

# Happy Talk



S.I. San Bernardino  
Golden West Region

April, 2020

Michelle Gomez, President  
Gladys Weems, Editor  
gladweems@roadrunner.com



## Challenging Times

I hope all of you and your families are well and safe.

The current COVID-19 virus crisis has us both personally and professionally adjusting our schedules, postponing and cancelling our meetings and events and interrupting our daily routines so that we can comply with the CDC requirements and, in our case, the SIA mandate that all meetings and events be cancelled through May 11, 2020.

During this time of uncertainty and feeling stressed and anxious I am reminded over and over that we are not alone in this crisis. The communications from SIA, Governor Lori Reed and her board have been excellent,

with direction, advice and support to us all through e-mails, social media, zoom/phone meetings, etc. I see us all coming together in so many ways in our clubs and internationally, from, new ways to communicate, ingenuity, connecting in new ways, being resourceful, being flexible, helping one another, reaching out, offering support in so many ways and continuing to move forward as we Soroptimists do! I have HOPE that together we will get through this and be stronger for it.

*"When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be, we were*



Happy Easter!

*called to be, we hoped to be, and we stay that way, better for each other because of the worst."*  
—Laura Kelly Fanucci

Stay safe And well!

*President Michelle*

## Imagine, Spark, Activate

### Club Calendar

All meetings are suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Be vigilant in your efforts to remain safe!



### Websites

(SI) [soroptimistinternational.org](http://soroptimistinternational.org)

(SIA) [soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org)

(GWR) [goldenwestregion.org](http://goldenwestregion.org)

(SISB) [sisanbernardino.org](http://sisanbernardino.org)

## Cancellations and Postponements

Business meetings and board meetings are cancelled with a time to resume to be determined later. The members are keeping in touch by phone and e-mails. Club events such as the Tea are also postponed with a date to reschedule to be determined. No new projects are being scheduled at this time.

Members are encouraged to follow the CDC guidelines for social distancing and sheltering in place as much as possible. Washing hands and keeping home surfaces sanitized is also encouraged. It is important that we be safe and healthy.

Club election of officers will be by e-mail and President Michelle is keeping all members updated as needed. The proposed slate of officers has been sent by e-mail as well as information for submitting proposals for "nominations from the floor."

**Happy Birthday**

No April Birthdays

# Wings

The club's WINGS project was held on March 7. Morning snacks were ready when everyone arrived. Rowena Casis Woidyla-California State University, San Bernardino spoke on a very relevant subject. It's title was "Have No Fear, Résumé Tips are Here!" An interesting fact was Leonardo Da Vinci made the first résumé. She had many interesting tips on what not to do and what should be done when preparing a résumé.

The Dream Boards proved to be as popu-

lar as ever and the participants were very creative. Cathie Weber talked about Solutions to Obstacles and Michelle Gomez led everyone in a clever Birds of Different Feathers exercise designed to help us learn more about our personal work styles.

Table Etiquette was demonstrated by Gladys Weems just prior to lunch.

Angel Magallanes from Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) also gave an informative talk.

There were lots of raffle prizes distributed and a group photo at the end of the program.

Kudos to Cathie Weber for her able leadership in preparing this event and to Judy Holbeck who worked her magic in preparing decorations and the packaging of door prizes. Every one was a winner!

Thanks are also due to all members who pitched in to set up and clean up.

## GWR News Blast

The GWR Board is working through the challenges we face at this time as reported to all members in the most recent e-mail. Board members keep in contact with each other via e-mails, etc. and are making difficult decisions. As of today, the Leadership Training set for August is still on the calendar as are District Fall Meeting in October. If there are to be changes, the members will be advised.

The SIA Board of Directors is also working together to keep informed and evaluating the status of the Convention scheduled to take place in July in Bellevue, Washington. Again, members will be advised after the Board of Directors meeting is held on April 7, if there is to be any changes regarding Convention.

Those who are delegated to vote will be

able to participate in electronic voting and the SIA website helps to explain this procedure.

Also the Region Board has advised of the following:

1 - Clubs will be given a \$100 credit towards the 2020-2021 mandatory Spring Conference fee.

2 - Each member will be given a \$10 credit towards the 2020-2021 Spring Conference member fee.

3 - Each member will be given a \$10 credit towards the 2020-2021 dues payment.

A revised 2020-2021 dues invoice will be sent to each club by Margie Burke, GWR Treasurer in the near future.

All members are advised by e-mail by the Region for updates, changes as well as with encouragement on how we can best handle the challenges facing us all at this very unusual time.

No one would have wanted to have to take on the problems that need to be worked out at this time and there was no way anyone of us could have anticipated it. How fortunate we are to have such skilled leaders at SIA headquarters to guide us through this as well as the extremely competent leadership exemplified by the Region Board and Governor. It's important to keep a cool head and to take comfort in knowing that Soroptimists in other countries throughout the world are dealing with the same issues in pretty much the same way as those members in our country. **Stay Strong!**

## The Easter Bunny

From Curious Customs by Tad Tuleja

The modern Easter bunny is of German origin. Francis Weiser (1954) cites a sixteenth-century German text in which the animal is depicted as delivering eggs, and writing at the end of the nineteenth century, William Walsh said that the "Easter hare" functioned in Germany much like a springtime St. Nicholas: It left colored eggs for good children only. Walsh said that the Easter connection comes from the animal's association with the moon, and

cited several points of ancient folklore to prove his point. The hare is nocturnal: the female carries her young for one month; and in one of the more curious of the ancients' errors, "both hare and moon were thought to have the power of changing their sex," since "the new moon was masculine, the waning moon feminine." Easter is in a sense a lunar holiday" because its date depends on the moon.

These are fascinating but far-fetched speculations. It is more likely that Weiser has it right when he links the bunny to pre-Christian fertility lore: "Hare and rabbit were the most fertile animals our forefathers knew, serving as symbols of abundant new life in the spring season. This speculation has the virtue of explaining the animal's otherwise inexplicable association with eggs.

# A Soroptimist bit of history

Excerpts from *A History of Soroptimist International*

By Janet Haywood

Janet Haywood was a member in Great Britain and was interested in the history of the organization. She collected information and organized it into a narrative in 1995. She refers to “Troubled Times—1939-1948” in her history and reported on the effect of World War II especially as they related to clubs in the European Federation and in Great Britain. In 1939, the British Foundation held its annual Conference in Buxton and representatives from 6 European countries attended. Members of the Vienna Club and their families were being threatened by the Nazi regime. Negotiations took place to sponsor each person by someone to go to England in order to further arrange for passage for over 30 refugees to go to the United States where they were helped by American Soroptimists. Additionally, clubs in America also gave help by gifts of money and clothing for distribution to cities in Europe. Many clubs in Europe ceased to hold meetings or arranged to meet clandestinely. They would gather in the home of one member just before blackout. They then spent the night busily making clothes and mending and preparing all manner of items needed by civilians. In the early hours of the following morning when the curfew lifted, the members would return to their homes. In France there was a constant day to day effort to

keep a family alive. In spite of their own anxieties, they continued with their service activities even though they had no knowledge of whether they were the only group of Soroptimists still working. One Vienna club considered dissolving as many of their members were threatened with extinction. When Austria became part of the German Reich, the club was dissolved. In 1946, they were able to revoke the cancellation of their club and began putting their lives back together; however, some placed their children in the care of Soroptimists in other countries. In 1947, they had to take precautions to meet in the American or English occupied zones of the city. The club was again integrated into the European Federation in 1950.

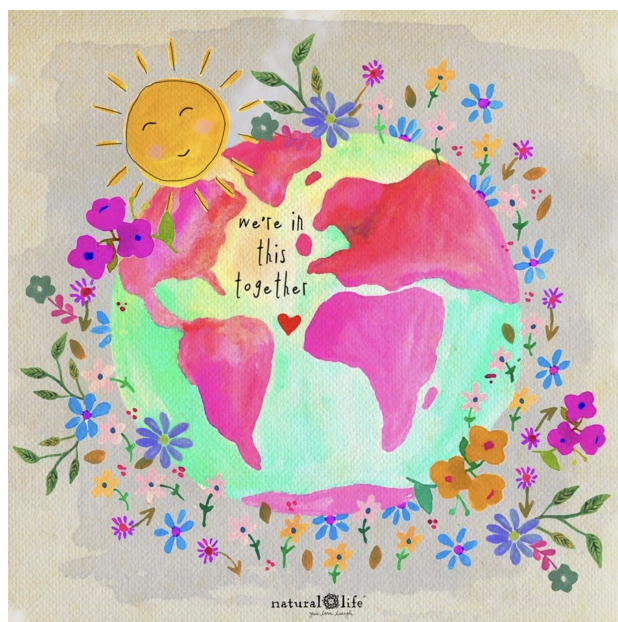
British Soroptimists lives were turned upside down by the continual warfare. Bombing raids were constantly occurring. Members continued to hold meetings in bomb damaged cities at lunch time or early evening.

Sydney, Australia and Wellington, New Zealand clubs arranged for clothing and food parcels to be sent to Britain. The Wellington Club set up a refugee relief committee for people escaping from Europe. The American Federation gave support, both financial and practical to the

other 2 Federations. The Honolulu club also gave money to the American Red Cross and provided entertainment for American Navy and Marine forces stationed there. However, not long after, Pearl Harbor was attacked and British Soroptimists offered sympathy to the Hawaiian members.

Clubs in war zones were encouraged to ensure their records were maintained during the war. Unfortunately, not all clubs were able to protect their records and much was lost or destroyed. Help continued during the reconstruction of Europe and Great Britain and in 1943 the American Federation decided to invite contributions of pennies by each Soroptimist—equal to the birthday of the organization that year. The fund grew with the help of the British Federation. The tenacity and generosity of Soroptimists working together throughout the world continued to assist in the re-building of those clubs and areas that suffered so much. It is proof of the strength of our organization and the value of what it gives to the world.

It is a reminder of our worth and is an encouragement to all to stand proud of who we are and what we are capable of.





S.I. San Bernardino  
P. O. Box 1372  
San Bernardino, CA 92401

President .. Michelle Gomez  
Vice-President .. Gladys Weems  
Secretary .. Judy Holbeck  
Treasurer .. Lupe Castaneda  
2-Year Director .. Barbara Cooper  
1-Year Director .. Cathie Weber

### ***Mission Statement***

*Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.*

### **Meetings**

1st Thursday  
6:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Assumption School  
796 West 48th Street  
San Bernardino, California 92407

## **Ideas to Ponder**

It is not the strongest of the  
species that survives, nor the  
most intelligent that survives.  
It is the one that is the most  
adaptable to change.

—Charles Darwin