



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 28, Issue 10

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 75+ Years of Service

April 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Officers 2023 — 2024

President:
Shirley Legg

President-Elect:
Linda Klinefelter

Secretary:
Sandy Lawrence

Treasurer:
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**Director: 2 year
(one year remaining)**
Natasha Merkuloff Nichols

Director: 2 year
Patty Lebowitz

Director: 1 year
Kathy Cunha

Director: 1 year
Kathy Purcell

Newsletter Staff:
Kathy Purcell
Susan Coffee
Jane Manzer
Pat Willis

*“Unity is strength...
when there is
teamwork and
collaboration,
wonderful things
can be achieved.”
~Mattie Stepanek*

When I made the decision four years ago to sell my beautiful Olympia home and move to Sequim, it was a huge decision filled with the unknown and what ifs. There was much that could have gone wrong. There was no going back to the content life I had settled into in Olympia. My husband of 35 years had passed away unexpectedly, I had retired from a 45-year career that I loved, grandchildren who consumed much of my time were becoming young adults and striking out on their own. My home had become too large and empty, filled with memories that had become painful.

I decided to research a place to relocate. Northern Colorado and the Northern Oregon Coast were at the top of the consideration list. It was my sister who suggested I visit Sequim. Bill and I spent much time on the Peninsula—hiking and backpacking the Olympics and often stopping in Sequim. The next weekend my sister and I made a trip to Sequim and met with a realtor. The very next weekend we returned, and I made an offer on the house I now call home. It was that quick.

Having done my homework prior to relocating, I was aware there were three Soroptimist clubs in this area. It made sense to contact SIS. I promptly connected with Missy Church-Smith, and got the ball rolling, fully aware from my past experiences as a member of Seattle-Metro and SI/Olympia that I would be welcomed with open arms and put to work. I was not disappointed. I instantly had approximately 35 new friends! And that number of Soroptimist friends is growing as we add new members and expand our capacity.

SIS has faced some challenges over the short time I have been a member. Having joined shortly after Covid hit, I watched the club kick into action figuring out plans, not missing a beat in the communities served. Challenges were met with thoughtfulness, unity, and a can-do attitude. Ingenuity was in overdrive resulting in embracing technology through Zoom and virtual fundraising. The energy exerted was a force focused on achieving a common goal.

None of this could have been achieved without a common purpose by a group of determined women. But there was something else I observed. It was the friendships among the group that was so evident as they worked together and continues to be a binding thread through all tasks taken on. This does not mean that there isn't diversity among thought and action which can lead to disagreement and sometimes heated conversations. Yet, a resolution is found, and consensus moves forward to reach the goal.

It is friendship and respect for the Soroptimist mission that overcome disagreements, difference of opinions, and personal disputes that result in SIS unity. This paves the path toward a better future, not only for the women and girls served, but for its members as well.



~President Shirley



“Beyond the incredible impact on society and personal growth, joining Soroptimist opens the door to forming deep and meaningful friendships with fellow members. Soroptimists come from diverse backgrounds, each bringing their unique perspectives and stories to the table. The bonds forged through collaboration often lead to lasting friendships that transcend club events. Time and time again we hear how Soroptimist friendships can become an enduring source of joy, laughter, and encouragement, enriching life in unexpected ways.” SIA Website, September 2023 “Reasons to be a Soroptimist.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

Last month our club ushered in spring with our 25th Annual Gala Garden Show. Now it is April. As I write this, it is raining. I'm reminded of the adage: April showers bring May flowers. Right now, even though it is raining, some people might be planting flowers they purchased at the show. Mother Nature is showering the flowers with moisture to help them grow and blossom.

Speaking of showering . . . I'd like to take this opportunity to shower gratitude to everyone who participated in the Gala Garden Show. Thank you to Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols for Co-chairing the Core Committee; thank you to the GGS Core Committee; thank you to all our club members (present and former); thank you to family members and other volunteers; thank you to the Master Gardeners; thank you to the PA Soroptimist Club; thank you to our vendors and our sponsors; thank you to CERT; thank you to the community. It was a very successful show, netting over \$25,000. Just think of how many lives will be changed through a scholarship or Live Your Dream Award made possible with these funds! It will provide what they need to grow and blossom.

Speaking of showering . . . take a look at the MLC article on page 6. Many people who returned transport chairs that they borrowed over the holidays expressed gratitude because the equipment allowed them to create new memories with family members. They showered us with gratefulness for us showering them with a tool to share heartfelt loving experiences. Reading the MLC article, I felt gratitude for our ability to make such a difference in so many lives. This is what we do as Soroptimists.

We will continue to have opportunities to make a difference as we move forward to complete this year. The Shredding Event will be happening in less than two weeks. If you aren't able to work the day of the event—April 27—you can make a difference by spreading the word about this fundraiser. Email the Shredding Event flyer to your friends, clients, neighbors. Making a difference starts with education.

We will continue to have opportunities to make a difference as we begin planning for our next Soroptimist year. The Finance Committee has started the budget process. We will be electing our 2024-2025 officers and board members at our April 9 business meeting. We will need a quorum, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

We can also make a difference by accepting a leadership role on a committee. And, although the 2024 Gala Garden Show is in the rearview mirror, planning of the 2025 Gala Garden Show will begin before we know it. Think about where you would like to serve.

I was thinking about rain. Each individual drop doesn't make much of a difference. But many raindrops together can truly nurture the soil—plus, gently falling raindrops make a sound that can be relaxing. We are a bit like raindrops. United we nurture more lives; united we have more of an impact. Working together we shower our community with gentleness, kindness and respect as we continue Lighting the Path Forward.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



“Is the beam from a lighthouse affected by howling wind and rain? It remains perfectly steadfast and unaffected by the storm. Your true self is like that. . . Nothing can ever harm you once you are consciously aware that it is so.” ~Vernon Howard

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 5 Board Meeting
- 9 Business Meeting (GOM)
- 23 Program Meeting
- 25-28 NWR Conference
Lake Washington
Hyatt, Renton, WA
- 27 Shredding Event
- *30 5th Tuesday—Field
Arts and Events Hall
in Port Angeles Tour

MAY

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

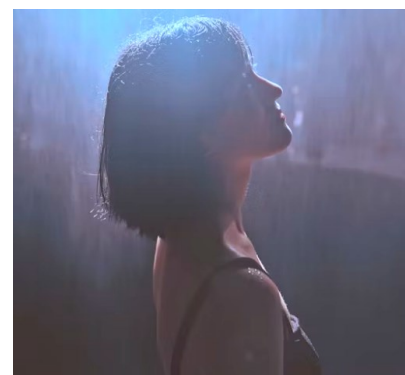
***Evening Meeting**

Lighting



the Path Forward

**“Some people walk in the rain,
others just get wet.” ~Roger Miller**



**“Information gently but relentlessly
drizzles down on us in an invisible,
impalpable electric rain.”
~Hans Christian von Baeyer**

Celebrate Life!

APRIL

Christy Holy
Chris Snow

MAY

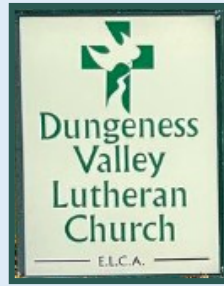
Pauline Geraci
Jan Hartig
Shirley Huntley
Linda Klinefelter
Cynthia Martin
Jeanne Martin



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



*“Art is the only way to run away
without leaving home.”
~Twyla Tharp*



NEW LOCATION—SAME TIME

Beginning **February 13, 2024**
we started meeting at
Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church
925 N. Sequim Avenue.
The church is located just south of
Hardy's Market.
We will meet in the sanctuary!

**FIFTH TUESDAY FIELDED TO
FIELD ARTS AND EVENTS HALL**

Jeanne Martin has arranged a wonderful opportunity for the club to be treated to a private tour of the new Field Arts and Events Hall in Port Angeles on April 30, 2024. Refreshments will be provided by the facility, and the cost is \$20 per person.



Every good plan should have something to entice you to say “yes.” So, we have extended an invitation to the president of Peninsula College and the executive director of Peninsula College Foundation. These two dynamic women will join us and share information and what is new for the college and the foundation and most willing to answer your questions.

So, mark your calendar on April 30th from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. for our 5th Tuesday event and respond to my email (kliney523@gmail) and let me know if you can attend. There is plenty of parking available, but members might carpool.



~Linda Klinefelter



“The EARTH without ART is just EH.” ~Author Unknown

SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



NWR Conference
Lake Washington Hyatt
Renton, WA
April 25-28, 2024

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS—SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT UPDATE

Ruby Romano



Ruby Romano, a 2022 High School Scholarship recipient, got her first business license when she was in seventh grade. She sold RuBeads at the Sequim Farmers Market. This evolved into a stall also selling reusable alternatives to single use plastics.

When the pandemic hit, she was a junior at Sequim High School, so she decided to enroll in Running Start and got both her AA and High School degrees in 2022. She is now in her final semester at the University of Idaho and is taking all the courses that apply to her entrepreneurship emphasis with a focus on sustainable and local products. She already has a “pitch deck” for the salt business that she is working on with her dad, called Sequim Sea Salt.

After graduation she and her roommate are planning a 2–3-week trip to Europe through northern Italy and Switzerland; then she will head back to begin marketing (creating social media and working on a website), helping with finding sellers, and more as the salt business expands.

Ruby’s admirable goal has been the same since about ninth grade—a business that is good for the environment and for people: “Whatever it [my business] ends up being I do know that I want it to improve the world and help make a change towards a more sustainable future.”



~Cat Xander, Awards & Scholarships Co-chair



“The materials of wealth are in the earth, in the seas, and in their natural and unaided productions.” ~Daniel Webster

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

My goodness, what a whirlwind of affairs! We had a successful garden show. Members faithfully volunteered their talents and time to this wonderful event—and we made money!! Now on to the shred event at the end of April! Whew!! It’s almost the end of our club year and you know what that means...yep, membership renewal time! Dues invoices will be coming out in May so please be on the lookout. There will most likely be a dues increase for the 2024-2025 club year based on the Northwest Region dues increasing and also SIA. Of course, an increase in dues is always a voting matter. More to follow from the board. Hold onto your hats! We’re not done yet!

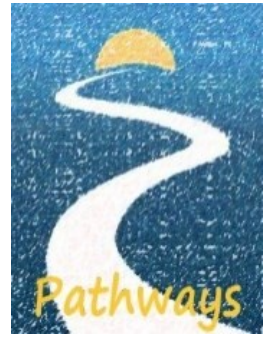


~Shawn Dredla & Jane Manzer, Membership Co-chairs

“The idea is, if you put a bunch of great people together, good things will happen.” ~Dan O’Donnell

PATHWAYS WALKING THE PATH

We did it! After a year of anticipation and hard work from all of our long-term members, we made it to and through the Garden Show! With a little help and guidance, we were able to contribute and learn about the entire experience! Here are some special highlights from our new members and all that they accomplished in their first Garden Gala!



All members received a list of businesses and posters to distribute and encourage attendance from the community.

Sam Fouts — Sam took on greeting our guests on Saturday ensuring they had fliers and that the front desk had everything they needed. On Sunday, she changed it up by providing vendor support, selling raffle tickets at the raffle station and assisting with clean-up.

Debbie Cottrell — Distributed flyers and patrolled the floor on Saturday, providing vendor support and assistance where needed.

Roxann Harr — Roxann did a wonderful job drumming up volunteers for the Master Gardeners booth as well as for the Master Gardener speakers. Both Roxann and her son Mathew proved to be instrumental in the setup and teardown!

Virginia Kostanich — Virginia provided some much-needed relief in the popular vendor support area.

Brandi Larson — Provided early morning support at the door, selling admission on both Saturday and Sunday.

Christy Holy — Christy provided support at the door and desk on both days, assisting the admissions teams as well.



Pathways-Chairs Amanda Beitzel and Jan Hartig

Both ladies led by example, not only assisting each member in getting involved but also assisting with setting up, the teardown and providing vendor support and general needs on both days of the event. Their dedication to being a shining example for the new members is, as always, appreciated.

Thank you to everyone for all your effort!!!



~Brandi Larson, Pathways Committee



“What I found over the years is the most important thing is for a team to come together over a compelling vision, a comprehensive strategy for achieving that vision, and then a relentless implementation plan.” ~*Alan Mulally*

HAPPY DOLLARS

This is a new column recently added to the Soropti-Scoop; it is called **Happy Dollars: The backstory.** At the end of our club meetings members are asked if they have something they are happy about and if they would like to share with a Happy Dollar donation. Not all members are able to attend all meetings, which means they miss out on hearing the happy things. It was suggested that the information be included in the newsletter so all members get a chance to experience the shared joy. This also allows us to learn more about our members, strengthening our club overall.

Jeanne Martin is happy for her new cat.

Linda Klinefelter is happy to be going on vacation.

Colleen Blazier is celebrating the incredibly amazing Gala Garden Show Committee for the endless hours they worked and the success under the leadership of Kathy Purcell and Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols.

Jan Hartig is happy to be going to CA to see their great-granddaughter.

Amanda Beitzel is thankful her daughter's book launch went well and that Kathy highlighted it in the February newsletter.

Kathy Cunha is happy about twin grandbabies on the way.

Sandy Lawrence is excited about the great slate of board nominees the nominating committee came up with.

Cheryl Easterling is happy she passed the first part of a Retirement Income Certified Professional (RICP) designation—two more parts to go.

Jane Manzer gave for the great job Pathways did in distribution of flyers for the GGS.

Shawn Dredla is excited for the Garden Show.

Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols is thankful for Kathy Purcell.

Roxann Harr gave because we're supposed to have good weather this weekend.

Kris Osborn—not happy dollars but giving a weekend at Creekside as a raffle prize for the GGS.

*“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”
~Martin Luther King, Jr.*

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET PART OF MEANINGFUL MEMORIES

Several of our Medical Loan Closet volunteers commented recently about the stories they received from people who were returning equipment. Whereas most people borrow our equipment to help them through recovery from an operation, injury or end-of-life care, these people talked about how much they enjoyed using our equipment! These were people who borrowed our transport chairs to take their parents places during the holidays. We are grateful to hear the wonderful stories about how our equipment enabled families to make happy memories and share quality time together.



We enjoyed a very welcome change of better weather at the Closet this month. March was another busy month. We received **179** calls, lent **88** items, and had **106** items returned. We received **\$390** in donations from our generous community.



~Becky Archer and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL STAND WITH HER PROGRAM

Women for Women International’s **STAND WITH HER** program’s mission is this: “Our global community invests in women survivors of war and conflict, providing them with social and economic skills to transform their own lives. Women pass their knowledge to those around them, creating a more just world—a world where every woman’s voice, role, and contribution are visible and valued.” There are now two avenues to support this mission, one being a Sister Supporter (which we have been doing for many years now) and the other being a Classroom Supporter, helping to furnish things like pencils, textbooks, or even agricultural supplies, enabling survivors of war to participate and complete their training. It’s possible that our club will take part in that kind of support, but that will be determined during the formation of our final budget.

UPDATE ON OUR SPONSOREES THROUGH WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

We have two recently-assigned “sisters” our club is sponsoring through Women for Women International for 2024, both from Afghanistan. One is married with 13 children, and one is married with no children. For their safety, we know very little else about them. According to WFWI, we do know that "Afghanistan is one of the most difficult places in the world to identify as a woman. Political and economic insecurity, educational inequality, sexual violence, and poor health are pervasive among Afghan women and children. Nevertheless, when equipped with powerful vocational and economic tools, women can change their lives, regardless of circumstance.” As of late 2022, WFWI resumed their *Stronger Women, Stronger Nations* training in four provinces. A stunning statistic is that 94% of the Afghan women in the training have NO formal education! I think we’re fortunate to share some of our funds and be sponsoring women in this country. On behalf of the club, I’ve written to encourage both of them.



Because of overlapping sponsorships due to crises in a country or the sisters’ lives, I’ve also been corresponding with two others. We don’t often hear back from them, but we do have a sweet letter from Bitete Mwatumu in Democratic Republic of Congo. She has already graduated her year-long *Stronger Women, Stronger Nations* training and recently wrote us in her language, which was translated as follows:

“Hello dear friend, we are about to finish the training of Women for Women International. I chose to do the work of soap-making in order to take care of my family after training. Thanks for your help and the knowledge from Women for Women International. Thanks, Bitete”



~Jane Manzer, Women for Women International Liaison



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” ~**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

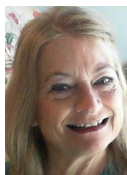
WHAT'S UP IN THE REGION

The early bird registration for the Region Conference has passed, but you can still attend. Let Shirley or Shelle know that you are interested. We have a fund set aside in our budget that may be able to help those who want to attend.

This year at our Region Conference we will elect new Region officers to lead us for the next 2 years. Please review the call to conference <https://www.soroptimistnwr.org/mp-files/nwr-2024-call-to-conference.pdf/> to be familiar with the candidates for the various offices. We will vote at Tuesday's business meeting so that our delegates will know who we want to be in these roles for the next biennium.



Our Region is also very special this year. The Soroptimist International of the America's Convention is in our backyard – Bellevue, Washington. The early bird registration has passed for this as well, but you can still attend at a little higher cost. This opportunity to attend a Federation Convention so close to home will not come again for a very long time. Let Shirley or Shelle know if you are interested in attending.



~Sandy Lawrence



“Any time women come together with a collective intention, it’s a powerful thing. Whether it’s sitting down making a quilt, in a kitchen preparing a meal, in a club reading the same book, or around the table playing cards, or planning a birthday party, when women come together with a collective intention, magic happens.” ~Phylcia Rashad

FUN IN FUNDRAISING

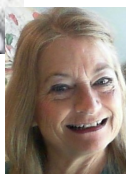
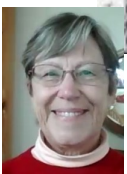
Another successful Gala Garden Show is under our belt, and a large sigh of relief was heard clear to Poulsbo!! We all collapsed on Monday after the event, refusing to do anything but eat bonbons and stay in bed!!! Well, that's what we WANTED to do, but life went on.

GGs netted over \$25,000 for our club, thanks to the work of so many members. At this point, we have asked that the Boys & Girls Club tentatively to save the third weekend in March, 2025, for our next GGS, and CERT has penciled us in to help us that same weekend. There are many ideas about how to improve the show, and I'm sure the next leaders will consider all suggestions.

In the meantime, we're getting ready for our Spring Shred Event, to be held April 27th from 9 a.m. to noon at Kitsap Bank. Unless you're going to the Region Conference, please try to help out with this event. It's a good fundraiser for us and a great community public relations tool.

Lavender Fest is coming up in July, and we're looking toward that as another opportunity to raise money.

Finally, we're in discussions with Sophie's Florist about carrying See's Candy for Mother's Day. More on that as details are finalized.



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

MORE FUNDRAISING

It was a fabulous 25th Gala Garden Show. Of course, now that it has ended, there are many items you wish you would have purchased. Right? Well, you can still order seeds, bulbs, bare root plants and starts. Our on-line Flower Power Fundraiser is active through May 15, 2024. Each order earns us between 40 and 50% profit. Go to <http://sequim.fpfundraising.com/> to support this campaign.



2024 GALA GARDEN SHOW PICTORIAL REVIEW

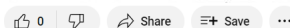
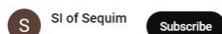
Pictures were taken at this year's Gala Garden Show by Linda Klinefelter Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols and Chris Snow. Photos of the vendors were uploaded to Flickr <https://www.flickr.com/photos/108582458@N03/albums/72177720315653607> and the link was sent to all the vendors with a thank you for their participation.



Photos of our members were transformed into a video and uploaded to YouTube. To share the memories and some laughter, check out the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8u2I1SuCCK> ~kp



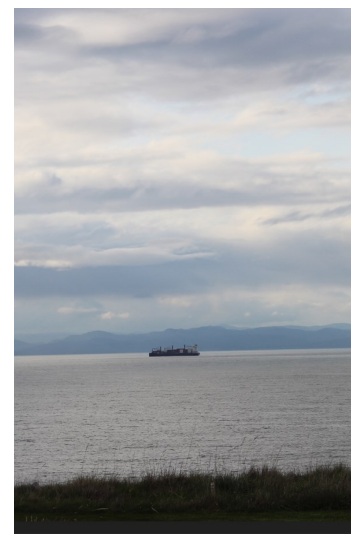
2024 GGS Member Review



AFTER GARDEN SHOW POTLUCK CELEBRATION

Thank You to Natasha and Jim for hosting our After Garden Show Celebration!
And *Thank You* to the **GGS Core Committee** and all our club members and volunteers
for being part of another successful show!

For more photos from the celebration click the link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/108582458@N03/albums/72177720316061526/>



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

To Whom It May Concern:

We are WomenSpirit Coalition, the WA State Native American Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, in Sequim. We have a long history of providing technical and legal assistance, training, and consultation to the 29 federally recognized tribes in WA and is the official Dept of Justice Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

One of our staff appeared at an event at Sunland in October of 2023 that the Soroptimists attended. A question was asked regarding whether our Agency accepts donations of personal hygiene. The answer was, and is, "yes."

Then a couple weeks ago, a Soroptimist dropped by our office with a donation, and she was told "no, we do not accept personal hygiene items." But in fact, WE DO!

We regret that the donation was turned down. We sincerely appreciate your attempt to make the donation of personal hygiene items. If at any time in the future you would want to repeat this donation, we would gladly accept it.

Best Regards,

Deborah Fischer
Admin Assistant for WomenSpirit Coalition,
Washington State Native American Coalition Against
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Office: (360) 681-3701 ext 0
dfischer@womenspirit.net | www.womenspirit.net



**"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully,
everyone is blessed." ~Maya Angelou**

Hi!

What a wonderful turn out. . . . very exciting to have so many ladies join us and John Beitzel. We all thoroughly enjoyed hosting the Soroptimist and meeting so many individuals working together to help others and encourage New Growth for young people and all ages. Yes, we are very interested in continuing to participate and sponsor the garden gala each year; please keep us on your sponsorship list. I was not able to attend the Garden Show; I was visiting my grandkids in Portland, and planting flowers and seeds with them. They love gardening.

Best and thank you so much for helping with Teatime!
Jan Orr
Director of Community Relations
Dungeness Courte Memory Care



Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim,

The Board and staff of First Step Family Support Center THANK YOU for your GENEROUS DONATION to our work with children and their families on the North Olympic Peninsula. We are committed to helping children thrive and we know that if we can assist parents in their important role we can indeed have an impact on the future success of children. Thank you for YOUR GIFT to help build family strengths!

Thank you for your kindness,
Elisia Anderson
Executive Director
First Step Family Support Center


*Wow! What a beautiful gift for our work!
Thank you for all that your club does to support
First Step and the families we serve!*



April 2024

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 						
7 Distribution of April Soropt-Scoop	8	9 Business Meeting Election of 2024-2025 Club Board	10	11	12 BOARD MEETING	13 6 Pathways Meeting	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22 23 Program Meeting	24	25 NWR Conference Lake Washington Hyatt Renton, WA April 25-28 (100)	26 NWR Conference Lake Washington Hyatt Renton, WA April 25-28 (100)	27 NWR Conference Lake Washington Hyatt Renton, WA April 25-28  Shredding Event		
28 NWR Conference Lake Washington Hyatt Renton, WA April 25-28 (100)	29	30 5th Tuesday Field Arts and Events Hall in Port Angeles 					

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Pauline Geraci Jan Hartig Shirley Huntley Linda Klmeretter Cynthia Martin Jeanne Martin 			1	2	3	4 Pathways Meeting Deadline for articles for May Soroopti-Scoop
5	6	7	8	9	10 Board meeting	11
12 Distribution of May Soroopti-Scoop	13	14 Business Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Program Meeting	29	30	31	

Iris of Life by Zitkála-Šá

Like tiny drops of crystal rain,
In every life the moments fall,
To wear away with silent beat,
The shell of selfishness o'er all.

And every act, not one too small,
That leaps from out the heart's pure glow,
Like ray of gold sends forth a light,
While moments into seasons flow.

Athwart the dome, Eternity,
To Iris grown resplendent, fly
Bright gleams from every noble deed,
Till colors with each other vie.

'Tis glimpses of this grand rainbow,
Where moments with good deeds unite,
That gladden many weary hearts,
Inspiring them to seek more Light.



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.

Soroptimist International of Sequim
PO Box 126
Sequim, WA 98382

To a Person Making a Difference for Women