



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

sigv.org www.sorooptimist.org sorooptimistsnr.org
sigrassvalley@gmail.com

March 2026 Newsletter

Dear Sorooptimist Members,

March is the month that honors Women's History Month and includes International Women's Day on March 8 — I'm filled with gratitude and excitement for the work we do together. This is a time to celebrate the courage, achievements, and resilience of women everywhere, and to recommit to Sorooptimist's mission of improving the lives of women and girls through programs that lead to social and economic empowerment.

Highlights this month: Invite a friend to our next meeting — fresh voices strengthen our club and mission.

Let's use this month to amplify one another's voices. Take a moment to nominate a woman in our community who deserves recognition, mentor a young woman, or simply reach out to offer encouragement. Small acts of support ripple outward in powerful ways. Together we make hope tangible and opportunity real. I'm proud to serve alongside each of you.

With appreciation,
Debbi and Bonnie, Co-Presidents

SIGV Calendar

Thursday, March 5th

Business Meeting

5:00 - 7:00pm

NCCA

149 Crown Point Court

St.A, Grass Valley, CA

Saturday, March 7th

SIGV Retreat

10:00-3:00pm

Forest Springs Mobile Home
Park Clubhouse,

10084 Forest Springs Drive, GV

Thursday, March 19th

Board Meeting

5:00pm

Verger Mortgage

231 E Main St., Ste A

Grass Valley, CA

All members welcome!

Please RSVP to Debbi

Saturday, March 21st

Day for Women

Sierra College

8:00am-3:00pm

March Birthdays:

Vicki Winters - 13th

Planning Ahead:

Thursday, April 2nd

Business Meeting

Usual Time & Location

Thursday, April 23rd

Board Meeting

Usual Time & Location



SIGV Annual Retreat

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 10-3 for our club's annual retreat. We will be meeting at Forest Springs Mobile Home Park at their clubhouse

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 the next year. This will also help us decide on the budget process and which programs we would like to see. We will be evaluating our fundraisers and decide which ones to continue.

We will provide lunch and a rigorous, but fun day with lots of information and decisions. It would be fabulous to see you there. **Please RSVP to Judy by March 3.**

Nominating Committee Proposed Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee of Judy East, Tessa Marmorstein and Marlene Sharon met and put forth this slate of officers:

SIGV Slate of Officers for 26-27:

President	Debbie Sutton
Secretary	Candice Nutting
Treasurer	Tina Skrukrud
Asst. Treasurer	Kim Wydra
Directors	Kim Jones
	Mindy Trygg
	Marlene Sharon
Delegate	Patty Rogers
Immediate Past President	Bonnie Resendes

Thank you to all you volunteered. We hope that others will consider serving as officers next cycle.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GRASS VALLEY** AND THE **SIERRA COLLEGE FOUNDATION**
PLATINUM SPONSOR **EDWARD JONES**

BE INSPIRED: EXPLORE, LEARN, GROW

A DAY *for* WOMEN

CELEBRATE YOU.

- Learn and explore something new
- 17 one hour workshop classes, in areas such as Personal Growth, Food, Gardening, Technology and more.
- Networking, lunch and fun!

SATURDAY 8am–3pm
MARCH 21, 2026



Sierra College Nevada County Campus

250 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley, CA

Cost: \$50 per person, lunch included

All profits from the event go to support Soroptimist International of Grass Valley's service projects for women and children and Sierra College Foundation NCC programs for students.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TODAY:

sierracollege.edu/dayforwomen



A Day for Women March 21, 2026

A Day for Women will be March 21 from 8-3pm at Sierra College, Nevada County Campus. It is a joint fundraising venture between our club and Sierra College Foundation.

We need your help. We are gathering items for the basket drawing. Bonnie has agreed to put them together and will need items at our next business meeting. If you need to, you can drop them off at Tina's office.

We will have brochures, flyers and yard signs at the end of February and will need help distributing them.

Please use this link to sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ItEhthJ8q6Ra0UXeVWM8CXPk6rniH5b33FEtRFx7Csc/edit?usp=sharing>

In addition, you may use this link to sign up for room monitors.

Please select the workshops you will be monitoring with this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0548ADA62EA0FA7-62509784-adayfor>

Please go to the events page on Facebook under SIGV and hit the invite button to invite all your friends. Also if you are on Nextdoor, please advertise it there.

You were sent the flyer, but if you need another, please contact Judy.

We encourage you to get at least 2 friends to attend the conference. By sending the flyer to your email list, you may be able to accomplish this easily. It is a fabulous day. If you are attending, you also must have a ticket.

Thank you to all who have been on the committee and have helped to make this event a success.

Thank you in advance,



Judy East
Project Chair



Ruby Award

It's that time of the year to start thinking Soroptimist Ruby Award !!!!

The Soroptimist Ruby Award celebrates remarkable women non Soroptimist members whose personal or professional efforts have made an extraordinary difference in the lives of women and girls. These honorees are women who dedicate themselves to uplifting others, creating meaningful change, and inspiring future generations. Their work not only has a profound impact but also serves as a source of encouragement and empowerment for others.

If you know a woman who exemplifies these qualities—or if you yourself do—we invite you to submit a nomination for this special recognition. Please complete the form and essay and return it to me by April 1, 2026 . Thank you for helping us honor these incredible women.

Looking for more info about the Ruby Awards or Who was Ruby Lee Minar
<https://si-founderregion.org/ruby-award>

Please send nominations to me at rbycoord@soroptimistsnr.org

Cheryl M. Henning

(775) 934-4660

SNR Ruby Award Coordinator 2025



SOROPTIMIST
Investing in Dreams

Ruby Award

For Women Helping Women

Eligibility for the Award includes:

- Improving the lives of women and girls through her professional or personal life; or
- recognition with the most recent two (2) years of her lifetime of work

This award honors women that best exemplifies the Soroptimist goals of improving the lives of women and girls

Recognition awards are given at the club level and are submitted to Region for further consideration by April 1st

Region budgets and donates a monetary award to the finalist's 501(c)(3) charity of choice

Soroptimist Members and previous award winners are not eligible for the Award

Club Name:
Club Contact:
Contact Email:

Apply By

Let's Get Ready for Incheon!

SIA's 49th Biennial Convention in Incheon, South Korea, will be an unforgettable experience filled with connection, inspiration and global celebration.

Registration is opens!

Join SIA and the Convention Committee for a live walkthrough of the convention website and registration. They will highlight special events, what's included with registration, and where to find menus, attire details, and more. Since all attendees must register online, this is a great opportunity to learn the process and ensure you don't miss a thing. <https://events.zoom.us/ev/>



Fifth Annual Virtual Tea Party

SIA's will host it's fifth annual virtual tea party for International Women's Day on March 18 at 5:30 p.m. (PT). The party will also serve as a virtual parallel event as part of the United Nations [Commission on the Status of Women's Non- Governmental Organization forum](#) and will feature simultaneous interpretation in all our languages.

<https://events.zoom.us/ev/>



Third Annual Walk for Women Gear Available Now!

Our third annual Walk for Women gear is available for pre-order, featuring an exciting new design! Order today to ensure you have your gear ready before the campaign kickoff in March. Stay tuned for more campaign announcements and resources! LINK: [Soroptimist International of the Americas | Official Merchandise | Bonfire](#)

Together in Giving Webinar: How Clubs Strengthen the Soroptimist Mission. All members are invited to attend our upcoming webinar on February 18 at 8 p.m. (ET) to learn more about how clubs are strengthening the Soroptimist mission. Discover inspiring program impact, see how your fundraising is making a difference, and walk away with some tools to help support your ongoing efforts.

Celebrating Our 2026 Live Your Dream Award Recipients

Our recent Live Your Dream Awards presentation and club meeting was a heartfelt and inspiring evening as we honored three remarkable women who are working hard to build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

Through the Live Your Dream Awards, a signature program of Soroptimist International, our club proudly awarded a total of \$3,000 in education grants to this year's recipients: Jessica Pestoni, Mackenzie Kealiher, and Gabrielle Tietjen.

Each recipient shared a little about herself, her journey, and her educational aspirations. Their stories reflected resilience, courage, and an unwavering commitment to improving their lives through education.

Balancing school with work, family responsibilities, and personal challenges is no small task. Yet Jessica, Mackenzie, and Gabrielle are each pursuing their goals with determination and focus. While advancing on their current career path, they are taking meaningful steps toward long-term stability and success.

The Live Your Dream Awards provide critical financial assistance to women who are the primary financial support for their families. Funds may be used for tuition, books, childcare, transportation, and other education-related expenses — helping remove barriers so recipients can stay focused on achieving their goals.

Hearing directly from our recipients was a powerful reminder of why this program matters. Their gratitude was evident, but even more inspiring was their drive and vision for the future. It was an evening that reaffirmed our club's commitment to investing in women's education as a pathway to stronger families and communities.

We are incredibly proud to support Jessica Pestoni, Mackenzie Kealiher, and Gabrielle Tietjen as they continue their educational journeys. We look forward to seeing all they accomplish and are honored to play a small part in helping them live their dreams.



Congratulations to our 2026 recipients!

Debbi and Bonnie, Co-Presidents
Live Your Dream Chairs



Live Your Dream Award

Soroptimist International Grass Valley

Why We Do It

Education is the pathway to economically empowering women and girls.



Mindy

Live Your Dream Award Recipients

Debbi, Jessica, Bonnie



Candice



Rebecca



Kate and Vicki



Fran

SIGV 2026 Grants

The SIGV Grants Team met and established guidelines and a schedule for this year's grants project. Members on the team include Judy East Fran Freedle, Kimberly Jones, Kate Richiger, Kristina Schrameck, and Debbi Sutton.

Grant applicants must follow the adopted grant guidelines providing contact information, proof of non-profit status, a mission or vision statement, a 2-page proposal including a description of the project or service to be funded, and an explanation of how their proposed project comports with our SIGV mission to improve the lives of women and children in Nevada County. They also must provide financial information including a project and agency budget.

Grant applications are due on or before April 15. Applications can be accessed from grants@sigv.org. or members can solicit applicants.

A spreadsheet showing grants awarded for the past 5 years will be used during the review. Funding decisions will be announced by April 30 and presentations of grants will be at a special Celebration of Service program on May 28.

I will provide members with the grants application guidelines at our upcoming business meeting on March 5.

Members are encouraged to invite non-profits in our community to apply.

We invite grant proposals for up to \$2,000 and plan to award \$12,000 this year.

Fran Freedle, Grants Project Team Leader



Soroptimist Mission

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

The organization's mission is to transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities. Soroptimist International envisions a world where women and girls will achieve their individual and collective potential, realize aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

SIGV Friendship Lunch February 16th

In attendance
L-R:

Tina
Skrurkrud,
Deirdre
Campbell,
Kim Jones,
Tessa
Marmorstein
Debbi
Sutton,
LYD Winner
Jenssica
Postoni,
Fran Freedle
Judy East,
Marlene
Sharon,
Kim Wydra



Thank you to everyone who came to the friendship lunch. This idea came from wanting to casually spend time together as a group and community of women. I can proudly say, mission accomplished! Many laughs were shared as conversations ranged from work, family, joys and travels.

Director Tessa
Marmorstein

Thank You to Our Sponsors!
\$50.00 includes your Business Card in 12 Newsletters
and
also available on our Website.

EMPIRE HOME LOANS INC.
THE VERGER TEAM

Cell 530-713-2296
 Office 530-274-2801
 231 East Main St, Ste. A
 Grass Valley, CA 95945
 tina@empirehomeloans.com
 www.vergerteam.com

TINA SKRUKRUD
 Mortgage Specialist
 NMLS: 325839

EMPIRE HOME LOANS INC.
THE VERGER TEAM

Cell 530-913-2591
 Office 530-274-2801
 231 East Main St, Ste. A
 Grass Valley, CA 95945
 kwydra@empirehomeloans.com
 www.vergerteam.com

KIM WYDRA
 Mortgage Specialist
 NMLS: 251268
 DRE: 00905565

HEALTHY BABIES
 Home Visiting Program

Debbi Sutton
 Administrative / Reporting Asst. and Family Resource Specialist

debbi@caofnc.org
 Office: 530-265-9550 ext. 237 Cell: 530-388-4980

Bonnie Resendes
 REALTOR® LIC# 02162839

📞 530.558.9079
 📧 Bonnie@ResendesRealtor.com
 🌐 ResendesRealtor.com

Mountain Treasures
 Jewelry and Sewing Designs

Judy East, designer

530.913.8479
 mountaintreasures@hotmail.com
 Mountain Treasures on Facebook

Edward Jones

Tessa Marmorstein, CFP®
 Financial Advisor
 CA Agency Number OC24309

100 Bank Street
 Grass Valley, CA 95945
 Bus. 530-205-9355
 tessa.marmorstein@edwardjones.com

Marlene Sharon, Newsletter Editor, Delegate