



The newsletter for Soroptimist International of Palm Desert, December 2018

-Doris Churry, Editor

Hello Denise Jacobs! You are now a “Newbie” and we all will be welcoming you to Soroptimist International of Palm Desert. Looks like an Induction Ceremony is due – hard to top Karen Koch’s Induction at Fall Meeting, but we will try. Denise is a Territory Manager for American Hotel Register and we all want to hear about her position. Denise is married to Howard and they live in Palm Desert: phone 760-835-8950 and her email address is denisehope58@gmail.com.



WELCOME DENISE!



DECEMBER AT SIPD

-President Betsy

November was a super Soroptimist month, loaded with something for everyone! Thank you to Phillip Johnson from the Salton Sea Collective for his informative talk on what has happened/is happening to our Salton Sea and how to protect it. Then we had our fabulous Purse Party at Marie's that raised \$1,102 for our club's various projects. And the topper was a wonderful evening spent at the Soroptimist House of Hope. See Susan's accompanying article. Yes the residents received a lot of love from us, but we got it back tenfold.



Now it's "Happy Holly and Jolly Jingle Time!" And how better to start out this month than with Marie's famous White Elephant Auction and Dinner this coming Friday, December 7th. A flyer was emailed out to all, so get your friends and family to come join in the fun and frolic. Please RSVP to me by Monday the 3rd. You can bring your auction items this Wednesday to our meeting, or deliver them to Marie's home.

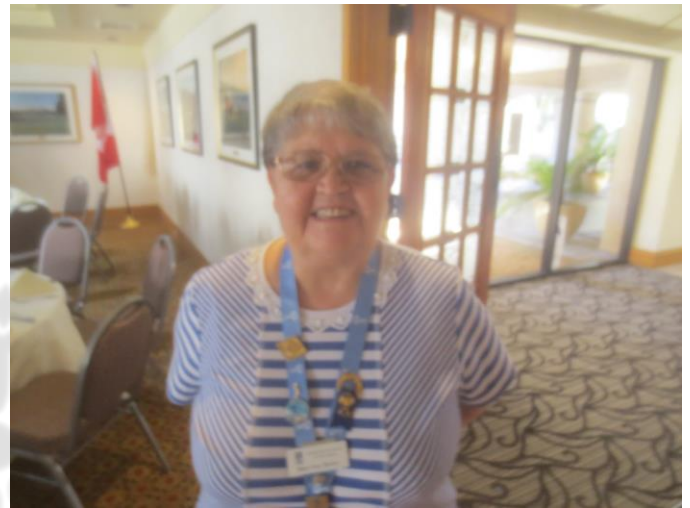
This Wednesday, December 5, will be our club Business Meeting, with our board meeting on Tuesday the 4th. Then our holiday club meeting will be December 19th. We would love for all members to wear holiday attire so we can take a club picture. Any crazy Christmas sweaters out there?

Hope everyone, and friends, is planning to attend Karen's personal fundraiser for us: A Concert Evening with Doug Smith, Accoustic Guitarist. Looking forward to meeting Karen's brother-in-law and enjoying a very special event!

Thanks to all our "bellringers" again this year; it really serves the Red Kettle well.

Again, wishing you all a wonderful holiday month. My family's favorite recipe for Cranberry Pistachio Biscotti recipe will be in our January PLAN AHEAD (something to look forward to!). I can never make enough of the stuff – dunk that into your coffee to start your New Year! Enjoy!

President Betsy looking good with her chic new hairstyle, weight loss and new Soroptimist top!



Mary Kay's pretty blue striped top goes perfectly with her new ribbon sporting her Soroptimist pins.



Marie is to be congratulated for pulling off her "Purse Party" idea, along with tons of help from Janice. Well done to the tune of \$1,102. Yes we came (28 women, 15 of whom were SIPD; yes we bought!



Karen and Janice sharing the lunch table November 7th. I am really anticipating her December 29 program of music, performed by her much honored brother-in-law.



You can see in her bright eyes that Sherrie is feeling good these days! Love to see the table centerpieces of seasonal decorations which she makes and brings in for us all to enjoy. Thanks Sherrie!



Yes, Ella, we will continue collecting those white caps!



While the rest of us were busying ourselves, Ella -Wonder Woman- Manor was knitting caps for the military. I'll let her tell all of us just how many caps for USA service people she actually knitted. No. You will not believe it.



Diana Palmer says "hello!" to everyone! We three enjoyed a wonderful lunch while she was here last week. See you next fall Diana!

SIA's BIG GOAL: Take One Step!

...to support our collective impact.

- Empower MORE women and girls through our Dream Programs
- Create a warm and welcoming club experience
- Increase club support for Dream Programs

Please join in the merriment at our 4th Annual Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

Holiday Dinner and Auction

Start collecting your gently used or regifted items that you want to donate for the auction. Drop them off early to Marie's home or at the December 5th club meeting.

Bring a guest, or more, plus any spouses -- as they are all great buyers!

Where: Marie Newton's Home
72550 Greenbriar Lane, Palm Desert

When: Friday, December 7, 2018

Time: 5:30pm until ...

Cost: \$10-please pay by cash or check on the night of the event

All proceeds are 100% income for our club.

Hosted by Marie Newton, Christine Duranceau, and Betsy Kreger



Please RSVP to Marie at 760-565-6947 or 619-823-9591

DECEMBER



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 – **SIPD BOARD MEETING**

4:30pm in Desert Falls Locker Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 – **SIPD BUSINESS MEETING**

NOON @ DESERT FALLS COUNTRY CLUB



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018 – 5:30pm - \$10 at the door

4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER AND AUCTION

Marie Newton's home, 72550 Greenbriar Lane, Palm Desert

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018 – **BELLRINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY**

THANK YOU ELLA/MARILYN, SUSAN/JESS, MARY KAY/BETH, MARGARET/LEN!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018 – **SIPD HOLIDAY MEETING**

NOON @ DESERT FALLS COUNTRY CLUB

Come DECKED OUT all "HOLIDAYISH!" FOR A CLUB PICTURE!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2018 – 7:30pm - \$25 at the door

DOUG SMITH, ACOUSTIC GUITARIST IN CONCERT

Laguna de la Paz Clubhouse, 48300 Vista de Nopal, La Quinta
Reservations required so we have your name on the list at the gate

By December 28 to Karen Koch ohkarebear@gmail.com





SOROPTIMIST SERVICE AT SIPD

As part of our dues and as part of our ongoing change collection, we contribute "FOUNDER'S PENNIES" to SIA funds which support the awards that we give to our LIVE YOUR DREAM scholarship recipients every spring at our LYD Banquet! Always inspiring and always exemplary of the extraordinary benefit of just one aspect of our donation profile of service to women and girls, both locally and globally.

Usually slipping under the radar of everyone's consciousness -- we always ask our speakers to autograph the books we donate to MECCA SCHOOL for their library. Beth Irish has donated many of them and the result is that each year we send a contingent of members to award the school with the accumulated new books; a singular treat and heartwarming to behold. Soroptimists in SIPD making an important difference in the lives of schoolchildren in the East Valley.

LAUREL SOCIETY membership donations of \$1,000 to support SIA awards, funded in part by Lori Oliver's Kohn Family Foundation. We currently have 7 members and 3 pending who are saving for award at Spring Conference -- You can join in the excitement of participation as there is your \$100 incentive awaiting you from Becky Goebel's designation!

"RINGING THE BELL" for Salvation Army

"BOTTLE CAPS FOR DIALYSIS"

Planning for "DREAM IT-BE IT" for girls

100's for SIA "PLANNED GIVING"

SOROPTIMIST HOUSE OF HOPE was established at Spring Conference some 35 years ago and our club has been there since the beginning. Continuing service includes donations we make of household goods and personal items; we throw a "shower" for the clients and shower them with gifts; Jan Heronema schedules activities at Santa Rosa Visitor Center and Ella Manor entertains clients at her Big Bear home and takes them on a boat ride; we make Potluck and take it to share and visit with the gals; then there is our major donation of thousands of dollars which we budget annually; and Marilyn Alt who has served on the HOH Board of Directors for over 15 years.

“HUGS NOT DRUGS”

-OR- THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS EACH TIME A SOROPTIMIST VISITS THE HOUSE OF HOPE!

-Susan Browne Rosenberg

Visiting the Soroptimist House of Hope in Desert Hot Springs last night was such a moving experience. Six of our Soroptimist members sat down and had dinner with six women in recovery and some staff members. When we arrived we were hugged and invited into the home (not just a house) as we were to learn. We brought healthy salad ingredients, lasagna, eggplant parmesan, garlic bread and desserts. Janice sliced up her homemade lasagna in the kitchen and we all started getting plates and moving to the large enclosed patio that could seat all of us.

At first, there were tentative questions and answers between all the women seated at the long table. Where had you been living? Do you have children? Then a bit of silence as we tried to figure out what to say next. I learned that the woman seated across from me had spent two years in Minnesota. She liked it more than I think I would have, Lori Oliver. I learned that another woman did not know that eggplant was a vegetable and found it to be quite delicious.



As we all ate dinner, I overheard conversations around me and the noise in the room starting to get louder as more women talked. I learned more about the Soroptimists I was with than I knew before. (Did you know that one of our members has been in the gas chamber at San Quentin?) Then we had dessert. I ate a cinnamon roll that had been made from scratch by one of the residents. She apologized to me as I dug in, because she had mistakenly combined the butter and icing ingredients leading to a less than perfect result. I ate it with gusto and told her it was delicious. Hey, how many of your dishes come out flawlessly?

After dinner we gathered in the living room, which is a very large circle of comfy sofas and pillows, to share our thoughts. One of the new residents (8 days) wondered why we were bringing them dinner. (Pause here ladies and think about that one.) Janice and Betsy were great at leading the conversation by telling the Soroptimist story; how we started in Oakland and what we do now; the story of the Soroptimist House of Hope of course. We had taken a picture with Lupe and posted it to our Facebook page. When the women are allowed to post on social media, I asked them to “Like” our page.

The words I heard over and over that night were: Home, Hugs, Love and Respect. Each woman told us that when they entered the House of Hope, they were greeted with love and now feel happy in their temporary home. One woman told us she loves the HOH so much, they may have to carry her out in a box. I truly believe that all six of these strong women will overcome their addiction, regain their children, regain the trust of their parents and siblings and families, and go on to lead constructive lives. At the end of our visit, we stood holding hands in a circle and recited the Soroptimist pledge. These women have finally found a place that will empower them to be the best they can be, thanks to our club. Lastly, the HOH staff show themselves to be quite remarkable and it is obvious that they do a stellar job 24/7.

ACOUSTIC GUITARIST DOUG SMITH



IN CONCERT, Saturday, December 29, 2018, 7:30pm

-Karen Koch



photo: Owen Carey

Doug Smith & Judy Koch Smith

Acoustic Guitarist **Doug Smith** is a **Grammy Award Winner** (and my brother-in-law!) and the 2006 winner of the prestigious **Winfield International Fingerstyle Guitar Competition**. His playing has been heard on the big screen in the popular 2007 film **August Rush**, and his original compositions are heard everywhere from **NPR** to **TCM** to **Martha Stewart** to **Good Morning America** and combines folk, classical and jazz elements. Doug has been called “a cross between Chet Atkins, Leo Kottke and Michael Hedges.” This night he will be giving us the gift of performing to benefit Soroptimist International of Palm Desert.

Doug picked up a **Grammy Award** in 2005, along with 22 other great guitarists, for his contribution to the **Henry Mancini tribute CD, Pink Guitar**, which won in the category of **Best Pop Instrumental CD**. By himself, he has a dozen CDs to his credit. He has shared the stage with such guitar luminaries as Laurence Juber, Tommy Emmanuel and Andy McKee, and he recently finished up another tour of Japan. He is often joined by his wife, flautist/vocalist Judy Koch Smith. **Billboard Magazine** writes, “Inviting melodies ... stunning fingerpicking” and **ChristmasReviews.com** raves, “Outrageously good!”

www.dougsmithguitar.com

\$25 per person – pay by check or cash to Soroptimist at the door

Laguna de la Paz Clubhouse, 48300 Vista de Nopal, La Quinta – RSVP Karen Koch by December 28 ohkarebear@gmail.com

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR FINANCIALS

-OR- WHAT DOES IT REALLY TAKE TO DO THIS JOB ANYWAY?

-Doris Churry, Treasurer

Well, until I learn the Quickbooks 2014 Pro Desktop edition, it takes two of us!

Brenda is good at giving me my head and then “saving” me because I got too rambunctious and over-eager trying to figure it out by myself. We email, phone, and visit in person in order to keep me in line and the books in order!



I have figured out that the job is simple. Some elementary knowledge of bookkeeping practices is very helpful. Just redid the last four deposits with Brenda because I had not directed them properly. Not cool. But it's the computer program that is the most confusing and challenging. Yes, here I am five full months into the job and I still cannot be on my own. How embarrassing! But there you have it, I am giving my all to Soroptimist and along with Brenda's tutoring I am getting the job done.

Today's task is to have Brenda help me through getting the recent deposit to show on the invoice. Okay, it's

because I did it out of sequence. Right--QB does not like it when I do things out of sequence and there is punishment for not conforming! I have to undo it and then do it right.

The bright side of you all seeing me do this is that in fact you all will also find that the job is --wait!--easy. At least doable, with backup and support. One does have to learn QuickBooks, however, so that is the glitch. If you already know the program you can slide through this easily enough I think. So, you computer gals should be thinking when it would be “your turn” to step up and take treasurer, as it is not as bad as most of us have always thought it was! I kid you not.

Next I will be paying the Treasurer's Bond to cover us when I abscond with all the funds! Lol – Oh, is anyone laughing at that? Probably not. Then we have our December meeting and activities and maybe I will be getting pretty good by the New Year. It's a goal and “Let's see what happens!”





Holiday Greetings from Governor Lori and the GWR Board of Directors

The holiday season is upon us once again. Time to renew old friendships and create new ones. Time to reflect on the past year and plan for the upcoming one. Take time for yourself amidst the busyness; be well my friends. Happy Holidays!

-Becky Goebel, District 2 Director

SOROPTIMIST MISSION

Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment and access to education.

HARVEST LOAF CAKE

-Doris Churry



1 $\frac{3}{4}$ C flour

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp cinnamon

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp nutmeg

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp ginger

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp ground cloves

$\frac{1}{2}$ C butter

1 C sugar

2 eggs

$\frac{3}{4}$ C canned pumpkin

1 C chocolate chips

1 C chopped nuts

CAKE: Grease two 9x5" loaf pans. Combine flour, soda, salt and spices. Cream butter and sugar well; blend in eggs. At low speed, add dry ingredients alternately with pumpkin, beginning and ending with dry ingredients. Stir in chips and $\frac{3}{4}$ C walnuts. Turn into prepared pan and sprinkle with $\frac{1}{4}$ C nuts. Bake @350 degrees for 65 to 75 minutes. Cool. Drizzle with glaze and let stand 6 hours or overnight before slicing with a bread knife.

GLAZE: Combine $\frac{1}{2}$ C confectioner's sugar, $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp nutmeg and $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp cinnamon and blend 1 to 2 tbsp cream until the right consistency to drizzle atop nuts and down the side.