



Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley 2022 Fall Edition Bunny Tales





President Suzanne's Message

As I am writing this message, it is raining. Something it doesn't do very often in California. It is a welcome site.

Our club has been very busy planning and doing. As you all know our Club is small in numbers compared to some, but we work together and make our Club a successful in anything we attempt.

Our Margarita Mix Off was successful, despite attendance being down. The raffle and silent auction items were awesome. We had great restaurant vendors and an abundance of food. We have already started planning for next year.

Dixie, Sandy and myself attended the CRR Fall Workshop. The focus is on Membership, we are in the process of obtaining a new member.

Fundraising: our See's Candy and Honey Baked Ham will commence for the holidays.

We have been kept busy doing Community Service. Preparing the Champion Breakfast for the Nosco Ride, Volunteering for Relay for Life, filling bags for Interface, underwear and socks for James Storehouse and Holiday card signing For the Troops.

We had a delightful Program Meeting. Dale Harshberger from Armstrong Garden Center gave us some welcome ideas on planting and caring for Vegetable Gardens. I hope everyone got their plants planted before this welcoming rain.

We have gone from never hosting a "Dream it Be It" program for high school age girls to scheduling TWO. (Details later in the Newsletter)

This is an exceptional undertaking for our Club.

I believe "Together we Create a Rainbow of Possibilities."

As Always,
President Suzanne

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF CONEJO VALLEY



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SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF CONEJO VALLEY

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022
THURSDAY
5:30 PM TO 8 PM

**THE GARDENS AT
LOS ROBLES GREENS**
299 S. MOORPARK ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS

20th ANNUAL

**Margarita
Mixoff &
More!**

ENJOY MARGARITA TASTINGS AND APPETIZERS,
PLUS CRAFT BEER & WINE SAMPLES - ALL IN THE NAME OF CHARITY!
ATTENDEES WILL VOTE FOR PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD
FOR "BEST IN THE WEST MARGARITA"

FOR INFO (805) 701-8537

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
SICONEJO.ORG
Or mail check to P.O. Box 3634, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

\$45 IN ADVANCE
\$50 AT THE DOOR

Our 20th Annual Margarita Mix Off
on Sept 8th was a big success





2022 Winners

Best in the West Margarita

First Place - Los Robles Greens

Second Place - Alquimia Tequila

Third Place - Tie:

The Ranch at Tierra Rejada Golf Club and Oak & Iron

Best in the West Appetizer

First Place - Smokin Steve's BBQ

Second Place - Los Robles Greens

Third Place - Arts Tacos

Thanks so much to all the participants in making
our 20th Annual a success!!



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Service Award 2022 Banquet supports 5 Organizations with Grant Money. September 20th was a very special night for SI Conejo Valley.



Stacy DeWitt of James Storehouse accepts a donation on behalf of James Storehouse - an organization that provides foster and trafficked youth access to emergency resources, housing, mentorship, and educational opportunities.



Ami Milla -Co Founder and Treasurer of Rain Communities was able to attend on behalf of the organization. Rain Communities shares the mission of serving women and children of Ventura County providing transitional housing and program assistance for homeless women and their children. Their grant is slated to fund transportation assistance for homeless women and children.



Sarah's House is another organization we gave grant money to - Laura Malinowski presented what Sarah's House offers to the community. This organization supports unwed mothers providing case management, classes and assistance in beginning a changed life breaking the cycle of poverty and abuse. The grant money will be supporting Educational funds for residents assisting with transportation to school, books, tuition and certification fees.



We have been supporting Conejo Free Clinic multiple ways. This grant for Conejo Free Clinic will be supporting free Breast Cancer Screenings, diagnostics and prevention to the community. Leanne Tapper pictured below was able to attend the banquet to receive the grant money.





CIFORD Kenya
Community initiative for rural Development



Debbie Cutler accepts the grant for our only international organization CIFORD Kenya.



Live Your Dream Applications are now being accepted. Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women is a program that 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 through vocational or traditional training or education. Awards can be used to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition and transportation.

Our Chair Debbie Cutler is reviewing a number of applicants currently.



Discovering Your Dreams

We have confirmed two "Dream it Be It" events focusing on providing life skills and knowledge for high school age girls - Feb 21, 2023 will be our first partnered with James Storehouse - Chair Carole Blake is working very hard to make this event a success!

Our second "Dream It Be It" is being funded by a Grant that Ramona Evey secured and is partnered with Girl Scouts. Many Girl Scout badges will be awarded at this event. May 20, 2023 is when this will take place.



What have the members been up to!



Bragging Rights from Suzanne Walker

On June 9, 2022 my granddaughter, Vianna Snyder pictured above was awarded the Scholarship Award at the 5th Grade Culmination Ceremonies at the Cypress Elementary School in Newbury Park, CA.

Her name was put on a plaque with recipients from previous years. The plaque will hang in the school for all to see for years to come.

Congratulations Vianna !!



Above Debbie Cutler enjoys time with her three grandchildren Asa, Asher and Elsie. Also pictured is Quinn, Debbie's other grandson.

Below is Dale Harshberger from Armstrong Garden demonstrating techniques for a vegetable garden at our Program Meeting October 18th.





Back in February, Darryl and Ramona committed to running the half marathon in Long Beach, 13.1 miles, on October 9th. This was before Darryl's broken ankle and broken foot, still healing, ran anyway. We finished the run together in 3.5 hours. A Marine motto, never give up and never quit!



Nancy Nevitt, Jacque Turner Lockwood and Greg embarked on a Mexico cruise Oct 1 to Puerto Vallarta, Ensenada, and Cabo San Lucas - a great time was had by all.



Susanne, Leslie, Suzanne and Sherry fill out Holiday Cards at the Simi Valley For The Troops office on November 5th



Sandy's son, Ryder McDougall has some Halloween Fun with his buddies, with great costumes the kids enjoyed trick or treat activities.



Above -Mini Reunion on October 22nd: Jacque Turner Lockwood and husband Greg spent a little family time with her brother Paul, sis-in-law Terri (from So. Carolina), and nephew Casey (from Colorado) while attending a celebration of life at Sorelle Winery, in the Stockton countryside.



Above are three pictures from Ramona's vacation. Ramona spent her first summer vacation camping at Silverwood Lake with her family. What should have been a beautiful California day turned out to be Southern California's first real rain storm. Not only did it rain, thunder and lightning, my husband Darryl ended up staying home with Covid. It all worked out, the family stayed the entire time lounging by the lake, eating smores by the fire, crafting with the grandkids and hiking. It rained hard the last two days of our stay; their tent was destroyed. Ramona's lovely granddaughters Athena (5) and Maya (2) had a great time.



Several Soroptimist members were among the 126 volunteers at the Mike Nosco Memorial Bicycle Ride held on November 3rd, beginning at Dos Vientos Community Center.

The Michael P. Nosco Foundation, Inc. provides financial assistance to families and/or individuals who are confronting a life-threatening illness.

The Ride is held each year on November 3, to honor the memory of Mike, who lost his life in a tragic accident on that day, fourteen years ago.

There were 602 riders participating in this very tough 80-mile bicycle ride, which raised money to make a difference in our community for families and individuals battling grievous illnesses.

This year, five recipients benefited from the event, which was supported by an amazing turnout of cyclists, volunteers, sponsors and community.

Soroptimist members staffed the Breakfast of Champions and helped with registration.

Susanne, Sherry & Suzanne made peanut butter & jelly sandwiches and brought string cheese, and Leslie prepared 4 dozen hard-boiled eggs. Dixie staffed the registration table on what was a very frosty and windy early morning! Ramona was the event coordinator.

Below are pictures of the Soroptimist Volunteers.





Recipe from Ramona - a good dish for the winter cold!

COLUMBIAN CHILI RECIPE

~1.5 Gallon

Ingredients

2 tbsp. [Extra Virgin Olive Oil](#)
 1 medium red onion, chopped (about 1 cup)
 ½ green bell pepper, chopped (about ½ cup)
 1 [Whole Pickled Jalapeño Pepper](#), seeded and roughly chopped
 2 tsp. [Minced Garlic](#) or 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
 1 lb. ground pork (can use beef for cost savings 80% lean)
 Goya [Adobo All-Purpose Seasoning with Pepper](#), to taste
 1 tbsp. chili powder
 1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh cilantro
 1 tbsp. ground cumin
 1 can (28 oz.) whole tomatoes, chopped
 1 packet Beef Bullion
 1 packet Goya [Sazón](#) with Coriander and Annatto
 1 can (15.5 oz.) [Pinto Beans](#), undrained

Toppings (As Desired)

Shredded Monterey jack cheese
 Sour cream
 Finely chopped white onions
 Toss everything in the crockpot for 8 hours on low OR

1. Heat oil in medium, heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat. Add onions, peppers and garlic; cook until vegetables are soft, stirring occasionally, about 8 minutes. Season meat with Adobo. Add meat to the pot, breaking into small pieces with a wooden spoon. Cook until browned, stirring occasionally, about 8 minutes. Stir in chili powder, cilantro and cumin, cook until fragrant, about 1 minute more.

2. Add 1 cup water, chopped tomatoes (with liquid), beef bouillon and Sazón to pot. Bring tomato mixture to boil. Lower heat to medium-low and simmer, uncovered, until mixture thickens and flavors come together, stirring occasionally, about 1 hour. Stir in beans. Cook until heated through, about 15 minutes more.



Calendar of Events

November 15 Program Meeting Los Robles Greens - Ventura County Senior Living Presenting Living it Up Today While Planning for Tomorrow

December 6 Business Meeting Los Robles Greens
 Holiday Party (TBD)

January 3 Business Meeting Los Robles Greens

January 17 Program Meeting Los Robles Greens - Jeff Hirth owner of Batteries Plus

February 21 Dream It Be It partnered with James Storehouse Los Robles Greens

March 7 - Business Meeting Los Robles Greens



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.