



# Riversidelines

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE MARCH 2025

### 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.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Edith Gingerich*  
2024-25 President

Our Riverside Soroptimists were remarkably busy in February preparing for our second annual Rhinestones, Cowgirls and Auction fundraiser that took place on February 21st. Thanks to all in attendance and the members who worked hard in preparation and helped at the event. It was a fun and productive fundraiser.

We served a delicious BBQ lunch, had "Balloon Bling" Grab Bags, "Coffee or Cocktails with a Cowboy," a "Red, White and Booze" wine and spirits drawing and an array of great Silent Auction items plus more than a few fabulous Live Auction items.

Special thanks to RCA Co-Chairs Melanie McKee and Tiffanie Tate who chaired the event and their committee members! We hope to see you all at next year's event.

In addition to the RCA event, members were busy planning our annual "Live Your Dream: Dream It Be It" Conference which will take place on Saturday, March 15th. They were fast at work arranging Panelists, Keynote Speakers and Activities for the young women who attend the event.

For those who are not familiar with this event, every year Soroptimist International of Riverside invites girls in seventh and eighth grades from the three local school districts, Riverside Unified, Alvord Unified and Jurupa Unified, to attend this one day conference. The focus of the conference is to introduce them to local professional women in a variety of fields and learn about their jobs, their journey to get there and the struggles they face. Attendees are provided tools such as "How to Make Smart Goals" to help them prepare for a college education.

Special thanks to Co-Chairs Michelle Paradise and Rosa Santos-Lee and their committee members for their commitment to this unbelievably valuable event.

Soroptimist International of Riverside has also been busy vetting and naming our You're your Dream Education and Training Award winners for this year as well as our Student Volunteer Awardees and our Gold Key Awardee. We will have a lovely luncheon on April 29th at the First United Methodist Church in Riverside to award and honor each of these women.

Next up, our first May Tea. Stay tuned for details!

If you are interested in learning more about programs, scholarships and awards or would like to help us champion women to be successful through access to education, give us a call or visit our website:

[www.soroptimistrivside.org](http://www.soroptimistrivside.org)

Edith Gingerich  
2024-25 SI Riverside President



## MARCH 2025 CALENDAR



- 1 **ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY**
- 4 **BOARD MEETING**  
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 8 **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**
- 10 **NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY**
- 11 **BUSINESS MEETING**  
12:00 PM, ZOOM and Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 15 **LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT, BE IT CONFERENCE**  
Riverside City College
- 21 **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**
- 25 **PROGRAM MEETING**  
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside

## APRIL 2025 CALENDAR



- 1 **BOARD MEETING**  
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 7 **WORLD HEALTH DAY**
- 8 **BUSINESS MEETING**  
12:00 PM, ZOOM and  
Habitat for Humanity, 2180  
Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 10 **SI RIVERSIDE CHARTER DATE**  
**APRIL 10, 1948**
- 12 **EQUAL PAY DAY**
- 22 **INTERNATIONAL EARTH**  
**DAY**
- 29 **SALUTE TO SERVICE**  
**AWARDS LUNCHEON**  
First United Methodist  
Church, Riverside

NO PROGRAM MEETING  
IN APRIL

## DATES TO REMEMBER

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

## MARCH 8, 2025 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



International Women's Day 2025 campaign theme is "Accelerate Action."

Collectively, we can "Accelerate Action" for gender equality.

Step forward in solidarity for International Women's Day 2025 on March 8th to help #AccelerateAction.

At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, which is roughly five generations from

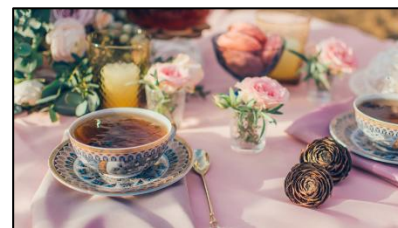
now, to reach full gender parity, according to data from the World Economic Forum.

Focusing on the need to "Accelerate Action" emphasizes the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres.

So, together, let's "Accelerate Action" to speed up the rate of progress worldwide.

Article from:  
<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Theme>

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS



## Join Us for Soroptimist's Fourth Annual International Women's Day Virtual Tea Party!

Mark your calendars for March 10th at 8:00 PM and be part of a heartwarming celebration! This year, the party will also serve as a virtual parallel event within the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's NGO forum.

Whether you sip your favorite tea, coffee or refreshing beverage of your choice, you'll be united in spirit with fellow participants

who share a commitment to empowering women. The event will feature inspiring speakers and opportunities to connect with others who are passionate about making a difference.

Don't miss this chance to celebrate together, share stories and uplift one another!

Let's make this Women's History Month unforgettable and continue empowering women and girls together.

Register and learn more at:  
[www.soroptimist.org/events/index.html](http://www.soroptimist.org/events/index.html)

With gratitude,  
SIA Headquarters

**JANUARY 24, 2025  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
WORKSHOP**



**Empowering Communities:  
SI-Riverside Hosts  
Successful Human  
Trafficking Awareness  
Workshop**

On January 24, 2025, Soroptimist International of Riverside successfully hosted its Human Trafficking Awareness Workshop, "Liberation: From Captivity to Resilience and Hope" at the Civil Rights Institute of Southern California in Riverside.

This impactful event brought together 43 in person participants, 8 dedicated staff

members and 11 virtual attendees via Zoom, all committed to deepening their understanding of human trafficking and how to combat it.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Paul Chang, Professor and Lecturer on Human Trafficking at Vanguard University and CSULA, delivered a compelling address, shedding light on the realities of exploitation and the steps individuals can take to recognize and prevent trafficking in their communities. His insights, along with interactive discussions, empowered attendees with knowledge and tools to become advocates for change.



Dr. Paul Chang

We also extend our deepest gratitude to our esteemed panelists:

- Riverside Police Chief Larry Gonzalez
- Dr. Tiffanie Tate
- Asia Williamson, MSW
- Karina Castro, Riverside County AHT Task Force Facilitator

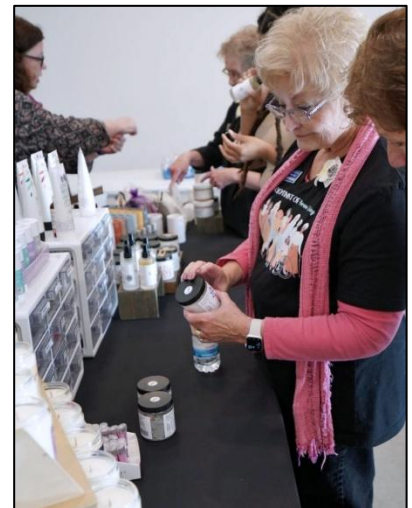
Their expertise, dedication and firsthand knowledge provided attendees with a well-rounded and impactful discussion on the realities of human trafficking and the urgent need for community action.



Dr. Tiffanie Tate

Additionally, we were honored to host Debbie Mattis, Founder and CEO of ReBirth Homes, a nonprofit dedicated to restoring the lives of trafficking survivors.

Attendees also had the opportunity to support Freedom Shop, featuring handmade products created by survivors of trafficking, directly contributing to their empowerment and financial independence.



Take action and stay vigilant by reporting suspicious activity. If you suspect human trafficking, submit a confidential tip via the Riverside County HTA Tip Line.

Know the International Hand Signal for Help: If someone is in

distress, they can discreetly use the International Hand Sign for Danger—raising their hand, tucking in their thumb, and folding their fingers over it—to silently signal for help.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended, contributed and supported this vital cause. Raising awareness is the first step toward action and together, we are fostering a safer and more informed community.

Stay connected with SI Riverside for future events and initiatives aimed at making a lasting impact.



Article From:  
[soroptimiststogetheragainsttrafficking.org](http://soroptimiststogetheragainsttrafficking.org)

**FEBRUARY 21, 2025  
RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS  
& AUCTION**



On February 21, 2025, Soroptimist International of Riverside hosted its second annual Rhinestones, Cowgirls and Auction fundraiser.

This fundraising event supports education and training programs for girls and women in the Riverside community.

The event began with a welcoming address from President Edith Gingerich, who

introduced the Mistress of Ceremonies, Kathy Michalak, and the Auctioneer, Stan Morrison.

The lively auction featured various unique items that generated excitement among the attendees. Barbara Walling's "Balloon, Bags and Bling" gift bags were a distinct addition that sold quickly.

Debbie Kelley's "Coffee or Cocktails with a Cowboy" was a particularly engaging aspect that captured the interest of the cowgirl attendees.

Lynn Seccina's "Red, White and Booze" wine and liquor display was a hit and RCA Co-Chair Tiffany Tate, contributed to the event's energy by interacting with the attendees.

The culinary offerings were exceptional and JoAnn Moore had a memorable time at the fundraiser.

As guests entered the venue, they were welcomed by round tables draped with black tablecloths and glittering "jewels" hanging from branches behind sequined cowboy boots, all part of the creative centerpieces designed by Chris Deviny, Tillie Soliz and Ellen Clizbe.

Charlene Johnson added her distinctive touch while Susan Wolf played a crucial role in various tasks, including unloading the attendees' vehicles.

The event's success came from the dedicated teamwork of volunteers like Debbie Ferraro, Annamarie Megrđichian and Pam Bradford.

I want to thank the RCA committee for their unwavering dedication and hard work in organizing this year's Rhinestones, Cowgirls and Auction fundraiser. Everyone's commitment was truly inspiring.

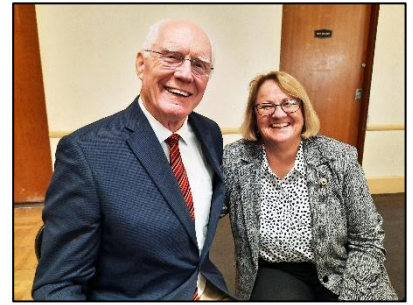
I also want to thank the volunteers who devoted their time on the day of the fundraiser. Your contributions were invaluable and greatly appreciated.

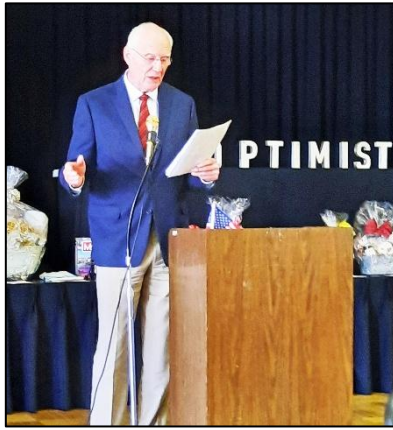
Melanie McKee  
RCA Co-Chair



Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction  
Co-Chairs Tiffany Tate and  
Melanie McKee













The Live Your Dream Conference Planning Committee met on February 24th to finalize all of the plans for our 2025 Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference.

The morning keynote speaker will be Lt. Col. Jengi Martinez, pilot, United States Air Force, with our own Dr. Tiffanie Tate confirmed as afternoon keynote speaker who will incorporate the SIA Smart Goals into her presentation.



McGrath's Catering will provide breakfast and lunch for the attendees and bowls of snacks will be placed on the tables.

When attendees register, they will be given lanyards, a pre-conference survey and a certificate of attendance.



SI Riverside members will pay \$20 for meals (versus \$30 actual cost). If you plan to attend, please pay with cash on the day of the event or Venmo/Zelle your payment to Treasurer Debbie Ferraro.

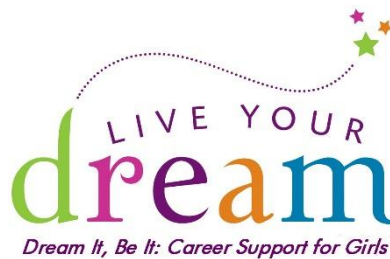
Since 2008, the Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference has acquainted 7th and 8th grade girls to career options with workshops and activities aimed at setting goals and outlining the steps to achieve them.



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

All members should plan to attend on March 15th as there are tasks for all on the day of the event. More importantly, you will be able to take part in and witness how SI Riverside is empowering and making a difference in the lives and futures of many young girls.

Michelle Paradise  
LYD Conference Chair



**March 15, 2025  
Riverside City College**

## SOROPTIMIST EDUCATION & TRAINING



### PUTTING GIRLS ON A PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Soroptimist's Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls program empowers girls to break the cycles of racism, poverty, violence and abuse by giving them the self confidence and knowledge they need to achieve success in their future careers and personal lives.

Although all girls face barriers because of their gender, we prioritize working with girls who have additional obstacles including racism, poverty, unstable home lives, living in foster care or teen motherhood. Soroptimist clubs work in partnership with girls in small groups or a conference setting to provide them with the information and resources they want and need to be successful.

By reaching girls while they are still young, we not only can help them stay healthy and safe in the short term, but we can reduce the number of women in crisis in the future. Putting girls on a positive path will help them realize their dreams.

*"Dream It, Be It really helped me look at my goals long term. It showed me that I'm going to fail sometimes and I have to learn from my mistakes."  
-- Dream It, Be It Participant*

Article from:  
Soroptimist 101

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS



**Leslie Farris – 16th**  
**Annamarie Megrdichian – 20th**  
**Rosa Santos-Lee – 20th**  
**Edith Gingerich - 24th**

## MARCH MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



**Carolyn Kegarice**  
**3-1-1986**

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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](mailto:pambradford@pamsemail.net)

**HELPING WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ACCESS TO EDUCATION**

