

June, 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:

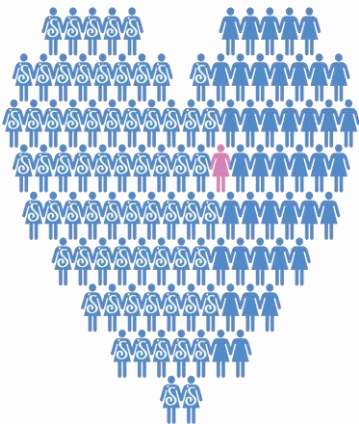
<http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org>

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**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:

Summer is here already. Can you believe it?! May found us giving money away at our Live Your Dream Awards Lunch and then the following week, raising money at our Tupperware comedy event. That is what we do, raise money and then give it away to deserving women and girls!

This year we gave 2 women the opportunity to improve their lives through our Live Your Dream: education and training Awards for women as well as giving 3 graduating senior girls scholarships to help them through the next 4 years of college. In addition to helping deserving women and girls, we were able to give money to many of the local organizations that we support within our community.

THIS MONTH FINDS US ALREADY STARTING PLANNING FOR OUR FASHION SHOW. SAVE THE DATE – IT IS NOVEMBER 15, 1 WEEK EARLIER THAN LAST YEAR. AND WE THINK YOU WILL BE JUST AS EXCITED AS WE ARE – WE FOUND A GREAT NEW FASHION FACILITATOR WHICH MEANS, NEW FASHIONS, NEW STYLE OF CLOTHES AND NEW MODELS. THE CLOTHES ARE GREAT! AND THEY RANGE FROM SIZE 2 TO 3X. THESE CLOTHES ARE GREAT FOR WORK AND PLAY. IN ADDITION TO THE NEW CLOTHING LINE WE WILL BE HAVING NEW VENDORS WITH US ALSO! SO SAVE THE DATE AND WATCH YOUR MAIL AND E MAIL FOR UPDATED INFORMATION.

At the end of June we will be thanking our outgoing officers for a job well done and installing new officers. Many thanks to all the women who served as officers for our club. And thank you to our new members who are stepping up to accept leadership roles.

President Sue



www.soroptimistbellflower.org

Soroptimist is a global women's organization whose members volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

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

Bellflower Soroptimist Club News:

Bellflower Soroptimists Live Your Dream Award Tea

Local Organizations receive certificates and money from Soroptimists. City & State officials were on hand to honor the organizations.

Tables were beautifully decorated for our Tea. This is just one of our tables.



Our scholarship winners with City & State Officials

Just one of the organizations received recognition



Our first place Live Your Dream recipient with the Mayor of Bellflower, Sonny Santa Inez

Scholarship and Live Your Dream Recipients with President Sue; Bellflower City Council; Field Deputy Erin Stiebal – Supervisor Don Knabe Office & Lisa Acevedo, Assistant Superintendent for Bellflower Unified School District



Region News:

A little history - How Camino Real Region was formed:

During the 1977 Pacific Region Conference, it was generally agreed to divide the region into three regions, one being Camino Real. At the time of the conference, Pacific Region covered not only a great deal of California, in addition to parts of Texas, Arizona and Nevada. The region found it difficult to hold meetings for the 156 clubs. An ad-hoc committee was formed and a technical advisor was pointed. At the 1978 conference, Pacific Region was divided into three new Regions and Camino Real Region was born.

Soroptimist Federation News

This One's For the Girls

SIA launches new program to help girls harness and develop potential

SIA believes in the power of girls—and in the power of Soroptimists to help girls harness and develop their potential. The consequences of gender inequality are at the root of the many obstacles facing girls, such as violence, lack of access to education, inadequate healthcare, and poverty. In an effort to assist girls, Soroptimist is developing a new program to enable them to achieve their career goals.

Exciting Changes in Membership Criteria

Several membership criteria changes have been instituted to increase participation of members and clubs wishing to engage in our mission. Now, clubs should maintain 12 or more regular, retired/unemployed, and/or embarking members (this is also the number needed to charter a new club) and no club shall forfeit its charter due to having 11 or fewer members. Also, the number of members in a club is no longer included in the definition of a club to be in good standing.



The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards assists 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 \$1.6 million in education grants are awarded to more than 1,200 women, many of whom have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence and/or drug and alcohol abuse. Live Your Dream Awards recipients may use the cash award to

offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition and transportation.

Our club just gave 2 very deserving women this cash award to help them live their dream. Soroptimist International of the Americas has just announced that they have changed the date of this award deadline. The new deadline is November 15. Which means that our club is once again looking for some deserving women to help.



Soroptimist International News:

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist  International

Do you remember where you were when you heard about the schoolgirls that were kidnapped from school in Nigeria on April 14? An estimated 276 girls were kidnapped in northern Nigeria by a terror group called Boko Haram. Dozens of girls escaped but more than 200 girls are still missing. Why is this being talked about in our newsletter? Because Soroptimists are global and we have a Soroptimist club in Nigeria. The statement below is from the Soroptimists in Nigeria and lets you know what other Soroptimist members across the globe are doing as they raise their voices with thousands of others.

5/4/14 - Statement from Soroptimist International of Nigeria Association #BringBackOurGirls



Soroptimist International of Nigeria is continuing to draw attention to the plight of over 200 schoolgirls abducted by militants from Chibok, in Borno State, Nigeria three weeks ago. Although some girls have managed to escape, most are still missing.

"We are extremely concerned about the lack of relevant information on the fate and whereabouts of these girls", says Nneka Chris-Asoluka, Programme Action Chair for SI of Nigeria Association. "Early this morning, some

Nigerian Soroptimists along with other women groups, staged a protest march/ rally to the Lagos State Governor's office and delivered a signed petition calling on the Federal Government of Nigeria to intensify their efforts in ensuring that these girls are released unharmed and returned safely to their families where they rightfully belong."

Islamist militant group Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for the abduction, with leader Abubakar Shekau appearing in a video threatening to "sell" the hundreds of schoolgirls it abducted three weeks ago.

In a statement sent to several national newspapers, Soroptimist International of Nigeria have expressed fears that a recent increase in the number of girls attending school in the north of the country will be reversed.

"Soroptimist International of Nigeria Association wishes to join other well meaning groups/NGO in condemning the action of members of the Boko Haram sect who abducted more than 200 girls from Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, Bornu. It is a worrisome and barbaric development."

"It is very unfortunate and sad that this is happening at a time when girl child education in the Northern part of the Country is witnessing a boost and parents are now being motivated to send their female children to school. If this trend is not stopped now, the consciousness of the girl child education in the North will be adversely affected"

"We advise that stringent security measures should be put in place to protect the schools in the North. The girl child must be given the opportunity to reach her optimal best in the society. We therefore call on the insurgents to immediately release the girls unconditionally and our Government to intensify efforts in their bid to rescue the girls."



In Memoriam

Lauren Sue Maher



Lauren Sue Maher was the daughter of our own Mary Ann Chamberlain Wotring. Lauren was born on June 4, 1963 in Germany and passed away on April 6, 2014 after a long battle with cancer. Lauren was an avid swimmer and competitively swam for many years and won countless ribbons and trophies. Lauren came from a long line of teachers and she loved education. She taught 5th grade for eight years in Hawthorne and at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary in Los Angeles teaching in low income neighborhoods. During this time she also earned a Master's Degree in Multi-cultural Education from Cal State Dominguez Hills.

Lauren was an avid world traveler, a certified scuba diver, a lover of nature and hiking and had a great energy that lit up the room. She made friends easily and in each phase of her life added a new circle of friends while never forgetting her old ones. Lauren was a great supporter of the Bellflower Soroptimists and came to our fashion shows, our Mother's Day Teas and Las Vegas Night. She was a bright shining star and will be missed by all who knew her. Our hearts go out to Mary Ann and her family.

Bea Sonsma



Bea Sonsma was President of the Bellflower Soroptimist club in 1972 – 73 and in 1973 was awarded the Bellflower club's highest award for its own members - the *Soroptimist of the Year*. Bea was a long time resident of Bellflower and owner of Bellflower Travel Service until 1977. Bea was born in the Netherlands and moved back there but each year she came back to Bellflower and made sure that part of her visit included attending a club meeting! Being a Bellflower Soroptimist was important to Bea. She believed in making a difference for women and believed that the Bellflower Soroptimists were just the group of women to do that. Bea died quietly in her sleep on January 30, 2014. She had celebrated her 90th birthday in November. Bea's niece Alice is the executrix of Bea's estate and has contacted our club to let us know that Bea remembered the Bellflower Soroptimist Club in her will and has left us several thousand dollars.

Our club has been aware that there are many women who graduate from high school having decided that they don't want to attend college but after several years of being on their own, realize that further education will help them in life. But now, they have graduated from high school so they are unable to get financial help that may have been available to them when they were graduating from high school. Earlier this year the Bellflower Soroptimists began working on creating a scholarship for these young women. The money that Bea has left us will allow us to begin this award later this year. Please watch for further information on this new award as we work on its creation. A great big thank you goes out to Bea for her remembrance of the Bellflower Soroptimists.



*Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft star that shines at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not here, I did not die.*

Our Tupperware Fundraiser in May was a big success. Thanks to all who attended; to those who donated the food and beverage and to those who purchased Tupperware! We made hundreds of dollars and that money will be used to continue to support women and girls as well as our local and international projects. And a special thanks to our Tupperware presenter, Kay Sedia, who is going to be donating a portion of the proceeds back to our club!



Calendar of Events

- *June 3 – Business Meeting*
- *June 9 – Program Meeting*
- *June 16 – 5:30 p.m. – Fashion Show Planning Meeting*
- *June 28 – 5:00 p.m. – Installation of Officers*

July – The newsletter will not be issued – “Summer Break”

Soroptimist Member Birthdays



- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| • <i>June 2</i> | <i>Leticia Jimenez</i> |
| • <i>June 6</i> | <i>Diana Guitierrez</i> |
| • <i>June 11</i> | <i>Terri McCone Williams</i> |
| • <i>June 22</i> | <i>Julie Brame</i> |
| • <i>July 15</i> | <i>Debbie Patrick</i> |
| • <i>July 17</i> | <i>Robin Ordoqui</i> |

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