



# Plan Ahead

a monthly newsletter  
Soroptimist International Palm Desert

## March 2024

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Soroptimist is a Soroptimist is a global organization of women who volunteer their time, talent and resources to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to their economic and social empowerment.



Through the efforts of our members, clubs, supporters and donors, we're making it possible for women and girls around the world to succeed and live their dreams.



## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL of PALM DESERT a legacy of 60 years

In the heart of Palm Desert, for the past six decades, Soroptimist International has been more than a club; it has been a vibrant tapestry woven with the threads of dedication, compassion, and the indomitable spirit of its members.

On Friday March 8, 2024, we commemorated International Women's Day by celebrating our 60 years of service in the Coachella Valley and by awarding five recipients with this year's Live Your Dream Awards. *(continued on the next page)*





**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL of PALM DESERT**  
**a legacy of 60 years**  
(continued)

**The early years: nurturing growth**

From its humble beginnings to the present, our Soroptimist journey has been one of resilience and community impact. Through the years, we have weathered challenges, celebrated our triumphs, always guided by every member who became part of our Soroptimist family.

**Faces of dedication: honoring past and present members**

As we reflect on these six decades, we pay homage to every member, past and present, whose tireless efforts have defined the essence of Soroptimist International of Palm Desert. From the founding pioneers to the current stewards, each one has left their indelible mark on our shared history.

**In Memoriam: remembering those we've lost**

We solemnly remember those who've sailed onto calmer seas, their contributions, forever etched in the chapters of our story. Their legacy lives on in the seeds planted, and positive change they instigated.

**Guiding our path**

Embedded in our mission are the principles of the Soroptimist pledge:

"I Pledge of Allegiance to Soroptimist into the ideals, for which it stands, the sincerity of friendship, the joy of achievement, the dignity of service, the integrity of profession, the love of country."

These guiding sentiments have been the compass steering our ship through sixty years of impact and will illuminate our path in the years to come.

**Looking ahead: an optimistic horizon**

Now, as we stand at the threshold of a new era, we look forward with optimism. Our past fuels our determination to continue fostering empowerment and creative positive change in our community. Soroptimist International of Palm Desert is not just an organization; it's a legacy passed down through sixty years, and it's our duty to carry that torch forward.

**Inspiring future leaders: a call to join**

To the current members, your dedication and hard work have sustained us. To the future members, yet to join our ranks, the legacy awaits your imprint. As we celebrate our Diamond Jubilee, let's pledge to continue making a difference, leaving an impact that resonates for another sixty years and beyond.

Here's to Soroptimist International of Palm Desert – 60 years strong, a beacon of hope, empowerment, and of positive change.

**May our collective journey inspire many more to join us on this remarkable voyage.**



## **President's Message**

We had a great triple play this past month! We celebrated the 60th anniversary of Soroptimist International of Palm Desert, the Live Your Dream Awards and all on March 8th, International Women's Day.

Our event was a huge success due to the supporters of SIPD making it possible for us to award \$10,500 to this year's five deserving, hard working single mothers who are striving to make a difference for their young families. See the article (on the next page) by Carole Stephen-Smith that was published in The Desert Sun.



Thanks to all our members who helped pull this together; especially to Dr. Senorina Salvidar for her tireless work during half the year reaching out to applicants and through the final review process. Her dedication and passion for these students was evident in her speech. Also, thanks to our treasurer, Becky who kept a close watch on our progress; and, to Dr. Christine Duranceau and to Monica Aquilar for helping us acquire and set up such a lovely location.

We were honored to have as guest Emcee for the evening, Veronica Chavez from the City of Palm Desert. She helped carry us from moment to moment with grace and dignity. It was lovely having her there along with her husband, Oscar. A surprise treat was our being presented a Proclamation from the City, and reading it aloud with Mayor Protem, Jan Harnik, proclaiming March 8 as Palm Desert Soroptimist Day!

We were encouraged by the number of guests who showed an interest in our Club, and Membership Director Doris extended invitations to our Spring Social. Keep tuned in for our next meet-up and bring your friends. We all know that to grow we are the one important connection to the next new member! You never know who is just waiting to be asked...

Our association with the RAP Foundation has been most beneficial this year. We've been able to access business courses through NPO Centric and more are coming our way. We participated in CV Giving Day 2024 and we received an award from First Bank in the amount of \$1000 for our continued posting of the hashtag #CVGivingDay2024. We also received a random drawing donation from the RAP Foundation for \$5000.

Thank you First Bank and RAP Foundation for your these donations to SIPD. In addition, we also received additional donations during the CV Giving Day campaign. Look out for the opportunity to support us again next March!

Our year of "Riding the Waves of Service" is quickly coming to a close as we ready ourselves for a new slate of officers to lead us into the next chapter of our Club history. Join us in supporting this next Board as these busy, involved women guide us to another productive year.

If you want to be involved with a hands-on project, participate in the next Saturday of Service at the Soroptimist House of Hope. We'll have a great kitchen experience led by our very own Marie Newton as she guides the gals in the House through a meal prep and plan. We'll have a bit of an artsy project while we wait for everything to cook and as always it is remarkable to hear the stories and listen to the hopes and dreams.

Here's to a Happy Spring.  
*Rose Mary Jameson*

## **more Thank You's from Rose Mary ....**



Our display table of the silent auction items was fantastic!

The presentation was professional and very cleverly styled.

Thanks to Monica for helping this all come together. As one of our newest members she has grasped the sorority of Soroptimist whole heartedly! We are so lucky to have you onboard, Monica!

There were a lot of members who helped and donated behind the scenes. You know who you are and we do appreciate and thank you. To all of our sponsors, your support helped garner us some very good bids. Thank you Brandini Toffee, for your popular basket of the world's finest Toffee! I heard there was a fierce bidding war going between two GWR members!

Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards/ certificates and to:

Judith Worachek  
(Julianna's Hair Salon in Palm Desert).

Leanna Pettitt  
(all the gift certificates)

Karin Roberts  
(Norma's Italian Kitchen)

Betsey Kreger  
(Karl Vasquez Salon in Palm Desert)





## Palm Desert Soroptimists honor five women with Live Your Dream Awards

Carole Stephen-Smith, Special to The Desert Sun



Jessica Mendoza, Sophia Garcia, Anielica Juarez Mendoza and Summer Mullen are honored at the Soroptimists International Palm Desert (SIPD)'s Live Your Dream Awards on March 8, 2024.  
Carole Stephen-Smith, Special to The Desert Sun

When you mention Soroptimists, the usual response is: "They are good people." And yes, they are.

Soroptimists work to transform the lives of women and girls through education, empowerment and opportunity.

At the Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert on March 8, a group of men and women gathered to applaud the recipients of Soroptimist International of Palm Desert (SIPD)'s Live Your Dream Awards, which were presented to five remarkable ladies, who, as heads of households, manage to hold jobs while also studying to better their lives and the lives of their families.

Providing women and girls with access to education is the most effective way to help them reach their full potential and live their dreams. When women and girls are educated, they have the opportunity, the choice and the power to make good decisions for themselves and their family.



Soroptimists International of Palm Desert (SIPD)'s Annual Live Your Dream Awards were held at the Desert Willow Golf Resort on March 8, 2024.  
Carole Stephen-Smith, Special to The Desert Sun

These programs are not just delivered locally but by the Soroptimists around the world.

Taking place each spring, Soroptimist International of Palm Desert's Live Your Dream Awards grant thousands of dollars yearly to qualified applicants.

The scholarships are funded in part by their Gem Benefactors, many of whom donate money in the memory of loved ones or are simply moved by the Soroptimists' mission.

One of this year's honorees overcame a series of obstacles and

is finishing her nursing degree. She is currently an intern at Eisenhower Health. Another is continuing her education so she can better support her family. These women were truly inspiring, and their stories were heartwarming.

This year's SIPD Live Your Dream Award recipients were Alyssa Perez, Summer Mullen, Anielca Juarez Molina, Sophia Garcia and Jessica Mendoza. All were at the event except Perez.



Cathy Brown and Tim Cornell show off their raffle tickets at the Soroptimists International of Palm Desert (SIPD)'s Live Your Dream Awards on March 8, 2024.  
Carole Stephen-Smith, Special to The Desert Sun.

The evening began with opening remarks from Rose Mary Jameson, SIPD president, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance from Palm Desert city representative Veronica Chavez. Margaret Henderson next honored Doris Ellis, an original charter member, and Susan Rosenberg said a few words about SIPD's first 60 years.

Representing International Women's Day was Esther Sjostrom from Sweden, a Soroptimist since 1989, who spoke about the similarities and differences between both of our countries in the Soroptimist world. Representing Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz's, Shayra Hernandez, presented the scholarship awards with Cathy Brown.



Jan Harnik and Samantha Dewing were among the attendees at the Soroptimists International of Palm Desert (SIPD)'s Live Your Dream Awards on March 8, 2024  
Carole Stephen-Smith, Special to the Desert Sun.

Palm Desert city council member Jan Harnik, a pioneer in helping young women, was on hand to lend her support and speak her famous quote: "If you want to change the world, educate a woman." Her words rang true to so many.

So, let's do it — let's continue to educate women and watch the world change.

Special thanks went to judges Maricela Hernandez, Alison Airhart and Avisinia Rodriguez and Gem Benefactors Doris Miller Churry, Bonnie Miller Thomason and Dr. Christine Duranceau.

For more information on Soroptimist International of Palm Desert or to donate, volunteer or nominate someone for a 2025 grant, visit [soroptimistpalmdesert.org](http://soroptimistpalmdesert.org).

*Carole Stephen-Smith began writing in Scotland for a woman's weekly at the age of 15 and then covered American celebrities for the London Evening Echo. Arriving in the desert, she wrote for Desert Woman in the 1990s. Carole focuses on charities that help women as well as medical causes, especially breast cancer awareness, and all aspects of child abuse.*



**March 8, 2024 International Women's Day  
- Equality, Diversity, Inclusion & Living Your Dreams**







We had a chance to visit with Esther Sjostrom (second from left) one more time before her return to Sweden. Joining us (left of Esther) is Norma Hare, former Soroptimist of La Quinta, and the namesake of Norma's Italian Kitchen in Rancho Mirage. Another longtime supporter of all things Soroptimist!!!

### **A message from Doris Ellis SIPD Club Charter Member**

#### **DORIS ELLIS**

- SIPD CLUB CHARTER MEMBER
- MANAGER, FOUR SEASONS ESCROW
- PAST PRESIDENT SIPD



First, my congratulations and sorry that I am unable to be here.  
In 1963, I was promoted as Escrow Manager of the Palm Desert office of Pearson, Scott & Company. Miss Tiss, later, Mrs. Pearson, told me that I was going to become a Soroptimist.  
At that time, I had no idea what that meant, so she informed me that the Soroptimist International of Palm Desert was being formed and I would be a member, as soon as 15 business women could be inducted.  
That was the beginning of our small, but extremely busy group. We sold See's Candies, Pecans and cans for recycling to make Money to fund scholarships and any other project that we felt was worthy. We worked hard to make sure that Palm Desert became a City, that our City had a Community Center, we nagged Frank Sinatra for enough money to open the Community Center and we had to name it the Tina Sinatra Youth Center.  
It was 19 years later that I was finally convinced to become Vice President and then President.  
I will end by saying that the first speech I gave made me physically ill. Afterwards, I was complimented, and from then on, I was on my way.  
Thanks for listening...



This photo was taken the night Dr Christine Duranceau and Rose Mary Jameson brought Mario's pizzas to the COD Chamber Singers as a thank you to them for their contribution to our evening. Prof Jenne Carey on the far right.



#### **Celebrating April Birthdays**

**Doris Ellis - April 8**

**Palm Rich - April 9**

**Marie Newton - April 24**

**Karin Roberts - April 24**

**Senorina Salvador - April 27**



**We are SIPD**

**Fabulous,  
Friendly,  
and Fun.**





*Soroptimist  
International  
of Palm Desert  
Saturday of  
Service  
April 27, 2024  
11:00AM -  
2:00 P.M.*



*Sign up  
& join us!*





This article and photo is a reprint from the February 2024 blog post that is featured on the website of Soroptimist International of North and West Vancouver.

### Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

*Investing in Dreams*



Serving our community for 60 years!

### Bridging Communities

Friendship is a wonderful thing that goes beyond limits, especially when it's fueled by a shared spirit of service and of empowerment. Our club is delighted to establish a new friendship link with a sister club in Palm Desert and we look forward to growing this interesting collaboration and creating long lasting bonds. The idea of setting up a friendship link between these two diverse but equally dedicated Soroptimist clubs originated from our recent member Diana who moved from [SI Palm Desert](#) to SI North & West Vancouver and decided to create a link to connect the two communities.

Nestled against the backdrop of breathtaking mountains and endless oceans the North & West Vancouver Soroptimist Club has been a warm and welcoming force for positive change for many years. Filled with amazing and passionate women, the club is committed to various projects addressing important issues like gender inequality, domestic violence, and education for women and girls.

In the sun-kissed oasis of Palm Desert, the Soroptimist Club is making a positive impact in its community. Whether they are lending a helping hand to local shelters or creating inspiring mentorship programs for young girls, the Palm Desert Soroptimists radiate the warmth of service and empowerment right in the heart of Southern California.

The friendship link is not just symbolic. We hope that through regular communication, virtual meetings, and exchange programs, members from both clubs will learn about each other's challenges, triumphs, and unique approaches to address the issues faced by women and girls. Perhaps in time we can leverage our collective strengths and set up joint projects for far-reaching impact. We look forward to learning together and gaining strength from these relationships.

*Diana states : "As a former member of the SI Club of Palm Desert California, and a current member of the SI Club of North and West Vancouver, it was clear these clubs were a perfect match to be linked in friendship. Courage and optimism are the hallmarks of both clubs.*

*SI Palm Desert is celebrating their 60th anniversary year, all year, culminating in a big celebration at their Live Your Dream Award night.*

*If there is one thing I can rely on is the ability of this club to throw a great party. Another commonality between the two clubs.*





## Palm Desert Soroptimist GEM Benefactor Levels

**GEM Benefactors at the \$250 Level** will provide special projects for our adopted schools, such as establishing “Girl Power” sections in the school library and the campaign for used books to give to 80 students monthly, to foster home reading.

Teaching aids, not provided by the school system, are donated by our Soroptimist club to support adopted teacher Patsy Bauman for her students such as: headphones to block student distractions to learning; bouncy bands to help with their youthful, pent-up energy; all manner of school supplies which are not provided. The **\$500 GEM Benefactor Level** will benefit up to 80 students monthly throughout the school year.

Soroptimist House of Hope resident clients benefit during their tenure by enrichment programs from Soroptimist which would be provided by your **GEM Benefactor Level of \$1,000**. Activity such as a trip to Big Bear Lake for a respite and afternoon boat ride; jewelry making party; painting party; buffet lunch; poetry reading; beauty class; personal supplies; field trips to the zoo and to a member's home for luncheon -- all are ongoing examples of enrichment for women in the program.

The level of **GEM Benefactor at \$1,500** provides the Live Your Dream winner with one of our awards of excellence. Each year the club determines the amounts of the awards. This level may carry the name of a person whom you wish to personally recognize and memorialize with your contribution.

If your wish is to fully sponsor one of our Live Your Dream awards and also memorialize it in the name of a person of your choice, the **GEM Benefactor Level of \$2,000** provides for you to do that for them with this annual on-going recognition in the spring of each year at our LYD awards program.

One of the signature programs of Soroptimist in over twenty countries is the “Dream It Be It” educational day seminar in which we partner with Valley schools. **Your \$2,500 GEM Benefactor Level** sponsors an entire seminar day dedicated to girls at the mid-teen level. We have chosen this subset of young women because statistically they are at a crossroads and can most benefit from this type of intervention in their emotional and educational growth and help them choose education and careers, and help establish improved, life-long habits of growth and self-determination.

At this level of contribution to Soroptimist, being a **\$5,000 GEM Benefactor Level** will feature your name and/or company and be listed above on the advertising header as a sponsor of the project and throughout all the public awareness and sponsorship activity (TV, radio, Desert Sun, SIPD Facebook, SIPD website and internet) which is done to promote our project; visibility will be considerable.



It is your prerogative to designate your donation for any Level/amount/purpose; in all cases, your visibility or anonymity is optional.

**President Rose Mary would be pleased to discuss your GEM Benefactor donation at any time!**

[sewfastdesign@aol.com](mailto:sewfastdesign@aol.com) – 760 835 2416

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website [www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org](http://www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org) / Facebook/[sipalmdesert.com](https://www.facebook.com/sipalmdesert.com) / P.O. Box 13997, Palm Desert CA 92255



## Soroptimist International Palm Desert

a message from  
**Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!** Whether you're eager to enhance your leadership skills or aspire to lead in the future, the Leadership Round Table is your chance to learn and grow!

Check out the agenda and register:  
<https://www.soroptimist.org/.../leadership-round-table.html>



A graphic for the Leadership Round Table registration. It features a circular logo with the text "LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE" and "JUNE 11 & 12, 2024". Below the logo, it says "REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!" and "Take this opportunity to learn and become a better overall leader or attend to feed your interest in becoming a future Soroptimist leader." At the bottom, it says "soroptimist.org/events". The background shows four women smiling.

## Connect with us at SIPD

There are many ways to join our club and support our mission. Contact us to find out more about our volunteer opportunities, fundraising events, and ways that you can help to get our message to your friends and family.

**Soroptimist International of Palm Desert**  
P.O. Box 13997,  
Palm Desert CA 92255  
760-534-8782

EMAIL  
[info.soroptimistpalmdesert@gmail.com](mailto:info.soroptimistpalmdesert@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK  
[soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert)

TWITTER  
[@soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert](https://twitter.com/soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert)

WEBSITE  
[www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org](http://www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org)

Join us to reach new heights in the heart of the beautiful Pacific Northwest July 24-27, 2024 for an event like no other!

Participate in four full days of opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate how our clubs transform the lives of women and girls.

Visit [soroptimist.org/siaconv2024](https://soroptimist.org/siaconv2024) to learn more and register!



A graphic for the Soroptimist's 48th Biennial Convention. It features a circular logo with the text "REACHING HIGHER" and "SOROPTIMIST 48TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION". Below the logo, it says "Registration is open for Soroptimist's 48th Biennial Convention!" and "Join us in Bellevue". At the bottom, it says "soroptimist.org/siaconv2024". The background shows a city skyline and a body of water.



A graphic for the Pre-Conference Tour. It features a circular logo with the text "REACHING HIGHER" and "SOROPTIMIST 48TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION". Below the logo, it says "Pre-Conference Tour" and "Tuesday, July 23, 2024". At the bottom, it says "Shop at the Pike Place Market and Dine atop the Space Needle Museum!" and "Sign up during registration! soroptimist.org/siaconv2024". The background shows a city skyline and the Space Needle.



A graphic for the Golden West Region Inspire 2024. It features a circular logo with the text "Inspire" and "2024". Below the logo, it says "Golden West Region Spring Conference" and "46th Annual Spring Conference May 30-June 1, 2021 Casino Del Sol, Tucson, Arizona". At the bottom, it says "Governor Margie Burke" and "Hostess Club: SI Desert Tucson". The background shows a city skyline and a body of water.

Registration is open. Here is the website:

[https://www.goldenwestregion.org/content.asp?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=928590&module\\_id=663411](https://www.goldenwestregion.org/content.asp?page_id=22&club_id=928590&module_id=663411)