



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

*The SISCV
Heart & Soul*

Issue 5

December 2011



Soroptimist International of Santa Clarita Valley

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Improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

From the President

Inside this issue:

<i>SISCV Highlights</i>	2
<i>Our Community Santa Clarita Valley</i>	3
<i>Holiday Inspirations</i>	4
<i>Our Federation- Soroptimist of the Americas</i>	5
<i>Soroptimist Around the World</i>	6
<i>Greetings</i>	7
<i>Board of Directors</i>	7

The months of November and December are the season of giving, which was demonstrated by the members of Soroptimist International of Santa Clarita Valley as we gave back to our community in numerous ways.

On November 16th Soroptimist International of Santa Clarita Valley was honored by the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Foundation as one of their guests at the 26th annual National Philanthropy Day luncheon held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. This luncheon honors outstanding volunteer, philanthropists and organizations throughout the Greater Los Angeles area whose dedication and generosity greatly enrich the quality of our community. Some of their honorees included Target, JP Morgan Chase, the Eisner Family Foundation, Mary Hart and Jamie Lee Curtis. I was honored to represent our club and be among this elite group of volunteers.



On November 22nd we presented a check in the amount of \$8000.00 to the Sheila R. Veloz Imaging Center and on November 28th a check for \$5500.00 was presented to Circle of Hope. It was such a good feeling to present these checks from our "Bras for a Cause 2011 Denim and Diamond Hoedown" fundraiser. The imaging center will be purchasing new equipment with their donation. Circle of Hope will use their donation for their Teen Pink Program and to assist breast cancer patients and their families in Santa Clarita Valley.

On Thanksgiving Day a small group of us were able to join others in the community at the annual Newhall Thanksgiving Feast. Prior to and on the day of the feast, many of our members donated food and clothing for this event. There are more details to follow in an article by member Suzanne Stone on page 2. I would have to say this was one of my favorite Thanksgiving Days; it gave me such a good feeling to be able to help the families in our community.

Every year on Human Rights Day, which is December 10th, the President of Soroptimist International selects a project that provides direct assistance to women in extreme need. This year, President Alice Wells' Appeal is "Birthing in the Pacific". This year we will donate approximately \$600.00 toward the 2011 President's Appeal to the 'adopt a midwife' programme in Papua New Guinea. These funds will be used to further educating birth attendants ('adopt a midwife') and to improve facilities to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

This year we chose to "Adopt A Family" for the holiday season. Member Tracy Tait chaired this committee and submitted an application to the Single Mother's Outreach Program to "Adopt-A-Family" in Santa Clarita Valley. We will provide the family with items from their Wish List on December 17th at the annual Holiday Party sponsored by the Single Mothers Outreach Program. Hope to see you all there as we meet our family and lend a hand.

Our club will culminate the 'season of giving' at our annual Holiday Party in the lovely home of Treasurer Kelly by participating in a gift exchange and sharing wonderful appetizers, salads, main entrees and fabulous desserts prepared/purchased by our members. I am looking forward to sharing this time with each of you.

I want to thank all of our members for everything you have done to help the women in our community and globally during this season of giving and throughout the year. You make me so proud to be your President. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Happy Holidays to you, your family and friends.

I pledge allegiance to **Soroptimist** and to the ideals for which it stands. The sincerity of Friendship, the joy of achievement, the dignity of service, the integrity of profession, the love of country. I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold and defend these ideals for a larger fellowship in Home, in Society, in Business for Country and for God.

Upcoming SISCV Events

- ♥12/7 6:30 pm
Program Meeting
- ♥12/14 5:30 PM
Board Meeting
- ♥12/14 6:30 pm
Business Meeting
- ♥ 12/21 6:30 PM
Holiday Party

October Celebrations

Birthdays

- Sue Boscamp-12/1
- Kelly Inga-12/9
- Kaye Cruger-12/29

SI Anniversaries

- Estelle Carney-1997

SISCV Highlights

Soroptimist of Santa Clarita Valley Helps Serve Over 2,000 People On Thanksgiving Day by Suzanne Stone

None of us knew what to expect when we arrived at 10:00 am to help serve Thanksgiving lunch to the more than 2,000 people who filled the streets behind a little bike shop on Main Street in Santa Clarita. The families that came started in an area where donations of household items and toys were set out for people to shop, and then went through the line and received their food that was also donated.

Six years ago when Shannon and Roger Hasper opened their bike shop on Main Street, they had a heart filled with giving back to the community. They were able to help about 450 people during 2009. That amount doubled in 2010, and 2011 we found ourselves serving almost 2,000!

We were greeted by other workers, handed a pair of gloves, and we got to work. As the families came through the line with bags and bags of goodies, we asked them if we could help serve them lunch. We would hold their plates and fill them down the line or hold their bags as they prepared their lunch. It was absolutely incredible to see all of the donated items as well as the food; it just kept coming and coming.

One little girl came through the line holding a teddy bear she had just received with such an excited look on her face! I helped her and her brother figure out what they would like to eat. After going through the line and finding a place for them all to sit, I went back for the desserts. It was so much fun to see the look on her face, when I returned with cookies, pie and cake. I let her know that because it was Thanksgiving, she could eat the desserts FIRST!

This was a day that I will never forget and something that will definitely become a tradition for our family every year!



Soroptimist International of Santa Clarita Valley wishes everyone

A happy and peaceful holiday season.

Our Community-Santa Clarita Valley

HOLIDAY EVENTS IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY AND BEYOND

Canyon Theatre Guild – “A Christmas Carol, The Musical”

Friday and Saturday at 8 pm on December 9, 10, 16 and 17; Saturdays and Sundays at 2 pm on December 11, 17 and 18; Weeknights at 7 pm on December 20 and 21; Canyon Theatre Guild, 24242 Main Street, Old Town Newhall; Tickets are \$15 and \$17; call: 661-799-2702 or visit: CanyonTheatre.org

Choir Holiday Concert – “Sounds of the Season”

Saturday, December 10, 7:30 pm; COC’S vocal/choral music department sing sacred and secular choral gems of the holidays; Cost \$10 and \$5; Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center, 26445 Rockwell Canyon Road; for information contact PAC box office: 661-362-53404 or visit: www.canyonspac.com

Santa Clarita Ballet – “The Nutcracker”

Saturday, December 17 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm; Sunday, December 18 at 2 pm and 7 pm; COC Performing Arts Center, 26455 Rockwell Canyon; Call 661-251-0366 or visit: SantaClaritaBallet.net

Santa Clarita Valley Family YMCA – “Snow Fest” – this event is FREE

Saturday, December 10, 11 am; 26147 McBean Parkway; Call: 661-253-3593 or contact: sharleneduzick@ymcala.org

Fiesta Navidad: Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano

Grammy award winning ensemble and one of the most popular mariachi ensembles in the US; Sunday, December 11, 7 pm at Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at COC; 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road; Call: 661-362-5304 or visit: www.canyonspac.com

Circle of Hope New Year’s Eve Gala

Saturday, December 31, 7 pm at Robinsons Ranch Gold Club, 27734 Sand Canyon Road, Santa Clarita; tickets \$100 per person available at: www.CircleofHopeInc.org or call: 661-254-5218

Carnival of Venice: NYC – Black-tie Optional Masquerade ball

Saturday, December 31, 8 pm, Repertory East Playhouse; tickets in advance \$60 per person or \$100 per couple, \$75 per person at the door; for more information: www.repeastplayhouse.org or call: 661-288-0000

Events Beyond Our Valley

47th Annual Marina Del Rey Holiday Boat Parade, December 10
Santa Barbara “Holiday Parade of Lights at the Harbor”, December 11
40th Annual San Diego Bay “Parade of Lights”, December 11, 18, 19
103rd Annual Newport Beach “Christmas Boat Parade”, December 14-18
Fillmore & Western “North Pole Express”, December 3-26
Skirball Cultural Center “Hanukkah Family Festival”, December 11
Menorah Lighting Ceremony, Valencia Town Center Mall, December 20
Menorah Lighting Ceremony, Sherman Oaks Galleria, December 20

Holiday Inspirations

Christmas – Giving All Year Long

Somehow, not only for Christmas, but all the long year through, The joy that you give to others, Is the joy that comes back to you, And the more you spend in blessing, the poor and lonely and sad, The more of your heart's possessing, returns to you glad.- **John Greenleaf Whittier**

Wouldn't life be worth the living. Wouldn't dreams be coming true, If we kept the holiday spirit, All the whole year through?



Inspirations-Giving

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

Kahlil Gibran

The manner of giving is worth more than the gift. ~Pierre Corneille, *Le Menteur*

**A little smile, a word of cheer, A bit of love from someone near, A little gift from one held dear,
Best wishes for the coming year...These make Happy Holiday Season!**

Our Federation-SIA

White Papers

As a public service, Soroptimist provides white papers on various topics relevant to women that can help those who wish to become more educated about issues facing today's women, or learn what can be done to provide direct assistance to women in need. The following are excerpts from a White Paper article.

Women at Work

Soroptimist International of the Americas, working to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world, examine the issue of "women at work" in this white paper. Over the last century, women's participation in the work force has increased steadily and conditions have not led to true social and economic empowerment, especially in the world's poorer regions. Today, women worldwide on average earn approximately two-thirds of what men earn, with the gender wage gap existing universally. As such, women are left behind when it comes to retirement and pensions. Working women also still face sexual harassment and domestic violence in the workplace, as well as issues around promotion and "breaking through the glass ceiling". In addition, working women who are mothers often disrupt work and career paths to raise children. Decent work and wages help lift women and their children out of poverty and contribute to the living standards and economics of countries everywhere. Until policy makers and employers place women's employment at the center of social and economic policies, women will remain second class citizens in the world of work and the feminization of poverty will continue into future generations.

Women and Aging

The world's population is now aging at an unprecedented rate. People today, are living longer and generally healthier lives, representing the triumph of public health, medical advancement, and economic development over disease and injury. Worldwide, people aged 65 and over will soon outnumber children under age 5 for the first time in history. The majority of older persons (55 percent) worldwide are women, and while aging women face the same health, economic and social issues of all the elderly, they have more challenges unique to gender. These include concerns around health care; economic security; retirement; violence; housing and care giving. This white paper examines those unique issues as they relate to the factors that influence women and aging, as well as the consequences thereof. The paper also discusses the need to advocate for older women's inclusion in policymaking to ensure that their particular perspectives and circumstances are considered and addressed, so that they are able to lead lives of dignity, activity and community involvement.

Women and Education

In 1948, the United Nations declared basic education to be a fundamental human right. Despite that, more than 115 million children do not attend school, 62 million of whom are girls. Two-thirds of the world's 862 million illiterates are women. The benefits of education for women and girls are many, resulting in the social and economic advancement of children, families and communities. Educated women are more likely to enter the formal labor market, learn what they and their children need to do to stay healthy, and are more likely to send their children to school. Unfortunately, sexist cultural norms, poverty, poor health, child labor and safety issues keep many girls from receiving an education. The United Nations, through the Millennium Development Goals, reports some progress, but governments still have work to do to improve access to and quality of education for girls and women.

SI Around the World

Women and Sustainable Consumption and Production

Sustainable development emerged as a 'concept' many years ago, under the realization that development, peace, and environmental security were intertwined and interconnected. The apex of the movement was a conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, called the Earth Summit. The outcome documents, "Agenda 21" and the "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development", codified the priority challenges and issues relating to the then-adverse relationship between human development and environmental protection. As we approach the 20th Anniversary of this meeting, the international community is reviewing progress and working to identify current challenges and issues.

Back then and still today, the world needs to pay more attention to what we call sustainable consumption and production. Generally, human beings consume much more than we can produce, damaging the environment, wasting resources, and leaving less and less for future generations. Yet change requires global behavioral change and government commitment, neither of which is easily achievable.

Sustainable development is closely linked to poverty eradication, empowerment of marginalized groups who are often more reliant on natural resources, and grassroots participation in decision-making. Social and economic factors play as much a part as environmental.

Of particular importance to SI's mission and program goals and objectives is the education, empowerment, and enabling of women and girls in sustainable development. The following objectives, all of which are still relevant today, were set:

- (a) To implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, particularly with regard to women's **participation** in national ecosystem **management** and **control** of environment degradation;
- (b) To increase the proportion of women **decision makers**, planners, technical advisers, managers and extension workers in environment and development fields;
- (c) To consider developing and issuing by the year 2000 a strategy of changes necessary to eliminate constitutional, legal, administrative, cultural, behavioral, social and economic **obstacles** to women's full participation in sustainable development and in public life;
- (d) To establish by the year 1995 mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to **assess** the implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programs on women and to ensure their contributions and benefits;
- (e) To assess, review, revise and implement, where appropriate, curricula and other **educational** material, with a view to promoting the dissemination to both men and women of gender-relevant knowledge and valuation of women's roles through formal and non-formal education, as well as through training institutions, in collaboration with nongovernmental organizations;
- (f) To formulate and implement clear governmental policies and national guidelines, strategies and plans for the **achievement of equality** in all aspects of society, including the promotion of women's literacy, education, training, nutrition and health and their participation in key decision-making positions and in management of the environment, particularly as it pertains to their access to resources, by facilitating better access to all forms of credit, particularly in the informal sector, taking measures towards ensuring women's access to property rights as well as agricultural inputs and implements;
- (g) To implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to **decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children** and have access to information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values;
- (h) To consider adopting, strengthening and enforcing legislation prohibiting **violence against women** and to take all necessary administrative, social and educational measures to eliminate violence against women in all its forms.

The Rio Declaration explicitly address women in Principle 20: "Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development."

All of these issues and points are as relevant today as they were 20 years ago. Soroptimist International advocates for:

1. **educating** women and girls about sustainable consumption and production, green economy, and environmental governance
2. **empowering** women and girls with skills and confidence so that they may be prepared to participate in resource management, agricultural business, and policy setting with regards to sustainable development and environmental security
3. **enabling** opportunities for women and girls to have a voice in decision-making regarding sustainable development.

For more information [Click Here](#).

Greetings from Our Members

*To All Our Friends,
Soroptimist of Santa Clarita Valley
Sincerely thanks you for your support!*

*May your holidays
Be rich in love
and friendship,
And the year ahead
be filled with joy
and peace.*



2011/2012

Board of Directors

President	Sandi Naba	645-1893
President-Elect	Lori Hollister	803-7531
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Treasurer-Elect	Janet Kachorsky	313-4114
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Corresponding Secretary	Wendy Smith	205-1246
Director	Estelle Carney	233-2388
Director/Parliamentarian	Kaye Cruger	263-1935



Top: Brenda Videgain, Kaye Cruger, Sue Boscamp, Estelle Carney, Wendy Smith, Kelly Inga, Janet Kachorsky **Bottom:** Sandi Naba, Lori Hollister

Newsletter Committee: Janet Kachorsky, Lori Hollister, Tracy Tait, Karen Ilich and Patti Golding

Please contact Janet at janet@swecolawns.com or (661) 313-4114 for information or to send any photos, articles, or information that you would like to see in the newsletter. **Deadline for next issue— January 9, 2011**