



-Doris Churry, Editor

**ABOVE: WELCOME HOME TO "GOEBEL LANE", PRESIDENT BECKY'S FAMILY FARM IN MINNESOTA!**



## LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR NEW YEAR!

For two years, I have been relentlessly researching the best vessel to help the homeless women in the Coachella Valley. Discussions at our May 15 board and May 17 business meetings, and again at our Retreat, showed that there is a good deal of interest in working with the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission this year as part of our hands-on service program. The members voted at our May 17 business meeting to launch this program with a budget of \$140 monthly. We have a great opportunity to hear from their project director at our first program meeting on September 6 at our new location at the PD Chamber of Commerce. Sometimes it just takes patience to discover where the true need is.

CVRM statistics for 2015 (2016 will be available later this year) showed 135 people completed their New Life and Gateway programs. We are very excited to launch our new service project embracing the homeless women participating in the New Life Program at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. The following article was published in the Desert Sun.

Abeatrice Jones did not expect to be homeless. "I'm 66 years old. This was not in my plan," she said. The former schoolteacher, who has Master's degrees in education and divinity, found herself out of a job and a place to live in Orange County. Jones cycled through different shelters until she found the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission last year.

"I came here broken, depressed, sad and frustrated," she said Thursday. "I was feeling suicidal, I wasn't eating, I wasn't sleeping, and I was shutting down." But Jones found comfort in prayer and entered the New Life Program, a year-long, (non-denominational) faith-based rehabilitation program. "If it wasn't for the mission and all that they have supplied for me here, I would have died out there on the street of a broken heart," Jones said.

She graduated from the women's New Life Program Thursday along with other men and women who have successfully completed either the New Life or Gateway Programs. The Gateway Program is a secular rehabilitation that can also last up to a year.

—Desert Sun

Our "Soroptimist Summer Social" is scheduled for Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. My Thai Restaurant is owned by Margaret Henderson's son and wife and they will have a great selection of menu items for \$15. Flip/Flop on down and enjoy some Soroptimist fun!

Golden West Region Leadership Training Retreat is Friday and Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Ontario. We have a number of members attending, ready to learn!

Just to ensure you know, Golden West Region past governor, DONA Sandi Cvercko, passed away on July 3, 2017 after a valiant fight against cancer. Her family has announced a celebration of life for her family and friends on Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 2:00pm at the Weatherford Hotel, 23 N Leroux St, Flagstaff, AZ in the upstairs Zane Grey ballroom. Unfortunately, this date is also our GWR Leadership Training Retreat in Ontario, CA for which all of the GWR Board Members have responsibilities. I have spoken with DONA Sandi's husband, Mike, and he understands that board members will not be in attendance. I want you to know why we are not present as well.

DONA Sandi's club, SI Mountain Morning, has also announced a celebration of life event for her on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Although the location has not yet been announced, many of us will be attending this celebration of DONA Sandi. Please share this information with your members and encourage those who can to attend either or both celebrations.

Here is Sandi's home address in case you wish to send cards and stories (husband Mike, son Nick, and daughter Kelli): 1462 W. University Heights Drive, Flagstaff, AZ 86005

—Governor Penny Babb

Organizations sharing donations they can't use with other organizations, what a great concept! Twice this year, Safehouse shared "Stuff the Bus" donations of bras and panties that were too large for the normal 11-17 year old girls in their program, with us. We saw that Soroptimist House of Hope and The New Life Program at CVRM received them and they were thrilled to be the recipients of over 150 bras and more than 500 pair of panties, between the two groups. This was like finding hidden treasure!

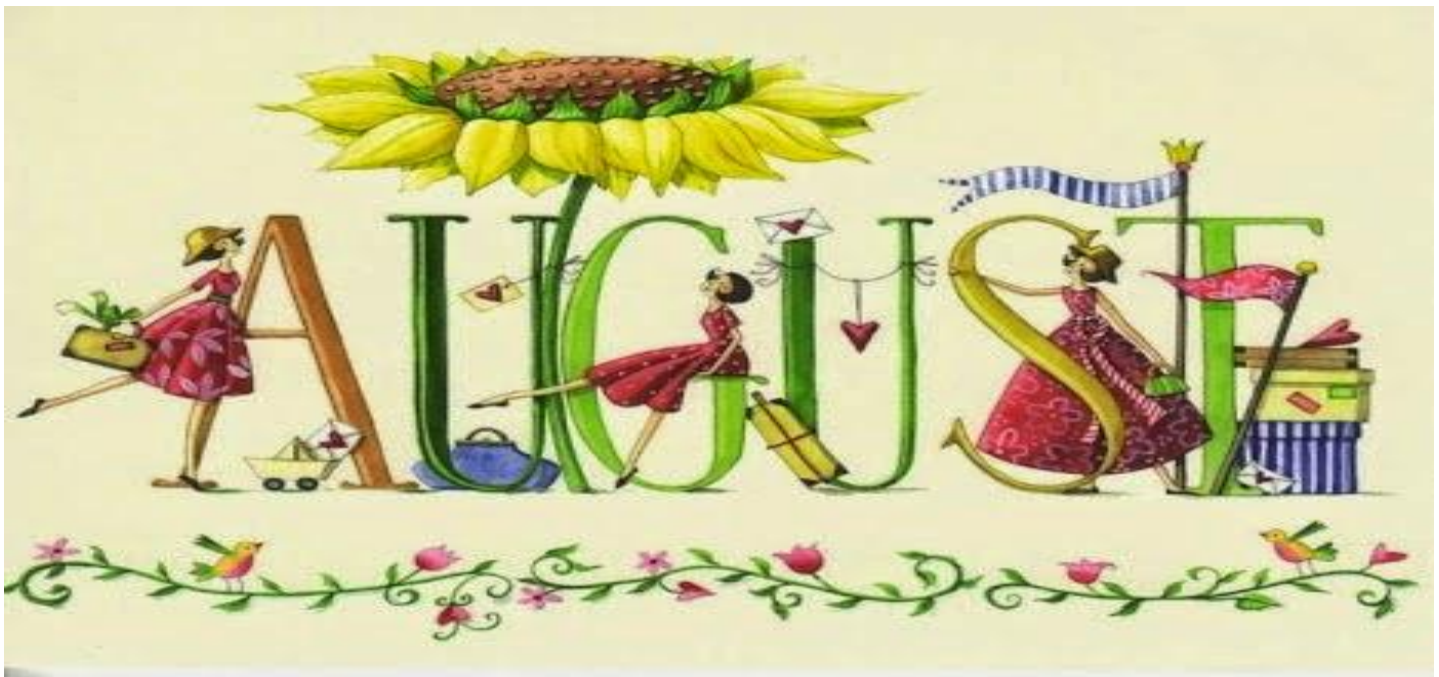
Our first program meeting is Wednesday, September 6, 2017. Chris Dentice, Director of the New Life Program at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission will fill us in and answer our questions.

This will be our inaugural meeting at our new location at the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce, Henderson Building. Lunch will be catered, so, each member will need to RSVP by Monday of the meeting week. We are forming a lunch committee to handle the ordering, set up and take down for each meeting. Let me know if you would like to volunteer. Imagine, lunches that are edible and enjoyable.

President's Planning Retreat on Saturday was invigorating as we gathered to form a plan for SIPD 2017-18 year. Stay tuned, you're in for some fun! Enjoy your summer, see you in September.

—President Becky





## Golden West Region Leadership Training

Governor Penny Babb and Governor elect Lori Réed



Friday and Saturday, August 4 and 5, 2017  
Ontario Airport Hotel and Conference Center  
700 N Haven Avenue, Ontario CA  
See President Becky if you wish to attend!



## SIPD SUMMER SOCIAL

My Thai Restaurant  
46520 Washington Street, La Quinta  
Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 6pm  
\$15 "Dinner with Soroptimist Friends!"  
RSVP Margaret Henderson [lenmargh@aol.com](mailto:lenmargh@aol.com)

# SI COACHELLA VALLEY SUNRISE



## A NEW “MORNING” SOROPTIMIST CLUB!

In a **LIGHTER** mode for women seeking to give service to their community

-Dori Churry, Charter Coordinator

SIPD Charter Committee (All members are welcome to hop on board!)

Becky Goebel – Cathy Brown-Wellins – Barbara Grode

Marilyn Alt – Judy Corren – Lori Oliver – Marie Newton – Doris Churry

The SIPD Charter Committee will seek the formal vote to sanction our Golden West Region Membership outreach to establish a new club in the Coachella Valley area, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Palm Desert, at our SIPD business meeting in September.

-Doris Churry, Chair, Golden West Region Task Force for Chartering New Clubs

## SOROPTIMIST HOUSE OF HOPE

-Ella Manor

“House of Hope in Big Bear – we enjoyed having them in our home.”

Lupe Stoneburner gave approval for the day at Big Bear, hosted through the generosity and personal initiative of Ella Manor, supported fully by Ella's husband, Lyn. The women of House of Hope took a hike, lead by Ella, shortly after arriving. Following their hike, they were served a lovely open-air lunch at the Manor mountain home with a local businesswoman celebrating 16 years of sobriety, and then treated to a boat ride on Big Bear Lake. Thank you Ella for reminding us all that one person can MAKE A DIFFERENCE!





# Lori's World

-Lori Oliver

## "THE" Soroptimist International of Palm Desert BOG!



If you are in you are in the Coachella Valley right now, reading this in the comfort of your air-conditioned home, a cool Pinot Grigio at your side, or a sweet, lemony iced tea, you are thinking about how nice it will be when the temperatures dip back into the 90's, then the 80's, and finally in the shortest days of winter, the mid-70's.

Or you might be in Oregon, like me, wondering if it will reach 80 today. And will tomorrow be the last day of summer.

When you are away from home, how long does it take to feel homesick? For some, it's a matter of days. For others, months. Families, jobs, pets, service clubs like ours are the staples, the nails, and the glue that attach us to what we call home.

If you could jump into your car and go, just drive away and not come back until the weather cools, where would you go? To see family in Oregon? Attend a continuing education summit at a resort on the banks of the Columbia River? Take your dog for a swim in Lake Tahoe? Or sit down and write a story for your service club newsletter while your sister runs the rototiller through her parking strip where you made her pull out her raspberry vines because in your opinion they negatively affect her home's curb appeal?

Our families, our jobs, our pets and our beloved SIPD follow us wherever we go. And where we are at any given moment is less important than who we are with, who we are thinking of, and who we will return to.

A total solar eclipse will pass over this part of America on August 21. I am compelled to stay here in Albany for that event but I feel the pull of home, my kitty, and my Soroptimist friends. Not to mention my sister is getting sick and tired of me insisting that online solitaire is not as important as getting that trim painted. But deep in my heart, I know two things: one, she still needs my help if she wants to get this place listed and sold before her little granddaughters graduate from college; and two, it's too effing hot to go back to the desert just yet.



See you in October.





# The Traveling Soroptimist

-Christine Duranceau



Hope you are having a good summer! I have been following Liz Glowka on her wonderful trip through Europe on Facebook. Also, Jane and Becky have been travelling. All on Facebook.

This month, Richard and I have spent most of our time in South Haven, Michigan. We did do a trip to Galena, Illinois. The town is known for its 1850's architecture and lots of antiquing!



(Ed. Note: This is the first time I have been able to capture a "screen shot". Following are Liz' comments in her Posting on Facebook.)

"Missed our connector flight to LAX and we are spending the night in Charlotte NC. Reality has definitely kicked in. We went from a St. Regis suite with butler service to the Fairfield eating potato chips and drinking soda. Oh well...need to roll with it. It's been a great trip. Ciao Italy! Until next time."



This pretty much says it all: President Becky's Minnesota hometown Class Reunion! Wheeeee!

# FINDING your “Mrs. Parsons”

Want to honor a special woman in your life? We would all like to know, “Who was your Mrs. Parsons?” -Ed.

-Betsy Kreger



At the Golden West Region Spring Conference, Thursday Summit, the guest speaker was Dr. Antoinette Farmer-Thompson, vice president of Grand Canyon University. She talked about the importance of girls having mentors, using herself as an example. She told her story about growing up in “the projects” where money was short and education was not a high priority. At her high school there was a teacher, Mrs. Parsons. She would drive the kids to school, make sure they had food to eat, and had help with homework before returning at night to their homes. Dr. Farmer-Thompson credits this teacher with instilling the drive to seek a good education beyond high school to achieve her dream.

That struck a chord in me. I always thought my mom was my mentor, but thinking over all the adults in my life, I realized that my “Mrs. Parsons” was my eighth grade English teacher. She was the first one outside my family that valued me, recognizing that I had great potential. How did she do that? She saw my creative side and asked me to design/create costumes for the spring play, took me shopping for the fabrics and for lunches on weekends. We talked about my dreams and what I really wanted in life, and to a shy teenager that wasn’t part of the “in” crowd, that meant a lot. From then on, I emerged from my shell, reached and achieved my dreams. -So who was your Mrs. Parsons?

