



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Log 'n Line

Sending Care Stockings to Service Women

We will join with other clubs in District 3 in contributing comfort items for women in service.

Blue Star Mothers will arrange for the shipment and distribution of Christmas stockings of personal items collected by Soroptimists. The items will be sent to service women in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Club members are requested to contribute personal sized items that can be placed in the stockings. Items which are particularly needed are shampoos, lotions, baby wipes, pillow slips in colorful or cute designs,

hand warmers, sports bras (any size) in black, khaki, brown, natural colors, healthy snacks such as power bars, magazines, books, neck gaiters, and other personal care items. Christmas stockings to hold the items are also needed.

This is the second consecutive year that the district has collected items for service women. Last year, it took a full warehouse to store the items collected by all the clubs in the district until the Air Force could transport them to the war zone.



Part of the items we collected for service women last year.

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Special points of interest:

- Friends and fun at Relay for Life
- Angie and Kris talk and laugh their way through Ways and Means.
- Ginger Young's better than par for the course.
- Get that receipt for tax deductions!



Alicia Cook unwraps gifts chosen with love and care by her fellow Soroptimists.

Honoring One of Our Own

A chance to honor one of our own and make it a surprise at the same time was an opportunity we couldn't miss.

Ever since Alicia Cook announced that she was expecting a new addition to her family, our members have been planning a perfect shower for her. On August 4, during our regular meeting, we all gathered, presents in hand, to simultaneously yell our "Surprise!"

And Alicia truly was surprised. Belva had lured her to the meeting with a story,

just slightly stretching the truth (okay, it was a real whopper!) about needing some urgent insurance advice.

When Alicia walked in and saw the balloons, decorations, and gifts her expression said "What is going on?"

Then as she unwrapped tiny little onsies, itsy bitsy little clothes, and other cute little baby accessories for her soon to be new daughter, the real truth sunk in. And it was hard to tell who was more enchanted—Alicia or her fellow Soroptimists!

*PRESIDENT'S CORNER**It's been a great beginning to a great year...*

Cathy, Honore, and Helen confer during Relay for Life.

Great strides have already begun this year for a marvelous 2008-2009. My heartfelt thanks goes out to all the Committee Chairs who are already doing a fantastic job.

Bulletin and Roster, for our beautiful, informative and fun *Log n Line*.

Social, for our delicious Home Dinner and didn't we have fun at the baby shower and surprising Alicia Cook with all the wonderful presents.

Programs, for all the great guest speakers, we also learned a lot about where our City intends to go to improve our lives here in Vallejo.

Health and environment, for the great support of Soroptimist for the Relay For Life and raising money for the American Cancer Society.

Finance, for developing our on-time budget and balancing our accounts.

Ways and Means, they already have a couple of fund raisers projects in the works.

Human Rights/Status of Women, also have a project in the works.

I am sure our remaining committees are also preparing their events as we speak.

The first Presidents round table was on Saturday August 23rd which I attended and will share with you in September .

We are off and running for a great year!!

Carol Howard



The card depicts the Tale of Genji, a classic work of Japanese literature.

Linking to Akashi with Friendship

It is always so special when our members can visit with our friendship links. Anne Ligda was able to take greetings from our cub to SI Akashi when she visited Akashi as part of Vallejo's Sister City delegation.

SI Akashi members held a special dinner meeting in her honor. One of the members is an accomplished *no* dancer and she performed the

entertainment.

Anne was able to give them gifts of various tokens from Vallejo. In return, they sent cards with a traditional folk heroine to our members.

SI-Akashi told Anne that they hope to be able to visit our club soon. They visited our club in 1995 when the International Convention was held in San Francisco.

Great Showing at Relay for Life

Everywhere we looked we saw members, members, and more members at the Vallejo-Benicia Relay for Life, both in participating and donating to the bake sale.

Mary Ellen Ryan really came through for the club when she reserved a prime location for our booth right at the entrance to the field. Marina Fata furnished the tent and volunteered her husband to set us up.

On Saturday morning as we got set up, Sharlynn arrived with children in hand and beautiful labels she had prepared for us to use on the baked goods. Helen Intintoli donated a number of the very popular Well Tempered Voices cd's to sell.

Of course the best part was seeing our members walking the relay, especially having Albie and Louise in the Survivors walk and Belva as a caregiver.



Mary Ellen Ryan, Albie Doll, and Marina Fata fix up our bake sell booth at Relay for Life.

ANGIE AND KRIS SPEAK OUT ON FUNDRAISING

Fundraising Forecast: Friends, Funds, and FUN!

Ways and Means Co-Chairmen Kris Shirrell and Angie Thorpe sat down with Log n Line in Angie's office to discuss planned fundraising for the year. The discussion, though serious in nature, included a lot of laughs and exchanges expressing their obvious mutual goodwill and friendship.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Log 'n Line to discuss our club's fundraising for the coming year. You volunteered to be co-chairmen for this year's Ways and Means committee, and we all appreciate your stepping forward. What led you to volunteer?

Angie: Actually, I found myself in the same situation as Kris where we didn't feel like we had done as much as we could for the club lately. We were at Avery Greene's with the car raffle and I said to Kris, "Let's do Ways and Means," and she said okay and that was the full conversation. Well, actually she said "With you."

You have decided to have a core committee which is somewhat smaller than what we have had in the recent past. Why did you decide to go "lean" this year?

Angie: I think it is easier to make some decisions if you

don't have twenty people discussing everything. We actually have a great core group

Kris: But at the same time fully involving the club. But at the committee meetings and trying to make decisions and that type of thing, we felt it would be easier and we took the people who had signed up and actually requested Ways and Means.

Angie: We have had really great, productive meetings. Everyone is enthused and cares and thinks things through.

What are your goals for the committee?

Kris: The goals not just for the committee, but for the club with our committee perhaps directing it, is to raise our funds and to thoroughly enjoy and have fun doing it, to have fundraisers that everybody wants to be involved and participate and truly enjoy and have fun. Light-hearted, serious work.

In deciding what fundraisers we will undertake this year, what qualities in the proposals did you consider to be the most important?

Angie: Getting together and having fun. Involving all the members.

Kris: Also at the same time, because we are going to do

two, the amount of work involved—what would be required of the club as far as the labor, that we don't want to overdo, so try to get one of the fundraisers that will be a fun thing to do, but maybe not be as work intensive and perhaps the other may require a little more.

The major event you have presented to the club, the Celebrity Waiter event, introduces a new format for our fundraising. What do you anticipate will be the key to success for this venture?

Angie: I think the most important thing is getting the waiters and selling the tickets. I think we can get a good core group of waiters. I have been to these before and they are *totally* fun. We are trying to raise, hopefully \$20,000 on this event.

Kris: We may be a little ambitious but that's okay.

Will we be having additional fundraisers this year, and if so, how many?

Angie: We are only having two at the very most. Our first fundraiser, we are planning for October, and the second one is February 13.

Kris: And that will be it.

Thank you again for your time and on behalf of all the members, thank you for taking on this job.



Kris and Angie plan to have a fun filled year in Ways and Means.

Those Special Days...

BIRTHDAYS

Ginger Young
September 4

Guia Del Rosario
September 13

Desiree Toronto
September 20

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Can you believe it—no one has a club anniversary in September, but wait until you see the list for October!

So...you think you know Soroptimists?

According to current Soroptimist protocol, the minimal information which should be included in your formal introduction which is to be given at least once a month when we have guests is: (answer pg 6)

- A. Your name
- B. Your classification
- C. Your job title
- D. Your company or organization name
- E. Your slogan

September 2008

Schedule of Events

The first Monday we are dark for Labor Day.

3—Board Meeting. Thank you, Board members, for the time you take to carefully discuss issues of importance to all club members.

8—Business Meeting. Both the year's fundraising events and the year's budget will be discussed.

15—Come hear more about our fundraising activities for the year!

16—Jim Mitchell of Tuoro University will speak to us.

29—OUR FIRST HOME DINNER! Yeah! Don't forget to bring your own plate and silverware. Be at Myrna Kingsbury's house in Green Valley at 6:00 p.m. (or thereabouts!)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1dark	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6
7	8 Business Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Ways and Means	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Tuoro University Home Dinner	30	Coming in October: District Meeting, Club Birthday, Founder's Day, United Nation's Day			

O-What Fun!

Kris Shirrell, Ways and Means Co-Chair, announced the second proposed fundraiser is a Pasta and Bingo night.

This format lends itself to socializing and fun activities, while being a substantial fundraiser.

Detailed plans will be given at our September business meeting.



Installing officer Greta Lange, Ginger Young, and President Carol Howard at Ginger's installation.

It's District Meeting Time!

This year's district meeting will be held on October 19 in Fairfield. It is being hosted on SI-Central Solano.

Members who wish to attend should contact President Carol. We do not yet have the cost; however, in the past it has been between \$25-30.

There is an opportunity to sell items. If a member has an idea of something to sell, it can be presented at the September business meeting.

Ginger Young Joins Soroptimist

Ginger Young, a registered nurse, mother of three and grandmother of three of the most wonderful granddaughters in the world, and an avid golfer is our newest member.

Ginger was drawn to the club because of our reputation for community service to women. She has been tangentially associated with Soroptimist, perhaps without even realizing it, by being the founder and organizer of the Maggie Knott Memorial golf tournament, held annually for the past ten years in honor of our past governor.

As a nurse case manager at Kaiser Hospital, she is responsible for following patients' care, coordinating their care, and finally seeing to their discharge home. She received her training at Sacramento State University and Phoenix University.

She has lived in this general area for the past 45 years. She and her husband Gary now reside in Benicia.

IRS Changes Affect Deductions for Donations

With the constant changing tax laws, just exactly what can you take as a deductible contribution, to whom must the contribution be made, and how much can you take?

For charitable organizations, such as Soroptimist, below are some guidelines.

To get a charitable deduction, you must file a 1040 itemized tax return. For 501 (c) 3 organizations, contributions are fully deductible "to the amount allowed by law." For example, for a charitable event, only a portion of the ticket amount is deductible—generally the difference between the fair market value of the item purchased (such as a meal) and the amount you paid. If the charity pays an average of \$15 for food and charges \$35 for the tickets, you may deduct \$20.

For 2007 and later, no deduction will be allowed for contributions of cash, checks or other monetary gifts, regardless of the amount, unless the donor maintains either a bank record, or a receipt, letter or other written communication from the donee, indicating the donee's name and the contribution date and

amount. In addition, for donations of \$250 or greater, the charity must provide a contemporaneous, written acknowledgment of the donation to the donor.

You cannot deduct the value of time or services to a charitable organization, but you *can* deduct any hard costs associated with that volunteering, such as the gas or bus fare it costs to get there. For example, if you volunteer in a charitable hospital and have to wear a uniform, you can deduct the cost of buying and cleaning the uniform. The IRS will let you deduct any out-of-pocket expenses you acquire in the course of volunteering.

If you contribute property that has appreciated which you have owned for more than one year, the value of the deduction is normally equal to the property's fair market value. However, if the property is tangible personal property put to a use that is unrelated to the purpose or function upon which the charity's exemption is based, then the contribution must be reduced by the potential long term gain. Discuss these types of contributions with your tax professional.

The IRS only permits deductions for donations of clothing and household items that are in "good used condition or better." The IRS requires a qualified appraisal to be submitted with your tax return if you donate any single clothing or household item that is not in good used condition or better, and for which you deducted more than \$500. If a deduction of more than \$5,000 is being claimed for a noncash donation, you must obtain a qualified appraisal of the property and attach it to the tax return

"...for donations of \$250 or greater, the charity must provide a contemporaneous, written acknowledgment of the donation to the donor."

How much does a \$100.00 contribution cost?

Tax Bracket	Out of Pocket Expense
10%	\$90
15%	\$85
25%	\$75
28%	\$72
33%	\$67
35%	\$67

Secret Soroptimist of the Month

Last month's Secret Soroptimist was (drrrrrrrrum roll) Anne Fourie. Did you guess? And what summer beauty do we have this month?



Personal Passages

Phyllis Neely won second prize for her knitted afghan at the California State Fair. Congratulations, Phyllis!

Former member Seana Pangia is undergoing radiation therapy for the next several weeks. You can still send her cards to her home. She says she has a celebrity illness—the same kind that Senator Ted Kennedy was recently diagnosed with. You are in our thoughts and prayers, Seana.

Sandy Plate has recently moved her mother to a care home closer to Sandy in Benicia from Belmont. Sandy may be able to break away to see us some Mondays. We're looking forward to it, Sandy.

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We're coming to the web soon!

improving the lives of women and girls, locally and throughout the world

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. A 501 (c)(3) organization, Soroptimist relies on charitable contributions to fund its programs.

Soroptimist International of Vallejo was chartered in October, 1939, and since that time has been an integral part of the community. Numerous local programs which benefit women and girl are funded through the club. Known for it's dynamic scholarship program, benefitting girls in local high schools and colleges, the club is also a proud, enthusiastic participant in Soroptimist Founder Region Foundation which funds fellowships for women in the final years of their doctoral studies.

Picture Of the Month

Several of our members signed up for the BCS-3 cancer study during Relay for Life. The study will track the health of participants for 25 years to learn what factors (life style, heredity, environment, etc.) contribute to or prevent cancer. Here Betsy Milan has her blood drawn for the study.



So you think you know Soroptimist... answer

Current official Soroptimist protocol calls for introductions to include your name, job title and business or organization name and are to be given when there are guests, such as a speaker or region officer visiting. Both classification and slogan have been dropped from the protocol.

Officers

**Carol Howard,
President**

**Kathy Hume,
President-Elect**

**Helen Intintoli,
2nd Vice-President**

**Sharlynn Willingham,
Recording Secretary**

**Kathy Hahn,
Corresponding Secretary**

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**Pinky Santiago,
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**Cathy Prevolos,
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