



Soroptimist International Sacramento Newsletter February 2022

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

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Presidents' Corner

By Phyllis McMaster Moist and Cathy Diepenbrock

January is one of the long months of the year and this January felt even longer than the 31 days on the calendar. With the cold, frosty weather and yet another Covid surge, January was dismal, with one small exception – flowers.

We know that many of you participated in the Flower Power fundraiser in December with a variety of amaryllis to choose from. Both of us purchased and gifted the plants for the holidays. It was an easy choice, really – a gift that supports our club's mission while also being beautiful AND cheerful!



But what we didn't expect was the impact that these gifts would have on those who received them and on us. We both found ourselves communicating with our family and neighbors

about the progress of the blooms, in some cases on a nearly daily basis. Cathy had a group chat where the sisters-in-laws shared pictures of their flowers; it was a lovely way to extend holiday camaraderie (and almost a bit of competition!) Phyllis shared her progress with a neighbor too. The darkness of the middle of winter was punctuated with brightness

through these unexpected interactions.

All of this is to say, that what we do as a club can have some unexpected outcomes and joys! The joy of achievement! The sincerity of friendship! We know these words well. And while we surely know that our fundraisers can result in

deepening our relationships with our fellow Soroptimists, these benefits can even extend to friends and family.

We look forward to a bright spring filled with more flowers and fundraisers but also celebrations of our Live Your Dream Awardees and our scholarship winners and even a Sangria social!

SIS Scholarship Applications Available until March 4, 2022

By Karen Smith

Please check the website (<https://soroptimistsacramento.com/awards-scholarships>) for the application for women attending college or university. The application is available now and the deadline to apply is March 4, 2022. If you know someone who qualifies, please let pass the information on.

SIS recognizes the talent, commitment to service, and the financial needs of local women and teenage girls. One way we support our mission is through annual scholarships. Scholarships are awarded in varying amounts to Sacramento area female students currently enrolled in accredited community colleges or universities. The number of awards varies annually between 4 and 8, depending on available funds which are either donated or bequeathed. Scholarship awards of at least \$1,000 each are based on academic and personal achievements, strength of character and financial need.

Aunt Bonnie Chants with a Cyborg?

By Bonnie Coleman

Like many of us I get up with a general idea of what I want to accomplish by the day's end. Then I adjust throughout the day to the vagaries of that day. Never have I thought I'm going to block out a couple of hours to talk to someone or something that may or may not be

human. Judging by the past week I'm going to have to rethink my scheduling protocols.

Two days this week Verizon has had someone or something call me to chat for two hours at a time about what they are willing to do for me, and why they can't/won't because I can't give them my Verizon pin number. Then I try to remind them that they called me, that I already sent them a fistful of money, and that I am fairly sure I don't owe them more. Then they say can't/won't access my balance without my giving them my pin number. It took me two minutes to write that to you, including correcting my typos; it took two hours to talk them through it. The next day another drone called again and we repeated our little playlet.

I'm not really sure if I was talking to a person who is very, very



dull or a machine that has been upgraded to really, really clever, for a machine. The line has started to blur for me. It used to be that I could readily tell the difference: machines were tediously repetitive and always just a little off-center from what I was trying to discuss. People were more apt to vary their answers in choice of words even if they were monotonous about repeating their final positions. People could sometimes even be coerced or flattered into shifting their positions slightly toward being helpful. This creature was much more verbally flexible than the old machines, while being just as unrelenting in the clutch position. This only prolonged the agony for me. I tried being whimsical to see if it had a sense of humor. I tried being analytical, in case it was just another AI machine. At the end it always asked if there was anything else he/it could do for me, until I just blurted out that after two hours he/it had done nothing for me and why was it/he even

suggesting that who/whatever it was had done anything for me.

Now I'm just confused. First if I'm forced to talk to machines I'm glad they're getting more flexible and conversational. It gives me hope that one day they will learn to listen. But then again I'm ashamed to have wasted four hours of my ever-dwindling life talking to a machine and didn't even win the argument or get some options out of it.

Three Kings' Day By Wendy Haydon-Schneider

Three Kings Day is something I never celebrated when I lived in California. Maybe you celebrate it? When we lived in 'the big city' (in Mainz), I saw no signs of this celebration.....but living in a small village brought this rich tradition and celebration to us this year. It was cancelled in 2021 due to COVID, but came alive again in 2022. So, it was my first exposure to it.

"Tag der Heiligen Drei Könige" - literally "Day of the Holy Three Kings" occurs on January 6th each year, and signifies the end of Christmas time.... the 12th day of Christmas. Normally, Christmas markets close by this date and many people take down their Christmas decorations at this time. Note: I took down our decorations after the 6th (oops!) and our tree was picked up by the community's bio-trash collector on January 17th. January 6th is also known as Epiphany Day or just Epiphany, and is often also referred to as "Dreikönigstag" (Three Kings Day), "Drei Könige" (Three Kings), or "Erscheinung des Herrn" (Appearance of the Lord).

The day commemorates the visit of the three wise men from the orient, who came with gifts for the baby Jesus. This holiday can be viewed as both a Christian celebration and also as a symbol for the beginning of a new year.

Here, many people, especially children, partake in "Sternsingen" (star singing). My understanding is this tradition originated in about the 16th century,

and that it resurfaced about 50 years ago. The star singers go from door-to-door, dressed as the three kings, singing songs and collecting money for charitable causes and people in need. In our village, they collected money for various children's charities throughout Deutschland. When at each front door, the star singers write the date and "C+M+B" on that door. This is a symbol of faith, asking that Jesus Christ bless all who live within the home. The message is as follows, [the first two digits of the year] + C + M + B + [the last two digits of the year]". The "C", "M", and "B" stand for the names of the three Magi - Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, and the "+" represents the cross. For example, in 2022 people will mark "20 + C + M + B + 22" in chalk above their front door. The message also abbreviates the Latin phrase, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, meaning "May Christ bless the house." During our walks, when I saw these letters-numbers on houses, I often wondered what it meant. Now I know. These three young men visited us on January 6th and attached our blessing to the right side of our door. Here are photos of our visitors, the door with the blessing (blessing circled), and a closeup of the blessing. Our visitors graciously gave me permission to photograph them.





Three King's Day is an official holiday in parts of Germany; it is not in our state of Rheinland-Pfalz (Rhineland Palatinate).

Sources:

<https://www.thelocal.de/20200106/germany-public-holiday-why-is-three-kings-day-celebrated/>; <https://germanfoods.org/german-food-facts/celebrate-three-kings-day/>; <https://www.206tours.com/cms/blog/20cmb22-epiphany/>





Fundraisers **By Karen Smith**

Two more online fundraisers with See's Yumraising and Flower Power will be held soon.

See's Spring Yumraising will start in late February with the last date to order March 25th. The website link will be shared with you via email.

Flower Power spring sale will start on April 1st with orders shipping on April 1. The website closes on May 15. The website link will be shared via email.

The two fundraisers will run concurrently for a couple of weeks. We'll start with See's first and then add on Flower Power. We hope that you will share the information with friends and family. Besides giving them an opportunity to support a great cause, it puts a public face on the work that we do with SI Sacramento.

Join us for the February 18th **Speaker Meeting (via Zoom)** **Nilda Valmores, My Sister's House**

Are you wondering what is happening with My Sister's House? Or do you want to know what is that organization called My Sister's House? How and why is it different from other organizations?

Hear from Nilda Valmores, long-time SIS member and My Sister's House Executive Director on Friday, February 18th.

Nilda has been the Executive Director for My Sister's House for 18 years. When she isn't working, she can be found hanging with her new grandchild, annoying her two children and hubby, walking her dog and granddog, working on a sudoku puzzle, or eating french fries.

Cathy Diepenbrock
First Vice President – Karen Smith
 Second Vice President-Carol Adams
 Secretary-MaryAnne Selvage
 Treasurer-Kathy Platz
 Assistant Treasurer-Maria Trejo
 Board of Directors 2020-2022 –
 Mary Locke
 Board of Directors 2021-2023-
 Minisha Trivedia

Board action Item

- Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January Board Meeting

February Birthdays



Glorian Martinelli February 8
Alice Jarboe February 17
Carol Adams February 19
Mary Locke February 25

Donations

Eva Garcia for Richard Canterbury
 Elaine Pesce for Richard Canterbury
 Regena Boyland for Richard Canterbury
 Rosalie Gladden for Richard Canterbury
 Carol Adams for Richard Canterbury
 Barbara Coulam for Colleen Heck's mother,
 Carolyn Murphy
 Jennifer Willis for Richard Canterbury
 Wendy Haydon for Richard Canterbury
 Cathy Diepenbrock for Richard Canterbury
 Idelle Claypool for Richard Canterbury
 Phyllis McMaster Moist in memory of Richard
 Canterbury
 Sally Day in memory of Richard Canterbury
 Debbie Davis donation in lieu of buying
 Flower Power
 Rosalie Gladden made a donation to the general
 fund in honor of her sister, Rose D'Antonio

Upcoming SIS Meetings

Friday, February 4 – Business meeting
 Friday, February 18th – Nilda Valmores and
 My Sister's House
 Friday, March 4 – Business Meeting
 Friday, March 18 – Live Your Dream Awards
 Friday, April 1 – Business Meeting
 Friday, April 22 – SIS Scholarship Awards
*(Please note this is the 4th Friday due to Good
 Friday and Easter)*
 Friday, May 6 – Business Meeting
 Friday, May 20- Paula Salinger and Heather
 Tiffie, Capital Pro Bono
 Friday, June 3 – Soroptimists Celebrating
 Success
 Friday, June 17 – New President Installation
 (tentative date)

A safe haven for Asian Pacific Islander Women and Children



My Sister's House

HIGH TEA

Saturday | February 5, 2022

12:00pm - 1:00pm

JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR A CUP OF TEA, QUALITY TIME,
ENTERTAINMENT, AND TEA TABLE DECORATING CONTEST!

TEA BOX | \$35

Each Tea Box will have an assortment of:

- tasty tea sandwiches
- mandarin spring salad
- fancy fruit cup
- delicious cookies
- and tea bags for your warm cup of tea!

Tea Boxes will be available for
curbside pick up 9:00 AM-11:00 AM.

Purchase your box here:

<https://bit.ly/3t0XSgG>

SPONSOR(S) INCLUDE:

amazon

IF INTERESTED IN SPONSORSHIP, PLEASE CONTACT
LLIM@MY-SISTERS-HOUSE.ORG

24/7 Multilingual Help Line (916)428-3271

2022 JAPANTOWN LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

2223 10TH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95818
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2022
11AM-2PM



A SACRAMENTO, CA BASED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, DEDICATED TO SERVING ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AND OTHER UNDERSERVED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY PROVIDING A CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AND RESPONSIVE SAFE HAVEN, JOB TRAINING, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

24/7 MULTILINGUAL HELP LINE 916-428-3271
[HTTP://WWW.MY-SISTERS-HOUSE.ORG/](http://www.my-sisters-house.org/)



ESTABLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021, MY SISTER'S HOUSE TREASURES IS MY SISTER'S HOUSE SECOND BUSINESS ENTERPRISE NEXT TO MY SISTER'S CAFÉ. THE OPENING OF OUR VERY OWN THRIFT SHOP, HIGHLIGHTING THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER CULTURE, IS SIGNIFICANT TO SUPPORTING OUR WOMEN TO WORK PROGRAM, WHICH PROVIDES OUR CLIENTS WITH JOB TRAINING, RESUME BUILDING, JOB SUPPORT AND SERVE AS A STEP TOWARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

916-431-7941
[HTTPS://MY-SISTERS-HOUSE-TREASURES.SQUARE.SITE/](https://my-sisters-house-treasures.square.site/)



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OPEN:
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
11:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.

CLOSED:
SUNDAY & MONDAY