



# PLAN AHEAD

Soroptimist International of Palm Desert newsletter for April 2020

-Doris Churry, Editor



In my estimation, the world seems to be handling this total disruption to our planet rather well. Sheltering in place has wide acceptance, with some crazy exceptions. We are home and complying as are you and your families. It's a pandemic – It is horrible – we are coping!

Many of our well-considered SIPD plans have been ruined but we have stepped in via ZOOM at our SIPD board meeting and set a new course which will take us through the short term; the long term has yet to be fleshed out but as we are all flexible, planning is underway and we will make it through and once again take up our good works and projects! Mercy! Our venerable Golden West Region spring conference has even been cancelled, but there will be a way to work through this as well. Governor Lori has set in motion ZOOM meetings for all of us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm, and so the regional work will carry on in spite of the hardship.

Our club even has women who are going to wait-it-out with us in the wings (we hope!) until we can welcome them on board: Patty Freber, Belen Zamora, Michele Rodarte, Sylvia Ann Trapuzzano-Furino and maybe Rebecca Norton and Michele Gardner. Additionally, Rose Mary and I have a plan to develop an "Artist's Caucus" as soon as we can set our intimate Happy Hour gathering with Jacquie and these exciting women. This, Ladies, is a bright light on our horizon and we hope that all these women can hang with us until we can return to normalcy: with a big bang in the near term! Hoping that you are not easily deterred and that everyone will stay the course and begin anew, especially with our new board of directors for another great year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. In the meantime, we are **ALL HANGING TOUGH!**

-Prez Doris





*BRANDINI TOFFEE IS OTHER WORLDLY!*

*KEEP SELLING AND BRING YOUR ORDERS IN  
TO ROSE MARY/MARY KAY/JANICE AND  
TAKE DELIVERY ON OUR NEXT  
DISTRIBUTION DAY. THANK YOU LADIES –  
MY ORDERS HAVE WORKED PERFECTLY FOR  
ME AND MY “CUSTOMERS”. –PREZ DORIS*

## 2020 SIPD PROJECTS!

Rose Mary: Brandini sales thru April 15

- Board of Directors factory tour
- Announcement
- Sales sheets available
- Innovative approaches
- Targeting Valentine's/Easter
- Generous Brandini support!
- Angela Wiemer, Brandini Program February 5<sup>th</sup>
- SALES PROJECT IN PROGRESS!

Cathy: 2020 Live Your Dream Awards!

- Candidates identified/judged
- Funds availability confirmed
- Awards given March 4th lunch
- 2 great qualified recipients!
- Sofia Lopez and Julie Hare

Karen: DIBI: “Reach for Your Dream” Workshop

- Overview-initial meeting Jan 29
- Organizational meeting
- Confirmed school sponsorship
- Developing curriculum
- Firming facilitators/members
- Budget: Trilogy Grant
- Rescheduled: October 17, 2020

Janice: Hanson Grant enrichment tours

- Establishing focus
- Budget: Hanson Grant
- Early Grantor approval/report
- Jennifer Prado, Director, F.O.D.
- Sanction by Friends of Desert
- Detail arrangements
- Jennifer Prado speaker March 4
- Implementing program details
- Postponed to a later date TBA

Ella: Valencia Board and Care Home

- Bingo with the residents
- Visitation day March 21
- Cancelled due to coronavirus



### SIPD Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2020 @noon, ZOOM MEETING!

The phone-in number will be sent prior.



**DUE TO CORONAVIRUS ALL SIPD GATHERINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

New logo/mission: "Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment."



**SOROPTIMIST®**  
**Investing in Dreams**

## I PLANTED A SEED TODAY

-Becky Goebel

Spring Conference 2015 I was given a packet of Soroptimist membership wildflower seeds. Fast forward to this pandemic isolation – I found that packet of seeds today! I planted the seeds carefully in a pot I painted and now I need to wait and see what happens in the next ten days!

Friends, does this sometimes feel like your membership in Soroptimist -- a misplaced interest in a gift that has yet to be opened and fully cared for? If so, it may be time to plant new seeds in your garden. Let's give each one a name:

Soroptimist "Live Your Dream"

Soroptimist Dream It Be It (DIBI): "Reach For Your Dream" Workshop

Soroptimist House of Hope

Soroptimist SIA Laurel Society

Soroptimist GWR Dream Jars for our "dream" programs

If we take out our valuable membership seeds and plant them during this pandemic isolation, we will have a beautiful new Soroptimist garden to enjoy! As we watch our garden grow and bloom, we will be reminded that like a garden, the seeds of Soroptimist must be planted, nurtured and harvested for us to realize the full benefit to our clubs!



### Mail DREAM JAR Proceeds to SIPD on MAY 6<sup>th</sup>!

Each one of us has the opportunity to contribute to the Dream Programs, even if not at spring conference this year, by saving up painlessly through a **personal Dream Jar**. Save those coins and mail in your check for what you have saved May 6 to Treasurer Janice. One big check totaled from our SIPD member contributions will be donated to Soroptimist Golden West Region from our club; those contributing \$100 or more will receive a Dream Maker collectable souvenir pin from the region!



## SPRING CONFERENCE IS CANCELLED!

-Becky Goebel, District 2 Director, Golden West Region

SPRING CONFERENCE 2020 IS CANCELLED. Your Golden West Region board of directors cancelled the spring conference for this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. What does that mean to the region? We still have business to conduct before the end of the fiscal year and we've made plans to accomplish that:

1. Live Your Dream winners at region level will be presented with their financial awards before June 30, 2020. They will be officially recognized at Fall Meetings this year, so they will get their recognition which they deserve.
2. Credentialing for Delegates deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Our SIPD club has already sent in our credentials.
3. Candidates will present a short campaign video, to possibly be launched on Facebook. TBA
4. The voting will be done online by our Delegates to elect our new 2020-2021 GWR board of directors.
5. The GWR Budget has been sent out and will be approved in the online voting by the Delegates.
6. All the awards/certificates/recognitions will be presented in October at the GWR Fall Meetings.
7. Discussion for Installation of Officers is tentatively being considered to be held at the August Leadership Training Retreat in Ontario.



Your board has been ZOOMING through this pandemic – please be well and safe!



# SOROPTIMIST®

---

## Investing in Dreams

-Lori Reed, Governor, Golden West Region

The Golden West Region board of directors has been in constant communication about the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic and has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Spring Conference. I am sure this comes as no surprise to you as we are all being directed to stay home to flatten the curve in this outbreak. It is vitally important that we all follow the CDC recommendations to stay safe! We have cancelled all club activities – including Dreams Programs, fundraisers, club meetings and now spring conference. The hotel/casino has waived any cancellation penalties – so there is no financial impact to the region. These are extraordinary times that require extraordinary actions. If you made hotel reservations, please call the hotel to cancel. You should not be assessed any penalties. If you have registered already, Carol Roddy will be in contact with you to arrange the refund.

So, what does this mean to our region?

We have to get three things done before the end of June; everything else will be pushed to the August Leadership Training Retreat, or Fall Meetings in October. The three things we need to get done are:

1. Elect a 2020-2022 GWR Board of Directors
2. Approve the 2020-2021 GWR Budget
3. Distribute the GWR Live Your Dream Awards

Fortunately, we can accomplish all three of these items electronically. In the next two weeks, you will be sent instructions on how to vote for the new Board, and the Budget. By the end of May, we will announce and distribute checks for the Live Your Dream Award winners. Since we had finalists from all 4 districts, we intend to have the formal recognitions at the Fall Meetings, so we can meet our winners and give them certificates. We are in the process of determining if we are allowed to feature each finalist's bio on our social media pages – so stayed tuned to the GWR Facebook and Instagram accounts.

What about the art auction fundraiser?

We are exploring an online auction platform for the items that your clubs intended to bring to Spring Conference for this event. Remember, it is the proceeds from this fundraiser that funds our 2021 LYDA finalists. If your club has been collecting coins in the Dream Jars, please continue to do so, and mail a check to Treasurer Margie by the end of May.

What are the next steps?

1. I will be setting up a weekly touch-base ZOOM meeting for any GWR members that have questions.
2. Complete your delegate credentialing form, and submit to Mandy Mann by March 31 (this is a new deadline).
3. Complete your "Celebration of Life" form, and submit to Liz Glowka by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Stay tuned for more information on e-voting

Stay calm and follow the CDC recommendations and STAY SAFE! We will get through this together. Stay positive and supportive of each other.

# SOROPTIMIST CONVENTION, RETREAT, FALL MEETING 2020



Soroptimist International SIA 46<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION 2020

July 22-25, 2020

Bellevue Hyatt Regency, Bellevue WA

**OUTSTANDING**

Soroptimist Golden West Region Leadership Training Retreat 2020

August 7-8, 2020

Ontario Airport Hotel, Ontario CA



Soroptimist Golden West Region October Fall Meeting 2020

District 1 – October 16 & 17

District 2 – October 23 & 24 in Idyllwild

District 3 – October 2 & 3

District 4 – October 9 & 10



← This is US!

When normalcy returns, let's all plan to make these gatherings a priority!



# THOUGHTS ON CORONAVIRUS AND IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

-Cathy Brown, President, CB Wealth Management

We're only about 5 weeks removed from all-time highs in our stock market. What a difference 5 weeks made! As of today, the DOW is down about 35% and many sectors have seen even more severe declines.

Economists and strategists are trying to determine what the impact to corporate earnings will be from the pandemic, both in terms of timing and magnitude. Looking back to past pandemics, the market has already exceeded its average decline when looking at the impacts of SARS, MERS, swine flu, bird flu, and Ebola.

Our economy is a consumer driven economy. More than 50% of the US economy is driven by non-healthcare related consumption. Due to the recommendations/mandates to shelter in place and employ social distancing, 10% of the economy will see limited activity for weeks. In fact, US restaurant bookings are down almost 60% from a year ago.

It's pretty inevitable that the US will see negative growth for the next couple quarters. The bigger question is, what will the economy look like after that? While many sectors have been hard hit, the government is proposing a lot of stimulus, currently about \$3 trillion, and perhaps much more than that. That's the equivalent to about 15-30% of GNP. This money should help "restart" the economy and we should see the impact probably later this year.

The stock market usually is a predictor of future economic growth/decline. If this stimulus goes to the people and companies most in need, we should see much better times ahead if you are a stock investor. The financial markets typically bottom out about 4 months before the trough in the economy. Also, since this will be an event-driven downturn, typically the rebound is faster (though of course, there's no guarantee that history repeats itself.)

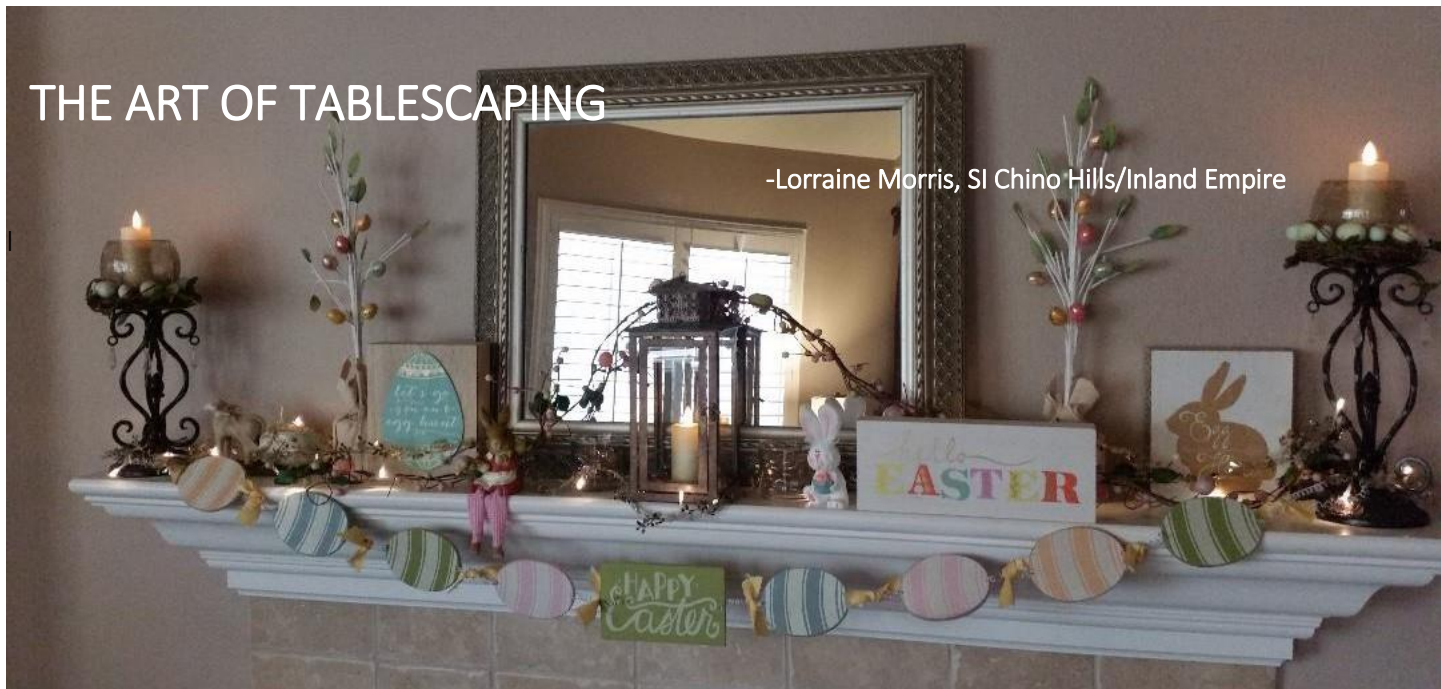
What should you do if you're already in the markets? For most people, the answer is: Wait it out. In fact, if you were properly diversified before the recent stock market declines, you may be out of balance today. The best, and probably hardest thing to do, is to reallocate some of your cash/bond positions to good quality equities. Not that it's a given, but every crisis in the past has presented a great buying opportunity. No one can predict the bottom, but certainly we're closer to it than we were 5 weeks ago! The other opportunity will come from new needs that this crisis has shown us and American ingenuity will profit from—better biodefense policies, more biopharmaceutical research, maybe an alternative to toilet paper 😊.

Please remember, short term volatility does not mean permanent loss. Stay safe and practice social distancing for now, and let your investments ride this out as well.



# THE ART OF TABLESCAPING

-Lorraine Morris, SI Chino Hills/Inland Empire



I am usually out of town 3 weeks a month on airplanes and traveling to multiple states. Of course, that has all come to a screeching halt with COVID-19. Now I am spending numerous hours in front of my computer in virtual meetings and conference calls. Finally had to take a break and put up Easter decorations, even though there will not be the all-out gigantic Easter celebration at my house this year. Still needed a little cheer and distraction.

This year's Easter table combines some old and some new, thankfully purchased prior to the lockdown. I was so fortunate a few years ago to find these pastel plates and matching napkins at Target. I have never seen them again. I added salad plates and a table runner I got at Hobby Lobby. My little chicks came from the \$1 bin at Target and my bunny napkin rings came from World Market before they closed it down. I find placing a box in the center of my table allows me to add texture, depth and character to the setting. My mantle is the result of grabbing various themed items here and there, and I just love-love-love the battery operated candles I also purchased from Hobby Lobby (make sure you buy them when they are on the 50% off sale as they are a little pricey). Hopefully this gives everyone some ideas and brightens your spirit!





I've been to San Francisco many times. Over the years I've seen it go from a beautiful metropolis and vibrant commercial center, to a city under construction 24/7, with too many cars, scarce, crazy-expensive parking, and until a few months ago the place my son called home. More recently I was able to spend an enjoyable weekend with a few Monterey-area girlfriends who like to co-celebrate our March birthdays. They drove home. I sheltered in place.

In past years I had noticed the streets were becoming dirtier than usual, much of the "litter" left by –and consisted of-- "the homeless." I was shocked to witness one day, one of the homeless using a needle to inject something between his toes. Heroin? Yeah, probably...but I didn't ask. I was too disgusted to care what, or why, or who.

This was about the same time the City by the Bay became known for the feces in the streets rather than the trolleys on its streets. Sure, some of the street schmear was dog poop but now there were sightings, videos actually, of humans defecating under the public eye. An app named SnapCrap was developed. How very Silicon Valley! Homeless encampments grew like a spreading viral attack. No two ways about it. San Francisco had a growing homeless problem. And a litter problem. But I don't live there so, hey, not my problem.

But on my most recent visit, at the onset of a literal viral attack, I was staying in a sweet three bedroom, three bath suite with a full kitchen and such a well-stocked pantry and fridge that I could have filmed an episode of "Chopped Sweets". I was alone and lonely, but comfortable, so I dutifully obeyed the order to stay "home" until such time as the timeshare company would legally evict me. My reservation was to end on March 27. The Wyndham Canterbury felt post-apocalyptic. The lobby was empty. A skeleton crew. We few guests greeted each other warmly – at a distance. Air hugs and all. Outside, parking spots were abundant. Empty busses ran past. No need to stop. No passengers to drop off or pick up. Garbage trucks noisily emptied the cans. The roar of those huge beasts echoed off empty canyon walls. Ambulance sirens pierced the air, shooing away no cars. Stray Uber Eats vehicles owned the road. I feared the government would close the gates on me so I planned my escape. Time to get out of Dodge.



I quickly bought a cheap used car off Craig's List and prepared to bolt. On my last night (it would be the first day of spring). I looked down from my 3<sup>rd</sup> floor window onto Sutter Street. I saw something I had never seen before – a homeless person. This man was not “the homeless.” He was a person. He was one man alone on the sidewalk. It shot through me like an arrow. How had I never seen this? Here was a single person, exposed to the cold, speaking aloud to no one. No longer buried under the collective heap of “the homeless.” No longer an ingredient in Big City Stew.

To make this scene even more dramatic he sat under a single bright light that enveloped him. Now appearing: Solo Man. There he sat in the spotlight on a dark and barren stage, speaking his lines, using the most meager of props, wearing a very authentic costume. His breath was visible in the light. It must have been cold outside. Outside, where he lives. All day long. Night after night. I thought again about the word eviction. He would have been nominated as “Most Evictable Soul”. He was, sadly, ineligible. In film, drama, and art, light is often used to convey an awakening. And this time, for the first time, I saw the light.



## THIS WEEK'S TOP NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA


**UC SAN DIEGO** – 3-D printed ventilators could help address equipment woes. A team of engineers and physicians is rapidly developing simple, ready-to-use ventilators to be deployed if the need arises.

**UC SAN DIEGO** – UC medical centers test COVID-19 therapy. Researchers at four UC health medical centers are testing the safety and efficacy of remdesivir, a drug that has shown promising activity against multiple viruses.

**UC LOS ANGELES** – Study reveals how long COVID-19 remains infectious on surfaces. Scientists have discovered that the virus is detectable for up to 24 hours on cardboard and even longer on plastic and stainless steel.

**UC RIVERSIDE** – There's a very real chance that some people who had dry coughs and fevers as far back as December might have already recovered from the coronavirus: Brandon Brown, UCR Public Health Professor.

**UC SANTA BARBARA** – Aggressive steps to reduce planet-warming emissions wouldn't be nearly as disruptive to everyday life as the stay-at-home orders defining coronavirus, says political scientist Leah Stokes.



Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

-Janice Heronema, Chair

### Proposed Slate of Officers 2020-2021

Cathy Brown and Karen Koch, Co-Presidents

Open, President Elect

Marie Newton, Secretary

Janice Heronema, Treasurer

Brenda Langford, Assistant Treasurer

Doris Churry, Past President Director

Mary Kay Berlier, Service Director

Rose Mary Jameson, Membership Director

Christine Duranceau, Assistant Membership Director

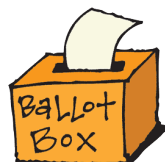
Jacque Gunning, Fundraising Director

Leanna Petitt, Assistant Fundraising Director

Donna Williams, Assistant Fundraising Director

Becky Goebel, Public Awareness Director

Susan Browne Rosenberg, Assistant Public Awareness Director



**VIRTUAL ELECTION NOTICE:** APRIL 15, 2020 EMAIL!



# SIPD INSPIRATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020

-Rose Mary Jameson



For these past few months I thought my plan to find the inspirational quote that I needed for April from a world-famous woman of note, influence or philosophy from the past. Little did I know that this turn of world-wide events would lead me down another path. While moving things around our house (yes, a forced spring cleaning if you will), I kept moving a book from one place to another. Rather annoyed it never found its home, it was heading out the door to the donation pile – then the title caught my eye. “What I Know Now” edited by Ellyn Spragins (A Collection of Letters to My Younger Self), wherein influential women shared insight they wish they had when they were younger. The letter from Eileen Fisher, a fashion industry magnate whose understated style leads with sophistication, was directed to her college-age self. Its topic seemed to speak to me in this moment of our isolation and social distancing:

“You don’t have to be afraid of living alone”

Her early years were full of stress, in which she ‘felt trapped in a narrow existence with no way out’ and was alienated from her family and felt depressed. Of course, all the while trying to put on a brave front, not wanting to reveal she was anything but the strong-willed person she personified. To paraphrase the letter to her younger self:

“Dear Eileen, You find yourself in that small dark corner trying to find that distinct place for yourself, feeling negated, left out. What you don’t know is that you need time with yourself, time to figure out what your thoughts and feelings are. When you sit with yourself alone, you can’t ignore them. They come to you and the only way to get to the other side is to go through it. On the other side is the good stuff, you don’t have to be afraid of living alone. Take care to listen to yourself and gather all the pieces of who you are through to the future. Meditation is the best way I know to listen to myself. My gift to you are these words I often say when I begin to meditate. ‘Stillness is the ground of being from which all else emerges. It is within and behind every breath, every thought, every action. It is my starting point to which I can return again and again. In stillness I notice how time and space disappear. All there is, is the present moment and my willingness to listen...to allow the stillness to speak. The stillness takes me to a realm of conscious awareness that transcends my identity as body or mind. Stillness offers an experience of being, and a recognition that my being...my essence...is a part of all Being, all Essence.’ With compassion, Eileen.”

The author also mentioned Eileen’s Journal, a collection of drawings, thoughts, random words and quotes. A good thing for us to think about and begin on our own...just writing down our thoughts of the day, moments that are sad, moments that are important, have relevance. Get colored pens out, take scissors and cut up magazines, just doodle. Getting our thoughts out of our heads and onto paper is very healing. Especially if we are with ourselves, our significant others all day...every day...24/7. Be gentle on yourself and remember to Breathe.

We are not STUCK AT HOME, we are SAFE at home! One word can change our perspective. With love and abundant wishes for good health.