



President Cynthia's Message

Welcome to another exciting SIW program year! I am honored to be leading this dynamic and influential group of women that makes up Soroptimist International of Whittier.

Already your Club members have 1) provided a Live Your Dream workshop to the women at Rio Hondo; 2) connected with Katherine Edwards Middle School to schedule Dream It Be It ; 3) met with our S Club Counselor at Cal High; 4) Scheduled our Music Bingo fundraiser for February 6, 5) attended District, Region and Federation level meetings, and 6) received \$25,000 from Credit Union of Southern California.

And that's after a fun summer full of Fun Lunches near and far! You ladies are amazing. I am thrilled to be part of this Club as we continue to work together this year, enabling women and girls to live their Dreams.

Serving in Harmony,

President Cynthia

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Serving in Harmony

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 2024

CLUB CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 1st – Business Meeting 12 noon at Mimi's Café and via Zoom
- 5th – DCR District 1 Meeting at Norwalk Senior Center
- 8th – Fundraising Updates: TEAM REPORTS
- 15th – Whittier City Council by Mary Ann Pacheco
- 17th – SIW Board meeting, 12 noon Whittier Chamber Office
- 22nd – DARK AT NOON. Please attend the Village Annual Meeting this evening
- 22nd – Soroptimist Village Annual Meeting. 5-8 PM at the Village. Includes dinner
- 29th – FINES FUN MEETING 12 noon at Mimi's Café

NOVEMBER

- 5th – Business Meeting 12 noon Mimi's Café and via Zoom

Summer Fun Lunches



Field trip to San Antonio Winery



Cava Restaurant at The Groves



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UPCOMING EVENTS



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FOUNDER'S DAY

October 3

On October 3, 1921...

a group of women in Oakland, California, USA,
agreed to charter the first ever Soroptimist club.

103 years of impact!



These women pioneers, led by
President Violet Richardson, united
in their purpose to create an
organization committed to improving
the lives of women and girls.

Happy Founder's Day! On this day in 1921, the first Soroptimist club was chartered by women pioneers and first President Violet Richardson. Now, 103 years later, we are a global network of Soroptimist federations with more than 75,000 members across six continents! We are so grateful for our members' ongoing hard work, generosity, and passion for our mission.



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UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

SOROPTIMIST VILLAGE ANNUAL MEETING

October 22nd our noon meeting will be DARK and we will instead have the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting of the Village in Norwalk at 12657 Foster Road. 5-8 p.m.

The cost is \$25 per person and a Taco Bar dinner will be served. We are free to bring our own wine as desired.

A tour of the property and housing units will take place and we can view the completed rebuilding of the fire damaged units.





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UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

SIA: SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Healing Through Hope: Mary's Survivor Journey

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to recognize the harsh reality many women face. Domestic violence is not only pervasive, affecting 1 in 3 women globally, but often derails women's educational goals.

For over a decade, Mary endured the devastating effects of domestic violence while her dream of becoming a nurse slipped further from reach.

Now, thanks to the support of Soroptimist and the *Live Your Dream Awards*, Mary is on the path to empowerment. Read her full story in your Oct. Best For Women email.



SoroptimistsUpliftHER First Quarter Focus: Intimate Partner



Violence

This October, we're spotlighting education and empowerment for women affected by intimate partner violence as part of our #SoroptimistsUpliftHER initiative. Is your club ready to [take action?](#) See Oct. Best For Women

Domestic Violence Awareness Pledge

Take the [pledge to end violence against women](#) and discover five ways you can support survivors of domestic violence this October through LiveYourDream.org.



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SI WHITTIER CLUB NEWS

FUNDRAISING

IT'S OFFICIAL! SIW'S FUNDRAISING SEASON IS HERE AND ALL OF US ARE ON THIS TEAM!!

Here is the official flyer to be used by each of us to gain sponsorships and sell, sell, sell tickets to the 2nd Annual Music Bingo Party.

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



SI WHITTIER CLUB NEWS CONTINUED

FUNDRAISING CONTINUED

Fundraising Director Carolyn Theisen led an energizing meeting on Sept 10 and we are enthused and ready to meet our goal of raising \$100,000 this year at the February 6, 2025 event!

\$100 GRAND Candy Bars sweetened the deal and maybe Carolyn will have more at our next meeting....DON'T MISS IT!

Tuesday, (9-10-24) at our noon Soroptimist meeting – we had our first Fundraising “Committee Meeting” where 17 members were in attendance. After discussion the group made the following decisions:

1) It was unanimous that the Club repeat MUSIC BINGO on Thursday evening, February 6, 2025 – and that the ticket price be increased to \$125.

2) There was no objection to setting our goals: a) to raise \$90 to \$100 Grand b) to sell 200 tickets.

3) Everyone agreed to concentrate on Sponsorships and Ticket Sales from now to Dec. 1st.

4) We presented a list of 6 teams with 7 members each, representing a way to get 100% participation from our membership. The group was supportive of this idea.

Please look at the team list, find your name – reach out to your team members and in the true SIW Spirit... get organized...Let's Get Started!! PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS & IDEAS WITH US!

Let's see which team will be the first to get sponsorships & sell tickets!





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SI WHITTIER CLUB NEWS CONTINUED

CLUB LEADERSHIP THANK YOU

We appreciate the members who volunteered to be Officers and Directors of SI Whittier 2024 – 2025. The following will lead our club this year and will be:



2024-2025 Elected Board of Directors

President – Cynthia Nickell
President Elect – Denise Fasheh
Immediate Past President – Maria Maestas
Recording Secretary – Ellen Hardeman
Corresponding Secretary – Jeannie Williamson
Treasurer – Petra Schmischke
Assistant Treasurer – Dolores Hayes
SI/SIA Programs Director – Teresa Molina
SIW Programs Director – Kathy Dowling
Fundraising Director – Carolyn Theisen
Public Awareness Director – Ruthie Flores Retana
Membership Director – Liz Apodaca
Parliamentarian (appointed) – Maggie Bernal

Soroptimist Village Directors

Elected Positions on the Village Foundation Board

One Year – Teresa Molina
Two Years – Elaine Kindle
Three Years (proxy) – Veronica Franco

Delegates to Region

One Year – Maria Maestas
Two Years – Cynthia Nickell
Three Years – Denise Fasheh

Thank You for supporting the club goals and projects!



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SI WHITTIER CLUB NEWS CONTINUED

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR MEMBERS
JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

July and August birthdays, celebrated at the Business Meetings, featured these warm and wonderful women:



JULY:

17th Judi Henderson,
21st Jeannie Williamson, 23rd Nancy Meschuk,
28th Ana Maria Ramirez

AUGUST:

3rd Margaret Donnellan, 5th Martha Morales, 6th Maggie Bernal,
7th Carolyn Theisen, 15th Petra Schmischke, 19th Kim Ortega,
20th Jan Mericle, 21st Cynthia Navarro, 25th Lorraine Quiroz,
30th Jane Dicus



SEPTEMBER brought Autumn leaves and these colorful women:

4th Denise Fasheh, 8th Diane Britton, 10th Mary Rawalt,
13th Laura Verdugo, 20th Diane York, 28th Irene Muro,
30th Karen Bjoquist





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MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

JENNY HERRINGTON

Jenny Herrington is a new Soroptimist who joined on October 1 because of her shared passion for equipping and empowering women and girls to live their fullest lives.

In July of this year, Jenny founded Herrington Consulting. This boutique HR consulting firm provides one-on-one support for small business owners and helps them create the structure and strategy they need to protect their businesses and set their teams up for success. She loves to help alleviate the HR stressors that keep employers up at night by providing them with the tools and support they need to handle the day-to-day issues that come their way.

Jenny has over 25 years of teaching and HR experience and is a Biola University graduate with multiple credentials, including being a Society for Human Resource Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) and a certified HR Consultant.

She has been married to Greg for 29 years, and they have two grown children (Jake and Kate), a Golden Retriever (Cassy), and a Chiweenie rescue (Poppy). Jenny has been a Whittier Area Community Church member since 1995 and serves there as a mentor for young moms. She is a competitive synchronized swimmer who loves to travel, listen to audiobooks, and recently learned to finger knit. She is excited to be a Soroptimist and looks forward to getting involved.





YOUTH TRAINING CAMP



September 24, 2024 GUEST SPEAKER LOLA ABRAHAMIAN PRESENTS THE LUGARI YOUTH TRAINING CAMP IN AFRICA

At last April's Desert Coast Region Conference, many of our Club members heard an inspiring presentation about a Youth Training Camp for Girls in Africa.

The presenter was Lola Abrahamian. She has just completed two years serving as the Governor of the Camino Real Region of SIA, just west of our Desert Coast Region. As a past SIA Governor, she is now known as a Soroptimist "STAR." (Supporters, Teachers, Advocates and Resources).

Pat Whitacre, last year's Governor of our own Desert Coast Region, challenged clubs to match her personal grant supporting this important project. The Whittier Club joined many other clubs in pledging our support. The SIW board of directors has reviewed our budget to verify there are sufficient funds to support this cause, and have voted to donate \$1,000 of our Club's service fund to support the project on behalf of SI Whittier.

This inspiring program was presented by the Immediate Past Governor of the Camino Real Region, Lola Abrahamian. We shared in her view of the important work Soroptimist is doing in the Africa Region, learning of unique needs and living conditions which are totally outside the realm of our consciousness. Specifically, we learned of a Youth Leadership and Mentoring Training camp for girls in Lugari, Africa. President Cynthia, on behalf of SIW, presented a check for \$1,000 to STAR Lola in support of this program.

Following is a summary of the Youth Training Camp, as posted under "SI President's Appeal" a few years ago.



10 DECEMBER - LUGARI YOUTH TRAINING ON THE ROAD TO EQUALITY

10 December is traditionally the day Soroptimists join together in support of the SI President's Appeal; a tradition established by SI President Catharine Salt in 1981. This year has proved a challenging time for all, and as we attempt to make plans for 2021, one thing is evident, and that is that our work providing safety, justice, and opportunity for women and girls around the world, is as important as it ever was.

Since 2019, and throughout these testing times, the Road to Equality President's Appeal has built and maintained partnerships; working with the Global Media Campaign to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the Free A Girl Movement, on the 'Voice of Justice' campaign. Recent months have seen the launch of the highly popular SI Voices series of webinars, where over 2,000 people have registered to hear the thoughts and experiences of expert panelists, together with inspiring stories, which has increased awareness of the Appeal's six key themes: FGM, Human Trafficking, Rights for Older Persons, Migration, Domestic Violence, and Child Marriage.

The Appeal is gathering donations and plans to support the Youth Leadership and Mentoring Training held at the Lugari Community Resource Centre, led by Khayanga Wasike, CEO and President of the Willing Hearts International Society Canada. The annual event for girls aged 14-18, offers leadership skills, empowering young women to become catalysts of positive change within their communities. *Strong voices standing against harmful gender discriminatory practices*, the training programme affords girls with the knowledge and education on FGM, child marriage, and domestic violence, key themes of the Road to Equality Appeal.



CREDIT UNION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA \$25,000 DONATION



SI WHITTIER is again honored to receive a \$25,000 donation from the Credit Union of Southern California (CUSoCal). The check was presented by Liz Camp, representing the Credit Union and is part of their annual commitment to Building Better Lives in our community!

Further, the SI Whittier ad hoc Credit Union Committee recommends disbursing \$5,000 from this gift for our support of the upcoming WCCS Domestic Violence Symposium, scheduled for October 24, 2024.

JUNE 18, 2024 MEETING GUEST SPEAKER CAROL REZA



Program speaker Carol Reza, Bridge of Faith. After foster care, what? Bridge of Faith After Care!

Carol is the founder of Bridge of Faith...H.O.M.E. (Home Opportunity Meets Emancipation) and she inspired all of us with the scope and growth of this non-profit organization over the years. Her vision has provided education in life skills, job training, safety, security, hope, love, and a sense of belonging and purpose to countless women over the past 28 years in a unique home setting where the young women receive the gift of a home to live in while receiving love and guidance.

As Soroptimists, it is important to be very aware of other entities within our Whittier community whose vision and purpose closely aligns with ours. In our club's history, Carol was once honored with our Woman of Distinction Award.



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

JULY 2, 2024 BUSINESS MEETING

President Cynthia's goals for beginning our new term are for members to get to know one another better, and to connect each member to committee assignments. Attending summer fun lunches is greatly encouraged. Petra will draft a Budget for the new year, and the Roster will be updated.



AUGUST 6, 2024 BUSINESS MEETING

Delegates to the July SIA Convention had a very positive experience and will make a detailed report at a future meeting. DCR Leadership Academy for our officers is Sept 7 in the San Diego area.

Treasurer Kathy Dowling reported a General Fund shortfall.

Summer Fun Lunches were FUN and enjoyed by many.



BUSINESS MEETING NOTES CONTINUED

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 BUSINESS MEETING

The DCR District 1 Winter Meeting will be Oct. 5 in Norwalk. All are welcome.

Corresponding Secretary Jeannie reported that the volume of printed mail received has decreased and noted that many clubs communicate via email instead.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. It is recommended by the Board to send rosters to each member electronically and to have printed rosters available at \$10 per copy for those wishing to purchase one.
2. Bylaws and Procedures suggestions due by Sept. 15 to Chair Diana Gonzalez.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The proposed budget was presented by Petra and after discussion was passed by a vote.
2. The SIA Live Your Dream Portal is open for applications and hand written apps may also be submitted. A new contact is needed at Rio Hondo College CARE Program as Laura Verdugo cannot serve this term due to health concerns. The girls need our support. A Sept. 27 workshop is scheduled to assist them with applications.
3. Membership report: we need to increase Fines donations and special parties/events will be held.





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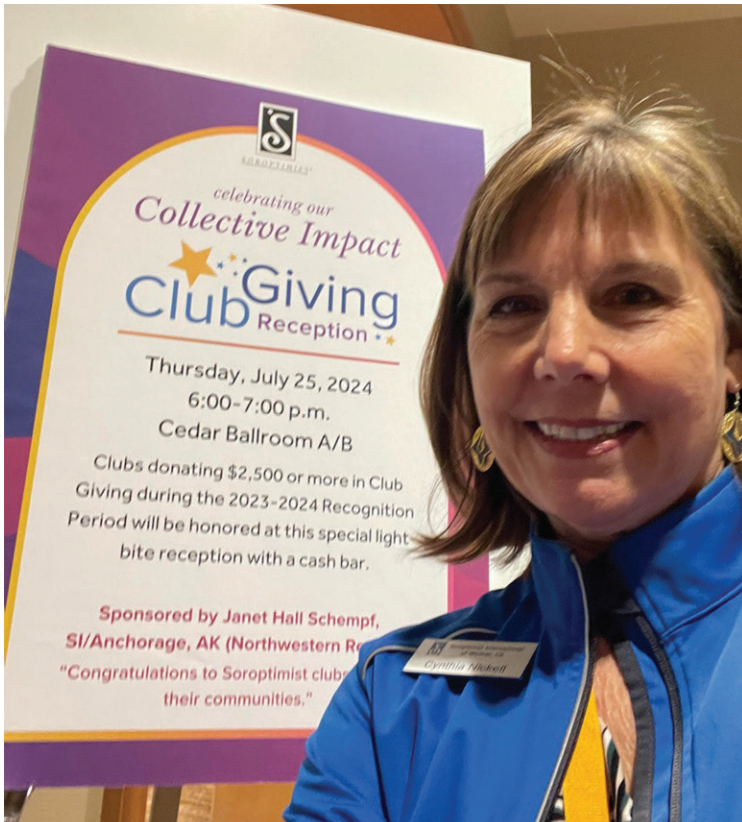
SOLT: SOROPTIMIST ORIENTATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

SIA 48TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION MEMORIES

By Cynthia Nickell, Denise Fasheh and Liz Camp

The convention was held in July in Bellevue, WA and attended by our able Delegates, President Cynthia Nickell and President Elect Denise Fasheh, accompanied by member Liz Camp.

Each enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to attend and shared their favorite insights with club members. DENISE particularly enjoyed meeting and establishing connections with Soroptimists from across our Federation and as well as the sharing of the habits and practices of many other clubs.



PRESIDENT CYNTHIA clued us in about the *BIG GOAL* of SIA which is to have helped 500,000 women and girls through access to education by the year 2031. She also noted that our own Lois Neece Program was recognized in the ACCELERATOR Program area.

LIZ, as always very tuned in to the international component of our organization, enlightened us specifically as regards the participation of SI as NGO (non-governmental organization) with special status at the United Nations.