



Jack E. Hancock
Brea Progress
Sherry Norman
(center), named Distinguished Woman of the Year by the Brea chapter of Soroptimist International, is flanked by Elayne Kendle (left), club president-elect, and current president Jill Kimble.

25 years strong

Brea Soroptimist Club celebrates a quarter-century of service

By Vanessa Jezin
Brea Progress

Forming life long friendships and helping women who live halfway around the world has been the cornerstone of the Soroptimist International for 77 years.

Local club members are celebrating that camaraderie this month as the Brea chapter turns 25.

The 28-member service organization marked the anniversary at its 12th annual "Woman of Distinction" awards ceremony on Friday. This year, the honoree was local businesswoman and Brea Chamber of Commerce executive director Sherry Norman.

"Sherry was selected as this

year's Woman of Distinction because she lives the qualities that distinguish the ordinary from the extraordinary," said club president-elect Elayne Kendle.

The club has been able to sponsor such community projects as a self-esteem program for elementary-school girls.

"At the Soroptimist meetings there is a really nice feeling and a very supportive environment. I've always felt very much at home," Sherry said. "I think you feel that there really are women helping women."

The club has sponsored numerous service projects throughout the city.

"Our organization has grown along with the city of Brea, al-

ways keeping in mind the needs of our city first," member Esther Poling said.

Through fund-raising, the club has been able to sponsor community projects such as a self-esteem program for elementary-school girls.

The club gives out several scholarships each year to youth, high school students, and single mothers who return to school.

The club meets twice a month to discuss such issues as health, domestic violence and financial planning.

Club president Jill Kimble said the group's last meeting was particularly special, but an example of how members reach out to women worldwide.

"Our guest was a Vietnamese woman who spoke no English but through her interpreter, gathered information to take back with her to help women be entrepreneurs and start their own businesses," Kimble said.

Tremayne to lead Brea Soroptimists

BREA — Pat Tremayne was installed June 14 as the president of Soroptimist International of Brea.

Tremayne's induction highlighted the installation of the club's board of directors at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Brea.

Her theme, "Let's Bloom in 1992," was carried out with each officer receiving a potted plant during the ceremony.

Installing officer Pat Fox said each plant stood for the strength required of the person taking the office.

Tremayne's goal for the coming year is to renew enthusiasm and friendship, and recruit new members from among the business and professional women in the community.

Soroptimist International of Brea is an organization of professional and executive women dedicated to promoting personal and professional growth.



Pat Tremayne takes office as Brea Soroptimist president

Soroptimist International of Brea honors pair for service to youth

By Barbara A. Williams
DSP Correspondent

BREA — Soroptimist International of Brea recently presented two Woman of Distinction awards — one for service in health, one for service in economic and social development.

Despite the disparate titles, the awards recognized Judi Brenner and Inez Fanning for a shared accomplishment: service to youth.

Soroptimists honored Brenner, a Huntington Beach resident, with the "service in health" award for her efforts on behalf of Brandon Oba, a Brea Olinda High School senior who suffers from a fatal form of leukemia. As chairman of the Friends of Brandon Oba, Brenner recruited potential bone-marrow donors for a transplant procedure that could possibly save Oba's life. She also organized fund-raising efforts to help pay for the donor-testing program.

Fanning, a native Brea and active community leader, was noted for her devotion to preserving Brea's history as president of the Brea Historical Society and a member of the city's Historical Committee. Her commitment to sharing Brea's history, Fanning said, was based on her concern for children.

"The great and good families are the historical ones,"

Fanning said, noting many children today face the insecurity of a transient family life or a broken home.

Offering youngsters "a community history" gives them back a feeling of belonging, of being part of a "special place" they can call their own, she said.

In addition to her Brea history work, Fanning has been an active member of the Lark Ellen Christian Church, serving as Women's Fellowship president, as well as playing organ for many years. She has been a member of the Brea Woman's Club since 1977 and served two terms as its president, from 1981 to 1983. She recently was a part of the Brea Project's Development/ Redevelopment Task Force and Brea's Downtown Charette.

Fanning, a graduate of Brea Olinda High School and UCLA, began her teaching career at Laurel Elementary School. She has kept in contact with youth by working in Scouting, teaching piano lessons and serving as a school volunteer for Project Self-Esteem. She also brought Brea's past to the attention of local third-graders in a project she called "Treasure Chest of Brea History."

Fanning and husband Karl have four children, Richard, Bill, Alan and Jean.

Brenner, a University of Michigan graduate, began her nursing career as a pediatric nurse in Pittsburgh. A switch to a career in medical sales marketing eventually brought her to California. She is married to Dr. Charles Brenner of Brea's Center Orthopedic Group and has two sons, Michael, 7, and Scott, 5.

Brenner learned of Oba's need for a bone-marrow donor after talking with his mother, Karen, an employee at Center Orthopedics. At that time, Brenner said she believed "Brea was a small town that would rally to help one of its own."

Since then, hundreds of potential donors have been screened and more than \$120,000 was raised to help pay for donor testing. Brea Soroptimists were among the first to contribute to the Friends of Brandon Oba campaign, Brenner said.

A national registry of marrow donors eventually found a potential match for Oba, who underwent the transplant procedure in January. Although the transplant was unsuccessful, Oba has been able to return to high school and will graduate with his class this month. He and his family are exploring further treatment possibilities with medical experts in Texas.



(Star-Progress photo by Barbara A. Williams)

DISTINGUISHED WOMEN — Judi Brenner and Inez Fanning, center, are named Women of Distinction by the Soroptimist International of Brea. Flanking the honored pair are Soroptimist President Elaine Capps and Award Chairman Pat Tremayne.

GET OUT OF THE WAY OF HER DREAMS



Jack E. Hancock/Brea Progress

Soroptimist International of Brea President Jill Kimble (right) presented the group's annual \$500 women's opportunity award and a floral arrangement recently to Lilia Gutierrez De Rubio.

Brea Soroptimists give \$500 to single mother originally from Mexico to help her attain her school, career goals

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

is pursuing an educational program and needs financial help.

As a single mother of two daughters with educational goals, De Rubio fits the mold.

She plans to take courses at Fullerton College to learn to become a translator — hopefully, for a local city. She'll use the \$500 to buy a dictionary and other books for school, she said.

The Anaheim woman grew up in Mexico City and, after divorcing there, left behind daughters Yenisei Villar and Jessica Villar — now 19 and 17, respectively — to start a new life in the U. S.

In 1991, she arrived alone to face an unfamiliar country, language and culture.

"I promised myself I was going to learn English as well as I know Spanish," said De Rubio, who learned English by watching movies, listening to records and reading newspapers.

"I think when you place God in your life in every single thing you do, you're going to be successful. He knew I needed to learn the language."

Six months later, De Rubio had saved enough money as a restaurant busboy to bring her daughters to California.

She began working as a personal trainer and aerobics teacher at a gym after going to workshops to earn a certificate.

"I encourage my daughters and myself never to forget where they come from," she

said. "I'm sad because the kind of opportunities we have here we don't have in my country."

Since arriving in the U. S., De Rubio continuously has set goals for herself — working, educating her daughters and even buying a computer for their homework. She works at Anaheim-based compact disc manufacturer Cinram.

"I just prayed to God to give me wisdom to understand this lifestyle," she said. "With my daughters, I have to watch them all the time. So far, I've

been very successful because they are not pregnant, they are not in gangs and not on drugs."

De Rubio writes poetry, polishes photography skills and attends seminars and workshops. Besides translating documents, she'd like to be a nutritionist, social worker and interpreter.

"It's time to do another dream because I have a lot of dreams," she said. "One is going back to school. I'm very happy working — it's very interesting, but I want to do something else."

