

SILB NEWS



SOROPTIMIST



Stay the Course; Lead the Way

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Julia McConaghy

I hope you are all as excited as I am that Spring is upon us as we enjoy the foggy, cool mornings and the warmer afternoons and evenings. Spring brings much excitement to Soroptimist International – Long Beach (SILB) as well.

We finished up our major fundraising for the year with our very own Gail Wasil successfully participating in the annual "Race at the Base" triathlon and a great turnout at the Night at the Races event at the Los Alamitos Race Course. Both events topped off the end of a great year for our club fundraising, and we also completed our second successful Dream It Be It (DIBI) program for young women at Jordan High School.

A few weeks ago our club was recognized at the Camino Real Spring Conference for the collaborative work of the club to earn recognition in the following areas:

- 2018 Governors' Club Award for "Making Dreams Come True for Women and Girls through Fund Raising and Public Awareness
- Celebrating Success Award – Fundraising – Programs – Public Awareness
- Honored three SILB members for Achieving their Dreams: Jodean Pelzman; Nadia Vega-Scharrar, and Victoria Wang
- Saluted SILB Member Lauri Blanchard as a Camino Real Regional Distinguished Soroptimist
- Recognized a record number of SILB members Years of Service:

45 Years – Nancy Hegelheimer

35 Years – Nancy Freeze and Arlene Sellers

30 Years – Donna Skinner

25 Years – Jana Martin

15 Years – Lorain Brault

10 Years – Maggie Shapiro

5 Years – Lauri Blanchard and Terry Erickson

- Gave Tribute and Memorial to SILB Member -- Dorothy Deatherage

We celebrated our 10th Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner in April and honored individuals with cash awards totaling more than \$16,000 for the Long Beach City College Scholarships, the Dr. Katherine White Award, the Live Your Dream Awards and the Women & Philanthropy Awards along with special recognition for the work done with the DIBI program and the Human Trafficking work with CAST.

We made much progress in our goal of Working Together as One. We continue to work on growing our brand recognition which will enable us to develop the membership of SI-Long Beach with other like-minded women, who desire to help us touch more of the disadvantaged women and girls in the Greater Long Beach, Seal Beach and Los Alamitos communities.

As we prepare to Sail into Port in June and transfer the leadership to President Elect Diane DeWalsche, I am delighted to say we Stayed the Course and Led the Way in accomplishing much this year. It could not have been done without the leadership and support of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs, along with all of the participants of the club. A club like ours can't accomplish our goals without All Hands-on Deck, and this year was no exception to everyone pitching in and really making everything we touched a success.

I am honored to represent SILB in Yokohama, Japan at the Soroptimist International 45th Biennial Convention in July, 2018. It has been a tremendous experience to have had the privilege of serving as your 2017-18 President, and I want to wish everyone a safe and fun summer.

I look forward to working with all of you in the Fall under the leadership of our new President, Diane DeWalsche.

Sincerely,

President Julia McConaghy

DREAM IT, BE IT PROGRAM INSPIRES YOUNG WOMEN AT JORDAN H.S.

Twelve freshman girls attended SILB's 2nd annual "Dream It, Be It" seminar at Jordan High School on March 3, 2018. Three young ladies who attended last year's seminar, returned to assist us. These girls were so inspired by last year's seminar that they started a Dream It, Be It club on campus. Since our March seminar, most of the freshman girls have joined the club, increasing its membership 400%. The seminar focused on 4 of the 7 Dream It, Be It curriculum sessions--identifying personality styles, exploring dream careers, setting goals, and turning failure into success. Group activities promoted team building and lessons such as resilience. The girls completed personality/interest tests and researched related careers on the school's Chromebooks. SILB has been invited to meet with the club throughout the school year and share additional Dream It, Be It curriculum. In addition, we will invite the students to attend one of our program meetings as a school field trip.



MUNCH & A MOVIE HITS IT BIG WITH BLAZING SADDLES & PIE THROWS

Soroptimist International of Long Beach's third annual Munch & A Movie event was a lot of fun and raised over \$8000 for Long Beach Meals On Wheels, a nonprofit founded by Soroptimist Long Beach in 1972. Three hundred guests gathered at The Art Theatre in Long Beach on January 20th to view the uncut version of Mel Brooks' Blazing Saddles, the hilarious, irreverent satire of race relations in America. Writer and producer, Jeff Hathcock and his daughter, Allyson, provided historical and social context to the movie while guests enjoyed a movie-themed lunch of Schnitzengruben (hot dogs), campfire beans and pie served by Soroptimists in black and red aprons and feather headbands. Following the movie, guests were invited to toss a pie in the face of Soroptimist member, Jaye Johnson, to raise some extra dough. Next year's Munch and A Movie will feature the movie Princess Bride--a cult classic that will make raising money for Meals On Wheels another fun community event.

2017-2018 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	JULIA MCCONAGHY
PRESIDENT-ELECT	DIANE DEWALSCHÉ
SECRETARY-RECORDING	MICHELE WILKOSZ
SECRETARY-CORRESPONDING	GAIL WASIL
TREASURER	JUDY MURPHY
ASSISTANT TREASURER	KATHY WARD

2017-2018 DIRECTORS

MEMBER SERVICES-MEMBERSHIP	NADIA SHARRAR
MEMBER SERVICES-PROGRAMS	SABIR TEJANI
FUND DEVELOPMENT-SPRING	MAGGIE SHAPIRO
FUND DEVELOPMENT-FALL	LAURI BLANCHARD
COMMUNICATIONS	JULIE RESNER
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	SUSAN BERKMAN
REGIONAL DELEGATE	JUDY PEDNAULT
FEDERATION DELEGATE	JULIA MCCONAGHY





SHOWER OF LOVE SETS UP 12 HOMES FOR RESCUED HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Soroptimist International of Long Beach partnered with Esther Group of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and CASTLA (Coalition Against Sexual Trafficking, Los Angeles) to stock twelve apartments for rescued victims of human trafficking. SILB collected pots and pans, baking dishes and bowls; plates, cups and flatware; bed sheets, towels, placemats, kitchen linen, and hangers; kitchen tools; household cleaning supplies, office supplies, and spices. In addition, members donated themed housewarming gifts.

SILB members, Alison Reid and Michele Wilkosz, coordinated the project. Alison hosted a "shower of love" and potluck dinner for SILB members to help pack the supplies. CASTLA staff member, Ivette Barcena, helped pack boxes and shared one on one about CASTLA's services to human trafficking victims.

CASTLA, a LA-based nonprofit, provides education, advocacy and empowerment to survivors of human trafficking. Through the generous contributions from Soroptimist International of Long Beach, 12 families have accessed essential housing items and are now able to call their apartment HOME.

MEMBERS SHARE SOROPTIMIST MISSION AT OUTREACH EVENTS

Membership director, Nadia Vega-Sharrar, created several opportunities this year for SILB to meet members of our community and share our mission. Members manned a Soroptimist booth at the Turkey Trot in November, the Women's Journey Conference, and the Los Alamitos Race At The Base where member Gail Wasil raced to benefit SILB. Several members volunteered at the Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force Youth Education and Empowerment Event, coming alongside several local groups whose missions to fight human trafficking complements our own.



MEALS ON WHEELS HOSTS ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON FOR SOROPTIMIST OF LONG BEACH

On March 17th, SILB members were lunch guests at Long Beach Meals On Wheels. Members participated in meal prep and presented MOW executive director, Bill Cruikshank, with a check for \$8300, the net proceeds of our annual Munch & A Movie fundraiser held to support Meals On Wheels.



NIGHT AT THE RACES "GUYS & DOLLS" EVENT RAISES OVER \$12,000

Over 100 guys and dolls showed up for Soroptimist International of Long Beach's second annual Night At The Races fundraising event. Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner, good company, and raised over \$12,000 for scholarships, education awards and career training for women and girls in our community. The evening started off with silent auction bids and a cash prize for guessing the number of chocolate pearls in a jar. Judy Hirsch guessed the closest number and walked away with \$300 in cash. Auctioneer, Scott Burchard, auctioned off great items including a week in Palm Desert, a pair of Southwest tickets, and a THUMS tour and lunch. Pam Seager and her husband, Scott Burchard, won the grand prize, a winner's circle photo taken with the winning horse and jockey of the Soroptimist race.



SPEAKERS EDUCATE AND INSPIRE AT SPRING PROGRAM MEETINGS

Dr. Sabira Tejani, SILB member, lined up a wonderful set of speakers for this year's program meetings. This January, we were enlightened by LBPD Officer Satwan Johnson. He discussed human trafficking occurring in our local area. In February, neurologist Nirav S. Patel, M.D., discussed the etiology and prevention of strokes. Coretty Ramos of Pathways to Independence was our guest speaker in March. She shared how the Los Alamitos nonprofit supports disadvantaged local women who are earning a college degree.

Our April program meeting was our annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner. It was truly inspiring and gratifying to hear from the several recipients who are working very hard to

overcome very difficult circumstances in order to make their lives and the lives of their families better through education and job training. Our club awarded \$16,000 in educational grants and scholarships to nine local recipients. More information will be published in the Fall newsletter.

