



Soroptimist International of Los Angeles

Fellowship with a purpose!

June 2011

Vol 2, Issue 10

Greetings!

Dear Fellow Soroptimists,

I cannot believe that another year has flown by already! Here we are at the beginning of another summer. As I write my last president's message I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as your president for the past two years. It was an informative, fulfilling and humbling experience. I am pleased that we succeeded in reconnecting with the Downtown Women's Center and that we have inducted five new members. We lost two long time members, **Joan Tancredi** and **Jackie Johns**, but our lives were enriched by knowing them. We have had other members who are not returning due to life challenges and we wish them well.



Kudos go out to all of the committees who worked so hard for us to have outstanding activities and exceptional choices for our scholarship awards. My deepest appreciation to all of you for what you do to make this such a wonderful club. Special thanks go to **Janet Elliott** for the phenomenal work on the newsletter and thanks also to **Ann Read** who is now giving Janet a hand. Congratulations to the new officers and board for the upcoming year. You have my best wishes and I look forward to continuing to work and fellowship with all of you as we carry out the mission of Soroptimist International.

Have a safe, enjoyable and blessed summer.

Jeri

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- [SILA's Website](#)
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2010-2011 Board

- President: Jeri Durham
- 1st VP (Programs): Ginger Cole
- 2nd VP (W&M): Carole Oglesby
- Secretary: Joyce Jacob
- Treasurer: Janet Elliott
- Directors 2009-11: Barbara Jury and Irene Recendez
- Directors 2010-12: Karen Johnson and Dona Lawrie

Contact Information

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Date Changed for Summer Planning Retreat



Members: Change your calendars! Due to a conflict for new **President Ginger**, the date for the Summer Planning Retreat had to be changed to Saturday, August 6, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. It will still be held in the conference room at **Barbara Jury's**

Hollenbeck Palms. Directions and information about the cost for lunch will be sent out before the meeting.

New Board is Installed



President Jeri and the 2011-2012 Board

The SILA Board of Directors for 2011-2012 was installed at the last meeting of the year on June 15. The crowded dinner meeting at Taix (which we should be pronouncing as "Tex" according to the owner) also included the induction of a new member, **Jennifer Yi** (see more on her below), and several guests who are considering membership.

The new board members are **Ginger Cole**, President; **Carole Oglesby**, 1st Vice President (Programs); **Pamela Smith**, 2nd Vice President (Ways & Means); **Joyce Jacob**, Secretary; **Janet Elliott**, Treasurer; and **Karen Johnson**, **Dona Lawrie**, **Barbara Jury** and **Joan Johnson** as Directors.



Some of you may remember **Laxmi Parasuram** when she visited our area last June through a Soroptimist Friendship Grant. She is now SI South Kolkata's correspondent for Friendship Links and is as enthusiastic about linking with us as we are with them.

Soroptimist International of South Kolkata (formally known as Calcutta), our potential new Friendship Link, is a strong advocate for girls and women, supporting and sponsoring many varied programs:

- For the last few years, SISK has been running a communication and personality development class for 35 underprivileged children; these classes provide a number of fun communication activities such as participating in plays, skits, group songs and occasional outings.
- SISK adopted the Free Primary School in South Kolkata; members visited the school, talked with the headmistress and subsequently contributed money to cover five teacher salaries and provide snacks for 65 of the children.
- Ekbalpore, a town in South Kolkata, has a center that provides artificial limbs. SISK has donated 25,000 Rupee to provide limbs to the poor and needy with emphasis on women.

By adding South Kolkata to our Friendship Link we achieve one of new **President Ginger's** goals for the coming year.

BEYOND SPORT

by Carole Oglesby

"Jolly old London" was looking very festive and bubbling with energy when I visited on June 2nd. The combination of the Royal Wedding just completed, and preparations for the 2012 Olympic Festival, made the atmosphere electric. I was attending a special session of the Advisory Board of a new London-based organization called BEYOND SPORT.



The mission of BEYOND SPORT is to align large and resource-rich sport corporations with not-for-profit and other non-governmental organization agencies seeking to administer critical sport programming in developing countries or among under-resourced communities in developed countries. To advance this goal, Beyond Sport has an annual application process for proposals to be submitted in order to be awarded a \$15,000 prize AND a year of free mentoring and technical support offered by one of the global premiere management firms.

There were over 450 applications for this year's competition. The 10-12 board members had an enormous job to whittle the group down to about 30 'short-list' applicants. Even the short-list organizations who do not eventually win are flown to a BEYOND SPORT 4-day technical conference, this December in Capetown, South Africa. Final winners are selected by the Trustees (Ambassadors) of BEYOND SPORT, headed up by Tony Blair. Applications described amazing programs using all sorts of sport forms to achieve success in topical areas such as social inclusion, conflict resolution, education, health, environmental concern and Judges Awards for Innovation and Leadership. Anyone interested in BEYOND SPORT programs is invited to take a look at their site www.beyondsport.org

Meet Our New Member: Jennifer Yi

Jennifer Yi grew up in Edmonds, Washington and moved to Los Angeles to attend Loyola Marymount University. Although she got accepted into several law schools after earning her undergraduate degree, she realized shortly after working at a law firm for a few months that while she enjoyed the field of law, she did not want to become an attorney. She currently does business development for Latham and Watkins, a global law firm with over 2,000 attorneys in 31 offices worldwide.



She recently bought her first condo and is busy exploring all that downtown has to offer. She is ecstatic that her commute has been cut down from 1 hour and 15 minutes from the Westside to a mere 10 minutes!

In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys traveling, attending sporting events, pampering her two yorkies and is actively involved in youth ministry at her church. She is a big proponent of social justice and spends a lot of time volunteering with the homeless, underprivileged children and victims of domestic violence. Jennifer is so excited to be a member of SILA and is really looking forward to getting to know everyone and doing great things together.

Jennifer and SILA: a perfect fit!

Member News: Happy Travels

Buhl, Idaho: **Karen Johnson** will be a co-MC at her 55th high school reunion over the 4th of July and will return to Buhl in late August for an informal reunion with College of Idaho friends in Sun Valley and enjoy the Twin Falls County Fair while in Filer, ID.

Montreal, Canada: **Ginger Cole** and **Sheila Tatum** will be going to the Soroptimist International Convention in Montreal. Ginger will be retiring after 35 years of service in the field of Education (32 years with LAUSD) with her celebration on July 24th.

June Lake and Ireland: **Bev Johnson** will spent most of the summer fishing and enjoying the sights at June Lake, taking a wild flowers of the Sierras identification class in August, then travel to Ireland in September to watch the Solheim Cup, women's golf version of the Ryder Cup.

Mammoth: **Diane Vernon** is looking forward to spending the first two weeks of August at the family cabin if the snow ever melts so that the forest service can turn on the water.

San Diego: **Jessica Washington** whose daughter is getting married July 31st on the beach in the presence of her entire family. Congratulations!

Mount Rushmore: **Janet Elliott** and husband **Buzz** will be taking another two month trip in their open-cockpit biplane from August 23rd to October 23rd. This time their destination is Mount Rushmore, visiting other national parks and family and friends along the way.



Here's to a great summer for all of you!

Correction



Plaque in the foyer of the Mildred Lillie Law Building.

In the May newsletter, the Mildred Lillie Building of the Los Angeles Law Library was incorrectly referred to as the "County" Law Library. Mildred Lillie probably would not have made that mistake!