

# OPAWL



**Emilia Sugiyama**  
*President*

I hope you enjoyed these past few days with friends and family and gathered around the table to enjoy a great meal. Turkey? Ham? Roast Beef? What is your show stopping dish? This year, we did none of those and I would say, outside of ordering from a menu at a restaurant, this was the easiest Thanksgiving dinner. It was a quiet dinner with my in-laws, and we primarily had seafood dishes which are quick to cook and quick to clean up!

Earlier this month, several of us neighbors got together for our first annual Meads Loop Progressive Dinner, and it was so much fun! We had 5 homes/stops with each home hosting a different dish or cocktails. It was great to see familiar faces and meet new ones. I am already looking forward to next years but hopefully during warmer weather. I have included a picture of Scott and Kelley Chaplin’s magical backyard and never-ending table, Michelle Schmidt’s festive bar where amazing cocktails were served, and the beautiful kitchen of Peggy Granger flanked with a variety of creative appetizers.



As we near the end of 2022, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for making this organization what it is today. There have been many wonderful ladies that have passed through the doors of ‘membership’ and no doubt, there will be even more incredible women that have not knocked on our door yet but will one day.

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For newsletter contributions  
send your content to  
[opawomen.org@gmail.com](mailto:opawomen.org@gmail.com)



*President's Message (cont.)*

As I reflect on our accomplishments this year, it amazes that we are at the number of members we are at today. Our melting pot of women from all walks of life that make up our membership is inspiring. I have had the opportunity to meet and befriend so many of you and I hope you feel the same about others in this organization too.

The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, "It will be happier." The best way to predict the future is to create it. There are two mistakes one can make along the road to truth...not going all the way, and not starting.

So, if you have ever considered being in a leadership position with this ever-growing organization, I urge to seriously consider it and just go for it! This will be my last year as President and as the year closes and a new one is about to start; it is time for us to also start considering the next wave of ladies that will take over the leadership reigns. Please reach out to me and I am happy to meet with you over a cup of coffee.

Meanwhile, I wish you peace and patience while you hit the malls for that perfect gift. But if you can't find the perfect gift and you have friends like us that insist you donate on their behalf, then consider this: Giving an animal gift at the holidays is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Every animal gift comes with a free honor card to let your gift recipient know their holiday gift is providing families access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. We always donate a goat or two. ☺  
[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**DECEMBER** ▪ Hot Trotters Caroling Parade - 12/10  
▪ Mission Inn Christmas Party - 12/11

**FEBRUARY** ▪ Valentine's Day Party

**MAY** ▪ Cinco de Mayo Eve Party - 5/4

**JUNE** ▪ 2023 Membership Year Begins

# CAROLING ON HORSEBACK

*It's A Holiday Parade!*



**The Hot Trotters Are Hosting  
A Holiday Parade!**



**Decorate yourself and your ride  
then join the fun! Courteous walkers,  
bikes, and golf carts are welcome.**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday ~ 12:30pm**

**We meet and leave  
from Salem Church**

**Everyone Is Invited  
But Please Read...**



**See You There!**



*There will be three caroling stops*

*Click on parade map to enlarge*

# WHERE FAIRIES ABOUND



The Homestead and Garden section's fairy garden tour at Lisa Shuss's house was lots of fun. Seeing the fairy gardens and mermaid gardens was like going into a fantasy world. She has so many, and they are very different ideas pots and flowers. She explained what things to think about when you are making one and where to get the items. The ladies there as always, had a great time talking to each other and tea, coffee and dessert were a welcome treat on a cool day. Her Thanksgiving Fairy gardens were great as well as her home Thanksgiving decorations. It was such a treat to see them. She changes her front fairy gardens and home for each Holiday. I want to go back for all the holidays!



*Contributed  
by Lisa Shuss*

## ~ SECTIONS NEWS ~

### Bridge

Bridge will meet December 12th at 12:30pm at Dorothy Neblett's home to play and enjoy her holiday decorated house. We meet on the third Monday of the month at 11AM at Moreno's. Contact Donna Aidekman at [djaidekman@aol.com](mailto:djaidekman@aol.com) to join this section. --*We are very patient players.*



### Bunco!



Jamie Paino-Spence and Karen Ashford are stepping up to breathe life back into the Bunco Babes as section co-leaders! Let's have a big round of applause!

You don't need any experience to play this simple and fast-moving dice game. It is well-known for its contagious laughter and the new friends it cultivates. Very simply, the rules go like this... Role – Chat – Repeat!  
--*Yes, it's that easy.*

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Jamie is hosting a meet and greet social from 7:pm to 9:pm at her house. Everyone with an interest in bunco is invited and your prompt RSVP is appreciated. Not only will you enjoy Jamie's amazing holiday decorations, but the social is a perfect way to check out the group and find out about their upcoming plans.

Beginning in January, the Bunco Section will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. From 6:30pm to 7:pm is the gathering and social time. The game starts at 7:pm and finishes after the third game ends—usually around 9:pm. You can find more official game information, [here](#).

To RSVP for the social or find out more information contact Jamie Paino-Spence, (562) 708-9309, [jlpainospence@hotmail.com](mailto:jlpainospence@hotmail.com) or Karen Ashford, (714) 496-6102, [Klasa7506@gmail.com](mailto:Klasa7506@gmail.com).

### Entertaining In Pearls



Our section is about having fun while learning how to pair wines with food, create a show-stopping charcuterie board, put together a table scape for a simple dinner, do arts and crafts, AND it will all be done while wearing your fabulous pearls!! Typically the group meets once a month from 6:pm to 7:pm. For more information, contact leader Emilia Sugiyama, (310) 569-4662.

# ~ SECTIONS Cont. ~

## Homestead & Garden

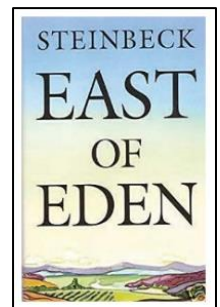
Our section will not meet in December. Look for more activities planned for the beginning of next year. Happy Holidays Everyone! For more information, contact leader Pamela Sapetto, (714) 815-7771.



The Hot Trotters are hosting the Caroling On Horseback parade, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. We have been riding every Sunday morning at 10:am and will continue to do so unless weather or a conflict interferes. Julie Maurer is joining Sarah Holtz as Co-Leader. For more info on the section, contact Sarah at [holtz106@mail.chapman.edu](mailto:holtz106@mail.chapman.edu), (714) 487-0155.

## Literature Group

The book we are currently reading is the novel East of Eden. Author John Steinbeck created some of his most memorable characters and explored his most enduring themes: the mystery of identity; the inexplicability of love; and the murderous consequences of love's absence. We invite you to pick up the book and meet with the group for a lively discussion. We are dark in December but will meet again in January. We like to meet every 4th Tuesday, from 4:pm to 5:pm. For more info call leader Kathy Manulkin, (714)639-8686.



## Pack Walkers



It's getting difficult for the 6:30 evening walkers to see and be seen so our section is taking a winter break. Pack walks will resume next year when the evenings are less dark and cold. Happy Holidays to you, all! Leader: Julie Shaw, 714-329-3447.

## Pickleball

Our section continues to meet each Wednesday at 9am at Tustin Hills Racquet Club. If interested in joining, please reach out! Hope to see you out on the court! Section Leader, Tess Breen, (714) 200-3004.



## ~ SECTIONS Cont. ~

*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 hardworking organizers!*

### **SECTION LEADERS**

**Bridge** - Leader: Donna Aidekman, (714) 356-6545

**Bunco Group** – Co-Leaders: Jamie Spence, (562) 708-9309 and  
Karen Ashford, (714) 496-6102

**Entertaining In Pearls** - Leader: Emilia Sugiyama, (310) 569-4662

**Foodies Group** - Looking for a leader. *Let's eat lunch! Interested?*

**Homestead & Garden** - Leader: Pamela Sapetto, (714) 815-7771

**Hot Trotters Group** – Co-Leaders: Sarah Holtz, (714) 478-0155 and  
Julie Maurer, (714) 742-1617

**Literature Group** - Leader: Kathy Manulkin, (714) 639-8686

**Pack Walkers** - Leader: Julie Shaw, (714) 329-3447

**Pickleball** - Leader: Tess Breen, (714) 200-3004

## More About The Holiday Parade

**Hey Neighbors!** If you live on the parade route, we'd love you to come out, cheer, and wave the parade on! Listed in order are the three homes where the parade will stop briefly to sing carols in case you would like to gather there.

Joanne & Philip Roberts  
7133 E Randall St.

Mary & Dale Nori  
10832 Orange Park Blvd.

Lois & George Widly  
11155 Meads Ave.

[\*Parade Map  
Click Here\*](#)

### **Volunteers Are Needed! Can You Help?**

Extra hands are needed to direct and sign in the participants and offer information. Right now, there are only two people to manage the entire parade. [Help Please!](#)

Contact Sarah, (714) 478-0155  
holtz106@mail.chapman.edu or  
Julie, (714) 742-1617, maurer@socal.rr.com

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# DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

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- 4 Jennifer Holland
- 11 Becky Shiley
- 17 Julie Shaw
- 18 Karen Jackman
- 18 Tani Stein
- 23 Coral Knapp
- 29 Emily Neubert
- 31 Nancy Ronk

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## OPAWL T-Shirts!

**\$15**

Available in sizes M, L & XL

To purchase, please contact  
Emilia Sugiyama, (310) 569-4662

~ We Ask That You Wear Your League  
Shirts To All Volunteer Events ~

