



**SOROPTIMIST  
BEST FOR WOMEN**

# Sorooptimist International of San Francisco Newsletter

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Club Year 2010-2011

*“There is no tool or development more effective than that of the empowerment of women.”*

**Kofi Annan**

*Former Secretary General of U.N.*

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## President Dee's Message: "Make a Difference"



I've chosen "**Make a Difference**" as the Club theme for the coming year.

In order to "**Make a Difference**," we may need to take a few risks. The question is "*Are WE—as Sorooptimists—willing to take a risk to break barriers for women?*" We would probably say yes, though not in the way **Susan B. Anthony** did with the Women's Suffrage movement. Nor like Amelia Earhart who took very big risks flying around the world. Not even like **Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen** who spent three months in 2001 crossing 1700 miles of the polar ice cap to become the first women in history to sail and ski across Antarctica.

One very special lady, who led to our beginning, is **Violet Richardson Ward**. At a time when women were barred from membership in service organizations Ms Ward, a successful professional woman, helped form the very first Sorooptimist club across the bay in Oakland, and served as its first president. The reward for her risk-taking has rippled out over the decades, helping countless women and girls around the world. If you visit the **SIA Live Your Dream** website (<http://www.sorooptimist.org/LiveYourDream/>), you can see story after story of amazing present day women who risk it all to live their dreams.

Still, for most of us, RISK is a scary word. Most of us try to avoid risks. It is human nature to want to feel safe and comfortable, and it's hard to step outside our comfort zone. But, there are risks we CAN and MUST take. There are risks that can help our Club to grow, and at the same time help women and girls in San Francisco.

So what are some of the risks you are going to be asked to take? One relates to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. We joined the Chamber to make contacts, and we are asking you to attend some of these events to mingle, socialize, talk about Sorooptimist, and work to further our goals.

A second is that we have some new projects this year that will need both membership work and sponsors: 1) **Tech Trek Camp for girls**. 2) **Jared's Box Project**, and 3) **Pamper Yourself event for girls with CASA**. Of course, we will continue with: 1) **Backpacks for Bayview Mission**; 2) **Holiday Party for the Girls at Juvenile Hall**; 3) **Madonna House events**; 4) the **Salvation Army Adopt-a-family**; and 5) our **Awards, Scholarships, and Domestic Violence Poster Contest**.

In sum, I'm asking you to consider how we can—collectively and individually—find the courage to participate more and move our Club and the Sorooptimist organization forward in San Francisco.

## SOROPTIMIST and QUEENS BENCH BAR ASSOCIATION CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH THE GIRLS AT JUVENILE HALL

By Celeste Lane, Chair, SF Juvenile Hall Christmas Party



I am happy to report on the party at Juvenile Hall in San Francisco on Dec 15th. It was great fun and so very appreciated. Eleven girls attended in their standard purple shirts and green pants, and they were quite open, friendly and ready to have a party!

We made gingerbread houses with VERY sticky goo and tons of candy, and between eating the candy and getting sticky goo everywhere, it was a fun mess! Nancy from Queen's Bench provided pretty fuzzy blankets wrapped in bows which we put in huge Christmas bags provided by Mary Lou Slusher with the winter jackets (also in a bow), and a big bag of cookies that we made at the Cookie Party at Judy and Jim Lee's home on Dec 4th.

Kris Wong and Eva Walter were there as well as five Queen's Bench members, we each sat at different tables working on ginger-bread houses with the girls.

We used glitter markers to personalize each of the gift stockings stuffed with goodies with the girls (very original and creative) names. The stockings were placed underneath the Christmas tree and each girl was called up one at a time to get her stocking. It was nice to see them recognized personally and given something just for them. They LOVED the lotions and lipsticks!

Pizza came at 8:00pm, and after washing off the tables, the pepperoni pizza was served and quickly devoured. The cheese pizza languished a bit, but not for long with all the adults in the room.

Towards the very end, one girl came up to me out of nowhere, crying and thanking me with a big hug. They were all so grateful.

So thank you to everyone who participated in any way to bring together all the components to make this a success. Oh, and as we had 12 coats/gift bags/stockings, it just so happened that one lucky girl was brought into the jail in the middle of the party and we asked that she be given the 12th coat and gift bag, and the counselor said they would do that.

### SISF NEWSLETTER

Editor: Gail Dekreon

Contributors: Celeste Lane, Courtney Fossatti, Dee Schoen, Linda Hom, Sharon Fisher, Hanne Jensbo, Cheryl Addleman, Elisabeth Silva



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*"Their faces  
literally lit up  
when I let them  
know I was with  
Soroptimist..."*

### S.I. of SAN FRANCISCO ADOPTS FOUR WOMEN for the SALVATION ARMY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

By Courtney Fossatti



As Chairman (first time I can say that, woot woot!) I got four women assigned to us to sponsor Christmas for the Salvation Army Adopt a Family Program.

Three requested CD players, so we found inexpensive ones online that can play both CD's and DVD's. At the cookie party on December 4<sup>th</sup> I collected donations and purchases brought by our members to fulfill the other items on the ladies' wish lists.

**Brenda** is 47 year old, lives in the Tenderloin and is blind.; she likes to listen to R&B music and collect bowls for food. **Rosalina** is 83 years old, lives alone, is lonely and loves writing letters, making cards and watching TV. **Linda** is 53 years old and lives alone with her cat; she suffers Agoraphobia; she likes to read. **Daryl** is 56 years old, is homebound and spends all of her time in bed. She likes reading the tabloids.

The Salvation Army was so gracious when I dropped off the gift bags that we made. Their faces literally lit up when I let them know I was with Soroptimist; they said that we have been more than helpful and have gone above and beyond for years now. It was great and I felt so proud to be part of such a great opportunity.



**Linda volunteers for the Student Conservation Association**

**LUCINDA HOM WINS S.I. of SAN FRANCISCO'S VIOLET RICHARDSON AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER ACTION**

Linda Hom is a 17 year old high school student in San Francisco who volunteers for the Student Conservation Association (SCA), in their Conservation Leadership Corps.

The **Student Conservation Association** dedicates itself to conservation work and teaching and spreading environmental education. As an extern, Linda does restoration work that betters the environment and prevents the wear and tear of time and pollution on trails, plants, animals and people. This year Linda helps plan for trips and team building. Last summer she went with a crew to the Allegheny National Forest for two week working on a long trail to preserve it and built a small bridge.

Linda chose the SCA because she interested in protecting the environment. She stated in her application, *"The way things are now, we will exhaust our resources and the human population will not survive for as long as it should. I think of it as being one step closer to saving the world. I really want to help in any way I could and I thought that this was the best way."*

Linda is learning about environmental issues and justice in the ever greening world and bringing back what she learns to her home to share with others. *"It is not just for me, but for everyone now and in the future. If we can improve the environment, we can improve the way we live."*

*"It is not just for me, but for everyone now and in the future. If we can improve the environment, we can improve the way we live."*



**S.I. of SAN FRANCISCO'S "SHELTER FROM THE STORM" DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS POSTERS FEATURED IN BUS SHELTERS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2010**

**It is important to keep the issue of domestic violence awareness alive!**



*Tina Shao's powerful poster, the Fall 2009 winner, was installed in 15 bus shelters in San Francisco in December 2010.*

*"Here we go again...more domestic violence in the news".* This was the statement of a blogger on May 27, 2010 responding to a Community Correspondent Opinion about an article entitled "Shedding Light on Domestic Violence", published in the on-line San Francisco kalwnews.org blog. The blogger went on to list resources to help children exposed to domestic violence.

It is important to keep the dialogue about domestic violence issues going. Domestic Violence is a complicated issue. Until a victim can break the cycle of abuse she needs to survive the abuse. To survive they need help. To get help, it has to come at the right moment in the victim's life; that point in time when she can actually take that first step toward breaking the cycle of abuse.

The Soroptimist International of San Francisco's (SISF) bus shelter posters are enlargements of eye-catching art created by high school students that depict a domestic violence prevention message and offers 800 toll free phone numbers to get help and find resources.

SISF promoted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Poster Contest in high schools in San Francisco in March 2009 and a 4<sup>th</sup> contest that same year in October 2009. With two poster contests in one year we were able to **keep the dialogue going** among exiting/graduating students and incoming students. By announcing the Poster Contest in October, contestants

could see the results of prior winning posters actually installed in bus shelters.

## MEMBERSHIP MIXER EVENT JANUARY 27TH AT THE HARD ROCK CAFÉ ON PIER 39



Vice President Cheryl Addleman is holding a Membership Mixer Event to recruit new members to join our Club on Thursday **January 27<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:30-7:30pm, at the **Hard Rock Café on Pier 39** in San Francisco.

Please come and bring a friend.

Soroptimist is the best kept secret in the world but Vice President Cheryl is going to expose that secret on January 27th with complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres. So grab your co-workers, your boss, your best friends and join us.

*Jan. 27th at the  
Hard Rock Café  
on Pier 39  
Meet other Bay  
Area professional  
women and learn  
how we are  
"Making a  
Difference" in  
2011*

## BACKPACKS FOR THE BAYVIEW!!!!

Every summer we partner with **Grace Cathedral's Bayview Mission**, run by **Rev. Nina Pickrell**, to find backpacks and school supplies to help the children in the Bayview get ready for school.

Rev. Nina established the Bayview Mission five years ago and does not receive any funding for it. She relies solely on donations from Bayview-Hunters Point residents, Grace Cathedral parishioners, and people who hear about her work and want to contribute.

This year Mark & Period LLC, a company in San Rafael donated 50 backpacks! Their representative Tao Zeng attended our 88th Anniversary and Awards Dinner with a friend of Soroptimist and was inspired by our presentations!



*Life Member Dr. Elaine Daniels with a Madonna House Resident*

## MADONNA HOUSE RESIDENCE FOR SENIOR WOMEN VAMP IT UP FOR HALLOWEEN

Three or four times a year Soroptimist Int. of San Francisco picks up ice cream, cake, party plates and napkins, slap on hats or costumes and head for the Madonna Residence for Senior Women to celebrate Spring, Halloween, Valentine's Day and their birthdays.

The Madonna Senior Residence and Center provides senior women a safe and supportive home. Built in 2000, the Madonna Residence is an independent-living program comprised of 51 private fully furnished studios. Their combination of mental and physical health services and community building activities work to improve residents' health and reduce isolation.

The senior women at Madonna House make beautiful quilts; they donated a quilt for our Silent Auction for our 88th Anniversary & Awards Dinner in March 2010.

We enjoy talking to the residents as we gobble up treats, admire their costumes and listen to their stories.



*Soroptimist Kris Wong with Madonna House Residents enjoying treats.*



**SIERRA PACIFIC REGION  
Soroptimist International of the Americas  
DISTRICT II**

*Sherry Pearson, Governor 2010-2012*

*“Soroptimist: The Treasured Gem of Women & Girls”*

*Gail Dekreon, District II Director 2010-2012*



**SPR Board 2010-2012**

**OFFICERS**

Sherry Pearson - Governor  
Pat Jones - Governor Elect  
Debbie Jensen - Secretary  
Ora Hoover - Treasurer

**DIRECTORS**

Angie Muhlenhaupt - District I  
Gail Dekreon - District II  
Nancy Lilly - District III  
Pam Taylor - District IV  
Bonnie Armendariz - District V  
Jo Ann Vear - Parliamentarian

**DISTRICT I AND II MEETING HELD OCTOBER 23rd IN GILROY:  
*Teen Bullying, Girls vs. Boys, Cyber Bullying & Solutions***

Bullying, especially teen bullying, is an issue for women and girls and Soroptimist needs to address it!

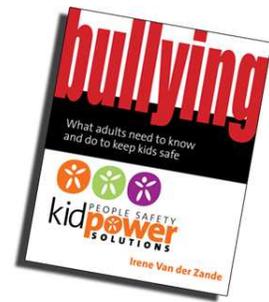
Governor Sherry introduced her Governorship in August 2010 with this objective – teen bullying is a bigger problem than any of us really know and “*The Treasured Gem of Women and Girls*”, the Soroptimists in the Sierra Pacific Region, need to become educated about it and become active in learning how to stop it.

All three of the Region’s District Meetings featured a segment on bullying; offering background information and solutions. **Lynis Chaffey** of SI Modesto and SPRs Prevention of Violence Against Women & Girls Coordinator, researched and studied the issue of teen bullying and gave a spellbinding presentation at **District III’s** meeting in Murphys California on October 16, 2010 educating us about who are bullies and the difference between male and female bullying.

**Erika Leonard** is the Program Manager for KidPower in California, and a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in the Albany school district. She was the keynote speaker at **District I and II’s** combined Meeting on October 23, 2010. She described bullying as relational aggression resulting in a sense of isolation; Her advice: “Be aware, take charge, get help”.

**Andrea Saldate**, the Health Educator for Madera County’s Public Health Department gave a vibrant but sobering presentation on “Teen Bullying and Teen Dating Violence” at the **District IV and V** combined Meeting in Madera on October 30, 2010. Andrea introduced us to the insidious world of cyber bullying.

Thank you Governor Sherry for making us aware of a horrible phenomenon that effects children, teens, adults and elders physically and psychologically, but can be combated with education, information and solutions.



**“CYBER TALK”**  
**Did you know**  
**“CD9” or “Code**  
**9” means “parents**  
**are around”? Or**  
**that “MOS”**  
**means “Mom**  
**Over Shoulder”?**  
**Or that “zerg”**  
**means to “gang**  
**up on somebody”?**

**DO YOU KNOW OF A CORPORATION OR BUSINESS WILLING TO DONATE A NEW LAPTOP COMPUTER FOR OUR REGION WOA WINNER????**

This year Jackson-Hewitt has agreed to sponsor one laptop for the Women's Opportunity Award recipients. SIA would like each club participant in our region to have a chance to win the donated laptop, through a random drawing. It is probable that the regional winner will not get a laptop. I am a little uncomfortable with this possibility.

Please put your thinking caps on, talk to your own clubs, the clubs in your districts.

Lets give a business the opportunity to purchase a laptop for the Sierra Pacific Regions WOA winner. It would be a great public relations for any company!

Thank you for your help, Elisabeth Silva, SPR WOA Coordinator



“By investing in [these women], companies are betting on a brighter future — for a workforce just waiting to blossom, for economies whose development depends on this new crop of talent, and, of course, for themselves.”

Hewlett [2010 blog entry](#) for the Harvard Business Review web-site.

### Executive Director Leigh's video blog!

August 2010: Executive Director Leigh provides a tour of SIA headquarters in Philadelphia and introduces staff.



You will find it on the “Welcome Members” page of the SIA website!

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PRESIDENT SHARON'S SPOTLIGHT

## WHY WOMEN AND GIRLS?

*President Sharon's blog, Oct. 2, 2010*

I invite you to read the link below to contribute to our understanding of Why Women and Girls. The article is titled “[The Third Billion](#)” at <http://www.strategy-business.com>

and it was one of those great reads you happen along while traveling. I picked up a magazine as I entered the airplane and between movies absorbed this article.

We all know the impact 1 billion people in China are having on global business. Another billion people in India have also created a significant impact on the global economy. The article outlines how “The Third Billion”, are coming and are as yet somewhat unrealized. This group is made up of women who are entering the economic mainstream for the first time. By 2020, less than 10 years, the article predicts 870 million women will do so and that number is forecast to exceed 1 billion during the following decade. It says “their sheer numbers will hasten the integration of the regions where they live into the larger economy.”

Currently, many women are “not prepared”, defined as lacking sufficient education, usually secondary school. Others are “not enabled”, defined as lacking support from families and communities. The majority are both. A coordinated approach that helps women overcome their “not prepared” and “not enabled” status will reap great benefits.

Our Soroptimist program focus recognizes this and with our advocacy efforts targeting the top down intervention from government, our community programs driving social change and our educational programs at the local community level we are investing in these women. This Third Billion

## News Releases

### [Soroptimist welcomes new president](#)

Release date: 9/2/10

Sharon Fisher, of Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada will serve a one-year term as president of the SIA board of directors.

### [Soroptimist Honors Women with Three Awards](#)

Release date: 7/21/2010

Soroptimist announces the winners of its Federation level Women's Opportunity, Violet Richardson and Ruby Awards.

**NEWS FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL**

**HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM S.I. PRESIDENT HANNE  
and  
INTRODUCING HER DECEMBER 10TH APPEAL:  
“FUNDING THE FUTURE: SOROPTIMISTS FOR EDUCATION and  
LEADERSHIP”**

Dear Soroptimists, dear Readers,

December 10 is the anniversary of the UN Human Rights Declaration and is also a special day for Soroptimists all over the World.

I hope that you will contribute to my 10th December appeal, which this year is “Funding the Future: Soroptimists for Education and Leadership”.

I have chosen this theme to raise funds for the Education and Leadership Theme, which is being developed by our programme team for launch in Montréal next July 2011 at the SI Convention.. All donations should be forwarded to your Federation Headquarters. Thank you for your contribution!

At this time of the year we in the Northern part of the Northern hemisphere are having dark and short days with snow and frost, while our friends in the Southern hemisphere are heading to the beaches and having high summer.

This difference illustrates the variety and amount of different cultures and life conditions in our organization. I therefore dare to attach to this message a photo of me as an angler, as it was my biggest surprise this year, namely when I caught a big amber jack in the Caribbean Sea, one hour’s sailing out from Cancun in Mexico. My first fish ever – it was a thumping big one! Such a photo illustrates that our life as Soroptimists gives us a great variety of experiences and a lot of fun, but as usual: you need to be in the right place at the right time and take the chance when it is there.

I send my best Season’s Greetings for you and for your families.

In friendship  
Hanne Jensbo  
International President 2009-2011



*“...our life as Soroptimists give us a great variety of experiences and a lot of fun, but as usual, you need to be in the right place at the right time and take the chance when it is there.”*



**DID YOU KNOW...**

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL takes part in these International relations?

- General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, United Nations (ECOSOC);
- Operational Relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- Special List of the International Labour Organization (ILO);
- Official Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO),
- Official Relations with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Consultative Status with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- Accredited to the Commonwealth as a Civil Society Organization.



**SOROPTIMIST  
BEST FOR WOMEN**

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*“Improving the lives of  
women and girls in  
local communities and  
throughout the world.”*

*Soroptimist Mission  
Statement*

## **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SAN FRANCISCO CALENDAR**



### **JANUARY 2011**

- Jan 3 January Board Meeting at Dee Schoen's home
- **Jan 10** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY KAY TSENIN**
- Jan 11 Monthly Dinner Meeting at Delancey Street Restaurant featuring **Sarah Hargrave**
- Jan 11 National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness
- **Jan 15** **DEADLINE:** Club Ruby Award and Violet Richardson Award winners due to Region
- Jan 15 President's Round Table for District II
- **Jan 23** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY BILL CRAWFORD**
- **Jan 20** **DEADLINE:** Soroptimists Celebrating Success entries due
- **Jan 25** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY COURTNEY FOSSATTI**
- Jan 27 New Member Recruitment at Hard Rock Café at Pier 39
- Jan 30 Pamper Yourself Event for girls in foster care provided by S.I. San Francisco and CASA
- Jan 31 February Board Meeting, 6 pm at Dee Schoen's home

### **FEBRUARY 2011**

- **Feb 1** **DEADLINE:** Club WOA winners due to the Region
- Feb 8 Monthly Dinner Meeting at Delancey Street Restaurant
- Feb 10 or 11 Madonna House Valentine's Day Party
- Feb 15 SPR Fellowship applications due to SPR Committee
- **Feb 24** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAIDA BARRICK**
- Feb 28 March SISF Board Meeting at Dee Schoen's home

### **March 2011**

- **Mar 1** **DEADLINE** to submit the Clubs 3 best Newsletters to Region
- Mar 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- Mar 8 SISF Monthly Dinner Meeting at Delancey Street Restaurant
- **Mar 13** **DEADLINE** to submit Club Program Focus Reports to SI
- **Mar 15** **DEADLINE** SPR Membership Recruitment Contest ends
- Mar 17 Soroptimist Club Grants for Women & Girls proposals due
- Mar 19 S Club One Day Conference and MEG Award
- **MAR 19** **SISF 89th ANNIVERSARY & AWARDS DINNER**  
**at HOTEL WHITMORE**
- Mar 22 **DEADLINE** to submit names of deceased club members for Celebration of Life Ceremony at SPR Conference
- **Mar 25** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUDY LEE**
- **Mar 25** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY BARBARA RUSSELL**
- **Mar 26** **DEADLINE** to submit Public Awareness Contest form to SPR
- **Mar 28** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY DENISE KENT**