



Soroptimist of Corona

SPRING 2016

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

March

- 23: Noon Mtg Taps (Donna Ronca & Misty Jolly)
- 30: Field Trip to Lucas Oil
- 30: 5:30 Buget Meeting (Joyce's bldg.)

April

- 4-15: Scholarship interviews
- 6: 6pm Afterglow (Debra)
- 9: Charming Charlie Fundraiser
- 13: Noon Taps Mtg. (Spring Auction)
- 18: 5:30pm Board Meeting (Joyce's Bldg)
- 19: 7:30 Scholarship Committee (Pollys)
- 20: Noon Mtg Taps (Budget and Bylaws)
- 27: Noon Mtg Taps

May

- 3: 7:30 Scholarship Committee (Pollys)
- 4: 6pm Afterglow (Jenny)
- 11: Noon Scholarship Lunch (Taps)
- 16: 5:30pm Board Mtg (Joyce's Bldg)
- 18: Noon Online business (Budget and Bylaws)
- 25: Noon Mtg. Taps (End of year details)

June

- 2-4: Spring Conference
- 6: 5:30pm Board Mtg (Joyce's Bldg)
- 8: Noon Mtg (Taps) Allocations
- 17: Installation

President's Key Message

by Dr. Maria Hopkins

Throughout life we learn valuable experiences that are keys to our success, personal growth and in some cases, keys to overcoming challenges and obstacles. With every experience, positive and negative, we use the experience as knowledge to learn. Learning from every experience shapes lifelong destinations. Shaping life is significant to individual and collective growth.

As a club, with a mission, Soroptimist International of Corona continues to shape the lives of women and girls within the local community. The Soroptimist mission is to provide programs and services that empower women and girls for social and economic empowerment. Over the past eight months S I Corona as a club has grown with numerous learning experiences. We have taken each experience with programs and services, evaluating the outcome, purpose and area of support. We have challenged members to get involve, participate, initiate a new service program, continue with total commitment to all programs and services and embrace change over the years.

The **keys** to S I Corona's growth begin each year, for the past sixty-nine years, with renewed **spirit** of each mem-

ber committed to the mission of Soroptimist. Every member shares her **passion** for what we do best for women and girls in our local community. One can feel the spiritual excitement come together for each one of the service programs: Dreams and Decisions, Scholarships, Dream it Believe it and Achieve it (DIBI), and Live your Dream Education and Training Award.

Not only have we shaped our club with spiritual passion, we have challenged our members to change, become **inspired** and **support** dreams. When SIA (Soroptimist International of America) initiated a new international program (Dream It Be It, DIBI), club members went to work six months prior to the scheduled event developing ideas, creating plans and achieving goals. The outcome of the program was an **enjoyable experience** that will be repeated for years to come.

It appears that our hearts have grown bigger and bolder with **love** for what we do best. I believe that each club experience is a "**Forever Love Affair**". Every program and service united a greater love and passion to support women and girls in our local community.

Outside of the club, each

member has created her own individual success, developed individual pathways, and grown in various professions. Members have personal desires to **scatter seeds** of gratitude throughout the local community, by **planting** a shared **vision** for women and girls struggling to grow and reach their dreams.

Finally, being a Soroptimist member is an important key to club growth and success. With combined spirit, inspired support, loving hearts and seeds planted with a vision, we will grow and develop dreams of others for years to come. With the words of Henry Ford, "Coming to together is a beginning; keeping together is progress, working together is success".

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Maria Hopkins

President, S I Corona



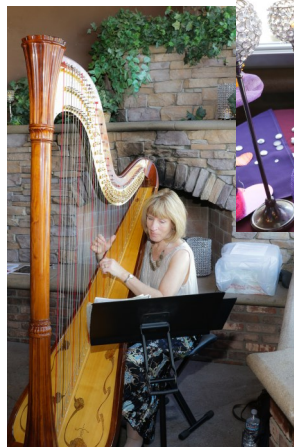
A Forever Love Affair with Soroptimists

by Paola Ringer

Once a year, we pause from our commitment to service in order to celebrate our Club Birthday. Our President chose a very significant theme "A Forever Love Affair with Soroptimist" Best for Women. Little did we know when we began the planning process that we would be privy to a stellar VIP guest list. We had none other than our SIA President "Sam" Buchenau along with our Past Governor Karen Haughey to name a few.

Our "party" committee dedicated much effort to make certain our Corona Club members had a memorable time. Along with cake, champagne, and a light lunch salad, we enjoyed a nice presentation (A Brief History) provided by our Historians Paula Montanez and Judy Horan. We took our traditional annual group picture. Only this year, we also had a videographer as we greeted our fellow Tunbridge Soroptimists and congratulated them on their upcoming 70th Birthday celebration.

Adding to our festivities was Liz Holm, a lovely harp player who indulged us with soft love renditions and attended to our Happy Birthday song. Also, the pinning of our President Maria as a Laurel Society member. Indeed, it was a nice luncheon enjoyed by all.



Dreams & Decisions

by Kristin Barbarosa

Dreams and Decisions took place on March 5th at Citrus Hills Intermediate School. We had 266 girls in 6th, 7th and 8th grade attend as well as 60 community volunteers serving as table monitors. The girls were very intrigued listening to the teen moms, Monica and Serena, explain how having their babies at such a young age impacted their lives. They explained how being a teen mom was very challenging and not the way that they would have planned it had they known more at the time. Several of the Soroptimist members also shared about their challenges growing up and how it's hard to stay on the



right path when the easier direction is typically the one that gets you into trouble. It was encouraging to see how they were able to make the best of their difficult life situations and come out on top and become the powerful women of this community as we know them now. We also heard from Jeannette Torres, a Forensic Specialist. Jeannette did a great job explaining to the girls about her job and how even though it's generally a job that men are in, women can do anything they set their minds to. The girls made amazing Dream Boards at their tables and were able to individually express their interests and goals in a positive way. It was great to see

how they all came out. Shawn Dredla explained Human Trafficking and how to avoid being a victim, Joi Hall talked about self-esteem and body image and Izzi Volonte discussed her experience with bullying and making the transition to high school. They were all very impactful and brought about many questions from the girls. Morgan, Shannon and Valerie lead us through an amazing day of laughs and some tough stuff, but were able to do it in a lighthearted and encouraging way. Planning for next year's Dreams and Decisions event will begin this summer and we look forward to helping more girls of our community to reach for their Dreams and be cautious of the Decisions that can get in their way of obtaining them.



A Very Happy Birthday to all of our Spring Birthday Girls:

13-Apr Judith Horan
25-Apr Sylvia Fleming
6-May Dana Daniels
11-May Karen Spiegel
16-May Kristin N. Barbarossa
21-May Linda Holmes



24-May Neena Garg
2-Jun Seema M Lechner
10-Jun Denise Hammer
13-Jun Beth Groves
17-Jun Valerie McAfee-Jacobs

Have you updated your ClubExpress profile with your birthday? Go to <http://sic.clubexpress.com/> then login, then click "profile" under your name at top right. Please fill in all your profile information. Birthday is needed for SIA reporting.

Celebrating International Women's Day March 8th

Yes, there is a Google Doodle. But around the world, people took the celebration of International Women's Day from the virtual realm into the streets —



Supporters of Pakistan's Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) rally on International Women's Day in Lahore. Women in conservative Pakistan have fought for their rights for decades, in a country where so-called honor killings and acid attacks remain commonplace. (Arif Ali/AFP/Getty Images)

marching, chanting slogans, weeping and buying flowers to celebrate the day from the Philippines to Afghanistan to Poland and beyond.

Celebrated on March 8 for more than 100 years, International Women's Day comes with a U.N.-approved theme. This year's is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" — a reference to the U.N.'s "2030 Agenda



A flower seller in Poland. (Marcin Bielecki/EPA)

for Sustainable Development," the goals of which "seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls."

In the Philippines, a women's group celebrated a court decision that cleared the way for a female presidential candidate to run. In Taiwan, a former "comfort woman" — a woman forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese during World War II — appeared at a



Former comfort woman Chen Lien-hua during a ceremony unveiling the nameplate of a museum dedicated to Taiwan's "comfort women" — women forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese during World War II. (Fabian Hamacher/Reuters)

museum memorializing her ordeal. In India, protesters demanded equal representation for women. In Bangladesh, garment workers demanded equal pay, an end to violence against women and safe working conditions. And in Poland, men bought flowers.



Philippine presidential candidate Grace Poe at an International Women's Day rally in Manila. (Erik De Castro/Reuters)

"We have shattered so many glass ceilings we created a carpet of shards," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement. "Now we are sweeping away the assumptions and bias of the past so women can advance across new frontiers."

"The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights," political activist and renowned feminist Gloria Steinem said in a statement.



Women's rights activists take selfies with activist-turned-politician Soni Sori and a victim of an acid attack, center with face covered, during a protest march on International Women's Day in New Delhi. (Altat Qadri/AP)

New Members' Corner

By Dr. Monica Green

New Members' Corner

This year, Soroptimist International of Corona inducted a total of six new members. This article features the last two special members inducted this year. Here is a glimpse of these amazing women who have stepped into service right away as we implemented two recent big events this year.

On February 10, Gyrka Mindreau-Banks, lovingly referred by our club members as "Gigi", joined our club. Gigi works as a sales executive at the Hanigan Company in Riverside. Over the years, Gigi has been involved in supporting our club and now finally a members. Gigi serves on the Riverside Chamber as the La Sierra Business Council Board member, Business in Action Board member, and Ambassador. Gigi also works closely with the National Charity League. Gigi clearly has a heart for service. Since joining our club, Gigi has participated in the 69th SI Corona Birthday Party planning and took pictures all day during our recent Dreams & Decisions event. Gigi's club mentor is Marcy Decado.



On February 17, Patricia Lynn Vanderwilt, affectionately referred to as "Trish", was warmly welcomed to our club. Trish has resided in Corona along with her childhood sweetheart, Dennis, since 1979, raising her two daughter and five grandchildren. After a rewarding career in the education sector, Trish retired from Corona Norco Unified School District. In Trish's words, "I was honored to join such a fabulous organization of women whose members focus on improving the lives of women and girls and hopefully help them see that their dreams can come true." Through the years, Trish has enjoyed working within the community. Trish landed in the right spot as a new SI Corona member as she has already been able to volunteer her time and energy in assisting with this year's biggest ever Dreams & Decisions event. Trish's club mentor is Judy Marburger.

We love it when our new members jump right into service!



New to SI Corona this year, in 2016, is the new member mentorship. Mentor responsibilities include:

1. Mentor should make monthly or more frequent connections with the new member (either in person or electronically)
2. Determine which committee (s) new member seeks to join (voluntary)
3. Reaching out to the new member if she does not show up to a meeting or two

The goals of mentorship are to promote club membership retention and positively contribute to a healthy, happy membership. We are thrilled that Gigi and Trish joined SI Corona in 2016. Welcome, ladies!

Know of other women interested in joining a progressive service organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls? If so, please share my contact information with her.

Dr. Monica Green
Membership Chair 2015-2016
Monica.Green@norcocollege.edu
(951)235-6888 (cell)

My 5 Keys in Life

By Christi Parker

1. Have Integrity

- Integrity is being and doing what you believe and say people should be doing and being.
- Be honest and real with what you think, what you feel and what you want. To do otherwise is to be dishonest with yourself, God and the world. And allow others to do and be the same.

2. Seek Wisdom

- To have wisdom you must first gain knowledge. Gain knowledge in those things that your heart yearns to know and fix in the world. It is those things that bother us most in the world that we must learn about before we can stand up and do something about them. What bothers you and hurts you most in the world, is your personal mission in life to change instead of whine about.
- Learn to discern. Be willing to discern that someone is morally good or corrupt, or has done something good or corrupt. Be willing to set boundaries and give consequences to those who have not been trustworthy or kind. There are many people who only choose to change until they receive consequences. Ask yourself if someone's progression toward change has

been hindered by your inability to give them consequences and boundaries because you are afraid of what they will do to or say about you.

3. Be Brave

- Be courageous enough to say "NO" to, disagree with or walk away from those who seek to use, abuse or manipulate you. Also be courageous enough to be kind, consider-



ate and respectful to someone who is odd or who has hurt you.

- Be courageous enough to stand up for others rights no matter the consequence.
- Be courageous enough to say you're sorry or admit that you did something wrong, but also be courageous enough to say when someone else has done something wrong and what they need to do to fix it.

4. Seek Understanding

- Ask question to find out why someone thinks something or has done something. Do this

without a blaming or accusatory tone of voice.

- Voice concerns instead of attacking, blaming or using a derogatory tone of voice.

5. Do Good

- Spend time every day seeking after greater truths and righteousness from great books, scriptures, teachers and prophets.

- Do service for others, other than your family and friends, every week.
 - Pray and meditate every day to gain gratitude, to know how to solve problems, to see and overcome your weaknesses, to become stronger and learn how to help others.

Have the goal to be a little bit better to yourself and your fellow beings than you were the day before. Give yourself and others the memory of you becoming a better human being throughout your life.



Key Member—Business Highlight

A new key feature in our newsletter, to learn about SI Corona members' businesses and keys to their success.

I would like to introduce you to my third baby. I am the owner and Director of KidsPark Corona. KidsPark Corona is a very unique childcare center. It's a place where childcare, convenience and fun comes together. We are a drop in center that is open days, evenings and weekends. There is no reason for you to not keep your appointments, run errands, shop, attend meetings, relax, see a movie or go out to eat. The list goes on of all the reasons you may need to bring your kids to KidsPark. There are no contracts. Parents pay only for the time that is used. We are a license facility for kids ages 2- 12 years old. Childcare fee is by the hour. \$8hr for the first child, \$4hr for the second sibling and \$3hr for each additional siblings. We are open Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 8pm. Fridays 8:30am to midnight and Saturdays 10am to midnight.

KidsPark also has a part time preschool Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. You can come

KidsPark Corona by Sherlett King

one or two days and pay the hourly fee or take advantage of our 3 day or 5 day specials.



Live Your Dream Award Winner by Jackie Figueroa



Our Live Your Dream Award winner this year is Misty Jolly. She is a single mother of three, an 8-yr-old son and 5-yr-old twin daughters. She is currently enrolled at Norco College and will be completing her Associates Degree this

June and transferring to Cal Poly Pomona. She plans to pursue a Bachelors degree in English. Once she has received her bachelor's degree, she plans to work as a substitute teacher while she works on her master's degree. She hopes to return to Norco College as an English Professor.

At Norco College she has worked as a writing and English tutor, helping students with essays, sentence structure, punctuation, and grammar; anything English and

writing related. Currently she is working at the Cal-WORKs office at Norco College as an office assistant where she puts in 20 hours a week and is a Student Ambassador. She gives tours to prospective students and educates them about the college and programs offered. She is the recipient of the 2014-2015 "Student of Distinction in the English Discipline" award. Although it has been challenging, she has maintained her 3.5 GPA. Her determination towards her degree and career goals is unwavering.

Misty has been a single mother since her twin girls, who were born prematurely, were still in the hospital. She walked away from an abusive relationship so that she and her children would have a better life. We will be hearing more from Misty herself at our lunch meeting on March 23.

Celebrating Success Awards—Golden West Region

Soroptimists Celebrating Success Awards recognize outstanding club projects that improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment or promotes Soroptimist as an organization that improves the lives of women and girls. These awards recognize the best practices of Soroptimist clubs in each of the four pillar areas supporting the SIA strategic plan: fundraising, membership, program and public awareness. Due to the region September 30 of each year, the Soroptimists Celebrating Success Awards honor outstanding programs undertaken in that club year.

SI Corona has been nominated in all 4 categories for Celebrating Success Awards, winners to be announced at the upcoming Spring Conference in Scottsdale. Here are the nominees and copies of our nomination-winning submittals.

GWR Celebrating Success Award Program			
Congratulations to the 2014-15 GWR Celebrating Success Finalists			
2014-2015 GWR Celebrating Success Award Finalists (in alphabetical order)			
FUNDRAISING FINALISTS	MEMBERSHIP FINALISTS	PROGRAM FINALISTS	PUBLIC AWARENESS FINALISTS
<i>SI the Chino Valley</i> Project: Brew & Chew	<i>SI Corona</i> Project: Becoming a Membership Magnet	<i>SI Corona</i> Project: Dreams & Decisions	<i>SI the Chino Valley</i> Project: Community & City Public Awareness
<i>SI Corona</i> Project: The Three P's of CWJ Chocolate, Wine & Jazz	<i>SI Mountain Morning</i> Project: Soroptimist Social Hour	<i>SI Phoenix</i> Project: WISE: Women Investing in Successful Education	<i>SI Corona</i> Project: Embracing Community to Ignite Public Awareness
<i>SI Desert Tucson</i> Project: Life is Rich in the West	<i>SI Phoenix</i> Project: Falite: March Membership Event at Irish Cultural Center	<i>SI San Jacinto-Hemet Valley</i> Project: Girl Power Conference	<i>SI Lake Havasu City</i> Project: Soroptimist Street Scramble & Scavenger Hunt

FUNDRAISING FINALIST—SI Corona— written by Denise Middleton

The Three P's of CWJ

First of all, a bit of clarification is in order. The three P's are the club theme of Soroptimist International of Corona's 2014-2015 year: Purposeful, Passionate and Playful. And CWJ is our ever popular service fund fundraiser that we have put on for a number of years, Chocolate, Wine & Jazz.

November 2014 saw the 12th annual event. It has evolved over the years, yet stayed true to its roots. It has always been the single fundraiser that our club puts on to raise money for our service projects. Due to the success and popularity of this event, it doesn't make sense for the club to develop something new. The twist this year was to incorporate the President's theme in what we've been successful with to make it better than ever.

PURPOSEFUL

We have one fundraiser at the beginning of the club year to raise money for all the service projects. Funds are generated through a choice of advertising levels. This year we collected nearly \$25,000 in sponsorships. Club members sold tickets to friends, family and community members at \$75 each. A person who bought a ticket directly from a club member would score a

\$10 per ticket discount. These ticket sales generated \$17,000 in revenue.

The silent auction soared to new heights this year. Under the direction of our purposeful subcommittee chairpersons Dana and Jackie, we collected items to create over 30 gift baskets as well as a grand prize raffle basket. The sale of raffle tickets and winning high bids on the auction baskets generated almost \$8000, a record high.

The 300+ people attending the event needed to eat, and our club members did not miss a beat. We canvas the neighborhood wineries, restaurants and breweries to solicit donations for the food and drink tastings that those attending enjoy.

The costs to put on this event include the band, sound system, printing, paper products, wine tasting glasses, and lighting. And a new one this year – tent rental. There is a drought going on in Sunny Southern California but not the day of our event. Mother Nature chose to sprinkle some liquid sunshine on our event, so we had a last minute scramble to move some of it indoors and find tents for the rest. All told, once all the expenses were compiled the total cost of putting on the event totaled \$19,000, leaving us with a net profit of \$30,000

Celebrating Success Awards—— (FUNDRAISING, cont. from pg 8)

to support our service projects.

PASSIONATE

The SI members in the Corona club are a passionate group. Improving the lives of women and children is a mission fully embraced by the women of our club. The net profit seen from CWJ went towards our club projects Dreams & Decisions (\$3,000) High School Scholarships (\$5,000), Live Your Dream (\$3,000), Women of Significance (\$2,000) and \$1,000 toward the startup costs of our new program Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It (Dream it, Be it). In addition, our club supported club giving in the amount of \$3,000 and contributed money to other local organizations that support our mission.

PLAYFUL

The fundraiser would not be successful if it were not playful. Our club members enjoy spending time together so that even the work is play. Examples of our playtime include:

- Spending a Sunday evening together assembling gift baskets. The creative members selected a mix of items to put together and the worker bees wrapped them up. Then the baskets were numbered, a list made of the contents, and valued.
- A member of the Corona community is a member of a

rock band, so we decided to mix it up by including "a little bit of rock and roll" in our theme.

- As mentioned earlier, we had an unexpected rainstorm the day of the event. Much of the program was simply moved indoors and we scrambled to find tents at the last minute. But with all of that, there was no deterring the play.
- The playful nature of the club embodies this event. It would not be successful if it were not fun. Once guests are checked in they receive a wine glass and a plate to sample delectable wine and food tastings. Then they can shop amongst the gift baskets that had items like designer purses, fishing rods, restaurant outings and vacation getaways. The evening is finished off by dancing the night away.

Our club has put on this event with huge success for the past 12 years. We take what works and make it better each year. Our purposeful intentions, mixed with passionate intensity and playful fun ensure an event which continues to allow our service programs to thrive.

MEMBERSHIP FINALIST —SI Corona — Written by Cyndi Monroe

Become a Membership Magnet: Finding, Creating and Sustaining Successful Members at S.I. Corona

At S.I. Corona, the tired old phrase, "Soroptimists is the best kept secret in town" is losing its place because we are no longer the quiet club working behind the scenes to improve the lives of women and girls. We are shouting it from the rooftops and our clubs' membership is growing as a result. We are involved in multiple worthwhile projects every month. Add to that a new twist on building club bonds, camaraderie and bank account last year, our "Playful Outings", S.I. Corona is moving throughout the city of Corona in a noisy, happy, passionate and focused way.

What does that have to do with membership? Everything! Women want to be a part of something exciting, thriving and fun. Most women are stretched to the limit with work and family commitments so if they are going to add that one more thing to their life, it better be worth it. S.I. Corona has made joining our club absolutely worth it.

Every week, club members brought guests to our regular lunch meetings to get a "taste" of who we are and what we do. They heard our stories shared through Past Pres. Monica Green's Storytelling project. They saw our focused passion in the planning and implementation of our service projects like Dreams and Decisions, Women of Significance Awards and our Scholarship Luncheon. They experienced the high energy, laughter and fellowship our club thrives on whether through one of our in-house auctions, a spur of the moment competition, the inspiration our Life member, Judy Horan, shares each

week or just the honest friendships that exist in our happy, healthy club. Once in that sort of atmosphere, it is difficult not to be consumed by our contagious enthusiasm.

So the first point for successful membership is the existing culture of the club. That comes from the leadership all the way down. Is your club welcoming and inclusive? Are there cliques that refuse to allow new people to step in and get involved? Is your club fun? Do members like their club enough to invite prospective members to attend? Is your club so stuck in the "same old, same old", that, to be honest, they don't want new members to come in and change things?

As the membership chair, it was my goal to speak at length with every guest who came to visit. I introduced myself and then, with their permission, spent 15 — 20 minutes talking at length about S.I. Corona and S.I. I made certain that the guest knew she was valued and welcomed. I also made certain that she had a clear understanding of who and what Soroptimism is and what club membership meant. I especially wanted them to know we were first and foremost a service organization, not a business networking opportunity. I shared our mission and vision statements.

I talked about all the opportunities to serve being a member would present. I also, quite honestly, shared what the obligation would entail, both financially and time-wise. I believe quite strongly that sustaining membership requires a clear understanding "up front" exactly what the commitment will be. If, after our conversation, the guest was still interested (and usually she was), I would email her an application packet along

Celebrating Success Awards— (MEMBERSHIP cont. from pg 9)

with a "So nice to meet you" Email.

This past year we used our projects and events as our recruiting tool (which did not cost us anything in regards to "membership"). When our club was honored as the "Non-profit Service Organization of the Year" by the Corona Chamber of Commerce at their annual gala, all of our club members gathered on the stage and joyfully invited every woman in the ballroom to come to our club and join us. We had a number of inquiries following that event.

At our annual Women of Significance Awards luncheon, we spent a bit of time sharing about Soroptimism and our club's mission. We also have used non-Soroptimist as judges for our awards and that has resulted in new membership. Inviting women to volunteer for our annual service project, Dreams and Decisions, has been an ideal way to introduce women to our club, especially young women. That event has been a great for recruiting too!

Our very pro-active members delight in bringing prospects to our meetings and events and sharing the value and joy of being a Soroptimist. In our 2014/2015 year we added 7 new members and we currently have 17 more women who are considering membership at this time.

Here is a testimonial from a couple of our new members: Dana Benson Daniels: "I was invited to be a judge for the Women of Significance essays for S.I. Corona's annual event. I got so excited about the quality of women that were going to be honored I wanted to know more about this club who cared about the unsung heroes in their community. I was blown away by the passion, professionalism and focus of these women. I was also invited to volunteer at their annual Dreams and Decisions Day for Jr High girls and that sealed the deal for me. It was such an awesome event. I had found a home with like-minded women who were serious about the mission to help improve the lives of

women and girls but who also liked to have fun. I jumped in with both feet and haven't regretted it for a moment."

Valerie Jacobs: "As the mother of grown sons, I was looking for something outside my experience and wanted to do something to help other women and girls. I was invited to come to a meeting of S.I. Corona even though I had never heard of Soroptimists before. I loved it! The club was diverse with lots of different ages and ethnicities. The women were welcoming and inclusive. Most importantly to me, they were accomplishing things for good — not just sitting around yakking about their jobs or their diets — they were committed to valuable projects that interested me and I was invited to participate right away. S.I. Corona is great!"

While this submission is not tied to one specific Membership project, I think the key to our success in not just adding new members, but sustaining them for the long term, is that we view membership as an inherent ingredient in everything we do. Members are not shy about inviting a new acquaintance or business contact because they know guests will be welcomed, treated with respect and warmly encouraged to join our ranks. The sustaining aspect to our membership is that we encourage the women to join a committee immediately upon induction into the club. When you are rolling up your sleeves and helping make a project successful, new members experience the joy of achievement and develop that great sense of ownership and fellowship.

They are "hooked" on Soroptimism. We think we are the best thing going in Corona and we think we are the best club in the GWR. BUT! I think every club should think that about themselves. Successful, energetic, focused clubs are magnets for like-minded women and the evidence is clear with S.I. Corona.

Simply put: Want your club to grow? Be a Membership Magnet!

PROGRAM FINALIST—SI Corona— written by Michelle Volonte

Soroptimist International of Corona has a successful formula in place. We have consistent membership numbers, with good retention rates and an increase of new members each year. We have utilized a single fundraising event for 14 years, successfully supporting our service projects from that event each year. Our award winning service projects are effective and meaningful. The club has found that the saying is true, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Despite this fact, we realize that we cannot remain stagnant in our approach to any of the pillars. Events grow stale and predictable. Attendees become bored with the 'same ol', same ol'. With this in mind, we strive to improve our already successful programs and processes.

THE NEED

In the 2014-2015 year, we strove to improve our highly successful service project for girls, Dreams & Decisions. Items that

were new this year are denoted in bold type. Since 1997, Dreams & Decisions has been a workshop for middle-school girls that takes place on the Saturday Day of Service each March. The goal of the workshop is to provide at-risk middle-school girls with the tools to increase their self-esteem and help them make good life choices. D&D lays the foundation for social empowerment for attendees. Self-esteem and confidence are the root of future success in all aspects of life and that is exactly what Dreams & Decisions aims to create in the girls attending.

METHODS

SI Corona achieves this goal through a carefully organized, well-thought out agenda. The workshop, which runs from 9-2, includes relevant, dynamic speakers, interactive exercises, onsite mentoring and follow-up. See included Final Agenda.

The 2015 D&D featured a variety of dynamic speakers. Each

Celebrating Success Awards— (PROGRAM, cont. from pg 10)

speaker was followed by a question and answer period:

- A teen pregnancy panel: a 17-year old senior at one of our local high schools who has a 1 year old child and a 29-year old woman who graduated from one of our local high schools who was a teen mom during her senior year. Both panelists were highly involved, high achieving students. They each told their story and then fielded questions from attendees. Both focused on how they wished they had made better choices; how their lives have been very hard since they made the choice to be sexually active.
- A counselor from the Rape Crisis Center who spoke about healthy relationships. She explained that 'nice guys' aren't always 'nice' and gave tips on how to speak up for yourself and show confidence.
- A survivor of bulimia spoke about eating disorders and body image. She spoke about perceptions, the pitfalls of comparing yourself, self-esteem, and accepting who you are.
- A victim of bullying shared her story and how she overcame.
- A former police officer spoke about Human Trafficking. She described the methods recruiters use, how prevalent the problem is in our area, and how to report suspicious behavior.

We broke up the monotony of a continuous string of speakers with a variety of activities that both educate and keep the girls alert:

- Post-It Notes: A video was shown, portraying a young girl who visits the school bathroom and clearly looks sad. As she stands in front of the mirror, post-it notes with positive messages fill the frame, improving the girl's mood. The girls were then given a stack of post-it notes and asked to write something encouraging and positive about each of the others at their table.
- Mary Kay Compacts: A Mary Kay video called "Don't Look Away" was shown. It talks about acting on your instincts when you see unhealthy relationships with your friends. Then each girl was given a Mary Kay compact with a number to send text messages requesting advice about the topic.
- The Science of STDs: A science teacher led the girls in an activity that demonstrated how quickly STDs can be passed and how you can never tell who might have one.
- Dream Boards: Each table was given a blank foam board and supplies to create a Dream Board. They were given magazines, scrapbooking supplies, and markers. Many of the groups also used their post-it notes. The resulting Boards were judged and the winning table won a group prize. Our club has used the Dream Boards as backdrops for a number of events since and we will continue to do so.

Each table was comprised of 8 middle school girls and 2 young adult table monitors. New this year we recruited our table monitors from a local college. Our table monitors were members of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority from UC Riverside. The sorority's philanthropy is "Girl Power" so it is a perfect match for both groups. Being much closer in age, our table monitor volunteers were able to relate to the girls on a level that our members could not. The sorority has already committed to participating again in 2016.

Lastly follow-up is key to reinforcing the lessons learned at the Workshop. Each girl leaves with a goody bag full of useful information and fun treats. We provide them with a Resource Guide which includes phone numbers and websites of local resources of relevance to girls their age. New this year we expanded our follow-up efforts. Two months after the event, we sent each attendee a letter, touching base with them, reminding them of our website, contact information, and to practice the lessons they learned. See included Follow-up Letter. We also provided a DVD of the Workshop to a counselor at each school that can be used for school-wide assemblies or can be checked out by individual girls.

IMPACT

We welcome any girl that wishes to attend the Workshop, but our target group is at-risk girls at the economically impacted middle schools. Attendance from those schools has traditionally been low. In an effort to improve those numbers, this year we provided transportation from one of our lower income schools. We contracted with the School District to provide a school bus to Home Gardens Academy and promoted that information to the school. The results were staggering. In each of the past 3 years, we have had 8 attendees or less from this school. With transportation provided, we had 50 attendees. Entire families came to see their daughters off, thanking us for providing their girls the opportunity. Tears were shed by mothers and our members alike. We will make every effort to ensure transportation is provided each year.

At the close of the Workshop we give the girls an evaluation. The results of the evaluation show that our Workshop has an impact in their lives. See attached Evaluation Summary.

PARTICIPATION

Dreams & Decisions is one of two events that all members are expected to participate in. Approximately 12 women serve on the Committee and all others participate in various ways in the planning and execution of the event. Our members perform all of the tasks required to put this event together. We recruit the speakers, promote the event, manage registrations, purchase the food, collect the goody bag items, solicit donations for drawings, setup the room, and stuff the goody bags. This project is a labor of love for many of our members.

Celebrating Success Awards—— (cont. from pg 11)

PUBLIC AWARENESS FINALIST—SI Corona— written by Paola Ringer

“Embracing Community to Ignite Public Awareness”

As we initiated our 2014-2015 year, our main purpose and goal was to embrace our community in full force. We devised a strategic plan to accept and attend various community events, serve as Speakers and Representatives of our Club, and brand ourselves as Purposeful, Passionate, and Playful Soroptimists projecting our “Language of Soroptimism” as a way to fuse recognition, interest, and connectivity in our communities of Corona, Norco, and Eastvale.

This thoughtful and provoking plan, led us to experience milestones and victories throughout the year. The following is a brief account of our Public Awareness endeavors which align with our SIA Pillars of Success:

4th OF JULY PARADE

Planning our 1st ever 4th of July Parade was an enormous accomplishment. The initial vision was to promote awareness towards Human Trafficking. However, officials in charge of the City Parade decided that it would not be a suitable subject matter. Our creative team shifted plans and decided to participate by promoting our Club by way of creating a fabulous and visible float while handing out Club information to include Membership, Programs & Human Trafficking information (along with candy and miniature bubble bottles). Soroptimist Chair: Shawn Dredla.

BOOTH PARTICIPATION & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

We were invited to contribute by way of Booth Participation in the Heroes and Villains 5K Event, Women’s Leadership Conference, and the Chamber of Commerce October Fest. Our Club participation was high and it gave us a steady stream of Public Awareness opportunities to ignite momentum to our year.

In addition, we also had a chance to promote our Club by way of

addressing the audience for approximately 5 minutes at

the “Extraordinary Women” Event held at a local Community Church. Lastly, our Club was given “Mike Time” at the Women’s Leadership Seminar and Alliance for Family Wellness Opening Ceremony of which we received recognition for our years of contribution.

RECEIVED NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD

By late January, our incredible Club was awarded the highest honor of being chosen Non-Profit of the Year by the Corona Chamber of Commerce. This award was last awarded to us in 1974! A video was produced and passed down to our Club as part of our recognition which noted our commitment to contribute and embrace our City of Corona and its residents. This Recognition not only gave our Club an incredible boost but was a major source of Public Awareness as over 500 plus business people were in attendance that evening.

CLUB CONTRIBUTION TO “COMEDY FOR A CAUSE”

Aligning ourselves to our passion to help Women and Girls, we agreed to participate in “Comedy for a Cause Night” which was an endeavor by Alliance for Family Wellness to fundraise and create awareness to their cause. Through our partnership and contribution, our Corona Club was able to promote our brand to a new audience and centers of influence. It was an advantageous alliance to add to our Public Awareness Campaign. Soroptimist Chairs: Shawn Dredla and Kim Taylor.

Our Club has a keen interest and commitment in aligning itself to SIA’s Global Goals and Objectives. Public Awareness is a key ingredient to the success of keeping the name of Soroptimist known in our communities, region, and the world. As immediate Past-President, I am confident we did an outstanding job in executing that goal to the best of our potential, ambition, and abilities.

FINAL NOTE

Please refer to pictures below as visuals to our Outstanding Public Awareness Celebrating Success Submission. Thank you for your consideration.



SI in the IE

Our SIC President Maria attended the March 8th visit with International President Yvonne Simpson of New Zealand and Lynn Scecina with SI Riverside



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

Caramel Macchiato Cheesecake

submitted by **Debbie Miller**
courtesy of the Foley House Inn

Ingredients:

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 3 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 (8 ounce) container sour cream
- 1/4 cup brewed espresso or strong coffee
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- pressurized whipped cream
- caramel ice cream topping

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly coat a 9-inch springform pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Mix together the graham cracker crumbs, melted butter, and 2 tablespoons of sugar until well combined. Press into the bottom of the prepared springform pan, and 1 inch up the sides. Bake in preheated oven for 8 minutes, then remove to cool on a wire rack.
3. Reduce oven temperature to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
4. Beat the softened cream cheese in a large bowl with an electric mixer until fluffy. Gradually add 1 cup of sugar, beating until blended. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in sour cream, espresso and vanilla. Pour batter into the baked and cooled crust.
5. Bake cheesecake in the preheated oven for 1 hour and 5 minutes; then turn the oven off, partially open the door and allow the cheesecake to rest for 15 minutes more. Remove from the oven, and run a knife around the edges. Cool cheesecake on a wire rack to room temperature, then cover the springform pan with plastic wrap, and chill in the refrigerator for 8 hours.
6. To serve, cut the cheesecake into wedges and garnish each slice with whipped cream and caramel sauce.



Ways & Means

by Shawn Dredla

The Ways and Means Committee met together on February 11th at Goodfellas and discussed different ways to raise funds for the Club. We came up with several good ideas.

1. We will be bringing back Cyndi Monroe's Pointless Puzzles with a Purpose.
2. We will be putting jars on the tables for everyone to empty their spare change.
3. We had 16 people attended the CAT play Narnia on March 12th.
4. For April, we have an internal fundraiser at Charming Charlie's on April 9th from 3-5 pm and we have our Spring Auction on April 13th.



Spring Conference News!

by Debbie Miller

- The CALL to Conference became available to all club members beginning March 4th, 2016 on the Region website at www.goldenwestregion.org
- Mark your calendars and plan to attend to help celebrate your club's achievements!
- There are 4 proposed bylaw changes - Discuss EACH ONE with your club, to inform your Club Delegates on how to vote at Spring Conference. Be aware that information provided at the Delegate's Briefing may indicate to your club delegates that a change in their prepared vote is supported.
- Look for the proposed bylaw change that discusses a \$5 DUES INCREASE.
- Bring your questions and comments to the mandatory Delegates Briefing.
- Meal Cost will be \$260 for the full meal package.
- The suite room will sleep 3 comfortably at a cost \$140 per night.
- The board will discuss offsets for those able to attend at the March board meeting.
- Go to the resort website to learn more about our conference venue. <http://www.squawpeakhilton.com/>



2015-2016 Committee Chairs and Members

CHOCOLATE, WINE & JAZZ

Debbie Miller, Chairperson

COMMITTEE:

Dana Daniels
Jackie Figueroa
Linda Holmes
Laura Janik
Amy Ladika

SCHOLARSHIP

JoDee Slyter, Chairperson

COMMITTEE:

Neena Garg
Dr. Monica Green
Linda Holmes
Amy Ladika
Sherry Mata

LIVE YOUR DREAM

Jackie Figueroa, Chairperson

COMMITTEE:

Neena Garg
Sherlett Hope-King
Valerie Jacobs
Denise Middleton

DREAMS & DECISIONS

Kristen Barbarossa

Morgan Miller

Co-Chairpersons

COMMITTEE:

Dana Daniels
Jackie Figueroa
Sherlett Hope-King
Seema Lechner
Sherry Mata
Denise Middleton

DREAM IT, BE IT

Beth Groves, Chairperson

COMMITTEE:

Neena Garg
Dr. Monica Green
Linda Holmes
Sherlett Hope-King
Dr. Maria Hopkins
Judy Horan
Amy Ladika
Sherry Mata
April Moore
Susie Pinedo
JoDee Slyter

2015-2016 Board Members

President _____ Dr. Maria Hopkins

President Elect _____ Michelle Volonte

1st VP of Service _____ Jackie Figueroa

2nd VP of Ways and Means _____ Shawn Dredla

Treasurer _____ Debbie Miller

Assistant Treasurer _____ Denise Middleton

Corresponding Secretary _____ Laura Janik

Recording Secretary _____ Sherlett Hope-King

1st year Director _____ Paola Ringer

2nd year Director _____ Dr. Monica Green

Delegates _____ Seema Lechner & Beth Groves

Alternate Delegates Dana Daniels & Cyndi Monroe



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For submissions to the
SI Corona Newsletter,
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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.