



# President Cynthia's Message

Dear Amazing Soroptimists,

What an exciting season it is for SIW! Just a month ago, we produced Music Bingo #2: the most fun, and most successful, fundraiser ever.

Together we raised more than \$92,000! The net \$82,000 will create our Service Fund to distribute next year. We will make a difference for many women and girls in 2025-2026.

If you were at Music Bingo, you got to hear from Valentina Higgins, a former Live Your Dream and Mentorship Awardee: When Valentina shared her personal story, she emphatically stated how our Club has made a crucial difference to her during difficult times. Valentina continues to persevere, serving as a positive example both to her teen-aged daughter and to us.

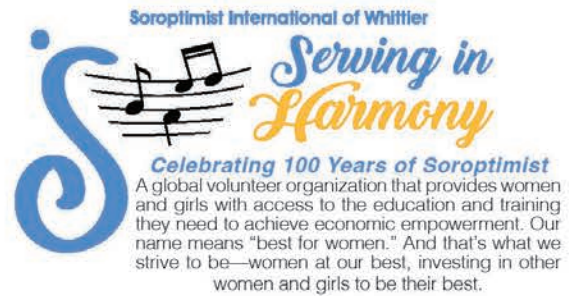
Even Ginger Cole, The President of Soroptimist International of the Americas, attended Music Bingo. She spoke personally to Valentina and other awardees, expressing how proud we were of them and reinforcing their strength and perseverance.

**Awards Luncheon!!** You won't want to miss this year's Signature Awards Luncheon, coming up April 15. We will be distributing awards to more than 20 deserving young women. "Live Your Dream" supports women caring for family members while pursuing their education. "Lois Neece" honors high school seniors who have persevered through hardships. Ruth White Memorial Scholarships assists women in higher education, and the Mentorship awards support former SIW awardees still striving toward their dreams.

Please consider sponsoring a luncheon ticket for an awardee, as well as yourself and maybe a friend. Some SIW members "Sponsor" an awardee even if the member can't attend! But I hope you will be there on April 15.

Ladies, it is such a privilege to join together with you, to raise money, and to give it away where it can make a real difference. Together, we are Living Our Dreams!

*Serving in Harmony,  
President Cynthia*



## SI WHITTIER NEWSLETTER 2025

### CLUB CALENDAR

#### MARCH

- 4th – Business meeting, 12 Noon, Mimi's Café
- 7th – Women's History Month Conference, Rio Hondo College. Theme: Women in the Workforce. Irma Rodriguez Moisa as keynote speaker.
- 11th – Program: Paymaneh Maghsoudi, Whittier Public Library
- 18th – Program: City Update by Interim City Manager, Shannon DeLong
- 20th – Board of Directors Meeting at Whittier Chamber
- 25th – Program: Dr. Kristine Dillon, Whittier College President

#### APRIL

- 1st – Business Meeting
- 8th – Program: Whittier Area Literacy Council, Boys & Girls Club
- 15th – Signature Awards Luncheon, Doubletree Hotel Uptown, 12 pm
- 17th – Board of Directors at the Chamber Office
- 22nd – Program Meeting: PIH SART Center, 2004-2024, 20TH ANNIVERSARY
- 25th-27th – DCR Annual Spring Conference, Hotel Zessa, Santa Ana
- 26th – WCCS Shelter's Right Hand 5K Walk, Uptown Whittier
- 29th – Program: L.A. Zoo by John Peel

#### MAY

- 6th – Business meeting, 12 Noon, Mimi's Café
- 15th – Board of Directors Meeting at Whittier Chamber

#### JUNE

- 3rd – Business meeting, 12 Noon, Mimi's Café
- 10th – DARK due to Installation dinner on June 12th
- 12th – **Annual Installation of Officers and Board**, East Whittier Women's Club, dinner
- 19th – Joint Board Meeting
- 24th – SIW Annual Meeting



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## AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS! MUSIC BINGO PARTY FUND-RAISING

by Carolyn Theisen, Director of Fundraising

Soroptimist International of Whittier presented our 2ND ANNUAL MUSIC BINGO PARTY on Thursday, February 6, 2025. Two hundred guests filled the beautifully decorated Atrium at the Doubletree by Hilton Whittier and by all accounts enjoyed a fun filled evening of good food, lively Music Bingo games and took part in a “one of a kind” Live Auction, Gift Card Tree raffle, and a “giving opportunity”. At one point the audience met one of our “Live Your Dream” recipients and heard her heroic journey – a subtle reminder of why we were all gathered together that evening...TO HELP WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVE THEIR DREAM.

The fabulous news is that this one evening event raised the most funds in the history of our Club. This could not have happened without the participation of 95% of our dedicated and passionate members. I am grateful to each and every one of you – the teamwork was phenomenal.



I would like to thank the members of our Core Committee.

Petra - all reservations, all financial listings & accounting, Music Bingo guru :) and more

Denise and Jan – Sponsorship contacts and thank you letters...and so much more.

Catalina/ACRO Printing Inc. – flyers, post cards, Bingo Programs, T-Shirts, QR code cards...

Karen B. Every detail of the Gift Card Tree Raffle – from beginning to end! (TY Wendy)

Ruthie R. – Social media “trainer” – conducted successful meetings with handouts

The untold hours of our “Live Auction” committee – Nine unbelievable opportunities – all with special features – and nine beautiful posters to help seal the deal! Thank you... Jeannie Williamson, Dolores Hayes and Ellen Hardeman.

Good news: We hope to Net: \$82,000.!



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

# The Next Big Thing!!!

## SIGNATURE AWARDS LUNCHEON

By Kathy Dowling and Teresa Molina





**PRESENTS**

*Our Signature Awards  
Celebration Luncheon*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 AT 12PM**

**DOUBLETREE  
HOTEL WHITTIER** | 7320 Greenleaf Ave.  
Whittier, CA 90602

**\$45 per person**  
For reservations to this event go to  
[www.siwhittier.org](http://www.siwhittier.org) or scan QR code



On April 15th, Soroptimist International of Whittier will host our Annual Signature Awards Luncheon! Join us for this spectacular celebration as we honor and support our awardees—you'll be glad you did!! This luncheon is the highlight of our fundraising efforts, where our club proudly honors exceptional women with a financial gift in recognition of their hard work and determination. This year we will be awarding honorees with \$50,000.00! Awardees being honored are from our Signature Live Your Dream Program, Lois Neece, Ruth White Memorial Scholarship, and Mentoring Programs. This luncheon is a great way to showcase how our club supports and empowers women and girls in our community. We encourage you to come to show your support for our awardees, as they appreciate the support received from Soroptimist and the community. Friends, family, and future Soroptimist are all invited!

Our luncheon will be held at Double Tree in Whittier and begins at 12 pm. The cost for lunch is \$45.00. Each member is encouraged to pay for at least one extra meal to help offset the costs of our awardees and their guest!



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## **SIA: SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS**

### **Celebrating International Women's Day All Month Long**

March is Women's History Month, which celebrates women's contributions to history, culture and society. As Soroptimists you give so much to the women and girls we serve, dedicating your time, mentorship and gifts. Not only is this a time to celebrate women, but to celebrate you—our strong, passionate and devoted members—as well. Thank you for all you do!

#### **Explore, Learn and Take Action** **Ways to Celebrate IWD and Women's History Month**

March offers the perfect opportunity to unite communities, organizations and Soroptimists around our common goal of helping women and girls. Get inspired and see how SI Whittier partners with Whittier Union High School District and Rio Hondo Community College for the annual...

#### **Women's History Conference at Rio Hondo College** **"EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE"**

On March 7th SIW proudly coordinated with Rio Hondo College and the Whittier Union High School District to host 150 girls from the local high schools for the annual Women's History Month Conference. The conference took place on the Rio Hondo College campus. The theme this year was Empowering Women in the Workforce. The conference opened with breakfast for the girls with a warm welcome and introduction to Soroptimist by our own Denise Fasheh. After a few other introductory talks, the guest speaker, Irma Rodriguez Moisa, a former Soroptimist gave a talk to the girls about her dreams and how she accomplished them despite her struggles. The girls seemed interested and asked many questions. Then the girls went to three workshops over the course of the morning. Our own Lorraine Quiros presented a workshop on Self Care and Petra Schmischke did a Zumba class. Both workshops have been very popular with the girls. A number of our members attended the morning session to show support. This conference is a great way of showing the students that they can aspire to accomplish their dreams.



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**SIA: SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS CONTINUED**

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CONFERENCE**

**EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025 | 8:00 AM**  
LOCATION: RIO HONDO COLLEGE

Welcome to the 29th Annual Women's History Conference, hosted by Whittier Union High School District, Soroptimist International of Whittier, and Rio Hondo College!

We're thrilled to have the chance to inspire and impact the lives of motivated, resilient, and outstanding young women like yourselves.

**Our goal is to ignite and engage!** We hope to inspire and empower the pursuit of dreams and excellence in the workforce.

Be sure to carry the valuable lessons learned and the powerful messages imparted with you on your journey. **Believe in yourself, for the future—both in your career and beyond—is truly yours to shape and achieve!**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

Irma Rodríguez Moisa



Dedicated Attorney, community advocate, 30-year resident of Whittier, passionate about public education. She is a U.C Berkeley and Harvard University Graduate.

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

<b>8:30- 9:15 A.M.</b>	Registration/Arrival/ Breakfast
<b>9:15-9:35 A.M.</b>	Welcome Reception (RHC/ WUHSD/ Soroptimist)
<b>9:35- 9:55 A.M.</b>	General Session/Keynote Speaker
<b>10:05- 10:45 A.M.</b>	Workshop Session #1
<b>10:55-11:35 A.M.</b>	Workshop Session #2
<b>11:45 am -12:25 P.M.</b>	Workshop Session #3
<b>12:25-1:10 P.M.</b>	Lunch/Opportunity Drawing
<b>1:10 P.M.</b>	Board Bus for Departure





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SIA: SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS CONTINUED

# DREAM IT ★ BE IT

## CAREER SUPPORT

### {for girls}

### DREAM IT, BE IT at SI Whittier

By Cynthia Navarro

Dream It Be it has been a successful program at Katherine Edwards Middle located in Whittier California. The program is supported by The Soroptimist International of Whittier and The Boys and Girls Club of Whittier/Pico Rivera. Thanks to this strong partnership, we were able to serve 36 young women between the ages of 10 and 13. The young women are referred to us by the principal of Katherine Edwards, Ms. Tiffany Tagle. Ms. Tagle selects the young women who need additional support due to outside risk factors. The program is run every Tuesday



between the hours of 11:35am-1:15pm for a six-week session. We successfully completed one session and are in progress of a second session. Each session is a mini workshop that embeds social emotional learning and self-discovery. They have really enjoyed the community building games and slime making activities. The young women have shared that they have had a fun experience while participating in the program.





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## SOLT: SOROPTIMIST ORIENTATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

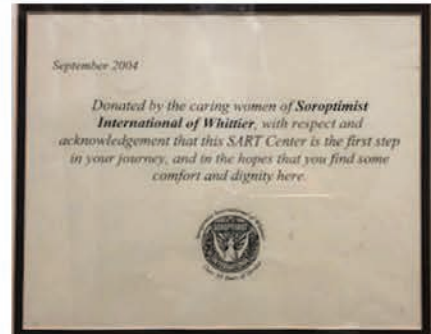
### SART...THEN and NOW 2004 – 2024

### SIW continues 20 years of supporting abuse survivors through PIH'S Collaborative SART Center

#### ORIGINS OF **Sexual Assault Response Team** With reflections by Maggie Miller Bernal, September 2024

The SART CENTER at PIH Health Whittier Hospital, SPONSORED BY SIW AND WHITTIER PD, marked a milestone 20 years of service to victims/survivors of rape and sexual assault this past September, 2024.

Well over 20 years ago, approximately in the year 2000, SIW members became aware of a need in our community that involved victims of sexual assault and how their treatment was handled when they were taken to a local emergency room for assessment. The environment was not ideal and the procedures and waiting times were difficult for victims to endure. Then, through conversations between a SIW member and Whittier PD's then-Chief David Singer, a need was identified and an idea presented and SIW was asked if we would consider partnering with WPD and beginning a SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) center at PIH. Our member, Maggie Bernal, presented the idea to our Board of Directors and they were in favor of taking on this challenge, thereafter securing the consent of the club members. At this same time our federation, SIA, was offering \$10,000.00 Grants for worthy community projects. We applied and it was granted and presented to PIH! This allowed the purchase of a special exam table, cameras needed for forensic evidence and other equipment. Subsequently, SIW has provided a continuing supply of clothing kits containing all sizes of sweat pants, sweat shirts, and underwear for these survivors of assault. This service enables assault survivors to leave their other clothing as evidence and be comfortable as they leave the hospital.



We followed an existing model of a SART Center which was already functioning in Long Beach. It involved having specially trained Nurse Practitioners who would be called to assist when a victim entered the ER. This Forensic Nurse Specialist would accompany the victim to a small designated room at the PIH ER so they would not be sitting in the general ER waiting room while waiting for their exam. Additionally, the Forensic Nurse can access immediate patient advocate support from Project Sister where crisis services are offered to women, men and children of all ages who have been sexually assaulted and to their non-offending family members.

After a period of time, an available space was identified within the hospital, not in the ER, and that became the dedicated SART Center which exists today.





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## **SOLT: SOROPTIMIST ORIENTATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

### **...and SART NOW 2025**

With reflections by Dr. Rebecca Eberle Romberger



"20 years ago, I was blessed to be chosen as President of SIW- there were many exciting years of preparation leading to this important job. Ne'er could I have known that one of my first big community presentations would have been to share the \$10K grant SIW had received to partner with WPD and PIH to create a local SART center. Prior to this, officers were having to transport victims-we now call survivors- to the west side for adequate rape response. The challenges were great, including taking officers (mostly male) off duty for hours at a time to transport and accompany a survivor for often subpar care resulting in decreased likelihood of prosecution/conviction of the offender.

The beauty of SART- despite the difficult work- is having the superior service locally, with continued SIW support in the form of the clothing we provide to survivors after the exam.

This full circle moment occurred last month when I was able to take my new Fellows- training to be peer educators on campus- to the SART center. Not only did we meet the medical professionals- nurse and social worker - who provide excellent care, we learned about all aspects of the program and saw all the bags of carefully labeled/sized outfits from SIW- thanks to Karen B... And when I saw this framed certificate on the wall, I just knew I had to share this story..."



**Be sure to join us April 22, 2025 when our program speaker will be Malinda Wheeler, RN, FNP bringing a current report from PIH and SART!**





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## SI WHITTIER CLUB NEWS

### NEW MEMBER EMMA NARVAEZ



#### EMMA ANGEVINE NARVAEZ

Simply Life Organizing  
Whittier, CA  
Business: 562-263-4055  
Cell: 917-531-9560  
[hello@emmanarvaez.com](mailto:hello@emmanarvaez.com)

Whittier is my home town, though I was gone for many years. My mom, Betsy Angevine and my aunt, Maggie Bernal have been longtime members of SIW, and I spent my childhood watching the incredible women in this organization uplift and support each other. It's an honor to now step into my own role as a business owner and contribute to the same community that shaped me.

I am the founder of Simplify Life Organizing Whittier, where I help busy women regain control of their homes so they can focus on what truly matters—enjoying their family and reclaiming their time (and space). I specialize in working with high-achieving women who feel like they're juggling too much at home, creating systems that bring order, ease, and peace to their everyday lives.

As a Whittier native and a second-generation member of SIW, I'm passionate about connecting with and supporting fellow women in business. I believe in the power of collaboration, service, and sharing the wisdom passed down through generations. When I'm not helping my clients create calm from chaos, you can find me spending time with my family (husband Alex, son Teddy, 13 and daughter Maddie, 11), exploring new ways to simplify life, or giving back to the community I love, especially the music board at EWMS.

I'm excited to continue my family's legacy in Soroptimists and look forward to growing alongside this inspiring group of women!

Emma grew up in Whittier and graduated from La Serna High School. She continued her education at Vassar College with a major in history and then earned a Master's degree in Non-Profit Management from The New School.

SIW members are excited to welcome you into membership with us and look forward to getting to know you and serving our Whittier community with you.



**SI WHITTIER CLUB NEWS**

**COMMUNITY DONATIONS FOR 2025**

by Denise Fasheh

These local non-profit organizations were recipients of Service Funds given from the Credit Union Donations account. What a pleasure it was, early in March, for President Cynthia, President elect Denise and Elizabeth Camp, chair of the ad hoc committee to visit these organizations to present the checks!



**Welcome Home Project \$5000. Committee members and Ellen Hardeman met with Bryan Guthrie from WACC/Welcome Home Project**



**Interfaith Food Center \$2500  
Amy Catt and Veronica Castro from Interfaith Food Center**



**Bridge of Faith \$3000  
Carol Reza from Bridge of Faith**



**Whittier First Day \$2500 to Director Donna Gallup & Ananda Williams**



**Rio Hondo Care Program \$5000**

**- Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter \$5000**

**- \$5000 was allocated to our Music Bingo Party fundraiser and Credit Union was recognized as a main sponsor.**

The remaining \$9543.41 will be allocated to our service programs as requested by the committee chairs: \$3000 will go to Ruth White Memorial Scholarship and \$6000 to Mentoring Scholarship. This will leave \$543.41 which can be used to cover luncheon expenses or sponsor lunches as needed.

A big **Thank You** to ad hoc committee members Liz Camp, Chair, Becky Eberle-Romberger, Susan Halliday and Denise Fasheh for their diligence in evaluating the needs and presenting the recommendation to the club for the necessary approval.



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## SI WHITTIER CLUB NEWS

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR MEMBERS JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH



#### JANUARY:

Wendy Kreider 1/2  
Teresa Molina 1/3  
Ellen Hardeman 1/5  
Veronica Franco 1/27  
Natalia Duarte 1/28  
Lori Eshilian 1/28

#### MARCH:

Susan West 3/22  
Susan Halliday 3/30  
Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes 3/31



#### FEBRUARY:

Maria Maestas 2/3  
Teresa Dreyfus 2/9  
Catalina Gonzalez 2/14





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## YOU MISSED A MEETING?

### CARING AND SHARING

#### SIW MEMBERS CONNECT THROUGH “FINES” AND “WELFARE CHECKS” AND SHARING

**Corresponding Secretary, Jeannie Williamson**, is our contact person for sharing and caring for our members this year. We will let Jeannie know if we have health concerns or other needs that we'd like to share with all our club members.

Laura Verdugo, our long-standing chair and contact person at the Rio Hondo College CARE program, faced health concerns and subsequent surgery this past autumn. She has recovered beautifully and is now back to work!

**January 28 FINES.** Many good thoughts going out to Cynthia, Carolyn and Ellen for healing, coping, and good outcomes for challenges.

**Feb 25 FINES.** Susan H was recently in a car accident in her brand-new Outback, ouch! Lots of damage, but the main thing is Susan is OK!

Maggie B recently was feted at a Retirement Celebration following 30-some years on the bench. Congrats, Maggie! Enjoy retirement!

**MARCH 11 FINES.** Jane D recently visited with Margaret Donnellan Todd in Hawaii and reports Margaret doing very well. They have good caregivers for her husband Dave.

Maria and husband Russ celebrated their 30th Anniversary with a 15-day cruise to Hawaii and had a wonderful and relaxing time, especially on the “sea days”.

MaryAnn Pacheco shared her information about being a contestant in this year's Dancing With the Whittier Stars competition. She is selling tickets and raising money which she will donate to WCCS and SIW! It's a Personal Project too!



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## RECAP OF MEETINGS

### CARING AND SHARING (CONT.)

**MARCH 18 FINES.** Good news from Diana! That her husband Raudel is improving following an injury at work.

Liz C. shared news of recent travels, especially her attendance at the UN in New York City.

Jeannie shared news of the Whittier Museum Annual Tea and her recent visit to the Riverside Mission Inn.

Maggie shared the news of her niece Emma's son, Teddy, and his talent playing the cello in the EWMS music recital.

Jan shared news that The Flag Shop will soon close the retail space in their store in Uptown Whittier. However, the Shop can still be contacted and orders placed online and by phone.

**MARCH 25 FINES.** Mary Ann P. reported on her fundraiser with Zumba and Yoga coming up for DWTWS.

Ana Maria reported on her wonderful 3-week trip to New Zealand.

Jeannie reported that husband David will also compete for DWTWS and have a fundraiser at the Whittier Museum with a magic show.

Karen B shared her 45-year anniversary of working at PIH!

Becky's daughter, Victorianne, was married March 8 in Hawaii at a wonderful ceremony in a perfect locale.

Elaine announced a Grief and Loss Workshop in Spanish coming up and that Teresa is fostering Elaine's sister's little dog and searching for a home for him.

Lorraine announced that she will be a presenter at the upcoming DCR Spring Conference as the Membership Chair.



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

**JANUARY – MARCH 2025**

For more details, please see Minutes of business meetings previously emailed by President Cynthia

## HIGHLIGHTS

**JANUARY 7, 2025**

**SOROPTIMIST VILLAGE:** VERONICA FRANCO reported that the Villagers were treated to a fun Christmas Party in December and SIW and other member clubs provided gifts for the 52 residents.

**FINES:** The fun Christmas Party sponsored by the Fines Committee netted \$500.00 for the Conference Fund and a good time was enjoyed by all at the home of Dana Porter.

Our recent **MEMBERSHIP** competition with the Whittier Host Lions club focused on who could recruit the most new members. Since they gained 4 new members and SIW gained 2 new members our club will provide **CUPCAKE TREATS** for the Lions Club meeting this month.





## RECAP OF BUSINESS MEETINGS

### FEBRUARY 4, 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

President Cynthia Nickell announced the induction on January 28th of our new member, EMMA ANGEVINE NARVAEZ. Emma founded her business, "Simplify Life Organizing Whittier". Welcome Emma!

**FUNDRAISING REPORT:** Excitement is at an all-time high as our event is just 2 days away! Our big goal is to raise \$100 GRAND for the Service Fund so we can give it all away to support and assist Women and Girls in our own community!



### MARCH 4, 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

President Cynthia reported that SI Whittier has received a \$10,000 check in support of our service projects from the newly opened branch of City National Bank located at The Groves on Whittier Blvd at Philadelphia St.

President Elect Denise announced the DCR Conference will be held April 25-27 at Hotel Zessa Orange County in Santa Ana.

Elizabeth Camp announced the upcoming Friendship visit by a Soroptimist from New Zealand and asked for a volunteer to provide lodging for Raylene McFarland for a couple of days.



In support of the upcoming Awards Luncheon in April there is a need for our club to sponsor 54 lunches to benefit the recipients. Please consider donating a lunch @ \$45 when making your reservation.



## PROGRAM MEETING NOTES HERE'S A RECAP OF PROGRAM MEETINGS

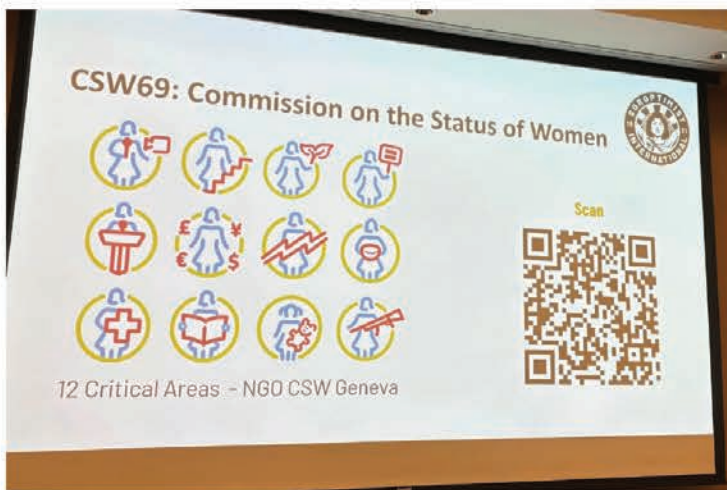
### HIGHLIGHTS



**JANUARY 21st** We substituted an Evening Meeting at the Whittwood Branch Library by hosting Stacy Ciulik, a Soroptimist UN Representative (originally from La Habra) who lives and works in Geneva. Stacy presented “Our Voice at the UN-Soroptimists and Advocacy at the United Nations”. Prime points included:

“Careers Have No Gender”

- IT needs for all
- STEM Subjects
- CSW 30th Anniversary meet at UN in March (Liz Camp and Dolores Hayes will attend)
- NGO Commission on the Status of Women 1973 - 2023
- Advocacy: Local needs of women and girls, local projects. Our info is needed in the database, use [communications@SoroptimistInternational.org](mailto:communications@SoroptimistInternational.org)
- Stand Up – Speak Up – Use your Voice!



We were happy to share this special evening with Soroptimists from 8 local clubs and a special guest was the current SIA President Ginger Cole, SI Los Angeles. Others included officers and leaders of DCR and our District 1.

**January 28th Program** was a final planning meeting for the 2nd annual Music Bingo Party! Lots of excitement and final details communicated.

And the big excitement of the meeting was the **induction of a new member, Emma Angevine Narvaez**. She even paid a fine to introduce her new business!

**February 11th Program** was a recap and debriefing of Music Bingo event last week. Great news! Wonderful success, again surpassing last year's revenue.





## RECAP OF PROGRAM MEETINGS NOTES

**February 18th Program** featured our member Liz Apodaca speaking on The Importance of Trusts. Liz is a highly qualified attorney owning her own business, My Attorney LA, here in Whittier. Her specialty is Estate Planning and Probate as she enjoys assisting people with issues that greatly affect life circumstances. Topics included were

- Prop. 19 and its effect on Prop 13, also known as the Jarvis Law
- Parent to Child transfers
- Advice to leave property in a Trust
- Medi Cal Assistance, Medi Cal Recovery. AB 2016 effective 4/1/25 helps lower-income communities and avoids probate if property appraised at less than \$750,000



**February 25, 2025 Program** featured guest speakers, Deputy Dawn Contreras, LASD Probation Office, and Ruth Delgado, LAX Police Dept. who spoke from the perspective of the Human Trafficking Task Force. The Task Force is said to be a one-stop-shop as many disciplines are encompassed here, i.e. supervising probation officers, CHP, school police, DCFS, Whittier PD and other cities, LAX PD, and the District Attorney's Office.

We were educated, saddened, horrified, and shocked when hearing the facts and scenarios these speakers presented. Those trafficked are found across the entire social spectrum and are easily targeted online through Instagram, Tik Tok, Snapchat, tracking apps, and all social media. A positive note is the passage last September of SB 1414, see [www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov). Look it up!



**March 11, 2025 Program** Speaker Paymaneh Maghsoudi, Director of Whittier Public Library.

Director Maghsoudi has been with our library since 2001 and presented an amazing overview of this outstanding local resource. The Whittwood Branch was renovated in 2012 and the Central Branch in 2022. The range of services and resources is phenomenal. The **#1** takeaway is **GET A LIBRARY CARD!** It will unlock a whole world for you right here in Whittier! "The Whittier Public Library's mission is to connect people to knowledge, to ideas, and to one another."



## RECAP OF PROGRAM MEETINGS NOTES



**March 18, 2025 Program Speaker Shannon DeLong, Interim Whittier City Manager**

Ms. DeLong has been Assistant City Manager for Whittier since 2018 and has been the interim manager for 1 and a half months. Shannon provided an overview of life in our City of Whittier and shared many aspects of progress and projects, both current and future. She highlighted Public Safety, Infrastructure, new and Improved Parks and City Services.

**March 25, 2025 Program Speaker Dr. Kristine Dillon, President, Whittier College**

Dr. Dillon assumed the Presidency of Whittier College in May of 2024 following a year as Interim President. Her strategies for the advancement of Whittier College are proving successful and positive results are visible in the areas of enrollment and admissions. Partnerships and connections have been and continue to be forged between the college and the community, notably such as with City of Whittier with scholarships to freshmen, "Whittier Works" which connects classroom learning with hands-on experiences. Some sports programs are being reinstated, notably football and lacrosse.

