

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 29, Issue 10

Soroptimist International of Sequim

Celebrating 78 Years of Service

April 2025

Officers 2024 — 2025

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Roxann Harr

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Director: 2 year Kathy Purcell

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"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves." ~Mohandas K. Gandhi

President's Message

Spring is, without a doubt, my favorite season. It symbolizes fresh beginnings, as the vibrant colors of life burst forth from the winter soil, marking a joyful farewell to the cold, dark days. This season embodies the essence of renewal and transformation.

As I embrace spring, my hands are often stained, and my nails chip easily because I can't resist the urge to forgo gloves—I simply adore the rich aroma of the earth. During one memorable visit to a breathtaking winery in California, I found myself entranced by the gardens rather than the wine. While wandering through the lush landscapes, I encountered the head gardener and noticed he too was ungloved. When I remarked on it, he smiled and said, "Feeling the soil makes you one with what you are doing." Those words struck a deep chord within me.

When you genuinely connect with your work—immersing yourself in the task at hand—it feels remarkably similar to working the soil with bare hands. This connection is how I perceive our membership. I witnessed this powerful principle come to life at our recent garden show. Our members embodied the spirit of that head gardener; they were fully engaged, bursting with energy, radiating happiness, and demonstrating remarkable diligence—truly exceptional "gardeners."

I felt an immense sense of pride representing our organization, but even more so, working alongside such inspiring members. In my eyes, they've planted countless seeds, nurtured our garden, and contributed to the flourishing results we now celebrate. Thank you for making our garden show a resounding success. You are truly fabulous, and our garden is alive with vibrant and fresh beginnings. Happy Spring!



~President Linda





"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden." ~*Thomas Jefferson*

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's April. There's an adage that says April showers bring May flowers. We had a lot of rain in the last two weeks of March. It's almost like when the clocks were set an hour ahead, Mother Nature set the calendar ahead to April a little early. Some of the plants are happy about that though.

Speaking of plants . . . there was a plethora of plants at our 2025 Gala Garden Show last month! I worked at the front entrance handing out programs and I got to see smiling faces—of those going into the show, as well as those leaving with lots of plants! I smiled knowing they were all going to loving new homes.

After my stint at the front entrance, I went to check out the items available in the main room. As I did a quick walk around, I could sense the energy of the plants; others could also, evidenced by the many smiles. I made the turn at the last corner and there it was—past member Jennifer Weir's booth. What I saw looked like a drawing of the rings of a tree. I was partially correct. It was rings of a tree, but it was made from a slice of a tree trunk that Jennifer had imprinted on the paper—perfect for framing! She also had some imprints on T-shirts.

There were quite a few different imprints. Jennier showed me one where all the rings were evenly spaced and smooth; she said that tree had a healthy life. Then she held up another one where the left side showed the rings evenly spaced and smooth, while the right side had rings bunched together almost to the point you couldn't differentiate the rings. She said the left side had received nutrients, but the right side had not. It might have had another tree or something too close to it and it didn't get sun, rain, etc. I commented that I could see each tree had its own story; she concurred. I thanked her for sharing their stories.

Leaving her booth, I looked across the room and saw a vendor selling framed photos of flowers. I was drawn to one in particular—a red poppy. I walked over to talk to the artist. I said she had some lovely photos and suggested she submit a few to the Artwork Contest for the next GGS. She said when she first decided to sell her photos, someone told her that all her frames should be the same. I was shaking my head. She didn't listen to the advice that was offered; she used many kinds of frames.

I told her I was drawn to her booth mainly because of the poppy. It was bright red with black in the center and the background was black. The matting was black, but had white on the border, the frame was textured and white. The sharp contrast of colors was striking. She told me that she had originally purchased that frame and matting for another photo but instead decided to use it for the poppy. I said it looked like a lot of thought went into each photo and that each one had a story; she concurred. I thanked her for sharing their stories.

I visited with at least three other vendors, all who had comparable stories. Their stories are told through listening to and capturing the stories within the products they produce. If I had visited with more vendors, I'm sure I would have encountered more examples of this. People attend the GGS not only to "buy stuff" but also to put themselves in an environment of openness, creativity and leaning—even if they don't realize it. In doing so they also support Soroptimist and what we do.

Thank you to everyone who was part of the 2025 Gala Garden Show. As we march into April, let us continue Sowing good Seeds for the Future.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor



"I hope you will go out and let stories happen to you, and that you will work them, water them with your blood and tears and your laughter till they bloom, till you yourself burst into bloom."

~Clarissa Pinkola Estes

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 1 GGS Core Committee Meeting—1st Security
- 4 Board Meeting
- 8 Business Meeting (GOM)
- 22-27 NWR Conference Valley River Inn Eugene, OR
 - *29 5th Tuesday
 Sip with Soroptimist
 Olympic Cellars
 Winery

MAY

- 9 Board Meeting
- 13 Business Meeting
- 27 Program Meeting

*Evening Meeting



"Stories connect us at a human level that factual statements and logical arguments can't possibly match." ~Steve Woodruff



"The human species thinks in metaphors and learns through stories." ~Mary Catherine Bateson

Celebrate Life!

APRIL 2025

Christy Holy Chris Snow

MAY 2025

Pauline Geraci Jan Hartig Shirley Huntley Linda Klinefelter Jeanne Martin



Note the phone number for our MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

360-504-0231



"Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten." ~ *George Bernard Shaw*

A REMINDER—2024-2025 MEETING LOCATION

We now meet at

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

Stay healthy; wearing masks to the meeting is welcomed. See you April **8**th.



APRIL PROGRAM MEETING

For this month's program meeting we will be having **Colleen Robinson**, Chief Executive Officer for Habitat for Humanity of Clallam County. Here is info from their website "Habitat Clallam began our work in 1991 in Sequim as Dungeness Valley Habitat for Humanity. In 2006, we moved to Port Angeles to become Habitat for Humanity of Clallam County. In that time, we have been honored to serve numerous families through both our new home construction and our Repair Programs."

Also part of the program will be **Tasha Fitzgerald**, Executive Director of Olympic Angels. "Originally from Arkansas, Tasha took a leap of faith in 2015 and purchased a home in the area before ever stepping a foot through the door. Shortly afterwards she attended a meeting where she was introduced to ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and ever since has been dedicated to building a more resilient community, advocating for support systems that create lasting impact. Today, Tasha is excited to share insights on Olympic Angels, a nonprofit that promotes community-based support for those experiencing foster care and exploring all the ways we can strengthen our community together."



~Roxann Harr, President-elect



SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER



NWR Conference Valley River Inn Eugene, OR April 24-27, 2025

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK REVIEW ONGOING

The Awards & Scholarships Committee is starting on an exciting part of its busy season. We have received 38 virtual notebooks from the girls in the Sequim High School Senior Class. The committee will be reviewing them carefully to come up with our list of scholarship recipients. When we evaluate scholarship applications, we look for clear goals, the strategies they have used to overcome obstacles, their commitment to reach their goals, and their need for support.

Each notebook will be read by two committee members and their scores will be averaged. The top 10 notebooks will be scored by every committee member for a numerical total that will help us decide on our final list of awards. The scholarships will be presented May 28th at an evening awards program at the high school.

Immediately after the High School awards, it's Continuing Education season. May 15th applications for Continuing Education Scholarships open. The focus then is getting the word out to potential applicants. Those applications must be received by August 15th for judging, with awards going out no later than the beginning of September.

Our Soroptimist Vision and Mission focus on education to achieve economic empowerment. This note from Continuing Education recipient Samantha Salazar reinforces the impact of our scholarship program, particularly at this time: "Please let me know how SIS is doing amidst all the federal/state changes. Have your budgets/funding sources been impacted too badly? I hope not. You're changing lives!"



~Cat Xander & Kris Osborn, Awards & Scholarships Co-chairs

"Scholarship is to be created not by compulsion, but by awakening a pure interest in knowledge." ~ Ralph Waldo Emersion

PAST CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT MAKES THE HEADLINES

Petra Bernsten, one of our past Continuing Education Scholarship recipients, was front and center on the cover of the April 2, 2025, edition of the Sequim Gazette.

In the article Petra states: "After almost 10 years of wrestling, it's been a journey and a huge part of my life. A big portion of my friends are from wrestling. A lot of things I've learned are from wrestling."

The article says, "the future pharmacist took second place on March 13-115 at the NCWA National Championships in Louisiana. Her bachelor's degree in Cell Biology and Genetics remains the priority. She's always sought a balance between her academic and wrestling lives." You can read the entire article here: https://sisequim.org/news/2024-25/PetraBernsten-CI-Gazette.pdf

We celebrate Petra's success and know she will continue to find balance in whatever she does in the future.



She plans to tackle WSU pharmacy program next fall

By MATTHEW NASH Sequim Gazette

To finish her wrestling career at Washington State University, Petra (pronounced Pay-tra) Bernsten, 20, is going out as a three-time National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) All-American.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dear Cat and Jeanne,

I wanted to let you know that the check from Soroptimists of Sequim to support PC's student emergency aid grants for spring quarter arrived. Thank you so, so much to you and your group for this generous support. I've just received the report from Financial Aid about winter quarter student emergency aid grants and the requests continue to disproportionately come from female-presenting names (69% vs. 31%). Your support will allow students to remain enrolled in school and persist in their programs. Thank you.

After spring quarter ends (mid-June), I'll receive a summary of requests and awards made. I'll be sure to send that to you so you can share the impact of your gift with your fellow Soroptimists.

Have a wonderful day, and please reach out with any questions. Cheryl Crane, PhD Executive Director Peninsula College Foundation



MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

HUNTINGTON, Shelley



Shelley Huntington is our newest member and we're so happy to have her. She learned about us through the VA Resource Center in Port Angeles, as she's a 29-year veteran of the US Navy and now a Marriage and Family Therapist in Port Angeles, where she focuses on veteran trauma. In fact, Shelley just completed her oral defense for a doctorate in the philosophy of psychology, so she will be heading to San Diego in May to attend her graduation ceremony. Shelley is married and she and her spouse Jennifer have been in the area for 14 years. Shelley has two adult children and two granddaughters, ages 1 and 3. Her mother lives in Iowa so she visits there at least twice a year. She enjoys doing "grandma things" and umpiring for high school baseball and fastpitch. The best advice she's received or has given is "Never quit. Do the right thing. Do your best." Welcome Shelley!

MEMERSHIP UPDATE

Hello, from Membership,

Congratulations on an outstanding Gala Garden Show!!!!!

We have had an exceptional year, adding eight new members for a total of 46 members in our Sequim club. Our 2 newest members, **Shelley Huntington** and **Glen Varvil**, will be inducted on April 8th, and they look forward to meeting you there.

5th Tuesday Event in April: We will be hosting a Membership Recruitment Event on April 29th from 3-5 p.m. at Olympic Cellars. Bring a guest! GGS people interested in Soroptimist will be invited to bring a friend as well. Please keep an eye out for the official invite coming soon.

Dues: invoices will be coming out at the end of April, so keep an eye out in your inbox. **\$175** for regular members, **\$55** for Life Members

"Everything we do seeds the future. No action is an empty one." ~Joan Chittister



~Brandi Larson, Membership Committee 🤵



Sip With Soroptimist SORO

April 29th 3-5:00 at Olympic Cellars

PATHWAYS

Debbie Lines was welcomed to her first meeting with Pathways. Three other new members, Sandy Murray, Glen Varvil and Shelley Huntington, will be joining us soon.

Jeanne Martin and Sandy Lawrence were our guest speakers at the February meeting. Jeanne gave us information about the duties and responsibilities of the Finance Committee, a very important and vital part of the club. She explained the difference between committed funds and uncommitted funds and the entities that receive those funds each year.



Our treasurer, Sandy, covered the role of treasurer, and it's not just about keeping the books! She collects information from each committee to prepare a budget to be voted on by the club. Being treasurer is a two-year commitment, and the assistant treasurer hopefully steps into the role of treasurer at that point. Sandy's job also includes Region and International expenses and opportunities.

It's always a treat to have seasoned members answer a variety of questions that new members have, and for them to be able to get to know each other a little better.

Debbie and her husband, Chuck, were very involved in helping at the recent Gala Garden Show. They are in the process of renovating their home at 40 Plum Tree Lane in Sequim. It's a pleasure to welcome them to Sequim and especially Soroptimist.



~Jan Hartig, Pathways Committee



"The brave who focus on all things good and all things beautiful and all things true, even in the small, who give thanks for it and discover joy even in the here and now, they are the change agents who bring fullest Light to all the world." ~Ann Voskamp

HAPPY DOLLARS

March 11, 2025

Roxann Harr: is grateful for club collaboration and Kathy Purcell, the best partner ever, working on the Garden Show.

Jan Hartig: is thankful for time with her daughter and granddaughter.

Jeanne Martin: is thankful for the newsletter. Thankful for input and the passing of the spend down. **Natasha Merkuloff-Nichols**: is excited that our local Live Your Dream recipient is a Northwestern Region award winner. This is the second year in a row we've had a regional winner.

Shawn Dredla: is happy with how the garden show is coming together.

Linda Klinefelter: said the past month has been stressful and she appreciates our support.

"Learn to enjoy every minute of your life. Be happy now. Don't wait for something outside of yourself to make you happy in the future. Think how really precious is the time you have to spend, whether it's at work or with your family. Every minute should be enjoyed and savored." ~*Earl Nightingale*

FRIENDSHIP CONNECITON

We moved to Des Moines, WA, 13 years ago, after 34 years in Sequim. I still have great memories of our years living there! I loved being part of Soroptimist for most of our time there. During my involvement, the Gala Garden Show started as a small club project!

Obviously, the seed grew to a great size and became one of the highlights of every year!!! Thank you to all who I enjoyed serving with in Soroptimists!!!

~Loella Hanson



There are two things: to be and to do. Don't think too much about to do - to be is first. To be peace. To be joy. To be happiness. And then to do joy, to do happiness - on the basis of being. So first you have to focus on the practice of being. Being fresh. Being peaceful. Being attentive. Being generous. Being compassionate. This is the basic practice.

THICH NHAT HANH @thichnhathanhgems

"Love, friendship, networking—these are all critical connections and the foundation of a healthy, happy life." ~ Whitney Wolfe Herd

TEA WITH SHE SENIOR RESOURCE HEALTH FAIR

The Tea with She committee has been busy planning the upcoming **Tea with She—Senior Resource Health Fair**. The event will take place at the **Trinity United Methodist Church**, located at **100 North Blake Avenue in Sequim**, from 1pm - 3 pm on Wednesday, April 30th. We have an exciting line-up of speakers.

Mark Karjaleinen, firefighter and paramedic from Clallam County Fire District 3 will speak about the recently implemented Community Paramedicine Program, which effectively manages non-emergency calls. In addition, **Petra Reininger** will speak about the resources provided by the Olympic Area Office on Aging, and Sequim PD volunteer, **Linda Spreine** will tell attendees about the Project Lifesaver Program and volunteer opportunities available for seniors through Sequim PD.



There will also be a number of tables hosted by local vendors who help seniors. OMC will be there to do blood pressure checks and make mammography appointments. **Delaney Ronish** from **Clallam Transit** will provide transportation alternatives for seniors. Other tables will be hosted by physical therapist Barb Paschel, Shipley Center, Nourish Restaurant, and the **Medical Loan Closet**.

Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served. Mark your calendar for this wonderful, informational event!



~Christy Holy, Tea with SHE Committee



"The concept of total wellness recognizes that our every thought, word, and behavior affect our greater health and well-being. And we, in turn, are affected not only emotionally but also physically and spiritually." ~ Greg Anderson

BLAST FROM THE PAST



These pictures were taken at our (50/50) event at the Irrigation Festival on May 6, 2023. The pictures show some of the Soroptimist volunteers that worked at the booth during the event and then at the end of the day when members took the canopy down.

~Colleen Blazier





All Tucked In



Fun Event



Sing It Again, Sandy



Packing Up

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET EQUIPMENT REORGANIZED

Last month we welcomed Mark Karjalainen, CCFD 3 Community Paramedic, to the MLC Committee, and we have already seen the benefit to the community. Becky Archer sent the MLC team an email which read, in part: "I had a very elderly man call late on Friday afternoon requesting a wheelchair for his wife who had fractured her knee. He said he no longer had a car and was unable to drive to the Closet. I called Mark and left a message requesting that he pick up a wheelchair for the man. Mark doesn't work

weekends, but he let me know on Monday that he had received my message when he arrived at work this morning.

He contacted the elderly man and then picked up a wheelchair for the wife and delivered it around noon today! What a tremendous asset Mark, the Community Paramedic, is for us and for all of Sequim."

It is against MLC policy for MLC volunteers to go to a person's home to deliver or pick up equipment, but Mark, in his Community Paramedic role, can. It doesn't happen often that we have a client who has no way of picking up or returning equipment, but now, when that situation occurs, we have a very effective way to meet the need.

Also, we recently worked with Astrid Raffinpeyloz of Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County (VHOCC) to develop a coordinated flier. The flier communicates the partnership between the MLC and VHOCC and encourages clients to borrow equipment from the agency in their area.

March was one of our busiest months in recent years. We answered **196** calls, lent **123** items and had **146** items returned. We received **\$480** in donations from our generous community.



~Susan Coffee and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs



Do you need a temporary loan—at no cost—of Durable Medical Equipment such as wheelchairs, knee scooters, walkers, shower chairs, commodes, etc., and live in the Port Angeles or Sequim area?

Sequim Soroptimist

A Little Help Can Ma

Medical

If you live in Clallam County (east of Joyce):

Contact Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County
829 E. 8th St, Port Angeles
360-452-1511, ext. 3.

Pick up all equipment except hospital beds which require delivery and installation by volunteers)

Lending Closet hours are 9-4, Mon-Fri.



If you live within the Sequim School District: Contact Sequim Soroptimist Medical Loan Closet 360-504-0231

Leave a message with your name and number.

A MLC volunteer will return your call and make an
appointment to meet you at our Loan Closet.



"A healthy attitude is contagious but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier." ~ Tom Stoppard

FIFTH TUESDAY—SIP WITH SOROPTIMIST

This month we have a Fifth Tuesday, and we would like all members to join us at Sip With Soroptimist. This event is to invite you and a guest to Olympic Cellars on April 29th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm to enjoy a free glass of wine, coffee, tea, appetizers and have your guest get to know what we do at Soroptimist International of Sequim.

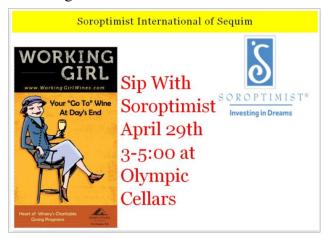
After an hour of mingling, President Linda will tell our story with her signature knowledge and passion. Each of the committees can spend a few minutes explaining what they do and then we will have door prizes to give out. Shawn and the membership committee will send invites to everyone who has shown an interest in SIS, but we hope all members will bring at least one guest to learn about us.

It will be the perfect venue to enjoy each other, meet new people and polish up that ten minute elevator pitch Linda is always encouraging us to use! Want to invite your guest by email, here is the link for them to RSVP https://pp.events/beMWjP6A.



~Roxann Harr, President-elect





"If you have the opportunity to do amazing things in your life, I strongly encourage you to invite someone to join you." ~Simon Sinek

SHREDDING EVENT

The Shredding Event scheduled for May 3, 2025, has been cancelled!!!

The committee met recently to discuss our options and decided that it's not a feasible project to do this year for several reasons:

The cost of the shredding truck is now \$1500.

Kitsap Bank has changed its policy and cannot give us a grant.

This event follows too closely to the Gala Garden Show.

May 3 is also the first day of the Irrigation Festival.

The Membership Committee has an event for new members on 4-29.

Most of all, we want to keep members involved in volunteering but not to the point of being burdened.

Thank you for all your support during the past few years on this project.



~Jan Hartig, Shredding Event



2025 GALA GARDEN SHOW



















More photos of the 2025 GGS: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u32g7FPDpvE

COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES AT THE GALA GARDEN SHOW Thanks to Cat Xander

https://sequimgardenshow.com/shoppers/shopper1.mp4



https://sequimgardenshow.com/shoppers/shopper2.mp4



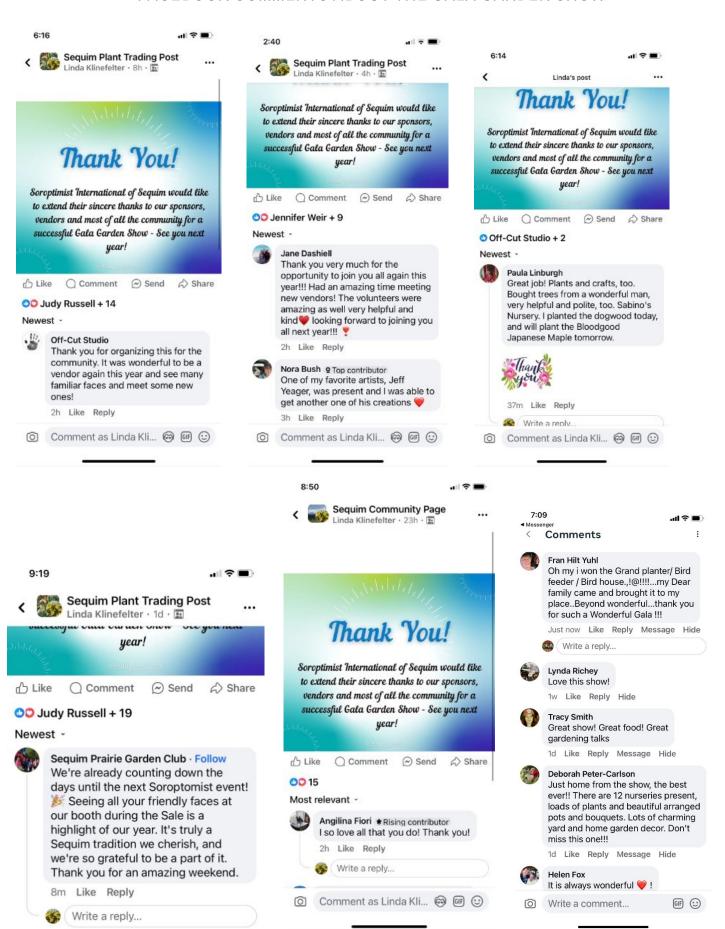
https://sequimgardenshow.com/shoppers/shopper3.mp4



https://sequimgardenshow.com/shoppers/shopper4.mp4



FACEBOOK COMMENTS ABOUT THE GALA GARDEN SHOW



AFTER GALA GARDEN SHOW POTLUCK CELEBRATION

Amanda Beitzel once again answered the call and filled a need for the club. We had a successful Gala Garden Show and wanted to celebrate. We needed a venue. Amanda jumped on it and secured the Gathering Place for our after GGS Potluck Celebration! Way to go, Amanda! We are grateful for your continued support of the club. You are ever a valued member.





Certificate off Appreciation Presented to Jess McNeil







More photos of the Celebration: https://www.flickr.com/photos/108582458@N03/albums/72177720324898859

NWR Conference Valley River Inn Eugene, OR BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Christy Holy Chris Snow Sun Mon Fifth Tuesday Business Meeting Program Meeting GGS Core Committee Mtg Tue Wed NWR Conference Valley River Inn Eugene, OR w 굴 BOARD MEETING NWR Conference Valley River Inn Eugene, OR ⇉ ≅ Ŧ. NWR Conference Valley River Inn Eugene, OR Sat

April 2025

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Pauline Geraci Jan Hartig Shirley Huntley Linda Klinefelter Jeanne Martin Kelli Ward Program Meeting Business Meeting BOARD MEETING VIP Luncheon—Irrigation Festival Parade ω

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Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

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Sat

In April by James Hearst

This I saw on an April day:
Warm rain spilt from a sun-lined cloud,
A sky-flung wave of gold at evening,
And a cock pheasant treading a dusty path
Shy and proud.

And this I found in an April field: A new white calf in the sun at noon, A flash of blue in a cool moss bank, And tips of tulips promising flowers To a blue-winged loon.

And this I tried to understand
As I scrubbed the rust from my brightening plow:
The movement of seed in furrowed earth,
And a blackbird whistling sweet and clear
From a green-sprayed bough.



Photo by Cindy Rhodes



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

In April by James Hearst The April by James Hearst In April by James Hearst In April by James Hearst of tulips promising flowers seed in furrowed earth. A This I saw on an April da Warm rain spilt from a seed in furrowed to the Asky-flung wave of go And a cock pheasant the Shy and proud.

And this I found in an Ap And this I found in an A new white calf in the s A flash of blue in a factor