



## November 2024

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dream  
education & training awards for women®

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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.



# Plan Ahead

*Soroptimist International of Palm Desert  
monthly newsletter*

## Making a Difference, One Step at a Time

Golden West Region – District 2 Fall Meeting  
Leap Into Leadership

This was the theme of the event and leadership was in full force. With SI Palm Springs and SI Palm Desert leading the way, it was a smashing success.

Friday Evening we were entertained by a vocalist who sang songs from The Beatles to Pavarotti. In addition, our own Dr. Christine and Jocelyn had all the Latin moves dancing for all enjoyment.

The various presentations on Saturday were not just informative but clever and brought an element of joy to the entire event.

One of the many statements I heard and the one I shall always remember was said by Charlie Van Cleve D2 Director;



“When you are going to make a statement, make it like a skirt, long enough to cover the subject and short enough to make it interesting.”

Diane Backovich  
President

“Empower a woman, empower a community. When women support each other, incredible things will happen. Together, we can break barriers, overcome challenges, and create a brighter future for all.”

## November 11, 2024



**Veterans Day** (originally known as **Armistice Day**) is a federal holiday observed annually on November 11, and honors all the veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Veterans Day coincides with Armistice Day and with Remembrance Day, which are commemorated in other countries, marking the anniversary of the end of World

War I. Major hostilities of World War I formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice went into effect. It was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

*To all who served we thank you!*





### **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL GOLDENWEST REGION DISTRICT 2 FALL MEETING**

On Friday and Saturday October 18th and 19th, eight clubs from the Goldenwest region of Soroptimist International met for their Fall meeting at the Indian Wells Resort in Indian Wells.

The eight clubs included Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Big Bear, Yucca Valley, Idyllwild, San Jacinto/Hemet Valley, Beaumont/Banning and Moreno Valley.

The meeting was meant to be a bonding experience between the clubs by spending the days fostering camaraderie, engaging in insightful discussions, and sharing meaningful experiences. Everyone enjoyed themselves on Friday night with a fun evening at an old-fashioned charming Las Vegas-style dinner show at the Indian Wells Resort.

The theme of the meeting was “Leaping into Leadership”. With this in mind, the dynamic Jan Harnick, Mayor Pro Tem of Palm Desert spoke on overcoming the fear of leadership. The remainder of the meeting on Saturday was on the latest updates and introductions to new programs provided by Soroptimist International of the Americas Headquarters.

This meeting was a great way to begin the new club year and head into another great season of success helping other women achieve their dreams through these women’s leadership! The name, Soroptimist, means “best for women,” and that’s what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are women at their best, working to help other women to be their best.

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Learn more and or donate on the links [www.soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert.org](http://www.soroptimistinternationalofpalmdesert.org) or [www.goldenwestregion.org](http://www.goldenwestregion.org)

Written by Dr. Christine Duranceau



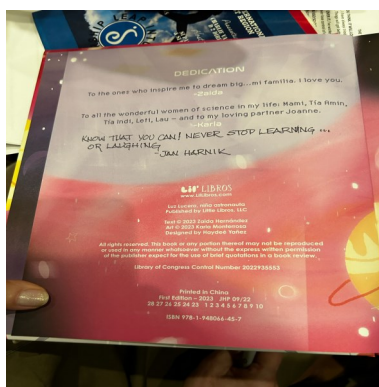


## Soroptimist International of Palm Desert



Our guest speaker, Jan Harnik, Palm Desert Mayor Pro tem, spoke about "Overcoming the Fear of Leadership".

Afterwards she wrote a message and signed one of the books we will be putting in our next school library.



Thank You  
Charlie Van Cleve, our District 2  
Director, and your co-chairs  
Gloria Hill, SI Palm Springs, and  
Rose Mary Jameson, SI Palm Desert

Congratulations!  
You put together an informative,  
educational and fun Fall Meeting.



## Photos from our District 2 Fall Meeting





## Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

A few reminders from your Treasurers  
Becky & Natalie

We have the capability to receive online donations, so watch us grow our donor base!

Reimbursements to members must have a valid receipt to claim the expense.

Year end donations are a good way to give your SIPD Club a boost and yourself as well! We can generate a receipt under our 501(c)(3) designation for your tax purposes, don't be shy give it a try!

Are you a past GEM donor? Let's grow this program as it has enabled our club to do great projects and has definitely increased our reach!

We have two donations so far for this club year from Marie and Becky which puts our GWM donations over the \$20,000 mark!

If you want to be a GEM donor, simply write a check to our club, SIPD and mail it to:

SIPD

P.O. Box 13997

Palm Desert, CA. 92255

Indicate in the memo area: GEM Donation 2024-25

We will send you a receipt on request.



### SHOH has a new Van!

What a whirlwind of a day!

Here's a picture of the new van the House of Hope acquired through a grant from the McMillian Foundation. This Van will make it possible to transport the Residents without worrying about a breakdown along the way.



### International Day of the Girl

On October 11, 2024 our club, launched a "Career Coloring Contest" at Westside Elementary School, in honor of 2024 International Day of the Girl. This year's theme is 'Girls' vision for the future', and conveys both the need for urgent action and persistent hope, driven by the power of girls' voices and vision for the future.

The International Day of the Girl Child was declared by the United Nations; and, it is also called the Day of Girls and the International Day of the Girl.

October 11, 2012, was the first Day of the Girl Child. This observance is in support of opportunity for girls and increases the awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide in areas such as: access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, and protection from discrimination, violence against women and forced child marriage.

## **The Midnight Ride of Sybil Ludington**

Sybil Ludington is known as the “female Paul Revere” and although her actions were just as heroic, she was largely forgotten until just over a century after her own midnight ride took place.

Sybil Ludington was the first of twelve children to Henry and Abigail Ludington. Her father, Colonel Henry Ludington, had served in the British military for more than 60 years but during the American Revolution he had switched sides to the Patriot cause. When the Revolutionary War began, Sybil’s father was a commander in the local county militia. Sybil’s father was a gristmill owner and the family’s farm was in an area between Connecticut and the coast of the Long Island Sound, a region that was particularly susceptible to attack from British troops.

It was shortly after Sybil’s 16th birthday, when a rider arrived at her home to tell her father the town of Danbury, Connecticut had been attacked and burned by the British militia. The British sought to capture the arms and ammunition stockpiled in the town. Upon receiving this news, Colonel Ludington knew that he needed to gather his men to go and defend the nearby towns and homes against the advancing British armies. However, the Colonel's men had disbanded for the season and were scattered all around the region in their own farms and homesteads.



Sybil got on her horse and road all through the night alerting the Colonel's men of the attack. Sybil's ride was not easy as she rode through the dark, in the woods and through the rain. She is said to have ridden around forty miles, which is almost triple the length of Paul Revere's famous ride, just to make sure that all were alerted of the British menace.

Not only did Sybil face the precarious weather and terrain, she also risked attack or capture at the hands of the British. However, Sybil knew the land around her family’s farm well and she knew where her father’s men lived – information which served her well. By the time Sybil made it back home by daybreak, many of the men had gathered and were ready to march. Although Colonel Ludington’s troops arrived too late to aid the defense of Danbury, they did confront the departing British and drove them back to Long Island Sound.

Sybil’s heroic efforts were greatly appreciated by her friends, neighbors, and even George Washington is reported to have personally delivered his thanks to the young teenager.

The photo to the left is from the dedication of Sybil’s statue at Lake Gleneidain in 1961.

Sybil Ludington is a great example of women’s strength through adversity, a previously unrecognized war heroine that made history.



*This is a continuing series about Women in History shared with us by Dr. Christine Duranceau.*





## Your Monthly Dash of SOLT Marlon Carrier

As part of an international organization, our Members are fortunate to be able to support our Club and community locally, but we are not on our own. We have the advantage of the structure and guidance provided by Soroptimist International of the Americas. That guidance starts with foundational guidelines provided in the ***SIA Strategic Plan***. The full FY24/25 Strategic Plan is available online here: [FY 24/25 Strategic Plan](#)

To begin, the Plan includes the following SIA Vision, Mission, and Core Values...

**Vision:** Women & girls have the resources & opportunities to reach their full potential & live their dreams.

**Mission:** Soroptimist is a global, volunteer organization that provides women & girls with access to education & training needed to achieve economic empowerment, especially those facing significant obstacles.

**Core Values:** Soroptimist is commitment to

**Education:** Access to education for all women and girls.

**Empowerment:** Women & girls have the power to make their own choices, pursue their goals, and promote gender equality.

**Diversity & Fellowship:** Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women & girls.

**Gender Equality:** Women & girls live free from discrimination

Stay tuned next month for more on **Strategic Outcomes** and how those apply to our Club.



*Our November Birthdays*

*Sherrie Yoshimura*  
*November 25*

*and*

*Cathy Brown*  
*November 29*

## **Community Service Project**

Hats off to the 19 year old young man who stenciled 50 goodie bags for our GWR Soroptimist Fall Meeting. He was able to finish his Community Service hours. Good job! (if your bag is a tad messy, just remember it helped a young man clean up his prior mistakes).



## **Why I Love Fall Meetings**

For me, being at Fall Meetings is being in touch with friends from other clubs. It's being around other ladies that are dedicated Soroptimists.

Just walking into the meeting room, I could feel connected to everyone there and it was great hearing what is happening at SIA and in our District 2 clubs.

At the end of the day, I feel renewed; ready to "get on the Soroptimist bus".

*Betsy Kreger*

## **A Note from Lori Oliver**

Dear members of SIPD, I wanted to thank you all for the cards you sent. So many sweet messages and sweet memories of a Class A group of women.

Zooming in to meetings is less than ideal, but it's way better than nothing. I do appreciate the effort you make to allow this to happen for me and for others.

*All the best,  
Lori Oliver,  
(zooming in from Staunton,  
Virginia and beyond)*

## **A Note From Patsy Bauman**

I have been abundantly fortunate to have had my various teaching endeavors supported by the generous women of SIPD over the past few years. For those of you who have been on this journey with me, you know that my little people face many struggles.



All teachers, depending upon where they teach and the community in which they serve, encounters unique sets of challenges and obstacles. One common hindrance is the occurrence of head lice. All of my little girls have long thick hair that can easily hide these small beasts.

Also, kindergarten students play together like puppies, readily spreading the bugs and eggs. You can imagine, it is very difficult to concentrate with critters crawling on your scalp! I won't go into protocol

or details of the family circumstances, but I will say that in many cases, lice don't disappear after one treatment. Treatments must be thoroughly performed on every family member multiple times.

This can be costly and geographically prohibitive. Your donation of 5 bottles of Rid medicine will help to remove one more obstacle prohibiting my little girls from becoming educated young women.

I am proud to be part of a group that supports and believes in all girls, no matter their challenges.

*Thank you!!!  
Enthusiastically,  
Patsy Bauman  
Kindergarten Teacher Sea View*

## **A Note From Marilyn Alt's Daughter**



I wanted to let you know that my dad passed away last Wednesday at the age of 90. He had been in decline for some time. I am sad and will miss him, but I am relieved that he's not suffering anymore. Mom is blissfully confused and doesn't really understand what has happened.

My brother from Ohio visited three weeks before he died, so he was able to see all of us together one last time.

Everyone who met my dad thought he was the nicest and most polite man they'd ever met! The nurses at his care facility loved him.

*Take care,  
Michelle*



**Coat Drive**

Ladies, It's that time of year: cooler temps, getting ready for the holidays, and collecting coats for our students that come to school only wearing tee-shirts in the freezing mornings. Here's how you can help: spread the word with friends and family that we are collecting coats, sweaters, sweatshirts and hoodies. Collection boxes will be placed at various businesses. If you know of a good place for our boxes, let me know.

The collection will start Monday, November 4 and run to December 2. That's only 4 weeks to gather winter weather clothing for our students. So let's show our Soroptimist spirit and excitement for this Service Project.

**Betsy**



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





!!! Save the Date !!! more details to come

Soroptimist  
International of Palm Desert invites you to its

# *Annual Holiday Auction*

Held on Thursday,  
December 12th  
from 5:30 -8:00 p.m.  
at the Newton  
Residence  
\$25





## **Our December 2023 Holiday Auction**

**This year the date is: 12/12/2024**

Everyone is invited to bring an appetizer or dinner dish. Also, to bring a bottle of wine if able.

This is a really fun evening and "soroptimisters" are encouraged to also attend (and to bring their wallets).

Items that you are donating for the auction may be donated ahead of time or brought with you that evening.

RSVP to Marie at  
[marie@cwnlaw.com](mailto:marie@cwnlaw.com)  
or cell # 619-823-9591



As we express our gratitude,  
we must never forget that the  
highest appreciation is not to  
utter words, but to live by them.

*- John Fitzgerald Kennedy.*







## Connect with us

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

### 2024-2025 OFFICERS

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

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#### NEWSLETTER

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

## Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

*Investing in Dreams*



Serving our community for 60 years!

## 50 Reasons to Join Soroptimist

Community Service | To Make a Difference | Worldwide Contribution | Friendship  
Networking - Locally & Globally | Travel | International Conventions  
Environmental Issues | Advocacy of Women's Issues | Women's Opportunity Awards  
Legislative Issues | Personal Growth Potential | Membership Transferability  
Regional Conferences | Raise Awareness of Women's Issues | Integrity of Profession  
Learn Compatibility | Women Helping Women Rally Against Domestic Violence  
Live Your Dream Awards | District Meetings | Globally Conscious Awareness  
Education | Participation in UNIFEM | Promote Status of Women | Human Rights  
Advocate Girls' Issues | Promote Youth Volunteerism | Spend Leisure Time Wisely  
Leadership Training Opportunities | Take Action on Women's Health Issues  
International Goodwill | Give Back to the Community | United Nations Representation  
International Understanding | Experience the Joy of Achievement | Friendship Links  
Accentuate the Love of Country | Be Part of a Global Voice for Women  
Develop Fellowship | The Pride of Achievement | Cross-cultural Opportunities  
Domestic Violence Awareness | Dream It Be It | Personality Development  
Service to Members in Need | Participation in UNICEF | International Chat Line  
Achievement Through Action | Lifelong Friendships

