



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 3

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 79 Years of Service

September 2025

President's Message

Officers 2025 — 2026

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Roxann Harr

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Director: 1 year
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Kathy Purcell
Jan Hartig
Jane Manzer
Pat Willis

**“Renewal requires
opening yourself up
to new ways
of thinking and feeling.”
~Deborah Day**

September is one of my favorite months - the weather cools, the colors change, and it's a perfect time for renewal and looking ahead. We're just beginning our 2025-26 season and already there's a lot happening.

The Gala Garden Show committee has met, and things are moving forward at an impressive pace. Ciscoe Morris will be our Featured Speaker, accompanied by three Master Gardeners, and Sophie's will present a flower arrangement demonstration. The Membership Committee has brainstormed ideas for engaging new members and retaining our current ones. Meanwhile, the Awards and Scholarships Committee is diligently reviewing applications from girls and women seeking assistance with their education. It's inspiring to see these efforts unfolding so early in the year.

Our Medical Loan Closet continues its important work behind the scenes. Recently, a PACU nurse at the First Hill Surgery Center in Seattle reached out inquiring about our program to share with her supervisor. It's encouraging to see how our work is reaching beyond our immediate community, showing the impact of what we do.

Chris Snow gave me a great tour and overview of the MLC and how the program operates, and I was truly impressed. She highlighted the need for two or more additional volunteers. That would bump their number to at least 12 volunteers allowing each to serve roughly one week of duty per quarter. If we can sign up more members, they could contribute to longer rotations. If this isn't a commitment that you can do, there are lots of other ways to help such as calling overdue equipment; organizing the Closet; repairing equipment; or managing forms and publications. It would also be wonderful to have a 'backup' volunteer, someone who can step in if a regular volunteer can't make it or needs assistance.

We've already accomplished so much, and I believe this year holds even greater potential. September is a great time to reflect on our goals and renew our commitment to the shared purpose that makes our club special. Together, we can continue making a difference by empowering through encouragement.

Thank you all for your dedication. I'm excited to see what we can achieve together in the coming months.

Warmly,



President Roxann



World Dream Day is September 25th, *“One may say this is the holiday for dream makers—as Soroptimists, we should celebrate twice as hard!”*

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's September. But last week it seemed like the dog days of summer were barking a bit overtime. We have, however, seen some leaves on the ground, and the colors in the trees are beginning to come out. The change of seasons is starting.

Speaking of starting . . . we had our **S.T.A.R.T. (Soroptimist Team And Reunion Time)** meeting on **August 25**. It was held at Shawn Dredla's home. And what a home it is—inside and out! It is very spacious and inviting. Shawn and Jeff are great hosts. **Thank you, Shawn and Jeff!**

There is so much to see at their place. There is an old tractor in the back that is elevated for view. There is a potting shed. There is a lovely garden, showing off some exquisite color. There are beautiful flowers everywhere you look. They have a Certified Wildlife Habitat. One could get lost in all the natural beauty. Inside they have plaques around with inspiring sayings such as "Life is in Session" and "gather here with grateful hearts." We could feel the caring energy. There was a lot of mingling going on the entire evening. The atmosphere was certainly conducive to this.

That evening there were 22 members in attendance and three guests; one was a former member of our club—Jenni Dix. Connie Tallman was another guest; she was at the 2024 and 2025 Gala Garden Shows and that drew her to us. Connie came to the September GGS Core Committee meeting. The third guest was Lucinda Soha; she is a friend who Connie invited to accompany her.

This was a potluck, so you know we had great food. There were several choices of beverages, but I gravitated to the large dispenser of lemonade. I took one of the big red cups and filled it. As more people arrived, I put down my cup and took pictures. Seeing numerous red cups brought back memories of family gatherings where we had plastic cups; because there were so many of them in use, there was a black marker we could use to write our name on our cup. That memory made me smile. In our group that night it felt like family. Even though there was no Sharpie marker.

Before eating we were asked to write our name on a small pre-cut piece of paper and put it into a designated flowerpot. Some people ate and then moved to other tables to talk with other members. Just when I thought the evening was drawing to a close, there was a different kind of drawing. It was time for what they were calling an icebreaker. I thought those were done at the beginning of the evening. Members were invited to pull a name out of the flowerpot; that person would be their partner. We were given a sheet with eight or so questions. We were instructed to pick three of the questions to ask our partner. Then the partner would ask us three questions.

Kris Osborn picked my name. She shared that she has started learning a new creative art form—well, new to her—dried flowers in resin. Kris said when walking through Shawn's garden she saw the flowers with a new perspective. As she told me all this, her face lit up. I could see and feel her joy. Through the icebreaker I learned a bit more about Kris, and about myself. It was empowering.

I started wondering how many other attendees learned new things about their partners and perhaps, about themselves. That prompted me to send out an email to all those who attended the S.T.A.R.T. meeting encouraging them to share their reflections. You can read those reflections on pages 9 and 10.

The S.T.A.R.T. meeting is like the kick-off of our Soroptimist year. Our regular club meetings begin this month. As the seasons change, we know we will continue Empowering Through Encouragement.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 2 GGS Core Cmt Mtg
- 5 Board Meeting
- 9 Business Meeting
- 23 Program Meeting
- 30 5th Tuesday

OCTOBER

- 7 GGS Core Cmt Mtg
- 8 Tea with SHE
- 10 Board Meeting
- 17-19 District 1 Meeting
Double Tree
by Hilton,
Southcenter, WA
- 28 Program Meeting

***Evening Meeting**



Through Encouragement

**"The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life."
~Richard Bach**



**"If the family were a fruit, it would be an orange, a circle of sections, held together but separable - each segment distinct."
~Letty Cottin Pogrebin**

Celebrate Life!

SEPTEMBER

Cheryl Easterling
Sara Maloney
Pat Willis

OCTOBER

Jeanie Blaurock
Debbie Cottrell
Shawn Dredla
Shelley Huntington
Shelle Paulbitski



Note the phone number for our
MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

360-504-0231



*“The achievements of an organization
are the results of the combined effort
of each individual.”
~Vince Lombardi*

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.



TUNING IN TO PROGRAMS

The speaker for the September program meeting is **Barbara Carr** from **Kathleen Sutton Fund**. They provide transportation reimbursement for women traveling to cancer treatment. Since its inception in 2003, KSF has helped over **2,000** women and has distributed over **\$1.3 Million**.



September 30 is a 5th Tuesday.
What will it bring? Stay tuned for details!

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



District 1 Meeting Call
Double Tree by Hilton
Seattle Airport
Southcenter, WA
October 17-19, 2025

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting
TBD
February 28, 2026



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



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

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS NEWS

The Awards & Scholarships Committee was pleased to receive **21** applications this year, and even happier to read them and see what high quality women were applying for our help.

We were able to award a total of **\$36,000** to **17** young women: **12** undergraduates, **four** Masters and **one** PhD candidate. The funds came from the **\$12,000** the club budgeted for Continuing Education, as well as **\$4000** of the Spend Down funds. In addition, there were **\$20,000** of directed donations.

Colleen Blazier Medical Scholarships of \$2500 each were awarded to the following women:

Jordon Calvery and **Kayli Fukunaga** who are attending Peninsula College in Nursing

Karlie Viada will be doing a Nursing Residency through Portland University

Kayla Blodgett is working on an MS in Nursing at Walden University

Amanda Weller is attending BYU with a major in Nursing.

Petra Bernsten also received a **\$500 Colleen Blazier Medical Scholarship** award as well as **\$3000 from club funds**. Petra graduated from college with our help last year and is beginning her PhD in Pharmacy at Washington State University.

Norma Varvil STEM Scholarships for \$2500 went to:

Kaitlyn Viada, is a National forest worker whose job is in jeopardy and who is pursuing an MS in Organizational Leadership at Eastern Washington University.

Kimberly Flores, is starting towards her goal of an MD degree working on a BS in Public Health.

Recipients receiving \$2000 include:

Mia Posernick is studying at Eastern Washington University with the goal of becoming a Public Defender.

Hannah Wagner is working on her MBA in Business Administration and Sports Management at Vancouver Island University, where she also plays collegiate soccer.

Isabella Diaz is at Washington State University in Law Enforcement, a field in which she has already successfully faced many obstacles as a woman.

Jelissa Julmist will be playing college basketball at Park University in Gilbert, Arizona while she studies to become an Athletic Trainer.

Teagan Moore plans to be a Dental Hygienist through her studies at Eastern Washington University.

Kyah Fukunaga is at Boston University to obtain an MS in computer Science.

Recipients receiving \$1000 include:

Kaitlyn Bloomenrader wants to become a veterinarian and is in a top-rated program at Wayne State College in Nebraska.

Krista Charters, is studying computer science at the University of Montana.

Christina Caples has come back from a low GPA her first year in college to pursue a career in Dental Hygiene at Peninsula College.

“Self-study, self-exploration, self-empowerment — these are the virtues of a great education.” ~Shimon Schocken

PATHWAYS NEW FACES

It's been a busy summer meeting personally with new members and setting a schedule and prospective project list. Shirley Legg and I are co-chairs this year. She's new to this committee and is eager to get to know the routine and work with the members.

We're excited to welcome **Glen Varvil, Kecia Gilliam** and **Shelley Huntington** back to Pathways and look forward to working with the newer members, **Sara Maloney, Suzanne Plemmons** and **Denise Bayer**, as well.

Currently we're meeting at the Sunland location in the upstairs room at 135 Fairway Drive. Our first meeting is **Saturday, September 6, at 9:00 a.m.**



~Jan Hartig and Shirley Legg, Pathways Co-chairs

“Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together.” ~ *James Cash Penney*



MEMBERSHIP— COOL STUFF — In the News

[Peninsula Daily News | Page A01](#)

Council narrows vacancy to three

By Emily Hanson

Peninsula Daily News

PORT ANGELES — The Port Angeles City Council narrowed down the applicants for a vacant seat this week.

Nine people applied for the seat vacated by Brendan Meyer. Each remaining council member choose their top three candidates, and the three people with the most votes Tuesday night were chosen to move on to the next phase of the selection process.

“I went back and listened to what we did last time, and I think it worked very well, so we'll try it again,” Mayor Kate Dexter said.

Among the applicants, Jon Hamilton received five votes, **Christy Holy** garnered four votes and Laurel Cripe got three votes.

The three will be interviewed during the council's next meeting Sept. 2. The council has until Sept 28 to fill the vacancy.

Full Story:

https://peninsuladailynews-wa.newsmemory.com/?publink=0a86c4c6a_134fae9

Sequim Picklers represented at National Senior Games

By Sequim Gazette staff • August 27, 2025 3:30 am

Pauline Geraci, Don Church and Phil Milliman, all members of Sequim Picklers, participated in the National Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa, from July 24 to Aug. 4. Two family members of Church and Milliman also participated.



Geraci participated in pickleball. She qualified after winning a medal in pickleball at the 2024 Washington State Senior Games. Her events at the National Senior Games included singles, mixed doubles and women's doubles. She won gold in the women's singles, 65-69 age group, level 3.5. That age group was the largest age bracket for pickleball.

Church and Milliman played in the men's doubles 4.0 pickleball event, age group 70-74. They came in 13th out of 24 teams.

According to information provided by Geraci, the total number of registered players for pickleball was 2,240. Fifty states were represented, plus four countries.

Full Story:

<https://www.sequimgazette.com/sports/sequim-picklers-represented-at-national-senior-games/>

BLAST FROM THE PAST: PACKING PACKS —KIDS KLOSET



Going Around Packing Packs



It's a Match!



Carol Pope Gathering Supplies



Filled with Love



Some of the 2009 Crew



All Smiles



Clowning Around



The 2013 Packers



Needle in the Hay Stack

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

Cold Therapy Machine Management Improvements

This month, we focused on improving the way we manage our Cold Therapy machines. Given the challenges with the MLC storage units, it has been difficult to guarantee that our Cold Therapy machines will remain in proper working condition. Elaine volunteered to inspect and test each machine upon its return to the MLC, checking that it is clean, all components are present, the pump is functioning, and there are no leaks. This initiative is expected to greatly increase client satisfaction. Additionally, Elaine purchased baskets for storing and transporting the machines, which will help safeguard the hoses and keep all the parts together.



August Activity Overview

After an exceptionally busy July, activities at the Loan Closet in August returned to a more typical pace. During the month, we answered **213** calls and lent **109** items, that include two loans facilitated by our CCFD3 Community Paramedic volunteer. We also received **127** equipment returns or donations and received **\$675** in contributions from our generous community clients.

Stand-Up Walker Availability

Need a Stand-Up Walker?

We have a surplus of stand-up walkers

With gratitude,



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



“The race advances only by the extra achievements of the individual. You are the individual.” ~*Charles Towne*



President Roxann Harr (left) after presenting Linda Klinefelter (right) with her Golden Girl Pin

MEET OUR NEWEST GOLDEN GIRL

This year **Linda Klinefelter** will pass the milestone of being a Soroptimist member for **15 years**. This moves her from a **Silver Sister** (10 years as a member) to a **Golden Girl**.

Congratulations, Linda!

TEA WITH S.H.E. PRESENTS “DEFENSIVE DRIVING FOR SENIORS”

Are you 55 years or older? We invite you to a delightful afternoon at our Tea with SHE program, “**Defensive Driving for Seniors.**” Join us on **October 8, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church**, 100 S. Blake, Sequim, for an engaging session led by **Chief Mike Hill** of the Sequim Police Department. He will share valuable insights and information on defensive driving tailored for seniors. Additionally, enjoy a brief presentation filled with essential tips to help you stay safe in your home. Don’t miss this opportunity to enhance your safety while connecting with others in your community!



~Linda Klinefelter, Tea with SHE, Co-Chair



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SEQUIM PRESENTS
TEA WITH SHE - DEFENSIVE DRIVING FOR SENIORS

Guest Speaker - Chief Mike Hill, Sequim Police Department
October 8th - 1- 3 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church - 100 Blake Avenue, Sequim

Also included will be a short segment on how to stay safe in your home.
Refreshments - Coffee, tea and cookies

****LET’S START WITH A BANG!****

We warmly invite you to join President Roxann Harr for 2025-26 and Past President Linda Klinefelter for 2024-25 in our inspiring initiative, the “**Presidents’ Appeal.**” Together, let’s embark on a remarkable journey as we kick off this business year with purpose and passion. Your generous support is crucial in empowering women and girls in our community. With your contribution, we can make a lasting impact and uplift those who need it most. Please send your donations to: **Soroptimist International of Sequim PO Box 126 Sequim, WA 98382** Thank you for being a vital part of our mission! Your kindness makes all the difference!

S.T.A.R.T. MEETING REFLECTIONS

I had so much fun at the Soroptimist meeting that three days later I was still talking about it to my friends. Everyone I talked to was kind and engaging and very patiently answered all of my questions about Soroptimist membership. I enjoyed seeing their enthusiasm and passion for the Club and admired the deep respect they showed each other. I'm definitely looking forward to learning more about the club and membership opportunities.



~Lucinda Soha, Prospective New Member



It's always a pleasure to meet at Shawn's house because it's so spacious and beautiful, and she and Jeff are great hosts. I loved that everyone moved around to be able to talk to others who weren't sitting at their table when we ate. Of course, the food is always fabulous! The ice-breaker idea was a perfect chance to exchange personal information and ideas. I met with Lucinda, and this was an excellent opportunity to tell her about the club and Pathways so she has more information to make a decision about joining.



~Jan Hartig



The evening was delightful, so warm and relaxed at Shawn's beautiful home (yes, thank you Shawn!).

I selected Cat's name and although we've known each other for a number of years (I can't remember when we first met) the questions really deepened our understanding and knowing one another. We stepped outside and sat next to one another in two comfy chairs and selected questions for each other. When one of us answered the question, the other one followed up with words to the effect of "what does that mean for you" and more conversation and understanding followed. When we were called back into the kitchen for the delicious strawberries and shortcake, we both thanked the other for sharing even more about one another and what a pleasure that was.

The questions were great and helped us know our fellow Soroptimist members even better! Thank the Committee that helped us to reflect on ourselves and others.



~ Jeanne Martin



MORE S.T.A.R.T. MEETING REFLECTIONS

I felt it was a wonderful event. Shawn was a great hostess, and Jeff was able to direct me into a parking spot. There is never enough time to speak with everyone, but I enjoyed the event, and the venue so much. Fabulous food and company. Now that I know where Shawn lives, I will be there weekly, knocking on the door, uninvited!



~Virginia Kostanich



I accepted the assignment....

Kathy's request to share what we learned from our ice-breaker assignment at START was welcomed because it was both fun and informative to learn more about someone with a captivating story.

I drew Colleen Blazier's name, and behind her twinkling eyes lies a woman with a playful spirit. When asked, "Tell me something that nobody knows about you," she responded with a devilish smile: "I love going 100 mph in my Mercedes." To which I replied, "Obviously on the Autobahn in Germany." She nodded with a huge grin.

That alone was insightful, but the next question unveiled the compelling story of Colleen's journey to joining the Army. Born in El Paso, Texas, Colleen's life took her on a remarkable path as a young adult. She followed a romance to California, wandered back to Texas, and even ventured to Germany. Along the way, she embraced a variety of nursing positions at different medical facilities. At one of these places, a passionate supervisor consistently encouraged her to consider a military career. This encouragement ultimately sparked her decision to enlist, leading her to a distinguished career in the Army. Colleen proudly retired as a colonel, a testament to her dedication and service.



~Linda Klinefelter



"When you start using senses you've neglected, your reward is to see the world with completely fresh eyes." ~Barbara Sher



POTLUCK S.T.A.R.T. Meeting



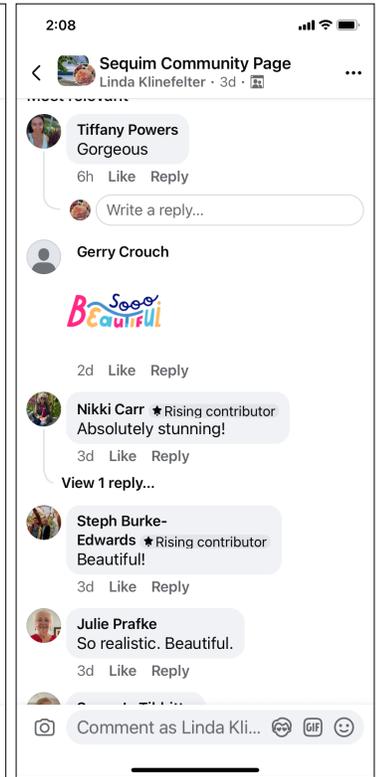
More photos here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/108582458@N03/54772893158/in/album-72177720328886887/>



Thank You, Shawn and Jeff and the Program Committee!

GGG FACEBOOK POSTS GETTING NOTICED

Linda Klinefelter posted a photo of the 2026 featured artwork—**Adelaide** and the featured artist—**Karen Sistek** on six Facebook groups. Before she finished posting the last one, there were comments on some of the others she had just posted. Karen and her creative talent are well-known and respected.



Linda Klinefelter
 ★ Rising contributor · September 2 at 6:15 PM · 🌐

The planning committee for the 26th Annual Soroptimist Gala Garden Show is thrilled to unveil its featured artist and her captivating artwork. Karen Sistek will showcase her remarkable piece titled "Adelaide," which will set the enchanting theme for this year's show, taking place on March 21 and 22, 2026. This stunning piece is not only a visual delight but also an opportunity for you to own it by placing a bid during the event. The vibrant colors of the tulips in "Adelaide" are sure to enliven any living or dining space, adding a touch of elegance and warmth. Don't miss out—mark your calendar for our 26th Annual Gala Garden Show and prepare to be inspired!

SOME GALA GARDEN SHOW NEWS

The 2026 GGS Core Committee met on September 2, 2025. There are a few things that will affect our bottom line.

- The admission fee has been \$5 since 2010—that is 15 years ago. It was decided to raise the admission fee to \$7.
- We are checking out the options for accepting credit cards for payment of admission fee.
- A suggestion was made to add another level of sponsorship—Presenting Sponsor at \$2,500. The cover of the Gazette Tab would state Soroptimist 27th Annual Gala Garden Show PRESENTED BY (name of Presenting Sponsor). The committee thought it was worth trying. President Roxann contacted Sofie's Florist and they have agreed to be our Presenting Sponsor for our 2026 GGS. (The sponsorship pledge forms are being updated; some of the benefits previously listed will be changed.)
- A suggestion was made for the café to serve from the large west-side kitchen window, with seating on the east side. A community table-decorating contest was also proposed, where local members/businesses create decorated tables with seating. Visitors would vote for their favorite, with an entry fee and a prize for the winner. The idea was well-received, but further discussion is needed.
- Mary Budke from the Boys & Girls Club told us that the School District is now charging for use of the parking lot. An organization that had a 2-day event at the B&G Club recently, were charged \$450 for use of the parking lot. President Roxann and President-elect Natasha will be checking into this for our 2026 GGS.

~Roxann Harr & Kathy Purcell, GGS Co-chairs



FUTURE GGS MEETING DATES:
 October 7 / November 4 / December 2

Note the future dates for upcoming GGS Core Committee Meetings. Please try to work your schedules around these dates. For continuity and effectiveness, it is important to have as many of the core committee members present as we get closer to the show.

September 2025

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

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Jeanie Blaurock Debbie Cottrell Shawn Dreda Shelley Huntington Shelle Paulbitski						
5	6	7 GGS Core Committee Mtg 1st Security Bank 9 am	8 Tea with SHE Defensive Driving for Seniors 1-3 PM Trinity United Methodist Church	9	10 BOARD MEETING	11
12	13	14 Business Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 NWR Conference Grouse Mountain Lodge- Whitefish, MT	24 NWR Conference Grouse Mountain Lodge- Whitefish, MT	25 NWR Conference Grouse Mountain Lodge- Whitefish, MT
26 NWR Conference Grouse Mountain Lodge- Whitefish, MT	27	28	29	30	31	

Taking Flight - by Lynn Anne Brown

Today I can feel my wings spread
As my left and right sides
Come into balance

And in the centre is me
My body
My heart
My mind
My soul
The core of my being

The self
From which these
feathered appendages
Extend

And as I
Bring myself together
In the middle
To bridge knowledge
And inspiration
Experience
And possibility
The hidden
And the foreseen

Joining past
Present
And future
Together
In a dance
Of celebration
I can feel my spirit lighten
Pulling my body up to join it
And I know that soon we will take flight



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