



# Plan Ahead

*Soroptimist International of Palm Desert*  
*monthly newsletter*



May 1



May 5



May 11



May 26



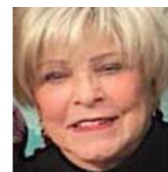
**SOROPTIMIST®**  
Investing in Dreams

## Making a Difference, One Step at a Time

### President's Message

This month, as we celebrate Mother's Day and the important women in our lives, let us also take time to reflect on the impact we can make as a collective group of strong and compassionate women. With our efforts, both big and small, we have the power to create positive change and uplift those in need.

I encourage you to continue to be a beacon of hope and kindness in our community, and to always remember the importance of unity and support for one another.



Many of you will be leaving the desert soon and we wish you safe travels. Thank you for all that you do, and I look forward to seeing the things we can accomplish together in the future.

Diane



The **Live Your Dream Awards** program is a unique education award for women who provide the primary financial support for their families. **Congratulations to our 2025 LYDA Recipients** Emily Tarango, Hayle Essman, and Annika Miyake (not pictured).



Emily Tarango



Hayle Essman



## SALLY RIDE DAY

May 26 is Sally Ride Day to honor the first American female astronaut to go into space. It is meant to be a day to learn about science and promote space exploration. The date commemorates Sally Ride's birthday and it has been observed yearly since 2003.



Sally Ride is a role model for girls who are interested in space and science. In 2001, she started her company to create educational programs, Sally Ride Science helps to inspire girls and young women to pursue their interests in both science and math.



## HONORING EDUCATORS

During our LYDA Gala event on April 5th, we welcomed Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez as a guest speaker. He shared his thoughts about the importance of our educators and the value of education. He presented two of our members with certificates.



**Patsy Bauman and Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez**

Patsy is a kindergarten teacher at Sea View Elementary School, Salton Sea, CA and this year has been recognized as **Teacher of the Year**.



**Dr. Melinda Gonzalez and Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez**

Dr. Gonzalez is Principal at Westside Elementary School, Thermal, CA and this year is recognized as **Administrator of the Year**.



**Rose Mary Jameson presented flowers to our honored educators: Patsy Bauman and Dr. Melinda Gonzalez**



**Patsy Bauman (Teacher of the Year)**  
**Dr. Melinda Gonzalez (Administrator of the Year).**

**We are honored to have you as members.**  
**Soroptimist International of Palm Desert**

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.



## LYDA GALA PHOTOS

April 5, 2025

Palm Valley Country Club



The LYDA portion of the evening's program began with an inspiring talk from our keynote speaker, Jan Harnik, Mayor of Palm Desert. Mayor Harnik actively participates in many of the organizations that support, promote and provide resources for academic opportunities in our valley.

Mayor Harnick and Assemblyman Gonzalez presented certificates to our LYDA winner, Emily Tarango.





## NOTES and CELEBRATIONS

Good Evening,

I want to drop a quick note to say thank you for honoring me this past Saturday. I am so fortunate to have fallen into such a wonderful group of women.

Thank you again for everything. I am one lucky kindergarten teacher!

Enthusiastically,  
Patsy Bauman

April 9, 2024

Hello from Esther



Dear SIPD Soroptimist Sisters,

Yesterday I was at our first monthly meeting after my return. It felt great to be welcomed back after a long break. We had an auction of the necklaces that Rose Mary crafted, it was an enthusiastic crowd WHO bid on them.

The winners were, our new member Elisabet Rohman, our former President Charlotta Malmgren and CSW Representative Eva Skårner, several of the sisters also pitched in with cash that goes to our Project GNISTAN.

I will organize a party for the children as a Thank You for the drawings they drew and sent to children in your School District. It will be Cake Pop and Fun and will give cash to Safija to use for the children's need. Safija cooks a meal or snack every day for children when they come to Gnistan after School.

I am feeling relatively well, I have just been given a date for knee surgery on July 28, which will allow me to get in shape until I plan to visit Palm Springs in December this year...

Looking forward already



Stay well my sisters, I miss you all



Love, Esther

April 23, 20025

Follow up from Esther.

Dear SIPD Soroptimist

I have received 1300 SEK which is about \$130 for the necklaces Rose Mary donated to our club. Everyone was very excited about them and the auction went well. I now have plans to buy fruit and vegetables for the children at Gnistan. I had originally planned to offer cake, but Safija who is the Director asked me for fruit instead. Due to inflation, vegetables and fruit have become very expensive that the children who come from less fortunate families cannot afford it.

We will cook something nice and invite the sisters in the club who have the time and opportunity to attend. I will send photos, it will be the first or second week of May. I will tell the children that the drawings were very much appreciated and that Becky plans to use them for a collage or maybe make Notebooks.

Our club SIML turned 60 in January 2025, when I was in Palm Springs. We are now planning a Luncheon for nearby clubs as well as our Danish sisters, who can travel across the Öresund Bridge to Malmö. It will be on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and we hope for warm weather and the Lilacs will be in bloom.

Give my love to all and feel free to share my letter.  
Esther

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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to Jasmin on her BSN-RN  
Graduation. Jasmin was  
our club's 2022 LYDA  
First Place Winner.

All of us are so very  
proud of you and all of  
the effort and hard work  
you've put in to earn  
your degrees.

**The members of SIPD**

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**MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

*Marlon Carrier ~ May 14*

*Rose Mary Jameson ~ May 18*

*Becky Goebel ~ May 22*

## Women in History

Senda Berenson Abbott (3/19/1868-2/16/1954) is considered the mother of women's basketball. She authored the first Basketball Guide for Women (1901-07). Born in what is now Lithuania. Senda immigrated with her family to the United States when she was seven years old. Senda did not have much interest in athletics as a child and she preferred music, literature, and art. She was "frail and delicate" which interfered with school.

In 1889, Mary Hemenway, opened Boston Normal School of Gymnastics. Sendra heard about this and decided to enroll for a year to improve her physical condition. By the end of the year, she was doing the daily exercise and felt much better and decided to enroll at the school for a second year.

Berenson was referred to Smith College in 1892 to teach Swedish gymnastics. At Smith College, she advocated for physical education in the lives of the students. Smith College had a gymnasium which had been built in 1890. Although it was in fine shape, the attitude of the time, didn't support the idea that a woman should engage in any physical activity.

Berenson would write, in 1894, "Until recent years, the so-called ideal woman was a small waisted, small footed, small-brained damsel, who prided herself on her delicate health, thought fainting was interesting, and hysterics fascinating."

In 1892, she read about the new game basketball, invented by James Naismith. The initial games were played in class. Instead of the peach baskets used in the first men's game, the goals in the first women's game were waste baskets.

On March 22, 1893, a game was played. It was the freshman vs. the sophomore class and was played with the men's rules. The players wore bloomers, and men were not admitted to the event.

Senda thought the game was rough, so she sat down with her class to discuss how to modify the rules. Sendra Berenson was the first person to introduce and adapt rules for women's basketball in 1899, modifying the existing men's rules.

In 1905, Berenson organized the United States Basketball Committee and served as chairman until 1917. The rules would remain in use with only minor modification until the 1960s.

She was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame

## Getting to Know Us

*(we are featuring a different SIPD member in each issue of our newsletter)*

### Introducing Andrea Durrett



Andrea is a graduate of Long Beach State and the University of Phoenix. She has 30 years of banking experience, starting with Wells Fargo Bank in 1995, and where she completed a Master of Business Organizational Management.

Andrea has held positions such as Banking Center Manager, Assistant Manager, Branch Manager, Relationship Manager, Regional Manager, Business Banker, and Sales Manager.

Andrea is a lifetime Coachella Valley resident, and is married to her Palm Desert High School sweetheart and they are now raising their two daughters in the Desert.

Her oldest daughter is very active in competitive cheerleading with the California All Stars and California State University of San Marco and is in her second year at CSUSM. Her youngest child is special needs and has been diagnosed with Syngap1. She is a Junior at Palm Desert High School and on the JV Cheer team.

Andrea has a passion for the arts and loves to paint and create. Some of her work is featured locally throughout our Valley. Her community involvement includes: volunteering for Desert Valley Business Association, Palm Desert Rotary, Desert Elite Mavericks, Christopher's Clubhouse, Washington Charter School, The Unforgettables Foundation, Palm Desert Charter Middle School, Palm Desert High School, Leadership Coachella Valley, and Soroptimist International of Palm Desert.

*Editor's note: Andrea was the artist who led Paint Nite in March at Westside Elementary (featured in our March issue of Plan)*





## A Day of Hope

(an excerpt from The Desert Sun Article, by Carole Stephen-Smith)

Soroptomist House of Hope held its 10th fundraising lunch at the Classic Club on March 15. The emcee was KESQ meteorologist Patrick Evans. The invocation was given by Dr. Dianne Swella.

Introductions were made by Charlotte Hughlett, board vice president, and Nicole Yingling, executive officer.

Attendees listened in awe at the life changing story of Lupe Murphy, whose world was so close to ending when she went from having no hope to today a working mother of three with a lifelong commitment of giving back to the program that saved her life.



Following a delicious lunch of chicken or salmon with vegetables and a light fluffy cheesecake, there was a live auction with raffle and door prizes. A huge thank went to the event sponsors: Courtney and Audrey Moe, the Lyn Manor family, Banc of California, Skyborne, Tri-Valley and Michelle White Real Estate.



Board Member Becky Goebel and Lupe Murphy

Soroptimist House of Hope is a six-bed facility where women can seek help from addiction. They recently purchased land to expand their program, and the lunch was an enjoyable way to raise the funds needed to pursue that dream.

## Nominating Committee Report

The members of this year's nomination committee were Rose Mary Jameson, Betsy Kreger, and Cathy Brown. The following are the slate of officers being proposed for the 2025-26 calendar year:

### Officers

President - Natalie Angrisani  
President Elect - Cathy Brown  
Secretary - Marlon Carrier  
Treasure - open

### Directors

Membership - DorisChurry and Pam Rich  
Service - Jocelyn Corominas  
Fundraising - Vanessa Wilk  
Public Awareness - Susan Browne Rosenberg

Past President Diane Backovich



## Your Monthly Dash of SOLT

### Personal Growth and Learning

Marlon Carrier

It is said that to live is to change and since change involves learning, you may want to consider the training opportunities made available by Soroptimist International of the Americas.

These sessions provide the chance to learn something new AND at the same time become a better Soroptimist! Improve your leadership skills and contribute to the ongoing growth & transformation of Soroptimist NOW & in the FUTURE.

Upcoming sessions include the following:

### Leadership Round Table

- Intended for ALL Soroptimists, conducted via Zoom in a 3-hour session
- Upcoming is Tuesday June 24, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Pacific for a registration fee of \$50
- Agenda includes Change Management, Member/Leader Code of Conduct, Financial Best Practices, Good Governance & much more
- As a side benefit, SIA has extended a 2025 Region Roundtable Challenge. Regions registering 22 members will be entered into a drawing to receive \$500

For a greater challenge consider the **2025-26 Soroptimist Leadership Fellow Program**. This is a multi-session certificate program open to the first 50 applicants. Those who are accepted to participate will gain skills that enhance their effectiveness in all areas of life and is not specific to Soroptimist leadership roles. Two virtual sessions are scheduled for June & December with a Graduation Ceremony at SIA's 49<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Incheon, South Korea.

For more information and to complete the online Application for either option, see **EVENTS** on the SIA website.





SOROPTIMIST  
HOUSE OF HOPE

# Open House



**Soroptimist House of Hope invites you  
to visit our beautiful new property at  
22900 N Curtin Road • Desert Hot Springs**

**Thursday May 8th, 3:00 - 6:00 pm**

**PLEASE RSVP to Margaret Henderson  
Mhendersonpayroll@gmail.com**

**We would appreciate donations to help furnish our new house**

**See list of much needed items and please visit our registry  
on Amazon.com**

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1P1MU6WRJT2AV/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1P1MU6WRJT2AV/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

*Soroptimist House of Hope is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation governed  
by an elected all volunteer Board of Directors.*

*Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*



## Connect with us

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

### 2024-25 OFFICERS

Diane Backovich, President  
Rose Mary Jameson, Past President  
Betsy Kreger, Secretary  
Becky Goebel, Treasurer

### EMAIL

[info@soroptimistinternationalofpalmdeser.org](mailto:info@soroptimistinternationalofpalmdeser.org)

### FACEBOOK

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

### WEBSITE

[SoroptimistInternationalofPalmDesert.org](https://SoroptimistInternationalofPalmDesert.org)

### NEWSLETTER

Natalie Angrisani, Editor  
[itsnatalie@gmx.com](mailto:itsnatalie@gmx.com)



### 2025 Leadership Round Table (LRT)

June 24, 2025 6-9 p.m. (EDT)  
Virtual and fully interpreted.

The LRT provides members the chance to develop your leadership skills in a supportive, collaborative environment.

Be a part of the ever-changing and growing Soroptimist organization. This is your opportunity to learn and become a better overall leader.

Explore interest in becoming a future Soroptimist leader!



### **Its never too early to start planning:**

Spring Conference 2025 - June 5 - 7

In Fort McDowell, AZ at WeKoPa Casino Resort  
(20 min from Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix)

Please share with all members of your club.  
Encourage all new members to register.

Start Inner-club fundraising now to help members attend.

For more information and registration, Click on the [LINK to the CALL](#)