



Soroptimist International of Corona

April 2011

Making a Difference For Women 2011 Luncheon

**Wednesday,
April 13, 2011
11:30 am—1:30 pm
Eagle Glen Golf Course**

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President's Message

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. ~Anne Bradstreet

As each day comes to us refreshed and anew, so does my gratitude renew itself daily. The breaking of the sun over the horizon is my grateful heart dawning upon a blessed world. ~Terri Guillemets

With this issue of our newsletter, we mark the beginning of Spring, the season in which the Earth renews itself. The brown hills fling up their bright green skirts embroidered with wildflowers, and birdsong fills the air as each lifts its little voice in the songs of love and gratitude that are the precursors of creation. Spring fever sends the cats from window to window, chit-

tering at the birds before chasing each other from one end of the house to the other in a wild thunder of exuberant feet.

How could we not feel totally alive on days like this? The ground is still drying from a thundershower, but the sun shines warmly, while a breeze is cool enough to make you grateful for the sun's smile. Each sunrise seems to use a new crayon from Mother Nature's box, making each day a brand new discovery. And yet, the news is full of horrible tragedies – people struggle for freedom in Bahrain, Libya and Egypt, while their neighbors in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to endure years of war. The old and the young comfort one another in Japan, their homes and families swept out to sea, the earth and



air poisoned – perhaps for years to come - with salt and radiation. Eighteen men brutalize an 11 year old girl in our own country, and the community is torn apart by accusations and blame.

Will we choose to focus on the Spring? Or the Winter that preceded it?

Continued on page 2...

Making a Difference For Women 2011 Luncheon

The Soroptimist Ruby Award honors women who, through their professional or personal efforts, are making extraordinary differences in the lives of women or girls. Honorees are women who have worked to improve the lives of other women or girls. Their work has had a significant impact, and also inspires and encourages other women. Come join the Making a Difference For Women 2011 luncheon:

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Eagle Glen Golf Course

Soroptimist Pledge

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist and to the ideals for which it stands. The Sincerity of Friendship. The Joy of Achievement. The Dignity of Service. The Integrity of Profession. The Love of Country. I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold & defend these ideals for a larger fellowship in home, in society, in business, for country and for God.



~ Joyce Pavez in Italy

Stop Human Trafficking Update

Everyone I approach wants to help and we are all trying to identify the most efficient way to proceed. For now, our Committee has decided that we need to educate the community and I would like to ask each of you to consider a training to make presentations to other organizations you belong to. I should soon have information as to the curriculum

and training date, so please email me if this is a possibility (joycepavez@yahoo.com).

Also, anyone who thinks they may have come into contact with a victim of human trafficking—man, woman or child—can make an anonymous call to the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline at 1-888-373-7888, which is coordinated

with law enforcement in Riverside County. We have planted many seeds; join us as we grow... My last Newsletter article reported statistics... many of which have unfortunately increased.

~For questions, please call Joyce Pavez at 951-217-5749

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

1.888.3737.888



www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking



President's Message...page 1 continued

It seems that these last months have seen many losses among our Soroptimist family – jobs, family members, even the bittersweet joy of launching children into adulthood. It is so easy to keep an account of what we have lost, and take it out, like worry beads, to justify a bad day, some sadness or crabbiness, or those stubborn 10 pounds. We worry for our husbands, our businesses and our children. We wonder how our community will recover from the draconian cuts needed to balance out all those losses. And yet, we have so much to be grateful for.

We live in the greatest country on Earth, where even our loss and deprivation is greater than the Bounty experienced by others. We have opportunities, sometimes triggered by those losses, that we never

would have imagined, but are only possible here. I wouldn't have my great new job if I hadn't left the old one behind. And I wouldn't appreciate it near as much without having spent the prior year plus grumpy and unhappy with it. Gratitude doesn't mean "Be grateful you even have a job." Gratitude is the realization that each new season offers the opportunity to choose again, to look for the new opportunity for happiness, to find the part of your life that fills you with gratitude for each new day.

Maybe that means making a change. Stand up for yourself and ask for what you want – new responsibilities at work, a different position, a real vacation.

Maybe it means counting your

blessings and rediscovering how much you love that guy with the gray hair and pot belly, and the money pit that you are upside down on. He's still the love of your life, and it's still home.

So get out there! Prune the dead wood from your garden. Give it that little bit of sunshine, a sprinkling of rain, and just a touch of bull**** so it can thrive!

You can't have change in your life if you don't ask for it - embrace it - spread your wings and fly. Dance in the rain and laugh in the sun.

After all, by July, we will have lost all gratitude for the sun, and be grumping for some relief from the heat.

~Irena Norton

Dreams & Decisions 2011





Dreams & Decisions

By making good choices, your life will be much easier!



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women
SI Corona, CA

Thanks to the efforts of a great committee and the many Soroptimist and adult volunteers helping, our SI Corona annual service project had a record number of girls in attendance.

Nearly 300 girls arrived at Citrus Hills Intermediate School on Saturday, March 12th to attend Dreams & Decisions, a daylong workshop of speakers and activities aimed at instilling in girls that if they make the right choices now, they can achieve their dreams.

This year's presenters included Lori Pendergraft, River-

side Unified School District Psychologist, who spoke on Self Esteem; Rita Chenoweth and the RCC dance team demonstrated dance around the world; Leeza Villagomez of Yoga Den gave tips on healthy eating and lifestyle; Cyndi Monroe and CAT delivered a skit on healthy relationships; Jennifer Disney moderated a panel of teen mothers and abstinent teens while also getting the girls involved in a chemistry experiment symbolizing how sexually transmitted disease spreads; Mariella O'Toole, Riverside County Hospital RN, moderated a Q&A session; Jade and John Lipari

of American Karate gave a demonstration on self defense; and Julie McDougall educated all on the threat of human trafficking and internet safety.

It was a day full of great information for all girls and women in attendance.

Though Dreams & Decisions, Soroptimist International of Corona is truly making a difference in the lives of today's girls and the betterment of tomorrow's women.

Thank you again to all who helped in any way to make this year's event a success!

Dreams & Decisions 2011:
A Success Through the
Efforts of Many





Cyndi Monroe: Making Waves

March 2011

Unsung Heroes

Two weeks ago we held our annual day of service project, Dreams and Decisions. We had nearly 300 girls in the room, all 7th and 8th graders, sitting at dozens of round tables in the multipurpose room of a local intermediate school. That was an amazing sight! Even better, were the dozens and dozens of women volunteers who were also sitting with these girls: Local business women, school counselors and teachers, and college girls who had attended Dreams and Decisions when they were in Jr. High who came back to serve now that they were older.

~ Cyndi Monroe

*Blogging with our
1st Vice President,
Service*

In today's world, especially in southern California where our weather allows us to be on the go 12 months of the year, having a free Saturday is the stuff of fantasy for lots of women, especially those who work full time. Saturdays have become "catch-up, catch-all" days that generally come with a "to-do" list as long as Shaquille O'Neal's arms. Throw in Little League games or Basketball practice, dance recitals or softball tournaments and you have a fairly typical Saturday for most of the women I know. That's what made it so amazing to see all these women sitting there with girls they probably didn't know, giving up a good chunk of their day to support our Soroptimist Dreams and Decisions Day.



I love to think about the unspoken influence these women had that day on all those 12 and 13 years olds. The girls were sitting with banking executives, local politicians and business owners. Some of the women in that room were college professors, successful real estate brokers and medical professionals. All these women sending the same unspoken message to their table full of girls: "We are here because we think you matter, we're hoping for the best for you, we want you to be successful in whatever career or venture or path you choose,"

I know that message might have been lost on a lot of the girls on that day. They were given A LOT of information, had a lot of fun, and walked away with a back pack Goodie Bag full of great stuff. I am hoping, though, as they go about their lives maybe they will run across some of these women later. Maybe they walk into a bank with their parents and spot the woman who was the facilitator at their table, or they attend a City Council meeting and see up on the dais the woman who sat with them. Chances are they might see a real estate sign in front of a home and recognize their facilitator's picture or go for a medical appointment and see the woman who helped them that day. And maybe it will get them thinking about the gift of their time these women gave to them that day. Or they see these women in a new light as a successful business woman and they realize, 'That could be me someday!'



I was truly blessed to be a part of that day and to see all the generous women in our community who came out on a Saturday to give a bunch of squirrely Jr. Highers an opportunity to the center of attention for a whole day. Those women were all truly my unsung heroes!



Celebrating Our Soroptimist Sisters Happy Birthday Ladies

April Celebrations...

Judith Horan—13

Denise Seinturier—21

Lou Sanderson—24

Sylvia Fleming—25

Jeannie Nugent—27



May Celebrations...

Valerie Rucinski—3

Karen Spiegel—11

Linda Holmes—21

Calendar of Events

April 6	SI Meeting—Corona Regional Hospital, Kevan Metcalf
April 13	Making a Difference For Women Luncheon
April 18 (Monday)	Board Meeting
April 20	SI Business Meeting
May 4	Scholarship Awards Luncheon
May 11	SI Meeting
May 16 (Monday)	Board Meeting
May 18	SI Business Meeting
May 25	SI Meeting—Jade Lipari Baby Boy Shower
May 31	Deadline for Founders Pennies Contribution
June 1	SI—Meeting Allocations

Soroptimist Birthday Party...*From Joyce Pavez*

Tracy – Linda – Marcy - Great Birthday Party... Where can you go to lunch with an amazing group of women and cry, laugh, be grateful... and leave smiling??? Should have mentioned that Sandi Gordon (sat to my left) worked with

me on the very first Dreams & Decisions and her daughter artistically produced the first logo of the girl on our flyers which we used until 2 years ago. Also, when Kim Taylor (next to Sandi) was hired by ADV many years ago, we se-

cured services for battered women in Corona. It's great that we extend these invitations to those we don't see regularly as they have contributed greatly to our past....
Joyce

**Golden West
Region Spring
Conference**

**Wild Pass Hotel
& Casino
Chandler, AZ**

**Thursday—
Saturday
June 2
Through
June 4**

Soroptimists ~ Please ask me how I am doing on my New Years Resolutions...

- Make my first real estate investing deal...by Andi LaPointe
- Spend more time with energetic and enthusiastic, positive people...Get all A's in my college classes...by Linda Holmes
- I will connect with old friends and make an effort to see them or call them...by Seema Lechner
- Read God's Word, Understand God's Word, and Live It...Follow the Bible reading plan set by the Grove Community Church to be able to read through the Bible in one-year starting January 1, 2011...by Shawn Dredla
- Eat a more balanced diet...Learn how to make Fran's green salad...by Tracy Mauser

Okay Ladies...
Give us an up-
date on your
New Years
Resolutions...
and Pay a Fine.



CHANGE IS BEAUTIFUL...

We Moved Our Wednesday
SI Corona Meetings to Valencia Terrace...

Thank you,
Valencia Terrace for
hosting SI Corona!

Valencia Terrace is located at 2300 S. Main St. just South of Ontario, (past the Walgreens/Henry's Market center). Valencia Terrace is happy to be hosting us but asks that we park in the adjacent parking lot that houses a medical building.

This is an interim move until we decide whether its a perfect fit for our club or just a great temporary spot until we find something we like even better.

~Cyndi Monroe

Yet Another Recipe to Die for...by Deb Miller

Corned Beef Hash Cakes with Poached Eggs

Ingredients:

- *4 white baking potatoes, peeled
- *2 1/2 pounds corned beef brisket, cooked and trimmed
- *1 medium onion, finely chopped
- *1/3 cup parsley, finely chopped
- *1/4 teaspoon thyme leaves
- *1/2 teaspoon mustard, prepared
- *2 eggs
- *Salt and pepper to taste
- *2 cups dry bread crumbs
- *Vegetable oil for frying
- *16 Poached eggs, peeled
- *2 cups sour cream
- *4 tablespoons horseradish

Directions:

- *Cut baking potatoes in half lengthwise and boil until just tender. Do not overcook.
- *Rinse potatoes in cold water, drain well, and shred in a food processor.
- *Shred or finely chop corned beef. In a large bowl, combine potatoes, corned beef, onion, parsley, thyme, mustard, and raw eggs.



- *Knead ingredients together until mixture is well-blended. If mixture seems too wet, work in 1-2 tablespoons of bread crumbs.
- Add salt and pepper.

- *Lightly shape mixture into 16 patties and coat each in bread crumbs.

- *Pour oil 1 inch deep in a large skillet. Heat over high heat and add patties, 2 or 3 at a time. Cook, turning once, until patties are well-browned on each side.

- *Place cooked patties on a baking sheet and keep warm in the oven until ready to serve.

- *Before serving, poach eggs and place egg on top of each corned beef hash cake.

- *Mix sour cream and horseradish and place a dollop on each cake.

Mmmm!

Soroptimist Grace

*For the bread upon
the board, make us
truly thankful Lord,
for each member
meeting here,
whom our hearts
hold close and
dear. For this day
O Lord above, now
accept our grateful
love. Amen*

Soroptimist International of Corona ~ Meet Our 2011-2012 Board

Executive Board Members

President	~ Frances Armenta
President-Elect	~ Cyndi Monroe
1st VP, Service	~ Judy Marburger
2nd VP, Ways & Means	~ Leeza Villagomez
Recording Secretary	~ Susie Pinedo
Corresponding Secretary	~ Linda Holmes
Treasurer	~ Debbie Miller
Assistant Treasurer	~ Karin McGee
First Year Director	~ Irena Leigh Norton
Second Year Director	~ Tracy Mauser

Ex-Officio Board Members

Delegate	~ Crystal Deckard
Delegate	~ Monica Green
Alternate Delegate	~ Amy Ladika
Alternate Delegate	~ Kirsten Cone



What is my name?...By Diana Marcela Ramirez-Decato , AKA Marcy Decato

Diana Marcela Ramirez Duque, yes my fellow Soroptimist that was my name before all my marriages...

I am from South America where most people are named with a first and middle name, plus, our father's family name, and we never, never drop our mother's maiden name. So when we introduce ourselves people from other places in the world might think that we are royalty because of our long names. Unfortunately, it is not royalty, but a cultural and a traditional custom. In many instances we are given a name to honor an ancestor or two or three.... Also, some people are named after the saint celebrated on the date they are born (of course the Catholic Church has a Saint for every day of the year).

Well, thank God my name was not honoring anybody or any saint! An other name you could call me is Candelaria instead of Marcy (Candelaria is the saint of my day of birth). The name was offered by a good friend of the family and after searching for the right name for a long time, finally this one sounded pretty to my mother's ears. I don't really know the lady that well, but love her to death!

Back home some people called me "Diana", some members of the family called me "Nana" (the first word I said when I was learning to talk), but for the most part I was called "Marce" (short for "Marcela"). The only time I heard my full name was when I was in trouble "Diana Marcela come over here right now!"

Guess who that was calling me?

I responded to all those first names, at least I knew my last names were constant and those nobody could change... little did I know about life. I have to say that I am very proud to be

a woman, but I am not going to deny that it has some disadvantages, one of them being that in most cultures your name changes when you get married.

I got married to my first husband Julio when I turned 21, then my problems started... I was not **Diana Marcela Ramirez Duque** any more, now I was **Diana Marcela Rivera**. I could not believe that both my last names were chopped off instantly after that stupid ceremony in Vegas. No more constants for me. I knew then that I could respond to "hey you" with no problem. To top it off, my husband and his family and friends started calling me Marcy. Yet another name, but the mess really started now.

Again, at that point I could still care less what people called me. Well this was kind of sad verbally (at least for me), but on paper what a mess.

Luckily I had been here in the US for just a few months, since I didn't speak English back then, Julio filled out the my needed documents such as health insurance forms etc. The idiot wrote my name as "**Marcy Rivera**" as my formal name on all those documents. I didn't know this until I went to the doctor for the first time and I didn't get medication from the pharmacy because the name on my documents did not match their records. Now, of course I had a driver's license that said **Diana M. Rivera**, very different from **Marcy Rivera** on the insurance papers or **Diana Marcela Ramirez Duque** on the passport. I was very upset with the situation, but one way or another I dealt with it for 9 years. However, this was not just an insurance nightmare any more, the problem has grown to be an INS and IRS problem as well. Upon returning to the US after a trip, I was bombarded by US immigration with

all sorts of questions about my names. At this point, I had 4 AKA's.

I married Tom, my current husband 14 years ago, and guess what, my sweet variable name changed again to **Diana Marcela Deco**. I promised myself that it was going to be the last time I would ever go thru the change of name chaos. This time of course I had many more documents to take care of: credit cards, drivers license, passport, medical insurance, car insurance, taxes, you name it. I am so fed up with the name issue that if I even feel like my marriage is in trouble I think of the change of name ordeal and decide to work things out with Tom. (Yes, you could call it as "a good marriage therapy").

But my story doesn't end there... about 12 years ago when I became an American Citizen, just to confuse my record a little more with the IRS, the INS and every government agency in this country, I decided to add back my family name. So, my real name now is **Diana Marcela Ramirez-Decato** a name that I never use because everyone knows me by Marcy Decato and why to complicate things even more right?

I feel sorry for my mom who went thru so much trying to come up with a pretty name for her little girl and there is not much left of it. In my opinion, our names should be something like our trademarks and nothing should change that. Just like famous people, or superstars, who get to keep their name no matter who they marry or how many people they marry.

People kind of laugh when they ask me, how do you pronounce your last name? And I respond, pronounce it however you want, it is my husband's name, I don't care. Or how do



~Diana Marcela Ramirez-Decato, AKA Marcy Decato

Prostitution is Not a Choice

"Prostitution is the world's oldest profession." In reality, it is the world's oldest "oppression" and continues to be one of the most overlooked human rights abuses of women on the planet today. Female prostitution is a particularly lethal form of violence against women, and a violation of a woman's most basic human rights.

you spell Marcy? And I say what ever is easiest, that's not my name anyways.

They respond with Huh?

I know I sound frustrated, but please don't get me wrong, I kind of like "Marcy" and I am use to it. Besides, if you call me with love you could call me anything.



Soroptimist International
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Best for Women

Soroptimist International is a worldwide organization for women in management and the professions, working through service projects to improve the lives of women and girls. In local communities and throughout the world.

Soroptimist International of Corona strives to be a global voice for women through awareness, advocacy and action. The organization is committed to serving local, national and international communities, and participating actively in decision-making at all levels of society. The word "Soroptimist" was coined from two Latin words, "sorrow" and "optima", which loosely translates as "best for women."

2010-2011 Officers & Directors

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