

Soroptimusings



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Soroptimist International of Glendale

P.O. Box 826 - Glendale, CA 91209

www.soroptimistglendale.com

Chartered April 16, 1943 - Club # 112411

S.I.G.

"Working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment."

2017-2018 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jacky Hawley

818-245-6168

sigjhawley@gmail.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kathryn Van Houten

1st VICE PRESIDENT

(Programs)

Jean Kagan

Diane Lambillotte, Assistant

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

(Fundraising)

**Heather Ghermezian &
Laurie Leask**

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

(Membership)

Jane Karageorge

Kathy Lefkovits, Assistant

4th VICE PRESIDENT

(Service)

Martha Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY

Martha Wilson

Susan Hunt, Assistant

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lynda Burlison

Mary Lotz, Assistant

TREASURER

Susan Riechel

Georgette Green, Assistant

2 YEAR DIRECTOR

Sandy Moreno

Seda Khojayan, Alternate

1 YEAR DIRECTOR

Jill Lewis

Lou Rhodes, Alternate

IMMEDIATE

PAST PRESIDENT

Carol Ann Burton, M.D.



Signing Off

Debbie invited me to write an end of year message for *Soroptimusings*, but for some reason I have found it very difficult to begin. I wonder, is this because I have nothing to say or because I have so many thoughts going through my mind that I can't think how to corral them.

It is impossible to tell you the many ways my year as SIG President has affected me, but there are a few things I will mention. The acceptance I received, the camaraderie of working together in groups and as a whole club on our year's activities, the renewing of forgotten skills and the sense of purpose were all part of my experience. When I thank you as a club for your work and your support it is more than specific deeds but for your overall contribution to my renewal. So again: many, many sincere thanks.

At a time when our society is so hypersensitive to political issues, it is wonderful to be part of an organization that does so much important work without stirring controversy. Acknowledgement that basic human needs for relationship, nutrition, and safety are not available to so many people moves us to compassion, engagement and action. Through our mission Soroptimist acknowledges women and girls who lack these basic needs, and offers opportunities to thousands. By this means Soroptimist not only improves the lives of women and girls, but of whole communities.

As a Soroptimist I benefit from knowing all of you and being part of a global organization in which shared goals are more important than ideological differences.

"Embrace, Educate, Empower"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Here are some of my guiding principles, taken from my favorite book:

- If possible, as far as it depends on you live peaceably with all;
- Love one another;
- (Bear the fruits of)... love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control;
- Against such things there is no law.

I look forward to Kathryn's year as President of SIG. Kathryn has great ideas, energy, and community connections that will help the club be innovative, dynamic and better known. Through all of that I am confident that she will succeed in her goal for retention of members. I know that you will support her as you have always supported your president, and will have a year of fun and achievement.



Sincerely,
Jacqueline Hawley

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The June/July issue of *Soroptimusings* represents the end of some things, the continuation of others, and new beginnings. The Installation Luncheon held in June was a good example as we said "Thank You" to the outgoing 2017-2018 board and "Hello" and "Congratulations" to the incoming officers and assistants.

The Joint Board meeting held in late June was another example as the outgoing board wrapped up business and the incoming board took over with attention focused on the upcoming year. Right on the heels of the joint board meeting came the Annual Planning Retreat held on Saturday, June 29th at The Gardens. About thirty members spent from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. envisioning the future of SI Glendale and how we best want to fulfill our mission in the coming 2018-2019 year. We had a room full of enthusiastic members with innovative ideas and percolating plans. But it wasn't all work and no play — we had fun too! So look for the special Planning Retreat photo scrapbook that will accompany this issue. You will

learn some things about our members that you never knew before!

This issue also brings an end to my nine year stint as the editor of *Soroptimusings*. I have to credit former member Julie Beers (pictured below) with introducing me to the club newsletter. It was not long after I became a member that she approached me at the Service Grants Luncheon saying she had heard I enjoyed writing. She asked if I would like to join the newsletter committee and I agreed. Later I became her Assistant Editor. It was thanks to Julie's mentoring that I learned how to produce a newsletter. It was thanks to my husband John, that it became the production it is today. John designed the masthead and helped me transfer the format a few years ago from a Scrapbook program I was using to MicroSoft Publisher. That's what Soroptimists do — they support us and help us to be better and do better for SIG.

I also would like to thank the many members that contributed articles, stories, tidbits, recipes and photos over the years — most recently members Margo Bottcher, Edith Fuentes, Jane Karageorge, Gay Kinman and Catherine Yesayan.

It's been fabulous fun detailing all of our club's many activities, projects, accomplishments, Soroptimixers, and fundraisers over the years. In all I was able to produce a little over fifty issues of our club newsletter and numerous photo scrapbooks containing many hundreds of club pictures. I sincerely thank the club for the opportunity and look forward to supporting the next editor.

— Debbie Mallon



Two writers: Julie Beers and Debbie Mallon



Soroptimist International of Glendale

President's Year in Review

2017-18

"Embrace, Educate, Empower"

President's Report 2017-18



This year Soroptimist International of Glendale celebrated 75 Years of contributions to our community. Chartered on April 16, 1943, SI Glendale has a rich history of working diligently to improve the lives of women and girls. I am proud to report that SIG has continued the tradition of service. During the 2017-18 Soroptimist year we gave away approximately \$45,000 in grants and awards, and donated over 4,000 working hours.

Although the club is officially "dark" during the months of July and August, this club eagerly prepares for the next Soroptimist year throughout the summer months, beginning this SIG year with the Planning Retreat held at The Gardens on June 17, 2017.

The committees for fundraising, membership, Dream It Be It, summer party, strategic planning and programs were already meeting from the beginning of July 2017 and at the special Board meeting on July 10, 2017, we looked forward to an eventful year.

For SIG, the culmination of July was in the fun and friendship of the Old Fashioned Summer Barbeque planned and executed by the new members of 2016-17, their guides and mentors and our ever-faithful "SoroptiMisters." Our thanks and appreciation go to Margo and Bob Bottcher for hosting our summer party at their home once again. In April, we marked the 75th Anniversary of SIG with a history of Soroptimist produced and presented by GEM Edith Fuentes and long-time *Soroptimusings* Chair Debbie Mallon.

Our Soroptimist pledge refers to the joy of achievement and much of the joy certainly arises from the friendships that develop as we work together. We receive a gift from those we seek to serve, greater perhaps than the gifts we give. I offer my gratitude and appreciation to each member of SI Glendale for the support, encouragement and friendship I have received.

Preliminary Action

Planning Retreat was brought forward to June in order to allow more preparation time before September.

Goals:

1. Simplify financial accounts and reporting:
 - All funds go into to one general account
 - Service Account draws from General Account
 - Special Projects Account administered by Special Projects Committee (Past Presidents)
2. Reduce Financial burdens for Members:
 - Seek ways to reduce costs and increase income without relying on Members purses
 - Seek ways raise visibility through hands on service
 - Discussed reducing luncheon meeting costs
3. Membership:
 - Increase publicity and visibility to attract potential members
 - Maintain connection with past members and potential members, even if they don't join immediately
 - Improve social aspects of membership
 - Follow up with new members
4. Programs:
 - Make Program meetings attractive to non-members by recruiting high-level experts as speakers
 - Program meetings become part of our service outreach and recruiting

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5. Service:

Ensure that all elements of service are recorded, including hours donated and expenses/donations as well as effectiveness of programs
Combine Accolades and Awards Luncheons to save money, create focused awareness of SIG's contributions to Glendale and beyond

6. Administration:

President distributed SIG business cards to members for networking purposes
Put all documentation into electronic filing
Utilize Dropbox
Create Organizational Chart for SIG to simplify committee sign-ups and reporting
Reduce distractions of passing sign-up sheets, raffle tickets, Change for Change, etc. during meetings
Restore connections with The Gardens

Implementation:

1. Planning Retreat held in June at The Gardens;
2. Bank accounts amended as discussed;
3. Created a working group for Publicity: Ilena Blicher: media & outreach;
Susan Hunt: Facebook; Tatiana Gasparyan: Webmistress & Instagram; Debbie Mallon: *Soroptimusings* & Flyers
4. President requested that Soroptimist logo and club name appear on all documentation;
5. Separate containers on each table for Change For Change and 50/50 Raffle;
Provide separate sign-up sheets for each table;
Put flyers, membership materials and other information on side table at meetings.
6. Board meetings held at The Gardens.
7. Set up an account with Lands' End business & encouraged members to buy shirts in matching blue with SIA Logo; these to be worn at events where SIG is working.
8. Held three "English Tea" orientations for prospective and new members;
9. Held a Wine & Cheese evening for new members to discuss experiences and recommendations;
10. Updated membership Information packet;
11. Requested each member to print her own copy of agendas & minutes for all meetings.

SIG Activities:

SIG continued to support:

- Ascencia Guest Chef program each month
- Military Service Women - SOS: SIG supplied personal and hygiene items for active service women
- GUSD Elementary and Middle School Spelling Bees
- Annual Saturday of Service "PJ Day" donating 253 sets of PJs and toiletries to 8 organizations
- International Projects through Soroptimist International
- Leadership trainings
- SIA / CRR Fall and Spring Conferences

Financial Grants & Awards:

SIG Supported SI & SIA international projects including:

- Women, Water & Leadership
- SIA Truckee Meadows
Removing Barriers to Education for Girls in
Thulipolkhari, Nepal - (\$2000)
- SIA Club giving (\$5000)

Grants & Awards of almost \$41,000 to organizations including:

- Days for Girls of Los Angeles
- Glendale Unified School District Spelling Bees
- Taking the Reins
- USC Verdugo Hills Hospital (Mammograms)
- Adventist Health, Glendale Hospital (Mammograms)
- Glendale Memorial Health Foundation (Mammograms)
- Pen + Napkin
- Glendale Communitas Initiative
- Glendale Memorial Health Foundation
- Elizabeth House
- Ascencia
- Family Promise of the Verdugos
- YWCA (for Camp Rosie)
- Three Live Your Dream Awards (total \$5000)
- Dream It Be It conference for girls

Participated in and supported other community service organizations:

- YWCA Domestic Violence Vigil
- YWCA Fashion Show
- Business Life Luncheon
- Kiwanis Duck Splash
- Salvation Army Food Pantry (& \$1000+ monetary donation)
- Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner
- Glendale Beautiful Arbor Day
- Ascencia Gala Dinner
- Adventist Health Glendale Guild Luncheon
- Glendale Education Foundation dinner
- YWCA Legacy luncheon
- Armenian National Committee of America Dinner
- The Campbell Center Gala

Fundraisers & Social Mixers:

- Bras for a Cause 15th Anniversary Celebration
- Summer Party
- Oktoberfest Beer Tasting
- Holiday Party
- Wine Tasting

Programs Presented:

September 2017
Girls Scouts of Los Angeles

October 2017
Dortha Chu MD: "Breast Cancer Myth & Reality"

November 2017
Devon Malick MSSW: "Domestic Violence 101"

January 2018
Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater: "The Women's Room, Pasadena"

February 2018
Club members Stela Fejtek & Catherine Yesayan:
"The Women of SIG: Their Travels"

April 2018
"Human Trafficking, A Survivor's Story"
Presented at Glendale Community College in
partnership with GCC & C.A.S.T.

May 2018
Glendale Police Department:
Mental Health Awareness

Membership:

- Hosted 3 "English Teas" for potential and new member orientations
- Inducted 11 members and introduced 2 transfers from other clubs
- Ensured membership information and publicity materials were at all events
- Updated Prospective members' information packet

Monthly Events:

Ascencia Guest Chef - First Monday
Business Meetings - First Thursday
Program Meetings - Third Thursday
(Except December 2017 & April 2018)
Board Meetings - Fourth Thursday

Note: A hard copy of the President's Report 2017-18 was provided to all attendees at the June 21st Installation Luncheon.

Soroptimist International of Glendale

2018

Installation Luncheon

Installing Kathryn Van Houten



*“Soroptimists
are Leaders,
Making the
World a
Better Place”*

SI Glendale’s Installation Luncheon was held on Thursday, June 21st at the Oakmont Country Club on a sunny first day of summer. The luncheon committee, headed by IPP and Chair Carol Ann Burton and Co-Chair Tarry Kang, brought us a room of light pinks and deep burgundies, the colors of incoming President Kathryn Van Houten.

President Jacqueline Hawley called the special program to order. Bobbie Brundige led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Inspiration provided by Lori Hartwell. After the recognition of special guests, which included incoming Camino Real Region Governor Ana Marie LeNoue, Councilmember and former Mayor Paula Devine provided Greetings from the City.

Copies of President Jacqueline Hawley’s President’s Report for 2017-2018 were provided to members and guests (also provided in this issue of *Soroptimusings*). President Jacqueline then gave recognition to the outgoing officers, assistants and others instrumental to her term.

A special presentation was given to Ascencia from Fund the Need monies raised. The check was accepted by Natalie Profant Komuro, Executive Director, who will be leaving Ascencia after eleven years of service. Natalie will be moving on to a position as deputy executive officer for homelessness solutions in Riverside County. We were pleased she could be present to accept the donations raised for Ascencia and so we could bid her farewell and wish her success in her new position.

President Jacqueline next made a special “Community Service Award” presentation to Officer Michelle Gonzalez of the Glendale Police Department. Michelle is a familiar face to SI Glendale and she has been instrumental in providing valuable information, as well as her time, to our club and its endeavors. A second award was presented

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*Outgoing President
Jacqueline Hawley*



A round of applause for the newly installed 2018-19 officers and assistants



*Newly installed President
Kathryn Van Houten*

to Wendy Grove of Glendale Community College for her extensive assistance in presenting the Human Trafficking program at GCC on April 12th.

Gayle Craig and Debbie Mallon then came to the podium to give the Laurel Society presentation. See page 11 for an article on this year's very deserving honoree. The name of the honoree is kept a closely guarded secret, known only to the Laurel Society Committee, until the reveal at Installation.

Next came the presentation of proclamations, Past President's pin, and gifts to outgoing President Jacqueline Hawley before Councilmember Paula Devine, who is also a current member of SIG, stepped to the podium for the heart of the program – the Installation of Officers for the 2018-2019 year. Tables emptied as the incoming board members, assistants and director/delegates were called to the front. It was quite the sight to see wonderful lady after wonderful lady receive and accept her duties for the upcoming year. After all had come forward, the audience broke out into enthusiastic applause. A list of officers and assistants appears on pages 8 and 9.

Wrapping up the day's festivities, outgoing President (now Immediate Past President) Jacqueline Hawley presented the President's Pin to Kathryn Van Houten who then gave a brief acceptance speech before getting right down to business with announcements, adjournment and the Soroptimist Pledge.

Special thanks go to the Installation Committee for all of their hard work in pulling a myriad of details together to make the luncheon a success (Carol Ann Burton, Tarry Kang, Lola Abrahamian, Joan Allan, Ilena Blicher, Margo Bottcher, Bobbie Brundige, Paula Devine, Heather Ghermezian, Susan Hunt, Jane Karageorge, Laurie Leask, Kathy Lefkovits, Debbie Mallon, Sandy Moreno and Lou Rhodes.)



Installation Luncheon 2018

Meet the 2018-2019 Officers & Assistants



Kathryn Van Houten
President



Martha Wilson
President-Elect



Diane Lambillotte
1st VP-Programs



Desiree Portillo-Rabinov
Assist. 1st VP-Programs



Carol Ann Burton
2nd VP-Fundraising



Tarry Kang
Assist. 2nd VP-Fundraising



Jane Karageorge
3rd VP-Membership



Kathy Duarte
Assist. 3rd VP-Membership



Jean Kagan
4th VP-Service



Laurie Leask
Assist. 4th VP-Service



Liz Mirzaian
Recording Sec. (Board)



Bobbie Brundige
Recording Sec. (Bus.)



Susan Wolfson
Recording Sec. (Bus.)



Catherine Yesayan
Corresponding Sec.



Mary Lotz
Assist. Corresponding Sec.



Susan Riechel
Treasurer



Pat Hurley
Assistant Treasurer



Susan Hunt
2 yr. Director/Delegate



Kathy Lefkovits
2 yr. Alternate



Sandy Moreno
1 yr. Director/Delegate



Seda Khojayan
1 yr. Alternate



Jacqueline Hawley
Immediate Past President

MAY PROGRAM MEETING:

A New Approach to Helping the Homeless & the Mentally Ill

Presented by Lt. Oscar Rodríguez (GPD),
Dr. Miranda Meaux,
Officers James Colvín (GPD) and
Steven Koszís (GPD)



Members and guests raved about the May program meeting discussing the challenges and approaches to the burgeoning issue of extending help to the homeless and mentally ill. The complexities of the issue were addressed by members of the Glendale Police Department involved in the GPD's proactive Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET). A table of members from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) attended our program to hear the GPD's and the local Mental Health Department's approaches to these issues and we had a guest from our sister club in Armenia in attendance. It is very rewarding when our programs educate and inform not only our club members, but interested parties from the community and beyond as well, as this one clearly did.

Save the Date

Soroptimist Summer Party

Fiesta Night

AUGUST 11, 2018

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

(Dinner at 7:00 p.m.)

Yummy Mexican Dinner

Drinks & Dessert

Salsa Lessons

50/50 Raffle/Prizes

Hosted by the New Members

Potential Members & Guests Welcome!

Cost: \$30 per ticket

Location: Bob & Margo Bottcher's Home

RSVP: Jane Karageorge by August 1, 2018

jkarageorge@gmail.com



A Message from Incoming President Kathryn Van Houten

The smiling faces tell the story. It's going to be a great new year for Soroptimist International of Glendale. We hope that every member and prospective new member will feel the enthusiasm and get involved. I learned many years ago that you receive what you put into an organization. If you want to make a difference in the world, then you have to make the effort. At SI Glendale, it is my goal to make the most of your time and efforts and let's have lots of fun along the way. This year look for a new "Menu of Service" and make sure to sign up. We have "Legacy" projects at this club and every member should be familiar with those continued efforts. We are leaders, who are on boards at The Gardens, at the YWCA, at the Hospitals and more. We are leaders involved in supporting Women and Girls in so many ways. Turn to the member next to you at lunch and learn about them. The stronger that our ties are, the greater impact we can make in our community. Case in point (and my favorite memory from Jacky's year as president): Several of our members attended a social event with Senator Portantino. Talin Mangioglu (our member) works for the Senator, but rarely attends meetings. The Senator's office was notified that the fires in Ventura threatened a women and infant homeless shelter and those 350 residents were being evacuated to the Union Rescue Mission in downtown Los Angeles, but that the shelter did not have diapers and needed supplies to accommodate the fire evacuees. Talin called Jacky. Jacky called Lola Abrahamian (our member, who is former Glendale PD). Jacky put out a call to our club and members stepped up on two hours notice to donate car loads of supplies. Lola helped transport the supplies at night into downtown Los Angeles in a rather scary part of town. We can all be in the right place at the right time, if we prepare by really getting to know each other—our strengths and contacts and resources. That is the power of a service club and that is the promise of Soroptimist International of Glendale.

AND THE LAUREL SOCIETY HONOREE IS...



The Laurel Society Committee exchanged e-mails and met clandestinely to conduct their annual secret business of determining a 2018 honoree. In the end, the decision was unanimous to induct Susan Hunt. The wheels started turning and Mary Lotz took care of ordering the pin while Gayle Craig and Debbie Mallon plotted a fun reveal. We decided to do a play on Susan's last name and go on a treasure hunt for the Laurel Society honoree. After all, the Laurel Society represents the "treasures" in our club. Small treasure chests were purchased and filled with beads, pearls, fake coins and a clue. The last treasure chest contained a re-purposed caricature of Susan originally created by former member Julie Beers' brother for Susan Hunt's term as President and altered from "Susan Hunt for President" to "Susan Hunt for Laurel Society." This final "clue" was placed in the treasure chest located at Susan's table. The clues leading up to the final reveal poster were: #1 She's been a member of SI Glendale for over five years, but less than twenty years; #2 She's been a member of numerous SI Glendale committees and has even

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Lou Rhodes reads one of the clues from a treasure chest



Gayle Craig pins Susan Hunt with the Laurel Society pin



On the hunt for the Laurel Society Honoree: treasure chests and clues

served as the Chair; #3 She's served on SI Glendale's Board — more than once; #4 She's well known in the Glendale community. Well, these clues could have applied to many of our members so it was the final "clue" that cinched it. Lola Abrahamian opened the last treasure chest, took the poster out of an envelope, unfolded it, read it, clutched it to her chest and announced, "Susan Hunt for Laurel Society." Tears were barely held back at Susan's table and applause erupted as she made her way to the podium to accept the honor, be pinned and receive a bouquet of two dozen red and pink roses.

The Laurel Society pin contains laurel leaves that are symbolic of victory and typify friendship and success. Within Soroptimist there are extraordinary members whose contributions of time, talent and treasure deserve special acknowledgement. For this reason the Laurel Society was created. Induction into the Laurel Society is a prestigious way for clubs to recognize outstanding members and our club made a \$1,000 donation to the Federation on behalf of Susan. The Society provides a permanent record and to date our club has inducted 27 members since 1997, including Susan. A listing of all the SI Glendale inductees appears in the back of our club roster.

Susan has been a member since July 2007. During that time she has served on the Board and as our Past President for 2013-2014. She has served on or chaired numerous committees such as fundraising, service, publicity, member fines, whines and brags, and Arbor Day to name a few, as well as served on many of our luncheon committees throughout the

years. Susan is known for her creative and innovative ideas and is responsible for SIG instituting a Facebook page, which she currently administrates. Her presidency brought us the theme "Women — Our History and Our Future" and the theme for Bras for a Cause that year was "Bras for a Cause Celebrates Women Throughout the Ages" underscoring Susan's passionate commitment to the betterment of women and girls and the resolution of issues they face.

As mentioned earlier, the laurel leaves signify friendship and success and there is no doubt that Susan is a friend to everyone. Her smiling countenance and pleasant demeanor make everyone feel welcome. And success? Is there an award out there in the community that Susan has not yet received? Susan has demonstrated that not only is she committed to SIG, but to many community organizations and endeavors.

Congratulations Susan on your induction into the Laurel Society! We look forward to you chairing the 2018-2019 Laurel Society Committee!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY:

July 30 to August 2 - SIA Biennial Convention
Yokohama, Japan

AUGUST:

11 - Summer Party
Home of Margo & Bob Bottcher
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Dinner at 7:00 p.m.)



SI GLENDALE Membership Meetings

1st and 3rd Thursdays
12:00 noon

Oakmont Country Club
3100 Country Club Drive, Glendale, CA
(free parking)

R.S.V.P.
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Soroptimusings

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www.soroptimistglendale.com

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