



Riversidelines

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE JUNE 2023

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.

2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Melanie McKee
2022-23 President*

Hello, Ladies of SI Riverside!

For our first club year following the Covid pandemic, we were able to complete the year successfully on a high note because we faced our challenges together with hard work and great teamwork.

As this is my last President's Message for the 2022-23 club year, I want to thank a few special members for their contributions to our success.



Thank you to Ellen Clizbe and Chris Deviny for chairing our annual Arlington Temporary Assistance Backpack Drive which was once again a huge success. Watching all of the children served by ATA receive backpacks and school supplies from SI Riverside was a true joy.

I would like to thank JoAnn Moore for her service and dedication to SI Riverside as the chair of our Valentine Dessert Auction for many years and also for her help with fundraising during other club events.

Thank you to Chris Deviny for chairing the Salute to Service Awards Luncheon and to our Award and Scholarship chairs for making this event an exceptional success that included the celebration of our club's amazing 75th anniversary.

I would also like to think Honorary Member Jeanne Hatcher for stepping in when we needed her to chair our Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference. We could not have done it without her

and her expert leadership and organizational skills.

Thank you to Irma Flores for her hard work in chairing our STOP Human Trafficking event and for getting an exceptional panel of experts together to shine a light on Human Trafficking and how we all can help to alleviate this problem.

I would like to also thank Pam Bradford for her dedication to the club and the hard work she puts into our award-winning newsletter every month. It's not surprising that the Riversidelines was recognized by the Golden West Region.

I want to thank Vice President Tillie Soliz and Past President Edith Gingerich for their expert leadership skills and for helping me successfully get through this year with a smile on my face and satisfaction in my heart.

And most importantly, I want to thank each and every club member for their hard work and dedication to SI Riverside and for "Never Giving Up!"

Lastly, I'm looking forward to a prosperous and successful 2023-24 club year helping SI Riverside to expand our work with the Transitional Living Program and to help develop our new annual fundraising event in May 2024.

Melanie McKee, Dr.B.A.
2022-23 SIR President



JUNE 2023 CALENDAR

June

- 1- GWR SPRING CONFERENCE
- 3 Sobobo Casino, San Jacinto
- 5 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
- 6 BOARD MEETING
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 13 BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 15 WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY
- 19 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT
- 23 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
Zacatacas Mexican Cafe
5:30 PM
- 22- SIA LEADERSHIP
- 23 ROUNDTABLE
Virtual

NO PROGRAM MEETING
IN JUNE

JULY 2023 CALENDAR

July

- 5 BOARD MEETING
12:00 PM on ZOOM

- 11 **STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 25 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 27- **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**
Dublin, Ireland
"Save the Future"
- 30 **WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

**NO PROGRAM MEETING
IN JULY**

DATES TO REMEMBER



October 13-14, 2023
**GOLDEN WEST REGION
FALL MEETING**
Riverside CA

May 18, 2024
ANNUAL CLUB FUNDRAISER

July 24-27, 2024
**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF THE AMERICAS 48th
BIENNIAL CONVENTION**
Bellevue, Washington

July 27-28, 2024
SIA LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE
Bellevue, Washington

**FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

Soroptimist International of Riverside, a club in District 1 of the Golden West Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas, meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. We meet at Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside, from noon until approximately 1:15 PM. Please arrive a little early so that we may begin promptly at noon. The 2nd Tuesday is a Business Meeting and the 4th Tuesday is a Program Meeting. Lunches are \$17/each and must be paid in advance on a yearly or quarterly basis. For questions, please contact the SI Riverside Assistant Treasurer.

**JUNE 15, 2023
WORLD ELDER ABUSE
AWARENESS DAY**



Elder abuse can be financial, emotional, physical and sexual. It also includes people who are neglected and those who neglect themselves (self-neglect). Social isolation, financial or emotional stress and dementia can make a senior vulnerable to abuse.

The consequences of elder abuse are grave. Older adults who are abused are twice as likely to be

hospitalized, four times as likely to go into nursing homes and three times as likely to die. While studies show that 60% of abusers are family members, abuse can happen in any setting, in the older adult's own home or a senior living community.

Between 1 million and 2 million Americans over 65 years old were injured, exploited or mistreated by someone they depended on for care or protection according to the National Center for Elder Abuse.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is commemorated each year on June 15th to highlight one of the worst manifestations of ageism and inequality in our society, elder abuse.

Elder abuse is any act that causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust, such as a family member or friend. The abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological or sexual and can include mistreatment and neglect.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011, following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), who first established the commemoration in June 2006.

In many parts of the world, elder abuse occurs with little recognition or response. It is a global social issue that affects the health, well-being, independence and human rights of millions of older people worldwide and an issue that deserves the attention of all in the community.

According to the World Health Organization, prevalence rates or

estimates exist only in selected developed countries – ranging from 1 to 10 percent. Although the extent of elder mistreatment is unknown, its social and moral significance is obvious.

To show support, individuals, communities, municipalities and organizations can come together across the globe to hold events on June 15th that raise awareness of elder abuse.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS



On April 1, 2023, Soroptimist International of the Americas launched "100 Stargazers in 100 Days" to raise funds for our Big Goal and are nearly halfway to that goal with 44 new Stargazers enrolled!

Thanks to these 44 new Stargazers, an additional \$4,500 in contributions each month will support investing in the dreams of a half million women and girls by 2031.

Although Soroptimist members have made monthly gifts for ages, starting in 2019 the program became the "Stargazer Monthly Giving Program." Today there are over 850 Stargazers and that number continues to grow. In fact, each month Stargazers

collectively give over \$65,000 to support our mission.

How much do I have to donate to become a Stargazer?

You can give as little as \$5 a month or as much as \$500 a month - like one of our current, very generous Stargazers. Together, no matter the size, all our Stargazer gifts do SO MUCH to support the dreams of women and girls worldwide!

Can I designate my Stargazer Monthly Donation?

Yes! You can support one of our Dream Programs directly, the Dream Big Campaign or give an unrestricted gift that allows your gift to be used where it's needed the most.

I'm a member of the Laurel Society. Does that automatically make a Stargazer?

The only way to be a Stargazer is by having an ongoing monthly gift.

Does being a Stargazer make me a Laurel Society member?

Monthly giving is a great way to earn credit towards joining the Laurel Society and when you reach \$1,000 in cumulative gifts, you'll be welcomed at the Attaché level. In fact, a monthly gift of just \$84 would allow you to reach Attaché in one year.

How do I sign up to become a Stargazer?

You can give online at Soroptimist.org. Fill out a Stargazer Enrollment Form and submit it to SIA Headquarters with either your credit card or voided check or you can reach out to the SIA Fund Development staff and they will be happy to help you get enrolled over the phone.

Is there any special recognition that Stargazers receive?

Once you've signed up, you will receive a beautiful Stargazer pin to wear proudly at virtual and in-person meetings. You will also be listed as a Stargazer in the quarterly Development Dispatch, along with other recognition opportunities at club, regional and federation-wide meetings.

I signed up for monthly giving before it became the Stargazer Monthly Giving Program, am I still a Stargazer?

Yes and please let us know at development@soroptimist.org if you have not yet received the special Stargazer pin.

I have more questions. Who do I contact?

Your Region Fundraising Chair is a great resource for all things Stargazer! They can help to answer questions you may have about joining and ways to begin donating. The SIA Fund Development staff is always available to help as well. Feel free to reach out to development@soroptimist.org or call 215-893-9000.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SI Riverside is pleased to introduce our newly elected Board of Directors for the 2023-24 club year:



PRESIDENT
Melanie McKee



VICE PRESIDENT
JoAnn Moore



RECORDING SECRETARY
Sophia Mendoza



CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Charlene Johnson



TREASURER
Debbie Ferraro



ASSISTANT TREASURER
Irma Flores



SENIOR DIRECTOR
Ellen Clizbe



JUNIOR DIRECTOR
Edith Gingerich



SENIOR DELEGATE
Barbara Walling



JUNIOR DELEGATE
Debbie Kelley

**FRIENDSHIP LINK
SI EDINBURGH,
SCOTLAND**



Following is an excerpt from the May 2023 edition of SI Edinburgh's monthly newsletter, the SIEnna (SI Edinburgh News, Notes and Anecdotes). This excerpt highlights some of the projects and issues that SI Edinburgh is currently involved with along with other news from our long time Friendship Link Club.

**SI EDINBURGH,
SCOTLAND
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Firstly and importantly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank SIE for their very warm welcome to the group and putting their trust in a newbie to take on the President's role, for not just one but two years! It will take me some more time to become familiar with the ramifications and expectations of SI and SIGBI but I know I am well supported and will be kept on track by you all.

The death of the lovely Myint Su was, I know, a shock to everyone and I certainly feel the loss at the start of my time as President but I am confident in the strength and commitment of our club to keep working together to empower women and girls through our actions.

There is, quite sadly, even more of a need to stand up for the rights of and access to education for women and girls than even there was way back in the 1920's when the Soroptimist movement was founded. It is obvious around the world where support is needed but some of the issues that we are grappling with in the UK are vital to keep high on the agenda as they disproportionately affect or undermine the opportunities for women and girls.

We are all too aware of these issues but just to remind ourselves of what underpins our actions I will mention a few: Poverty/cost of living crisis, domestic and sexual violence, a culture of misogyny and misogynistic behaviour. With no clothes, it is impossible to go to school; without food/heat/feeling safe it is harder to learn; where there is persistent criticism based on how you look/what you say or think, it is not easy to hold onto your self esteem and confidence.

I am looking forward to us keeping moving forwards and increasing our impact by continuing to work together while building relationships with other clubs and organisations that share our values and goals. Now is not the time to do nothing.

President Liz

**MAY 9, 2023
PRESENTATION TO
TRANSITIONAL LIVING
PROGRAM**

**PRESENTATION TO
TRANSITIONAL
LIVING PROGRAM**



SI Riverside President Melanie McKee (right) presents donation to Julie Hale from Operation SafeHouse

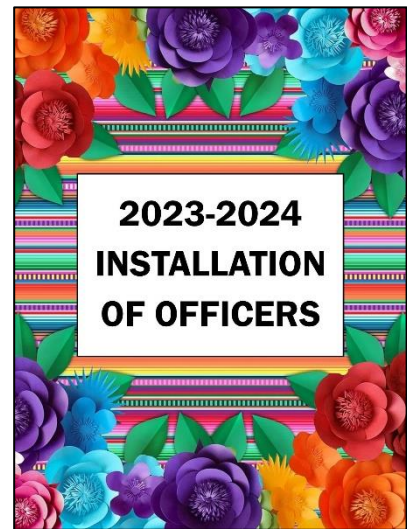
SI Riverside President Melanie McKee presented Julie Hale, Operation SafeHouse Fund Development Director, with a check for \$500 to help support the women in the Transitional Living Program that Operation SafeHouse administers.

Julie currently writes all of the grants for Operation SafeHouse, runs fundraisers and provides support for the Executive Director and Administrative staff at Operation SafeHouse.

Since 2000, SI Riverside has assisted the young adult women ages 18-22 in the "Transitional Living Program" as they pursue their education and employment. Over the years we have provided financial assistance, furniture, clothing, equipment, holiday parties, craft projects and speakers in areas of interest to the residents such as interviewing skills, budgeting and cooking.

We also provided eight bicycles which could provide safer transportation than walking for residents attending school and/or working, especially at night.

**JUNE 23, 2023
2023-24 INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS**



**Friday, June 23, 2023
5:30 PM ~ \$25/person**

**Zacatacas Mexican Cafe
Banquet Room
3767 Iowa Avenue
Riverside**

Dinner includes: Taco Station with three types of Tacos (Asada, Chicken and Potato), Cheese Enchiladas, Salad, Rice, Beans, Buntinis, Water, Iced Tea and Soft Drinks.



Wine and alcoholic drinks available for purchase at restaurant.

**ALL GUESTS WELCOME!
Invite family, friends and potential new members.**

**RSVP BY JUNE 16TH TO:
Chris Deviny
christinedeviny@gmail.com**

You can pay Treasurer Debbie via check, credit card or Zelle.



**JULY 11, 2023
STRATEGIC PLANNING
MEETING**



We will be holding our 2023-24 annual Strategic Planning Meeting at noon on Tuesday, July 11th, at Habitat for Humanity.

Please make an effort to attend this meeting as we need every club member's ideas and thoughts on how the club will move through the new club year. We will be discussing everything our club does and all of our service projects, both old and new.

Strategic Planning meetings normally take more time than our regular meetings do so if you are able, please plan to stay later than you normally would.

Please note that the July Business Meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 25th. There will not be a program meeting in July.

**SOLT
Soroptimist Orientation and
Leadership Training**



In 1998, the Soroptimist Rose Gardens in front of the Riverside County Court House in downtown Riverside were dedicated to the county.

SI Riverside spearheaded the rose garden project and contacted all of the Soroptimist clubs in Riverside County to join with them on the project. A Soroptimist rose had been developed in New Zealand. After a few years, it was shipped to a nursery in Texas and from there rose bushes were shipped to Riverside to be planted in the garden. The Soroptimist Rose Garden includes a beautiful plaque with the words, "These Rose Gardens are a gift from the Riverside County Clubs of Soroptimist International" with a list of all the clubs that participated.

Incidentally, back in the 1990's, the Golden West Region had several specific categories of club awards with SI Riverside winning the environmental award for sponsoring the Rose Garden.



"The Soroptimist Rose"

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Barbara Walling - 28th

**JUNE MEMBERSHIP
ANNIVERSARIES**



**Debbie Ferraro
6-24-2013**

**MEMBER MOMENTS
ON FACEBOOK**



*Pam Bradford posted:
"Grandson Braden performed in his 3rd play at the Murrieta Academy of Music and Performing Arts where he is studying acting. The play was a*

comedy called "The Day Aliens Attacked Fairfield" and Braden played the "Dad." Braden's acting is getting so much better and this time he nailed every single line even getting a big laugh from the audience."



Ellen Clizbe was tagged in a post by Kari Clizbe Haloviak: "Happy Mother's Day to my best friend, mentor, role model and the best mom ever! Your humor, kindness, thoughtfulness and wisdom are what I strive to emulate! I love you! It was so fun celebrating you today."



Susan Exon posted: "So proud of my son, Nik. This past weekend he graduated and participated in the RN Nurses' Pinning Ceremony. I particularly enjoyed the intimacy of the Pinning Ceremony."



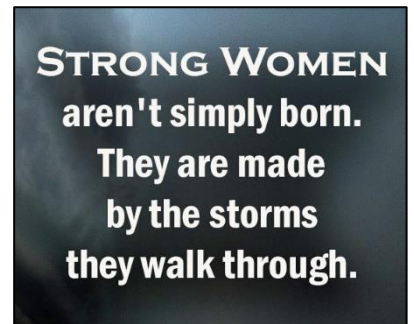
Irma Flores posted: "Happy Mother's Day! My mother is the most faithful single parent I know. She has done what is good and right. She recognized an important truth early on: Me and the boys are on loan from God to be raised for God. There is no greater gift my mother could have given us. The best thing I can do to honor my mother is to live right and do right in the name of Jesus. I work on it daily!"



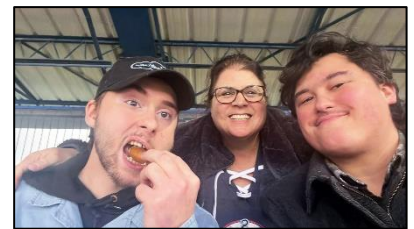
Charlene Hildebrandt was tagged in a post by Nichole Riley: "On May 6, 2023, my beautiful niece married her true love, an amazing man! Matt & Emalee, a true love story."



Debbie Kelley posted:
"London today."



Melanie McKee shared a post by workingwomen.com



Annamarie Megrđichian posted:
"Spokane Indians game with the team!"



Sophia Mendoza posted: "My mother! She had a great laugh, all heart. She made me a dreamer and a peacemaker."



Michelle Paradise updated her cover photo.



Linda Robertson shared a memory from 8 years ago: "THEY'RE BACK! This Memorial Day, West Coast Thunder. This photo is from 8 years ago."



Lynn Scecina posted: "We have a new lawyer in the family! Christina Celine Mihelich"

graduated Magna Cum Laude from Cal Western School of Law. We are so very proud of her. Now begins bar prep and on to a bright future."



Kacey Sutton-Davidson posted: "Kinsley exploring the flower fields."

CONTACT US

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SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE



**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.**

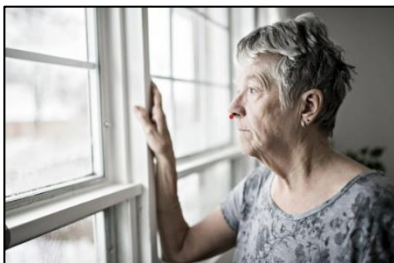
RIVERSIDELINES



EDITOR
Pam Bradford

DEADLINE
Submit articles and photos
by the 25th of each
month to Pam at:

**INSPIRATIONAL STORIES
WITH A MORAL**



An old woman lived in the village. She was one of the most unfortunate people in the world. The whole village was tired of her.

She was always gloomy, she constantly complained and was always in a bad mood.

The longer she lived, the more angry and mean she was becoming and the more poisonous were her words. People avoided her because her misfortune became contagious. It was even unnatural and insulting to be happy next to her. She created the feeling of unhappiness in others.

But one day, when she turned eighty years old, an incredible thing happened. Instantly everyone started hearing the rumor, "The old woman is happy today. She doesn't complain about anything, smiles and her face looks happy."

The whole village gathered together. The old woman was asked, "What happened to you?"

The old woman responded, "Nothing special. Eighty years I've been chasing happiness and it was useless and then I decided to live without happiness and just enjoy life. That's why I'm happy now."

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Don't chase happiness. Enjoy your life now.

ENJOY YOUR LIFE

