



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Sorooptimist International of Grass Valley

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January 2025 Newsletter

Co-Presidents Message

Happy New Year! In an effort to start the year with enthusiasm and energy, I like to take stock of the previous year to guide intentions for the next one. Unfortunately, it is my nature (and super easy) to list the many many things that I didn't get done. However, January is the time to focus on the enjoyment, connection, inspiration, gratefulness, new **experience**, growth and learning that definitely took place this past year. Before we get swept up by our daily life, work and all the new tasks that need to be accomplished, SIGV needs to celebrate our successes, growth, and especially all these invaluable, joyful moments

SIGV has much to celebrate as we close out 2024 and look forward to 2025. Your enthusiasm and drive for being and doing more makes the positive impact of programs such as *Live Your Dream*, Salvation 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. This year we also returned to *Day for Women* and expanded our connections with the community. We visited KARE Crisis nursery and learned about our history of SIGV's signature project. Finally, we instituted charms acknowledging individual achievements within the club. Your 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 Project Team Chairs who, in the middle of the busy holiday season, made the following projects happen:

Judy East & Bonnie Resendes- Bell Hill Academy Holiday Boutique •

Judy East - Salvation Bell Ringing

Marlene Sharon - Newsletter, Silent Auction •

Fran Freedle, Mindy Trygg, Mary Sivila - *Live Your Dream*

Candice Nutting, Patty Rogers - Holiday Program

Their efforts and energy are the signature of Sorooptimists life changing, meaningful work and friendship.

We celebrated our comradarie and the holidays at the Business Meeting on December 5th. 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 2025 intentions activity. Thank you to Marlene for the diverse and fun selection of items.

I am excited for what 2025 has in store for SIGV. We look forward to the **Anti Human Trafficking Program** at the **January 9th** Business Meeting. I am especially thrilled about our first ever Anti Human Trafficking Symposium on **April 4th**. Kristina Shramek and her team are working tirelessly to inform our community of the prevalence of this tragic modern day slavery.

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? If you can, sign 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!

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.

Kate and Bonnie

SIGV Calendar

Happy New Year!

Business Meeting AHT Presentation

Thursday, January 9th
(2nd Thursday in Jan)

5:15 - 7:00 pm

NCCA

Monday, January 13

Board Meeting

4:45 - 6:30 pm

Verger Mortgage
231 East Main St.,
Ste. A, Grass Valley
All members welcome!

RSVP to Bonnie.

January Birthdays

Kristina Shramek - 3rd
Kate LaFerriere - 30th

Planning Ahead

Business Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 6th

5:15 - 7:00pm

NCCA

Board Meeting

Monday, Feb. 10th

4:45 - 6:30 pm

Verger Mortgage
All members welcome!
RSVP to Bonnie.

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

Live Your Dream

February 6th is 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.

The Soroptimist Live Your Dream: 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 gives women the resources to realize their educational goals, and agency to use the funds in whatever way that helps them most: books, tuition, daycare, rent, groceries and transportation.

This grant season, SIGV received six applications of incredibly inspiring survivor stories. A special thank you goes to the Live Your Dream Committee, of Fran, Mary and Mindy 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 four applications have been forwarded to other clubs.

Everyone is enthusiastically invited and encouraged to attend the February 6th Business Meeting. We will be honoring our recipients Jeanette Williams and Alissa Navo for their tenacity and dedication to earn a degree and empower their future. 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.

Bell Hill Boutique

The Bell Hill project started many years ago when we helped the Perfect Attendance Pancake Breakfast at Hennessy School. When they moved to Bell Hill, we adopted the school and did programs for Citizen of the Month and the Christmas Boutique. Students give \$1 and are able to get 2 gifts for adults as a reminder that the season is one of giving. The money is then given to the school to do whatever they need for students.

This year, we gathered over 500 items, thanks to Kate Richiger and Ruth Evans' estate. In addition, Gale Pylman and Lynn Costa made over 50 mugs filled with hot chocolate and candy canes that are popular for Dads. Marlene, Kristina, Bonnie, Judy and Candice organized gifts and made gift bags with Christmas cards before and many members helped wrap the gifts on the 9th and 10th. Thank you to Lynn, Vicki, Kim J, Candice, Fran, Tasha, Kate L, Bonnie and Patty for being superb wrapping artists.



SIGV Members Tasha Schaffer and
Lynn Costa-Mehren



SIGV Member Fran Freedle and Bell Hill
Academy Students



SIGV Member and Project Leader
Judy East



SIGV Members Tasha Schaffer and
Lynn Costa-Mehren and Students



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

On December 6 and 7 at the Grass Valley SPD, SIGV rang bells for the Salvation Army. By doing so, the organization does not have to pay people to do the job. We netted \$1390 for the Salvation Army and had fun doing it. Because we also did a Saturday, members who work during the week were able to help. It was nice to have members meet each other, as Susie Fatheree was able to come and paired with fellow nurse, Tasha. Debbie and Kristin were also able to do a Saturday. Thanks to Bonnie, Judy, Tessa, Kate and Kate, Fran, Lynn, Marlene for also inspiring the Christmas spirit.



Members Debbi Sutton, Fran Freedle, Lynn Costa-Mehren



Club Member Fran Freedle



Members Debbi Sutton, Fran Freedle, Lynn Costa-Mehren and Marlene Sharon

Zero Waste Club Kit Fundraiser

Zero Waste Kits are still available to purchase! All money goes to the Delegate's Fund. The kits are a sustainable way to attend club meetings without using paper and plastic products that end up as waste in our landfills. The kits save the club money by not having to purchase single use plates, cups and cutlery. The kits are created with up-cycled thrift store items and all items are purchased locally. Each kit contains a plate, bowl, cup, coffee cup,

silverware, napkin,

tea towel and a tote bag.

Make a difference for the planet,

the environment and for our

community by supporting

sustainability.

Marlene Sharon, Delegate

Grateful This Thankful Season

In the spirit of this thankful season, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to you. Your dedication to our students is truly inspiring, and I am constantly in awe of the incredible ways our community comes together to support them.

Your efforts make a meaningful difference, and I'm so grateful for all you do.

I wish you a season filled with gratitude and joy.

Warm regards,

Brandy Sanders, NJUHSD Scholarship Coordinator

[Click here for helpful information on Going Merry, Financial Aid, and more!](#)

NJUHSD All in For Your Future Class of 2025

Brandy Sanders

District Scholarship Fund Development Coordinator

Nevada Joint Union High School District

Phone: 530.273.4431 Ext. 2038

CURIOSITY IS THE WICK IN THE CANDLE OF LEARNING ~William Arthur Ward

Edward Jones



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Newsletter Editor Marlene Sharon - Business Card sponsorship \$50 per year.