



BEST FOR WOMEN AWARDS RECEPTION

Press Packet and Invitation

Presented by:

Soroptimist International of Southwest Washington

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Vancouver, WA 98666

www.sisouthwestwashington.org



ABOUT SOROPTIMIST

- ◉ **Soroptimist** is an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Almost 95,000 Soroptimists in about 125 countries and territories contribute time and financial support to community-based and international projects that benefit women and girls. The name, Soroptimist, means “best for women,” and that’s what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are women at their best, working to help other women to be their best.
- ◉ **SI Southwest Washington** chartered January 1996. Our club members live in the greater Vancouver area including Ridgefield, Yacolt and even Kalama, WA. We are one of three clubs in Clark County – our main distinction is that we have just one formal meeting each month. We spend most of our time together working on projects and hosting fundraising events so we can put our money and efforts back into the communities we serve!



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

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Soroptimist International
of Southwest Washington

Best for Women

eliminating racism
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clark county

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BEST FOR WOMEN AWARDS

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Time: 6 to 8p.m

Cost: Free to the Public

Venue: YWCA Clark County
3609 Main Street, Vancouver, WA 98663

An International Women's Day Event
March 8, 2011



RUBY AWARD HONOREE 2011 *ALEXIS DEL CID*

Formerly the Soroptimist Making a Difference for Women Award, the Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women recognizes and honors the first federation president, Ruby Lee Minar.

A ruby is also a deep red gemstone associated with wisdom, importance, vitality, strength, vivacity, power and love: all words embodying the strong and compassionate women who are our award recipients.

The Soroptimist Ruby Award honors women who have worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work.



The Soroptimist Ruby Award:
For Women Helping Women

LOCAL REPORTER TO BE HONORED FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS!

Vancouver, WA - The **Soroptimist Ruby Award** will be given to **Alexis Del Cid**, reporter and co-anchor at CBS' affiliate Koin Local 6 by Soroptimist International of Southwest Washington on March 8, 2011 during the Women's International Day Award Reception sponsored by Soroptimist International Southwest Washington and the YWCA Clark County.

An award-winning reporter, Del Cid has been a journalist for over a decade. Over the years Alexis has done numerous reports exposing the growing problem of sex trafficking and most recently exposed a man who was making a living off of trafficking victim's stories; the exclusive story that exposed the man resulted in an FBI Investigation. This was just one of many examples Alexis continues to do to have a voice for women and girls.

Alexis continues to support efforts made by Soroptimist through her volunteer efforts of emceeing events, dishing up Strawberry Shortcake on Mother's Day for domestic violence shelters in the greater Portland area, and her tireless efforts of having a voice on the air for the voiceless.

Past Ruby Award recipients have included: **Jane Velez-Mitchell**, host of "Issues" on HLN; domestic violence expert and advocate **Elaine Weiss**; former U.S. Congresswomen **Patsy Mink** and **Patricia Schroeder**; novelist and former district attorney **Linda Fairstein**; **Princess Diana**; former child actor and U.S. Ambassador **Shirley Temple Black**; former Philippines President **Corazon Aquino**; and marine biologist **Dr. Sylvia Earle**.



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VIOLET RICHARDSON AWARD HONOREE 2011 *CLARISA BELTRAN*

The Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award is a recognition program for young women ages 14-17 engaged in volunteer action within their communities or schools. The award is given to young women whose activities make the community and world a better place.

LOCAL TEEN TO BE HONORED FOR MAKING CLARK COUNTY THE BEST FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS!

Vancouver, WA -Soroptimist is concerned with the special challenges facing today's girls and young women. The organization launched the Violet Richardson Award program in 2000 as a way to recognize girls for their volunteer service to their communities. The program honors young women between the ages of 14 and 17 whose volunteer efforts include: helping other disadvantaged girls; fighting drugs, crime and violence; cleaning up the environment; and working to end discrimination and poverty.

Clarisa Beltran is 17-years old and continues to give back to her community through many organizations including March of dimes, Children's Miracle Network, and UNICEF. Its Key Club International Clarisa says has been her life the past year. "I live and breathe for volunteering, community service, and helping others. While I'm a very dedicated Key Club member, my position as Lieutenant Governor for Division 45 goes beyond in service and I don't gain school credit for my commitment since Key Club hours are separate. I'm a Lieutenant Governor in the Pacific Northwest District of Key Club International and the goal of this student-led organization is to build ones' home, school, and community while especially serving children through Key Club International's Partnerships," says Clarisa.

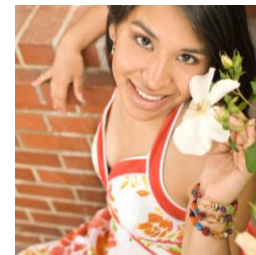
Through her continued communication methods including: monthly newsletters, weekly updates, divisional club visits, and monthly divisional council meetings, Clarisa continues to spread awareness of organizations and projects ahead of time resulting in great fundraising income and public participation.

"While the end of my term is near, I'm still motivated on accomplishing much more, especially after experiencing success. I am currently working on a district project benefiting SIGN: the Surgical Implant Generation Network. The mission is to raise \$25,000 to open a clinic in Tanzania, Africa with equipment and trained surgeons that will treat patients with trauma caused by severe fractures. Every division in the district needs to raise \$750 by March so this is my final goal before my term is over," says Beltran.

Beltran's motivation in addition to keeping her GPA above the norm, Soroptimist will honor Clarisa with their 2011 Violet Richardson Award on March 8th at the YWCA Clark County.



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SOROPTIMIST WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY AWARD HONOREE 2011 *SAVENIA K. FALQUIST*

The Women's Opportunity Awards program was established in 1972 to assist women with primary financial responsibility for their families to obtain the skills-training and education necessary to improve their employment status and standard of living for themselves and their family.

During the 2009-2010 club year, nearly US \$1.5 million in club, region, and federation funds were awarded to more than 1,000 women in SIA's 19 member countries and territories.

The women receiving these financial awards may use them for any costs associated with their educational efforts, including tuition, books, child care, and transportation.

SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCATE, CAREGIVER, AND FOSTER MOTHER TO BE HONORED BY SOROPTIMIST OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON!

Vancouver, WA -Savenia Falquist is a sexual assault advocate, a foster mother, and a caregiver to her 58-yearold mother. Despite the ongoing setbacks with the economy and the trials and tribulations that come with hardships, Savenia continues to not let obstacles stand in her way.

According to Kate Pitchlynn, a former colleague of Falquist “despite devastating personal and professional losses over the past 24-months including unemployment and the loss of beloved nephew, I have never seen Savenia waver in her desire to bring hope, healing, and justice to those in her community.”

Savenia currently works for the Cowlitz Tribe as an Outreach Coordinator for the Pathways to Healing Program. Her professional and personal passion has been working to end violence against women, children and men for the past 15 years. She has been awarded the University of Oregon Community Award, OJJDA Oregon Juvenile Justice Professional Award and the 2007 FBI Director’s Award. Savenia is currently pursuing a degree in Anthropology with a focus on Cultural studies.

Soroptimist of Southwest Washington will be honoring Savenia with their 2011 Women’s Opportunity Award on March 8th.



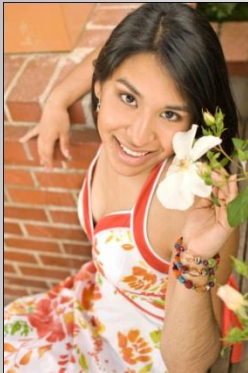
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Ruby Award Honoree

Alexis Del Cid, KOIN Local6



Violet Richardson Award Honoree

Clarisa Mondragon Beltran



Women's Opportunity Award Honoree

Savenia K. Falquist

Soroptimist International Southwest Washington Invite You To Attend Our

BEST FOR WOMEN AWARDS RECEPTION *Tuesday, March 8, 2011 ~ 6-8p.m.*

YWCA Clark County
3609 Main Street
Vancouver, WA 98687



The Best for Women Awards celebrate honorees who are improving the lives of women and girls in our locally community. This year we celebrate these inspiring women on International Women's Day to remember how far women have come and to continue to help pave the way in making sure the future is bright, equal, safe and rewarding to all women and girls locally and throughout the world!

There is no charge for the event,
but reservations are required please RSVP by March 5 to
Michelle Bart at helpingheroes@earthlink.net or (626) 644-3472

Sponsored by:



Soroptimist International
of Southwest Washington

Best for Women



MEDIA CONTACT

○ For inquiries and interviews

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International Women's Day 2011



BEST *for Women*

*an award-winning publication
of Soroptimist International
of the Americas*



IWD events around the world

