



Soroptimist of Corona

WINTER 2015

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

January

- 6: 6:00pm Afterglow
(Shannon & Linda)
- 13: Noon Mtg at Taps
- 18: 5:30pm Board Meeting
at Lechner office
- 20: Noon Online
Business meeting
- 27: Noon Mtg at Taps

February

- 3: 6:00pm Afterglow
(Kristin)
- 10: Noon Mtg at Taps
- 15: 5:30pm Board Meeting
at Lechner office
- 17: Noon Mtg at Taps
Face to Face business
- 24: 11:30am Taps
69th Birthday Party

March

- 2: 6:00pm Afterglow
(Sherlett)
- 5: All Day- Citrus Hills
Dreams & Decisions
- 9: Noon Mtg at Taps
- 14: 5:30pm Board Meeting
at Lechner office
- 16: Noon Online
Business meeting
- 23: Noon Mtg at Taps
- 30: Noon Field Trip
Lucas Oil

President's Key Message

by Dr. Maria Hopkins



As 2015 comes to a joyful close, it is important to reflect on key attributes of the past few months, our vision and mission to empower women and girls in our local community, our core values for education, and our accomplishments with raising funds to support all programs and services throughout the Year.

So much of our accomplishments as we started out in Mid-August, began with club members getting involved, taking a vested interest in what we do best for women and girls. It is with heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness that our hard work materialized in each event and program. I give thanks and praise to all individuals who assisted in any way to make our year the best ever.

The year began with creating a partnership with Norco College, CNUSD (Corona Norco Unified School District) school counselor's, administrators, staff and parents. As a result, S I Corona hosted and facilitated our first ever **"Dream it , Belief it, and Achieve it"** Program for 57 girls enrolled in

CNUSD. The Full day's workshop was **100%** effective. Via the facilitation of California Baptist University professors, girls reflected on individual characteristics, barriers and created goals to achieve their future dreams.

The 12th annual **Chocolate Wine and Jazz** event was another huge success. With a change of venue, entertainment, food and a few additional vendors, reaching our financial goal to support programs empowering women and girls was **100%** accomplished. This would not have happened if we did not have support of club members, City of Corona partnership, supportive vendors, financial sponsors and individuals attending the annual event.

As we turn from 2015 and face the new year, 2016, it is with hope and anticipation that we believe anything is possible and achievable. Yes, there is still hard work ahead of us in fulfilling our vision to improve the lives of women and girls. The excitement of providing services and support over the next several

months with **"Live Your Dream Award"**

recipient, **"Dreams and Decisions"** Service Day, and **Scholarship Awards** for girls in the local community each year are rewarding and validate our programs' success. The key ingredient to our future success is team work which we have in abundance.

Now that all is done, all is said, we must all take some quality time during this special time of the year. We must regroup, collect our energy, our thoughts, meditate on our blessings, enjoy family, friends, love ones and most of all, take some personal time out to reflect on life.

Remember, little keys open big locks, simple words reflect great thoughts, your smile can cure heart blocks, so keep on smiling it rocks!

Let's celebrate a blissful and joyful **New Year!**

Dr. Maria Hopkins
President, S I Corona
2015-2016

An Early Christmas Present

By Paola Ringer

Our members from SI Corona and guests started our Holiday festivities early this month; yet with the predictable energy and enthusiasm that is a key element to the success and greatness of our Club.

This year's luncheon was held at Judy Marburger's exquisite home as our Holiday Party Committee (Shawn, Seema, Jackie, Monica, Cyndi, Crystal, Marcy, Paola & Judy M.) were in place to make certain our membership enjoyed a classy and jazzy live band along with a champagne toast, comfort soul food, a Christmas tree craft session, and of course, our traditional ornament gift exchange with a twist (compliments of our great storyteller Cyndi Monroe). As always, our wise Judy Horan concluded our delightful time together with a heartwarming Inspiration.

We had over 30 guests in attendance and the merry pictures are proof our "Dreaming of a White Christmas" wish became a memorable reality to us all. Many Blessings this Holiday Season to you all.



Playful Outings

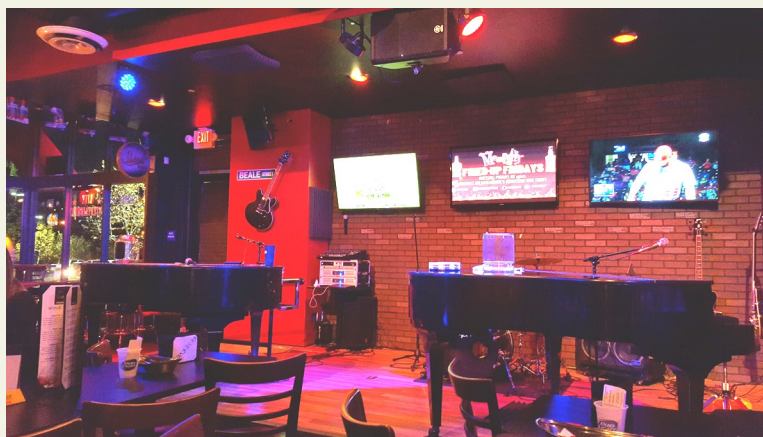
by Shawn Dredla

We have started out the year in style for our playful outings.

Our first one was at the **Live from Memphis** dueling piano bar in Dos Lagos on October 1st. Chris Marburger (Judy's husband) was called on stage and turned out to be a great dancer.

Then we continued to the **Scrapbook Expo Make It and Take** event at the Ontario Convention Center on October 22nd. We ended up taking home over a dozen items that we worked diligently on. We have some talented ladies on our Club (Maria and Seema).

Our next event is scheduled for **January 15th**. We will be attending the **Creative Souls Art Lounge Paint and Sip** event where we get to sip on wine and paint on canvas. Wow, what more could you ask for. Come, even those who aren't artists. I am certainly not!!



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

1/3 Laura Janik
1/21 Dianna Bautista
1/21 Shelly Davis
1/25 Amy K. Ladika
1/26 Paula Montanez
1/27 Debbie Dematteis-Miller
1/30 Debra Murphy



2/1 Beverly Rodriguez
2/2 Marcy Decato
2/4 Jackie Ortiz-Figueroa
2/7 Irena Leigh
2/8 Rondi Verdugo
3/1 Paola M. Ringer
3/10 Betty Bash

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.

New Members' Corner

By Dr. Monica Green

Over the last few months, SI Corona has been blessed by four new vibrant members. Here is a glimpse of our new members and why they joined SI Corona.



In September, we welcomed Judy Marburger and Shannon Valdespino. Judy is a returning member who is an area manager responsible for the day-to-day operations of a mortgage company. Judy is happy to be back at club contributing to club success and spending quality time with members.



In October, we inducted Olivia Guevara, a new Corona resident looking for a progressive community group. We welcomed Olivia as she has a strong desire to give back to her community and create new bridges with women who believe in the ideals of giving back and improving community standards. Olivia works for the healthcare union as a Registered Nurse at Corona Regional Medical Center. Given her nature of work as well as her connection with SI Corona, she is able to expand community access to healthcare services and educate others on the opportunities in the healthcare industry.



socioeconomic status, and ethnicity. Danae is confident that if any woman needs help thorough our programs we will find a way to extend a hand. Danae serves as a financial advisor at Light-house Financial Services.

We are thrilled that Judy, Shannon, Olivia, and Danae joined SI Corona this year! Welcome, ladies!

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

Happy New Year!
Dr. Monica Green
Membership Chair 2015-2016
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Shannon Valdespino (right in picture above) is the daughter of our beloved Linda Holmes (left in picture below). Shannon works with her mother as a marketing and administrative manager in the real estate industry. Shannon stated that she is now a Soroptimist so she may work alongside a group of superstars.

In November, Danae Stewart joined our club as she wanted to be around a group of dynamic women who were making a difference in the lives of women all around the globe. She loves how the Soroptimist programs are diverse in scope to include differences in age, social status,

Key Member—Business Highlight

A new key feature in our newsletter will be highlighting our member's businesses. This will be an opportunity to share and learn about SI Corona members' businesses and keys to their success.



ONSITECOMPUTING, INC.

Onsite Computing

By Kristen Barbarosa

Frank and Kristin started Onsite Computing, Inc. in 2001 out of their home. Kristin had already left a corporate HR position to raise their daughter in 2000, and in 2001 Frank left his corporate IT position to pursue his passion of working for himself.

Frank and Kristin have 2 children, Emma who is 14 and Nicholas, who is 11. They have been married for 19 years and have been Corona residents since 1997.

Onsite Computing, Inc. has grown to 12 employees providing complete IT services to businesses in Southern California with the goal of increasing productivity and saving them money. Their staff has a variety of experience, degrees, certifications and training. They make technology their business so that customers can focus on their business. They service and support industries such as healthcare, manufacturing, consulting, financial, defense, government and non-profit just to name a few.

Some of the services that they offer include: Data Protection, HaaS, Hosting, Hourly IT, Business Computer Services, Vendor Management and VoIP Services.

They are located at 1101 California Avenue, Suite 104, Corona, CA 92881 and can be reached at 951-444-9500.



Soroptimist International of Corona

Thank you to all members for our most successful Chocolate Wine & Jazz event!



Historian's Corner

By Paula Montanez

Our Friendship Link in Great Britain

This photo was received in a Christmas card, December 1996, signed by President Margaret Howarth. SI Tunbridge Wells is about an hour outside of London by train, and was known as a health and rejuvenation retreat in past centuries. Several of our members have visited there over the years, and been very warmly welcomed. The back of the photo notes, "A chilly November morning on "The Pantiles," Tunbridge Wells' best-known attraction. This part was also known as "The Walks" in the 18th Century. Our club has also had Friendship Links in Silkeborg, Denmark and Japan. Sadly, though the world is a smaller place and communication is easier, we have lost touch.



Creamy Tomato Basil Soup

by Laura Janik

courtesy of <http://sharedappetite.com/recipes/quick-and-easy-creamy-tomato-basil-soup/>

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 red onions, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes
- 4 cups good-quality chicken stock (I use home made)
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 cup half and half
- 1 bunch basil, torn into small bite-size pieces
- Parmesan cheese or croutons for garnish

Directions:

1. Heat olive oil over medium-low heat in a dutch oven or large pot. Once hot, add onions and season generously with Kosher salt. Cook the onions, stirring occasionally, until soft and starting to turn golden brown, about 15 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for 1 more minute, stirring to avoid burning the garlic.
2. Stir in the tomatoes and chicken stock. Season generously with Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper. I like to use about $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon of black pepper, which gives a little kick to the soup. Bring the soup to a boil, then lower heat to maintain a simmer for at least 15 minutes. You can feel free to leave it longer if you forget about it. I have.
3. Purée mixture using an immersion blender or carefully transfer soup to a blender. If using a blender, return mixture to the pot.
4. Stir in the cream and basil and let simmer for at least 15 minutes, although I like to leave it for a bit longer so it can reduce down to a thicker consistency.
5. Serve immediately, topped with freshly grated Parmesan cheese or croutons.



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

2014-2015 BIG DREAMS BOLD GOALS

Fiscal year 2014-2015 was one of continued momentum as we served more women and girls, grew member engagement, expanded our online brand recognition by engaging new people in our mission, and increased our collective impact. Congratulations to our members and clubs for your commitment to the world's women and girls!

IMPACT



LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARDS

- 92% of recipients increased their standard of living
- 1,293 women served (+1%)
- \$1.77 million awarded (+1.3%)



24,960 PROGRAM ACTIONS

taken on
LiveYourDream.org

ENGAGEMENT



- 2.7 million unique users/visitors to SIA/LYD social media and websites
- +108% in unique visitors at LYD.org, resulting in 859 actions on the site (+80%)

SOCIAL MEDIA

+25% in SIA social media followers, +43% in LYD.org social media followers

SIA MEMBERSHIP

- +4% improvement in member retention
- 88% of members satisfied with membership criteria changes



RECOGNITION



- 22.3 million impressions through SIA and LYD.org marketing channels (+46%)
- 62,376 LYD.org supporters (+50%)
- +400% in online advertising, Google Ad Words Grant renewed

PHILANTHROPY

\$1,739,444 TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RAISED

- 65% from Club Giving, with 73% of clubs contributing 10% or more (+9%)
- 35% from Laurel Society



LIVEYOURDREAM.ORG

- +56% in contributions
- +86% in LYD donors

CORPORATE SPONSORS

+2% in corporate sponsorship dollars raised

FINANCIALS

NET OPERATING EXCESS

- Operating excess was 22% better than planned due to operating expenses being 6% lower than budget

NON-OPERATING EXCESS

- \$1.8 million in investment value loss due to market correction

NET ASSETS OF \$13,628,156



All data reflects fiscal year 2014-2015 performance with some results compared to the prior fiscal year.



Contact Us At:

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

Founded in 1947, the SI Corona Club is part of Sorooptimist 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.