



Riversidelines

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE
JUNE-JULY 2024**



RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS AND AUCTION FUNDRAISER

May 17, 2024 ~ Elks Lodge, Riverside
Group Photo of Soroptimist International of Riverside Members

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.

SOROPTIMIST BIG GOAL

Invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education.

2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Edith Gingerich
2024-25 President*

As our new business year begins, I would like to thank every member of SI Riverside for their diligent work last year on our projects to assist women and girls reach their full potential through education via our Dream Programs. We sometimes get caught up in the minutia and lose site of the goal! Thank you for hanging in there and making our 2023-2024 a very productive year. I also thank those who have volunteered to be on the board and be project chairs as we get the new year started.

To our donors and contributors, THANK YOU! We could not do it without you!

This year we will be looking to make an even greater impact on our community and with SIA as we serve even more women and girls with our Live Your Dream Awards, Dream It, Be It Program and Big

Goal Accelerator Project. Stay tuned!

We will set new goals to grow our club and retain members by creating a civil and enjoyable experience, increasing meeting attendance using hybrid Zoom meetings as we conduct the work needed to reach our goals.

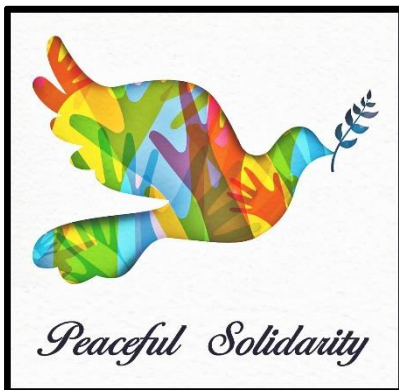
Greater focus will be given to recruiting new members to the club as well as attendance in SIA's Leadership Round Table Zoom meetings and regional conferences by members.

Brand recognition will also be in greater focus this year by promoting our club's impact from our Dream Programs.

And of course, we will continue to increase funds raised by our current projects while looking into even more ways to both increase our brand recognition and raise funds for our Dream programs.

I am looking forward to an even more productive year with *Peaceful Solidarity* in the club.

Edith Gingerich
2024-25 SIR President



OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Melanie McKee
2022-24 President

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the support and dedication of SI Riverside members during my two-year tenure as president of the club.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Tillie Soliz and JoAnn Moore for serving as my past vice presidents and to all of my board members for their unwavering support throughout my presidency.

Many thanks to Lynn Secina for her commitment as the membership chair during this time.

Special recognition goes to Michelle Paradise for her exceptional chairing of the Live Your Dream: Dream, Be It Conference at RCC and to Tiffanie Tate for stepping as our Keynote Speaker and doing an amazing presentation on the spot. Thanks also to Ellen Clizbe and Chris Deviny for their tireless efforts in support of Arlington Temporary Assistance.

I am equally thankful to Sophia Mendoza for her dedication as secretary and chair of Operation SafeHouse Transitional Living Program, Debbie Kelley for her

outstanding role as hospitality chair and co-chair for this year's successful club fundraiser and Debbie Ferraro and Pam Bradford for their invaluable assistance in maintaining our financial records.

I want to extend my appreciation to Charlene Johnson for her thoughtful gesture of sending birthday cards and flowers to our members. I also want to thank Susan Exon for her many hours working with the City of Riverside to find a new home in downtown Riverside where our History Walk stones can be re-installed.

Annamarie Megrdochian, your delicious cakes from "Nothing Bundt Cakes" were truly appreciated. Edith Gingerich, thank you for your diligent work on the Live Your Dream Education & Training Award this year, particularly for your effort in reviewing 90 applications. Also, a huge thank you to all of the other award chairs over the last two years who helped us to choose amazing women and girls to honor.

I appreciate the time, patience, and support of every member who has been part of our club over the last two years. I am especially grateful for how every member of SI Riverside came together this year and worked tirelessly to make sure that our Rhinestones, Cowgirls and Auction fundraiser was a huge success.

Your unwavering commitment, resilience and perseverance embody the spirit of Soroptimist and together we have navigated through challenging times while staying true to our mission. Thank you for entrusting me with the role of president and for allowing me to serve you.

Melanie McKee, Dr.B.A.
2022-24 SIR President

JULY 2024 CALENDAR

July

- 2 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 9 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for
Humanity, 2180 Iowa
Avenue, Riverside
- 23 **STRATEGIC PLANNING
MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for
Humanity, 2180 Iowa
Avenue, Riverside
- 24- **SOROPTIMIST**
27 **INTERNATIONAL OF THE
AMERICAS 48th BIENNIAL
CONVENTION**
Bellevue, Washington
- 30 **WORLD DAY AGAINST
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

TO BE ANNOUNCED
2024-25 Formal Installation
Of Officers

NO PROGRAM MEETING
IN JULY

AUGUST 2024 CALENDAR

August

- 6 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 12 **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
DAY**

- 13 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, ZOOM and
Habitat for Humanity, 2180
Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 17- **GOLDEN WEST REGION**
18 **LEADERSHIP TRAINING**
UC Riverside, Palm Desert
- 19 **WORLD HUMANITARIAN
DAY**
- 26 **NATIONAL WOMEN'S
EQUALITY DAY**
- 27 **PROGRAM MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for
Humanity, 2180 Iowa
Avenue, Riverside

DATES TO REMEMBER



October 5-6, 2024
**GOLDEN WEST REGION
DISTRICT 1 FALL MEETING**

Host: SI Chino Hills/
Inland Empire

February 2025
**RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS &
AUCTION FUNDRAISER**

March 2025
**LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT,
BE IT CONFERENCE**

April 2025
**SALUTE TO SERVICE
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

July 2027
**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION**

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. Business meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday and Program meetings are on the 4th Tuesday. Business meetings are hybrid on ZOOM and in person at Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside. Program meetings are in person only at Habitat for Humanity. Meetings will last from noon until approximately 1:15 PM. Please arrive a little early so we may begin promptly at noon.

JULY 30, 2024
WORLD DAY AGAINST
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



THEME 2024

**"Leave No Child Behind in
the Fight Against Human
Trafficking"**

This year's global campaign for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons urges accelerated action to end child trafficking. Children represent a significant proportion of trafficking victims worldwide, with girls being disproportionately affected.

Additionally, children are twice as likely to face violence during trafficking than adults, according

to the UNODC's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP). Regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean bear a disproportionate burden with children making up for 60 per cent of detected trafficking victims.

Amid overlapping crises such as armed conflicts, pandemics, economic hardships and environmental challenges, children are increasingly vulnerable to trafficking. Furthermore, the proliferation of online platforms poses additional risks as children often connect to these sites without adequate safeguards. Traffickers exploit online platforms, social media and the dark web to recruit and exploit children, utilizing technology to evade detection, reach wider audiences and disseminate exploitative content.

The causes of child trafficking are as diverse as the ways in which children are exploited.

Children are subjected to various forms of trafficking, including exploitation in forced labor, criminality or begging, trafficked for illegal adoption, recruitment into armed forces and online and sexual abuse and exploitation.

Root causes are manifold, including poverty, inadequate support of unaccompanied children amidst rising migration and refugee flows, armed conflicts, dysfunctional families and lack of parental care. Notably, in low-income countries, children are often trafficked for forced labor, whereas in high-income countries, sexual exploitation remains prevalent among child victims.

Identification and protection of child victims remain challenging due to underreporting, lack of

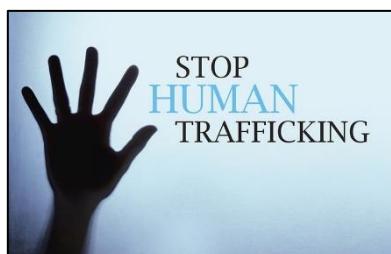
awareness and inadequate resources for victim support services. Traffickers often employ coercion, deception and threats to maintain control over their victims, making it difficult for authorities to intervene.

To effectively combat this scourge, concerted efforts are needed at both national and international levels. States must prioritize child protection, bolster legislation, improve law enforcement and allocate more resources to combat child trafficking. Prevention efforts should target root causes like poverty and inequality to reduce children's vulnerability. Special attention must be paid to trafficking of children on the move.

Strengthening child protection systems and implementing child-sensitive justice mechanisms are crucial for supporting victims and holding perpetrators accountable. Addressing online child exploitation requires innovative strategies, collaboration between tech companies and law enforcement and robust legal frameworks.

Civil society organizations, the private sector and communities have a vital role in raising awareness, providing support services and advocating for policy reforms.

From the United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime
Website:
www.UNODC.org



GOLDEN WEST REGION



Hello Golden West Region!

As the biennium comes to an end, I want to thank all of you who attended the Spring Conference in Tucson, Arizona last weekend. We had a great time rekindling friendships and making new friends. You all knocked it out of the park embracing fun and engagement.

To all the leaders that have stepped up this past year, thank you. The region is in a better place with all of us moving forward together. We celebrated 12 deserving women at our Live Your Dream Awards banquet and had a great time embracing our inner Coco Channel in our haute couture outfits.

I look forward to all the great things our region will accomplish in the future with the incoming 2024-2026 Board of Directors. What better way to celebrate their installation than to play along with some lip syncing. The sharks stole the show and took home the trophy.

Thank you for all the work your clubs accomplished over the past year with the focus on women and girls. You all had a part in "Giving Dreams Wings".

2022-24 Governor
Margie Burke

**MAY 9, 2024
CALIFORNIA PIZZA
KITCHEN AND NOTHING
BUNDT CAKES
FUNDRAISERS**



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our fundraisers on May 9th.

Through your efforts, CPK donated \$109.33 and Nothing Bundt Cakes donated \$50 to SI Riverside. What a delicious way to earn money for our club!

**MAY 14, 2024
PRESENTATION TO
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**



SI Riverside President Melanie McKee with David Han, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Riverside

SI Riverside presented David Han, Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, with a check for \$1,000 to be used to purchase appliances for a single head of household woman who is moving into a Habitat home.



**MAY 17, 2024
RHINESTONES,
COWGIRLS & AUCTION
FUNDRAISER**



YEE HAW!

Once again the SI Riverside members came together to bring our new fundraising event "Rhinstones, Cowgirls & Auction" to fruition. It was a lot of hard work in a short time frame with lots of dedicated and selfless hours put into raising money for the education and betterment of women and girls in our community.

I want to start by thanking Irma Flores for coming up with the theme. Thanks to Stan Morrison for volunteering his time to be our Auctioneer and to Kathy Michalak for volunteering her time to be our Mistress of Ceremonies.

Thanks to our President, Melanie McKee, for coordinating communication, member participation and food selection. Thanks to JoAnn Moore for all the many, many tasks she completed including raffle baskets, live auction coordination and the numerous behind the scenes tasks including meeting agendas and decorations.

Thanks to Pam Bradford for all her talents with graphics and putting together all of our written programs, agendas and advertising and for her many years of fundraising experience. Thank you to Debbie Ferraro for keeping us on task financially and managing our budget.

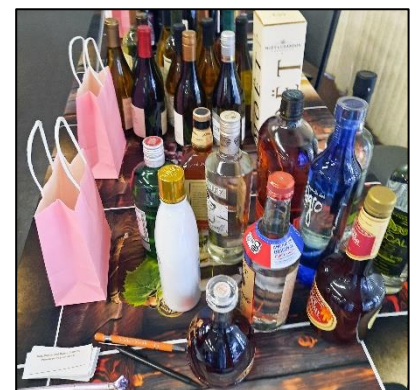
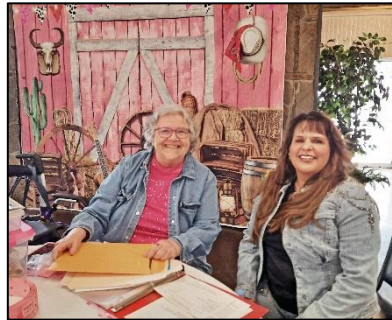
Many thanks to Barbara Walling for her innovative idea with the addition of the balloons and jewelry to our event and to Sophia Mendoza and Tiffanie Tate for helping Barbara with this project. Thanks to Lynn Scecina for handling our alcohol collection and baskets. Thanks to Linda Robertson for her gift card idea.

Thanks to all the wonderful donors in our community, too many to name, for their time and participation and for their generosity as we couldn't succeed without you. And thanks to the cowboys for volunteering to participate in our Coffee with a Cowboy addition to this event and our line dance instructor Dawna.

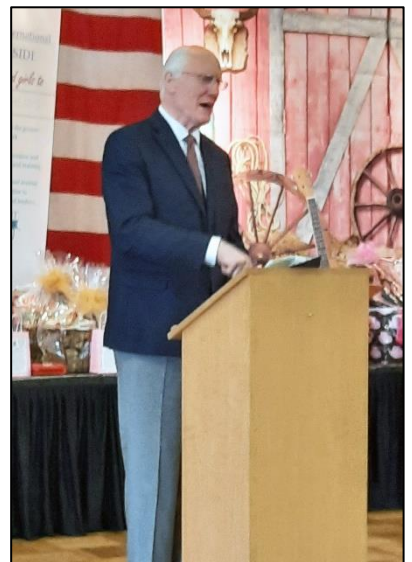
It truly takes a community so finally a thank you to all of the other SI Riverside members listed below for all your help and participation in planning and carrying out all of the details of this very successful new event: Ellen Clizbe, Chris Deviny, Susan Exon, Leslie Farris, Mary Figueroa, Edith Gingerich, Charlene Hildebrandt, Charlene

Johnson, Carolyn Kegarice,
Annamarie Megrđichian, Michelle
Paradise, Rosa Santos-Lee, Tillie
Soliz and Susan Wolf.

Debbie Kelley,
Fundraising Chair











**MAY 30 TO JUNE 1, 2024
GOLDEN WEST REGION
SPRING CONFERENCE**



Our club delegates, Susan Exon and Sophia Mendoza, sent out a detailed Delegate's Report for the 2024 Spring Conference so there won't be a long report in this newsletter.

However, there were two things that happened at Spring Conference that are worthy of repetition.

SI Riverside's Live Your Dream Education and Training Award winner, Ta'Nina Keely, was presented with \$3,000 from the Golden West Region. We are so proud of her!



*Susan Exon, Edith Gingerich,
Ta'Nina Keely, Melanie McKee,
Sophia Mendoza*



A new Golden West Region Board of Directors was elected for 2024-26.

- Liz Glowka, Governor
- Pat Box, Governor-Elect
- Debra Murphy, Secretary
- Samantha Dewing, Treasurer
- Tori Zins, District 1 Director
- Charlie Van Cleve, District 2 Director
- Sharon Bay, District 3 Director
- Laura Pauli, District 4 Director

**JUNE 25, 2024
INSTALLATION MEETING**

SI Riverside held an installation meeting on June 25th to thank our 2023-24 outgoing Board of Directors and to welcome the 2024-25 incoming Board of Directors.

Don't forget that we will be holding our formal Installation of Officers in July when more board members are available. More information to come.



*Outgoing 2023-24 Board
Edith Gingerich, Lynn Scecina,
Debbie Ferraro, President
Melanie McKee, Sophia
Mendoza, Charlene Johnson
Not in photo: JoAnn Moore,
Ellen Clizbe, Barbara Walling,
Debbie Kelley*



*Incoming 2024-25 Board
President Edith Gingerich,
Lynn Scecina, Debbie Ferraro,
Melanie McKee, Chris Deviny,
Rosa Santos-Lee
Not in photo: JoAnn Moore,
Tiffanie Tate, Ellen Clizbe,
Barbara Walling*



*2024-25 President
Edith Gingerich*



*Installing Officer
Charlene Johnson*

**NEW MEMBER
LESLIE FARRIS**



Welcome to new member Leslie Farris. Leslie was a Branch Supervisor at the Auto Club prior to her retirement.

She has already jumped in with two feet helping SI Riverside at our Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction fundraiser in May.

We know that Leslie's many talents will be put to good use on all of SI Riverside's service projects that help women and girls in our community.

HISTORY WALK



As often happens to us Soroptimists, we encounter challenges and learn to work through them with determination and flexibility.

On May 21, 2024, the SI Riverside History Walk Committee (including President Melanie, Vice-President JoAnn and me) met with many members of the Riverside City Staff. The primary speakers were the new Ward 1 councilmember, Philip Falcone, and Nathan Mustafa, the Public Works Director.

The purpose of the meeting was to ascertain whether the City would embrace the idea of relocating the Bicentennial History Walk to a grassy area along Tenth Street, in front of City Hall.

Mr. Mustafa relayed his concern that if stones are placed in grass, the sprinklers would calcify the stones due to its hard water.

He also mentioned that transients lounge around in that area and the area is already home to many other historical projects. Councilmember Falcone liked the idea of returning the History Walk

to its roots near the Convention Center.

We discussed the fact that much development was planned for the area around the Convention Center and it was our understanding that the projects could take upwards of ten years to complete.

Mr. Mustafa referred to this grand project as the Riverside Live Project and that it would be a good time to get involved because it was in the initial phase of starting an Environmental Impact Review process. It is the hope of City Staff that the Riverside Live Project will include relocating the History Walk into its budget.

In light of the long-term nature of the Riverside Live Project, City Staff suggested creating a podium to display one stone pending completion of the Riverside Live Project.

The podium display would indicate that it would be the future home of the Bicentennial History Walk.

New possibilities are around the corner. Your History Walk Committee will keep working to make sure that the History Walk is once again out in the open for all to admire.

Susan Exon
History Walk Chair



UPDATE ON 2023 DREAM IT, BE IT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



*Si Riverside Member Lynn Scecina
with Melanie Magana*

Melanie Magana, one of Si Riverside's recipients of our 2023 Dream It, Be It Scholarship winners has received a scholarship from Kiwanis.

Melanie is starting her second year at UC Berkeley. She is very well spoken and poised. It was great to meet her and her family.

Lynn Scecina

SOROPTIMIST LEADERSHIP TRAINING



APPRECIATE YOUR MEMBERS

Thank you!

Did you know this simple phrase can have a powerful impact on our members? When we appreciate members, they are motivated to come to club meetings, get involved in our programs and spread the word about the work we do.

One study by the online career site Glassdoor found that more than 80 percent of employees say they are motivated to work harder when their boss shows appreciation for their work, compared to less than 40 percent who are inspired to work harder when their boss is demanding or because they fear losing their job.

Soroptimist leaders can take a cue from the business world and apply this to clubs. Some of the benefits when we appreciate members for their hard work include:

FOSTERS A HEALTHY CLUB ATMOSPHERE

This is a given. A pleasant and friendly environment where members are grateful for each other simply makes club activities such as meetings or projects a happier place that members will want to be part of and keeps them coming back for more.

INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY

Members will feel valued when they are appreciated and will strive to make improvements. For example, if the club gave one Live Your Dream Award and received ample praise, they may strive to double their impact the next year and provide TWO awards.

IMPROVED TEAMWORK

Belonging to a team, in the broadest sense, is a result of

feeling part of something bigger than YOU. A club is like a team because we are working towards a common goal. When we thank members for helping get closer to or even reaching our goals that bond in strengthened.

Luckily, reaping these benefits doesn't always need to be a big staged event with certificates and plaques – although it can be! Showing appreciation can be done in simple everyday ways such as:

- A big, friendly smile
- Sincere words of thanks
- Short, handwritten notes
- Emails or texts
- Small, inexpensive gifts
- Flowers from your yard
- A friendly pat on the back
- Words of praise shared on Facebook or other club social media

Wouldn't you like to make someone in your club's day by showing some appreciation? Try to be specific and elaborate beyond just saying "thanks." By providing details, you will be able to show just how sincere you are. For example, "Without your organization skills our recruitment party would not have been so successful – Thank you!"

Remember, when we are genuine with our thanks, we boost morale. By recognizing our members and letting them know what they are doing is important – no matter how small or large the task – we improve the member experience.

That makes for a happy member who will not hesitate to renew her membership and continue helping women and girls around the globe!

JUNE-JULY BIRTHDAYS



Barbara Walling – June 28th

Tillie Soliz – July 3rd

Pam Bradford – July 19th

JUNE-JULY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



**Debbie Ferraro
6-24-2013**

**Mary Figueroa
6-28-2023**

**Ellen Clizbe
7-14-2009**

**Susan Exon
7-1-2016**

**Charlene Hildebrandt
7-18-2017**

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:

pambradford@pamsemail.net

PEACEFUL SOLIDARITY

