



# Plan Ahead

*Soroptimist International of Palm Desert  
monthly newsletter*

## Making a Difference, One Step at a Time

### President's Message

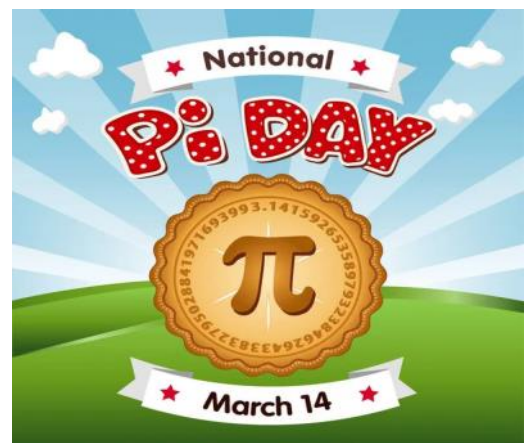
Our Mission to support and advocate for women and girls is more important now than ever before. Women continue to face challenges and barriers in all aspects of life, and it is our duty to stand up and fight for their rights and equality. By coming together and working towards a common goal, we can make a real difference in the lives of women and girls in our community.

I am proud of the work we have done so far, but I know that there is still so much more to be done. I encourage each of you to continue to be a voice for those who may not have one, to stand up for what is right, and to always strive for progress and equality for all.



Thank you for your dedication and your commitment to Soroptimist of Palm Desert. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of women and girls in our community.

Sincerely,  
Diane



Soroptimist is a global organization of women who volunteer their time their talent and resources to improve the lives of women and girls through programs that lead to economic and social empowerment.



## This month is Women's History Month

The theme from the National Women's History Alliance for Women's History Month 2025 is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations" recognizing the many contributions of women in education, mentorship, and leadership. It's a time to reflect on how far women have come and encourage future generations to keep working toward equality.



**CV Giving Day 2025  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

CV Giving Day is one of Coachella Valley's largest 24-hour online giving events, uniting our nine cities, hundreds of non-profits, and generous residents and businesses in a very powerful movement to create lasting change.

Since 2023, this one-day event held on the first Tuesday of March, is designed to amplify the impact of local non-profits by raising critical funds, winning cash prizes, and to bring positive awareness for the causes that matter most to our community.

Whether you're a donor, a non-profit, or just a forward-thinking business, CV Giving Day offers a unique opportunity to help make a difference, strengthen community ties, and support the organizations that drive positive change across the Coachella Valley.

Join us in this region-wide celebration of generosity, where every dollar is amplified and helps build a stronger, future for all. Last year our club raised \$1,081 from individual donations. Our goal this year is to double that, \$2,000. The link below is the place to make your donations online.

<https://www.cvgivingday.org/organization/SIPD>

We need each SIPD member to share this information with your contacts by email, and your social media platforms.

Last year we also won a \$1,000 Social Media Hashtag Prize and a \$5,000 Random Prize from the RAP Foundation for a total funding of over \$7,000.

We all need to promote CV Giving Day with the hashtag. #CVGIVINGDAY2025.



**CV GIVING DAY SPONSORS**

The Auen Foundation  
Google  
Desert Charities News  
Amazon  
1st Bank  
Channel 3 News  
The RAP Foundation  
NPO Centric  
Desert Community Foundation







Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

***<https://www.soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert.org>***

***Live Your Dream Awards Gala***  
***Join us this Spring as***  
***we award 3 single head***  
***of household women***  
***scholarships***

***Palm Valley Country Club***

***April 5, 2025***

***5:30-7:30 PM***

***\$85***

***Awards, Live Music, Photo Booth, Silent Auction***

***Register here:***

***<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-liveyour-dream-awards-gala>***



**You can use the link to make your reservation or scan the QR Code**

**<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-liveyour-dream-awards-gala>**



## **Our Farewell to Esther**

Our Club has the great fortune to be linked to an outstanding Club in Sweden, all thanks to the Soroptimist spirit of Esther Sjostrom our honorary member and visitor for the past three years. We always enjoy her company and the stories she shares about her and the vital action they do in Sweden, especially with th focus on the domestic issues facing women. We were lucky to hear her first-hand report about the Project Gnistan in her area and the benefits that have come from working with the community.

Club members Becky and Rose Mary were delighted to enjoy a great lunch with Esther at SiBon Restaurant in Rancho Mirage. It was a delightful setting on a beautiful day as we had our lunch on the patio. And a wonderful lunch it was! Each of us had a great meal choice, from Shrimp tacos to Waffler Quiche, to a fresh Beet salad! Unique dishes indeed!



As a parting gift for Esther and her Club SI Malmö-Linhamn, Rose Mary had created the Swedish flag as three beaded pendants. We think Esther plans to auction them off to help raise money for their club program.

And a more personal gift was made to representing all of our Club members. It's a pretty bracelet made from a variety of 29 semi-precious stones one for each of us and it includes:



Pink Quartz the friendship stone, Amazonite for Communication, Tigers Eye for strength and courage, Clear Quartz for healing and growth, Lapis Lazuli the source of ultramarine blue for wisdom and the symbol of royalty!

We think the world of Esther and she deserves the royal treatment!

Hopefully we sent her off in style and with all the well wishes of our club to help her back home safely! Until we meet again Esther, remember you are loved by your Soroptimist sisters!

Until next time!

Bon Voyage and Buena Suerte!



## **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

**WANTED**  
new & used jackets/coats/hoodies  
benefiting

"Shivering Students"  
Elementary Schools in our East Valley

November 4 through December 2

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

[www.facebook.com/soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert)

Email for more info: [duhbets@earthlink.net](mailto:duhbets@earthlink.net)

A poster for Soroptimist International of Palm Desert. It features a collage of women's faces in a circular frame at the top left. The text reads: "We are Soroptimist International of Palm Desert". Below this, it says: "A service organization committed to empowering women and girls through education across the world and in our community!". At the bottom, it says: "JOIN US AND CHANGE LIVES: [soroptimistpalmdesert.org](http://soroptimistpalmdesert.org)". The Soroptimist logo is in the top right corner.A poster for the Soroptimist International of Palm Desert Holiday Auction. It features a large stylized 'S' logo at the top left. The text reads: "Soroptimist International of Palm Desert", "HOLIDAY AUCTION", "at the Newton's", "December 12th 5:30 PM", "Bring your Holiday Gift List something for everyone!", "Appetizers", "Wine", "Dinner", "Desert", "\$25", "RSVP: [BJCARRIER22@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BJCARRIER22@GMAIL.COM)". The background is a festive blue and white pattern.

**IF YOUR QUESTION IS: "HOW DO I FIND A GROUP THAT IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUTURE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TODAY'S WORLD?"**

**YOUR ANSWER IS: SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF PALM DESERT. WE WERE ALL SEEKING THAT PURPOSE TOO! PLEASE JOIN US TODAY AND HELP US CHANGE LIVES!**

**[HTTPS://WWW.SOROPTIMISTINTERNATIONALOFPALMDESERT.ORG/](https://www.soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert.org/)**



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

**Soroptimist International of Palm Desert**

**Join us Saturday  
11-23-24**

**Soroptimist House  
of Hope**

*Art with Andrea*



A poster for the Soroptimist International of Palm Desert Girlz Career Coloring Contest. It features a cartoon girl with brown hair and a purple dress. The text reads: "Soroptimist International of Palm Desert", "Girlz Career Coloring Contest", "Westside Elementary School Oct 11th", "INTERNATIONAL DAY of the Girl Child", "WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY". At the bottom, it says: "AWARDS PRESENTATION NOVEMBER 22, 2024 9:00 AM WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY".

A poster for "GIVING DREAMS WINGS". It features a Santa Claus hat and a gift box at the top. The text reads: "JOIN US!", "GIVING DREAMS WINGS", "SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO LAS PALMITAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.", "JOIN US IN GIFTING THE KINDER CLASS BY DONATING A GIRL OR BOY GIFT VALUED AT \$35", "DUSTY WINGS", "SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF PALM DESERT". At the bottom is the Soroptimist logo.



**Your Monthly Dash of SOLT**  
**SIA Photo Contest**  
**Marlon Carrier**

Did you know that we have an opportunity to showcase our impact and celebrate our accomplishments by sharing photos of our events? Through April 30, Soroptimist International (SIA) is sponsoring a Photo Conte

st open to all Clubs and individual members on behalf of our Club. You will find guidelines and all the information you need on the SIA website at <https://www.soroptimist.org/> by looking under the **WHAT'S NEW** tab at the top of the page.

Supporting materials include a “What Makes a Great Photo?” **Tip Sheet** along with all the **Rules**.

Are there prizes? You bet! Winning Clubs receive recognition across Soroptimist publications and social media, plus winning Clubs will receive SIA Shop gift cards: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup>, \$50.

Entries must be supported by Media Consent Forms (available on the website) and need to be received via upload to SIA by **April 30**.







## Service report Saturday with the SHOH gals

In early February, the current clients at the SHOH recovery house engaged in a fun and productive day. We shared time making lovely bracelets with meaning and took a hands-on approach for some creative time.

Busy hands and lots of laughs and sharing were the mode of the day. Colorful beads turned into meaningful gifts for family members and oneself. Each gal had the chance to make a bracelet with semi-precious stones and then another with some colorful discs and their choice of letters, also known as friendship bracelets. I always enjoy watching the sparkle in the ladies' eyes as something becomes a real wearable object.

Our photos were taken against the backdrop of the fabulous paintings previous gals made with Andrea's painting class. The gals of the SHOH were open to seeing us again real soon!!!



Our most recent member who donated her FOUND MONEY to our club is Mary Kay Berlier! She cleared out a "coin catcher" in her home and found \$22 of nickels, which she rolled and donated, good job!



## A Day of Hope

Saturday, March 15  
11:30 AM- 1:30 PM  
75200 Classic Club Blvd  
Palm Desert, CA 92211, USA

Hello  
Soroptimist House of Hope Supporters,

We are thrilled to invite you to mark your calendars for our upcoming luncheon!

We understand that scheduling conflicts may arise, but there are still impactful ways to support Soroptimist House of Hope (SHOH) in achieving our ambitious goal of raising **\$250,000**.

SHOH has applied for the **Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP)** grant, and while we won't know if we have secured the grant until **June 2025**, we have stepped out in faith and secured a property at **22900 Curtin Road**. This bold move will increase our chances of being selected for the grant, as it shows our commitment to expanding services for women in need.

Our vision includes:  
Transforming our existing property into a **6-bed detox facility** and Developing a **14-bed women's residential treatment program** at the new location.

The BHCIP grant requires a **10% match**, and we hope to avoid pulling equity from our current property. That is where your generosity makes all the difference. Whether through sponsorship, donations, or event participation, your support will help us reach this critical milestone.

If the BHCIP grant is not secured, the funds raised will directly support renovations at the new ADA-compliant, licensed, and conditionally permitted property. Should we receive the grant, your contributions will go towards the 10% match required.

We've also attached a flyer showcasing the new property to provide a glimpse of what your support can help us accomplish.

Thank you for standing with us as we expand our mission of empowering women and rebuilding lives. We are profoundly grateful for your continued generosity and belief in our work.



## Connect with us

There are many ways to join our club and support our mission. Contact us to find out more about our volunteer opportunities, our 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

### 2024-25 OFFICERS

Diane Backovich, President  
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Betsy Kreger, Secretary  
Becky Goebel, Treasurer

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### NEWSLETTER

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## International Women's Day Tea Party

Join us for a global celebration! Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc., is once again hosting a virtual tea party to celebrate International Women's Day. The party will also serve as a virtual parallel event within the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's NGO forum.



**Walk for Women**  
powered by  
SOROPTIMIST®

**#WHYI WALK**



Why do you walk?  
Use the #WhyIWalk hashtag!

“  
I walk because those who inspire me are courageous, resilient and confident. They also have a strong sense of purpose, empathy, and a vision for the future. Members that I have met along my Soroptimist journey have definitely been an inspiration and I thank them .

-SIA President  
Ginger Cole