



# Plan Ahead

*Soroptimist International Palm Desert  
monthly newsletter*

## May 2024

- 1.. Volunteering
- 2.. Thanks SIPD Board 2023-24
- 3.. President's Message
- 4.. Dates in May
- 5.. SIPD Member News
- 6.. Editorial – Volunteer
- 7.. Why Join Us
- 8.. Women in History
- 9.. Yucca Valley
- 10.. Conference Dates
- 10.. Our Connections



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

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



Mother's Day is celebrated in the United States on the 2nd Sunday in May to honor our mothers and motherhood and contributions they make to their families and our society.



Let us always honor the women who contribute to our lives and inspire, motivate, and remind us to be a better person every day.



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
OF PALM DESERT  
FRIENDSHIP LINKS

## Riding the Waves of Service

In our Valley we have many community groups whose mission is about “service” and “giving” motivating and encouraging its members to be involved. The members who volunteer help expand, support and also sustain the programs and services of these groups. Since, the recent Pandemic, organizations have found it harder to recruit than before.

That is why, it is more important than ever to show appreciation and say thank you. As our club approaches the final months of our 2023-24 fiscal year, and we schedule our elections for the next year, it is time to acknowledge those who have been Riding the Waves of Service and have helped us to support the mission of Soroptimist international.



Soroptimist International Palm Desert



*“Improving the lives of Women and Girls through access to education”*

*Serving the Coachella Valley for 60 years*

[www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org](http://www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org)

THANK YOU!



Thank You for Riding the Waves of Service

**President:** Rose Mary Jameson  
**President-Elect:** Dr. Christine Duranceau  
**Treasurer:** Becky Goebel  
**Secretary:** Betsy Kreger  
**Past President:** Cathy Brown

Directors

**Fundraising:**  
 Marie Newton, Mona Marcos, Leanna Pettit

**Service:** Pam Rich

**Membership:**  
 Doris Churry, Karin Roberts

**Public Relations:**  
 Susan Rosenberg, Natalie Angrisani

**LYDA:** Saldivar Seniorina

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
For the Soroptimist Year 2024- 2025

**Elections - May 1, 2024**  
 12 noon, RAP Foundation, Room 101

**President:** Diane Backovich

**President-Elect:**  
**backup by**  
 Rose Mary Jameson, Christine Duranceau

**Treasurer:** Becky Goebel  
 and Natalie Angrisani (backup)

**Secretary:** Betsy Kreger

Directors

**Service:**  
 Mary Kay Berliner and Jocelyn Corominas

**Fundraising:**  
 Dr. Christine Duranceau, Susan Rosenberg

**Membership:**  
 Doris Churry, Judith Louise Woracheck  
 and Pam Rich

**Public Relations:**  
 Susan Rosenberg, Natalie Angrisani

**LYDA:** Saldivar Seniorina  
 (with Rose Mary Jameson)

**DIBI:**  
 To Be Appointed

THANK YOU!

WE BELIEVE  
 IN MAKING  
 A DIFFERENCE



**Presidents message for May 2024**

Greetings for a Happy May Day...Lei Day, Feliz Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day and Teacher's Appreciation Day-altho' we should appreciate our teachers everyday!

Well, April just flew by, didn't it? As they say "time flies when you are having fun", but I didn't get to finish all my fun in April, still so much to do! The busy month of May is upon us, and we are going to begin with the all important Business Meeting of May 1<sup>st</sup> where we shall cast our votes for the next slate of officers, ready to lead us into our new Soroptimist year 2024-2025. Please plan to attend and show you support for the incoming members who will help us further our mission in this wonderful community. I hear we are having great compliments on the choice of Aspen Mills providing our lunch menu of recent meetings. A special thanks to all who have helped get the ordering done and the lunches picked up and delivered!



If you have a special teacher in mind for May 7<sup>th</sup>, please send them an email or a cute note. Our immediate tributes go out to members Patsy Bauman (at Las Palmitas) and Dr. Melinda Gonzalez (at Westside Elementary) for all the hard work they do with specialized classes and in administration. We love seeing the little one's faces as they received books gifts at Christmas, craft supplies and helpful tools for their classrooms. I think we all can say the best moment has been when we helped establish the first Girl Power Reading Corner (now in two schools, with another slated for next year) in the school that Patsy was teaching. So, with both of these wonderful educators helping to guide us, we can say how grateful we are to witness the many ways they influence the young minds around them. Thank you Ladies, and thank you for taking us along for the ride!

Spring Conference coming soon (May 29th-June 1<sup>st</sup>) and there is still room for one more! We have plans to carpool down to Tucson and have a fun-filled three days of meetings, speakers, and parties! Watch for us to report on our SI Palm Desert Facebook page and the GWR hashtag #GWRSpringConference2024 and keep track of our fun escapades...business, I mean business!!!

Installation will be early this month so we can have most of our membership in attendance. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the home of Leanna and David Petitt 82-625 Odlum Ct Indio 92201. Save the Date and think of your most famous side dish to bring along for a wonderful evening welcoming in our new Slate of Officers for 2024-2025.

Still riding the waves of Service!

Rose Mary



**MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU**  **and SPECIAL DATES IN THE MONTH of MAY**

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK (May 1-8)**

Since 1984, the National PTA has designated one week in May (May 1 - May 8) to honor the individuals who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. Events at our national, state and local levels celebrate all the contributions the teachers make.



National Teacher Day began in 1953 when the former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt proposed Congress set aside a day to acknowledge the work of our educators. Since 1985, National Teacher Day is the Tuesday of the first full week of May.

**THANKS TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS  
NATIONAL NURSES WEEK (May 6-12)**

National Nurses Week honors the contributions and sacrifices and reminds us to thank the medical professionals who keep us healthy. For all their sacrifice, nurses deserve more appreciation than we can express. In the second week of May, National Nurses Week gives their communities, employers, and even individuals the opportunity to thank nurses and the nursing profession for all that they do.



National Nurses Week is celebrated between May 6, National Nurses Day, and May 12, the birthdate of the Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

**“THE LADY OF THE LAMP” (May 12)**

**Florence Nightingale, born in Florence, Italy on May 12, 1820, is recognized as the founder of modern nursing.**



During the Crimean War, she and her team of nurses improved unsanitary conditions at a British base hospital, reducing the death count by two-thirds. She spent many hours in the wards and with her nightly rounds, established her image as the “Lady of the Lamp”.

Her writings started world wide health care reform. In 1860 she also established St. Thomas Hospital as well as the Nightingale Training School for Nurses.

In 1907, she became the first woman awarded the Order of Merit.

**MOTHER’S DAY (May 12)**

Mother's Day recognizes mothers, motherhood and maternal bonds in general and the contributions that they make to their families and to society. It was established by Anna Jarvis, with the first official Mother's Day celebrated through a service of worship at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, on May 10, 1908. In 1914, then President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, on the second Sunday in May to be a National holiday to honor Mothers.



**MEMORIAL DAY (May 27)**

Memorial Day is a federal holiday set aside to honor the men and women who sacrificed their lives throughout the history of our nation.

This year, the holiday is on May 27. We observe this day with ceremonies, parades and placing flowers and flags on the gravesites of family and friends. Originally it was called “Decoration Day” and was first observed on May 5, 1868. After the battle of Gettysburg, the women from the town of Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, started a tradition of placing flowers on the graves of their fallen soldiers. A few years later, the women from Columbus, Mississippi, began decorating the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers.



The “National Moment of Remembrance Act” was signed on December 20, 2000, by President Clinton, designating 3 p.m. as a moment of silence to “pause and consider the true meaning of this holiday.”

## SIPD MEMBER NEWS

### KARIN ROBERTS



Before she began her summer hiatus, Karin shared this photo.

Karin and Dave Roberts celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on April 12th with a trip to the Grand Canyon.

Congratulations to you both.

We'll see you in October

### ESTHER SJOSTROM

Dear Soroptimist Friends,

I am writing you to update on my situation. I have missed my club's monthly meetings because my husband is now enrolled in a palliative care unit and receiving pain relief. We will take it one day at a time and hope for the best. I manage ok, take many daily walks and nature gives me strength and clears my thoughts.

Soroptimist Sweden [www.soroptimistsweden.se](http://www.soroptimistsweden.se) has its Union meeting this coming weekend. I will only be present at Saturday's program as I don't want to leave Malmö overnight.

My best regards to all  
Esther

*Esther,*

*Our Palm Desert Club is thinking of you and sending lots of love and hugs for your strength.*



*Since spring has finally arrived, here's a photo from Folke's Park, Malmö, Sweden to keep your thoughts positive.*

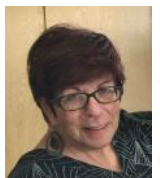
### DIANE BACKOVICH



Diane's good friend, Cathie Psaros, has shared this message:

*"I am setting up a scholarship to honor Diane Psaros, who chose to teach in a less affluent, predominantly Hispanic, school district. Helping underprivileged youth was her passion. The Diane Marie Psaros Memorial Scholarship will be at the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, CA. Diane was named after my dear friend, Diane Backovich. Diane B. mentors girls at a high school in the desert. So this is the perfect place to offer a scholarship, honoring my Diane."*

### NATALIE ANGRISANI



Natalie, our current SIPD Newsletter Editor is a lover of cheese cake and all things NEW YORK! She favors writing, computers and community service; and is always available for coffee and conversation.

**Here's a fun fact:** During the 1964 New York World's Fair, she went to the Parker Pen Pavilion and filled out a slip for a Pen Pal. She was matched to a young man from England and they began corresponding. They've never met and and after all these years, still write to each other - yes, actual letters, no emails or text messages.

## SIPD MAY BIRTHDAYS



**May 18 - Rose Mary Jameson  
and  
May 22 - Becky Goebel**

# BE THE CHANGE

VOLUNTEER & MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



Are you some one who hesitates to be involved;? If so, maybe it is time to try and understand why and overcome any issues you might have.

### LACK OF SELF-CONFIDENCE

Deep down inside (or maybe not so deep down) you don't think you know what to do it or how to do it. If so, believe in yourself. Your support has value and you can make a difference.

### YOU ARE OVERWHELMED

Perhaps you just have too much going on right now and you need to clear your plate. If so, don't keep hesitating. Deal with the items that are already on your to-do list and you will start to feel better about yourself.

### YOU LIVE IN THE PAST

Do you re-visit a prior experience you had with community involvement and how it didn't work out so well that time. Wipe the slate clean and move on—if you live in the past, you'll never be able to move forward.

Take a moment to understand why you hesitate to step up and get involved. There are benefits and value in being involved; such as, you'll meet like minded people, you'll set an example by helping others, and you'll be giving back when you be the change and make a difference.

Editorial submitted by Natalie Angrisani



### Announcing our Newest Program

I am 71 years old now and was a single mom struggling to make ends meet for several years. You have my heartfelt support for what you do every day to keep your families stable and loved and cherished. I chersh you!

Becky Goebel



### THE FIRST PHASE IS REOPENING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!

Cindy Burreson, CEO of the Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert was our guest speaker in April and we were all excited by all the new exhibits, both fun and educational that will be available when the museum reopens at the end of May.

Specialty exhibits for the toddler area and the sensory-friendly area will be installed in June with these areas being opened to the public in July.

The current focus is to ensure that the more than **40 new, custom exhibits** are installed with the highest standards of quality. At the same time, we are also focused on recruiting, hiring and training new staff and fundraising.

To learn more here is the website:  
<https://cdmod.org/>



## WHY JOIN US?

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

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

### A Sense of Accomplishment

Members experience the joy and the sense of accomplishment by working with other like-minded women on the global programs that provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

### Personal Development & Connections

The opportunities for leadership development provide professional growth gained through volunteering in leadership roles and attending leadership development trainings offered by SIA. Members will grow personally through friendships with club members, relationships in your region, and connections with members from diverse countries and backgrounds.

### Access to Non-Profit Professionals

Members receive guidance and resources from SIA headquarters, enabling them to enjoy a meaningful club experience as they change communities for the better, plus:

- ◆ SIA's *Best for Women*, a monthly electronic newsletter keeps you up to date on all of Soroptimist's initiatives and activities.
- ◆ Leadership development and multiple networking opportunities such as Leadership Round Table, the Soroptimist Leadership Fellows Program, club meetings, regional conferences, and other events.
- ◆ Opportunity to engage and provide feedback through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, online surveys and other activities.
- ◆ Access to contact information for other members, clubs and leaders through the online directories.
- ◆ Invitations to take advantage of special offers through Corporate Sponsor Programs, which enables members to get personalized, value-added services from like-minded organizations that support the SIA mission.

**JOIN US!**

## **WOMEN IN HISTORY**

Recognizing the achievements of women in all facets of life – science, community, government, literature, art, sports, medicine – has a huge impact on the development of self-respect and new opportunities for girls and young women.

With an emphasis on positive role models and the importance of women from all backgrounds, it is critical that we acknowledge the value of knowing about and recognizing the contributions that women have already made and continue to make in today's world.

Thank you to Dr. Christine Duranceau for highlighting this by doing some research and sharing Women in History with us during our meetings. Here is a brief introduction to the first two that she has shared with us. In your free time, find out more.....



**Dr. Grace Murray Hopper  
Invented Computer Software**

**GRACE MURRAY HOPPER** earned a PhD in mathematics and Mathematical Physics from Yale. In 1943 she joined the US Navy Women's Reserve and worked at Harvard on the Mark I computer as one of the first programmers and invented COBOL, “the first user- friendly business computer software program” · She was also the first person to use the term “bug” to describe a glitch in a computer system, after finding an actual moth causing trouble in her computer.. By 1949 she was senior mathematician at what became UNIVAC corporation. She invented a compiler that translated human instructions into commands used to run a computer, saying “The computer should learn how to respond to people”. During the Vietnam War Hopper rejoined the Navy and eventually rising to Rear Admiral.

**HEDY LAMARR** Hedy Lamarr was born Hedwig Eva Kiesler in Vienna, Austria in 1914. Most people know Hedy Lamarr as a top actress during Hollywood's golden era. She is less well known as a brilliant inventor. One of her inventions, with composer George Antheil, was a forerunner to today's Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and GPS technologies, and has led many to dub Lamarr the mother of Wi-Fi. Lamarr invented a secret communications system during World War II to be able to radio control torpedoes, employing “frequency hopping” technology, which laid the tech foundations for everything from Wi-Fi to GPS. Hedy Lamarr had no formal training and was primarily self-taught, she invested her spare time, including on set between takes, in designing and drafting inventions, which included an improved traffic stoplight and a tablet that would dissolve in water to create a flavored carbonated drink.



**Hedy Lamarr  
The Mother of WIFI**



SOROPTIMIST  
*of Yucca Valley*



# *Dinner & Live Auction*



Proceeds help support Soroptimist of Yucca Valley

**SATURDAY, MAY 4TH 6-9PM**

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION *by Dan Laterno*

LIVE MUSIC *by The Hot Rod DeVilles*

DINNER *Catered by Las Palmas Mexican Cuisine*

*\$50 Single / \$80 Couple*

Yucca Valley Community Center 57090 29 Palms Hwy, YV



## Soroptimist International Palm Desert

a message from  
Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!** Whether you're eager to enhance your leadership skills or aspire to lead in the future, the Leadership Round Table is your chance to learn and grow!

Check out the agenda and register:  
<https://www.soroptimist.org/.../leadership-round-table.html>



A banner for the Leadership Round Table event. It features a circular logo with the text 'LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE JUNE 11 & 12, 2024' and a stylized 'R' and 'S' in the center. Below the logo, the text reads 'REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!' and 'Take this opportunity to learn and become a better overall leader or attend to feed your interest in becoming a future Soroptimist leader.' At the bottom, the website 'soroptimist.org/events' is listed. The background shows four diverse women smiling.

## Connect with us at SIPD

There are many ways to join our club and support our mission. Contact us to find out more about our volunteer opportunities, fundraising events, and ways that you can help to get our message to your friends and family.

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

EMAIL  
[info.soroptimistpalmdesert@gmail.com](mailto:info.soroptimistpalmdesert@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK  
[soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert)

TWITTER  
[@soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert](https://twitter.com/soroptimistinternationalpalmdesert)

WEBSITE  
[www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org](http://www.soroptimistpalmdesert.org)

Join us to reach new heights in the heart of the beautiful Pacific Northwest July 24-27, 2024 for an event like no other!

Participate in four full days of opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate how our clubs transform the lives of women and girls.

Visit [soroptimist.org/siaconv2024](https://soroptimist.org/siaconv2024) to learn more and register!



A banner for the Soroptimist's 48th Biennial Convention. It features a circular logo with the text 'REACHING HIGHER BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON JULY 24-27, 2024 SOROPTIMIST 48TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Registration is open for Soroptimist's 48th Biennial Convention!' and 'Join us in Bellevue'. At the bottom, the website 'soroptimist.org/siaconv2024' is listed. The background shows a cityscape with a river and a bridge.



A banner for the Pre-Conference Tour. It features a circular logo with the text 'REACHING HIGHER BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON JULY 24-27, 2024 SOROPTIMIST 48TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Pre-Conference Tour Tuesday, July 23, 2024' and 'Shop at the Pike Place Market and Dine atop the Space Needle Museum!'. At the bottom, the website 'soroptimist.org/siaconv2024' is listed. The background shows a cityscape with the Space Needle and Pike Place Market.



A banner for the Golden West Region Inspire 2024 conference. It features a circular logo with the text 'Inspire Golden West Region Spring Conference 2024'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Golden West Region 46th Annual Spring Conference May 30-June 1, 2021 Casino Del Sol, Tucson, Arizona Governor Margie Burke Hostess Club: SI Desert Tucson'. The background shows a sunburst graphic.

Registration is open. Here is the website:

[https://www.goldenwestregion.org/content.asp?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=928590&module\\_id=663411](https://www.goldenwestregion.org/content.asp?page_id=22&club_id=928590&module_id=663411)