

Soroptimist International of Woodland

May 2014

www.soroptimistofwoodland.org

Volume Four

Issue Three

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June 4 Scholarship and Awards Luncheon

June 11 Installation of new officers

June 20-22 Club Retreat

SI Woodland

Club Meetings:

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month
5:30 p.m. at Wraith, Scarlett, and Randolph (WSR)

2nd Wednesday noon at Mojo's Bar and Grill

4th Wednesday social evening TBA



President's Message

This 2013-2014 Soroptimist year is quickly winding to an end. It sure has passed quickly!

The Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada wrapped up on April 27, 2014. There is a lot of exciting news to report. The realignment of SNR Districts was passed. This does affect SI Woodland as we are moving from District 5 to District 2. District 2 now includes SI Colusa County, Marysville-Yuba City, Grass Valley, Nevada City, Sierra Foothills, Davis, Greater Davis, Winters, Woodland, and Orland.

Two members from SI Woodland ran for office at SNR Conference. I am very pleased to report that both Tania Garcia-Cadena and Vicki Watson both won the election for District 2 Director and SNR Governor-Elect respectively. We are so proud of Tania and Vicki. Congratulations to you both! This is an exciting time for our club!

Cinco de Yolo, where the five Yolo County SI clubs gather annually to share information and socialize, was put on by SI Winters on April 30. This year it was held at the Palms Playhouse in Winters. I would like to give a great big "Thank You" to the wonderful ladies of SI Winters. It was a lovely evening and the venue was absolutely stunning! Great job!!

SI Woodland held the First Annual Spaghetti Fundraising Dinner on May 8th, 2014 at the Black Dragon Brewery in Woodland. I am very happy to announce that we were sold out for the event and received many donations. In total we raised just over \$1800 for our expanding College Bound Program. The evening was lots of fun and everyone had a great time.

Thank you SI Woodland for a job well done!

Tami Leathers

President 2013-2014



Fundraising and Community Outreach



Partying with a Purpose - Soroptimist Style

How does a vodka-based concoction, known as the Grape Escape, raise funds for SI Woodland?? Through Mojo's Lounge's Cocktail for a Cause program of course! Christy Hayes, owner of Kitchen 428 and Mojo's Lounge chooses a non-profit beneficiary each month to receive 50% of a designated cocktail.

She also offers the opportunity for a volunteer to serve as a "Celebrity" bartender for an evening, with proceeds from the event going

back to the organization. Thank you to Tania Garcia-Cadena for being the best "celebrity mixologist". During our Celebrity Bartender event, we also had a meet and greet for those interested in joining our organization.

This is the second year in row that we've used Cocktail for a Cause funds to help cover expenses associated with our Live Your Dream Hike and a good time was had by all. Over \$100 was collected in tips during our Celebrity Night. Our total take for the month was \$435.00 and was a huge help to cover transportation costs. Thank you Mojo's Lounge!!

<http://www.mojoskitchen428.com/>

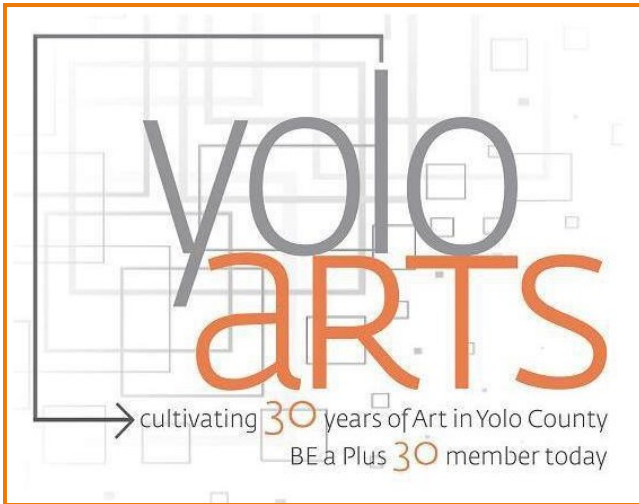
SI Woodland at the First Friday Art Walk

SI Woodland participated in Woodland's April First Friday Art Walk. The Art Walk is sponsored by Yolo Arts as a way to encourage businesses, art galleries and restaurants to exhibit artwork, host live music, and provide family-friendly activities on Main Street and in the Downtown Area. Club member Laura Liddecoet baked cookies to entice the crowd and members shared information about our unique programs and projects, specifically the Live Your Dream Hike and our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

We had well over a hundred people stop by to chit chat and find out just exactly "Who are these Soroptimist ladies and what do they do?" It was a great way for members to connect with the community and for us to share our mission with those who might be unfamiliar with Soroptimist.

<http://www.yoloarts.org/programs-and-services/1st-friday-art-walk>





YoloArts is dedicated to cultivating and enriching lives through the arts. A non-profit, YoloArts partners with businesses, schools, and other non-profits to build opportunities for artists, community members, and children to participate in and enjoy a variety of art forms.

Current programs funded and facilitated by YoloArts include:

Art education programs in schools throughout Yolo County serving over 2200 students per year through programs such as Poetry Out Loud at Esparto High School; classroom and school mural programs in four different districts and the Artist in Schools program which provides in-depth ceramic art education for students K-12th grade.

Art and Ag program founded by YoloArts to cultivate relationships between artists, farmers, and the community to raise awareness of the importance of preserving our farmland and the visual arts in Yolo County. Art and Ag has gained national recognition for Yolo County and has been recognized as a model program for using the arts to increase community vibrancy.

First Friday Art Walk showcases local and regional artists' works in a variety of mediums on display at Gallery 625 and downtown businesses from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm on the first Friday of each month. In addition to visual arts, music, dance, and performance art take place encouraging participation by the community. In addition, YoloArts invites other community non-profit organizations, such as Soroptimist International of Woodland, to participate in the First Friday Art Walk by showcasing their organization's mission and programs.

The Community Mandala Project is an offshoot of the Art and Ag program and delivers a hands-on approach to art for the residents of Yolo County with the guidance of professional artists.

Funds to support programs come from a variety of sources including grants, fundraisers, membership, and matching funds from school districts participating in the art education programs.

For more information on YoloArts go to <http://www.yoloarts.org/programs-and-services>.





Live Your Dream Hike

The sixth annual “Live Your Dream” Hike took place on April 12, 2014. This year we had the privilege of taking 24 young women on the 5-mile hike which started from Muir Woods National Park and ended at Stinson Beach.

This hike is more than just a walk in the park and lunch at the beach. In addition to being physically challenging it is also a day of personal growth. Our main purpose is not only to educate these young women, but also to empower them to take control of their own lives, be responsible for their own actions, and believe in themselves and their dreams.

Program coordinator BriAnne Dewberry mentioned, “The hard work put in by the committee members and the eagerness of the young women in our community to participate made this another successful year of hiking. I am already looking forward to next year!”

This year's activities included an icebreaker game for the bus ride up, a scavenger hunt during the hike, and a pop quiz for the bus ride home (there was even a small prize for the winner). At the halfway point of the hike we took a break and had a group discussion and activity which was focused on what it means to have a healthy body image and how the media portrays the “ideal body type”.

The Live Your Dream campaign inspires women and girls to live their dreams and encourages them to pass on their good fortune to others. The campaign celebrates the unique power and accomplishments of women and girls. When women help themselves and one another, amazing things can happen. The Live your Dream Campaign is an empowering women's network and one of the leading online women support groups and sources of inspiration for women and girls. The mission of Live Your Dream Campaign is to enhance the life of women and girls, in local communities and all over the world.



SI Woodland Scholarships and Awards 2014

In June we will be hosting our annual Live Your Dream Luncheon to honor the recipients of our various scholarships and awards.



The Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women

The Soroptimist Ruby Award honors women who have worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work. Soroptimist International of Woodland honors Piper Giannola with the Ruby Award. Piper's work exemplifies this extraordinary commitment: she retired in 2011 to devote herself full time to the work of the organization she founded, goal4.org. Goal 4's work and name is based on the fourth United Nations Millennium Development Goal, which is to reduce under-five mortality. Piper's organization has focused on Segwa, Kenya, a cluster of villages in a region of Kenya which has suffered the highest child mortality rates in the country. Goal4.org is currently focused on addressing the top five causes of infant mortality in Kenya: Lack of Neonatal care, Diarrheal Disease, Pneumonia, Malaria, and Malnutrition. Each of their programs is focused on either prevention or diagnosis and treatment. Goal4.org will receive a \$1,000 donation from Soroptimist of Woodland as part of our Ruby Award program.

<http://goal4.org/about.html>



The Live Your Dream Education and Training Award (formerly Women's Opportunity Award) was established to assist women who have overcome significant hardships and shoulder the primary financial responsibility for their families to obtain the skills, training, and education necessary to improve their employment status and standard of living for themselves and their family. This year's \$1,000 award winner is Samantha Snider. Samantha experienced challenges and personal setbacks but was able to successfully turn her life around which is a testament to her strength of character and determination to make a better life for her daughter and herself. Samantha is currently attending Cambridge Junior College to become a Medical Assistant, but her ultimate goal is to become a Registered Nurse.

SI Woodland Scholarships and Awards 2014 continued



The Violet Richardson Award is a recognition program for young women ages 14-17 engaged in volunteer action within their communities or schools. The award is given to young women whose activities make the community and world a better place. Recipients receive \$500 and the recipient's charitable organization of choice will also receive \$500. **The Evelyn Holland Scholarship** honors young women pursuing their education in agriculture, who exemplify



Evelyn Holland's dedication to civic affairs and the advancement of women in society. This award's recipient will receive \$1,000. Our Violet Richardson and Evelyn Holland Scholarship were awarded to Mary Mast. While it is unusual to recommend one individual for two awards, the Scholarship Committee found her to be an exceptional individual whose qualifications exceed the criteria for both of the awards. Mary volunteers at several organizations but indicated that organization "closest to her heart" is Friends of Meals on Wheels which will receive a donation in her name SI Woodland as part of the Violet Richardson Award.

If you are interested in applying for next year's awards, please go to

<http://www.soroptimistofwoodland.org/scholarships.html>

to review requirements and deadline information.



Sheila Edwards Memorial Scholarship

The Sheila Edwards Memorial Scholarship honors young women pursuing a career in education, who exemplify Sheila Edwards' passion for education and improving literacy in our community. Our award winner is Rehan Shafqat and she will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend college. Rehan has exhibited a passion for education and literacy, as demonstrated by her own educational successes and her volunteer teaching with elementary school children and at her Mosque. Rehan's passion also stems from watching her parents' struggles to provide for their family, as a result of their limited formal education. Rehan overcame adversity in her freshman year and ended her high school years with an outstanding GPA. She plans to transfer from community college to the University of California Davis and obtain a degree and teaching credential. We are confident she will be the enthusiastic and well-trained teacher she aspires to be.

Officers 2013-2014:

President

Tami Leathers

President-Elect

Monique Brammeier

Secretary

BriAnne Dewberry

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Sierra Nevada Region (SNR)

<http://www.soroptimistsnr.org/>

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)

<http://www.soroptimist.org/>

Soroptimist International

<http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/>

SIA's "Live Your Dream!" Campaign

<http://www.LiveYourDream.org>



Thank you to all the SI Woodland members who contributed to this newsletter.