



Plan Ahead

our monthly newsletter

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



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 International Palm Desert club will be hosting a fun event - A Day at the Races on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at Palm Valley Country Club from 3-6 pm. The \$85.00 general admission includes \$10 in Derby Dollars and a buffet dinner. Six video horse races featuring 10 horses each. Racing Grand Prize 2 night/3 day Vacation Package in beautiful Solvang, CA. Other prizes and auction items to be announced.



Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

P. O. Box 13997, Palm Desert, CA 92255-3997
Tax-exempt global organization 501 (c) 3 ID# 95-6134083

We are using Zeffy, a new free to non-profits platform that allows our club to keep all the money for ticket sales. They will ask you at the end of the transaction to offset their costs. You can adjust the suggested amount.

This Fundraiser will help us provide scholarships to more deserving women in our valley through our Live Your Dream Awards.

Here is a link to register for A Day at the Races:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/day-at-the-races>

It's not to late to make a year-end giving donation!

GEM Donations



**Happy New Year
SI Palm Desert members!**

If you would like to make a GEM donation, I can send you a secure link so there are no worries about mail being misdelivered.

We have also made it possible to donate on the Zeffy payment app, and here is a clickable link that you can copy and paste in your browser:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/gem-donations-2025--2026>

Becky Goebel, Treasurer

CV Giving Day Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Our goal for 2026 is to raise \$5,000. Early giving starts February 3, 2026 and continues until midnight March 3. The place to make donations online with a credit card is : <https://www.cugivingday.org/organization/SIPD> .

We need each member to share this information with your contacts by email, and your social media platforms. In 2024, we won a \$1,000 Social Media Hashtag Prize from Desert Community Foundation/1st Bank and also a \$5,000 Random Prize from the RAP Foundation for a total funding of over \$7,000.

In 2026, they will be giving out \$125,000.

The sponsors of CV Giving Day as of the end of December are:

Desert Community Foundation
California Bank & Trust
RAP Foundation/NPO Centric
Amazon | Auen Foundation
Google for Non-Profits

We will have more information and resources for fundraising in February, after our Day at the Races event.

**CV Giving Day
March 3, 2026**



**I GIVE TIME.
I GIVE HOPE.
I GIVE SUPPORT.
I GET INVOLVED...
I VOLUNTEER**
I'm a Soroptimist!

2026 January Dates

- 1/1/2026 New Year's Day**
- 1/5/2026 - Fundraising Meeting**
- 1/7/2026 - Speaker's Meeting**
- 1/19/2026 - Board Meeting**
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- 1/21/2026 - Business Meeting**



Soroptimist International of Palm Desert
P. O. Box 13097, Palm Desert, CA 92255-3097
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COMMUNITY GIVING

Thank You Becky Goebel on behalf of SIPD for the donation of 12 personal care bags for the non-profit Shelter From The Storm, for our 2025 ABWA Holiday Giving Project.
- your friends at ABWA



When you attend one of our Speaker meetings, a social event or one of our Fundraising Events, it's one way to know about us.

February Dates

- 2/4/2026 Speaker's meeting**
- 2/15/2026 Mardi Gras @ Mary Kay Berlier's home**
- 2/16/2026 - Board Meeting President's Day**
- 2/18/2026 - Business Meeting**

SAVE THE DATE FOR FEBRUARY
Mary Kay Berlier will be hosting a Mardi Gras Event next month On February 15th at her home. Look for more details about this event (time; food served; etc) in our February newsletter.

In Appreciation of the Women Who Serve

Retired Marine and Yucca Valley Soroptimist Shanese Risper shared with us some thoughts about what Service Women feel when they are remembered during the Holidays. SIPD donated over 30 purses filled with gifts for females stationed at the 29 Palms Marine Base.

Thank You For Your Service





There is an article about Emily on the next page
 about our Beyond The Cash Award Program
 written by Dr. Melinda Gonzalez.



SIPD presented a \$5000 donation as a Sponsor for the Soroptimist House of Hope Annual Day of Hope Event fundraiser on March 21, 2026. Pictured here receiving the donation is: Tim Radigan, Vice President and Charlotte Hughlett, President.



Marilyn Alt An Exemplary Soroptimist!

Send a greeting to former SIPD member, Marilyn Alt! Her devoted daughter, Michelle Sturiale (email: michelle.sturiale@gmail.com) has written to say that she is doing as well as can be expected and Marilyn is shown here with Michelle.

Marilyn served long and well with our club and the (now disbanded) SI Palm Desert Sunrise Soroptimists. Live Your Dream gals were always her favorite and for many years she chaired this event for SIPD and SIPDS.

Her dedication to Soroptimist House of Hope was also unparalleled as she served on the board of directors in the capacity of vice president for over 15 years. Faithful in her attendance at SIPD meetings and events, she would be the one leading the collection of Christmas gifts for children every year.

She has now lost her lifetime partner Jack Alt this past October but as Michelle puts it, she is blissfully unaware. Marilyn is one of the most wonderful Soroptimists I have ever known. Let's all keep her generosity of spirit in our hearts during this beautiful celebratory season of love and goodwill,

- Doris Churry, Membership Director

SHOH HOLIDAYS GIFTS for the clients . We were all about a little pampering and it was well received.



BEYOND THE CASH AWARD PROGRAM

**Living Her Dream: Emily's Journey**

Emily, a 2025 Live Your Dream Award recipient, is a powerful example of perseverance, purpose, and hope. Receiving the scholarship marked an important milestone in her educational journey, but it was only one step in a much larger dream—building a career dedicated to helping others to dream and rebuild their lives.

Today, Emily continues to work tirelessly toward completing her counseling coursework and obtaining her Substance Use and Rehabilitation Certification. With only three courses remaining, she is close to beginning her hands-on internship in the Coachella Valley, where she will gain real-world experience supporting individuals and families on their path to recovery. Balancing school, responsibilities, and personal challenges has not been easy, yet Emily remains focused and determined. Her commitment to her education and her future reflects the very spirit of the Live Your Dream Award.

Our Soroptimist leaders are incredibly proud of Emily's hard work, resilience, and dedication. Her progress is a reminder of why we invest in education and empowerment. Our team continues to motivate Emily and other Live Your Dream Award recipients, encouraging them to keep pushing forward, believing in themselves, and reaching for their goals. Emily's journey is far from over—but her determination shows that she is well on her way to turning her dream into reality! ✨



DO NOT MISS THIS FUN EVENT AND
OUR FIRST FUNDRAISER OF 2026

Day at the Races

Palm Valley Country Club

January 24, 2026

3-6 pm



SOROPTIMIST®

Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

P. O. Box 13997, Palm Desert, CA 92255-3997
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Dr. Melinda Gonzalez's 3rd Grade Class



PATSY BAUMAN's 2nd GRADE CLASS

**received P.E. Equipment as one of our service projects,
plus some hot chocolate cups and some treats.**

**Visit our Facebook page [SoroptimistInternationalPalmDesert](#)
for their thank you video and
their delightfully colorful thank you cards.**



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

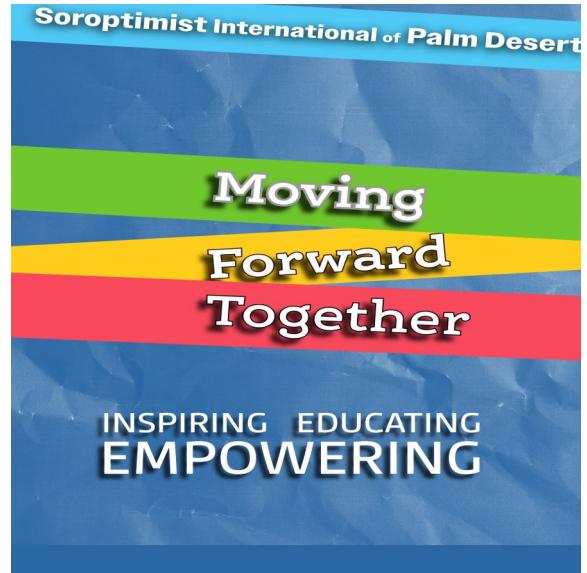
Business Meeting
3rd Wednesday of the Month

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

EMAIL
info@SoroptimistInternationalofPalmDesert.org

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

WEBSITE
[SoroptimistInternationalofPalmDesert.org](https://www.soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert.org)



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Service Director
Jocelyn Corominas

Membership Director
Doris Churry

Fundraising Director
Vanessa Wilk

Public Awareness Director
Susan Rosenberg

LYDA Cordinator
Dr. Senorina Saldivar

From SIPD to all our members, friends, families, and supporters

May the new year offer a fresh start to your life.

May you have all your dreams fulfilled.

Have a great year ahead!

HAPPY • NEW • YEAR