



# SIGS News

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Winter 2026



Happy New Year & Welcome to 2026!



By Lori Hill and Sally Johnson

We hope you had a wonderful holiday with family and friends. Hopefully, you are now recharged to meet our goal of “Making a Difference.” Our last days of 2025 did just that. Many happy faces of children and women were seen at the Women’s Empowerment Craft Party. SIGS

hosted several craft tables where children and adults worked on crafts to give to someone they love this holiday season. Thanks to all our members for their dedication and hard work. Of course, a big thank you to **Carole D**, for putting it all together and having it run so smoothly. We were happy to see past members return to help with the crafts and provide the food for lunch. When wrap-up and clean up were over, SIGS walked to Las Cosecha Restaurant for lunch. A nice way of gathering before the holiday break.

Now looking forward to 2026: we began the new year with our annual Winter Mixer, a Mexican themed party at Susan’s clubhouse, on January 6th, thanks to the Program Committee. Then, getting down to business, we will gather for our lunch meeting on January 20th to review applications to choose our “Live Your Dream” recipients.

**Never doubt a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.** Margaret Meade

## Calendar of Events

Lunch Meetings are at Pete’s Brewhouse, 11:30 – 1:00

### January 20, Lunch Meeting

We’ll review the Live Your Dream applications (see p. 2)

### February 3, Lunch Meeting



**Becky Heard, Director of Development and Community Relations for Yolo Crisis .** And, please Bring Valentine’s supplies (see page 2)

### TBA Live Your Dream Awards Reception

### February 17, Lunch Meeting



**AcademyStay** provides housing and other support for foster youth (18 – 24) who have aged out of the system. **Founder Jenny Davidson and Suzanne Guinn** will share their success.

### March 3, Lunch Meeting

**Anupama Shojaei, Alzheimer’s Association Community Educator**, will help us understand more about the impact of Alzheimer’s in our community.

### March 17, Business and Lunch Meeting

Nomination of Officers, Officer & Committee updates

### April 7, Field Trip TBA

### April 21, Annual Retreat

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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.*

## Club Business

Our fall meetings included:

- SOLT lessons (Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training) on organizational structure, and more.
- Hearing a report on the District 3 Fall meeting
- Initiating Julie Gower as our newest member (see p. 4)
- Receiving a “quick reference” member roster (mailed to those who weren’t there)
- Supporting having a reception for the Live Your Dream awardees
- Planning the WE Holiday Craft Party
- Getting updated on our Endowment earnings



## Programs

Thanks to Carol L and her committee, our fabulous Fall speakers were: Jackie Simon from CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates); Dr. Linda Howe-Ram, Director of CSUS Guardian Scholars Program for Foster Youth (shown with Nancy C.); District 3 Director Sheryl Longworth (in a group photo), and Debbie Wender from Women’s Wisdom Art (with Hilda T.)



If you have suggestions for speakers, please contact Carol L. We’d love to keep up our great learning.



On Jan 20, we will review the applications we have received for our Live Your Dream Grants. LYD is SIA’s signature program for women who are providing primary financial support for their family, have financial need and are overcoming significant obstacles, and are enrolled in or accepted to a vocational/skills training or undergraduate program.

Carole D is coordinating the review, and needs the number of people who will be at the January 20 meeting so she knows how many copies to make of the applications and rating sheets. Join us to be inspired by these women.



## Mustard Seed Valentine’s Day Lunch

As in the past, Lori Hill will be delivering food and paper goodies to Mustard Seed on the 13<sup>th</sup>, for their Valentine’s Lunch the next day. She will be asking for stickers, paper, cards, etc. to be brought on February 3, so look for supplies when you are out and about, and watch your email for more info.



## EVOO Sales Benefit Health and SIGS Budget

**Paula Maw** reports that: Our Tenero Olive oil sales are going very well.

**\$500**

Since November, you SIGS super saleswomen have sold over 6 cases of extra-virgin olive oil from Tenero. That’s \$500 added to our coffers! There are 3 cases left until I need to pick up more supply. Great going!

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CRAFT PARTY

Carole Davenport led the amazing effort to make sure the Women's Empowerment Craft Party was a success. She emailed her sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your contributions (which are many) to the success of the WE Holiday Craft Party. ***"You contributed ideas for crafts, searched for and purchased materials, worked Friday for set-up, hauled boxes, made the lunch a special treat for both adults and kids, arrived early for the main event on Saturday, searched for parking places and cleaned up. Even more important was watching over your craft to make sure the graduates and their kids had a wonderful experience. In short, you showed your big hearts and made it special."***



Thank you to Superstars Sally Johnson, Carol Little, Carole Davenport, Susan Gower, Cindra Smith, Lydia Zeidner, and Nancy Carlton, who have contributed at least \$50 to celebrate good things in their lives. Who will be next?

## Welcome New Member Julie Gower



I was born at Travis AFB into a military family, and as such I lived in California, Washington, and England. I enjoyed my time in England and made multiple trips to Europe before returning to the US in 1969 aboard the SS United States. My family settled in Orangevale, which was a bit of a cultural shock after living in England.

I graduated from local public schools and earned an associate degree in Legal Assisting from American River College. I spent 33 years at the Office of the Attorney General, primarily defending Department of Corrections staff in inmate civil rights lawsuits filed within the federal court system. I enjoyed supporting and mentoring new attorneys and support staff assigned to our section.

I have two daughters, both are married to great guys, and each have one child. I also have a stepdaughter, who lives in Texas, and a stepson, who is local. They also have one child each. My grandchildren are the joy of my life. After my parents passed, my husband and I bought the family home. We've done some upgrading and remodeling, which was fun! I'm proud that we were able to keep the home in the family, which allows us to host extended family gatherings with cousins and grandkids.

I enjoy reading, with a special interest in American history. I also enjoy a good fiction read. I love exploring nature and discovering all the beauty in our state. I hope to travel more extensively in the future, seeing more of our country.

I'm proud to be a part of the Soroptimist organization, drawn to join by my lovely sister-in-law, Susan Gower. I look forward to contributing to the missions supported by SIGs, and working with everyone involved.

## Remembering Millie Stone

March 25, 2024 – October 6, 2025

Millie Stone was one of our three founding members, starting the club in 1986 with Glenys Zimrick and Dorothy Lombard. She was always an active and supportive member (we were celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in the photo on the left). She was kind, generous, loving, and a mentor to many of us in the club. She and her husband, Bill Stone, had a long and successful career in the mortgage banking industry including ownership of Stone Investments and The Money Brokers. When her husband died, she donated \$30,000 to the club, which led to the establishment of our Endowment Fund with Sacramento Regional Community Foundation. She always said she did it so we wouldn't have to work so hard to raise money.

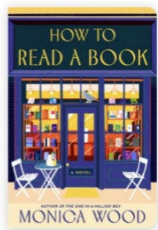
Carol Little writes: *Millie was a special friend. We shared many March birthday lunches together over the 35+ years I've known her, and she has been a role model to me as to how to navigate aging gracefully through her community involvement and her positive outlook on life. I always enjoyed hearing about her travels with Bill. Many years ago, the main fundraiser for SIGS was a silent auction / wine event night. Millie donated a very large oriental planter vase, probably 30 inches in diameter and a couple feet high. Several of us members were bidding on it thinking she was giving up one of the treasures from her many travels. When asked after the bidding was over, she laughed at the thought, and said, "no, . . . I got it at Marshalls!" 😊 That item raised quite a bit of money that evening. Millie had very good taste. It is hard imagining that she's not with us any longer, and I'm really going to miss her. Her spirit lives on through our club. "*



Donations in her memory can be made through our website [donation link](#). As of this newsletter, \$785.82 has been donated in her name:

## Book Club Reads

Please put the next SIGS book club meeting on your calendar for 3PM January 15<sup>th</sup> at Ettore's. Two books were chosen at our December meeting:



**How to Read a Book** by Monica Wood is a deeply moving novel about second chances, unlikely friendship, and the life changing power of sharing stories.  
**Lady Tan's Circle of Women** by Lisa See, is an historical novel inspired by the true story of a woman physician in 15<sup>th</sup>-century China.



Please feel free to join us even if you haven't read the books!



## SNR's District 3 Fall Meeting

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

Lori and Cindra attended District 3's fall meeting in October in Placerville, which provided many updates about goings on in SNR and SIA. Did you know that the "Best for Women" tag line is now "Investing in Dreams"?



## SI of the Americas Big Goal

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



Between 2021-2031 SIA asks all clubs in the Federation to help **Invest in the Dreams of Half a Million Women and Girls through Access to Education**. SIA has achieved 28% of the goal in four years.

There are three ways for clubs to help achieve the goal: Live Your Dream Awards, Dream It Be It programs, or Big Goal Accelerator Projects. BGAP's must meet certain criteria to be counted:

1. Work only with women and/or girls who are facing obstacles
2. Provide access to formal education with the ultimate goal of economic empowerment
3. Be a Soroptimist-led hands-on project, and
4. Be reported to SIA through the official reporting link.

Participation in activities of other non-profit efforts are not eligible; accelerator projects need to be things that we as a club are responsible for and directly support women in education.



# Have Fun and Get It Done



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