



**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women

# SINERGY

March 2009

**Soroptimist  
International of  
Norwalk**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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### Special Points Of Interest

- \* Get your ticket for the Awards Tea now!
- \* SIN is looking for Inspirational Women— Consider placing your name in nomination for club officer.
- \* Enjoy photos from the December 2008 Gala

How do you inspire? How do you make a difference?

My President's theme for 2009, as you know, is "Destined to Inspire." I truly believe that we as Soroptimist have been destined to inspire women and girls in our local and global communities. But how can we inspire or how can we make a difference in a woman or girl's life? As a first time club President, I'm asking myself "What can I say that would inspire the members"? I guess I could remind you of the wonderful things that we as a club do for our community. Maybe I can tell you what's

being done on the region or federation level? Where do I start? We are consistent in our participation in the Women's Opportunity, Violet Richardson, and Making a Difference for Women awards but there's got to be more. We have implemented a mentoring program at the Family Foundation Program for incarcerated women with children? That's inspirational but what else? Is there a women's issue that you are passionate about? I want to know about it. While we can surely write a check to provide assistance, what can we do that is hands on that will help to inspire another woman? I'm challenging each member to come up with at least one

women's issue that you would like to see the club participate in whether on our own or in conjunction with another club or organization.

I'd also like to know how you feel you inspire your fellow club members. Are you doing all you can do to make new members feel at home and welcomed. When was the last time that you contacted a member that doesn't regularly attend meetings just to say hi and see how she's doing.

### Destined to Inspire

Let's not forget that that includes your fellow club members.

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## Looking Inspirational Women to Lead Club

As you know (or maybe you didn't know), the club usually makes nominations for club officers during the annual Desert Coast conference in April. This year, since only a few members are attending, the club will need to

make its nominations by the April business meeting so the election can take place in May. Offices to be elected are:

President, Vice-President-Recruitment & Retention, Vice-President-Programs &

Publicity, Treasurer, Secretary, Director-Ways & Means, Director-Soroptimist Village, and Director-Service.

It has been the practice of the club for the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Message (continued)

I've had the opportunity as club President to attend some wonderful events which I am grateful for because it takes me out of my comfort zone and I've had the opportunity to meet some really awesome women. I will, however, be honest with you and tell you that I have not been happy to have attended some events but I've tried to learn and take the best from those and all situations. I say this not to criticize but to voice my concern. I hope to see within our district and region more togetherness and warmth. I would like to see more clubs banding together to work on

service projects with less cliques and less politics. We make a bigger impact as a whole. We all have a common goal to improve the lives of women and girls. So instead of criticizing, ignoring, or being indifferent towards your fellow Soroptimist, inspire her and help her to grow so that as an example you will help the Soroptimists that come behind you to be even more effective in our mission to enrich/improve the live of women and girls.

**Innovative women**

**Nurturing**

**Success through**

**Performance and**

**Insight to**

**Revitalize and**

**Enrich the lives of women and girls**

*President Henrietta*

## Fines & Brags—a New Feature

SIN has always had a “Fines & Brags” time at its meetings when members can share good or not so good news. Members put a little money in the “kitty” for the opportunity to brag or let off some steam. The Synergy is now offering this opportunity for each member. Send a photo of your grandchildren, a notice of recognition received. It'll be printed here and you can pay your “Fines & Brags” tariff at the next meeting.

As Editor, I'll start off with this photo of my twenty-one month old grandson, Joseph. We took him to the

Long Beach Aquarium where he was fascinated by the turtle. *Gail*

In response to an e-mail about this new feature, the following Fines & Brags were sent in. Keep 'em coming!

Madysn Hanley, daughter of *Jeana Hanley* and granddaughter of *Dona Bishop*, spent her Spring Break from Trinity Western College in BC Canada by flying to Chicago (at her expense) to work and live in a homeless shelter on the South Side. They cleaned walls & floors, moved furniture and

interacted with residents on a daily basis. Evenings were spent sightseeing and taking in a local Hockey game. Weather was in high 20's on warmer days! Good Job Madysn! We are so very proud of you, Mom & Grammie xoxo



I want to brag about my wonderful Soroptimist Sisters who were so supportive during Leo's recent bypass surgery. We could feel the love!! He's doing great and we thank you so much for your cards, notes, thoughts and prayers. Love and hugs to all.

*Rosemary*



Left Photo:  
Joseph Thomas  
Right Photo:  
Madysn &  
Friends

## Annual Awards Tea

SIN's Annual Awards Tea will be held on Sunday, March 22 at the Sproul Room in the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex.

The club will be recognizing the winners of its Women's Opportunity, Violet Richardson and Making a Difference for Women Awards as well as The Soroptimist of the Year. An additional highlight will be the installation of SIN's newest member, Naomi Martin.

Judge Deborah Andrews will be the featured speaker at the event

that begins at 1:00 p.m. Judge Andrews is herself a past winner of Soroptimist International of Long Beach Women Helping Women Award in 2003.

Tickets are on sale now for \$25 that includes a delightful afternoon tea meal. There will be an opportunity to win one of several prizes, purchase See's Easter Candy, and visit a select group of vendors.

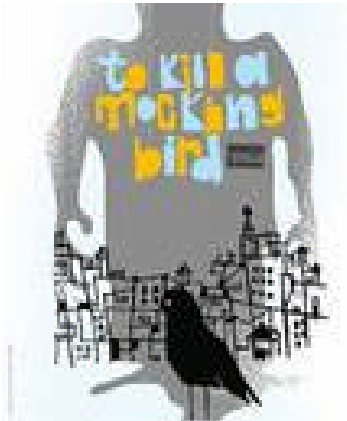
**Call or e-mail Amanda Secola to reserve your ticket by this Wednesday, March 18.**



**P.S. Wear a Hat!**

## To Kill a Mockingbird

The County of Los Angeles Public Library received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts called "The Big Read." The NEA seeks to revitalize the role of literary reading in American culture and The Big Read hopes to unite communities through great literature, as well as inspire students to become lifelong readers. SIN decided to become part of the program that features the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by



Harper Lee. The program provides a paperback edition of the novel for each member of a

group and offers a guided study of the novel. SIN plans to distribute the books to the clients of the Family Foundation Program and a SIN member has offered to serve as the guide. Because FFP is part of a correctional facility, the guide must undergo a background investigation. Once the investigation is complete, the reading sessions can begin.

It has been proposed that SIN'ners read the novel and we'll have a discussion at an upcoming program meeting. Let President Henrietta know what you think of this plan.

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President to serve a second term and President Henrietta has agreed to service again as President.

Please consider placing your name in nomination for one of these positions. The "seasoned" members are here to help the newer members learn new jobs and inspire us all with fresh ideas. If you are interested in a

particular position, send Gail an e-mail and ask for a description of the duties of the individual offices, or check the notebooks you were given at the beginning of the year. The club bylaws list and describe each office.

**Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet.**

**Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and success achieved.**

***Helen Keller***

Soroptimist International  
of Norwalk

# Photos from the Gala

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We're on the WEBI  
[sinorwalk.org](http://sinorwalk.org)

