

# SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF PLACERVILLE



## PLACERVILLE HIGHLIGHTS



Volume 81, Issue 1

January – July 2020

### *The Soroptimist Pledge*

*I pledge allegiance to Soroptimism  
And to the ideals for which it stands:*

*The sincerity of friendship  
The joy of achievement  
The dignity of service  
The integrity of profession  
And the love of country.*

*I will put forth my greatest effort to  
Promote, uphold and defend these ideals  
For a larger fellowship  
In home  
In society  
In business  
For country and for God.*

### **Soroptimist International of Placerville**

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Chartered 1/7/1939  
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### *2020 – 2021 Officers*

*President:*

*Lynne Rogers*

*Vice President*

*Tanya Moran*

*Treasurer:*

*Debbie Rice*

*Recording Secretary:*

*Kaye Scott*

*Corresponding Secretary:*

*Amy Lepper*

*Finding the Brighter Path*

*Friendship, Achievement, Service*



### **SI Placerville Highlights**

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## Who We Are.....

Thank you for reading our Club Newsletter! Here's a little bit about our organization. We are a global women's organization whose members work to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Soroptimist programs focus on providing women and girls with access to education, which is one of the most effective ways to end social problems disproportionately affecting women and girls.

Soroptimist International (SI) has consultative status with the United Nations' (U.N.) Economic and Social Council, which oversees U.N. activities and policies promoting human rights. It is in this forum that Soroptimist representatives can advocate for the Soroptimist mission of improving the lives of women and girls.



This year, we were all presented with unique challenges due to COVID-19. Nonetheless, Soroptimist International Placerville (SIP) maintained its focus on the community by **raising over \$25,000 at our annual fundraiser; committing \$10,000 from our general fund toward COVID relief, including \$5,000 directly to the Marshall Foundation For Community Health and their COVID-19 Fund**, which provides a direct match of donations to assist with a broad spectrum of COVID-related needs within Marshall Hospital and the local community; **sending out over 100 books to foster children in the county;** and **providing scholarships for college-bound women in the community.**



Pictured L to R:  
Cherie  
Judy  
Sherry  
Barbara  
Kaye  
Lynne  
Amy  
Debbie  
Kathi  
Julia

Not Pictured:  
Claudia  
Sharon  
Stacey  
Tanya

# Reflections on 2019-2020 from President Lynne

What a wild, strange year Club Year 2019-2020 was! Days long power outages that seemed always to occur through a meeting day; a Chocolate Affair planning meeting by lamplight; a public gathering that had to be moved outside because of an outage, and a pandemic that required us to completely alter our meetings and activities beginning in March. I guess we should be grateful that December, January, and February were mostly quiet, but we hardly noticed as we tried to catch up on our Chocolate Affair planning.



All the same, we did get quite a bit accomplished this year.

In **June**, we attended a Placerville City Council meeting where we partnered with Judy Knapp to inform the council about the Human Trafficking Awareness instruction we assisted with at Herbert Green Middle School.

**July** saw ten of us at the SDR in Reno, including new member Julia. We got some great ideas for fundraising and had a wonderful time!

In **September**, we had our Chocolate Affair Planning Retreat. We also started our establishment of a clothes closet at Marshall Hospital, founded especially for victims of Human Trafficking.

In **October**, we held a Club Retreat to plan for the coming year. Some of us attended the District 3 meeting in Cameron Park. And then...the power outages started. They disrupted a couple meetings in October, but the show went on for our Fire Insurance Program on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Despite a major outage, we met in the Gazebo of the Library and had a successful event!

**November** had a few more outage disruptions, but some members managed to get to SI Hanford's Festival of Trees fundraiser to support the Club and explore possibly doing one ourselves.

In **December** we had several events. We held our joint fundraiser with the Lions in support of the Brian Ishmael fund. We also wrapped books and candy for the CASA Christmas party, and as a side benefit, the effort also brought us our newest member, Amy! Our Christmas Party at Judy's beautiful house was also the scene for inducting our new member, Stacey!

In **January**, it was full steam ahead on the Chocolate Affair, and just like every year, we began to think we would never pull it off! (Spoiler alert: It was very successful!) Also in January, several members presented Human Trafficking Awareness Training to El Dorado Transit at their request. We also inducted new member Kathi!

In **February**, we welcomed hundreds of guests to the 22<sup>st</sup> Annual Chocolate Affair. How lucky we were to have our major fundraiser be a success before big groups were banned early the very next month due to the pandemic.

**March, April and May**, we began to meet via Zoom. During this period, we agreed to take \$10,000 from the building fund for Corona-virus pandemic relief, and allocated \$5,000 of that to the Marshall Foundation For Community Health for COVID related supplies for the hospital and the community. We received exciting news that the Lyon's Foundation awarded us a \$5,000 grant due to a nomination from a former member. We also contributed to a welcoming interview room for human trafficking victims in Sacramento.

AND, lest you think I have forgotten, in our spare time, we:

- Disbursed nearly \$22,000 in Helping Hands funds;
- Awarded eight Scholarships and Awards for a total of \$11,500;
- Welcomed four new members; and
- Greatly increased our presence on social media, principally thanks to Debbie!

It was a wild and strange year, but I think we made a difference to women and girls in our community...and that's our real goal.

After a reduced meeting schedule in the summer, Club Year 2020-2021 finds us still meeting by Zoom, but ready to resume our work with renewed enthusiasm. It will be a challenging year, since the pandemic is still with us, but I have great confidence that we can still fulfill our vision of helping women and girls achieve their full potential.



## Upcoming Events

*August FUN NIGHT (Highway 50 Brewery)*  
08/19/2020 - 5:30pm to 8:00pm

*Board Meeting (Zoom & In Person - Marshall Foundation)*  
08/24/2020 - 8:00am to 9:00am

*Fundraising Meeting (Zoom & In Person - Marshall Foundation)*  
8/26/2020 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm

*Business Meeting (Zoom & In Person - Marshall Foundation)*  
09/02/2020 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm

*Monthly Dinner Meeting (Details to Follow)*  
09/09/2020 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm

*Club Meeting (Zoom & In Person - Marshall Foundation)*  
09/16/2020 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm

**If interested in attending any of these events, please email**  
**[siplacerville@soroptimist.net](mailto:siplacerville@soroptimist.net) or call 530-344-1476**

# Our Signature Program

**Helping Hands** provides funds for women experiencing emergencies. Through partnerships with many local agencies, we provide financial assistance to help women and their families.



During Club Year 2019-2020, we gave **39 grants** totaling approximately **\$21,500** to local non-profits and county agencies to help them provide their clients with needed services that would otherwise “fall through the gaps.” You can imagine the joy we feel to know that we helped **39 families** secure employment, reach educational goals, or stay in their home. This assistance also helped **51 children** to maintain stability and continue to reach their full potential. Here is what we funded:

## **(16) Rental Assistance payments, to help families to stay in their homes**



**(6) PG&E and Utility Bills paid**

**(1) Water Pipe Repair, for hospice patient**

**(1) Behavioral Health assistance**

**(3) COVID-19 related requests**

**(1) Hotel Stay, for safety purposes**

**(4) Laptops, for educational purposes**

**(5) Automotive Expenses and (1) Gas Card, to assist with transportation to employment**



**If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact us at [helpinghands@siplacerville.org](mailto:helpinghands@siplacerville.org)**

***Did You Know?** Soroptimist International was founded in 1921 in Oakland, CA. The first President, Violent Richardson Ward, was also founder of the Berkeley Women's Gymnasium and introduced Physical Education into Berkeley Schools.*



# Club Year 2019-2020 Scholarships:

In April 2020, community and Soroptimist members selected recipients of our annual awards and scholarships. Though the in-person awards presentation was unfortunately postponed, we were thrilled to award **\$11,500** to help further educational opportunities for high school students and local women. For more information and highlights on winners, please see our website at: [Soroptimist Scholarships](#)

## **Congratulations to:**

Women in Engineering Scholarship (\$1,500) – **Edith Rivera-Guerrero** (*pursuing Civil Engineering*)

Lennie Mills Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000) – **Kiyana Pitre** (*pursuing International Studies at Soka University*)

High School Scholarships (\$1,000 each) – **Eileen Kearney & Annelise Bear** (*pursuing Clinical Nutrition at Folsom Lake College and Political Science at CSU Sacramento, respectively*)

Carolyn Hibbeln Memorial “Dream” Scholarship (\$2,500) – **Sarah Allen** (*pursuing Musical Theatre*)

Jan Didriksen Memorial Scholarship for Women in Biology (\$1,000) – **Brooklyn Schmitz** (*pursuing Registered Nursing at Sierra College*)

Live Your Dream Award (\$2,500) – **Leticia Williams** (*pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing*)

Ruby Award (\$1,000) – **Nikki Gardea, MJ’s Project**

Soroptimist is proud to have supported MJ’s Project. To learn more, please visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/supportyouth916530/>



Deb delivering personal hygiene products for MJ's Project

Scholarship Winners Sarah Allen, Kiyana Pitre, and Eileen Kearney  
Congratulations and Good Luck!



# Our Annual Fundraiser!

This year, we enjoyed another fun and successful Chocolate Affair fundraiser. Soroptimist Placerville was grateful to be able to hold our event prior to quarantine, raising over **\$25,000** to support our programs.

Locals gathered to enjoy the wide variety of food and drink, while browsing the silent and live auction items available. This year's event also included a very popular "mystery wine" pull and raffle prizes, including a brand new beach cruiser!

Held at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds with over **300 people** in attendance, the event reminded those in the community of the importance of gathering for a common cause.

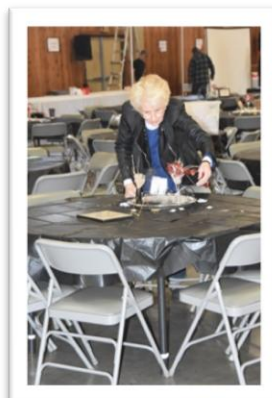
Truffle Huntress Dog Mia (with Handler and Auction Donor Staci O'Toole) Sniffs Out Bids During the Live Auction; Guests Enjoy Wine from the Wine Pull; Live Auction Winners with the Donor; Generous Vendors Donating Their Food and Time for a Great Cause!



*Guests Enjoy the Beautiful Décor, Food, Wine, and CHOCOLATE!*



Live and Silent Auctions Offered a Range of Items; SIP Members and Community Volunteers Come Together to Create a Beautiful Space; Wine Pull and Raffle Table



# 2019-2020 New Member Spotlight

This past year, Soroptimist Placerville was thrilled to welcome four new members to the Club! Below are some highlights of the new members and why they decided to become Soroptimists.



*Kathi, Lynne, Stacey*



*Julia, Lynne*



*Lynne, Amy*

## Stacey M. Caso-Turk

Seeking to connect with an organization that puts an emphasis on helping others in meaningful and valuable ways, Stacey joined Soroptimist Placerville in December 2019. Stacey lives in El Dorado County with her husband and two children. In her spare time, Stacey enjoys cooking, travel, gardening, and biking. With a special interest in community projects and volunteerism, Stacey found the activities within SIP aligned strongly with her values. Contributing her skills as a financial advisor for Edward Jones Financial, Stacey volunteered to work on the audit of SIP files and has been active in Club activities since joining as a member of the Service Committee.

## Kathi Guerrero

Kathi learned about the Soroptimists as a high school senior after receiving a scholarship to attend college. One of four generations in El Dorado County, Kathi raised her children on the Georgetown Divide, ultimately having them graduate from her alma mater. After meeting current Club members at an Adverse Childhood Experiences Collaborative meeting, Kathi sought out Club membership. She is proud to be part of an organization that supports women in education, advocates against human trafficking and reaches families in need. She is a member of the Program Committee and the Service Committee.

## Julia Hackett

Julia, her husband, Marty, and their two sons relocated from the coast of the Bay Area to El Dorado County in 1991 focused on a better quality of life for the family. Throughout the years, she has been actively involved in administering programs serving foster youth and families affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse. After working in the community and engaging with several philanthropic agencies, she came to the decision that Soroptimist was a good fit and she must get involved to provide support and services to underserved women and girls so that they may become empowered. Julia is also a Court Appointed Special Advocate in El Dorado County. She enjoys spending time with her two grandchildren, two dogs, gardening, engaging in ongoing learning, and traveling with her husband. Julia will serve as Chair of the Helping Hands Committee.

## Amy Lepper

Moving to Placerville in November 2018, Amy looked to find a way to connect with like-minded individuals in her new community. Finding an advertisement for an event to wrap books and candy for foster children during the holidays, Amy showed up with scissors and enthusiasm. From that moment forward, she began attending Chocolate Affair planning meetings and participated in her first official Soroptimist event. In March 2020, Amy will serve on the 2020-21 SIP Board as Corresponding Secretary and Chair of the Public Awareness Committee.