



Soroptimist of Corona

SUMMER 2016

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

June

17: Installation

July

17: 2pm - Summer Social
(at Olivia's)

31: 2:00 - Board Retreat
(Joyce's house)

August

15: 5:30 pm- Board Meeting
(Seema's office)

24: 12:00 pm- First meeting
of the year (TAPS)

Summer Birthdays

June

2—Seema Lechner
10—Denise Hammer
13—Beth Groves
17—Valerie McAfee-Jacobs

July

7—Maria Hopkins
8—Joyce Pavez
17—Jenny Perkins
23—Cyndi Monroe

August

7—Sherlette Hope-King
14—Michelle Volonte
14—Morgan Miller

Past President's Parting Message

by Dr. Maria Hopkins

As my year as president of Soroptimist International of Corona comes to a close, I would like to say thank you to all members and friends of the "Best Club Ever". My gratitude in service to Soroptimist can never be selflessly measured. I have been blessed with a great opportunity to be apart of a great club. "At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by the spark of another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us" (Albert Schweitzer). I'm grateful for the joy, guidance, laughter, friendship and the wonderful connection to services and programs created in our local community to support and empower women and girls.

Keys became an essential focus of guidance. It was important to identify keys to membership, programs and mission. Keys allowed us to unlock barriers, open doors for future achievement, and ignite life-long dreams. We began the year with a vision and mission to provide essential keys via programs and services that will empower women and girls to live, learn and laugh with social and economic empowerment.

The year started off with a

review of our purpose to renew collective passion. Therefore, a first time ever survey revealed:

- 97% of members believe in our purpose/mission/vision
- 80% of members believe that our programs and services are aligned with our mission to improve the lives of women and girls.
- 100 % of members feel welcome in Soroptimist International
- Members are proud to be involved and participate in a club that supports other women

A new program developed by Soroptimist International of America titled "Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It Program" for high school girls in grades 10-12th was successfully completed at Norco College campus. Again, an essential key to empower girls was targeted. The goal of the program was to allow girls to reflect on their aspirations, values, and believe in their dreams to achieve life-long success. Girls participated in workshops facilitated by CBU (California Baptist University) professors, followed by a career expo and lunch. The key was to educate participants to reach

their maximum potential via education. To support the program, a \$1000.00 scholarship was awarded to one participant to finance her educational expenses.

Members are the greatest asset and key in growing dreams. Weekly meetings were attended by 90% of active members. The mission was not possible without the support and participation of the members. Participation was defined as making a difference with collective impact to empower individual females to pursue their dreams and achieve success.

Finally, I say Thank You with love from my heart to yours and then some.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Maria Hopkins
Immediate Past President
S I Corona



Spring Conference—SIC Recognized with Winning Programs

Soroptimists of Corona finished a wonderful weekend at the Soroptimist Golden West Region Spring Conference 2016 in Phoenix. Our club received two first place awards and two second place awards in our efforts to help women and girls at the region level.

Members attended workshops and meetings by day and played serious games of spoons by night!

To top off a wonderful conference, our 2016-17 President elect Michelle Volonte was pinned Laurel Society by Debbie Miller!



Days for Girls

by Dr. Maria Hopkins

See what a difference a DAY makes... School DAYS, work DAYS, safe DAYS, healthy DAYS... DAYS of dignity. Reversing cycles of poverty and violence against women.

Mission:

Creating a more dignified, free and educated world through access to lasting feminine hygiene solutions.

Days for Girls International is a grassroots 501(c)3 non-profit. Women and girls discover their potential and self-value, are equal participants and agents of social change and are given opportunities to thrive, grow and contribute to their community's betterment while ensuring quality sustainable feminine hygiene.

Vision:

Supply every girl and woman in the world with ready feasible access to quality sustainable hygiene & women's health education by 2022.

Pass the Word.

Every girl in the world deserves education, safety, and dignity.

We further this goal by helping girls who would otherwise go without to have access to quality sustainable feminine hygiene and awareness. We accomplish this through both direct distribution with many nonprofits, by raising awareness, by helping other organizations start their own Days for Girls programs and importantly, by helping ultra-low resource communities start their own programs to supply DfG kits and training. Now we are building in-country program local production responses that empower community led health leadership, supply and economic stimulus.

It's working!

Soroptimist International of Corona held a two-week donation drive to collect items needed. S I Corona collected over sixty

pounds of items from members to donate to girls in one hundred countries. Items collected: colorful fabric for making personal hygiene kits, wash cloths, soap, zip-lock bags, and personal hygiene items. The collected donations will be combined with other donations at Soroptimist International of America 44th Biennial Convention. Kits will be assembled by volunteers attending the convention. It is important that every girl live their dream for achieving success. Our mission is to provide services that empower women and girls for social and economic empowerment. It is what we do best. When we collectively team together the impact is greater. The kits will allow girls in over one hundred countries to stay in school, support their education and self esteem.



New Members' Corner

By Dr. Monica Green

On March 30, 2016, the stunning Dee Dee Fletcher, also known as Dee, joined our club. Dee is the CEO of Life Source Technologies, Inc. in Corona. Dee is responsible for developing and maintaining her medical business including its day-to-day operations and staffing.

Dee is excited about being a Soroptimist and getting involved in our service activities. Dee will be responsible for the RCCD Scholarships next year and serving on the Scholarship Committee. We are thrilled that Dee selected SI

Corona as her service organization.

SI Corona has had seven new/returning members join us this year. We look forward to serving in 2016-2017 with our new members: Dee Fletcher, Danae Stewart, Gigi Mindreau-Banks, Judy Marburger (returning), Olivia Guevara, and Shannon Valdespino.

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



SI Corona Receives Grant from SIA by Michelle Volonte

For the third year in a row, SI Corona has been awarded a Soroptimist Club Grant from SIA. For 2016, SIA received 64 grant proposals and 29 projects were selected to receive funding. We will be receiving \$1500 to support our Dream It, Be It project. Building on last year's

successful program, Dream It, Be It Chair Beth Groves is expanding the event with the addition of the Career Planning Workshop: Extending the Value of Dream It, Be It. With the new workshop, we

will continue the conversation that was started at our Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It Workshop last year. While Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It explores broad strokes of the topics, this additional workshop will zero

in on specific details. In analyzing our evaluations from last year, we discovered a common request from the girls for more specific, detailed information regarding career opportunities. Details are still being worked out, but the plan is to invite the 60 girls that attended our

workshop in 2015 to attend this new workshop to further explore the concepts they learned last year and also offer the workshop to first-time attendees.



In 2014, SI Corona was awarded \$6000 for our Dreams and Decisions project. In 2015, we received \$1000 for the Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It scholarship.

Historian's Corner

By Paula Montenez

The Sylvia Years . . . 1984 – 1987

- Sylvia Fleming 1984-85
- Sylvia Tarshis 1985-86
- Sylvia Ramirez 1986-87

Thirty years ago SI Corona had three consecutive Presidents named Sylvia. All three of these women were hard-working, dedicated Soroptimists who gave their all to SI Corona. Here are a few highlights from "The Sylvia Years."

The first "Holiday Fantasy Home Tour" fundraiser was held in December 1985, and featured a Tea with homemade cookies at the Woman's Improvement Club-house. Tickets sold for \$7.00, and four local homes were showcased in their "Holiday Best." With the popularity of Trivial Pursuit games, SI Corona designed "The Corona Centennial Trivia Game" as a fundraiser to support the Club's Ways & Means, the city's Centennial activities, and the new Alternatives to Domestic Violence program.

Major Service Projects included support of Alternatives to Domestic Violence Shelter for Battered Women, championed by Pat Miller (President 1974-75), plus the Pregnant Minor Program at Corona High with Joyce Pavez, (President 1980-81), CNUED educator F.M. Doss (President 1970-71) and administrator Shirley Mills (President 1993-94).



organizations to make good things happen in Corona! Many thanks to President Sylvia Tarshis for having a wonderful President's Book, which preserved these good memories for us to share! She was a Realtor here in Corona, raised her family here during the 60's and 70's, retired a few years ago, and passed away in 2015. Her family has generously donated two boxes of SI Corona memorabilia to our SIC Historian's Committee.

The club celebrated its Fortieth Birthday in 1987. As always, our Club collaborated with many other local service



Our three Sylvia's, attending Fall Conference in Montclair, 1985. Left to right: President Sylvia Tarshis, Past President Sylvia Fleming and President-Elect Sylvia Ramirez (seated next to Sandi Landes, an outstanding Ways & Means Vice President).

Key Member—Business Highlight

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

Parkside Dental by Denise Middleton

A snippet of how our dental practice came to be:

My background is Accounting – I never imagined it would fit in so well in the Dental world. Upon my graduation from Cal Poly Pomona I worked for a large Accounting firm in Orange County. Jerry was accepted to Marquette Dental School a year later. Fortunately, the firm I worked for had an office in Milwaukee and I was able to transfer there. We carpoled in to the city; me to work and he to Dental School for 4 years. After Jerry's graduation from Dental School he began a Residency Program in Downey. We had a 1 year old, so I decided to take a break from the Accounting firm and look for a different job back in California.

Life kept us busy – the Residency Program ended, another child was born, and a practice for sale was found in Riverside. We purchased the practice in 1993, and my Accounting expertise was now put to work in our own business. We quickly settled in to Jerry performing all the dental procedures and I took care of the financial side of the business. This worked out quite well, and enabled me to be home with our three children. My "brain" work would start when he came home from the office with paperwork, and he would take over the child rearing while I went into my home office. Technology has enabled me to continue working from home, except now I'm able to do it all day.

The dental practice that we bought back in 1993 was largely managed care, and we spent many years transitioning out of that practice model. For some dentists it works; for us it didn't. Jerry would come home after long days at the office, seeing upwards of 20 patients a day – rushing from room to room with barely enough time to blink – and hate his job. His ethics wouldn't allow him to use cheaper materials or skimp on quality, which meant that he was losing money on every patient that walked in the door. So, we took a huge leap of faith and eliminated all the managed care insurance plans. Most of our patients stayed loyal, realizing it was more important to have a relationship with a dentist that they trusted

rather than seeking out the lowest cost.

In 1999 we moved the office location down the street from where we began. It was a great spot – across from Parkview Hospital and overlooking Hunt Park. It was in this location that we became Parkside Dental. After 10 years here we had the opportunity to move to the Riverwalk area of Riverside. We bought the office shell, and designed our dream office. We love that it is right on the border of Corona and Riverside – close to home, but not too far of a move away from where we were.

We've made a lot of investments in technology, and have the equipment to create same day crowns, do digital x-rays, provide invisible braces, do airway assessments for sleep apnea, and much more. We perform dentistry on all ages. A typical day might have us seeing a 2 year old for their very first dental visit, and doing a full mouth cosmetic reconstruction on the next patient, all while making sure to maintain a solid relationship with every patient.



Easy Cranberry Margaritas

submitted by Debra Murphy

Served at Afterglow hosted by Deb Murphy, these crisp and tart cocktails were a favorite. This recipe yields only 3 cups, so you'll want to double or triple for a party. Deb added frozen juice rings into the glass dispenser, which not only kept the beverage cool, but was pretty floating amongst fresh fruit.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups cranberry juice
(I recommend using a brand that is 100% juice)
- 3/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 3/4 cup tequila
- 1/2 cup orange-flavored liqueur,
such as Cointreau or Triple Sec
- ice cubes

Directions:

- Stir all ingredients together until blended.
- Serve over ice in sugar- or salt-rimmed glasses,
garnished with fresh cranberries and lime wedges if desired.



Asparagus Mushroom Bacon Quiche

submitted by Debbie Miller
courtesy of the Foley House Inn

Ingredients:

- 6 ounces bacon, diced
- 1/2 pound asparagus, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 4 ounces baby bella (cremini) mushrooms, sliced
- 4 ounces shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 4 large eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- freshly ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Position oven rack to center position. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Butter 10-inch pie plate.
2. Heat a large skillet over medium heat; cook and stir bacon in the hot skillet until crisp, 5 to 10 minutes. Remove bacon and drain all but 2 tablespoons grease from skillet. Cook and stir asparagus and mushrooms in the remaining bacon grease until asparagus is tender, about 5 minutes.
3. Remove skillet from heat and toss bacon into asparagus mixture. Spread asparagus-bacon mixture into the prepared pie pan. Sprinkle Swiss cheese over mixture.
4. Whisk cream, eggs, salt, and pepper in a bowl. Pour egg mixture over asparagus-cheese mixture.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until quiche is set and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, about 30 minutes.



A memorable “Southern Hospitality Installation”

by Paola Ringer

On a sunny and picture perfect day in Corona June 17th, our 2016-2017 Annual Installation of Board Members and President was held. A “Southern Hospitality” theme was very apparent as our charming Debra Murphy warmly greeted the attendees at the door. Our host



Debbie Miller and her family (Baxter and Morgan) opened their beautiful home and treated us to a spectacular meal along with an array of “homemade pies” compliments of Laura Janik, Cyndi Monroe & Paula Montanez.



The evening’s agenda was equally delightful. We began with our immediate Past-President, Dr. Hopkins who as always shows up poised and present. Dr. Hopkins shared our accomplishments for the year and thanked her board with kind words and a memorable gift.

Our Installing Officer was Paula Montanez who charmingly presented our new board members with directions for the year and a “gardening” gift to remember their roles. These gifts creatively matched our President’s theme for the year:

“Embracing our Roots: Soroptimists in Service”.

In true Soroptimist spirit, our lovely new President, Michelle Volonte showed up with her beautiful family and delivered a candid, witty, and on point speech to start off her year.

Michelle’s vision for our SI Corona Club 2016-2017 is one of optimism and a return to our roots as Soroptimists, which focuses on our strength toward service.

Thanks to Cyndi Monroe for being our dependable Club Emcee. Thank you to Debra Murphy for her decorating talents, and Marcy DeCato for the logo and invitations design, and special



thanks to Morgan Miller, and to Baxter Miller for the grilling talents! From decorations to logo design, pie



preparation and cooking of special dishes, many helped make our “Southern Charm” evening sparkle.





Installation of President Michelle



Tracy Mauser named Woman of the Year

SI Corona is proud to have our own Tracy Mauser named by the County of Riverside Commission for Women the 2016 Woman of the Year for District 2.

Tracy was awarded in recognition of her exceptional commitment to the community by working to improve the status of women, young ladies and families within Riverside County.



2016-2017 Board Members

- President** _____ Michelle Volonte
President Elect _____ Denise Middleton
1st VP of Service _____ Kristin Barbarossa
2nd VP of Ways and Means _____ Judy Marburger
Treasurer _____ Laura Janik
Assistant Treasurer _____ Seema Lechner
Corresponding Secretary _____ Marci Decato
Recording Secretary _____ Debbie Miller
1st year Director _____ Dr. Maria Hopkins
2nd year Director _____ Paola Ringer
Delegates _____ Sherlett Hope-King & Jackie Figueroa
Alternate Delegates _____ Dr. Monica Green & Olivia Guevara



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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.