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# Soroptimist International of Grass Valley

[sigv.org](http://sigv.org) [sigrassvalley@gmail.com](mailto:sigrassvalley@gmail.com) [facebook.com/sigrassvalley](https://facebook.com/sigrassvalley)

## December 2023 Newsletter

### SIGV Calendar *Happy New Year!*

#### Thursday, January 4th

Business Meeting  
5:00-5:15 Social  
5:15-6:45 Meeting  
NCCA

#### Monday, January 8th

Board Meeting  
4:45-6:00pm  
Tina Skrukud's Office  
Verger Mortgage

#### Thursday, January 11th

Human Trafficking  
Awareness Day and  
Team Meeting  
5:15pm  
Tina Skrukud's Office  
Verger Mortgage

#### *January Birthdays*

Trish Healey  
Kate Laferriere  
Kristina Shramek

#### *Planning Ahead*

#### Thursday, February 1st

Business Meeting  
5:00-5:15 Social  
5:15-6:45 Meeting

#### Saturday, March 16th

SIGV Retreat  
10:00-3:00pm

### Co-Presidents' Message

*Happy New Year!* Call me a sentimental optimist, but I still believe in the promise inherent in the new year. When hanging up a new wall calendar and purchasing next year's daily planner, I am excited by the opportunities 12 fresh months and 365 brand new days can bring.

That sense of excitement is palpable here in SIGV as we close out 2023 and look forward to 2024. Your enthusiasm and drive for being and doing more makes the positive impact of programs such as Live Your Dream, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Bell Hill Academy Holiday Boutique, Human Trafficking, the White Barn Project, Grants, Dress a Girl/Dude and the Teriyaki Chicken Booth at the Nevada County Fair (to name a few) possible. Selfless giving of time and talent are the best and greatest asset of our club.

At this hectic time of year, more than ever, Bonnie, the Board and I greatly appreciate your dedication and desire to make a difference. A special heartfelt thank you goes out to our Committee Chairs who, in the middle of the busy holiday season, made the following projects happen:

Trish Healy..... Bell Hill Academy Holiday Boutique  
Ruth Evans..... Salvation Army Bell Ringing  
Lynn Costa..... Dress-a-Girl/Dude Kitting, Toy Run  
Marlene Sharon..... Newsletter, Silent Auction  
Susie Fatheree, Kelly Rocha and Vicki Winters ..... Live Your Dream

A very special thank you to Debbie Sutton who stepped into the Secretary position. Their efforts and energy are the signature of Soroptimists' life changing, meaningful work in an atmosphere of lively friendship.

We celebrated our comradarie and the holidays at the Business Meeting on December 7th. Thank you to everyone who not only took time from the mayhem of family, decorating, church, shopping, work, baking, choir, and parties of the holiday season to join us, but enthusiastically participated in the Silent Auction and holiday greenery arrangements. Thank you to Marlene for the diverse and fun selection of items. No one left the event empty handed!

I am excited for what 2024 has in store for SIGV. The new year is a great time to reflect once again on what we as individuals have to offer. Can I do more? Where am I needed? Governor Lisa once stated that her golden rule for projects and events is, "If you can, sign up. If you sign up, show up! And if you didn't sign up, but find you can show up, DO IT." None of us have ever worked an event or attended a meeting that couldn't use an extra unexpected helper, especially at clean-up. Clean-up, standing in the cold, ringing a bell, or washing rice cookers may not seem rewarding or fun, but that time means the most to me. It is when the sharing of stories and fellowship begins. Many hands also make light work, less burn out and the more the merrier! 2023 has been a busy year of new Co-Presidents and new meeting times, implementing traditional projects, supporting new ideas, and welcoming new members. Bonnie and I hope that during the holidays you have time to relax, recharge and reflect. As we reflect on our year, we're thankful you've been a part of it. You inspire us to think a little harder, laugh a little louder and smile every chance we get. We hope you have a happy holiday season filled with joy, happiness and peace.

**Bonnie and Kate, Co-Presidents**

## Bell Ringing

Thanks so much to those of you who participated in ringing bells for the Salvation Army this year. Soroptimist International of Grass Valley helped a great deal in the effort to assist people in need. We raised a total of \$1,025.31 in the 2 days we served, broken down as follows:

Friday, December 1st: \$482.72  
Saturday, December 2nd: \$542.29

So, smile big, knowing that tummies are full, heads are more at peace, and we have helped those in need open up to the Christmas Spirit.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
Ruth Evans,  
Project Team Leader, Past President

## NJUSHD Thank You

A kudos from NJUHSD regarding our Vocational Scholarship

We at Nevada Joint Union High School District extend our deepest gratitude to you, our cherished donors, for your continued dedication to empowering the dreams of countless students. Your commitment to fostering education and providing opportunities is nothing short of transformative. Because of your kindness, we can sow the seeds of knowledge, following them into promising futures.

**BRANDY SANDERS**  
District Scholarship Fund  
Development Coordinator  
Nevada Joint Union High School District  
Fran Freedle,  
Vocational Scholarship Project  
Team Leader

## Bell Hill Boutique

Bell Hill was a huge success! We served 234 students (468 gifts) plus the two that “misplaced” their gifts and needed replacements. The feedback from the staff was excellent, the students were extremely happy with their purchases, and Kristina Shramek gets the Master Wrapper Award! I was told by by one student that he wanted “her” (Kristina) to wrap his gift when I asked if I could help him.

Thank you very much for the team that made this happen by attending the work party and helping at the Boutique.

Trish Healey,  
Project Team Leader



## Silent Auction

The Silent Auction for the Delegate's Fund was a success! Many fabulous gifts and items and DIYS were available to purchase. NCCA was transformed into a Holiday Shopping experience. Thank you members and guests who attended! The Auction raised over \$300.00.

Thanks to all for donating items,  
bringing your checkbooks  
and opening your hearts!  
Marlene Sharon,  
Delegate

## Nomination Committee

Time is approaching when the current board will be requesting members to be on the Nominating Committee. This committee recommends a Slate of Officers for the 2024-2025 board year effective July 1st. The Board elects the chairman and a member of the Nominating Committee at the January Board meeting. One member is elected by members at the February Business Meeting. The recommended slate is read at the March Business Meeting. The election is held in April. Help make a difference in our club by connecting willing members to the right offices to serve on the board.

Marlene Sharon  
2023-24 Team Member

## Human Trafficking Meeting

The Human Trafficking Project Team is having a Meeting on January 11th at 5:15 at Tina Skrukrud's office, Verger Mortgage. January 11th is also Human Trafficking Awareness Day. All team members and club members are welcome to attend. This new 2023-2024 project team is gathering information about how we can be most effective in helping our community become aware and educated about human trafficking with the goal of preventing trafficking in our community. We hope to work with law enforcement, social services, the schools, parents and kids on educating folks on Human Trafficking.

Kristin Shramek,  
Project Team Leader

## Jessie Hughes' Pledge Cheat Sheet

Jessie was the former president of San Jose Soroptimist Club and a home economist for PG&E. She was an active life member in our club until her death at 90+ years. She would delight in providing us with slogans if we did not have one when we introduced ourselves. She also taught us about the Soroptimist pin and the pledge. The following is the way Jessie instructed us on how to remember the pledge through mnemonic devices and other means:

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

*San Jose Dill (PICKLE)*

*Sincerity of Friendship*

*Joy of Achievement*

*Dignity of Service*

*Integrity of Profession*

*Love of Country*

I promise to

*PUD (Public Utility District/PG&E)*

*Promote*

*Uphold*

*Defend these ideals*

For a larger fellowship in

**HARRY S. TRUMAN WITH A B**

(Don't remember why but think Home Savings Bank!)

*In Home*

*In Society*

*In Business*

For Country and For God.

Remember, that even those of us repeating it for 20+ years mess it up sometimes.

**Judy East,  
Past President**

## Newsletter Guidelines

To streamline the newsletter process and make sure all project leaders, teams and members have a voice, the Board has suggested the following guidelines:

- Newsletter submissions due the second/third week of each month (around the 13-14-15th.) Send your report, pictures or calendar items to be included in newsletter.

Email to [msharon@mac.com](mailto:msharon@mac.com)

- Newsletter compiled and sent to Board for review by the Monday of the third/fourth week (around the 19-20th-21st) of each month. Edits and revisions done.

- Newsletter to be sent to members on the last Friday of the month by the Co-Presidents.

**Hope this helps with your submissions!**

**Marlene Sharon,  
Editor, Delegate**



## SIGV Annual Retreat

**Mark your calendars for  
March 16th, 2024  
from 10:00- 3:00pm  
for our club's Annual Retreat.**

Giving us a chance to evaluate our year and projects, this retreat presents time for us to talk and plan for the following year. We will discuss each project, determine which we want to continue and also establish any new projects for next year. This will also help guide us on the budget decisions and which programs we would like to see.

We will provide lunch and a rigorous, but fun day with lots of information and decisions.

**Judy East,  
Past President**

## Zero Waste Club Kit

Zero Waste Kits are still available to purchase. Ten kits have been sold and \$220.00 raised. All money goes to the Delegate's Fund. The kits are a sustainable way to attend club meetings without using single use paper and plastic products. The kits are created with upcycled thrift store items. Each kit contains a plate, bowl, cup, coffee cup, silverware, napkin, tea towel and a tote bag.

**\$20.00 to SIGV**

**Order via email: [msharon@mac.com](mailto:msharon@mac.com)**

# December in Pictures



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December 7  
Business Meeting



Holiday  
DIY



Silent  
Auction



Bell Hill  
Boutique



December 11-12-13

*Thank You to Our Sponsors!*  
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**for inclusion in 12 Newsletters!**

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Lynn Mehren-Costa, CFO Phone: (530) 205-7154  
 10185 Weber Street, Grass Valley CA 95945  
[www.amahsheart.com](http://www.amahsheart.com)

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**Tessa K DeVere, CRPC™**  
 Financial Advisor

426 Sutton Way Suite 102  
 Grass Valley, CA 95945  
 530-272-9092

MKT-5894N-A [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)



**—VERGER—**  
 HOME LOANS TEAM

Cell 530-713-2296  
 Office 530-274-2801

231 East Main St, Ste. A  
 Grass Valley, CA 95945  
[tina@empirehomeloans.com](mailto:tina@empirehomeloans.com)

**TINA SKRUKUD**  
 Mortgage Specialist NMLS: 323829



**—VERGER—**  
 HOME LOANS TEAM

Cell 530-913-2591  
 Office 530-274-2801

231 East Main St, Ste. A  
 Grass Valley, CA 95945  
[kwydra@empirehomeloans.com](mailto:kwydra@empirehomeloans.com)

**KIM WYDRA**  
 Mortgage Specialist NMLS: 231268  
 DRE: 00981565