction.

Hmmm. That sounds a lot like Soroptimists. We are a nurturing group. There is another acronym to add—Making a Difference! As I read the articles in this edition of the Soropti-Scoop, I see how much our club does make a difference, and how much the community recognizes and appreciates what we do, what we give, who we are.

- **On page 3**, President Roxann talks about our club's LYDA recipient, Carrie Johnson. "She is currently pursuing degrees in both K–8 Education and K–12 Special Education." We are part of that now!
- **On page 4**, we see there are High School scholarships and Continuing Education scholarships gestating.
- **On page 5**, we see how **1st Security Bank** supports our **Dream It Be It** program by donating \$2,500.
- **On pages 6-7**, we show support and recognition of our members. This shows our cohesiveness.
- **On page 8**, we see how our Pathways project has made things better at the Dungeness Valley Health and Wellness Clinic's Little Free Pantry. It's not so little anymore. Their recognition of us and this project were included in their 2025 Annual Report.
- **On page 9**, we see that at the United Way of Clallam County's Live United Ball, Soroptimist International of Sequim was honored to be the recipient of the Healthy Community Award. We are a known active presence in the community.
- **On page 10**, Sequim **Chief of Police Mike Hill** spoke about current scams facing the public and how to avoid them. He covered some good information. While it might seem like a boring topic—one that we've all heard before, it really is an important one. Sharing his knowledge with the community can prevent some people from falling victim.

Because my husband and I own a computer repair shop (PC only), we see the victims of scams on a regular basis. Many of the banks in town send their clients to us to clean up their computers after they have been compromised. One thing we've noticed is that often the scammer will do the scam on a weekend. That way the victim has to wait until Monday to go into their bank, allowing more time for potential harm.

You can read our club like the pages of a book—or a newsletter. Our focus on providing access to education is clear. Education isn't just book learning. It is also sharing real life information/real life experiences—some of it might not even be written down. When we share, we strengthen the bond with the receiver, nurturing one another along the way. As we celebrate Mothers Day, let us celebrate that bond as we continue Empowering Through Encouragement. My heartfelt gratitude to all who nurture/have nurtured me along my journey.

Light and Love,
~Kathy Purcell, Editor



"There are big problems that change the world. If we are working together, that will make us understand each other, appreciate each other, help each other." ~Jack Ma

CALENDAR

MAY 2026

8 Board Meeting
12 Business Meeting
26 Program Meeting

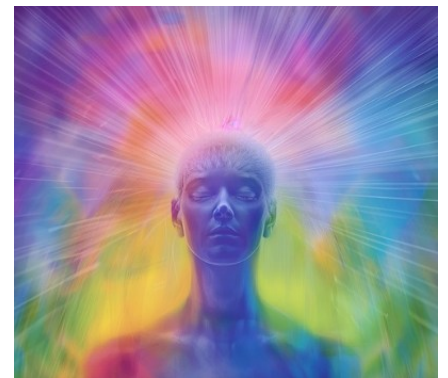
JUNE 2026

5 Board Meeting
9 Business Meeting
*26 Installation

***Evening Meeting**



**"Nurture your minds with great thoughts. To believe in the heroic makes heroes."
~Benjamin Disraeli**



**"Nurturing a feeling makes it proliferate. Choose wisely. joy, kindness, love, & caring will illuminate your life."
~Amy Leigh Mercree**

Celebrate Life!

MAY 2026

Pauline Geraci
Jan Hartig
Linda Klinefelter
Jeanne Martin
Lucinda Soha
Kelli Ward

JUNE 2026

Jess McNeil
Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols
Suzanne Plemmons
Caroline Smith



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



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

President's Messagecontinued from page 1

Fundraising Insights:

Fundraising was a major focus throughout the conference, both in sessions and informal discussions with other clubs. A few key themes and strategies emerged:

- **Leverage technology:** Many clubs are beginning to use AI tools to brainstorm fresh fundraising ideas, draft outreach messages, and streamline planning. Mobile giving platforms are also gaining traction, making it easier for donors to contribute quickly and securely.
- **Diversify outreach channels:** Successful fundraising efforts go beyond traditional methods. Social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, along with peer-to-peer fundraising through personal networks, can significantly expand reach and engagement.
- **Focus on “even” or balanced fundraising:** Several sessions emphasized the importance of creating fundraising efforts that are inclusive, accessible, and sustainable—ensuring participation opportunities for members and donors at all levels.
- **Prioritize cost efficiency:** It’s important to evaluate the return on investment for each fundraiser. The goal is to raise meaningful funds without overextending club resources or member capacity.
- **Build strong donor relationships:** Personalized thank-you notes and thoughtful follow-up help strengthen connections and encourage repeat giving. Donor stewardship is just as important as the initial ask.
- **Be confident in the ask:** One simple but powerful reminder—don’t be afraid to ask for donations. The worst outcome is a “no,” but many people are willing to give when invited.

While there was so much more to learn, the Live Your Dreams Award program stood out as a powerful reminder of why we do this work. Hearing the recipients’ stories was deeply moving. Knowing we play even a small part in their journeys is incredibly meaningful.

Our club’s recipient, Carrie Johnson, is a thoughtful mother of two and a Special Education Paraeducator in the Sequim School District. She is currently pursuing degrees in both K–8 Education and K–12 Special Education. It was a true pleasure getting to know her—she made the most of the experience, including some well-earned relaxation in the hotel hot tub!

Together, we turn volunteer hours into meaningful community impact—and that is something to be proud of.

Warmly,

President Roxann



MEET OUR APRIL AND MAY GIRLS OF THE MONTH

NEVAEH NELSON



Soroptimist International of Sequim is proud to recognize Nevaeh Nelson as their April Girl of the Month. Nevaeh is an active varsity soccer player and a member of the choir, which she enjoys immensely. She states that singing boosts

her confidence and presents her with challenges. In addition to her musical commitments, Nevaeh volunteers as a choir officer and works after school at the local Dairy Queen. She has a passion for animals and plans to attend Washington State University to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine.

ENERSON JACOBS



Our club is also proud to recognize Emerson Jacobs as our May Girl of the Month. Emerson is an Eagle Scout from Troop 7498, holds a 4.0 GPA, and is a member of the Gold Honor Roll. She achieved her Eagle Scout status by volunteering over 75 hours with Olympic

Theater Arts. Additionally, she participated in two seasons of the All-State Choir and is currently a member of the vocal ensemble. Emerson has a keen interest in neuroscience, with plans to focus on pre-med in college, ultimately aiming to become a doctor.

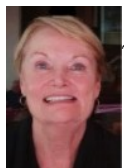
AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS BUSY SEASON

The Awards & Scholarships committee received 60 Scholarship Notebooks for the girls graduating from high school this year. The notebooks were each read by two people. The highest scoring notebooks were then read by all the members of the committee. Committee Members use a weighted scoring system that factors in the girl's financial need, the obstacles she's faced, her work/activities/sports, her clearly stated goals and motivation to meet both her educational and career goals, the notebook itself as well as the reference letters provided. All community scholarship awards will be presented at the Scholarship Awards Night on May 27th at 6 pm in the Sequim High School Auditorium. There is room for everyone, and all members are invited to attend.



NEXT UP: the applications for Continuing Education Scholarships will be available on May 15th. These awards are for women living in Sequim or who attended Sequim High School. Applicants must have completed one full year of school (30 quarter or 24 semester units), be making progress toward their goal, and need financial support. The club has allocated money for these scholarships because of the difficulty women face funding succeeding years of school once their high school scholarships run out.

There are no age or program restrictions on these awards. Women returning to school after divorce or widowhood are eligible, as long as they completed the required year of schooling sometime in their past. Please help us find women and girls eligible for these scholarships, and encourage them to apply. The deadline for Continuing Education Scholarships is August 15, 2026.



~Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarships Co-chair



“All real education is the architecture of the soul.” ~William Bennett

DREAM IT BE IT AWARDED A \$2,500 GRANT FOR UPCOMING PROGRAM

Soroptimist International of Sequim is excited to announce that we have received a generous \$2,500 donation from **1st Security Bank** for their inaugural Dream It Be It program, tailored for young girls aged 13 to 18. Pictured below left to right, **Tyrone Beatty**, Branch Manager for Port Hadlock 1st Security Bank, and **Linda Klinefelter**, Co-Chair, Dream It Be It, Soroptimist.



This innovative program is designed to empower and inspire participants by equipping them with vital tools and resources to thrive in their personal and professional lives. Throughout this engaging one-day event, young women will delve into financial literacy, gaining essential knowledge in budgeting, saving, and managing their finances effectively. Additionally, the program will focus on mental health and well-being, providing strategies to foster resilience and self-care. Participants will learn about the Running Start program and explore pathways to community colleges and vocational training, opening doors to exciting educational opportunities. In addition, the program will include hands-on guidance on navigating the digital job application process, ensuring that attendees feel confident and prepared as they venture into the workforce.

This transformative experience is completely free and will take place on May 16th. To seize this opportunity and apply, please contact Linda Klinefelter at kliney523@gmail.com or Roxann Harr at roxharr2018@outlook.com. We can't wait to inspire the next generation of ambitious leaders!



~Linda Klinefelter, DIBI Co-chair



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

PAT WILLIS



Each month, Soroptimist International of Sequim proudly recognizes one of our long-standing members alongside a newer member. This new tradition highlights the remarkable achievements of our members and emphasizes the impact of their contributions. Join us in celebrating these inspiring individuals!

This month, we invite you to get to know Patricia (Pat) Willis, a member since 2012. Pat has a profound interest in English literature, as demonstrated by her Ph.D. in the subject. Before retiring, she served as the curator of American Literature at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University for 21 years. Pat takes great pride in her work as a curator, particularly in acquiring archives of American authors for Yale, in bringing the Rosebach Library into the digital age, and in editing *The Complete Prose of Marianne C. Moore*.

Pat joined Soroptimist to empower women, and she has been dedicated to this cause for 14 years. Her passion shines through as she shares valuable information about the organization at the Soroptimist table during the Garden Show, inspiring others to get involved and make a difference.

DENISE BAYER



This month, we are excited to introduce Denise Bayer, a new member of the Soroptimist organization since 2025. Denise has dedicated 35 years to her career as a Registered Nurse, beginning as a staff nurse on a medical-surgical unit and ultimately discovering her passion for emergency nursing. She served as the Emergency Department Director for 13 years and later worked as a consultant, focusing on Emergency Department operations and management.

Denise takes great pride in her service and presidency with the Emergency Nursing Association, her role as a United States Navy Nurse, where she achieved the rank of Lt. Commander, and her experience lecturing on various Emergency Nursing topics. Additionally, she has contributed to the field by writing several chapters in emergency nursing textbooks.

In her retirement, Denise enjoys volunteering with the Soroptimist Medical Loan Closet and the Pathways committee. She is particularly enthusiastic about Pathways' collaboration with the Dungeness Valley Health & Wellness Clinic, which resonates with her professional background.

“I care not what others think of what I do, but I care very much about what I think of what I do! That is character!”
~ Theodore Roosevelt

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello Members! My goodness! It's already May!! You know what happens in May right? Yes, springtime and all the beautiful colors AND dues invoices come out! You should have received an email from President Roxann with the invoice attachment. Please follow the instructions on the invoice. The **due date is June 15th**! Please get your dues in by that date, otherwise we have to pay a penalty to SIA. And, we don't want to spend our hard-earned money on late fees!

Jane and I are STILL looking for members to Chair/Co-Chair the Membership Committee, as we will no longer be performing these roles in the next Club year. It's a fun assignment and the committee is amazing in their responsibilities. We will guide you through the process and make the transition seamless! Contact Jane and/or Shawn if you have any questions.

Happy Spring!!!



~Shawn Dredla, Membership Co-chair



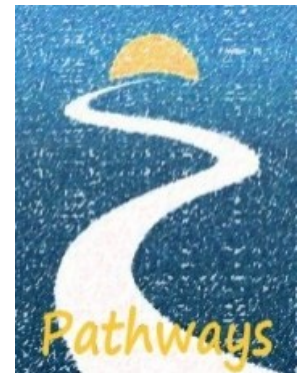
“Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It’s about impact, influence and inspiration. Impact involves getting results, influence is about spreading the passion you have for your work, and you have to inspire team-mates and customers.”

~Robin S. Sharma

PATHWAYS REPORT

On April 3, 2026, **Susan Coffee** and **Chris Snow** gave a presentation on the Medical Loan Closet. It was a little bit different from other meetings because seven out of the eight ladies present are volunteers at the MLC. Guess who isn't! Me! And I learned a lot.

It was the perfect opportunity for them to skip the overview and have a discussion on how the MLC operates. Now that the closet is in a bigger space, it's easier to organize the equipment. I had no idea how much paperwork has been created over the years to keep track of the equipment, donations, schedule and so much more. They all work well together and are available at a moment's notice. The volunteers work with someone with experience until they feel comfortable with the operation. More ladies have volunteered this year, but the **ideal number would be 20**. They're still working on other ways to get the message out to the community.



Our club is proud to be able to continue this service for so many years and grateful for the leadership and commitment of the volunteers.



~Jan Hartig, Pathways Co-chair



“Leaders don't force people to follow—they invite them on a journey.” ~ Charles S. Lauer

HAPPY DOLLARS

April 28, 2026

Roxann Harr—thanked the club for sending her to the Northwestern Region Conference in Whitefish. She had a good time and learned so much.

Denise Bayer—is grateful for the speakers today. She noted that they were encouraging and uplifting.

Shawn Dredla—is happy for the Special Olympics. She is going to go to the long run event.

Jeanne Martin—is happy to be back in person to see everyone after her foot surgery.

Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols—is thanking the club for sending her to Whitefish. It was snowing there and she was able to buy two sweaters. All in all, the conference was interesting and educational.

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Annual Report for 2025

A Growing Partnership: Thank You, Soroptimist International of Sequim

We are incredibly grateful to **Soroptimist International of Sequim** for their continued generosity and hands-on partnership with our clinic.

This year, SIS has once again gifted us **\$2,000** to support our mission — a meaningful investment in the health and wellbeing of our community.

But their generosity doesn't stop there.

Through their Pathways Committee, SIS has selected our **Little Free Pantry** as an ongoing service project. They have **doubled the size of the pantry**, added additional shelving, and are actively keeping it stocked — ensuring that individuals and families in need have reliable access to food and essential items.

The name "Soroptimist" means "*best for women,*" and that commitment is reflected in everything they do. With approximately half of our patients being female, their mission to empower and uplift women aligns beautifully with our work.

SIS has long been a valued partner of the clinic, and we are deeply appreciative not only of their financial support, but of their willingness to roll up their sleeves and serve alongside us.

Thank you, Soroptimist International of Sequim, for helping us nourish both the health and dignity of our neighbors.



This is an excerpt from the Dungeness Valley Health and Wellness Clinic's 2025 Annual Report. Our club's Pathways Committee has made an impact once again—and it is being recognized within the community.

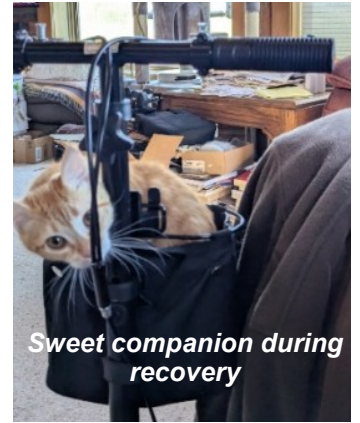


Volunteers Denise Bayer, Ed Alders, and Suzanne Plemmons with Sara Nicholls, Free Clinic Executive Director, in front of the Little Free Pantry at the Sequim Free Clinic



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

There is always something special about being able to support one of our own. Jeanne Martin borrowed several items from the Medical Loan Closet for her recovery from foot surgery. She returned them this month and delighted us by sharing a photo of her kitten cozily settled in the basket of her knee scooter. We wish Jeanne a smooth and complete recovery and many happy years with Crystal.



Sweet companion during recovery

Captain Grider has signed a new agreement between SIS and CCFD3 regarding CERT and CCFD3 access to Medical Loan Closet equipment.

On April 25, Linda Klinefelter, Christy Holy, Chris Snow, and her husband Rich attended the United Way of Clallam County's *Live United Ball*. SIS members

attended because SIS had been named a finalist for the Healthy Community Award. We were thrilled when SIS was announced as the Award recipient. This recognition would not have been possible without the dedication, compassion, and hard work of our Medical Loan Closet volunteers and the many ways all SIS members support the well-being of our community.

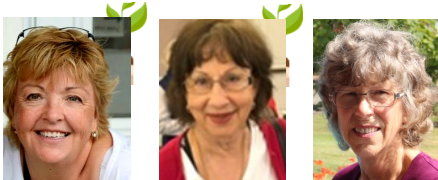


Linda accepting the Healthy Community Award from Jaycie Wakefield

Our call volume and equipment lending continue to grow. During the month, we returned **247** calls and loaned out **183** items. We also received

151 equipment returns and donations. We received **\$1,038** in generous community contributions. In addition to scheduled appointments, we are seeing a small but steady number of walk-in visitors—often people who noticed our signage and stop by to return or borrow equipment or simply to learn more about the Medical Loan Closet.

With gratitude,




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



TEA WITH S.H.E.

Our Tea with She event for this season took place on Wednesday, **April 29th** at **12:30** pm on KSQM. Sequim **Chief of Police Mike Hill** was interviewed about current scams facing the public and how to avoid them. He mentioned that many scams affect a majority of seniors who are sometimes not internet savvy, and 18-30 year olds who are online all the time. He discussed several scams going around online, through the mail, and over the phone. He gave notable advice about being wary of anything marked urgent, any government or local entity that calls you requesting personal information, and AI technology that can imitate a loved one's voice. Host Olive **Martini** also interviewed **Christy Holy** about the work of Soroptimists. This was informative program that went out to our entire community.



~Christy Holy, Tea-with-SHE Co-chair 

“Awareness without action is worthless.” ~Phil McGraw

AN INSPIRING APRIL PROGRAM

Soroptimist International of Sequim welcomed Wendy Bonham (pictured) to our May program meeting to share the merits, accomplishments, and wonderful benefits of Special Olympics in Clallam County. The Clallam County Orcas provides a variety of sports for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants can choose bowling, basketball, softball, golf, bocce, swimming, and track and field. All sports activities have levels to meet participants' needs. The Orcas are supported by local community efforts, including fundraising events like the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Donors can support the organization by making contributions to Special Olympics Washington and designating the donation to Clallam County Orcas.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Jan 2026
We at Sequim Community Aid, are grateful and thank you for your generous donation of \$2,000. Our organization is dedicated to serving the Sequim Community in times when help is needed to keep a roof over their heads or to keep lights on and warmth within their homes. We are honored to be able to lend a hand in challenging times. This donation helps us to be able to help them.
Sincerely
Volunteers @ Sequim Community Aid

Soroptimists,
Thank you for the two items you donated for our raffle fund raiser at the Area Meeting! With your generous donation we were able to donate around \$1,000 to Operation Uplift.
Lynne Fraser
S.I. Port Angeles

Installation - Save the Date

Time to start thinking about installation of the Board for 2026-2027. More specific details will be coming in the June Soropti-Scoop, but here's just enough information to get you thinking and planning.

Roxann has chosen an inspiring theme:
Through Grace, We Empower Change.

Installation Info:

When: Friday, June 26, 2026 (*NOTE: This is different from what is in the Roster Book.*)

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Where:
Creekside Haven
1195 Taylor Cutoff
Sequim 98382

Potluck, of course!! We love potlucks, but we're changing it up a bit:
Last Name: A-H Please bring desserts
Last Name: I-P Please bring appetizers
The rest of the alphabet—you're on the hook for a main dish.


If you'd like to help with planning, set up, decorating and/or clean up, please let Linda Klinefelter, Shawn Dredla or Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols know. We'd love a few extra pairs of hands.





SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Pauline Geraci Jan Hartig Linda Klinefelter Jeannette Martin Lucinda Soha Kelli Ward						
3	4	5	6	7	8 BOARD MEETING	9
10	11	12 Business Meeting	13	14	15	16 DIBI 9 am-3 pm B & G Club- Sequim
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Program Meeting	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Jess McNeill Natasha Murrkloff-Nichols Suzanne Plennmons Caroline Smith	1 	2	3	4	5 BOARD MEETING	6
7	8	9 Business Meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 	22	23	24	25	26 Installation of 2026-2027 Officers and Board	27
28	29	30				

My Mother Kept A Garden ~author Unknown

My Mother kept a garden,
A garden of the heart.
She planted all the good things
That gave my life its start.
She turned me to the sunshine
And encouraged me to dream.
Fostering and nurturing
The seeds of self-esteem.
And when the winds and rain came,
She protected me enough.
But not too much because she knew
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.
Her constant good example
Always taught me right from wrong.
Markers for my pathway
That will last a lifetime long.
I am my Mother's garden.
I am her legacy.
And I hope today she feels the love
Reflected back from me.



Happy Mothers Day

SPEAKERS FOR THE MAY 26, 2026 PROGRAM MEETING

Corbilynn Rogers: What if something essential to our well-being has been quietly overlooked? In this talk, we'll explore a missing piece in how we care for ourselves—one that deeply supports our mental clarity, emotional resilience, and physical health. Through a gentle, grounded lens, you'll be invited to reconnect with a natural part of your humanity that can bring more ease, balance, and joy into everyday life, PLAY.

Sara Nicholls, Executive Director of the Dungeness Valley Health and Wellness Clinic (known as the Sequim Free Clinic) will also be speaking. The Sequim Free Clinic is a place where professional healthcare volunteers provide free, quality, basic medical care to the uninsured and underinsured in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley. It is donor supported.