

Soroptimist of Corona

SPRING 2015

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

Mar 25 Noon Mtg at Taps

Apr 1 Women Leadership
6pm Afterglow at

Kristen's

Apr 8 Noon Mtg at Taps

Apr 15 11:30 Eagle Glen Women of Significance

Apr 20 5:30 Board Mtg at Lechner's Office

Apr 22 Noon Business Mtg at Taps

Apr 29 Noon Mtg Taps— Spring Auction

May 6 Women Leadership

6pm Afterglow

May 13 11:30 Taps Scholarships

May 18 5:30 Board Mtg at Lechner's Office

May 20 Noon Online Business Mtg

May 27 Noon Taps Mtg Guest Speaker

Jun 4-6 Spring Conference in Riverside

June 10 Noon Mtg Taps

Jun 15 5:30 Board Mtg at Lechner's Office

June 17 Noon Business Mtg at Taps

President's Letter

Our Soroptimist International of Corona Spring Season has begun and it is full of transformations. We began in January with a rush of new members and have been consistent in reaching out to our community increasing our membership to seven dynamic, delightful, and determined women. A huge welcome to April, Jodee, Valerie, Rondi, Jenny, Kat, and Susan! We are grateful and honored you decided to be a part of our Club. Your experience will be rich in service and memories.

January also presented itself by way of Recognition from the Chamber of Commerce. We were awarded Non Profit of the Year and enjoyed an evening at Eagle Glen Golf Course which included a scrumptious meal, dancing, and certificates we will cherish for years to come. Many of us were present and it made a huge impact on many of the attendees. Best Club ever!

The language of Soroptimism was reflected in our collaboration with Alliance for Family Wellness. Under the sound leadership of Shawn Dredla, our Club was able to contribute to their Comedy for a Cause Fundraiser. This effort resulted in over \$4K in revenue for AFW.

Inspiring Women through Soroptimism segments will continue to highlight the magnificent talent and history we have in our Club. The last few months have featured Morgan Miller, Susie Pinedo, and Judy Horan. Their varied stories have impacted us and

by Paola Ringer

allowed a peek into their background and initiation to this wonderful organization.

February was picture perfect. Our 68th Birthday Bash rose a few degrees this year! Under the direction of



our most skilled 1st year Director Monica Green, our committee delivered an immaculate production of gold and white, sprinkled with creative games, entertainment, history, femininity, and elegance.

Dreams and Decisions chaired by our young and reliable Morgan Miller came in full bloom this March. We can rest assured that this was a significant year for our Signature Day of Service Event. Our hearts are full of thanks and proud of the younger generation beginning to lead our Programs.

Let's remain in delightful playfulness (courtesy of our extraordinary 2nd VP of Ways and Means- Denise Middleton). Spring has sprung.

With much love, Paola Ringer



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SI Corona's 68th Birthday

On February 25th, Soroptimist International of Corona celebrated its' 68th annual birthday celebration. The event was held at Tap's Fish House and Brewery in the Lakeside Room. Attendance included: invited guest, previous club presidents, lifetime members, and current club members. The theme for the annual birthday celebration this year was "A Time to Remember". It was special and memorable with legendary lifetime members and historians, Paula Montanez, and Judy Horan providing the first ever video presentation "Stepping Back in Time" of historical club events. The video included beautiful memories of holiday parties, service projects and



by President Elect Maria Hopkins

fundraising events. The presentation was a compilation of stored material collected from the Corona Library and media memories provided by lifetime members.

Making the event fun and exciting, the guests were serenaded with saxophone music provided by musical guest, Vaughn. Celebration continued with Tea Social, Member Trivia with great conversations. Each guest exchanged a small elegant china teacup and saucer. The birthday celebration ended with: champagne toast, birthday cake and group photo. The event was unforgettable.





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Advancing the Status of Women: Choices for Success

by Paula Montanez

Over nine years ago a group of active community women formed a Girls Leadership Committee. Their goal was to work with our young women, primarily at the intermediate school level, mentoring them to help develop the skills they would need as they work toward their future.

Original members were: Cheryl Smith (Cable Company), Karen Stein (City of Corona), Karen

Spiegel, (Business Community & Soroptimist), Cathy Sciortino (School Board Member), Dottie Reichard (CNUSD), Judy Horan (CNUSD), plus representatives of the counseling staff at the intermediate schools.

The committee developed and began meeting regularly at the CNUSD district offices, with a mission of empowering the



This photo is from the first Dreams & Decisions Workshop, held January 31, 1998 at Corona Public Library Community Room. Packing goody bags, left to right: Past President Joyce Pavez, member Bettye Baum, Past President Sylvia Fleming and daughter. Jennifer Fleming

young women in our community. A powerful synergy developed from this focused collaboration, as the committee shared ideas, and became a clearinghouse of information and networking with several new member organizations. The YWCA brought the "Choices" programs (and the namesake of the committee), the AAUW the "Sister to Sister" program, and the Soroptimist "Dreams & Decisions" workshop

also became an annual event. Alternatives to Domestic Violence programs and UNITY's Youth Summit have also become long-standing members of the organization. "Choices" has been a great resource for all of these programs.

Judy Horan is currently President of Choices, and will receive the Advancing The Status of Women Award March 24th.

Live Your Dreams Winner—Emily Falls

Recently Sherlett and I announced the winner for Live Your Dream
Award for our club, Emily Falls. We had help from panel of three judges to select the winner among six applicants. Here is the brief summary about Emily Falls:

Emily is 26 years old single mother, attending Moreno Valley College to achieve an Associate of Science Degree for Dental Hygiene Program. She will complete her current degree in June, 2015. After that, she will enroll in the Bachelor Degree Program. Her ultimate goal is to continue her education up to Masters degree of Science for Dental Hygiene and have a career in teaching at the college level.

While working at a part time job to support herself and raise her six year old son, she plans to have hands on training with clinical work. Emily has a strong desire to work in foreign and underdeveloped countries to provide Oral

health services. She has started this Journey by participating in free dental clinics to assist the under served population in Riverside County.

Emily is a dedicated and hardworking student. She was voted by her peers to represent the Student members in American Dental Hygienist Association.

At Young age, Emily had to endure both a physically and verbally abusive relationship with her son's father. To take control of her life and for the well being of her child, She broke off the relationship, even though it meant loosing financial security. She formulated the plan to provide a safe, loving and nurturing environment for her child.

Emily started working, sometimes at two jobs at night shifts to support herself and raise her child. In addition, She enrolled in school for a better education and developed future goals. The last six years leading up to her enroll-

by Neena Garg

ment in her current program was a period full of challenges and obstacles. But with shear determination and hardwork, Emily has matured into a self confident and well rounded individual with leadership qualities. For Emily, achievement means not only overcoming obstacles and difficulties to meet your goals and dreams, but to be grateful for all the blessed moments in life. The rewarding experience of raising her child provides her with motivation and

Moving forward, SI Corona Club will develop a long term supporting relationship with Emily Falls. By assessing her educational, career and household needs, SI Corona will work out a plan to provide sustained support to Emily via financial and moral support and mentorship.

inspiration to keep swimming even

though life can get tough.

Born in Torrance and spent my younger years in Redondo Beach. It was my par-Rancho Palos Verdes. My sister and I in our neighborhood for many years. Not my plan was horribly flawed. With the school, Rolling Hills. Because my parents area, I had a pretty lonely childhood. books. But things improved when I startfrom a school where I knew everyone, there were 15 kids in my graduating class, I was this short, dorky girl with giant glasses, I didn't know a soul. It was terrifying. But I survived and made some dear friends that are still with me today. I also started dating a guy that I ended up dating for 7 years, Shawn. He treated me horribly and I should have broken up with him a dozen times, but I was naïve, for him for years. We started dating our sophomore year of high school and conwere going to get married. Then I met a guy at my first real job after college, working the Front Desk at the LAX Hillike him, he rubbed me the wrong way, he was cheesy and he didn't follow directions. He cut corners and the worst part, no one else seemed to be on to the golden child of the front desk. No matter how sarcastic and short I was And funny. It was so irritating. So obviously he was starting to grow on me. And it became obvious that I was growing on him. He started leaving me notes at work, he gave me a little box of rose

that first meeting he told a co-worker that he was going to marry me someday. But I was still dating Shawn. I had a plan. But the more I talked to this guy, it was ized that Shawn treated me like dirt and be treated better, I broke up with Shawn after 7 wasted years.

Fernando and I moved to Las Vegas a year later, him so he could get his bachcould get my master's in Hotel Managedo graduated while we were there. We both worked for Hilton Corporate at an Information Services satellite office. We there, we got married while we were living there, and got pregnant with our daughter Gianna while we there. With Gianna on the way we decided it was time to get back to California and be near family. I worked at the Hilton Corporate office in Beverly Hills and we bought a house in Torrance. I was convinced I was going to be the ultimate baby in one arm, briefcase in the other. Yeah, that all went out the window the moment she was born. I never went I found a job 15 minutes away at the same company Fernando was working at but that wasn't enough. I wanted to stay out I was pregnant with Izzi! So we had 2 full-time, by this time our company had been sold and we were working in Ir-

with the girls. We had to make a change.

So in April of 2001, when the girls were

1 and 2, we moved here to Corona. We

still worked in Irvine, but we were work-

ing on a plan so I in July of 2002, I left the working world and became a stay at



home mom. It was exactly what I wanted, what we had rearranged our lives for. Unfortunately it wasn't as rosy as I had hoped. I was busy yes, but my mind was being exercised. I soon started fallwell, from everyone. By 2008, I was a mess and I started detaching from everyone. By 2009 I was spirally out of control. Trying anything to find a moment of than a year, with nothing to show for it. I slept all afternoon, leaving the girls to fend for themselves after school. It was a dark, dark time for me and for my family but they didn't know why. I finally got help in late 2009 but a lot of damage wouldn't let him in all the way. I continued a routine of self-preservation, not being completely honest with him. We separated in early 2010. A huge rift formed between my parents and sister for what I was going through. It was a horrible, painful time. After several months, we agreed to divorce but Fernando changed his mind almost immediately, he couldn't bear the thought of not being with the girls. So we started all the dark and sad inside of me, was completely honest with him, and he moving forward for 4 years now. I still who's boss every day, but I'm not doing it alone any more. I share it with Fernando and a few other friends who travelled the road with me. Unfortunately, the relationship between my parents, my



An online community empowering offline action, helping women and girls to live their dreams.

Shared by Maria Hopkins

It's Women's History Month...

And naturally we're reflecting on how far we've come and how far we still need to go.

This picture from 1972 sums it up well. These brave women fought hard for their rights — for OUR rights — and motivate us to continue in their footsteps. Now take a closer look at their signs... Over four decades later, we're still working to achieve equality in some of these very same areas.

Action Update

12 bills recently passed in the House of Representatives and are now up for vote in the Senate. These bills will hold traffickers and "Johns" more accountable and provide meaningful services to victims.

Over 5,500 Dreamers took action and urged Congress to support these bills, which were expected to pass with little objection. However, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act is currently stalled in the Senate due to partisan debate regarding certain nuances of the bill. The debate caused the bill to fall short of the 60 votes needed to move it forward. Senate Republicans have vowed to bring the bill back to the floor, and Senate Democrats have promised to hold up the bill until the provision of restricted funds is removed, signifying a potentially long political battle. Stay tuned for more updates!

COMING UP: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual assault is occurring on college campuses at alarming rates, and many schools have done a poor job of protecting survivors and holding perpetrators accountable. We will take action by urging Congress to support the Campus Accountability and Safety Act.

(Continued from pg 4- Michelle Volonte

sister, and my family was forever damaged. I didn't speak to my parents for nearly 3 years. But I'm happy to say, I have reestablished a relationship with them. I see them about once a month and chat with them often. The girls and Fernando still don't see them, but I'm grateful for the relationship I have.

So I found the road to Soroptimist because of all of that. After we reconciled, I decided to pursue an interest I had for many years. Massage. I got my license and was hired by Seema and Tony. Seema invited me to a meeting, which I was thrilled about. I had known about Soroptimist for years and had wanted to get involved, but I didn't know how. I lost interest in massage, but not in Soroptimist. I leave these meetings recharged and empowered and filled up. We are such a diverse group of dynamic women. I love all of you and count you all as friends. I am humbled to be a part of your lives and a part of this





Inspiring Women through Soroptimism

"The Future Belongs to Those Who Believe in the Beauty of Their Dreams" - Eleanor Roosevelt

I was born and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Brought up in an ethnically mixed neighborhood. I learned early the skills necessary to get along with others. I was very involved in activities in high school. The caption under my yearbook picture reads "First in activities and first in the hearts of her classmates".

My ethnic background is Irish and German. Physically I look like my father's family; my mother, Rose, was tiny and small boned. My maternal relatives valued education. My mother and father went only as far as the 8th grade. I was the first person in my father's family to graduate from college. I knew I wanted to be a teacher in kindergarten, where I adored my teacher, Helen Wargo.

I am my mother's only child. I had a half brother/we shared the same birthday! He died 2 years ago. I also have a foster brother in South Carolina. My parents raised many foster children over the years which I think helped me decide to work to better the lives of children. As a child and young adult, I took dance and voice lessons.

My college years began at the University of Connecticut, where I followed my high school sweetheart. Two years later when he broke my heart, I "ran away" to Florida and finished my B.A. in English at meet. Her mother insisted that I should the University of Miami. While there, I became a member of Chi Omega Sorority and am still in touch with several of my sisters. I was offered a teaching position at Miami Senior High, but I decid-

ed to go home. I was having second thoughts about my career. I applied for some teaching jobs and took the state exam for social work. I got my score on the test with an offer to work on the same day. I received a teaching position interview. I accepted the teaching job and never looked back.

My teaching career began in Trumbull, Connecticut, teaching English and Drama My move to California occurred in 1964. in a suburban high school. While at Trumbull High, I began work on my Master's Degree at Fairfield University, a Jesuit institution. A life-long Catholic, I had never attended a Catholic school. Let me just say, the Jesuits are incredible English Department Chair at Corona teachers.

While teaching in Trumbull, I started my plan to move to California, at the urging of my friend Ruth Kremer, who I had met at the University of Connecticut. She needed a roommate and I knew I had to go someplace warm (again).

California required a Master's Degree, so I had to hurry up and finish. I was hired by Corona Unified in May of 1964 over the phone. In order to start work in September, I had to finish two more classes in American Literature, complete my thesis/which was on The American Musical Theatre/ and take oral exams. That was quite a summer.

On the long cross country trip, Ruth gave me the scoop on all the people I would marry Bob Kremer, since we were both Catholic. Ruth had dated Roger Rickson, band director at Corona High School, a few times and introduced us at the new teacher breakfast at The Hickory Bar-be-

Judy Horan

que. All that fall, Bob would call on Thursday night and ask out which of us an-



swered the phone. Forty-nine years later I still insist that he married her because she answered the phone more often. Bob still refers to me as his "Mistress". We are still close friends.

I adapted easily to the life style, often telling others, "I'm a native Californian who happened to be born in Connecticut". My teaching career in California included English and Drama teacher and High. I was instrumental in the designing of the English/Social Studies building and the Little Theatre while at Norco High School.

My first formal date with Roger was on May 11, 1965. Check out my license plate. This began a 40 year relationship which ended with his death in 2003. He was the love of my life. In 2011 I started an endowed scholarship in his name at

In 1979, I moved to the junior high level and became an Assistant Principal. For the next 12 years, I served in every area known to a junior high administrator. I was very involved with the planning and implementation of the Middle School Program. My career continued as Assistant Principal at Norco Intermediate School, where I met the children of the students I taught at Norco High. I have been retired since 1999.

I was very fortunate to have great men-

(Continued from Pg 6: Judy Huran)

tors during my career. FM Doss had a profound effect on the directions my life took, both in and out of the classroom. She and Dick adopted me and I spend many happy times with them in Norco, Corona, and San Diego. FM brought me to Soroptimist in 1970 and I am still here as a life member. We started the "S" Club together at Norco High and she made sure I was involved in all the club activities. Another Soroptimist in my life was Shirley Mills, Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Shirley was a guiding force for me--I miss them both. I am very proud of be a recipient of a "Woman of Distinction Award" from Soroptimist of Corona in 1991 and the "Women Helping Women Award" in 2001. I am a Laurel Society Member. Currently, I serve on the Historian Committee and am the "quote queen".

Winter Fundraiser

Our Winter fundraiser was a shoe drive. and the ladies of SI Corona stepped up. We partnered with Angel Bins, collecting shoes that would get us 50cents per pound. Shoes were gathered, tied together, and stored at BMLA. The big collection night occurred at the February afterglow, at which time the "shoe committee" sorted and organized all that was collected. Many of the shoes that were collected were practically new, so maybe next time we do this we should just let ourselves buy some bargains from what was there. When all was said and done we collected nearly 600 pounds of shoes, which was not too shabby!

by Denise Middleton





Playful Outings

January

First stop – Dancing in Riverside. Next up - Dancing with the Stars. Well, maybe not quite but we sure felt like stars! The evening started with a group dinner at the Spaghetti Factory in downtown Riverside, then off to the dance studio to take our first lesson. (We took advantage of the new member special, so we can go 4 more times to hone our skills.) The lesson of the evening was West Coast Swing. We split into groups of guys and gals (yes, some of us did have to be guys) and learned the steps. By the end of the evening we were Swinging with some Swagger - can't wait to go back!

February

With Chocolate Wine and Jazz always on our minds, next up on the outing agen-



da was scoping out a potential band for our signature event. Shawn Dredla was our gracious hostess for the potluck social hour. The food was delicious, as was the chocolate and wine to accom-



by Denise Middleton

pany it. Lovely conversation in a relaxed atmosphere – it couldn't be more perfect! We then caravanned to the Grove (the Riverside Grove, not LA) and were treated to an outstanding Jazz concert by the band SOZO. We could not believe the talent of this 17 piece band. What a pleasure it was to listen to them.

Upcoming Playful Outings – if there is something you think would be fun to do with our group please let me know. Most of the things we have done have been suggestions from the group, so if you have something in mind please let me know. As of now I'm planning another dance outing and a night at Paint the Town where we can all create masterpieces.

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What you need to know about DIBI

by Michelle Volonte

(Or as we at SI Corona are calling it, Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It!)

Who: SI Corona along with volunteer professionals and interns from the field of education, human resources, and career planning

What: A one day workshop for high school girls offering career guidance and college readiness

When: September 26, 9-2 Where: Norco College

Why: To provide that missing piece of the chain linking Dreams & Decisions to our Scholarship program



SIC is the Hostess with the Mostest
(sung to the tune of Frozen)
The sun shines bright on the mountainside
Volunteers are all around
A convention down the freeway
And Corona wears the crown

They arrive in 2's and 3's, by plane and by car We greet them all and treat them like a star

We let them in, we let them see Be the hostess you always want to be Reveal, the feel, so they can know Then they will know!!!!!

Gotta go, gotta go Spring Conference in June Gotta go, gotta go Sign up, it's coming soon

We don't care What they think of us They WILL have fun On that you can absolutely trust

Spring Conference 2015

The Golden West Region Spring Conference is being held this year on June 4th -6th at the newly renovated Riverside Convention Center. It is being hosted by SI Corona and SI Riverside. The theme for the conference is Inspiring Women to Blossom. There will walking and yoga each morning to start off the day and 9 workshop offerings. On Friday night, we will gather for a fun evening to raise funds and a night out at the races complete with live horse races and Derby hats, just like the Kentucky Derby. On Saturday, we celebrate our clubs achievements and finish with our "Live Your Dream" Banquet. Registration is now open, to regis-

by Shawn Dredla



ter go to www.goldenwestregion.org and click on the Meetings/Conferences page. Hope to see you at the races!!

Tech Corner by Laura Janik Update your Club Express Profile—Homework for all Members



We need 100% club participation to make our new website most effective and efficient. If you're a regular Club Express user already, then this is not new to you. But for those still unfamiliar with the site, please follow along to for instructions on how to edit your profile. Your club profile will only be viewable to members who log in.

First go to https://sic.clubexpress.com -

(and be sure to bookmark it, so you have easy access later) Then go to "Member Login" in the upper right corner.





You'll see a login window pop up. Your login is your first initial and last name. Then, if you did not previously set up a password or forgot it, click the link below that says Forgot My Username/Password.

Once you are logged in, click on the Membership Directory Tab on the left side, and search for your name. You can then click your profile and update all your personal information.



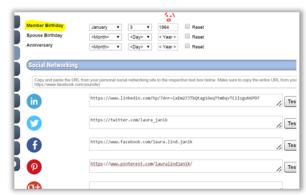


There are 3 sections to update:

#1 – Upload your photo by clicking the silhouette, which will let you choose a photo on your computer. (No puppies or kittens please, just beautiful you).

#2 – Click the pencil next to "Basic Information" and fill in your "General Info" (ignore member #), use your home address for primary address, and your home or primary phone #, "Other Contact" section is for cell phone #, email address, and your work website if you'd like it listed, then also fill in the "Work Info" section. And hit "SAVE".

#3 – Click the pencil next to "Biography". Fill in your birthdate (this is required info, and SIA needs all birth years), spouse bday and anniversary is optional. If you use social websites and would like members to connect with you, you can add your sites here. You can also add a bio about yourself if you'd like.



That's it! Thank you for keeping your club profile up to date!

Useful Tip – if you'd like to add a member to your personal address book, you can click the Index Card icon under the member's photo, and it will download the address/phone to your computer address book.

2014-2015 Committee Chairs and Members

D&D:	CWJ: Debbie	Live Your Dream	Scholarship:	Human Trafficking:
Morgan & Joyce	Shelley	ETA (WOA):	Monica	Shawn
Sherlett	Debra	Sherlett &Neena	Bev	Crystal
Kristin	Linda	Maria	Neena	Michelle
Denise M.	Denise M.	Linda	Sherlett	Denise M.
Christy	Kristin		Denise	Beth
Dana	Dana	WOS:	Linda	Joyce
Linda	Laura	Dana, Kim & Cyndi		Kristin
Sylvia	Leeza	Beth	Marketing: Christy	Monica
Shelly	Bev	Monica	Marcy	Sherlett
Bev	Amy	Bev	Laura	Leeza
Leeza	Irena	Michelle	Denise M.	
Irena		Neena		Newsletter:
	Grants:		Spring Conference	Laura
Historian:	Kim Taylor	Club Express:	Coordinators:	
Paula Montanez	Beth	Denise M &	Seema, Shawn &	Dream It, Be It:
Sylvia	Tracy	Denise H	Michelle	Maria
Pat	Christy	Marcy	Kristin	

Laura

2014-2015 Board Members

Joyce

Neena

President......Paola Ringer



Contact Us At:

Sherlett

SI Corona P.O. Box 381 Corona, CA 92878

For submissions to the SI Corona Newsletter, please contact: Laura Janik— lauralindjanik@gmail.com

Founded in 1947, the SI Corona
Club is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas, a
global organization that works to
improve the lives of women and
girls through programs leading
to social and economic
empowerment.