

November, 2013

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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:

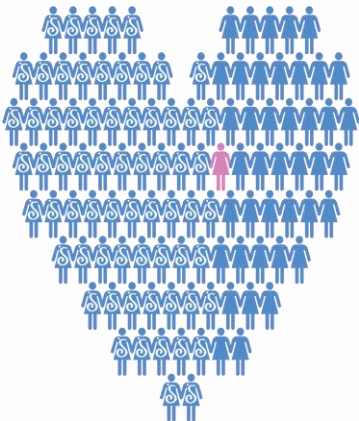
<http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org>

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**

## Presidents Message:

It's that time of year, when we stop to give thanks and reflect on what we are grateful for. I am grateful for each of the women who make up our club membership. For all that they do. Each of the women in our club gives of herself – she gives her time and her talent and her wisdom and grace. Without each and every member, we the Bellflower Soroptimists would not be making the difference that we make within our community and throughout the world.

Already this club year we have held a Tupperware/comedy fund raiser; we've given a birthday party for the residents of Soroptimist Village; we've worked throughout the summer, preparing for our fashion show; we've had parties; we've had meetings; we've had fun and while doing all these things we have raised money to help women and girls in need.

November 25th is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. SI Bellflower will be presented with a Proclamation for Domestic Violence Prevention at the Bellflower Council meeting. Several of our members plan on being in attendance as we receive recognition from the City.

I am thankful for the support that the City and State officials give our club. The mayor and council members take time from their schedules to come to our events and show support as does the field deputy from Supervisor Don Knabe's office, Erin Stibal. We ask and there they are. Always. So thank you to each of you for the differences you are helping make!

May each of you have a happy Thanksgiving!

**President Sue**



**Be sure to check out our club's website. It's new and updated!**

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 go to: [www.soroptimistbellflower.org](http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org)

## Bellflower Club News:

Bellflower Soroptimists were honored to receive a proclamation from the City of Bellflower on October 28, 2013.



*The Proclamation reads in part:*

**“Whereas**, October and November are National Breast Cancer Awareness and End Domestic Violence months; and...”

**“Whereas**, Soroptimist is in a position worldwide to educate everyone, especially women, that they have the right to feel safe and live free from violence at home and in the workplace and that they have access to breast cancer prevention information and services; and...”

**“ Now**, therefore, I Ray Dunton, Mayor of the City of Bellflower do hereby proclaim October 2013 as “Breast Cancer Awareness Month” and November 2013 as “End Domestic Violence Month” with special recognition to Soroptimist International of Bellflower for their various contributions to the community for advocacy, action and awareness.”

## Joint Club Luncheon was hosted by us!

Bellflower Soroptimists were the proud hosts at this year’s City-wide Joint Service Club Luncheon, held at Simms Park on October 10, 2013. The speaker that we provided was a Special Agent from the FBI who spoke about the Joint Terrorism Task Force, our nation’s front line on terrorism. A very successful event!



# **Soroptimist Region & Federation News:**

## **Cheri Fleming - President of SIA & Camino Real Region Past Governor**

A quote from our Region member & SIA President, Cheri Fleming: “Women and girls continue to face obstacles and discrimination based solely on their gender. This is an exciting time for Soroptimist as we work to remove those obstacles. We have refined our focus around the potential of education to change a woman or girl’s life. We are strengthening our major program that helps women gain the education and skills they need to get better jobs or build a career. And we will be launching a new program aimed at providing teenage girls with career guidance.” “As president,” she added, “I am honored to serve an organization with such an important and vital mission.” And we are honored to call her one of our own. **(Cheri is from our own Region, Camino Real Region and served as the Governor of this Region)**

## **Founders Day Pennies**

Soroptimist celebrated Founders Day on October 3, which acknowledges the day in 1921 when the first club in Alameda County, California, called to order its first business meeting. Clubs celebrated the founding of the organization with activities to promote the organization and its early mission to “foster the ideal of service” through programs that now focus on improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world. The collection of Founders Pennies, an important Soroptimist tradition, is often linked to Founders Day. Each year, every Soroptimist is offered the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution of six pennies for each year of Soroptimist’s existence. These contributions directly fund SIA’s annual programs such as the Women’s Opportunity Awards, Soroptimist Club Grants, and the Violet Richardson Awards. The Founder Pennies tradition began in World War II as the Madame Noel Fund, which collected one penny for each year of Soroptimist’s existence, and used the money to help re-establish clubs in Europe that had disbanded as a result of pre-war political conditions and the war itself. After World War II, the fund was renamed the Founders Fund, and provided international fellowships, scholarships and other award to improve the status of women. Beginning in the 1960s, Founders Pennies provided funding for the Youth Citizenship Awards, and in 1972 the Women’s Opportunity Awards (then called the Training Awards Program.) Founders Pennies are now used to fund SIA’s programs that support Soroptimist’s mission to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

## **Our Structure**

### **Soroptimist International**

Soroptimist International, headquartered in Cambridge, England, has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations and is a recognized authority on matters that women value most.

*Soroptimist International is composed of four federations:*

### **Soroptimist International of the Americas**

Headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, comprises 28 regions with more than 34,000 members in approximately 1,360 clubs in 19 countries

### **Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland**

Headquartered in Cheshire, England, comprises more than 9,000 members in 346 clubs in 27 countries.

### **Soroptimist International of Europe**

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, comprises more than 34,000 members in 1,258 clubs in 58 countries.

### **Soroptimist International of South West Pacific**

Headquartered in Sydney, Australia, comprises more than 2,400 members in 139 clubs in 13 countries.

## Soroptimist International News:

### Global impact: Disaster Grants for Women & Girls

In September 2010, Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) and Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) launched a joint disaster recovery grant project, the **Soroptimist Disaster Grants for Women and Girls**.

The partnered project seeks to increase the scope of the federations' existing disaster relief grant projects. Together, SIA and SIE are increasing awareness about the ways in which women and girls suffer disproportionately from disasters— while working to help them rebuild their lives.

#### Just this year...

**\$233,026.80 was donated to SIA and SIE to support Soroptimist Disaster Grants.**

**19 organizations applied for \$842,758 in funding to support projects in Haiti.**

**\$60,000 was given to two organizations for Haiti disaster recovery grants.**

**One grant of \$10,000 was given to assist a domestic violence shelter with rebuilding after the Japan earthquake.**

**\$3,590 was given to Soroptimist International of South West Pacific to help with disaster recovery in New Zealand following an earthquake.**

### Disaster Grant impact

- **SI/Santiago, Chile**, was able to build houses for 10 women-led households whose homes were destroyed by an earthquake.
- **SI/Kisumu, Kenya**, used its grant to aid women and girls who have become internally displaced as a result of post-election violence. The club paid the school fees for a number of girls, provided microloans to women to start small businesses, provided training to the women about small business management, built houses for single mothers who lost their homes during the violence, and installed water tanks in many other homes.
- **SI/Amazone de Cotonou, Benin**, used its grant to renovate a home it established for young girls between the ages of 10 and 18 in one of the most disadvantaged suburbs of Cotonou. The home was badly damaged from heavy rains and flooding.
- **SI/Cotonou Doyen, Benin**, used its grant to help those affected by floods. The club used its grant to rebuild a school that was badly damaged and unable to continue holding classes. The club also used the grant to provide the girl students with the necessary resources to return to school and to create a cafeteria in the school to improve the food security of the students.

**\*\*\*\*\*Our name is Soroptimist INTERNATIONAL of Bellflower. Just think of it – by being a member of this club, of this organization – by just paying your dues, you are making a difference in women and girls lives around the world! \*\*\*\*\***

## *Calendar of Events*

- *December 7 – Club Christmas party @ Sue’s home*
- *Monday – December 16 – Christmas Party for Su Casa and Little House with entertainment by the Bellflower Ensemble*
- *January 4 – Club New Year Party & Induction of new member – Sue’s home*
- *January 6 – Club Business Meeting*
- *January 13 – Club Meeting – Brainstorming*
- *January 15 – Las Vegas Night Planning Meeting – 6 p.m.*

## *Soroptimist Member Birthdays*



*December 13      Vicky Daniels*

*January 15        Sue Held*

*January 20        Sally Pendelton*

## **ROAD TRIP!**



Soroptimist members are planning a trip to San Francisco November 6 – 10. It will be a fun filled few days. Doreen will do the driving and have lots of help with “back seat drivers” ☺. The plan is to drive up to Monterey and spend a day there and in Carmel and then head up to San Francisco. Plenty of sight seeing is planned as well as eating and “helping the economy out” – AKA – shopping! The drive back home will be down scenic Hwy 1, with stops along the vista outlooks. We hope to plan another trip in the Spring – maybe this time closer to home.