



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women



PLAN AHEAD

The newsletter of Soroptimist International of Palm Desert for April 2017

-Doris Churry, Editor



OUR 3RD SOROPTIMIST “REACH FOR YOUR DREAM” CAREER WORKSHOP

Our Reach for Your Dream Workshop was held on March 25, 2017, from 9am to 1pm on the Indio campus of the College of the Desert, and by all accounts was a success. We had fewer attendees than we wished but those present reported that they believed the workshop to be very worthwhile.

Thank you and “Good Job” to Jan Heronema our Service Director and all those members who either presented or helped the day of the workshop or before. Every member was eager to be sure all the attendees’ needs were met.

This year by including the COD Job Hub in our program we gave the students an opportunity to find out just what the Job Hub offered. Attendees

seemed unaware of all the resources they offered on both campuses(!). The CAL Workforce Development Center also was a presenter. Their representative spoke of the trending careers in the Coachella Valley. I think attendees were surprised when she told them that all aspects of employment in agriculture were in demand now and would be in the future. The mechanization of the growing, harvesting and transportation of crops from the valley is one of the most rapidly innovating industries here.

We Soroptimists learned a lot as well about what makes the valley work. Understanding the tools that each of these organizations offer to job seekers

was excellent information for us.

Now, we must decide as a club how to go forward. Do we continue with the format we have established with an information/inspiration formula or do we change the makeup of the program? The feedback I received from one of the COD instructors who attended the entire program was "These students need both." In my conversation with her about what they need, she said, "They need it all. They receive very little inspiration to reach out to learn different things."

It is up to us as to whether we proceed or even present two sessions each college year. I know many members are dismayed that we have a low number of students attending, but I think now that the college has offered us the option of going into the classrooms and explaining and promoting what we offer before our workshop we will be able to increase the attendance.

We have the blueprint; we know what works. It is up to us.

-President Sherrie

SOROPTIMIST

"REACH FOR YOUR DREAM"

CAREER WORKSHOP

Chairperson Janice Heronema, Service Director

SIPD'S SIGNATURE "DREAM IT*BE IT" PROGRAM



Well done, Ladies of SIPD!

April



Wednesday, April 5, 2017 @noon – Soroptimist Speaker Series

“THE VIEW From GOVERNOR FRAN!”

Fran Ballard Miller, Past Governor, Golden West Region
SI San Jacinto-Hemet Valley



Thursday, April 6, 2017 11 am @ Santa Rosa Visitor's Center
AN OUTING WITH THE WOMEN OF SOROPTIMIST HOUSE OF HOPE!

Mix and mingle – Bring your potluck salad to enjoy – walkabout the site
Service Director Janice is our host for another great service opportunity with women in substance abuse recovery!



Monday, April 17, 6pm – SIPD Board of Directors meeting
Desert Falls Country Club in their intimate locker room

Wednesday, April 19, 12 noon – SIPD Business meeting
Desert Falls Country Club

Important

The Traveling Soroptimist

-Doris Churry, Membership Director



Ready for some fun?

Shall we share our travel with one another in our PLAN AHEAD each month? We go to the greatest places and have the most wonderful experiences!



I think it will be fun if some of you will take the opportunity to send me a picture of your comings and goings and a brief bit of information for this column. Christine is our first contributor for The Traveling Soroptimist!

Right after me and the wildflowers –lol



-Christine Duranceau

March is a time for planning and welcoming spring and visitors. In the next eight months, you will be following my husband (Richard) and I on our journeys. This month, Richard's cousins came to visit us for three weeks from Michigan for the BNP Paribas Open. We enjoy their visit, especially since it means that we get to visit them in Michigan each year.

I was busy planning our trips for the future eight months. The details are up to me and there are lots of them.

I will be showing a picture each month of some place where we were that month. So to start, here is a picture of our front yard flowers in PGA West welcoming spring.



SIPD MEETING LOCATION COMMITTEE

BREAKING NEWS!



The SIPD 2017-18 Meeting Location Committee has put together a forward-thinking meeting proposal for our April board meeting

-Becky Goebel, President Elect
Jane Turner, Secretary
Doris Churry, Membership Director

Desert Falls announced a planned rate increase to \$25 per lunch next club year
At this announcement, your board has set our committee in motion to bring us a proposal

The Palm Desert Chamber of Conference Meeting Room

72559 Hwy 111 @ Town Center Drive, Henderson Community Building

Features and Benefits of our Proposed New Location!

Centralized location at prestigious Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce, Henderson Community Building

Private entrance with positive impact on visitors and guests – and ourselves!

Beautiful surroundings, art, architecture, furnishings, and ambiance befitting our professional women's club

Desirable board room meeting style with bowed board table and comfortable chairs

Properly scaled to our size group

An adjacent, full kitchen is available if needed

Numerous plans are available to us for high-quality catering: Room has mini-kitchen bar and serving sideboard

Buffet catering cost would hold down the lunch expense to approximately the current level

Lighting is good; acoustics are excellent; no window glare; adjacent free parking; no stairs to negotiate

Go and check it out between now and our April 19th business meeting when it will come before the membership

If approved by the membership, the board proposal would take effect with our first September 2017 meeting

ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

Are you getting the most out of your membership?



Largely that means joining in with our activities, awards, projects, service and attending meetings, making plans to go to spring conference, et.al. Well here's a new option for those of you who have these talents and skills:

Knitting and Quilting "Linus Blankets"

For years, Beth Irish has been making Linus Blankets for children caught in the system and needing some comfort to make it through. Beth is offering to help get you started and oversee the making of Linus Blankets. Once completed, Beth channels the blankets through the Congregational Church to the Linus Project, a national organization.

See Beth Irish!

ROAD TRIP!

Spring Conference Planning

June 1,2,3 2017 are the dates this year for what is being touted as a new approach to our 2017 Golden West Region Spring Conference in Phoenix. GWR Governor Penny has taken a fresh look at our traditions (see her article) and has made major adjustments after opportunities for region membership to make suggestions and contribute ideas about conventioning. Looks like there is a lot to like, including the ideas of starting out earlier with a major public forum format on Thursday, to winding up earlier in the day on Saturday, permitting members to leave and not have a hotel expense for Saturday night. Love, love Governor Penny for her innovative thinking!

Signups so far: Sherrie Yoshimura, Becky Goebel, Barbara Grode, Jane Turner, Margaret Henderson, Doris Churry, Betsy Kreger, Claudia Quiles, Liz Glowka, Marie Newton, Ella Manor. See ME to sign up.

FREEBIE ALERT! SIPD will pay for all of our banquets! -cool.



GOLDEN WEST REGION SPRING CONFERENCE

June 1-2-3, 2017

-Penny Babb, Governor, Golden West Region



Our theme for the 2017 Spring Conference is “Mission **IS** Possible”. And, our mission of improving lives **IS** possible!! We do it every day and we will continue improving lives in the future!



But, how do we improve your Spring Conference experience? As you know, we've been sending evaluations and surveys asking what you want.

We are listening! Many of you said that you'd like topics to **strengthen your clubs**. You also said that

you would like **more time to share ideas**, more time to **enjoy the venue** and a shakeup of the agenda. Boy are you in for it!! At the debrief meeting for the 2016 Spring Conference, the idea of a Summit was discussed. We are doing it!

At the 2017 Spring Conference, we will be starting on Thursday at 11am to offer a **Soroptimist Summit** to our members and the community. We will talk about the Soroptimist organization - but, we are focused on the goal of providing **access to education**. We have experts coming to discuss the importance of access to education at every age level. We will invite as attendees our community leaders, educational leaders, Live Your Dream award recipients, Dream It*Be It participants, and our own members. Discussion of access to education for each school level will



end with the participants creating a personal action plan to take back and implement in their own communities. Our day will end with a cocktail party mixer/fundraiser and dinner with entertainment that will be open to our attendees and our members.



This Soroptimist Summit will get our name out there, attract potential members, and fundraise for our Dream Programs. The Spring Conference will include workshops and leadership skills development based on your input. Our Live Your Dream Award celebration will be on Friday evening because you said you like this celebration to be more formal and highlighted. And we'll have plenty of networking opportunities. We will end on Saturday afternoon with an optional party that takes advantage of the great venue – Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort - maybe even a duck race in the lazy river! Sound good?!

Soroptimist International President's Appeal 2015-2017

Educate to Lead: Nepal



Since its launch in 2015, Soroptimist International members have donated over \$150,000 to the effort for girls in Nepal to return and stay in school. By uniting the four Soroptimist Federations, "Educate to Lead: Nepal is able to impact the lives of over 1,000 women and girls in Nepal. There are many women and girls that need help – these are 'Our women and girls'."

Soroptimist International President's Appeal 2015-2017

SI President's Appeal supports four projects in Nepal with a focus on improving the lives of women and girls through **Education, Empowerment and Enabling Opportunities**.

Why Nepal?

SI Assistant Director of Advocacy, Sharon Fisher explains: "Nepal is a small country. In the hills and valleys of Nepal, in small isolated villages, live 30 million of the poorest people in the world. Women and girls face a future largely dominated by caring for their families. The cost of tuition, uniforms and books means that education is often unaffordable. Here, in rural Nepal, educational and medical facilities are limited and many children are undernourished. With half the population under 23 years of age and around 40% under 18, many send a child to school; a son is given this opportunity before a daughter. Nepal is a source country for trafficking, and girls face the danger of being recruited for the brothels of India."



On April 25, 2015, a devastating earthquake followed by aftershocks displaced millions of people. Despite the huge amount of funds raised, disaster aid often fails to reach these areas where 80% of the population are located. As Soroptimists, we know that in a disaster, women and girls suffer disproportionately. We also know that education for women and girls is key to economic empowerment. The world community has set a deadline of 2030 for inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Educating women and girls in rural Nepal gives this and the next generation the tools and the opportunity to fight against continued poverty. This effort began with a Soroptimist club.

—President Sherrie

As a Soroptimist International member you are entitled to receive an electronic copy of the **GLOBAL VOICE** - the official magazine of **Soroptimist International**.

Just go to the SI website and click **NEWS** link, then log in your email and your name. Hit the **SIGN UP** button and you will receive each issue in your email box.

EDUCATE EMPOWER ENABLE

WORLD WATER DAY - MARCH 22, 2017

-President Sherrie

In most undeveloped countries around the world women are tasked with collecting the daily water supply for their families. In many countries it proves to be a perilous journey, fruitless and in some cases fatal.

The supply of clean potable water is decreasing at a frightening rate all around the world. Bad management or no management at all of natural resources has contributed to this crisis as well as war and drought. In some areas land mines still pose a deadly and violent end to the walk to the river or the stream. Some women and girls are having to make the trek each day at dawn and are fortunate if they can return to their homes by late afternoon before dusk.

What is the solution? To the world non-governmental organizations such as Soroptimist International each locale has its specific challenges as well as its individualized solutions. Soroptimist International clubs for many years has been involved in fundraising to provide clean water to women and families all over the world.

I know of one Italian university that has assigned some of its engineering students in the heart of the jungle of Africa in small villages building newly designed windmills that will provide the pumping capacity to bring clean water to the surface for use. In some of these villages the women are unbelieving

when told they can get their daily water from the well that is filled as if by magic.

Their problems up to now have been many fold. Number one, they were spending most of their day securing water; number two, they were using water from a polluted river and there they were not practicing safe methods of disposing of human waste in their village. Over and over the water supply would be polluted by the very people who needed it to be clean. With intensive education and practice in ways to treat human waste their lives are becoming better and more disease free.

We can hope that the girls who live in those particular locations will be able to spend their days in school rather than gathering water.

In some locations it is a problem of rapid industrialization that has turned the rivers into cesspools of industrial waste. Industry came and was established before national or local systems were set up to police and monitor the manufacturing or mining activity in the area. The result is not only water that is caustic but air that is not fit to breathe. Slowly nations are taking steps to clean up the problems but as always it is the poorest who bear the results of these shoddy oversight practices.

Sometimes it is not the undeveloped countries that are experiencing these water problems but

developed nations as well. There are areas in the Appalachian Mountains where the current population is experiencing the same problems. Their wells are old, contaminated and new wells need to be constructed. But that is expensive and as economic hard times have hit property owners in that area they are not able to do so. County water lines have not reached their property for lack of funding and they are experiencing water shortages because they can no longer safely use the well water. They have to purchase bottled water and that is very expensive.

These people do not have the luxury of being able to go to their tap and expect to have a clean glass of water. Just think if that was your life. How well would you cope?

We have recently had a small taste of what water shortage is like. Only for us it is the inconvenience of not being able to keep our landscaping green. We are so fortunate. We live where our water supply is monitored every day for pollutants and disease. Women who live in other countries are not that lucky. Remember them when you step in your shower tomorrow. They may prepare food for their children not realizing the water they are giving them is germ laden. Or, perhaps they have no water for their children to drink which is now the case in the Sudan.

Women and Water was a topic at the recent CSW at the UN in New York.

8th Annual Water Forum in Brazil, 2018 *“When we bring our expertise and resources together, we become a powerful force for progress”*. UN Women

Soroptimist International is delighted to announce its membership of Women for Water Partnership (WfWP). Joining the partnership together with other influential organizations such as International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW), Women Environmental Programme (WEP), our own Soroptimist International of Europe and The Women and Labour Market Foundation, WfWP offers a unique partnership of women's organizations and networks, uniting women in leadership.

All 27 member organizations are rooted in society and are active in the areas of water, sanitation, sustainable development and women's participation. WfWP's vision is a water secure world in which women are heard and empowered to exercise their full potential to achieve equitable and sustainable development. WfWP's mission is to position women as active leaders, experts, partners and agents of change to realise access to safe water for all – including gender responsive sanitation – for all use; thus contributing to all SDG's, especially goal 5 (gender equality) & 6 (water).





UN Commission on the Status of Women

-President Sherrie

Soroptimist International representatives attend the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York City on March 13 – 24, 2017. The 61st session of this meeting included representatives of [Member States](#), UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended the session.

Soroptimist International is one of the NGO's that has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Having this status allows SI to report the work that its member clubs completed each year. This is accomplished with the submission of each club's Program Focus Report. This report is compiled by sorting each report into various categories that we have been familiar with for years. (Health, Education, Environment, Economic etc.) Each of these categories relate to the status of women all over the world.

This year the CSW meeting title was: Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work.

Organized by Soroptimist International (SI), '***Opening the Door to Economic Empowerment for Women and Girls***' took place on Wednesday 15 March, Recognizing that advancing women's economic empowerment in the world of work is essential for achieving gender equality, this event took a closer look at each of the [four Soroptimist Federations](#) and a variety of Soroptimist grassroots employment projects from around the world. Demonstrating how SI transforms communities through **educating, empowering and enabling women and girls**, the event was co-sponsored by [Zonta International](#) and moderated by Sonja Hönig Schough, President-Elect, Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation.

RoseMary Reid, President of Soroptimist International of the Americas, spoke of the SIA vision: '*Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams*'. Rosemary introduced the audience to the *Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards* (formerly the Women's Opportunity Awards), which assists women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families, by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

Be sure to go to the Soroptimist International website CSW to read the full report.

During the CSW there are general sessions of course but the best part of the meeting are the workshops presented by the NGO's that comprise the Commission on the Status of Women.

This 66th Session: This year's priority theme will be 'Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work'. The Review Theme is 'Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls' (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session), and the Emerging Issue is 'The empowerment of indigenous women'.

Soroptimist International, Graduate Women International (GWI), the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International), National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO), Widows for Peace Through Democracy, Women for Water Partnership and Zonta International, have released a statement concerning women's economic empowerment and its link to sustainable development. These seven organisations are united around the principle of empowering women locally, nationally and internationally up to the highest level. Based on the expertise of these seven organisations, the statement calls for:



Concerted action to be taken to ensure that all women and girls can access continuing and lifelong education and training, both formal and informal, ensuring that women can adapt their skills to the changing world of work

Increased financial awareness through training to enable the development of women-led and owned small and medium enterprises

Improved gender diversity across all sectors of the workplace, ensuring employers in the private sector to take specific actions to increase the number of women in leadership positions and provide more access routes for women into the world of work

Recognition of women's land rights and inheritance, empowering them to contribute to the economy of their local communities and providing for their families

Equal terms and conditions for women in their employment as men, including equal pay



We look forward to hearing a report from Liz Glowka, who attended the first week of the session in New York City at the United Nations, representing Golden West Region and our club!

PECAN PIE BARS

Pecan pie in a bite-sized bar!

-Becky Goebel is making this Land-O-Lakes recipe for us



Crust

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ C flour
 $\frac{3}{4}$ C softened butter
 $\frac{1}{3}$ C sugar
 $\frac{1}{3}$ C chopped pecans

Filling

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ C dark corn syrup
 $\frac{2}{3}$ C packed brown sugar
4 eggs
6 tbsp flour
2 tsp vanilla
1 tsp salt
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ C chopped pecans

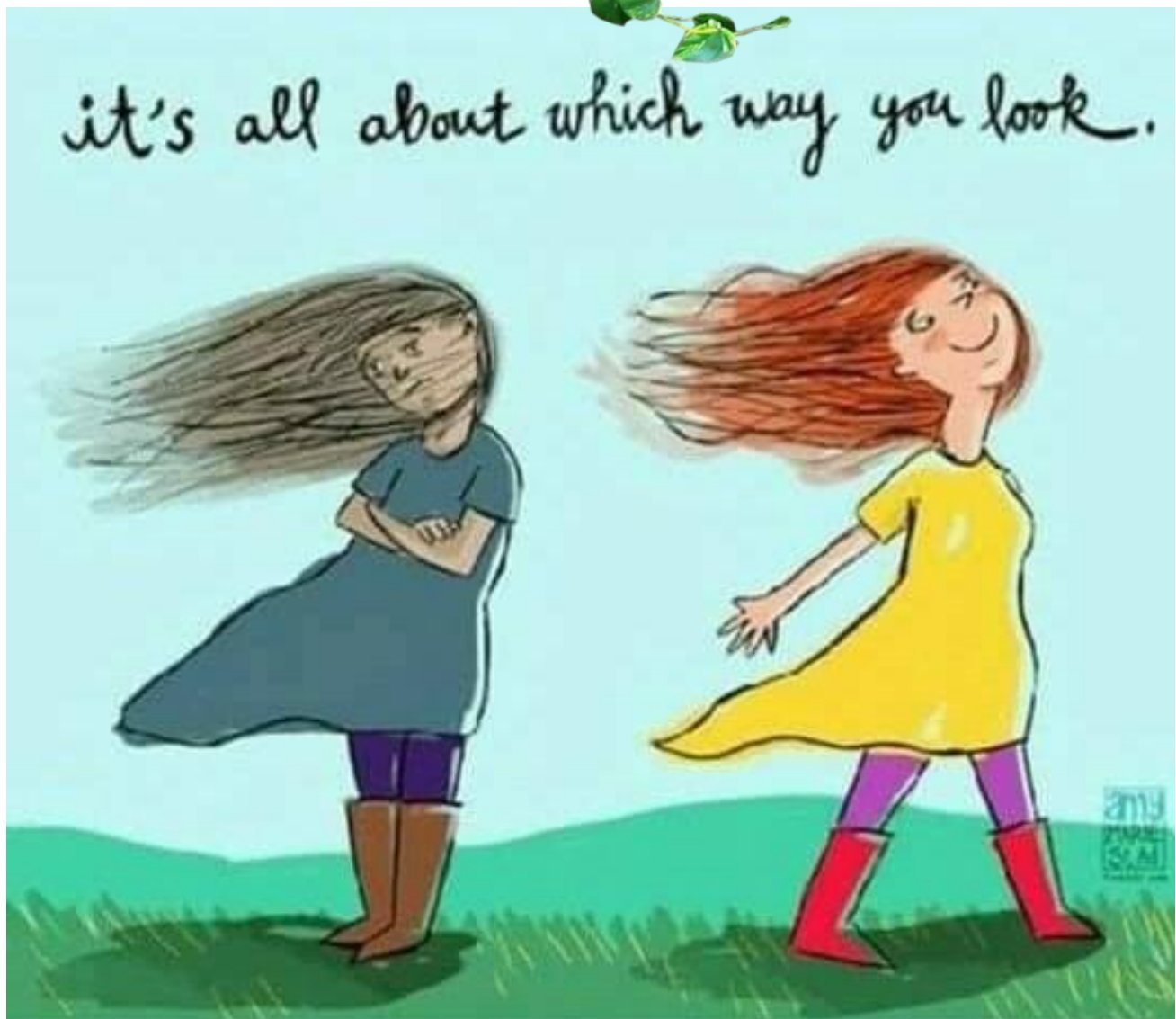
Heat oven to 350 degrees

Combine first 3 crust ingredients and beat, scraping bowl often until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in $\frac{1}{3}$ C pecans. Press crust evenly into bottom of ungreased 13x9 inch baking pan. Bake 18–22 minutes or until edges are very light golden brown.

Combine all filling ingredients except pecans and mix well. Stir in pecans. Spread evenly over hot, partially baked crust. Bake an additional 30–35 minutes or until filling is set and knife inserted 1 inch from the edge comes out clean. Cool completely. Refrigerate. Cut into bars.



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL



Soroptimist: Improving the lives of women and girls through
Education, Empowerment and Enabling Opportunities