



Plan Ahead

our monthly newsletter

Moving Forward, Together
Inspiring, Educating, and Empowering



January was a busy month for our club. Vanessa Wilk (our Fundraising Director) kept us focused on all the details and planning for Day at the Races; which by the way, was fun and a success. Additional thanks to Rose Mary, Jo, Dr. Christine, Becky, Marlon, Betsy, and all of those members and guests who supported the event. Photos on pages 4 and 5.



During the month, while Day at the Races was being planned, our Public Awareness Director, Susan Rosenberg) was working on a grant application, attending trainings and setting us up for the CV Giving Day (early donations will be beginning on Tuesday Feb. 3rd). See Susan's article about CV Giving Day (page 2)

Dr. Seniorina Saldivar (LYDA Coordinator) kept us moving forward and this year we added workshop trainings to the application process. Our report to SIA with the names of our 2026 LYDA recipients has already been submitted. The details on this year's award presentation will be available soon.



To anyone who I didn't mention in this message and is a member or supporter of Soroptimist International of Palm Desert, your contribution of time and participation counts and is appreciated. Remember, why we do what we do: "to make this a world where women and girls have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential, live free from violence, and of course, live their dreams."

Wishing everyone a Fabulous February,

Natalie Angrisani
 2025-26 SIPD Club President



Soroptimist is a global organization of women who volunteer their time, their talent and their resources to improve the lives of women and girls through programs that lead to economic and social empowerment.

CV Giving Day Tuesday, March 3, 2026



GEM BENEFACTOR

Doris Churry, Membership Director

It may be time in your life when you want to do something extra in your giving to help women and girls, as many of us do in our Soroptimist club! You may make a donation at any time to support any aspect of our charitable activities; it is up to you. Talk with Becky.

My time came three years ago and what I wanted was to contribute a \$1,000 to our Live Your Dream scholarship winners. It gave me a lot of satisfaction to see the level of scholarships rise in our awards night program. Maybe you want to donate to one of the career bookshelves at our five elementary schools, or you want to support the Live Your Dream children with activities/projects. You name it and be as creative as you wish to be.

This year may be your year to
become a: **GEM BENEFACTOR!**



Our goal for 2026 is to raise \$5,000. Early giving starts February 3, 2026 and continues until midnight March 3. The place to make donations online with a credit card is :

<https://www.cugivingday.org/organization/SIPD>

We need each member to share this information with your contacts by email, and your social media platforms. Please also use #cugivingday in your posts. In 2024, we raised \$945 from 16 donors. In 2005, we only raised \$725 from 7 donors. In order to qualify for prizes this year, our club

MUST raise at least \$10 from 10 different donors. You can give Becky a check or cash, BUT it will not count toward the eligibility requirement

We have the following levels of giving:

- \$10** - provides one new book for a needy valley school
- \$25** - buys an AA book "One Day at a Time" for our House of Hope women
- \$50** - supports various SIPD projects
- \$100** - buys 10 new books for an elementary school
- \$250** - becomes a GEM Benefactor
- \$1,000** - Sponsors 1 Live Your Dream Award

The sponsors of CV Giving Day as of the end of December are:

Desert Community Foundation
California Bank & Trust
RAP Foundation/NPO Centric
Amazon | Auen Foundation
Google for Non-Profits

CV GiVING DAY.org



A Note From Emily Tarrango (a 2025 LYDA recipient)

Hello beautiful ladies,

I hope you are all doing well. I wanted to share a happy update and thank you again for your continued support and generosity.

This week, I am beginning my spring semester and starting my final substance abuse counselor courses before I become eligible to begin my internship and practicum. My classes include individual, group, and family counseling, prevention and intervention, and biomedical pharmacology. I am so grateful to be so close to this next step in my journey.

I am also overjoyed to share some wonderful news from our family. This weekend, we were blessed to receive the keys to our very own brand-new three-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment at The Crossings at Palm Desert. It is absolutely beautiful, and we could not be happier. This has truly been a testimony for us. After living in a fifth wheel since March, we had been searching and praying for the right home. We were once contacted by an apartment in Palm Springs, but they did not accept dogs. That night we prayed, and the very next morning I felt led to check the mail – and inside was an application for these apartments. This community is such a blessing, with a park, community garden, gated grounds, a dog park, pool, after-school programs, and it is close to so many wonderful places for the children.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping make it possible for me to continue my education and move forward toward a better future for my family. Your kindness means more than I can express.

With sincere gratitude,
Emily



Esther Sjostrom and her son Peter enjoying dinner out before she was traveling back to Malmo, Sweden.





**Enjoy these photos from
“Day at the Races”
January 24, 2026**





**“Day at the Races”
January 24, 2026**



blog.soroptimist.org



Experience the energy, culture and inspiration of Incheon, South Korea, at SIA's 49th Biennial Convention, July 22–25, 2026, at the stunning INSPIRE Entertainment Resort.

Over four unforgettable days, Soroptimists from around the world will come together to connect, learn and celebrate our shared commitment to transforming the lives of women and girls. Expect dynamic learning experiences, meaningful conversations and moments that reignite our collective purpose—while creating memories that last a lifetime.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

FRIENDSHIP LINKS

**A Message From Kay Stewart
Friendship Link Coordinator
SI N&W Vancouver**

Hope this New Year finds you healthy & in good spirits.

I had intended to be in touch prior to the Holiday Season to bring greetings from our club but life got busy. You will recall that we established a Friendship Link with you in Dec. 2023. At that time, Rosemary, you were club president & your primary contact with us was through Diana Palmer. Unfortunately, Diana is not active with our club at the moment so I want to introduce myself as the Friendship Link coordinator for SI of N&W Vancouver & I will be your primary contact now. As I am unsure of what materials or communications Diana had sent you I would like to share with you our most recent newsletter,

(via this attached link: https://conta.cc/4qkXQu2?fbclid=IwZXhObgNhZWOCMTAAAYnJpZBEexcVdTUUUyeVgybXlVRmkzU3NydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR7OI_khjEF61HFaC4HY98UbYdTIV_XgLK756JPf2OnFNcYhAGJ2MISxz3Y5g_aem_9bXdKbmRaemCGOokcX)

which discusses some of our projects & activities. It includes a link to a blog discussing our new friendship link with you in Palm Desert. You will see some of the activities we are engaged in, particularly our summer camp program, our Award programs (LYD, DIBI & others) Local love which provides donations to other resources in our community assisting women in need.

We also highlight our Annual Fundraiser, a Lobster dinner which continues to be a great event for our fundraising as well as raising public awareness. I hope we can continue to develop our relationship as Friendship Links & maintain regular communication. We hope in time to learn from your experiences and I hope that ours will offer you something as well.

Kay Stewart
SI N&W Vancouver



Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

WOMEN IN HISTORY



Harriet Tubman (born **Araminta Ross**) March 1822 – March 10, 1913) was an American abolitionist and social activist.

After escaping slavery, Tubman made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, including her family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known collectively as the Underground Railroad.

During the American Civil War she served as an armed scout and spy for the Union Army. In her later years, Tubman was also an activist in the movement for women's suffrage.

Born into slavery, she was beaten and whipped by her enslavers as a child. Early in life, she suffered a very traumatic head wound when an irate overseer threw a heavy metal weight, intending to hit another slave, but hit her instead. The injury caused dizziness, pain, and spells of hypersomnia, which occurred throughout her life.

After her injury, Tubman began experiencing strange visions and very vivid dreams, which she ascribed to premonitions from God. These experiences, along with her Methodist upbringing, caused her to become devoutly religious.

In 1849, Tubman escaped to Philadelphia, only to return to Maryland to rescue her family soon after. Slowly, one group at a time, she brought relatives with her out of the state, and eventually guided dozens of other enslaved people to freedom. Tubman (or "Moses", as she was called) always travelled by night and in extreme secrecy, and said she "never lost a passenger".

After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was passed, she helped guide escapees farther north into Canada, and helped newly freed people find work. Tubman met John Brown in 1858, and helped him plan and recruit supporters for his 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry.

When the Civil War began, Tubman worked for the Union Army, first as a cook and nurse, and then as an armed scout and spy. Her guidance of the raid at Combahee Ferry, which liberated more than 700 enslaved people, she is widely credited as the first woman to lead an armed military operation in the United States.

After the war, she retired to the family home on property she had purchased in 1859 in Auburn, New York, where she cared for her aging parents. She was active in the women's suffrage movement until illness overtook her and was admitted to a home for elderly African Americans which she had helped establish years earlier. Tubman is commonly viewed as an icon of courage and freedom.

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world."

~ Harriet Tubman ~



The Harriet Tubman coin was issued in 2024.

This release coincided with the bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth, celebrating her legacy and contributions to American history. The U.S. Mint produced various denominations, including \$5 gold coins, \$1 silver coins, and half-dollar clad coins as part of this commemorative program

CONNECT WITH US

There are many ways to connect with us and support our mission. Contact us to learn out about Soroptimist International of Palm Desert and how we work together to improve the lives of women and girls by inspiring, educating, and empowering them.

Soroptimist International of Palm Desert
P.O. Box 13997
Palm Desert, CA 92255
760-534-8782

MEETINGS

Speaker's Meeting
1st Wednesday of the Month

Business Meeting
3rd Wednesday of the Month

2025-2026 OFFICERS
Natalie Angrisani, President
Cathy Brown, President-Elect
Marlon Carier, Secretary
Becky Goebel, Treasurer

EMAIL

info@SoroptimistInternationalofPalmDesert.org

FACEBOOK

[SoroptimistInternationalPalmDesert](https://www.facebook.com/SoroptimistInternationalPalmDesert)

WEBSITE

[SoroptimistInternationalofPalmDesert.org](https://www.SoroptimistInternationalofPalmDesert.org)



Are you curious about us?

When you attend one of our meetings, a social event or one of our FUN Fundraising Events, you'll get to meet our members and learn about the different service projects that we are doing in the Coachella Valley

We have an opportunity to earn rewards from Staples when we recycle used ink cartridges (we've done this before) We can recycle three cartridge at a time five dollars apiece that's \$15 we can use towards printing expenses.
Check with Becky Goebel for details.



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Service Director
Jocelyn Corominas

Membership Director
Doris Churry

Fundraising Director
Vanessa Wilk

Public Awareness Director
Susan Rosenberg

LYDA Cordinator
Dr. Senorina Saldivar

