

Soroptimist Thunder Bay Club Meeting Wednesday,

Jan. 11 at 7pm

This will be a Zoom mtg.
Judy will send out the
information

#### Items of interest:

- Girls Transitioning to Adulthood
- Christmas Party
- SIA Convention Dublin
- SIA Web Series
- Woman life Freedom
- New Year Resolutions
- Spring Conference
- Did you know
- International Friendship and Goodwill
- Agenda

#### Inside this Issue:

- Connecting with Cindy
- No Minutes for Dec.

## Soroptimist International of Thunder Bay

Mission: "Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.".

Vision: "Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams".

## Connecting with Cindy





Happy New Year everyone! Please read the above quote and give it some thought as it applies to us all. Change is good and we need a push sometimes to get us out of our comfort zone. **Faith** has done a wonderful job in taking over Public Relations but is no longer continuing in that role. We need someone to step up and lots of assistance and resources are available. So if you have some extra time, let me know. It would be much appreciated!

Thanks to the Membership committee for the fantastic Christmas get together at Marilyn's condo. We had a great turnout and things looked very festive and the meal was delicious and plentiful. It certainly put everyone in the Holiday spirit!

**Devona** celebrated her birthday December 17<sup>th</sup> and **Dulcy Pennicooke** was December 31<sup>st</sup>. Happy Belated birthday ladies! For those that do not know, **Dulcy** has moved to the Sioux Lookout area.

We have a person expressing interest in our club through SIA and Kim and I have been in contact with her.

Fund Raising has the **April Gift Card raffle** and **Two Bit Auction** (April 27) to look forward to so planning should be commencing.

The ECR Spring Conference is held May 5-7, 2023 in Brantford. So far Cindy Figus, Judy Perrier, Devona Crowe, Cheryl Ball and Karen Bortolin are attending and possibly Faith Crichton. We should begin a discussing plans soon so if anyone else interested in attending, please advise me.

This is a reminder that the **SIA** Conference is being held in **Dublin Ireland July 27-29, 2023.** Last month I reported on the Leadership Summit incorrectly and apologize. Governor Gertrud supplied the details as follows:

#### Soroptimist Leadership Fellows Program:

Cost \$400 USD

2 year commitment

Complete a brief application

Submit 2 letters of recommendation

SIA staff will review and approve the applications

#### Leadership Round Table

Open to all SIA members

Held annually (virtually in odd years, face-to-face in even years)

Cost is dependent on when one registers (\$50-150 USD)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

So in closing, I would like to wish everyone a healthy, safe and prosperous 2023! Thank you for being such an important part of our club and let us make 2023 the best year ever! I also found another quote which I altered:

"An <b>Sor</b> optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pess	simist stays up to make
sure the old year leaves." – William E. Vaughan, journalist and author	

Your proud President, Cind	-			~.	-
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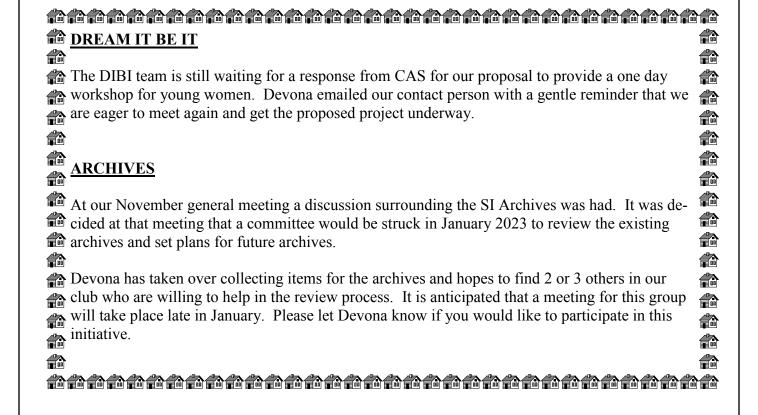
## **SI Thunder Bay Club Christmas Dinner**



### **Girls Transitioning to Adulthood**

Linda Adams presented a car load of Christmas gifts and food supplies to our Girls Transitioning to Adulthood program. Pictured below with Linda on her left is Dana Leader and Danny Michaud from CAS. On her right is husband Ken.





# 2023.... SAVE THE DATES ....2023 Fundraising APRIL 1st 2nd 3rd

After a few years hiatus the <u>Home and Garden Show</u> will be back in full swing at the beginning of April. This is great news for our club. This venue provides a perfect opportunity for our club to converse with the general public and bring awareness to the important work we do to support young girls and women in our community and around the world. Judy A. has once again graciously secured us a spot to sell our <u>Gift Card Raffle Tickets</u> worth \$500.00. This has been a sold out event in the past. Fingers crossed, we continue where we left off a few LONG years ago (aka pre-Covid).

Shirley and I thank everyone in advance to consider volunteering for a 2 hour shift over the course of the weekend. It's as easy as 1/2/3.

*First.* you slip on your signature BLUE SHIRT complimented by your most comfortable pair of shoes.

**Secondly,** be prepared to BRAG to the public about all the WONDERFUL things our club has done over the years and continues to do.

<u>Thirdly</u>, return home, put your feet up, pour yourself a glass of wine and reflect on why you chose to volunteer a few hours out of your busy schedules to raise money for a worthy initiative ???.....

ANSWER "Cause it matters". SOROPTIMIST PROUD!!

#### APRIL 27th



The TWO BIT AUCTION is about to come out of hiding and we anticipate a roaring good time. It's a bit of a gamble (no pun intended/okay yes it was fully intentional), whether or not people are ready to sit in a packed hall with their sack full of quarters vying for a basket of goodies. It is our major fundraiser for our signature program, LYDA, so it's certainly a risk worth taking. End of April seems like

it's in the far distance, but as we all know, time flies and it will be upon us in a blink of an eye. With that in mind, if we can all put our thinking caps on and begin to consider various themes/ items that one could possibly contribute to this fundraiser that would be very much appreciated. <u>When you come up with your AWESOME brainstorm let Shirley or I know and we will add it to the list of the potential 30 baskets.</u> We thank you in advance for your generosity and consideration.

#### **INTERNAL FUNDRAISER**

We are planning a casual fundraiser amongst our members. Details coming out soon. HINT......We've done it in the past and it was a great SUCCESS! We will leave it at that. Shirley and Kathleen Fundraising Co-Chairs

#### Hello, ECR Members!

Happy 2023!

Governor Gertrud asked that I remind all members that the early bird registration deadline for the SI Convention in Dublin, Ireland is **January 21**. If you are planning to go, but have not yet registered, don't miss this date!

Link to website - https://sidublin2023.com/

Regards,





## SIA Webinar Registration

**Topic: Big Goal Accelerator Project 101** 

**Description:** Do you have a question about what's eligible as a Big Goal Accelerator Project? Or are you not sure if your club's project qualifies?

Attend SIA's Big Goal Accelerator Project 101 webinar on February 8, 2023, at 7pm ET to find out!

You will receive an overview of the eligibility requirements, learn how to report your work, and have the opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A session.

This webinar will be presented with simultaneous interpretation in all our languages.

Time: Feb 8, 2023 07:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_39xMmIfASv6ncn-9JIzyWg

## Topic: Wrap Yourself in Love, Soroptimists!

Description: Join Soroptimists worldwide for a celebration of self-care and self-love during this inspiring program hosted by Soroptimist International of the Americas.

Interpretation will be provided to SIA's six federation languages; please indicate your language in the registration form below.

Please contact membership@soroptimist.org if you have any questions.

Time: Feb 15, 2023 07:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register at https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcumoqDgtGd1\_-g7FTAke6R2c95IPWrhH

**Woman Life Freedom** a popular political Kurdish slogan used in both the Kurdish independence and democratic confederalist movements.

The Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) was shamefully elected to the UN Commission on the Status of Women-the UN's top women's rights body-for a four-year term that began in March 2022. Given that Iran ranks 143 among 146 countries in the global



gender gap index, the election of the IRI to a leadership role on this key UN body should never have happened and is a move in need of an urgent correction.

In solidarity with Iranian women and girls who are courageously demonstrating for their fundamental human rights, we condemn the brutal violence of security forces against peaceful protesters and echo Iranian women leaders' call for United Nations Member States to immediately remove the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Signed by 59 prominent people who include Oprah Winfrey, Chrystia Freeland, Michelle Obama, Malala Yousafzai, Kim Campbell and Gloria Steinem.

Under Iran's Islamic Penal Code, Iranian women's rights are severely restricted, a form of gender apartheid. Women must comply with the Islamic Republic's mandatory hijab laws from the onset of puberty, and they are unequal in matters of marriage, divorce, custody, inheritance and more. In the Fall of 2022, hundreds of protesters, including dozens of children, have been killed by Iranian authorities. These nation-wide protests were triggered by the tragic death of 22 year old Mahsa Jina Amini who died in police custody after being arrested by Iran's "morality police" for failing to properly cover her hair.

Since Christmas, human rights organizations believe that over 500 people have been killed. Of these 63 were children and 32 were women. https://www.iranintl.com/en/202212216716. Most men were charged with waging war against God.

https://www.womanlifefreedom.today/eyes-on-iran/

## SIA 2023 New Year's Resolutions-Putting New Possibilities into Action

Here is a list of New Year's resolutions for any women's advocates and volunteers who are seeking personal growth and development in 2023.

#### 1. Compliment other women more frequently.

In a world where women are constantly brought down, it is so important to build each other back up. The next time you find yourself admiring something about a woman, tell her—let her know that you recognize and appreciate her good qualities. Bonus points if your compliments go deeper than physical appearance!

#### 2. Celebrate the achievements of other women.

It's easy to view the women around us as our competitors, but that is simply not how it works. Life is not a competition, and there is no limited supply of success. At the end of the day, we're all just trying to live our best lives.

When you see another woman meeting a goal or celebrating a victory, celebrate with her. Recognize that her successes do not necessarily correlate with your failures, and allow yourself to genuinely be happy for her. You might even find yourself gaining inspiration from her.

To start, read about the accomplishments of these inspiring <u>Live Your Dream Awards</u> recipients who have overcome enormous obstacles such as teen pregnancy, poverty, and abuse to live their dreams!

#### 3. Apologize less.

If you find yourself apologizing for everything—even when you've done nothing wrong—you're not alone. <u>Studies</u> show that women are more likely to apologize than men. While apologizing is certainly appropriate in some situations, it is not always necessary. You shouldn't feel like you have to say sorry for asking someone to send you an overdue assignment or for sending back an incorrect order at a restaurant. You are not on this Earth solely to make other people feel comfortable.

#### 4. Start journaling.

Journaling is a great way to get in touch with your inner self. It can also help relieve stress and get things off your chest. On top of that, it's a great way to keep track of your progress in reaching your goals. Make time to write freely. At the end of the year, it could be fun to look back and reflect on what you wrote as well!

#### 5. Get involved in causes you care about.

With all the problems going on in today's world, trying to make a difference can feel overwhelming. Pick one or two causes that you are really passionate about and learn ways you can address them. By being proactive in this way, you can gain a greater sense of control over your life, meet amazing people with mind-sets similar to your own, and have the opportunity to make a real impact on your community.

Whether you volunteer at a women's shelter, organize a rally, or join an educational club, there are many ways to get involved. <u>LiveYourDream.org</u>, for example, provides women's rights activists with <u>flexible opportunities</u> to spread awareness about important causes such as access to education, empowering girls, and ending violence against women.

#### 6. Protect yourself and other women from violence.

Violence against women is widespread. Consider the following:

**See if your local gym offers self-defense courses.** Learn how to protect yourself from violent situations. The courses might be fun and you can even bring some friends along with you!

**Raise awareness.** Post the above facts about violence against women on social media to help others understand the facts.

#### 7. Take yourself out on dates.

We often get so caught up in maintaining relationships with our friends and family that we forget to maintain relationships with ourselves—which arguably may be the most important relationship of all! Spend more time by yourself. Reflect on who you are as an individual—your insecurities, your dreams, your goals, etc. Schedule a regular date with yourself to eat at a restaurant you've always wanted to try, explore a bookstore you've never been to, or stay home and have a self-care night. What you learn about yourself can be applied to the rest of your goals.

#### **Bonus resolution**

Reminder to yourself: don't fret at the end of the year if you haven't accomplished everything on your list. Our lives change. Our goals change. Our circumstances change. And the things that make us happy change. It's never too early or too late to change your resolutions throughout the year to make them work for you!

Annabelle Ink is a student at Pomona College. She loves to spend her time reading novels, baking chocolate chip cookies, and playing hide-and-seek with her border collie. https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/2023-new-years-resolutions-new-possibilities-into-action



#### **DID YOU KNOW**

Each December, Soroptimists are asked to support the 'PRESDENT'S APPEAL". Our Club members support this appeal each year and we normally don't hear anything more about the outcome. I thought I would look at the previous years' appeals and provide some information on the impact of these projects on women and girls in the world. Years 2011-2013, 2013-2015 have been summarized.

# 2011 -2013 BIRTHING IN THE PACIFIC PROJECT (BIP)

The BIP project was adopted to address the high maternal mortality ratio in Papua, New Guinea. The main focus of BIP was on education of health clinicians working in the midwifery area. As the project evolved and the funds became available, the scope of the project broadened in keeping with the new opportunities that arose.

Alice Wells **president at the time stated that** the intent was to train midwives and village birth attendants as it was critical in saving the lives of women and their newborns.

Research was begun into maternal health in PNG and into the National Health Department strategies to reduce the high maternal mortality ratio. SIA needed to build its credibility and seek opportunities for partnerships with organisations that were undertaking midwifery education.

Partnerships were developed with the newly formed National Reproductive Health Training Unit (RHTU) and the School of Medicine. Funds were presented to the RHTU to provide educational resources needed for training courses for midwifery health, clinicians teaching in universities, training schools, those working in hospitals and health centres and Community Health Worker (CHW) programs.

May Lamont, SISWP Federation Project Manager, stated that Birthing in the Pacific started as

a pilot project in one hospital and the became a program accepted by the National Health Department. The Project was completed in December 2016.

#### SOLAR COOKING and LIGHTING 2013 -2015

2013-2015 International project supported 7 projects across 3 continents -Asia, Africa and Australia (Oceania) with a focus on providing solar cooking and solar lighting fitting with SI Goal of improving the lives of women and girls though education, empowerment or enabling opportunities. This global appeal was supported by all 4 federations and raised over 135,000 pounds to provide direct support to over 5,000 beneficiaries; the majority of whom were female, children and the elderly.

The productive use of renewable energy in rural areas helped raise incomes and improved health by providing power to pump water stations for irrigation to process crops and power cottage industries as well as to light homes, schools, and hospitals.

#### THE PROJECTS

The first projects commenced in the autumn of 2014. The seven projects approved included: Fiji Solar Cookers, Musasa School (Uganda), Kinyaminagha School (Uganda), Papua New Guinea – Lighting the Way, Nepal Solar Lanterns, Mali Solar Power & Cooking and Fiji Solar Lanterns.

Fiji Solar Cookers resulted in nine parabolic solar cookers being installed across three rural locations with an estimated total of 260 beneficiaries. Children and women were given informal sessions on different forms of renewable energies and taught about how solar cookers work and the process of conversion. Fiji Solar Lanterns supplied 200 solar lamps with estimated beneficiaries of 800. The lanterns were supplied to the local Soroptimist clubs for distribution where needed.

The second project with 700 pupils was developed to provide solar cooking and solar lighting. The project was extended to provide laptops and a water system.

This extension of the project not only benefited the schools, but also the local community – a truly sustainable approach, contributing to economic, environmental and social impacts. Academic performance increased because study hours were extended and there was access to computers and the internet.

In another school with 700 pupils the project for solar cooking and solar lights was further extended to include computers and a safe water system. Benefits extended to the wider community and the delivery of a fully sustainable approach.

#### Papua New Guinea – Lighting the Way,

This project was a partnership between SI Bayside and the Soroptimist clubs in Papua New Guinea where 400 lanterns were distributed to an estimated 1,600 beneficiaries

**Nepal Solar Lanterns** in collaboration between local Soroptimists and Digdarsan Nepal supplied over 200 solar lanterns to those affected by an earthquake, resulting in an estimated 800 beneficiaries.

Mali Solar Power and Cooking saw the Soroptimist Alliance Club, Timbuktu, Mali, through Soroptimist International of Europe provided 20 households with solar power and 20 solar cookers. The aim here was to help reduce wood burning as fuel by 50%. The impact was the elimination of deforestation for this purpose; helped to create revenue generating activities for the women; improved the educational results of local school children by equipping them with light and power for studies; and improved security by 50% with the electrification of dwellings.

#### Educate to Lead Nepal 2015 - 2017

The International President's Appeal 2015 – 2017, supported projects in Nepal with a focus on improving the lives of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

SI Assistant Director of Advocacy at the time, Sharon Fisher explained: "Nepal is a small country of hills and valleys comprised of many small, isolated villages where 30 million of the poorest people in the world live. In rural Nepal educational and medical facilities are limited and many children are undernourished. With half the population under 23 years of age and around 40% under 18 (at that time) many women and girls faced a future largely dominated by caring for their families. The cost of tuition, uniforms and books meant that education was often unaffordable and if a family had the means to send a child to school, a son was given this opportunity before a daughter. Nepal is a source country for trafficking, and girls face the danger of being recruited for the brothels of India.

On April 25, 2015, a devastating earthquake displaced millions of people. As Soroptimists, we know that in a disaster, women and girls suffer disproportionately. We also know that education for women & girls is key to economic empowerment. The world community has set a deadline of 2030 for inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Educating women and girls in rural Nepal gives this and the next generation the tools and the opportunity to fight against continued poverty.

The four Soroptimist federations united to 'Educate to Lead Nepal' and were able to impact the lives of over 1,000 women and girls in Nepal.

#### **PROJECT**

The President's Appeal supported the **Australian Himalayan Foundation** (AHF) in order to improve educational outcomes in the Everest region. Teacher workshops were supported so that other teachers could be trained creating a sustainable program that provided training for 100 teachers. In addition, training took place in gender sensitivity that created awareness across the region of the gender issues in their communities with a view to reducing gender discrimination in the classroom.

#### Why Nepal?

#### **Removing Barriers to Education in Nepal**

This project was delivered by Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows in Reno, Nevada. The club learned about the lack of educational opportunities for girls in Nepal. Their initial goal was to build a dormitory and fund scholarships for girls to attend school. The dormitory allowed the girls to stay at school making it easier for them to gain an education. The club has continued to make a difference to the lives of the women and girls, funding clean cooking technology, solar generated electricity, computers, sanitary toilets and guidance in the development of a governing council to manage these changes. The 900 girls that have graduated from the programme so far have gone on to influence their children and families in the village as well as raise the standard of living for themselves. With the grant from the 'Educate to Lead: Nepal' President's Appeal, SI Truckee Meadows removed the barriers to education as girls moved into the dormitory for two years to attend school. Room & board, tuition, books, supplies and uniforms were all paid. Further, a micro lending programme was made available to them when they finished school, allowing them to start a small business. SI Truckee Meadows is fondly referred to by the village elders as the 'American Mothers' and similarly the club refers to Thulipokhari as 'our' village.

### The Tharu Women's Project

This was the third project chosen for support from the President's Appeal. The SI Oita-Midori Soroptimist club from Japan helped women from a particular area who were unjustly discriminated against as an indigenous minority. At the time, over 85% of the women were illiterate. Many women and girls were being abducted by human traffickers. The club built a training centre and began literacy classes, followed by other skills training to lead to income generating opportunities such as dress making and food preparation. Girls were offered scholarships for tuition and upon completion were offered micro credit loans. Now with 3 training centres, thousands of women have completed literacy courses.

With a grant from the Presidents Appeal, SI Oita-Midori offered computer literacy classes to women and girls. With the purchase of 20 computers, delivered late 2015, 80 women and 10 teachers were trained to use the computers during the first two years impacting on opportunities for income generation. The training was to continue over the coming five years with a final goal of training 200 women.

## Women of the Tharu village learning computer skills

In Maiti, Nepal. cross border trafficking of children/women is a huge social problem in Nepal. At the time, the number of women/children was believed to be as high as 12,000 per year. The National Human Rights Commission of Nepal (NHRC Nepal) stated that 13,000 girls/women were trafficked for sexual exploitation during 2013. Of this total number, over 40% are believed to be children under the age of 18 years. The NHRC Nepal also found evidence that the magnitude of trafficking in persons, especially of women and children, had increased following the earthquakes. Anuradha Koirala founded Maiti Nepal with her own savings. At the time of this project, she had rescued/saved over 29,000 women/ girls from the hands of traffickers. Support from Educate to Lead: Nepal allowed Maiti Nepal to invest in their transit house in Kailali District. 90 women were to benefit directly from room/board, counselling, income generation training & reintegration with many more benefiting indirectly.

#### Women Water and Leadership 2017-2019

SI Past President Appeal, @Women Water and Leadership', empowering communities with knowledge of sustainable farming methods.

This International Soroptimist President Appeal supported projects that educated, empowered and enabled women and girls with experiences and education needed to manage water resources and gain careers in water related fields.

#### .WATER IS LIFE

Safe, accessible water is crucial to preserving lifeAnnually, four billion people experience severe water scarcity. Additionally, 663 mil-lion people lack ready access to improved sources of drinking water (World Water Development Report 2016). Women and girls are disproportionately affected – instead of earning an income or attending school, they are forced to be the primary water carriers for their families.

#### WATER AND WOMEN

It is increasingly accepted that women must play an important role in water management and their position is vital in achieving equitable access to water for all, and for all uses. Despite positive steps taken in past decades, the potential contributions of women in water development remain largely untapped, inhibit-ing women's economic empowerment.

The initial plan was for projects that educated, empowered and enabled women and girls to lead in water, embracing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the targets set out in SDG 6: Water and sanitation, SDG 4: Education, and SDG 5: Gender Equality. The President's Appeal committed to promoting the inclusion of women in water resource governance as experts and leaders during all phases of the projects. Women would be equally involved in decision-making throughout the entire project cycle – from education and capacity building, through to design, implementation and monitoring.

The President's Appeal sought to reach the goal of raising £350,000 over two years, and to have improved, sustainable, accessible and affordable water products and services on five continents.

#### PROJECT ONE - MWIHOKO WOMEN

The first project to be supported by the President's Appeal 2017-2019, was the Mwihoko Women Group, in Kenya. This project was focused on improving access to agricultural information, clean energy and water to achieve better food security. 500 women farmers in Nakura County were involved in a transformative programme, and through training and capacity build-

ing, the women were educated in agriculture and modern farming techniques, helping to bring economic empowerment and support the women in moving from subsistence farming to selling their produce at market. The Mwihoko Women worked closely with the SI Union of Kenya to ensure the successful completion of the project, which ran for two years. The women learnt skills and techniques to aid crop maturity and increase agricultural yield. The project was to be extended to Kisumu, Kilifi, Kwale, and Machakos to increase food production while boosting low-income households.

#### **PROJECT TWO - WEWASH**

WeWash, was the second sustainable project undertaken. WeWash (Women Empowerment through Water, Sanitation, and Health), reshaped the lives of unemployed and low-income women and girls in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. Soroptimist donations to the Appeal funded a programme that increased access to safe water and sanitation, whilst supporting the provision of nutritious food for the women and girls. Through education, coaching programmes and leadership training, WeWash supported the equitable involvement of women in decision-making, increasing employability for 100 women, and equipping a minimum of 30 women with the skills to run small -scale businesses in the alternative sanitation sector.

#### PROJECT THREE - LONG TANYIT, MALAYSIA

SI President (at the time) Mariet Verhoef-Cohen 9 visited a rural village in Sarawak, Malaysia. This community was living with no clean water for drinking or cooking, no electricity, no sanitation and no medical clinic.

Threatened by consistent logging, which was harming the rich biodiversity of the area and polluting vital sources of drinking water, the rural community was in need of support. A project proposal was drafted and accepted with steps taken to make it a reality.

The 2017-2019 President's Appeal educated, empowered and enabled women and girls to improve access to water and increase food security, whilst contributing to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7, on the challenges of poverty, food security, access to education, gender equality, access to water.

## PROJECT FOUR - SULAWESI AND LOM-BOK, INDONESIA

A major earthquake and tsunami hit the island of Sulawesi in September 2018, devastating the regional capital Palu and surrounding areas. Palu, home to 350,000, was flattened by the tsunami and the city and its surrounding area faced a public health crisis as access to water and clean sanitation was limited. More than 74,000 people were displaced and many lost their lives. SI President Mariette Verhoef-Cohen and SISWP Federation President Anusha Santhirasthipam made an official visit to Indonesia in February 2019, to witness first-hand the conditions in both the Palu and Lombok area, and to made plans for the 4th Project from the Women, Water & Leadership Appeal.

As you can see, the variety of projects and their impact on women and girls around the world is quite diverse. My first thought on reading about these projects was that I sure am happy that I won the lottery by being born in Canada. My second thought was about how proud I am to be a Soroptimists helping women and girls around the world by endeavouring to address their basic needs. I'm not sure if you noticed that there were programs where the participants had access to micro loans. In 2008, a number of SI Thunder Bay club members' pooled their money (\$425) to become a lender. Our club has become International Financiers giving out micro loans to 145 groups in 36 countries. Lee Ann manages this for us.

In a future article I will write about the President Appeals 2019 – 2021 "The Road to Equality 2019-2021" and 'Opening Doors to a Bright Future 2021-2023"

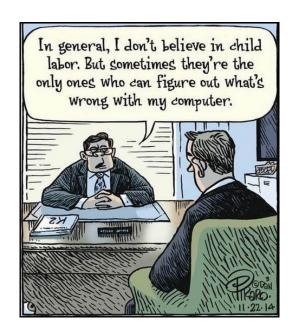
Cheryl Ball

# Welcome January

January is a time of quiet and new beginnings - is the perfect time to reflect on how you want to live your life.

January is the perfect time to refocus on your priorities and set goals.

Think Positive Words



## International Friendship and

#### Goodwill

The club received a newsletter from SI Wichita and a Christmas card from SI Gifu Japan.

Christmas cards were mailed out to all sister clubs.

Clarification of Club president and address was requested.

Regards

Lee Ann Nalezyty, chair

## SI Thunder Bay Club Meeting

January 11th, 2023 Via zoom 7 p.m.

#### **AGENDA**

Call to order Cindy

Minutes of the Nov. 9, 2022 (no business in December 2022) Melanie

Treasurer's Report (Nov. & Dec. 2022) Lorrie

Correspondence

Cindy

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** 

ECR Spring Conference May 5-7<sup>th</sup> 2023 Brantford Cindy

FUNDRAISING Kathleen & Shirley

Two Bit Auction – April 27, 2023 Kathleen

\$500.00 Gift Card Raffle (deferred until Spring 2023) Kathleen

PROGRAM Judy P

Live Your Dream Judy P.

Dream It, Be It Devona

MEMBERSHIP Kim and Faith

SI Policies & Procedures Melanie

Bylaws deferred (with Sharon Godwin)

Cindy

PUBLIC RELATIONS Faith

Replacement for Faith? Cindy

**OTHER BUSINESS** 

Feb. 8, 2023 meeting in person or ZOOM? Cindy

**NEW BUSINESS** 

Books Faith

Christmas Auction monies to club or conference? Cindy

**Birthdays:** Sharon Godwin – January 19th

## Pledge for Eastern Canada Region

We are Soroptimists committed to: the sincerity of friendship, the joy of achievement, the dignity of service, the integrity of profession, the love of country. We will put forth our best efforts to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.