
May 2010-Salty Soroptimist News

Soroptimist of Salt Lake

President Nancy's Message

Happy Mothers Day to you, your mother, and your grandmother! This month of May lets all of us pay tribute to the women in our lives who influenced us in a positive way, they are our true mothers. There are the mothers of our nation who were rarely written up in history books. Well, there was Betsy Ross and Sacagewea and, was there any other woman in your early U.S. History book? Maybe a mention of Florence Nightingale or Sojourner Truth. We do know George W. Bush's mother, Barbara Bush, and we've learned a little about President Barak Obama's mother. Our birth mothers and influential mothers raised us, instilling us with their wisdom, world view and values. We owe them and the mothers of our nation's leaders our thanks.



I feel like I owe thanks not only to my mother but to many mother figures, and most recently Soroptimist sisters who have influenced my life. I think I will be forever influenced by Lori Blair who made me see what sex trafficking really is, slavery. Lori, a Soroptimist senior director of services, spoke at the RMR Conference in Cody and gave a powerful speech on the trafficking issue, promising a resolution will

be put forward at the San Francisco Conference. I think of the many mothers whose hearts are broken by the greed and desire for power that drives the Johns of the world. I cannot fathom the thought of my daughter or granddaughters, nieces, friends being entrapped into this vile sector, which totals 9.5 billion US. Dollars in this country, Mothers of these entrapped girls and women must have great heartaches and loneliness, not to mention fear and anxiety. How do they feel on Mothers Day?

I am inspired by Governor Barbara Lewis who so ably led our RMR over the last two years and am further inspired by new RMR Governor Jan Fitts, who made all of us so proud of the this mountainous and scenic region we represent as shown in her slide show. I was proud of the flags of all our states as they were carried in front of standing conference attendees as Conference opened. Cheri Richardson carried our

Utah flag. "Rocky Mountain High" accompanied the flag and still rings in my ears.

Also ringing in my ears is the DJ's music, songs like YMCA (aka C-O-D-Y) that were accompanied by our own SISL rock stars, Janis Nash and Cheri Richardson, and their stellar dancing. They were the music divas of the evening, of which SISL can be proud! Our stature in the region went up a notch, thanks to these two. Governor Barb danced, too, even tap danced in new tap shoes presented to her Saturday night.

There's another body movement commonly called strutting. The Sunday before Conference the Salt lake Tribune featured an editorial entitled, "No more strutting." It tells the story of office workers locally who watched the morning parking of vehicles, usually pick-ups, on the street in front of their office building, followed by the arrival of "ladies" who strutted past the trucks with the eventual pairing off of "ladies" into the trucks that then drove off. The office women got sick and tired of this activity in front of their offices and started taking photos of the men and women and the license numbers on the trucks. Soon the activity stopped. No more men, women or trucks.

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Volume III, Issue 9
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Mission and Core Purpose

- To improve the rights of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world

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President Nancy's Message *continued from page 1*

That sounds good, but my guess is they just moved to another location. My issue is with the headline. I feel it is putting the blame on the women. If they hadn't been strutting, there wouldn't have been any pairing, right? Did a pimp hold them hostage? Once again the demand side is ignored. I have heard of John Schools and hope they are widely used. Without demand we wouldn't have sex trafficking and slavery.

If you are going to the SIA San Francisco Conference, you will have the opportunity to hear the author Victor Malarek who has writ-

ten "The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy It" and "The Natasha's: Inside the Global Sex Trade." I've just ordered the books and would love to share them. If you cannot go, please read the books. Soroptimist can play a major roll in building awareness on this issue, but we have to start by educating ourselves. It makes me wonder about the lack of mothering for these men. Not to blame the moms alone! Where were the dads? Did they feel entitled, too? What happened to these sons? There seems to be a large disconnect.

As a club we had a good connect. We did well at the Conference, garnering 16 of 17 possible points for overall performance. (We didn't track use of Goodsearch, which lost us the 17th point. To be continued....). We won an award for "Celebrating Success," our Breakfast with Santa for Single Moms. There were many 100 percents for our region in areas like WOA and we got a second in our Public Awareness. That's one up from last year's third. So congratulations to all our club members who made this year so successful! And Happy Mothers Day!"

Programs—Horizonte



Our April presenter was Janis Nash who graciously presented on "How Money Works". The girls got an opportunity to see how money can grow exponentially if invested in a mutual fund at the beginning of their career. Janis advised them to (1) Get Started Now, (2) Pay Yourself First, (3) Use Time and Consistency,

(4) Establish an Emergency Fund, and (5) Start a Family Tradition of Saving. \$2000 per year invested at age 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 totals a \$12,000 investment, which at 12% is worth \$959,793 by age 62! Powerful!!! Janis is a great presenter and left their girls with \$2 in nickels and a jar to start their savings now.

Our graduation presenter will be Thurl Bailey. Thurl will be providing these young parents with a motivating presentation, as well as, performing his music for them. We always have a good Soroptimist turnout for graduation and we will need donations of cookies and punch to share with the girls. Contact Carma for this event and advise if you are coming and what you can bring. Date is Tuesday, May 18th at 9:15 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. We will be meeting in the auditorium, which is on

by Carma Ingram

the top floor. Please come and celebrate our graduates and other young parent participants.



Juvenile Observation & Assessment Center

JO&A for April was a great time we had 7 girls and they were a lot of fun. We decorated book bags,. It was great to see how creative they all turned out, Val made cookies ahead of time and the girls liked the treat.

Our last JO&A for the year is Thursday, May 13th at 6:00 to 8:00 pm, so if you would like to join us for the evening please do. Jodi Arave will be making her famous chocolate chip cookies. We will also be presenting a check to the center so they can purchase art supplies.

It has been a great experience to be a part of these young girl's lives.

Love Vickie



Women's Opportunity Award Luncheon

by Kay Ruiz

On Saturday April 24, 2010 Soroptimist of Salt Lake members and guests met at the Cottonwood Country Club to celebrate our WOA award winners as well as the Jeanne Schneider-Adovnik Award winner.

It was a wonderful event. due to our successful fundraising year we were able to award both our WOA winners \$2,000. each. Our Jeanne award winner (also selected from the WOA applicants) was also awarded \$2,000. from a memorial fund set aside by Jeanne's family to help with continued education also.

Our first award winner is Alexis Hopkins; she came with her 8 year old daughter and three friends that came to support her. Alexis' career goal is to work for a not-



for-profit organization in the communications or public relations area. She is "passionate about personal and corporate social responsibility" she says. "A formal education will give me the knowledge that will enable me to deliver their message to the public and provide a clear understanding of their mission." She is currently enrolled in Salt Lake Community College and will receive her Associates Degree in communications in 2012. She then plans to transfer to the U of U for her Bachelors degree.

One of her references, Leroy Ben Page, a systems Analyst at American Express

said about her, "You can put Alexis' in a room of thirty very diverse strangers and within a relatively short time she will have met everyone, learned something individual about each of them and used that knowledge to make connections between them" She is currently volunteering at her daughter's school as a teacher and at Ten Thousand Villages, a not-for-profit, specifically working with their outreach program where she can gain experience in public relations and communications.

Our Second winner is Kimberly Williamson. She attended with her three daughters who some are also attending college.



Her career goals are to achieve her bachelors in the paralegal field. She has always had an interest in the legal field and so when a former employer gave her the opportunity to work with a patent attorney she jumped at the chance. "I noticed through my involvement with these attorneys my desire to learn more about these different legal genres increased" I am almost done with my first semester at UVU in Provo. I have found these classes to be fulfilling, encouraging and will correlate well with the tasks of a paralegal.

Living on unemployment and under \$500 a month for child support for her youngest daughter has become a real task. "After a bitter divorce, my long history of perfect credit no longer exists. Grocery

shopping was once a required chore, we now rely upon the charity of our church to provide for us, and now we carefully plan our menus in a process that requires preparing many items from scratch." Kimberly also states, "As I have worked in the past as a beautician I try to work about 30 hours a week. I am trying to build a clientele to defray expenses" Also, she has been able to help her high school age daughter with her homework and has helped her to achieve better test scores. "With my new education goals I find my aspirations for all my daughters has grown as well. I now have a common bond with my second daughter as she is also in college. I have understanding and respect for what she is trying to achieve in her life. I hope I can continue to be a role model for my daughters encouraging them to never give up on their dreams."

Our winner of the Jeanne Schneider-Adovnik award is not new to Salt Lake Soroptimist. She has applied twice for the WOA award and has been invited to attend "Breakfast with Santa 2008, 2009." She attended with her mother and three young boys Alfonso, age 12; Jesse, age 8 and Edgar age 6. She is studying for a bachelor's degree in Social work. at Weber State University. She will complete her program in 2012. Her education goal is to become a social worker so she can help primarily, Hispanic people change their lives by providing them with resources and a way out of poverty.



Women's Opportunity Award Luncheon *continued from page 3*

Marisol always dreamed of going on to college after she graduated high school over 10 years ago but there was never enough money no matter how hard she saved, her funds were somehow deferred to other family needs. "It was always on my mind to someday go to college, I never gave up hope." She continues to say "I knew sooner or later I would figure out a way to come up with the money to go to school." After her divorce in 2004 she took a leap of faith and enrolled in school and has been going ever since. It has been very difficult as she has the three boys that she raises with little financial help. "I work a part time job from 4:30 am to 7:30am which barely pays my bills. I receive no child support and so I struggle a lot with finances, and my kids go without things they need very often because I have a very tough budget"

Marisol has completed her associates degree and is now going for her bachelors.



She is very proud of her good GPA. "I want to accomplish this so that I can give my children a better education, and in the future help them go to college. I want to be a good role model and show them about the importance of going to school. I can show single mothers that we can make our educational dreams come true, that there are a lot of resources available to help us towards our education, but it is our job to go out there and look for it and not to give up easily."

"Thank you all so much for helping my mom go to school."



At the close of our luncheon little 8 year old Jesse came up to the podium with his head down and said to Marilyn, can I say something please..? She handed him the microphone and he said, "Thank you all so much for helping my mom go to school." There wasn't a dry eye in the room.

70th Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Conference *by Carma Ingram*

The first year Cody hosted a conference was in 1984 and it was snowed out! Our own members Marilyn Tang and Thelma Olsson had to stay in Rawlins and actually never made it to conference. This year's conference in Cody was kicked off with mild snow flurries. Those of us who left Thursday a.m. wondered as we drove through Parleys Canyon if we would perhaps have a repeat of 1984. Fortunately the weather cleared and we made the drive without a problem. Our attendees included Carma Ingram, Nancy Mitchell, Pat Murdoch, Janis Nash, Rita Offrett, Cheri Richardson, Kay Ruiz, and Marilyn & Gary Tang.



The conference started with acknowledgement to past Governors, first time attendees, and members

of longer standing. The Mayor of Cody ... a former Soroptimist ... Nancy Tia Brown, gave us a warm Cody welcome and encouragement to continue our work of helping women and girls.

Dr. Judith Strong, SIA Director, spoke to us about "Women Who Take Risks." She invited us to collectively and individually take risks to move our organization forward. Violet Richardson took a risk in starting a women's organization when women were barred from joining another service organization. Dr. Judy said "Why Are We Soroptimists?" ... "Mission ... mission ... mission." We are encouraged to focus our work through our mission more on economic empowerment of women and girls. "There is much to do ... too much to do to hold back!"

Throughout the conference the Presidents of all clubs in the Region took turns reporting on the activity of their club. Some of the highlights included:

SI Boise held a Human Trafficking event. They showed a movie and had a panel of experts to discuss this problem and what a community could do to work on it.

SI Central Wyoming (Casper) held a membership event. 35 people attended and recruited 4 new members to take them out of probation status with only 12 members.

SI Cody held a "Run for Hope" to provide financial assistance to women suffering from cancer. They earned \$13,000 from this event and received much publicity.

SI Minico help support an orphanage in Haiti, where 3 of their members have actually gone there to work with the children. The earthquake in January 2010 really affected the orphanage and their facilities there. They have

70th Annual Rocky Mtn. Regional Conference *continued*

raised over \$10,000 which has gone for clothing and food.

SI Salt Lake County won the Region Award for Program based on our Breakfast with Santa event. President Nancy presented on Breakfast with Santa with a slide show of pictures of the event and stated that it fulfills all of the SIA criteria of Program, Membership, Fund Raising and Public Awareness.

At our luncheon on Friday we honored the Ruby Award Winner for the Region, who was Jacqueline Cervantes-Guzman. She works with multi-cultural girls to help with continuing education. Jacqueline is from Scotts Bluff, Nebraska.

The Region awards were given in the four categories of the SIA Renaissance Program. These will be forwarded to Federation for SIA Awards:

Program – Salt Lake County for Breakfast With Santa

Fund Raising – Cody for their “Run for Hope”

Membership – Ogden’s Membership Tea

Public Awareness – Boise for Social Networking vs. Twitter and Facebook

Our four Regional Chairs presented awards to all the clubs for their participation in the four areas or the Renaissance Program. Our chairs included Ranae Kading, Public Awareness, Janis Nash, Fund Raising, Rita Offrett, Membership, and Jan Fitts, Program.

Governor Barbara Lewis talked about the two projects that our Region supported during her biennium. (1) Into Your Hands started in 2008 to support schooling for orphans in Uganda. Due to the HIV crisis in Africa there are many orphans. The Hands of Hope Scholarship funds boarding school attendance for the children. Our Region has supported a minimum of two girls for two years schooling with our funds. (2) Our Region also gave \$4,200 to Children of Peace for the Little Rose Shelter. This shelter in Vietnam is helping girls who have been sex trafficked, as well as, women who are hopelessly abused within their families and have no where to go. Binh Rybacki was there to report on COPI and specifi-

cally about this shelter. They currently have 25 adults and 12 children (8 of whom were rescued from sex trafficking) living there. They are trained for jobs and stay there until they receive their second paycheck.

Janis Nash is the new liaison with the Region for Children of Peace. Janis will be working directly with Binh Rybacki for Fund Raising and updates within the Region. Binh is encouraging anyone wanting to go to Vietnam and work with her team to come! Janis Nash was also voted by our club for the Spirit of Soroptimist Award for 2010.



Janis & Binh Rybacki

Everyone at the conference recognized and love Janis. She is a true Soroptimist, and we are so lucky to have her in our club!

On Saturday we heard from Lori Blair, SIA Senior Director of Program Services. She spoke about “Sex Trafficking and Looking at the Demand Side.” Her statistics were shocking as it is estimated that every year over 100,000 children are raped in the name of prostitution. Trafficking is modern day slavery.



Lori Blair

Greed and demand fuel sex slavery. It is about gender and equality and perpetuating a culture that makes it OK to buy and sell girls for sex. A study on demand in the sex industry in the U.S. showed that the introduction into the sex industry was typically from age 11-14 years old. We need to address what boys are seeing on the Internet. Sweden passed a law that focused on punishing the men and finding programs to rehabilitate the girls. Sweden’s law says our women and girls are not for sale. This has dramatically decreased the sex trade activity in their country.

Lori stated that “We should not rest until all women and girls throughout the world can live their dream.”

We honored Regional Winners for Violet Richardson Award and our own Brooke Larsen was the winner for District II. We recognized the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place WOA winners. Barbara Manheimer, who is a student at BYU Idaho and single mother of 3 girls was awarded \$5,000 and new laptop as our Regional 1st place winner.



Governor Jan Fitts

On Saturday night, we inducted the new Regional Board for the next two years:

Jan Fitts – Governor

Johnnie Jenkins – Governor Elect

Rebecca Mason – Secretary

Carol Felici – Treasurer

District I Director – Jan Hall

District II Director – Carol Parish

District III Director – LaDawn Ryan

District IV Director – Dorinda Graff



Carol Parrish-Dist. II

All in all the conference was filled with valuable information, tearful moments that touched our hearts, and lots of fun and visiting with our sister Soroptimists!

Soroptimist of Salt Lake

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*Theme 2009-2010
ROSES: Realize
Opportunities and Service
Everywhere with Soroptimist*

Soroptimist Vision

Be the voluntary service organization chosen by all business and professional women committed to improving the lives of women and girls. We all share our time, talents and financial resources to enrich our communities. Together we will:

- *Improve the lives of women and girls*
- *Help women achieve economic and political equality*
- *Serve as a global voice for women*
- *Provide outstanding leadership development opportunities for women*
- *Enhance world peace and understanding*

May Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 13th—JO&AC
Event, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, 61 W.
3900 South

Friday, May 14th—Board Meeting
11:30 am at Denny's Restaurant
on Redwood Road

Tuesday, March 18th—Horizonte
Young Parents Service Graduation,
Thurl Bailey, 9:15-10:15 am,
1234 S. Main, SLC

Friday, May 28th—Business
Meeting, 11:30-12:30 am, Cottonwood
Club, 1780 Lakewood Drive

Friday, May 28th—Program
Meeting, 12:30 am-2:00 pm, Cottonwood
Club, 1780 Lakewood Drive

July 7-10—SIA 41st Biennial
Convention, San Francisco, CA

Many Happy Returns

Mary Clark—May 8

Kay Ruiz—May 14

Val Iorg—May 15

Laura Lee Madsen—May 18

2009-10 Officers and Board

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