



President Cynthia's Message

Happy New Year, Soroptimists of Whittier!

Our most exciting months of the year happen now: January means Live Your Dream judging; February

means Music Bingo Fundraiser, March means Scholarship decisions and April means Signature Awards Luncheon! I am getting very excited. Your Club members have already worked hard and accomplished a lot toward these objectives. I am very grateful to all of you.

As we leave December, I want to give special thanks to those who arranged our wonderful involvement in the Whittier Christmas Parade (Petra Schmischke, Susan Halliday, Maria Maestas, Kathy Dowling, Jeannie Williamson) and all who marched with us; and also, to Liz Apodaca, Dana Porter and Carolyn Theisen for planning and hosting a super-fun holiday social/fines event at Dana's home. It was great!

Music Bingo is just around the corner. Have you received your envelope of \$5 raffle tickets to sell for our Gift Card Tree Raffle? Each member is responsible to sell \$50 worth (ten tickets) and you will find they practically sell themselves. Just let people know that for \$5 they receive 2 chances to receive an array of gift cards valued at over \$500. (Much better chances than the lottery!) If you haven't picked yours up yet, Karen Bjorkquist will get your envelope to you - contact her at bjorkquistkb@verizon.net or 562-965-3303. If you haven't yet purchased your sponsorship and table for 6, 8, or 10, do it NOW! We will all have our next Celebrating Success Fundraising Meeting on Tuesday, January 14th at noon at Mimi's.

The important January SIW Business Meeting will be at Mimi's on Tuesday, January 7th at Noon. A great chance to catch up with friends and make sure you're up to date with everything planned over the next few months. The best is yet to come!

*Serving in Harmony,
President Cynthia*



Celebrating 100 Years of Soroptimist

A global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Our name means "best for women." And that's what we strive to be—women at our best, investing in other women and girls to be their best.

SI WHITTIER NEWSLETTER 2025

CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 7th – Business Meeting 12 Noon, Mimi's Café and via Zoom
- 14th – Program Meeting 12 Noon Mimi's Cafe. Fundraising teams update
- 16th – Board of Directors Meeting. Whittier Chamber office
- 21st – Program Meeting at 5:30 pm at Whittwood Branch Library. Speaker Stacy Ciulik, SI Representative to UN in Geneva, light dinner will be provided.
- 28th – Program Meeting 12 Noon Mimi's Cafe. Fundraising Final planning

FEBRUARY

- 4th – Business Meeting, 12 Noon, Mimi's Café and via Zoom
- 6th – 2nd Annual Music Bingo Party. 5:30 p.m. Doubletree Hotel in Whittier
- 8th – DCR Leadership Academy II, "Technology". Vista, CA hotel
- 11th – Music Bingo Recap and Debrief Meeting
- 18th – Program: Liz Apodaca: Importance of Trusts
- 20th – Board Meeting at the Whittier Chamber
- 25th – Program: TBA

MARCH

- 4th – Business meeting, 12 Noon, Mimi's Café
- 7th – Friday, Rio Hondo Women's Conference hosted by SIW
- 11th – Program : TBA
- 18th – Program Speaker, Brian Saeki, Whittier City Manager
- 20th – Board Meeting at Whittier Chamber
- 25th – Program: Dr. Kristine Dillon, Whittier College President

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MUSIC BINGO 2025

by Carolyn Theisen

THIS YEAR'S FUNDRAISER IS IN FULL SWING!

TO DATE - All SEVEN TEAMS (53 members) have been working together moving the total of sponsorships and ticket sales to over \$30,000!

THE BEST IS YET TO COME...BECAUSE... ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

Tuesday, January 14, at 12 noon - will be our Fundraising Meeting for all members - at Mimi's Whittwood.

Which team will lead the pack this month??? Will it be your TEAM???

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

- **BRING IN A SPONSOR** – five levels to choose from
- **SELL TICKETS TO FRIENDS & FAMILY** - \$125 per ticket
- **BUY A TABLE** – for 6-8-10
- **BUY YOUR OWN TICKETS**
- **DONATE GIFT CARDS TO THE GIFT CARD TREES** - \$20 or more (cash or cards)
- **PICK UP RAFFLE TICKETS – ASAP.** (Available at the Business Meeting, Jan. 7th)
- **SELL RAFFLE TICKETS** - \$5 per ticket – win a \$500 Gift Card Tree (2 trees available)
- **HELP WITH THE “LIVE” AUCTION** – (learn more on Jan. 14th)

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF WHITTIER PRESENTS:

2ND ANNUAL MUSIC BINGO PARTY
"Funs" Our Purpose

Thursday February 6, 2025 5:30 p.m.

\$125 per reservation

DoubleTree by Hilton Whittier
7320 Greenleaf Ave.
Whittier, CA 90602

Open seating. Reserved table of 6, 8 or 10 available.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

ROCK \$5,000 Website, Social Media, Recognition at the Event, Logo on Bingo card, and 2 tickets

MOTOWN \$3,000 Website, Social Media, Recognition at the Event and 2 tickets

DISCO \$1,200 Website, Social Media and Recognition at the Event

POP \$600 Website and Social Media

COUNTRY \$300 Website

To purchase Tickets and Sponsorships visit www.siwhittier.org, e-mail info@siwhittier.org or call 562-652-3451

OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE 100 GRAND THIS YEAR... so we can help more women and more girls... in our own communities!



SI WHITTIER CLUB NEWS

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: PRESIDENT CYNTHIA



CYNTHIA NICKELL, SIW PRESIDENT 2024 – 2025

Cynthia was born in San Mateo in the Bay Area and landed in Southern California following graduation from UCLA in 1985 where she earned an MBA in Marketing. She earned her BA in Music from UC Santa Barbara in 1978.

FAMILY: In 1985 Cynthia met Jeff Nickell at a party in Pasadena. Now married to Jeff for 38 years, they resided in Pasadena for 1 year before moving to Whittier in 1986. They have 2 children, a daughter Carolyn living in Michigan and a son, Robert living on Westside of Los Angeles.

PROFESSIONAL: Her experience has been varied but with an underlying theme of philanthropy. Positions have included Boys & Girls Club of Whittier, Rio Hondo College Foundation, Five Acres, Pasadena Conservatory of Music, The Whole Child, and National Charity League (volunteer). These positions were mostly in the realm of fund development, grant writing, and marketing.

FAVORITE JOB: Working at Avery Dennison in 1985 – 1990 where she was a Product Manager.

VOLUNTEERING Has been intentional and included the Whittier Chapter of NCL where she was able to refine her skills by serving in leadership positions as the Chapter President, various board positions and co-chair of their Annual Benefit, also the Junior League of Pasadena, Huntington Library & Botanical Garden, PIH and our own Soroptimist International of Whittier.

FAVORITE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS: Studio Danza (loves Zumba!), All Saints Church in Pasadena, Special Children's League, Rotary Club of Whittier, and SIW!

Her musical talents have taken her through experiences in vocal music with chamber chorales, chamber singers, a symphony chorus, church choirs, and fun years of singing with the Company Three Trio.

Cynthia joined SIW in March of 2007 after being invited by Sandy Thorstensen with whom she served for several years in NCL with their daughters. Following her recent retirement from professional life Cynthia is now able to participate fully in SIW activities and currently serves as our 78th President!

Cynthia describes her life as "Rich and Full" as she continues her volunteer activities in many directions, cherishing the friendships and connections she has cultivated along the way. We, members of SIW, are grateful for her leadership this year and look forward to continuing to serve with her in our community of Whittier.



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SI WHITTIER CLUB NEWS CONTINUED

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR MEMBERS OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER



OCTOBER:

Elaine Kindle 10/5
Diana Gonzalez 10/13
Dana Porter 10/16

NOVEMBER:

Liz Apodaca 11/22

DECEMBER:

Cheryl Estep 12/3
Mary Ann Pacheco 12/3
Cynthia Nickell 12/12
Kathy Dowling 12/25





YOU MISSED A MEETING? HERE'S A RECAP OF BUSINESS MEETINGS

OCTOBER 1, 2024 BUSINESS MEETING

We inducted a new member, JENNY HERRINGTON!

1. Approved a \$5000 Impact Sponsorship for the WCCS Symposium on Oct 24, 2024
2. Noted the \$25,000 CUSoCal donation to SIW received on Sept. 10, 2024



NOVEMBER 5, 2024 BUSINESS MEETING

1. Printed Club rosters are available for \$10 each, cash or check. See Maria Maestas
2. Soroptimist Village Annual Meeting in October and our club had the required 20% of membership in attendance. The ribbon cutting for the rebuilt units will occur Jan. 2025
3. Public Awareness per Ruthie Retana: Please increase posts on social media and use these selected hashtags: #liveyourdream; #helpwomensucceed; #musicbingo2025



DECEMBER 3, 2024 BUSINESS MEETING

1. President Cynthia shared the 9 SIA Bylaws amendments which had been approved at the SIA convention in July. The three candidates for Area 9 representation on the SIA Board were discussed and Judy Dunnagan was agreed upon as our selection
2. A comprehensive report was given by the Ad Hoc Committee for distribution of Credit Union Funds and detailed their recommendation for disbursements for needs within our community.
3. Membership Director Liz Apodaca has our newly revised printed SIW Brochures ready.



PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

HERE'S A RECAP OF PROGRAM MEETINGS

OCTOBER 8 FUNDRAISING TEAM

Susan Bowers, recently former member, was warmly welcomed back to speak with us and shared enlightening tips on new ways to approach gaining sponsorships. Thinking outside the pond, Whittier being the pond and, we want to make the pond bigger! Talk to potential sponsors in person and let them know "I need your help". Realize the difference between sponsorships given for **philanthropic purposes** and sponsorships give for **marketing or advertising purposes**.

Ruthie Retana then gave us a hands-on training, using our cell phones or computers, to create Facebook and Instagram posts. We can easily use our event flyer and postcards to create the post to our page and then ask friends to share the post.

OCTOBER 15 MARY ANN PACHECO, "MY 6 MONTHS AS A COUNCILMEMBER, CITY OF WHITTIER"

Elected and sworn into office April 23, 2024, SIW member Mary Ann shared the joys and challenges of the past 6 months. She is happy with her position as representative of District 1 in our city and has spent many hours questioning and learning about her new responsibilities in order that she may be well prepared before the council meetings take place, most especially so that she understands the issues that will be on the agenda for the meetings. She is developing excellent working relationships with colleagues and with city staff members.



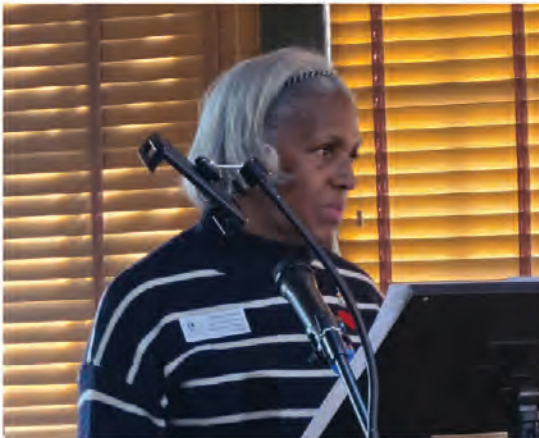
OCTOBER 29 FINES FUN MEETING, LED BY MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR LIZ APODACA

Loads of fun at the "Witchy Bingo" meeting and we added needed funds for the Fines Budget to support the Conference Fund.



PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

HERE'S A RECAP OF PROGRAM MEETINGS



NOVEMBER 19, 2024 GUEST SPEAKER DEBRA CARTER

DEB CARTER, SI San Dimas/Laverne, DCR DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR visited our meeting to get acquainted and provide information about District and Region happenings. The 3 Districts now meet only once per year and the Leadership Academy will meet twice per year. February 8, 2025 the Academy will meet in Vista at the Golf Club presenting "Technology and Leadership". Word Cloud exercise with phone app will be a topic.

The DCR Region Spring 2025 Conference will be in Santa Ana at the Zessa Hotel and the TRADE FAIR returns to Conference at NO CHARGE to clubs!

Deb shared the DCR Board vision of being the Energy Bus for our region, based on the book of the same name. She answered members' questions, specifically how our club can qualify as meeting SIA Goals for recognition. The basic requirements being to

- a. Work with women and girls (not with other projects)
- b. Goal of education, i.e., connect the dots with Soroptimist
- c. Be a Soroptimist led project
- d. Must produce a report and Collaboration with clubs is encouraged



DECEMBER 12, 2024 PROGRAM MEETING, FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE PROGRESS UPDATES

President Elect Denise led the discussion highlighting our needs of concentrating on ticket sales, live auction items needed, and gift cards needed, please contact Karen Bjorquist to receive your ticket packet to sell.

SIW will march in the Uptown Whittier Annual Christmas Parade on December 14.

Club Christmas Party, produced by the Fines Committee, will be at the home of our member, Dana Porter on December 17.



(PHOTOS TO FOLLOW)



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PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

HERE'S A RECAP OF PROGRAM MEETINGS



Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter Symposium, October 24th
SIW provided an Impact Sponsorship for this event



Uptown Whittier Annual Christmas Parade, December 14th



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PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

HERE'S A RECAP OF PROGRAM MEETINGS



Fines Committee Club Christmas Party, December 17th





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SIA: SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

DAY OF GIVING AND HUMAN RIGHTS DAY DECEMBER 10 EACH YEAR

Presented by Liz Camp

Soroptimist International Foundation Announcement



December 10th - Human Rights Day-SI President's Appeal Day is now called SI Foundation Day. It is a day each year Soroptimists around the world have been asked to forgo something like a meal or cup of coffee and donate the cost to the Soroptimist International President's Appeal which was chosen each year to support a project the SI President has selected. December 10th is also the end of the 16 days of activism against violence against women and girls.

In 2021, the Soroptimist International Foundation was created and announced publicly at the International Convention in Dublin Ireland in July 2023. The Foundation was established so members, clubs and other organizations can donate to Soroptimist International to support the projects the board of the Foundation chooses to support.

Currently, it is continuing to support the projects established by Past SI President Maureen McGuire called "Opening Doors to a Bright Future". At its core, 'Opening Doors to a Bright Future' is dedicated to realizing the transformative power of education, recognizing its fundamental role as a driver for sustainable development, peace, and equality.

Investing in the education of women and girls means breaking cycles of poverty, creating new opportunities, and fostering economic growth, among many more incredible benefits. There are currently six projects across the continents. For more information please go to www.SoroptimistInternational.org under SI Appeals. You can see videos of each of the projects we support. Thank you to all of our club members who made donations of over \$400 which were added to the budgeted amount of \$350 which will be sent to SIA to forward on to SI Foundation. Note all funds go to our Federation who then sends money to Soroptimist International. There is a podcast on the International website in the tab called SI Voices to learn more. SI Voices Podcasts - Soroptimist International

We are going to have the opportunity to learn more about our partnership with the United Nations and Soroptimist International with a program meeting on January 21, 2025 at 6:00 pm. The speaker is Stacy Ciulik, SI Representative to the UN in Geneva who grew up in La Habra.



SOLT: SOROPTIMIST ORIENTATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Here is our beautiful newly revised and updated SIW Brochure! Let's use this when we are sharing with others about our Whittier Club. You can obtain printed copies from Liz Apodaca and you can download it from our website, siwhittier.org.

WAYS TO PARTNER WITH US

- Become a member: help women and girls - make lasting friendships
- Attend our fundraisers
- Be a Sponsor of one of our projects or events
- Donate products or services to one of our projects or events
- Share your expertise, talents, resources and ideas
- Be a speaker for a club meeting or our special events
- Make a donation at: www.siwhittier.org

QUESTIONS?

Contact any member or visit our website: www.siwhittier.org

We meet at noon on Tuesdays

Facebook: [facebook.com/siwhittier](https://www.facebook.com/siwhittier)
Instagram: [@siwhittier](https://www.instagram.com/siwhittier)

Many of our programs and projects are listed in this brochure.



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF WHITTIER



"Women at their best, working to help other women to be their best."

ABOUT SIW

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Soroptimist is a global organization whose members volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. More than 80,000 Soroptimists in over 120 countries and territories support community-based and global projects benefiting women and girls. The organization is particularly concerned with providing women and girls access to education, as this is the most effective path to self-determination.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF WHITTIER

SI Whittier has been actively serving our community since June of 1947. We are a 501(C)(3) organization run and operated solely by volunteers.





JOIN US!

When you become a member of SI Whittier, you have the opportunity to work with like-minded volunteers throughout the world to promote women's health, equality, empowerment and education.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Making a difference for women and girls
- Personal growth and development
- Improving lives in our own community and around the world
- Use your ideas, expertise, talents and resources for the benefit of others
- Develop strong relationships with like-minded women
- Celebrate the success of our worthwhile projects and events
- Travel to our national and international conferences and conventions

"Come for the service and stay for the friendship!"

LOCAL

SI WHITTIER PROJECTS

RUTH WHITE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

We support the continuing college education of young women preparing for business, the professions or industry. Scholarships are awarded annually.

LOIS NEECE AWARDS

Named after former SIW President Lois Neece, this award is given to seven high school students who have overcome obstacles and persevered towards success in their lives.

S CLUBS

We sponsor youth service clubs on local high school campuses.



SART CENTER

(Sexual Assault Response Team)
As partners with PH Health and the Whittier Police Department, SART provides a safe and private environment for treatment of sexual assault victims.

TEEN GIRLS CONFERENCE

Partnering with Rio Honda College, this Teen Conference is a day-long educational event for 300 local high school girls. Workshops empower the girls to make successful life choices.

SOROPTIMIST VILLAGE

We are one of five local Soroptimist clubs who have successfully operated this low-income housing project for seniors in Norwalk since 1958.

MENTORING SCHOLARSHIPS

Provides as-needed financial assistance to women and girls who are former recipients of "Live Your Dream" awards, and who qualify for additional support in a following year.



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS PROJECTS

"LIVE YOUR DREAM" AWARDS

We provide funding to women heads-of-household who are pursuing education to improve their job status and rebuild their lives.

"DREAM IT - BE IT": CAREER SUPPORT FOR GIRLS

This program provides the tools for high school girls to become confident and prepared to reach their career goals, despite obstacles they may encounter.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Our contributions support the SI Foundation, which strengthens Soroptimist International's public profile and funds projects supporting a) the advancement of education; b) the relief and/or prevention of poverty and c) the advancement of human rights, peace, equality and diversity.

VISION

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



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.

CORE VALUES:

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.



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