

## President's Message

### Calendar

#### Business Meetings

- January 4
- February 1
- March 1
- April 6 (Zoom)
- May 3
- June 7 (Zoom)
- June 21

### Programs

- January 11 Valley Contractors
- January 18 SI Chico Birthday
- February 8 Chico Friends of the Library
- February 15 Illuminaid
- March 8 Enloe Volunteer Service
- March 15 Giving Awards
- April 12 Live Your Dream
- April 19 Giving Awards
- May 10 Dream It Be It
- May 17 Golf Tourney recap
- June 14 President's Farewell



Hello Fellow Soroptimists,

I can't believe the first half of my presidency is over. So much has happened in six short months.

I want to applaud our committee chairs— many of them stepped up to lead in new roles this year, and they are crushing it! I know we all have a desire to help, but may not feel that they fit in any particular area. Sometimes what is needed is to step up and let others help us shine. If you have interest in chairing a committee, speak to the current chairs for more information.

We have had a few in-person opportunities this past fall for volunteering. I would love to see our club have monthly opportunities after my presidency ends. I firmly believe there is need for hands-on volunteers in our community that don't involve a monetary donation. Many non-profits have limited funds for donating, and I truly believe that donating our time can be just as valuable. If you know of hands-on volunteer needs please contact me.

As we begin the second half of our Soroptimist year, I know I'm making sure to take advantage of the informational opportunities that SIA and SNR offer. From our online learning to our June SNR conference in Reno, keep reading the weekly eblast for more details.

Thanks to everyone who has offered advice and answered questions for me during the last six months. Stepping up to lead SI Chico doesn't mean I know all the answers or can do it alone. I appreciate each and every one of you!

*President Kathy*

## SOLT Minute

Pictured below is Paradise resident Elsie Hamburger. Born in 1876, she moved to Paradise in 1910. She was a very active woman, enterprising and involved in her community. She chartered The Paradise Progressive Association, the Paradise Progress Review publication, founded the Paradise Ridge Riders Club and Soroptimist International of Paradise. She died in 1967.



## Soroptimists In Service President Kathy's Project



### August and December: Chico Blue Bag Collection Day Support

On Saturday August 13 and Saturday December 10 our club helped with the sorting and distribution of the collected blue bags from the Chico Food Project. We collected 9810 pounds of food thanks to the Chico Food Project.



### September: Girl Scouts of Northern California Project

The September President's Project was a fun day. We partnered with the CSUC Women in Construction and local Girl Scouts volunteers to build two storage sheds for the Butte County Girl Scouts Program Center.



### October: Alzheimer's Association Walk

Our club showed up in large numbers to work the registration and check-in tables for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. We had made a \$1,000 donation to the Walk during 2021-22 which made us a sponsor of the event as well.

### November: Thanksgiving Meal Baskets

Our club provided a total of 33 complete Thanksgiving meal baskets to the Chico Food Locker. The baskets included everything needed for a wonderful dinner with all the trimmings.



## Holiday Projects: Adopt-a-Family and Salvation Army Bell Ringing



The Giving Committee would like to thank all the members who so generously donated to our holiday hands-on project, the Boys & Girls Club Holiday Store. All 137 gifts were delivered, which included: Games, toys, puzzles, books, art & craft supplies, headphones, \$350.00 worth of grocery gift cards, wrapping paper, gift bags, & bows.

Alex Beehner & the staff are thankful & appreciative again this year for Soroptimist coming together to support their kids and families for the holidays.

This year our cheerful SI Chico bell ringers represented our club and helped raise money for The Salvation Army at a variety of locations. We brought cheer and that tinkling bell to Hobby Lobby, Save-Mart, Grocery Outlet and Tractor Supply. Many thanks to coordinator Sandi Decker and to all of our club members who bundled up and worked these shifts.



Bonnie and Nancy at Grocery Outlet Ringing the bell!



Sandi and Jessika all smiles ringing the bell at Made in Chico.

Dear Sisters,

The Fundraising Committee is proud to report that Christmas in November earned \$1,904.40 for next year’s budget! We thank everyone who donated their time and treasures to make this a successful event. We especially appreciate the amazing Billie Araiza, our talented auction MC. (See us bowing in gratitude.) What a fun way to kick off the holidays and support future Club operations!

Before we close out the year, we just have to share our excitement about the Spring and Summer fundraisers – an “Irish Coffee Experience” coffee sale (just in time for St. Paddy’s Day) and, of course, our first Golf Tournament coming next May.

**Golf Tournament “To Do-s”**



After celebrating the year-end holidays with family and friends, we’ll return with information about tournament preparations and ways each member can contribute. (Be thinking about area businesses you might want to approach for Putting Green or Tee sponsorships, \$300 or \$200 each.) In the meantime, we thank these area businesses for stepping up early to sponsor.

\$5,000 Title Sponsor: Red Rock Financial	\$2,500 Eagle Sponsor: Cal Water	\$2,000 Birdie Sponsor: Murphy Family Law
\$ 500 Lunch Sponsor: Stifel Financial	\$ 500 Lunch Sponsor: Tri County Bank	\$ 500 Lunch Sponsor: Anonymous
\$ 300 Putting Green Sponsor: Embrace Wealth Management	\$ 300 Putting Green Spon- sor: Oakridge Cabinets	\$ 300 Putting Green Sponsor: Kerch Rentals/ Sousa Construction
\$ 200 Tee Sponsor: B-fit	\$ 200 Tee Sponsor: Good- man House	

**Irish Coffee on St. Paddy’s Day**



Yes, please! President-Elect Amy Louis and Six Degrees Coffee have once again graciously offered us a discount on the delicious Thanksgiving coffees, to be packaged in SI Chico-branded bags with special Irish coffee recipes. Watch the January weekly e-Blast and our Club meeting announcements for more information and order forms.



Your sisters in Fundraising,

Amy Louis, Theresa Draper, Sybil Hunt, Renee Thatford, Beth Parsons, Deann Decker, Margo Graham, Gayle Aylward, Faye Mitchell, Shirley Boracci, Sharadin Castaldo

### Events Committee Update

In September the Events Committee, along with President Kathy, planned and executed our terrific retreat, “Fall Back in Love with SI Chico.” We had 42 members attend the day-long gathering. Highlights included lots of Soropt-information, games, table talk and camaraderie, great food and an excellent keynote given by Alexa Benson-Valavanis. A very worthwhile day of sisterhood and learning was had by all.



### SI Objectives Committee: Membership Report

At our Oct. 12th meeting SI Objectives presented “Bring A Friend To Lunch.” We had 8 guests and started the program with an introduction by committee Chairwoman, Shari Hopper. Shari introduced Linda Kerch, who gave us a SOLT moment, with information about Soroptimist history. Lois Buchter told us about the Live Your Dream program and Sara Beacham talked about Dream It Be It. We played a table game led by Bonnie Chapman where each table created a story with each person adding a sentence that began with “suddenly” (see the next page for the stories which were very funny!). The final part of the program was a scavenger hunt led by Sara Beacham. Each person was given a bingo card filled with items that could be crossed off when you found a member who had done the item or activity. Shari provided prizes. A fun time was had by all. Great job team!!



#### New Members

Fall 2022!!

Left: Jody Cornilsen with Sponsor Sara Beacham

Right:

Sponsors Shari Hopper and Diane Fossum (on each end) with new members (left to right)

Angie Worley, Tracy Riddle and Shuree Wesley



## Never-ending Stories from Bring a Friend to Lunch Meeting 10-12-22

I woke up and realized that I was in my daughter's body, and she was in mine.

Suddenly, I looked in the mirror and noticed there were no wrinkles or gray hair. I called my daughter on the phone when

Suddenly, my phone rang with her calling and crying hysterically. She had just woken from a nap and looked in the mirror and was in shock! She asked, should I go to the emergency room?

When suddenly, the earth started to shake violently.

Suddenly, we both woke up from the same nightmare and started laughing and decided to meet for lunch soon.

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My Uber driver picked me up, when she turned around, I saw that she looked exactly like me.

Suddenly, I discovered my long-lost sister

Suddenly, I realized it had been 20 years since I last saw her

Suddenly, I jumped in the Uber and went to the bar nearby

Suddenly, after several drinks, we discovered we had been married to the same man!

Suddenly we also found out we were Soropti-sisters as well

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A family woke up to discover that their dog can talk

Suddenly, the dog said, "I'm so mad that you got me neutered. I'm in so much pain.

Suddenly, the owner pulled out their magic wand, tapped the dog's underside and he was healed. "Tap that again! He exclaimed!!"

Suddenly, he turned into a cat!

Suddenly he shouted, "now I'm really mad!!" and ran out of the house and down the street.

Suddenly, another dog took off chasing the dog-cat.

Suddenly, animal control came and nabbed the both of them!

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I went to the airport and realized I was still in my pajamas

Suddenly, birds began dive bombing me because my pj's had desserts on the and they particularly liked the cherry topped cupcakes!

Suddenly, a big gust of wind came along and blew the birds away

Suddenly, I realized I left my passport at home and my watch too, so I didn't know how much time I had

Suddenly, I followed the giant rabbit down the rabbit hole through the time warp

Suddenly I realized I lost my phone in the middle of all of this

Suddenly I woke up and realized it was all a dream and I decided to change to plaid pj's!

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A rainbow arc ended in my backyard, and I saw a door appear

Suddenly a beautiful unicorn appeared and approached me

Suddenly the unicorn sprang up

Suddenly my dog barked and attacked the unicorn and

Suddenly the unicorn started sprinkling magic star dust which made the dog lay down

Suddenly I watched, bewildered, as a big blast of magic dust made the whole scene suddenly disappear!

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I found a bag of money with a note that said "spend me"

Suddenly I counted it.

Suddenly I decided I have just the place for this, SI Chico for the fund most needing it.

Suddenly everything felt possible, but I became very selective on where I wanted to spend this money. I did not want to waste a penny. The light came on.

Suddenly I started researching the best place to spend the money to benefit lots of others.

Suddenly I realized that it was all counterfeit!

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The world's most unlucky woman walked into a casino

Suddenly, she was showered in diamonds.

Suddenly she realized "how could I have won that much money on the craps table; I don't even know what I'm doing!

Suddenly, I closed my eyes and just prayed the dice would hit the right number. While my eyes were closed...

Suddenly, there he was! George Clooney. My dreamboat was smiling at me. He winked. My knees went out. I sat down and he offered me his drink. From his lips to mine.

Suddenly, the alarm clock went off.

Dang!!

## SI Convention: Dublin, Ireland



Soroptimist International's 72,000 members from 122 countries are invited to the SI Quadrennial Convention in the historic city of Dublin, in Ireland.

The theme of the Convention is "Challenge the Future" and will bring together speakers from across the globe – from all five of our federations including Soroptimist International Africa Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas, Soroptimist International of Europe, Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland and Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific. The Convention program will also consist of seminars, workshops, round table discussion and poster sessions. In addition, we are planning an exciting social program in the evenings including a Friendship Evening, a Convention Dinner and a chance to explore the city's many cultural highlights. There will be pre and post Convention tours organized to give you a chance to explore the beautiful country of Ireland.

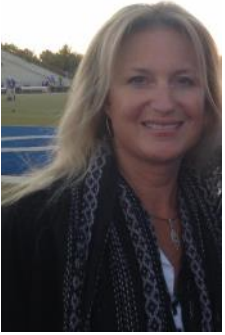
This is your chance to meet old friends, make new ones and we do hope many non Soroptimists will join us to help improve the world we live in.

**SI Chico Members!** A number of our club members have expressed interest in attending this convention and traveling to Dublin. The convention website is full of information and has a number of pre- and post- convention tours that are offered. Billie, our club member and District Director, will be attending and will serve as the list-keeper of who is attending so the group can organize as time goes on. Please contact Billie at [b.araiza@yahoo.com](mailto:b.araiza@yahoo.com) and let her know if you plan to go! \*Early registration discount available until January 21, 2023



For more information go to: <https://sidublin2023.com/>

### Member of the Month-December: Jami McNamee



**Personal Life:** My husband and I moved to Chico in January 2015 from the coastal Mississippi area. Our son Trace, 27, is a police officer back home. I was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where most of my family members still reside (and most of whom still speak French) in Erath, New Iberia, and Lafayette. We have deep Cajun roots: my great-great grandfather was one of the founding fathers of Erath. My hobbies include show jumping horses (since the age of 8), anything outdoors involving physical fitness, baking/cooking, traveling, and education. My perfect day consists of spending time with family, a table full of crawfish and a sunset on the beach!

**Professional Life:** I became a Respiratory Therapist in 1991 and also have a B.S. in Exercise Physiology with a concentration in cardio/pulmonary rehabilitation. My first job in high school was as a candy-striper at a local nursing home, where I discovered a passion for caring for people (which ultimately brought me to my career). I also enjoy educating patients on their disease processes to better manage the outcomes. In 1995, I was hired to help build and manage a Respiratory Therapy department with new equipment, including stress testing and pulmonary function studies. I also worked with administration to install a new ICU wing and started an asthma education program with community-wide outreach that included cardiac and pulmonary disease education. For most of my career, though, I worked in adult, pediatric, and neonate critical care. As of January 2020, I officially retired.

Following my move to California (before the Camp Fire), I started driving for Feather River Hospital's "Meals on Wheels" program. I've also enjoyed volunteering to coach for the "Girls on The Run" program since 2016, where I met Bonnie Chapman. I attended my first Soroptimist meeting with Sara Beacham in November 2019, and I was inducted in March 2020.

### Member of the Month-November: Theresa Draper

**Personal life:** Theresa married her high school sweetheart, Scott, and together they have two grown sons for whom they are quite proud parents. They moved from Sonoma County to Butte County (Durham) in 2002 to afford their sons the opportunity of growing up in a rural/farming community with good old-fashioned values and work ethics. Theresa does not yet have grandchildren but takes very good care of her grand-dogs! Theresa enjoys all sorts of crafting; painting, mixed media, papercrafts, needle felting, jewelry making, the list goes on and on! She also loves reading and escaping into worlds within the pages of her books. Besides being with her family, her favorite place to be is at the coast, watching the waves.

**Professional life:** Theresa has been in the insurance industry since 1985. She is passionate about educating and empowering her clients to make informed decisions for their short-term and long-term peace of mind. Theresa treats every client/customer as if they were family. Professional motto: "Enter as a customer, Exit as a friend"



Theresa attended her first SI Chico meeting in 2007 with her then-boss, Teresa Gisske, who was a long-time SI member. Theresa has been with SI Chico (on and off) since 2013. Her sponsors through the years were Tonya Powell, Sharon Castaldo and Kathy Erickson. Theresa loves being an SI Chico member, from the friendships she's made to the difference that SI makes in our community and worldwide.

### Member of the Month-October: Sybil Hunt

Sybil Hunt is a content creator and instructional designer who brings a creative nonfiction element to clients' social media and training case studies and narratives. She also "minds the store" at Chico's Orient and Flume art glass gallery part time.



A lifelong community servant, she has worked with organizations that support those on the margins of mainstream life. She is the former National Outreach Director for One Warm Coat and the former leader of a free meal program; she has led service and funding projects for a variety of nonprofit organizations. When she moved to Chico in 2021, she sought out Soroptimist International of Chico as a means of building community and continuing to contribute to the wellbeing of her neighbors in need.

When not at the keyboard or in the gallery, she can be found at the local gym, learning a new dance style, or hiking the rolling hills with friends. She lives a simple, but very rich, life, the best that Butte County has to offer.



## Friendship Link, SI Nara, Celebrates 50 years with our help



Hello, all the members of SI Chico.

I received 30 cards and 3 photos. Thank-you so much! I read one card in Japanese. It is very good Japanese so please tell Mrs. Shawn Murphy. I really appreciate your warmhearted presents for our 50th anniversary. We are preparing the party as it will be a precious memory for all guests and club members. We will show your messages to them at the party. I told our President Akiko Sato that I received your cards and photos. We are also very happy and honored to continue our great relationship and friendship link.

Sincerely yours,

Keiko Morikawa, IGU Chair, SI Nara Japan



Dream It, Be It (DIBI) is an SIA signature program designed to help high school girls gain access to education, careers and mentors.

Our 2023 one-day conference is scheduled for Saturday, March 25, at the Dorothy Johnson Center. Doors will open at 9 a.m. for social hour, with the program beginning at 10 a.m. and running until 3:00. We will present a total of seven sessions in our partnership with SI Bidwell Rancho. Four scholarships (\$250 each) will be awarded.

How can you help? Glad you asked! The curriculum is all written and easy to follow. We can also be creative in delivery by having a guest speaker on any of the topics. We will facilitate 3 sessions:

- Session 2: Exploring Careers
- Session 4: Overcoming Obstacles
- Session 6: Managing your Stress

Please consider facilitating, coordinating or leading a session. The next DIBI planning meeting will be Friday, January 6, at noon at Round Table Pizza on Mangrove.

RSVP to Sara Beacham, call or text 530-591-4161

Thanks for reading this edition of The Snail! I hope you enjoyed it.

With Soropti-love....your current editor, Bonnie Chapman

