



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Soroptimist News

Newsletter of Soroptimist International of Long Beach
December 2008 Edition

**Happy
December Birthday!**

**Janice Cole
12/19**

**Sally Lane
12/23**

**Dana Walch
12/27**

December/January Programs

- December 3 Business Meeting**
Chef's Salad/Cheesecake
- December 10 Speaker: Eleanor Schmidt/Long Beach Library**
Chicken Marsala - Cherry Cobbler
- December 17 Holiday Adopt A Family**
Mexican Celebration - Ice Cream
- December 24 Dark**
- January 7 Business Meeting**
- January 14 Speaker –Deborah J. Bowersox, Life Coach**
January is unofficial “Clean Slate” month. Start your new year right with tips and inspiration from this highly regarded (humorous) motivational speaker.
- January 21 Holiday Extravaganza Wrap Up**

Important Dates:

- December 12 SI LB Holiday Potluck - Bixby Riviera Clubhouse**
5:30-8:30 pm
6278 Riviera Circle, Long Beach
- December 15 WOA Application Deadline**
- January 20 Ex-Pros Luncheon, Buster's Beach House**
- February 18 WWMAD Planning Meeting**
- April 4th WWMAD Luncheon - Join the committee!**

1. Calendar
2. President's Message
3. Program News & What's New?
4. Announcements & Upcoming Parties
5. Successful Events & Congratulations
6. Donations and Ideas
7. Board of Directors

MORE SOROPTIMIST RESOURCES

**www.si-longbeach.org, www.caminorealresion.org, www.soroptimist.org
“Best for Women” - Soroptimist International Quarterly Magazine**



Happy Holidays SILB members! I write this newsletter on a rainy November afternoon, it is finally starting to feel like the holidays are upon us. I can't believe this year is already coming to an end.

I want to take this time to tell you how truly fortunate I am to be a part of such a hard working and dedicated group. Even in these tough economic times, our Holiday Extravaganza was a huge success and fun was had by all. Susan and Michele are still pulling the final numbers together and we should have a report at the December Business Meeting. I didn't have a major role in the event this year and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to partake in the dazzling array of auction items, the tempting goodies in our bake sale, all the fun and festivities and an outstanding meal. Who could ask for anything more!!

Many thanks to our co-chairs Judy Griffin and Michele Wilkosz for pulling the Extravaganza Committee together and keeping everyone on track...job well done ladies.

Jaye Johnson who worked tirelessly for weeks wrapping and creatively "naming" all the baskets and silent auction items as well as doing many other tasks as required. Jaye you are definitely appreciated by one and all. Pamela Seager, thanks for your design work; the invitations and programs were beautiful and you made the "Live" and "Almost Live" auctions come to life with the help of Scott's auctioneering and Lori Woodruff's great Power Point Presentation.

Judy Hess and Terri Nikoletich great job rounding up silent auction items and helping Jaye prep them for display. Fabulous job! Big thanks to your helpers Lynn Shrum, Robyn Thomas, Dana Walch, and Libby Tigner. I would also like to thank Sally Lane for taking care of reservations a very difficult job and Sally makes it look like a breeze, Imogene Shelton and Mary Soth the food was delicious...and registration went so smoothly with the help of Maggie Shapiro and Judy Hirsch. Diane DeWalsche and her merry crew (I saw Lori Brault, Mary Steele, Erin Holloway, Nancy Hegelheimer, Charlotte Berry, Sally Lane, Lori Woodruff, Lynn Hermstad, Robyn Thomas, Gwen Mathews, and Maria Cochran) all working hard to set up the dazzling array of silent auction items. Cheryl Sears for coordinating the center pieces and our raffle donations and to Stacey Gaines for seeing that all the centerpieces were sold. Thanks to Flowers by Vickie for their continuing support. Denice Lanuti for organizing the Bake Sale and to her assistants Jean Egan, Erin Holloway, Blanche Cannady, Margaret Leake and Gwen Mathews.

Freda Hinsche Otto for her inspiring words in presenting Jennifer Bassler her Award, and Jana Martin for her "friendly persuasion" encouraging members and guest to donate to our scholarship fund...you did it to date we have matched last years donations...and thanks to Lynn Hermstad for ensuring we had plaque to present. A special thank you to the team who works behind the scene to close out the silent auction, handle the paperwork, payments, etc., Monika Dieckmann, Kathy Ward, and Mary Steele - what an amazing job there were no lines this year! Thanks to Jana Martin and Robin Thorne for coordinating the S-Club and many, many thanks to the S-Club girls and guy for all of their help throughout the evening...you are awesome! Thanks to the Ex-Pros for all their support and for donating an Almost Live Auction Item. Susan Berkman, what a great job you did counting, recording and depositing all the monies. Thanks to all helping with clean-up Beverly Carette, Lynn Hermstad, Monika Dieckmann, Pamela Seager, Scott Burchard and there were others working away but my memory is failing me...just a big THANK YOU to all who worked so hard to make this an outstanding event and please forgive me if I have inadvertently forgotten you.

I wish you a wonderful Holiday Season with family and friends. I hope to see you at the Christmas Pot Luck Party at Bixby Riviera Clubhouse on Friday, December 12 at 5:30.

President Margie



November 4th was quite a day for voting. We held our Poly "S" Club Officer election on the same day as the Presidential Election. This year a decision was made to have Co-Presidents in order to lighten the load of responsibilities and hopefully allow S Club to accomplish even more. Senior Laura Newton and Junior Denise St. Jean were elected and look forward to a year filled with new ideas and opportunities to give back to the women and children of our community.

S Club really hit the ground running this school year, already holding three fundraisers. I want to thank all the Soroptimists and their friends and families who attended our Ruby's fundraiser night. It was an incredible hit, and due to very popular demand throughout the evening, our historian Chelsea Knights will be designing a new t-shirt for 2008-2009J. For Poly's Homecoming Faire, we made a last minute decision to sell chips, soda, and water donated by club members. Much to our surprise, we completely sold out of drinks and made more money than we ever have in past school faires. Then on November 28th, we held an S Club yard sale at member Brittany Meckelborg's home. An astonishing \$175 was raised with many thanks to Soroptimist Erin Holloway who donated the majority of the clothes sold at the sale, allowing it to be such a success.

Thank you again for all of your support. Without the help of SILB, S Club simply would not thrive. All our members are looking forward to yet another year of representing the Soroptimists and new opportunities as they present themselves.

What's New at Meals on Wheels?

by Judy Pedneault, President



Its nominations time again. MOW Nominating Chair Nancy Higginson and her committee have completed their search, and have a new slate of officers to head the Soroptimist founded Meals on Wheels program for 2009.

Jean Rosa, president elect, will be my guest at our December 10 luncheon. I hope you will all be there to meet and welcome her.

Other community involved and caring volunteers to be elected to the Executive Committee of the Meals on Wheels Board of Directors are: Vice Chair Julia Mendell, Treasurer William Vandament, Recording Secretary Ken Arnold, Corresponding Secretary Marge Vandament, and Judy Pedneault as immediate past president and 2009 nominating chair. It is to be noted, each member of the executive committee does a route at one of the four sites once a week or more. How's that for dedication?

Talk about networking and commitment. Extra special thanks to Denise Lanuti for spearheading the Meals on Wheels effort to qualify and submit a grant request for funding from St. Mary's Foundation. The wait is on.

The MOW Board of Directors regretfully accepted the resignation of long time members Helen Foster (37 years of service, active since the programs inception), and Barbara Schorr (35 years of service). Those SILB long timers will remember, Helen Foster is SILB member Audrey Parseau's stepdaughter.

If you know of anyone who would like to be considered for MOW board membership please let me know. Call me (562) 421-6863 if you have questions. The search is on.



Our new member, Dr. Gwendolyn Mathews has accomplished many outstanding achievements during her thirty-six years of employment with the Long Beach Unified School District. She is currently Assistant Superintendent for Middle and K-8 Schools overseeing 26 schools and many vital services for the students. She has been a teacher, reading specialist, facilitator, consultant, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent and served as principal of three schools. During her tenure as principal, she was identified by the State of California as a Distinguished Educator.

Gwen also serves as an Associate Professor and Cluster Leader for the University of La Verne in the Doctoral and Tier 2 Programs. She has taught Social and Political Dynamics of Education, assisted students with field work experiences and currently works with doctoral students in the Los Angeles Cluster.

In the community, she has organized a tutorial program for students from kindergarten to high school and volunteered in the College Bound Program designed to prepare students in 4th through 12th grade for college.

Her honors include a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for service to the community in the area of education, a County of Los Angeles commendation for dedicated service to the community, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Pearl Award for outstanding service to the community in the area of education, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Award for her dedication to improve the community, and the Long Beach NAACP Zelma A. Lipscomb Community Service Award.

Her road to success within the field of education began very early in her life. Even as a young girl, she knew that she wanted to go into the field of education.

She lives in Seal Beach, is divorced and has a son and daughter. Her son John graduated from Harvard Law School and is an attorney in Washington, D.C. Her daughter Lauren received her degree in Neuro-Science and is currently interviewing for Dental School.

Gwen was encouraged to join Soroptimist by Charlotte Berry and Jana Martin. She recognizes Soroptimist as the premier women's organization and looks forward to networking with our members to address women issues at the state and local levels.

In addition to her talents in the field of education, Gwen formerly played the violin and she has been a member of several choirs and singing groups. We are very fortunate to have her as a member of our club.



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

WWMAD AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Lynn Shrum

At the December 3rd 2008 Business Meeting, the Winners of the 2009 Women Who Make a Difference Awards will be announced. Please be sure to come to the meeting for this exciting news. The Women Making a Difference Luncheon will be held Saturday April 4, 2009 at The Grand

Also one of our new Sponsor opportunities will be to sponsor a table for our "S" Club girls to attend. If you have any names of individuals or business's that you think would be interested in this opportunity to Sponsor a "S" Club table at the WWMD luncheon, please advise Lynn Shrum with this information lynn.shrum@smithbarney.com. or 562-624-1812.

WOA APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 12/15

The Women's Opportunity Award guidelines and the application are now posted on our website. Here's the link:

http://www.si-longbeach.org/silb2007/what_we_do/awards/woa/woa.html.

The deadline is December 15, so if you know of an individual who may qualify, or an organization that may have qualified applicants, please pass this information along.

To be eligible for the **Women's Opportunity Award**, you must:

1) Be a woman with primary financial responsibility for supporting your family (including children, spouse, siblings and/or parents);

2) Attend or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program

3) Have financial need;

4) Be motivated to achieve your educational and career goals;

(Previous Women's Opportunity Awards recipients are ineligible to apply. Women who already have an undergraduate degree are ineligible to apply. Soroptimists, employees of Soroptimist, and the immediate families of both are ineligible to apply.)

SILB POTLUCK/HOLIDAY PARTY!

When:

Friday, December 12, 5:30 p.m - 8:30 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 Sign Up Sheet for potluck item available at Wednesday meeting or call or email Jaye Johnson at johnson.jaye.aol.com or call her office: 562-596-6859 (leave a message)

Optional gift: If you'd like to be part of it, please bring a wrapped item (valued at about \$20.00).

Directions: From the 405 or 605 Free-

way, 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.

“ADOPT A FAMILY” HOLIDAY PARTY-DECEMBER 17

Our Holiday Meeting on December 17th will be devoted to finalizing our “Adopt a Family” basket project. Sign up for one of the basket teams at the December 3rd business meeting. There will be four teams this year, each “adopting” a family (names provided by Long Beach Public Health). We will be contributing wrapped gifts for children, food and gift coupons and local gift cards for adult(s). We will have the names of our families and a “wish lists” from family members at the 12/03 meeting. Members of each “team” will contribute some part of the “basket” and bring it to our December 17th meeting where we will organize and decorate the basket. Public health nurses will deliver the baskets to the families. A wonderful way to share this holiday season!

Fall S.O.L.T. Meeting

by Denice Lanuti, President Elect

We held our fall Soroptimist Orientation & Leadership Training (SOLT) on Tuesday November 18th. Our new members learned about: History of Soroptimist, SILB Club Structure, Our Service Projects, Women Making A Difference, Holiday Boutique and Membership Requirements.

Welcome new members and thanks to all who came and special thanks to Lori Brault for hosting the meeting at her house.

Donations Needed



By Judy Pedneault

Please remember to bring in your new, unwanted toiletries to be distributed to those less fortunate. Things to be included: Shampoo, conditioner, soaps, any new make up, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, tooth paste, mouthwash, deodorant, hand creams, note pads, pencils, pens, etc. You get the idea. The holidays are here and I'd like to have supplies for them. Last year we gave toiletries to: Woman to Woman, Precious Life Shelter, our own “S” Club (for their activity), Flossie Lewis Center and Health Department Homeless.



What team Work! To all the Soroptimists who worked so hard to make the Extravaganza the wonderful and magical event it always is. I heard guests make variations of comments such as, "You Soroptimists always have such a classy event", or, "I was proud that I had guests this time; they were really impressed. We all had fun". First, thanks to my co-chair **Judy Griffin** for keeping us on the mark and being there at every turn. It is great having you as a partner.

Jaye Johnson: you volunteered Rick's pool table as a 1st stage landing point and inadvertently took on the whole shebang. Things were wonderfully organized and oh my gosh...the write ups on those silent auction items were so enticing!

Pamela Seager: Judy and I are so appreciative of how you made us look good by getting things jump started. When we stepped in the invites, theme ... all had been done. Thanks for taking care of the Live and Almost live auctions and all the little details that make things go smoothly. Appreciate the Power Point work of **Lori Woodruff**.

Judy Hess and Terri Nikoletich: great job rounding up silent auction items and helping Jaye prep them for display. Fabulous job! Your loading and unloading work team: **Lynn Shrum, Robyn Thomas, Dana Walch, Libby Tigner.** Muscles!

Sally Lane: Sorting out all the reservations - Wow! "I'll sit with _? A person who hadn't sent in a reservation, but don't worry, they will..."

Diane DeWalsche: The guru of artistic display. "Diane, where does this go"was heard a million times that afternoon. You're so appreciated Diane. You were assisted by an amazing crew. Seen were: **Lori Brault, Mary Steele, Erin Holloway, Nancy Hegelheimer, Charlotte Berry, Sally Lane, Lori Woodruff, Lynn Hermstad, Robyn Thomas, Gwen Mathews, and Maria Cochran.** It looked as if many more showed up to help and if your name was omitted just know you are appreciated even if my memory is faulty. Thanks to all the many hands that helped set up. Very Impressive!

Cheryl Sears: you have a generous habit of raising your arm to volunteer; the centerpieces were spectacular this year. I heard many comments on the brilliant use of non organic materials so the centerpiece would last. Thanks to **Flowers by Vickie** for their continuing support. **Stacey Gaines** nicely stepped up to handle the sales.

Stacey also handled the Dr. Katherine White Award logistics - good job. **Freda Hinsche Otto** made us proud with her inspiring words in giving Jennifer Bassler the Award, and **Lynn Hermstad** made sure we had a plaque to present - very classy.

Susan Berkman: It couldn't be done without the money being handled, sorted and banked and donors thanked. Glad I have you on my team - oh, am I thinking of my treasurer's role? A special thank you goes to the very special close out team who had to forego the party to handle the paperwork, payments, etc. "*in the back room*". **Kathy Ward, Monika Dieckmann, and Mary Steele** - you are amazing! There were no lines!

Helping with close out were **Beverly Carette, Margie Hersh and Lynn Hermstad. Jana Martin, Robin Thorne and those awesome S Club girls (and guy):** words cannot express how special the S Club is and what those young women and man bring to our community image. Thanks also **Jana** for another successful scholarship fund raising session.

Denice Lanuti: a chef's hat off to you for coordinating an all time favorite - THE BAKE SALE! It was successful as always and thanks to your sales team of **Erin Holloway, Jean Egan, Blanche Cannady, Margaret Leake and Gwen Mathews.** **Mary Soth, Imogene Shelton:** as I've said before, where would we go and what would we eat without these two incredible ladies? They were helped at check in by **Judy Hirsch and Maggie Shapiro.** Thanks!

The Mailing Crew: **Judy Hirsch, Kim Bedell, Monika Dieckmann, Susan Berkman, Judy Griffin, Kathy Ward and myself.** 800 invites stuffed, labeled and stamped! Ouch - 3 hours on a presidential debate night! The wine and food were delicious! Finally, none of this would have happened if everyone hadn't brought in auction items and/or made money donations - what a wonderful variety of items too! It was an awesome group effort! Not surprising at all, **YHS, Michele Wilkosz**

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

By Michele Wilkosz

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 Pedneault

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



Got NEWS? ANNOUNCEMENTS? GOOD GOSSIP? JOKES?

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SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

2008/2009 Board of Directors

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