

December, 2013

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**Soroptimist International of
Bellflower was chartered on
May 2, 1953**

For more information about the
Bellflower Soroptimist Club, be
sure to check out our website:

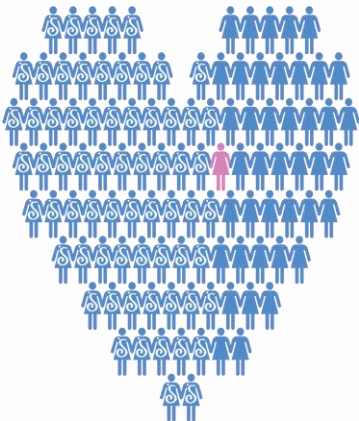
<http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org>

and go to our Facebook page and
"Like" us!

**Bellflower Soroptimists
PO BOX 301
Bellflower, CA 90706**

Our theme this year is:

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



Soroptimist International Of Bellflower

**A service organization made up of women who strive to make a difference
for women and girls in local communities and throughout the world**

Presidents Message:

Christmas time is upon us and for Bellflower Soroptimists that means it's the time of year when we hold our annual Christmas party for the women and children of Su Casa and the women of Little House. We have several "hands-on" service projects throughout the year and this is one of them. We buy presents for all; we have them as our guests at a catered lunch where entertainment is provided by the children of the Bellflower Ensemble. Santa arrives, presents presented; door prizes given; songs are sung and tears are shed. This event may be the only Christmas some of these women will have and it is truly our pleasure to host the event. We could not do this without the financial support of Supervisor Don Knabe, and we wish to thank him again for his support!

It has been eventful club year so far for us. We have hosted the Joint Service Club Luncheon; attended the Soroptimist Village annual meeting; had a Tupperware fund raiser; held our fashion show; worked on membership; took a road trip to SF; had some socials; and much more!

Our membership is growing! This month we welcomed 2 new members and next month we will be getting another 2 members. Way to grow! Let's keep sharing who we are and what we do and I am sure that even more women will want to be a part of our wonderful, caring, giving, fun-loving group of women!

I wish you and yours the most joyous Christmas!

President Sue



Be sure to check out our club's website and our Facebook page

www.soroptimistbellflower.org

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.

Bellflower Club News:

Bellflower Soroptimists **Fashion Show** was a HUGE success! Many hours were spent in the planning of the event but it was time well spent. Everyone enjoyed themselves; money was raised and fun was had. There were close to 200 women in attendance. The fashions by L & M Fashions were pretty and very reasonably priced. This year our centerpieces were handbags; some very high end and designer handbags were donated and used as centerpiece raffles. We made over \$800 on the handbag drawings! Win-Win. Women walked away with beautiful handbags and we made money so that we can now give it away to deserving women and girls! That's what it's all about.



Mayor Ray Dunton gives the Welcome



The Room – before guests arrive



Marcie handled the raffle drawings with help from the Bellflower Princesses



Governor Linda was our MC

Road Trip To San Francisco in November!



Members Mary Ann; Doreen; Vicky And Deana in China Town



The Lone Cypress on 17 mile drive

Soroptimists who went on the road trip had a great time! They saw 17 mile Drive; lunched in Carmel; of course Ghirardelli Square was visited as well as Fisherman's Wharf and China Town. Cables cars were ridden and tours of the City were taken on a double-decker bus. Some wonderful restaurants were discovered and delicious food eaten. Above all, everyone had fun, friendships were deepened and the consensus was – we need to do more trips like this in the future. Planning will be done!!!

Bellflower Soroptimist Christmas Party was fun!



Bellflower Ensemble performs



Santa offers comfort

New Members Inducted at the Christmas Event!



The picture on the right is with our 2 newest members Kim & Teri as well as Lucinda Saunders, a member for 45 years and President Sue, a member for 28 years. Peeking out from behind our club banner is member Mary Crawford-Beck and Governor Linda Haines.

The picture below is with our 2 new members, Teri and Kim and Lucinda (member 45 years); Governor Linda. In the back are Bellflower City Officials and President Sue





Meet our newest members – on the left, Kim Manzanares and on the right Teri Marcum (center is President Sue)

Kim Manzanares is an independent Product Consultant for doTerra – Certified pure therapeutic grade essential oils. Kim is married and has 5 children. She is very active in the community and wants to “help women to accomplish their dreams, to be encouraged and to know they can make a difference.”

Teri Marcum has her own electrolysis business in Downey. She is married and has 6 children. Terri says she is “drawn to the creed of assistance for disadvantaged women and children worldwide. It is such an under filled need. I want to do what I can.”

We welcome both Kim and Terri into our club. Both have jumped in with feet, attending our Christmas party and helping us with set up and handing out the gifts. We look forward to you joining us as we help improve the lives of women and girls!

Soroptimist Federation News:

December 10th President’s Appeal

For the 2013-2014 club year, SIA will designate funds received for the December 10th President’s Appeal to support club projects focused on education and leadership through the Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls. Clubs will be encouraged to apply for grants to support their local-level work providing opportunities for education and leadership to women and girls.

Women’s Opportunity Awards

Since 1972, Soroptimist has ensured that women have the education and training they need to improve their lives and the lives of their families through its Women’s Opportunity Awards program. This grant program provides cash to women looking to achieve career goals through job skill training or continued education, an opportunity often not previously afforded to them due to economic or social barriers, or personal circumstances. Many of the women that have received the grant have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, sexual and domestic violence, the death of a spouse, and substance abuse.

Unlike other programs, the Women’s Opportunity Awards empower the women to choose how to best use the money, which might include tuition, transportation, childcare, or other living costs. The program is funded through charitable donations raised from Soroptimist members and others who support Soroptimist’s mission of improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Thousands of applications are received from each of the 19 countries and territories that make up Soroptimist International of the Americas, and since 1972 about \$30 million has been disbursed through the program.

Each year the Bellflower Soroptimists participates in this worthwhile program by giving 1 or 2 women a grant to help them move forward in their lives. This year we will present our award at our May 12 Awards Program. Be sure to check future newsletters for information on the event. Plan on attending and being a part of this life changing event for deserving women.

Soroptimist International News:

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist International



See Solar, Cook Solar: President's Appeal Launch

Sustainable energy—energy that is accessible, cleaner and more efficient—powers opportunity. It grows economies. It lights up homes, schools and hospitals. It empowers women and local communities. And it paves a path out of poverty to greater prosperity for all. - UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon's [Sustainability for All initiative](#)

Every year, on Human Rights Day (December 10), the President of Soroptimist International invites all Soroptimists to join her in supporting a project that improves the lives of women and girls through access to education and leadership opportunities.

For 2013-2015, President Ann Garvie is launching the [See Solar, Cook Solar](#) appeal, which will support Soroptimist projects all over the world providing education and solar solutions to women.

"Can you imagine finding time to earn your living if you had to spend hours every day collecting firewood? Or how you would study with no electric light in the evening?", asked President Ann in her introduction to the Appeal. *"One quarter of the world's population do not have reliable access to electricity; 70% of these are women and girls living in developing countries."*

Why Solar?

By increasing their access to solar energy, *See Solar, Cook Solar* projects will provide women and girls with:

- Increased time to pursue other activities
- Ability to read and study at night
- Ability to undertake income generating activities at night
- Health benefits (decreased access to harmful smoke)
- Increased access to health services (powered by renewable energy)
- Water purification
- New jobs and areas of employment
- Decreased risk of violence with increased lighting, particularly in refugee camps and other notably dangerous areas
- Increased communications and access to information (mobile phone chargers, radios, etc.)

REGION NEWS: GRANT OF FRIENDSHIP

Soroptimist International of the Americas and the Camino Real Region (with clubs in the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles, California) are offering a Grant of Friendship to a Soroptimist for three (3) weeks during April 2014, (to include the Region's Spring Conference, April 25-27, 2014).

Calendar of Events

- *January 4 – Club New Year Party & Induction of new member – Sue’s home*
- *January 6 – Club Business Meeting*
- *January 13 – Club Meeting – Brainstorming*
- *January 15 – Las Vegas Night Planning Meeting – 6 p.m.*
- *February 1, 4 p.m. – Meeting @ Kim’s home – learn about doTERRA essential oils – followed by dinner*
- *February 3 – Business Meeting*
- *February 10 – Program Meeting*



Lucinda Saunders – January 28, 1918 – December 26, 2013



Lucinda Saunders, a vital member of the Bellflower Soroptimist club, passed away on December 26. Lucinda was a member of our club for 45 years. Lucinda served as President of the Bellflower Soroptimist club in 1978 – 1979. Lucinda was 95 years young. She still lived at home and was attending our club events till the end. She came to the fashion show in November and even came to our Christmas party for Su Casa and Little House on December 16. Lucinda was a bright light - always smiling and laughing and never failing to tell you what for. She was asked recently why she was still a member of the club, after all these years and her answer was simple. She said: “I want to help women. Bellflower Soroptimists does this. I know that I am making a difference by being a member and that’s what I want to do.”

In October a number of members, both current and past, gathered at Lucinda’s home for lunch. We knew that she was not able to get out as much as she used to so we went to her. We had a grand time and are so glad that we made the time to visit her at her home. You will be missed Lucinda!

