



SI Los Angeles NEWS *Fellowship with a purpose!*

Greetings!

Greetings SILA Members.

An old Farmer's advice to follow in the New Year is my gift to all....

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull strong.

Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stumps.



A bumble bee is considerably faster than any tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.

Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.

Do not corner somethin' that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You can't unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives; instead judge them by the friends they keep.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer, but you can always have an opinion.

Live a good, honorable life.. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.

Timing has got a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.

If you find yourself in a hold, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.

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Live simply ~ love generously ~ care deeply ~ speak kindly ~
leave the rest to God.

And remember:

When you quit laughing, you quit living!!!!

Have a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

President Jeri

January Meetings

Both meetings in January will be held in the Library at the **Downtown Business Magnet High School** at 1081 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles. The second meeting, on Wednesday, January 20th at 6:00pm, will be a business meeting and dinner will be provided.

Meetings and Activities in December



The SILA program meeting on Wednesday, December 2, at the Downtown Magnets High School, featured a presentation by GEM (Governor Ever More) **Sandy Schultz** on **Project Sierra: A Family And A Future**. Project Sierra is the current "Quadrennial Project" of Soroptimist International from 2007-2011. SI is working in partnership with another nonprofit, Hope and Homes for Children, to raise \$2 million to transform the lives of some of the most deprived women and children in the world. Sierra Leone, on the west coast of Africa, is ranked as the poorest country in the world following a decade of war in which 500,000 people were killed, raped, or injured. Over half the population was made homeless and thousands of children were orphaned or separated from their families. Project Sierra focuses on three primary areas: **supporting young mothers** who were often impregnated after being trafficked into sex slavery and are often alienated from their families because of the stigma of having a child outside of marriage; **assisting children living alone** on the streets to return to a caring family environment, to get counselling, an education and a future; and **providing integrated child and family support** to fragile families headed by lone women or frail grandparents needing housing, healthcare and access to income generation. These three elements of Project Sierra will become replicable models of excellence in child protection and childcare shared with other NGOs in Sierra Leone, ensuring Project Sierra will benefit generations to come. SILA supports Project Sierra with a \$500 contribution every year during the quadrennial. For more information, check out www.projectSierra.org.

At 8:30 on Saturday morning, December 12, SILA brought some holiday joy to the women and children currently living at the houses owned by SILA and leased to 1736 Family Crisis Center to operate as a domestic violence shelter. Thanks to donations by many SILA members, the extra effort of **Deanna Blaylock** who coordinated and did most of the shopping for the event, and the helping hands of **Barbara Jury, Carole Oglesby, Janet Elliott, Jeri Durham, Joan Johnson, Julie Mairs and Pam Smith**, SILA provided many gifts for the women as well as some goodies for the children. "The children, especially, enjoyed the magical experience of selecting and wrapping gifts for their moms. It was a memorable morning for all." said **Ron Troupe**, 1736 Board President, with deepest appreciation on behalf of their clients.



In lieu of a regular meeting on December 16, more than 14 members and their guests attending the December 19 Saturday matinee performance of *The Nutcracker Swings*. It was held the beautiful art-deco Orpheum Theatre built in 1926 in downtown LA in the heart of the busy shopping district near Broadway and 8th Street. The excellent dancers of **Robyn Gardenhire's** City Ballet of Los Angeles dance company and a few of the young students of the CBLA Ballet School performed a beautiful production of the traditional Nutcracker ballet which incorporated a few Duke Ellington swing numbers for good measure. Thanks to **Pam Smith** for organizing the event. Definitely a good way to get into the holiday spirit!

Meet our Fund Treasurer Karen

Karen Johnson is a native of Buhl, Idaho. She got her BA in

Physical Education at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, ID then moved to La Puente, where she taught junior high school for four years before getting a Masters in Physical Education from Cal State LA and a part-time position at Cal State LA that led to a full-time career there.

After getting her Doctorate from USC in Physical Education with an emphasis in motor learning, she took a leave from Cal State LA to go to Washington DC from 1975-78 to work as Acting Assistant Executive Director of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport and the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. That's where she first met fellow member **Carole Oglesby** and remained involved with NAGWS for the next 30 years. She returned to Cal State LA and for the last ten years before she completely retired in 2003, she served as Associate Dean for the College of Health and Human Services. She loved this job, which included overseeing curriculum, accreditation and student affairs for programs in social work, child development, kinesiology and nutritional science.



Karen's other passion has been involvement with the US Volleyball Association. Although not a player, she was active on the board and national governing body until it was restructured in 2008. She's also active in the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD), a state professional association for K-12 teachers.

Her long-time colleague and friend from Cal State LA, **Joan Johnson**, finally convinced Karen to join SILA in 2007. "It is very professionally satisfying and I have great respect for other SILA members. I'm so glad I joined!" She's quickly become involved in a leadership capacity and is this year's Fund Treasurer.

Member Happenings



Member **Jackie Johns** has been in St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank for a few days. She may be transferred to the rehab center soon but says she's feeling fine and is anxious to go home!

