

Laurel Leaf

Soroptimist International of
Bellflower

May 2015

President's Message



May 4th was our Awards Tea and it was a great event! Lots of dignitaries were on hand to present official Certificates of Recognition. Among them were Congresswoman Lucille Roybal Allard. From the State Assembly member's office, Christina Garcia, Carina Chacon. From the City of Bellflower, the Mayor, Mr. Scott Larsen as well as two City Council Members, Sonny Santa-Inez and Ron Schnablegger.

Also on hand was Bellflower Unified School Superintendent, Dr. Brian Jacobs and School Board Member, Dr. Sue ElHessen.

We presented 4-Year College Scholarships to two girls as well as our **first ever**, "Helping Dreams Come True" Award, in the amount of \$1,500 to help a woman be able to continue college and reach her dream. We were able to give out two "Live Your Dream" Awards (totaling \$3,000) and we gave recognition and money to a number of local organizations that we support.

The theme was "English Tea" and club members decorated the tables beautifully. Thank You to everyone in Bellflower for your involvement in this event and all the other events you help support; for without you, we would not have been able to give away over \$8,500 at this one event! So far this year, we have given away over \$10,00. **WAY TO GO BELLFLOWER SOROPTIMISTS!**

We are busy working on some new, fun and exciting fund raisers in the next few months so be sure to check out our [Facebook](#) and [Website](#) pages to learn more.

President Sue



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!

Inside this issue

In The News 2

Bellflower Soroptimist Club News

2015 Spring Conference

"Making Dreams Come True"
Awards Presentation

Soroptimist Federation News

Disaster Grants Fund

A Global Voice for Women

Soroptimist International News

Violence Against Women and
Girls

Calendar of Events 6

Painting with a Twist, Fundraiser

Special Points of Interest

Soroptimist Member's Birthdays

Fun Facts

**OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS...
"MAKING A DIFFERENCE, ONE
WOMAN AT A TIME"**



IN THE NEWS

Bellflower Soroptimist Club News



Spring Conference was held at the Long Beach Marriot at the end of April and was a great success. Our club had a total of 10 members that were in attendance at one time or another throughout the event.

Close to 200 women from Clubs within Camino Real Region were on hand to receive awards; hear motivational speakers; learn about Soroptimist programs and be a part of giving as the Region presented awards and recognition to deserving women. There was a wonderful memorial service where Soroptimists were able to pay tribute to their

loved ones who departed in the past year. Our member Betty MacKenzie honored her mother and Nancy Larsen paid tribute to her husband.

One of our very own members summed up her feelings after attending Spring Conference for the first time by saying this:



Business Meeting at the 2015 Spring Conference

“Yes, we have numerous opportunities to learn about Soroptimist International, but throughout all of the printed materials, the websites, what you don’t get is that personal touch of communication; that pat on the arm as you stopped to speak to a person; that

warm smile as we pass by each other and just whisper a few words in passing....”Good morning”...”It’s great to see you here today”...”Did you enjoy today’s activities?”. These little touches hit home with each of us and brighten our day, even for that one moment in time. I saw this happen before my very own eyes. I saw smiles on everyone’s faces. I heard everyone sharing information with each other; sharing a smile, a “glad to see you”, a “thank you”. The world of the Soroptimist ladies and the strives they take to empower and support women and girls shines brighter for me now. I’ve felt! I’ve seen it!”



Setting Sail at the 2015 Spring Conference were our very own Mary Ann Wotring, Sue Held, Teri Marcum, Nancy Larsen, Doreen Robbins, Gina Herndon, Kathy Price, Deana Porter, Robin Ordoqui, Marcie Raphael and Kim Manzanaras



Our Centerpieces were a huge success.



Memorial Service: Nancy Larsen and Doreen Robbins honoring Nancy's husband and Betty MacKenzie's mother in the Memorial ceremony.



Teri Marcum....Raffle prize Winner....She must really like her purple bag...Look at that Smile!



SIB Enjoying the 2015 Spring Conference

Bellflower Soroptimist Club News (continued)

“Making Dreams Come True” Awards Presentation

What a wonderful afternoon we had in presenting some very deserving young women our “Making Dreams Come True” Awards. We were honored to have with us some outstanding dignitaries representing our Congress, State and City officials.

*“The
future belongs
to those who
believe in the
beauty of their
dreams.”*
{Eleanor Roosevelt}

The awards presented today included the prestigious “**Live Your Dream Award**”, “**Helping Dreams Come True Award**”, and our very own 1st year award, “**Bellflower Scholarship Award**”.

Congratulations to all of these wonderful women! May your success in life be because you chose to stand tall in diversity and earnestly wanted to do something to better **what was your life, to what your life will be in the future**. You are truly an inspiration to us all!



Live Your Dream Award Winners

Maria de la Luz Michell and Elodia Castillo





**Helping Dreams Come True Award Winner
Samantha Dawson**



*Congratulations to these marvelous
women.*

*Strong in their determination to succeed
in life one step at a time!*



**Soroptimist International of Bellflower
Scholarship Award Winners**

**Shiena Bas and Beatriz Gonzalez
Shown with School Board Member, Dr. Sue ElHessen**



**Dignitaries from Congress, State and the City of Bellflower
were on hand to celebrate the desires and
accomplishments of our Awards winners.**

Bellflower Soroptimist Club News (continued)

Also award at this event were organizations Bellflower Soroptimist supports were

- Caring Connections
- Low Cost Community Counseling Center
- Soroptimist Village
- Su Casa



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal Allard presenting a "Certificate of Congressional Recognition" to Rene Banajaus, "Caring Connections".



Deana Porter, Director of "Low Cost Community Counseling Center", accepting the "Certificate of Congressional Recognition" from Congresswoman Lucille Roybal Allard.



SIB President Sue Held presenting an Award to Mary Ann Wotring, Past President of Soroptimist Village.



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal Allard presenting to Vicki Doolittle, Executive Director of Su Casa with a "Certificate of Congressional Recognition".

Soroptimist Federation News

Soroptimist of the Americas has a Disaster Grants fund. This is where club members throughout the Federation can make a donation and then when a disaster strikes, the Federation is better able to reach out and help those in need. Here are just a few of the recent donations made:

SIA granted \$20,000 to SI/Iligan City, Philippines 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.

An additional \$20,000 was granted to SI/Ofunato, Japan for the city of Rikuzentakatan, which was devastated by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan. Many were left homeless and without jobs as a result of the disaster.

Surveys showed that women suffered unemployment at a higher rate than men. Since the temporary housing facilities are dispersed throughout the city, there was also a lack of community.

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Please [donate online](#) or send donations to SIA headquarters in Philadelphia earmarked

"SIA Disaster Fund"
1709 Spruce Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Thank you for your concern!

*If you change
nothing,
Nothing will
change*

VISION

Soroptimist International is committed to a world where women and girls together **achieve** their individual and collective potential, **realize aspirations** and have an **equal voice** in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

VALUES

- Human rights for all
- Global peace and international goodwill
- Advancing women's potential
- Integrity and democratic decision makings
- Volunteering, diversity and friendship

Soroptimist Federation News (continued)

The club was able to recreate that sense of community and also provide women with access to employment through its disaster recovery project, which consisted of rebuilding a community café, where local women work and others can congregate. SI/Ofunato worked with contractors to rebuild the café. The club employed 10 local women to operate the café, which is now their family's sole source of income. In addition to providing income to these women, this opportunity has greatly increased their self-esteem and is helping them to cope with the losses they endured. The café also operates as a community space where other women can meet.

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 and Girls) to support victim/survivors. The statistic of VAWG across the world is shocking, but change can and does happen. Thanks to our Consultative Status at the UN, Soroptimist International was invited to deliver statements to 193 government officials at the United Nations 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.

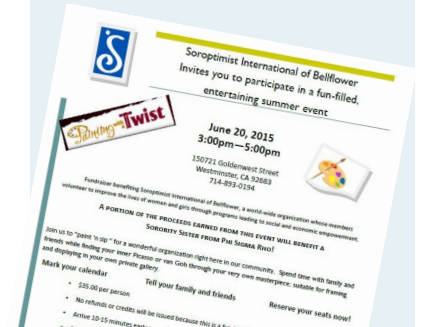
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- * 4th Live your Dream Recognition & Awards Tea— Bring the women in your life!
- * 10th Mother’s Day
- * 11th Business Meeting

June

- * 1st Business Meeting
- * 8th Program Meeting
- * 20th Painting with a Twist, Huntington Beach Fundraiser



See next page for information

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Soroptimist Member Birthdays

May

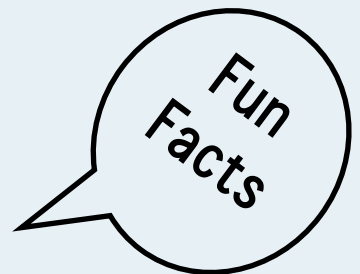
- * 18th Doreen Robbins

June

- * 2nd Leticia Jimenez
- * 6th Diana Gutierrez
- * 11th Terri McCone Williams
- * 17th Nancy Larsen

Fun Facts - Do you know....

- The first novel ever written on a typewriter was Tom Sawyer
- What do the bullet proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?
 - ◊ *They were all invented by women!!!*
- The first penny had the motto “Mind your own business”
- Rinsing bacon under cold water before frying can reduce the amount it shrinks by almost 50%





Soroptimist International of Bellflower invites you to participate in a fun-filled, entertaining summer event



June 20, 2015
3:00pm—5:00pm



150721 Goldenwest Street
Westminster, CA 92683
714-893-0194

This event is a fundraiser benefiting Soroptimist International of Bellflower, a world-wide organization whose members volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

50% of the proceeds from this event will be donated back to Soroptimist International of Bellflower

Join us to "paint 'n sip" for a wonderful organization right here in our community. Spend time with family and friends while finding your inner Picasso or van Gogh through your very own masterpiece; suitable for framing and displaying in your own private gallery.

Mark your calendar Bring your family and friends Reserve your seats now!

- * \$35.00 per person
- * No refunds or credits will be issued because this is a fundraising event
- * Arrive 10-15 minutes early to get "uncorked, smocked and in your seat!"
- * This studio is 21+ only so bring your ID
- * Light snacks will be served. BYOB is not allowed, but you can purchase beer, wine and soft beverages at the Studio's bar



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF BELLFLOWER
PO Box 301
Bellflower, CA 90707-0301



Registration Card

June 20, 2015
3:00pm to 5:00 pm

Please complete the following information to register for this Fundraising Event.

Mail this card and your check in the amount of \$35.00, made payable to SIB, to the address noted above.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Thank You!

Meeting Times & Locations

Business Meetings

1st Monday of each month
12 Noon

Location:

First Missionary Baptist Church
9246 Rosser St.
Bellflower, CA

Program Meetings

2nd Monday of each month
12 Noon

Monthly evening & Saturday dinner
meetings according to members'
schedules

Location:

First Missionary Baptist Church
9246 Rosser St.
Bellflower, CA

We Are.....

Soroptimist International of Bellflower



Website: <http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SIBellflower>

***Soroptimist International of
Bellflower
PO Box 301***

