

Soroptimist of Corona

SPRING 2014

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

April 2- Afterglow at Seema's @ 6:30pm

April 9- SIC Meeting at TAPS @ 12pm

April 10- Scholarship interviews 9-11am (Orange Grove and Santiago)

April 15- Women of Significance Luncheon at Trilogy @ 11:30am

April 16- Scholarship interviews 9-11am (Norco, Corona Vista, Corona-Norco Adult Ed)

April 17- Scholarship interviews 9-11am (Centennial, Corona, Roosevelt, JFK)

April 21- SIC Board Meeting at Lechner Conference Room @ 5:30pm

April 23- SIC Business Meeting at TAPS @ 12pm

April 24- Scholarship interviews 9-11am (Pollard)

April 30- SIC Meeting at TAPS @12pm "Spring Auction"

(continued pg 2)

President's Letter

by Monica Green

Spring is here! And Soroptimist International of Corona is blossoming. The best ever Dreams & Decisions sprung us into the spring season with style and grace. What an inspirational example of teamwork and dedication demonstrated as we welcomed over 300 middle school girls to a day of intense topics, activities, and fun.

As I reflect on our fellowship over the last couple of months, I cannot help but hear the familiar Cyndi Lauper tune in my head ~ **Girls Just Want to Have Fun**. No matter whether middle school girls or professional women, we just want to have fun and fun we have had!

Fun times were had at our Soroptimist Bowling Social in February. Seema, our 2nd Year Director, organized a superb evening of talented bowlers ~ Bank-shot Beth, Center Pin Cyndi, Dunkin' Debbie, Jumpin' Jackie, Pin Droppin' Paola, Sensational Seema, Vivacious Villagomez, just to name a few...Congratulations to our winners ~ Debbie Miller and Shawn & Jeff

Dredla. You guys rocked Brunswick!

What a special Valentine's Day surprise to have Vaughn Fahie serenade us with one of my favorite songs ever ~ Louis Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World*. We are so worth this special treatment. Thank you, Sherlett and Paola for making this happen. Soroptimists know how to live! To top it off, we all received a sweet sugar cookie made with love by Seema, Paola, and yours truly. Yummy!

Who will ever be able to forget our 67th Birthday Party? Surely not any of us who witnessed Karen and Susie stuff a dozen or so large, foamy marshmallows in their mouth for a friendly game of Chubby Bunny. Karen is now our reigning SI Corona Chubby Bunny Champion...or it is more like "ubi uny" champion. If you missed it or just want a good laugh, please take time to check it out on Facebook. Fun times!

Dreams & Decisions was

certainly a magical affair this year for over 300 girls, dozens of young women volunteers, and all of our Soroptimists. Kristen, Leeza, and D&D committee orchestrated a lovely day that will be remembered by all those in attendance for years to come. So often I hear from young women in the community who attended D&D when they were in middle school and remark that the experience was not only fun but it left an impression on them that guided their decisions. This is what it is all about!

Who knew that service to others could be so fun?! Well, a Soroptimist does.

It is my hope that SI Corona has a strong presence in this year's Golden West Region Spring Conference at Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino in Chandler, Arizona from June 5-7, 2014. Spring Conference is bound to be fun this year with our very own Cyndi serving as a Mistress of Ceremony at Conference. I cannot wait! This is a spring to remember!

CALENDAR

(Continued from Pg 1)

MAY 2014

May 7- Afterglow at
Linda's @ 6:30pmMay 14- Scholarship
Luncheon at TAPSMay 19- SIC Board
Meeting at Lechner Con-
ference Room @ 5:30pmMay 21- SIC Business
Meeting ONLINE @ 12pmMay 28- SIC Meeting at
TAPS @ 12pm

SI Corona Birthday Party

Established in 1947, SI Corona celebrated its 67th birthday at our February 26th meeting. Held on the patio at TAPS, the party was a smashing success. Planned by party planner extraordinaire Cyndi Monroe, the international themed party was enjoyed by more than 35 visiting guests and members. The party got started with the induction of our newest member, Beverly Rodriguez. Attendees were then divided up into teams based on table seating for a few friendly but competitive games, including the club favorite "Chubby Bunny".

Six very good sports volunteered for the game which left Susie Pinedo and Karen Spiegel as the final two competitors. Karen reigned victorious by stating, with remarkable clarity, "Chubby Bunny" with 7 marshmallows stuffed in her mouth. In keeping with the international theme, attendees were encouraged to wear attire reflecting their culture. Several members dressed to impress and participated in a costume contest. Seema Lechner in her beautiful sari narrowly beat out Maria Hopkins in her African/Mardi Gras inspired ensemble. The



gorgeous centerpieces, designed by a talented friend of Paola Ringer's, were a huge hit, going home with those who made a donation to the club. Thanks for another great party Cyndi!

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SIA Club Grant

SIA funds the Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls to assist clubs in starting up or continuing projects in their communities that improve the lives of women and/or girls. SICorona has applied for one of these grants. Denise Middleton and Michelle Volonte submitted a grant application for the 2015 Dreams & Decisions event. The application noted that the monies would be used to expand our promo-

tion efforts, to record the event for DVD distribution to girls who are unable to attend, and to provide bus transportation for girls who would not otherwise be able to attend. Recipients will be notified on June 15.



Newest Members Welcomed

We have welcomed several new members in 2013-2014.

Kim Cunningham: Sponsored by Cyndi Monroe, Kim is the Manager of Donor Relations & Stewardship at CBU and is an enthusiastic addition to our club.

Dianna Bautista: Also sponsored by Cyndi Monroe, we all know Dianna as our past WOS and Ruby Award winner. We

are thrilled to have Dianna join us now as a member.

Beverly Rodriguez: Sponsored by Paola Ringer, we are so happy Beverly has joined us after she had to put her induction on hold as she recovered from surgery. It was worth the wait Beverly!

Morgan Miller: Sponsored by her very proud mom, Debbie Miller, Morgan joins



our club after growing up around Soroptimist. Morgan is Executive Chef at As You Like It Catering and has stepped up to Chair Dreams & Decisions for 2015.

SI Corona Receives Proclamation from the City

At the January 15th City Council Meeting, Corona Mayor and SI Corona club member Karen Spiegel spoke about our club's dedication to raising awareness about Human Trafficking. This was timely as January is Human Trafficking Awareness month. Denise Middleton represented our club as Karen presented her with a Proclamation from the City in appreciation for our ongoing efforts.



Member Highlight - Beth Groves



I am the oldest of five kids.

I was raised in Michigan, however, I was born in Milton Florida while my Dad was in the Navy.

I was very fortunate to be raised in the midst of family. I had two sets of grandparents close by, a great aunt and uncle, a set of great-grandparents and aunts and uncles who were part of my childhood.

Being part of that family meant that I was also part of community volunteerism.

My grandfather was very involved in church and community work—for example, he would run the bingo tent at city festivals, work on food drives and call the square dances at the senior center. My Dad ran the Parish festival and served at pancake breakfasts, my Mom was my brownie leader ...

and whatever they did, they brought us kids along and put us to work as well.

I tell you this to say that I had a great childhood.

I am part of a great legacy of family.

Neither of my parents went to college, but it was something they wanted for us kids.

My Dad was a skilled tradesman, a pipefitter, working on construction sites. When I was 15 and my youngest brother was five—My Mom went to work as a machinist on a manufacturing assembly line doing shift work.

She went to work for us kids—they were looking ahead to college—because they wanted each of us to have that opportunity.

They were able to pay for two years of college for each of us—they co-signed loans for the rest when we needed it.

So, I did go to college and earned a journalism degree. I loved the college environment. It is even more memorable since it was during those first college years that I explored and made a commitment to my personal Christian faith.

My first professional job was as a city news

reporter at our local community paper. After about a year, I packed up, moved across country and lived with my Aunt in Costa Mesa.

In the following eight weeks, I found a job as an editor of a small business magazine in Irvine, found a church community, and moved into that first apartment.

I have had some amazing early career opportunities, before I went to work handling public policy issues for a California State Senator....Marian Bergeson. She was the candidate for Lt Governor and asked me to stay for 18 months – until the end of the campaign.

I fully expected to go back into the private sector after that—but I didn't—that was 1989 and I never left public service until last year.

There were so many amazing and challenging experiences during those times working for Marian. She was a great mentor for me—a true statesman who was a real public servant. She was a consensus builder and I learned a great deal from her. During that time, I went back to college and earned a Masters in Public Administration.

In 1996 she was appointed by the Governor as the Secretary for Education and I either needed to move to Sacramento, or find other opportunities.

At that time I was married with two sons—a toddler and an infant. We had moved to Corona the year before, so I looked for work here.

I took a job in the Corona City Manager's office—as a management analyst. For the next 12 years I worked for the city and held every position in that office including serving as City Manager.

Amazing work and opportunities to learn and grow.

So, here I am—with a solid foundation of family, faith and education.

Sounds perfect, right?

Believe me I have needed that foundation.

When my sons were 9 and 6 my husband left

abruptly—not at all in the plan.

The reality of raising two sons on my own was daunting, but I was not alone—I had that foundation of faith, family and education.

After twelve years working in Corona, I found myself leaving a job sooner than I expected and facing the reality that my sons—especially my youngest—were facing some critical challenges in their lives.

Once again, I looked to that foundation of faith, family, education—and friends.

And this time I turned to another support system—This Soroptimist Club. I had joined Soroptimist back in 2004. In 2008 when I left the City Manager job, I was a delegate serving on the Board.

I tell you this because without that commitment and the amazing women on the Board at the time—Seema, Debbie, Shawn, Irenna, Marcy, Tracy and others—I may have disappeared from community life.

It was tempting.

But they drew me back in—put me to work again with community volunteerism—just as my parents and grandparents did when I was young.

I cannot overstate how much I appreciated my Soroptimist friends at that time—and ever since. Folks like Sylvia, Cyndi, Judy and Kim came along side me—always encouraging me.

And Seema—if you haven't realized it yet, Seema keeps people connected. She continues to reach out, invites you to stuff, feeds your kids after you have surgery, gives you opportunities to serve, etc...even if you can't participate at the time, she keeps asking.

In fact, I am standing here talking with you because Seema volunteered me to do so....

I have really needed and appreciated her.

(continued on page 5)

Member Highlight - Beth Groves

(Continued from pg 4)

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I have really needed and appreciated her.

Back to the story...An amazing thing happened after leaving the Corona job—I was hired to teach part time at Cal State San Bernardino.

This was significant because it gave me an opportunity to explore university teaching and to realize that I really enjoyed it—it gave me a voice and an ability to speak into the lives of others and help them achieve their goals.

In 2009 I received a call from Kathy Azevedo—the Mayor of Norco. Her city manager had just announced he was leaving. She literally started the conversation with "I don't know why you would want to, but...

would you consider helping us out?" I agreed to be an interim city manager for 6 months—ended up staying for four years.

While at Norco, I continued the university teaching which led to an offer last year to move into a full time teaching position at California Baptist University. I teach in online and professional studies.

I teach political science and public administration—putting those 24 years of public service, and my education to work again speaking into the lives of young people and working professionals who want to pursue public service careers.

What a privilege.

Teaching at CBU also brought the opportunity to return to school. I am currently in my second year of coursework for a Doctorate in Public Administration.

So, as you can see, I have been blessed with this legacy of faith, family, education and friends.

- I have had the privilege of raising two sons who are becoming fine young men.
- I have the privilege of being a daughter, sis-



ter and aunt.

- I have the privilege of being part of a faith community.

- I have had the privilege of working in various levels of our government.

- I have the privilege of teaching university students.

- I have the privilege of being a doctoral student.

And, I have had the privilege of living life and serving our community with some amazing Soroptimists.

As Soroptimists, we do good work and impact lives.

However, by coming along side each other, we enrich each other's lives as well.

That's my story.

Golden West Region Spring Conference

June 5-7, 2014

Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino
Chandler, Arizona

Register online and view the
Call to Conference at

<http://gwrspringconference.org/>



Member Highlight - Seema Lechner



I was born in Keighley England in 1965. When I was four we moved to India and lived in a town called Bhopal with my family, mom, brother and dad. At age 6, 1971 my family moved to the states. My dad a physician came here to do his residency. We lived in New Jersey, Conn and Michigan. We moved to Corona in 1975 where my dad started his medical practice. I remember visiting Corona, prior to moving here, and my brother and I said we would only move to Corona if there was a McDonalds. We found one on Main street near Norco! Of course, I could not eat anything but the ice cream at McDonalds now.

I graduated from La Sierra Academy in Riverside where I had met Jackie my friend since 7th grade. I attended Cal State Fullerton, where I earned my B.A in business management and a minor in speech. (So now you know why I like to talk). I got married to Tony, many of you know, who I had known since I was in high school. We have now been married for 28 years.

I worked at Citicorp Leveraged Capital in downtown LA after graduating college. I loved the business banking world wearing suits and dealing with very large numbers, but hated the 2 hour drive each way. Due to downsizing, I was laid off after a couple of years. I was able to stay home for a couple of years while I had my son, Mason, who now is 22 and in the Air Force.

My brother, Anoop, moved back to Corona to start his medical practice in 1993 and asked me to manage his office. So, I got into the management of the medical field. During this time, my husband decided to do a career change. So he started to go to school full time and graduated in 1999. I also started doing medical billing for other physicians. I worked with my brother for 10 years until my husband Tony started his own Chiropractic practice in 2002. So currently, I have a medical billing company and manage

Lechner Chiropractic and I belong to Soroptimist!. If I could do anything in the office, it was be greeting the patients. I feel we have a very friendly and warm environment. Many of them have become more than just patients but have become our friends.

Oh, did I mention, we got a surprise package at age 39- yr 2004! Yes, it was a baby girl, Makena. She is 9 now and of the spunkiest kids I know.

I joined Soroptimist in 2005, I was invited by Mattie Ameli. When I joined I only knew Mattie, I had met Marcy and Debra Murphy through Tony's networking groups, but really did not know anyone. As I attended the meetings I got to know members.

Shawn asked me to be on her delegate after being in club for a year. I was eager to learn more about SI. I attended all the fall meetings and the Spring Conferences.

After being in the club for only 3 years, I became President. This was the inspiration of Beth Groves. I remember sitting at Sizzler and Marcy announced she needed a president elect. I was already slated to be 1st vice, but Beth Groves leaned over from another table she was at and said "you need to do this".

I was in astonishment that a women of this caliber would have confidence in me to be able to take on this very important role. So, I accepted the nomination for President Elect and in 2008-2009 I was president of SI corona. What a fun year!

So my theme for the year was "Cherished moments create forever memories"

I want to share some of my memories from the last 9 years:

Ok, picture this:

Graceful Paola Ringer dancing in her pajamas in the skylight of Phoenix.

Going to Tiawan for SI convention with Mar-

cy, Tracy and Paola and being recognized as an awesome club in front of thousands of women. Tracy Mauser talking to the president of SI in her bathing suit. (We had no idea who she was at that time).

Endless laughing fits with my roommates at several Spring Conference with Marcy Shawn and Jackie.

Being on cruise, playing a scavenger game and Leeza wearing my husband's shorts and Fran removing her teeth so we could win the game. What a team players.

Playing spoons in Vegas, getting bit by Marcy, Pinched by Monica and sat on by Cyndi all who were trying to get the little spoon. This just tells me none of us like to lose. Hanging out in Debbie Millers room with wine and conversation.

I have some memories with each and every one of you in this room that I will cherish forever.

What I love about SI is a sense of belonging. I love the projects but what I love more how a bunch of overcommitted women make it happen. Our events get better and better, CWJ, Debbie Miller and the revamping of Women of Significance by Cyndi Monroe, and Women's Opportunity is going to a different level with Dr. Maria Hopkins. But, all said and done, it is the friends and the friendships that make me stay and make me look forward to coming to each meeting every week.

Member Highlight - Tracy Mauser

Gaining strength and character by overcoming challenges is a constant in my life. I was born two and a half months early and weighed two pounds.

I was in the hospital for about a month. When I went home, I weighed a whopping four pounds! The nurses dressed me in an 18" blue satin doll dress. I ate from an eye dropper and my body fit in the palm of my dad's hand.

People throughout my life have called me strong, tenacious and admirable because I have thrived in spite of my disability. I have been able to succeed because my parents raised me and my siblings to understand that cerebral palsy was part of me but it was not the only factor that defined who I was.

My disabilities were taken into account, but my siblings were never ashamed of me nor did they view me as fragile. I was diving off the high dive at the local swimming pool at age five. I was jumping off the 15 foot pier in Catalina at age six. I took ballet and gymnastics in grade school along with my sisters and friends. I did whatever they did just a little more awkwardly.

I am not trying to minimize what the disability has forced me to deal with. Having my hip rebuilt at the age of 10, 15 and 30 was very trying. The recovery took an average of five months. And to know that I will have to have it rebuilt or replaced again is a little daunting. I know though that I will cross that bridge when I come to it!

I went to Humboldt State for under grad and Michigan State for Grad school! I am proud to call myself a Spartan!

I became a Soroptimist shortly after I started work at OPARC in Montclair in 1996. What a wonderful group of strong dedicated woman. Soon I was chair of the Fall Fund-raiser, On the Board and very active. I really enjoyed being a part of such a dynamic group making a difference in the community.

I was married at 34 and became a mom at 35. Unfortunately, I was better at picking out my wedding dress than I was at selecting a husband. I left the marriage after about 5 years. My husband was very controlling so my departure was planned without his knowledge. When it came time to make the "big break," friends from my Soroptimist club were there to help me pack, move and set up my new home.

My son Brian was very special self sufficient boy. He loved to climb things. He was always on the counters getting things out of cupboards. He was very agile and a big help to me.



He knew that I was different and was always trying to make sense of it. One day when he was about three he asked "Do I have good balance? Yes, Brian you do. Does daddy have good balance? Yes. Does Mommy? No...Do only boys have good balance?"

I came to Peppermint Ridge in 2004 and transferred my Soroptimist membership immediately. I was eager to join because I knew no one in Corona and I knew these ladies knew everyone!

I was sitting in church in 2005 and the pastor said: "Faith is believing in God in spite of what happens, not because of what happens." I thought that was very true. But I never dreamed that I would actually test that theory a few months later when Brian died suddenly, a week before Christmas.

I was devastated. I had no answers. I did know though, that God was putting people in my path to be my hands and feet when I could not move.

I will always be grateful to Debbie Miller for coordinating the packing of my apartment, storing my things in the basement of BMLA, and helping me move into my condo in February of 2006. To this day Brian's bike hangs in her garage. I will always remember Michelle Murphy and Morgan Miller carefully packing Brian's room and the many Soroptimists who supported me during a horrific time.

Slowly I healed and built a new life. In 2008, I started the process to adopt. I figured if I was awarded a child by the age of 45, it was God's plan. I remained active through work and Soroptimist and was privileged to be elected President in 2010.

On Friday, February 5th I got a call out of the blue saying a baby was being born that weekend. He was mine if I wanted him but I had to pick him up on Sunday!

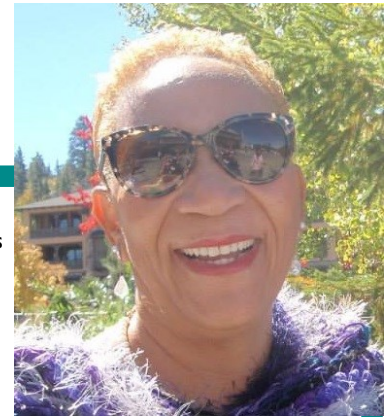
On Saturday they called and said the mother had changed her mind. On Sunday, I was at a Superbowl party at Seema's and got a call saying come get the baby. So I picked up a car seat on the way to the hospital and came home with a newborn.

Again Soroptimist members stepped in to support me in this new scary crazy time in my life. Caleb has brought joy ever since.

My life experience has shown that Soroptimists are caring, passionate women who do what they can to make a difference in the lives of people they know and people they don't.

I am privileged to be a member of this organization and I hope that I can give back to others as much as has been given to me.

Member Highlight - Dr. Maria Hopkins



My story like many others includes adversities, milestones, success and enjoyment.

While not giving my age, let's just say, I was born over a half century ago. My childhood was during a time when our society was experiencing civil unrest and racial segregation. This was a common belief practiced in the southern states and various forms of discrimination in many states. My place of birth was Biloxi, Mississippi. Life for African Americans was difficult, limited to segregated schools, communities, churches, movie theaters, and access to what others enjoyed freely. Although I was born in a beach town, lived one mile from the beach, I was not privileged to walk on the sand. You can imagine the barriers that I faced as a child and teenager growing up in a society of inequality.

Mom and dad raised ten children (five girls and five boys). I'm number four. Dad was a carpenter by trade and mom a homemaker. Our parents required all of us to attend church each Sunday. Church was our only social activity besides school events and provided external support to develop personal skills with faith and a strong belief in God. I'm continuing my lifelong Christian journey on a day to day basis.

My grandparents lived next door for many years before moving to California. Grandma was my mentor and role model at an early age. She provided support that I needed growing up with positive reinforcement and spiritual guidance. She was a real estate investor and entrepreneur.

Through church, school and community members, we had a loving village. I found the external support and resources that reinforced my positive development, self-esteem and determination.

I never allowed barriers or limitations from my past to define my life, dreams, goals and aspirations. I was focused on my success at a very young age determined to overcome and succeed despite the odds. I grew up wanting to be a nurse. I used my brothers' and sisters' injuries for practice.

The adversities and struggles of my childhood created strength and faith that have humbled me with a strong belief of what the mind can conceive you can achieve gracefully.

I left my small adverse beginnings and arrived in California at 17 years old only to face more barriers without mom and dad, making decisions as a young adult, such as living on my own, transportation, in a large city and employment with limited experience. I lived with my brother and grandparents. Three years later, I married my high school sweetheart after he completed his military duties. We have celebrated 43 years of marriage. By the age of 25, I had 3 children (2 sons and 1 daughter).

I held on to my dreams, faith in God, self-determination, guidance from others and took a leap of faith in being an entrepreneur and initiated my lifelong goals. My husband and I bought our first home in our early twenties. You won't believe at the cost of \$23,000. After being a stay at home mom for several years, I decided to complete my academic goals by obtaining my Bachelor's degree from UCLA. That was intense.

In my thirties (30), I finished my master's degree in education, Cal State University Dominguez Hills, started teaching, bought and sold multiple properties completed several years of advanced training in European skin care, and opened my own European skin clinic in Cerritos.

In our forties (40), we moved to Corona. Age 45, I sold all investments, and closed my business. Never once did I leave my position as an educator or abandoned my personal beliefs in caring for others. School was in my blood and I could not stop. After a long break, I was feeling a desire to go for my Doctor's degree. I started and completed it within three years at University of LaVerne. As an educator I was in the perfect place where care and passion are required. In hindsight, I believed that I actually achieved my childhood dream of becoming a nurse.

There were days that I wore five different hats counselor, principal, nurse, teacher, mother, referee, and friend oh was that six hats?

After 32 years as an educator, I retired with ideas to get some needed rest, work in my flower-bed, do some crafting and then get involve in my community, in that order. Within six months after retirement, I met Linda Holmes at the first leadership lunch.

Linda is a great sales person. She convinced me to come to the next So-

roptimist lunch. I showed up and continue to show up with love for what we do and authentic passion to make a difference in the life of women and girls. I also work part-time Supervising teachers with Cal-Baptist in grades K-12. I attend Bible studies through BSF, Member of Red Hat Society and grandmother to 7 grandchildren.

When I listened to each inspiring story from the previous club members, regardless of the degree of adversity, I took away a common thread weaved into each story. There were struggles, adverse conditions, financial hardship and obstacles to overcome. Somehow, despite the odds, resiliency and coping skills made the difference for each person. As Martin Luther King Jr. quoted, "We are all tied to a single garment of destiny". I want to share a poem that I reflect on throughout life, titled "Your World" by Georgia Johnson; it refers to being an eagle. There are times in our lives that we have to rise above the small things. After all, all things are small when it comes to a bigger picture about living a wonderful life.

Your World

*Your world is as big as you make it.
I know for I used to abide in the narrowest nest
in a corner
My wings pressing close to my side.
But I sighted the distant horizons, where the
skyline encircled the sea
and
I throbbed with a burning desire to travel this
immensity.
I battered the cordons around me and cradled
my wings on the breeze.
Then soared to uttermost reaches with rapture,
with power, with ease
and
The grace of God!*

Member Highlight - Jackie Figueroa



I was born in San Francisco, California on February 4, 1965. I was the 2nd child and my sister was seven. My fondest memories were trips to the Golden Gate park every weekend for picnics with my parents.

When I was seven my younger sister was born and my parents decided to move to Puerto Rico, where they both were born, to be close to their families. There I had to redo 2nd grade as I did not speak Spanish. And I quickly learned. It was nice living around my grandparents, and uncles and aunts and getting to know them.

When I was 10 my parents decided to move to Boston, Massachusetts where my father had a job opportunity with a good friend. We only spent one year there but I got to enjoy all the changes that come with the seasons and loved it. And it was nice being snowed in and not being able to go to school.

After our year there we came back to California in 1976. Here I continued moving to a different school every year as my parents must have gypsy blood running through them. In 7th grade I began school at La Sierra Academy where I met the wonderful Seema. Because it was a private school I worked after school and every summer to help pay the tuition. Sometimes it was hard going to school with kids that were more financially privileged than I. There was a street near our school where a lot of the kids lived and had nice homes. It was Peacock Lane and I secretly wished I'd live there one day.

During my freshman year my little brother joined the family. I actually stayed at the same school until I graduated in 1983. Although I had wanted to go away for college, my parents were against that so I enrolled at Loma Linda University which is now La Sierra University majoring in Medical Records

Administration. I had a part-time job at a law firm and decided to change my major to pre-law. At LLU I met Juan and we dated. We were not careful and I became pregnant. It was a tough pregnancy and I was unable to work and my school suffered.

In January 1987 my first daughter Jessica was born, a month before my 22nd birthday. Juan graduated from LLU that year from the radiology program. I continued school part-time and in September of that year Juan and I got married. The following year we had Erica, the year after that Michael, the year after that Tito and the year after that Sebastian. I've been asked a million times "Did you not have a TV?" In between having children I worked at Loma Linda Univ. Med. Center until Michael was born. By then Juan had a good working position so I stayed home with the kids and loved being a mom.

We bought our first home in Pomona in 1990. (and it will be paid up in May...YAY)

My days were very busy with the kids but I still wanted to complete my education.

On a trip with Juan, to a radiology conference, I became interested in Mammography. When we returned home I looked into Mt. San Antonio College where they had an x-ray program. After finishing the prerequisites I applied and was accepted and graduated from that program in 1995. Later that year I went through a mammography program at USC hospital and became a licensed mammographer.

Breast cancer awareness and education has always been important to me but more so now as my 42 yr old sister was diagnosed with breast cancer in November. She has undergone 4 chemo treatments so far and is doing very well.

In 1997 we moved to Riverside and bought a home on Peacock Lane. Most of my high

school classmates are gone but I see their parents often. In 2006 I decided that I needed to bring in more income, as college for the kids was around the corner, so I went back to school to become a Radiology Physicians Assistant. It was tough with kids in high school but I graduated in 2008 and have been working in that position at Healthcare Imaging Center since. I enjoy working with patients and providing the diagnostic services.

Two and a half years ago my beautiful granddaughter Sophia was born and a year ago my precious Fiona Jane. I love being a Yaya, as they call me and those girls make me smile everyday. My household is quite full. Four of my children are still at home, including the grandchildren. And although I want to scream some days, I'm blessed and fortunate that my husband and I can handle it, and help them out.

My friend Seema always talked about Soroptimists and it not only seemed fun but I liked the fact that the club reached out and helped women in need. I did not join years ago because I knew it would be difficult to make it to the meetings. But about 3 yrs ago Seema let me know that the format was being changed up and there would be an Afterglow meeting and phone meetings. I've been a Soroptimist ever since and love being a part of this club and what we do and the wonderful women I've gotten to know.

BOWLING!

Our amazing Seema Lechner organized a fun night of bowling on February 21.



Seema Lechner
Tony Lechner
Makena Lechner
Beth Groves
Cyndi Monroe
Monica Green

Paola Ringer
Leeza Villa Gomez
Umberto Gomez
Debbie Miller
Baxter Miller
Shawn Dredla



Member Highlight - Denise Middleton



My story begins across the Atlantic Ocean, in the tiny country of the Netherlands, known for windmills and speed skaters. My dad was the 4th of 5 boys who all wanted to continue in the family tradition of having a dairy farm. However, the farm could only be passed down to one son – the eldest – so my parents decided to immigrate to the land of opportunity to start their own dairy. They settled in the town of Escondido, where my brother and I were born. I remember our dairy farm in the heart of the neighborhood. Surrounded by houses in the center of the block. Perfect playtime hub. But the land owner sold the property for development, so my parents then took a huge gamble and got financing to buy and build out 20 acres of land in the far away desert of San Jacinto. Seemed like we were in the middle of nowhere.

Every few years we would visit my grandparents in Holland, but that was the extent of our vacationing when I was young – there was always work to do on the dairy, and it was difficult to get away. Growing up on a dairy farm most of my friends were from the "Dutch Dairy" crowd. Amazing how immigrants are able to find each other – and there were a lot of us in the San Jacinto/Chino area.

I moved out for college, but not too far away. Just an hour from home at Cal Poly, Pomona. I met my husband, Jerry while in college. His summer job was a river rafting guide so he introduced me to the life of adventures, starting with regularly flipping

the raft in a rapid. We went on a Grand Canyon rafting trip with all guides. When we came upon the largest rapid, everyone in our group was putting on wetsuits in case they ended up in the water, which was extremely cold. Did we? Of course not, there was no chance we were going to flip. We ended up pointed in the wrong direction, which pushed the raft into a violent wall of water and over we went! The waves were gigantic, and I still remember the feel of the pebbles on the river bottom and then riding the crest of the wave. It was incredibly exhilarating, and I'm glad I didn't know at the time how incredibly dangerous.

I got married at the age of 22, which in hindsight was quite young. We lived in Wisconsin where I worked and Jerry's job was Dental school. We lived on a shoestring budget because we wanted to minimize the student loans. We thought about staying in Milwaukee or going elsewhere when he graduated, but since we had a child we didn't want to have our kids grow up without knowing their grandparents.

My plan upon returning to California was to work once we figured out where we lived, but as soon as we moved to Corona I became pregnant with child number 2. At the same time we found a dental practice to purchase, so my job became, and still is, handling the financial end of the practice. My job description has expanded over the years, but it has been a wonderful way to dedicate my time to being there for my kids as a mom and still keep my brain working.

Last September youngest child moved out, so now we are official empty nesters, although it seems I am too busy to realize that there are no kids at home. My newest child is a condo in mammoth(it's needing some tender care right now)– can spend all day just wandering on a hike or going to a lake or biking or skiing – cross country for me now instead of downhill so I can save my knees. It may be because of turning 50, but this seems to be the year that I try new things. I bought boxing gloves and "hit" someone. I learned gun safety prior to accurately shooting a 9mm gun. I promised Rylee I would consider going skydiving with her.... I was introduced to SI Corona at a social at Laura Janik's and joined the next year. It seemed to be a good mix of business networking, doing good for the community, and meeting people. It has been all of the above. What I did not expect was that the members would be so "like minded" – really exemplifying what we say in the pledge – honest, ethical, trustworthy, driven – people who I am proud to be associated with and proud to call my friends.

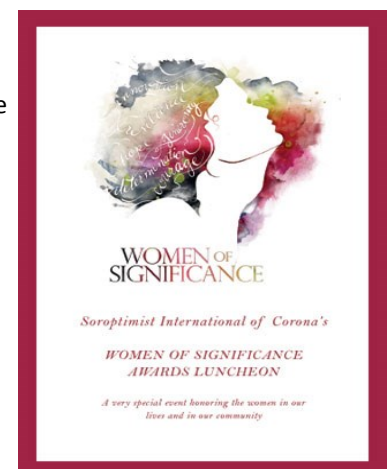
Women of Significance

The 3rd annual Women of Significance luncheon will be held on April 15 at Trilogy. Our three wonderfully passionate judges had the difficult task of reading through the nominations of 19 very worthy women. In the end they selected six remarkable women of significance. They came up with an outstanding group of women. They are:

Jane Anderson	Nikki Grimes
Chris Mash	Emma Quintana
Danae Stewart	Diana Twiss

Be sure to attend the luncheon on TUESDAY, April 15 to hear their inspirational stories and see who was selected for each category.

SOROPTIMIST OF CORONA



WOA Update

A panel of non-Soroptimist judges has selected Cody Foute as our 2014 Women's Opportunity Award Winner. We are so happy she was selected as she has an established relationship with our club. Cody has shared her story at several Soroptimist events including Dreams & Decisions and Spring Conference. Cody is a survivor of human trafficking and a single mother, who now provides support service as a guest speaker to local and county agencies regarding human trafficking. Cody's goals and aspirations are to complete her Associate of Arts Degree and write educational programs

for human trafficking prevention. Beyond the financial support of \$1000 for educational advancement, our club will spend the next 3 years encouraging and mentoring Cody to ensure she achieves those goals. Cody's WOA application has been advanced to the SI Regional level, where one recipient will receive \$5,000.

Cody recently began classes at Norco College. She is taking two classes, Case Management and Communication. She also recently applied for a job with the County of Riverside. In preparation for

her interview, the fabulous ladies at Studio 700 Salon graciously donated salon services to Cody. She was treated to a cut and color and on the day of her interview, they styled her hair. Cody nailed the interview and secured the position of Parent/Youth Partner, where she is working with children entering the child welfare system. In preparation for her new career, Shawn Dredla and Joyce Pavez took Cody shopping to select a new wardrobe of business attire. Our journey with Cody is off to a great start!

Carrot Cheesecake

from the Foley House Inn

Ingredients:

2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/2 cup sugar
1/3 cup melted butter

Filling:

3 eight oz packages of softened cream cheese
1 1/4 cups sugar
2 tablespoons brown sugar
3 eggs lightly beaten
1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 tablespoon sour cream
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 1/3 cups carrots chopped & pureed

Topping:

1 cup graham cracker crumbs
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 cup melted butter

Directions:

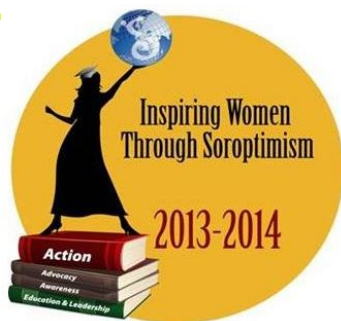
In a small bowl, combine crumbs and sugar; stir in butter. Press onto the bottom and 2 in. up the sides of a greased 9-in. springform pan. Place on a baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 6-8 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugars until smooth. Add eggs; beat on low speed just until combined. Stir in the cream, cornstarch, sour cream, vanilla, lemon juice and cinnamon. Fold in carrots.

Pour into crust. Place pan on a double thickness of heavy-duty foil (about 18 in. square). Securely wrap foil around pan. Place in a larger baking pan. Add 1 in. of hot water to larger pan. Bake at 350° for 55-60 minutes until center is just set.



Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over filling. Bake 7-10 minutes longer. Remove pan from water bath. Cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Carefully run a knife around edge of pan to loosen; cool 1 hour longer. Refrigerate overnight. Yield: 10-12 servings.



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President-Elect

1st VP of Service

2nd VP of Ways & Means

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Delegate

Delegate

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Alternate Delegate

Monica Green

Paola Ringer

Denise Middleton

Linda Holmes

Debbie Miller

Neena Garg

Michelle Volonte

Maria Hopkins

Cyndi Monroe

Seema Lechner

Marcy Decato

Leeza Villagomez

Kristin Barbarosa

Shawn Dredla



2013 Committee Chairs

By Denise

Committee Chairs are in place and Committees are filled. It's going to be another great year of service for all of us! To kick it off we are inviting representatives from the local junior high and high schools to join us for lunch on October 23rd. That's our chance to explain to them what we do and coordinate our efforts with the schools.

Here's the Committee lineup:

Dreams and Decisions - mark your calendar for March 15th, 2014

Leeza (lead)
Kristin (lead)
Shelly
Sherry

Joyce
Crystal
Sylvia
Irena
Sherlett
Debra Murphy
Morgan

Scholarships

Neena (lead)
Judy (lead)
Amy
Sylvia
Sherlett
Debra Murphy
Jackie

Live your Dream
Sherlette

WOS

Cyndi (lead)
Paola (lead)
Leeza
Beth
Michelle
Seema
Shawn

WOA

Maria (lead)
Monica
Michelle

VRA

Sherry
Linda