

# Salty Soroptimist News

## January 2024

Soroptimist of Salt Lake

January 2024  
Volume 3 Issue 6

### President Rita's Message



We had a busy December! Breakfast with Santa for 39 Moms and their children; A Dream It Be It program at Granite Connections; and our Club Christmas Party!

For Breakfast with Santa, as always, the help and the toys showed up! We were able to give each child 3 toys and also they were able to pick out something for their stockings and each child got a bag of candy when they visited with Santa. Mrs. Santa even did some shopping after all the Moms were done shopping and made a donation to our Club. Leftover toys were donated to a shelter and to the Liberty Wells Refugee Center. They

were all thrilled to get items for their clients.

At Granite Connections we had about 30 girls participate in the Dream It Be It program. That was about the largest group we have had to date. We love meeting these young women and working with them to help set their future path to success and economic independence.

The Club Party was fun as always. There were several items that got "stolen" several times. Such a variety of gifts and everyone was happy with their selection. As always, we had a great variety of food which we all enjoyed.

Our Live Your Dream Award winners have been selected. Please plan to attend in February to meet these amazing women and congratulate them and encourage them on!

Looking ahead.....we have our big fundraiser on March 8th! Please mark your calendars! The fundraising committee has been working hard to set up funding and looking for sponsors. Let's get our community involved in donating and not always using just members money for our fundraiser. We need everyone's help to make this a VERY SUCCESSFUL event. Jan Crane has set up flyers and handouts and how to communicate with potential sponsors or just ask for donations for our silent auction! Please help us be successful!

Happy New Year!!!  
President Rita



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#### 2023-2-24 Officers/Board

<b>President—Rita Offrett</b>
<b>President Elect—Barbara Rosner</b>
<b>Treasurer—Donna Schultz</b>
<b>Treasurer Elect—Loretta Peterson</b>
<b>Dir- at Large—Angela Yarborough</b>
<b>Secretary—Cheri Richardson</b>
<b>Parliamentarian—Cathy Stevens</b>
<b>Past President—Carma Ingram</b>
<b>Delegate—Pat Murdoch</b>
<b>Delegate—Teresa Just</b>



## Breakfast with Santa

by Teresa Just



Breakfast with Santa 2023 was a huge success thanks to all our members, volunteers, donors, and community partners.

We served 38 single mother families with 75 children, providing new warm clothing for every child and toys and gifts for the families to exchange this holiday season.

Messages from a few of the families:

*To Soroptimist of Salt Lake. I just wanted to tell you how much today's Breakfast with Santa means to me. Thank you so much for making me part of this. I had a really good time there, the breakfast was so good, and the gifts were amaz-*

*ing. Now my son has winter clothes, so I won't worry about getting him some. Thank you so much for the help. I really appreciate it.*

*I wanted to thank you all for such a wonderful time we had last Saturday. I am truly grateful. My son is still talking about how much fun he had!*

*Thank you, guys. I was stressed about this first Christmas just me and my children with barely enough to get by. What a huge blessing. I couldn't wait to get home and cry. I'm truly grateful and feel very blessed to be able to give them gifts. Thank you all so much.*











## Generosity for Breakfast with Santa by Jan Crane



We couldn't hold our Breakfast with Santa event without the many toy donations we receive. One particular group has been a major donor for the past several years. Charsti Merrill, who became acquainted with Jan Crane through a yoga studio they both attended, learned about our need for toys and donated generously through the studio for many years. The studio closed but Charsti is so impressed with our mission that she continues to gather an abundance of toys for us- this year over \$1000 worth! Taking it to the next level, inviting not only her family to participate, but the parents of teams she coaches, and even her daughter's LDS ward. In addition, the group gave us a check for \$300. Charsti says that "People really want to help, they sometimes just don't know where to

direct their efforts." We are grateful for the kindness of good people and to have their generous support.

*Charsti says that "People really want to help, they sometimes just don't know where to direct their efforts."*







## Annual Christmas Party

by Carma Ingram



We celebrated our Annual Christmas Party at Cheri Richardson's club house this year. Everyone brought a food item to share, which was delicious. We always have fun with our gift exchange where we are able to steal each other's gifts in a fun gift exchange. While we were there, we all donated to the Soroptimist International President's Appeal, which resulted in a \$181 donation to that cause. It was just a beautiful night sharing our mutual friendship with each other and relaxing after all the hard work that we have accomplished this year.







# SI Salt Lake City - Live Your Dream Awards 2023-2024

## by Teresa Just

Co-Chairs: Teresa Just & Zulie Langarica

\$500 – Jazmyn (scored 28)

\$500 – Mariya (scored 28)

Community Judges:

Rikki deMik – former Soroptimist

Claudia Ponce – former Soroptimist (Latina Club)

Mandy Argyle – 2021 LYD Award Recipient (graduated May 2023)

Our Impact:

\$5,500 in awards distributed.

6 inspiring women received an award.

120 volunteer hours

We received 22 applications: 16 qualified, 4 did not meet the requirements and 2 were transferred to other clubs.

We had so many deserving women making the evaluation process very challenging for our 3 judges. The highest score possible is 30. Judges scores are averaged for each applicant. We had two women who received an average score of 30, two scored 29.5, and two scored 28. All others scored 27 or below.

Since we had a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, our co-chairs collaborated to make the very difficult decision, who would be our 1<sup>st</sup> place winner? As a first-place recipient at the local level, their application will move on to an additional level of judging at our district/region level to be considered for additional funding.

Award Winners: (first names only)

\$1,250 – Ashlei (scored 30)  
(submitted as our 1<sup>st</sup> place winner)

\$1,250 – Wendy (scored 30)

\$1,000 – Lealai (scored 29.5)

\$1,000 – Thaianne (scored 29.5)

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Live Your Dream Award Banquet on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Meet these amazing women and hear a little about their story and how Live Your Dream has impacted their lives.

Below are messages sent from a few of the award winners:

*To have received your organization's assistance with Christmas and to now be awarded with a scholarship, I am in complete awe. I've never experienced such kindness before and I am forever grateful to you and your organization. Thank you for your help with everything, it truly means a lot and makes a difference for my children and I.*

*From the bottom of my heart thank you all so much! What a year it has been for my children and I! I cannot thank you all enough for making our Christmas special this year. It was overwhelming and for lack of better words very heartwarming to know they will have such big smiles this Christmas. We've been placed in this townhome after the DV shelter (March 2023) and since then been struggling to balance everything but the priority and the reason for it all will always be my children's well-being, safety, happiness, and future.*

*I'm truly grateful for the support and opportunity to receive this award and all the help. It means a lot to me to be able to have help in a time where I feel so inadequate as a parent to such beautiful little souls. When we moved to a DV shelter I had no idea what will happen next, I just knew I wanted to finally raise my kids in peace and build a foundation for when I'm gone. I want them to be ok and have a beautiful life without worries such as mine. My special needs boys are my biggest blessing because their diagnosis gave*

**Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Live Your Dream Award Banquet on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Meet these amazing women and hear a little about their story and how Live Your Dream has impacted their lives.**

*me so much strength to overcome and press forward, knowing they will never have the ability to be self-sufficient and independent. I live to make sure they have their needs met with and without mom! Thank you, Soroptimist of Salt Lake, this award will help us keep ourselves sheltered and safe from the cold streets of Utah. We are very humble and grateful; words are never enough for to express my sincere gratitude!*

*Thank you so much for the great news! I am honored to be a recipient. I am forever grateful for this opportunity.*

*You don't know how much that means to us. I'm completely speechless. Things like this never really happens. Thank you beyond words can express.*



## Spring Fund Raiser—Trivia & Tapas—March 8th

*Each of us will need to recruit one or more teams (6-8 people) to make the Trivia & Tapas night a success!*



Our fundraiser will be here before we know it (March 8th). Now is the time for *action*- PLEASE approach your favorite places, companies you associate with, etc. and ask for donations for the event.

Note: it might be a tiny bit scary/uncomfortable- just ask yourself, "What's the worst that could happen?" They might say no, and could you live with that? Of course!

Also, talk it up with friends and family- each of us will need to recruit one or more teams (6-8 people) to make the Trivia & Tapas night a success.

We have created some useful tools for you which were sent out in an email by Jan. These included:

Sample letters- these are in word so you can easily modify to make them more personal

Sample postcard- snip & print, or

let Jan know and she will print them for you

Sample flyer- we will have these printed soon so we can share and post them

Soroptimists MAKE IT HAPPEN and it takes all of us. Will you do your part?

Any questions, call Jan or Carolyn or Kyra.





## Program Meeting—January 17th

Take a peek inside the inner workings of Soroptimist International with our Soroptimist 101 activity. Learn something new while engaging with other members. We will also be unveiling our club's public awareness campaign for this year.

Wednesday, January 17

6:30-8:00 pm

Refreshments

Interior Solutions

2375 South 300 West

South Salt Lake, UT 84115

RSVP Carolyn Roberts

[carolyn0501@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn0501@gmail.com)

801-205-5565

Soroptimist International of the Americas

**Soroptimist 101**

&

**Public Awareness Campaign**

Wednesday, January 17  
6:30 - 8:00 pm

Interior Solutions  
2375 S 300 W  
South Salt Lake



**Many Happy Returns**

*Amy Caputo January 23*



## Soroptimist of Salt Lake

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*dream*

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**Investing in Dreams**



## January/February Calendar & Member News

### *Mark Your Calendars ...*

- 1/3—Board Meeting at Rita's  
(all members welcome)
- 1/10—Fund Raiser Zoom Meeting
- 1/17—Program Meeting
- 2/7—Board Meeting at Rita's
- 2/17—Live Your Dream Awards  
Banquet

### *Fund Raising Totals*

Fall Fundraiser	\$4,430.00
Breakfast with Santa	\$1,475.00
Giving Tuesday	\$288.00
SI President's Appeal	\$181.00

