



**Sorooptimist International  
of Long Beach**  
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[www.si-longbeach.org](http://www.si-longbeach.org)

**Annual Report: 2004-2005**  
**Sabira Tejani M.D.**  
**President**

The year began with a call to reach out to girls and women of local communities and throughout the world. We were ready to grow out of our comfort zone of Long Beach and see the big picture, for it is a small world! Focus on Regional and International projects was strengthened, bigger vision set and goals established. Goals of heart health awareness and chartering S club were forerunners with plans being formalized to have a big bang with Holiday Fiesta extraordinaire with Mexican ambience. Recruitment and retention had to be strengthened along the lines of Renaissance Campaign 2005 campaign inaugurated at Calgary. We raised the bar for programs to yet another level to renew the interests of our own members in Founder's Day, UN Day and Human Rights and International Women's Day. Also the aim was to involve the community's participation through panels on Domestic Violence Panel and on Aging. Project Independence was an eye opener to atrocities our sisters have suffered during wars in Bosnia, Rwanda and Afghanistan. We saw a renewed pledge of our members to go the extra mile and be the best in everything we do. Friendships were strengthened and differences forgotten as we grew by leaps and bounds and ran to the finish line celebrating success as semifinalists in four categories and finalist in one, at the SIA. Congratulations for an outstanding year, it certainly was a joint effort of each and every one of you!

**Highlights and Accomplishments - 2004-2005**

**Community Service**

**Judith Pednault**  
**Judy Hess**

**Scholarships awarded** for this year amounted to **\$13,500**, with Woman's Opportunity Awards for \$5000; Violet Richardson for \$1500; Women in Philanthropy for \$1500; Gladdes Neff for 3 students for a total of \$3000 and Youth scholarships to 5 students for a total of \$2,500. Other donations included Club Campaign of SIA, gold club membership of \$1000 and President's Appeal for \$165, Project Independence \$1650 for 5 women; Regional disaster funds for \$890; Tsunami Relief SIA \$5120; Meals on Wheels for \$6000; Volunteers of America Pet Companion Program \$1500; Free Mammograms for the needy at St. Mary's \$1000; Child Today \$500 and children's clinic Art program \$500; \$500 to a high school student and \$12000 to "Love

Your Heart” through ‘Families in Good Health’; \$1000 for Shopping with Soroptimists towards 5 women. A total of **\$45,325** disbursed to worthy causes from service fund, thanks to a gigantic effort of fundraising by S.I.L.B. **Way to Go!**

**Ways and Means**  
**Holiday Fiesta**

**Lori Woodruff & Lynn Shrum**

A great planning committee worked through the summer envisioning a wonderful event at the Old Ranch Country Club, that turned out to be spectacular with cool and colorful ambience of Mexico and far exceeded our expectations. A fund of **\$24,141** was raised towards service fund with clever work by Jana Martin as the auctioneer as she knows the psyche of the bidders. Flowers, fines and raffles raised nearly \$2000. Many thanks to Esther Ross (Flowers by Vickie for her weekly donations of flowers for auction.

**Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon**

**Denice Lanuti, Josephine Fitzpatrick & Shirlee Jackert**

As per recommendations of Renaissance Campaign, we held the Violet Richardson award also at the Queen Mary to honor Andrea Reed, a high school student along with 5 women who made a difference to the lives of other women. They were Theresa Murphy, Maria Angel Macias, Barbara Enlow, Sherry Meinberg, and Sue Ann Robinson. Our net income to date from this event is **\$12,500**. Jaye Johnson and Margaret Leake the ‘Dynamic Duo’ deserve a special mention for the ads they collect from sponsors and well-wishers, and the outstanding program outlay they design, getting better each year!

**Programs**

**Teri Tan & Michele Wilkosz**

Weekly programs were varied and informative and members enjoyed them. We covered Founder’s day, Renaissance Campaign, United Nation’s Day, Human Rights Day, SOLT, International Women’s Day and Go Red For Women, to name just a few. Our highlights included Domestic Violence Panel (that won us a celebrating success award) and Panel on Aging, besides Project Independence all of these attended by guests many of whom joined our ranks as members. What a wonderful idea to showcase our goals and get publicity. A fine job done by our co-chairs and committee!

The 35<sup>th</sup> Inter Service Luncheon on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Grand, gave us an opportunity to be inspired by the famous musician Don Lewis while networking with other service clubs. Visit and Luncheon at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach was a lot of fun.

**Social**

**Freda Hinsche Otto**

Evening socials at the Museum of Art were relaxing while invigorating the soul while watching beautiful sunsets. Holiday potluck at the home of Katherine White had an international flair just as the year end meeting at the clubhouse in Bixby Hills did.

## **Public Relations and Newsletter**

**Donna Skinner and Louise Cunningham**

Web maven Donna has done it again with [www si-longbeach.org](http://www.si-longbeach.org), a pride and joy, that has made us a finalist in Soroptimist Celebrating Success award of the SIA. Keep up the great work, Donna!

Newsletters published in 2004 were outstanding and our entry won an accolade at the Region. Barbara Freeman plans to resume publication in the fall, what a trouper! Please help Barbara in all ways you can!

## **ByLaws**

**Nancy Hegelheimer & Dorothy Deatherage**

Thanks for the revised and updated bylaws that conform to the guidelines of SIA and the region following non-profit status we acquired. Nancy and Lynn Hermstad were always there as Parliamentarians when needed in a pinch!

## **Recruitment and Retention**

**Jackie Chambers, Minnie Douglas  
& Katherine White**

No time was wasted as Jackie followed through with interested women who wanted to join us. As usual, Katherine White had a keen eye for inviting guests who were potential members. With the club inviting potential members for lunch and program, we benefited and boosted membership so that no reception was needed. We swelled our ranks with 13 new members in the last 10 months. Thanks to all the members for helping with recruitment. We need to strategize retention now!

## **Arrangements**

**Imogene Shelton & Mary Soth**

It is mind-boggling how these 2 wonderful ladies keep the score of attendees and their special requests for meals as well as the accounting involved. The unsung heroes!

## **Finance**

**Pam Seager**

President-elect Pam and committee did a tremendous job in accomplishing investment of our funds in liquid CDs to increase interest earned. Also old accounts were cleared off the books. Forms were designed for Gift Giving, for application for grants, for scoring them to judge their validity. This and more done in a mere 3 meetings. Thanks Pam!

## **Health**

**Diane Dewalsche**

Under Diane's leadership, the committee met during the summer to evaluate the 2 grant applications for a major grant towards heart health awareness. Families in Good Health's project was selected as it benefited diverse communities and was hands on. I appreciate all the hard work by this wonderful group who are all healthcare professionals.

Many thanks to Lori Woodruff and Sese Novas who joined me in doing heart health project our very own "Love Your Heart" during April, May and June. Thanks for giving up your precious time on weekends.

**S Club**

**Jana Martin**

Jana had very little assistance from a few of us in grooming 17 young ladies from Poly High in community service. What a role model you are! Many thanks for a job well done!

**Roster**

**Jaye Johnson and Cheryl Sears**

Jaye is the glue that keeps our club together. And she does it all from Mexican Inns. She must have wings! Thanks a million, Jaye!

**President's Book**

**Barbara Freeman**

Barbara, you sure can inspire us. How you get around with weak knees and all? Keep it up!

**My special thanks to Katherine White M. D.**, the Quintessential Soroptimist, who sponsored me to S.I.L.B. in 1985. We have missed you and wish you a speedy recovery!

**Special thanks to this year's officers:**

**President- Elect: Pamela Seager**  
**Corresponding Secretary: Stacey Gaines**  
**Recording Secretary: Mary Nimocks**  
**Treasurer: Judith Hirsch**

**Assistant Treasurer: Margie Hersh**  
**Past President: Sally Lane**  
**Expros Chair: Jeannie Miller**

Finally, a word of thanks to each and every member as you have given me the opportunity to serve this fine organization as your President and made it fun, too! Together we have accomplished what we set out to do. As David Thoreau once said "For it matters not how small the beginning may seem to be; what is once done well, is done for ever."

We certainly have done it all, my Soroptimist sisters! Have a great summer and be rejuvenated and ready to support President Pam in 2005-2006.

Thanks!  
Sabira