



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE FLUFFY WORLD OF BETH IRISH!



# PLAN AHEAD

The newsletter for Soroptimist International of Palm Desert, January 2019

-Doris Churry, Editor

“Joy to the World” certainly defines our December club activities. The Auction and Dinner event at Marie’s was fun and the food was delicious. We raised \$965 with this fundraiser. Thank you to our SIPD club members and Soroptimisters for ringing the Red Kettle bell for Salvation Army on December 8. Then Janice, our Service Director, arranged a field trip for the SHOH ladies to visit The Living Desert on Thursday, December 13. The ladies had fun feeding the giraffes and Lorikeets. This was the first time these ladies had been there. What a treat!

Our Holiday club meeting was filled with laughs as we played a holiday theme bingo game and played charades. Acting out the titles that Cathy dreamed up led to lots of laughs with the antics trying to get members to figure out the word. Thank you to Becky for posting us on our FaceBook page.

And we ended the month with a lovely acoustical guitarist concert as a personal project. Thank you Karen for having your brother-in-law perform for this fundraiser. We raised \$1,225 at this event.



It's hard to believe that the past four months have been filled with so many club events. And now for 2019! This coming Wednesday, our guest speaker will be a human trafficking survivor Amy Andrews-Gray. As you know January is Stop Human Trafficking month and our speaker will offer insights into this horrible trafficking.

I'd like to also mention SI Palm Springs' Luna Fest event on Saturday, January 26. The short films are about woman and produced by women. Contact Samantha Dewing for tickets if you don't have yours yet. It is a wonderful, worthwhile event.

This month we will conduct a club audit as this is the half-way point in our club year. We do have a committee of Ella, Sherrie, Brenda and Betsy. But if you're interested in joining, let me know. We are also culling our SIPD records at Ella's. Date TBA by Ella.

I wish all of you a healthy and enriched 2019!

-President Betsy

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019

"LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARDS" DINNER

BERMUDA DUNES COUNTRY CLUB

co-hosted by SI Palm Desert and SI Palm Springs

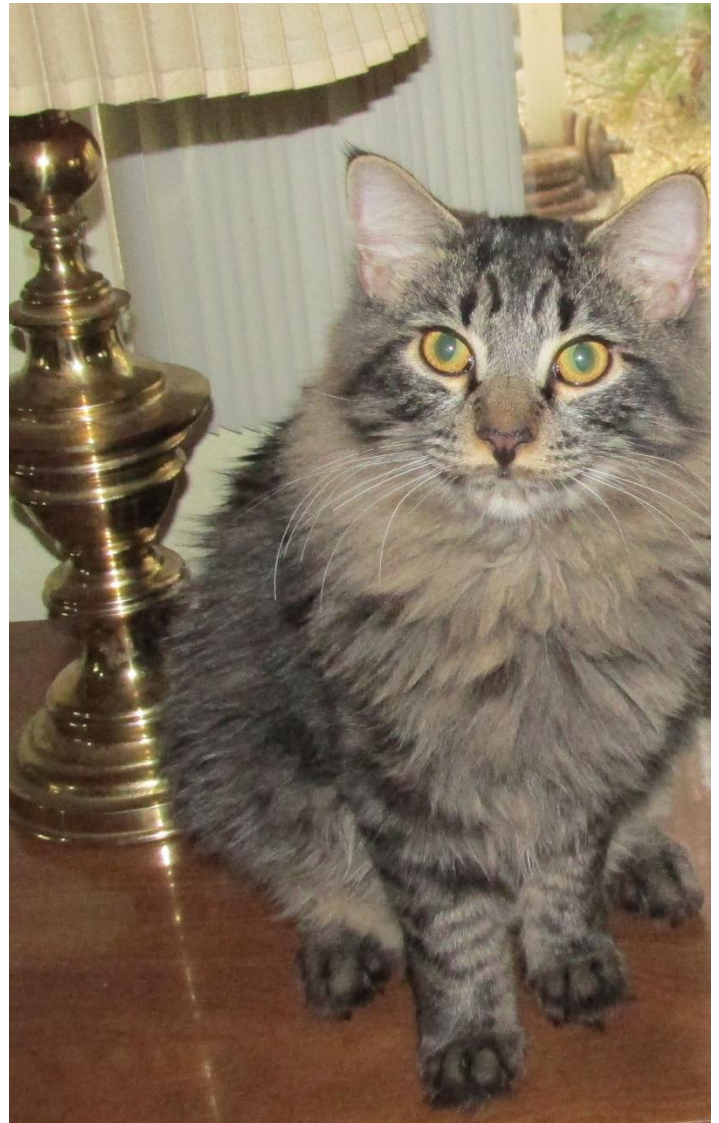
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019

VALENTINE BRUNCH

DESERT FALLS COUNTRY CLUB

Our club members are asked to bring  
baked goods to auction and/or  
a silent auction basket

Proceeds to benefit SI Palm Springs  
Ophelia Project





# January

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2  
SIPD PROGRAM MEETING

– **GUEST SPEAKER**

Amy Andrews-Gray,  
Former Trafficking Victim  
Survivors Group, Founder  
Noon at Desert Falls

TUESDAY, January 15

– **SIPD BOARD MEETING**

4:30PM at Desert Falls

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

– **SIPD BUSINESS MEETING**

Noon at Desert Falls



"Oh, no--is she looking at me?  
Excuse me, but I gotta run! Yikes"



SIPD ANNUAL DINNER AUCTION – \$965 THANKS: Marie, Jan, Bets!



# OUR SIPD SOROPTIMISTS IN SERVICE SOROPTIMIST HOUSE OF HOPE OUTING TO THE LIVING DESERT!

-Jan Heronema and Rose Mary Jameson



Four HOH staffers and Rose Mary and Jan posing for us



As you all know, we do not show the faces of our SHOH residents to protect their privacy.

OUR SIPD SOROPTIMISTS IN SERVICE

ELLA MANOR'S PERSONAL PROJECT: KNIT CAPS FOR SOLDIERS!



Two Marines shown wearing Ella's caps; thank you for your service gentlemen!

OUR SIPD SOROPTIMISTS IN SERVICE

ACOUSTIC GUITARIST DOUG SMITH CONCERT FUNDRAISER



Doug Smith & Judy Koch Smith

BRAVO Karen Koch! Great job bringing in a total donation of \$1,225 – BRAVO Judy and Doug Smith!



## THANK YOU TO MY SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW!

-Karen Koch

Holding their concert at Laguna de la Paz was a wonderful venue for Soroptimist to get our message out. Two women from Laguna de la Paz have shown interest in joining and/or supporting our group: Anna Dixon and Rachael

Stalder. I am emailing both and sending them our SIPD online site for additional information on our SIPD club and the internationality of our organization. Rachel's husband, Ted, requested that we consider working with him, as he places foster children and feels our Dream It, Be It program would be a great benefit. Perhaps he would be a good candidate as a speaker.

It was my pleasure to host this personal fundraising event and I could not have done it without Soroptimist's support. Special thanks to Janice's husband Larry and to Marie and husband Chris, who prepared snacks and were so helpful to our guests, and to my husband Mark! Special kudos to Janice and thanks to her also for giving Treasurer Doris the night off and turning in a perfect reckoning of our transactions. With the support of twelve of our members purchasing tickets and attending, our total proceeds were \$1,225. Thank you everyone! I treasure you all and our organization and our mission, and it was my pleasure to help out in this small way.





## REASONS TO PRIORITIZE SOROPTIMIST WEDNESDAYS

-Doris Churry, February 2008

Advertise. Promote yourself, both personally and professionally. Be your own best advertisement. Being loyal to your club is a good thing. Your club needs the synergy of your presence to thrive! Someone in club needs your support and ready smile. Remind yourself to “patronize women in business!” Membership means “Talking the talk.” Attending means “Walking the walk.” How can you ever feel true membership if you don’t give it your best efforts? It is pivotal in your membership life to support both our service programs and our fundraisers. You should be participating! Take pride in what our club stands for and what we have made happen in our past and what we will be doing in our future activities; be an integral part of it. Hang with women who are of like mind, empathies and moral fibre – it feels good. Show up and be an inspiration to another Soroptimist. Be someone to admire. Share your talents with deserving women. Catch up on somebody else’s business. Bring them up-to-date on your business. Learn a little; laugh a little – or a lot. Spend two hours monthly to reinforce your appreciation for: WOMEN! Voice your opinions and help our club continue to move in important and valuable directions. Help fill the void in society which only we can. Prioritize a nice lunch time with some nice women on meeting days. Be there because it counts. You count. Count yourself in good company.

# GOLDEN WEST REGION DISTRICT TWO

-Becky Goebel, GWR District 2 Director and SIPD Membership Director

**Human Trafficking** is an epidemic that needs to STOP in our lifetime. Let's not pass it on to the next generation.

"Empathy isn't just remembering to say, "That must be really hard" – it's figuring out how to bring difficulty out into the light so it can be seen by all. Empathy isn't just listening, it's asking the questions whose answers need to be listened to. Empathy requires enquiry as much as imagination. Empathy is knowing you know nothing. Empathy means acknowledging a horizon of content that extends perpetually beyond what you can see ..."

-Leslie Jamison, The Empathy Exams

What does **SIPD membership** mean to you?

Are you a proud SIPD member who wants to invite others to join us in our Mission of "improving the lives of women and girls"? We all have friends and family who are awed when reading our Facebook posts and listening to our JOY as we speak about our projects and programs. Invite them to a speaker's meeting; give them a first-hand opportunity to see us in action – the rest is up to them!



Embrace what we share as our common bond and let your JOY OF SERVICE shine brightly for all to see!

We have an excellent speaker program on human trafficking this week for us all to appreciate and gain some information and empathy. See you Wednesday!

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



# CRANBERRY PISTACHIO BISCOTTI

-President Betsy

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  C flour  
1 C sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp salt  
4 tbsp butter,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " cubes  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  C dried cranberries  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  C shelled, unsalted pistachios  
2 eggs



Preheat oven to 350 degrees and butter baking sheet

Combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a large bowl. I like to mix by hand, wearing gloves. Add vanilla and mix. Mix in cranberries and pistachios. Add eggs and mix until dough is evenly moistened. Scrape down the sides of the bowl.

On a lightly floured surface –wearing gloves-- mold and shape dough into four logs about 8 inches long. Place the logs about 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheet. With hands, flatten logs to a width of two inches and sprinkle tops of logs with extra sugar.

Bake logs in the middle of the oven until golden brown, about 25 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool, about another 25 minutes.

Transfer logs to cutting board. Using a sharp knife, cut logs into  $\frac{1}{2}$ " slices. Put slices back onto baking sheet and bake in oven for 7 minutes more. Remove and cool.



# THE TRAVELLING SOROPTIMIST



## FAREWELL 2018 AND "HELLO 2019!"

-Susan Browne Rosenberg



Wow, I am just finishing up my fifth year of working for myself. Why did I not do this 20 years ago? Some days I wish the phone would stop ringing, then other days I hear the words that keep me going, "Thank you Susan." Desert Cities Indoor Air is keeping me busy and paying the bills. I just finished a year serving as Chair of the Quorum Committee for the Coachella Valley Community Association Institute. "Quorum" is a monthly, 40-page glossy magazine printed and sent to nearly 1,000 community managers, business partners and homeowner boards in our valley. A lot of work for a volunteer group.

In January, we traveled south of the Border Fence to Mexicali with Jess' Rotary club, bringing with us five pickup truckloads of toys, clothing, food and writing supplies to children living in poverty. It was Kings Day, a feast day where special cakes are eaten.

I was in charge of pouring the milk (*leche*). They were so happy when they got seconds. One child asked us if we get to eat every day in America. Makes you so grateful for being born in the USA. No wonder everyone wants to come here.

After that experience, we decided we wanted to do more for our neighbors to the south by spending some more of our dollars in Nuevo Vallarta, a new resort area just to the north of Puerto Vallarta,



where they made the famous movie, "Night of the Iguana". We highly recommend you check out the hotels there. Southwest Airlines now flies direct from San Diego and it is only a two hour flight. We had a lovely three bedroom suite with two patios overlooking the pool and ocean for a very reasonable price.



We returned to Kauai again in July but this time added on 5 nights on the Kohala Coast on the Big Island, far away from the lava flow and the active volcano. We visited a vanilla bean farm and learned to add a few splashes of real vanilla extract to our seafood dishes. Yummy.

The most exciting Raider news of the year started in January with the announcement that Jon Gruden was returning to coach our team. We cried tears of joy. Then we had the opportunity to visit the Las Vegas Raider



Stadium preview center on the Las Vegas strip. Unfortunately, we could not afford the Personal Seat License for the first and best seats that went on sale, but we waited a few months and were able to secure similar seats to what we have had in Oakland, third tier up around the 50 yard line, but with a view of the strip. The new stadium will have the modern amenities: escalators, WiFi, bars and working bathrooms. Oh Boy! We can hardly wait for 2020.

We had been looking at river cruises in Ireland when I received an email from our local university about an Adriatic Sea cruise to Croatia in November 2019. The price including airfare for two weeks was too good to pass up.

We checked our passports and put down a deposit. The ship has only 25 cabins. We fly into Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. The ports of call sound so exotic: Split, Hvar, Dubrovnik, Kotor, and more. We even stop in Bosnia, Herzegovina and Montenegro. We promise lots of pictures.

2018 was a great year and 2019 has a promising outlook. Looking forward to another great Soroptimist year together!

