



Plan Ahead

*Soroptimist International of Palm Desert
monthly newsletter*

Making a Difference, One Step at a Time



President's Message

As we welcome the beauty of springtime and the promise of new beginnings. I am filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who dedicate your time, energy, and passion to our cause of supporting and empowering women and girls in our community.

As we embrace the season of new beginnings, let us recommit ourselves to our mission of empowering women and girls to reach their full potential. Let us continue to stand together, united in our shared vision of creating a world where every woman and girl has the opportunity to succeed and flourish.



I am honored to serve as your president and to be part of Soroptimist International of Palm Desert, an incredible group of dedicated individuals. Together, we can make a difference, one act of kindness at a time.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and support. Here's to continued growth, empowerment, and endless possibilities,

With gratitude and warm wishes.

Sincerely,
Diane



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



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

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## A Woman Who Made A Difference



Rachel Louise Carson (5/27/1907-4/14/1964), an American marine biologist, writer, and conservationist whose sea trilogy (1941-1955) and book *Silent Spring* (1962) are both credited with advancing both marine conservation and a global environmental movement.

Rachel Carson's writings eventually lead to the establishment of Earth Day. Her most famous work *Silent Spring* brought to life the negative effects pesticides have on the planet. Carson also predicted the increased consequence caused by prolonged use of pesticides. In 1963 CBS TV aired a special on *Silent Spring*, bringing both national and international awareness to this issue.

**Cesar Chavez Elementary School  
Coachella Valley  
Unified School District**



**Mighty Girl Book Corner Installation  
Cesar Chavez Elementary School**

Another fun and touching day was enjoyed by members of our Soroptimist Palm Desert Club. We were fortunate to have acquired 100 books for another installation of our fabulous reading corner.

Club members Dr. Senorina Saldivar, Marlon Carrier, Susan Rosenberg and her husband, Soropti-mister Jess were in attendance. The Librarian Alicia was well prepared for us with prominent open bookshelves waiting to be filled.

The display of books looked colorful and inviting and when Dr. Hernandez' 5th grade class walked in, they were pleasantly impressed. Big Kudos must be given to the students as they were well-mannered, engaged, and excited about the books. For the first time at a presentation, they were invited to choose a book and begin reading, all while yummy cookies-provided by Dr. Senorina- were enjoyed.

The Vice Principal welcomed us into the space and thoroughly expressed her gratitude and appreciation from Cesar Chavez Elementary School, located in Coachella. Photos were taken by staff members as well as our members Susan and Marlon. When the school posted their story on the School website, we followed suit and reposted on our SIPD Facebook site. Wonderful comments show how much this program is very much appreciated.

As an extra incentive to read a book from the Mighty Girl (and Boy!!!) Reading Corner, the Librarian and I have devised a friendship bracelet "give-away". Each time a student reads one of our books and delivers a book report on same, they are awarded a charming bracelet with an encouraging word or positive book related phrase. They seemed to be motivated to choose a book right away! Alicia has her work cut out for her coding the books into the system and getting them back out to the kids while they are so enthusiastic.

Plus, mention was given regarding some of the great book titles that were o in Spanish as well as Bi-Lingual, and how important it is to have more of these books on hand. So, we are not done yet, as I know we can add to these numbers a get a few more books into their eager hands!

Let us know if you want to contribute to this wonderful Program and become one of our generous G.E.M. Sponsors!

Sincerely,  
Past President Rose Mary



(L to r) Dr. Hernandez, 5th grade teacher,  
Dr. Senorina Salvidar, and Mrs. Puga, t  
he Vice Principal



## Another Fun and Rewarding Project Sponsored By SIPD

Soroptimist International of Palm Desert sponsored a Paint Nite with the students along with their parents on Thursday evening, March 6th at Westside Elementary School to promote PERFECT ATTENDANCE!

The class was lead by Soroptimist member (and resident artist), Andrea Durrett. Andrea was also accompanied by Marlon Carrier, Beck Goebel, Kaylee Wolff, Jocelyn Corominas (and her Mom and Daughter) participated in the Awesome Evening!





Soroptimist's *Live Your Dream Awards* program is a unique education award for women who provide the primary financial support for their families. The *Live Your Dream Awards* give women the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

If you aren't able to attend our Live Your Dreams Award Gala on April 5th, please consider supporting our efforts to empower women and girls and make a donation on our website.

<https://www.soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert.org/Donate>

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Emily Tarango

Hayle Essman

Anika Miyake

The poster has a background of a sunset over a body of water, with rays of light emanating from the horizon. In the top left corner is the Soroptimist logo with the tagline "Investing in Dreams". The main text is centered and reads: "Soroptimist International of Palm Desert", "Live Your Dream Awards Gala", "Saturday, April 5, 2025", "Palm Valley Country Club", "39205 Palm Valley Drive", "Palm Desert, CA 92211". At the bottom, it says "An evening of Scholarship Presentations", "Silent Auction, Photo Booth fun", and "and Live Music". A URL is also present in the center: <https://www.soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert.org/Donate>.



## Your Monthly Dash of SOLT

### *Soroptimist Protocol*

**Marlon Carrier**

Did you know that Soroptimist International provides us with guidelines on proper custom and protocol to guide how we conduct club business? Simply google, “**Soroptimist Protocol**” to find a fact sheet that will outline all you need to know.

Highlights include:

- Wearing of the Membership Pin: On the left side, close to the heart
- Custom:
  - Be on time for meetings & attend regularly
  - Address the presiding officer by title & name, for example, President Diane
  - Address another Soroptimist by her first name
- Terminology:
  - We are Soroptimists
  - We are members, NOT sisters, ladies, or girls
  - We have a pledge, NOT a creed or motto TO Soroptimist NOT Soroptimism
  - We attend a club or district meeting, region conference, federation or international convention

Speaking of conferences, our upcoming Golden West Region (GWR) Conference, **Glow & Grow Her Dreams** will be June 5 – 7 in Fort McDowell, AZ. Take a look at the GWR website for Call documents, then register by contacting Becky Goebel.



### A Message from Esther Sjostrom

March 5, 2025

Hello Everyone,  
Miss being with you today at your speaker meeting, I am back home after a wonderful time in Palm Springs

The year 2024 was a difficult year for me when I lost my husband Lars, my time in Palm Springs with my son Peter has been very healing.

I am grateful for the warm welcome SIPD has given me and it has been very interesting to participate with you in your business and speaker meetings.

SIPD is both a dynamic and dedicated group of professional women who are making a big difference for women and children through your projects. I am honored to be part of your group and I made a donation to CV Day.

I would like to thank you once again for the beautiful friendship bracelet that Rose Mary designed with 29 semi precious stones, one for each member of your club. I wear it every day and think about our International Friendship across Borders .

With Loving Kindness,  
Esther Sjostrom  
Soroptimist International Malmo-Limhamn  
IGU/ International Good Will and Understanding



Soroptimist Support Women in Recovery through our Live Your Dream Awards! The keynote speaker, Lupe Murphy is a Soroptimist House of Hope alumni who was a longtime employee lending a hand to many women through the years!

Jasmin Nichols, LYDA Awardee in 2023 completes her RN degree this semester and begins her career at Desert Regional Medical Center in Labor and Delivery. Good Job, Well Done and Congrats!!

## **Getting to Know Us**

*(Moving Forward, we will be featuring a different SIPD member in each issue of our newsletter)*



### **Introducing Soroptimist Member Marlon Carrier**

While new to our Club, Marlon is not new to Soroptimist. Marlon became a Charter Member of SI of the High Desert in Barstow, California in 1980. There she held most Club positions and served in the 1985/86 term as President. Several education and work moves followed until a move to Atlanta, Georgia where she continued as a Member of SI of Atlanta, serving as President in the 2003/2004 term.

During her business career, Marlon was employed in hospital information technology support in the Patient Financial Services area after working as a hospital PFS Manager for many years. She grew up in Southern California, attended UC San Diego and as a single parent raised her son in Barstow. She was familiar with the Coachella Valley, having worked at Eisenhower Medical Center several years ago, so after retiring in 2018, Marlon returned to California to be closer to her son and his family who live in Chula Vista.

Marlon became a member of GFWC Woman's Club of Indio in 2018 to get acquainted with her new community, find volunteer opportunities and build relationships with likeminded women. That same year Marlon was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors, served in other Board positions and was elected President for the 2022/2024 term.

With a little more time available, Marlon searched for an opportunity to again become involved with Soroptimist and joined us in August 2024. She is happy to be back where her heart lies, helping our Club improve the lives of women & girls in our community and looks forward to many more years of Soroptimist service.



## Connect with us

There are many ways to join our club and support our mission. Contact us to find out more about our volunteer opportunities, our 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,  
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#### **2024-25 OFFICERS**

**Diane Backovich, President  
Rose Mary Jameson, Past President  
Betsy Kreger, Secretary  
Becky Goebel, Treasurer**

#### **EMAIL**

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#### **WEBSITE**

**SoroptimistInternationalofPalmDesert.org**

#### **NEWSLETTER**

**Natalie Angrisani, Editor  
itsnatalie@gmx.com**

**March 2025**

## **The Commission on The Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations in New York**

