

# OPAWL



**Jenny Long**  
*President*

October is one action packed month for OPAWL and we kicked things off with our annual Membership Social! Everything about the Social was truly lovely from the weather to the food and decor. From start to finish Debra Welch and her committee of volunteers did an amazing job organizing, coordinating, decorating and more. The Social took place in Sandy Forkert’s beautiful backyard and was a wonderful evening where we were able to learn about 35 years of the organizations history thanks to information and pictures provided by OPAWL’s historian, Lois Widly.

I am humbled to be a part of an organization that has given so much to OPA and many charitable organizations over the last 35 years. And it gave me pause because I wonder what are we capable of doing over the next 35? And I think we are poised at the perfect time to commit ourselves to truly make a difference.

With that in mind I’d like to issue a challenge to our members. Take some time to sit down this month and write down the top 3 charitable organizations that you would like to see OPAWL consider to support or continue to support as we head into this next decade. Once you have that list send an email with the information to [opawomen.org@gmail.com](mailto:opawomen.org@gmail.com). I cannot wait to hear your ideas!

I leave you with this important aside: One of my favorite days of the year is just around the corner. The day we can finally set the clocks back an hour, Daylight savings time is coming to an end on Sunday, November 3! And most importantly I can stop feeling guilty for sleeping in just a little bit longer since it’s still dark out. PS - If you are available to help plan, set up for or clean up after our holiday social in December we want to hear from you. Email [opawomen.org@gmail.com](mailto:opawomen.org@gmail.com) with your contact info and availability

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# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

October 2, 2019

OPAWL’s Annual Membership Social took place on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at Sandy Forkert’s wonderful and beautiful backyard. The theme of this year’s Membership Social was a celebration of our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! OPAWL members that had been with the organization for more than 20+ years were given special ribbons to wear on their name badges for recognition of this achievement.

People started to arrive at the social at 5PM and were given ample time to mingle and have drinks as well as enjoy appetizers provided by a few of our members. Lois Widly, OPAWL’s historian, did a lovely job putting together a display chronicling OPAWL’s 35-year history with a lot of photographs and other memorabilia that members were able to look at while they wandered around. Once the meeting came to order, special guests Supervisor Don Wagner and Mayor Mark Murphy took time to recognize the 35 years of OPAWL’s achievements. Supervisor Wagner presented OPAWL with a beautiful plaque and Mayor Murphy presented the group with a Certificate of Recognition.

Next, we enjoyed a catered dinner that included salad, chicken, barbecue tri-tip, cowboy potatoes and more, all organized by Debra Welch. After dinner we were excited to recognize the members that had been involved in OPAWL for more than 20 years. We honored these women: Charlotte Christensen, Rose Ellen Cunningham, Nancy Flathers, Peggy Hartley, Dana Mah, Kathy Manulkin, Dorothy Neblett, Olga Niebla, Joyce Redfern, Pamela Sapetto, Suzanne Seegers, Julie Shaw, Diane Skirzynski, Mary Suchy, Peri Tooker, Renate Zangan, Kay Thomsen and Laura Thomas. After a few more speeches, we wrapped things up with delicious Chocolate Chip cookies baked by Paula Fisher.

The evening was also to recognize our past accomplishments. Some which include:



# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL CONT.

Pictures from the evening under the stars



- The total amount contributed to the OPA Trails from 1984\*2005 was said to be \$170,000. From that period to 2008, the total amount given to the OPCC, Orange Park Community Corporation for OPA rose to \$200,000.
- In 2012 OPAWL initiated a Santiago Canyon College Scholarship that is awarded each year and is still current today.
- In 2012 OPAWL completed a beautification project in OPA by landscaping and adding impressive monuments to the entrance of OPA on the corner of Orange Park Boulevard and Chapman, the area we now affectionately call the Pony Park.
- Since late 2009 OPAWL has supported the hanging of wreaths hung throughout OPA. A movement spearheaded by R. Lynn Canton with assistance from Mike Shiley.



All of these wonderful accomplishments are only possible because of the hard work and dedication of our members – of you! Let’s make the next 35 years just as memorable! In order to do that, we need you to help out and volunteer where you are able. If you aren’t sure how to get in touch with someone about volunteering just send an email to [opawomen.org@gmail.com](mailto:opawomen.org@gmail.com) and we will make

# OPAWL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

## Rebecca Smith

Rebecca is the very deserving recipient of our 2019 OPAWL SCC Scholarship. This exceptional woman is a first generation college student from the UK. As an adult re-entry student she arrived at SCC after a 17 year break in her education. This determined and very involved woman has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the Honors Program. She also participated in Pathways to Teaching, Phi Theta Kappa, SCC TEACH!, and volunteered 500 hours at Linda Vista Elementary School.

Rebecca's SCC Professor references were lengthy accolades of her outstanding motivation and performance, while balancing a part-time job and raising two young children. Her community involvement includes being a PTA Leader, Girl Scout and Cub Scout Leader, and volunteering at Coast-Keeper Garden, Fund Raisers, and the Butterfly Garden.

Rebecca is transferring with an Associate Degree to California State University, Fullerton this fall. Her goal is to major in Psychology with a BA and a post graduate degree. She has already passed the CBEST and is preparing for the MSTC to become an Elementary Teacher

**written by: Rose Rock, OPAWL Scholarship Committee**



## Scholarship Recipient cont...

### A "Thank You" letter from Rebecca Smith

I am genuinely thrilled to receive this generous \$2,000 scholarship from such a well-respected local organization as OPAWL. I often see your events in the local paper, and I understand how much you value community and hard work. I am honored to be chosen in representation of these values. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

As I look forward to transferring to Cal State Fullerton in pursuit of my bachelor's degree in Psychology, this award will make a huge difference to our family by relieving some of the financial pressure that my attending college creates. Thank you for encouraging students at SCC to aim high, and for offering this scholarship to entry students like myself who face unique challenges. Juggling college and family commitments is tough, but it is encouraging to know that there are organizations like yours that see value in older students going back to school. I will always remember that you helped me on my journey, and so, when I'm able to, I will do my best to help the next generation on theirs. I am so excited to take the next step towards becoming an elementary school teacher, and I feel very fortunate to have your support. I will go into my junior year with a renewed confidence that I can achieve great things, but that I must continue to work hard and not take anything for granted. I very much appreciate you choosing me to receive this award and want you to know that I'll do my utmost to make you proud.

### OPAWL Scholarship Criteria

- GPA 3.8 or higher
- next fall must be a continuing SCC student or transferring to a 4 yr college or university
- must be enrolled the past fall at SCC carrying a minimum of 9 units and completed 30 units by end of Spring
- must be outstanding in all academics
- must submit 2 letters of recommendation from Teaching Faculty Professors at SCC
- submit a 500 maximum word essay including goals and "What have you learned and accomplished or hope to learn or accomplish at SCC that will make a DIFFERENCE in yourself, in others and for society after you leave this college?"
- this essay should not repeat the personal essay which may include personal characteristics, education and career goals, campus/community involvement and leadership experiences.

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.

**OPAWL Scholarship Committee is Rose Rock, Kathy Manulkin, Kay Alvarez, Jan Diaz**

# GARDEN SECTION

## *Decorating Pumpkins with Succulents Event*

The Orange Park Acres Women’s League enjoyed a great time at the 6th Annual Pumpkin Decorating Event on October 18, 2019 where over 20 people decorated pumpkins. See a sampling of their creativity in these photos.

Everyone also enjoyed tasty appetizers, Quiche, Homemade Carrot/Coconut cake and Polly’s fresh, Pumpkin pies.

The Event was hosted at the home of Lois and George Widly. Lois and Rose Ellen Cunningham were Co-Chairs for this event.

Also greatly appreciated was the messaging to our members and others in the OPA community, by our astute, Communication Chair, Emilia Sugiyama .

In past years, these decorated pumpkins have been used to decorate Thanksgiving Tables and then adding other special effects give continued use during the Christmas season. Each pumpkin was adorned by special mosses, succulents, that continue to grow, and a variety of other dry flowers, grasses and interesting items. Besides this event producing these works of art, it was a great time for members and guests to enjoy time together.

If you came this year and you want to encourage OPAWL to have this event again next year or if you enjoyed participating this year, and you have suggestions for next year or would like to help on this committee in 2020, please email Lois Widly at [lois@widly.com](mailto:lois@widly.com).



*Reported by Lois Widly*



## OPAWL SHIRTS – Now Available



Our new LOGO is now on our shirts. The beautiful and flattering “peacock” color is still our signature shirt color.

# \$15

If you would like to purchase your shirt, please contact Emilia Sugiyama at (310)569-4662. Available sizes are M, L & XL. These shirts are needed to be worn for our public events so gets yours now. Wear with pride!

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## SAVE THE DATES

*Holiday Social : December 8*

*Chili Cook-Off : March 28*

*Fashion Show Fundraiser: May 2*

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH



## SAUSAGE AND HERB STUFFING (BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND)

### Ingredients

- ✓ 16 cups 1-inch bread cubes, white or sourdough (1 1/2 pound loaf)

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- ✓ 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter

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- ✓ 2 cups medium-diced yellow onion (2 onions)

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- ✓ 1 cup medium-diced celery (2 stalks)

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- ✓ 2 Granny Smith apples, unpeeled, cored and large-diced

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- ✓ 2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley

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- ✓ 1 tablespoon kosher salt

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- ✓ 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

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- ✓ 3/4 pound sweet or spicy Italian sausage, casings removed

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- ✓ 1 cup chicken stock

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- ✓ 1 cup dried cranberries

### Directions

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F.

Place the bread cubes in a single layer on a sheet pan and bake for 7 minutes. Raise the oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Remove the bread cubes to a very large bowl.

Meanwhile, in a large saute pan, melt the butter and add the onions, celery, apples, parsley, salt and pepper. Saute over medium heat for 10 minutes, until the vegetables are softened. Add to the bread cubes.

In the same saute pan, cook the sausage over medium heat for about 10 minutes, until browned and cooked through, breaking up the sausage with a fork while cooking. Add to the bread cubes and vegetables.

Add the chicken stock and cranberries to the mixture, mix well, and pour into a 9 by 12-inch baking dish. Bake for 30 minutes, until browned on top and hot in the middle. Serve warm.



# OPAWL PAST PRESIDENTS



**Left to Right**

Renate Zangan

Pamela Sapetto

Dorothy Neblett

Suzzane Seegers

Laura Thomas

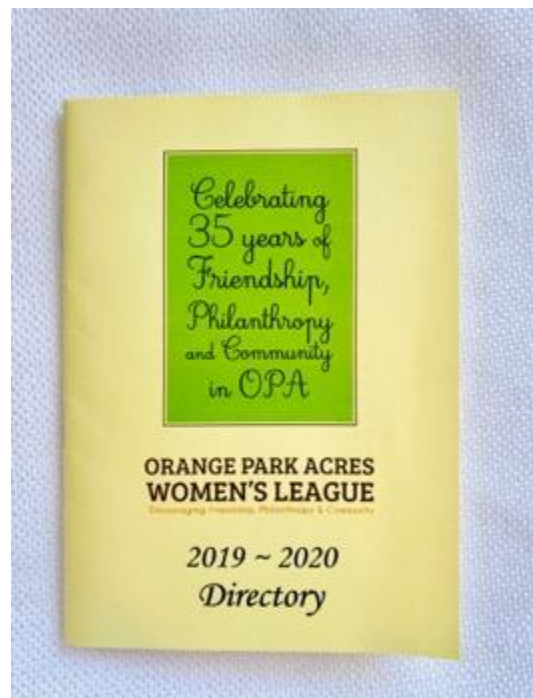
Lois Widly

Emilia Sugiyama

Jenny Long (current)

## STAY CONNECTED Membership Directory

**A HUGE thank you to Debra Welch for the directory and the Membership Social! She worked very hard on both. The directory was printed and mailed out shortly after the Membership Social. That is outstanding!!**



## SECTIONS & OTHER INFO

### LITERATURE GROUP

Please contact Kathy Manulkin at  
(714)639-8686

### HOT TROTTERS GROUP

Contact: Sarah Nzala  
sarahnzala@gmail.com

### GAD-ABOUTS GROUP

We are needing a new leader. If you like adventure and are interested please let Jenny Long know.

### HOME & GARDEN

Contact Rose Ellen Cunningham  
(714)532-1326

### FOODIE LUNCHEON GROUP

The luncheon is a great time to connect with other members and enjoy a great meal. Check your email for the monthly Evite. Please contact Phyllis Helt for any questions (714)744.9269.

### BUNCO GROUP

Our Section meets on the third Friday of most months at 7PM. Bunco is an easy dice game, learned in a few minutes. Each month we are hosted by a different member and enjoy the game, food, and friendship. It's \$10.00 to play and there are money prizes for the winners of different categories.

Our leftover monies is donated to BEVERLY HOUSE for the young women and BETHANY HOUSE for the older women during the holiday season.

November and December are dark (no play) to allow time for the festivities of those months. All are welcome to join us. Call Section Leader Linda Mazzara 714-633-9079 for particulars for the upcoming year. It's a fun evening!!

### BEGINNING BRIDGE

Contact Annette Mason (714)538-4683

### OCT Birthdays

- 4 - Mary Suchy
- 9 - Kay Thomsen
- 12 - Jana Shuler
- 17 - Carla Garcia
- 19 - Patrice Christman
- 20 - Hermelinda Pineda
- 22 - Kathy Spain Bonnaud
- 24 - Joyce Redfern
- 28 - Emilia Sugiyama
- 28 - Reyna Tanner

