

April, 2014

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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:*

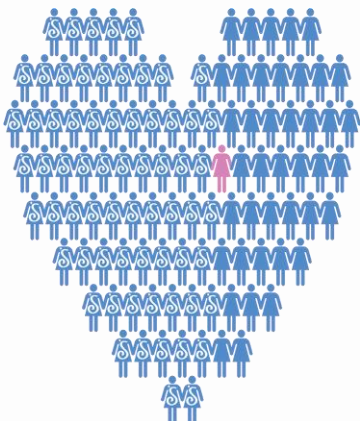
<http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org>

*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**

President's Message:

April. April means that Spring is here. Blue skies, flowers blooming and whew – our big fund raiser - Las Vegas Night is over! The event was March 29 and as I write this President's message, the event has not yet taken place. But I know that it will be a success, as it always is, in part to the great leadership of Terri McCone Williams, who even though she is busy doing tax returns, always steps up to assume the role of fearless leader. Thank you Terri! And thank you to our other committee members, especially Doreen Robbins and Marcie Raphael. And the event would not have all the wonderful prizes if not for Mary Ann Wotring. Thank you Mary Ann! To our club members, thank you for selling tickets, getting sponsors and stepping up the night of the event to work all night long! We do this fund raiser in conjunction with the Bellflower Noon Lions whose members also work long and hard in getting those sponsors and selling the tickets. We both benefit from doing this event together.

The next month (May) will be a fun one for the Bellflower Soroptimists as we give away the money we raised to deserving women and girls and to community organizations. It will be a Tea – with all the wonderful food that you think would be served. And we may have some vendors at the event selling some wonderful items. The event is May 12. We hope that you will be able to join us!

President Sue



**Be sure to check out our club's website and our Facebook page! The
website has been updated!**

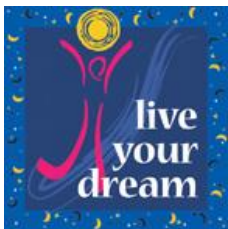
www.soroptimistbellflower.org

**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. Join the Bellflower Soroptimist club and help make a
difference to so many!**

Bellflower Soroptimist Club News:

We are looking into creating a new award for women! Over the years we have been asked if we could financially help women who realized that they wanted to go back to college or enter vocational schools. These were women who were not “Head of Household” and thus would qualify for our Women’s Opportunity Award but were women who realized that in order to do better in their lives; they needed further education to get that career they now wanted. In many instances these requests for help were from young women who after spending several years out of high school and were now in the “real world” realized they wanted/needed more out of life. But where could they get the help? That’s where we will come in. We are in the process of creating just such an award that we hope will be awarded for the first time this fall. We will let you all know when it’s finalized and ready to be distributed. Our hope is to then present this award at our Fashion Show this coming November.

***Save the Date! Plan on attending!
This will be a REALLY fun event!***



***Join Soroptimist International of Bellflower for a night of fun
as we raise money to help make a difference for women and
girls! (And did we mention, fun?!)***

Dinner and Tupperware Comedy Performance!

Saturday, May 17 - 5:00 – 6:00 pm– Appetizers & Light Dinner

(Drinks available for purchase)

With the performance beginning between 6:15 – 6:30 p.m.



**The cost of the entire evening is only \$20
for Dinner & Entertainment. You will have laughs galore plus the opportunity to
buy new Tupperware items.**

Don’t need Tupperware? You are able to purchase products and then donate them to “Little House”, a residential treatment program for women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. With every piece of Tupperware you buy, a portion goes to our club to help raise money for women and girls in need.

RSVP to: Susan@manorinsurance.net or call Susan @ 562- 413-0263 by Friday, May 9

Region News:

Spring Conference is almost here. It will be held April 25-27, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Valencia, in Valencia. Spring Conference is when all the clubs in our Region gather together to conduct business, hear speakers and present recognition to clubs as well as monetary awards to some outstanding women and girls. There will be guest speakers as well as a board member from Soroptimist International of the Americas who will share information with us about the upcoming Federation Convention in Vancouver as well as the direction Soroptimists is heading.

Soroptimist Federation News

Did You Know that Soroptimist of the Americas has Disaster Relief Grants? And that these grants are given to clubs who want to help others who have been affected by a natural disaster? In 2012 – 2013 Soroptimist clubs donated \$79, 119.16 to SIA and specified that the money be used for Disaster Relief. A total of 9 grants were given to club/regions/unions totaling \$149,500. Here is what one of the grants was used for:

- ❖ SIA granted \$20,000 to SI Iligan City, Phillipines. After Typhoon Sendong, female survivors were left particularly vulnerable in coed refugee camps with little security. SI Iligan City sought to relocate a number of female head of-household survivors and their families from the refugee camps to safe, permanent housing. With the grant funding, the club was able to construct seven row homes for seven women and their families. The women were trained on proper care and maintenance of their new homes. The club also provided psychological therapy and livelihood skill sessions for other women in the community who were affected by the disaster. These sessions included support groups for women to comfortably discuss their fears and losses following the disaster. The livelihood skill sessions included lessons in ice cream making and reflexology. Club members conducted the sessions. A total of 160 women and 120 girls benefited from the project.

\$149,500 in grant money was disbursed. • The grants helped 810 women and 230 girls.

COST PER LIFE CHANGED:

\$96.00

This is what being a Soroptimist is about. Changing lives for the better. And Bellflower Soroptimists are helping do this by the dues we pay. Make a difference – become a Soroptimist and help change lives! Call us or e-mail us and learn how you can be a part of this great club that does make a difference for women and girls worldwide!

Soroptimist International News:

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist  International

Did you know that violence is one of the primary barriers to women's equality? 1 in 3 women world-wide will experience gender violence in her lifetime.

Soroptimists have used education, empowerment and enabling opportunities to prevent VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls) to support victim/survivors. The statistic of VAWG across the world is shocking, but change can & does happen. Thanks to our Consultative Status at the United Nations (UN), Soroptimist International was invited to deliver statements to 193 government officials at the UN on 10 separate occasions. SI's UN representatives participated in 36 meetings focusing on education or leadership. SI submitted 3 written statements to governments outlining key asks on issues facing women and girls.

What does this show? It shows that being a Soroptimist really does make an impact worldwide. We speak to governments about women related issues. We are working to make the world (yes, the world) a better, safer place for women. Soroptimists really do make a difference and affect change to and for women. Do you want to make a difference not just in our local community, with our local women and girls and organizations, but worldwide? Then you need to become a member of the Bellflower Soroptimists! Join today and be a part of the change for better.

Calendar of Events

- *April 5 – 4:00 p.m. – Come to this meeting to learn about member Teresa’s business – Electrolysis – the art of getting rid of that unwanted hair permanently! Following this short presentation will be a pot luck dinner. A fun night – so plan on being there. And bring a friend or potential member! (Location – Deana’s home)*
- *April 7 – Business Meeting*
- *April 10 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – at Soroptimist Village – Birthday Bingo Party for the Villagers!*
- *April 14 – Program Meeting*
- *May 5 – Business Meeting*
- *May 12 – Awards Luncheon – This is where we give away money to some very deserving women and organizations. Please plan on joining us!*
- *May 17 – Tupperware Fund Raiser – Dinner & Entertainment – see info in newsletter!*

Soroptimist Member Birthdays



- *April 12* *Marcie Raphael*
- *April 26* *Betty MacKenzie*
- *May 18* *Doreen Robbins*
- *May 20* *Bea Proo*
- *June 2* *Leticia Jimenez*
- *June 6* *Diana Guitierrez*
- *June 11* *Terri McCone Williams*
- *June 22* *Julie Brame*

According to Merriam-Webster, Encyclopedia of Britannica, the definition of a dream is: “A strongly desired goal or purpose” Soroptimists believe in the power of joining together to help women & girls live their dreams. Join the Bellflower Soroptimists and help make many dreams come true, for women and girls world-wide.

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 about the Bellflower Soroptimists go to our website: www.soroptimistbellflower.org