



Fall 2021 Bunny Tales



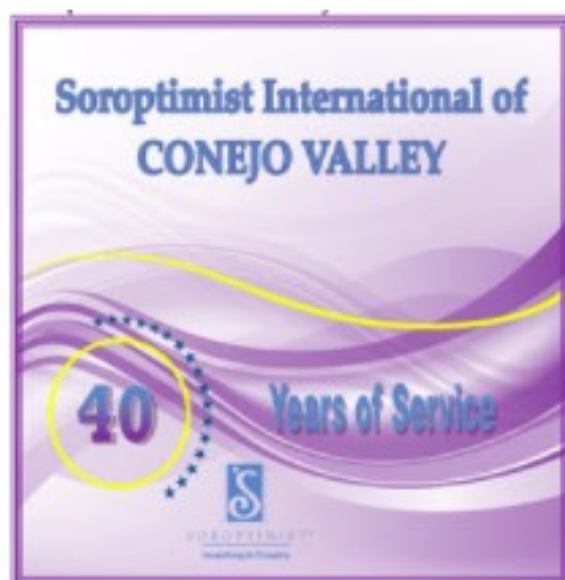
President Karen's Message

By the time you read this newsletter, you will notice a change in the temperature and fall decorations around the neighborhood. While I truly enjoy the summer weather, it is nice to walk in the crisp morning air and feel the anticipation of the holidays approaching. I adore this time of year.

This season reminds me of how blessed I am. Blessed to be a part of Soroptimist, blessed to have such a fabulous group of ladies in a club that is celebrating its 40th anniversary and blessed to be able to hold our signature event, Margarita Mix Off, after almost two years.

I am incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication of Dixie DiCeglie (chair), each member, their spouses, each vendor, and those who attended. The success of our event would not have been made possible without each and every one of you. Thank you

The women of SIOCV never cease to amaze me, with their good humor, high energy, knowledge and unwavering commitment. I tip my hat to each and every one of you. Thank you
President Karen



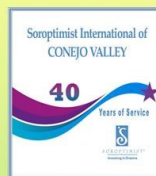
19th Annual Margarita Mix Off
Was a Success!





President Karen and member Carole Blake enjoy some margarita tasting!

Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley
19th Annual Margarita Mixoff 2021
“Best in the West Margarita”



September 23, 2021

“Best In The West Margarita”

People's Choice - 1st Place

Alquimia Organic Tequila

People's Choice - 2nd Place

Oak & Iron

People's Choice - 3rd Place

Tierra Rejada Golf Club Bar & Grille

“Best Appetizer”

People's Choice - 1st Place

Tierra Rejada Golf Club Bar & Grille

People's Choice - 2nd Place

Cisco's Mexican Restaurant

People's Choice - 3rd Place

Los Robles Greens Oak Bar & Grille

Our 19th Annual Margarita Mix Off was Lots of fun thanks to the hard work of Dixie DiCeglie our Margarita Mix Off Chair. The Silent Auction and Raffle items were a hit, great Margaritas and camaraderie. Familiar faces of guests were all smiling and really enjoyed the event.



SI Of Conejo Valley Grows!! Adding a Triple "S" Team -Sandy - Susanne - Stacy! Meet the New Members



Stacy Gianassi came to us after relocating to Thousand Oaks from Beverly Hills California. She and husband Jake have two children, Sydra a recent graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and son Aidan currently attending NYU. Jake and Stacy have a classic story of "high school sweethearts" growing up in Marysville, a small town in northern California. Stacy is currently working for True America involved in asset management for a property investment group and is responsible for repositioning properties for profitability. This career takes her on the road quite a bit to Santa Fe New Mexico, Arizona, and Las Vegas. How did she know about Soroptimist? One of her childhood friends from Marysville won a scholarship in high school from Soroptimist in that area. After relocating to Thousand Oaks Stacy reached out to join our organization. We welcome her as a new member and a savvy business person who is talented in the Social Media realm.



Pictured is our Membership Chair Debbie Cutler after inducting Sandy and Susanne at a recent meeting

Susanne White (far right) is a current resident of Simi Valley and came to SI Conejo via a friend Dee Dee who plans to become a member also. Susanne is originally from England and has lived in the United States for 30 years. She has a daughter Kerry who resides in northern California, son Stewart and 2 grandchildren Kingsley 8 years old and Hendrick who is 5 years old. She also has an unofficially adopted daughter Olivia who Susanne has been a positive influence in Olivia's life for many years. Susanne is passionate about helping others and has donated time to homeless organizations as well as supporting folks who work with challenged children. She enjoyed her first Margarita Mix Off bringing her son Stewart, and boyfriend of 8 years Shawn to the event. Although now retired she has worked for Guitar Center and Bank of America. We welcome Susanne to our small but mighty group.



Sandy McDougall is pictured with Dixie DiCeglie (Mom) is our newest member to join. We now have 2 Mother Daughter members (Marcy Shewmon and Debbie Cutler) Sandy has been a volunteer for Soroptimist of Conejo since she was 14 years old. The family moved from Fresno when she was in middle school and she is now married to Shawn McDougall for 8 years and is the mother of Ryder 3 years old. She works for Canon Business Processing Services at Amgen. A true Dodger Fan and a fan of all things to do with horses, we welcome Sandy officially as one of our newest members.



What is the Live Your Dream Award?

The *Live Your Dream* awards assist 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. In addition to providing the primary financial support for their families, these women are enrolled in or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program.

Live Your Dream applications are now being accepted by LYD Chair Susanne Walker - email at SMW@aofj.com.

Application deadline is November 15th.

See the story of Tyra - one of the many Live Your Dream winners globally for Soroptimist. Our Mission is to "Improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world".



**See next page for
Tyra's Story**

Helping Other Women After Surviving Domestic Abuse

Tyra Wright had had enough. Enough of the mental and emotional abuse from her partner. Enough of not having the money to pursue her dreams of a college education and a better life for herself and her daughter. Enough of the physical abuse when she became pregnant with her second child.

So one day, Tyra simply told herself: Enough. She knew if she didn't stop the cycle, eventually the abuse would happen again. "I knew that wasn't the life I needed to live," says the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, resident.

A New Beginning

Mustering her courage, she removed the offending man from her home with an Order of Protection. No longer able to afford to stay in her own house, Tyra moved herself and her family in with her mother. Then she took another positive step: She enrolled at the University of Phoenix in the Philadelphia area with the aim of earning a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Tyra was also working full time as a billing coordinator at a law firm. Even with that income, however, she was concerned about paying for school. "I didn't want to take out these insurmountable loans," she says. "So I started looking for scholarships to attend school because it was costly for books, rent, my children's tuition. I started searching the Internet and that's when I found out about Soroptimist."

Moving Forward

The Soroptimist *Live Your Dream Award* was exactly what Tyra was looking for, so she filled out the necessary paperwork. But she knew that many other women in need would also be applying and she doubted she would receive any monies. "I was shocked one day when I got a voicemail telling me I was given an award of \$300. Now I could buy my school books, as well as diapers for my daughter. It was such a good feeling and a real blessing."

Tyra received the award from the SI/Five Points Magneta club in Philadelphia in 2002, attending the ceremony at the home of Wanda Price, immediate past governor of the North Atlantic Region and membership chair for the region.

Since receiving that award, Tyra's life has changed in many positive ways. For one, she graduated in 2005 with a B.S. degree in business management from the University of Phoenix. She also met a wonderful man two years ago while on a lunch break. The two married this October and Tyra says matter-of-factly, "God is good."

The club members go out in the community and help women and give them a sense of belonging and assurance. I love that. It's awesome to be around the most positive women I've ever met or seen. It's such a joy.

Tyra also stayed in touch with the Five Points Magneta club, letting them know of her progress. A few months ago she became a Soroptimist and loves her newfound association, saying, "The club members go out in the community and help women and give them a sense of belonging and assurance. I love that. It's awesome to be around the most positive women I've ever met or seen. It's such a joy."

Inspired by others

She's especially grateful for the club's help in furthering her education and her life. "I see these women and how passionate they are and that's what drives me at each and every meeting," she says. "Wanda tells me that I can jump start our club for a newer generation and that's exactly what I plan to do. No matter where I am, I always mention that I'm part of Soroptimist and ask women if they'd like to be a part of it."



SI of Conejo Valley continues to support local organizations

Below left: Service Chair Leslie Escoto delivers School Supplies to Rain Communities.

Below right: Soroptimist Susanne White and Suzanne Walker join Leslie working the Registration Desk at the recent Relay for Life in Thousand Oaks.



Our October Project was headed up by Debbie Cutler for Interface Children & Family Services, a nonprofit organization.

SI of Conejo Valley contributed fully stocked bags for women residing at a rescue home, called Heart House, who are exiting trafficking. The bags are stocked with gift cards, shower supplies, cosmetics, hair supplies, pajamas, towels and snacks.

We have now delivered 40 bags in the past year to a very appreciative organization.



We loose a very special Soroptimist of Fillmore
and our District Director Ari Larson

She will truly be missed - service information is below
for those who want to attend



Ari Larson

YOUR LIFE WAS A BLESSING, YOUR MEMORY A
TREASURE, YOU ARE MISSED BEYOND MEASURE

VIGIL: FRIDAY OCTOBER 29TH
10AM-9PM

PEREZ FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
600 CENTRAL AVE -FILLMORE
ROSARY BEGINS @ 6:30PM

MASS : SATURDAY OCTOBER 30TH
10AM-11AM

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
23225 LYONS AVE- SANTA CLARITA

RECEPTION : 12PM
FILLMORE-PIRU VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
511 2ND STREET- FILLMORE

**President Karen's Theme
for 2020-2021**

THE POWER OF YOU!



**Recipe From Leslie Escoto
Shrimp Ceviche Appetizer**



1 Pound of deveined cooked shrimp chopped up
6 lemons (for juice)
3 tablespoons of minced garlic
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
1/2 white onion finely chopped
1/2 Teaspoon Chili powder
3 Roma Tomatoes finely chopped
2 ripe Avocado chopped (put in just before serving)
Serve with Tortilla Chips

Once you get used to making you can adjust the lemon juice and spices according to your taste. This is always a big hit at parties



Calendar

Oct 5 Business Meeting Los Robles Greens
October 18 Program Meeting Los Robles Greens
Quarterly Board Meeting Oct 25 -Location TBD
November 2nd Business Meeting Los Robles Greens
November 3rd Nosco Ride (volunteer event)
November 16 Program Meeting Los Robles Greens
November 20 - Fall Conference Details TBD
December 7 Business Meeting Los Robles Greens
Holiday Party December 4, Cutler Home
January 4 Business Meeting Los Robles Greens
January 18 40 Year Anniversary Celebration of SI Conejo Valley



Soroptimist Vision & Mission

VISION

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

MISSION

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve 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.**