

# SoroptiValley News

Best for Women

## BREAKING ALL RECORDS!!

Once again, or for the **29<sup>th</sup> time**, Soroptimists of Moreno Valley hosted their signature fund raising event - Spring Fling Tea and Fashion Show on March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center. With nearly 200 invitees in attendance, this year's event turned out to be a record breaker in earnings: we netted a whopping \$16,922! Of course, we did sell 2,455 raffle tickets for 20 specialty mega-baskets; the Disney ticket package being the most popular with over 400 hopeful ticket stubs deposited. And in addition, we were also pleased to award 30 opportunity door prizes to our lucky guests.

Our tried-and-true tea sandwich menu of the renowned chicken salad, plus cucumber and cream cheese, and pimento cheese along with fruit salad, pleased the pallets of our attendees. This was topped off by a scrumptious assortment of desserts that were not to be missed.

We were pleased to have our Golden West Governor-Elect, Lori Reed, attend our function along with several officials from our community. We were also honored to welcome our current Live Your Dream (LYD) Award Winner, Devin Rich, and our 2011 Violet Richardson award Winner, Dalila Valdez. Introduced by our own Judy Vasquez, also a former winner, both women shared their stories of courage and hope and how support and encouragement from Soroptimist International of Moreno Valley continues to assist them in their life's goals. By the way, Devin has been selected to be a finalist in the Regional LYD awards at Spring Conference in June.

Special thanks are extended to Stein Mart for providing glorious spring fashions, and our models: Shor Denny, Kara Lewis, Kathy Davis, Denise Lewis, Marisela Ramirez, JR Morgan, Jamil Dada, Eric Lewis, Randy DeLeeuw.

As always, we couldn't do all of this without our Event Sponsors: Riverside County Regional Medical Center Auxiliary, Riverside University Health System Foundation, Wholesale Capital, Ed Hoffman, Patrick and Shor Denny, Mission Grove Plaza, and In Memory of Nick Ferguson. In addition, we are very grateful to all of our Program Sponsors, Explorers, Servers, Moreno Valley Christian Assembly, all of our guests and last but not least our SOROPTIMISTERS who support us in many loving ways.

We're ready for next year, #30, with **maybe** some changes?? Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 10, 2018.

April 2017  
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Tea, please!  
Gov-Elect Lori Reed w/  
Pat and Nina

## President's Message By Nina Thomas

Remember the rain. All that rain through the winter season and into spring. Day after day, week after week, it rained! Personally, I absolutely loved it! Speaking of rain....

Around February the thunder of increase was being heard in the club. We held the Meet & Greet meeting with ladies in our community at the Ayres Hotel and followed up with an invitation to a monthly morning meeting for a second look. We had 14 guests at the Ayres that night thanks to all of you that reached out and personally invited. SIMV members showered the room with praises of the club's history, and everyone was caught in a down pour of excitement, passion and commitment to our club. It was absolutely contagious. As each guest introduced themselves, there was a flood of interest in who we are and what we do. As we left that night there was a fresh fragrance in air that was reminiscent of how it is after a rain. Our follow up Wednesday morning meeting generated 8 Prospective Member forms; I have received news that as of yesterday, 2 more ladies have also requested to join our wonderful Club. I can hardly wait until June 25<sup>th</sup> for our induction of new members and Installation of the club officers. Will everyone actually join? Time will tell. I would encourage each of you to stay in touch with the ladies you brought and invite them to join us for the rest of our morning meetings this year.

### March brought a flood!

\* A few in the club participated in Mo Val community day of service. The club was awarded a certificate from the city for our participation in the event.

\*Denise Fleming conducted a meeting on the school campus bringing awareness and education about Human Trafficking to middle school students.

\*We received a beautiful plaque from MVUSD for our support and volunteer work with the students.

\*Everyone was on board to help with the Fashion Show & Tea. We had rave reviews and record breaking donations. With Jan's leadership, everyone stepped up with hard work and creativity. It was a total success.

\*Our Live your Dream winner, Devin Rich, was announced and will be going to Spring Conference as she has been selected as a Golden West Region finalist.

\* The Dream it Be it program wrapped up on March 15th with a fabulous celebration for the graduates. Icing went on the cake when one of the Dream It Be It participants was selected to be a winner of a \$1000 scholarship from us. Pat, all your hard work paid off!

### April we see lots of sunshine.

Giving back is the BEST! - In a few days the Rosemary Clayton Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to not 1, not 2 but 5 applicants. The most ever!! – Working at the Stand Down for our Veterans was so rewarding.

This has truly been a season of down pour or maybe I should say outpouring. More donations-More members-More scholarships. Our club is strong, united and filled with confidence and yet humble and grateful to have the opportunity to serve the women & girls in our community and beyond. **(photos page 4)**

**LADIES-YOU REALLY, REALLY ROCK!**

*"Our club is strong, united and filled with confidence and yet humble and grateful to have the opportunity to serve the women & girls in our community and beyond."*



### **Speaking Of....**

If you've missed our Wednesday morning speakers (usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month), you've really missed some very informative, educational, and entertaining speakers. Among our recent presenters: Dr. Wen Chen talked to us about organ harvesting in China and persecution of the Faun Gong spiritual movement. Our own Marisela gave us information about Riverside County's In-Home Supportive Service. And Kama Burton-Thomas introduced us to Loving Me, a Girls Club she started to teach girls how to love themselves.

Our thanks to Ruth for arranging such insightful guests. Please plan to join us for more speakers coming in the next couple of months.

## Dream It, Be It Recap by Pat Box

Soroptimist International of Moreno Valley (SIMV) launched its newest signature program, *Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls* on October 5, 2016, with high school girls in the ASB class at Bayside Community Day School. The program curriculum was developed by Soroptimist International of the Americas, with input from many experts and focus groups around the world, to help girls face and overcome obstacles that challenge having a successful future. Seven 1-hour sessions were held at intervals of once or twice per month. Topics include *Discovering Your Dreams*, *Exploring Your Careers*, *Creating Achievable Goals*, *Rising Above Obstacles*, *Turning Failure Into Success*, *Balancing Your Stress*, and *Putting Dreams Into Action*.

Our journey from program inception to delivery was far from simple. In fact, it reminds me of the opening lyrics and title of the 1970 Beatles hit "The Long and Winding Road." Our journey involved months of grant writing preparation, multiple meet-and-greet gatherings to gain community and school district support, multiple setbacks, and months of curriculum prep to make it all happen. It also took the contributions of many Soroptimists (6 instructors, 8 assistant facilitators, 12 career mentors), the support of other Soroptimists who served as cheerleaders, and commitments from 7 other professional women in the community to serve as additional career path mentors. Yet when I ask myself, "Was it worth it?" I do not hesitate to respond with a resounding YES. In fact, the joy from the experience still echoes in my mind and heart. It is hard not to be excited when the evaluation results from the 16 participating students were even better than we hoped. Positive improvement was realized in 8 of the 9 evaluation components. The top 3 indicators were:

- 100% of the students stated they feel they have professional role models (a 58% improvement)
- 100 % of the students stated they are able to connect personal values with possible careers (a 42% improvement)
- 100% of the students stated they understand the importance of overcoming setbacks (a 25% improvement)

We certainly had much cause for celebration at our finale wrap-up party on March 15 with the students and Bayside staff. Participants enjoyed a delicious catered Italian buffet; students received certificates of recognition from representatives of the offices of State Senator Roth, State Representative Medina and U.S. Congressman Takano; and Soroptimists presented certificates of participation and goody bags with gifts rich in symbolism. The senior college-bound participants were encouraged to submit an application for the SIMV Rosemary Clayton Memorial Scholarship Award. One student, Dominique Gerald, followed through and submitted an exceptional application and reference letter that showcase her academic achievements, student leadership, community service, and commitment to higher education. She was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship with reserve program funds. HOW EXCITING!!

So what comes next? Although we have developed a good foundation to follow, we need to prepare for round two of *Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls* with a new bunch of girls at Bayside when the school year begins in August. We need to expand our Soroptimist Dream It, Be It committee to include 7 instructors (one for each session) and at least 4 more members to serve as assistant facilitators. We need volunteer members willing to share their story in a 3-5 minute class segment during each session about how they overcame setbacks to achieve their goals. Although session dates and times are not yet set, it is likely the classes will be scheduled again on a Wednesday between 11:00-12:15. Will YOU make the commitment to get involved and make a difference?



Our very first Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls graduation class from Bayside with SIMV facilitators and mentors.  
CONGRATULATIONS!

*Soroptimist International of  
Moreno Valley*  
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## SoroptiValley News

**Nina Thomas, President**

**Nan McCoy, Editor**

**Newsletter Committee:**

**Pat  
Shirley Y  
LaDonna**

<http://www.simorenvalley.org>

SIMI PHOTO  
ALBUM

Nina & LaDonna accept certificate from M.V. for  
Community Day of Service



CNN Freedom Day, focusing on Human Trafficking-Hosted  
by Denise Fleming with Shor Denny & Pat Box



SIMV Volunteers at Veterans Stand Down



Ballet Folklorico Scholarship Winners

RIP...REGRETABLELY, WE LOST OUR FRIEND AND MEMBER, CHARLOTTE HAIFLEY,  
ON MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> AFTER A LONG ILLNESS. SHE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED AND  
OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO HER FAMILY AT THIS TIME.

## Save the Date (those known prior to distribution)

### **MAY 2017**

Wednesday 3, Board Mtg. (Bd. Members) @Brandon's, 7 a.m.  
Saturday 6, Garden Tour  
Wednesday 10, Morning Business Meeting, Vote on Slate of Officers  
Wednesday 17, Morning Mtg., w/speaker @Brandon's, 7 a.m.  
Wednesday 24, Morning Mtg. SOLT, @Brandon's, 7 a.m.  
Thursday 25, Bayside Senior Awards, SIMV Scholarship  
Wednesday 31, Canyon Springs Senior Awards, SIMV Scholarship  
Wednesday 31, Moreno Vly. Senior Awards, SIMV Scholarship

### **JUNE 2017**

Thursday 1 - Saturday 3, Spring Conference, Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort,  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Thursday 1, Valley View Senior Awards, SIMV Scholarship  
Thursday 1, Vista del Lago Senior Awards, SIMV Scholarship  
Wednesday 7, Board Mtg., (Bd. Members) @Brandon's 7 a.m.  
Wednesday 14, Morning Business Mtg. @Brandon's 7 a.m.  
Wednesday 21, Morning Mtg., w/speaker @Brandon's, 7 a.m.  
Sunday 25, Installation of Officers, Induction of New Members,  
Silent Auction, Potluck, Ardith's Clubhouse, 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 28, Morning Mtg. SOLT, @Brandon's, 7 a.m.

### **JULY 2017**

Annual Planning Meeting, Date TBA

### **AUGUST 2017**

Dark