



# Riversidelines

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RIVERSIDE MARCH 2024

### SOROPTIMIST VISION

Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

### SOROPTIMIST MISSION

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

### SOROPTIMIST TAG LINE

## "INVESTING IN DREAMS"

### SOROPTIMIST CORE VALUES

Soroptimist International of the Americas is committed to:

- **GENDER EQUALITY:** Women and girls live free from discrimination.

- **EMPOWERMENT:** Women and girls are free to act in their own best interest.
- **EDUCATION:** Women and girls deserve to lead full and productive lives through access to education.
- **DIVERSITY & FELLOWSHIP:** Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women and girls.

### SOROPTIMIST 2021-2031 BIG GOAL

Invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education.

### 2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

Melanie McKee  
(760) 586-3131  
mckeeamelanie4@gmail.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT

JoAnn Moore  
(951) 662-4505  
jamatlakelemon@aol.com

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Sophia Mendoza  
(808) 258-3696  
sophiam39@gmail.com

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Charlene Johnson  
(951) 907-0096  
gracious135@yahoo.com

#### TREASURER

Debbie Ferraro  
(951) 212-2358  
debbbers813@aol.com

#### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Irma Flores  
(951) 533-1122  
iflores3388@gmail.com

#### SENIOR DIRECTOR

Ellen Clizbe  
(951) 321-9590  
eclizbe@yahoo.com

#### JUNIOR DIRECTOR

Edith Gingerich  
(951) 640-3881  
edithg@earthlink.net

#### SENIOR DELEGATE

Barbara Walling  
(714) 875-0873  
wbmuse@sbglobal.net

#### JUNIOR DELEGATE

Debbie Kelley  
(951) 205-5340  
debbie52lcs@aol.com



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Melanie McKee  
2022-24 President

Our club, Soroptimist International of Riverside, has had a very productive start to the New Year.

We have all worked together to organize and execute successful fundraising efforts for May 17, 2024, for our "Rhinestones, Cowgirls & Auction" fundraiser at the Elks Club. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for their ideas and help that will contribute to our fundraising success.

Additionally, I would like to thank Michelle Paradise for chairing our Live Your Dream: Dream it, Be It Conference on March 9, 2024. Thank you to Michelle and her hard working committee for their dedication and leadership.

Furthermore, I want to extend my appreciation to everyone on the Salute Service committee for all their hard work and effort in reading all the applications for the women and girls, especially Edith Gingerich, who was overwhelmed with Live Your Dream Education & Training Award applications.

I would also like to recognize Sophia Mendoza for her hard work in selecting our Gold Key winner, Chris Deviny for the

Dream It, Be It Scholarship and Tillie Soliz for the Raincross Service Award.

And many thanks to Charlene Johnson who is in the process of planning a most inspiring and wonderful luncheon to honor all of our deserving awardees.

I am looking forward to the successful Salute to Service luncheon scheduled for April 17, 2024.

Melanie McKee, Dr.B.A.  
2022-24 SIR President

### ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER



## MARCH 2024 CALENDAR



- 1 ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY
- 5 BOARD MEETING  
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 6 LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT, BE IT CONFERENCE MEETING  
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity
- 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- 9 LIVE YOUR DREAM: DREAM IT, BE IT CONFERENCE  
Riverside Community College
- 10 NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRL'S HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

21 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

26 BUSINESS MEETING  
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside

NO PROGRAM MEETING  
IN MARCH

## APRIL 2024 CALENDAR



- 2 BOARD MEETING  
12:00 PM on ZOOM
- 7 WORLD HEALTH DAY
- 9 BUSINESS MEETING  
12:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside
- 10 SI RIVERSIDE CHARTER DATE  
April 10, 1948
- 12 EQUAL PAY DAY
- 17 SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARDS LUNCHEON  
First United Methodist Church
- 22 INTERNATIONAL EARTH DAY

NO PROGRAM MEETING  
IN APRIL



## DATES TO REMEMBER



May 17, 2024  
**RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS  
& AUCTION FUNDRAISER**  
Elks Club, Riverside

May 31-June 2, 2024  
**GWR SPRING CONFERENCE**  
Casino Del Sol Resort  
5655 W Valencia Road  
Tucson, AZ 85757

July 24-27, 2024  
**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
OF THE AMERICAS 48th  
BIENNIAL CONVENTION**  
Bellevue, Washington

July 27-28, 2024  
**SIA LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE**  
Bellevue, Washington

September 2024  
**ORANGE BLOOMS MUSICAL  
EXTRAVAGANZA**

July 2027  
**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION**  
"Waves of Change" Cruise  
along the shores of Alaska



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Soroptimist International of Riverside, a club in District 1 of the Golden West Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas, meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. We meet at Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside, from noon until approximately 1:15 PM. Please arrive a little early so that we may begin promptly at noon. The 2nd Tuesday is a Business Meeting and the 4th Tuesday is a Program Meeting.

## MARCH 8, 2024 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



This International Women's Day, March 8, 2024, join the United Nations in celebrating under the theme, "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress."

The world is facing many crises, ranging from geopolitical conflicts to soaring poverty levels and the escalating impacts of climate change. These challenges can only be addressed by solutions that empower women.

By investing in women, we can spark change and speed the transition towards a healthier, safer and more equal world for all.

## LIVE YOUR DREAM.ORG WALK FOR WOMEN



## About the Walk for Women

The Walk for Women is a worldwide event during the month of March to celebrate Women's History Month and International Women's Day (March 8th). Everyone can participate. Just get moving and share your #WhyIWalk. Help us spread awareness about the stories, struggles and strength of women!

## Set Your Goal

Whether it's 5 minutes a day or a full 5K, your goal is your own! You don't even have to walk. You could do chair exercises, seated marching, toe lifts or whatever feels comfortable.

## Share Your #WhyIWalk

Take a minute to reflect on why empowering women and girls matters to you, then share on social media with the #WhyIWalk hashtag!

## Make It Count

Undertaking a walking challenge can make a real difference! When you do a peer-to-peer



fundraiser or make a donation, you'll be demonstrating your solidarity AND changing the lives of women in need.

**SEE'S CANDIES FUNDRAISER**



Easter is early this year so we're getting an early start on some sweet fundraising and See's Candies is a favorite with everyone of all ages.

A flyer and the following link has been sent out to all members and to our supporters on Constant Contact.

[https://www.yumraising.com/secure/soroptimistor\\_soroptimist\\_of\\_riverside61/MELMCK6528/](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/soroptimistor_soroptimist_of_riverside61/MELMCK6528/)

Please share the flyer and link with family, friends, business associates and anyone else who you know that has a sweet tooth.

The more orders placed in our online storefront, the more profits will make their way into our club treasury.

Thank you for your participation in this Easter Fundraiser.



**FEBRUARY 13, 2024  
NEW MEMBER  
INDUCTION**



*Tori Zins, GWR District 1 Director, Melanie McKee, SIR President, Rosa Santos-Lee, New Member, and Lynn Scecina, SIR Membership Chair*

Rosa Santos-Lee was inducted into Soroptimist International of Riverside on Tuesday, February 13th, at our regular business meeting.

Rosa is the Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services for the Jurupa Unified School District.

We know that Rosa's many talents will be put to good use on all of SI Riverside's service projects that help women and girls in our community.



**FEBRUARY 27, 2024  
"IN CASE YOU MISSED IT"**



As we close Black History Month and begin Women's History Month, it's especially poetic that we learned about Harriet Tubman at our Program Meeting on February 27th.



Our speaker was Katie Greene, a notable woman in her own right. In her professional life, Katie has served her community as a Registered Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, a Registered Adult Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, an Attorney-at-Law and retired from the USAFR in the rank of Major. She has served on many local boards including the Riverside Community Health Foundation, the Riverside Public Employees Association, the League of Women Voters and the Riverside African American Historical Society. Ms. Greene's motto and life theme is "Learning never ends."

Her inspiring talk about Harriet Tubman began with a bible quote spoken by her to the loved ones gathered at her bedside as she passed at the age of 92 - "I go to prepare a place for you."

Born into slavery, Harriet began her servitude as a 5 year old child whose job was to stay awake and rock the master's baby's cradle throughout the night. If she failed, and the baby cried, she was whipped, and it is said that she layered clothing to cushion the blows. She eventually was

allowed to leave the household to work with her father in the woods.

She enjoyed being outside and took in all that her father taught her about the woods and how to navigate in that environment. This proved to be a valuable asset later in her life.

When she was about 12 years old, she was accidentally struck in the head by a rock intended for a different person.

This injury plagued her with headaches and "sleeping spells" for a number of years. In modern terms she had a traumatic head injury.

At the age of 20, she married a freeman whom she tried to convince to flee the confines of her slavery. He said he would tell the master if she tried. This did not dissuade her passion to be a free woman.

While working near a road one day, a white woman passed by her and whispered, "If you ever need help, knock on my door." Harriet had just met her first person involved in the underground railroad.

Leaving her husband behind, she made her way to Philadelphia, thanks to people like the lady by the road, and found herself helping to escort people to safety and freedom.

She desperately wanted to also free her family from the bondage of slavery, and using the skills she learned working with her father in the woods was able to bring many of her family to freedom.



Despite the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act that allowed the prosecution and death of anyone found to be helping slaves escape, this courageous woman continued her work with the underground railroad to assure others the freedom she now enjoyed. Her nickname in the black community is Moses because of her inspiration and determination to set her people free.

One of the most remarkable qualities of Harriet Tubman was her sense of service and generosity. She was able to parlay her success into a 25 acre plot of land where she built a home for aging slaves.

Harriet Tubman is buried in a military cemetery in Auburn, NY, and exemplifies a life of service. May we all go to prepare a place for others that lessens their burdens.



**MARCH 2, 2024  
LIVE YOUR DREAM  
EDUCATION & TRAINING  
AWARD DELIVERY**



*LYDETA Award Winner Sofia Nabasumba and her 5 year old son with Edith Gingerich, LYDETA Chair*

We are very pleased to announce that Sofia Nabasumba was presented with a check for \$1,000 as one of our winners of the Live



Your Dream Education & Training Award. Sofia needed the money prior to our Salute to Service Awards Luncheon in April to pay for educational expenses so she was taken to lunch by Edith Gingerich and President Melanie McKee who presented her with SI Riverside's check for \$1,000.

Edith received the following note from Sofia:

*I am profoundly grateful to you and the Live Your Dream scholarship committee for not just investing in my education but also in my dreams, igniting a flame of hope and opportunity that will forever illuminate my journey with gratitude and determination.*

*Thank you so much, Ms. Edith. It's been a great honor meeting you today and thank you for lunch.*

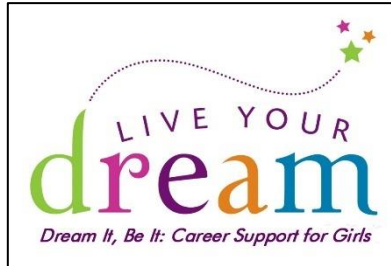
*Sofia Nabasumba*

Sofia will be in attendance at our Salute to Service Awards Luncheon on April 17th at the First United Methodist Church so we all can honor her in person.



*LYDETA Award Winner Sofia Nabasumba and her 5 year old son with Melanie McKee, SI Riverside President*

**MARCH 9, 2024  
LIVE YOUR DREAM:  
DREAM IT, BE IT  
CONFERENCE**



Dear SIR Members

The Live Your Dream Conference is almost here on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at Riverside City College.

It's going to be another fantastic conference for AVID 7th and 8th grade girls. Be sure you come to this wonderful program. We need all hands on deck!

As you know, the students learn about many careers as they listen to outstanding speakers, interact with panelists who share information about their professions, eat wonderful food and get cool prizes and gifts. It will be an educational day that is FUN for them and us.

Your delicious meal will be compliments of SI Riverside this year. If you are serving as a timekeeper/moderator, I will automatically include your name on the lunch list.

If you aren't assigned a specific task, there are many ways your help is needed such as welcoming the girls as they enter the lunchroom, guiding girls to a table as needed, observing girls who enter the bathroom to exit it in a timely manner and most importantly, interacting pleasantly and kindly with the girls so they feel welcomed.

Please verify with me that you are attending, so I can include you on the list for the lunch count.

Warmly  
Ellen Clizbe

P.S. Remember to come to the LYD Conference meeting at Habitat for Humanity at noon on Wednesday, March 6th, when Chair Michelle Paradise will be going over everything about the Live Your Dream: Dream It, Be It Conference.

**MAY 17, 2024  
RHINESTONES,  
COWGIRLS & AUCTION  
FUNDRAISER**



**SAVE THE  
DATE**

**MAY 17, 2024**

**RHINESTONES, COWGIRLS  
AND AUCTION  
FUNDRAISER**

**ELKS CLUB  
6166 BROCKTON AVENUE  
RIVERSIDE**

**11:30 AM TO 3:30 PM**

**BBQ LUNCHEON  
LIVE AUCTION**

**OPPORTUNITY DRAWINGS  
 MYSTERY GIFTS  
 PHOTO OPS IN FRONT OF  
 OUR PINK BARN  
 COUNTRY MUSIC  
 LINE DANCING LESSONS  
 AND MUCH MORE...**

**MORE DETAILS AND  
 INVITATIONS TO  
 COME SOON**



**YEE HAW!**

**HISTORY WALK**



As the Chair of the History Walk Committee, I feel truly blessed to be surrounded by such engaged and loving Soroptimist sisters. I value everyone's input and thank

you for participating in efforts to relocate the Bicentennial History Walk to a downtown Riverside location that is visible and meaningful to residents of the City of Riverside.

After the February Business Meeting, I sent out an email for club members to vote on their first and second choice for the History Walk location. The three choices were in front of the Courthouse, in front of City Hall along Tenth Street and around the patio in front of the Convention Center. Seventeen club members voted (one provided only one choice). What a great percentage of our membership! As you can see from the tally, your vote matters:

First Choice: City Hall (8),  
 Convention Center (5) and  
 Courthouse (4)

Second Choice: City Hall (6),  
 Convention Center (5) and  
 Courthouse (5)

Based on the above vote, President Melanie and I sent the following letter to the Museum Director:

*Dear Robyn,*

*Members of Soroptimist International of Riverside (SIR) appreciate your willingness to work with us regarding the relocation of the Bicentennial History Walk. As you know, SIR members recognize the lasting legacy that the History Walk serves for the City and are desirous of having it placed in a location that is readily accessible to many citizens of our great City.*

*You had asked President Melanie McKee and me to send you two alternative locations. Our SIR club members have voted and have suggested two locations:*

- *First Choice: Grassy area in front of City Hall that is along Tenth Street and directly across the street from the SIR Rose Garden at the Court House. See first photo attached.*
- *Second Choice: In the grass around the patio that is in front of the Convention Center. See second photo attached.*

*You will note that we are recommending the placement of the granite stones in grass rather than having to dig up existing concrete. We have been in contact with a local monument company and they have suggestions for installation that will provide extra security so that vandals cannot try to dig up the stones. The grass areas are also a great way to reduce the grass footprint in an effort to be water wise for the City.*

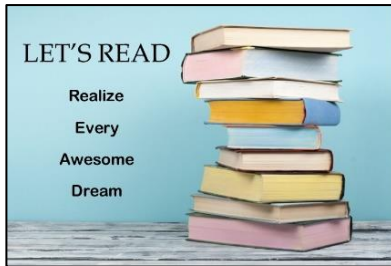
*We appreciate your willingness to support SIR's two suggestions. Please advise the next steps that you recommend.*

Robyn Peterson responded to our letter by indicating that both locations were beyond the scope of her authority and that she will discuss the project with the head of General Services. I notified Robyn that we were setting up a meeting with Ward 1 Councilmember Erin Edwards and that meeting will take place on March 4, 2024. Stay tuned for more updates!

Susan Exon  
 History Walk Chair



## BOOK CLUB



Let's Read!

As you may know, I have been cutting back on some of my duties with Soroptimist. One of them was my desire to start a book club where we could celebrate our mission to improve the lives of women and girls. It was to start by reading about the very inspirational young woman, Malala Yousafzai. Alas, I could not arrange a way to achieve the comradery I hoped would develop with everyone having such busy lives.

Now I face a potentially long recovery over the summer and would like to propose a new format that celebrates our mission, while keeping me connected with you all.

Here's the plan. I love our Soroptimist Pledge Ideals: the Sincerity of Friendship, the Joy of Achievement, the Dignity of Service, the Integrity of Profession, the Love of Country.

I also love the diversity of viewpoints, interests and backgrounds of the women I meet through Soroptimist International.

To a small degree, what I ask is selfish, but it will help to keep me focused on my recovery and allow me to be of service to our Pledge. I ask that you email book titles that exemplify each of the Ideals that you have read so I may read them, too. I'll read selected titles

and will try to write a review to publish here each month. In the Fall, we can arrange to get together and discuss the books.

Please email to me the book titles and which ideal you think it exemplifies.

JoAnn Moore  
Book Club Chair

## SOROPTIMIST LEADERSHIP TRAINING



### Leadership Tip: Collaborative Leadership

By definition, club leaders lead the direction of their clubs and set the example for where we are headed. Sometimes, it can be easy for leaders to stick with things that made them successful in the past. But, one of the core responsibilities of leadership is to understand when we need to change. We never change for the sake of change. We change when we think change will make us better, stronger and more successful.

Regardless of how creative, smart and savvy a leader may be, she can't transform her club without the brain power and commitment of others. No matter what the issue involves, success dictates that the individuals impacted by change be involved in the change from the very beginning.

This is where using a collaborative leadership style comes into play. It's a process in which teams work together toward a common goal. In collaborative leadership, club members work on tasks together, consider problems, while the leader helps the team find the solution.

Some of the benefits of practicing this type of leadership style within your club are engagement, trust and leadership succession. Members become more engaged because they have a higher participation in the club and trust is built simply by the nature of working so closely with others. Also, new leaders emerge more naturally in a collaborative setting. When others are invited to get involved in a committee or a project or share their knowledge, they start getting their feet wet and become more comfortable stepping up in the future.

Finally, we can't overlook one more important element of a collaborative environment. It's FUN! Members value being with other like-minded women and working together to accomplish our mission. Building relationships is important and fun. Friendship is always a top reason why members join and stay Soroptimists.

### Collaborative Leadership in Action

Try the following tips to help you practice collaborative leadership in your club or region:

- Recognize change is accomplished in a team environment, not when one person dictates the process.
- Share information and keep communication lines open.



- Encourage brainstorming because different perspectives can bring about the best possible ideas. Keep in mind, brainstorming is a process and all suggestions should be considered in the early stages.
- Assure everyone in the club has a chance to be heard and positively acknowledge their contributions.
- Promote and model inclusiveness by welcoming new members, making sure they meet others, and include them in discussions.
- Help members make real connections with each other by including teambuilding exercises that encourage trust.
- Solve problems and challenges by actively seeking input from club members.
- Be flexible with rules and responsibilities.
- Address conflicts quickly and fairly by mediation.
- Provide immediate feedback for a job well done or give constructive criticism when necessary.

Remember, collaborative leadership is about creating an inclusive environment where everyone's knowledge and creativity are put to good use. Because we live in a diverse and complex world, sometimes especially for Soroptimist clubs, a collaborative leadership approach is the best way to meet our goals.

As Soroptimists, we know women and girls face obstacles and discrimination solely because of their gender. One member alone

does not have all the knowledge, information and resources necessary to address these issues. However, when we collaborate, we are more effectively able to effect change and make a difference.

Put the above tips in practice and give collaborative leadership a try in your club today!

*From the SIA Website:  
www.soroptimist.org*

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS



**Annamarie Megrđichian – 20th**  
**Rosa Santos-Lee – 20th**  
**Edith Gingerich – 24th**

### MARCH MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES



**Lynn Scecina**  
**4-26-2011**

**JoAnn Moore**  
**4-1-2015**

**Susan Wolf**  
**4-3-2018**

**Charlene Johnson**  
**4-3-2018**

### CONTACT US



**SOROPTIMIST**  
**INTERNATIONAL OF**  
**RIVERSIDE**

**CLUB NUMBER**  
 114315

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
 P. O. Box 1631  
 Riverside CA 92502

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**  
 siriverside@soroptimist.net

**WEBPAGE**  
 www.soroptimistriverside.org

**FACEBOOK**  
 Soroptimist Riverside CA

**INSTAGRAM**  
 soroptimistriverside

**LINKED IN**  
 www.linkedin.com/company/soroptimist-international-of-riverside

**GOLDEN WEST REGION**

**WEBPAGE**  
 www.goldenwestregion.org

**FACEBOOK**  
 Soroptimist International Golden West Region

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
OF THE AMERICAS INC.**

1709 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-6103

WEBPAGE  
www.soroptimist.org

FACEBOOK  
Soroptimist International of the  
Americas

**SOROPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL**

8A Romsey Terrace  
Cambridge, CB1 3NH  
United Kingdom

WEBPAGE  
www.soroptimistinternational.org

**SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE**



**I pledge allegiance to  
Soroptimist and to  
The ideals for which  
it stands:**

**The Sincerity of Friendship,  
The Joy of Achievement,  
The Dignity of Service,  
The Integrity of Profession,  
The Love of Country.**

**I will put forth my greatest effort  
to promote, uphold, and defend  
these ideals, for a larger  
fellowship  
in home, in society,  
in business, for country  
and for God.**

**RIVERSIDELINES**



**EDITOR**  
Pam Bradford

**DEADLINE**  
Submit articles and photos  
by the 25th of each  
month to Pam at:  
[pambradford@pamsemail.net](mailto:pambradford@pamsemail.net)

**SPRING RENEWAL**

