



Soroptimist News

Newsletter of Soroptimist International of Long Beach December, 2007

SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women



Happy Birthday!

Sande Rice 12/19

Sally Lane 12/23

Happy Birthday all, now get out your checkbook – Birthday “fine” is 50c per

December Programs and Menus:

- December 5 **Business Meeting** Members only, no guests please
Chef’s Salad/Apple Crisp
- December 12 **Speaker: Loucine Huckaby RN PNP PhD, Director CSULB Nursing**
“Will there be a Professional Nurse when you need one?”
California Croissant-Soup/Fresh Fruit
- December 19 **“In House” Holiday Program –Adopt A family Basket Project**
Chicken Teriyaki/Cheesecake
- December 26 **Dark/Happy Holidays!**

Important Dates to Remember:

- December 5 **Philanthropy Committee Meeting: 11:15 am**
The Grand (before our regular meeting)
- December 16 **Holiday Potluck/Party: 4-7 pm**
Bixby Riviera Condo Clubhouse, 6278 Riviera Circle, Long Beach
Pot Luck/Optional Gift Exchange/RSVP by 12/12 to Judy Hirsch
562-595-6915 or email: judyhirsch1@gmail.com.
- January 7 **Deadline for Violet Richardson Award Applications/Contact**
Shirlee Jackert/562-421-2725



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2007-08 Officers and Board of Directors

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| President: Judy Hess | Community Outreach: Sally Lane |
| President-Elect: Margie Videtto Hersh | Fund Development: Minnie Douglas |
| Recording Secretary: Robyn Thomas | Institutional Affairs: Monika Diekmann |
| Corresponding Secretary: Annie Koo Thornquist and Jaye Johnson | Member Services: Lori Brault |
| Treasurer: Michele Wilkosz | Philanthropy: Denice Lanuti |
| Assistant Treasurer/Meals: Kathy Ward | Finance Committee: Charlotte Berry and Josephine Fitzpatrick |
| Assistant Treasurer/Events: Margie Hersh | |
| Immediate Past President : Judy Pedneault | |



Greetings Soropti-gals,

Well, here we are staring Christmas and all the other holiday celebrations right in the eye! The sales are on, the street and store decorations are up, the Salvation Army bell ringers are in place. Yep, there is no denying it...we are there!

At least our Holiday Boutique is over! I say that with a sigh of relief as well as immense appreciation for all the hard work and dedication that made this year's event, "Celebrating with the Stars", hugely successful. It is always amazing how all the panic and frenzied activity to get items and get guests goes away when we walk into "the room". In my lesser role this year, I was able to stand back and take in the dazzling array of auction items begging to be bid on. And the beautiful, well-coiffed shoppers meandering their way around the tables while sipping cocktails and munching on hors d'oeuvres.

Every year, more and more members get involved to make the event even grander than the year before. I would like to mention some of the major players (and forgive me if I have inadvertently forgotten you). Minnie Douglas – What would we do without Minnie? Far from being the timid mouse, she pulled all the Boutique members together with regular meetings and constant reminders. She joins me in thanking the team. Sally for taking care of reservations, Imogene Mary, Jaye, and Judy Hi for doing registration, Robyn and Beverly for co-chairing the silent auction, Sande for finishing, housing and transporting auction items, Diane and her merry men (I saw Blanche, Pam, Louise, Staci, Nancy H., Lynn, Judy P, Lori B, Anita, Monika, Kim, Cheryl, Nancy H, Lynn, Diane McN) for set-up, Freda and Pam for the Live auction, Lori W for power-pointing the Live auction, Scott for auctioneering, Margie and Kathy W for managing the money parts, Denise and Diane McN for the bake sale set-up, Robin for coordinating the S Club, The S Club girls for all their assistance throughout the night, The Ex-Pros for being a table sponsor and donating an Almost Live auction item, Cheryl for coordinating the center pieces, and Charlotte for providing our musical entertainment. Phhhew! It takes a village! Or a Club. Those of you who were unable to come, did not buy a ticket and did not provide a worthy auction item – it is not too late to make a contribution. Remember, this is our major fund raiser and you are obligated to participate! Thank you, one and all.

We are looking at next year's Boutique date, which may be in November or even October. Income and expenses are still being tabulated so we will have that final number soon. We will continue to work on the mailing list data base as there are continuing problems there. If you have a suggestion for next year's event, let Minnie know.

I wish you a wonderful Holiday season with loved ones. I hope to see many of you at our Christmas Pot Luck Party at Bixby Riviera Club House Sunday, December 16 at 4:00pm.

President Judy



Holiday Potluck

by Jaye Johnson

When: Sunday, December 16 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Where: Bixby Riviera Condominium Clubhouse 6278 Riviera Circle, Long Beach (Judy's)

What to bring: Yourself (significant others, partners and spouses are absolutely welcome!) and something for the Potluck. (Options: Can't stay long, but want to attend? Great! Just drop in for a drink, no need to bring anything...)

RSVP by December 12 Sign Up Sheet for potluck item available at Wednesday meeting or call or email Judy Hirsch at (562)596-6915 or judyhirsch1@gmail.com

Optional gift exchange around 5:30: If you'd like to be part of it, please bring a wrapped item (valued at about \$15.00).

Directions: From the 405 or 605 Freeway, exit 7th Street/22 West. At the first stop light, Peppertree Lane, turn right and then veer left to the guard house. From 7th St., eastbound, go past the University to the next stoplight, which is Peppertree Lane, turn left and then veer left to the guardhouse. Go through the gate and turn right past the fountain. On your left, you will pass a 3-story condo building and the pool. The next building is the clubhouse. It is between the pool and the tennis court.



SILB Holiday Program

by Lori Brault

Our Holiday program on Wednesday December 19th will be devoted to finalizing an “adopt a family basket project”. The Board wanted to do a proactive event so here is the plan:

- Sign up for a basket (we have enough people signed up for the baskets as of last meeting, and will talk again about this project at the December Business Meeting).
- We will have ages and sex of children of “adopted” family by Business Meeting.
- Suggested basket contributions: Wrapped gifts for identified children, food gift coupons & local gift cards for adult(s).
- Assign members of your group to contribute some part of the “basket”
- Each member should Plan to bring assigned parts of the basket together on the Dec 19th meeting for an “organizing and decorating the basket” event.

MORE SIA NEWS...

by Linda Jensen

SI Harbor will host a dinner on 12/6 at the House of Hope for the 24 ladies that are there in rehab. Per G Kurtz, they provide a Christmas dinner and give them each a gift—gifts consist of underwear, socks, lotions, shampoos, etc. They also buy the Xmas tree and have it delivered the day before the party. They have been doing this for over 6 years

Each year on **December 10th** (United Nations’ Human Rights Day), the Soroptimist International president asks all Soroptimists worldwide to contribute to a project that helps women living in extreme poverty. This year’s appeal, **Restoring Dignity: Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund**, will support Ethiopian women with this debilitating condition. Go to the SIA website for more info on this important project and how you can contribute. http://www.soroptimist.org/news/pr_dec10appeal.html

January 11 is Launch Date for SIA STOP Trafficking program. Go to www.soroptimist.org for more info.

Special Notice to SILB Members

The board of directors of Meals on Wheels of Long Beach (MOW) is preparing to enlist one to three new board members to help govern the program founded over 36 years ago by Soroptimists International of Long Beach as a pilot program and community service.

When the articles and by-laws were originally set up, it was determined that the MOW board would always have Soroptimist representation of at least three members. That determination has always been honored. However, at this time we are an SILB member short. I serve on the board of directors at Meals on Wheels, as does Maggie Shapiro.

You all know how the program has grown (now boasting four service sites) and you know the good will that has been generated by the efforts of the MOW volunteers and staff.

The Meals on Wheels board is an easy board on which to serve. There is one meeting a month on the third Friday, 8:30 to 10:00, and committee meetings on occasion or when necessary.

If you would like to know more about Meals on Wheels, and are interested in being considered for membership on the board of directors, please call me at (562) 421-6863. Or, you may call Nancy Higginson, MOW's nominating committee chair at (562) 494-0409.

Maggie and I cordially invite you to consider helping us to further the Soroptimist cause by participating in the Meals on Wheels program as a volunteer board member.

Judy Pedneault, SILB
President, Meals on Wheels of Long Beach

She's back!

There's an old song that says something like "How can we miss you when you won't go away?" That would my theme song in SILB. I wouldn't say I was personally responsible for the housing slump, but is it just coincidence that the day the For Sale sign went up on my condo, the market collapsed? I guess everything happens for a reason, as they say. Because a year and a half later, I'm firmly planted in Signal Hill, and have a great new fulltime career and best of all, I'm back in the club! I am the first Development Director for a nonprofit named Comprehensive Child Development, Inc. (CCD). We have six child care and education sites for children from six months to 3rd grade – four in Long Beach, one in San Pedro and one in Wilmington. CCD serves the children of low income working families to enable them to train to obtain work as well as continue working. One site is at the Villages at Cabrillo, right next to the Bethune School, and also serves families "in transition" – a soft way of saying homeless or battered. CCD previously did only fundraising via their connection with a local festival. That will not be the focus now, and so I'm building the effort from the ground up. Exciting and terrifying all at the same time. I hope to have our director on a program at some point and she can tell you more about what we do. She and Mary Soth have had parallel careers in their organizations (and are both heading toward sainthood, I'd say). In addition to all this, I am currently the President of the Friends of the Signal Hill Cultural Arts – we sponsor the summer concerts in the park, artmaking events for families and this year our first "Show and Sell" event for local artists. But wait there's more: I'm serving as Vice Chair of the Signal Hill Parks and Recreation Commission this year, and am enjoying being involved in the city affairs and plans.

Now, the important part: Let's get our Social Chair to set a date of a Happy Hour event, after the holidays, and I'll buy a round as my thank you for welcoming me back. I had such a great Going Away Party, maybe the I'm Still Here Party will be just as much fun. Hugs to you all, Louise Cunningham

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO LAKISHA MOORE by Linda Jensen

SILB 2007 Dr. Katherine White Achievement Award Recipient, Lakisha Moore, was recognized at our Holiday Boutique Banquet on November 10th. Lakisha, a 37-year-old single mother of six, spoke to the group of her commitment to her children and her desire to serve the community through a career in social work after her graduation. Presently, Lakisha is a full-time student at Long Beach City College, plus she has a part-time work-study job in the Men’s and Women’s Resource Center there.

The Dr. Katherine White Achievement Award recognizes and honors a past scholarship recipient who has gone on to achieve personal success. The Dr. Katherine White award recipient possesses the personal qualities of self sufficiency , tenacity and the desire to help others, qualities that were the hallmark of Dr. Katherine who was a 50-year member of Soroptimist International of Long Beach. Dr. Katherine was a role model for many women just as, we believe, Lakisha Moore, serves as a role model for women struggling to improve their lives through education.

Lakisha, thank you for sharing your story with us and good luck in all that you do in the future.

VIOLET RICHARDSON AWARD APPLICATIONS by Shirlee Jackert

Applications are being accepted through January 7 from high school girls

Applicant must create, manage and volunteer in a project of her own making, not working in a group. The project needs to be one that makes a difference in the lives of others, children or adults. It could include teen mentoring, tutoring, helping less fortunate, taking a stand and putting an issue into action.

Remember, last year our Long Beach recipient was the best internationally for Soroptimist International!

Call Shirlee Jackert for applications: 562-421-2725 or email: shirleejackert@earthlink.net.

Small Ways Projects? Here’s What, When and Who!

SILB’s Small Ways Projects are another way we support our mission of “Best for Women”

Besides grants and scholarships, we help year-round with smaller projects. Please bring your items to the Business Meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. Since we have limited storage at The Grand, please do not bring these items and simply leave them on the back table. Give your goodies to the “collectors” and they are:

Toiletries – Judy Pednault

Greeting Cards - Jane Barrett and Mary Soth

Used Cell Phones – Lori Brault

Eyeglasses – Jane Barrett

Coupons (either cut or uncut) – S Club – Jana Martin

Biographies – Denice Lanuti

Clothing for Working Wardrobes – Lynn Hermstad

(Please have items clean, pressed, on hangers and covered with plastic. Working Wardrobes also accepts shoes and other accessories and men’s clothing. No rummage or other clothing stuffed in bags!) If you have any questions, talk to, call or email Lynn Hermstad.

Soroptimist News

Soroptimist International
of Long Beach
P.O. Box 15064
Long Beach, CA 90815-0406

Meets Wednesday @ Noon
THE GRAND, 4101 E Willow Ave
Long Beach, CA 90815
E-mail: admin@SI-LongBeach.org
Website: www.SI-LongBeach.org



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE LUNCHEON

by Michele Wilkosz

The Women Making A difference Luncheon will be held on Saturday April 5, 2008 at the Long Beach Airport Marriot Hotel, 4700 Airport Drive, Long Beach. Our wonderful winners are:

Making a Difference for Women Award

Audrey Stephanie Loftin, Attorney at Law

Businesses and Organizations Advancing the Status of Women

Winter-Training Women in Non-Traditional Careers, Founder Lynn Shaw

Women of Distinction

Education

Christi Wilkins, Executive Director of Dramatic Results

Environment

Mary Blackburn, Director of the Long Beach Nature Center at El Dorado Park

Human Rights/Status of Women

Kate Marr, Attorney with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Economic and Social

Monica Stel, Executive Director of Harbor Area Halfway Houses

Got NEWS? ANNOUNCEMENTS? GOOD GOSSIP? JOKES? - Email the Editor: Linda.jensen6@verizon.net

OR send by regular mail: 3529 Olive Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807