



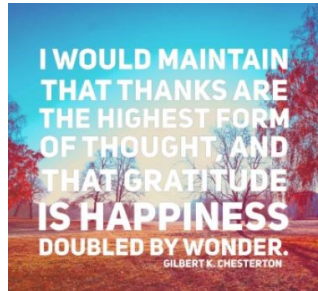
SOROPTIMIST®  
Investing in Dreams



September 2020

Volume 3, Issue 1

## President's Message



phone call or a text to let someone know you are thinking of them. We can continue to support one another in many ways. This is a time to think outside the box and get creative, I can't think of a better group of ladies to do this with. I'm grateful to have all of you in my life and I'm happy to have the honor of serving as your club president this year.

With gratitude,

*President Billie*



Greetings fellow Soroptimists,

It's hard to believe our summer break is over and we are starting a new club year. I would like to thank all our club members for paying their dues and signing on for another year of the unknown. I am grateful all of you are continuing to support our club and each other through these interesting and sometimes challenging times.

I would also like to thank all of our Board members and Co-Chairs who have stepped up to help keep our club running smoothly this year. I'm feeling grateful to be a member of such a wonderful organization. It truly makes me happy to see all of you, whether it is in person or on zoom!

I have collaborated with SI Bidwell Rancho President, Babette, to co-host a joint club SUDS on Zoom for September 17, 2020. This will be a fun evening of games and socializing. I can't think of a better way to kick off the new club year than spending time laughing and having fun with my fellow Soroptimists.

During these times of COVID-19, it's important to continue to reach out to one another, even if it's just a



*"Growing gratitude"*



a global voice  
for women

### Soroptimist Lab— One global voice for women & girls

The Soroptimist International LAB was officially launched during SI's first ever digital Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday July 29 . Become a member of the SI LAB and you can discuss, contribute, collaborate, and connect with Soroptimists from all around the world. **JOIN US!** at [Soroptimist Lab](#) click on the Request to Join.

#### Calendar

##### Business Meetings

Sept. 2

Oct. 7

Nov. 4

Dec. 2

##### Programs via Zoom

Sept. 9-Habitat for Humanity

Sept. 16- Catalyst

Oct. 14 -ARC

Oct 21-need speaker

Nov. 11-MAINS'L

Nov. 18-Christmas in November?  
(Internal Fundraiser)

#### ZOOM SUDS

Sept. 17-SI Chico & Bidwell Rancho  
hosted by President Billie & President Babette

#### SI Chico Installation & Retreat

Sept. 20- Merlo Park Stirling City  
(tentative due to fires & COVID-19)



# The Power of Inclusion and Belonging

By President-Elect Sara Beacham

The last several months have proven to be challenging. (Understatement of the year, I know!) Businesses and schools have had to shut down completely, and leisure time shifted from going out to dinner and a movie to ordering take-out and finding a film on-demand. Adapting is the new normal.

Our organization was affected by these shut-downs, too. (I know, stating the obvious again.) All of our in-person lunch meetings and committee meetings went virtual. All our conferences and conventions were postponed, then delivered virtually. In these hard times, our leaders have guided us through the shift from in-person meetings to Zoom meetings and online seminars. Our summer lunch meetings were moved to small socially distanced lunches in the park and coffee “dates” in a member’s backyard. Is this what we had in mind when we started 2020? Not me. I envisioned lots of traveling and lots of learning. I was really looking forward to it. Alas, the world had other ideas.

Many of our members are business owners. We enjoy supporting these member-owned businesses whenever possible. Covid-19 not only took away our ability to meet our Soroptimist sisters in person, we also faced the shut down our businesses. Our human-to-human interactions became next to zero. (Thank goodness for fur babies that provide us with endless entertainment!) We have had to learn new ways to interact with each other and survive in business.

In the “old world”, our everyday challenges at SI Chico were how to raise more money, find a committee we wanted to serve on, and who we wanted to invite to lunch meetings as a guest. Overcoming the new everyday challenges that we face in these trying and unusual times is now expected and almost routine. Each and every one of us is dealing with the shutdowns, quarantines, and virtual meetings in our own ways.

For some, it’s an easy transition, and for others, we might as well be on an alien planet.

When it comes to the virus specifically, each one of us is handling our anxiety of it differently. Some of us are comfortable moving forward in safety, wearing our masks out to run errands. Others of us are sticking to a strict shelter in place routine and having all our services delivered. Fear and comfort are two sides of the same coin. Where there is one person comfortable enough to travel, there is another not willing to take any additional risks outside of their sphere in order to protect themselves and their loved ones. No one view is right or wrong. We have to give space and grace to every comfort level. Each one of us wants to be a part of this club, and each member deserves to be included.

We have a large club with 79 members who decided to renew this year. That’s outstanding! Governor Sarah said in a recent SNR e-blast, “Every member of our clubs adds value, they deserve trust and respect, they need purpose and an inspiring motivator, and an understanding that serving others as a group is paramount.” I could not agree more. Many of the conversations I have had over the last several months circles around this idea that each one of our 79 members has something to offer. Each member is unique in talents, skills, and service. Collectively, that makes this club – SI Chico – the best club in the region, in my humble opinion, and probably in 78 others, too.

Just because we can’t do business as usual, just because we can’t meet in large groups as a club, just because we have to “see” each other over video, does not mean that we should give up. We can’t give up on our mission. We can’t give up on each other. There will be challenges, of course. When is there a club year without challenges? Anyone remember the Home & Garden years? I certainly do; I spent three years as a

co-chair of that monster. Did I quit? No. Did I know what I was doing? Most of the time, no. Does that mean that I should not be a part of the club? Definitely, no.

Every one of you, as a member of the best club in the SNR region, has something to offer. There’s a lot going on in the world right now, and sometimes, we need a little help discovering what that something is. Find someone in the club who has been there before or inspires you. Maybe there is a past president you trust, and you think could offer some great advice. The key is to find the thing – the service project or event – and make it your own. That doesn’t mean you need to reinvent the wheel. What that means is you get to put your touch on it, your creativity, your spin, your love.

I understand the frustrations of not being able to do business as usual. I am a business owner and have had to make several shifts in my business model to survive. Not all of my clients have returned to doing things the same way we did in the “old world”. Some have maintained their social distance in a shelter-in-place; others are willing to social distance in person. As the leader of my business, I need to make sure that each one of my clients gets the opportunity to experience the training and expertise I have to offer at the level they are comfortable with. We can do the same with SI Chico. We have the ability to include each one of our members and do great things at the same time.

I challenge every member to find a way to expand inclusivity in our club and in our community. That power multiplied can be very powerful. We can certainly reach our goals and serve our community as aligned with our mission and vision with the power of belonging to SI Chico and the strength of inclusivity.



## SIA 46<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION RECAP

By Sandi Decker Director Delegate

The SIA 46th Biennial Virtual Convention was held July 22 – 24. The content will remain on their website though the end of the year at [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org).

Since 2012 Soroptimist has been working successfully at engaging all members to focus on building an increased collective impact through the Dream Programs. We have provided nearly 13,000 women with the Live Your Dream award and have supported those women with over \$18,000,000 in funding. And we have served more than 73,000 through the DIBI program.

## SNR 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

By Sandi Decker Director Delegate

The 44th Annual Sierra Nevada Region Virtual Conference is available at [www.soroptimistsnr.org](http://www.soroptimistsnr.org).

We are very proud to announce that Lisa Fitzgerald, a former member of SI Chico was elected as Governor-elect for the 2020-2022 Board of Directors. Great job Lisa! We look forward to working with you.

The Live Your Dream program had a record-breaking year. 52 clubs awarded \$118,600 to 86 women. Please go on the website to hear the stories of these amazing women.

### Upcoming Programs



September 9, 2020  
Coordinator: Joyce Brown  
Speaker: Jenny Fales, MA  
Development Manager



Jenny Fales, MA Development Manager will share Habitat's mission, history, how the homeowner model works, and homeowner qualifications. Jenny will also share a few of the Mulberry Street Project Camp Fire survivor stories, highlight volunteers and community partners, and how Habitat is funded. Lastly Jenny will talk about the ReStore, the Rebuild Paradise Project and how to get involved.



September 16, 2020  
Coordinator: Billie Araiza  
Speaker: Nat Calcutta  
Children's Advocate



Nat Calcutta, Children's Advocate will be presenting on HAVEN, Catalyst's emergency, confidential shelter for survivors of domestic violence with specific attention on our Children's Program and the open playroom remodeling project. The goal of this project is to redesign the exiting playroom at HAVEN using a trauma informed designed approach to create a space that is welcoming for children of all ages, calming to support trauma healing and promote developmental progress, mentally and emotionally.



October 14, 2020  
Coordinator: Billie Araiza

\*No information available at time of release\*



November 11, 2020  
Coordinator: Billie Araiza

\*No information available at time of release\*

### A dash of SOLT by Joyce Brown

The name Soroptimist was coined from the Latin soror meaning sister, and optima meaning best. And so Soroptimist is perhaps best interpreted as 'the best for women'.



Charter members of the first Soroptimist Club, 1921

In 1921, the first Soroptimist club, Alameda County was formed in California with over 80 business and professional women from in and around the city of Oakland. With Violet Richardson as the first President, back then the first club, which changed its name to SI Oakland in 1928, met weekly, debating service projects and hearing speakers on various worldwide issues that would broaden members' horizons.

The first project was to 'Save the Redwoods' – the great ancient trees which were being felled and the club lobbied the legislature, taking on powerful lumber companies, and winning public support, which resulted in a major portion of the forest being set aside as protected land, that still exists today. Additional Soroptimist clubs soon followed along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, amounting to 15 clubs within 5 years, with a growing concern for women in their communities.



## INTERNAL FUNDRAISERS

## CO-CHAIRS BEV ROZENDAAL &amp; KIMM RANDLE

## TOOT YOUR HORN



(Temporary substitute for Happy \$\$)

Share with us any interesting events in your life, short trips you have taken, any new hobbies, what books you're reading, what old/new movies you're streaming, etc

Send a quick 4 liner (maximum) to Joyce Brown ([joycebrown@sichico.com](mailto:joycebrown@sichico.com)) by Saturday for the upcoming E Blast.

\*No charge – courtesy of your Internal Fundraising Committee

## Announcing Our New Fundraiser Bistro Box

The Fundraising Committee regrets to announce the postponement of our grand fundraiser this year, The Epicurean Rendezvous. We are hoping to continue the yearly tradition in the fall of 2021, once we are cleared for large gatherings.



However, we are VERY excited to announce this year's new fundraiser ... *\*drum roll, please\** ... Introducing Soroptimist International of Chico's **BISTRO BOX**, featuring Chef Ann Leon! The Bistro Box will contain all the fresh ingredients

you'll need to make your own meal at home, your choice of 2 or 4 servings. Included in the box will be a recipe card plus a private YouTube video link where you will get to watch Chef Ann Leon preparing the dish while you prepare it along with her in the safety of your own home. Add-ons will include wine pairings and specialty alcoholic drinks. A subscription to 4 seasonal boxes will be offered at a discount, or you could purchase individual boxes at a set rate. We will offer free drive-thru box pick up or delivery for a fee. Pre-orders will be set up on our website for the convenience of prepayments and to customize the box with drinks and add-ons. Stay tuned for more information on our Fall Bistro Box to come in the next month, and start sharpening your kitchen knives - we guarantee you will be in for a treat with these specialty dishes!

Lupe Medrano and Daran Goodsell

SI Chico Fundraising Co-Chairs

Greetings from your Soroptimist International of Chico "Internal" Fundraising Committee

2020/2021 is turning out to be a very unusual time for Soroptimist as well as many others. With no plans as of now, as to when we can meet again in person, we are trying to be creative in ways to raise funds.

We are having a 1/2 price summer sale on our 2019 inventory of Soroptimist t-shirts and polo shirts. If you are interested, please give Kimm Randle a call (408-710-0432) and she can let you know the colors and sizes still available. We will be happy to deliver them and pick up a check made out to SICChico (or cash) at that time.



## 100-Year Legacy Project

By President-Elect Sara Beacham

The year 1921 was an iconic year for women. Amelia Earhart started her flying lessons and bought her first plane. Edith Wharton became the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for her novel *The Age of Innocence*. In February 1921, Vermont voted to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment – Women's Right to Vote. In Oakland, California, Soroptimist International was founded to bring change to the lives of women and girls worldwide.

The legacy of Soroptimist is something that we all can be proud of. As part of the centennial celebration in 2021, President Billie and I have teamed up to launch our club's 100-Year Legacy Project. This idea was brought to us by past presidents to honor the legacy of Soroptimist and its mission to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

We are currently accepting grant applications for funding this 100-Year Legacy Project on our website at [soroptimistchico.org/100-years-legacy-project](http://soroptimistchico.org/100-years-legacy-project). Grant applications will be reviewed in September, and an organization's project will be selected for the members to vote on in October or November. There is quite a nice nest-egg set aside for this project already. We are hoping to select a project that speaks to our mission and vision as Soroptimists.

Our goal with the 100-Year Legacy Project is to leave our mark on our local community in ways that align with our mission and spread the word about Soroptimist. Did you know Emma Wilson was our club's first president? Did you also know that Hester Patrick was a founding member and seventh president of our club? We are looking at expanding our marketing and public awareness of Soroptimist by placing billboard advertisements and news segments, as well as promotional videos and more, to spread the word about our club's history and its legacy. We even have a dedicated PR representative, Bonnie Chapman, and dedicated email address for this project at [legacy100@sichico.com](mailto:legacy100@sichico.com).

We look forward to spreading the word about the amazing women in our organization and the outstanding service we provide to improve the lives of women and girls in our local community and worldwide. Just imagine what we can accomplish in the next 100 years.