



**DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER**  
**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF PALM DESERT**

December Message from Rose Mary:

As I write this letter, I find myself amazed at how quickly the year has passed. Our club has had a wonderful, dynamic start to our 2023-2024 Soroptimist year and this coming month is no exception. Our "Waves" of Service just keep rolling in filled with opportunities. We have several special events planned and then it will be Christmas!

Our Live Your Dreams application process is drawing to a close and we have had a VERY successful turnout, thanks to all the hard work by Dr. Senorina! Our Club ranks the highest in our region for applications received, a feat to be proud of...and now for the great news, we have a returning GEM donation from Dr. Christine and another Grand award from the Anonymous (Hanson) Foundation, thanks in large part to previous president Jacquie Gunning for this introduction. These additional monies will help provide more scholarships and support for our youth programs-including the "Beyond the Award" program of SIA.

A field trip is planned to the Westside Elementary school where our very own member, Dr. Melinda is principal and we will host their first "Career Coloring Contest" ceremony. An award to each grade level from Kindergarten to Sixth will be handed out, along with a Congressional Citation from Congressman Raul Ruiz. This is a very heart warming event as you can see the spark of future planning happening in young girls. Becky has provided the models for the students to choose from and the wide range of goals is encouraging, from chef, to scientist, to engineer, or teacher it has been eye-opening to note which occupations are the most popular. Please join us for this event early morning on December 1st. See flyer for all the details.

The "Coats for Kids" drive has been hugely successful and our Service directors Pam (with her Soroptimists) and Leanna have been busy collecting and sorting the coats jackets and hoodies to deliver to TWO schools. Acquiring the jackets has been an interesting, as we placed large boxes, donated by Burrtec Industries, and they have been filled to the brim with donations from friends and family. Hard work and just asking has provided beneficial, as Doris found out when Costco donated \$100 for her to purchase coats from the store. That was a great opportunity. Becky should give us lessons and how to magnify our consumer points and credits and take advantage of sales as she had acquired about \$450 worth of coats and hoodies from Kohl's for about \$15... I want to go shopping with Becky when I grow up! We will keep you posted on the distribution of these coats in next month's report but again, every little bit helps and even though you wouldn't think we need a jacket in the desert, it gets cold, cold, cold in January. If you're still looking to donate more coats, jackets or hoodies in ALL sizes, contact Pam Rich.

Our first of many Toy Drives, I'm sure, is in conjunction with "Diane's Kids" at Las Palmitas Elementary School in Thermal. Diane has been working with this school for years, along with her Dusty Wings club, and she shared her love of this project with us at a perfect moment. It was heartwarming to hear how much joy these little kids have when opening their presents, sometimes these are the only ones they will receive! Maybe Santa Claus will show up to help distribute the toys and candy canes in mid- December. We're collecting toys, wrapped and marked for boy or girl, (value of between \$20 and \$30) to be delivered to the kindergartners (3 classes of 20 each!) and we will keep collecting them up until the moment we leave for the school I'm sure!

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Bring any gifts you have to our December 6th meeting, I will make sure they get to Diane in plenty of time and keep them coming. We'll even go shopping for your gift if you want to sponsor a child from afar! (just like cross-country member Lori did, all the way from Virginia!) Tell your friends, too. It's certainly a great opportunity to share our wonderful blessings with those less fortunate and we encourage you to come and watch the kids open up their gifts and even catch a lunch afterwards at Shields Date Garden's, we'll keep you posted on the date!

By now we had our treasure hunt garage sale and do-over and both with successful results. It was a fun event where we got to have yummy coffecake provided by Marie and socialize and laugh as Mary Kay hosted one of our yard sales. Many thanks to Mary Kay for offering her space for more than a day, that's for sure. Thanks for your patience Mary Kay! It turned out to be more successful than we first thought.

And now... for the much-anticipated Holiday Auction party at Marie's! Clear your calendars for December 14 and plan on a fun, festive evening full of good friends and holiday cheer! Let's get those almost new gifts prepared, and if you have a chance, please to take them to Marie's early, as that would be greatly appreciated. Last year we had quite a selection of beautiful objects ready for gift giving and this year I know we will have even more. It will be pot-luck this time, so check with Marie to plan your special dish. Last year I created a signature cocktail, "Cranberry Delight" that was a huge success, wonder what it will be this year???

Wear your favorite festive garb, or crazy Holiday Sweater, bring your partner and friends for an enjoyable evening and a bit of fundraising, too! This is a great way to introduce us to potential new members...we are a-groovin' and a-moving into the New Year!

With a grateful heart for all of your dedication to the Soroptimist mission!

## **Garage Sale—Part 2**

Our first garage sale was a huge success. However we still have lots of great items for sale, so we are doing it again. This Saturday, December 2nd at Rose Mary's house. Different neighborhood, different buyers, same goal...shop, shop, shop!



## **Canadian National Day of Remembrance and Action On Violence Against Women December 6th**

By Susan Browne Rosenberg

On Dec. 6, 1989, the country of Canada was forever changed. Fourteen women died at Montreal's École Polytechnique, killed simply because they were women by a man who stated that he hated feminists. They were brilliant students, creative thinkers, beloved sisters, cherished daughters. Their lives, cut short, became the source of sorrow for a nation.

Their deaths sparked a movement that took direct aim at violence hidden in the shadows for too long. To read the stories of the 14 women, 13 students and one university employee, who lost their lives visit this link.

***<https://www.cbc.ca/montreal/features/remember-14>***

The murderer left behind a list of other women in Quebec that he intended to kill. One of them was Francine Pelletier, a writer and director, who created a film called Legacy of Pain on the 10 th Anniversary of that tragic day. You can watch the 42 minute film on the website above.

These words taken from the Canadian website ring just as true here in the United States. "As we mourn their loss and remember their lives, we reaffirm our commitment to fight the hatred that led to this tragedy, and the misogyny that still exists today. In Canada and around the world, women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals face unacceptable violence and discrimination. Gender-based violence in Canada has been magnified and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been reports from police services, shelters, and local organization of an increase in calls related to gender-based violence across Canada during the pandemic."

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is about remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who we have lost to it. It is also a time to take action. The Day is referred to as White Ribbon Day and Canadians will be wearing white ribbons. If you see one, share a Soroptimist hug.

You can follow the activities of WAGE (Women and Gender Equality) Canada and spread the word.  
<https://www.facebook.com/wage.fegc>







*Soroptimist  
Palm Desert  
Holiday  
Auction  
Save the  
Date*



# Soroptimist International Palm Desert



*"Improving the lives of Women and Girls through access to education"*

*Serving the Coachella Valley for 60 years*

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



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL OCTOBER 11TH CAREER COLORING CONTEST



## WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

AWARDS CEREMONY DECEMBER 1ST 9:30 AM

AT WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CONGRESSMAN RUIZ'S OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE SELECTING  
THE OVERALL WINNER

AND WILL AWARD ALL WINNERS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE  
IN THEIR NAME.

WE HAVE REQUESTED DESERT SUN REPORTER WILLIAM GIESEKE TO  
COVER THE EVENT.

CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED TO EACH WINNER BY  
SIPD MEMBER

### WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY- INTERNATIONAL CAREER ART CONTEST WINNERS

1ST GRADE

ROMINA CAMACHO

2ND GRADE

FATIMA UGARTE

3RD GRADE

STEPHANIE GRANDE FLORES

4TH GRADE

SERENITY BREWER ALFARO

5TH GRADE

RAE URESTE

6TH GRADE

JIMENA TAFOYA

SPONSORED BY

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PALM DESERT





**SOROPTIMIST PALM  
DESERT  
SHIVERING STUDENTS COAT  
DRIVE  
TO BENEFIT  
WESTSIDE AND LAS PALMITAS  
EAST VALLEY ELEMENTARY  
KIDDOS**

**WE NEED JACKETS FOR  
OVER 1000 SHIVERING  
STUDENTS GRADES K-6  
SIZES CHILD'S SMALL TO  
ADULTS XXL  
PLEASE DONATE GENTLY  
USED, CLEAN, KIDS WARM  
JACKETS, HOODIES ARE  
THE FAVORITES**

**EMAIL FOR PICKUP  
OF JACKETS:  
GABBYCAT09@HOTMAIL.COM**





Notes from Diane: We will meet at the La Quinta Costco Parking lot at 0800 and leave there at about 0815. Please park away from areas close to the entrance to Costco. If you arrive late, it's no problem driving there. Just return to Hwy 111 and turn R, continue to Jackson St. and turn R. Stay on Jackson all the way out to the school in Thermal and it's about a 28 minutes drive from Costco. The school will have carts available when we arrive in front of the Administration Building and will have a class room ready for the gift giving.

It's worth watching these adorable children opening their gifts, the joy on their faces and how they shout and compare their gifts with each other.

Thank you very much for your generous gift to the Kinder's of Las Palmetas Elementary School.

# **“RIDING THE WAVES OF SERVICE” SANTA’S COMING WITH US TO VISIT THE KINDERGARTNERS AT LAS PALMITAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



**PURCHASE A \$25-35 GIFT FOR A BOY OR A GIRL  
WRAP IT, LABEL IT BOY OR GIRL**

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
OF PALM DESERT  
CONTACT:**

**DIANE.BACKOVICH@ICLOUD.COM**







**SIPD ANNUAL HOLIDAY AUCTION**

**DECEMBER 14, 2023**

**TIME: 5:00 P M**

**PLACE: 72550 GREENBRIAR LANE**

**SO. PALM DESERT, CA 92260**

**COST: \$25.00 PER PERSON THAT  
INCLUDES WINE AND APPETIZERS  
AND WONDERFUL DESSERTS SUPPLIED  
BY OUR CLUB MEMBER, AND A LOT  
OF FUN! PLEASE DONATE FOR  
AUCTION, YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS  
OR REGIFTED ITEMS.THESE CAN BE  
DROPPED OFF AT MARIE'S HOME  
AT ANYTIME OR JUST BRING THE  
ITEMS WITH YOU ON 12/14 PLEASE  
BRING YOUR SPOUSE OR GUESTS  
AND YOUR  
WALLETS) 100%OF THE PROCEEDS  
GO TO OUR CLUB'S  
CAUSES.**

**PLEASE RSVP TO: MARIE@CWNLAW.COM  
OR**

**619-823-9591**

