



Soroptimist International of Riverside ~ P. O. Box 1631 ~ Riverside CA 92502

Riversidelines

FEBRUARY 2017

"THE BEST FOR WOMEN"
WEBPAGE - soroptimistriverside.org
FACEBOOK - Soroptimist Riverside CA

CLUB #114315

SOROPTIMIST VISION

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

SOROPTIMIST MISSION

Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Janet Payton
2016-17 SIR President

January has been a busy month for SI Riverside and I know all of you are working very hard behind the scenes preparing for all of our upcoming events.

We had a very successful joint Stop Trafficking event with SI Corona on January 19th. On a very rainy day we had over 200 people attend this very informative educational evening. I want to thank SI Corona for inviting us to be a part of this event and Michelle Rainer and Jana Cook for helping on the committee. A special thanks to all of the members who came out to support us.

February is Valentine Desert Auction month. The reason we work so hard to raise funds is to be able to support our programs.

At the Stop Human Trafficking event I was approached by a woman named Cheryl Swanson. She asked if I remembered her. She was a winner a few years back of the Women's Opportunity Award, now called our Live Your Dream Training and Education Awards for Women. She remembered me as I had actually presented her with our check at the Salute to Service Luncheon that year.

I asked her if the award really helped her and she told me it was life changing. That was a very touching and inspiring moment for me. To see and hear that Soroptimist made such a huge difference for her and her girls was very emotionally gratifying.

Cheryl was living in a safe house for victims of domestic violence and going to school trying to complete her degree. With our help she was able to finish her education and now has her degree and works as a NutriMost Coach in Riverside. She said her girls are doing very well and she is excited about all of their futures. We will be hearing more from Cheryl at a future meeting.

I am so proud to be a part of this hard working group of women. We have much work to do the next couple of months but if we focus on why we do it and the lives we touch the rewards will be worth the efforts. Hope to see each of you on February 9th.

Janet Payton
SI Riverside President



FEBRUARY 2017



- 7 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM, Pacific Premier Bank, Raincross Room, 8th Floor, 3403 Tenth Street, Riverside
- 9 **VALENTINE DESSERT AUCTION AND BATTLE OF THE BAKERS**
Riverside Convention Center
- 28 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside

MARCH 2017



- 7 **BOARD MEETING**
12:00 PM, Pacific Premier Bank, Raincross Room, 8th Floor, 3403 Tenth Street, Riverside
- 14 **BUSINESS MEETING**
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 25 **LIVE YOUR DREAM CONFERENCE**
Riverside Convention Center

DATES TO REMEMBER



April 25, 2017
SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARDS LUNCHEON
Tamale Factory
3663 Main Street, Riverside

June 1-3, 2017
GOLDEN WEST REGION SPRING CONFERENCE
Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort
Phoenix, Arizona
October 2017
DISTRICT 1 FALL MEETING
Hosted by SI Chino Hills

July 2019
21st SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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 at the Riverside Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue (corner of Spruce and Iowa), 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 approximately \$16/each and can be paid on a yearly, quarterly or per meeting basis. For questions, please contact the SI Riverside Assistant Treasurer.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

frequently asked questions

What is Soroptimist?

Soroptimist is a global women's organization whose members work to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Soroptimist programs focus on providing women and girls with access to education, which is one of the most effective ways to end social problems disproportionately affecting women and girls.

What does the word "Soroptimist" mean?

Loosely translated from Latin, Soroptimist is a coined term meaning "best for women."

When was Soroptimist formed?

The first Soroptimist club was formed in 1921 by a group of 80 women in Oakland, Alameda County, California, USA.

Why does Soroptimist focus on women and girls?

Soroptimist was formed because in 1921 women who were interested in volunteering in their communities were not permitted to join male service organizations. Since that time, the organization has worked to help women improve their standing in the world. Despite tremendous strides, women still do not enjoy equal economic or

social status with their male counterparts. As an organization of and for women, Soroptimist feels uniquely qualified to tackle the challenges facing today's women and girls.

What programs does Soroptimist offer?

Soroptimist members belong to local clubs. Clubs participate in the Dream Programs of Soroptimist, "Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women" and "Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls" to help women and girls achieve social and economic empowerment. The Dream Programs of Soroptimist ensure women and girls have access to the education and training they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams. Soroptimist is committed to investing in programs that have a sustainable, measurable change for women and girls.

Soroptimist also sponsors LiveYourDream.org, an online community empowering volunteer action and activism. The self-motivated network is made up of people who wish to support women and girls in their quest to lead better lives, while gaining inspiration in their own lives. Members of the free online community work on topics such as women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women, human trafficking and more. They also have access to inspirational articles, tips and blogs that can help them live their own personal dreams.

How are Soroptimist programs funded?

Soroptimist programs are funded by investment income, member dues and contributions from clubs and members. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Soroptimist also depends on outside contributions from people who support the Soroptimist mission.

What is the relationship between Soroptimist International of the Americas and Soroptimist International?

Soroptimist International of the Americas, headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, is one of four federations comprising Soroptimist International (SI), which is headquartered in Cambridge, England. The other three federations affiliated with SI are: Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland, headquartered in Cheshire, England; Soroptimist International of Europe, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland; and Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific, headquartered in Sydney, Australia.

How many members are in Soroptimist?

Soroptimist International has about 76,000 members. Soroptimist International of the Americas has about 30,000 members.

How many countries make up Soroptimist?

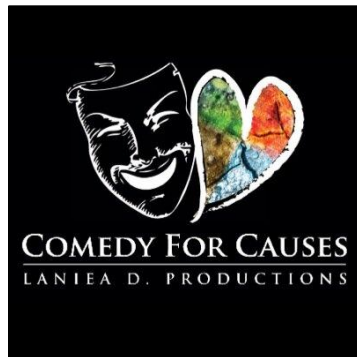
Soroptimist International members reside in over 120 countries and territories throughout the world. Soroptimist International of the Americas' clubs are located in 20 countries and territories: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guam, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Northern Mariana Islands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, United States and Venezuela.

What is Soroptimist's relationship with the United Nations?

Soroptimist International has consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which oversees U.N. activities and policies promoting human rights. Representatives from Soroptimist International can request agenda

items, submit written statements for circulation to all members of the council, make oral statements at meetings and contribute to other U.N. gatherings and seminars. Soroptimist representatives are volunteers and work in one of the four U.N. centers in New York City, Paris, Vienna or Geneva. It is in this forum that Soroptimist representatives can advocate for the Soroptimist mission of improving the lives of women and girls.

COMEDY FOR CAUSES FUNDRAISING REPORT



I am so proud of the members of SI Riverside. Even after seven years of membership, I am still in awe of this group.

For those of you that weren't at the January business meeting, I wanted to let you know the Taco Buffet & Comedy Show, our Fall Fundraiser, was a big success. After all the numbers for costs and income were accounted for, I'm very happy to announce our net proceeds of \$2,588.94.

I want to again thank my fabulous committee members: Vicki Hightower, Judy Pekarek and Annamarie Megrdichian and "consultants" Debbie Ferraro and Janet Payton. A very SPECIAL "Thank You" to JoAnn Moore, who did the work of three committee members!

Thank you to all the club members who gathered or donated prizes for the Pick-A-

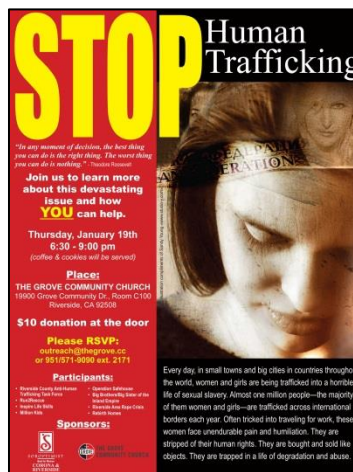
Prize, Live Auction and Door Prizes and to everyone who supported this fun event and helped make it a success.

SI Riverside is the best of the best.

THANKS!

Linda Robertson,
Comedy For Causes Chair

JANUARY 19, 2017 HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM



STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING EVENT

On January 19, 2017, Soroptimist International of Corona and Soroptimist International of Riverside along with Grove Community Church held a Stop Human Trafficking event.

The goal of the STOP TRAFFICKING event was to raise awareness in the general population about trafficking and sex slavery. An awareness-raising project was selected because a necessary first step in ending the problem is making sure that everyone knows it exists. Once enough people are aware of the problem, they can work together to make sure it ends.

The evening began with welcomes by Shawn Dredla, SI Corona Event Chair; Pastor Joe Hobbs, The Grove Community Church; Michelle Volante, President, Soroptimist International of Corona; Janet Payton, President, Soroptimist International of Riverside; and Vicki Hightower, Riverside County Chief Deputy District Attorney.

After a short invocation by Pastor Hobbs the Documentary, "Teenage Sex 4 Sale: Human Trafficking in San Bernardino County," was shown to the audience. This movie was chosen as it shows the problem at a local level.

When the movie was completed we heard from 16 panelists. Each panelist told us what their organization does for victims of Human Trafficking and how they are helping young women to learn to see the signs and avoid getting involved. With 16 panelists the time allotted was very short. They each had just two minutes to tell the audience what their organization does and what the public could do to help.

PANELISTS:

- Investigator Ian Anderson
- Deputy District Attorney Kacey Sutton, Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force
- Opal Singleton, Million Kids
- Shannon Forsythe, Run2Rescue
- Kristi Camplin, Inspire Life Skills
- Debbie Martis, Rebirth Homes
- Kristen Dolan, Operation SafeHouse
- Patty Cardenas, Family Justice Center
- Monique Osorio, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Empire
- CJ Baca, Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center
- Jim and Donna Santo, The Knot

- Kristi MacEwen, Path of Life Ministries
- Lisa Aguilar, Olive Crest
- Tina Marie Cochran, Teen Leadership Foundation
- Jenni Price - Remember Nhu

Everyone was invited to visit the exhibit room next door. In the exhibit room each panelist had a table with information and volunteers to further explain their cause in a more one on one environment and describe how they could use the public's help. SI Riverside displayed a board with pictures of our Live Your Dream Conference and Salute to Service Luncheon and advertised our Valentine Desert Auction. We also sold our key chains with whistles.

It was a very successful and informative evening. We had a count of 225 attendees who were informed of Human Trafficking and were able to connect with local non-profits to better understand how they could get involved in ending sex slavery.



FEBRUARY 9, 2017 VALENTINE DESSERT AUCTION AND BATTLE OF THE BAKERS



SI Riverside's Valentine Dessert Auction and Battle of the Bakers will take place on February 9, 2017, at the Riverside Convention Center. This annual auction has been the signature fundraising event for SI Riverside for over 20 years. Doors open at 11:30 AM for registration with the auction and luncheon beginning at 12:00 PM. Tickets are \$65/person and include parking.

Our event features "The Battle of the Bakers" with local professional bakers creating amazing cakes and desserts to be judged by a panel of experts and then auctioned off. This year's bakers include Creme de la Creme, Dough'Lectibles,

Isabella's Cupcakes & More, Jammin' Bread, Lindmair Bakery, McGrath's Catering, Muffin Top Bakery and Victoria Club.

In addition to the amazing cakes, our Live Auction will include a Big Bear retreat, a 7 day Mexican vacation, a Palm Springs Condo, an adorable puppy, lunch with the Mayor of Riverside and lunch and tour of the Riverside Firehouse.

We will also have many wonderful and creative gift baskets in our Silent Auction including a Downtown Riverside Basket, Taste of Temecula Basket, Date Night Dinner & Drinks Basket, Popcorn, Candy and Theater Basket, Starbucks Coffee Basket, Gourmet Pasta Basket, Baking Basket, BBQ Lovers Basket, Day at the Beach Basket, Ultimate Spa Basket, Women Fitness Basket, Riverside Golf Day Basket, Little Girl Basket, Little Boy Basket, Delightful Doggy Basket, Beer Lovers Basket, Art Basket and much, much more.

Plus we can't forget our Wine Auction for 52 bottles of exquisite red and white wines and a Small Sales Table with delightful Valentine gifts.

SI Riverside members have worked very hard to make this the most successful auction ever. Please join us for a CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' good time and invite all your family, friends and co-workers to the auction.

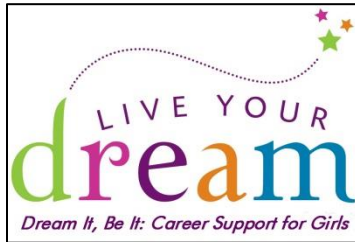
Tickets can be purchased on the SI Riverside webpage:

www.soroptimistriverside.org

Just click on the "Fundraisers" tab for the Valentine Dessert Auction.

Every dollar we raise will go directly to SI Riverside's service projects and scholarships that advance the status of women and girls in our local community.

**MARCH 25, 2017
LIVE YOUR DREAM
CONFERENCE**



The Live Your Dream Committee is moving ahead with planning for another great LYD Conference in 2017. We've had a few bumps in the road, but we're off and running now with an amazing conference in store for our 7th and 8th grade girls.

This year's conference will be held at the Riverside Convention Center, 3637 Fifth Street, Riverside, on Saturday, March 25th from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Our own Michelle Paradise will be the keynote speaker again this year with panel discussions led by prominent, professional women, surprise activities, little gifts, good food and fellowship. The girls' backpacks are here waiting to be filled with interesting, educational and fun contents. More on donations for the backpacks will follow.

Make sure to have **Saturday, March 25, 2017**, marked on your calendar because everyone has a job, so don't miss this wonderful event.

Chris Deviny
and Carolyn Kegarice
Live Your Dream Conference
Co-Chairs



**INSPIRE LIFE SKILLS
TRAINING
"ADOPT-A-HOME"
PROGRAM**



**RESIDENT
PROFILE
MEET
ASHLEY**



Ashley entered the foster care system when she was two years old. She lived in multiple group and foster homes in California, Florida, Montana and Washington. The "system" attempted to locate her near family members in the hopes that she could receive support and perhaps live with family. Unfortunately, the family homes available to Ashley were deemed unsafe, so she remained in foster care.

At 18, Ashley was notified by the system that she was on her own (this was prior to the fairly recently enacted government

program which allows foster youth to receive financial support from the system until age 21). Ashely focused on education as a way to survive. She hoped that she could obtain scholarships to allow her to pay for room and board while she pursued her education. However, the reality was much different for her and she found herself homeless. She moved to Riverside to take advantage of a housing program in the city. However, the program wasn't a good fit for her because it focused solely on working and Ashely was determined to continue to pursue higher education.

Once in Riverside, Ashely worked as a peer mentor for a non-profit organization which contracts with the County to provide assistance to former foster youth. While at that organization, she attended a transitional housing workshop and was introduced to the Inspire Program which proved to be a perfect fit.

Ashely loves to learn and to help people. She continues to work as a peer mentor for the non-profit organization while she pursues higher education. In the Spring, Ashely will receive her Associates of Arts degree in Sociology from Riverside Community College and will transfer to either California Baptist University or the University of California at Riverside to complete a Bachelor's degree. She will remain in the Inspire program until she completes her Bachelor's degree and has the financial ability to live on her own. Once her undergrad education is completed, she hopes to work as a Behavioral Specialist or Social Worker with the County of Riverside.

Ashley credits the Inspire program with not only giving her a place to live, but for the total emotional support she received from the program. The Residential Assistants in each of the homes are "big sisters" to the residents. Ashley's RA provided

emotional support and gave her great advice when she encountered obstacles. The mentors assigned to her, first Karen and now Sandy, have had a tremendous impact on Ashley's journey. They gave her sound personal and financial advice and encouraged her to pursue her dreams. Her mentors encouraged Ashley to study abroad and Ashley spent a semester in Ireland last year where she took the opportunity to travel to France and England.

By adopting the Inspire house where Ashley resides, SI Riverside has joined in the effort to support these deserving young women to reach their educational and personal goals. Together, we can make a difference and rejoice in the accomplishments of young women like Ashley.

Vicki Hightower
Inspire Adopt-A-Home Chair

THANK YOU CARD FROM OUR "INSPIRE" GIRLS

*Thank you so much to ALL of
the Soroptimist ladies! We have
never been so well taken care of!
We love you!*

Brit, Ash, Selena and Amirah

LOOKING BACK INTO SI RIVERSIDE'S HISTORY



**RIVERSIDELINES
APRIL 1961**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

When every month is different and challenging and many things different from the preceding month, one is rewarded in the satisfaction that comes from knowing that at least everyone has tried to make "Sincerity of Friendship" ring with true meaning.

The success of our club is primarily dependent upon the individual club member, her participation in her club's planning and then in helping to carry out these plans at club level, yes, and Federation as well.

Sometimes our enthusiasm, which was strong at the beginning of an undertaking, weakens before we reach our goal. We should rehearse the reasons why we wanted to achieve the goal and what it means. A little more effort may be needed but once again the enthusiasm returns. Again we are all working toward our worthy goal.

From each meeting I come away with a THANK YOU for the excellent cooperation and assistance you have given to me. I know that Soroptimist International of Riverside has always tried to be an outstanding club and I do want to express my appreciation for the work that you all do.

Installation may seem far away but some planning has begun. San Bernardino would like to join with us and we are asking Redlands for a triple installation ceremony and dinner party.

Ola Miner
President

RUMMAGE SALE

Don't forget to keep saving articles for our rummage sale. Be sure they are clean and useable: clothing, furniture, dishes, utensils, clean bedding,

rugs, draperies, jewelry, etc. Do that spring housecleaning now.

SOLT Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training

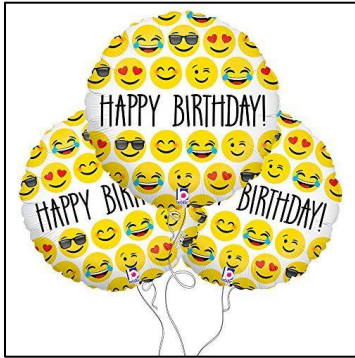


SIX TINY STORIES WITH GREAT MEANINGS

- Once, all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered but only one boy came with an umbrella. That's FAITH.
- When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. That's TRUST.
- Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning but we still set the alarm to wake up. That's HOPE.
- We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's CONFIDENCE.
- We see the world suffering but still we get married and have children. That's LOVE.
- On an old man's shirt was written a sentence: "I am not 90 years old. I am sweet 16 with 74 years experience." That's ATTITUDE.

Soroptimists should have Faith, Trust, Hope, Confidence, Love and Attitude to help them make the world a better place for women and girls.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



No Birthdays in February

FEBRUARY CLUB MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



Pam Bradford
2-13-1990

Annamarie Megrdichian
2-22-1996

Janet Payton
2-24-2004

Jana Cook
2-25-2015

Vicki Hightower
2-25-2015

Vickie Wheeler
2-25-2015

Anh Nguyen
2-19-2016

MEMBER MOMENTS ON FACEBOOK



Pam Bradford posted:
"THROWBACK THURSDAY
May 1968 - Villa Park High
School Junior-Senior Prom. I
made my own lace dress and
matching pink satin coat to
wear over it."



Binu Cloud posted:
"Bucket List at the
Jelly Belly Factory."



Jana Cook posted: "How do you
end your run? Recovery drink,
water or Gateway Ale from
Wicks Brewery?"



Susan Exon posted: "Fun day at
the Getty Villa with Dan
Bergstrom. Thanks for a great
birthday adventure!"



Vicki Hightower posted: "Beyond
any doubt David is the best baby
in the world! He went to sleep at
9 last night, woke up at 4:30 this
morning, had a bottle, then slept
until 7. And when he wakes up,
he's laughing and smiling. I'm
the luckiest grandma!"



Debbie Ferraro was tagged in a
post by Chelsea Lea Storm-
Larsen: "Family time is the best
time and it's even better when
we're celebrating Jordyn Ferraro
and Brian FitzGibbon's
engagement!"



Caroline Leach posted:
"Happy New Year!"



Annamarie Megrđichian posted:
"Coming along. Alas, still more dust. Rooms all connected and a lot bigger!"



Kathy Michalak was tagged in a post by Matt Friedlander:
"Habitat for Humanity Riverside representing at the 40th Annual Mayor's State of the City Address."



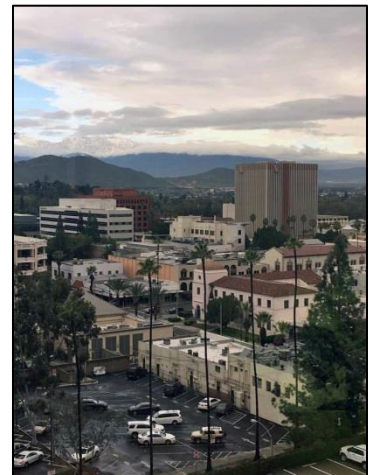
Marta Navarro posted: "I'm so grateful to God. He's given me my very own little family. 2016 was incredibly good to us. Can't wait to see what 2017 has in store."



Kathleen Parra posted: "Almost as good as SF Buena Vista, Irish coffee and all. Thank you Watson Drug. Orange! Yummy!"



Michelle Paradise posted: "It's a Knotts kind of day!"



Janet Payton posted: "View from my office this morning. Palm trees and snow!"



Linda Robertson was tagged in a photo posted by Debbie Kelley.



Lynn Seccia posted: "January in SoCal. Gotta love it!"



Tillie Soliz was tagged in a post by Carla Soliz: "My baby girl is 17 today. Where did the time go?"



Colleen Walker posted: "Wayne and I dressed up for a formal wedding reception of our former neighbors and good friends Tom and Eva's son Charlie's wedding to Christina in Glendale."

OTHER MEMBER MOMENTS



Vickie Wheeler celebrated her birthday with her grandchildren: Braxton, Audrey and Robby!

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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

THOUGHTS ON VALENTINE'S DAY

