



Women's  
History  
Month

# Plan Ahead

a monthly newsletter  
Soroptimist International Palm Desert

## Celebrating Our 60th Year

### March 2024

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On Friday March 8th, International Women's Day, Soroptimist International Palm Desert is celebrating our 60 years of service to the Coachella Valley and during our celebration we will also be presenting five Soroptimist "Live Your Dream Awards".



**Soroptimist International of Palm Desert**  
**"Living Our Dream for 60 years"**  
**MARCH 8, 2024**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**Live Your Dream Awards Banquet**  
**Desert Willow Golf Course**  
**38-995 Desert Willow Drive**  
**Palm Desert, CA. 92260**

**\$60 in honor of our 60 years of Service to the**  
**Coachella Valley**  
**Register here:**

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



**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.



live  
**YOUR**  
dream  
education & training awards for women®

**Soroptimist International of Palm Desert**

**Live Your Dream Awards**

*Celebrating 60 years of Service to the Coachella Valley*

## Presidents Message March 2024

We are so proud to be hosting our Live Your Dream Award ceremony and our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on the same day as the International Day of the Woman, March 8th! Around the Globe many events will be taking place and we are happy to be a part of this grand movement. Check out our stories about SIA's #WhyIwalk and more, including the Soroptimist International contribution to the United Nations Commission on Women, showing how our mission of increasing access to education for women and girls is also a powerful anti-poverty tool. Governor-Elect Liz Glowka from our Golden West Region will be in Washington DC as part of this commission.



March 8<sup>th</sup> is around the corner, and we are very excited celebrate this year's Live Your Dream Awards night and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!!! We have five wonderful, deserving, single mothers as winners for our Live Your Dream Awards. This year we are granting more than \$10,000 in Scholarships! We are truly grateful to all our benefactors, but most especially to our G.E.M. donors including Michelle Sturiale and Diana Palmer honoring our former Soroptimist Marilyn Alt now in NorCal, Dr. Christine Duranceau, Miller sisters; Bonnie Thompson and Doris Churry and Christopher Francisco. Please join us in this memorable occasion and reach out to invite past members as well as friends of Soroptimist.

Coachella Valley Early Giving is still in place, and we have a chance to double our money and be enrolled in yet another drawing for more funds through the RAP Foundation! We didn't win in the first drawing, but fingers crossed we will in the next!!! Remind your friends and family that until March 4<sup>th</sup> this early giving period for donations counts for us! Then, of course, it will also count on the full day of March 5<sup>th</sup>. Let's see how close we can get to our goal of \$2500...I think we were almost halfway there the last time I checked.

A huge thank you to Pam, Marie and Doris for helping get the "Mighty Girls" Reading Corner installed at Westside Elementary school with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Dr. Melinda sent us some great photos and one could sense the joy of the Event! Thank you to everyone who donated books and money towards this empowering moment.

*Rose Mary Jameson*

## SIA #TechTalks

BIG changes are making waves for SIA, including launching a NEW Member Portal!

This summer, we'll be hosting live webinars (Learning Labs!) to train club leaders and members on how to navigate the new portal. The first Learning Lab will focus on how to log-in, update your roster and pay club dues in Salesforce.

Are you interested in participating in our #TechTalks Learning Labs?

[Sign up to be the first to hear](#) how tech is taking your member experience to the next level.

Powered by the Dream Big Campaign—Thank you donors for investing in SIA's sustainability!



March 19 @ 8 p.m. (ET)  
Parallel Event

## UN Updates

### CSW Parallel Event

Exciting news! You are invited to SIA's virtual parallel event as part of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's Non-Governmental Organization forum. Join us March 19 at 8 p.m. (ET) to learn how our mission of increasing access to education for women and girls is also a powerful anti-poverty tool.

[Register now!](#)



If the highlighted links do not connect, try this short cut link:

[bit.ly/CSW\\_NGO](https://bit.ly/CSW_NGO)



## Tea Party

In honor of International Women's Day, we're hosting a special [Tea Party on March 7](#), at 8 p.m. (ET). Let's come together to share warmth, laughter and a discussion about the United Nations 2024 theme "Invest in women: Accelerate progress."

Whether you're enjoying your favorite tea, coffee or another beverage of your choice, we'll be united in spirit to honor the strength and resilience of women.

[Register Now!](#)

If the highlighted links do not connect, try this short cut link: [bit.ly/IWD\\_TeaParty](https://bit.ly/IWD_TeaParty)





## SIPD FEBRUARY 7th MEETING



### **“Girls with Dreams Become Women with Vision”**

**Soroptimist International Palm Desert  
Empowers Girls Through Education and Reading**

In 2023, we established our first “Girl Power” corner in Sea View Elementary School, with books that were educational, motivating and fun for students K thru 6th grade.

This year, we launched a second “Girl Power” section, and this time it was at Westside Elementary School.





## Walk for Women

The Walk for Women is a worldwide event during the month of March to celebrate **Women's History Month** and **International Women's Day** (March 8). Everyone can participate – just get moving.

Throughout March, and especially on the 8th International Women's Day, step up to take strides towards empowerment. It's more than just a leisurely stroll, this event is a movement meant to recognize the incredible women who have shaped our lives and to foster a sense of community around our shared cause.

**Set a Goal:** Whether it's 5 minutes a day or a 5K, the goal you set is your own! You don't even have to walk—you could do some chair exercises, seated marching, toe lifts, or whatever feels comfortable.



**Share Your Why:** Take a minute to reflect on why empowering women and girls matters to you, then share on social media with the #WhyIWalk hashtag!



**Make it Count:** Show your support to your favorite women's group by making a donation and help to change the lives of women in need.



SIPD is participating in CV Giving Day. Early giving is open now, so you do not have to wait until March 5th to donate. Any amount helps support the Live your Dream scholarships, and Beyond the Dream program; plus other projects such as the Soroptimist House of Hope, a recovery home with a very positive success rate and our "Girl Power" reading corners in the local elementary school libraries.

You can make a difference with your donation!

**Our direct link is:**

[cvgivingday.org/organization/SIPD](http://cvgivingday.org/organization/SIPD)



## March 1 - March 31

Throughout the month of March, we celebrate the contributions of women from the past and present. While it's important to celebrate women all year long, Congress sets aside one month each year to recognize the accomplishments made by women, for women, and to make our country and world, a fairer, safer place for all.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation that declared the week of March 8th to be National Women's History Week. In 1987 Congress designated March as Women's History Month.

Women's History Month started as Women's Day, which was celebrated on Feb. 28, 1909, by a group of Manhattan socialists and suffragists to honor the one-year anniversary of the garment strike which was led by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The observance took place on a Sunday so that people would not miss work.

The value of knowing women's stories is that it gives both women and men, girls and boys the power and inspiration to succeed. It enables us to understand our past, and gives us the power to change the future.

*As society sees what women can do,  
as women see what women can do,  
there will be more women  
out there doing things,  
and we'll all be better off for it."*

~ Sandra Day O'Connor, "Women in Power"



## Equity, Diversity, Inclusion





**Soroptimist International of Palm Desert  
Found Money to Fund Our Projects  
by Becky Goebel, Treasurer**



I have always been a thriftologist and I enjoy the benefits to fund my Soroptimist giving heart. Today I would like to share an example (in the next column) by sharing my weekly grocery order savings, which by the way paid for my LYDA guest ticket. ♡

I will also get a 5% reward on the credit card I used to complete the purchase so that's another example of what I mean when I say Found Money! Doris has embraced the Found Money Concept and has made 2 such donations in the past months, good job ♡

Do you know where your Found Money Hiding? Credit card rewards such as Costco (just got my yearly reward by email), Kohls, Citi Bank, Grocery stores, even Walmart.



≈ You're saving **\$72.18** ≈

Way to save some dough!

**Order Summary**

Items (17)	\$133.61
<b>Estimated Savings</b>	<b>-\$72.18</b>
<b>Sale Price Savings</b>	<b>-\$72.18</b>
Estimated Subtotal	\$61.43
Estimated Taxes and Fees	\$1.04



**Member Birthdays  
in the month of March**

*Lori Oliver March 3*

*Michelle Rodarte March 3*

*Doris Churry March 19*

**DATES TO MAKE NOTE OF  
IN THE MONTH OF MARCH**

**March 1-31 Women's History Month**

**March 8 International Women's Day**

**March 8 Live Your Dream Awards Celebration  
and SIPD 60th Anniversary Celebration**

**March 10 Daylight Savings Time**

**March 12 National Girl Scouts Day**

**March 14 National PI Day**

**March 14 Equal Pay Day**

**March 15 Ides of March**

**March 17 St. Patrick's Day**

**March 19 Spring Equinox**

**March 23 Purim**

**March 24 Palm Sunday**

**March 29 Good Friday**

**March 31 Easter**

## Palm Desert Soroptimist GEM Benefactor Levels

**GEM Benefactors at the \$250 Level** will provide special projects for our adopted schools, such as establishing “Girl Power” sections in the school library and the campaign for used books to give to 80 students monthly, to foster home reading.

Teaching aids, not provided by the school system, are donated by our Soroptimist club to support adopted teacher Patsy Bauman for her students such as: headphones to block student distractions to learning; bouncy bands to help with their youthful, pent-up energy; all manner of school supplies which are not provided. The **\$500 GEM Benefactor Level** will benefit up to 80 students monthly throughout the school year.

Soroptimist House of Hope resident clients benefit during their tenure by enrichment programs from Soroptimist which would be provided by your **GEM Benefactor Level of \$1,000**. Activity such as a trip to Big Bear Lake for a respite and afternoon boat ride; jewelry making party; painting party; buffet lunch; poetry reading; beauty class; personal supplies; field trips to the zoo and to a member's home for luncheon -- all are ongoing examples of enrichment for women in the program.

The level of **GEM Benefactor at \$1,500** provides the Live Your Dream winner with one of our awards of excellence. Each year the club determines the amounts of the awards. This level may carry the name of a person whom you wish to personally recognize and memorialize with your contribution.

If your wish is to fully sponsor one of our Live Your Dream awards and also memorialize it in the name of a person of your choice, the **GEM Benefactor Level of \$2,000** provides for you to do that for them with this annual on-going recognition in the spring of each year at our LYD awards program.

One of the signature programs of Soroptimist in over twenty countries is the “Dream It Be It” educational day seminar in which we partner with Valley schools. Your **\$2,500 GEM Benefactor Level** sponsors an entire seminar day dedicated to girls at the mid-teen level. We have chosen this subset of young women because statistically they are at a crossroads and can most benefit from this type of intervention in their emotional and educational growth and help them choose education and careers, and help establish improved, life-long habits of growth and self-determination.

At this level of contribution to Soroptimist, being a **\$5,000 GEM Benefactor Level** will feature your name and/or company and be listed above on the advertising header as a sponsor of the project and throughout all the public awareness and sponsorship activity (TV, radio, Desert Sun, SIPD Facebook, SIPD website and internet) which is done to promote our project; visibility will be considerable.



It is your prerogative to designate your donation for any Level/amount/purpose; in all cases, your visibility or anonymity is optional.

President Rose Mary would be pleased to discuss your GEM Benefactor donation at any time!

[sewfastdesign@aol.com](mailto:sewfastdesign@aol.com) – 760 835 2416

Soroptimist is a 501 (c)(3) organization CT-129069 – Tax ID95-6134083 – Soroptimist Club 114310

website [www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org](http://www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org) / Facebook/[sipalmdesert.com](https://www.facebook.com/sipalmdesert.com) / P.O. Box 13997, Palm Desert CA 92255



## Beyond the Cash Award

Through the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards, SIA reaches tens of thousands of women across its countries and territories. But there is still more that can be done to further increase the quality in the lives of the award recipients and also improve the standard of living for these women and their families, beyond a one-time cash award,

Soroptimists can provide ongoing support and encouragement to women in ways that deepen the initial impact and go even further to fulfill our mission. SIPD embraced the concept this past year by **Going Beyond the Cash Award**,

WOW what a difference we made by sending kids to summer camp, ballet and swim lessons. Connecting again over the Holiday with Amazon Gift Cards for their families. Mentoring these women is a source of great JOY.

Elvia was one of our winners last year and one of our club members has maintained a connection with her and has been mentoring her all year! Her plate has been very full with life stuff and her grades suffered due to the numerous days missed because of family court.



Her own computer had died and the loaners she was using from College of the Desert did not allow her to download her required course work. Her counselor became concerned and called her in as her GPA dropped to 2.8 as a result of her situation.

With the generous donations of our GEM's we were able to purchase a new Chromebook for \$300. She caught up on all of her coursework, burning the midnight oil and received an email from her Counselor congratulating her for improving her GPA. Now that's determination to Succeed!

The Chromebook was presented to Elvia with a note that said, "Now you can succeed". Her reply was, "Yes, I can!!" "Thank you so much again, I can feel the love and support. I love you all and I know I have a village rooting for me".

## WHO ARE WE?

**We are 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 over 25,000 members and supporters in North America, Latin America and the Pacific Rim. We are one of five federations that make up Soroptimist International, which has clubs in more than 120 countries throughout the world.

## INSPIRING QUOTES – WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity."  
Amelia Earhart (1897-1937?), aviation pioneer.

"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right."  
Rosa Parks (1913-2005), civil rights activist.

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."  
Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005), U.S. Congresswoman.

"My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." –  
Maya Angelou (1928-2014), memoirist, poet, civil rights activist.



Dear Friends,

2023 has been a year of transition and success for Soroptimist House of Hope. In July, Nicole Yingling, joined our staff as our new Executive Director and, former Board President, Tim Radigan-Brophy passed the torch to long-time member Peggy Redmon.

In Program Year 2022-2023, we provided 54 low income women with the full range of our residential substance use disorders treatment services and helped them to achieve sobriety, improved physical and emotional health, and self-sufficiency.

We held the 8th annual "A Day of Hope" luncheon in September, celebrating our mission and our amazing family of staff, Board Members, and community supporters. We also began extensive renovations in our Desert Hot Springs Treatment Center beginning with the complete remodeling of our kitchen, underwritten by a generous grant from the McMillen Family Foundation.

In addition, we are effectively meeting the high program standards set by Riverside County and the State, and we plan to strengthen and expand our services in 2024 to maximize our effectiveness. We are proud of our progress and look forward to continuing our efforts in the coming year.

Soroptimist House of Hope is committed to fulfilling our mission to provide a safe and nurturing environment for low-income women to receive housing, treatment, and support to recover from substance use disorders and become life-long productive members of society. Virtually all of our clients have experienced homelessness, incarceration, unemployment, and physical and emotional health conditions, and have no financial resources or other options for treatment.

With the growing prevalence of addiction—especially due to the challenges faced by economically and socially marginalized women  
(continued in the next column)

and the growing use of potentially lethal substances including prescription opioids, fentanyl, methamphetamine, and xylazine—the need for our services is greater than ever before.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of the community to sustain our operations. We are truly grateful for your ongoing support, which is instrumental to our ability to serve our clients through their journey to recovery and self-sufficiency.

Please consider either a one-time or recurring monthly donation that will help us bring the life-long gift of sobriety, good health, and success to our clients.

Click here (scroll to the Secure Donation form Link) to learn about how you can help.

Soroptimist House of Hope wishes you and your family a healthy and prosperous 2024. Thank You for your support.

With gratitude,

*Peggy Redmon*

President,  
Board of Directors

*Nicole Yingling*  
Executive Director

Soroptimist House of Hope, Inc. is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are fully tax-deductible as specified by law.

[www.recoveryhouseofhope.org](http://www.recoveryhouseofhope.org)  
760-329-4673





## SPRING CONFERENCE - CALL COMING SOON!!

Are you ready for another fun and engaging Spring Conference??

Get ready to pack your bags and head to Tucson, AZ for informative workshops, inspiring speakers, and fun social events. You won't want to miss it!!

Keep an eye out early next month for the Call to Conference with all the details.

Take a peek at some of the fun that was had at last year's Spring Conference!



## Connect with us at SIPD

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

- P.O. Box 13997, Palm Desert CA 92255
- 760-534-8782
- [info.soroptimistpalmdesert@gmail.com](mailto:info.soroptimistpalmdesert@gmail.com)

Facebook  
[soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert)

Twitter  
[@soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert](https://twitter.com/soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert)

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

### Plan Your Trip

#### Flight 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.](#)

#### Hotel

Nestled in the heart of Bellevue, the Hyatt Regency Bellevue on Seattle's Eastside offers the perfect blend of sophistication and convenience. Book [here](#) for SIA's special rate to secure your spot at Hyatt Regency Bellevue today and let the anticipation for an unforgettable convention experience begin!



### Special Opportunities for Members, Clubs and Businesses Be Featured in the 48th Biennial Convention Program Book

Did you know you can highlight your club's work, honor a special member or share well-wishes with fellow Soroptimists in our convention program book. Right now, you can choose one of our pre-designed ad options, and simply upload a graphic, photo and ad copy. It's that easy! [Learn more.](#)

### Call for Convention Sponsors

As a sponsor of our biennial convention, you or your organization can support our mission and engage firsthand in the impact our members are making throughout the world! These special opportunities are open to members, clubs and businesses. Plus, each partner will receive special recognition and other benefits. [Learn more!](#)

