



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 27, Issue 8

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

February 2023

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*“Love is like the wind,
you can't see it
but you can feel it.”
~Nicholas Sparks*

Message from the President

So here we are again, it's February! It seems like the time is flying by and soon spring will come, and we will be heading outside to work in gardens and take long walks. February also brings Valentine's Day; I have always had mixed feelings about Valentine's Day.

After I met my husband, he gave me roses and candy for our first Valentine's Day together. It was a first for me; I had never received either on Valentine's Day. But after that first year I told my husband to save his money and not buy roses that will die in a couple of days. Also, I really wasn't a chocolate fan, so he ended up eating the chocolates he had bought. I was conflicted because when I was single, I wanted someone to give me flowers and candy and take me out and treat me special on this day. But when I finally received it, I found I really didn't need it to know that I was loved. Now Valentine's Day comes and goes with no flowers or candy, but instead with a kiss and long hug. This I cherish more, but it took me receiving flowers and candy to know it was not what I needed.

I realize though that there are a lot of people out there who don't get a chance at deciding for themselves if Valentine's Day is all it's cracked up to be—or if it is just another way for companies to make money. I see people who have lost the loves of their lives and now are alone. Friends are passing and they have no one left. These are the people I think about on Valentine's Day. I may not be able to give everyone a dozen roses or candy; but a smile, a hug, a Happy Valentine's Day goes a long way!

William Butler Yeats:

“When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;
How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;
And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.”



President Kim
Change is Always Good



*“They invented hugs to let
people know you love them
without saying anything.”
~Bil Keane*

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's February—the month with Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day and Groundhog Day. With threats of winter weather waning, we are looking more for the spring. One predictor of spring's arrival is Punxsutawney Phil.

Every February 2, people gather in Punxsutawney, PA, to see whether or not Punxsutawney Phil—the celebrity groundhog—will see his shadow. If he does, that means there will be six more weeks of winter. This year Phil saw his shadow. Spring begins this year on March 20—which is just about six weeks after February 2. Interesting.

I looked up Punxsutawney Phil and Groundhog Day online. Did you know there is a Punxsutawney Groundhog Club? It was established in 1887. They have an Inner Circle—which is like a board of directors. These folks organize the yearly festivities for Groundhog Day. And the festivities aren't just on February 2—they run from February 1 to February 4. There are all kinds of activities for folks to do in Punxsutawney during that time. There is a Lunch with Phil, Members Reception, Groundhog Banquet, and a Party All Night—to name a few! Folks come from all over the world to celebrate. People can be sponsors of the activities.

The Inner Circle members are also responsible for the feeding and care of Phil himself.

The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club has regular members also—members are from all parts of the world. You can become a member for as little as \$15. You can join an existing chapter or start a new one. If you were born on February 2, you can become a member of Phil's Birthday Club.

I was wondering what the groundhog symbolizes. One website states: "In Native American cultures, the groundhog is seen as a symbol of planning and foresight. It is also seen as a symbol of rebirth and new beginnings. This is because the creature emerges from its burrow in early spring, just as the snow melts and a new life sprouts from the ground."

This all reminds me of Soroptimist. The Inner Circle is like our Northwestern Region Board. A person can join an existing Soroptimist club or work to charter a new one. The Groundhog Day four-day Celebration is like our Northwestern Region Conference—which happens every April. There are various activities during the conference and members/clubs can be sponsors of the activities. Our clubs are like Phil; we have planning and foresight. Our clubs come together, sharing ideas, creating a rebirth or renewal of our mission and discovering new ways to live that mission. The region board is there to provide assistance to our clubs.

When I did a search online for Groundhog Day it also came up with the movie of the same name. It starred Bill Murray, who traveled to Punxsutawney with his news crew to report on whether or not Punxsutawney Phil would see his shadow. Murray wakes up on February 2 and begrudgingly reports on Phil's prognostication. There's a snowstorm so he has to stay in town. The next morning Murray wakes up and it's February 2—again. This loop continues and each repeated day he learns something new—including things about himself—realizing change is good.

We might not be groundhogs; we might not hog the ground. But we are grounded in our mission. And like Bill Murray we know Change is Good.



Light and Love,
Kathy Purcell, Editor



"All my life, my heart has yearned
for a thing I cannot name."
~Andre Breton

CALENDAR

February

- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 25 Area Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting

March

- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 28 Program Meeting

*Evening Meeting



"Love is not just
looking at each other,
it's looking in the same direction."
~Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



"Nobody has ever measured,
not even poets,
how much the heart can hold."
~Zelda Fitzgerald

Celebrate Life!

FEBRUARY

Becky Acher
Jan Chapman
Missy Church-Smith
Sherry Lacey
Patti Lebowitz

MARCH

Kathryn Pacelli
Gerry Sladowski



*“You can't blame gravity for falling in love.”
~Albert Einstein*

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



*“If you have only one smile in you,
give it to the people you love.”
~Maya Angelou*

**OLYMPIC PENINSULA AREA MEETING
CELEBRATING NEW YEAR—NEW SUCCESSES**

FEBRUARY 25, 2023

10:00 – 2:00 PM

**COUNTRY MEADOWS ASSISTED LIVING
12169 Country Meadows NW
Silverdale, WA**

Welcome by: Commissioner Charlotte Garrido

Guest Speaker: Rosie Garbe,
Executive Director of Scarlet Road

Cost: \$25.00 per person, payable to your club's treasurer.
Lunch includes: buffet-style lunch - assorted breads,
meats, cheeses, salads, soup, fresh fruit, desserts,
coffee, tea, & water.

RSVP to your club's area coordinator by **February 14, 2023.**

FEBRUARY PROGRAM MEETING

The program scheduled for February 28 is Lanie Cates with **Sequim Wheelers Adaptive bike program for the mobility impaired.**

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

**CELEBRATING
NEW YEAR – NEW
SUCCESSES**

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting
Country Meadows Assisted Living
February 25, 2023



NWR Conference
Davenport Hotel
Spokane, WA
April 20-23, 2023



SI Convention
Challenge the Future
Dublin, Ireland
July 27-29, 2023

2022-2023 LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD RECIPIENTS

Shawn Bebo



Our first-place Live Your Dream Award winner is Shawn Bebo. She has two children and is a single mom. She is a nursing student at Peninsula College and will complete her degree program this June. Her goal is to work in addiction recovery, hope-

fully at the Jamestown Clinic. Her family has a history of addiction and it's made a strong impression on her. Shawna will compete on a regional level for additional awards.

Corenna Messinger



Our second-place winner is Corenna Messinger. She is a single mom with one child. She, too, is pursuing a nursing degree at PC and will finish in June of 2024. She has worked as a medical assistant at North Olympic Health

Network for three years. Her goal is to work in obstetrics.

We have one winner from last year, **Rylie Booth**, who has applied for the \$1,000 second year award. She will receive it.



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

2023 YOUNG WOMEN EXCELLING IN HIGH SCHOOL

It has been a tradition in the past, with Soroptimist International of Sequim to recognize monthly, during the school year, a female high school senior who excels in school and their community activities. We now are recognizing these young women as 2023 Young Women Excelling in High School. Today, we recognize **Danika Chen** (left) and **Michelle Fukunaga** (right).

Danika Chen



Danika is a member of Honor Society, Link leader and Senior Vice President. Awards include All-State Choir, Smartie Award Knowledge Bowl and varsity letters in Leadership and Knowledge Bowl. Her college of choice is abroad at Queen Mary University of London and she will be majoring in history.

Michelle Fukunaga



Michelle is a member of Honor Society, Link crew member and a member of the varsity cheerleading team. Her awards include four years of Honor Society, Cheer Varsity Letter, Outstanding Scholastic Award and Olympic League Scholars Athlete Award. Chen will be attending Western Washington University and majoring in psychology.

“Nine tenths of education is encouragement.” ~Anatole France

UPDATES FROM SOME OF OUR 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Rylie Roberts received both a Live Your Dream Award and one for Continuing Education.

“Fall quarter went amazingly and I passed again with honors. It was one of the more challenging quarters I’ve ever had with school and personal family stuff. I am hoping to do more work and learn more about how they operate in the hospitals as a nurse. I am looking forward to being on the maternity floor at OMC this coming clinical quarter as well; since I’ve had my two boys I can help someone having the experience for the first time.”

Kianna Miller received a Continuing Education in 2021 and a second year award in 2022

“My year so far has been going excellently! I received a 4.0 this past quarter, and am fully enrolled in my major courses in special and elementary education. I've gotten to volunteer at an elementary school in Bellingham, and will continue volunteering and start my practicum in Winter quarter. I am also in the middle of my cheer season as the assistant captain of the WWU cheer team. We have finished up cheering for volleyball and soccer, and are heading into basketball season. In my free time, I come home to Sequim, and I've been subbing as an elementary teacher at both Helen Haller and Greywolf. It's been an amazing learning experience so far! Hope you are doing well, and thank you all again for your generosity with this scholarship.”

Elizabeth Sweet received High School and Continuing Education scholarships from us.

“I am currently working on finishing my senior year at the University of Washington and double degrees in neuroscience and political science. My plan is to take a gap year following graduation to get work experience before applying to masters programs in public policy. Over this last summer, I had the privilege of working for a national mental health nonprofit organization through a public service internship program with the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership!”

Megan Bland received a Continuing Education scholarship in 2022. She is working to become a Family Nurse Practitioner at Pacific Lutheran University.

“My semester went well. I ended up with a 4.0! During the break I am just relaxing and working at Jamestown until the Spring Semester starts in February. Nothing too exciting yet.”

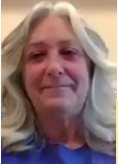
An update by **Bee Wilkinson**:

“I am doing wonderfully! I got fully licensed shortly after completing and passing my MBLEx exam and have been working on building up my client base. I work out of my home, in a small studio room and have about 20 clients whom I’ve seen and about 15 of those that I have maintained on my schedule to date. I have been approached by two different chiropractors who have offered me in-house positions (one is as a W2 employee, the other as a 1099 subcontractor). I haven’t taken any positions thus far, as I’m still working on building up my practice, but the prospects are wonderful and I’m happy to be wanted!

“I’ve taken three CE classes already to further my studies and skills (it’s a bonus that it all counts towards my license credentials). I am loving my new profession and consider myself very blessed for all the opportunities I’ve been given, and all of the help I’ve received. I am working my way out of my school debts and am on a steady course to be debt free by the end of the year (hopefully)!”

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

February is the month of love! Valentine's Day, baby cows, love birds getting ready to nest and lay eggs. You can even join Soroptimist International of the America's on February 15th for a worldwide celebration of self-care and self-love. Go to the SIA website to register <https://www.soroptimist.org/events/index.html>. And locally, we have our Olympic Peninsula Area 1 Meeting being held this year in Silverdale. If you want to know what other members in other clubs in the area are doing, be sure to attend. And a big Thank You to **Shelle Paulbitski** for hosting our members on the 5th Tuesday in January. What a wonderful time to get together as members!



~Shawn Dredla, Membership Chair



5th TUESDAY—Get-together hosted by Shelle Paubitski



WEDNESDAY AT THE WAREHOUSE

Pathways first project for 2023 – “Wednesday at the Warehouse” – finally took place. On Wednesday, February 6, after a month of unexpected supplier end issues, seven pallets of diapers were delivered to the First Step warehouse in Port Angeles.

Pathways members Sunni Becker, Cheryl Easterling, Jan Hartig—plus co-chairs Amanda Beitzel and Elaine Churchill, were joined by Jane Manzer and Natasha Nichols. Together we tackled the 380 boxes which had to be opened, 1280 sleeves labeled, and size marked. First Step’s Amy Gardner was our well-versed guide. Her regular responsibilities include spending an hour or two at a time throughout the week at the warehouse, opening, labeling, sizing and restacking. As a side note, First Step is now familiar with the long walk to the mystery location of the warehouse restroom.

Our assembly line was perfection. Jane and Sunni cut the tape, broke the glue, and loaded the tables. Elaine, Amanda, Jan, and Cheryl, with support from Natasha, marked the sleeves and passed the boxes to Amy. She restacked them, ready for distribution throughout Clallam and Jefferson counties. Program Manager Kelsi Millet got us started, and Director Alicia Anderson helped with the final steps.

Much to everyone’s surprise, our planned 6-hour day wrapped up in less than 1-1/2 hours. Soroptimists rock!



~Sunni Becker, Pathways Committee Member



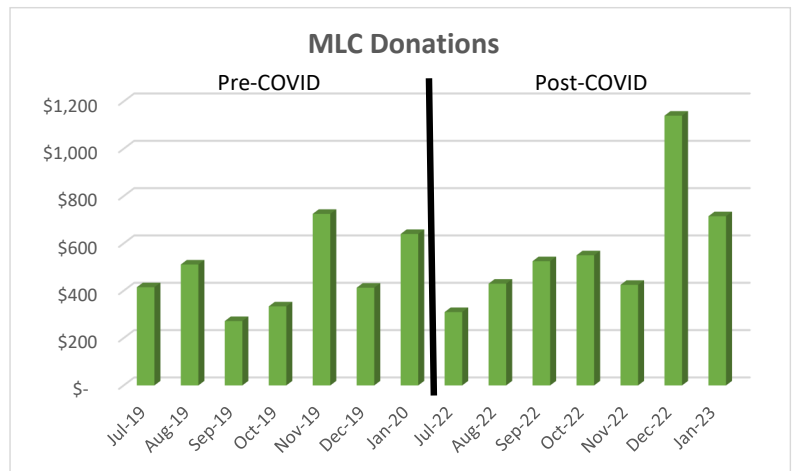
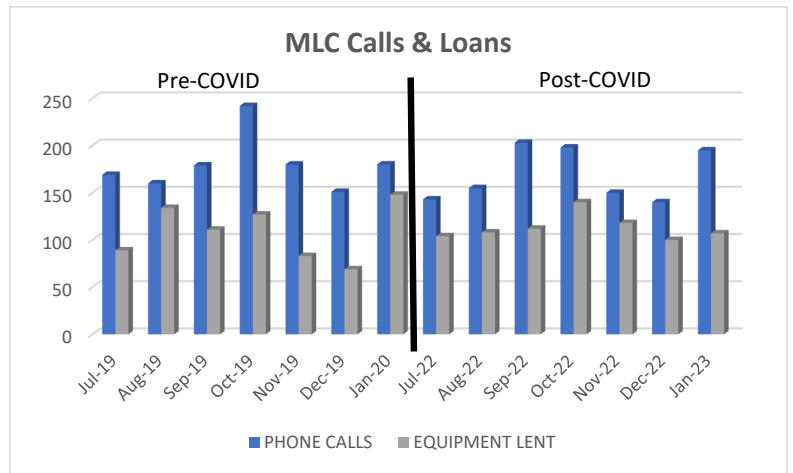
For more photos click [here](#).



MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

Our volunteers continue to brave the cold and rain. We are all looking forward to the end of the cold weather as spending time at the Closet during the winter is not for the faint of heart (or those who forget to wear long underwear)!

We continued to have a very busy month at the Closet! We received **140** calls during the month of December. We lent **107** items and had **140** items returned. Our generous community donated **\$715** in January. The following charts illustrate the seven months before we closed due to COVID and the last seven months of calls and donations.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs

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

FUN IN FUNDRAISING

We didn't do as much as expected on the Valentine's candy online sales. But we're planning on a better ad campaign for Easter. We'll have a booth at the Irrigation Festival this year and will be doing a 50/50 raffle. We also have some other things still in the works. The shredding event scheduled for April 29th. Jan Hartig is corralling volunteers to help with that. If folks can spare a few hours that morning, please contact Jan.



~Sandy Lawrence and Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols, Fundraising Co-chairs

“Fundraising requires both optimism and realism. Without the first, few if any gift solicitation efforts would be made. Without the second, few if any would succeed.” ~Howard L. Jones

Shredding Event

Your generous donation will go toward our mission of providing women and girls with access to education, empowering them to live their dreams.



Saturday, April 29, 2023

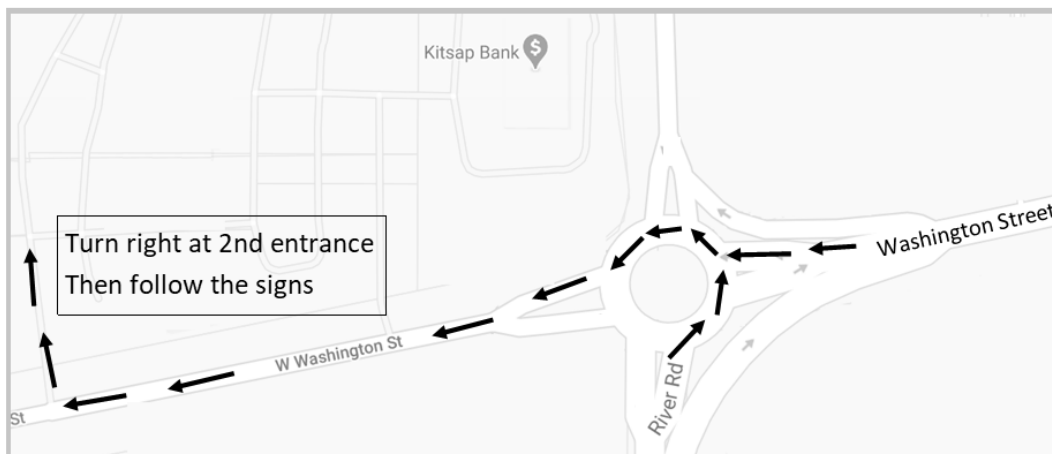
9 am - noon

Kitsap Bank

1320 W. Washington Street

Enter only from the traffic circle.
Take the exit going west.

Limit **75** pounds, about
4 paper grocery bags full.



Sponsored by Soroptimist International of Sequim and Kitsap Bank



WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear SIS Members,

We are so grateful for your ongoing support of the amazing Soroptimist International of Sequim Scholarship for women seeking a vocational education at Peninsula College. These awards will help students focus more on being successful and less on expenses. Thank you!



As our donors generously support PC students and programs, our Foundation is committed to securing resources to assure students are also supported in the event an unexpected financial emergency occurs. Many of our students live on the verge of almost dropping out of college due to a lack of financial security. This commitment to comprehensive student support has become a hallmark for our Foundation. We offer this comprehensive support of students as assurance to donors like you that your investment is part of a larger holistic approach to helping PC students successfully achieve their academic and career goals. Thank you for being a partner in this important work!

Thank you again for your support.

With warmest regards,
Greta Workman, Executive Director

Suzy Ames
President, Peninsula College

HANDWRITTEN NOTE:

*Thank you Soroptimist! So grateful for your support!
Suzy*

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim Members:

On behalf of the Sequim Education Foundation (SEF), I send our sincere appreciation to you and your organization for your very generous donation of \$1,000.00 made to our foundation. Your contribution enables the SEF to fulfill our mission of inspiring and supporting students within our community to realize their goals in life. SEF applauds the work of Soroptimist International who has been dedicated to providing women with educational opportunities enabling them to achieve economic empowerment in society. We congratulate your local organization on celebrating 75 years of helping countless women in the Sequim community achieve their dreams.



For over twenty years, SEF has provided Sequim's public-school children with grants, activities, and scholarship programs proven to inspire them to achieve excellence. Our Foundation also enables our teachers to develop and implement programs that inspire students to experience the possibilities of careers yet to be created. We share a common goal of enriching the quality of education for students and educators in the Sequim School District.

Gratefully,
Phillip Trowbridge, President
Sequim Education Foundation

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim,

Thank you for your generous contributions over the past year. Our Community has always supported our mission and that was even more true in 2022. It seems that at every turn a new challenge or experience was waiting and you were there to help us meet them. Because of you, we were able to distribute enough food for over 825,000 meals!



Together we work towards the vision that no one goes hungry in our community.

Thank You for your generous support and please know that you are making a difference!

Andra Smith
Executive Director

HANDWRITTEN NOTE:

*Thanks again for your support!
Andra*

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for all of the contributions we received in 2022, including direct financial gifts like yours.

Our records indicate that you personally contributed a total of \$3,000 between January 1 and December 31, 2022, which we greatly appreciate.

On behalf of our entire organization, I would like to thank you for your generous gift in 2022!







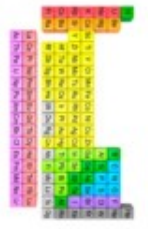
















We are so grateful to you for making our mission possible.

Warmly,
Angel Dennis
Development Director

































“To educate yourself for the feeling of gratitude means to take nothing for granted, but to always seek out and value the kind that will stand behind the action. Nothing that is done for you is a matter of course. Everything originates in a will for the good, which is directed at you. Train yourself never to put off the word or action for the expression of gratitude.” ~Albert Schweitzer

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 National Freedom Day 	2 National Groundhog Day 	3 National Carrot Cake Day 	4 National Homemade Soup Day 
5 National Weatherperson Day 	BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Becky Archer Jan Chapman Missy Church-Smith Sherry Lacey Patty Lebowitz 	7 National Periodic Table Day 	8 National Kit Flying Day 	9 National Pizza Day 	10 BOARD MEETING	11 National Inventor's Day 
12 National Plum Pudding Day 	13 National Cheddar Day 	14 Business Meeting	15 National Wisconsin Day 	16 National Almond Day 	17 National Caregivers Day 	18 National Red Sock Day 
19 National Lash Day 	20 President's Day 	21 Fat Tuesday 	22 National California Day 	23 National Chili Day 	24 National Tartar Sauce Day 	25 National Clam Chowder Day 
26 National Pistachio Day 	27 National Strawberry Day 	28 Program Meeting				

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Kathryn Pacelli Gerry Sladowski</p> 			<p>1 Zero Discrimination Day</p> 	<p>2 National Hospital Day</p> 	<p>3 National Hearing Day</p> 	<p>4 National Grammar Days</p> 
<p>5 National Cheese Doodle Day</p> 	<p>6 National Dress Day</p> 	<p>7 National Cereal Day</p> 	<p>8 National Oregon Day</p> 	<p>9 National Kidney Day</p> 	<p>10 BOARD MEETING</p> 	<p>11 World Plumbing Day</p> 
<p>12 National Girl Scout Day</p> 	<p>13 National K9 Veterans Day</p> 	<p>14 Business Meeting</p> 	<p>15 National Kansas Day</p> 	<p>16 National Panda Day</p> 	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p> 	<p>18 Global Recycling Day</p> 
<p>19 National Let's Laugh Day</p> 	<p>20 National Ravioli Day</p> 	<p>21 World Puppetry Day</p> 	<p>22 National West Virginia Day</p> 	<p>23 National Puppy Day</p> 	<p>24 National Tuberculosis Day</p> 	<p>25 Tolkien Reading Day</p> 
<p>26 National Spinach Day</p> 	<p>27 National Scribble Day</p> 	<p>28 Program Meeting</p> 	<p>29 National Nevada Day</p> 	<p>30 National Pencil Day</p> 	<p>31 National Crayon Day</p> 	

For You

Poet: Kate Summers

This valentine poem is just for you
To remind you that I love you for all that you do
I love you for who you are
To me you are a shining star.
So on this Valentine's day
If I had only one thing to say
It would be that you're the best
And that I feel very blessed.



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