



## Open Your Eyes, Sirens 2009 big charity event

Each year we come together as a group to pool our resources and talents in an effort to raise money and awareness for a specific charity. In 2009, we are doing it a little different; we are hosting the First Annual Filmanthropy Festival which, through selected filmmakers, will not only highlight a variety of charities, but the charities supported by the two winning filmmakers will split the events proceeds.

Our one-day festival tagline, OPEN YOUR EYES, embodies a cool double meaning. It not only encourages patrons to literally open their eyes and keep them open, but it un-

derscores the kinds of films in competition. Altogether, these films will raise awareness to forgotten or unknown issues, bring to light inspiring and need-to-know stories and hopefully motivate the audience to open, through their eyes, their hearts and minds to help make the world a better place.

When filmmakers apply, they will be asked to select a charity close to them that they hope to raise funds and awareness for. The two film categories are shorts and features and can be narrative/scripted or documentaries. If the filmmaker wins their category, not only will they receive a

trophy and prizes, but the charity they support will split the events proceeds with the charity of the other winning filmmaker.

Both filmmakers and their charities can setup information booths throughout the day as well as at the awards party. In so doing, attendees can immediately learn more about the filmmaker and their charities and can donate money, goods or time to them. Films will be screened throughout the entire day and culminate at night into a big awards party.

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## Sirens Stimulus, we all need some help sometimes

Today's economic crisis is affecting all of us in one way or another.

Although we choose to lend our energy toward abundance, we understand that some of you may be bogged down by the current state of the economy. For you, we introduce **The Sirens Charity Stimulus**.

In an effort to maintain active memberships, we will institute a



part cash, part charitable work dues structure. We

offer you the option of volunteering your time in exchange for half of your dues. We are eager to have your presence, present.

If you are a member in need, please call us to learn more about your stimulus options! Contact: Jodi Fung or Traci Kopecky



### Special Points of interest inside:

- 2009's first guest speaker tell us what needed to hear
- Our new VP shares her story on how she got here
- Last year's record-breaking blender show philanthropic awareness is on the rise





We've been around since the beginning of time. We are surfacing as a new society to better the world through modern measures. We are a unified voice of proactive women and men who positively influence our world through business and philanthropy.

Luke M. Fairfield  
Certified Public  
Accountant

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## February's Guest Speaker, a message of hope

We had great guest speaker at our February quarterly meeting. Michele Meiche Ct. H.A, Ph.D. is a Transformation Coach, Intuitive Guide, NBHA Board Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist and a member of the Transpersonal Psychologist Association.

Michele talked to us about what 2009 is going to bring and how we can adapt and take full advantage of all the changes that are happening around us. She addressed questions like: "How

do we react to the fear that is present right now?" "What can I do if I am being personally impacted by the economy?"

Michele gave us great insight on how we can be pioneers during this rich time of transition. It was a great interactive discussion with a balance of theory and practical application that left us all feeling very inspired!

Read more about Michele and her work here: [www.selfinlight.com](http://www.selfinlight.com).

If anyone has recommendations for a guest speaker please contact Christine Hassler. We always like hearing from our members.



Michel & Christine

## Enthusiastic Beginnings, a note from our VP



I first encountered Jodi Fung in February 2007 at a dark bar on a Saturday night for a birthday party. She entered the room with a gale energy force following behind that seemed to turn heads. It turned mine for sure.

I was certain she was someone of importance, and I was not disappointed. At a small corner table, Jodi spoke to me about the Sirens Society. She told me of the good deeds being done, the

sisterhood being built and the differences being made.

Blown away by her compassion and her drive to do so much, I was eager to learn more. Lucky for me, there was a Sirens blender approaching. We exchanged information and that was my first beginning.

A couple of months passed before I received my invite to the Sirens Blender, and I was impressed that I had not been forgotten.

I RSVP'd immediately, put it on my calendar and counted down the days. I was doubly impressed when I arrived at the blender, because when I walked up to Jodi to reintroduce myself she remembered me. But not just my name, she remembered my occupation, my boyfriend and all the details we had shared.

That blender led to another blender and not long

after I found myself filling out an application to become a Siren, another beginning for me. I went to my first Sirens meeting in October 2007 which made for an awesome start! In a short amount of time my commitment to the Sirens Society was sealed. It felt good to do good.

Last year I became the membership coordinator, which allowed me the opportunity to get to know fellow Sirens. And this year my enthusiastic beginning of being your new Vice President is one that I take pride in.

Gina has certainly left some big shoes to follow, but I know I don't have to go it alone. I am overjoyed to be the new VP. I'm ready to dig in and get this philanthropic party started!

By Traci Loper

## Charitable Good, dogs and pets down on their luck

The Sirens Society collected goods for the animals at the Bark Avenue Foundation. The Bark Avenue Foundation is a nonprofit 501c3 organization committed to ending pet overpopulation through spaying and neutering, education and community outreach.

Bark Avenue is located in Downtown Los Angeles where animals are given up, dumped and found running in the streets everyday.

The Sirens collected towels, blankets, meds, food, toys and treats for the animals at the rescue.

Founder Melanie Pozez said, "We are always struggling to make ends meet as it is a constant revolving door with animals being dumped and abandoned. The donations from the Sirens meant the world to

us, especially during these difficult financial times."

Heidi Huebner Executive Director said, "We are seeing so many people losing their homes and unable to keep their animals. We don't have the funds to take them all in so any monies and items we get are very much needed"

If you want to find out more information on how to help the Bark Avenue Foundation please visit the website [www.barkavenuefoundation.org](http://www.barkavenuefoundation.org) or call Melanie at 323-788-8448.

If you have a organization that is close to your heart and would like for the Sirens to collect items please contact Charitable Goods Manager Heidi Huebner [hhuebner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hhuebner@sbcglobal.net).



## Sirens Close Out 2008, with record breaking blender

Chopsticks + Charity, The Sirens Society's last quarterly blender, rounded out 2008 with an evening of fun, awareness and networking. Kado Sushi & Teppan Lounge in the Grove LA hosted the event on October 23rd, 2008.

The event was the most profitable blender in Sirens history, netting more than \$4,000. The money will go to support The Sirens Society with general operating costs, and the much needed overhead when plan-

ning this year's Filmanthropy Festival.

Sirens mingled amongst the approximately 200 people that attended, spreading the word about philanthropic endeavors. The night also included feasting on sushi, drinking sake and listening to the live music. Singer and songwriter John Stauffer performed acoustically along with Scotland's Jamie Kimmet, who will perform at the next Blender as well.

One Hope Wine generously donated an open wine bar for the first hour of the event. Sirens members did a fantastic job of collecting raffle items, and the raffle was one of the more lucrative aspects of the evening. Sirens own Mariko Ostboe created the beautiful invitation.

Thanks to everyone for their help as door angels, providing raffle items, selling tickets and inviting friends that are philanthropically minded.

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Through business, THE SIRENS SOCIETY™ brings together the fortunate and able to aid, through philanthropy, the less fortunate and less able. This nonprofit was born out of the need for an organization that could affect positive change in the world.

THE SIRENS SOCIETY™ and its members are lighting the way for this change to occur by volunteering their time and energy to benefit causes that are on the forefront of attention as well as those that are overlooked.

For more information, please visit our public forum, [www.sirensociety.com](http://www.sirensociety.com).

Polite reminder to all members -

The Forum: be certain to log-in to [www.sirensociety.com](http://www.sirensociety.com) weekly if not more frequently to keep your fellow Sirens and Seamen abreast of what's happening in your world.

Each of us need to log our 12 random acts of kindness each quarter in the form at minimum. However, we encourage and challenge everyone to share more.

We know many of you are busy with work, husbands, wives, children and pets, but tell us about it. Tell us of your challenges so we may offer support, tell us of your successes so we join in the praise and tell of us how you are making the world a better place so we may contribute when the opportunity is available.

Telephone Tree: Executive Council Members have all been assigned 4 people to call which means members will be hearing from us throughout the year. When you get our calls let us know what you think, tell how we're doing, and let us know you're alive and well. Some of you have been rather quiet lately.

## Inaugural Newsletter, a work in progress

It's here, the great debut of our newsletter. Although I consider it a work in progress since we have yet to officially decide a permanent name, I'm happy with the first of hopefully many more to come.

Our newsletter will be as great and as useful as we collectively make it. I am honored and thrilled to be charged with the responsibility and will do my best to ensure our quarterly newsletter concisely recaps past events, entertains with fun photos and touches

on our future aspirations.

All story and photo contributions are welcome and will be published based on space availability and content. To submit something to the newsletter please email Johnny Ortez.

Our newsletter will be one more vehicle at our disposal to disseminate information and celebrate our accomplishments as a group.

Thanks in advance for your support and involvement.



Rufus lends a helping hand

### Open continued

We will need everyone to be part of committees in order to ensure we pull off another fantastic event. In the coming weeks, look for more details, deadlines, request for volunteers and more. Filmmakers can go to [withoutabox.com](http://withoutabox.com) and [filmanthropyfestival.com](http://filmanthropyfestival.com) for film submission info. Sirens can go to [sirensociety.com](http://sirensociety.com) to find out more about volunteering and committees.

Funds for the winning filmmaker's charities are raised through film submission fees, ticket sales to the screenings and the event's big awards party, our famous silent auction and merchandise.

# Vote Today

## Our newsletter needs a name

We want to hear from you. The newsletter is reflective and interactive part of your Sirens membership. Do you want to keep it traditional with "The Sirens Newsletter" or do you have something new, fresh and happening that is more in tune with us as members and a group.

Names under consideration:

- The Light Post
- The Flame
- Siren's Voice
- The Torch Tribune
- The Siren Star
- Sirens Speak
- Other

