

P R E S S R E L E A S E



Judge Gail Orders Fun, Fundraising and Recruitment to Soroptimist International of San Francisco

The Soroptimist International of San Francisco appoint new President and Board members

San Francisco, CALIFORNIA – July 17, 2007 –Soroptimist International of San Francisco (SISF), a volunteer service organization for women in business, management and the professions, has announced the appointment of the 2007-2008 President and Board of Directors. The Board will be lead by the new President, Gail Dekreon, Superior Court Judge in San Francisco. In addition to President Gail Dekreon, the new members of the Board are: Vice president Nanell Mawbey, Personal Banker with U.S. Bank101 California Street, Secretary Angela Sheehan, Controller at Glumac, Engineers for a Sustainable Future, Treasurer Carla Armstrong Controller at the Presidio Trust, as well as Club Directors Kay Tsenin, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, Robin Horca, Fine Art Consultant at Lahaina Galleries in San Francisco, Maureen Sullivan, Vice-President of MG West Inc. and Xenia von Wedel Rosen, Director at Terpin Communications a San Francisco High-Tech Media Relations Agency.

“The Soroptimist in San Francisco is a powerhouse of professionals, whose mission is to ‘make a difference for women’ through volunteer service to the community and by promoting leadership and empowerment for women everywhere,” explains new President Gail Dekreon. “We give several scholarships and awards to deserving women every year and it’s very satisfying that even with the limited time a professional woman has, we can still make a resounding difference. Soroptimist is very proud to be the only non-governmental organization with Category 1 status at the United Nations. “

Gail Dekreon was born in Bonn, Germany to U.S. citizen parents, and raised in Anchorage, Alaska in a family of 4 brothers and 4 sisters. After graduating from the University of Alaska, Anchorage with a B.A. in Sociology, she decided to attend law school. Since Alaska does not have a law school, Gail was forced to leave in 1978 to pursue her law degree. She graduated from Golden Gate University School of Law in 1981, and returned with her J.D. degree to Alaska, passed the Bar exam, and clerked for the courts in Fairbanks, Alaska. However, she found she had left her heart in San Francisco and came back in 1982 to pass the California Bar exam, inevitably settling down to practice law. After 20 years of running her own practice in criminal defense law, Gail

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made a career change by running for election to an open Judge's seat on the San Francisco Superior Court. She was elected in November 2002 and started her judicial duties January 8, 2003.

A colleague, Judge Kay Tsenin, introduced Gail to Soroptimist International by inviting her to attend the San Francisco club's annual awards luncheon in May 2003. Gail was impressed with the work of the SI San Francisco club and enamored with the Soroptimist mission to better the lives of women and girls in the community, the nation and the world. She joined in June 2003.

Gail owns a lovely little house in the Bay View district of San Francisco. She lives with her two dogs, Ralph and Ginger, and enjoys long walks with them in parks and beaches all over the Bay Area. She works out at the gym 5 days a week, unless she is traveling or camping. Gail reads voraciously. She recently found a new calling writing for and producing her club's newsletter every month.

Service to women and the community is what Soroptimists are all about. The Soroptimist International of San Francisco has worked on many projects benefiting the San Francisco community. Projects are carefully chosen to address challenges unique to today's women, when 70% of the 1.2 billion people living in desperate poverty are women. Soroptimists are in the position to change the lives of women anywhere in the world, from Tenderloin to Afghanistan or Richmond to Rwanda. The following are only a few of the many local projects the club members have undertaken and supported during the past 80 years: Curry Senior Center (formerly North of Market Senior Center) – since 1974, The Fireboat Phoenix, Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day walk, St. Vincent de Paul's Brennan House, The Library of the Lighthouse for the Blind, Goodwill Industries, Larkin Street Youth Center, Recreation for the Handicapped, Toolworks, Salvation Army, S.A.G.E., The Sea Scouts, and many more. Women interested in joining please contact sisf-board@sfsoroptimist.org.

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About Soroptimist International of San Francisco

Founded in 1921, Soroptimist comprises almost 100,000 members in about 120 countries and territories worldwide who contribute time and financial support to community-based projects benefiting women. Soroptimist's major service project, the Women's Opportunity Awards program, provides cash grants for women seeking to improve their economic situation through additional education and training. Soroptimist International is a non-governmental organization with Category 1 status at the United Nations. For more information about how Soroptimist makes a difference for women, visit www.sfsoroptimist.org. For more information, please email to: sisf-board@sfsoroptimist.org.

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