



Plan Ahead

our monthly newsletter

**Moving Forward, Together
Inspiring, Educating, and Empowering**



News and Views



On Saturday, March 14, Soroptimist International of Palm Desert hosted our 2026 LYDA Luncheon at Classic Club, Palm Desert. The event was about awarding six deserving women LYDA educational scholarship awards. We were able to present a total of \$13,600 awards. (photos on page 4)

Although it may be two months after the event, this is still a great article. See page 3 of our newsletter for the article that appeared in The Desert Sun on March 20, by Carole Stephen-Smith. It's about our January 24th event at Palm Valley Country Club, "A Day at the Races". It's a great promotional piece for our club. (see page 5)



On the Saturday, March 21, Soroptimist House of Hope hosted its Annual "A Day of Hope" fundraiser at Palm Valley Country Club, with Patick Evans (KESQ "Eye on the Desert") as the emcee. The event featured a live auction, a panel discussion, silent auction and lots of raffle prizes. It was a successful fundraiser. (see page 5)

During this month of April, our club members and those around the world will be getting together with families and friends for Passover (April 1-April 9), a Jewish holiday that celebrates spring, rebirth and journey from slavery to freedom.



Also, club members will be getting together with families and friends to observe Good Friday (April 3) and Easter Sunday (April 5), a significant day in Christianity that symbolizing hope, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life.

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.

Enjoy the time you spend no matter which holiday or which traditions you observe.

Natalie Angrisani
2025-26 SIPD Club President



SIA Election: President-elect

This information was forward to club Presidents.

Every year, member clubs of Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc., who are in good standing have the opportunity to participate in the election of the SIA President-elect.

ELECTRONIC VOTING

Soroptimist International of the Americas utilizes electronic balloting for the office of 2026-2027 President-elect. On Friday, February 27, your club will receive a unique personalized link sent to your @soroptimist.net club email address. The email will come from the electronic ballot portal address "vote@ simplyvoting.com". This link cannot be transferred or used by another club. It is authentic to your club, allows entrance to the voting portal and ensures your club only votes once in the election.

The voting portal will be open from Friday, February 27 until 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, April 30.

CANDIDATES

The following 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 SIA Board members are candidates for 2026-2027 President-elect. The individual Bios will be sent out to our membership for review:



Peggy Gentile-VanMeter
SI/Cumberland County, NJ
(North Atlantic Region)



Virginia "Gigie" Penalosa
SI/Mandaluyong
(Philippines Region)



Michelle G. Strawser
SI/Pasco, FL
(Southern Region)

CLUB VOTING

The resumes and videos for all the candidates are now available for your club to review on the SIA website. The individual Bios will be sent out to our membership for review. *Please share this link with your club's members, and have your club review all resumes and determine how the club will cast its vote before entering the voting portal.*

When your club is ready to cast its vote, click your club's authenticated link received in the @soroptimist.net email and enter the portal. The club will be able to access the resumes of the candidates again in the voting portal. Please rank the candidates in accordance with your club's preference, from 1 (most preferred) to 3 (least preferred). Once the club's ballot is cast, you will have access to view and print a receipt of the ballot.

Information on how to access your club's @soroptimist.net email is available on the SIA website if your club has not accessed your club email previously.

SIA BYLAWS AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THIS ELECTION

Please refer to Article VI section 6.02 (Election and Term of Office) and Article VI section 6.03 (Duties of the President) in the SIA bylaws for additional information about the president's duties.

Candidates for federation offices are not permitted to campaign, and individuals or clubs are not permitted to campaign on behalf of any candidate. Refer to Procedure A (General) #2 in the SIA procedures for additional information. Any violations of this procedure should be reported to headquarters immediately.

Soroptimist Golden West Region

Rendezvous
at the **Big Top**
"Celebrate and Educate"

June 4th-6th **Palm Springs, California**

SC2026

48th ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE
JUNE 4-6, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Golf Resort
67967 Vista Chino
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Governor Liz Glowka

HOSTESS CLUBS SI MORENO VALLEY & SI SAN JACINTO-HEMET VALLEY

Saturday March 14, 2026

LYDA Luncheon



A Road of Recovery was the theme for this year's Soroptimist House of Hope "A Day Of Hope" was an overwhelming success! SIPD was a \$5,000 Platinum Sponsor of this event, which was fully underwritten before any tickets were even sold.



SOROPTIMIST HOUSE OF HOPE

The silent and live auction, and paddle raise were very successful moving us forward to our \$50000 match funds needed to secure our \$5.1 million dollar BICHP grant for our new 16 bed facility, thank you to everyone who attended and donated to our cause.

The highlight was a panel discussion with Lupe Murphy, Lisa Mann, & Cindi Handwerk. These remarkable women shared their journeys through the SHOH program and their transitions back to education earning degrees in Chemical Addiction Counseling.

Today, they have established their careers and are now giving back to the community by helping other women walk the same path as them.



Here is the direct link to the article https://palm SpringsDesertsun-ca.newsmemory.com/?publink=0206ec808_1352006



Becky Goebel and Marlon J. Carrier hand out betting "money."



Vanessa Wilk, Jo Corominas and Rose Mary Jameson

Palm Desert Soroptimists host 'A Day at the Races'

Carole Stephen-Smith
Special to The Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

And they are off! Six races, 10 horses in each and close to 100 guests all bidding to get their horse to win on the large screen.

Palm Valley Country Club was transformed into a classy high-end racetrack lounge Jan. 24 — all in the name of charity. Dressed to the nines in Kentucky Derby style, ladies of the Soroptimist International of Palm Desert, and a few men, were ready at the starting gate for the fun to begin.

Called "A Day at the Races: Dream Stakes," the atmosphere was upbeat and thrilling.

Assemblymember Greg Wallis, R-Bermuda Dunes, served as emcee while Dr. Christine Duranceau, a retired Eisenhower EMC physician of 30 years, was there to balance the money and on-hand to treat any broken legs — no not the horses, they were on a screen — the



The event's centerpieces were created by Rose Mary Jameson and Jo Corominas. PHOTOS BY CAROLE STEPHEN-SMITH/SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN

guests who were falling over each other to get to the betting window.

Guests enjoyed a buffet lunch of a mixed green salad, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato chips and chocolate chip cookies that were baked to perfection and definitely spiked a sugar rush toward the finishing line.



Greg Wallis, Vanessa Wilk and Dr. Christine Duranceau

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 various programs that lead to economic and social empowerment.

Their motto is "we dream of a world where women and girls have the resources and opportunities that they need to reach their full potential and are able to live free from violence, and of course, live their dreams."

Founded in Oakland, California, in 1921, a group of professional women formed the original club to support women entering the workforce at a time when career opportunities were limited, and women were not allowed to join service organizations. The word "soroptimist" comes from Latin roots, meaning "best for woman." The ideas spread

quickly, and clubs formed across the United States during the 1920s. By the 1930s, Soroptimist clubs had expanded internationally, including to Europe and Asia.

There are now thousands of clubs in more than 120 countries with more than 25,000 current members.

To learn more about Soroptimist International of Palm Desert, visit soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert.org

Carole Stephen-Smith began writing in Scotland for a women's weekly at the age of 15 and later covered American celebrities for the London Evening Echo. After relocating to the desert, she wrote for Desert Woman in the 1990s. Stephen-Smith focuses on charities that assist women, medical causes — especially breast cancer awareness — and all aspects of child abuse.

Thank You for the CV Giving Day Support

During the 2026 CV Giving Day fundraising campaign, our club ended up receiving 17 donations for a total of \$3,290.00.

Upon receipt of our early giving bonus of \$1,000.00, we came close to our goal this year.



Thank you to our supporters.
Let's beat our goal next year!



One of our most rewarding projects is when Soroptimist International of Palm Desert empowers girls through education and reading.

We have set up "Girl Power" corners in a few of our local elementary school libraries, filling the shelves with empowering and dynamic stories that provide role models for young girls. This year we have a goal to achieve the same in more local elementary schools, providing books that are fun and motivating for K through 6th grade students.

Della S Lindley Elementary School located in Thousand Palms will be the recipient of our current order of books during April. Thank you SIPD member, Pam Rich for following up with the books order and connecting with the school librarian.



Women in History

Nettie Stevens was a groundbreaking geneticist who discovered the sex

chromosomes. She came to the field of science research after spending decades as a science teacher, studying at Stanford and Bryn Mawr and traveling to Germany and Italy. After her untimely death, her male contemporaries were credited with her scientific breakthroughs, one even winning a Nobel Prize for her discovery of sex



chromosomes.

Nettie Maria Stevens was born on July 7, 1861, in Vermont to Julia and Ephraim Stevens. Stevens attended the Westford Academy, one of the oldest co-educational schools in the United States, where she thrived in her Greek and Latin courses. She graduated with top grades at the age of 19. After graduation, Stevens became a high school teacher in New Hampshire. She sought additional training in the sciences, and enrolled at the age of 35 at Stanford University.

While at Stanford, a co-educational institution since its founding in 1885, Stevens' zoological and genetic research began to develop. Stevens' research focused on morphology, which is the study of the forms of living organisms, and cytology, the study of the structure and function of plant and animal cells. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees by 1900. Her master's thesis was on observations of the life cycle of two ciliates, single celled animals which she focused on throughout her entire career.

Stevens further advanced her education at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, a burgeoning center for biological research, and began her doctorate under the advisement of Thomas Hunt Morgan. In 1901, Stevens received the Bryn Mawr President's European Fellowship, allowing her to conduct research at the Naples Zoological Station and the Zoological Institute of the University of Würzburg in Germany. Stevens' doctoral research expanded on her publications, describing the microanatomy and regeneration patterns of a variety of ciliates. In 1903, she received her PhD.

Dr. Nettie Stevens was the first to provide concrete evidence for the genetic basis of sex in her two-part study: Studies of spermatogenesis (1905). Stevens produced this study as a postdoctoral research assistant at the Carnegie Institute of Washington. Through careful examination and experimentation, Stevens showed that the inheritance of the Y chromosome is connected with the male development in several insect species.

After her work at the Carnegie Institute, Stevens returned to Bryn Mawr as a research associate. She continued to focus on spermatogenesis and to innovate in the field of genetics and zoology.

For example, she may have been first to discover B chromosomes, non-essential chromosomes present in all sexually reproducing mammals, suggesting a relationship between them and sex chromosomes.

In 1910, Stevens was included in the top 1000 "men of science," as one of the eighteen women recognized. In 1912, Stevens finally received a research professorship position at Bryn Mawr but tragically died of breast cancer before she could begin. She was 50 years old. In an 11 year career, she published 38 manuscripts.

Stevens' original discovery of sex chromosomes has often been falsely attributed to Edmund Beecher Wilson, a former professor at Bryn Mawr who was also heavily involved in her doctoral research. While Wilson's research on sex chromosomes was published in the same year, 1905, as Stevens' research on the same topic, Stevens was the first to concretely show that the Y chromosome determined sex.

She would continue to build on this work throughout her career, further substantiating her claim as the discoverer of sex chromosomes by being the first to identify hetero chromosomes. The rigorosity of her research and her determination to learn all that she could about sex chromosomes was apparent to her peers, and her depth of knowledge was unparalleled in the field during her lifetime.

Despite her contributions to science, Stevens, like other female scientists such as Rosalind Franklin, Alice Ball, and Esther Lederberg, has been functionally erased from history.

In 1906, Wilson and Thomas Hunt Morgan were invited to speak on their theories of sex determination at a conference, while Stevens was not. Hunt, who was Stevens' doctoral advisor, would later take some of the credit for Stevens' work and even go on to claim a Nobel Prize in 1933 "for his discoveries concerning the role played by the chromosome in heredity," despite the fact that he did not accept the theory of chromosomal inheritance until decades after Stevens had proven it.

Without the work of Nettie Stevens, the modern world would miss critical developments in research on Turner Syndrome and Down Syndrome, as well as many practical applications of chromosomal heredity.

Today, she is recognized in the National Women's Hall of Fame and at the Westfield State University Dr. Nettie Maria Stevens Science and Innovation Center.

Thank You, Dr. Christie Durancaeu for this profile

CONNECT WITH US

There are many ways to connect with us and support our mission. Contact us to learn out about Soroptimist International of Palm Desert and how we work together to improve the lives of women and girls by inspiring, educating, and empowering them.

Soroptimist International of Palm Desert
P.O. Box 13997
Palm Desert, CA 92255

760-534-8782

MEETINGS

Speaker's Meeting
1st Wednesday of the Month

Business Meeting
3rd Wednesday of the Month

2025-2026 OFFICERS
Natalie Angrisani, President
Cathy Brown, President-Elect
Marlon Carrier, Secretary
Becky Goebel, Treasurer

EMAIL

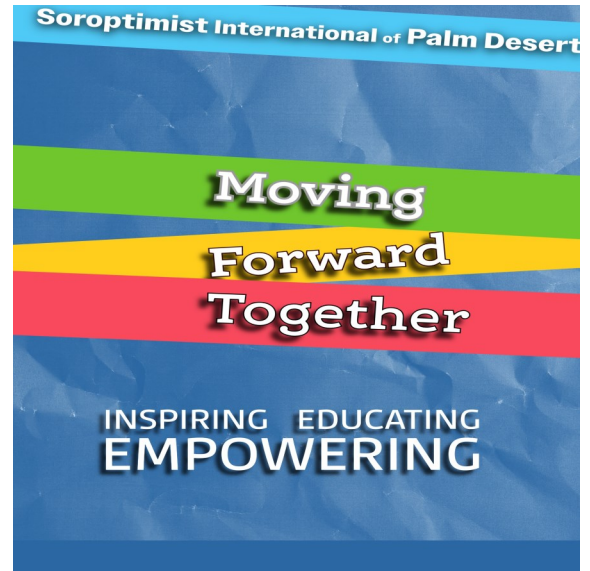
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Service Director
Jocelyn Corominas

Membership Director
Doris Churry

Fundraising Director
Vanessa Wilk

Public Awareness Director
Susan Rosenberg

LYDA Cordinator
Dr. Seniorina Saldivar



Are you curious about us?
When you attend one of our meetings, a social event or one of our FUN Fundraising Events, you'll get to meet our members and learn about the different service projects that we are doing in the Coachella Valley



We have an opportunity to earn rewards from Staples when we recycle used ink cartridges (we've done this before) We can recycle three cartridge at a time five dollars apiece that's \$15 we can use towards printing expenses. Check with Becky Goebel for details.

