



Soroptimist of Corona

WINTER 2014

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

- Dec 15** 5:30 pm
Board Mtg.
Lechner Office
- Dec 17** 12:30pm Taps
Face-to-Face
Business Mtg.
- Dec 19** 7:30pm CAT Playful
Outing to see
Winter
Wonderettes
- Dec 24** No Meeting
Merry Christmas!
- Jan 7** 6:30pm Afterglow
at Laura Janik's
- Jan 14** Noon Taps Meeting
- Jan 17** Breaking Teen
Trafficking
Conference CBU
- Jan 19** 5:30 pm
Board Mtg.
Lechner Office
- Jan 21** Noon Online
Business Meeting
- Jan 24** Comedy for a Cause
Corona Civic Center
- Jan 28** Noon Taps Meeting
- Feb 4** Noon Womens'
Leadsip
Conference
- Feb 4** 6:30pm Afterglow
- Feb 11** Noon Taps Meeting
- Feb 16** 5:30 pm
Board Mtg.
Lechner Office
- Feb 18** Noon Online
Business Meeting
- Feb 25** 11:30 SIC Birthday
Party

President's Letter

by Paola Ringer



As the festivities of the year are quickly approaching, it is an appropriate time to also celebrate how much we have accomplished as a Club. The enormity of talent and generosity our members share is a luxury that is most appreciated. Our Chocolate, Wine, and a little bit of Rock and Roll this year was a resounding success! A huge applause of thanks goes to Debbie, Rachel and Phyllis for spearheading our Signature Fundraiser. We are now in our 12th year and while we incurred some challenges along the way, we also showed that unity and cooperation exceeded our expectations. By rising and raising over \$30K in earnings and increasing our attendance to over 340 guests we are confident that next year will be just as successful.

Our special "language" was shared at our Counselor's Luncheon. As always, our guests were gracious and eager to hear what programs we are accomplishing this coming

year and how they can participate and contribute to our mission of educating and empowering young lives in our community.

Inspiring Women through Soroptimism continues to impact and touch our Club's heart. It is through our stories that we are able to weave a strong community of members and develop long lasting friendships while we put our combined efforts to serve others. We have our insightful immediate Past-President, Monica Green to thank.

We have remained Purposeful to our mission and goals, Passionate to our Programs, and incredibly Playful. Our first Playful outing took us to Laguna Beach to take part of their Art Galleries Open House taking place the first Thursday of each month. We will be attending a Christmas CAT performance in December and suspect there will be more this coming year. Great job Denise!

How do I convey my sincere honor to be your President

this year? How do I humbly express and suppress my admiration to each of you? I can only trust that since we speak the inspirational "Language of Soroptimism", that you will have a clear idea of my gratitude towards you all.

Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year,
With much love, Paola Ringer



Chocolate, Wine & Jazz Success

by Debbie Miller



What a great club effort! We couldn't be happier with the outcome of this year's Chocolate, Wine and Jazz (with a little bit of Rock n' Roll). Everyone in the club worked to provide the event we had hoped for from the ticket sales, to the sponsorships and the collection of auction items. We had the highest level of sales in our Silent Auction and Grand Prize ticket purchases that we have ever experienced. Our ticket sales increased with the new date after Halloween and our sponsors continue to support our mission of helping women and girls in our community. A great big thank you to all of you who stepped in to help during my illness! A special thank you to Rachel Rola and Phyllis Russell for the fast thinking and resolution on the day of the event...our event is rain or shine, our patrons didn't know that we had to change up quite a bit at the last minute due to the rain. Included on the page is just a small sampling of our event along with a annual group picture, we look forward to working together again at next year's event on October 24th!



SIC Club Historians Committee . . . Founded 2014 by Paula Montanez

The unexpected gift of 1985-86—President Sylvia Tarshis' Soroptimist records and photos started the ball rolling. What to do with the items, where to store them, how to share them with the Club?

President Paola Ringer invited me to become Club Historian, and I immediately felt a tug at my heart. I've been a Soroptimist for well over 20 years, and always love to share "how it used to be" stories with "how it is now" members. Plus, our club has an untapped treasure trove: long-term active members with 20, 30, even 40 years of institutional knowledge, several of whom immediately volunteered to join the committee, including Sylvia Fleming, Judy Horan,

Joyce Pavez, and Pat Miller.

Our first meeting was held on October 7, 2014. We agreed on a working version of our Mission & Purpose:

- ◆ To establish procedures and traditions to encourage our organization to collect, archive and preserve items of SIC historical interest
- ◆ To share stories, information and club culture with current and new members

We have so many wonderful resources available: Past Presidents, seasoned members, an active, engaged Board, and the professional experience available to us through the Heritage Room at Corona Public Library. *Field Trip!!* We held our


second meeting there, on November 18th, and received valuable advice from Librarian Jennifer Marlatt. Joyce Pavez had delivered a batch of Club records to the Heritage room many years ago, and we could have spent all day enjoying our little trip back in time!

With the help of our amazing newsletter editor, Laura Janik, we will keep the club membership informed of our progress, and we will be developing a Club History Presentation to be shared at the Club Birthday in February. If you have information, photos or any items from our club's storied past, please be sure to let us know!

Paula Montanez, 951-734-8181,
paula@allegracorona.com

HT Evening of Laughter by Shawn Dredla

Did you know that January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month? Did you know that there is a new center that opened in Corona to address the issues of intimate partner abuse and child abuse for those who live in Corona, Norco, and Eastvale called The Alliance for Family Wellness. In honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month and the opening of the new Alliance for Family Wellness center, Soroptimist International of Corona has partnered with The Alliance for Family Wellness and will be putting on a fundraiser event entitled An Evening of Laughter on January 24, 2015 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Corona Civic Center Auditorium. There will be light appetizers, a raffle, and a silent auction at 6:00 pm before the doors open. All proceeds will go to The Alliance for Family Wellness. Ticket prices are \$30.




Soroptimist International of Corona
Founded 1947

Our History

Please share your Soroptimist History
for the benefit of future members!

- President's Books
- Photos
- Legends & Stories

Club Historians Committee Chair
Paula Montanez
paula@allegracorona.com



Inspiring Women through Soroptimism by Dr. Monica Green



A story in a name ~ Dr. Monica Sommer Vera Green Cochrane

My names of Sommer & Vera...

It was the Summer of '69 when I was born to two young parents. My mother, Nancy Sommer, and biological father, Frank Vera, were only 17 when I was born in Ontario, California. Before the ripe 'ol age of 21, my mother had a daughter and married twice. Interestingly enough, to my knowledge, none of the women in my family ever graduated high school yet they were bound with great wisdom, love, and strength. I learned recently that during the first few years of my life, my biological father, got into some legal trouble in California and relocated permanently to Iowa. Soon after my mother remarried, he agreed to sign the adoption papers.

The first few years of my life, I was blessed to have a close relationship with my grandparents, my mom's parents, forming a lifelong bond. My grandmother was raised by her grandparents when her mother passed away at an early age. I was extremely close to my grandmother throughout my life and my grandfather adored me until he passed away when I was seven years of age. I learned many life lessons from my grandmother...From "everything happens for a reason" to "we make our own happiness in this world."

My name of Green...

My mother dropped out of high school and worked to support us until she married my father, Ronald Green, when I

was four years old. Everything happens for a reason...I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been raised by two wonderful parents who instilled strong moral values in me. I find it ironic that I have one father who sought to escape the law and another one that was the law. My father is a retired Captain for the El Segundo Police Department.

I grew up in the South Bay with one brother, Michael Green, who is six years, my junior. Growing up, my brother, Mike, was a terror to his sister. Today, Mike has turned terror to terrific. He is good, supportive brother as well as a fantastic husband and father to his three children. Mike is a Redondo Beach Police Officer.

I have fond memories of my childhood growing up in Torrance. I was a typical teenager who was smart, social, and slightly wild. I grew up playing softball and it is that experience that weaved the value of teamwork, determination, and a healthy sense of competition into my fabric. I started my first job at 12 years of age and bought my first car at 16 years of age with the help of my parents. This continued to spur my independent, industrious nature. In my early teens, I got involved in student government and community service. This not only instilled in me the worth of service to others but I spent much of my time with kids who aspired to go to college. I began learning more about college and this expanded my world. When I was 17 years old, I moved away from home to attend college at the University of Cali-

fornia, Riverside.

My name of Cochrane...

Just before my senior year at UCR and six years into our relationship, David Cochrane and I wed. Our first home was in Pedley, California, on just over a half acre in a small 700 square foot home built in 1924. I was a city girl turned country...green acres all the way. David was a Police Officer for City of Los Angeles and spent many of his hours working undercover. I spent many hours studying and working part time as I continued my education. I graduated from UCR with honors in a double major of Psychology and Social Relations. Upon graduation, I immediately continued my education at California State University, San Bernardino in a Master's degree program for Rehabilitation Counseling. Upon graduation, I began working as a rehabilitation counselor and started working on a family.

After about five years of marriage, our first daughter, Jacqueline, was born. Jacqueline was born with a congenital heart disease that required surgery at six years of age. For the first two years of her life, her cardiologist suggested we not let her cry for extended periods of time. During this time, we were very fortunate to have my grandmother assist in caring for Jacqueline as well as two sets of doting grandparents. Jacqueline was the first grandchild in both families and her birth brought us altogether as a strong family network.

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(Continued from pg 4: Inspiring Soroptimism)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1970

**CANDY IS SWEET, AND SO ARE YOU**

— Four-year-old Chris Miller offers his baby sister, Stephanie, a Christmas treat from the Soroptimist candy sale,

while mother Pat Miller looks on. The 10-pound box of candy is a little too heavy for Stephanie to lift, but she can try.

Soroptimists begin annual sale of Christmas candy

Members of the Soroptimist Club of Corona are busily working on their major fund raising project of this year. This is the seventh year the club has sold See's Candy to the residents of Corona, and each year the total number of pounds sold shows an increase. Last Christmas the members sold a total of 2,855 pounds and they feel they will be able to exceed one and one-half tons this year.

Local residents appreciate having the candy brought to them at the same prices they would pay at the store, and there's no standing in line. They are also happy to know they are assisting the Soropti-

mist in their service projects including scholarships and other youth activities and community services.

See's Candy orders can be placed with any Soroptimist member or with Catherine Price 737-4650.

From the archives of the
SIC Historian's
Committee, a Newspaper
article of November 25,
1970, featuring member
Pat Miller

Three years after Jacqueline's birth, Nicole, our second daughter, was born healthy with a strong disposition and a set of lungs. Nicole was quite fussy and wanted her mother most of the time through her toddler years. I never thought that I would miss those days but, oh, how I miss those days!

When the girls were six and three, I realized that it was time for job change. My grandmother instilled in me the concept that we make our own happiness in our lives. I think it is this simple concept that has propelled me during many points of my life to pursue more, most importantly, to pursue happiness. Within a few weeks of realizing that I needed a job change, I began working as a counseling faculty member at Riverside Community College District developing a new grant. I found my passion and it led me to pursue a doctorate degree in education. I am so blessed to do something day in and day out that I love. Education changes lives, it changes families, it enriches our community. I currently serve as the Vice President of Student Services at Norco College.

I did not realize until recently how much my life choices to pursue education and serve in education had changed my family dynamics. Remember, I was the first woman in my family that I know that completed a high school diploma. Having completed my doctorate degree, when my children were still young, left an everlasting impression on them. It dawned on me a few years ago to ask them both if not going to college was an option for them. With that question, I got that typical teenage look and the response of "of course, I am going to college." My two

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intelligent, strong girls, Jacqueline, now 18 years of age, and Nicole, 15 years of age, are both in college. Jacqueline is a sophomore at California State University, Fullerton in a Liberal Studies program with the goal of becoming a teacher with a concentration in special education. Nicole is a junior in high school alternating between college courses at Norco College and advanced placement courses preparing to go to a 4-year university.

The first half of my life has seen great joy and tragedy. Deaths of close family members and loved ones, the splitting of families, and major disappointments, are also a part of who I am. I am an optimist at heart so I chose to focus on the posi-

tive, the silver linings...and I realize how very blessed I am.

When I transferred from Riverside City College to Norco College in 2009, I joined Soroptimist International of Corona. You see, my aunt has been a Soroptimist since I was a young girl. Her experience exposed me to the impact that the Soroptimist organization has on the community and its members. Joining SI Corona was one of the best things ever.

The support and joy that you have bestowed upon me has changed my life. You have given me the courage to do more, be more, and give more. So many of you have come by my side, in support and encouragement, as my family dy-

namics changed a couple of years ago. I thank you. The opportunity to serve as the president of SI Corona last year was an amazing gift that you gave to me and I treasure it deeply. Your kind hearts and passion for service inspire me to be a better me. Thank you for your friendship and fellowship. You are truly amazing women.



SI Corona Christmas Party Luncheon

Our annual ornament exchange Christmas party was hosted by Seema this year in her beautiful home. A delicious Chinese catered lunch was enjoyed



by all, and a spectacular bread pudding dessert from As You Like It.

Cyndi coordinated a game of matching "Twelve Days of Christmas" groups, and then directed the groups in an SIC rendition of the song, which we finally got the hang of by the 12th gift! We had a lot of laughs with that. Not to be outdone by the next activity—a gingerbread building team competition. This was quite a challenge given 5 minutes and graham cracker walls!

And then for our ornament exchange, we played a take on "musical chairs"—trading ornaments and compliments. It was a joyous event!



Playful Outings

The Laguna Art Walk was the place to be for SI Corona's first Playful Outing. As part of President Paola's theme that includes Playful, we are embarking on Playful Outings every month. The first one was a trip to the Laguna Art Walk on November 6th. All we had to do was get ourselves down there – the shops in downtown Laguna provided



by Denise Middleton

the rest. A delicious spread of food and drinks (including wine) was to be found at most shops. We were impressed with the pieces of art on display in the galleries, and look forward to a return visit!

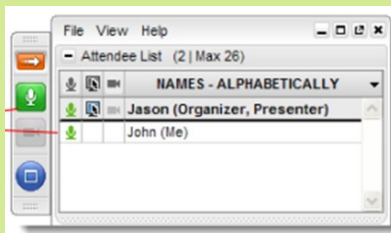
Mark your calendar for the next playful outing on Friday December 19th – a night out at the theatre, featuring Corona's finest: The Winter Wonderettes by CAT Corona. Showtime is 7:30. We have awesome seats reserved for us, and the cost is only \$16. Signup sheet will be at December meetings, with deadline to pay on Dec 17th. We will be meeting for a group dinner before the show (6pm) at Basil, the Thai Restaurant on the corner of 6th and Vicentia.

Optimizing your Virtual Meeting Experience by Laura Janik

We love the flexibility of being able to conduct our monthly business meeting virtually. It saves us all travel time, and enables some of our club members to attend that otherwise would not be able to. But we could all help in the success and enjoyment of the virtual meeting experience by following a few of these tips:

Joining by Computer (this is the optimal experience):

1. Open the meeting email that contains the meeting information.
2. Click the Join link provided in the invitation to join the meeting.
3. Enter the password provided
4. Sound is best using headphones with a mic (most cell phone headphones will work well). You can also use the computer's mic and speakers.
5. Please mute yourself at all times unless you are talking: Go to your Control Panel and click the Square microphone icon. You will see a cross through it if you are muted. To unmute, click the green icon again.



Joining by Computer and Phone:

If joining by Computer, and you do not have a headset or speakers, you can also call in by phone, and follow along with the meeting on the computer. If you are calling in to the meeting, remember to always hit *6 after you are in the meeting. This will mute your line- you will be able to hear the meeting, but all the rest of the attendees won't hear all the background noise in your location. Even if you think your location is quiet, having your line unmuted will create mic feedback (fuzzy static) that overpowers the active speaker of the meeting. When you want to talk, just hit *6 again.

Joining by Phone only:

If you are calling in to the meeting, remember to always hit *6 after you are in the meeting. This will mute your line- you will be able to hear the meeting, but all the rest of the attendees won't hear all the background noise in your location. Even if you think your location is quiet, having your line unmuted will create mic feedback (fuzzy static) that overpowers the active speaker of the meeting. When you want to talk, just hit *6 again.

Gin Punch

Shared by Seema Lechner and courtesy of Epicurius

Ingredients:

- Decorative ice block
- 6 navel oranges, cut into quarter-wheels
- 6 lemons, cut into half-wheels
- 3 limes, cut into wheels
- 1 pint fresh raspberries
- 1 pineapple, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 (750 ml) bottle Plymouth gin
- 1 3/4 cups freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 1/4 cups simple syrup
- 1/2 cup orgeat or almond syrup
- 1 cup Massenez crème de framboise
- 3 cups water
- 1 (750 ml) bottle Perrier-Jouët Grand Brut champagne

Preparation:

Prepare the decorative ice block, allowing a few hours for freezing.

Combine all the fruits in a large punch bowl. Add the gin, juice, syrups, crème de framboise, and water. Refrigerate for at least 4 to 5 hours. Just before serving, add the champagne and the decorative ice block.



Sweet Potato Casserole

Shared by Debra Murphy

Sweet Potato Mix Ingredients

- 2 and 1/2 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes (either bake, microwave, or cook the potatoes on the stove)
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

Crust Ingredients

- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 finely chopped pecans
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preparation

1. Pre-heat your oven to 350 degrees and prep a medium to small sized casserole dish with cooking spray. I used a 9x9 inch casserole dish.
2. Use a mixer to whip together cooked, mashed sweet potatoes, granulated sugar, salt, vanilla, egg, butter. Mix until the potatoes are light and fluffy.
3. Pour the potato mixture into the prepared casserole dish and bake for 30 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, combine the crust ingredients in a small bowl – brown sugar, flour, pecans, butter and vanilla.
5. Sprinkle the crust over the casserole after it has baked for 30 minutes. Bake for 10-15 minutes longer, until the pecan crust is lightly browned and crunchy



2014-2015 Committee Chairs and Members

D&D:

Morgan & Joyce

Sherlett
Kristin
Denise M.
Christy
Dana
Linda
Sylvia
Shelly
Bev
Leeza
Irena

CWJ: Debbie

Shelley
Debra
Linda
Denise M.
Kristin
Dana
Laura
Leeza
Bev
Amy
Irena

Live Your Dream ETA (WOA):

Sherlett & Neena

Maria
Linda

WOS:

Dana, Kim & Cyndi

Beth
Monica
Bev
Michelle
Neena

Scholarship:

Monica

Bev
Neena
Sherlett
Denise
Linda

Marketing: Christy

Marcy
Laura
Denise M.

Human Trafficking:

Shawn

Crystal
Michelle
Denise M.
Beth
Joyce
Kristin
Monica
Sherlett
Leeza

Newsletter:

Laura

Historian:

Paula Montanez

Sylvia
Pat
Joyce

Grants:

Kim Taylor

Beth
Tracy
Christy
Neena

Club Express:

Denise M & Denise H

Marcy
Laura

Spring Conference Coordinators:

Seema, Shawn & Michelle

Kristin
Sherlett

Dream It, Be It:

Maria

2014-2015 Board Members

President.....Paola Ringer
President Elect.....Maria Hopkins
1st VP of Service.....Michelle Volonte
2nd VP of Ways and Means.....Denise Middleton
Treasurer.....Debbie Miller
Assistant Treasurer.....Kristin Barbarosa
Corresponding Secretary.....Laura Janik
Recording Secretary.....Jackie Figueroa
1st year Director.....Monica Green
2nd year Director.....Cyndi Monroe
Delegates.....Seema Lechner/Shawn Dredla
Alternate Delegates.....Marcy Decato/Beth Groves



Contact Us At:

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 Inter-
national of the Americas, a
global organization that works to
improve the lives of women and
girls through programs leading
to social and economic
empowerment.*