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

**Now celebrating 61 years
of service**

Newsletter Editor: Susan Held

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

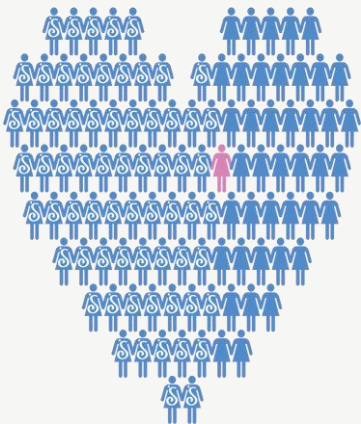
<http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org>

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

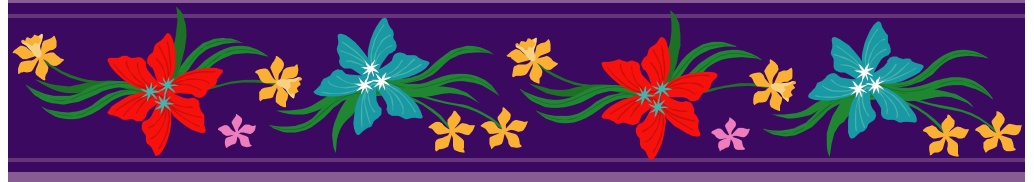
**Bellflower Soroptimists
PO BOX 301
Bellflower, CA 90707**

Our theme this year is:

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



March, 2015



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:

March already. Winter has come and is almost gone; we've had rain and flowers are beginning to bloom and daylight savings is around the corner. We are sorry that you haven't seen a publication of our newsletter in recent months. We have been so busy making changes and improvements within our club that this newsletter got set aside for a bit.

What changes you ask?

- We have a new and improved club website. Check it out and see for yourself: <http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org/>.
- Also new is our "Community Partner" advertising on our website. Details of that new venture are inside this newsletter.
- Great news – We created a new award called "Helping Dreams Come True" for women between the ages of 20 – 40 years of age who need a helping hand. Details are inside these pages and on our club website.
- Soroptimist of the Americas has a new program called "Dream It - Be It - Career Support For Girls" and we are working towards being a part of this new program to make a difference for young girls. Check out inside pages for details.

We have had our fashion show last November and it was a great success. December we put on a Christmas lunch and party for the women of Little House and Su Casa. The Bellflower ensemble came and performed; Santa came and we helped hand out gifts to the women and children.

We have been working on the our next big Fund Raiser – Las Vegas Night – March 28 at Simms Park as well as planning for our Mothers Day Tea and Awards Lunch on May 4.

And last but certainly not least, we got a new member. Welcome Nancy!

Sorry we have been away for so long. Please enjoy our newlster and if you have are not a member ~ come to a lunch or get together. We would love to have you as a guest. Hope to see you soon.

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:

LAS VEGAS NITE FUND RAISER IS BACK!

Saturday, March 28 – at Simms Park, 16614 Clark Ave, Bellflower



Dinner 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CASINO 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
\$20 admittance if purchased before the event – Or \$25 at the door
Includes chicken dinner and \$200 Gambling “funny money”
Win Cash: \$500 Grand Prize Money and Door Prizes
Separate Bingo Room and special prizes

College Scholarships available for High School girls

This scholarship was established specifically to help local high school girls continue their education at the college level. Our goal is to help girls with their education so that they can go forward and live their dreams.

\$400 (per year) scholarships are available.

Once accepted, students are eligible to receive the scholarship for up to 4 years or \$1,600.00 over four years

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2015. Go to our club website to get the application or ask any Soroptimist for information or the application.

Awards will be presented Monday, May 4 at an awards luncheon with representatives of Congress, State and the City of Bellflower



January saw club members reviewing applications of deserving women who needed a helping hand to move forward in their lives. The Soroptimist Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women provides women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families with the financial resources to offset costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education or additional skills and training. Recipients can use the award for tuition, books, childcare, carfare or any other education-related

expense. This year we are so glad that we had the financial resources to be able to give 2 women financial help. We will presenting the awards at our May 4 ceremony. We hope you can be there to help cheer these women on!



Meet our newest member – Nancy Larsen. Nancy knew about our organization from her sister Gina who joined our club about 1 year ago. Gina was having so much fun being a member that when Nancy retired last year she decided to come to a few meetings to see what it was all about. Nancy started out by helping with our fashion show and working on centerpieces and designs for the brochures and creating wonderful new Vendor Program booklets. Nancy then helped us to plan the Christmas event for the women and children of a local domestic violence shelter as well as the women from a local drug and alcohol recovery home. The rest, as they say, is history. Nancy became a member at the first of the year and we are lucky to have her. Nancy is the proud mother of 1 and an even prouder Grandmother of 2. She loves working on computer and designing and creating flyer; brochures; programs. You name – she can create it. We have found out already in these few months that Nancy is a generous, giving woman and a wonderful addition to Soroptimist International of Bellflower. Welcome Nancy!

Bellflower Soroptimists have created a brand new award!

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams...
~Eleanor Roosevelt

HELPING DREAMS COME TRUE AWARD

The *Helping Dreams Come True Award* was created to help women between the ages of 20 – 40 achieve their dreams by giving them financial resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Why the ages of 20 – 40? Because there are many instances when girls graduate from high school and think they don't need or want additional education or training. As the years pass by, they come to find out that life is not what they imagined and they want/need to further themselves educationally or vocationally in order to get ahead. But, now they are out on their own and no longer eligible for college scholarships they might have received at graduation. Furthering themselves is not an option now, it has become a dream.

This award was created to help those women who need a helping hand to reach their dreams. The recipient will receive **\$1,500.00** that they can use toward costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as child care, books, transportation and tuition.

Applications must be postmarked by April 27, 2015



PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS & HELP SUPPORT BELLFLOWER SOROPTIMISTS

List your business on our club website. Link to your own website; Grow your business and help support Soroptimists.

Members of Soroptimist International of Bellflower have built a reputation of continuing service and support of women and youth in our community. Our desire to make a difference for women worldwide, our willingness to work together and our positive spirit are our greatest assets. Now there is a way for those who wish to help support our clubs programs and mission through our Business Directory Service. In short, we now offer and opportunity for you to list your business on our website.

Your business card ad is placed on our website for the donation of \$100 per year. We will include a link to your business or organization as well as an e mail link (if supplied). Please go to our website to check out this great new feature. We already have 5 listings! Guidelines are on the website or ask a Soroptimist. It's a Win-Win. You increase your business and we get additional money to help improve the lives of women and girls. Go to our website and check it out: <http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org/>

And if you like, you can even have this put on your own website to show your support:



Region News:

Spring Conference is going to be held at the Long Beach Marriott (near LB airport) from April 24- 26. This year they have great new activities for us - like the Club photo, Personal and Professional Workshops (an expansion of Leadership Academy), New Member Mixer and so much more. There will be a special guest from SIA: Federation Board Member, Paloma Papa as well as dynamic workshop presenters. The event begins on Friday 4/24 with workshops and then lunch with Region leaders and guest presenters. There will be awards presented to clubs; money and recognition given to deserving women; business conducted; great meals as well as a chance to meet Soroptimists from around our Region. The hotel is wonderful, having undergone a 14 million dollar renovation in the last year or so. Save the date and plan on coming to all or part of the event.

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 has developed a new program to enable them to achieve their career goals and SI Bellflower is working on being a part of this. We are currently in the planning stage of what we will be doing and talking with the Bellflower Unified School District for their views on what would make the most impact. We will keep you posted on what we plan on doing! And if you want to be a part of it, give us a call.

#MakeItHappen

International Women's Day 2015 Theme: **MAKE IT HAPPEN**

All around the world, International Women's Day represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality. Each year International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. The first International Women's Day was held in 1911. Thousands of events occur to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. *Make It Happen* is the 2015 theme, encouraging effective action for advancing and recognizing women. Various organizations identify their own International Women's Day theme, specific to their local context and interests. Many charities, NGOs and Governments also adopt a relevant theme or campaign to mark the day. For example, organizations like the UN, Oxfam, Women for Women, Care International, Plan, World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and more - run exciting and powerful campaigns that raise awareness and encourage donations for good causes. The UN has been declaring an annual **equality theme** for many years

Why purple?

From 1908, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in Great Britain adopted the color scheme of purple, white and green to symbolize the plight of the Suffragettes. Purple symbolized justice and dignity - two values strongly associated with women's equality. The three colors were used for banners, flags, rosettes and badges to show solidarity.

Did you know – Some facts about Soroptimist

How many members are in Soroptimist?

Soroptimist International has about 80,000 members. Soroptimist International of the Americas has about 32,000 members.

How many countries make up Soroptimist?

Soroptimist International members reside in about 120 countries and territories throughout the world. Soroptimist International of the Americas' clubs are located in 19 countries and territories: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guam, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, United States and Venezuela

Soroptimist International News

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist International



2015 is the *International Year of Light*, recognized by the UN to raise global awareness of how light-based technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture and health.



International
Year of Light
2015

Why is that information in our newsletter you may be wondering. Well...it ties right in to what our Soroptimist International December 10th Appeal is – “See Solar, Cook Solar”. Imagine living without electricity; not being able to go flip a switch to turn on lights; no computer; no TV; no central air or heat; nothing. Not even a means of cooking for your family, because where you live is running out of basic essentials like firewood. Why would anyone want to gather firewood, day after day; many fearing the prospect of being subjected to violence or even rape. This year is our focus on Light – Solar Light – because with this; computers can be run; light will be available after sundown and much more. Soroptimists worldwide donate to Soroptimist International for this cause and they in turn helps the poorest of the poor to get solar light. The flip of a switch - something that we take so for granted yet in other places it will never be. Think about it - our small donations make such a profound difference in so many lives.

Calendar of Events

- *March 2 – Business Meeting*
- *March 9 – Program Meeting*
- *March 14 – Train trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano*
- *March 28 – Las Vegas Night – Fund Raiser @ Simms Park in Bellflower*
- *April 6 - Business Meeting*
- *April 13 – Program Meeting*
- *April 24- 26 Spring Conference @ Long Beach Marriott*
- *May 4 – Live Your Dream Recognition & Awards Tea – Bring the women in your life!*
- *May 11 – Business Meeting*

Soroptimist Member Birthdays



- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • <i>March 1</i> | <i>Mary Crawford Beck</i> |
| • <i>March 10</i> | <i>Teri Marcum</i> |
| • <i>March 10</i> | <i>Susan Schirmer</i> |



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

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