



February 2011

# 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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Marcie Raphael

I am so happy to be greeting you again this month. Work has been a bit of a challenge lately, but thanks to all of our wonderful Board of Directors, SI Bellflower continues to go forward with great enthusiasm. I might remind you that the word enthusiasm has its roots in the word "God". So I think that when we work with enthusiasm we are working with God on our side.

This month has been a wonderful month to reinvest and to feel that enthusiasm for all of our causes and work. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, we conducted "Opening our Hearts to The Community". It was the first time that all of the awardees and scholarship recipients were honored at the same event. We gave our scholarships to deserving young women who were very grateful for the "hand up". All of the other money awards and certificates were handed out to gracious awardees, many of whom depend on our support during

the year. Sometimes we are so busy with fundraisers; we tend to forget the purpose of raising those funds. When the money and certificates are awarded we have the opportunity to see our efforts at work, and it is a wonderful feeling to know that SI Bellflower is proactive and able to accomplish as much as we do. The meeting was a lot of fun and I was very happy that Bellflower Mayor, Ray Dunton assisted me in handing out the certificates. We are so fortunate to have such helpful city dignitaries come out and support our efforts.

Two days later I attended my first Bravo Awards for the city of Bellflower. It was again wonderfully rewarding to listen to all of the stories about our local heroes, which included an award to the veterinary clinic staff that saved a wonderful German Sheppard, by the name of "Courage". The Bravo Award key note speaker was Huell Howser and he was very uplifting and inspirational. He is always delightful to see and hear

on television, but in person he was extraordinary. Again all of the city dignitaries were present and contributed to the celebration of the day. While having a tasty lunch provided by the city, Mayor Dunton mentioned to me that it was nice having lunch with me this week at both events, and that we may "need to stop meeting like this." It was a wonderful day, and I know I will go again and I invite you to attend both Opening Our Hearts and the Bravo awards so that you can have the experience of seeing for yourself all of the good work that is done in our community.

In this day and age, when it seems like only negative news is on the TV and radio, I was truly touched by the awardees at our Opening our Hearts and by those at the Bravo Awards. So may I say to all of you hard working Soroptimists and the Friends that support our efforts, BRAVO to all of us! Have a wonderful month with lots of enthusiasm!

Deana



## 2011 Opening Our Hearts



President Deana was all smiles on this day, as we presented all of our awards and scholarships for the year. City Councilman Ray Smith, seen left, was one of the presenters from the City of Bellflower. Other presenters included Bellflower's Mayor Ray Dunton and Councilman Randy Bomgaars, Erin Stibal from Supervisor Don Knabe's office, Luis Marquez from Senator Alan Lowenthal's office, Julia Juerec from Assemblyman Ricardo Lara's office, and Laura Sanchez Ramirez, board member for Bellflower Unified School District.

Our award winners were: (from left to right, back row first) Natalie Horn, Women's Opportunity Winner, Eden Hernandez, Violet Richardson Award Winner, Victoria Osaji, Scholarship Recipient, and Alma Robles, Women's Opportunity Award Winner. In front are Vivian Gatica and May Angeles, Ruthe Harris Award Winners, and Stephanie Deslate, Scholarship Recipient. All of the recipients were so grateful and so well spoken, even though they are still so young and inexperienced at public speaking. This event is truly the culmination of all of our efforts throughout the year, and it is gratifying to see these young faces light



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](http://www.sibf.caminorealregion.org) , [www.caminorealregion.org](http://www.caminorealregion.org) , and/or [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)



## 2011 OOH's continued . . .

up with joy, and to know that they will be better able to succeed, if only just a little bit more, because of the assistance and encouragement that we have provided.

# Local Agencies That We Support



Representatives from some of the agencies that we support include, from left to right: Cindy Van Meeveren, Bellflower Volunteer Center; Renett Banagas, Caring Connections; Betty Morse, ARC; Christina Satki, Su Casa, Ending Domestic Violence; Terri Ferrieri and Tina Marshall, Little House.



Presenters at left are Laura Sanchez Ramirez, Deana Porter, Ray Smith, and Erin Stibal. Stephanie Delsate, at right, is cheerful and gracious at the microphone when accepting her four-year scholarship award from S.I. Bellflower.





**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF BELLFLOWER**

INVITES YOU TO A

# White Elephant Party!

**Monday, February 28th, 6:00 PM SHARP!**

**Simms Park: 16614 Clark Avenue, Bellflower 90706**

COME PREPARED TO PURCHASE UNDER-APPRECIATED  
TREASURES! YOU CAN DONATE YOUR OWN STUFF, TOO!



ONLY **\$15**

WHICH INCLUDES **DINNER**  
AND GETS YOU IN THE DOOR  
FOR THIS FUN-PACKED  
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DONATED ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION ARE  
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**RSVP to SUE HELD: 562-862-8669**

**or email: [susan@manorinsurance.net](mailto:susan@manorinsurance.net)**



# MEMBER'S PAGE



Doreen Robbins is always available for Soroptimist projects with her handy new van. She gladly makes house calls to pick up recyclables, and seems tireless in everything that she does. Muchos Gracias, Doreen!!!



Vicky Daniels is providing the Baked Potatoe Bar for our meeting Monday night, and you should know (and those of you who don't already know, you'll soon find out) that she is an excellent cook! I'm not sure how she'll pull it off, since I know she works all day, but I know it will all be wonderful!



Susan Held has volunteered again this year to be the auctioneer at our White Elephant party, and for those of you who've attended this event in the past, you know what a treat that is! Sue has a unique approach to this role, and with her witty product descriptions and charming persuasiveness, we find ourselves going home with much more than we ever thought we would. Thank you, Sue!

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**FEBRUARY / MARCH BIRTHDAYS !**

JAN SNIP	FEBRUARY 24
MARY CRAWFORD-BECK	MARCH 1
SUSAN SCHIRMER	MARCH 10

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## *Calendar of Events*

Monday, February 28	<b>WHITE ELEPHANT</b> 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	<b>BUNKO!!</b> At SIMMS PARK, 6PM to 9PM
Saturday, March 26	<b><u>LAS VEGAS NIGHT!!</u></b> Simms Park, at 6PM
Monday, March 28	Evening Program Meeting at Simms Park at 6pm
Wednesday, March 30	Board Meeting, Café de Luna, at NOON
Tuesday, April 5	Business Meeting, at the Church, at NOON
Tuesday, April 12	Program Meeting, at the Church, at NOON
Monday, April 25	Evening Program Meeting at Simms Park at 6pm
Wednesday, April 27	Board Meeting, Café de Luna, at NOON
Friday, April 29	Fundraiser, at Simms Park, at 6PM
Tuesday, May 3	Business Meeting, at the Church, at NOON
Tuesday, May 10	Program Meeting, at the Church, at NOON
Monday, May 23	Evening Program Meeting at Simms Park at 6pm
Wednesday, May 25	Board Meeting, Café de Luna, at NOON

**SOME OF THESE ACTIVIY DATES WILL BE AMENDED**

**FOR OUR SPECIAL EVENTS**

**STAY TUNED!**



Bellflower

# Soroptimists / Noon Lions

present



# LAS VEGAS NIGHT!

**Saturday, March 26th, 2011**

**Simms Park—16614 Clark Ave., Bellflower**

**Dinner: 5:30—7:30 pm**

**Casino: 6:00—10:00 pm**



**\$20 Donation (\$25 at the door)**

**Includes Dinner**

**and \$100 Gambling “Funny Money”**



**Lots of Great Door Prizes!**

**Good Food, Good Company!**

**SoooooOOOOO Much Fun !!**



*For additional info & tickets, call  
Jerry Miller 562-925-5005 x 222*



# LOOKING AHEAD

## A Message From the City Manager

(From the Bellflower CITIZEN)

As we take a look back on 2010, the City of Bellflower, like all government agencies throughout the State of California and the nation, faced a variety of tough challenges, and we were forced to make some hard decisions as a City. However, despite the recent tough times, we also saw a lot of good arise out of those challenges. We are fortunate to be part of a terrific community that has always been there for each other to help in the lean times. Again, we had several community groups step up and take over operations and the costs associated with certain annual events that were previously cut from our City's budget. We are thankful to the Bellflower Noon Lions Club for producing and sponsoring the popular Bellflower Boulevard Car Show, and Kingdom Causes for organizing the annual Easter Egg Hunt for children and the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Those events, as well as several others, would have been lost without their help and the support of many other service clubs and organizations in our community. This past year, we were honored that the City's Finance Department was recognized for the 16th straight year by the State for Excellence in Financial Reporting. We also celebrated the grand opening of our Journey to Market bronze, life-size statue at the historic Train Depot site and welcomed a host of much-needed improvements to our City's infrastructure, including new sewer and water system upgrades that will greatly benefit all of our citizens. As we embark on 2011, we look forward to construction beginning this summer on Bellflower's new downtown revitalization multi-use project, Belmont Court, as well as breaking ground on a pair of much needed new parks. We know many challenges still lie ahead. But with the continued support of Bellflower's greatest assets - our residents and our businesses - we know the City will one day emerge stronger than ever. Thank you for your continued support of Bellflower and best wishes for the New Year!



Sincerely,

Michael Egan



## Soroptimist International of the Americas

### **Soroptimist Disaster Grants for Women and Girls**

**A joint project of Soroptimist International of the Americas  
and Soroptimist International of Europe**

Soroptimist reaches out to women and girls before, during and after disasters. SIA is pleased to join with Soroptimist International of Europe to increase the scope and impact of the Soroptimist Disaster Grants for Women and Girls. In the past, the two federations have worked together to support women and girls in Kenya, Haiti and Chile. This collaboration became official in September 2010 when SIA and SIE combined their disaster grant programs. Using the application on the SIA website, clubs, regions or unions in SIA and SIE can apply for grants up to \$20,000 to assist women and girls who are at-risk or are victims of disasters in their local communities. Applications for disaster grants should be sent to SIAHQ.

The Soroptimist Disaster Grants are funded solely by donations to the Soroptimist Disaster Fund. SIA and SIE will maintain separate disaster funds. Donations to support the Soroptimist Disaster Grants can be sent to SIAHQ

### **Soroptimists Act Now to Stop Human Trafficking Using Social Media:**

Use the following five statements as either Facebook statuses or tweets:

Think slavery is over? Think again. Today, 27 million people are enslaved around the world. Learn more at [Soroptimists STOP Trafficking](#).<sup>1</sup>

Sex trafficking makes up 79% of human trafficking and nearly all victims are women and girls. Learn more at [Soroptimists STOP Trafficking](#).<sup>2</sup>

Human trafficking is the second-largest and fastest-growing criminal activity in the world. Learn more at [Soroptimists STOP Trafficking](#).<sup>3</sup>

Prostitution is not a choice—it kills: 75% of prostituted women have attempted suicide. Learn more at [Soroptimists STOP Trafficking](#).<sup>4</sup>

Prostitution is not a choice: the average age of entry is 12-14—below the age of consent.

**Learn more at [Soroptimists STOP Trafficking](#).<sup>5</sup>**

# SOROPTIMIST BUSINESS FRIENDS

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



*Deana Porter, MA, MFT*

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