



# SIGS News

Volume 28, Issue 1  
Fall 2025

## Welcome to our 2025-26 SIGS year

By Lori Hill and Sally Johnson



Your co-presidents' summer included attending two District 3 events: a president's roundtable and one on membership. We invite all members to go to the



next District 3 Meeting, *Turning Stars into Superstars*, on October 18. Let Lori know if you can attend.

Our club year got off to a fun start with our Summer Mixer held at Zocalo's Restaurant. Thank you, **Lydia** for organizing our time together, including a game called "What's in your Purse?" We were scrambling to find items in our bags, but **Jean Foster** outshone us all. Her purse was a treasure chest of items, including a toothbrush!

And, thank you for so many of you coming to our first meeting of the year. We had a lot to discuss and accomplished much. A surprise was in store for us when we arrived at Pete's, as they weren't expecting us and were short-staffed, so we couldn't hold our meeting in our usual room upstairs. However, SIGS are adaptable, and the meeting went forward with everyone listening hard as we sat in the bar with background music!! Don't worry, we will be back upstairs for our next meeting on October 7th. See you there!

We have accomplished a lot so far. Thanks to committee chairs **Carol L, Carole D., and Paula** for their leadership and reports, and to treasurers **Susan and Lydia** for preparing a budget for our approval. We are going to have a wonderful and fulfilling year. Let's keep on "MAKING A DIFFERENCE!"

## Coming Events

### Oct 7, Lunch Meeting at Pete's Brewhouse 11:30 – 1:00 p.m., CASA Sacramento

Jackie Simon, the Community Relations Coordinator for CASA Sacramento. CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, is dedicated to recruiting, training and supporting advocates who serve foster children. The advocates play a unique role in their CASA youths' lives, serving both as a mentor to the youth and as a best interest advocate before the Court.

### October 18, District 3 Fall Meeting, See page 5

### October 21, Lunch Meeting at Pete's Brewhouse

#### 11:30 – 1:00 pm. Women's Wisdom Art

Debbie Wender is the Vice Chair and Fundraising Chair for Women's Wisdom Art. WWA started at Loaves and Fishes in 1991 inviting women to engage in creative arts, writing, and wellness activities so they may forge new friendships, recover from or manage illness or loss, and avoid isolation. They currently offer workshops for four Sacramento County nonprofits at five locations.

### November 4, Lunch Meeting at Pete's 11:30 – 1:00 Speaker TBA

### December 2, Lunch Meeting at Pete's 11:30 – 1:00 WE Holiday Craft Party Preparation.

### January 6, Winter Mixer Evening meeting, location TBA

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### Officers & Committee Chairs

Co-Presidents Lori Hill and Sally Johnson
Secretary Alice Carney
Treasurers Susan Gower and Lydia Zeidner
Program Chair: Carol Little
Service Chair: Carole Davenport
Ways and Means Chair: Paula Maw

*Soroptimist International  
is a global volunteer organization  
working to improve the lives of  
women and girls through programs  
leading to  
social and economic empowerment.*

## Taking Care of Business!

At the SIGs Business meeting at Pete's on September 16:

- **Presidents Sally and Lori** reported on District 3 meetings they attended during the summer, and encouraged us to attend the District 3 fall meeting in Placerville
- **Susan and Lydia** reviewed the 24-25 financial report. We approved retaining \$1000 in the general fund instead of moving it to service to cover this year's SIA Conference costs.
- **Susan** presented and we adopted the proposed 25-26 budget. (see page 3)
- **Carol Little** reported on upcoming programs and received suggestions for speakers. She announced a SOLT program, picking names for individual members to give short presentations on Soroptimism at future meetings. (see below)
- **Carol L** also announced leads for Program responsibilities: **Hilda Tonarely**, membership (Jannell will help Hilda); **Lydia**, hospitality; **Cindra**, newsletter; **Carole D**, website; **Carol L**, Facebook; and thanked **Lydia** and **Paula** for their contributions to activities & events.
- **Carole Davenport** reported on the Service Committee and discussed the needs related to the Women's Empowerment Craft Party, date in December TBA
- **Paula Maw's** report on Ways and Means was presented by Carole D (see page 4)
- **Cindra** announced the Superstar program: four members joined (see page 4)



Thanks to Secretary **Alice Carney** for taking notes and sending the minutes of the meeting to all members.

## Programs and More



**Carol Little** chairs the program committee, which has a wide range of responsibilities. It's an umbrella for most of the club's day-to-day, meeting-to-meeting operations and communications. Her committee met via Zoom in August to confirm "who does what" and identify potential speakers. The tasks extend beyond the committee, and we ask all members help in whatever capacity they can.

We are off to a for the year, with speakers booked out to February due to the quick efforts of our great members. There are just a few slots to fill for spring, so If you have ideas and contacts for speakers, contact Carol L. If you want to help with our mixers, and/or have ideas for fun activities, contact Carol L and Paula. If you want to help with sign-in at the lunch meetings, contact Lydia. If you want to be involved in enhancing our communications (newsletter, Facebook, website), contact Cindra, Carol L., or Carole D respectively.) Let's continue to **"have fun and get it done."**

## What is SOLT?

SOLT stands for Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training and is designed to help all of us learn a little more about this amazing organization we belong to. We all have some knowledge of the organization, but there is so much depth as an international organization, that it's great to learn small bits of information to enhance our experience. Our Program Chair **Carol L** is drawing a member's name each meeting, and that person has the fun opportunity to share a brief "SOLT" lesson at the next meeting. Hilda's name was chosen at the first meeting: we'll see what she has to teach us at the October 7 gathering.



## Service is our Mission

By Carole Davenport

Service is the best way for SIGS to *Make A Difference* and we have a major opportunity ahead. In December SIGS will help host the Women's Empowerment Craft Party. The graduates of the WE program and their children are invited each year to the Craft Party where they can create gifts to give to friends and family. SIGS will need members' help in creating craft opportunities, leading craft tables and assisting crafters, so we are seeking craft ideas and volunteers. We don't have a confirmed date yet but should have it by the end of October.



Please contact the Service Committee if you can help in any capacity and/or you can sign up at future meetings. It's fun and a feel-good event to get to know the women and children we want to serve. Stay tuned for more information!

## SIGS 25-26 BUDGET



At the Oct 7 meeting, Treasurer **Susan** distributed last year's financial reports, which included a balance of \$1700 in the general fund, which carries over to this year. Susan and Lydia reviewed proposed income and expenses for 25-25 budgets at our first meeting, which were approved. Our budget is split into two parts: the general fund covers operating expenses, while the Service Fund is dedicated to supporting our Service projects. Highlights are:

**General Fund:** Income from memberships, contributions, superstars is projected to total \$3,067. Projected expenses for activities and events, conferences (SIA & SNR), membership, storage, communications, etc. are \$2799.

**Service Fund:** Funds to support Service come from the Endowment (\$4100), contributions, each member's Service Commitment (\$50 per person), and miscellaneous fundraisers. We will carry over \$4585 from last year's *It's In the Bag* to support this year's Service. We will spend almost \$11,000 on Live Your Dream Awards and other grants, as well as expenses for the Women's Empowerment Gala, Craft Fair and the Mustard Seed Lunch.

## MEMBERSHIP

Hilda Tonarely and Janelle O'Donnell are taking the lead on Membership, but all of us are responsible for recruiting and retaining our membership. Julie Gower, Susan's sister-in-law attended our first meeting and is rumored to be our first new member of the year. She's been to several of *It's in the Bag* events and supports our mission, and it will be a pleasure to have her join us.

Some long-term members and others didn't renew their membership this year, a few due to health reasons. We say a fond farewell, and send our gratitude and best wishes to Michelle Whisenhand, Marilyn Goodfellow, Laurel Bell Cahill, Nancy Arndorfer, and Beverly Smith. Lora Edwards requested a leave of absence for this year, and we hope she is able to return at some point. All past members and friends of SIGS continue to receive our newsletter.

Growing our membership requires all of us to reach out to our friends and neighbors, particularly those who you've invited to IITB, to attend a meeting and join our fun and efforts to make life better for women and girls.



## Way\$ and Mean\$

**Paula Maw** reports that her committee is off to a great start for the 2025/26 year. The good news is that proceeds from last Spring's **It's In The Bag** event will fund this year's service projects, so we will not need to do a major fundraiser this year. We all worked hard and individually contributed a lot last spring to raise a record amount of money, so we were relieved to have a break from a big event.

But, we aren't taking a break from making sure that we continue to raise money for club operations and Service.

- Each member's service commitment will remain at \$50. You can either donate that amount or raise it from friends and family.
- Olive oil sales continue to a great way to raise some funds and have a healthy product in our kitchens (see below)
- We are promoting the Superstars program to encourage members to donate at least \$50 more (see below)
- And there may be fundraising auctions or other fun ways at meetings to increase our coffers.

## Thanks to our "Superstars"



SIGS members have "reached for the stars" and contributed at least \$50 to support the club, usually to celebrate or commiserate an event in their life. We had great participation at the first meeting:

**Carol Little**, to honor everyone in the club. **Sally Johnson**, who is attending a high school reunion in Cape Cod. **Nancy Carlton**, to celebrate SIGS for supporting women. **Carole Davenport**, for her good health and for a trip back to New England to visit their daughter and son.

*Let's keep it going: What do you want to celebrate?*



## EVOO is SIGS

**Paula Maw** will continue to coordinate our olive oil sales from Ternero Farm. Based in Lincoln, they produce a top-notch product with a superior taste and many health benefits.

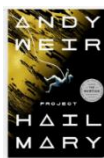
The price per bottle is \$20, and she has the regular signature oil, as well as garlic, basil, and lemon/se

Here's a great idea! Would each member be willing to buy/sell one case, or twelve bottles? The bottles make great gifts for so many occasions. The case could be a mix of flavors. Paula's house is the storage facility, and you can stop by anytime for supplies! She also brings a few bottles to each meeting for purchase by members.

## Book Club Reads

Lydia reminds us that our next book club meeting will be on **Thursday, Oct 23rd at 3Pm** at Ettore's. We've chosen two books. You can choose to read both, either or none. We always have a good conversation!

### Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir



Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and Earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it.



**The Invincible Miss Cust, by Penny Haw** is based on the real life of Aleen Isabel Cust, who defied her family and society to become Britain and Ireland's first woman veterinary surgeon. It is a story of ambition, determination, family, friendship, and passion, achieving one's dreams in spite of obstacles.

## Past-Presidents Lunch



SIGS past-president's enjoyed lunch at Piatti's to welcome Lori and Sally into the presidency and give advice!

Past-president Michelle was also honored with a beautiful wooden plaque engraved



“Never underestimate the difference you have made and the lives you have touched”.

## SNR's District 3 Fall Meeting, October 18, 9:00 - 2:00

[www.soroptimistsnr.org](http://www.soroptimistsnr.org)

If you haven't already signed up, please join Lori and Cindra at the District 3 meeting in Placerville. It's a great way to connect with other clubs in our District and be inspired by what all of us are doing!

**Theme: “Turning Stars into Superstars”**

**Cost: \$40**

**Continental Breakfast and lunch provided Register by October 10**

**Location: The Center for Violence Free Relationships**

**344 Placerville Drive #11, Placerville.**

**OPTIONAL:** They request that attendees bring a Target, Walmart, Safeway, TJ Maxx, or Grocery Outlet gift cards of any denomination to help CVFR survivors become Superstars!

The Registration link is <https://registration.soroptimistsnr.org/events/2025-fdm-d3/>, or see the SNR E-Blast emailed to you. You are also invited to a social gathering at Chicago Fire in Folsom's Palladio on Friday evening. RSVP at the link.



## SI of the Americas

[www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)

Your editor went to SIA's website to find an article for this newsletter, but what she found was a wonderfully succinct statement of purposes.

***Our focus is on education because educated women and girls are:***

- ***less vulnerable to sex traffickers***
- ***more likely to leave a domestic violence situation and not return***
- ***able to access healthcare***
- ***less likely to live in poverty***
- ***able to raise stronger, healthier families***

Yes, that's why we do what we do! Last year, SIA gave \$3.4 million in Live Your Dream awards to 2353 inspiring women (averaging about \$1500 each). Almost 24000 girls in 14 of SIA's countries in the Dream It Be It program. SIA's 25000 members in its 21 countries and territories are making a difference, one life, one family at a time.

## Soroptimist International

[www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)



When we meet at Pete's Brewhouse, working and learning together to be of service to women and girls (and to have fun in the process), it's worth it to remind ourselves that we are part of a global organization with over 65000 members in more than 115 countries. All across the globe, women are gathering to empower women in so many ways. SI also is active at the United Nations, keeping women's issues at the forefront of many discussions.

A recent effort is a call to sign the petition "[No Peace Without Women](#)," calling on global organizations to implement resolutions ensuring that women have significant role in peace negotiations.

As of 2020, SI expanded into five federations.

- [Soroptimist International of the Americas](#) (SIA)
- [Soroptimist International of Europe](#) (SIE)
- [Soroptimist International Africa Federation](#) (SIAF)
- [Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland](#) (SIGBI)
- [Soroptimist International Southeast Asia Pacific](#) (SISEAP)



## Have Fun and Get It Done



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”

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.

Mother Teresa



WBEC WEST  
WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE COUNCIL

”

I raise up my voice not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard... we cannot succeed when half of us are held back.

Malala Yousafzai



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