



SOROPTIMIST OF SACRAMENTO

April 2024

Upcoming Events

Business mtg 4/5

Human Trafficking
Conf 4/6

Scholarship
Awards 4/19

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President's Corner *by Nilda Valmores*

This is no April Fool's Day joke.

Sorooptimists of Sacramento is made up of great women!

That's how we have been able to sustain the organization for 100+ years and why we have a solid foundation to continue through the next 100 years..

Our members are great because of their generosity of skills and gifts and time. This is why our 101-anniversary celebration, Museum After Hours, was fun and successful!

It followed a wonderful Live Your Dream Awards luncheon and it precedes our upcoming conference. Hope you can join our Sorooptimist Human Trafficking Conference that we are hosting along with Sorooptimist Club of Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova on Saturday morning, April 6. See the flyer in the newsletter for more information. We would appreciate it if you would tell friends and especially community members that work in hotels and the hospitality industry.

Thank you, Sorooptimists of Sacramento, for supporting our history, making our history, and promoting the history and future of women and girls in need.

Nilda

History in the Making

March 23, 2024

By Nilda Valmores



Soroptimist International of Sacramento celebrated the start of its 2nd century in grand style with a special “History in the Making” reception at the Sacramento History Museum.

In brief, over 100 participants were present. (Approximately 120 tickets were sold.) The audience include friends and family of our Soroptimist members, as well as members from other Soroptimist clubs including Soroptimist of Elk Grove, Citrus Heights and Metropolitan Sacramento. In addition, representatives from organizations that our club has supported attended including National Council of Jewish Women and the Sacramento Women’s Commission. Conveniently and coincidentally, a staff member of Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH) which fights human trafficking locally, won two tickets at Sacramento County’s (first) Women and Girls Festival.

Event guests were able to see the impressive Soroptimist display of our club’s first hundred years, along with the other museum displays. They were also able to bid on approximately 25 silent auction basket / prizes available. They were able to enjoy delicious appetizers and desserts from local women-owned ventures.m

Much appreciation and thanks go to the following for ensuring the night’s success and acknowledgement of our next 100 years:

- Generous event donors like Dr. Jean Swenk, Mary Kobane, Phyllis Moist, Karen Smith, Regena Boyland.
- Our wonderful members who contributed to silent auction prizes and/or bid on prizes and sold tickets.
- Our amazing MC, Kelly Ryan.
- Our wonderful behind the scenes volunteers that included Andrea, Allison, Sally, Phyllis, Minisha, Pat Menz, Karen, Glorian, Vickie Lee (Mea culpa if I forgot anyone!)
- The awesome event committee: Many thanks to Michelle for being the Queen Event Bee, Rosalie for being our Silent Auction Queen; Idelle for being our Cash and Detail Queen; Regena for being our Museum Queen; Sarah for being our Display Queen; Karen for being our 100 for 100 fundraiser Queen and Pat McConahay for being our publicity Queen.

History Making requires history makers and our Soroptimist Club continues to have that in its members. Here’s to our next 99 years!

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SACRAMENTO

... presents ...

MUSEUM AFTER HOURS

4:00 PM

Doors Open, Silent Auction Open,
Hors D'oeuvres & Cocktails

4:30 PM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

5:45 PM

Silent Auction Closes

6:00 PM

Silent Auction Check-out Begins,
Bar Closes

7:00 PM

Museum Closes



Emcee: Kelly Ryan

**101 YEARS: STARTING OUR 2ND CENTURY
OF EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

In a period of turnovers and quick moments, it is incredible to be part of an organization that has been able to sustain itself while fostering leadership and service to the community.

Enjoy learning about our history and the various displays and even better having fun with other Soroptimists and meeting new people. Thank you for supporting our organization and more importantly thank you for helping us with scholarships and programs to help improve the lives of women and girls in need in our area.

Here's to the next 100 years of service!

- President Nilda Valmores

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Karen Smith and Christine Bara
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Debbie Davis and Dennis Greenbaum
Phyllis Moist



THANK YOU FOR COMING!!

Human Trafficking & the Hospitality Industry



Register by 3/31
for only \$10

WHEN:

April 6, 2024
Saturday,
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

WHERE:

Rancho Cordova
City Hall
2729 Prospect Park
Drive
Rancho Cordova

REGISTER @

<https://guestli.st/770034>



Sponsored by: SOROPTIMISTS
of Elk Grove, Rancho
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In Search of Blanche Edgar / Shirely Godfrey **Recommendations:**

Do you know of a local organization serving underserved women and girls that needs help with a “brick and mortar” or capital project (not program expenses.)

If yes, please rush their name and idea over to the Blanche Edgar / Shirley Godfrey committee (c/o Mary Wardlaw, Co-chair: marywardlaw1@gmail.com) which will be meeting April 9th to discuss nominees to give a grant award or two this year.

Some examples of SIS Balance Edgar/ Shirley Godfrey projects funded have included:

- materials for the Old Schoolhouse Museum in Old Sacramento;
- renovation of the Clunie Clubhouse in McKinley Park;
- fencing and irrigation system for a community garden in Del Paso Heights;
- a meeting room in the Teichert Boys and Girls Club at 12th & G Streets;
- a “ball wall” at a Title I school;
- a kitchen for a safe house at “My Sister’s House” (a domestic violence shelter);
- a mini-van for W.E.A.V.E. (Women Escaping a Violent Environment)

Who are / were Blanche Edgar and Shirley Godfrey?

Blanche Edgar Girot: Over the years, many prominent members of the community have been a part of SIS. However, one very noteworthy citizen was Blanche Edgar Girot. Blanche was president of SIS in 1930, but her contributions to our club touch SIS and the community to this day. She chartered 104 clubs throughout the world. Her motto was “Attendance is the price of membership and service is the means of enjoyment of that membership.” She gifted some land to SIS in 1965 and the proceeds of the sale have allowed SIS to fund the construction and current upkeep of the School House in Old Sacramento, the Pirate Ship in Fairy Tale Town, and the Arts and Crafts Room at the Thomas P. Raley Boys and Girls Club to name a few.

Shirley E. Godfrey: (9/7/1920-4/25/2002). Shirley was the absolute model of a true and devoted Soroptimist. She began as a “Venture Girl” around 1946 and became a Soroptimist in 1957 when she joined SIS. She became president of SIS in 1969. Shirley retired from the Sacramento County Superior Court as court clerk to set aside enough time in her life to become the second Governor of the newly formed Sierra Nevada Region from 1978 to 1980. Prior to that time, she served as Secretary on the Board of Directors for the Southwestern Region. Shirley left a large portion of her estate to SIS when she passed away in 2002. The funds are used variously to pay for “concrete” projects and scholarships for young and re-entry women.

Live Your Dream Awards- March 2024

By Pat McConahay

“I am very grateful for this award as it will help me realize my dream to become a case manager in a hospice facility,” said Shanita Morris, one of four recipients of SIS’s 2024 “Live Your Dream” award. The single mother of five wrote in her application, “While I was definitely born into a more difficult life, with all of its trials and tribulations, my vision for my children has made me want to change this cycle of dysfunction for them.” Shanita is earning an AA in Human Resources with a goal of becoming a case manager in a hospice facility.

Soroptimist’s Live Your Dream Award, founded in 1972, is a unique education award for women who are the primary financial support for their families. More than half of the recipients are survivors of domestic violence, trafficking, or sexual assault. They may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to get a higher education. That includes books, childcare, tuition, and transportation.

Another recipient, Kayla Burleson-Nelson, said “There are many times I wanted to give up, quit school and quit life. I am so overwhelmed with everything, but I just pray about it and look at my children and say I have come too far to give up.” Kayla is earning her AA in Early Childhood Education and works full time at a child development center.

On March 15, 2024, Kayla and Shanita were presented with Live Your Dream Awards along with two others: Evangeline Ogbu who is studying speech pathology and Angelica Martinez, a library assistant, who is taking classes to improve her skills as a library assistant.

SIS distributes an average of \$10,000 a year for the Live Your Dream awards.

Congratulations to Evangeline, Angelica, Kayla and Shanita (pictured below, left to right)



April Random Act of Kindness is supporting the Women's Resource Center at Sacramento State. We are running a clothing drive to donate to the Center to help their student community of women, girls, and moms.

Types of items needed:
Professional Attire for job seekers
Casual Women's Clothing
Shoes
Purses

Please bring your donations to the Swanston Community Center at our speaker meeting on **Friday, April 19 between 12 pm and 1 pm.**

Thank you for your support!



