



Riversidelines

MARCH 2021



February Program Meeting

On February 23rd, Soroptimist International of Riverside held their monthly Zoom Program Meeting with guest speaker Aurora Feehely, Golden West Region Public Awareness Pillar. (Aurora is highlighted in yellow in the above screenshot.) Aurora spoke to members about how to promote SI Riverside on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tik Tok and how to get the word out about our club activities through social media posts and press releases. It was a very informative meeting with members discussing various public awareness ideas and asking inquiring questions.





SOROPTIMIST VISION

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

SOROPTIMIST 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 TAG LINE

“INVESTING IN DREAMS”

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.
- **DIVERSITY & FELLOWSHIP:** Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women and girls.

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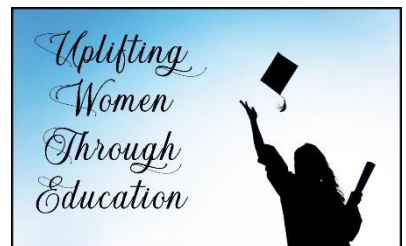
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Edith Gingerich
2020-21 SIR President



As we enter Women's History Month, Soroptimist International celebrates 100 sterling years of assistance to women and girls via a Live Virtual Event on Sept. 25-26, 2021.

It's interesting to note that Stuart Morrow, an Irish immigrant, helped organize the first Soroptimist club in Oakland, California, in 1921. For more information on Soroptimist International's 100th anniversary, check out the hashtag #Soroptimist100.

Locally, I'd like to thank all of the donors and buyers from our recent Valentine Virtual Auction as

well as the committee chair, JoAnn Moore, Melanie McKee for her assistance with the technical end of things and all the auction committee members. The virtual auction met 60% of goal with total revenue of \$5,825 plus the committee received \$8,945 in cash donations from our virtual fundraiser.

These are phenomenal contributions in a Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks again to all to donated and participated. It's through your help we can assist more women and girls Live their Dreams.

Coming up on March 6th, we will be holding our 12th annual "Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference," only this time it will be virtual. Thanks to Michelle Paradise, Ellen Clizbe and all the committee members for doing such a great job converting this outstanding conference to a virtual Zoom meeting format. This conference is designed to expose and mentor 7th and 8th grade AVID students to many potential career paths they may never have considered.

Have a great month and stay safe!

Edith Gingerich
2020-21 SIR President



MARCH 2021 CALENDAR

March



ALL MEETINGS IN MARCH WILL BE ON ZOOM

- 1 ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY
- 2 BOARD MEETING
12:00 PM on Zoom
- 6 VIRTUAL LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT BE IT CONFERENCE
- 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- 9 BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 PM on Zoom
- 10 NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRL'S HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY
- 21 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

NO PROGRAM MEETING IN MARCH

APRIL 2021 CALENDAR

April



ALL MEETINGS IN APRIL WILL BE ON ZOOM

- 6 BOARD MEETING
12:00 PM on Zoom
- 7 WORLD HEALTH DAY
- 10 SI RIVERSIDE CHARTERED
4-10-1948
- 12 EQUAL PAY DAY
- 13 BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 PM on Zoom
- 22 INTERNATIONAL EARTH DAY
- 27 PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 PM on Zoom

DATES TO REMEMBER



May 20-22, 2021
**GOLDEN WEST REGION
SPRING CONFERENCE**
Virtual on ZOOM

September 25-26, 2021
**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF THE AMERICAS 100th
ANNIVERSARY ONLINE
CELEBRATION**

July 20-23, 2022
**SIA 47TH BIENNIAL
CONVENTION**
Seoul, Korea

**MARCH 8, 2021
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**



International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

Marked annually on March 8th, International Women's Day is one of the most important days of the year to:

- Celebrate women's achievements.
- Raise awareness about women's equality.
- Lobby for accelerated gender parity.

- Fundraise for female-focused charities.

**SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**



Soroptimist International Position Paper:

LEADERSHIP

Soroptimist International is committed to the empowerment of women as leaders and decision makers, yet recognizes that women are consistently under-represented in positions of leadership. Structural barriers as well as differences in access to resources and capacities render women less likely to achieve leadership positions than their male counterparts.

Women's participation in decision-making at local, national and international levels is a fundamental prerequisite for the realization of equality, sustainable development and peace. Not only does the inclusion of women's voices and a gendered perspective improve their status but works to improve society as a whole.

All women and girls, regardless of their educational attainment, are entitled to have their voices heard and to take on leadership roles in their families, communities and beyond.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- Endorse the "Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business" and encourage the private sector to sign up and report on the principles.
- Uphold and implement areas of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action which address the importance of women's representation in leadership and decision making and take notice of CEDAW's General Recommendation Number 23 on women in political and public life.
- Support the work of international partnerships such as the Inter-Parliamentarian Union to increase the percentage of women in government.
- Implement efficient methods to augment gender equality in leadership positions.
- Eliminate all forms of violence directed towards women in positions of power or those participating in elections.
- Monitor and report on women's participation in politics and decision making at all levels.
- Adopt UN Women's recommendation to "encourage greater involvement of women who may be marginalized, including indigenous women, women with disabilities, women from rural areas and women of any ethnic, cultural or

religious minority, in decision-making at all levels, and address and counter the barriers faced by marginalized women in accessing and participating in politics and decision-making at all levels”.

Soroptimist International will continue to:

- Encourage girls from an early age to participate in decision-making and to learn the skills necessary to become leaders, championing the SI theme “educate to lead.”
- Harness the power of the media and new technologies to promote women’s participation in leadership and decision-making.
- Adopt a life course approach to women’s participation, working towards a world where women’s voices are equally represented throughout their lifetimes.
- Support initiatives which ensure that decision making processes are participatory, responsive, equitable and inclusive.
- Provide educational and leadership opportunities to women and girls to ensure that there is equal access to the capabilities necessary to successfully and confidently take on positions of power and influence.
- Recognize that achieving gender balances in leadership is about all sectors – government, civil service, private sector, political parties, trade unions, the judiciary, employers’ organizations, academic institutions and any other

collective which can influence lives.

Soroptimist International:

- Educates society as a whole on the benefits of equal representation of women and men in decision making.
- Empowers women and girls with the skills, confidence and capabilities necessary for taking on leadership and decision-making positions in the family, in their communities, in the private sector, in the public sector and in local, national and international government bodies.
- Enables opportunities for women and girls through lobbying and advocacy for increased representation.

From Soroptimist International website: soroptimistinternational.org

**FEBRUARY 6-10, 2021
VIRTUAL VALENTINE
DESSERT AUCTION**



THANK YOU!

Those two words cannot express the amount of gratitude I have for all the participants of the 2021 Virtual Valentine Auction.

Once again your dedication allows us to continue our work supporting women and girls to pursue their dreams, despite the many challenges that were presented in a health crisis. We learned new ways to reach supporters and you responded!

The Auction enabled us to reach almost 60% of our goal of \$10,000. This amount will help with scholarships and grants to high school seniors, female heads of household and to our service programs.

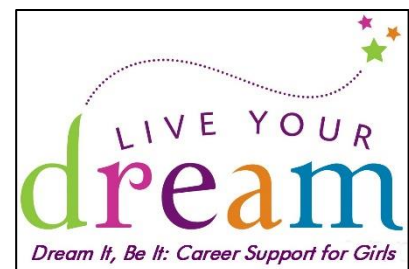
If you were not able to join us at the Virtual Valentine Auction this year, we encourage you to visit our website:

www.soroptimistiverside.org

There you will find information about donations and upcoming ways to participate in achieving our goals.

With deep gratitude,
JoAnn Moore
Chair, Virtual Valentine Auction

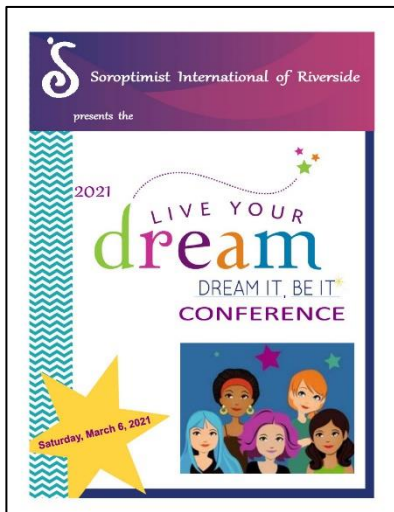
**MARCH 6, 2021
LIVE YOUR DREAM:
DREAM IT, BE IT
CONFERENCE**



Soroptimist International of Riverside will hold their 2021 "Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference" on Saturday, March 6th starting at 8:00 AM and ending at 1:10 PM. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we

cannot meet in person so the conference will be held on Zoom.

Since 2008, Soroptimist International of Riverside has annually presented our "Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference" to introduce 7th and 8th girls in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program to various career opportunities and the way to achieve career goals.



The conference includes workshops provided by successful women in many different professions, outstanding keynote speakers and activities aimed at setting goals and outlining the steps to achieve them. We want the girls to discover how to achieve their dreams, one step at a time, with the help and support of the amazing women in Soroptimist International of Riverside and other professional women from the Riverside area.

This year we already have 94 girls registered and we look forward to all of the members of SI Riverside also attending.

Watch your email inbox for a link to the Zoom meeting and please plan to join us.

Even though it will be virtual requiring adjustments to the

format, this year's "Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference" should still be one of our best.

See you all on March 6th.

Michelle Paradise,
Live Your Dream: Dream It,
Be It Conference Chair



INSPIRE LIFE SKILLS TRAINING



I want to start this month's article by saying a very heartfelt "Thank You" for the wonderful support you've given over the past 5 years helping the young ladies of Inspire House reach their goals.

Last week Kristi Perez, Founder and Director of Inspire Life Skills Training, contacted me to say they have a new, small group of friends to take over supporting the Luther Street Inspire House. She also thanked SI Riverside for the years of support we have given.

"Thank You" Kristi Perez, Inspire Life Skills Training and the young ladies of Luther House for the opportunity you gave our club

members to get to know you and support you to reach your goals. This has been a great project for us. Going forward, we wish you the best for the future.

Now, on to what we did in February. With the last few dollars from the generous donations members gave at Christmas, plus a few dollars I added, I put together Valentine gift bags for each of the young ladies.

The bags, donated by JoAnn Moore from her stock supplies, were filled with a small box of Russell Stover chocolates, one of Truffles, some loose candy, a few trinkets and a gift card to Chipotle Mexican Grill (more "Thanks" to JoAnn).



On February 17th, Kacey Sutton-Davidson brought dinner from California Pizza Kitchen. Keeping in mind that two of the young ladies are vegetarians, she ordered what she called a "vegetarian delight" including 2 boxes of Buffalo cauliflower appetizers and 5 pizzas, all vegetarian.



Thank you for being the wonderful, caring and generous ladies that you are. I am lucky and proud to be a member of Soroptimist International of Riverside.

Linda Robertson
Inspire Program Chair

SOLT
Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training



Our Target Population

Soroptimists believe EVERY woman and girl has a right to live her dream. It's stated in our vision: Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

We know all women and girls can face discrimination solely because of their gender. We also know some women and girls face greater challenges because of

circumstances that have or could derail their dreams.

Working in 21 countries and territories, Soroptimist economically empowers women and girls who have faced obstacles such as poverty, violence and teen pregnancy. Through our Dream Programs, Soroptimist provides these women and girls with access to the education and skills training they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

We do this work because we believe:

- Some women and girls face specific barriers to reaching their full potential and living their dreams and these are the women and girls who need our help.
- Quality education, more than any other intervention, holds the greatest potential to transform the lives of women and girls.
- Women and girls who have faced obstacles such as poverty, sexual and domestic violence, homelessness, addiction, teen pregnancy and other circumstances are in most need of access to resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.
- Our Dream Programs specifically support the UN Secretary General's call for accelerating women's economic empowerment because they are rooted in the UN agenda for women's equality.
- Our brand-unifying Dream Programs can maximize Soroptimist's impact on these women and girls and

help us to be better known for our work.

- Our Dream Programs have the highest potential to improve the lives of the women and girls they benefit, and also their families, communities and the world at large.

Who are the specific women and girls we are trying to reach through the Dream Programs?

Live Your Dream Awards: For this award, we seek applicants who have overcome obstacles and are trying to get their lives back on track, build a better life for themselves and their families and lift themselves and their families out of poverty through education and skills training. These women, who have dependents, have overcome obstacles including domestic and sexual violence, teen pregnancy, addiction, health issues, the death of a family member or mental health issues. They want to increase their standard of living but lack the financial resources to access the education and training to succeed. Around the world, head of household women have the highest poverty rates. Helping these women improve their education and skills offers them the best chance of improving their lives and the lives of their children—ensuring more positive outcomes for generations to come.

Dream It, Be It: For this program, we seek girls who do not have access to the resources or information they need to adequately plan for their futures. We focus on girls in secondary school who, in most cases, are between the ages of 14 and 18. We aim to empower girls at risk for having their dreams derailed because of obstacles including poverty, unstable home lives,

living in foster care or teen pregnancy. They lack access to professional role models and career education and do not understand the steps needed to accomplish their goals. Helping these girls identify their career goals and path to success will empower them to overcome the barriers they face now and in their future in order to live their dreams.

In order for this strategy to continue to be successful, we must continue to change the way we think and the way that we approach our work. We need to align our resources at every level – club, region and federation – to focus on the Dream Programs because we know our Dream Programs:

- Are evidence-based.
- Create a measurable impact on women and girls.
- Address a need in all of our communities.
- Support the work that matters to us including ending violence against women and girls and lifting them out of poverty.
- Define our impact to a larger audience.
- Appeal to potential members and supporters.
- Attract funders.

Working together, following the same strategy, reaching for the same goals, focusing on our common mission and programs, we can do everything that is important to us including securing the future of Soroptimist for generations to come.

Taken the Soroptimist International of the Americas website: soroptimist.org

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



**Annamarie Megrđichian
March 20th**

**Edith Gingerich
March 24th**

**Kathy Michalak
March 25th**

MARCH CLUB MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



**Carolyn Kegarice
3-1-1986**

MEMBER MOMENTS ON FACEBOOK



Pam Bradford posted: "After 8 year old grandson Braden finished his virtual home schooling today, he plopped down on the couch and spent time working on his new book which he is calling 'Batman 2099.' He uses the app 'Book Create' that came pre-loaded on the tablet that his elementary school provided for virtual learning. This app allows Braden to write and record stories and import graphics and photos to design each page. 'Batman 2099' already has 19 pages!"



Jana Cook posted: "And it's still snowing. Nice to have the record breaking freeze out of the way before we move."



Susan Exon posted: "Beautiful progression of the sunset over the ocean tonight."



Debbie Ferraro was tagged in a memory from 3 years ago posted by Chelsea Lea Storm-Larsen. "Looking forward to our next happy hour."



Edith Gingerich posted: "My beautiful granddaughters 10 years ago."



Charlene Hildebrandt posted: "Happy Birthday!"



Paula McCroskey posted a treasured Facebook memory from February 2015: "Thank You Rich Ramirez and Jose Medina for being such amazing mentors over so many years at RCC and even now! It was great to see you both at the Riverside Sports Hall of Fame ceremony today!"



Annamarie Megrdichian posted: "Every day we should celebrate something no matter how crummy we feel. Today I celebrate the beauty of the snow outside (while I am safe and warm inside)."



Kathy Michalak was tagged in a post by Byrka Mindreau-Banks. "Got a tour by Kathy through the beautiful homes built by Habitat for Humanity on Meyers Street. Congratulations on this amazing project. You guys are a jewel to our community."



Michelle Paradise posted: "Early V-Day dinner with friends."



Kathleen Parra posted: "Yeah, second shot done! Feeling thankful."



Janet Payton posted: "Sending a little sunshine to all my snowy cold family and friends."



Honorary Member Judy Pekarek posted: "I bet all my California friends are jealous of this weather in my new hometown."



Linda Robertson was tagged in a post by Robbin Staley Banks. "Our beautiful Traci, how we miss you! How could it be 2 years since we saw your smile. It will always be lost in our souls and a loneliness in our hearts."



Tillie Soliz updated her profile picture.



Carol Allain Speer shared a post by Soul Alchemy. "NASA has a poster hanging with bees that reads: Aerodynamically a bee's body is not made to fly. The good thing is that the bee doesn't know."



Kacey Sutton-Davidson was tagged in a post by Fel Mel. "Galentine's wine tasting night."



Susan Wolf posted: "Great but short visit with Uncle Christopher over weekend."

OTHER MEMBER NEWS



The members of SI Riverside send best wishes for a quick and full recovery to member Carolyn Kegarice following her recent surgery.

INFORMATION



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SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

**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



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by the 25th of each
month to Pam at:
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"OLD FRIENDS"



You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago and I wonder where all those years went.

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was

back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise.

How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those "older people" were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is. My friends are retired and getting grey. They move slower and I see an older person in myself now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me but I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore, it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will, I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!

But at least I know, that though the winter has come and I'm not sure how long it will last,

this I know, that when it's over on this earth, it's over and a new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done and things I should have done, but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet, let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life so, LIVE FOR TODAY and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a GIFT to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Remember these things:

- It is Health that is real Wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.
- Your kids are becoming you but your grandchildren are perfect!

- Going out is good but coming home is even better!
- You forget names but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!
- You realize you're never going to be really good at anything especially golf.
- The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep."
- You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- You tend to use more 4 letter words.
- Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- You notice everything they sell in stores is sleeveless.
- What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- Everybody whispers.
- You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet, two of which you will never wear.

But "Old" is good in some things:

Old Songs, old movies and best of all, our dear OLD FRIENDS!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!"

