



## BUNNY TALES

### SOROPTIMIST BOARD 2017-2018

President—Debbie Cutler

VP Programs—Sue Gore

Recording Secretary—Marcy Shewmon

Treasurer—Dixie DiCeglie

Corresponding Secretary- Jacque Turner

Director 1 Year—Nancy Nevitt

Director 2 Year—Carole Blake



POB 3634 Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

website: [www.SIConejo.org](http://www.SIConejo.org)

### Dates To Remember

July 28 - Annual Planning Session

August 7 - Business Meeting

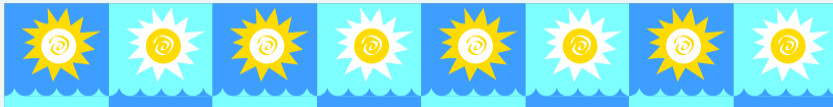
September 4 - Business Meeting

September 18 - Service Awards

Oct 2 - Business Meeting

Oct 13 - Fall Conference

Oct 16 - Program Meeting



### *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

**I can't believe year 2 as President is over, the time has gone so fast.**

**I am so thankful for the board that served with me in 2017-2018, we accomplished so much! Truly I'm looking forward to another year as**

**President and having Ramona work beside me as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.**

**Also having some of our new members on the new board for 2018-2019 is very exciting! My new theme for the year is "Dream big=Transformed Lives."**

**My goals are to increase our "live your awards" and give 10% to "club giving" which goes to Soroptimist of the Americas toward more money for the "Live your dream award." Hope to see you all at our annual Retreat so we can make our plans for the new year!**

**Your President, Debbie**



SI Conejo was so pleased to present Tiffany Reynolds with the “Live Your Dream” Award. Tiffany is a single mother of four children ages 5-19. She endured domestic violence and broke free in 2014. She pursued her education working part time to pay for school. Her education has provided her with the ability to have achievable dreams and goals.

Tiffany has completed her Associate Arts degree and is currently attending CSU Channel Islands to obtain her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She also works 30 hours a week at a severe special education class helping children with special needs learn and grown in an educational setting. Tiffany also runs a 12-step ministry program at her church - one Busy Lady and Truly a Gem - SOIC was pleased to help further her educational process.



The Live Your Dream Awards program is Sorpotimist’s Signature program. The Program assists women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects. It is given each year to a woman, head of household, who shows determination to improve her life and that of her family thru vocational or traditional training or education.





**Soroptimist International has published a series of true stories of award winners that truly define a women's determination to rise above challenges – and with the help of the program, are on their way to achieve success.**

**Let me introduce you to one of many stories, the story of Yasmin**

## **Yazmin's Extraordinary Story**

### **Defending Women's Rights After Overcoming Trauma**

Yazmin survived years of sexual abuse as a child only to be wrongly incarcerated for her abuser's death. The *Live Your Dream Awards* are helping Yazmin, now free, study law to fight for women's justice.

When Yazmin, from Tijuana, Mexico, was a child, she revealed to her mother that her stepfather has been sexually abusing her. While revealing her secret was frightening, the last thing she expected was to be sent to jail for six years.

Yazmin's painful childhood began when her mother's police officer boyfriend, her future Stepfather, moved into their home. He treated both her and her sister kindly at first, but soon began to pay extra attention to Yazmin. When her mother would go to work, he would enter her bedroom and watch her sleep.

On her 12th birthday, he raped her for the first time. Yazmin felt that she was unable to tell anyone about the sexual abuse because he threatened to kill her parents if she told anyone. He also said that no one would believe her anyway because he was a police officer.

Though his threats frightened her, Yazmin decided to tell her mother about the years of sexual abuse when she began to fear that her stepfather would rape her younger sister. Yazmin started to recognize that some of his behavior toward her sister was similar to the inappropriate attention that he first paid her—holding her waist, caressing her. To protect her sister, Yazmin fearfully confessed everything to her mother, worrying that she wouldn't even believe her.

#### **Wrongfully Accused**

Her mother, furious, told Yazmin's biological father about the abuse. One day, after returning home from high school, Yazmin came home to the police arresting her mother and father for the murder of her stepfather. Yazmin was also arrested as an accomplice, and she spent six years in a correctional facility, despite the fact that she was the victim of the crime.

Since her release from juvenile prison, Yazmin has enrolled in the Autonomous University of Baja California Law School and plans to complete her bachelor's degree in law in November 2016. Her years of unjust incarceration fuel her dream of being an attorney so that she can prevent other women from becoming the victims of an unfair criminal system.





**SI Conejo Ladies know how to celebrate at the  
Camino Real Region 40 Year Spring Conference  
And a little work too!**



## LIVE YOUR DREAM BRUNCH ALWAYS THE HIGHLIGHT OF CAMINO REAL REGION SPRING CONFERENCE



Dixie and Tiffany enjoy the Brunch Celebrating all the Camino Real Region Winners for the Live Your Dream Awards. Recipients received gift baskets of lots of goodies including a brand new Tablet!

Pictured on the right are the three top region winners, Amber Dixon from SI Glendale, Priscilla Estrada from SI Bellflower and Jennifer Santivanez from SI Simi Valley.



live  
**YOUR**  
dream  
education & training awards for women®



# **Margarita Mix Off 2018**

## **Another Great Event!!!**

### **Soroptimist International of the Conejo**

### **17th Annual Margarita Mixoff 2018**

### **"Best in the West Margarita"**



**May 10, 2018**

***"Best In The West Margarita"***

**People's Choice - 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

**Alquimia Organic Tequila - Oxnard**

**People's Choice - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

**Chili's Grill & Bar - Newbury Park**

**Best On The Rocks**

**1st Place: The Gardens at Los Robles Greens**

**2nd Place: Chili's Grill & Bar - Newbury Park**

**Best Hors d'oeuvres**

**Parma Pizzeria Napoletana**

**Best Decorated Booth**

**Harvest Kitchen & Bar at Hyatt Regency Westlake Village**

**Best Drink Presentation**

**The Gardens at Los Robles Greens**

**Best Entertainment**

**Chili's Grill & Bar - Newbury Park**

**Best Amateur Margarita**

**Nesto Media**







# SI Conejo Grows Again Welcome our Newest Member Madeline “Maddie” Nelson



Maddie is a native of California and is currently enrolled in a Doctorate Program at Cal Lutheran University studying Clinical Psychology. She considers using her super skill of “human hacking” by getting patients to relate and acknowledge their own “reality,” a skill needed to be successful in her career.

Maddie’s family moved to Simi Valley where they were able to own horses. Her family had donated Toucan Birds to the Moorpark Zoo. Now they are raising other exotic birds and goats.

Education is key in the Nelson Family. Maddie’s sister is at UCFS working toward her Bio Med PhD, and Father, Kent comes from a mechanical engineering background. Sharon Nelson (mom) works at CLU in the University Relations Department. We are excited to welcome our youngest, and newest member to SIOC.





Friends of Soroptimist of The Conejo are brought together to say Hello to Cindy — a mini reunion of members current and past.

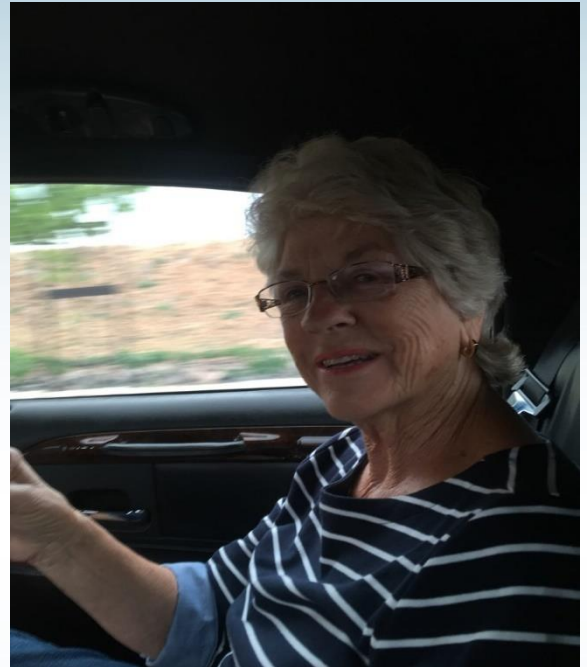




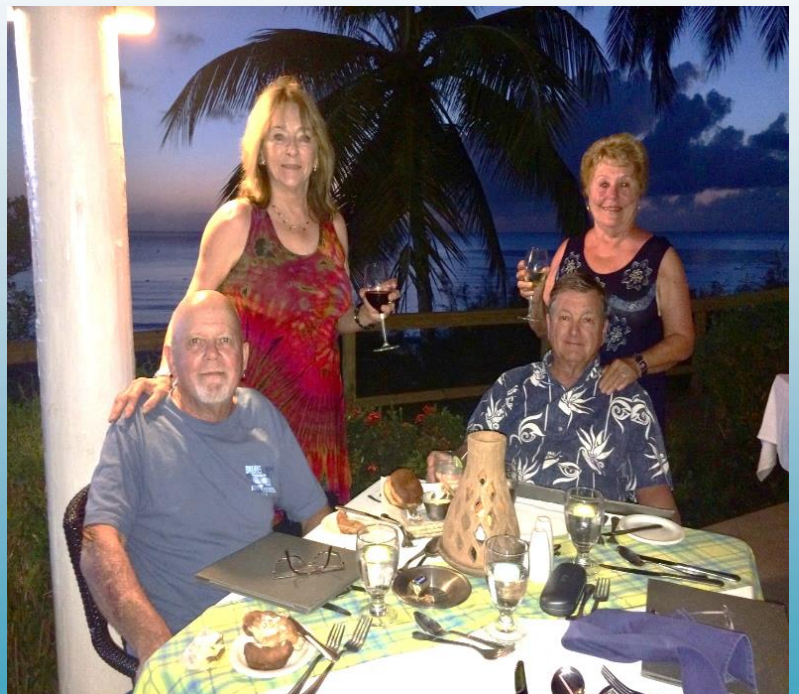
# What are Members Are Up To



**On the Left—The Gore's enjoy Wine Tasting in Paso Robles with friend Pat Clark—at the Sculptera Vineyard — Also shown is Sue Gore the “road warrior”**



**Below are Don and Debbie on vacation in Saint Lucia - also pictured on right are Don and Marcy and Jacque and Greg also enjoying vacationing in Saint Lucia!**







## Soroptimist Vision & Mission

### VISION

Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

### MISSION

Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

**CORE VALUES** - Soroptimist International of the Americas is committed to:

**Gender Equality:** Women and girls live free from discrimination.

**Empowerment:** Women and girls are free to act in their own best interest.

**Education:** Women and girls deserve to lead full and productive lives through access to education.

**Diversity & Fellowship:** Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women and girls.

### Soroptimist Pledge

**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.**