

S. I. L. B. NEWS

Winter 2016-2017



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

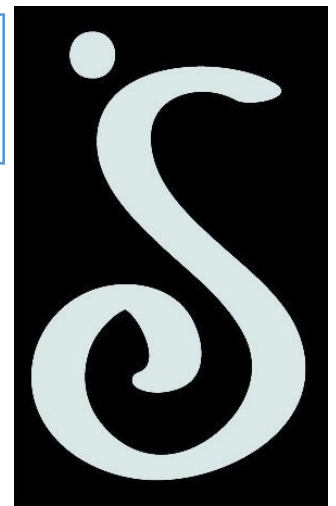
Service to others has been a hallmark of our year so far. As a reminder of your wonderful commitment to the Long Beach community, I want to take a moment to recap the outstanding work we have done together.

- ◆ We exceeded our fundraising goals with a successful fashion show in the Fall, allowing us to give additional scholarships to women returning to school and supporting our other service projects.
- ◆ We provided clothes and books for children living in domestic violence shelters in the area.
- ◆ We stuffed and donated 27 backpacks of needed clothes and supplies for survivors of human trafficking.
- ◆ We enjoyed Munch and a Movie in support of Meals on Wheels in Long Beach — also exceeding our fundraising goal.
- ◆ We are working closely with Long Beach Unified School District's Career Linked Learning (CaLL) program to offer a pilot of Dream It, Be It at Jordan High School.
- ◆ We are awarding scholarships at our annual Scholarship Dinner in April, and we expect to have a group of guests with bow ties and big hats at our Night at the Races in May.

Serving together is fun and your enthusiasm is contagious. We are pleased to welcome our three new members and our new Friends of Soroptimist who join our commitment to improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Keep dreaming and keep flying high!

Susan



BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Judy Hirsch
April 3	Cheryl Sears
April 13	Nancy Hegelheimer
April 17	Susan Berkman
April 19	Claudia Torres
May 1	Judy Pedneault
May 6	Arlene Sellers
May 7	Minnie Douglas
May 11	Lauri Blanchard
May 11	Josephine Fitzpatrick
May 23	Nancy Freeze
May 27	Robyn Thomas
June 2	Michele Wilkosz
June 5	Barbara Freeman
June 11	Ann Haberman
June 24	Hazel Wallace
June 27	Jodean Pelzman
June 29	Gail Wasil

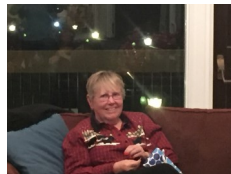
SOROPTIMIST EVENTS

Winter 2016—2017

SUPER FUN HOLIDAY PARTY

December 21

This year we did something different for our Holiday Party. Because our focus has been on “hands on” projects to help women, the Club decided to replace our traditional gift exchange with a “White Elephant Gift Exchange” and a collection of gift cards to be used as part of the service project in January. This format was hysterically entertaining. Beautifully wrapped gifts were opened and traded, with members and guests alike treating their White Elephant gifts as if they were priceless treasures. The potluck dinner was delicious, the company wonderful, the gift exchange a success, and we collected gift cards for our service project.



Program Meetings

SILB had four excellent program meetings this winter. In **November** a representative from **Women Helping Women**, one of our grant recipients from the Spring, shared that organization’s accomplishments with the club.

Officers from the **Coast Guard** attended in **February** and gave an informative presentation on terrorism threats to our ports. They shared ways for us to stay vigilant and assist in keeping our port cities safe.

The **March** program meeting features guest speaker **Laura Doud, the Long Beach City Auditor**. She is one of only four elected City Auditors in California, and is serving the City in her third term of office. Her responsibilities include ensuring that our city government runs efficiently and effectively.

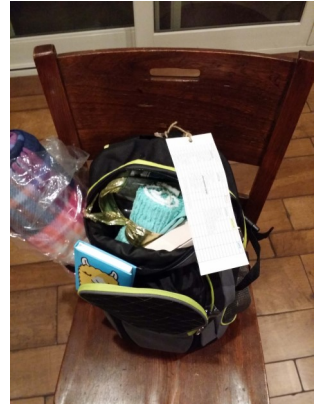
BACKPACK PROJECT SUPPORTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS Jan 18

On January 25th members of SILB gathered to pack 27 backpacks to donate to victims of human trafficking. This effort involved working with Homeland Security and the Coalition Against Sexual Trafficking of L.A. (CAST.)

Members worked in teams of two, using a created inventory card as a guide. Many wonderful toiletries were stuffed into new cosmetic bags donated by SILB members. In addition to toiletries, we packed clothing, personal comfort items, and writing materials, including a journal. Each pack included a heartfelt letter of encouragement written by our members.

SILB is grateful to the many organizations and individuals within our community, including Ralphs, Rite Aid, Charles Schwab, Dermatologica, Dr. Garlington, DDS, Dr. Emery, DDS, Target, and CVS who donated items to support this project. Included in the backpacks were gift cards donated at the Holiday Party by members and from other friends.

Part of our anti Human Trafficking project is education, of our members and the public. The increase in reports of trafficking crimes is partly due to the success of the continuing education.



MUNCH AND A MOVIE



Jan 21

Thanks go out to the successful crew of Munch and Movie! Over \$6,000 was raised for Meals on Wheels of Long Beach on January 21, 2017 at the Art Theatre. 200 plus members and guests watched "I Love You To Death" and munched on pizzas provided by four local pizza parlors. Ecco's, Flippin' Pizza, K Pasta and Big E Pizza competed for the title of best crust, best sauce and best overall pizza. Lynn Shrum was our event sponsor, providing us the \$250 for the Raffle Prize and additional funds for our event expenses. She also was among the staff serving up pizza.

Actor and producer, Joe Sabatino entertained us with his story after the movie. Hal Rose was our videographer.

F&M Bank came through with bottled water for our guests. Fresh Prints Design was our official event printer.



VISIT FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT YVONNE SIMPSON

March 6th, members from throughout our Region, including 8 members and a guest from SILB, drove to Westminster to meet and greet Soroptimist International (SI) President Yvonne Simpson. Represented were the Region Board, Past Governors/GEMS, Club Presidents, and Members.



President Yvonne hails from New Zealand and is such a gentle soul, very humble. Her stories were poignant and compelling. She is passionate and compassionate. President Yvonne shared herself, where she lives, her dreams, and her goals for Soroptimist International. Most impressive was her commitment to her President's Appeal for assistance for the women/girls of Nepal, especially after she shared pictures and personal stories.

- In the United Kingdom, they are training young girls, who may be victims of sex trafficking, to carry a metal spoon in their "knickers". When going through the airport, the spoon will set off the security equipment and the (our version of TSA) people will take the girls aside to search them. This gives them (the girls) an opportunity to sound the alarm and get help. A simple metal teaspoon. Who knew?
- She explained clearly the difference between SI and the Federations. SI does not do projects (with the exception of the President's Appeal). They are the arm of the organization that represents us at the United Nations. *"The team of four SI UN Representatives in New York cover gender equality, sustainable development, financing for development, trafficking, migration, education, aging, and peace and security."* We are also based in Geneva, Vienna, Rome, Paris and Nairobi. We have a presence on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women). **SI is the "global" and the Federations are the "local"**, hence the newly coined phrase (from Orlando) "Glocal". SI is the combined strength of the four Federations (the Global Network). Federations are involved in projects that are specific to their Regions and their Clubs.

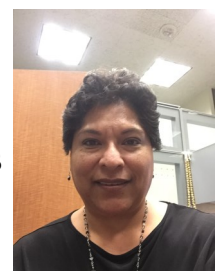
What an opportunity! We DO make a difference in the lives of women and girls, not just locally, but globally . . . or glocally.

WELCOME TO OUR TWO NEWEST MEMBERS



Elizabeth (Liz) Raganold joined SILB in November 2016, and immediately began serving by volunteering to work with Monika at the check in table. Thanks Liz! Liz said that she joined because she believes that giving and helping others is a source of great personal happiness. After years of serving others as a R.N. at LBMMC, Liz has joined us to use her talents on SILB projects. WELCOME.

Claudia Torres came onboard December 2016. She attended several SILB functions prior to making the decision to join us. She is a long time friend and coworker of Sally Lane's, and continues to work in the Contracts department at LBMMC. Claudia says she joined SILB to allow her to live "life on life" with like-minded women who have shown and continue to show their desire to make a difference. WELCOME



OFFICERS

President

Susan Berkman

President-Elect

Julia McConaghy

Recording Secretary

Sally Lane

Corresponding Secretary

Judy Hirsch

Treasurer

Judy Murphy

Assistant Treasurer (meals)

Kathy Ward

DIRECTORS

Member Services

Margie Hersh

Philanthropy

Charlene Wynne

Fund Development

Lauri Blanchard

Maggie Shapiro

Community Outreach/Communications

Robin Thorne

Institutional Affairs

Obioma Osae-Brown

Finance Committee

Julia McConaghy

Immediate Past President

Jodean Pelzman

Regional Delegates

Judy Pedneault

Nadia Vega-Sharrar



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SOROPTIMIST RESOURCES

www.soroptimistinternational.org

www.soroptimist.org (S.I.A.)

www.caminorealregion.org (region)