

# SILB NEWS

Soroptimist International of Long Beach



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Julia McConaghy*

This year we are going to Stay the Course and Lead the Way set for us by past President Susan Berkman. We will also add relevant opportunities to Work Together As One by adopting and incorporating the master branding strategy the International Organization has identified for the organization. Building our brand identity will enable us to grow the membership of SI-Long Beach with other like-minded women who desire to make a significant societal impact on the women and girls in the Greater Long Beach, Seal Beach and Los Alamitos communities through our Dream Programs.

By utilizing the book-end programs of Live Your Dream, we will continue to invest in head of house women by providing economic support which assists them with the education needed to realize their professional dreams. By continuing to grow the new Dream It, Be It mentoring program for high school girls, we give them the tools and role models to master plan a vision and develop their strategy and support system to help them take the first steps to a better future. We will continue to support the aging women in Long Beach from the loneliness and hunger which plagues so many elderly in this country through our support of the Meals on Wheels program,

and support women who have fled with their children from domestic violence to seek a safer and healthier place for their families.

Our Fall and Spring Fundraisers will be the major means of raising funds to finance the Dream Programs, support our local outreach for women and children, introduce our Live Your Dream recipients to other professional women by inviting them to the Spring Regional Conference, and provide fellowship and fun for our membership.

In closing, I would like to congratulate each and every member of this club who does so much with so little and as a result, was recognized with the SIA Dream It, Be It and the Live Your Dream Participation Awards for 2016-17, the SIA Recognition for Club Giving at the Dream Builders level having reached the second highest club SI giving level, and the Certificate of Appreciation by SIA in honor of our efforts to increase the SIA collective impact. I look forward to working with all of you this year while we Stay the Course and Lead the Way to our goals and sail safely right into port, next spring!

*-Julia*



## SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS DINNER: HELPING WOMEN LIVE THEIR DREAM

*By Renee Simon*

Members and guests of Soroptimist International of Long Beach (SILB) were welcomed by President Susan Berkman to celebrate with the organization's annual grants and scholarships recipients at the 2017 Live Your Dream and Scholarship Dinner April 19. The grants give young women a powerful financial boost to help them continue their education. The nine 2017 awardees, several of whom are single heads of household supporting children of their own, are studying at Long Beach City College and California State University where they are continuing their education to achieve successful careers and economic independence.

The organization presented a total of \$12,000 in scholarships, which the women can use toward tuition, books, transportation, child care, or living expenses. Most recipients were accompanied by their mothers whom they emotionally thanked for the nurturing and support they had received. One recipient interrupted her acceptance speech to thank her Mom in Spanish. Few were far from tears. The group also presented a \$6100 check to Meals on Wheels of Long Beach, which SILB started in 1971.

Charlene Wynne, Philanthropy chair, closed the evening with a quote from Dr. Shirley Jackson, President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, advising young women, "Do not let others define who you are. Define yourself.

Do not be limited by what others expect of you, but reach confidently for the stars."



## A BIG HAT KIND OF A NIGHT AT THE RACES

*By Susan Berkman*

On May 20, 2017, Soroptimists and their guests enjoyed an evening of fun at Los Alamitos Racetrack. A live auction, conducted by actor/producer Joe Sabatino, a silent auction and "best hat" competition rounded out the evening of races. Ann Haberman won "best hat" for wearing her horse race with style. "The event raised \$13,200 and change," said past President Susan Berkman. All the funds raised will support Soroptimist Long Beach Dream Programs.





## SILB SUPPORTS WOMEN ENTERING WORKPLACE WITH DAY OF SUCCESS

SILB sponsored "Day of Success" at Women Helping Women in Santa Ana this June. Participants were provided with professional clothing, hair and cosmetic make-over, and job interview training. Soroptimist members acted as personal shoppers and assisted the women in selecting professional clothing. The women, who are entering or re-entering the workplace, participated in an interview preparedness workshop.

## DREAM IT, BE IT PROGRAM INSPIRES GIRLS TO FORM DIBI CLUB

In March 2017, Soroptimist Long Beach members spent two weekends mentoring ninth grade girls through Dream It, Be It. The SIA program drew nearly 20 girls, and nine completed the program. The program helped the participants reflect on the personal qualities they need to achieve their goals, such as perseverance to overcome obstacles and stress reduction. They began making concrete plans to achieve career goals they are considering.

Excited about their experience, the girls asked their advisor, Stephanie Espeleta, if they could meet throughout the year. The result is the Dream It, Be It

## FALL PROGRAM MEETINGS HIGHLIGHT LOCAL ISSUES IN LINE WITH SILB GOALS

Fall's first two program meetings have hit the mark for providing intelligent, informative discussions about issues that effect women in our community and worldwide. Soroptimist's overreaching mission is to support women and girls. September's program meeting hosted Los Alamitos oncologist, Jessica Rayhanabad, M.D. who provided up-to-date information on breast cancer.

October's program speaker was Sergeant Curtis Yee of Long Beach Police Department's domestic violence task force. He shared practical and legal concepts concerning domestic violence including how police handle domestic violence calls. November's program meeting will continue this focus on women's issues with guest speaker, Duaa Alwan, co-founder of Muslim Speakers Network, discussing "Women in Islam."

With over 15 guests attending the October program meeting, SILB's goal to expand our presence in the community and grow our membership is well under way.



Club which meets weekly at Jordan High School. The members looked up "Soroptimist" on the internet and decided that, like us, they would offer service programs. The current members will also act as teaching aides in this year's program for 10th grade girls. Our goal is to train them to lead the program when they are seniors in high school. The 2017-18 Dream It, Be It program will be offered as a one-day workshop on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Jordan High School. Contact Susan Berkman if you would like to help present the program.



## "STUFF IT" PARTY STUFFS BAGS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

Soroptimists gathered at Bixby Riviera Clubhouse on October 12th to stuff bags for area domestic violence shelters and get stuffed with a potluck dinner. Alison Reid and Michele Wilkosz organized the event as part of SILB's philanthropic mission to support victims of domestic violence. Members were asked to bring clothing and comfort items for a child. Islands Restaurant donated roomy bags which were branded with SILB's logo.

Representatives from three local domestic violence shelters-Interval House, Long Beach Women's Shelter, and Su Casa-spoke to the group about their work with domestic violence victims and collected bags for their shelters. The clothing, books, and toys are provided to children who arrive at the shelter with few possessions having had to escape the violence quickly and safely.



## SILB RECEIVES CSULB ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN LEGACY AWARD

On April 13, 2017, long-time member and past president, Lynn Hermstad, accepted on behalf of Soroptimist International of Long Beach, the 2017 Advancement of Women Legacy Award from California State University, Long Beach President's Commission on the Status of Women. The club received the award for its long history of helping to advance the status of women and for being a community partner of the university ... from its contribution of Soroptimist House to the Associated Student Body in the 1950s, to its many scholarships benefiting female university students and its participation in Women & Philanthropy on the campus. It was Jackie Wetteland of Women & Philanthropy who nominated the club. It was a proud day for all club members.

## 2017-18 OFFICERS

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