

OPAWL



Emilia Sugiyama

President

As my term of President of OPAWL comes to an end, I wanted to take this time to thank all the ladies that have made it possible. First, thank you to my awesome board members: Jan Diaz, Kathy Manulkin, Lorrie DiGangi, Annette Mason and Donna Aidekman. You have risen to the challenges we faced and met them head on. I could not have done it without you. I'd like to also thank the Appointed Officers and each lady who gave of her time and volunteered at our past events. THANK YOU!

But, as you may have already heard, I have decided to continue with one more term (well, I really didn't have a choice 😊) and if you are interest in serving on the board or as an appointed officer, please contact me.

We are faced with the challenge that our membership is maturing in age and therefore our energy and manpower is dwindling. We need every member to put in some hours, especially at our fund raising events. A younger generation of families are moving in to our community and we need to keep OPAWL alive and flourishing so that we can pass off our endeavors to the next generation. I hope to see you at the next social event, the Installation Dinner in May. See you then & please share your ideas.

1ST QTR NEWSLETTER - 2017

Newsworthy



January & February Socials Recap

2



Chili Cook- Off Event

3



Save the Dates

4



Update on:
Beverly's House

5-6



Membership Renewal Due

7



Sections Group Birthdays
Sunshine Needed

8



Orange Park Acres Women's League

Encouraging Friendship, Philanthropy and Community for a thriving Orange Park Acres





The Garden Club “Growing Tomatoes Easily”

On February 24th, garden enthusiasts were invited to a “Growing Tomatoes Easily” class given by Dave Freed, also known as the Tomato Guy and held at the home of Lois and George Widly. Dave’s lecture provided a powerpoint, hand outs and favorite products for purchase and a great Q&A. It was opened up to all members of OPAWL as well as the community. We had a great attendance and hopefully everyone walked away with a newfound knowledge of how to get 50-100 LBS of tomatoes per plant! The class covered these topics:

- * **Proper pruning**
- * **best tomato cages**
- * **how to help pollinate**
- * **produce 50-100lbs of tomatoes per plant**
- * **proper mulching**

Thank you to Lois, Rose Ellen and the rest of the garden club. For more information visit Dave’s blog: <http://growtomatoeseasily.blogspot.com>.



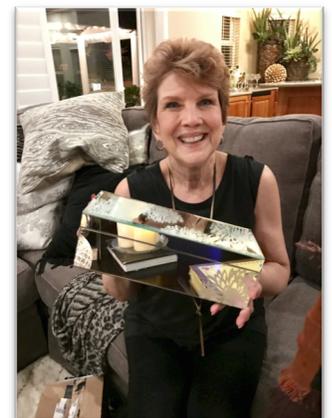
Unique Boutique Ladies Night Out

a sip & shop experience

On February 9th Unique Boutique in the Ranch Market Plaza, hosted a Pre-Valentine social for us. Jan Diaz organized the event and had treats and wine for us to sip on while shopping. The owner donated some of the proceeds back to OPAWL but

White Elephant *post-holiday cocktail social*

We would like to give a special thanks to Chris McKeen who kicked off our social events with our very first 2017 social, a white elephant party. Her home was decked out with holiday & festive décor. We munched on appetizers brought by the ladies and sipped great wines that were provided by Chris. It was fun to connect with the ladies, open a gift or steal a gift and in the end, take home a gift. A great way to start of 2017 with a bang!!





5th Annual Chili Cook-Off was a Hot Pepper!



On April 2, there were nine competitive chili chefs, the most in our five year history. Salem Lutheran Church cooked up an entry. Cole Tachdjian brought his smoker and BBQ unit again and served pulled pork, tri-tip and candied bacon in addition to his award winning chili. We had three other contestants enticed by our advertising on Next Door.com.

The winner of the \$250 prize this year was Courtney Ramos, from Broadmoor, with her “Chili Con Courtney”. She bumped last year’s champ, Cole, who took second.

The best decorated table was Carolynne Schley’s. (Randall St.) She won an Easter basket and a \$50 Amazon gift certificate, donated by Kathy Manulkin.

Our entertainment was provided by Sweetwater Creek Band, out of Silverado Canyon, (Bluegrass) and Hot Box Band, from Long Beach (Classic Rock).

We had fun vendors this year, Screamin’ Ice Cream, Hallelujah Honey, Sola Foods (jams and jellies), and Stacy Landon’s Jewelry. As we get more popular I hope to attract more sellers. If you didn’t know that we were having a Chili Cook-off this year, you had to be living under a rock. The signs up and down Orange Park Blvd were proliferated and donated by Emilia Sugiyama.

It was a team effort. My left and right arm women were Emilia and Lori DiGangi. George, Lois Widly and their grandson, helped put up the 12’ banner at Chapman and Jamboree Avenues. Huge thank you’s to OPA-ETC board for getting the arena ready for us.

We netted approximately \$2200 for our philanthropic endeavors, twice than ever before. I am thankful to be a part of this organization. I want to make a difference.

~ Coordinatin’ Connie Bowin



**2017
Champion**
*“Chili con
Courtney”
getting
aproned*



SAVE THE DATE

**INSTALLATION
DINNER
"WELCOME NEW
BOARD MEMBERS"**

May
Date & Time: TBD

We are looking into combining our May Installation Dinner with a Wine Tasting at OPUS. Please plan on attending this special event to greet your new board members. It will be a fun event so make sure that you keep an eye out for the Evite that will soon go out.

**New Board Member
Appointed!**



SAVE THE DATE

4TH OF JULY PARADE

July 4, 2017
8:30am

Please mark your calendar for this special event that brings our community together. We are looking for theme ideas, volunteers to throw candy, decorators and a vehicle that is cool and stands out. If you have any ideas, please contact Emilia Sugiyama.



SAVE THE DATE

**ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL**

Late September
Date & Time: TBD

Planning is underway for our annual Membership Social. If you attended last years garden event at Dorothy Neblett's beautiful home then you know that we don't mess around and this years event promises to be spectacular.

Stay tuned for details...



Update on Beverly's House

supported by OPAWL

Beverly's House is part of the Rising Tide Communities. It is a transitional housing program for emancipated foster youth who are at least 18 years old. The purpose of the program is to provide motivated young people with affordable housing and supportive services to help them make a successful transition to independence. Most kids who age out of the foster care program have nowhere to go and no one to turn to who doesn't want something from them. Many get involved in prostitution, drug abuse and homelessness. The girls usually spend one year in the main house at Beverly's House then move to a Beverly's House small apartment in the rear of the main house. After the first 18 months there, the girls are able to move to the Community apartments for 1-2 years giving them about 3 to 3 1/2 years of structure, support systems and guidance to prepare them for independent adult life. They learn to make a budget, pay rent, save money, cook and do their laundry among other skills. Beverly's House staff keeps the school and work schedules for each girl and reviews their progress on a weekly basis.

Rent for the 1st year in the main house is \$200 per month including utilities. There is no deposit required and the first month is free. When a girl advances to one of the Beverly's House apartments there is a \$200 deposit and the rent is \$250 per month with the first month free. The rent increases by \$50 every 3 months. The Community apartment costs continue at the above rate. Anything the girls have paid over \$350 per month is returned to them when they leave. The main house has a curfew but not the apartments. Beverly's House must be notified when any girl leaves for an "overnight".

At present, there are 5 girls living in the main house and 4 in the rear apartments. The girls range in age from 18 to 24. Assistance with getting jobs, volunteering, anything college related, budgeting and finances, health, therapy, cooking and life skills is available. The girls' school tuition is paid for by the Federal Government because they have been in foster care. They also receive financial aid as long as they are in school and maintaining passing grades. If they fail or drop out, they are quickly cut off from their financial aid. Some girls are also eligible for monthly support from the Federal Government. From their jobs and the government support they receive, they budget money for the rent, food and other necessary living expenses.

UPDATE ON BEVERLY'S HOUSE

- Beverly's House was renovated by volunteers and donors during December and January. The first part of the project was to paint the entire house and replace all the wood floors. The girls had to pack everything into boxes to accommodate the workers. A very generous person donated 5 nights at the Anaheim Embassy Suites for all 8 girls and 2 Supervisors. Although some of the girls were apprehensive about going to the hotel, they all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The second phase of the renovation was a new kitchen which was completed in February. They have all stainless steel appliances, including two refrigerators, nice white cabinets and granite counter tops. A friend of OPAWL donated a set of new pots, another friend donated \$200 for other needs, and an OPAWL member donated stainless utensils and other kitchen items.

Update on Beverly's House cont...

UPDATE ON BEVERLY'S HOUSE

- OPAWL gave each of the 8 residents a \$50 gift card for Christmas. The Bunco group ladies gave a \$50 gift card to a super market, and a gorgeous poinsettia and a big box of chocolates. Due to the renovations, Lois Widly was not able to donate the annual OPA Etc. Christmas tree or the two complete turkey dinners we usually bring to Beverly's House. Orangewood arranged for all the girls to go out for Christmas dinner.
- In mid January, Marissa Brownell, the Assistant Supervisor, asked for OPAWL's help to find a job working with animals for one of the girls. I went to the Wagon Train and asked Margaret Millspough if she would interview the applicant. The young lady is now working at Wagon Train and Margaret and the young lady are both extremely pleased. I thanked Margaret for all of us at OPAWL. **THANK YOU!!**
- Marissa also told me that the girls still go horseback riding at Hoofprints Equestrian Program in Orange Park Acres. Sherry Panttaja donates time for 2-4 girls about twice a year. She would do more but she is usually solidly booked. If anyone else can give the girls lessons or riding time, please let us know.

Written by *Lorrie DiGangi*



Pictured are Emilia Sugiyama (middle) with Lily Nguyen Kirkland (left) and Marissa Bownwell (right) at the steps of Beverly's House.

Membership Renewal

Annual membership dues of \$45 are payable starting June 1st.

Please mail in your check or renew online at www.opawomen.org

OPAWL
P.O. Box 2696
Orange, CA 92859

who is OPAWL & what do we do...



Who we are...

In 1974, several women in Orange Park Acres created the OPA Garden Club reflecting their interest in gardening. As Orange Park Acres grew, many of the newer women employed gardeners and interest in the OPA Garden Club waned. In 1983, the women of Orange Park Acres renewed interest in the organization, giving it a broader purpose beyond gardening. Since that time the organization has actively supported the Orange Park Acres community. In 1984, the organization formalized itself, applying for tax exemption and incorporating. Since then the bylaws have been rewritten and a clear mission has been developed; **Friendship, Philanthropy and Community.**

Over the years, many OPAWL women have generously contributed their time and effort to organizational functions and varied fund-raising projects. Such support and participation has made it possible for OPAWL to enrich individual lives, support special groups, and contribute to the community in the last several decades, OPAWL has contributed more than \$200,000 to the community for trail support and beautification throughout Orange Park Acres.

In 2012, OPAWL initiated a Santiago Canyon College Scholarship, awarded yearly to an outstanding female student. Also in 2012, the beautification of the entrance to OPA were brought to fruition with impressive monuments marking the entrance to OPA, now named the Pony Park. The Orange Park Acres Women's League recently celebrated over 32 years and still going strong. The mission of the organization—Friendship, Philanthropy, and Community—remains its significant focus.

www.opawomen.org | opawomen.org@yahoo.com

Friendship

At the heart of Orange Park Acres Women's League is the central theme of Friendship. There are many opportunities for our members to build lasting friendships. Everyone is welcome!

OPAWL's sections provide small group settings for members with common interests. Sections are formed for the following activities, however we are always open to adding new sections if there are enough interested members:

- Beginning Bridge to Advanced Bridge
- Monthly Bunco Nights
- Fiber Arts
- Travel
- Cooking and Baking
- Home and Garden
- Horseback Riding
- Kids and Family
- Reading/Book Club
- Walking

We also have many member socials and events throughout the year to bring members and their families together that contribute to the richness of the organization and life in OPA.

Philanthropy

Philanthropy is a core value of the Orange Park Acres Women's League. Over the years, many OPAWL members have generously contributed their time and energy to organizational functions and varied fundraising projects such as garage sales, themed parties, silent auctions, barn, home and garden tours, etc.

These activities have made it possible for OPAWL to help the local community, support special groups and enrich the lives of others. In recent years, the organization has been engaged in numerous philanthropic endeavors providing support to organizations such as:

- 4H
- The Orange County Zoo
- The Friendly Center
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Mary's Kitchen
- Beverly's House
- The US Military
- "Secret Santa" Program
- The El Modena High School Nature Center
- Santiago Canyon College Scholarship

It's hard work but it's all worth it!

Community

The Orange Park Acres community is the foundation for our organization. Our members actively strive to make Orange Park Acres a wonderful environment to live in. Here are just a few ways in which OPAWL members have contributed to the community:

- During the Christmas Season, the OPAWL displays wreaths along Orange Park Blvd, enhancing the community spirit in our area.
- OPAWL members have aided in the development and maintenance of the trails through the years, & the Pony Park, a commitment that continues this year.
- OPAWL takes care of friends and members by organizing meals & providing visitation & company to an ailing person.

Thank you for your membership and participation.

SECTIONS & OTHER INFO

LITERATURE GROUP

The Literature Group will be meeting the morning at Ann Webb's house, at 10 AM and the evening at Kathy Manulkin's house at 7PM. Contact Kathy for details and current book.

GALLOPING GOURMET GROUP

Is anyone interested in heading this group?

HOT TROTTERS GROUP

Contact Connie Bowin at 714-602-6210

GAD-A-BOUTS TRIP TO:

Heritage Museum

May Date: TBD

Contact Judy Denton 714 639 7515

FIBER ARTS GROUP

Contact Pam Sapetto at 714-815-7771

BUNCO GROUP

Appetizers and dessert plus a little wine sometimes in addition to the game and the prizes make for an enjoyable evening. Join us if you would like to give it a try, bring \$10.00 and a "can do" attitude. We'd love to have new members.

RSVP to Linda Mazzara 714--633-9079 so our hostess can set up for the correct number of people.

HOME & GARDEN

Contact Rose Ellen Cunningham (714)532-1326

BEGINNING BRIDGE

Contact Annette Mason (714)538-4683

WALKING 4 FITNESS

Contact Donna Aidekman (714)633-6722

January Birthdays

- 2 - Annette Mason
- 2 - Lisa Shuss
- 6 - Suzanne Seegers
- 18 - Sandy Wingerd
- 30 - Diane Skizynski

February Birthdays

- 4 - Erin Williams
- 6 - Helen McKeever
- 8 - Nancy Flathers
- 11 - Toni Bradley
- 11 - Keri Walker
- 16 - Elaine Moskowitz
- 21 - Margaret Millsbaugh
- 22 - Laurie Marine

March Birthdays

- 7 - Jenny Long
- 11 - Joy DeGroot
- 14 - Chirley Mullen
- 16 - Lois Widly

March Birthdays cont.

- 19 - Chris McKeen
- 28 - Pat Bomer Harris
- 31 - Olga Neibla

April Birthdays

- 1 - Ana Calderon
- 2 - Lynn Canton
- 2 - Debra Welch
- 7 - Linda Mazzara
- 8 - Rose Rock
- 9 - Ann Webb
- 10 - Kathy Manulkin
- 16 - Tracy Savage
- 18 - Debbie Kiepfer
- 20 - Lynda Stewart

May Birthdays

- 3 - Sandy Forkert
- 9 - Marci Hogie
- 10 - Karen Cormier-Southard
- 12 - Cindy Nelson

May Birthdays cont.

- 12 - Kara Brundage
- 14 - Julia Smith
- 19 - Donna Mah
- 27 - Jan Diaz
- 27 - Laurel Baker

Sunshine Needed...

Please continue to send your prayers and support for BJ Reich who is battling a brain tumor. She is being cared for in her home so please stop by and visit with her. A meal would be appreciated.

Our condolences to Debra Welch and Annette Mason who recently lost a family member.

