

# 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 8

Soroptimist International of Sequim

**Celebrating 78 Years of Service** 

February 2025

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*Director: 1 year*Virginia Kostanich

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"Celebrate who you are in your deepest heart. Love yourself and the world will love you." ~*Amy Leigh Mercree* 

### President's Message

February is recognized as the month of love, largely due to Valentine's Day. Love is an emotion that has captivated human hearts and minds for centuries. It is a term frequently used in literature, art, music, and everyday conversation, yet its meaning varies as much as the individuals who experience it. The word "love" encompasses a wide range of feelings, relationships, and expressions, each with its own unique nuances and significance. Love can be romantic, familial, platonic, self-love, or universal, also known as agape love.

Understanding the different dimensions of love allows us to appreciate its complexity and beauty. Love is not a one-size-fits-all emotion but a multifaceted force that can inspire, heal, and transform. By recognizing and embracing the various forms of love, we can cultivate deeper connections with ourselves and others, creating a more loving and compassionate world.

This brings me to my connection with Soroptimist. I often express my passion for Soroptimist by stating, "I love Soroptimist and what we do." When I think of love, I associate it with our efforts to support women and girls in our community, across our nation, and internationally. I feel a sense of joy when I hear a member share their love for our mission and the reasons behind it. Their expressions reaffirm my love for the organization, for the individuals I serve, and for those who serve alongside me.

What do you love about Soroptimist? For many, it's more than just a term; it reflects a deep passion and commitment to making a difference through this wonderful organization. May we always continue to exercise that passion and love throughout the year in whatever project we tackle.

Happy Valentine's Day, and may you always be surrounded by love.

From my own life I can tell you, it's not what you get out of life. It's what you give to others in life which truly enriches your own life. Remember the importance of giving and receiving love. For with love and moral leadership, you will begin to change the world. ~Sargent Shriver



~President Linda

### Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

It's February, the month of love—with Valentine's Day right in the middle of it. Some people will be giving or receiving flower arrangements and/or heart-shaped boxes of chocolates. What is love and how do we recognize it?

When Rob and I were dating I was taking a night class on black and white photography. One evening when I returned home, I found one red rose at my door—no note, just the rose. Of course, I knew it was from Rob. I smiled. Another time when I went to visit him, he handed me a bag. I looked inside and there I found a package of emery boards. To most people that might seem like an odd gift, however, I actually needed them. I didn't recall mentioning that to him, yet somehow, he knew. In some ways the emery boards meant more to me than the rose. It showed he was paying attention and that he cared about what my needs were.

What is love? When we hear the word love there is a tendency to think first of romantic love—especially in February. But there are many forms of love and many ways of expressing it. How many ways are there to show love? More than the number of grains of sand on the beach. Love is kindness, compassion, caring, kinship, acceptance, listening, giving as well as receiving. We are born from love—it is our essence.

Some people are more traditional/comfortable and come right out and say the words "I love you." Others say it through their actions—like the gift of the emery boards. There is an old adage—actions speak louder than words. To me, our actions **are** our words.

I was reminded of this when Sarah Brooke from the high school spoke at our January program meeting. She mentioned the Girls of the Month commented that being so named was an honor. She also shared that previous scholarship recipients said that our reaching out and asking for an update meant a lot to them. Are these actions not a form a love?

Sometimes love is direct while other times it makes a circle, so it includes more people. One example is written in this month's Medical Loan Closet (MLC) article. A while ago the Lions Club gave us a vision machine. It is not the kind of thing that is in huge demand. In fact, it was in our MLC for quite some time. Somehow, we found out that a woman at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue who has poor eyesight could use the machine. It is now with her, and it has given her back some independence. In this we were part of the circle. Is this not the voice of love?

There are so many examples of the voice of love being spoken; we don't always hear the voice. We have innumerable opportunities to be part of the circle of love. I was thinking about the word love and the acronym that came to mind is Letting Our Voice Empower. Just as we recognize Valentine's Day—synonymous with love—is in the middle of February, let us remember that love is at the center of us—every month, every day, every minute. As we continue Sowing Seeds for the Future, let us continue to sow seeds of love.



~Kathy Purcell, Editor 🎇



"Live your truth. Express your love. Share your enthusiasm. Take action towards your dreams. Walk your talk. Dance and sing to your music. Embrace your blessings. Make today worth remembering." ~*Steve Maraboli* 

### **CALENDAR**

### **FEBRUARY 2025**

- 4 GGS Core Committee Meeting—1st Security
- 7 Board Meeting
- 11 Business Meeting
- 22 Area Meeting
- 25 Program Meeting

### **MARCH 2025**

- 4 GGS Core Committee Meeting—1st Security
- 7 Board Meeting
- 11 Business Meeting
- 15-16 Gala Garden Show
  - \*28 GGS Potluck Celebration\

### \*Evening Meeting



People don't always say: I love you.

Sometimes it sounds like:

Be safe.
Did you eat?
Call me when you get home.
I made you this.

"Every man feels instinctively that all the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action."

~Author Unknown

# Celebrate Life!

### **FEBRUARY 2025**

Becky Archer Sherry Lacey Patty Lebowitz

### **MARCH 2025**

Brandi Larson



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

### 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 on **February 11**<sup>th</sup>.



### **GETTING WITH THE PROGRAM**

Our February Program stars our very own Jane Manzer and Kelli Ward providing information on Women for Women International (WFWI). SI of Sequim has been supporting WFWI for a number of years through committed funds. We support two women a year to go through their Stand With Her program and Jane communicates encouragement to them on behalf of the club.

Here is the history Jane provided on WFWI:

Back in 2001, under a quadrennial project Soroptimist International once had, Soroptimist helped WFWI get off the ground and really expand to more war-torn countries. All clubs contributed to this for four years. As part of that emphasis, we had a speaker, a friend of mine, who with her daughters was a survivor of the war in Bosnia.



~Roxann Harr, President-Elect



"Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone; it has to be made, like bread, remade all the time, made new." ~*Ursula K. LeGuin* 

### SOROPTIMIST MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Olympic Peninsula Area Meeting Olympic Rain Forest Hosting February 22, 2025



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

### **OUR LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR THIS YEAR**

The Live Your Dream Award is one of the linchpins of Soroptimist, making the Soroptimist Vision tangible by providing the resources and opportunities for women to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

Recipients must be the primary financial support for their dependents, enrolled in school, and have a financial need. Our three winners are wonderful examples of women working to progress in their careers against significant odds.

### Jamie Jean Williams



Jamie Jean Williams is the recipient of a \$1000 Live Your Dream Award. She is a high school graduate and is supporting and home schooling three children while working as a caregiver to a special needs child. Her goal is certification in Early Childhood Education through Peninsula College this year. Our award funds came just in time for her as a car breakdown might have prevented her from taking a required test in Bremerton.

### **Jordon Calvery**



Jordon Calvery is also the recipient of a \$1000 Live Your Dream Award. She is a high school graduate single mom with an 8-year-old child. She is in the Nursing program at Peninsula College with a graduation target of June 2026. Jordon is passionate about nursing and plans to be an RN and to eventually become a Nurse Practitioner.

### Julia Hendricks



Julia Hendricks will receive a \$4000 Live Your Dream Award and her application will be submitted to the Region. Julia is an enrolled member of the Makah tribe. She is working 32 hours a week to support a spouse, two nieces and a great-nephew. Julia has an AA degree and is seeking professional certification training from the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology as a Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA). She is currently employed in the field of Ophthalmology, and the certification will give her the opportunity to advance to new positions, receive higher wages and be eligible for other specialties within the field like pediatrics and volunteer clinics.

"Love is a force more formidable than any other. It is invisible—it cannot be seen or measured, yet it is powerful enough to transform you in a moment, and offer you more joy than any material possession could." ~*Barbara de Angelis* 

### **UPDATES FROM A PAST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

Dear Soroptimist International of Sequim Members,

I was a recipient of a scholarship in the fall of this year, and I wanted to follow-up with you all and let you know how my first semester went.

I'm attending Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, British Columbia where I'm earning my MBA and playing on the women's soccer team. My team did excellently this year becoming PacWest Champions and placing 4<sup>th</sup> in Nationals out of all of Canada. I played left defense most of the season and was awarded a Conference Allstar.

As for school I just finished my first semester and although it's much harder than my bachelor's degree, I am still getting good grades and enjoying it.

I wanted to say thank you again for the generous scholarship as it has helped my educational journey significantly.

Sincerely, Hannah Wagner



**PacWest Athletic Conference Allstar** 

"I think if something's good and you believe in it, and you care about it, and you give it love and nurture it, it's going to happen." ~*Jerry Weintraub* 

### MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER (A RETURNEE)

### **Kecia Gilliam**



Kecia belonged to our club from 12/2014 through 6/2017 and is now in a position to rejoin, which she did in December. We will be inducting her as soon as possible. She is passionate about advocating for equal rights for women and girls, so we're fortunate to have her return to Soroptimist. Kecia has lived in the Sequim area for more than 10 years and is currently employed by Citizen Air. She has a varied work history including entrepreneur, bookkeeper, payroll specialist, HR, tech support and operations manager. She and husband Glenn have two teenage daughters and two dogs. Kecia says she is an avid reader, loves the ocean and water, loves hiking and being surrounded by nature, and gets a lot of satisfaction and joy in helping others. One unique talent Kecia has is she's a classically trained ballerina!! The best advice she's received is "Be as healthy as you are able to be. Good health opens up so many other opportunities."

"Love one another and help others to rise to the higher levels, simply by pouring out love.

Love is infectious and the greatest healing energy." ~Sai Baba

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Hello All,

Greetings from Membership. The Gala Garden Show is right around the corner; what a great time to invite potential new members to see up close and personal the impact we make on local business and the community at large.

We are starting off the new year strong; with the number of members and committees we have, we are considering a membership recruiting event on the 5th Tuesday in April. This is an opportunity to reconnect after the Gala Garden Show, share our experiences, and answer any lingering questions our potential members may have before committing to Soroptimist; more information will be coming soon.



~Brandi Larson, Membership Committee

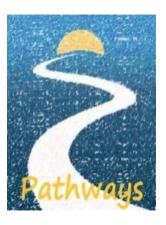


"Love springs from the inside. It is the immortal surge of passion, excitement, energy, power, strength, prosperity, recognition, respect, desire, determination, enthusiasm, confidence, courage, and vitality, that nourishes, extends and protects. It possesses an external objective—life." ~Ogwo David Emenike

### **PATHWAYS UPDATE**

Pathways discussion at the meeting on January 15, 2025, at Hurricane Coffee was led by Linda Klinefelter and Roxann Harr. They explained the duties, terms and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, and the mechanics of electing the officers and coming up with a slate to be voted on.

They also gave us pertinent information about advertising the project the Pathways group selected this year. Kelli checked out Tim's Place to get all the particulars, made flyers to be distributed and posters to put on the boxes for collecting art supplies and packaged snacks. She placed those boxes at Mail Boxes Too, Edward Jones on Bell Street (Cheryl's office) Thomas Building Center, Kitsap Bank by Walmart, Gabby's Java and Trinity United Methodist Church on January 21<sup>st</sup> until February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



A big "thank you" goes out to all the members who brought supplies to the January meeting. It was a big boost to get the project going. Deb Alwine and Jan Hartig did the first round of picking up the supplies and were a little disappointed when they found nothing at Kitsap Bank or Gabby's Java, but it was just the first week. Thomas Building Center and Mail Boxes Too brightened our spirits with nearly full boxes. Cheryl Easterling and Kelli Ward will also do pick-ups in the coming weeks.



~Jan Hartig, Pathways Committee



"Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place." ~ Zora Neale Hurston

### MEMBER—COOL STUFF

# SIS Member Pauline Geraci won gold at Pickleball National Championships in November 2024

Pauline qualified for singles in the tournament in December 2023, but when Consuelo Felix's partner for doubles couldn't attend, tournament staff allowed Pauline to play with her. They won gold, even though they had never played together. That situation is called a "blind date." It worked out perfectly for both of them!

She only started playing pickleball in August 2022 and usually plays daily for three-four hours. Besides doing that, Pauline still does some personal training, even in care facilities.

"What is the recipe for successful achievement?
To my mind there are just four essential ingredients:
Choose a career you love, give it the best there is in you, seize your opportunities, and be a member of the team."

~Benjamin F. Fairless



### YALE LIBRARY MAKES PAT WILLIS A PRIZE

Beginning in 2025, Yale Library will award a new literary prize, the **Patricia Cannon Willis Prize for American Poetry**. The Willis Prize will be awarded every other year to a poet who has published a book in the prior two years that, in the opinion of the judging committee, "represents the highest achievement in the field of American poetry." The recipient will receive \$25,000.

SIS member Patricia Willis, for whom the prize is named, is a literary historian and scholar particularly noted for her groundbreaking research on Marianne Moore and other female poets of the American Modernist movement. She served as curator of the Yale Collection of American Literature from 1987 until her retirement in 2008 and preceded Nancy Kuhl as director of the Bollingen Prize program.

For more info visit: https://library.yale.edu/news/yale-library-announces-new-literary-prize-american-poetry

"Each person has an ideal, a hope, a dream which represents the soul. We must give to it the warmth of love, the light of understanding and the essence of encouragement." ~*Colby Dorr Dam* 

### **HAPPY DOLLARS**

### **January 14, 2025**

**Deb Alwine**—is happy to be going to Montana to help a friend.

**Sandy Lawrence**—is happy to have spent time with granddaughters of various ages celebrating birthdays.

**Jeanne Martin**—is happy and celebrated 48th wedding anniversary.

**Kelli Ward**—is happy to be celebrating her daughter's 17th birthday.

Jan Hartig—is happy and celebrating feeling "like a real person again" after a long illness.

**Sandy Lawrence**—is excited about the spaghetti dinner fundraiser at the Masonic temple to benefit the llama & alpaca rescue organization.

**Kris Osborn**—is happy to be celebrating her 6th wedding anniversary.

**Linda Klinefelter**—is happy to be going away to celebrate her 32nd wedding anniversary.

### **January 28, 2025**

**Roxann Harr**—is happy for the technical support.

**Jeanne Martin**—is happy to have had Shelley Huntington, Women's Veteran Courage Group, veteran support for sexual violence, at our meeting.

**Jane Manzer**—is happy her oldest son sold his engineering company. He received a great education in all the Sequim schools, particularly in math.

**Shawn Dredla**—was happy about the great program.

**Becky Archer**—is thankful for the encouraging messages from Kathy Purcell has been sending her.

**Cat Xander**—is thankful for Glen Varvil who is setting up a scholarship fund in honor of his mother.

**Linda Klinefelter**—is thankful for Sarah Brooke from the high school and her presentation.

"A baby is born with a need to be loved—and never outgrows it." ~ Frank A. Clark

# Announcement: Second Tea with SHE Event Mark Your Calendars!

The Tea with SHE committee is thrilled to announce that, following the rousing success of our November event, we are going for round two!

We have set the date for the second Tea with SHE event for **April 30, 2025**. This promises to be another fantastic opportunity for our older community members to come together and have valuable information available for them.

As we finalize the theme and secure the participation of professionals from our community, further details will be provided. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more exciting updates.

Warm regards, The Tea with SHE Committee



### REMEMBERING BETTY OSBORN

Betty Osborn was a member of our club far enough back to have received the Life Member designation. She left the club in 2020, but sent her daughter Debbie Cottrell, to fill that void. Sadly, Betty passed away last month, in late December. Some members—past and present—knew Betty only through their association with her in Soroptimist. Some members—past and present—knew Betty both through our club and through her profession as a financial advisor. We invite members—past and present—to share their memories of Betty. We will have a special column for this in the January, February, and March newsletters. Sharing memories helps us to learn more about Betty, allows us to process our sadness and keeps her alive in our hearts and minds. ~kp

So many memories come to mind when I think about Betty. Her graciousness and quiet demeanor made her contributions almost transparent. She would quietly provide meaningful recommendations while I was still searching for the right words. Betty could share her thoughts, words, and deeds with quiet dignity. Her 38 years with Soroptimist was a milestone and what a blessing to have Debbie Cottrell (her daughter) become a member. I reviewed years of pictures, and she was present and participated in so many of our projects and programs. As you can see, her smile was genuine and contagious. What an incredible woman. With Debbie's help in June, she attended the Installation of Officers for 2024-2025. It was wonderfully heartwarming to see so many members surround her with respect and admiration. That twinkle in her eye was hopefully a recognition that we valued her as a GGG.... A Great Golden Girl.

~Colleen Blazier

My first introduction to Betty was when I took on the role of chairing the committee for the Violet Richardson Award. She kindly invited me to her home and passionately shared the reasons behind her previous efforts to identify the right young girl for the award. Her enthusiasm and commitment were apparent throughout our conversation, leaving a lasting impression on me.

Warm Memories, Linda Klinefelter

When I joined Soroptimist, Betty reached out to me as a new member and one new to Sequim. She provided wonderful conversations about SIS and quietly encouraged participation. She helped me realize that SIS was the right choice in my new home 3,000 miles from my old one

~Pat Willis

Just read your tribute to Betty in the Scoop... She always reminded me of the saying "Still waters run deep." She was quiet, but so nice and caring!

~Jan Chapman (Former Member)

I have to admit that I didn't read January's newsletter, so missed the news about Betty's death. Sweet and dignified woman.

~Janet Popelka (Former Member)

### MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET EQUIPMENT REORGANIZED

Susan Coffee, Fred Manzer and Chris Snow spent time organizing, rearranging, and disposing of 'junk' this month. The amount of equipment had gotten out of hand and when that happens, it isn't fun to work there and it isn't safe. We donated five wheelchairs to the effort that Rosalie DiMaggio is managing (a container full of medical equipment for a Guatemala relief organization).





We also packed the Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County (VHOCC) van with items VHOCC can use, and for the Gateway Medical Alliance overseas program. Two trips to the Blue Mountain disposal site were also made by Rich Snow.

Additional Loan Closet improvements will be made next month by the awesome Jeff and Shawn Dredla team!

A vision machine that the Lions donated to us a while ago found a home with Catherine at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She is now able to read and also use the machine to write checks and fill out forms. It has given her back a piece of lost independence. She says that the machine has changed her life!

Our call volume was **206** calls in January. We lent **127** items and had **95** items returned. We received **\$715** in donations from our generous community.

We invite you to consider becoming a MLC volunteer. It is an extremely rewarding experience! We provide training and continued support as you impact the quality of life of our community members.



~Susan Coffee and Chris Snow, MLC Co-chairs





### PRESENTING COMMITTED FUNDS



SI of Sequim President Linda Klinefelter (left center) was pleased to present a \$2,000 check to Rose Gibb, RN (right center), Clinic Director of the Sequim Free Clinic.

Also pictured is Kathy Gunn, ARNP, (right) clinic nurse, and Hazel Blake (left), volunteer.

"Love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is done well." ~*Vincent van Gogh* 

### NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Oh goodness it appears we are going to have a bit of cold weather this February. Just in time to hold a fireside Zoom call with your committees to discuss the 2025-2026 budget. How much money will you need? How much do you need to spend to present the program or event? Put those budget items together so that the finance committee can consider them, particularly as they bounce around ideas for a one-time spend down of our investments.

If your committee needs any accounting information for planning, let me know and I'll run some reports for you. The finance committee would like your input as soon as possible, but prior to February 28. The membership will be presented with a first draft of the budget in April.



~Sandy Lawrence, Treasurer



### **GALA GARDEN SHOW UPDATE**

- This year we will have a **new street banner**, with the important information bigger on the sign.
- We will have **feathered vertical flags** for Vendors, Parking and Exit. These will be helpful in directing vendors and visitors. They will be yellow with black bold lettering.
- **Rainshadow Café** will be providing food see the menu to the botom.
- Those who ordered **Flower Power t-shirts** can get them at the business meeting on February 11.
- Yard signs and car magnets will be available at the February meeting also.
- Quarter page double sided **flyers** are printed; Sofie's Florist will be putting flyers in with all their flower deliveries. This is a great way to promote the show. The remaining flyers will go to the Distribution Team.
- We will have two sizes of **poster** again this year. They are in the process of being designed.
- **Pre-sale tickets** will be printed soon. At \$5 each they make a great gift of appreciation for a neighbor, friend, co-worker, hair dresser, your postal carrier, etc.
- A reminder: All members are part of the Garden Show. Your participation is important to our success.





~Roxann Harr and Kathy Purcell, GGS Co-chairs

### **RAINSHADOW CAFÉ MENU**

### Saturday

Tomato Bisque with Pesto 8oz
Bagel and Cream Cheese
Focaccia Bread
(spinach, cheese, tomato,)
Chicken Pesto Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette
Garden Salad
(Greens, tomato, cucumber, balsamic dressing, nuts and seeds)
Chocolate chip cookies, Gluten free cookie
Carrot Cake
Devil's Food Chocolate Cake

### Sunday

Chicken Poblano soup
Focaccia Bread
(Spinach, cheese, tomato,)
Chicken Pesto Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette
Garden Salad
(Greens, tomato, cucumber, balsamic dressing, nuts and seeds)
Chocolate chip cookies, Gluten free cookie (GF)
Carrot Cake
Devil's Food Chocolate Cake

"A beautiful garden is a work of heart." ~ Author Unknown

### FUTURE GGS MEETING DATES: March 4<sup>th</sup>

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.

### **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

Dear Sequim Soroptimists,

Your generous donation of \$600 to Tim's Place is very appreciated. It will be used to fund programs that enrich our friends experiencing memory loss.

Thank you for all the work you do in our community.
Your Friends at Tim's Place



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your investment in the all-inclusive playground in Sequim, it is exciting to see Phase 1 completed! We look forward to adding a pavilion and more equipment in 2025. Here's to a great new year!

Sincerely, Olympic View Church



Wishing you lots of happiness, laughter and fun at Christmas.

Thank you for providing the medical closet to the community I appreciate the service

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 all of your support, partnership and dedication to our mission!

The following quote is from one of the families that we serve:

"I fully, 100% support the program and recommend it to my pregnant friends when they say they worry about the same thing that First Step helped me with. To all of First Step, I and my little family would like to say, Thank You for everything and you are amazing."

Thank you for your kindness, Elisia Anderson, Executive Director



"It took us so long to realize that a purpose of human life, no matter who is controlling it, is to love whoever is around to be loved."

~Kurt Vonnegut



# Monation Drive

Tim's Place is a local, non-profit activity program for people living with memory loss due to Alzheimer's and/or Dementia related diseases.

Seeking new or gently used art supplies and individually packaged snacks



# Collection Locations

- . Mail Boxes Too
- Edward Jones (Bell St. location)
- Thomas Building Center
- . Kitsap Bank
- . Gabby's Java
- . Trinity United Methodist Church





January 20 through February 28, 2025

Sponsored by

### 9 Distribution of February Soropti-Scoop BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Becky Archer Sherry Lacey Patty Lebowdiz Sun 24 17 6 Mon 25 Program Meeting 8 4 GGS Core Committee Mtg 11 Business Meeting Tue 5 12 26 19 Wed ₽ 27 20 굺 28 21 4 BOARD MEETING Ξ. 22 Area Meeting Olympic Rain Forest Host œ 5 Deadline for articles for Soropti-Scoop Sat

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### 30 16 Gala Garden Show BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH Brandi Larson 23 Sun $\omega$ 24 6 17 Mon No Meeting 4 GGS Core Committee Mtg <del>1</del>8 11 Business Meeting Tue 26 19 12 Wed 27 20 ₽ 6 굺 28 21 4 7 BOARD MEETING Ξ. 29 GGS Potluck Celebration 22 15 Gala Garden Show Sat

# March 2025

### **Free Hugs**

by: Brittni Thomas

It's the touch that gives you comfort, It's the touch that makes you feel, It's something that no one else can ever steal. It's the sweetest human contact for the body and the mind, It's the connection where two bodies link and bind.

It's what we search for when we feel all alone,
It can be so meaningful, the emotion is deep to the bone.
It's what makes us realize that someone else is there,
It's the touch that says, "Just know I'll always care."
It can say hello, it can say goodbye,
It can leap out when you're happy, or make you want to cry.
It can say "I love you" or "I'm really glad we're friends,"
It can be the last spark in a story that ends.

All you need is another soul to make you feel this snug, It's the connection in our life... Everyone needs a hug.





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