



# THE SNAIL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER BY  
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF CHICO

JUNE 2019

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

## Calendar

### Business Meetings

June 5

June 19

### Installation

June 13

6:00 PM

Almendra Winery  
Tickets are \$40/pp  
or \$75 per couple

### SNR Development Retreat

Reno, Nevada

July 27-28

## Summer Lunches 12-1

July 3 – La Comida

July 10 – La Hacienda

July 17 – Burger Hut

July 24 – La Hacienda

July 31 – Cozy Diner

Aug 7 – Burger Hut

Aug 14 – La Comida

Aug 21 – La Hacienda

Aug 28 – Cozy Diner

## THE LAUREL SOCIETY

by President Bonnie Chapman

In 1994, SIA established the Laurel Society as a way of recognizing Soroptimists who have made giving to the organization a priority. Laurel Society giving ensures consistent monetary support for Soroptimist Programs. There are many levels of giving and means of support members can pledge in order to be part of this effort.

**Do it for the pin!** The Laurel Society pin includes a pretty laurel leaf design taken from the original Soroptimist emblem. Laurel leaves are symbolic of victory, success and friendship, which represents our members perfectly. It features the SIA "S" logo because it is a recognition program of our organization. There are levels of contribution that have been given diplomatic names and there is a lovely stone in the center of the Laurel Society pin that signifies your Laurel level, starting with the Attache level and sapphire stone then moving up through other levels and precious stones.

**Do it for the party!** The Laurel Society throws great parties for it's members, so if for no other reason...consider joining so you get an invite! At the SIA convention in Yokohama, Japan, last summer, they threw a super fun 60's themed party for the Laurel Society, complete with live music, amazing food and members in festive costumes.

**Do it for posterity!** An offshoot program called Laurel Legacy encourages members to commit to making Soroptimist a beneficiary in your will. A special pin is given to members who make this choice. Once the gift is received, the donor's name is added to a memorial plaque at SIA headquarters.

**Do it once, monthly or like a Visionary!** You can become a Laurel Society member by donating any of the designated amounts as a one-time gift at the level of your choice. You can also become a monthly donor with a minimum monthly donation of \$25. Members can designate which programs they want their donations to support or leave it unrestricted to use toward all of Soroptimists' work. The 1921 Visionaries is a special society that gives tribute to donors who make contributions over five consecutive years.

**Do it for women and girls!** The point of all of this is truly to help our organization change the lives of tens of thousands of women and girls around the world over time and to continue this important work. The Laurel Society efforts have raised over 12 million dollars since inception, and there are almost 7,000 members. There are many reasons to join, ways to join and motivators for those who do. **Who wants to do it?!**

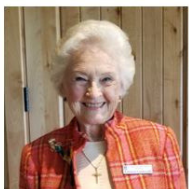


## New Members

We have inducted 9 more new members in the past 3 months! In total, 14 new members were inducted this year!



From left to right are: Michelle Siracusa, Danielle Leiper, Sandra Knight, and Katee Riesinger.



Erin Smith, Shawn Murphy, Linda Lunsford, Patricia Cockcroft, and Sue Bechtol

Celebrating 50 years with our club! Vilma Starnes



## SOROPTIMIST PRESIDENCY HERE I COME!

by Carrie Pavis

As our Soroptimist year draws near the end, I am haunted by what I agreed to do, become the Soroptimist Chico President for the years of 2019-2020. I am not a public speaker and I really don't like to have all the attention on me. I am, however, honored and humbled by the support of all of SI Chico's membership. I will do everything in my power to be a great leader, role model, and Soroptimist President. Please mark your calendars for some fun upcoming events:



**Installation** on June 13th at Almendra Winery in Durham, **Summer BBQ** will be August 24th at TJ-Farms, and **Retreat** is September 7th at The Warehouse in Chico.

My plans for next year are not entirely planned out, but I am planning on continuing our work with Senior Camp Fire Survivors. I would also like to help out Senior Girls from Paradise and Fairview. I will be working on a plan to continue support and mentorship to a Fairview Senior who has completed the Dream It Be It program.

I look forward to a lot of fun, hard work and also to not taking life so seriously and being the best women we can be.

## ERASE THE STIGMA



Our second event was held on May 9th at the Chico Elks Lodge. This year's panel focused on their own fire experiences, PTSD, depression and other issues facing those with mental

health challenges. We had 14 resource tables, goodie bags and even a magnet with Carol Thomson's artwork on it. From the surveys of both the attendees and the vendors, we received high marks for the program and have already started to build a database for those interested in next year's event. A huge thank you to Sierra Nevada Region for the endowment grant and to SI Chico for the financial support as well as all the help!

## TINY HOUSES



Billie and Maureen presented a \$13,000 check to Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT) Board members. These funds will sponsor two tiny houses such as the one pictured, for homeless senior women who are Camp Fire survivors. We will be co-sponsoring one of the two houses with SI Nara Japan, in recognition of their generous help with the Camp Fire.

## DREAM IT • BE IT CAREER SUPPORT {for girls}



## “DREAM” PROGRAMS A SUCCESS FOR 2018-19

by Gayle Aylward

SI Objectives Committee is responsible for the LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD and the DREAM IT, BE IT program each year. Both of these programs are the focus of Soroptimist Int'l of the America's mission to improve the lives of women and girls. These two programs are delivered by local clubs like ours, throughout 21 countries. Through many years of experience working with women and girls, SIA has learned that education is the key to unlocking economic empowerment. When women and girls are educated, they have opportunity, choice and power to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families.

The [Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women](#) assist women who provide the primary financial support for their families. Nearly all recipients have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, and drug or alcohol addiction. Live Your Dream Awards give women the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Award recipients may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education. Over \$2 million is distributed to about 1500 women all over the world each year. This year, SI Chico awarded a total of \$3500 between three well deserving recipients in February. Our first place winner, Andrea Moore's, application was submitted to the Sierra Nevada Region level, for an additional award, but did not place. Committee member, Rosie Potestio was amazing at managing the awards this year.

SIA launched the [Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls](#) program to give girls the tools they need to achieve their education and career goals. We prioritize working with girls who have additional obstacles including poverty, unstable home lives, living in foster care, or teen motherhood. Soroptimist clubs work with girls in small groups or a conference setting providing tools and information to help overcome their obstacles, set goals, and head towards success. This was the 2nd year SI Chico partnered with SI Bidwell Rancho to bring the Dream It, Be It curriculum to 15 students at Fairview High School in a 1 hour classroom setting over a 7 week period between March 27th and May 8th. SI Orland helped financially. Speakers from various careers in the community were invited to motivate and introduce the students to different career opportunities. Students enjoyed burritos from La Hacienda and cupcakes on the last day to celebrate completion of the course while they shared what they learned and how it will help them in their futures.

Many thanks to committee members Renee Thatford, Jeanne Smith, Chelsea Pavone and Margarita Vega for their time on this program. Special thanks to Carol Burr, Pam Baldwin, Kit Oldham, Bonnie Chapman, Sara Beecham, Cyndi Murdoch, Carrie Pavis, Gail Holbrook, Dawn Fideli, Rosie Potestio and Maureen Duquette who volunteered to make the program a success.



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

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

*If you would like to opt out of receiving this newsletter, email [natalieconrad@sichico.com](mailto:natalieconrad@sichico.com)*

## *#SoroptimistStrong*

### *Friendship Link - SI Nara*

By Natalie Conrad



Soroptimist International of Nara is a friendship link to our SI Chico club. We stay in touch with each other and try to provide encouragement and support for each other's projects. Last July, a few of us were able to spend a day in Nara, Japan and met many members of their club. This photo is at the hotel of one of their members; we had a wonderful luncheon and program there that day. Every year, our president communicates with the SI Nara club to share what we

are doing and to hear about their club. SI Nara sends us well wishes every December or January. For the past 2 years, they have also sewn dresses for the Dress A Girl project and provided monetary support! This year, they contacted us right away when hearing of the Camp Fire. SI Nara has sent financial donations TWICE to support our efforts in helping with Camp Fire needs. In return, we are proud to have them as a co-sponsor on a CHAT tiny house that will be built this fall in Chico. This tiny house will house a senior woman displaced by the Camp Fire.