

OPAWL



Emilia Sugiyama
President

With so many new members joining our organization, I would like to take a moment to “Welcome” you! We are pleased that you have decided to support the growth of OPA Women’s League and fulfill its mission of Friendship, Community and Philanthropy. So, let’s review exactly what those 3 words mean and a little history about our mission.

Friendship: You will discover that you will make lasting friendships out of this group. I know this because I joined almost 16 years ago and have met and befriended so many wonderful women that I never would have met if it were not for this group. I recently read an article about Okinawans that live in the Blue Zone and how they have a strong dedication to their friends and family and maintain moais, lifelong circles of friends that are formed around the age of 5 and continue into their old age. Okinawans also tend to have a strong sense of purpose in life that they call ikigai, or “a reason to get up in the morning”. Because of this value and practice they live a longer and healthier life than most Americans and women there, live longer than any other women in the planet. While we aren’t Okinawans or live in a Blue Zone, I do feel as though we have commonality and hopefull you can appreciate the friendships that have come out of this group. By now, I hope you have found at least one person that brings a smile to your face. Our next event on our “friendship” calendar is a Christmas Social at the Mission Inn. More details to come.

Community: I love our community as many of you do too. It is this rural lifestyle that attracted me to move here from the beach. My son who is now just 1 month shy of turning 13, was born in OPA and as he gets older, he has more freedom to roam our community. He & his buddies walk the trails from our home to Ranch Market to hit up the soda fountain machine and I don’t fear for his safety. It takes a caring community to provide that luxury of safety, cleanliness, and accessibility whether you are a walker, runner, or a horseback rider. There are many past endeavors that OPAWL has donated to like the trails and beautification of the Pony Park corner and we look forward to continuing our support of our OPA community. Which reminds me...please consider attending the OPA Fall BBQ on September 17th. This event helps raise money for OPA Association and I hope to see you there. Our next OPAWL event on our

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*For newsletter contributions
send your content to
opawomen.org@gmail.com*



ORANGE PARK ACRES
WOMEN'S LEAGUE

www.opawomen.org
opawomen.org@gmail.com

President's Message (cont.)

"community" calendar is Decorating Pumpkins with Succulents in October. This is always a fun event. More details to come.

Philanthropy: Well, this is always the hardest of the 3 to achieve because it requires effort and lots of volunteer man hours from our members. But...I am happy to report that our Philanthropic funds have been replenished!! Yes, with the Blue Hawaii – Champagne Brunch Fundraiser that just happened on the 13th, we can meet our obligations. We raised over \$10,000!! What a successful and fun event that the committee put on (read all about it in a following article). With that, the Board has decided to distribute funds in the following manner:

- ❖ Charity on Wheels: \$4,000
- ❖ Annual OPAWL Scholarship: \$2,000
- ❖ Orange Acres BackBreakers 4-H: \$1,000 with ongoing support as needed
- ❖ Orange Park Blvd Christmas Wreaths – put up and take down and refresh if needed
- ❖ Pony Park Upkeep – monthly cost of water and gardener service
- ❖ E&O Insurance & Directors Insurance: allows us to minimize our risk

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A SHINING BRUNCH SUCCESS



The "Blue Hawaii" Champagne Brunch Fundraiser event was scheduled to start at 9:00am and at 8:45am, a cart load of guests slowly made their way towards the home. Yikes! We were drenched in sweat, boxes of pineapples and glasses were everywhere, the silent auction was short a table and the caterers were still setting up because they showed up late. But, with just minutes left before more guests started arriving, somehow Carolyn Aliotta, Cindy Reina, Andrea Blasco, Sharon Butterfield, Lisa Shuss, Darren Sugiyama (who got roped in last minute), and Emilia Sugiyama pulled it together. We put the finishing touches on the tables and just like that we transported our guests to the Islands of Hawaii.

As the guests arrived in their lively luau fashion, they were welcomed by our young lady volunteers, Nicola Frisch, Abbey Harpole and Victoria Mendoza Malo Juvera at the check-in table and then were adorned with a fresh lei if they purchased a premium ticket. The fresh and vibrant colors of the purple orchid leis were hard to miss as they hung around the necks of many guests.

Once past the registration table, guests found their way to the champagne bar where mimosas, champagne and juice were free flowing. The bar area was covered with a cabana structure with flowy cream cloths, providing much needed shade and a beautiful tropical arrangement of red ginger flowers greeted everyone as they placed their drink order.

Cocktail tables, covered in different shades of blue linen stood between the bar and the silent auction. Each cocktail table was adorned with colorful purple orchids and fragrant plumeria flowers cut from Carolyn Aliotta's trees. The silent auction hosted a variety of items from vacation get aways, pamper yourself baskets, a taste of Orange restaurant gift certificates, to a one-of-a-kind handmade keepsake box. Everyone had an opportunity to bid and many guests hovered around the tables, making sure to not lose out on the item they desired. It was fun to see the competitiveness and to see who would end up winning at the end.

Brunch (cont.)

Next to the silent auction tables was the catered brunch fare by Love At First Bite. The tropical flavors tantalized everyone’s palate with items like kiwi, pineapple, mango, and coconut along with the staple breakfast food of bacon, eggs, and coffee.

Hawaiian music piped throughout the lawn as guests cascaded down the rolling grassy lawns, claiming their chair under the massive shady cabanas or an extra-large umbrella. The vision of feeling like you were attending a luau in Hawaii was perfectly executed by owner of Bel Event Productions, Eliza and her team. Not only did she accomplish making us feel transported to Hawaii, but her generosity of donating a huge portion of the furniture décor allowed us to elevate the event to what it was. We are grateful for her support.

As the silent auction drew to a close, Darren Sugiyama took the microphone to announce a special live ask for Charity on Wheels. Zach and Michelle Southall, Founders & Directors, who were in attendance, shared that Charity on Wheels is a non-profit organization whose goal is to see people who are struggling with poverty and homelessness rescued, restored and back on the road to self-reliance. With homelessness affecting so many people and so close to home, it was wonderful to see several people step up and immediately donate to this cause. If you would like to know more or donate to Charity on Wheels, please visit www.charityonwheels.com.

Overall, the event was very successful, exceeding our expectations. We are extremely grateful to our hosts, Alisha and John DeRossett for opening up their gorgeous home to allow for this special event to take place. Added gratitude to our OLU Football team (Jake Hernandez, Carter Wade, Nate Hale, John Ruiz, Shepard Kovacs) for providing the shuttle service to & from Salem and the residence, our youth bus boy volunteers, Estevan Sugiyama and Zane Proul along with our other youth volunteers, our bartender Israel, and his family, to our table sponsor, Horse & Home Real Estate, to those individuals and companies that donated items for our silent auction, to our OPAWL Secretary, Donna Aidekman, that collected payment from the silent auction winners, to the guests that come out in support of our philanthropic fundraiser efforts and lastly to the wonderful event committee that made it all possible, Carolyn Aliotta, Andrea Blasco, Emilia Sugiyama, Cindy Reina and Sharon Butterfield. They made the magic happen.

Written by Emilia Sugiyama



Click on [Photo Gallery](#)
to see the rest of
the photos by
Aaron Spain

Our Philanthropic Recipients

Your League board has been honored to choose three worthy recipients to benefit from the efforts of our philanthropic fundraiser.



Charity On Wheels

The mission of this Christian organization is simple, "To get people off the streets." They do this very successfully at an average rate of 1 to 2 people or families every month. The group strives to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of hopelessness and despair. They work to see people saved, healed, discipled, equipped, empowered and serving. To gain a full appreciation of what they do, visit charityonwheels.com.



Orange Acres BackBreakers 4-H

This is a non-profit organization for youth ages 5-19 that promotes hands-on, experiential learning, leadership development, and public speaking skills. 4-H welcomes youth members and adult volunteers from all backgrounds and all locations. Our local Orange Acres BackBreakers club currently has about 30 youth members and has been a fixture in OPA for well over 50 years. The community clubs are run for youth, by youth, with volunteer adult advisers. The overall program is administered through the University of California's Orange County Cooperative Extension. The project offerings vary by year. Youth members have opportunities to participate in animal husbandry projects, STEM learning, leadership, and community service. To learn more, visit [Orange Acres Backbreakers](http://OrangeAcresBackbreakers.com)



OPAWL Scholarship

The importance of this scholarship is not based on financial need alone. Educational excellence and community service achievements give these women a great confidence in their abilities and provide an academic distinction as they pursue their future educational endeavors. You can find out more about this scholarship on our website, [Scholarship Page](http://ScholarshipPage.com).



ATHENA'S LIST

OPAWL Athena's List shines a spotlight on Connie In The OC, owned and operated by Connie Heavener. Listen to her here.




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SALON HOURS

Tuesday thru Saturday
 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.


 (949) 395-0262



The League is proud of our amazing women in business. If you provide goods or services, we offer you an opportunity to be published on Athena's List to help you promote your business by engaging the attention of our members. By supporting each other we can make our community of women bloom all the brighter.

If you are a current OPAWL member and interested in having your business published on the list, fill out the registration form. Click to the right →

You can also register by email. Download the fillable form by clicking [HERE](#) and then email it to us at OPAWomen.org@gmail.com.

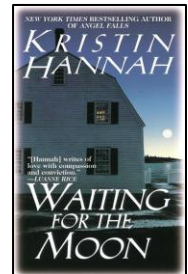


SECTIONS NEWS

Dear Members: Please reach out to the section leaders to join activities or for information. They are doing an amazing job of organizing events for us. Keep the sections alive by joining in often and be mindful to make RSVP's and cancelations in a timely manner. At times, a cost is associated with an event and a last minute cancelation causes difficulties. --Thank you for being considerate of our organizers!

Literature Group

The current book is a novel titled, *Waiting For The Moon*, written by Kristin Hannah. You are invited to pick up the book and meet with the group for a lively discussion next month. They meet every 4th Tuesday, from 4:pm to 5:pm. For more info call leader Kathy Manulkin, (714)639-8686.



Entertaining In Pearls



On September 15th, the group will be learning how to make a natural dried flower resin coaster. Typically the group meets once a month from 6:pm to 7:pm. For more information, contact leader Emilia Sugiyama, (310) 569-4662.



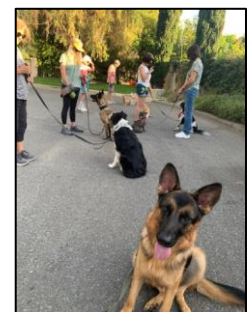
We had a fun ice cream social and planning meeting in the cool of the evening at Sarah's house. The group came up with lots of ideas. It was decided that the Trotters would donate a horsy auction basket to the



Sept. OPA BBQ. In Oct., members are invited to join in on a seller's booth at Sandy's Tack Sale on 10/8. We'll also will be selling treats and drinks there. In the works is a trip to the Los Alamitos Race Track for breakfast to watch the track workout and tour the barn backscenes. Save the date for the Christmas Caroling Parade on Dec. 4th. The group decided that we should set some regular local ride days and a questionnaire will be circulating to figure out everyone's best schedule. Contact leader Sarah Holtz, holtz106@mail.chapman.edu, (714) 487-0155.

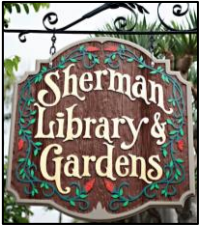
Pack Walkers

What a hot month it's been, we canceled a few walks due to the heat!! But cooler weather will come. We have had a average of 10 dogs per walk. Dogs are loving it, and their humans are getting exercise and socialization skills also!! Come join us any Tues. evening at 6:30 pm. Leader: Julie Shaw, 714-329-3447.



SECTIONS, *Cont.*

Homestead & Garden



On Sept. 14, the group will be heading to Sherman Gardens in Newport Beach for lunch and to enjoy a stroll through the gardens in the breezy sea air. For more information, contact leader Pamela Sapetto, (714) 815-7771.

Pickleball

Want to learn how to play Pickleball? Do you know how to play already and want to join a group to play with? Our group is having lots of fun with instructor Chico at the Tustin Hills Racquet Club on Wednesday mornings at 9:am. The reason for the instruction is to initially learn proper technique and the rules of the game. Paddles are available to borrow if you don't own one. If you would like to learn how to play Pickleball and participate now or in future times, please contact Section Leader, Tess Breen, (714) 200-3004. Hope to see you out on the court!



Bridge



Section Leader Donna Aidekman reported that Bridge will be playing Monday Sept 19 at 11AM at Morenos. Contact Donna at djaidekman@aol.com to join this section. *–We are very patient players.*

The Foodies Group

Is lunch your favorite meal of the day? You aren't alone! At the membership social many ladies signed up for the Foodies Group in the hopes of exploring local restaurants and enjoying good food with fun women. This section has always been a very popular group, but then COVID hit and --poof! The group disappeared. But it doesn't have to stay gone. If you are interested in reviving the section and continuing the hunt for the perfect lunch, call Sections Director Lisa Shuss to discuss a game plan, (714) 235-7906.



For a general description of the sections and leader contact information, visit <https://opawomen.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER** ▪ OPA 51st Annual Fall BBQ - 9/17
- OCTOBER** ▪ Decorating Pumpkins with Succulents Social
- NOVEMBER** ▪ Orange Park Blvd. Lighted Christmas Wreath Display
- DECEMBER** ▪ Hot Trotters Caroling Parade - 12/4
 - Mission Inn Christmas Party - 12/11 (tentative)
- FEBRUARY** ▪ Valentine's Day Party
- MAY** ▪ Cinco de Mayo Eve Party - 5/4
- JUNE** ▪ 2023 Membership Year Begins



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HERE](#)**

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



- 13 Ashley Serl
- 16 Barbara Grabill
- 17 Debbie Caillouette
- 19 Judy Denton
- 21 Kathy Robinson
- 22 Pamela Sapetto
- 24 Aspasia Zouras
- 27 Rebecca Sanderson
- 27 Michelle Schmidt
- 28 Jessica Gavin

President’s Message (cont.)

After the possibility of canceling the event was looming over our heads, Carolyn Aliotta and myself double downed our efforts, not willing to give up. I am so very pleased with how everything turned out. We can now sleep! With the raising of the money, it has allowed us to continue our philanthropic path. Thank you to our members that supported our philanthropic efforts by attending the event, donating a silent auction item or donated money in lieu of attending. You helped make it a success! The next event on our “philanthropic” calendar is not scheduled at this time.

**League president,
Emilia Sugiyama presents
donation check to
Zach and Michelle Southall
Founders & Directors of
Charity on Wheels.**

