

# Soroptimist of Rio Vista

December 2016

*"I will honor Christmas in my heart,  
and try to keep it all the year." Charles Dickens*

## President's Corner

Christmas is more than a day in December. It is all the things you remember from days gone by. Gathering with family and friends and sharing time and memories.

It can be a stressful time with all the shopping, wrapping, decorating and baking the needs to be done. We all need to take a deep breath and step back and take care of ourselves. Our health is the most important thing, we need to take care of ourselves.

It is the magic and love you will always remember.

Teri Malkin  
President 2016-2017

## SIA Update

On October 6, 2016, our SI President-elect Yoko Ichigatani suffered a traumatic head injury as the result of an in-home invasion/robbery. Yoko has been recovering from her injury in the hospital. On November 29, 2016, she is scheduled to have a second surgery, which will require a two-month additional stay in the hospital. Eventually she will be released to home health care as she continues her recovery.

It has become clear to Yoko and her family that she will not be able to fulfill her duties this year as required of an SIA president-elect. To give herself the time she needs to recover from this traumatic event, she has tendered her resignation as president-elect, effective November 15, 2016.

As is stated in our bylaws and procedures, we will now look toward the future of our leadership succession. In accordance with SIA Procedure H.3.b., the vacancy in the office of president-elect will be filled by election with members of the current board only as the eligible candidates. The vacancy must be filled within 90 days.




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## December Meetings

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- 12/1 12:00 pm Business Meeting**
- 12/8 No Meeting**
- 12/15 12:00 pm Mark Flowers Rio Vista Library**
- 12/22 6:00 pm Christmas Party at Teri Malkin's**

*We will all miss Val's smiling face. Please have her family in your thoughts this Holiday Season.*

Mark Your Calendar

In the Spotlight



Dorothy Fest

Lobsters go on sale 1/1



Lunafest 2/25

Sheep Dog Trials 3/31, 4/1, 4, 20



December Birthdays

Debra Spinardi 12/3  
Barbara Rodriguez 12/10



Anniversary

Emilia Siefertling 12/29

Club Anniversaries

Barbara Rodriguez Meri Wheeler  
Monica Awender

I'm a native Californian born in San Francisco then raised with my twin, Marguerite and a younger sister and brother in Kensington nestled in the Berkeley Hills next to Tilden Park.

Following graduation at El Cerrito HS, I went on to Cal Berkeley. I worked as a pre-school teacher to support myself and discovered my talent as a teacher. Following graduation, I pursued a teaching credential at SF State. This coincided the passage of Prop 13, so finding a teaching job in the Bay Area was very difficult. I was finally offered a position in Long Beach.

I was both excited and nervous about starting out in a new place with a new job. Something clicked, I absolutely loved teaching! (mostly first grade). I was selected as a Mentor Teacher, served on several district committees and developed curriculum. I won the NBC Affiliate Crystal Apple Award for a Community Tutoring Program that was implemented district-wide impacting the lives of 500+ elementary students helping them achieve grade level reading proficiency.

Along the way, I got married and started a family. Lucky for me – both of my children attended the school where I taught! Jackie is now 26 lives in Petaluma and my son Alex, now 23 lives in El Paso, Texas. I am extremely proud of the responsible independent adults they have become.

How did I end up in Rio Vista? At the age of 50, the entrepreneur within me started screaming that I had something more to achieve. I cashed in part of my retirement to launch a business that provided a program to help children become authors. Great idea – bad timing – just as I was ready to get investors – along came 07-08 and no one was willing to fund an unknown. Realizing I needed a full time job, I turned to Craig's List and saw an advertisement for an Educational Travel Specialist with WorldStrides. Six years later I have achieved great success working from home, so after 2 years I transferred back home to my city by the bay. I learned about Trilogy and moved from Alameda. It's been a year and am delighted to be once again on my own in a new place meeting new friends and learning how I can make a contribution to this new community.



We meet at 12:00 pm  
1st and 3rd Thursdays  
The Point Restaurant  
120 Marina Drive, Rio Vista, CA