



Pat Robitaille, President

As you know, we did not have any member activities this past month, but we were able to communicate some. We have some great news to report. But first, I would like to call attention to the need to finalize a slate of officers for next year. I have volunteers from Jean Bauer, Heidi Wilson and Sharyn Blongiewicz to serve on the nominating committee. While our by-laws require five, I am afraid that I have not been able to get five members to serve, so we will convene this team. To help lighten their load, please let me know if you would consider a board position next year.

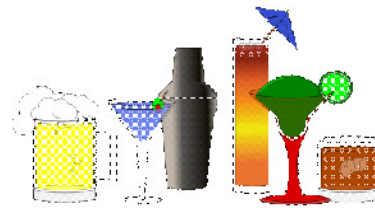
Coronado City Halloween Event



A special thank you to all the members who have volunteered to help us at the upcoming event. We asked for candy donations, bagging candy, and/or working in our booth. There is still plenty of time to sign up.

1. **Event is Friday, Oct 29th 3:30-5:30pm in Spreckels Park.**
2. We will have a candy collection point the week before.
3. We have bags for anyone who can bag and tag (Donated by FOCUS)
 - a. You can do this individually
 - b. Or, join us at our bagging party (details to follow)
4. Help out with games and passing out candy in our booth

New Member Happy Hour



The last two years have been extremely challenging for our new members to meet the Board and fellow members. We are inviting our new members to join us for a Happy Hour on **October 7th**. If you have not heard from Lorna and would like to join us, please reach out to her at lcaster@focus-sdkids.org.

FOCUS Banners up on Orange Ave



PROJECTS

Barbara Donahue and Carin Cross

We thank Suzanne Manuel and Jeri Barsz for shopping for Armed Services YMCA and Miracle Babies this month.

www.focus-sdkids.org now Live!

Check out our new website. We are still putting a few finishing touches on it, but take a look. We are pretty excited about it. Let me know if you see anything that need correction or improvement. We welcome your ideas.

A special thank you to **Vicki Bernitt, Sharyn Blongiewics, Carin Cross** and **Barbara Donahue** for helping me out with this. We especially appreciate all the design and development work done by Inflection Point who not only volunteered hundreds of hours towards this new website, but also created our new logo and banners!



CAUSES

We Need More People Like You Who Care.



FOSTER CARE



HOMELESSNESS



SCHOOLS



LITERACY



HEALTH & WELL-BEING



SAFE HOUSING



REHABILITATION



MILITARY

Lorna Perez-Caster

MEMBERSHIP

Our current total membership is 126.
Active Members: 71 Patron Members: 55

Please add the following name to your membership directory

Jean Roesch (renewal)

*Please contact **Lorna Perez-Caster** at lcaster@focus-sdkids.org if you have any questions regarding membership or if you would like information about becoming a **FOCUS** member mailed to someone who may be interested.*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Wishing a very happy birthday to all of our members
celebrating their birthday this month!



Candace Haden 10/9

Lisbeth Blum 10/22

Judy Kroesche 10/24

Fred Kallseln 10/30

Fundraising

Sharyn Blongiewicz

JOIN US FOR
**SHOPPING
AND
HAPPY HOUR**

THURSDAY
OCT, 21ST

SHOPPING: 2-4PM
HAPPY HOUR: 4-5:30PM

PRESENTED BY

SEA LA VIE
1112 1ST STREET
CORonado, CA

FOCUS

VOM FASS
1201 1ST STREET
CORonado, CA

A PERCENTAGE OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED TO FOCUS (PLEASE MENTION US!)

We have planned a fun event for members ~ friends and neighbors are invited too! Plan to visit Sea la Vie gift shop in their now permanent location next to Tartine's. After browsing and shopping, take a short stroll to Vom Fass for a glass of wine and visiting with friends.

Board members will be on hand to discuss FOCUS current events and answer any questions you might have. Percent of proceeds will go to FOCUS. Please put it on your calendar and join us.

Fundraising

Sharyn Blongiewicz

We are so happy to be back at Coronado Cays Yacht Club for our annual FOCUS Holiday Boutique.

Saturday, November 20th, you'll see lots of great vendors ... many of them new to us this year and many of your favorites will be back!

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

CHAMPAGNE, MUSIC,
ELEGANT PASTRIES AND COFFEES WHILE YOU SHOP

DOZENS OF FABULOUS ITEMS...
LADIES FASHION & ACCESSORIES, HOME & GARDEN
DECOR, CHRISTMAS & THANKSGIVING DECORATIONS,
ART, JEWELRY, PLANTS, LUGGAGE & TOTES, PET
ACCESSORIES, PILLOWS, KITCHEN WARE, JAMS &
FOODS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

*Happy Holidays!!
We're back at CCYC ... in person!
See you there!!*



FOCUS
FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

Coronado Cays Yacht Club
30 Caribe Cay Blvd.
10 am ~ 2 pm

Saturday, November 20

\$10.00

All proceeds benefit San Diego children

Treasurer's Report

Sharon Shelton

FOCUS Financial Report for Aug 2021

Balance as of 1 Aug 2021

Available for Projects	\$ 26,549.84
Grant Allocation	\$ 47,500.00
Reserve	\$ 25,000.00

Income

Amazon Smile	\$ 16.15
Holiday Boutique	\$ 144.75
Membership	\$ 75.00
Total	\$ 235.90

Expenses

Projects	\$ 11,089.81
Insurance Premium	\$ 131.08
Office Supplies & printing	\$ 505.62
Tax Preparation & license fee	\$ 525.00
Petty Cash for meeting	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ 12,451.51

Balance as of 31 Aug 2021

Available Projects	\$ 14,335.54
Grant Allocation	\$ 47,500.00
Reserve	\$ 25,000.00

Many thanks to Fran Becker for her recent generous donation of \$1,000.00!



Member in the Spotlight

Marianna Polles

Greek movies that can be easily recalled include Zorba the Greek with Anthony Quinn released in 1964. Never on a Sunday with Jules Dassin, and Melina Mercourt as the happy prostitute which appeared on the big screen in 1960. And lastly there was Mama Mia filmed on Skopelos Island, off-shore of the mainland, with Meryl Streep. This film debuted in 2008.

Did you ever hear of the Greek model names Marianna Thedorakos ? She was a runway model, which meant she walked up and down the runways modeling newly fashioned clothes. She not only modeled clothes, but also jewelry. For 25 years this Greek lady modeled in the United States. This still beautiful lady, is a long time FOCUS member. One of the original FOCUS members from the early eighties, you know her as Marianna Polles.

She was born in a little Greek town named Krokeai, which is near Sparta, Greece. While she was growing up there the population was a couple hundred residents. It now has a population of 1,329 residents. The town is about 99 miles Southwest of Athens, and is considered a suburb of Sparta.

King Leonidas ruled the city of Sparta. It was he who led an army of Greeks along with 300 Spartans in 480 B.C. to defend the passage of Persians going through Thermophyiae, a narrow canyon. This epic battle was made into another movie entitled 300, The Rise of An Empire released in 2014. Interesting how they have kept their history dating as far back as 480 B.C.

The young and beautiful Marianna left Greece when she was still a youngster. Her brother Peter came with the family, and settled in La Porte, Indiana. They resided there for a few years, and then the clan migrated to Pensacola, Florida. While in Indiana however, Marianna's Aunt, Penelope, decided to Americanize Marianna. She cut her beautiful long hair, and changed her name to Mary Ann, thinking that by doing so would allow her to fit in better with Americans society. It was not until later in life did Mary Ann change her name back to Marianna, which she did with enthusiasm..

While in Florida, and having graduated from high school, Marianna met John Polles. John was a dentist who had his practice in Jackson, Mississippi. John came to Pensacola to meet and marry another Greek girl that had been arranged by the girl's parents. Of course when John Polles saw the beautiful Marianna Thedorakos he decided to marry her instead, and not the girl that he was there to meet and marry.

The engagement of Marianna to John Polles did not sit well with the Polles family, after all Marianna lived on the Greece mainland and John's family was from the island of Dkopelos. While they were both Greek, and faithful members of the Greek Orthodox church, they were not alike according to the Polles family. Their dialect was different, and their way of life was perceived as different.. However, once the Polles family got to know the lovely Marianna, all was forgiven, and she was warmly received by all.

Marianna and John had four children, three girls and one boy. Their children have given Marianna 6 grandchildren. John Polles passed away at an early age, after finally leaving his dental practice and moving to Chula Vista, California where Marianna's brother resided..

Marianna has done so much for so many organizations. While in Mississippi she was president of the South Jackson Civic League, on the Board of Directors of the Jackson Ballet Company, and a Girl Scout leader for 17 years. All this while still modeling. When arriving in California she quickly became a board member of the California Ballet Company.

She has been active with the Spyridon, Greek Orthodox church of San Diego for over 16 years. A Sunday school teacher, board member, and treasurer of the Greek orthodox ladies philoptochos society. She has also helped with the annual Greek festival at the church for many years. Do attend one if you never have been to a joyous Greek festival.

After the passing of John Polles, Marianna eventually met, and married Tom Horning, a successful Chula Vista business entrepreneur. Tom was president of the People's Bank of Chula Vista, owned an insurance agency, and being an avid motorcycle rider, in 1985 purchased the Harley-Davidson dealership in Chula Vista, which was eventually moved to National City, California. He passed away in 2008, but Marianna along with her daughters continued to run the dealership with 42 employees until 2019, when she finally sold the business.

Marianna, a licensed realtor, rented a house at The Point in the Cays in the early eighties. While living there in 1982, she met **Shelby Skinner**, and **Bonnie Wainwright** of FOCUS, which she joined, and has been a member ever since,. She was president in 2011 and 2012, and again president in 2018. And for those of us that remember, a FOCUS membership meeting was held at the Harley-Davidson dealership in National City.

Marianna has played the piano since she was 9 years old, and still plays today. As a past Captain of the C-Gulls of the Coronado Cays Yacht Club, she still plays bridge every week at the yacht club, and helps with the boating regattas. And when Charles and Linda Hayes of FOCUS went to visit Greece, their tour guide was Marianna. Rudy and Marie Dew also of the Cays were included in the entourage.

She once taught a Greek cooking class, and offered to teach one again. For \$50 this writer would sign up, with all proceeds going to FOCUS, and it would include recipes. How many other FOCUS members would be willing to sign up ? Marianna still has a 1980's FOCUS bulletin in her collection of FOCUS items.

Keeping up with Marianna is a difficult challenge. She is not afraid to tackle any project, and will easily get you involved.

Thanks Marianna for all that you do for FOCUS. You are an inspiration, and a true FOCUS enthusiast, and mentor, for all to appreciate. **The spotlight is on you !**

