

THE WAIKIKI WIRELESS

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF WAIKIKI FOUNDATION, INC.

AUGUST 2021

Afghanistan Turmoils Moves Soroptimist Mission Into Focus

American eyes have for the past several months been focused on the country of Afghanistan. With 13 U.S. servicemen killed in the closing days of U.S. involvement, so many questions still remain concerning Afghanistan's future after August 31st.

It was nearly two decades ago that America rescued the future of thousands of Afghan women and children with it's defeat of the Taliban, and many fear that these efforts will be abandoned to the Taliban during this post August, 2021 period.

The Taliban, always known for brutal treatment of Afghan women and girls, had prohibited girls from being educated, imprisoned women in their homes and often subjected them to violence, humiliation, torture, and gruesome executions.

Laura Bush gave a Presidential Radio Address in November 2001 to raise awareness of the plight of Afghan women and girls. President Bush and Afghan President Hamid Karzai formed the U.S, Afghan Women's Council, which launched dozens of programs to help women and girls in Afghanistan rebuild their lives. Of course, these hard-won gains are in grave jeopardy because of the most recent slapdash U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Especially as Soroptimists, whose mission is to better the lives of women and girls, our attention needs to be on the lives and future of these Afghan women and girls, who made enormous progress over the past 20 years. Girls have been educated; women run businesses and serve as soldiers, police officers and provincial mayors. These women have been trained as physicians allowing access to health care for the first time. They are some of the most courageous, shrewd, resilient and inspiring women whom we cannot watch be abandoned to the very likely horrific fate that awaits them under Taliban rule again.



Soroptimists have watched carefully as the Biden administration and Congress have been as aggressive as possible in helping especially women and children seek a safe haven from the Taliban. We do not want the women and children to return to repressive policies and human rights violations. We do not want 20 years of active American involvement to end in vain.

The Waikiki Wireless is published monthly by the Soroptimist International of Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

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President's Message



Greetings!

It's hard to believe that summer is ending, and September is here! We started into summer with optimism and joy seeing familiar faces at in person meetings. We did not anticipate how short lived that would be. We were happy to see friends and family and enjoy our favorite dining spots and shopping outings.

August saw two cancelled meetings: Our Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training (SOLT) and our 5th Tuesday Social outing. Hard decisions to make but necessary given the high number of cases related to the highly transmissible Delta variant and especially the number of positive tests results among those who are vaccinated. Stay safe everyone.

As we continue to limit our outings and keeping ourselves and others safe, let's find ways to reach out to each other for a "friend check" now and then. We may not be able to gather in person, but we can reach out by phone or email to say hi to our Soroptimist sisters and brother.

We'll hold Zoom meetings in September and continue to assess the Covid numbers and decide when we can meet in person.

Founder's Region is still planning to hold its meeting in October at the Waikiki Beach Marriott on October 19, 2021, 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The District V meeting will be October 23 and 24 at the Sheraton Lagoon Guam Resort. Our hope is that we can resume gathering by then. Stay tuned for more information on the Waikiki Beach Marriott event on October 19th and tentatively save that date.

Don't forget the 100th Anniversary Celebration of SIA "Our Bright Past and Brilliant Future" September 25th and 26th. There is still time to register for the online events. Check out the SIA website. The celebration is all online.

Find gratitude and joy in the things you are doing and have learned to do because of the gift of time. Continue to take good care of yourself and let's reach out to each other.

Virtual hugs and much aloha,

Barbara Yamashita



SIWFI Member Buys Beautiful Roses

SIWFI officers extend a big mahalo to Angie Golis-Yamamoto who bought a rose in memory of Laura Chun's daughter, Bernadette "Bernie" Yee.



Condolences to Laura Chun

SIWFI sends messages of sympathy and aloha to their 'sister' Laura Chun, whose daughter, Bernadette "Bernie" Yee recently passed. Our love and prayers to Laura for strength and courage during this difficult time.



"S" Club Prepares for a New Year

The Sacred Hearts Academy "S" Club is off and running this year! A very enthusiastic and energetic group of officers have a full slate of activities planned for the new school year.

Our Officers are Savanna Peng (President), Sydney Bump (VP), Rory Redilia (Treasurer) and Isabella Savea (Secretary). Randy Fong is the advisor.

Some of the activities already planned are park clean up events (social distancing guideline maintained), graffiti busting project, assisting the Salvation Army with holiday activities, and ushering at University of Hawaii plays.

The "S" Club thanks the Soroptimist International of Waikiki for supporting them. Three of last year's seniors received the Violet Richardson award.



Savanna Peng
President



Sydney Bump
Vice-President



Isabella Savea
Secretary



Rory Redilia
Treasurer

Celebrating 30 Years of Soroptimist!

SIWFI joyfully celebrates Judy Lee's 30 years of service to Soroptimist. Joining the Soroptimist organization in September, 1991, Judy has served as President, District Director, District Fellowship Director and countless other positions and responsibilities. And, it has all been a labor of love for her!

Judy shares with a positive and loving spirit about her service to SIWFI and reminisces about being attracted to Soroptimist because of its organization and mission. At the time, Judy was employed with the Salvation Army which was super supportive of her affiliation with SIWFI.

Of the many projects during her 30 years of membership, Judy has been very impressed with the club's involvement in raising awareness of Sex Trafficking. SIWFI joined other groups to protect and testify at the State Capitol to pass The Human Traffic bill. It was very satisfying when the bill was finally passed protecting trafficked victims from prosecution.

Judy quickly mentions being inspired by several women through their leadership and mentorship. "Glenda Rother was always there to push me in her 'subtle' way," says Judy.

Judy continues, "There were many accomplished ladies who rose to the top of their fields and many who owned their own businesses—women like June Nishimura, Laura Chun, Betty White, Sandra Simms, Harriet Aoki, and Anne Sutton, to only name a few. It is inspirational to be part of a membership who continue to support each other and mentor new members."

SIWFI thanks Judy Lee for her outstanding service to Soroptimist on her 30th anniversary, and also to many more years to the Salvation Army.



*"SIWFI joyfully celebrates
Judy Lee's 30 years of service to
Soroptimist."*



Dear Kristal Koga:

We invite all from District V to join us for the 2021 Founder Region District Meeting this October. We are excited to see you live and in-person in Honolulu. There are hotel recommendations and some special rates for our members. COVID-19 guidelines will be strictly followed so we can all feel safe as we gather together.

Hear our Founder Region leadership present updates on International, Federation, and Region business, and don't forget to bring your raffle baskets as we raise funds for Fellowship.

In Soroptimist Friendship,

Governor Kris and the Founder Region Board

Call to District Meeting

Founder Region, Soroptimist International of the Americas

Kris Chorbi, Governor 2020-2022

*"Dream **BIG** for the future!"*

Hawaii

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Waikiki Beach Marriott

(Registration Deadline: October 14, 2021)

Registration 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Meeting 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Registration Fee \$20

Meal Fee \$15

Founder Region is waiving the District Meeting registration fee for any new member who joined between July 1 and October 14, 2021. Make sure to share this great benefit with your new members so they can experience our Soroptimist collective impact!



A Meaningful Link Inspires SIWFI

Dear President Barbara!

Nice to meet you!

I'm the president Chie Kakihara, Soroptimist International of Rose Fukuyama Japan Nishi Region.

With the Waikiki Club, we had a short but great international time on the Zoom in the last February meeting. Everything is tough under COVID-19, but this helped us to have a special close communication. That became a great memory. We reapply appreciate you and this opportunity.

I made a theme of this term, "unreliable, unconcerned, unobtrusive mind. Wide, wide, and wider." Under a hard time because of COVID-19, we have to search for new methods of volunteers that suit the current times and situations.

Our club will have the 30th anniversary two years later. Our 25 members are looking forward to seeing you. Please come to Japan! We members will welcome you.

With love!!!



SIWFI's Calendar of Events

September 14	12:00 p.m.	Business Meeting • Zoom
	12:45 p.m.	Board Meetings • Zoom
September 28	12:00 p.m.	Program Meeting • Zoom
October 19	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	District V Hawaii Meeting • Marriott Waikiki
October 22-24		Official District Meeting • Guam
April 29 - May 1, 2022		Founder Region Conference • Honolulu