



# Sisters in SERVICE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

COURT SANTA SOPHIA #2520 · SPRING VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

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## Catholic Daughters—Making a Difference in Life

By Carol Williams

Last October 2010, Santa Sophia Church hosted a blood drive for the San Diego Blood Bank, collecting 28 pints of blood. Recently, in reviewing the donor list for that day, I was surprised to see the overwhelming support that the Catholic Daughters of Santa Sophia had shown for this important parish & community-wide event. Half of the blood donations were made by members and/or spouses of our own court! I'm always awed by the giving nature of my CDA sisters, and this validated my feelings. A very special thank you to all who participated. I want to thank Claire Lake and Linda Lopez who helped so willingly at the event.

The 2011 Spring Blood Drive at Santa Sophia will be held on Sunday, April 9th, from 8am – 1pm. Please join me in making this another successful event. Remember, you can only donate



every 8 weeks; you are eligible to donate if your last donation will be before February 13th. If you are unable to donate please tell family members and friends, age 17 years or older about this event. You may schedule an appointment using code SSSV when you visit [www.sandiegobloodbank.org](http://www.sandiegobloodbank.org) or you can call Carol @ (619) 462-0663.

We are truly making a difference in the lives of others when we make the very personal gift of blood.

## REGENT'S LETTER



The new year is here and it's a time to make personal resolutions. Resolutions are meant to better our lives,

whether it be to lose weight, eat more healthy foods, reduce stress or make more time for ourselves and our family.

As a court, we need to make resolutions, too. The purpose of being a CDA member is to enrich the lives

of others as well as our own lives. Once we get past items we have voted on (i.e. charities, budget, standing rules), really think about what you want Court Santa Sophia to do for you.

I joined CDA out of curiosity, and really jumped in to it without knowing what the purpose of the organization was. All I knew was that it gave me the opportunity to be with other Catholic women who

participated in church events. What I didn't expect to find was that I *needed* CDA. I've volunteered with a few non-profit organizations in the past but none satisfied me spiritually as CDA has. I found that I looked forward to attending meetings and got excited every time I had an idea that would benefit the court. I really felt that my voice mattered and that

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my efforts were working towards a common goal of helping multiple charities. However, I must admit, our court is not perfect—There's more that I want from it and I'm sure most of you feel the same way. That's the beauty of CDA. There's always room to better ourselves and it is highly encouraged.

CDA is YOU. You make it what it is. If you feel our court can be

improved in certain areas, by all means, let it be known. If you have a great idea that would benefit CDA, we'd love to hear it! For some, the hardest part may be to voice your opinion. But you can always contact me and I will be an open ear.

Our annual membership drive and afternoon tea is coming up and it is a great opportunity to re-energize yourself as a member by hearing our purpose, passion and all the activities

that make CDA great. I encourage you to attend and enjoy the company of your sisters in Christ. Consider bringing a friend so that you can share how CDA has blessed your life.

May you all have a blessed and peaceful new year!

In Unity and Charity,



## Education Contest

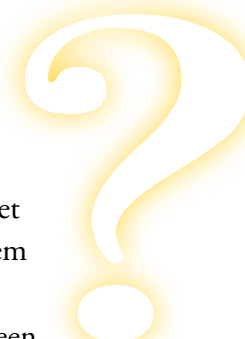


Attention moms, grandmothers, and aunts! Court Santa Sophia is sponsoring an Education contest for students in grades 4-8. The theme for this year's contest is, "The Lord is my Light." Students from the Santa Sophia Academy and students from Nativity Prep Academy will be participating in the contest, but if you have a child, grandchild or niece or nephew in the area who does not attend these schools and would like to participate, they may submit a 500 word essay or produce original artwork on a 12" x 18" piece of paper. The deadline for submission is February 15. More information is available by calling Pam Kay at 619-464-2009.

## What's the problem?

A problem is an obstacle which hinders the achievement of a particular goal, objective or purpose. It refers to a situation, condition, or issue that is yet unresolved. In a broad sense, a problem exists when an individual becomes aware of a significant difference between what actually is and what is desired between one or more individuals. A problem is any question or matter involving doubt, uncertainty, or difficulty.

There are math problems, social problems, relationship problems, work problems, unsolved problems and world problems. If you wish that all the problems would go away, you'd better think again. When problems cease, so do opportunities. What do all problems have in common? They present the opportunity to create a solution. Solving problems is the reason you were hired to work. Generally speaking, jobs with few problems don't pay too much. Next time you see a problem, embrace it.



## Court Santa Sophia Website

Have you looked at our beautiful website lately? It contains a wealth of information including a calendar of our activities, a description of all our programs, membership information, and copies of our local, state and national newsletters. It is a perfect way to get a deeper understanding of our order. Check out every link, they are quite impressive! <http://www.catholicdaughters.com/>





Tea sandwiches evoke memories of church socials, showers, mom's bridge-club luncheons and Catholic Daughters membership drives. These delicious finger foods can be classic like cream cheese on date-nut bread or exotic with pestos or curried salads. Elegantly slim sandwiches are made with thinly sliced bread such as white, whole wheat, black bread, pumpernickel, brioche or rustic breads with crusts removed or cut into circles to give guests a preview of what is inside. If you have volunteered to bring sandwiches but feel stuck as to what kind, consider herbed cream cheese, pesto butter, horseradish cream cheese, or an avocado spread. If you need ideas for creating some interesting sandwiches, go to <http://www.marthastewart.com> then type in "tea sandwiches" in the search box. Surely there will be a wonderful variety of sandwiches at our membership tea on January 16. Get ready to raise your pinky.

## Dues are DUE

Your 2011 dues are due in January in the amount of \$30. Member dues cover our court's cost for CDA liability insurance, semi-annual National dues and annual State dues. Our court's dues to CDA National and State and liability insurance are based on the number of the court's registered members. When you fail to pay your dues, our court is still responsible to cover the costs as long as you're still "in the books" as a member. Please submit your dues to our Financial Secretary, Rebecca Kelly at the next meeting or mail it to:

Rebecca Kelly  
11223 Del Rio Rd.  
Spring Valley, CA 91978

## COURT UPDATES

Thank you to those who attended the December meeting and potluck. We were able to raise \$100 to go towards bracelet supplies for the Garden of Innocence. If you brought home a bracelet kit to assemble, please bring it to the next meeting to give to Georgene Kruzal. GOI has invited the CDA to participate in the graveside service for baby, "Nick," this Saturday, January 15 at 10am at El Camino Memorial Park. If you would like to attend contact Georgene at (619) 462-4712.

The annual Catholic Charities Baby Shower is Saturday, January 29th

at 9:00am at the Catholic Charities headquarters downtown. Court Santa Sophia has been so generous in the past and we are asking that you open your hearts again and bring baby items to the January meeting. If you would like to attend the Baby Shower, meet at Santa Sophia's parking lot at 8:15am to caravan downtown.

It is with regret that we inform you that the Valentine's "Wedding Celebration" event has been canceled. Funds still need to be raised and we will be discussing ideas at the next meeting.

In addition to our Education Contest, CDA National is also offering various scholarships: the Father Leonard Bachmann Graduate Scholarship, Youth Scholarship for 8th graders entering 9th grade at a Public/Private High School and Youth Scholarship for 8th graders entering 9th grade at a Catholic High School. If you know a student who would like to apply for any of these scholarships, applications can be found on the "Resources" page of our website at <http://www.catholicdaughters.com/resources/>





## Our Newsletter as a Tool

The purpose of our newsletter is to keep everyone informed as to what our Court is doing locally, as well as at the state and national level. If members are unable to attend a meeting, this means of communication will fill in the gaps and serves to promote unity. We also hope that it provides a stimulus for action in our various activities. But wait! There's more! After you've read your newsletter, put it in your purse. The next time you are in church, please pass your newsletter on to a non-member. It is a wonderful device for encouraging membership in our organization. The second person receiving the newsletter should follow the same advice and pass it along to another non-member. Let's let the word get around! Catholic Daughters of the Americas is not a well-kept secret.

## Election of Delegates to the State Convention



The CDA California State Convention will be held on May 26-29 2011 at the Ontario Airport Hotel in Ontario, CA. Our court must elect delegates to attend this event. Delegates are allowed to vote and alternates are non-voting members who can participate in the convention. Based on our membership as of November 15, 2010, we are allowed 3 delegates and 6 alternates. As a delegate, your vote not only speaks for our court, but the many courts in California.

Please consider attending this convention. Ontario is a manageable drive and easily accessible from San Diego. The convention is a valuable way to gain perspective as to what CDA does and will energize and inspire you to be more involved in the organization. If you are interested in becoming a delegate or alternate, contact Regent, Melissa Hiatt at (619) 252-7198 or melissahiatt@gmail.com so that you may be included in the election slate. We will be electing delegates and alternates at the January meeting so please make sure you attend!

## Did You Know...

...In addition to our five national projects, CDA also supports eight national charities? The following charities are:

- 1. American College of Louvain** - Trains young European men to serve as missionary priests in North America and offers American seminarians the philosophical and theological riches available at Europe's oldest Catholic university in Louvain.
- 2. The Pontifical North American College** - A Roman seminary composed of students sponsored by dioceses from across the United States and Australia who devote themselves to personal formation for priestly ministry under the attentive guidance, supervision and evaluation of a formation faculty of priests and religious.
- 3. Morality In Media** - A non-profit organization that combats pornography and maintains standards of decency on TV and in other media.
- 4. Catholic Relief Services** - The official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States.
- 5. Apostleship of the Sea** - The work of the Roman Catholic Church in the maritime world.
- 6. Covenant House** - Provides a sanctuary and resources for homeless youth.
- 7. Mother Teresa** - Promotes and supports authentic knowledge of and devotion to Mother Teresa by the study and dissemination of her work, spirituality and message.
- 8. Tutwiler Clinic** - A Mississippi clinic that provides quality health care in a Christian manner.

# STATE NEWS

## State Convention, May 26-29, 2011

The state convention will be held on May 26-29 at the Radisson Ontario Airport Hotel in Ontario, CA. This is when we take action on electing State Officers, electing Madonna Manor Board of Directors, electing the 2013 Nominating Committee, adopting resolutions, and hearing two-year reports from the State Officers and State Chairmen.

## State Fundraisers

Items such as shirts, badges, sweaters, sweatshirts, aprons, and even cookbooks with recipes written by Catholic Daughters throughout the state are available to purchase for ourselves or our friends. Order forms can be found at <http://www.cda-ca.org/forms.htm>.

## Membership Contest

The State Membership Contest is coming to an end on April 15, 2010. The court who has gained the most members between September 2009 and April 2010 will receive \$100. The individual member who has recruited the most members in this time period will also receive \$100. If you have recruited a member within this time period make sure you turn in your Angel Tally form.

## Madonna Manor Winners

The winners for the Madonna Manor drawing were **1st - Estella Espinoza** from Greenfield, **2nd - Blondina Scherr** from Tulare, and **3rd - Mel Cutler** from St. Joseph's Parish in Salinas. The court with the largest number of tickets sold was St. Raymond's. Congratulations to the winners!

# NATIONAL NEWS

## 38th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

The Anniversary of Roe v. Wade falls on a weekend, a time when lawmakers are typically away from Washington. Therefore this year the Rally and March will be held on Monday, January 24, 2011. We will once again march under our Catholic Daughters For Life Banner. The theme for this year is: **"Thou Shalt Protect the Equal Right to Life of Each Innocent Born and Preborn Human in Existence at Fertilization. No Exception! No Compromise!"**

## Fundraiser Labels

Our annual fundraising campaign should have been received by all CDA members. This is a yearly program to help benefit all the charitable donations made in your name through the National Office. Any donation received from you is greatly appreciated.

## Operation Morning Star

Congratulations to Margaret Sitte who was elected to the North Dakota State Senate. She will be taking a leave of absence from National Legislative Chairman. Mary Ann Rowe will serve at the interim National Legislative Chairman. Please contact Mary Ann at 4638 31st Road South, Arlington, VA 22206 703-671-1277 [martardel@aol.com](mailto:martardel@aol.com). Welcome Mary Ann!

## Become a 1903 Society Member

Your membership with the 1903 Society will contribute to maintenance of the CDA National Headquarters. Annual memberships start at \$19.03. The application can be found on the CDA National website at <http://www.catholicdaughters.org>.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

**Regent, Melissa Hiatt**  
(619) 252-7198  
[melissahiatt@gmail.com](mailto:melissahiatt@gmail.com)

**Vice Regent, Melinda Bauers**  
(619) 468-3794  
[Melinda.Bauers@Wellpoint.com](mailto:Melinda.Bauers@Wellpoint.com)

**Recording Scty., Claire Lake**  
(619)461-3001  
[crerucha@att.net](mailto:crerucha@att.net)

**Financial Scty., Rebecca Kelly**  
(619) 670-7033  
[pengybecca@cox.net](mailto:pengybecca@cox.net)

**Treasurer, Carol Williams**  
(619) 462-0663  
[wifam@cox.net](mailto:wifam@cox.net)

**Chaplain, Fr. Devdas**  
(619) 463-6629  
[FrDevdas@santasophia.org](mailto:FrDevdas@santasophia.org)

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Our member spotlight is shining on Stella Blackfelner this time. Stella was one of seven children in her family, born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she was raised and educated. She lived there until just after she was married to Dick Blackfelner, who joined the Coast Guard about six months after they married. Stella and her husband lived in seven states in the mid-west.

Her early career involved doing research work for the Navy, and then for the Air Force. They returned to Minneapolis where she worked with the Better Business Bureau developing the yellow pages. After seven years of marriage, Stella and Dick were expecting their first child. They had five children in eight years, so Stella was extremely busy. Stella repeated many times during the interview, "God was very good to us." They moved to California 25 years ago and were members of Santa Sophia Parish since then. Stella and her husband did house sitting for twelve years, which they found to be very enjoyable. Until his death, Dick and Stella were active in the Senior Club, St. Vincent de Paul, and Knights of Columbus. Stella is a member of the Women's Guild, and remains active in her husband's organization, the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, along with being a valuable member in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. One of her favorite parts of being a Catholic Daughter is to work with people. She has five children, ten grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren. Stella's advice for us is, "Don't give up on prayers, God is not always ready to answer you!"

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

**1/15/11 10:00am**

GOI graveside service for "Nick"  
at El Camino Memorial Park

**1/16/11 1:30pm**

Afternoon Tea/Membership Drive  
De Moor Room at Santa Sophia

**1/27/11 7:00pm**

General Meeting

*Please bring items for the Baby Shower*

**1/29/11 9:00am**

Catholic Charities Baby Shower  
349 Cedar St., 92101

### FEBRUARY

**2/12/11**

Valentine's Event CANCELLED

**2/15/11**

Education Contest Entries Due

**2/24/11**

General Meeting



**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

**Court Santa Sophia #2520**

9800 San Juan Street

Spring Valley, CA 91977

## Mission Statement

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principal of faith through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.