

S.I.N.ERGY GAZETTE

The official newsletter of the Soroptimist of Norwalk

Message from President Gail

President's Message

I am pecking out this message with my index finger capped by a foam guard. How I managed to do it, I don't know, but Wednesday afternoon I slammed the finger in my car door. It turned so purple that I looked like an Iraqi voter! Paul insisted I go to the doctor and sure enough it was broken.

February found us SINners enjoying a wonderful Valentine Day party. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. I saved my valentines to open and read that evening when it was quiet and calm. Reading messages from my sisters made my day. I liked writing the cards too because it gave me the opportunity to reflect on how much I admire, respect and love each and every one of you and on the special talents each of you bring to our club.

On March 19th we'll celebrate the highlight of our service year with the Awards Tea and Installation of two new members. Irene Kho, although she won't be able to attend lunch meetings, has already accepted the task of being the Hospitality SINner; you've probably already received a e-card from her. Kathy Salama (mommy-to-be) has also been put to work drafting a sort of "Who We Are, What We Do," publication to educate new and old members alike about Soroptimist. I'm looking forward to their formal installation and to meeting our WOA, Woman of Distinction and Violet Richardson awardees. It will also be my honor to once again name a SI Norwalk "Soroptimist of the Year."

Love to all, Gail



Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	1
Winter Workshop Notes	1
Soroptimist Village	2
Project Independence	2
Awards Tea	3
Advertisers Corner	4



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

SIN Sisters
Spring Conference
YUMA, AZ
APRIL 21, 22, 23
So far we have 10
SINners scheduled
to Attend.. WooHoo

Winter Workshop was a huge success....

Record attendance for District 1....and we had money left over to send to Region.

Thanks to Cheri Kelley, SI Norwalk and Pam McNeal, SI Santa Fe Springs for their great job as Co-Chairs for the event.

Governor's Award for District 1—S.I. Norwalk for Breast Cancer Romania Project..More Kudos for President Gail !!!

Governor Becky, Governor-Elect Donna, Star Vicki Hobbs, & Star Dawn Marie Lemonds were in attendance.

Soroptimist Village Notes by Marilee Stefenhagen

PROPERTY MANAGER It has been a relief for the Village Board of Directors to have a professional property management company managing the day-to-day operations of the low-income senior apartments called Soroptimist Village, located on Foster Road 1/2 block east of Bloomfield in Norwalk. EXLNT Property Manager Gordon Stefenhagen meets every Monday with resident manager Juliet Melendrez and resident handyman Ray Wallace to discuss tenant concerns and facility needs. Gordon submits a monthly report to the Soroptimist Village Board, and the Board votes on matters such as insurance, employee raises and benefit coverage, and large expenditures.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES The Board of Directors also schedules monthly birthday parties for the residents, hosted by the various Soroptimist clubs who support the Village (SI Alhambra-San Gabriel-San Marino, SI Bellflower, SI Downey, SI El Monte, SI Monterey Park-Rosemead, SI Norwalk, SI Paramount, SI Puente Hills, SI Santa Fe Springs, SI Whittier). Half of the host clubs belong to Desert Coast Region, and the other half belong to El Camino Real Region.

PORCHES Ray Wallace has completed building 4 porches, made of white vinyl railing, along the front row of apartments. All of the front units seen as you drive into the complex should have new porches finished by May 2006. These porches look attractive, are low maintenance, and provide added safety for the senior residents.

MEMORIAL TILES The memorial tile wall in the parking lot is deteriorating rapidly. The Rose Float Committee who proposed installing the tiles to pay off the Rose Float debt is planning to replace the faded tiles. The question posed to the Board of Directors is: Should the tiles be placed inside the Social Hall on the wall, or outside but with a cover to protect them from the elements? If you have an opinion, please let Marilee know at (562) 868-0193.

UPCOMING MEETING: MARCH 9TH, THURSDAY AT NOON AT CURLY JONES

Remember our goal is to raise \$1.2million by 2007. This will provide nearly 2,000 women with the skills they need to rebuild their lives after war.



PROJECT INDEPENDENCE: WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL-

We have a PEACE DOLL, to assist in raising funds for Project Independence .

These are auctioned to the highest bidder or raffled off. We can decide how to best utilize this option. Amanda Secola to present past, current and future plans for this partnership and how S.I. Norwalk can participate.

MARCH 16TH, THURSDAY AT NOON AT THE FOUNDERS ROOM- NORWALK SPORTS COMPLEX

MARY KAY DEMONSTRATION AND MUCH MORE

AWARDS TEA—SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH—1:00PM TO 3:00PM—\$22.00

SPROUL RECEPTION CENTER IN NORWALK

CONTACT MARILEE STEFENHAGEN TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE

2006 Woman Opportunity Award Recipient

WOA - Dana Osborne is a single parent of two children attending Cerritos College where she will graduate in May w/AA in Psychology. She also works part-time as an Instructional Aid for Norwalk La Mirada School Dist through the college federal work study program. Her experience's working with children has played a pivotal part in her decision to work towards becoming a Child Psychologist to make a difference in their lives.

2006 Violet Richardson Honoree

VR - Lizette Ruezga is a senior at John Glenn High School where she has spent the last four years volunteering for the Parent Teacher Student Assoc through fundraising to sponsor senior scholarships. She also helps at St John of God church and events sponsored by the City of Norwalk. She is a graduate of the Justice Academy which promotes careers in law and public service. Her bilingual skills are an added asset to the community she serves.

2006 Soroptimist Int'l of Norwalk—Woman Of Distinction Honoree

Angela Knox has been director of Family Foundation for six years, starting just 6 months after the facility started operations. She oversees the operation of an alternative sentencing program that allows incarcerated women to live with their babies or toddlers (newborns up to six years) during the one year that they are in the Family Foundation program. The women attend alcohol and drug treatment programs and participate in vocational training classes, learning skills which will enable them to support themselves and pay for child care when they are released. A full-time child development group cares for the babies and young children. One of the vocational training programs offered is a culinary school, and the women living at Family Foundation do all the meal preparation.

Family Foundation is funded by the California State Department of Corrections, and operates through the Los Angeles Center for Alcohol and Drug Addiction (LACADA). Ms. Knox is proud of their 80% success rate, meaning that the vast majority of their clients are able to successfully re-enter the community, either in the workplace or enrolled in school, while taking care of their children. Family Foundation is a **model** program; the first of its kind in the world. A second Family Foundation center is located in San Diego, but the Norwalk location was the first to try this novel approach to rehabilitation. Visitors from as far as Japan have toured the Family Foundation site to learn more about Family Foundation's operations, procedures, and policies which allow incarcerated women the chance to live with and care for their children.

Angela Knox has reached out to the wider community on behalf of the Family Foundation to expand and strengthen services to clients. She has approached local businesses to sponsor field trips to the Los Angeles Zoo and other fun venues for the mothers and their children. She has asked community non-profit organizations to fund GED study guides for clients who want to complete their high school equivalency diplomas. She has encouraged a fellow Kiwanis member who serves on the Family Foundation Board to provide regular training sessions on skin care and make-up for the clients. She established a partnership program with the Norwalk Woman's Club and St. Linus Church to support the "Baby Love" program through which volunteers come to the Family Foundation Center to hold and rock the babies while their mothers are in training classes.

Angela Knox is a perfect choice for Soroptimist International of Norwalk's "Making a Difference for Women" Award, as she exemplifies a professional whose daily efforts have had a significant impact on the lives of women and girls. She gives Family Foundation's clients a chance to escape the cycles of domestic violence, conquer their drug addictions, and learn how to be responsible mothers and citizens.



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SUBMIT YOUR BUSINESS CARD OR I CAN CREATE AN AD
FOR YOU! \$50 FOR THE YEAR AND THAT IS A GUARANTEE
OF EIGHT ISSUES. WE USUALLY PUBLISH MORE, BUT WE
DON'T WANT TO PROMISE AND NOT FOLLOW THROUGH.

ALSO THIS GOES UP ON OUR WEBSITE TOO!

IT IS A GOOD DEAL



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women