

SJ -

San Jacinto-Semet Valley

## NEWS and VIEWS

November 2020

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*SOROPTIMIST* means *Best for Women*, and that is what we try to achieve. We are women at our best working to help other women be their best.

### PRESIDENT'S WORD



Hello beautiful ladies,

As we are heading into the last of 2020



I want each of you to know how much I appreciate you and all that you do. 😊

I want to share with you how proud I was of you and our club at Fall

Meeting where we were honored in each of the categories of Live Your Dream, Dream It-Be It, Membership and Club Giving. I was amazing to hear our club's name called in each category!!

In these last few weeks of the year we have our Radda cutlery fundraiser due by 11/30 to me and **Jingle & Mingle on 12/5**. Let's all do our part so that we can raise as much money possible to help women and girls in our valley.

Happy Thanksgiving 🍁

## Jingle & Mingle

Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> -Raffle – 10

am - ? **Live Drawing- 5 pm**

Drop off raffle and silent auction items

now until Nov 30, 8-5 pm

**Miller-Jones Mortuary – 1501**

W. Florida Ave. or to Myrna.

Parking lot and Ramona Room



**SELL!!  
SELL!!**

**Set-up** Wed 11/2 & Fri 12/4

Contact Kimberly Jones at

[kjones@miller-jones.com](mailto:kjones@miller-jones.com) for tickets and

see her email of Nov 12.

**Auction Item values = \$50 or more**



Laurel Society Membership



You may best recognize a laurel leaf from the laurel wreath worn by Julius Caesar to show that he was a strong and powerful leader, On the Soroptimist pin, the laurel leaves represent friendship and success. For Soroptimist members, it represents an occasion to further support Soroptimist programs beyond dues payments. I had always heard of membership in the Laurel Society in conjunction with \$1000. I had the impression that it was too expensive for me. However, at Fall Meeting, our District 2 Director Samantha Dewing described a way to set up online payments of about \$20 per month and in a little over four years, voilà, you achieve the Attaché level in Laurel Society. So, after looking into it, I wanted to share my findings.

You will need to log in to the website below using your member number which is listed on our roster to the left of your name. The payments go directly to SIA, and you can choose whether you want your donations to go to the unrestricted fund, or to LYD or another designated service project. You can start, stop, and change the amount at any time. Since 1994, nearly 8,700 Laurel Society members have given over \$14 million to help economically empower women and girls through the Dream Programs. There are 8 different recognition levels, but I will only mention two: The Attaché level at \$1000 signified by a sapphire & the Envoy Level at \$2500 represented by a ruby. There are also the 1921 visionaries' pins to signify continued giving. A little motivation to continue giving once Laurel Society is achieved.

Go to: <https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/donate/individual-gifts.html>

Our current Laurel Society members include *Doña Linda Nixon, Dona Fran Ballard (since '94), President Traci Sanchez, V.P. DeniAntionette Mazingo, and Barbara Swanson (since '98)*

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### Sponsorship & Personal Project Recognition

*Val Tichy-- State Farm \$500 sponsorship of LunaFest*

*Maria Munoz- \$500 sponsorship to Scholarship Fund*

*Kathy Anderson - \$1000 new members (up to 3 who meet criteria)*

*Kimberly Jones - \$60 personal project – 'S' masks*

*Nancy Tichy - \$65 , personal project in honor of what would have been her & Frank's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

## Meet Mary Wright – Life Member



### A Member of Many Hats

A Jamestown, NY native, Mary Wright started her journey into law by working for law firms and then displaying her independent streak at the young age of 19, she moved to California to live with her oldest sister. She had several jobs that honed her legal skills, including a one-year stint in the Santa Monica Douglas Aircraft Contracts Administration office and legal work in a law firm in Downey. She married, had a baby, and divorced by the time her son was 10 months. However, she later met & married “Mr. Right” Ron Wright that is, and in the process acquired three more children, ages 9 to 13. Mary found she was not only capable but enjoyed the “lawyer-like” work. With encouragement from legal professionals, Mary pursued the field of law at Western State University College of Law in Fullerton on a part-time basis and worked days as a legal secretary. This was the beginning of the many hats Mary has worn: law school student and active member in the Long Beach Legal Secretaries Association where she held the various offices of president, chairman of the state association, and charter director of the National Legal Assistants Association. After her JD in 1979 and while practicing law in the Downey area, she donned the hat of Lynwood City Treasurer for two terms (8 years). She later put a feather in her hat to become



VP of the Lynwood Chamber of Commerce.

Soroptimists, in the earlier years was only for executive and professional women & you had to be invited to join. Mary was invited & joined the Bell Gardens Club in the Camino Real Region. She tried on & liked the new hat of active Soroptimist member, holding several offices, including President and advisor to the S Club (a Soroptimist sponsored service club for high school girls). She volunteered as legal counsel for the Soroptimist Village Foundation Board which was comprised of 11 Soroptimist clubs that owned and operated a low-cost apartment housing complex for senior citizens.

Her life changed dramatically in 1991 with the accidental death of her husband, but she completed the home they were building on ten acres south of

Hemet & moved to the area in 1992 and opened her law practice.

She transferred her Soroptimist membership to Soroptimist International of Hemet Valley-San Jacinto, the noon club. An interesting note: in the 70s, Mary was president of the noon club while Nancy Tichy was president of the morning club.



Eventually the two clubs merged, and Mary again adorned herself with several hats: wife, mother, professional, and Soroptimist board member. She has been president, founder & chair of the high school Youth Forum and active on several committees.



Never short of energy, Mary has also been constantly active in her community.



For example, her presidency of the Hemet Chamber of Commerce occurred just as the merger began with the San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce and she also served as president of the Mt. San Jacinto Bar Association. In addition, she was involved with Las Madrinas Auxiliary to the Assistance League of Hemacinto and the former Hemet branch of the American Heart Association. She served on the board of the Valley Lutheran Retirement Community for 15 years & is currently a member of the Hemet Library Foundation Board.



After an ovarian cancer diagnosis in 2004, she became involved in cancer awareness and support groups, and has participated in almost every annual American Cancer Society's Relay for Life cancer walk since 2005. In November last year her open-heart surgery repair of an aorta aneurysm caused her to miss Jingle & Mingle.

Retiring from her probate and estate planning law practice in 2011, she involved herself with dancing, traveling, Soroptimists and her son, granddaughter & great-granddaughter who live in Hemet. In October she moved from the country south of Hemet to the Del Webb community where she will undoubtedly put on another hat.



She has been a Soroptimist since 1979, an unbelievable 41 years. She has been awed and inspired by women at spring conferences & federation conventions that she has been fortunate enough to attend. She reflects that while the names & formats of its many programs have changed over the years, the goals and ideals are the same: helping women and girls in so many ways. She looks forward to continuing her work this year with Myrna Rohr on the Silent Auction part of Jingle Mingle.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING ALL

