



January 2024

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SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

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.



Riding the Waves of Service

Plan Ahead

a monthly newsletter
Soroptimist International Palm Desert

President's Message

Happy New Year to All!

As I was watching a morning show, inspiration presented itself. "Welcome to the year 2024, for you the Year of More!" that author Tamron Hall talked about looking for more Joy, more Happiness and more understanding. And for us I wish us more continued good success and abundance and opportunities to service our Women and Young girls in our community.

The Holiday season was filled with good wishes and greetings from our Three Friendship Links, SI Joensuu, Finland, (Hello, Ritva!) SI Malmo-Limhamn, Sweden (we'll miss you this year, Esther!) and our newest link, SI North and West Vancouver, Canada! (thank you for the connection, Diana!)

Our "Beyond the Cash Award" continued support for our single mom's and their kiddos was fully received. Becky has photos and stories about their experiences in this newsletter. We look forward to establishing a mentor program and even more support in the future.

The next three months hold lots of planning and action from all of us, as our Live Your Dream Awards and 60th Anniversary Celebration comes together. We'll be sending out "Save the Date" cards for MARCH 8th, and asking us all to do the same with our friends and neighbors in your circle of people. More information and committee assignments will be available as the day approaches. We need to spread the word to all past members, collect stories and photos, sell tickets, and help make this a fabulous event!

Remember to look for MORE happiness in the year 2024. "Happiness is the Joy we feel striving toward our potential, happiness is not "out there" It is in You!"

Rose Mary Jameson



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FRIENDSHIP LINKS

Follow Your Dreams

(reprinted from our March 2018 newsletter)

Struggling with your identity and passions is a totally normal part of the college experience, and even the people that seem to have everything figured out can be unsure of themselves! I want to let younger girls know that it doesn't matter what you think you should study, you should follow your dreams and do what truly makes you happy! Membership in Soroptimist makes me happy, share my JOY, get excited about our Programs, invite like-minded Women to join us!

One of my favorite anecdotes about people that switched their careers to follow their passions, there were generally four key takeaways:

Don't be afraid to fall in love with something and pursue it with intensity and depth.

Know, understand, take pride in, practice, develop, use, exploit, and enjoy your greatest strengths.

Learn to free yourself from the expectations of others and to walk away from the games that others try to impose upon you. Free yourself to "play your own game" in such a way as to make good use of your gifts. Search out and cultivate great teachers or mentors who will help you accomplish these things.

Don't waste a lot of expensive energy in trying to do things for which you have little ability or love. Do what you can do well and what you love, giving freely of the infinity of your greatest strengths and most intense loves. (Cite: Paul Torrance, The Importance of Falling in Love With Something)

Following the above points will certainly help you find the courage to pursue your dream no matter what it might be. Don't let anyone tell you that you're not smart enough, strong enough, or good enough, because if you really care about something and give it your all, you can accomplish amazing things in life.

If you've already found your dream career or passion and want to help others, here are a couple ways you can get involved with LiveYourDream.org.

CV Giving Day

Coachella Valley's 2nd Annual CV Giving Day is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

CV Giving Day brings us together as a community, as we raise money and awareness for our local non-profits in the Coachella Valley.

Through our partnerships with local donors, non-profits, and community members, we dedicate ourselves to the promise of creating a strong and prosperous future in our community.

You are invited to participate in 24 hours of giving to benefit our local non-profits and make a difference in our community!

You CAN make a Difference!



Trilogy Charity Fair

SIPD has been invited by The Trilogy at La Quinta Community Services (TLQS) Board to participate in their Charity Fair being hosted on January 27th from 10am-12pm in their main Ballroom.

The purpose of the Charity Fair is to bring awareness of local non-profits to Trilogy residents who may want to volunteer their time or provide support through financial donations.

We are honored to be one of 12 charities invited to highlight their services. We will have a display table for information about SIPD and we will also be the recipient of a \$500 grant. The Trilogy Charity Fair will be advertised outside the community to ensure that resident from surrounding local communities can attend as well.

To show our appreciation to the attendees, we will be holding a raffle and awarding a lucky person a Google Tablet.

CV Giving Day Incentives

CV Giving Day participants have an exciting opportunity to make an impact, help their nonprofit organization, and a chance to win a cash prize.

- Unable to donate on March 5th? Early giving donations are open as of February 5th!
- CV Giving Day participants have an exciting opportunity to make an impact, help their nonprofit organization, and a chance to be eligible to win a cash prize.
- \$5,000 will be awarded to 12 non-profits To be eligible, the non-profit must received a minimum of 10 donations.
- Plus several other categories

Incentive Prizes Provided By:



This message was received in recognition of the official date of our 60th anniversary

To: President Rose Mary and members of SI Palm Desert
From:

Pat Box
 Soroptimist Golden West Region
 2022-2024 Secretary
 (951) 233-7320



Congratulations on the celebration of your club's 60th club anniversary on November 16, 2023. I have attached a club anniversary certificate to recognize this amazing milestone.

Thank you for all you do to support the needs of women and girls and the Soroptimist mission

Best wishes for your continued success



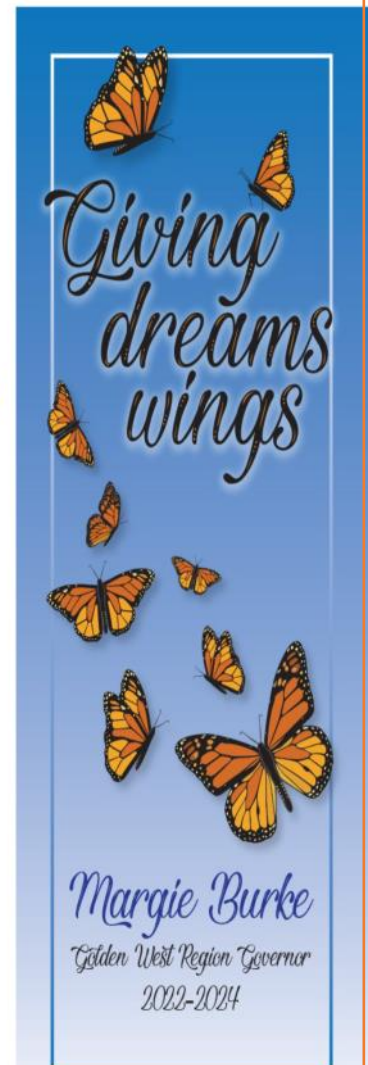
SI Palm Desert
Chartered November 16, 1963

Thank you for another year of dedication and commitment to the Soroptimist mission and to the women and girls you empower

Best wishes,

Your 2022-2024 Golden West Region Board

Governor Margie, Governor-Elect Liz, Secretary Pat, Treasurer Samantha,
 District 1 Director Tori, District 2 Director Charlie, District 3 Director Carole, District 4 Director Sally



Holiday Auction

Our Holiday Auction Party was a total success. About 30 people attended. Each guest brought a wonderful food dish and lots of great items to be purchased or auctioned off.

We all had a great time sipping wine while looking over what items we couldn't live without!! And of course visiting.

My husband Chris and I have hosted this event at our home since about 2017 and we are so happy to help raise funds to go towards our various club projects. This year the event raised \$1408. Way to go everyone!!!

Happy New year and start putting your unwanted items aside for next year's event.

- Marie Newton



Soroptimist International of Palm Desert and Dusty Wings of the Desert Made a Special Visit to the Kindergarteners at Las Palmitas Elementary School in Thermal, CA




Since 2005 the children at Los Palmitas Elementary School in Thermal, CA have been receiving Christmas Gifts from various women's organizations. A very special thank you to the members of SIPD and Dusty Wings for your generous gifts to the children this year. - Diane Backovich


Human Trafficking Awareness Month

In recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, our guest speaker on January 17 will be from Rebirth Homes. Rebirth Homes exists to combat human trafficking through education, awareness and by providing a residential, holistic healing program for survivors of human trafficking. We journey with survivors as they become **empowered** to be all they were created to be.

Our Mission

Rebirth Homes exists to combat human trafficking through education/awareness and by providing a residential, holistic healing program for survivors of human trafficking.






What We Do

Rebirth Homes is a non-profit that provides homes for survivors of human trafficking. Our program includes comprehensive wrap-around services including **physical, mental, emotional and spiritual healing** as well as life-skill training.

Our program has two phases: The Healing Phase and the Transitional Phase. The Healing Phase is 4 to 6 months and the Transitional Phase is 12 to 18 months.

Each woman who enters our program sets individual goals and we journey with her to help her achieve them. Through a community of support and comprehensive services, we see life transformation and women become who they were created to be.



Some notes and updates

From Finland...

December 15, 2023

Dear Rose Mary,
Thank you ever so much for your Plan Ahead December. How active you are! We just had our last meeting this year with a number of plans for 2024.

We will help a Ukrainian family and young students in our Conservatory (music). Our aim is also to arrange a concert with a musically talented family called Kiviuvori. Our baroque concert in October was a success.

So was our participation with several other organizations selling their products: cakes, needlework, little dolls etc.

You are our precious Friendship Link across the Atlantic Ocean.

On behalf of SI Joensuu, I wish all of you a happy and prosperous Holiday Season.

We will celebrate our Christmas time with a lot of snow and candles.

Ritva Mikkola, SI Joensuu, Finland

Thank You...

For those of you who have enjoyed receiving and reading our monthly newsletter "Plan Ahead", you may notice that the format has begun to change.

Doris Churry, has been our editor for a while and has decided to step down. Our new Editor going forward will now be Natalie Angrisani.



Retired

Doris, you have been a great editor and you've set the bar high. Thank you for all your efforts.

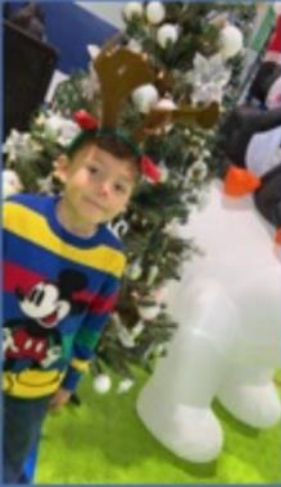
When you submit any articles or photos for the newsletter now, please email them

directly to Natalie's email: itsnatalie@gmx.com and support during this transition and also your encouragement.

– Natalie Angrisani
itsnatalie@gmx.com

P.S. On a personal note: Thank you Doris for your support during this transition and also your words of encouragement.

Keeping Up With Our LYDA Winners



Hello,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted give you an update on my life since I last wrote to you. I enrolled at College of the Desert, but I'm happy to say that I graduated in May 2023 and was accepted at CSUSB.

In July 2023, I got a new job at a school district, and things have been going well. My kids are doing great too - they've gone back to school and are keeping busy with their activities. They're both very athletic and are interested in joining a sports team.

Leonardo just turned six in December, and Angel is growing up fast. I wanted to thank you for the Amazon gift card you sent us. It was very much appreciated, and I plan on using it for my kids and myself.

Thank you again for everything.

Berenise



SAVE THE DATE



MARCH 8, 2024

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Elvia

Since winning the award I have felt empowered to take great strides for my children and I. Feeling the continued support from all the amazing women that make soroptimist. It gives me the courage to continue to pursue my education. As well break toxic cycles to assure my children and I a stable, happy life. I look forward to the day I can give back to other single mothers in my situation. I may not have the blue print for the success but having the support sure gives me strength to keep going.

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Erika and her daughters Xiomara and Coraline enjoying the City of Coachella Tree Lighting Ceremony. Erika continues to work full time for Desert Recreation District and hopes to complete her Associates in Communications this year. Thanks for all the opportunities that Soroptimist has helped with .

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JASMIN



Update: I've just completed my first year in nursing school; most recently passing med-surge. I will continue volunteering as a nurse in January 2024 for our underserved communities. Thank you for supporting me!

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ABOUT US

Women at their best, working to help other women to be their best

Soroptimist was formed in 1921 in Oakland, California, at a time when women were not permitted to join service organizations. Our name, loosely translated from the Latin, means Best for Women. Today, we have about 160,000 members and supporters in 21 countries and territories. Soroptimist International of the Americas is one of five federations that make up Soroptimist International, which has clubs in more than 120 countries throughout the world.



Contact

There are many ways to join us 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

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- 760-534-8782
- info.soroptimistpalmdesert@gmail.com

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Website

www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org



Let's Get Ready for Bellevue!

Convention Registration

Early registration for SIA's 48th Biennial Convention will open soon! Stay tuned for details. #SIAConv2024

Airline and Hotel Discounts

We have exclusive flight discounts from two airlines for your travels to convention! Whether you're flying in from across the country or across the world don't miss this opportunity to save and make your travel plans a breeze. [Learn more.](#)

Reserve your room at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue on Seattle's Eastside starting in mid-January. Stay tuned for booking details!

