



**THE NOKOMIS CLUB of REDMOND, WASHINGTON:
A CENTURY of COMMUNITY SERVICE 1909-2009**

by Alexa Munoz



THE NOKOMIS CLUB

OF

REDMOND, WASHINGTON:

A CENTURY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

1909-2009

COMPILED AND WRITTEN

BY

ALEXA MUNOZ

2011



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PREFACE

Founded early in the 20th Century, the Nokomis Club was characteristic of the volunteer organizations of the day whose membership was comprised of volunteers from all social and economic levels. As members became officers in the organization, they became trained in leadership roles and learned to create agendas, run meetings, record minutes, maintain financial records, participate in group discussions, and vote to resolve association issues. Practice in reaching decisions as outlined in the organization's constitution, the use of parliamentary procedure, and obedience to rules provided further experience in the democratic process and reinforced the values of good citizenship.^o

Just after mid-century, the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations and clubs was increased by educated mid-level managers who had experienced lay-offs in industry, and found employment in nonprofit organizations. These professional managers applied business methods used in industry, and utilized tools such as strategic planning, program audits, advanced financial audits, and sophisticated development methods. With these professional management methods, nonprofits became so vigorous that business hired trained nonprofit managers to organize volunteer opportunities for their employees. Employees were retained on the job longer hours while waiting to fulfill their scheduled volunteer commitments on behalf of their employer's philanthropic causes.

With shrinking volunteer commitments and improvements in the use of business strategies which raised the standards of organization and performance for all associations, participation in volunteer association activity by the turn of the 21st Century declined to well educated elites who pursue specific issues with the use of computer technology that reach and mobilize citizens on an impersonal basis.^o Resulting is an exclusivity that has not only reduced opportunity for participation but also decreased the representation of a broad spectrum of values and interests vital for activities responsive to mutual organizational interests.

On the other hand, inclusiveness of a broad spectrum of association members that promotes wide spread participation in the full process of decision-making often stimulates innovative outcomes and produces solutions accepted as relevant across association boundaries. The maintenance and promotion of tolerance and diversity, cross-class fellowship, and participation and representation in the democratic process to provide the foundation for relevant widely based participatory decisions remain the challenge of volunteer associations into the 21st Century.

AKJM

^o Skocpol, Theda, "The Narrowing of Civic Life," *The American Prospect*. prospect.org: June 2004.

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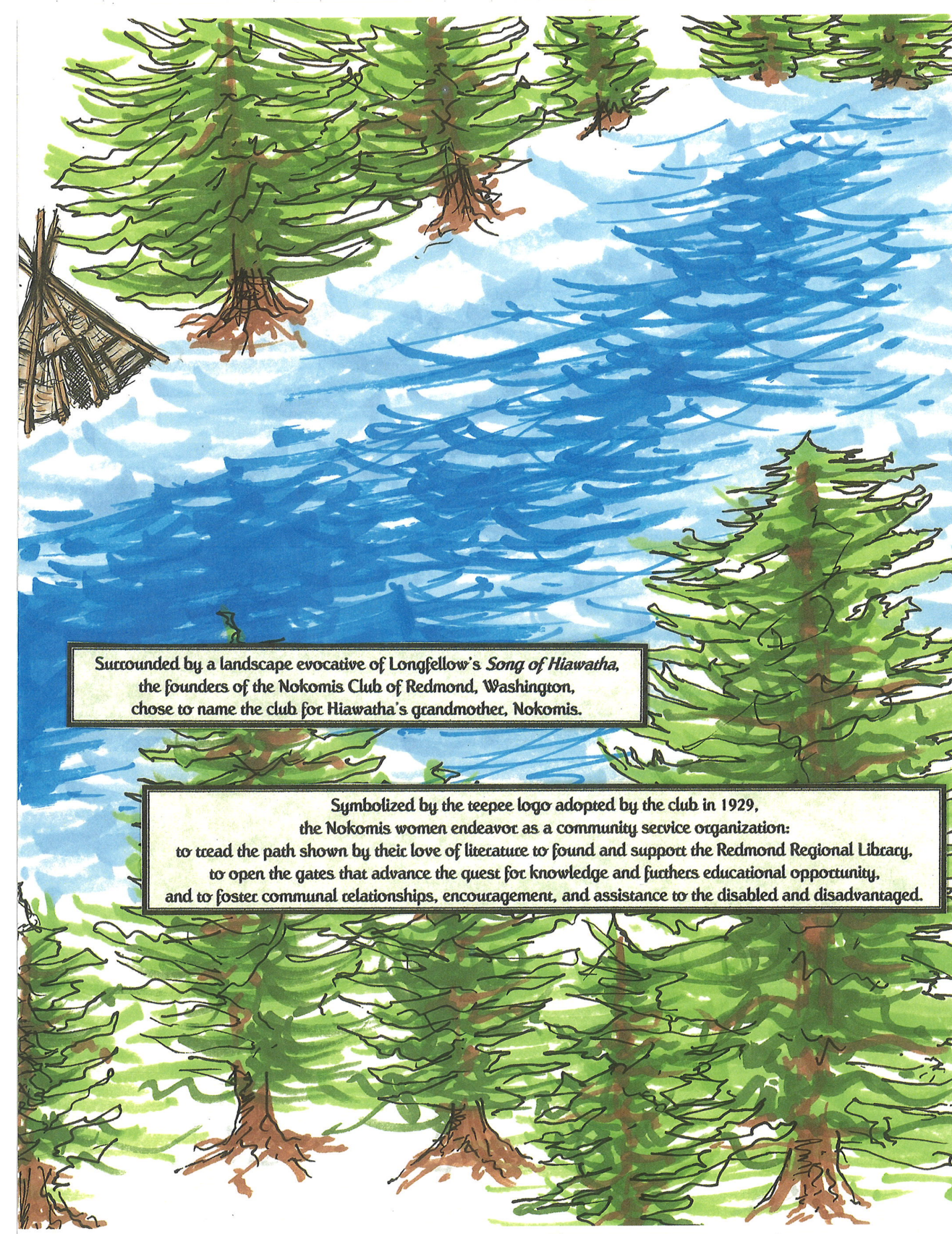


FOREWORD

By the shores of Gitche Gumee
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
Stood the wigwam, of Nokomis,
Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis.
Dark behind it rose the forest,
Rose the black and gloomy pine-trees,
Rose the firs with cones upon them;
Bright before it beat the water,
Beat the clear and sunny water,
Beat the shining Big-Sea-Water.

—*The Song of Hiawatha*
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
1855

Our Mission is to follow
the inspiration of Nokomis—
the wise Grandmother—
who raised Hiawatha and was a woman of
vision, kindness, and strength.
To support the promotion of
knowledge and education.
To assist in
educational opportunities
For young people



Surrounded by a landscape evocative of Longfellow's *Song of Hiawatha*, the founders of the Nokomis Club of Redmond, Washington, chose to name the club for Hiawatha's grandmother, Nokomis.

Symbolized by the teepee logo adopted by the club in 1929, the Nokomis women endeavor as a community service organization: to tread the path shown by their love of literature to found and support the Redmond Regional Library, to open the gates that advance the quest for knowledge and furthers educational opportunity, and to foster communal relationships, encouragement, and assistance to the disabled and disadvantaged.

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Thank you to Nokomis Club member, Doris Townsend, and her daughter, Cheryl Lewis, for their editing and proofreading capabilities. And—thank you to all of the current Nokomis Club members for your interest and support.

AKJM

Cover: Beckoning is the comfort and warmth of home symbolized by the teepee where sustenance is provided not only to the body but to the spirit portrayed by the Goddess of Knowledge on the left and the Goddess of Wisdom on the right. The Nokomis Club colors of purple and gold were adopted in 1954-55.