



Soroptimist International of Grass Valley

sigv.org sigrassvalley@gmail.com facebook.com/sigrassvalley

January 2024 Newsletter

SIGV Calendar

*Happy Valentine's Day
and
Happy All Those Other
Celebratory Days!*

Thursday, February 1st
Business Meeting
5:00-5:15 Social
5:15-6:45 Meeting
NCCA

Monday, February 12th
Board Meeting
4:45-6:00pm
Tina Skrukud's Office
Verger Mortgage

February Birthdays
Kelly Rocha - 13th
Billie Jean Ussery - 23rd

Planning Ahead

Thursday, March 7th
Business Meeting
5:00-5:15 Social
5:15-6:45 Meeting
NCCA

Saturday, March 16th
SIGV Retreat
10:00-3:00pm
NCCA

Co-Presidents' Message

What an inspiring month January has been! The Live Your Dream awards kicked off 2024 with stories of hope, sense of purpose and motivation to do more. Our presentation of \$1,000 to Shawna Crutchfield and \$1,500 to Marie Locks validated the work of SIGV and fired us up for the next activity to make a difference. And January offered two more social and impactful opportunities!

Thank you to all those who joined the Human Trafficking Committee on January 24th at In-N-Out Burger in Auburn. It is always a thrill to get together to support a great cause! The Slave2Nothing Foundation developed by In-N-Out Burger is matching every donation 3 to 1 in the month of January. SIGV donated \$100 to make a \$400 difference. This Foundation donates 100% of all donations to support local organizations who provide shelter, counseling, and reintegration for victims of human trafficking. There is still time to make a difference at In-N-Out. Donations will be matched until January 31st.

As this newsletter goes out on the last Friday of the month, there is another January fun social event to make a difference. The Dress A Girl Kitting Event is tomorrow, Saturday, January 27th at Gale Pylman's home, 12730 Hidden Valley Rd. Spend a few hours (from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm) immersed in fabric and friends! By providing a new dress you may well be changing a young girl's destiny. The joy, dignity and self-worth it brings is a priceless experience!

Then we welcome February! What does Nutella, Margaritas, Banana Nut Bread & Frog Legs all have in common? They are all part of the exciting and eclectic month of February! Mark February 5th on your calendar for National Nutella Day! February 22nd is National Margarita Day, February 23rd is National Banana Nut Bread Day and this year, February 29th we celebrate National Frog Legs Day! And I forgot to mention that February 9th is National Pizza Day. For all you 'foodies', February is your special month! But wait! There is more! February is also the month of:

- Ground Hogs day - February 2nd
- Random Acts of Kindness Day - February 17th
- Galentine's Day February 13th
- Presidents' Day - Third Monday of February
- Valentine's Day - February 14th
- Leap Year! - Yes, it is this year
- American Heart Month, Black History Month, National Bird-Feeding Month and

National Children's Dental Health Month. Basically, there is something for everyone in February! February reminds me that there is something for everyone in SIGV. Whatever your passion, SIGV has a Project Team for you! Active participation, healthy discussions and new ideas make our Project Team activities successful. Last year's creation of the Project Team, Empowering Women of Worth (EWOW) is a testament of our goal and desire to meet all individual and community needs. Creativity and initiative of diverse and empowered women make an impact.

You can make an impact at our SIGV Retreat. Mark your calendars for March 16th at the NCAA. The Retreat is an important opportunity to review our many project teams, ask probing questions and ensure that SIGV continues to support our community.

Finally, you can also make an important difference by volunteering for the important responsibility of our Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee puts together the slate of officers who will ensure the continued good governance of our club. Not only is this task vital for legal and ethical reasons, but Board officers must support members while challenging the club to step outside of its comfort zone to keep the SIGV moving forward.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Business Meeting on February 1st. Our Program will be SOLT, presented by Gale Pylman and Lynn Costa.

Until then, wishing you a Happy February! Kate and Bonnie

Hope Chest

Hope Chest has been working with a couple that have suddenly found themselves with a 10 month old little boy. The biological mom abandoned him with them.

The Hope Chest committee was able to connect them with Living Well. They had already contacted KARE Crisis Nursery for diapers, clothes and bedding. A social worker for Victor gave them a crib and highchair.

The family really needed a crib mattress and diapers. The child had a severe diaper rash. Hope Chest was able to buy a crib mattress, diapers, wipes and Desitin.

Soroptimist's involvement helped this child sleep more comfortably and healthily.

**Vicki Winters,
Project Team Leader**

Bell Hill Boutique

With another successful Bell Hill Boutique last month we have depleted many gifts and supplies. If you see any of the following items when you're out shopping, at a garage sale, or cleaning out at home, please think of getting them for the Boutique.

All donations are tax deductible!

Gift donations accepted year round.

Tissue paper Candles
Mugs Gift Bags
Picture frames Small Tools
Flashlights

Most anything that a child would give to a Parent or Grandparent!

The Dollar Store is ALWAYS a great place for these items, Thrift Stores too! Thank you in advance for anything you have to offer.

**Trish Healey,
Project Team Leader**

Ruby Award

Is there a "Ruby" in your community?

Time to think about a woman in your area who deserves to be nominated for the Soroptimist Ruby Award.

These women
are making extraordinary differences
in the lives of women and girls.

Nomination forms are available on our website SNR.org as well as a new flyer that your club can personalize.

Nominations are due to SNR before
April 1st.

**Faye Mitchell
Ruby Award Coordinator
rubycoord@soroptimistsnr.org**

SIGV Annual Retreat

Mark your calendars for
March 16th, 2024
from 10:00- 3:00pm
NCCA

On March 16th we will come together as a club to evaluate this year and set goals for next year. Working together in groups we will discuss the topics on the retreat agenda. Lunch will be provided and it will be a great day to come together and work collaboratively while having fun and doing great work.

Please let Judy know if you will be attending.
mjeast@suddenlink.net

**Judy East,
Past President**

Grants Committee

The SIGV Grants Committee will launch our grants program for 2024 on February 1. The goal remains to invite local service organizations to apply who have the potential to partner with us to support and empower women and children in our community. The application is available on our website and anyone can call Fran at (530) 268-1280 with questions. It would be great if members of SIGV would contact agencies they are familiar with to encourage them to apply for grants up to \$2,000. Each year we welcome new agencies making good proposals allowing us to spread our support even farther. Grant applications are due on March 30th. Grants will be presented at our Celebration of Service on May 2.

Fran Freedle,
Grants Project Leader, Past President
email: sigrassvalley@gmail.com

Delegate Fundraiser

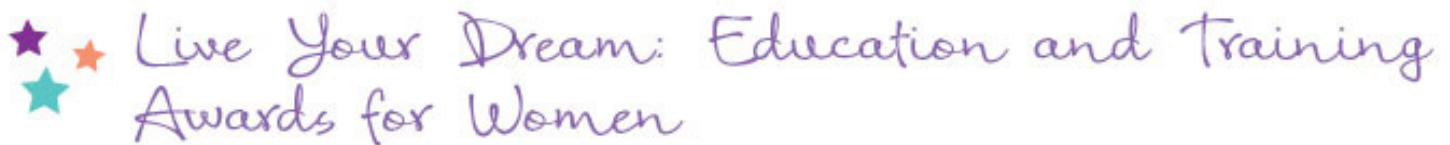
Zero Waste Kits are still available to purchase. Ten kits have been sold and \$220.00 raised. All money goes to the Delegate's Fund.

The kits are a sustainable way to attend club meetings without using single use paper and plastic products. The Kits save the club money by not having to purchase single use plates, cups and cutlery. The kits are created with upcycled thrift store items and all items purchased locally. Each kit contains a plate, bowl, cup, coffee cup, silverware, napkin, tea towel in a tote bag.

Make a difference for the planet, for the environment and for our community in supporting sustainability.

Marlene Sharon, Delegate
\$20.00 to SIGV

Order via email: msharon@mac.com



What a joy it is to start the new year with our Live Your Dream presentation!

The Live Your Dream Awards is Soroptimist's flagship program. We invest in women, focusing on the one area that has the most impact on transforming lives and communities—education.

Training Awards for Women assist women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

This unique award often functions as the only source of support for women where no other granting organizations exist or are accessible. The Live Your Dream Awards give women the resources to realize their educational goals, and the agency the discretionary use of funds helps them most: books, tuition, daycare, rent, groceries and transportation.

This grant season, SIGV received ten applications of incredibly inspiring survivor stories. A special thank you goes to the Live Your Dream Committee, of Susie, Kelly and Vicki who gave their time and talent toward the challenging task of reviewing and selecting our two recipients. We always wish that we could support all applicants. The remaining eight applications have been forwarded to other clubs.

A HUGE thank you to you, all club members, for your dedication and support in our fundraisers. You make Live Your Dream possible. This exciting presentation is a result of your hard work.



Our first place recipient of \$1,500 was Marie Locks. Marie is also a student at Sierra College. Her major is Social Behavioral Science, yet she is also earning a Bookkeeping certificate to support her current employment. Her goal is to do Social Work Counseling to work with women and children who suffer from traumatic experiences.

Marie is a single mother of 6 children, 5 still at home. She became a mother at 16 as the result of sexual assault. She credits the amazing women of the DVSA agency for standing by her. Later she married and had 5 more children. Sadly her husband was an alcoholic and she too struggled with alcoholism. She made the courageous decision to enter recovery, beginning the transformative journey towards personal and emotional healing.

Three years ago, she became a single Mom overnight. She was a homemaker for 17 years and had to start from scratch in finding employment.

Her ultimate goal is to leverage her education and experiences to support women and children who have faced adversity, particularly those dealing with alcoholism and abuse, by advocating for a better life through social work.

Recipient Shawna Crutchfield is a single parent of a 16, 12, 10 and 7 year old. Her goal is to become an RN. She has worked in the mental health field for 7 years and has always dreamt of getting into the medical field but thought that it was out of reach. She is currently working on her associate's degree at Sierra College and plans to be in nursing school in the Spring of 2026.

She is the first person in her family to attend college and wants her children to see that it can be done. In the words of her CASA representative, "Shawna demonstrates tenacity, perseverance, and determination in her quest to provide safe and affordable housing and a better future for her family. Shawna applied for a home through Habitat for Humanity and was a successful applicant. She put in the 500 hours of required "sweat equity" helping build her home. This was an amazing accomplishment for someone with the many responsibilities of family, job, and academics. Shawna is highly committed to her community-based job working with individuals and their families providing substance abuse treatment programs. She encourages, motivates, and empowers individuals to make positive changes in their lives. It was my joy and honor to present \$1,000 to Shawna Crutchfield to support her pursuit of education and let her tell her story.

**SIGV is thrilled to forward Marie's application and story to the Sierra Nevada Region for consideration for further support.
Kate LaFerriere, Co-President**

Come help our Dress-A-Girl project!

We are “Kitting” on **Saturday, January 27th from 1:00—4:00** at the home of Gale Pylman, **12730 Hidden Valley Rd, Grass Valley** (close to the Fairgrounds)

We will be selecting fabrics and trim for dresses as seen in the photos here. Fun and more Fun! *AND* refreshments will be served. Plan to spend a few hours immersed in fabric and friends for this event!



About Dress-A-Girl

Started in October, 2009, with headquarters in Forest City, IA, dedicated volunteers throughout the United States and around the world began to gather to sew and distribute dresses to girls in need around the world because we believe that every girl deserves at least one dress. . .

Since that time, over 2 million dresses have been delivered throughout 81 countries! We are proud that **SIGV has donated almost 3,000 dresses!**

What difference does a dress make?

By providing a new dress you may well be changing a young girl's destiny. The joy, dignity and self-worth it brings is a priceless experience!

The village pastors tell us that a girl wearing a new dress presents an appearance that she is well cared for and may discourage would-be predators. Since a Dress a Girl label is attached on the outside of each dress, it sends an additional message that each girl is under the care of an organization, giving her added protection from those who would harm her, predators or traffickers.

Convention 2024—October 3-6, Forest City, Iowa

Celebrating 15 years of Dress a Girl! “Flourish with a Purpose”

Lynn Costa will be a keynote speaker



S.O.L.T.

Soroptimist Orientation & Leadership Training

Club Success

Business meeting program

February 1, 2024

Trainers: Gale Pylman & Lynn Costa



90% of the work for successful projects happens behind the scenes.

At this SOLT program:

Soroptimist Orientation (S.O.)

1. Understand the branding of our new Soroptimist International logo and where to find it.

Leadership Training (L.T.)

2. Learn the key elements visionary leaders use to structure their plans



January in Pictures

HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
COMMITTEE



JANUARY 11
MEETING

LIVE
YOUR DREAM
AWARDS



JANUARY 4
BUSINESS
MEETING



YOUR
BOARD
AT
WORK



Thank You to Our Sponsors!
Sponsorship is ONLY \$50.00 a Year
for inclusion in 12 Newsletters!

AMAHS HEART
 A REGISTRY OF INDEPENDENT
 CARE PROVIDERS



- * Companions * Home Helpers
- * Special Needs
- * Transition Care * Hospice Care
- * Respite Care

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

Baehr Heating and Air
 Commercial - Residential

Heating, Air Conditioning, Radiant & Solar Heating
 Refrigeration and Green House Controls
 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

CL # 831711
 Jay Baehr Phone (530) 675 0043
 Owner www.BaehrHeatingAndAir.com

Edward Jones



Tessa K DeVere, CRPC™
 Financial Advisor

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

MKT-5854N-A 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

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

KIM WYDRA
 Mortgage Specialist NMLS: 231268
 DRE: 00981545