



# Plan Ahead

*Soroptimist International Palm Desert  
monthly newsletter*

## July 2024

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The Golden West Entertainers  
are featured on page 3



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.



## "See You in September"

Summer is here and with it comes heat and incredible electric bills. I have yet to find a way to keep cool without the air conditioner going 24/7.



Yet, with the heat comes the beautiful Mexican Bird of Paradise with its incredible orange flowers. Floating in the pool has never felt better than in summer and drinking that ice cold adult beverage is the most refreshing during these hot summer months.

We take a rest from Soroptimist meetings but never far from our minds and what we can do to reach out even further to assist women and girls.

We shall return in the fall with a new Board and I shall try to follow in Rose Mary footsteps, but those are big leaps to take. With your help and support, hopefully I can make you proud as your new leader.

Fondly,  
Diane















## A Day of Service



As we wind down our finals days of this fabulous Soroptimist year, we want to acknowledge the clients and friends at the recovery house, Soroptimist House of Hope!

On Saturday, June 22nd, we had a great service day full of laughs and stories and good food. Our premier chef and baker, Marie Newton, led two teams of gals (it was a full House, with six women in their recovery program) in the preparation and cooking of a great chicken soup – soup is always good for the soul!

It was delightful to witness how engaged the women were and a few showed good, strong prep skills. Each team was able to prepare the same recipe two ways, stove top and instant pot.

Later we had a blast baking two recipes of carrot cake, one gluten free and without nuts! The “Bake-Off “ was a draw as we heard compliments on both cakes. I think the most fun was had with the powered sugar flying all over the place!!!

I marveled at how fast quick cleanup happened after every stage of cooking or baking – these gals definitely were well trained in the fine art of ‘clean-as-you-go’.

Soroptimist House of Hope is a valuable asset to the State and considered one of the best. The current residents are so excited for the brand new kitchen and their pride shows.

We were joined by a wonderful friend and former member of Soroptimist, Trish Alpert and all together we were happy to share another day of service. We hope to put together a note book of great recipes for these gals and those that will follow,

If you notice the Orange bag Becky is holding, we brought along a memento from our beloved honorary member, Esther Sjostrom, we know how much she loves the SHOH and all the women who pass through their doors. By the way, her son Peter Sjostrom of Palm Springs, was instrumental in helping the remodel of the kitchen come to fruition!

If you have a favorite recipe you’d like to include in our notebook for the gals at the House, please let us know! Most of these gals will still be at the house next week and they’d be thrilled I’m sure.



*(Almost) Past President,  
Rose Mary*

## A SHOH update ...



During our recent cooking class at House of Hope, we noticed an area that needed our help

There was an island in the previous kitchen design, and we noticed that if there are six residents in the newly remodeled kitchen at one time, more work/counter space was definitely needed.

The Board was polled, and all approved of using money budgeted for the house but not expended so far this year 2023-24.

The new island (pictured) has been ordered and should be in place within a couple of weeks! When it arrives, we'll take a picture and share it in our next newsletter.

Treasurer  
Becky



## Celebrating Women in History

Recognizing the achievements of women in all facets of life – science, community, government, literature, art, sports, medicine; makes a huge impact on our self-respect and is a foundation for following our dreams. Dr. Christine Duranceau has been highlighting Women in History with us during our meetings. Here's the latest .....



Jeanne Villepreux was born on September 24, 1794, in the rural village of Juillac, Corrèze, France. She was the eldest child of a humble shoemaker. Jeanne had a basic education, a very little knowledge more than how to read and write. When Jeanne was 18 years old, she walked all of the way to Paris, a distance of more than 400 kilometers to become a dressmaker. In Paris, she became the assistant of a society dressmaker. She found fame when she designed the wedding gown for Princess Caroline, the future Duchesse de Berry. It was through the commission of this wedding gown Jeanne met James Power, a rich English nobleman, and merchant. They got married in 1818 in Messina, Sicily, where they lived for more than 20 years. It was soon after her marriage that Jeanne became interested in natural history.

She was a self-taught naturalist who traveled around Sicily recording and describing its flora and fauna, collecting specimens of minerals, fossils, butterflies, and shells. In 1832, Jeanne Villepreux-Power invented **the first glass aquarium**. Her invention was designed to help Jeanne with her experiments on marine species. In 1858, the British biologist Richard Owen called Jeanne Villepreux-Power as the "mother of aquariophily."

Jeanne Villepreux-Power died on January 25, 1871. Sadly, Jeanne was forgotten for more than a century after her death. It was not until 1997, that her work was rediscovered and her name was given to a major crater on Venus discovered by the Magellan probe.



## Running Beyond the Cash Award

You've won your award and we are proud of you!

We have more to offer your family with our "Running Beyond the Cash Award" Program which starts with a simple phone call with one of our Soroptimist International of Palm Desert members to gather a bit of info on your kiddos and we can help find some fun summer activities for them.

Last year we sent kids to camp, ballet and swim lessons. This year let's work on sending your kids for some fun, so you can concentrate on school.



We embraced the SIA "Beyond the Cash Award" for our LYDA winners, Jocelyn adapted the guidelines for our club, notebooks were assembled and distributed to our mentors,

Jocelyn Corominas (chairwoman)  
Becky Goebel  
Marie Newton  
Dr. Christine Duranceau

Our five winners have been contacted and 4 are participating! The first contacts have been made with our Mentee's and we're off to a great start!



### Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

#### Mentor Program

*Running*

Beyond the  
Cash Award





**SOROPTIMIST®**  
**Investing in Dreams**

## **WHY JOIN US?**

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.

## **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

### **A Sense of Accomplishment**

Members experience the joy and the sense of accomplishment by working with other like-minded women on the global programs that provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

### **Personal Development & Connections**

The opportunities for leadership development provide professional growth gained through volunteering in leadership roles and attending leadership development trainings offered by SIA. Members will grow personally through friendships with club members, relationships in your region, and connections with members from diverse countries and backgrounds.

### **Access to Non-Profit Professionals**

Members receive guidance and resources from SIA headquarters, enabling them to enjoy a meaningful club experience as they change communities for the better, plus:

- ♦ SIA's *Best for Women*, a monthly electronic newsletter keeps you up to date on all of Soroptimist's initiatives and activities.
- ♦ Leadership development and multiple networking opportunities such as Leadership Round Table, the Soroptimist Leadership Fellows Program, club meetings, regional conferences, and other events.
- ♦ Opportunity to engage and provide feedback through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, online surveys and other activities.
- ♦ Access to contact information for other members, clubs and leaders through the online directories.
- ♦ Invitations to take advantage of special offers through Corporate Sponsor Programs, which enables members to get personalized, value-added services from like-minded organizations that support the SIA mission.

**JOIN US!**



## Sue Riney Named SIA President-elect

Congratulations to Sue Riney of SI/Oak Harbor, WA (Northwestern Region), who was elected to serve as the 2024-2025 SIA President-elect from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025. She will assume the office of SIA President on September 1, 2025, and serve in that position until August 31, 2026. [See the full ballot results.](#)



Join us to reach new heights in the heart of the beautiful Pacific Northwest July 24-27, 2024 for an event like no other!

Participate in four full days of opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate how our clubs transform the lives of women and girls.

Visit [soroptimist.org/siaconv2024](https://soroptimist.org/siaconv2024) to learn more



**Diane Backovich**  
**2024-25 SIPD President**

### Connect with us at SIPD

There are many ways to join our club 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.

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