



Riversidelines

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE
JANUARY 2025**



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE

“*Holiday Party*”

December 15, 2024

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 we begin our new year, I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2025. I'd also like to thank everyone including our members, supporters, donors and friends of Soroptimist for all they have done to help SI Riverside empower women and girls in 2024.

As we begin the second half of SI Riverside's 2024-25 club year, I'd like to recognize the club's many successes during the last six months and thank the talented committee chairs who planned the events. I also want to thank all of the SI Riverside members who helped the committee chairs to succeed.

On August 27th, we held our 2024-25 Installation of Officers which was planned by our wonderful Past Presidents. Thank you for my beautiful installation! From September 4th through 17th, we were honored to host Jennifer Renn, an architectural student from Erlangen, Germany, as part of our "Mentoring For Young Women" program chaired by

Lynn Scecina and Ellen Clizbe. On October 13th, we found ourselves uncontrollably laughing at our "Comedy Night Fundraiser" planned by Chairs Linda Robertson and Lynn Scecina.

On November 19th, members of SI Riverside, old friends, new friends and employees of Habitat for Humanity Riverside came together for a joyous and fun filled "Friendsgiving." Thank you to Hospitality Chair Debbie Kelley for planning this event and to Charlene Johnson for the inspiring fall themed decorations. And, of course, we can't forget our annual Holiday Party on December 15th (the photos are in this newsletter) that was perfectly planned and executed by Hospitality Chair Debbie Kelley at the beautiful home of Michelle Paradise.

As we look forward to the second half of our 2024-25 club year, I am excited for all of the wonderful projects and fundraisers to come.

On February 21st, we will all saddle up in our jeans and western duds for some boot stomping fun at our second annual "Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction" fundraiser chaired by Melanie McKee and Tiffanie Tate. On March 15th, we will all come together for our annual "Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It" Conference for 7th and 8th grade girls chaired by Michelle Paradise and Rosa Santos-Lee.

April brings us to our annual "Salute to Service" Awards Luncheon chaired by Charlene Johnson. We will be presenting amazing women with our Live Your Dream Education & Training Awards (Chair Edith Gingerich), Student Volunteer Awards (Chair Ellen Clizbe), Gold Key Award (Chair Melanie McKee) and

Dream It, Be It Scholarship (Chair Lynn Scecina).

Since we've exceeded my expectations for the first six months of the 2024-25 club year, I'd like to suggest a few New Year's resolutions we can work together on for the next six months:

- Increase SI Riverside's donor engagement and retention.
- Expand outreach to our community.
- Implement innovative programs that give women and girls access to education.
- Boost recruitment and retention to increase our membership.
- Diversify funding sources that will improve our operational efficiency.
- Strengthen community partnerships to further our mission and create a greater positive impact in the coming year.

I'm so proud to be the President of SI Riverside and I am honored to serve with such amazingly talented women. Your level of enthusiasm and eagerness to serve has only increased my own devotion to Soroptimist International of Riverside.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Edith Gingerich
2024-25 SIR President



JANUARY 2025 CALENDAR

January

- 7 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 11 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS**
- 14 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, ZOOM and Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 24 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS WORKSHOP**
3:30 PM to 5:30 PM
Civil Rights Institute, Riverside
- 24 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION**
- 28 **PROGRAM MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside

FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR

February

- 4 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 6 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

- 11 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, ZOOM and
Habitat for Humanity, 2180
Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 11 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
WOMEN AND GIRLS IN
SCIENCE**
- 14 **Y-DAY - GLOBAL DAY TO
END VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN**
- 21 **RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS
& AUCTION FUNDRAISER**
Riverside Elks Lodge
- 25 **PROGRAM MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for
Humanity, 2180 Iowa
Avenue, Riverside

DATES TO REMEMBER



March 15, 2025
**LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT,
BE IT CONFERENCE**

April 2025
**SALUTE TO SERVICE
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

June 5-8, 2025
GWR SPRING CONFERENCE
We-Ko-Pa Resort & Casino
Fort McDowell, Arizona

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.

**JANUARY 11, 2025
NATIONAL DAY OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AWARENESS**



**NATIONAL DAY OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AWARENESS**

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in 2025 is on January 11th. This day is also known as #WearBlueDay and it marks the beginning of a month long campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking.

To show solidarity and raise awareness, people can wear blue on January 11th. They can also share photos of themselves and others wearing blue on social media using the hashtag #WearBlueDay.

The 2025 theme for Human Trafficking Prevention Month highlights the importance of a holistic approach to preventing human trafficking.

This includes recognizing the intersection of human trafficking with other forms of violence and social issues, building healthy relationships, providing access to resources and fostering economic stability.

The U.S. Congress designated January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in 2007.

**SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL OF THE
AMERICAS**



**UpliftHER
Initiative:
Human
Trafficking**

Once a quarter, Soroptimist International of the Americas will focus on an obstacle that women

and girls face on their path to formal education and economic empowerment. SIA will share information about the obstacle, along with suggested projects that count towards our Big Goal. Clubs can participate in the quarterly project focus by sharing SIA posts and posting their own projects with the hashtag #SorooptimistsUplifHER.

For January, we will focus on projects that increase access to education for women or girls who have experienced human trafficking. January 11th is recognized as the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness, making January a meaningful time to learn more about this critical issue and how Soroptimists can help through the Soroptimists UplifHER initiative.

**JANUARY 24, 2025
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AWARENESS WORKSHOP**



On January 24, 2025, Soroptimist International of Riverside (SIR) will host a pivotal event dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking and fostering community action against this pervasive issue. As part of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, this event serves as a beacon of hope and a rallying cry for change.

The campaign to organize this event has been deeply collaborative and transformative. Throughout this process, I've had

the privilege of connecting with remarkable women dedicated to addressing the suffering caused by human trafficking. These partnerships have enriched the campaign and amplified our collective mission to combat this modern day slavery.

The event, titled "Liberation: From Captivity to Resilience and Hope," will take place at the Civil Rights Institute of Southern California in Riverside and will feature:

- Keynote Speaker: Paul Chang, Professor, PhD Student, Advocate and Innovator in Combating Human Trafficking, 25 years of experience, and recipient of numerous awards including the 2019 Global Center for Women and Justice Diamond Award.
- Panel Discussions: Experts and leading voices will provide valuable insights and strategies to combat human trafficking. Survivors, advocates and specialists will engage in powerful conversations to shed light on the complexities of trafficking and potential solutions.
- Resource Workshop: Through an experiential team building exercise, attendees can connect with Professor Chang and organizations that provide support and education to combat trafficking.

This initiative is not just about raising awareness. It is about empowering individuals and communities to take action. Together, we aim to foster resilience, ignite hope and create a future free from the grip of trafficking.

Please mark your calendars and join us in solidarity on January 24, 2025. Together, we can turn awareness into action and transform lives.

For more details about the workshop and where to RSVP, please visit the homepage of the SI Riverside website:

www.soroptimistriveraside.org



***Keynote Speaker:
Paul Chang***

Paul Chang is an adjunct professor at Cal State Los Angeles and Vanguard University. He specializes in public administration and human trafficking. With over 30 years in federal service, he has developed innovative strategies, such as the Enterprise Model, to combat forced labor and support vulnerable populations.

A passionate advocate, Professor Chang grew up undocumented in Monterey Park. He holds a BA and MPA from Cal State LA, where he now teaches. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy at Claremont Graduate University and has received numerous awards, including the 2019 Global Center for Women and Justice Diamond Award.

Professor Chang's expertise and commitment to justice make him

an inspiring leader in the fight against human trafficking.

Sophia Mendoza
Chair, Human Trafficking
Committee

**DECEMBER 15, 2025
HOLIDAY PARTY**



Tiffanie Tate, Rosa Santos-Lee, Debbie Kelley, Michelle Paradise, Pam Bradford, Lynn Scecina, Ellen Clizbe and Debbie Ferraro

Soroptimist International of Riverside held our annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 15th, at the beautiful home of SI Riverside member Michelle Paradise. It was perfectly planned and executed by SI Riverside member Debbie Kelley.

Even though many of our members were home sick and couldn't be with us, the rest of our members (along with four Soroptimister husbands) had an amazing time.

It was an afternoon of delicious food, fun holiday games, exchanging gifts and friendly camaraderie!

We even held a toy drive for the children served by Arlington Temporary Assistance.

It was a fabulous and fun party!







Donated Toys for Arlington Temporary Assistance



FEBRUARY 21, 2025 RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS & AUCTION



On February 21, 2025, Soroptimist International of Riverside will host its 2nd annual Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction Fundraiser at the Elks Lodge in Riverside. Kindly update your calendars accordingly.

"Save the Dates" will be sent out electronically followed by formal invitations in mid-January.

Saddle up in your jeans and western duds for some boot stomping fun that will include a Rib Sticking BBQ Luncheon, Live Auction, Silent Auction, "Balloons, Bags & Bling" Mystery Gifts, Wine and Spirits Game, Photo Ops in front of our pink Soroptimist Barn and much, much more.

Stan Morrison will once again preside over the Live Auction and the highlight of the auction will be a week at the Grandview Resort in Las Vegas.

100% of the proceeds from the Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction Fundraiser will go to SI Riverside programs that provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS & AUCTION DEADLINE REMINDERS

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE please give Melanie McKee the name of your Silent Auction basket so she can maintain a current Silent Auction list.

JANUARY 10, 2025, is the deadline for materials for the event program to be received by SI Riverside for the Live Auction, Silent Auction and Sponsorships. However, we will still be accepting donations after January 10, 2025, but there will be no guarantee that those donors will be recognized in the event program. Please aim for January 10th to provide all of your materials for the event program.

FEBRUARY 15, 2025, is the deadline to get all wine, hard liquor and beer donations to Lynn Secina for our Red, White and Booze drawing.

Melanie McKee & Tiffanie Tate
RCA Co-Chairs

**MARCH 15, 2025
LIVE YOUR DREAM:
DREAM IT, BE IT
CONFERENCE**



“SAVE THE DATE”

**March 15, 2025
Riverside City College**

The Live Your Dream Conference Planning Committee met on December 13th and everything continues to move smoothly.

Rosa Santos-Lee has tweaked the applications and flyers for the schools and will be sending them to the districts in January for distribution.

We will be doing a pilot project with Jurupa Valley School District for foster youth recruitment. Once we have established how many foster girls will be attending, Rosa will discuss transportation with the Asst. Superintendent.

Lt. Col. Jengi Martinez, pilot, United States Air Force, has been confirmed as the morning speaker. Our own Dr. Tiffanie Tate will be the afternoon speaker.

The facility is secured for March 15, 2025, with a fee waiver. However, we will have to pay \$934 for staff costs on the day of the event. It has also been confirmed that we can use five classrooms in the new building by the cafeteria.

We have more than 150 backpacks currently on hand so we do not need to purchase additional backpacks this year. However, we may need to purchase additional lanyards.

JoAnn Moore is overseeing the Collage Project (aka Vision Boards). All members can contribute by sending photos, motivational words and quotes, etc., to JoAnn.

We intend to use SI Riverside members for security so we will need volunteers.

And lastly, Susan Exon is looking into a grant from Soroptimist International of the Americas. The SIA grant program application process opened on December 1st.

Michelle Paradise
LYD Conference Chair

**SOROPTIMIST
EDUCATION & TRAINING**



**BENEFITS OF
MEMBERSHIP**

Soroptimist uses annual dues to ensure our members have a fun and meaningful club experience while accomplishing our collective mission today and into the future. Surveys tell us members value the following benefits from their membership.

**MISSION-BASED
PROGRAMS**

Members experience joy and a sense of accomplishment by working with other like-minded women on global programs that provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

**CONNECTIONS &
PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Members grow professionally and personally. Through friendships with club members, relationships in your region and connections with members from diverse countries and backgrounds, you are able to grow your network. The opportunities for leadership development provide professional growth.

**ACCESS TO A TEAM OF
NON-PROFIT
PROFESSIONALS**

Members receive guidance and resources from SIA headquarters, enabling them to enjoy a meaningful club experience as they change communities for the better.

In addition to these values, here is a brief overview of the individual benefits members receive when they join Soroptimist:

- *Best For Women*, our monthly fully translated electronic newsletter which keeps you updated on Soroptimist initiatives and activities.
- Leadership development and networking opportunities.
- Opportunity to participate in and provide feedback through our social media sites.

- Access to contact information for our members, clubs and leaders via online directories.
- Invitations to take advantage of special offers and discounts through our partners.
- Invitations to international biennial conventions.

Article from:
Soroptimist 101

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Susan Exon – 28th

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



**Rosa Santos-Lee
1-27-24**

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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

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**"The magic in
new beginnings
is truly the most
powerful of
them all."**

JOSIAH MARTIN



**"What the new year
brings to you will
depend a great deal
on what you bring
to the new year."**

VERN MCLELLAN



**"Cheers to a new
year and another
chance for us to
get it right."**

OPRAH WINFREY



**"Good resolutions
are simply checks
that men draw on
a bank where they
have no account."**

OSCAR WILDE



**"New year,
old you."**

A.D. ALIWAT



**"Celebrate
endings — for
they precede new
beginnings."**

JONATHAN HUIE



**"Nobody can go
back and start a
new beginning, but
anyone can start
today and make a
new ending."**

MARIA ROBINSON



**"Every sunset is an
opportunity to
reset."**

RICHIE NORTON



**"The beginning is
always today."**

MARY SHELLEY

