



March 2011

Soroptimist International of Bellflower

P.O. Box 301, Bellflower, CA 90707

Chartered May 2, 1953

Laurel Leaf

Over the Rainbow

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2009-2010

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Greetings to all Soroptimists and friends:

This month is flying by, as most months do these days. Club is very active in keeping up with all of our commitments to our worth while causes. If you have not been to a meeting lately I want to remind you that we meet at noon the first and second Tuesday of each month at the church and the last Monday night of each month at Simms park.

We are also having some fun nights out. Thanks to Vicky and Doreen for setting up the food and the

Bunko night, last Friday. It is amazing how much fun you can have even when no one seems to know the rules of the game. Yes, we played Bunko by the seat of our pants...so to speak. Our usual official Bunko leader, Terri McCone Williams is deep in the income tax business at this time of year, so she was not able to help out this time. Doreen pushed past her comfort zone and went on line and made copies of the rules for the game... which helped I guess. Anyway, when we get together we all have an absurdly fund time playing not to

mention the yummy food. If you were one that did not make it to play Bunko, next time engage your inner child and come out and play. It will do you worlds of good !!!!!

We also have some things on the horizon such as Spring Conference in May. We are already starting to make plans for the November Fashion Show and of course don't forget to go to our annual Las Vegas night at Simms parks on Saturday 3/26/11.

In the mean time I wish you all sunny skies or at least rainy weather so you don't have to water the flowers.





Bunko!



The crazy game of Bunko seems to be a favorite of many, much to our surprise. Maybe it's the rotating of team mates, or the sudden screams of the players winning a "Bunko" or a "Mini-Bunko" or just rolling the dice for the number sought. It's hard to say, but our members and guests all had a marvel-

ous time when we played again on Friday, March 18th. Even our member, Mary Crawford, gave in to temptation for the game and drove up from her home in San Juan Capistrano. Now that's a FACT!

These two pals below, Vicky Daniels and Robin Ordoqui, were having so much fun that we could hardly hear what else was going on in the room most of the time. It's like this game of Bunko is all-consuming in its magical powers over innocent, unsuspecting players. We've heard that some members from other service clubs in Bellflower might want to join us for our Bunko nights, but I'm afraid that would be just TOO MUCH fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





White Elephant Party!



The White Elephant Party is another event that our club enjoys. Members bring items from home that are ready to be in someone else's home for awhile, and these items are donated to the club to auction off at the party. All items are in good, working order, and although one person no longer needs or desires it, another person will gladly

welcome it into their home and is willing to pay to be able to take it home! All proceeds are donated to the club, and everyone goes home happy. Our new member, Sue Elhessen, took home a few treasures and thoroughly enjoyed



herself. Our member, Susan Held, a past governor of our region, is very skilled in her position as the auctioneer at these events. It is her charm and sense of humor that makes it so much fun, and if we spend a little more than we planned, it's all OK because we know the money's going toward our projects.





2011 Camino Real & Desert Coast Regions Host the 2011 Joint Spring Conference



SHERATON CARLSBAD RESORT & SPA

This year two neighboring regions, Camino Real and Desert Coast, have teamed up to combine their spring conferences together at one venue, combining workshops and meetings in an effort to share resources and meet new Soroptimist friends. After the



conference, scheduled for May 13 through May 15, watch for a wrap up report, including photos, in the June newsletter. Bellflower Soroptimist attendees are President Deana Porter, Vice President Vicky Daniels, Secretary Doreen Robbins, Treasurer Cecily Seabourn, GEM Susan Held, Mary Ann Wotring, Terri Williams and Marcie Raphael.



MEMBER'S PAGE



Our beloved Cecily lost her husband, Robert Seabourn, on Saturday, February 26. As she told us all in a letter via email, "It was a very peaceful death, without pain and without loss of dignity, here at home in his own bed." We all know that the last several months had been a challenge for both Bob and Cecily, and our hearts go out to Cecily as she begins this next chapter in her life. Bob's ashes were buried at sea, as he loved the ocean. Cecily says of their marriage, "We had a good run at it." And of course they did—Cecily was at the helm.



Thanks to Vicky Daniels for coordinating the "potluck" meal for our Bunko event on Friday, March 18th. She really did an excellent job, and I have a hunch we'll be asking her to do this again for us real soon. Thanks, Vicky!



One of our longest-standing members, Hazel Anderson, has been under the weather a lot lately, and we sure miss her! She says she's feeling much better now, and has been busy with all her activities trying to get back into her usual schedule. This past winter has been hard on a lot of people with upper-respiratory infections and flu, and we're hoping to see more of Hazel again real soon.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS !

SONJA TEBRICH	APRIL 2
LANA LAUTH	APRIL 11
MARCIE RAPHAEL	APRIL 12
HAZEL ANDERSON	APRIL 23
BETTY MACKENZIE	APRIL 26





Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 26	<u>LAS VEGAS NIGHT!!</u> 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
May 13—15	<u>SPRING CONFERENCE!</u>
Friday, May 20	<u>NOT YO' MAMA'S TUPPERWARE PARTY!</u>
Monday, May 23	Evening Program Meeting at Simms Park at 6pm
Wednesday, May 25	Board Meeting, Café de Luna, at NOON

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*



DISASTER IN JAPAN

Open Letter from Leigh Wintz

As we are all aware, Japan is suffering the devastating effects of multiple disasters—earthquake, tsunamis and radiation from malfunctioning nuclear power plants.



Members from around the world are contacting us to express their concern. President Sharon has sent an official letter to the governors of Japan Higashi and Kita regions. SIA has set up a [special fund](#) to collect donations to assist women and girls following the disaster. These funds will be used to support future projects enabling women and girls to rebuild their lives.

We know from past experience that Soroptimist can have the biggest impact on women and girls if we wait until a gender-specific project can be identified. Soroptimist is not an immediate disaster relief organization; however, women and girls in Japan will most certainly need our help after immediate needs are met. We will be monitoring the situation and may respond earlier if a project is identified to meet women's special health care or safety needs in the upcoming weeks. Please also [check the SIA Facebook page](#) for news of the disaster and its specific effects on women and girls.

Please join me in sending our heartfelt wishes to all the people of Japan during this terrible time.

Sincerely,
Leigh Wintz, CAE
Executive Director



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

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



Soroptimist International

Reaching Out to Women When Disaster Strikes

Soroptimist International of the Americas, working to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world, examines in this white paper the issue of how women are impacted when disaster strikes. Natural disasters are a tragedy in their own right, but because women occupy a more tenuous position in society prior to disaster, they are the worst hit. When disaster strikes, women lack mobility and access to resources, have increased family responsibilities, and are susceptible to physical danger. Despite the vulnerable position of women prior to and following a disaster, their special needs are often ignored, as are their unique abilities to respond. International and national organizations point to the need for better research concerning the impact of disasters on women, as well as disaster recovery programs and policies that better incorporate gender-specific needs.

[Download white paper](#)

Un-Happily Ever-After: the Plight of Child and Mail-Order Brides

In this white paper, Soroptimist International of the Americas, working to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world, examines the issue of child marriage and mail-order brides. These practices rely upon the historical, social and cultural assumptions and beliefs that support marriage as an economic transaction – whereby a woman, or girl, is merely an object for exchange. These practices inflict great harm upon women and girls. Child marriage traps young girls in relationships that deprive them of their childhood and education while putting them at risk for abuse, disease and even death. Mail-order brides, who “consent” to marriage and may view it as the promise of a better and happier future, also face similar fates. Marriage for these women and girls is often nothing less than slavery, their lives revolving around physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. Recommendations for preventing child and mail-order bride marriages include: conducting research on the topic and providing support for the findings; increasing girls’ access to education; creating income-generating job opportunities for women; and challenging gender stereotypes and male demand for child and mail-order brides.

[Download white paper](#)

SOROPTIMIST BUSINESS FRIENDS

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



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