



Laurel Leaf

SI Bellflower's Newsletter

May, 2017



President's Message

What fun we had on May 8 as we presented checks and recognition to women and organizations that we support. On hand were State and City representatives as well as the Superintendent and President of the Bellflower Unified School District.

Certificates as well as checks were presented to some very deserving women as well as the local organizations that we support. It is because of the support of the local community and the hard work of the Bellflower Soroptimists, we were able to present over \$7,500 at this award ceremony. The amount presented does not include donations that have been made to other organizations not in attendance.

As this event ends, we are already looking towards next year's awards events and working on ways to increase our contributions. We will do this through increased monies being brought in with our fundraising and continued support of the community.

With that being said, club members have already begun the planning for our upcoming fashion show on Saturday, November 4 at the Long Beach Marriott. Our theme for the show is "A Winter Wonderland of Fashion". Centerpieces are already being created; we have new vendors who will be on hand as well as a great new fashion coordinator. Models will be strutting down the runway wearing stylish, trendy, yet affordable clothes from places like Paris and London. And the clothes will be available for purchase that day!

As we prepare for the future, that also means that members have been sharing information about the club and what it is that we do and how we make a difference. As a result we have a number of women who have expressed an interest in joining the club!

We are so excited that membership is increasing! We are having fun; we are making a greater impact on our community and on those in need. Let's continue to spread the word and invite others to join us in *Making a World of Difference!*

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!

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IN THE NEWS ... Bellflower Soroptimists

Bellflower's Award Event



Soroptimist awards event had a great turnout

Bellflower Soroptimist's award event was a great success, with close to 50 people in attendance. Bellflower's Mayor Ron Schnablegger as well as 2 City Council members, Sonny Santa Innes and Juan Garcia took time out of their busy schedules to attend and represent the City. Also joining us was Edgar Estrada, District Director from Assembly member Cristina Garcia's office and Steven Nagy, Field Representative from Congresswoman Linda Sanchez's office. Dr. Brian Jacobs, Bellflower Unified School District's Superintendent and Dr. Sue ElHessen, President of the School Board were on hand to present our scholarship winner Jalyssa Alejos with a Certificate as well as words of encouragement as she moves forward with the new chapter of her life. Representatives from a variety of local organizations that the club supports were on hand to accept certificates as well as checks.

2017 Award Recipients ~ With City and State Official Representatives



Live Your Dream Recipient Kristen Ayala and President Susan



Live Your Dream Recipient Sun Kim and President Susan



Scholarship Recipient Jalyssa Alejos & Steven Nagy
Field Representative, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez's office

DREAM IT * BE IT



Bellflower Soroptimists and Lakewood/Long Beach Soroptimists partnered to hold the *Dream It*Be It* Conference for girls on May 20, 2017 at Mayfair High. *Dream It * Be It*, is for girls, ages 14 – 17, who face obstacles to their future success. 25 girls were given the opportunity to think about and create a "Dream Cloud" that had them thinking 10 years into the future. Career exploration was done; gender discrimination and how it might affect their career success was also a topic. This full day workshop was a great success!

IN THE NEWS... Soroptimist International

INTERNATIONAL FOCUS



Did you know that Soroptimists have consultative status at the United Nations? Soroptimist International has consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which oversees U.N. activities and policies promoting human rights. Representatives from Soroptimist International can request agenda items, submit written statements for circulation to all members of the council, make oral statements at meetings, and contribute to other U.N. gatherings and seminars. Soroptimist representatives are volunteers and work in one of the six U.N. centers in New York City, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Geneva, and now in Nairobi. It is in this forum that Soroptimist representatives can advocate for the Soroptimist mission of improving the lives of women and girls. Each of the U.N. Centers focuses on different needs.

- **New York** - As the United Nations headquarters and home to the General Assembly, all areas of the UN's work is discussed in New York. The team of four SI UN Representatives in New York cover gender equality, sustainable development, financing for development, trafficking, migration, education, ageing, and peace and security.
- **Geneva** - The United Nations Office in Geneva is the second biggest UN Centre, after New York, and is a focal point for multilateral diplomacy, human rights, and peace and security. For SI's UN Representatives in Geneva, these human rights mechanisms provide a critical opportunity to provide recommendations to governments to ensure that actions are taken to promote gender equality and women's and girls' access to their human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- **Vienna** - SI UN Representatives focus on a range of issues critical to eliminating violence against women and girls, including human trafficking, ageing (elder abuse), harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), women in the workplace and women in the economy.
- **Rome** - The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are based in Rome. This leads to a very focused program of work, and as such SI's UN Representative for this centre focuses on women's roles in food production and distribution.
- **Paris** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is based in Paris, meaning that the SI UN Representatives there primarily focus on education. However, because UNESCO and the NGO Committee there organize periodic forums on various issues, SI UN Representatives often adapt their workload in order to engage with the subjects of those forums such as water for all, and women and poverty.
- **Nairobi** - The United Nations Office in Nairobi focuses on environmental issues and covers the work of the UN Environment Program (UNEP). SI's UN Representatives in Nairobi focus on issues such as rural women, disaster risk reduction, and the effects of climate change on women and girls.



IN THE NEWS ...

...Member's Corner

Our May 8 awards event featured tables decorated by members of the club.



Club Meeting Times & Locations

Business Meetings

1st Monday of each month
12 Noon

Program Meetings

2nd Monday of each month
12 Noon

Location:

First Missionary Baptist Church
9246 Rosser St.
Bellflower, CA

Monthly evening & Saturday dinner meetings according to members' schedules

Interested in finding out more about us and how you can be a part of making a difference in the lives of women and girls?

Be our guest at a meeting or one of our social events.

Call or e mail Susan @ 562-862-8669 or Susan@helds.us

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!

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

