



# Soroptimist International of The Sierras

November/  
December  
2013

SOROPTIMIST IMPROVES THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH PROGRAMS LEADING TO SOCIAL & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

## A Message from our President



By Sue Graham

Hello from your "president".

As we go kicking and screaming into the holiday season, let's all try to savor the little things each day...how lucky we are to live in this glorious mountain community...for the friendship of each other...for our ability to work together to help others less fortunate...take a moment each day to tell yourself something you are grateful for and smile at yourself and those around you.

Of course, December will bring lots of activities for our club and our families, however please do not let that take away from the best holiday, THANKSGIVING...a day to eat and enjoy family in whatever way you choose.

Our club will always create "ripples" in our little pond of Oakhurst, by striving to help those less fortunate, and by setting the example of service and friendship. We are an example of the best of women everywhere.

President Sue



## We gave...

**\$500** to Helping Hands

**\$500** to the Senior Center

**\$378** to Manna House (Coins for Cause)

**\$100** to Philippine Hurricane

Relief (International Goodwill & Understanding Committee)

**\$300** to State Center District

Foundation-Scholarship to benefit a female student (Vikki Piper's

President's Gift)

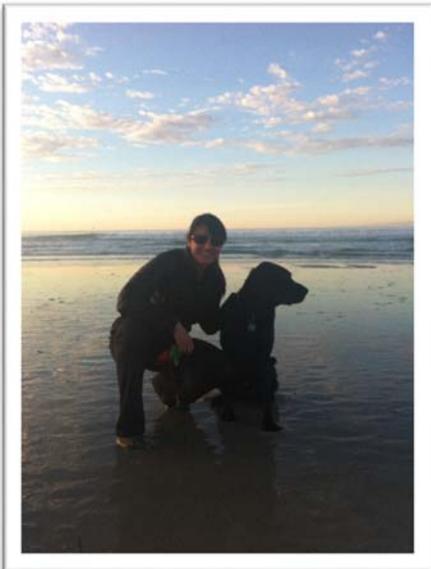
## Soroptimist At Work in Our Community

In the Fall, our club donated some much-needed funds to two deserving organizations in Oakhurst. We gave checks of \$500 each to the Oakhurst Senior Center and to Helping Hands Pregnancy & Parenting Center.

Several of our women also helped serve dinner at an annual Helping Hands fundraiser.



## Where Are They Now?



In an effort to keep in touch with past award recipients, here is an update on what Jill Akin Bradshaw is up to.

Jill was a 1993 graduate from Yosemite High School, and a Soroptimist of The Sierras Scholarship Recipient.

She attended Santa Barbara City College from 1993-1995, and then the nursing program at University of Southern California from 1995-1998, where she earned her BSN degree.

Jill worked as an RN in Fresno & Newport Beach from 1998-2001 and then went back to school for another two years at UCLA Grad School.

She has practiced at UCLA & Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas as a Neurosurgery Nurse Practitioner. She currently lives in Colorado with her husband, 3 step daughters & Buckley the dog!

**2013-2014 BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Sue Graham  
 President Elect: Michele Shockley  
 Treasurer: Patti Frith-Smith  
 Treasurer Elect: Shelle Abbott  
 Recording Secretary: Nikki VanVelson  
 Correspondence Secretary: Rhonda Dewey  
 One Year Director: Elfie Slayton  
 Two year Director: Sandy Brinley

**UPCOMING DATES**

President's Round Table—Nov. 2  
 Board Meeting- Nov 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Business Meeting – Nov 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Program Meeting – Nov 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Board Meeting – Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Business Meeting –Dec 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Breakfast w/Santa – Dec 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Tree Auction – Dec 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Program Meeting – Dec 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Board Meeting – Dec 30<sup>th</sup>

**BIRTHDAYS**

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dana LeFever  
 Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – Patti Frith-Smith  
 Nov 28<sup>th</sup> - Suzanne Lowry  
 Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – Penny Hume  
 Dec 28<sup>th</sup> – Shelle Abbott

**CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Nov 2010 – Elaine Aleshire  
 Nov 2010 – Patti Frith-Smith  
 Nov 2010 – Lori Brand  
 Dec 1987 – Dianne Abney  
 Dec 1993 – Peggy Davis  
 Dec 2006 – Janine Barsam

## Upcoming Community Service Opportunities

This is a very busy time of year for our club, and there are many opportunities for members to be involved in fun and worthwhile events, such as:

**Decorating the Christmas Tree at the Oakhurst Healthcare & Wellness Center.**

**Participate in the Breakfast with Santa event to help the Kiwanis raise money for the Children's Museum of the Sierras.**

**Participate in the Christmas Tree Auction, which raises money for the Oakhurst Boys & Girls Club.**

**Make holiday care packages to send to soldiers with local affiliations.**

**Join us for our holiday party on December 12<sup>th</sup> at Donna Dozier's home!**

To see what we're up to, visit:

**[www.SoroptimistOfTheSierras.org](http://www.SoroptimistOfTheSierras.org)**

A resource for event flyers, newsletters, and information about our club and organization.

**Facebook-** (SI of The Sierras)

A social site for sharing of photos and current club activities.



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women

Contact us at

[SI Sierras@Soroptimist.net](mailto:SI Sierras@Soroptimist.net)

**Interested in becoming a member??**

Be our guest at a club meeting, and see what it's all about. We are a great group of women, having fun working together while helping women & girls in our community.

We meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of most months @ Noon at Crab Cakes Restaurant

## District III Region Meeting in Clovis

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, several club members traveled down to Clovis to attend the District III meeting at the Clovis Senior Center.

After the Guard performed a flag ceremony and led us in the pledge of allegiance, we were treated with a very interesting and inspiring talk by our key note speaker, Fresno County Sherriff Margaret Mims.



Cass purchased a Laurel Society bookmark at the luncheon, which put her in a drawing for a Laurel Society membership, which she won! The Laurel Society pin was presented to Cass at a club meeting by Sandy Brinley & Kandi Papike, who are also Laurel Society members.



President Sue met Sherriff Mims and presented her with a Soroptimist coffee mug, as a gift from our club.

Donna, Michele & Patti couldn't resist doing a little shopping, getting themselves some new Soroptimist Live Your Dream shirts!

All clubs were invited to sell their wares and make a little money, which we certainly took advantage of.

Our ribbons, coffee mugs, cookbooks and wine glasses sold like hot cakes as did the raffle tickets for our wine basket.



# New Member Inductions!



Cindy

## Cindy Muehlenbeck - September 5<sup>th</sup>

Cindy is the proud mom of 3 and Grandma to Holly and Danika! She and her wonderful husband Matt have been married for 22 years, and they have two furry dogs that they spoil like crazy!

Cindy is the office manager at Rodney Peter DDS, and loves her job. She has a friendly, warm smile to greet all of the patients there, so they love her too!

Her hobbies are sewing, collecting old dishes, and making really cool cakes for her family and friends.

The Soroptimists are so happy that Cindy has joined our group....maybe we can even sample one of her cakes one day!

## Joelle Leder - September 19<sup>th</sup>

Joelle Leder, owner of {The Studio} Gift Boutique and Joelle Leder Photography Studio, was inducted into the club in September also.

Joelle is an award-winning, professional photographer specializing in weddings, events, portrait, celebrity, red carpet, high profile and landscape images since 2002. She is an accomplished photographer as her fine art photographic images are displayed in galleries, homes, conference rooms and offices the world over, including England, Ireland, Germany, France, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, Dubai, the United Arab Emirates and of course, the United States.

Joelle moved to the Mountain Area because she has family here, as well as her significant other, Victor Weitzel, owner of Idea Print Work, Inc in Oakhurst. For the past three years, she has also worked locally with Erna's Elderberry House & Chateau du Sureau, The Ahwahnee Hotel, Wolf Lakes, Tenaya Lodge, Paradise Springs, The Pines Resort and Yosemite National Park. In addition to her photography, Joelle runs an area gift boutique, which offers landscape photography, handcrafted jewelry, vintage, re-purposed shabby-chic furniture and a variety of gifts to cover all occasions. She currently splits her time between the gift boutique and studio in Oakhurst and time with her clients in Manhattan Beach.

In her free time, Joelle enjoys spending time with family and friends, making cupcakes, having fondue parties and finding time to enjoy nature at the beach and mountains.



PJ &amp; Joelle

## Celebrity Bartending!



Vikki Piper & Donna Dozier volunteered to be "Celebrity Bartenders" for the night at Roman's Bar, above Crab Cakes.



Many of the drinks were ordered and enjoyed by our own members!



Vikki & Donna learned to shake it up Tom Cruise style.



After a night of hard work, Vikki earned herself a glass of wine. We made 10% of bar sales and 50% of tips, totaling \$277. Add to that a fun night out with friends, who can complain?

## PJ Grant – September 19<sup>th</sup>

By PJ Grant

Soroptimist's have always held a special place in my heart. I admired the ladies that were members and felt that the mission of helping girls and women is very important. When I first joined some years ago, Kandi Papike was the President and her leadership was nothing short of amazing! For several years the club hosted the Hobo dinner in the fall and those events were quite memorable and fun. I must say that moving to an inside event does have its benefits.

A few years later my job duties at Sierra Telephone changed and I found myself too swamped to be able to keep up with the Club and went on "leave". I retired from Sierra Tel in December 2012 after 34 years and plan to be active once again.

My hobbies are quilting, hiking and traveling. Dan and I have been blessed with an opportunity to visit friends in Alaska during the salmon runs. We are so lucky to live in a place that allows us to explore beautiful scenery outside our doors and just up the road! This June our son Forrest will marry Margot Brown, an amazing woman who we just love. Life is great!

See you at Club. For those of you that don't know me, I do love to eat!

## What is Laurel Society?

The Laurel Society was established in 1994 to honor individuals who have made SIA their charity of choice, supporting the Soroptimist mission.

Individuals can make a personal contribution to Soroptimist to become a member of the Laurel Society. An individual can also be honored with Laurel Society membership by her family, her club or her friends as recognition for exemplary service, leadership recognition and special life events.

Minimum membership is \$1000, and this membership can be won by purchasing a \$20 Laurel Society bookmark at regional or district meetings. Once 50 of these bookmarks are sold, and winner is chosen, and she will receive membership and a pin with a gemstone. The various pins reflect the total amount that a member has donated.

Laurel Society contributions are used to fund Soroptimist programs and awards.