



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
OF THE AMERICAS

Soroptimist International of Medford
PO Box 645 • Medford, OR 97501

Northwestern Region, District 2

March 2008

MARCH-BIRTHDAY

Louise Holmes ~ 3/2
Sheryl Alderson ~ 3/21
Cecilia Obeso 3/28

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Diane Cowan~ 30 years
Louise Dix ~ 1 year
Denise James~ 1 year

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

19TH Business Meeting
26TH 40TH Anniversary Gala
NO NOON MEETING!

APRIL

1ST Venture Meeting, 6pm ~ Bella Union Restaurant in J'ville
2ND Women in the Service, Today & Yesterday by Heather Basey and Judith Hams
5TH Pear Blossom Baby Contest
Easter Seals Dance
9TH Ambassadorship to Italy by Jacob Wimmer
12TH Pear Blossom Parade
15TH Venture Meeting, 6pm ~ Bella Union Restaurant in J'ville
16TH Business Meeting
19TH Garage Sale (page 7 has details)
23RD Traveling to Far Off Places by Jeannie Matthews
30TH Surprise Event

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Kudos to the team that put together the Making a Difference for Women reception. It was a really nice affair and the recipients were certainly worthy of being recognized. It's always amazing to me to hear about how much some people are able to accomplish in such short lives. Makes you think about how little "I" do and how much more needs to be done.

So, on with the projects we have planned. Next is our anniversary celebration. Sandy and her crew have been working hard to make it a memorable event. Then, on to the Pear Blossom Baby Contest and all the fun of that day. Don't forget that we are hosting Easter Seals dance that night and you will be rewarded by that experience. I will have a sign up for the hosting at our business meeting.

Plan now to help out where you best fit and your time allows. We all contribute some way, but none of us can do everything. But, every single thing that each of us does makes a difference for someone else and all efforts are appreciated.

See you all Wednesday noons at the Hungry Woodsman.

Sherrie

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wsparkeplace@msn.com

February 2008 Attendance

100%ers - 12

Kay Brown*
Marie Quinn-Cabler*
Lou Dierieux
Karen Gale
Kathy Garrett Canape
Therese MacGregor*
Sherrie Messer
Claudette Moore
Shirley Parke*
Mary Ann Ramsden
Alicia Speidel*
Ruth Wooton

*Makeups - 5 makeups to qualify for 100%

Average February Attendance - 20

High Feb 27TH Low Feb 6TH & 13TH



Special Thanks to February Helpers

Greeter: Mary Ann Ramsden
Inspiration: Karen Gale
Reception Desk: Lou Dierieux

March Schedule

Greeter: Cecelia Obeso
Inspiration: Alicia Speidel
Reception Desk: Lou Dierieux

April Schedule

Greeter: Kathy Barnett
Inspiration: Sandy Lowman
Reception Desk: Lou Dierieux

May Schedule

Greeter: Kathleen Scepan
Inspiration: Kathy Garrett Canape
Reception Desk: Lou Dierieux

**MARCH NORTH MEDFORD
STUDENT OF THE
MONTH HONOREE**



Erin Ebert, daughter of Ann and Dan Ebert, was honored at our March 12TH noon meeting as our North Medford High School Student of the

Month for March. She is a senior at North Medford High School, graduating next June with the Class of 2008. Her academic career has included AP English, Biology, Chemistry, Geometry, Algebra, Pre-Calculus, World History, American History, AP Government, Woodshop, Industrial Design, Intro to Theatre, Advanced Theatre, Women's Choir, Concert Choir, Ceramics, Art 1 and Psychology.

Erin's higher education goal is to attend Southern Oregon University next fall, and study set design and art. At some point, she would like to become a college professor.

She has been in a total of six theatre productions, and a member of the swim team, STARS, the Torch Honor Society, the Buddy Program, Thespian Troupe #358, and the school choir.

Erin cannot really say anyone has influenced her the most, because she has had so many influential people in her life. But, her parents are always supportive of her dreams and goals, and her psychology teacher, Mr. Ghidinelli, has really opened her eyes.

Erin was presented with a framed certificate and a \$50 US Savings Bond by Youth Service Committee Chair, Karen Gale.

Congratulations, Erin!

**MARCH SOUTH MEDFORD
STUDENT OF THE
MONTH HONOREE**



Justin Banuelos, son of Raul and Dawn Banuelos was honored at our March 12TH noon meeting as our South Medford High School Student of the Month for March.

Justin is a Junior, and once he graduates in June 2009 plans to attend Oregon Institute of Technology where

he wants to become a Vascular Technician. His academic career has included Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, Anatomy, Honors Algebra, Honors Geography, four years of Spanish, plus several Construction and Culinary electives.

He is a very active young man. Justin is a member of the Torch Honor Society, Key Club, FLA, SETA and PETA.

Justin's hobby is riding mountain bikes for team competitions.

When asked who has influenced him most in his life, Justin immediately replied, "My Dad". When asked why, he says his Dad has taught him about hard work and to always give 110%.

Justin was presented with a framed certificate and a \$50 US Savings Bond by Youth Service Committee Chair, Karen Gale.

Way To Go, Justin!



President Sherrie Messer introducing our nominee, Sarah Heath.



The event was enjoyed by many, including our club members (shown from left) Kathy Garrett Canape, Mary Ann Ramsden and Loretta Livaudais-Mapes.

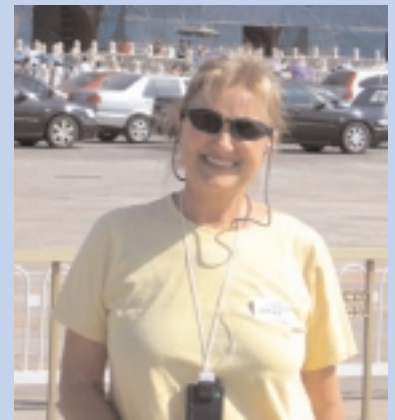
2008 Making A Difference For Women Award Recognition Reception

Our annual reception was held March 6th at the Wild River Brewing Company in Medford. With over 75 members representing the five area clubs, it was truly an inspiring evening.

Our Making A Difference For Women Nominee, Sarah Heath

Sarah Heath was selected as our Making a Difference for Women Award because of the tremendous impact she has made on the lives of women and girls in our community through her professional and personal life. Sarah sees a need and does something about it. Many women and girls have benefitted from her caring and diligence.

In 1980, Sarah became a Volunteer Probation Counselor in Seattle. Through this experience, she realized that law enforcement, judges and district attorney's did not know how to effectively or compassionately interview victims of domestic violence. She developed an interview protocol that was adopted and is still being used in the criminal justice system of King County, Washington. This has made a huge difference in the lives of thousands of domestic violence victims who now have a feeling of being heard and respected by their interviewers.



While earning her Masters Degree at Southern Oregon University, Sarah did two practicums at Dunn House where she conducted research on the needs of domestic violence survivors. She soon realized SOU lacked basic research material on the subject and wrote a federal grant to fund and establish a research library on domestic violence at SOU. For this, Sarah was voted into the Who's Who in Universities by the SOU Psychology Department.

Sarah is a 10 year volunteer with the Alcohol and Planning Council, a program for women being released from prison that are in danger of returning to the lifestyle that put them there. She has helped these women plan for a future that is free of domestic violence and crime.

Sarah has been involved with numerous interagency Jackson County and City of Medford organizations, councils and consortiums. She volunteers as a SMART reader and a Lunch Buddy. Within each of the organizations Sarah is, or has been, involved with, she is a continual voice that speaks out for women and children.



Shirley Parke, left, and Ruth Wooton check out some of the goods donated



Kathleen Scepan, left, and Community Baby Shower Committee Chair Louise Dix collecting items

Saturday of Service Community Baby Shower

Members of SI Medford, SI North Valley and SI Rogue Valley Sunrise collected donations at the North and South Fred Meyers Saturday, March 6TH as our Annual Saturday of Service project. Over four shopping carts brimming with baby items were collected and taken to Community Works to be sorted and distributed to La Clinica del Valle, the Magdalene Home and Dunn House.

FRIENDS OF SOROPTIMIST

At the club planning meeting last fall, the idea came up of starting a "Friends of Soroptimist" program to offer a way for former members to stay involved in our club, to be a source of extra help at events, and to possibly donate to our causes. We are also planning to add a business category next year of local businesses that support our programs, such as major donors to the Annual Holiday Home Tour or Pear Blossom Baby Contest.

A letter and questionnaire about "Friends of Soroptimist" was sent to former members along with the invitation to our Anniversary Party. So far we have received five responses back, and four of the five are interested in supporting and/or participating in club activities. We are pleased about this response. We are planning to send these folks a certificate suitable for framing and a wallet ID card.

Kathy Garrett Canape, ROAR Chair, will publish a listing of the "Friends of Soroptimist," and committee chairs need to take note that they must contact these people who have said they would help in some way. Kathy will update this listing as responses come in.

If you have businesses to nominate for "Friends of Soroptimist," please let Kathy know.

SLAVERY'S NEW FACE: SEX TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN & GIRLS

PART II of II

By Alicia Speidel

Human trafficking impacts women and children in the United States and around the world. President-elect Alicia Speidel has put together an informational series on Human Trafficking and what we can do to prevent this heinous activity in our community.

Prime locations for human trafficking to occur are bus depots, train stations and airports, anywhere that people are constantly moving from one location to the next. Around 800,000 to 900,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, of which 75% are for sexual exploitation and 80% are women and children.

The U.S., Nigeria, Romania, China and Thailand are in the top 11 destination countries. In the U.S. at least 20 states have reported sexual trafficking, including New York, California and Florida. Between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year and 30,000 - 50,000 sex slaves are in the U.S. at any given time.

Human trafficking is being addressed in different ways. In Sweden, they have a law that penalizes the patronizing of prostitution. Korea has a law for tougher penalties on brothel owners and buyers. In Winnipeg, Canada they have a program called "Operation Snapshot" in which prostitute users are videotaped and then those videos are broadcast on the Internet. In Italy, Sister Eugenia Bonetti and her religious order offer shelter and protection to escaped slaves and they helped to pass a stricter law on trafficking.

Soroptimist International is also helping to combat human trafficking through the Women's Opportunity Awards, the Making a Difference for Women Award, and the Disaster Relief Fund. Individual clubs are also doing their part to address this issue. In 2005, two clubs in Japan shared a \$9,000 club grant for their Prevention of Trafficking Project. A club in the Philippines supports a shelter for abused women and girls escaping from sexual trafficking. A club in California held a conference in support of the Western Regional Task Force on Human Trafficking. A club in Chicago has made trafficking a major project focus for the past eight years.

There are ways to prevent human trafficking from occurring. The first step is addressing it and realizing that it is an issue in the United States and around the world.

*information contained in this series of articles was provided by SIA and "The Christian Century"

The following was excerpted from an article on Human Trafficking written by British actress Emma Thompson that appeared in the March 17, 2008 issue of *Newsweek*:

When I was growing up in London, I walked past a massage parlor on the way to school every day. If my friends and I ever gave a thought to what went on, behind its doors, we saw it as a giggle; it existed in a world away from our own.

Fast-forward 30 years to 2006, when I first met 19-year old Elena through my work with the Helen Bamber Foundation, a U.K. charity that helps abuse victims. Elena's story was all too common but had a huge impact on me.

Elena had been enticed to London from Moldova with a promise of a good job and a bright future. Once in the U.K., her passport was taken from her and she was kept in solitary confinement to break her will. She was warned that her family in Moldova would suffer harm unless she did what she was told. And then she was put to work as a sex slave, servicing a procession of men in the most appalling circumstance.

What made her story so personal for me was where she'd been imprisoned: the same massage parlor I'd once treated as a joke. It underlined an awful truth: that human trafficking is not just a problem for other communities or other people. It exists on our own doorsteps, and our lack of action shames us all.

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF MEDFORD
and
VENTURE CLUB OF MEDFORD
ANNIVERSARY GALA**

***Celebrating SI Medford's 40TH
and Venture's 20TH Anniversaries***

Wednesday, March 26TH

Rogue Regency

Cocktails at 6pm

Dinner at 6:30pm

***GARAGE SALE TO BENEFIT
LAUREL SOCIETY FUND***

Saturday, April 19TH

Shirley Parke's Place

3225 Lone Pine Rd • Medford

***Please contact Shirley Parke or Ruth
Wooton if you have items to sell or can
help out the day of the sale.***

***Proceeds will go to the fund Mary Ann
Ramsden fostered for purchasing a
Laurel Society pin each year to be
awarded to a club member of 15 years
or more.***

KEEP BOB AT STARBUCKS

***Bob Canape will spend April 3RD at
Starbucks raising money for KidSpree and
is seeking sponsors for his 6TH annual
fundraiser. Pledges can be given to Kathy
Garrett Canape at club. Bob will be there
from 5:30am to 8:30pm - sponsoring a
penny a minute is \$9.00***

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
THAT CAN SAVE A LIFE**

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours, he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke... YES, TOTALLY! He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours. This makes recognizing a stroke immediately crucial, and a life saver.

How do you recognize a stroke? Remember the "3" steps, STR. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby are unable to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say ANYONE can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S ~ Ask the individual to SMILE.

T ~ Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE - COHERENTLY (i.e. It is sunny out today)

R ~ Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.


If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue... If the tongue is "crooked", if it goes to one side or the other, that is also a strong indication of a stroke.

A cardiologist says if everyone who reads this shares it with 10 people; you can bet that at least one life will be saved!

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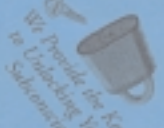
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