



# Soroptimist International of Bellflower

P.O. Box 301, Bellflower, CA 90707

Chartered May 2, 1953

## Laurel Leaf



December 2011

### President's Message:

*"Making a Difference, One Woman At A Time."*

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

We had a great December as Bellflower Soroptimists when we became Santa's helpers and shopped to buy presents for the women of Little House as well as the women and children at Su Casa. We celebrated Christmas as it was meant to be, in the spirit of giving, when we provided not only the gifts we had bought but also a catered lunch as well as entertainment by the Bellflower Ensemble to the women and children. Many thanks to all the Soroptimists who worked so hard, buying and wrapping presents as well as setting up all the tables on the day of the event as well as serving the food!

January will be a busy month for us as we finalize choosing applicants for all the awards we will be giving out in February (scholarships, Women's Opportunity, Violet Richardson - to name a few). Then in February we have our big awards program where we give away the money we've raised to all the charities that we support as well as hand out scholarships and other awards. And we are already in the planning stages for our next big fund raiser - Las Vegas Nite. This will be in March and again we work with the Noon Lions in putting this event on.

So as this new year approaches, the Bellflower Soroptimists are already planning and working towards our vision of making the world a better place for women and girls. May this New Year bring peace, tranquility, happiness and good health to all.

*President Sue*



### 2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT:**

Susan Held

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Vicky Daniels

**TREASURER:**

Cecily Seabourn

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

Doreen Robbins

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:**

Marcie Raphael

**DIRECTORS / DELEGATES:**

Deana Porter

Vicky Daniels

Terri Williams

**SOROPTIMIST VILLAGE**

**DIRECTORS:**

MaryAnn Wotring

Doreen Robbins

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Deana Porter

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Marcie Raphael

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 <http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org>, <http://www.caminorealregion.org>, and/or <http://www.soroptimist.org>



## *Laurel Leaf*

# Holiday Luncheon!



On Wednesday, December 7th, we held our 38th annual Holiday Luncheon at the First Missionary Baptist Church in Bellflower. Our meetings and event held at the church are usually scheduled for Tuesdays, but this year and last we could only get the Bellflower Ensemble on that Wednesday. The Ensemble is, of course, the main attraction for this event! The group is comprised of several elementary-school students, from all of the elementary schools in the Bellflower Unified School District. At top left are Bee Proo, from SI Pico Rivera, Councilman Ray Dunton, Field Deputy Erin Stibal from Supervisor Don Knabe's office, and Val Proo-Garcia, also from SI Pico Rivera. At top right is BUSD Board Member Laura Sanchez-Ramirez, and daughter, Laura Alicia, who is also in the Ensemble.



This was the 38th annual Holiday Luncheon that Bellflower Soroptimists have hosted for the residents of Su Casa and Little House. With funding support from Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, a wonderful meal is served to attendees with all of the seasonal and holiday trimmings that appeal so much to parents and children alike. Every year, our Soroptimists members plan this event in order to bring joy into the lives of the women and children who are temporarily displaced from their families and who may be understandably lonely, perhaps frightened, and almost certainly very sad during this time in their lives. We shop like Santa's elves for their gifts, and usually have Santa Claus there to help us give them out. It is a pleasure that we all look forward to immensely.



Shown at left are members Terri Williams, Lana Earle, and Doreen Robbins. The bottom photos on both pages show the Bellflower Ensemble during their performance, which combines holiday songs and dance, as well as a costumed Frost the Snowman, who also danced! These kids are just amazing, and we are fortunate to have them entertain us each year. We ALL cherish the memories!





# MEMBER NEWS



There's been a little bit of stress and drama in Sue's family lately. I won't elaborate (you could ask her yourself) , but suffice it to say that it serves as an excellent reminder that we should all heed the advice of our doctors and participate with whatever routine checks that they recommend (within reason, of course!) Better to be inconvenienced than live with regrets.



Cecily is now the proud foster parent of an 8-year-old Golden named Jenni, who is very sweet and loves every bit of attention that she can get. It won't be too long before Cecily will have photos of her new member of the family, and for sure she is happier with another playmate for Sarah Lee.



Mary Ann Wotring attended a bridge tournament in mid-December, where Warren Buffet and Bill Gates were slated to attend. We'll want to hear a lot more about this one, Mary Ann!



## JANUARY / FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

SUSAN HELD

JANUARY 15

SALLY PENDLETON

JANUARY 20

LUCINDA SAUNDERS

JANUARY 28

JAN SNIP

FEBRUARY 24





## *Calendar of Events*

Tuesday, December 13

Board Meeting, 11:30am, at the church

Tuesday, December 13

Business Meeting, at NOON, at the church

# **H A P P Y   H O L I D A Y S !**

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Business Meeting, at NOON, at the church

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Program Meeting, at NOON, at the church

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Night Program Meeting, 6PM, at the Chamber

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Business Meeting, at NOON, at the church

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Opening Our Hearts to the Community!

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Night Program Meeting, 6PM, at the Chamber

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Business Meeting, at NOON, at the church

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Program Meeting, at NOON, at the church

Saturday, March 24, 2012

LAS VEGAS NIGHT!! 5:30PM, Simms Park

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Night Program Meeting, 6PM, at the Chamber

### **DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BELLFLOWER SOROPTIMISTS:**

*As you know, we are a 501©(3) organization, recognized by the IRS as a non-profit, charitable organization, and as such, your donations to our club are tax deductible. Please keep us in mind as you plan for your end-of-the-year donations to make for 2011. Every dollar you donate will help fund our projects, such as 4-year scholarships, support for Su Casa, Little House, and other deserving agencies, in addition to the Soroptimist projects such as the Women's Opportunity Award & Violet Richardson Award. Our treasurer will send you a receipt for your records, and we would greatly appreciate your patronage. Thanks in advance for your consideration to our cause!*

'Tis the Season for . . .



## Women's Opportunity Awards

The Women's Opportunity Awards program is Soroptimist's major women's education project. Through the program, clubs in 19 countries and territories assist women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects.

Each year, more than \$1.5 million is disbursed through cash awards at various levels of the organization. Recipients of the Women's Opportunity Awards, many of whom have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol abuse, may use the awards to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare and transportation.

Eligible applicants must be women who provide the primary financial support for their families, and who are enrolled in or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program. Applicants must demonstrate financial need. Only residents of Soroptimist International of the Americas' 19 member countries and territories are eligible to apply.

Since the Women's Opportunity Awards program began in 1972, about \$25 million has been disbursed to help tens of thousands of women achieve their dreams of a better life for themselves and their families. In 2007, the Women's Opportunity Awards received the Associations Advance America Summit Award—ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership's highest level of recognition.

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 <http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org>, <http://www.caminorealregion.org>, and/or <http://www.soroptimist.org>

# SOROPTIMIST BUSINESS FRIENDS

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



*Deana Porter, MA, MFT*

*Individual, Couple, Family & Group Therapy*  
**(213) 519-0152 License # MFT 46489**

**State Farm**  
Providing Insurance & Financial Services  
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois 61710



**D.C. "Del" Johnson LUTCF, Agent Lic. #0283908**  
**Robin Gail Ordoqui, Agent's Assistant Lic. #0876156**

3962 Studebaker Road Suite 202  
Long Beach, CA 90808-2400  
robin.g.ordoqui.ir81@statefarm.com

Bus 562 982 1444  
Fax 562 982 1447

**24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®**

***Your Ad Would  
Look Great Here!***

**Betty MacKenzie, Realtor**  
Certified Residential Specialist  
Senior Real Estate Specialist



*Cogburn-Miller Realty*

562.925.5005 x 227  
562.884.1375 cell



**Marcie Raphael**  
Broker Associate, Century 21 Results  
6170 Bellflower Blvd. Lakewood, CA 90713

Direct: (562) 866-8899  
Office: (562) 866-7000  
Fax: (562) 866-6647

www.yourfriendinrealestate.com  
marcie.raphael@century21.com



DRE Lic. 00674895



**BUSINESS CARD AD SPACE AVAILABLE**

**\$25 FOR THREE MONTHS**