

June 2021

Soroptimist
International of
La Mesa



SOROPTIMIST

A global women's organization whose members work to improve the lives of women & girls through programs leading to social & economic empowerment.



President Lisa's Message



Happy June Everyone!

It's going to be a game changer of a month! We are returning to seeing each other in person and change is in the air. Even though this will be my second term as your President, this will be my first in-person Installation! I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at DiLeone's restaurant on Saturday, June 19th. Additionally, our annual planning meeting will be held both in person and virtually for those who are either not in the La Mesa area or who prefer to remain virtual for a while longer. I'm working to figure out the best way to conduct our planning meeting in a way where those of you who can join us via Zoom are able to participate as if you are with us, in person.

It promises to be a big year ahead. We set some awesome precedents last year by holding our Thanks for Giving Breakfast and our Live Your Dream Webinar through the use of Zoom and still managing to bring in an amazing amount of money through this alternative format. We will build upon this and work to bring in even more money in support of our great efforts and programs for women and girls. I am looking forward to another year of leading our club but I want to take a moment to reflect on this past year. It was definitely a difficult one to navigate, however, I want to thank all of the fine women who were on the Board of Directors in 2020/2021. Without your commitment, guidance, support and belief in me I could not have called this year a success. Yet, it was more than a success. It was amazing! And I am only a small part of that amazing. Each and every one of you deserve a standing ovation. Thank you to all!

Be on the lookout for reminders regarding our planning meeting scheduled for Saturday, July 17th, 9 am – Noon at Denny's. YES – we are returning to Denny's in July!!!! I hope Juan remembers my standard order! And I hope to see you there in whichever format you wish! We have some big planning to accomplish and I continue to rely on all of you to help me do amazing things!

Have a wonderful June, enjoy the onset of summer, and stay healthy and strong.

Sincerely,
President Lisa

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Upcoming club activities:

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, all club meetings in the foreseeable future will be Zoom meetings.
(Zoom, 5:30 pm unless otherwise stated)

6/3/21 Business Meeting - 5:30 pm Zoom

6/17/21 Board Meeting - 5:30 pm Zoom

6/19/21 Installation - 1:00 DiLeone's

SOROPTIMIST ORIENTATION, LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING

Announcing our 2021-2022 SIA President-elect

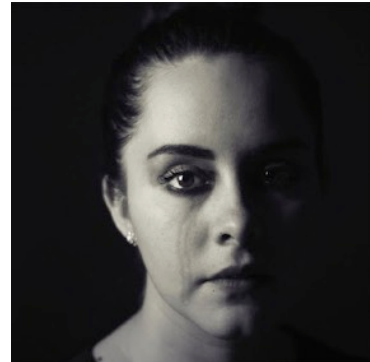
Our warmest congratulations to **Stephanie Smith**, who has been elected as our 2021-2022 Soroptimist International of the Americas President-elect beginning on September 1, 2021. She will assume the office as SIA President on September 1, 2022 and will serve in that position through August 31, 2023. Our best wishes on success as the 63rd President of Soroptimist International of the Americas.



Stephanie Smith
SI/Oak Harbor, Washington
(Northwestern Region)

Help pass VAWA! (the Violence Against Women Act)

Nearly half of the women we serve through our *Live Your Dream Awards* identify as survivors of abuse. Experiencing (and recovering from) violence is one of the biggest barriers these women face on the path to education and empowerment. Every second counts for women enduring unimaginable abuse. Please support the passage of VAWA by urging your senators to move forward on this vote.



SAVE THE DATE
We are going to see
each other in
person!!!!

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF LA MESA Installation of 2021-2022 Officers

Saturday, June 19, 2021

1:00 – 4:00pm

Di Leone's Italian Restaurant

1480 Jamacha Rd.

El Cajon, CA 92019

RSVP with Dolores before June 12, 2021

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Elena Totten was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Queens and Long Island. She has a sister, Linda and is close with two cousins in Oregon and Corona, CA. Her Nickname is ET.

In Junior High and High School Elena worked for a local dentist as an assistant. This dentist and her father decided she would be a dental hygienist (although she wanted to be a stewardess) and they insisted she get a college education. She attended the State University of NY in Farmingdale, receiving her Dental Hygiene license and there she met her late husband, Pieter. They were married in 1968 when Pieter was in the Navy and immediately were stationed in Portsmouth, Virginia, followed by St. Albans, NY (which was near her home town) and then San Diego.

While Pieter had many careers: landscape architect, health administration, travel agent, owner of gift shop and culinary school and culinary school instructor, just to name a few - Elena worked as a Dental Hygienist in all the cities where they lived and had to take a licensing test for each state: NY, NJ, Virginia and California. She still works and loves being a hygienist.

Elena's hobbies include: Reading, travel, cleaning house and cleaning out her garage. She is the unofficial travel guide for excursions abroad with friends and is an avid participant in the Soroptimist International Chatline.

She joined Soroptimist International of La Mesa in September 1988 and her sponsor was Diane Dobson. What she likes best about Soroptimist is the international aspects, friendships, the support from members, helping women and the feeling you get while helping them.

Elena is the EVERY READY BUNNY of the club and never stops promoting, advocating for women and representing the epitome of Soroptimism. In many ways she did achieve her desire to become a stewardess - a stewardess of Soroptimist. She is the club's President Elect for 2021-2022



CONGRATULATIONS TO SI LAMESA MEMBER - SAVANNAH McCULLY



Savannah received her degree of Master of Science - Child Development with a Concentration in Early Childhood Mental Health (LPCC) from SDSU's College of Education, Department of Child and Family Development. This will be her second masters degree as she holds a Master of Arts in Education, as well.

She will be working as an Associate Therapist in private practice in the Rancho Bernardo area.

We are all very proud of you, Savannah.

SI La Mesa is proud to support young women in their quest to better the communities where they live.



Desiree Adamos was sponsored by SI La Mesa in her leadership role to improve education. Below is her thank you note to the club.

“Because of the Soroptimist Club, I was able to financially afford attending SABLE, which is the Student Advisory Board on Legislation Education, which is hosted by CASC, the California Association of Student Councils. I was given the opportunity to collaborate with up to 100 students across California about important issues ranging from racial equity, environmental activism, mental health, and LGBTQ+ representation. We were able to write proposals and present these proposals to policymakers within the California Department of Education. By being the Student Board Member of my district, I was able to take the proposals from this conference and present them to local leaders in my community, such as my Superintendent and School Board. Thank you so much for this opportunity.”

Best,
Desiree Adamos



Ava Fox was sponsored by SI La Mesa in her Scout project.

Ava saw a need to enhance geography skills in elementary students. She painted a large playground map of the USA on the blacktop at Christian Elementary School's East Campus. She then created a supplementary website with developmentally appropriate educational resources for each grade level (K-6). Finally, she designed interactive games and activities, complete with a resource kit of supplies and instructions, to be used on the outdoor map. Her project has made a measurable and sustainable impact in the community. Ava's website and curriculum are available to other schools in the district and include complete instructions on how to replicate the map on other campuses in order to continue to educate children about geography in the future.



Thank you to everyone who donated to SI La Mesa's UnTea. It was a great success with the virtual silent auction being attended by many participants. A big thank you goes out to club members who created the silent auction baskets and to those who delivered them to the winners. In this age of social distancing, this event proved that under difficult circumstances the community will continue to support our efforts to improve the lives of women and girls.

Again, Thank You.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 SI LA MESA CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE

6/3/21 Business Meeting 5:30 pm Zoom

6/17/21 Board Meeting 5:30 pm Zoom



SI San Diego is hosting a **FREE** virtual Turkish Cooking Class as part of their International Projects Program, Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM Pacific time, 8:00 PM in Turkey.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4758876805?pwd=UnpJQ2FQbVNQL0srZnhEb1dpcUNFUT09https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4758876805?pwd=UnpJQ2FQbVNQL0srZnhEb1dpcUNFUT09>

Meeting ID: 475 887 6805 Passcode: 663797

Club Birthdays
June 13 - Elena Totten

STAT! Soroptimist Together Against Trafficking
There is no meeting scheduled in March.
Meetings will be on Zoom until further notice.

SI La Mesa has an Instagram Account (Soroptimist of La Mesa) and a Facebook account. Check them out!



To support SI La Mesa, please go to Smile Amazon and select Soroptimist International of La Mesa as your charity and a portion of your purchases will benefit the women and girls we serve..

If you would like to purchase gift cards for the holidays, please contact the club at silamesa.org. There is a wide variety of cards available for graduation, birthday or other special days.



Soroptimist International
of La Mesa

Best for Women

PO Box 637

La Mesa, CA 91944

Contact: President Lisa McCully

www.silamesa.org Find us on Facebook

Soroptimist is a global women's organization whose members volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Approximately 80,000 Soroptimist in 130 countries and territories support community-based and global projects benefiting women and girls. The organization is particularly concerned with providing women and girls access to education, as this is the most effective path to self-determination.

The name Soroptimist means "best for women" and that's what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are women at their best working together to help other women to be their best.

Club Meetings will be held on Zoom at 5:30 pm until further notice.

First Thursday of each Month—Business Meetings

Program Meetings will be announced one month before occurring.

Third Thursday of each Month—Committee Meeting - As needed

Notes: Only one meeting is held in the months of July and August—date to be determined by club President

Scribbles Editor: Linda Newell Contact: lindanewell@silamesa.org

Officers, Board Members and Delegates - 2020-2021

President: Lisa McCully

Past President: Lisa Moore

President-Elect- Fundraising Chair: Becky Burgstiner

Director - One Year: Christine Hartwell

Vice-President/Programs of Service: Anne DiNapoli

Director - Two Years: Elena Totten

Recording Secretary: Linda Newell

Delegate - One Year: Felis Wolven

Treasurer: Felis Wolven & Linda Barbod

Delegate - Two Years: Savannah McCully

Corresponding Secretary: Dolores Kelly