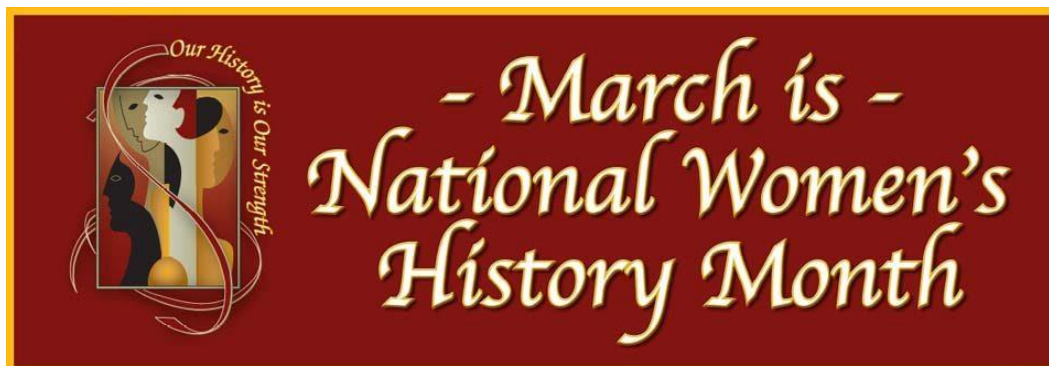




PLAN AHEAD

The newsletter of Soroptimist International of Palm Desert for March 2017

-Doris Churry, Editor



The 2017 theme is "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business"

The Women's History Project 2017 - Writing Women Back into Our History.

I am old enough to remember a time when inviting and encouraging a women to enter a technical field was unheard of. First they were considered inferior to men in mathematics and science and second, well, they just would not "fit in."

Today we have a time when we are encouraging women to enter the STEM fields of study (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). High schools are singling out the girls that excel in the subjects that used to be only the "boys" realm and encourage them to go on.

I can remember showing up the first day for a biology class in high school and being scoffed at. The teacher

even gave off an air that he doubted I could keep up. But I did and even went on to an advanced biology and chemistry program. It was the late 1950's and things had started to change slightly, but not enough.

My algebra teacher was also the varsity football coach and he taught his classes like there were no girls present. He equated the math problems to when he was in the air force practicing bombing runs. It kept the boys interest but after a while it was very obvious the class was the "Boys Club" in the high school. I am sure you have your stories too.

World War II had supposedly made a place for women in all fields, but the slide back into “traditional” roles did not take long. Men returning from war took over “so the women could take their place and stay at home again.”

Today women have to earn their place in the STEM world. Technology companies often will task the women with the more mundane work and the men will be given the inventive projects. Yes, there are collaborative teams in those companies, but ask the women how they function in those teams and you often get a different story. I have to say though our US military has leveled the field for women in tech roles. They have to; they are under intense scrutiny to do so.

I remember attending the Soroptimist International Convention in San Francisco many years ago. I made a point of attending the Economic and Social Development workshop. It was very interesting because the women from Germany who were in banking were complaining that they were never promoted; but in our country banking was one industry that did promote women. Australia took their turn at the podium saying that women were routinely harassed if they attempted to take a computer class in the universities. At that time I was not aware that was happening in the US. But, I am sure the men were not as inclusive as they should have been with the women. When there was a project to work on, I would hazard a guess the instructor had to compose the teams and try to even out the sexes. Today, there is more acceptance of girls in computer classes, but if a girl expresses an interest in engineering, I am sure there are raised eyebrows. Architecture is more welcoming as it is viewed as “creative”. But, it takes just the same amount of mathematical “muscle” to be an architect as it does to be an engineer. I was very fortunate in my work life to have been tasked with actually building out computer systems for my company. I would get up at 4:00 am when it was quiet and pour over computer manuals to try to learn the very best utilization of the systems. We started with one type of computer system which fit us well and then had to change over to a whole new language when we changed our focus in this industry. To say it was smooth would be a lie. There were a lot of late nights on my part, but I understood how vital the systems and the software were to our success. If I could, I would

not go back and do it differently. I learned more than most women working with computers at that time, because I had to. I was sending emails before most of you even knew it existed. I got the right technician to write the program for us because I knew what we needed to connect all the projects we were working on in different states. I found out later this was something women do very well in technology. They can recognize what the employees need and design the correct systems and software. Why? Because we watch people in a different way than men do. We look for the barriers and frustrations and we are determined to eliminate them. Men tend to analyze in a different way. They are not so concerned about process only the result. “Luck is when preparation meets opportunity.” Grab all the training you can even if it is in a disparate field. You never know when that right opportunity will be in front of you, and you can step into that position with confidence. Perhaps it is something in a field you never considered, but it may offer you an opportunity to learn something new and challenging. You can almost guarantee that career will pay more than one that would be classified as a “traditional” woman’s occupation.

It is so fitting that we present our career support workshop in the month of March. It is the month we celebrate the women of the world with International Women’s Day. We also look back at our history and celebrate the women who have gone before us. They fought the battles that allowed us to have the quality of life we now enjoy. Those battles were not easy. They were painful, heartbreaking in some cases and meant to shatter and break those who could not stand up to the challenge. I thank those women every day. I know what they did and why. It was for themselves and their families, but it was also for the future generations of women who would follow. I also find it fitting that the Suffragette movement was born out of the Abolitionist movement for both the African slaves and women everywhere needed to be set free.

Don’t “settle” for the job “that a woman would do”. Go for something bigger, better. Tell yourself you can do it when others say you cannot. Find your niche and be great at it.

-President Sherrie



VALENTINE BRUNCH AUCTION

Fun and Food to Benefit The Ophelia Project

February 12, 2017, 11am, The Palms at La Quinta

-Betsy Kreger

Lemon bars, cookies, cakes ...

OH MY! That about covers the wonderful items for auction at the Valentine's Brunch for the Ophelia Project. Bev Montgomery was "Hostess with the Mostest" to over 60 people that attended this event. Chef Arturo (with his 12 year old daughter's assistance) put out a wonderful spread of food. Thanks to auctioneer Anne Pope and her assistant Christine Duranceau, our organizer Mary Kay Berlier and to Margaret Henderson and Barbara Grode and the very enthusiastic bidders! Over \$2,000 was raised, enough to give 2 scholarships to the Ophelia girls.



Well done, ladies of SIPD!



March is Women's History Month

<http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month>



Wednesday, March 1, 12 noon – Soroptimist Speaker Series

“Palm Desert Sister Cities Program”

Introduction Tom Mortensen and Rosemary Garcia Presenter

Palm Desert Sister Cities: Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Mexico; Gisborne, New Zealand



Saturday, March 4, 11 am @President Sherrie's home

Soroptimist “Saturday of Service” Project - Thank you Margaret, Marilyn, Barbara

Thank you to our 3 members above for putting together our experimental “Women's Monthly Kits” for the homeless





Monday, March 13, 6pm – SIPD Board of Directors meeting

Desert Falls Country Club in their prestigious Locker Room

Wednesday, March 15, 12 noon – SIPD Business meeting

Desert Falls Country Club



**Everyone's Irish
On March 17th.**



-Ed. Note: I think he's "creepy" LOL

Saturday, March 25, 9am – Soroptimist "Reach for Your Dream" Career Workshop

Janice Heronema, Chairperson and Director of Service

If you have not had a chance to sign up for a task or tasks at the workshop Janice will be very happy to have your help
College of the Desert, Indio Campus



MEMBERSHIP IN SOROPTIMIST!

-Doris Churry, Membership Director

Thank you past president Betsy for Working with the Chef at Desert Falls!

MARCH 1 – COBB SALAD, DRESSING
+CRUNCHY HARD ROLL, BUTTER

MARCH 15 – HALF RUBEN, FRUIT CUP

APRIL 5 – ASIAN CHICKEN SALAD

APRIL 19 – CHICKEN MARSALA , VEGGIES,
MASH ED POTATOES

MAY 3 – HALF PEPPERONI FLATBREAD,
CAESAR SIDE SALAD

MAY 17 – SUNBURST SALAD, GRILLED
CHICKEN AND BALSAMIC DRESSING

JUNE 7 – SPINACH GOAT CHEESE SALAD
GRILLED CHICKEN



Thank you Jane Turner!

“Live Your Dream” Award Night at Heritage Palms

Jane did a spectacular job of bringing the event together this year.

Shown here with our honoree Hailey, are the SIPD members in attendance. Cathy Brown Wellins and Laura Yanez once again finessed the interview with the candidates and made for an inspirational evening



ROAD TRIP!

“The Call”

GWR Governor Penny is sending out The Call to Conference this week. It is always so interesting to receive it and peruse the plans for our always exciting spring conference.

We have a history of strong SIPD participation in spring conference in our club. Last year we had a dozen enthusiastic members attend and I hope to see another dozen of us step up there to go over to the Pointe Hilton Squaw Valley Resort again this June 1,2,3.

Perks and Benefits

All of the rooms are suites and can accommodate 4. Three was better last year and I'd like to be a roomie with 2 others again this year!

The resort is quite large with many buildings and pools and bridges and paths that lead to the meeting rooms. We now know how to find our way around very well for this year's conference!

The resort actually has a Lazy River!

Room rates are value priced.

Plenty of elevators for ease of getting around from room to room.

Food was good and lots of space assigned for shopping in the Soroptimist Sales Room.

Always new information and new inspiration!

Great ops to “make a new friend” and “renew old friendships” and fun with SIPD gals and everyone else!