

# Happy Talk



S.I. San Bernardino  
Golden West Region

January, 2021

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*You can't stop the waves, but you can  
learn to surf...  
Surf's up!*



## Welcome, 2021!

Happy New Year!

HELLO 2021! So glad you're finally here. This has been such a challenging year. Kudos to my club members for rising to meet the wave of issues this year has brought to our shores. And yet we've had some highlights that made the ride worth paddling out. We can celebrate ushering in the virtual meetings (with a few glitches), our private island installation dinner, launching a virtual fundraiser, five incredible new members joining our seven fantastic existing group, the creation of the Girls Empowerment group, Live Your Dream campaign,

Veronica's House Christmas donations and to top it off, a virtual ornament exchange!

All that said, we have even more planned for 2021! Looking forward to meeting our Live Your Dream award winner, the award of a scholarship to a graduating high school senior and a music student receiving a musical instrument donated from the club. We are hoping to bring awareness to others of human trafficking this month. It will be exciting to find a solution to bring our WINGS program to young girls in a virtual setting. Can't wait to celebrate all our accomplish-



Pretty much sums  
up our members!

ments with this wonderful club and hopefully the community.

Hello, 2021!

*President Judy*

### Club Calendar

- 1-7 **Business Meeting (Virtual)**
- 1-26 **Board Meeting (Virtual)**



### 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)

## Ornament exchange

The club members participated in a virtual ornament exchange on Saturday, December 5, 2020. Nine of the members participated. President Judy arranged for several games in which the members competed for gift cards. They were focused on holiday themes testing the members knowledge of holiday songs and other holiday events. With Emily's exper-

tise, she prepared a wheel with the names of the participants. A spin of the wheel determined who would receive an ornament and from whom. Each member took turns to display the ornament they were offering. Once they had all been "won," arrangements were made for delivery to each member—some by mail and others by

personal delivery by President Judy.

There was a unique assortment of ornaments and all were pleased with what they had won. Your editor was very pleased with her ornament of a space ship and it's pilot. Buzz is assigned to fly in her garden window in her kitchen year round! It cheers her up!

**Happy  
Birthday**

No January Birthdays.



Can't let food go to waste. Enjoy a virtual slice of cake!

# Virtual meeting protocols

Like so many internet events, there are no guidelines or protocols to help in understanding how to adapt to unfamiliar settings. Just as in an in person meeting there must be order in regard to who speaks and when in order to avoid speaking over other members. The President has the responsibility to see that this order is maintained and the members must be disciplined to stay focused on who is speaking and when it is allowed to ask to speak. The Secretary cannot take accurate minutes with more than one speaking

at a time and the speaker must speak clearly and distinctly to enable a clearer understanding of what is being said. Members should also remain seated during a meeting unless there is a necessity to leave her seat. If it is necessary, she should turn off her camera until she returns to the meeting. Eating is also a distraction and is best avoided. It helps to be mindful of how you are being seen by the others. You should be in a well lit spot without their being others moving about in the background. Prepare your space before signing

in so that you have whatever you need close at hand. This could include the agenda, a pen or pencil and something to make notes on. If you might need to refer to the club's bylaws or budget, etc. they should also be handy.

Try to picture yourself as others will be seeing you.

See you at the next meeting.

## Open Door proposal

Members were asked to consider participating with a CASE program relating to human trafficking called "Open Door." April and Emily are working as a committee on this and April presented the committee's research and subsequent recommendations to the members at the January business meeting. CASE provides victims of trafficking housing and counseling to get them on a better path. When they are asked to pick them up from the police department, they provide bags containing

clothes, toiletries, lap blankets, etc. The members of our club can help by furnishing some of the supplies that are needed for these bags. The recommendation from the committee is a one time event using the balance of monies in the service fund that is available this club year. April moved to purchase items for the bags not to exceed \$400. Following some discussion, the motion was carried.

The members were also willing to explore

what more might be done by soliciting donations from the community to help purchase items for the bags for more than one month's participation. They will also work with the members who would like to participate in the purchase of supplies as well as the delivery to the Open Door project.

## Mama's Rules for Livin'

by Mamie McCullough

*Success is measured by how many people you have helped.*

*Stay alert for opportunity.*

*The only people to get even with are those who have helped you.*

*Remind yourself—I've come a long way.*

*Encouragement refreshes the spirit.*

# Expect the unexpected

Your editor has lived a very long life and during her 88 years has seen and experienced many challenges of one kind or another.

The Great Depression of the 30's, a polio pandemic spanning over 15 years before a vaccine was developed, A World War with its rationing of meat, butter, shoes, and gas for our cars. There was also no availability of silk or nylon materials as this was diverted to the manufacturing of parachutes. We learned to apply leg makeup in lieu of stockings and to eat oleomargarine in lieu of butter. Chicken, rabbit and fish was the mainstay for meat. Housing was far from the type of housing we expect today. Many conveniences such as home freezers, microwave ovens, home air conditioning, television sets were unknown to us. Money was scarce and families learned how to economize and improvise as much as they could. It was a simpler time to live in.

After the War ended, we experienced the unrest of our society known as the 60's.

There were "sit-ins" and marches and protests on just about anything. The patriotism of the citizens during the War was a memory as so many wanted more. I've seen a man walk on the moon, and had the opportunity to travel to many countries around the world, enjoying their culture and the beauty of their lands.

I have been privileged to participate in an organization that has given me the opportunity to do things and go places that I might not have been able to do otherwise. The friendships I have made have given me joy and strength to try more things than I ever thought possible. Computers, the internet, ZOOM meetings, my Kindle that allows me to download books, a car that tells me how to get where I want to go as well as instant readouts of my car's functions all are mind boggling.

We are all experiencing life during a serious pandemic with restrictions and necessary changes in our life style in order to avoid exposure in order to keep safe. Unrest in our government is unsettling and

sometimes frightening.

As in the past, we will see changes and a return to a more normal life with perhaps some useful changes. Knowing we are in this together with others and that by working with others, we are stronger and can overcome what we must just as we have in the past.

It is through the challenges we face that we grow stronger. Patience is one of our more valuable assets and we all need to remain patient and calm, Looking for the good rather than focusing on our disappointments.

The sincerity of our friendship has never been more important. The joy of our achievement will certainly follow. The dignity of our service to others is what gives us joy and purpose.

Stay calm, stay safe, stay healthy and celebrate the goodness in others.



## The groundhog's shadow

from Curious Customs by Tad Tuleja

February 2 is the day that Europeans know as Candlemas Day, celebrating the purification of the Virgin Mary after her delivery of the infant Jesus. For reasons that are obscure, the weather on this late winter day was traditionally thought to be a kind of reverse indicator of what was to come: Fine weather indicated a prolonged winter, while clouds and chill presaged an early spring. From the Middle Ages on, country folk believed that on this day hibernating

animals left their dens to inspect the state of the sky. It was believed of bears, badgers, and particularly hedgehogs that if they saw their shadows on that day, planting should be delayed for several weeks. The American Groundhog Day is a transformation of this custom, with the North American groundhog, or woodchuck, taking the place of the Old World hedgehog. This is an interesting transformation, since the hedgehog is a spiny little

creature that is not very closely related, in appearance, to the woodchuck. If the German settlers who brought the tradition to America had paid more attention to physical resemblance, we might now celebrate Porcupine Day.



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President .. Judy Holbeck  
Vice-President .. Roberta Bamert  
Secretary .. Gladys Weems  
Treasurer .. Lupe Castaneda  
2-Year Director .. Michelle Gomez  
1-Year Director ..

### ***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.

San Bernardino Chamber of  
Commerce  
546 West 6th Street  
San Bernardino, California 92410

## **Ideas to Ponder**

Fight for the things that you care  
about,  
But do it in a way that will lead others  
to join you.