



SYNERGY

A Bi-Monthly Publication of Sorooptimist International of Norwalk

Special points of interest:

- President Henrietta visits Taipei
- SIN Inducts New Board
- Breast Cancer Stamp Raises over \$62 million dollars

Sorooptimist International of Norwalk
Destined to Inspire

President's Message

Ni hao (Hello) Ladies. The experience of at-

tending the SIA 40th Biennial International Convention has not worn off yet (*Thankfully the jet lag finally has*). Seeing Sorooptimist from around the world; the beautiful costumes, touring the lovely country of Taiwan, the new friendships made, and hearing of the many wonderful things that are being accomplished by the many clubs was incredible.

Desert Coast Region (DCR) received a number of Region Renaissance Awards including 100% Founder's Penny participation with the highest per capita donation, and honorable mention for both Membership and Fundraising. The SIA Violet Richardson award winner, Cindy Berman, was from Desert Coast Region, District III. Those of you who attended the DCR Spring Conference will remember Cindy's presentation discussing her micro-loan program. Her organization provides micro-loans (\$50 - \$100) to poor women in Guatemala to start a business, such as coffee farming. At Convention Cindy received a \$2,500 check for her organization,

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Inside this issue:

SI Norwalk President, Henrietta, with outgoing SIA President Machiko Yamada in Taipei

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Retreat & Installation of Officers

SIN held its annual retreat and installation of officers on Friday & Saturday, June 27 & 28 at Sorooptimist Village. Henrietta Willis-Kendall, newly elected President, revealed her theme for her term of office as "**Destined to Inspire.**" Installing officer was Dona Bishop. Other 2008-09 SIN Board members installed were

Fran Valenzuela, Vice President, Programs & Publicity; Gail Connolly, Vice President, Recruitment & Retention; Cheri Kelley, Treasurer; Irene Kho, Secretary; Cynthia Stephens, Director, Ways & Means; Jo Rodriguez, Director Sorooptimist Village; and Amanda Secola, Director of Service.

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Marilee, Jo & Irene at Retreat



Support SIN's Personal Projects by saving coins and purchasing Satin Hands



Catherine celebrating SI Norwalk's Birthday in 2005

How You Can Help Support SIN's "Personal Projects"

SIN separates its revenue into two categories — general funds and service funds. The general fund is for general club expenses such as conferences, workshops, stationery, stamps, etc. The service funds is used to support SIN's service projects such as the Family Foundation, WOA, Violet Richardson, etc. When SIN fund raises in the community, the majority of those funds are earmarked for service projects.

Personal projects — those projects where SIN members

contribute their own funds — are usually earmarked to cover general club expenses. SIN has been committed to supporting its members' attendance at conventions, conferences and workshops so personal projects are very important for member education.

Currently, SIN has two personal projects that it is asking its members to support:

Satin Hands is a project sponsored by President Hank. The Mary Kay Satin Hands

ensemble contains emollient night cream, hand scrub and hand cream. The kit sells for \$30 and Hank will donate \$12.53 back to club for each set sold. A great birthday, Christmas and/or anytime gift.

At the last club meeting, Marilee suggested and members wholeheartedly agreed to "save change" that SINners will turn in at a designated time. Marilee is making "change jars" for the pro-

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In Memoriam - Catherine Craig

Soroptimist International of Norwalk lost a very dedicated member on June 10 when Catherine Craig passed at the age of 88. Catherine was the first member to be inducted after the club was chartered in 1953 and she remained active until health reasons slowed her down a bit in the last year or so.

Catherine was born in Indiana and moved to California with her husband and two daughters in the 1950s. When her husband decided to go back to Indiana, she became a single mom and worked at Southern California Water Co. to provide for her girls. She eventually met and married a fellow employee when they were both 50 and they were very happy until he passed on. Catherine was an excellent seamstress, making the gowns for the entire wedding parties of both daughters. She

also baked the best pecan pies in town and dabbled in art.

During her terms as president of the club, the Soroptimist Village opened and the Jaws of Life was purchased for the local fire department through an extensive community-wide fund-raising campaign. In recent years she contributed a Lottery Wreath for our annual Christmas gala; showing up as Santa's Elf in her red velour track suit and hat to promote it.

It has been said that Catherine single-handedly kept the club's finances healthy with her brags and fines about her perfect children and grandchildren. One of her favorite stories was about the day her twin grandsons were born. She had just received the news while at work at the water company, when a

man appeared, pointed a gun at her and asked for the money. She told him, "Don't be silly." So he tied her up and proceeded to take the cash on hand. What an exciting day that turned out to be!

We know you are in a better place, Catherine, but we will still miss you.

Contributed by Rosemary Shannon

Catching Up

Amanda Secola has been busy getting her business off the ground. August 1st, 2008 – www.seniorindustryprofessionals.com was launched! This is a member based organization for individuals working at retirement communities and also includes the business people that support the industry. It has been eighteen months in the making and now the marketing starts. So if you know of anyone that might have an interest, let's help her business grow.

Fran Valenzuela sold her house and moved to a new house in Belmont Shores. Since she's now near the beach, she decided to roller skate from her house to the beach for exercise! *Did you wear a helmet and knee guards, Fran?*

Gail Connolly and Tina Stark did a mother/daughter trip to Hawaii for a week. They stayed in Waikiki, shopping

and snacking. Tina bought some really cool bikinis and Gail bought sandals! Tina and Gail got to visit with Paula, Gail's middle daughter who lives in Hawaii and her 3 children. In fact, Gail brought the two oldest grandchildren, Hana and Skylar home with her for two weeks. The kids went to camp in Redondo Beach and then Gail and grandchildren, Hana, Skylar, Gail and Gage visited Gail's youngest daughter, Beth, and her son, Joe, in Tucson. They all visited the Desert Museum and Karchner Caverns in the Tucson area.

Angela Kelly was the keynote speaker at the Cerritos College CalWORKS and CARE Program's first annual end-of-the year celebration to honor students who recently completed their academic year. Angela's theme was "Keeping the Dream Alive" as she encouraged students to never give up.

Dona Bishop spent the sum-

mer preparing for her first born grandchild's trip abroad to college. Madysn has been accepted at Trinity Western University outside Vancouver, Canada and is leaving California at the end of August. Dona says, "They shopped until they dropped, looking for clothing that will keep Madysn warm up North. Madysn is majoring in International Business and is currently communicating with the CIA about a summer work program which will also help her college finances. Dona also reports that she is still "keeping my eyes open, in case Mr. Right passes by, so I can trip him.....)"

Rosemary and Leo Shannon, the parents of three sons and four grandsons, welcomed the first girl to the family. Elizabeth Rose Shannon, earlier this year. Elizabeth and parents live in Oklahoma while the four grandsons live in Texas. Grandma and Grandpa do lots of traveling!

Angela Knox and her sister



Elizabeth Rose Shannon

along with a few close friends, took a 4-day cruise to Cabo San Lucas. Angela says it was a wonderful trip and very relaxing. She also, went camping at "Emma Woods" with the family.

Marilee Stephenhagen spent some BEACH TIME with friends and family this summer. Her college roommate, Vicki, was here in late June and they spent a day at Huntington Beach. When her sister Kathy visited from NYC, they took Mom and her grandsons Curtis and Evio to Sunset Beach. The sisters kayaked through the canals of Naples. Marilee says she hasn't experienced summer if

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Director's Report

Service—Angela Secola: SIN will be getting its message to the schools in September for **Violet Richardson** (Chair: Dona Bishop), and looking for candidates for **Women's Opportunity Award** (Chair: Gail Connolly & Angela Kelly) as well as **Making a Difference for Women** (Chair: Marilee Stephenhagen) award. Keep your eyes and ears open, suggestions are

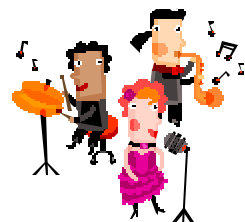
most appreciated. Fran Valenzuela is compiling guidelines for the **Family Foundation Mentoring program**. Current mentors are Cynthia Stephens and Dona Bishop. **Soroptimist Village—Jo Rodriguez** reports that renovation of the social hall at the village is beginning. The remodel will include new tile, flooring, paint, window shades, and the purchase of

new round, folding tables on wheels and padded folding chairs plus a few upholstered chairs/love seat for the TV area.

Ways & Means—Cynthia Stephens: Gala meetings are on their way under the guidance of Marilee Stephenhagen. Donor letters and flyers have been distributed and some responses received.

A Jazzy Holiday Gala is coming!

Save the Date
December 5, 2008



More on Personal Projects

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ject.

It is planned that the funds generated from these projects will go towards expenses incurred at the Taipei Convention.

More President's Message

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Amigos Para Siempre. This micro-loan project has raised over \$10,000 to date.

One of the highlights of my trip was a photo opportunity with outgoing SIA President Machiko Yamada. After our graduation ceremony from the "Emerging Leader" workshop we were asked to return our cap and gown. Back in the corner of the room was President Machiko, her assistant/interpreter, and a friend. No one else seemed to notice them so I seized the moment

(photo on first page). If you know me at all you know I don't usually "seize" anything. Anyway she was very gracious, but I think the ladies first thought I just wanted a picture of President Machiko by herself because when I thrust my camera in the friend's hand she kind of laughed. Nonetheless she obliged.

I have a number of photos and a few video clips that I plan to post on our website. Please note that these are from my camera and it doesn't have a video stabilizer so

grab your Dramamine if you plan to watch the video clips.



Hank

More Catching Up

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she hasn't been at the beach! She and Gordon just returned from Vancouver, BC. Highlights were seeing the fireworks show over English Bay with 30,000 spectators on July 26th, and visiting Butchart Gardens on Vancouver. They also made a stop at Vancouver Library to check out the competition and pick

up their handouts.

Jo Rodriguez has been taking short weekend trips this summer. Besides attending her son, Mark's graduation in San Diego and several return trips there to visit him, she also traveled to Las Vegas. Jo says this was a unique trip in that she stayed downtown and that she hadn't been to downtown Vegas in years. She

really enjoyed it. Jo also visited friends in Palm Desert (very hot) and by the time you read this newsletter, will have been on a 3-day cruise to Ensenada to celebrate a friend's birthday.

Soroptimist
international of
Norwalk

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Officers 2008-2009

Henrietta Willis-Kendall—President

Frances Valenzuela—VP Programs & Publicity

Gail Connolly—VP Recruitment & Retention

Treasurer—Cheri Kelley

Secretary—Irene Kho

Director/ Service—Amanda Secola

Director/Soroptimist Village—Jo Rodriguez

Director/ Ways & Means— Cynthia Stephens

We're on the Web
Sinorwalk.org



DID YOU KNOW?

Sales of the Breast Cancer Research semi-postal stamp have raised more than \$62 million for research. For several years, SIN and individual SINners have supported the purchase of these stamps. Keep up the good work!



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Friday night was dinner and the installation and Saturday was spent planning for the upcoming year. SINners reviewed last year's expenses and revenues and its service projects. Service projects were planned for the upcoming year, a tentative budget created and the club calendar outlined.

Retiring President, Jeana Hanley, expressed her appreciation to her outgoing board and the club recognized Jeana for her past two years of leadership.

Thank you, Jeana!

One of the highlights of the retreat was wake up exercise time led by Fran. SINners were on the floor stretching and dancing! Another treat was enjoying the chocolate dipped strawberries brought by Angela Knox.

