Soroptimist International of Riverside ~ P. O. Box 1631 ~ Riverside CA 92502 Riverside CA 92502

DECEMBER 2018

"THE BEST FOR WOMEN"

WEBPAGE - soroptimistriveside.org FACEBOOK - Soroptimist Riverside CA CLUB #114315



SOROPTIMIST VISION

Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

SOROPTIMIST MISSION

Soroptimist transforms the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

SOROPTIMIST CORE VALUES

Soroptimist International of the Americas is committed to:

- GENDER EQUALITY: Women and girls live free from discrimination
- EMPOWERMENT: Women and girls are free to act in their own best interest.
- EDUCATION: Women and girls deserve to lead full and productive lives through access to education.

 <u>DIVERSITY</u> & <u>FELLOWSHIP</u>: Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women and girls.

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JUNIOR DELEGATE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Vicki Hightower 2018-19 SIR President

And, so, Christmas comes to bless us! Comes to teach us how to find The joy of giving happiness And the joy of being kind.

~Gertrude Tooley Buckingham, "There Will Always Be a Christmas" (1940s)

As members of Soroptimist International of Riverside, we don't wait for the holidays to give happiness and be kind. We do it all year long!

In looking back on the first six months of our fiscal year, I am amazed at how much we have accomplished.

We first started with a wonderful induction ceremony, then moved on to provide school backpacks filled with school supplies for Arlington Temporary Assistance (ATA), a project chaired by Louise Borda. Inspired by this project, Judy Pekarek started two canned food drives for ATA.

We hosted a very successful Fall Meeting where we met with Soroptimists from neighboring clubs to celebrate our successes, learn from each other and recommit ourselves to our goal of empowering women through access to education.

As chair of the GED committee, Janet Payton is moving forward with a program which will pay for women to test for their GED's.

We have had two very successful fundraisers piloted by Ellen Clizbe and Annamarie Megrdichian, as well as Carolyn Kegarice's ongoing Scrip fundraiser.

Our major events, the "Valentine Dessert Auction" chaired by JoAnn Moore and the "Live Your Dream, Dream It Be It" conference chaired by Jeanne Hatcher, are well underway and promise to be our most successful yet!

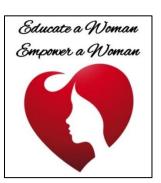
Thanks to Amy McKenzie and Melody Hendrickson, SI Riverside's social media presence has expanded beyond Facebook and we are now on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Membership chair Lynn Scecina has knocked it out of the park and we have four new members with a fifth to join shortly.

And now we look forward to our holiday party on December 13th that Susan Wolf has graciously agreed to host.

There is so much we have accomplished in a short time that I'm certain I'm forgetting something. Needless to say, I am extremely thankful to all SI Riverside members for their commitment to the club and the community and I am also thankful for the unique talents and gifts you all bring to our club. I wish all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season.

Vicki Hightower 2018-19 SIR President



DECEMBER 2018



- 2 <u>INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR</u> <u>THE ABOLITION OF</u> <u>SLAVERY</u>
- 4 BOARD MEETING
 12:00 PM, First United
 Methodist Church, 4845
 Brockton Ave, Riverside
- 10 <u>INTERNATIONAL HUMAN</u> <u>RIGHTS DAY</u>

BUSINESS MEETING12:00 PM, First UnitedMethodist Church, 4845Brockton Ave, Riverside

13 <u>HOLIDAY PARTY</u> 6:00 PM, Home of Susan Wolf

JANUARY 2019



- 2 <u>BOARD MEETING</u> 12:00 PM, First United Methodist Church, 4845 Brockton Ave, Riverside
- 8 BUSINESS MEETING
 12:00 PM, First United
 Methodist Church, 4845
 Brockton Ave, Riverside
- 11 <u>NATIONAL DAY OF</u> <u>HUMAN TRAFFICKING</u> <u>AWARENESS</u>
- 22 PROGRAM MEETING
 12:00 PM, First United
 Methodist Church, 4845
 Brockton Ave, Riverside

DATES TO REMEMBER



February 7, 2019

VALENTINE DESSERT AUCTION

Victoria Country Club Riverside

March 16, 2019 <u>LIVE YOUR DREAM - DREAM IT</u> <u>BE IT CONFERENCE</u>

Riverside Community College

April 23, 2019

SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARDS

June 6-8. 2019 GOLDEN WEST REGION SPRING CONFERENCE

Pala Casino Spa Resort Pala, California July 18-21, 2019

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2020

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Bellevue, Washington 2021

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - 100TH ANNIVERSARY

San Francisco, California 2021

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

International Soroptimist Riverside, a club in District 1 of the Golden West Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas, meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the First United Methodist Church, 4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, from noon until approximately 1:15 PM. Please arrive a little early so that we may begin promptly at noon. The 2nd Tuesday is a Business Meeting and the 4th Tuesday is a Program Meeting. Lunches are approximately \$16/each and can be paid on a yearly, quarterly or per meeting basis. For questions, please contact the SI Riverside Assistant Treasurer.



DECEMBER 10, 2018 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 70!

Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity!

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10th, the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

This year, Human Rights Day marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable which evervone inherently entitled to as a human being regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages.

Drafted by representatives of diverse legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration sets out universal values and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. It establishes the equal dignity and worth of every person.

Thanks to the Declaration and States' commitments to its

principles, the dignity of millions has been uplifted and the foundation for a more just world has been laid. While its promise is yet to be fully realized, the very fact that it has stood the test of time is testament to the enduring universality of its perennial values of equality, justice and human dignity.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights empowers us all. The principles enshrined in the Declaration are as relevant today as they were in 1948. We need to stand up for our own rights and those of others. We can take action in our own daily lives to uphold the rights that protect us all and thereby promote the kinship of all human beings.

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights empowers us all
- Human rights are relevant to all of us every day.
- Our shared humanity is rooted in these universal values.
- Equality, justice and freedom prevent violence and sustain peace.
- Whenever and wherever humanity's values are abandoned, we all are at greater risk.
- We need to stand up for our rights and those of others.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS



December 10th SI President's Appeal 2017-2019

Soroptimists are invited to support the 2017-2019 President's Appeal, "Women, Water & Leadership," once again joining with the SI membership around the world for a common goal.

Clubs or members can make a donation through our own SIA Federation and you might hold a fundraiser and use social media and websites to create awareness.

At least five projects will be supported on five continents that educate, empower and enable women and girls to lead in water, embracing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets set out in SDG 6: Water and Sanitation, SDG 4: Education and SDG 5: Gender Equality.

The President's Appeal is committed to promoting the inclusion of women in water resource governance as experts and leaders during all phases of the projects. Women will be equally involved in decision-making throughout the entire project cycle – from education and capacity building, through to design, implementation and monitoring.

The President's Appeal seeks to reach the goal of raising £350,000 over two years and to have improved, sustainable, accessible and affordable water products and services on five continents.

NOVEMBER 1, 2018 CALIFORNIA PIZZA AND NOTHING BUNDT CAKES FUNDRAISERS





Dear Friends:

Many thanks to all of you who gave your time and money to support the California Pizza Kitchen and Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraisers. I hope you enjoyed your food and had fun with your friends and/or family.

Your involvement in both fundraisers raised a total of \$264 which will go towards funding our Live Your Dream Conference for 150 AVID seventh and eighth grade girls in the Riverside, Jurupa and Alvord Unified School Districts.

Annamarie Megrdichian and I greatly appreciate your fantastic support.

Warmly. Ellen Clizbe













JoAnn Moore's family did take out and she sent a photo of the empty pizza boxes. YUM!

NOVEMBER 13, 2019 CANNED FOOD DRIVE FOR ARLINGTON TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



Dave and Judy Pekarek with Ophelia from Arlington Temporary Assistance

Thank you all for donating the food for the Arlington Temporary Assistance (ATA).

Dave and I delivered the food the club collected and spoke with Ophelia who was overwhelmed by our club's generosity.

She explained to me that she thought the United Way might be dropping them from their list this year. This will be a tremendous loss for ATA.

She also stated that she has to close the office early almost every day due to the fact that they run out of food and she does not like to turn anyone away as the need is so great.

She continuously thanked us for the food and even brought up the backpacks that we so generously fill each year.

This is such a worthy project and not to mention that it is a simple thing to do. As we shop for food for ourselves, it is so easy to pick up an extra can of food, package of rice, beans, etc. Anything we donate is appreciated by Ophelia.

A special thank you to Charlene Johnson who made up a flyer, walked around her neighborhood and collected food for this worthy organization. Way to go, Charlene!

A reminder that we are again gathering food for ATA for Christmas. Please bring any donation you can to the business meeting on Dec. 11.

> Judy Pekarek ATA Food Drive Chair

NOVEMBER 13, 2018 INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS



Membership Chair Lynn Scecina, New Member Melanie McKee and President Vicki Hightower

Melanie McKee was inducted into SI Riverside at or last business meeting on November 13th.

Melanie is an Organizational Manager at Amazon and a doctoral student.

SI Riverside is honored to have someone with Melanie's talents join our club.

WELCOME, MELANIE!

DECEMBER 13, 2018 HOLIDAY PARTY



You are cordially invited to our annual Holiday Party Potluck on Thursday, December 13th, at 6:00 PM at the home of member Susan Wolf.

This party is a potluck so each attendee should bring their favorite holiday dish.

We will have an ornament exchange so each attendee should also bring a wrapped ornament to join in the fun of this exciting holiday game.

Please RSVP to Susan Wolf by December 10th and let her know how many will attend and what dish you will be bringing for the potluck.

Family and friends are always welcome to attend our holiday parties so feel free to bring guests.

SEE YOU ON DECEMBER 13TH!

FEBRUARY 7, 2019
VALENTINE DESSERT
AUCTION



Valentine Dessert Auction and Battle of the Bakers

Mark your calendars!

Soroptimist International of Riverside 2019 Valentine Dessert Auction is being held Thursday, February 7, 2019, 11:30 AM at the Victoria Club in Riverside.

This **FUN**draising luncheon event includes delicious food and a participation variety of opportunities. And, of course, there are the sumptuous baked delights as prepared for the Battle of the Bakers. Every year the competitors outdo themselves with their interpretation of a theme. Win the bid during the LIVE AUCTION and share the sweetness! There are also celebrity lunches, vacation stays and other items to bid on if you're looking for a lower calorie option.

The **WINE AUCTION** is a chance to build your wine collection, gift a bottle or throw a grand event of your own. Buy a ticket to win a collection of 52 bottles of quality wines.

Delightful Valentine offerings for the thrifty-minded are available at the **SMALL GIFT TABLE**. Coworkers, grandchildren, service providers all love a little something.

The **SILENT AUCTION** always has numerous valuable and desirable baskets to place your claim to. Keep checking in so you have the last bid and walk away a winner.

Speaking of winning, **YOU** are automatically a winner by your support of Soroptimist International of Riverside's programs for women and girls. Through your contributions we

can continue to recognize the efforts of volunteers and scholars, students and head of households.

Please contact your local Soroptimist for more information or go to our website at www.soroptimistriverside.org to reserve your seat(s) to this signature event. We hope you can come on February 7, 2019, for a "sweet time."

JoAnn Moore VDA Chair

MARCH 16, 2019 LIVE YOUR DREAM -DREAM IT, BE IT CONFERENCE



Put on your calendar our *Live* Your Dream, Dream It, Be It Conference for 7th & 8th grade girls on Saturday, March 16, 2019, at Riverside Community College. We are excited to have a new morning session speaker, Jengi Martinez, a USAF Pilot, and we are adding a new panel, Business Owner/Entrepreneur.

All members will have a job, so please put this date on your calendar!

Jeanne Hatcher LYD Chair

INSPIRE LIFE SKILLS TRAINING



Foster youth who are aging out of the foster care system have hiaher rates of beina undereducated, underemployed and becoming homeless. It is startling that 65% of former foster youth end up homeless and that less than 6% attend college. These teenagers often find themselves instantly on their own without housing or support from family or community. Without mentoring and motivation, most former foster youth themselves homeless, pregnant, on drugs or in jail.

Inspire Life Skills Training, Inc. is working to change the bleak future for foster youth. Inspire gives housing to these young men and women and provides them with support in the form of mentors and life skills training as long as they are attending school.

For over two years now, SI Riverside has adopted the Inspire house on Luther in Riverside. By adopting the Luther House, SI Riverside has committed to provide the four young women in residence with hot meals, treats, gifts, groceries and supplies and anything else that comes to mind.

The wonderful young women residing at the Luther House as they pursue higher education are Shanna, Amirah, Naomi, Maria and the Resident Assistant is Briana.

The house is always in need of paper products (including feminine products), fresh fruit and vegetables and whatever you can think of that would make these young women happy.

Also, during this holiday season, consider sending the young women a note to encourage them to continue their pursuit of education and wish them well.

Vickie Hightower Inspire Adopt-A-Home Chair Soroptimist Ladies:

Thank you to you wonderful ladies for donating the amazing Family Day basket.

We are also so grateful for all that you do for the girls at the Luther House. The meals and goodies are a huge source of encouragement to the girls.

> Happy Inspiring, Krista

THANK YOU FROM AN AWARD WINNER

We recently received a graduation announcement from one of our Woman Opportunity Award winners from 2015. (This award is currently called the Live Your Dream Education & Training Award).

This award is given to a woman who is seeking to improve her economic status by gaining additional skills, training or education. It is not a scholarship but rather a cash award to offset any costs associated with efforts to attain higher education including tuition, books, supplies, child care or transportation costs.



April 2015: Cheyenne Mata (on the right) with Tillie Soliz, Woman's Opportunity Award Committee Chair

In 2015 Cheyenne Mata received this award. She was a sophomore at UCR with a goal to obtain her BA degree in Media and Cultural Studies. Her aim was to minor in Public Policy and be an advocate for legislation to assist youth in foster care.

Cheyenne has now graduated from college and sent us the following college graduation announcement.

Her comments reinforce why we do what we do as members of SI Riverside. What a great feeling to know that we (meaning "you") helped Cheyenne reach her dreams and move on to a more prosperous and productive future.



Dear Soroptimist of Riverside:

I was the lucky recipient of the "Live Your Dream Award" in 2015. It was the first scholarship I won and an incredible experience.

When I attended the luncheon, I was able to talk about my story and experience and even got a standing ovation.

My determination to succeed was strengthened by Soroptimist's belief in me. To be selected was not only a huge financial help but boosted my belief in myself.

I wasn't just a single mom and foster youth. I was someone with real potential and had the support of an amazing organization.

Thank you.

Love, Cheyenne and Layla

SI RIVERSIDE'S HISTORY





Soroptimist International of Riverside and the Riverside Exchange Club together presented the Golf 2003 Tournament on May 19, 2003 at the Indian Hills Golf Course in Riverside.

SI Riverside past presidents Glenda Richards and Pam Bradford co-chaired the tournament while all the members of the club worked hard on the day of the event.

Golf 2003 was a huge success and everyone had a great day of fun and golf. SI Riverside raised over \$4,000 to help fund their many projects that advance the status of women and girls in the local community.



SOLT Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training



Leadership Tip: Team Building Within Your Club

We hear a lot of talk about teams: Building a team, working as a team and reference to coworkers as part of "the team." Members are also part of a team – their club, and beyond that, Soroptimist International of the Americas.

We also hear that "talk is cheap" which means it's easy to talk about something but harder to actually do it. So it's important to think about how to foster teamwork among members.

Belonging to a team, in the broadest sense, is a result of feeling part of something bigger than YOU. Simply put, a team is a group of people working towards a common goal and equally as important, understanding the group's mission and objectives.

As Soroptimists, that means working on our mission to improve the lives of women and girls, both locally and globally. When we come together to do this, we empower our members, engage them and increase our collective impact!

Check out these few tips on how clubs and members can utilize a team approach in order to reach our goals.

Get to know each other:

Soroptimists love to socialize. There is no doubt about that! Make sure you talk to each other and get to know everyone in the club, not just a small circle of acquaintances. Expand your network and find out where your fellow members' interests and values lay. Talk about family, hobbies, work and why you're committed to the Soroptimist mission.

Make sure everyone is on the same page:

Does everyone in the club have a clear picture and know the mission? Orientations of new members can be a big help in this area. Also, reiterating who we are, what we do, and why we do what we do is beneficial to both seasoned new and members because it emphasizes importance of their commitment to Soroptimist.

Utilize talents:

Once you know a member's strengths and skills, match them up to an appropriate committee or subgroup within the club. Maybe you will find someone who can be a great mentor for a newer member or someone with an interest and flair for keeping up with your club's Facebook page. A member may even standout as someone to tap for a leadership role in the club!

Have a team building activity:

Improve communication, boost morale and motivate by simply adding a fun, short activity to your meeting to encourage teamwork. A simple internet search on "team building activities" will yield a number of ideas and options you can adapt for your club.

Recognize and reward:

Finally, you can never say thank you enough! Praise and give gold stars to those who work together for the greater good. When members get excited about their volunteer work, when they believe they have something to give back and, most importantly that their contributions are valued, there are no limitations to what can be accomplished.

Fostering teamwork is an ongoing and challenging endeavor among our diverse membership. However, doing so will heighten the sense of ownership and loyalty among members which in turn can lead to an increase in member satisfaction and retention!

Article taken from the SIA webpage: www.soroptimist.org

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Chris Deviny December 2nd

JoAnn Moore December 12th

Ellen Clizbe December 17th

DECEMBER
CLUB MEMBERSHIP
ANNIVERSARIES



Linda Robertson 12-08-2009

MEMBER MOMENTS ON FACEBOOK





Jill Borth was at Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park: "Family Picture Day! Thank you @jenlenandboys for taking our pictures in this beautiful setting! Can't wait to see them!"



Pam Bradford posted: "My daughter-in-law Jenn sent me this photo of my 6 year old grandson Braden taken while they were at California Adventure. Braden loves to pose with attitude and this is one of his best."



<u>Jana Cook</u> was tagged in a photo posted by Bryan McDougall: "Found this in a random long hallway somewhere."



<u>Susan Exon</u> posted: "So proud of the La Verne Law ADR Competition Team participating in the ABA Negotiation Competition at Pepperdine."



<u>Debbie Ferraro</u> was tagged in a post by Kris M. Jackson in San Jose del Cabo, Baja California: "Felicidades Jim and Debbie Ferraro."



Melody Hendrickson posted: "My mom just found this old event ID from years ago. I initially got a minimal job at a BET Awards event but worked my way up to being one of those crazy people running around back stage with a head set and a clipboard. That head set ended up in the toilet because it fell off my small head as I showed Beyonce the bathroom. I remember interviews for Mary J. Blige and Snoop Dog and I felt I could take on the world. Wonderful, comical and nostalgic memories. I'm feeling a little old today!"



<u>Vicki Hightower</u> posted: "My guys!"



<u>Charlene Hildebrandt</u> posted: "Happy Thanksgiving!"



<u>Caroline Leach</u> was tagged in a post by Shannon Morris at Disneyland.



<u>Melanie McKee</u> posted: "Jack at Petco."



<u>Amy McKenzie</u> posted: "SURPRISE! Aly is 18."



Kathy Michalak was in Apple Valley, Minnesota: "Spending time with my sister in Minnesota. Great Thanksgiving hospitality. Today we built a BBQ cart for her portable grill. Not bad for an afternoon project but I need to start packing my tool bag!"



Anh Nguyen is interested in attending the 40th Victorian Christmas Open House on December 9th at the Heritage House & Gardens sponsored by the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.



Michelle Paradise posted: "It's been 12 years since I've seen my childhood BFF. I am so happy Dena was able to visit and I was able to meet her soulmate.

I love you but let's not wait another 12 years."



<u>Kathleen Parra</u> posted: "Brought out my fav book given to me a few years back. Baking... Ahhh... Sugar therapy!"



<u>Janet Payton</u> posted: "Best part of my day playing trains with this guy."



Judy Pekarek shared a post.



<u>Linda Robertson</u> posted: "Photo friend took of me at Dia de las Muertas. Thinking of doing my makeup like this. Any comments?"



Lynn Scecina posted: "We had a wonderful family time at the Mission Inn lighting ceremony. It's great to be able to gather during the holidays."



<u>Tillie Soliz</u> was tagged in a post by Carla Soliz Zornes: "Remembering our loved ones."



Carol Allain Speer shared a post.



<u>Debi Sullivan</u> shared a memory from one year ago: "Celebrating Debby's birthday with Debi and Bruno Mars."



<u>Lisa Williams</u> posted: "Ride around White Horse Lake! Brrrrr...and beautiful."



Susan Wolf posted: "What a week. Halloween joined the Gleasons for some trick-ortreating. Anniversary on 11/1. Spent time in Palm Springs with long time friends from Arkansas Julie and Marc Taub. Birthday 11/2. So blessed by a wonderful group of friends, office and hubby. Saturday classic charity golf. One hole in and was hit by a golf ball on my wrist. Blessed that it was not broken."

CONTACT INFORMATION



<u>SOROPTIMIST</u> <u>INTERNATIONAL OF</u> RIVERSIDE

MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. Box 1631 Riverside CA 92502

WEBPAGE

www.soroptimistriverside.org

FACEBOOK

Soroptimist Riverside CA

INSTAGRAM

soroptimistriverside

TWITTER

@SIRiverside

LINKEDIN

www.linkedin.com/company/ soroptimist-internationalof-riverside/

GOLDEN WEST REGION

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www.goldenwestregion.org

FACEBOOK

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<u>SOROPTIMIST</u> <u>INTERNATIONAL OF THE</u> AMERICAS INC.

1709 Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-6103

WEBPAGE

www.soroptimist.org

FACEBOOK

Soroptimist International of the Americas

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

87 Glisson Road Cambridge, CB1 2HG United Kingdom

WEBPAGE

www.soroptimistinternational.org

SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist and to The ideals for which it stands: The Sincerity of Friendship, The Joy of Achievement, The Dignity of Service, The Integrity of Profession, The Love of Country. I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold, and defend these ideals, for a larger fellowship in home, in society, in business, for country and for God.

RIVERSIDELINES



EDITOR Pam Bradford

DEADLINE

Submit articles and photos by the 25th of each month to Pam at: pambradford@pamsemail.net

GRATITUDE AND BEING THANKFUL







Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

-Uprath Winfrey -



GRATITUDE

is the

is the

is the

healthiest =

of all

human emotions

- zig zighr





BE PRESENT IN ALL THINGS AND THANKFUL FOR ALL THINGS.

MAYA ANGELOU





