



December 2010

Soroptimist International of Bellflower

P.O. Box 301, Bellflower, CA 90707

Chartered May 2, 1953

Laurel Leaf

Over the Rainbow

President's Message:



2009-2010

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Happy Holidays One and All!

Recently while driving past my neighborhood church I thought about the message on the marquee; **THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE NOT THINGS.**"

I had no idea that I would be put to the test, to see for myself just how that phrase applies to me. Then while I was out shopping for an hour on a rainy Sunday morning, some burglars got in and took a few things, some presents under the tree and my jewelry box.

The first thing I noticed missing was the present my secret sister lovingly gave me. It was waiting for Christmas morning for

me to unwrap. Also missing was the beautiful earrings from my son's girlfriend and a beautiful necklace and earrings from my very special friend and Goddaughter. I then realized the parcel from my life long friend was gone. You see for several years she has been down on her luck, and the thing that was so precious to me was not the gift inside, but the fact that she had to scrimp so hard to buy me a gift, and then to pay to send me the gift through the mail.

The burglars didn't get much in the way of expensive jewelry because I had not left that in my jewelry box. However, they did find some expensive gold earrings that I had bought at my first SIB fashion show and my

gold watch that was a gift from my husband for our 7th anniversary. There was quite a story behind the beautiful watch and such a loving gift from him.

I have been pondering these events and realize the most precious of gifts I have been given by all of you are; friendship, cooperation, kindness, patience, love, tolerance, and understanding. So I pray for all of you and your families during this and all seasons, that you too will be blessed with these most precious gifts.

Have wonderful holidays. I love you all,

President





Our ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY



Each year in December, we host a holiday party with the residents of Little House in Bellflower, and Su Casa, headquartered in Lakewood, as our guests. It's a luncheon event, catered for many years now by the Bellflower Unified School District, and entertainment is also provided by the Bellflower Elementary Ensemble, which is a large group of musically talented students from all of the elementary schools in the district. They sing and dance to various holiday-themed arrangements and popular Christmas carols. Then, just when you think it couldn't get any more exciting, we are treated to a visit from ol' Saint Nick, who spends time with each child who wants to sit on his lap and tell him what he'd like for Christmas. Santa's helper elves (Soroptimist members) are also available to assist Santa in handing out a wrapped gift for each child, which we have shopped for in the preceding weeks, with gender and age considered for each child's gift.

We also shopped for the women from Little House, and gave each of them a large holiday bag full of personal goodies that we hope they'll enjoy. And after lunch, but before Santa's arrival, our President Deana drew tickets for the many door prizes that we'd placed on the table up front. Miraculously, each of our guests and their children held one of the winning tickets! Now that's a Miracle on Rosser Street! No wonder that each of us in the club cherishes this event more than any other for the entire year!





A Little Bit About Su Casa

This year Su Casa celebrates 31 years of protecting families from domestic violence. The agency was founded in 1979 by Petra Medelez, a survivor, who out of her own home took crisis calls and housed victims and their children. Petra's vision was to fill her community with peaceful homes. In order to truly realize her vision, Su Casa expanded its services to include not only immediate shelter from danger but also case management and counseling (to residents and to victims still living with their batterer), shelter-based certified childhood education, community awareness training, and transitional housing. Su Casa remains dedicated to Petra's belief that every individual has the right to live free from violence or the threat of violence. Inherent in this belief is the agency's commitment to the values of diversity and empowerment.

The value placed on empowerment drives the agency's ever-expanding range of services that are victim-centered. Services are practical, therapeutic, and educational. The addition of the transitional shelter in 1996 and a second transitional shelter to be opened in 2011 is a direct response to the awareness that 30 days is not enough time for women to put the pieces of their lives back together in order to become self-sufficient and stable. This expansion is supported by research, showing that women who enter transitional shelters are far less likely to return to violent situations. The extended time enables families to bridge the gap between crisis and independent living. In addition, our continued efforts to enhance and expand outreach and counseling services to victims in the community who are not yet ready to take the step of leaving their batterer further exemplify the agency's commitment to meet women where they are and help them achieve self-sufficiency on their own terms.

A Little Bit About Little House

Little House in Bellflower provides drug and alcohol rehabilitation services to women. The residential center is partially funded with County funds, but is dependent on community agencies and individuals to provide additional services and supports to the women living there.

The services at Little House include drug and alcohol abuse education and prevention, personal and group counseling, life skills education and training, and planning for the future. Little House works with Bellflower Adult School and BUSD to provide educational and career opportunities for residents. We know that our support will help to change the lives of women receiving their services.



Soroptimist is a volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

For more information go to www.sibf.caminorealregion.org, www.caminorealregion.org, and/or www.soroptimist.org

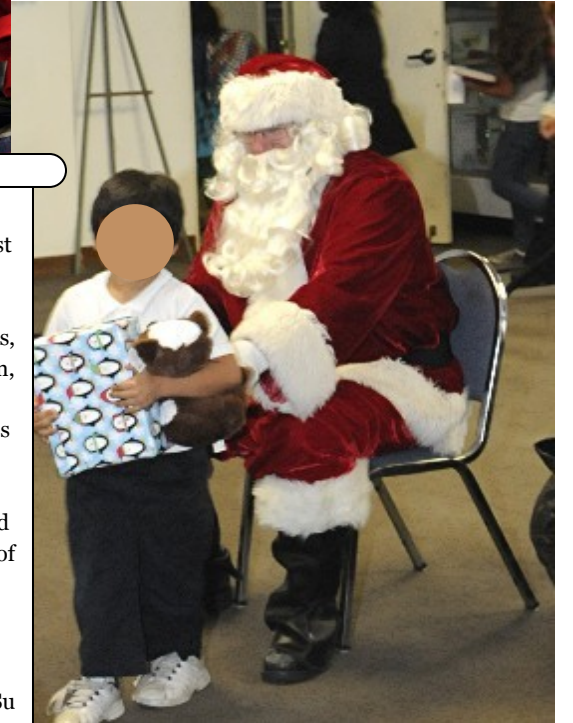


OUR HOLIDAY PARTY!



The Soroptimist food servers upper left are Doreen Robbins, Cecily Seabourn, and Vicky Daniels. Lana's friend, T.K. Morgan, left, donated stuffed animals for all of the children.

Faces of the women and children from Su Casa have been obscured for their protection.





Laurel Leaf

FOOD, FUN, & SANTA!





MEMBER'S PAGE



OK— We should have a lot of recyclables after the holidays to turn over to Doreen Robbins for this project. Doreen can turn aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and many types of printers' ink jet or toner cartridges into cold-hard CASH for our general fund, which we use for the day-to-day operations of our club. Hazel Anderson is also able to take plastic bottles.



Many thanks go out again to Susan Held, who volunteered to chair the Holiday Party this year. It's easy enough for us all to say, "We'll all help get it done," but we still need someone to take responsibility for it all and to make sure that every detail is not forgotten. This favorite end-of-the-year event has more to plan than you'd think, as you sit back and watch it, but believe me, it took lots of planning AND doing! With so much at stake, it's a relief to have someone so dependable at the helm!



Our senior member, Lucinda Saunders, had to put up with a few days in the hospital (7 days, actually) right after Thanksgiving, but she is home now and feeling much better. She had come down with pneumonia AND pleurisy, which is a very painful lung condition. If you know Lucinda, you know that she always has such a healthy attitude, and she kept her sense of humor through it all. She wants everyone to know that you can get pneumonia at any time; it doesn't have to be a complication of something else first. So be alert!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS !

SUSAN HELD	JAN 15
SALLY PENDLETON	JAN 20
LUCINDA SAUNDERS	JAN 28





Calendar of Events



and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tuesdays December 21 & 28th DARK for the HOLIDAYS

Tuesday, January 4 Business meeting, at the Church, at NOON

Tuesday, January 11 Program meeting. at the Church, at NOON

RED ALERT!! RED ALERT!! RED ALERT!!

PLEASE NOTE THAT STARTING IN JANUARY, OUR THIRD MEETING, THE EVENING MEETING, WILL BE HELD EACH MONTH ON THE

4TH MONDAY, AT SIMMS PARK, 6PM to 7:15PM.

Monday, January 24 Evening Program meeting at Simms Park at 6pm

Tuesday, February 1 Business meeting, at the Church, at NOON

Tuesday, February 8 **Opening Our Hearts**, at the Church, at NOON

Monday, February 28 Evening Program meeting at Simms Park at 6pm

Tuesday, March 1 Business meeting, at the Church, at NOON

Tuesday, March 8 Program meeting, at the Church, at NOON

Friday, March 18 BUNKO!! At SIMMS PARK, 6PM to 9PM

Saturday, March 26 **LAS VEGAS NIGHT!!**

Monday, March 28 Evening Program meeting at Simms Park at 6pm



FALL DISTRICT WORKSHOP

(I don't think it will hurt you to read about this again.)



Fall District Workshop was held one week after our Fashion Show, at St. Mary's Medical Center in Long Beach. It looked like about 100 Soroptimists attended, but Cecily can give you the exact count, because she served as the registration chair, as usual. From our club were Marcie Raphael, Cecily Seabourn, Deana Porter, and Doreen Robbins. The guest speaker in the morning was Carol Coordt, from S.I. Manhattan Beach, who is a delegate to the National Panhellenic Conference. Her talk was about "One in Three," which focused on the horrendous statistics surrounding teen dating violence. The result of a growing concern about this issue is that a partnership has been developed with Soroptimist International of the Americas, the Girl Scouts of America, Liz Claiborne and others, who will advocate for a curriculum in all schools that will teach children and teens what a "normal" relationship is like, and how to recognize the early warning signs that may lead to violence or other abuse in a romantic relationship. At right, Carol is holding up a T-shirt that promotes this new movement / partnership. Her presentation on this issue was **VERY INTERESTING.**



"Hopes and Dreams for Everyone"

Our afternoon speaker was Tora Brown, from S.I. Santa Clarita Valley. She had traveled to Moldova, which is the poorest country in Europe, and brought back several slides to accompany her stories of extreme poverty and human trafficking. Helping the people of this country is part of the Soroptimist President's December 10th Appeal, "Hopes and Dreams for Everyone," which is specifically aimed at the prevention of human trafficking from Moldova by providing life-skill education for vulnerable children. It was obvious to the audience that Tora had been strongly affected by her experiences in Moldova, which then made her presentation all the more powerful.

SOROPTIMIST BUSINESS FRIENDS

It's smart to do business with a Soroptimist! They're honest, diligent, bright, and knowledgeable!



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