



Soroptimist International Sacramento Newsletter April 2021

SIS Mission: *To provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.*

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President’s Corner Jennifer Willis

“One vision can save a life, change the world” stated Dr. Ala Stanford, a Pediatric Surgeon featured on the NBC Nightly News “Inspiring America” segment. She personally made it her mission to provide access and barrier-free services to those who do not have it. She is a member of Black Doctors COVID Consortium and established a Philadelphia clinic that has provided 30,000 vaccines in 31 days. She “feels really good to treat people the way they deserve to be treated.” I am so incredibly grateful to have had my second vaccine dose on Monday. With my first shot, I experienced just a sore arm at the injection site. I was initially pleased with my second shot because it didn’t



hurt at all; but within a few hours I was headachy, slightly feverish, and lethargic. I spoke with Sally Day right before having my second shot and she talked about a similar feeling, but her reaction was how wonderful

that her body was reacting as it should, fighting off the virus and getting her ready to be safe. I appreciated that attitude and tried to remember it as I lay in bed.

“Normally” this would be the week our family and friends would be gathering to celebrate Easter, but not this year. I look forward to the 4th of July and beyond for the ability to interact with groups of people and am hopeful all will get vaccinated. Likewise, I look forward to seeing SIS Club members in person. We have a sub-committee checking and expect to bring in-person options to the

club in May.

Through news programs, I am watching the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin, accused of George Floyd's murder. Seeing the videos and hearing the witnesses, I am horrified, saddened and trepidatious. As Soroptimists, we embrace our ability to positively impact the lives of women and girls. Because we have endowment funds and have done very well in past fundraisers, as SIS members we are blessed to fund an average of +\$2,800 in scholarships and awards to 10 students. Thanks to members' generosity, over \$4,000 was donated to two schools through Random Acts of Kindness, over \$700 was contributed to Run to Feed the Hungry, and numerous children received Gifts from the Heart. Thanks to all!

Gratefully,

Jennifer

President Jennifer L. Willis

See's Fundraiser

Submitted by Karen Smith

Thank you to all of you who supported our See's online Spring fundraiser. With your help in getting the word out as well as purchasing candy yourselves, the total amount of profit was just under \$1400. We also received about \$100 in donations from people who wanted to support SIS without buying chocolate. We're thrilled with the outcome. Thank you!

Scholarship Awards

Submitted by Karen Smith

The Scholarship Committee met on March 23 to review applications. We assume that because all colleges/universities are remote this year, we received fewer applications than usual. The good news is that allowed us to fund more women and not turn any away since all applicants were excellent. You'll

meet the awardees at our meeting on April 16th. We are grateful for the Chin, O'Brien and Stone Scholarships to fund these amazing young women.

Membership Committee Report Submitted by Nancy Wolford-Landers

The membership committee is happy to report that we have been very busy this club year even though we haven't been meeting in person.

So far this year, we have inducted two new members, Maria Trejo and Pat McConahay and we are set to induct a third new member in May, Claire Smiley. So that is good news!!

In addition to that, we have sent out congratulatory letters to women who had been recognized as Outstanding CEO's by the Sacramento Business Journal. In those letters we have explained about Soroptimist and invited them to join us in a meeting to learn more about us. We followed up those letters with phone calls and had to leave messages because most were working remotely. But, we have already connected with three ladies who plan to meet with us via Zoom and find out more about us!!! So that is very good news.

In addition to that, we received a referral from SIA and followed up to discover a young woman who had attended our DIBI classes a few years ago and is interested in getting involved with us. Sadly, she is still a college student so is not yet eligible to become a member, but she wants to volunteer with us and so will become a member of Friends of S.I.S. In addition, she plans to attend our Zoom meetings on April 1st and April 16th. So, you can see we have been spreading the word about our club and as a consequence, we are growing. That is what it is all about!!!!

Aunt Bonnie - Women Against Bunny Bashing in Totality

By Bonnie Coleman

March 2021

As I was scanning the web for Easter traditions, I came across the usual old “trusty dustys.” Nothing about my Grandfather’s sage advice about staying safe and clean on Easter Sunday, which I brought you some years ago, of course, and nothing truly enlightening, especially for a holiday that is a couple of thousand years old. And, even what there was came from earlier pagan religions that were purloined by our religious leaders years ago



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

and affixed to the new religion to make the transition easier for lay people. Really, the traditions were so old and time-worn

they made Grampie’s revelation truly, well, revelatory.

There were eggs and breads, bunnies and buns, enough to keep every good housewife at the stove-fireplace-fire making whatever for days beginning, presumably, on the the first Easter the common population had food enough to spare for frivolity.

Through time, the sites record hats and gloves, Easter parades, baskets and candy and our Beloved Bunny. One thing I saw no mention of was the time-honored practice of eating the bunny’s ears first, regardless of the alleged or proven ownership of said bunny. Now, that tradition was new to me too until late into my adulthood, as I was one of the rare children who eschewed both marshmallows and hard-boiled eggs. To be blunt, I couldn’t keep them down, still can’t...don’t know why. Consequently, my Easter basket had one large See’s Candy egg,

and only one, which I shared with my Mother each day after school until it was gone. (No, I don’t know how she inserted herself into my Easter basket tradition, but she did.) Since I became “woke” to this vile practice of rabbit-ear-eating, I found every person on the planet was privy to it except me. I hear that one can actually buy bunny ears sans bunny now. That is just morbid. If we didn’t already have about 2000 factions all acting loud and superior to the others, I would start my own. Naturally it would be called Women Against Bunny Bashing in Totality.

Nominating Committee Invitation and Elections

By Sally Day, Nominating Committee Chair

I am pleased to announce the partial list below for the slate of Officers and Directors for the 2021-2022 Club year:

Co-Presidents: Cathy Diepenbrock and Phyllis Moist

1st Vice President: Karen Smith

2nd Vice President: **VACANT**

Secretary: Mary Anne Selvage

Treasurer: Kathy Platz

Assistant Treasurer: **VACANT**

Board of Directors: ONE position is **VACANT**. Mary Locke will be serving the second year of her 2-year term.

Parliamentarian: **VACANT**. Because this position is appointed by the President those interested will be referred to them.

Regarding the positions marked **VACANT**, we invite you to self-nominate and/or suggest names for the Committee’s consideration. If you wish to suggest names, please contact your nominee(s) first and secure their consent. Please email your name or your

nominee to Sally Day, sally_day@sbcglobal.net, Nominating Committee Chair **by April 17, 2021.**

The Committee's slate of officers will be submitted to the Board for approval on May 4, 2021. Thereafter the nominees will be announced at the May 7th Business Meeting, at which time the Committee will accept nominations from the floor.

Duties of Club Officers are in Article IV of the ByLaws at <https://rb.gy/t7h4qb>. Elections will be held during the June 4, 2021 Business Meeting via Zoom.

Dream It, Be It (DIBI) Session Career Exploration Submitted by Phyllis Hayashi

The Spring semester DIBI Career Exploration session has gotten off to a great start this year. We are still teaching online which has required a little bit of a shift in our presentations, but we are happy to report all is well! Unfortunately, the inability to have field trips to various employment sites is absent from the program this year, but our presentations from professional women in our community has been outstanding.

Our first session was presented by Bobbin Mulvaney on her career as a business owner, restaurant service and volunteer work throughout the community. She is an amazing woman and had so much to share about life and how to take control of situations that may not always be easy to address in a work environment.

Our second presentation was given by our wonderful Soroptimist members, Nancy Wolford-Landers and Mary Locke on the topic of Civil Service careers and employments. The presented the many opportunities available in working a civil service career, the many benefits offered, what it takes to secure employment and information about the interviewing process. The students gained such great knowledge on the opportunities available.

Our third presentation was given by Mary Johannis, a retired Civil Engineer. Mary talked about her career and the many opportunities within an engineering profession. When Mary first began her career, very few women were in this profession. It was interesting to hear Mary Johannis' presentation and the various levels of this career one may explore.

Our next session will be presented by medical staff and physicians from WellSpace. They will provide a tour of one of their clinics and speak to the students about medical career opportunities and training. We are grateful to Debi Noonan, former Soroptimist member, who actively assists in the coordinating of this tour and presentation. Without Debi's assistance, it would be challenging to include this informational opportunity for the students at SAVA.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Dream It, Be It Program or interested in offering a presentation about their professional career or you would like to learn more about volunteering on the committee, please contact Phyllis Hayashi (916)284-7304 or Nilda Valmores 362-9601. We would love to have you join us! Our sessions occur every Thursday from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The March 14, 2021 State Election (Germany) By Wendy Haydon-Schneider

During my German Orientation class last year, I learned about the political system in Germany. I think it's interesting to learn concepts, and then see how it plays out in reality. That happened on March 14, 2021, when the state of Rhineland-Palatinate (the state I live in) held an election (eine Landtagswahl). I am still piecing it all together in my mind as I write this article. I'll tell you a little background information and then discuss our election in Rhineland-Palatinate.

There are 16 states (Länder, in German) in the Federal Republic of Germany (Germany). Each state has an election every 4 to 5 years (determined by the state) to elect its new state parliament (101 members; it is called Landtag, in German) which then elects the Minister-President (called a Ministerpräsident for a man or Ministerpräsidentin for a woman, in German).....equivalent to a state Governor in the US. The parliament also confirms the cabinet members.

State elections are conducted under various rules set by the states. Two states, Rhineland-Palatinate (Rheinland-Pfalz, in German) and also Baden-Württemberg had their elections on March 14, 2021. There are about 3.1 million eligible voters in Rhineland-Palatinate and around 7.7 million in Baden-Württemberg. An eligible voter in Rheinland-Palatinate must be at least 18 years old, have a German ID card, and have lived in Rheinland-Palatinate at least three months. People voted in person (my husband and I walked to our polling location, at a recreation center, in our village) or they voted by mail. No, I did not vote (I do not have a German ID card, so am not eligible).

Fun fact #1: Rhineland-Palatinate is the only German Bundesland to have a cabinet minister for **winegrowing** (ministry of economy, traffic, agriculture and winegrowing)! Woohoo!

Rhineland-Palatinate has a multi-party system where the two main parties are the center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD). There were six candidates for Ministerpräsident/in. The SPD incumbent, Malu Dreyer, and CDU challenger, Christian Baldauf, are shown below. A televised debate between these two candidates was held in early March.



There were four other candidates also for Ministerpräsident/in (in photos L to R, with their party also listed): Anne Spiegel (Green), Michael Frisch (Alternative for Germany - AfD), Daniela Schmitt (Free Democratic Party - FDP), and Joachim Streit (Free Voters - FW).



A couple of months before election day, we started seeing billboards of the candidates around the various cities, towns, and villages. And these are the results for Rhineland-Palatinate (% of vote):

SPD (center-left): 35.7
 CDU (conservative): 27.7
 Greens (center-left, eco): 9.3
 FDP (liberal, pro-business): 5.5
 Free Voters: 5.4
 AfD (extremist right-wingers): 8.3

So..... Malu Dreyer will remain Ministerpräsidentin, with 35.7 percent of the vote. Because Germany’s electoral system requires a 51 percent vote to have a single party form the parliament, and that is not usually possible to attain, two or more of the competing parties form a coalition and govern together. Therefore, our parliament is now a “center-left traffic light coalition¹” of the Social Democratic Party (SPD – 35.7%), Free Democratic Party (FDP – 5.5%), and The Greens (9.3%).

This was the newspaper headline on March 15, 2021! I got a kick out of it! “Rheinland-Pfalz in Women’s Hands”!



Here’s a little bit of information about the SPD party!

According to the SPD party platform, freedom, justice, and social solidarity form the basis of social democracy. The coordinated social market economy should be strengthened and its output should be distributed fairly. The party sees that economic system as necessary to ensure the affluence of the entire population. The SPD

¹ Called a ‘traffic light coalition’ because SPD’s color is red, FDP’s color is yellow, and the Green party color is green.

also tries to protect the society's poor with a welfare state. Concurrently, it advocates a sustainable fiscal policy that does not place a burden on future generations while eradicating budget deficits. In social policy, the Social Democrats stand for civil and political rights in an open society. In foreign policy, the party aims at ensuring global peace by balancing global interests with democratic means and European integration is one of the main priorities of the party. The SPD supports economic regulations to limit potential losses for banks and people. They support a common European economic and financial policy and to prevent speculative bubbles as well as environmentally sustainable growth.

And finally, here is some interesting information about Malu Dreyer!

Maria Luise Anna "Malu" Dreyer (born 6 February 1961) is a German politician of the Social Democratic Party (SPD). Since 13 January 2013, she has served as Minister-President of Rhineland-Palatinate. She is the first woman to hold this office.

Fun Fact #2: she was an exchange student for a year at Claremont High School in California in 1977!

After her final Abitur exams in 1980, Dreyer started her English studies and Roman Catholic theology at the University of Mainz. The following year she switched majors to jurisprudence and graduated in both law degrees with the first Staatsexamen in 1987 and the second Staatsexamen three years later with an excellent academic record. From 1989, Dreyer worked at the University of Mainz as a research assistant to Professor Hans-Joachim Pflug. In 1991, she received her appointment as a probationary judge, and later as a prosecutor in Bad Kreuznach. She was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1994. She made her illness public in 2006, and when traveling she now always takes her "Rolli" (wheelchair) with her. Since 2004, Dreyer has been married to Klaus Jensen, a fellow SPD politician and a former mayor of Trier. She served as State Minister of Social Affairs, Labor, Health and Demography since 2002, and was the designated successor of then-Ministerpräsident Kurt Beck, who announced

his resignation from the post in 2012. She was officially elected Ministerpräsidentin on 16 January 2013.

My sources for this article included: Book: 100 Stunden Deutschland;

<https://bundeswahlleiter.de/en/service/wahltermine.html>;

<https://www.themayor.eu/en/a/view/two-states-in-germany-will-have-their-elections-on-14-march-7352>;

<https://berlinspectator.com/2021/03/14/germany-two-state-elections-over-counting-begins-3/>;

<https://handbookgermany.de/en/rights-laws/elections.html>;

https://www.wahlen.rlp.de/fileadmin/dokumente/lw/PDF/Info_Heft_Leichte_Sprache2021.pdf; and various Wikipedia, Bing, and

Google webpages related to German elections and political system.

Officers 2020-2021

President – Jennifer Willis
1st VP (co-VP) – Phyllis McMaster Moist and
Cathy Diepenbrock
2nd VP – Karen Smith
Treasurer – Kathy Platz
Asst Treasurer – Alice Jarboe
Secretary – Mary Anne Selvage

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Mary Locke
Paula Wright

Parliamentarian - Regena Boyland

Board Action Items

Consent Agenda Vote

- Approve March 5, 2021 Business Minutes <https://rb.gy/x7fwfh>
- Approve New Member – Claire Smiley
- Approve Committee Descriptions –
 - Programs Committee <https://rb.gy/kj85na>
 - Fundraising <https://rb.gy/qjwfsb>
 - Membership <https://rb.gy/iejd2o>
 - Public Awareness <https://rb.gy/zmkszt>
 - Operations <https://rb.gy/2lu9ns>

New Business

- Elect Third Member of Nominations Committee
(See Nominating Committee Article for Process)
- Club input - SIA President-Elect Ballot <https://rb.gy/oqs2p7>

Committee Reports and Announcements

SOROPTIMIST OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS (SOS) and Donations

SOS Listing:

- Carol Adams
- Regena Boyland
- Patricia Canterbury
- Idelle Claypool
- Barbara Coulam
- Cindy Cox
- Sally Day
- Cathy Diepenbrock
- Eva Garcia
- Phyllis Hayashi
- Wendy Haydon
- Alice Jarboe
- Karen Kouretas
- Mary Locke
- Glorian Martinelli
- Phyllis Moist
- Barbara Smith Nash
- Elaine Pesce
- Mary Anne Selvage
- Karen Smith
- Minisha Trivedi
- Jennifer Willis
- Nancy Wolford Landers

In Memory Of Listing

- Idelle Claypool, In Memory of Karen Kouretas' mother
- Idelle Claypool, In Memory of Corinne Joe's husband
- Barbara Coulam, In Memory of Nancy Wolford-Landers' sister
- Pat Canterbury, In Memory of Regina Boyland's husband
- Phyllis McMaster, In Memory of Regina Boyland's husband
- Phyllis McMaster, In Memory of Nancy Wolford-Landers' sister
- Nancy Wolford Lander, In Memory of Russ Albright
- Idelle Claypool, In Memory of Nancy Wolford-Landers' sister
- Idelle Claypool, In Memory of Regena Boyland's husband

RAK Donations

Paula Wright

Elaine Pesce

Rosalie Gladden

Regena Boyland

Mary Locke

Barbara Coulam

United Way - \$20.76

SAVA - Women's Leadership

**Feminine Hygiene Outreach Project -
\$2,056**

April Soroptimists



Barbara Coulam

April 7

Nancy Wolford-Landers

April 30

Soroptimist International
of Sacramento
BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
April 1, 2021
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Please click on this link to join: <https://rb.gy/trqbwpx>
Meeting ID: 961 4882 9724 Passcode: SIS
Phone +1 669-900-6833 Passcode 069531
Call Karen Smith if you have problems getting in: (916) 390-0095

- 11:30 a.m. Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
- 11:33 a.m. Introduce Guests
- 11:35 a.m. Members Check-In & S.O.S (Soroptimist Offers Scholarships)

Consent Agenda Vote

- **Approve March 5, 2021 Business Minutes**
<https://rb.gy/x7fwfh>
- **Approve New Member – Claire Smiley**
- **Approve Committee Descriptions –**
 - **Programs Committee** <https://rb.gy/kj85na>
 - **Fundraising** <https://rb.gy/qjwfsb>
 - **Membership** <https://rb.gy/iejd2o>
 - **Public Awareness** <https://rb.gy/zmkszt>
 - **Operations** <https://rb.gy/2lu9ns>

New Business

- **Elect Third Member of Nominations Committee**
(See Nominating Committee Article for Process)
- **Club input - SIA President-Elect Ballot**
<https://rb.gy/oqs2p7>

Committee Reports and Announcements

- 12:30 p.m. Adjourn with Soroptimist Pledge

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimism and to the ideals for which it stands: The Sincerity of Friendship, The Joy of Achievement, The Dignity of Service, The Integrity of Profession, The Love of Country.

I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold and defend these ideals, for a larger fellowship, in home, in business, for country and for God

Calendar

Link to Calendar <https://rb.gy/9rrgwt>