

Laurel Leaf

no.203.078

Soroptimist International of Bellflower

February, 2016



President's Message

Susan Held

Welcome to Soroptimist International of Bellflower

February is really known as the month of love. Why? February 14 - **Valentine's Day**, also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is an annual holiday celebrated on February 14. It originated as a Western Christian liturgical feast day honoring one or more early saints named *Valentinus*, and is recognized as a significant cultural and commercial celebration in many regions around the world, although it is not a public holiday in any country.

Now that you know the formal reason February is known as the month of love, we will tell you why we love this month. It's because we brought in 5 new members this month! We love all our members who shared the vision and joy of being a Soroptimist and as a result, brought in new members. We love that we have new members who can see our vision and want to be a part of making a difference in lives; in making dreams come true for those in need of that helping hand.

We welcome all our new members!



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.

February's guest speaker was from Su Casa – ending domestic violence, a local domestic violence shelter. She shared the staggering facts about domestic violence. One of the trends that concern many who work to help victims of domestic violence is the increase in cases of teen dating violence they've seen. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 10 percent of high school students have experienced some form of physical violence within a dating relationship. About one in five women and nearly one in seven men who have experienced domestic violence were victims of dating violence between 11 and 17 years of age. In the past year, slightly more than 3,000 men, women and children received services from Su Casa, including 167 shelter residents, officials said.

Our club's support of Su Casa is helping to make a difference. This is part of the reason we work to raise money!

Las Vegas Night is March 19 at Simms Park in Bellflower. Invite your family and friends! Cost is only \$20 and includes dinner!