



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

SI Rio Cosumnes
P.O. Box 881, Elk Grove, CA 95759

Special Interest Article:

Greetings From
The President



Leigh Nurre, President

Dickens Festival.

Thank you to SIRC members Genny, Peggy, Maryann, Marie, Holly, Cathleen, Joyce, Carol and Diane for participating in the Dickens Festival on November 24. A number of Diane's friends also volunteered their time, which is much appreciated.

Some of the group arrived extra early at Santa's Village on what was a beautiful, clear, frigid Saturday morning. Diane, Peggy, Genny and I spent an hour decorating the Christmas tree. There was a \$1,000 prize for the best tree so we took our task seriously. Diane guided us on her design vision and, little by little, the homely bush given to us by the organizer was turned into a stunning Victorian-era Christmas tree. Diane has a serious second calling as a

Greetings From The President

Christmas Tree Decorator! We didn't get the most votes but we had fun.

In addition to bringing a mountain of Christmas decorations to Old Town Diane brought mini-boxes of See's Candies that hung like ornaments, information on our awards, and a list of all the things we've accomplished as a club. Her efforts are appreciated very much!

A very special thanks to Marie, Maryann, Diane and Cathleen for over-seeing the Dickens Festival 'Children's Ornament Workshop.' With the help of some Cosumnes Oaks High School students, these dedicated ladies spent many hours toiling away, helping young children make ornaments that would later be distributed to under-privileged kids. This workshop was so popular we had to close up a bit early because we ran out of supplies.

Among our other anticipated activities was to operate a booth (which turned out to be a table) amidst all of the other vendors and community clubs. We expected to be selling See's Candies the whole day. It wasn't to be for reasons beyond our control, so a couple of us grabbed the See's flyers

and placed them on as many car windshields as we could. Where there's a will there's a way.

Hurricane Sandy fundraiser.

It seems like ancient history but I wanted to let you know the outcome of our efforts for the Hurricane Sandy tri-tip dinner fundraiser. We sold a total of 26 tickets, which I thought was impressive since we had less than a week to ramp up. Thank you to Diana Holcomb for letting us distribute tickets at her optometry office, and to all of those who participated in the selling effort. I gained some unexpected experience in this type of fundraiser by working on the food line assembling dinners. I worked with a dozen or so Lions club members for several hours and had a blast. We talked about doing more joint ventures in the future, which we can discuss at a future time.

I hope the holiday season is off to a good start for all of you. Best wishes,

Leigh Nurre

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New Store Site Is Super!



After so many years at the former storefront, we weren't sure how well this year's new store space would work, but it's terrific! The carpeting makes the room warmer; having businesses on either side brings us customers; and the counter in front is very professional and welcoming. Of course, Betty and John Hall worked their fingers to the bone (or almost) getting the room

ready, and it looks clean, colorful and attractive. Many thanks to Mary Lewis for the great article and picture in the Elk Grove Citizen! Sales thus far have been good, and thank you to everyone who's volunteered to work shifts. But we have some staffing holes that are crying for help! It seems as though this year fewer members are available to pitch in, and we're hurting

for workers more than ever before. PLEASE call the store at 687-3127 to ask what slots are unfilled, and volunteer a few hours. Those days of every member only working 4-5 shifts seem to be over. Some ladies have worked four times in just the first week because of unfilled holes in the schedule. When can YOU give a little more help??

December Program Meeting

Our good friend, Mike Jones, will be the guest speaker on Friday, Dec. 7, for our monthly Program Meeting. You may have met him at a prior meeting, but this time he'll address everyone about the local efforts to assist foster youth within the Elk Grove Unified School

District. Mike is tireless in his efforts to support foster youth and those emancipating into independent living status. Don't miss a chance to hear what's happening with the project that our club has adopted as its main focus of

support this year. As always, we'll begin at 7:30 a.m., so please arrive a few minutes early to get coffee, juice, and nibbles before we come to order.

**Program Meeting:
December 7th
7:30am
Elk Grove Library**

Holiday Potluck Time

In lieu of a December business meeting, the club gathers for a potluck dinner and holiday celebration. It's Thursday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m. The event committee is busy planning a nice evening for us (and spouses/significant others). We'll gather at the Jesse Wright Suites site, so there

will be plenty of room. Bring a \$10-\$20 gift to exchange among members, and plan on a good time! A sign-up sheet for food items circulated at the November business meeting, but if you haven't signed up be sure to call Leslie Konopinski at 684-

7348 to tell her what you're bringing. Holiday cheer and some caroling will add to the fun – don't miss our annual event to visit, laugh, eat, and celebrate another year!



A Dickens of a Good Time



Diane Hollingshead coordinated our club's participation at the annual Dickens Fair in Old Town, and she was a busy bee! While four members worked at the store on Saturday, Nov. 24, others showed up early in the morning to decorate a "Soroptimist Tree" for the Christmas Tree Contest, and it was a beauty in silver and blue (with little See's boxes as part of the ornaments)! A group of members and friends also ran the ornament creation booth for kids just down the street. And we also had a table displaying information about both Soroptimist AND our store. The weather was gorgeous – too much sunshine to even display the candy! But everyone agreed it was a festive occasion and that it was great to be part of the long-standing Elk Grove tradition.



Birthday Bells for December Belles

December is the birthday month of our own Mary Ann Chappelle, Angie Ratti, Cathleen Riebe and Holly Taylor. Wait, didn't they just have a birthday LAST December?!? Where did the time go? Happy B-Day, ladies, and all the best for a wonderful year!

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.

Albert Pike

CALENDAR SNAPSHOT:

Friday, December 7 - Program Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Elk Grove Library

Monday, December 10 - Board Meeting, Sandi Russell's home, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12 - Lunch Bunch, Jane Morse home, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 13 - Foster Youth Dinner, Monterey Trail High School, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 20 - Holiday Potluck, Jesse Wright Suites, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 24 - Closing Day of See's Store - Hooraay!

Tuesday, January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Friday, January 4 - Program Meeting, Elk Grove Library, 7:30 a.m.

We Need Applications!



Now's the time to contact everyone you know for potential applicants for our two big awards supporting women and girls. The largest project of Soroptimist around the world is the Women's Opportunity Award program, and we can't give awards if we don't have applicants! The Violet Richardson Award is for teen girls active in volunteering.

Both the girl and her charity receive the award, a very nice way to support both the volunteer AND an organization.

Women's Opportunity Awards are for women heads of households in postsecondary school or vocational training to achieve a better life for

herself and her family. We know there are plenty of qualified women out there, so please refer them to Lorna Buechler, Annajean Neill, or the Soroptimist website for an application form. The deadline approaches, and we definitely need more women and girls in the pool!

Bunco Will Be Back!



President Leigh has announced that the gracious folks at Camden Springs Gracious Retirement Living are

excited to host our second Bunco Party at their site in February. Since we've done it all once before, the task will be much easier.

Watch for more news, and please consider being on the committee – it's fun!

Holiday Dinner for Foster Youth Group



Plans are well underway for our club to provide a full holiday dinner for the Foster Youth Independent Living Skills group. It will be Thursday, December 13, at Monterey Trail High School on Power Inn Road. Lots of help is needed for this festive occasion, with set-up, serving,

and clean-up tasks. Diane Hollingshead and her committee will have specific news for us very soon via email, so please watch your in-box and prepare to assist in this most worthy event. Too many foster youth have never had a real holiday meal, with all the trimmings,

and a pretty table setting to make it special. Please consider being part of the effort beginning at about 3 p.m. Remember, watch your email for more details!

A Family Justice Center – Wonderful News

Although there's no scheduled groundbreaking, much less a site or building identified, the news that Sacramento County's "movers and shakers" agree on the need for and are dedicated to creating a Family Justice Center is indeed welcome. The future center will bring together public agencies and nonprofit organizations serving

victims of domestic violence, providing shelter, information, counseling, and services to victims who are frightened and don't know what to do or where to go for help. Because Soroptimist goals are so tied to improving the lives of women and children, anything that will serve victims and possibly reduce the domestic violence rates is a positive

step. An article in The Sacramento Bee reports that the "U.S. Dept. of Justice considers the family justice center model a "best practice" in the field of domestic violence prevention and intervention." All we can say is "Hurry up and get it done!"

Any change, any loss, does not make us victims. Others can shake you, surprise you, disappoint you, but they can't prevent you from acting, from taking the situation you're presented with and moving on. No matter where you are in life, no matter what your situation, you can always do something. You always have a choice and the choice can be power.

Blaine Lee

The Lunch Bunch

This month "The Lunch Bunch" is special! Our dear friend and charter member Jane Morse has not been able to participate in as many club activities as usual. The lunch bunch is very important to her and she misses being with us (and we miss her even more than she can imagine) . . . so we decided we would bring the lunch to her this month!

We will bring pizza, salad, dessert, and drinks to her home - all she has to do is "open the door" for us at 11:30 a.m.

Please rsvp Betty Hall, 531-0882, if you can join us.

Jane's address is: 8637 Lodestone Drive, Elk Grove



Winter Wonderland

Out and About

Wow! We have been busy these past weeks. Check it out!

SI Rio Cosumnes 2012-2013 Officers

President
Leigh Nurre

Vice President
Sandi Russell

Treasurer
Peggy Ursin

Asst. Treasurer
Kristine Smith

Recording Secretary
Diana Holcomb

Corresponding Secretary
Leslie Konopinski

Delegates
Lorna Buechler
Betty Hall

Newsletter Editors
Betty Hall
Peggy Ursin

Email us:
siriocosumnes@soroptimist.net



Candy Arrived!



Chamber Mixer at Food Bank



Lion's Club Crab Feed

SIERRA NEVADA REGION

WWW.SOROPTIMISTSNR.ORG
(USER NAME: SOROPTIMIST /
PASSWORD: SYNERGY)

GOVERNOR: Janice Labadie

SOROPTIMIST INT'L OF THE AMERICAS (FEDERATION)

WWW.SOROPTIMIST.ORG
PRESIDENT: Raquel Arreola-Ruiz

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

WWW.SOROPTIMISTINTERNATIONAL.ORG
(USER NAME: MEMBER /
PASSWORD: CAMBRIDGE)

PRESIDENT: Alice Wells

*Somehow not only for
Christmas but all the
long year through, the
joy that you give others
is the joy that comes
back to you.*

- John Greenleaf Whittier