



## 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".*

### Soroptimist Thunder Bay Club Meeting Wednesday,

**Feb 9th**

**at 7 pm**

Zoom meeting

### A Conversation with Cheryl



As I write this the Scottie's has commenced. Hopefully, everyone will be watching their "screens". I know some will be glued to the Scottie's curlers, or shortly to the Winter Olympics, but hopefully they will take a few minutes to look at our "Sweet Dreams Auction" site. I want to thank all the SI Club members who supported our Club's signature fundraiser with the donations of the wonderful selection of items up for grabs. A HUGE THANK YOU goes to Lauren for being our "Sweet Dreams Auction" spokesperson on "Around Town". You did an amazing job Lauren! Thanks also to Marlene for being Lauren's coach. A very special thank you goes out to Kathleen and George, Shirley, Crissy and Faith for all their hard work in making sure our auction is a success! Thank you to Judy P. and Melanie for posting the information about our auction. Saying "thanks" doesn't seem like enough. I hope everyone involved with the auction knows how much we appreciate all the work and effort that has been put into making this a successful fundraiser!.

Now as the saying goes "many hands make light work". Ladies, please put your hands together in other words "hit the keys" on your devices and spread the word about our auction. The success of our "Sweet Dreams" auction is now literally in your hands to drum up interest resulting in many bids; and fingers crossed that some items will go for more than suggested retail value. The money raised will help us realize the Soroptimist vision "that women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams".

#### Items of interest:

- Did you know
- Public awareness
- Sick and visiting
- Request for sister club
- Sweet dreams auction
- SIA Tea party



#### Inside this Issue:

- Conversation with President Cheryl
- Minutes of Jan 12

Speaking of “dreams” – how do you envision our Club assisting women and girls to be successful in achieving their individual dreams of economic empowerment? Are there any projects or activities that we could/should consider undertaking? For example, is there something that we can/could do with regard to the young women who “age out” of the foster care system. In Dana Leeder’s January presentation to our Club members, she provided a number of ideas and areas of need. We will discuss this further at our February 9, 2022 general meeting.

Yes there is a lot of excitement in the air. Thunder Bay has been showcased in a very positive light during the Scottie’s broadcasts. Who knows, perhaps folks in Ontario and Canada will no longer confuse North Bay with Thunder Bay! The twenty-four hour news channels are saying that the Omicron variant is/or has peaked; I know that Thunder Bay is a few weeks behind southern Ontario. I have my fingers crossed that we will soon be able to once again gather in person! In the meantime, I am thankful for zoom and our ability to meet virtually! Thank you Judy for sending out the invitations to all our zoom meetings!

Don’t forget to remind your family and friends about the “Sweet Dreams” auction. Bidding starts soon! I am sure you wouldn’t want your friend to miss out on bidding for his/her favorite item. Heck, there might be something you’d like to bid on for yourself or someone close to you. All you have to do is warm up your fingers and prepare to send out reminders to your circle of friends and family! I almost want to end with what the announcers say at the beginning of the Daytona car race - “start your engines – ready, set, and go!” After all, “Sweet Dreams Auction 22” is almost here!

Take care and be safe (as the new saying goes)

Cheryl

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### Treasurers Report

The treasurers report will no longer be included in the newsletter. It will be emailed separately to the members by the treasurer.

## Soroptimist International of Thunder Bay

Minutes of Club Meeting held January 12, 2022, via Zoom, 7 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**We had 21 members present:** Cheryl Ball, Karen Bortolin, Cindy Figus, Linda Adams, Judy Perrier, Kim Koivukoski, Judy Anderson, Lorrie Haslam, Kathleen Rismondo, Faith Crichton, Shirley Smith, Joan Taddo, Lee-Ann Nalezty, Melanie Cates, Marilyn Fenwick, Sharon Godwin, Karen Lynn Evans, Lauren Buttman, and Maxine Tenander.

**Dana Leeder from the Children's Aid Society was our guest speaker.** She gave an overview of CAS and spoke about what happens to young people who age out of their system. There is little help for their young people over the age of 21, however, because of Covid, a temporary system to help has been established. They receive only \$850 per month. As CAS funding comes from the province, their young people are not allowed to access federal government support.

The average age of children in their care is 14.5 and 15% of them live independently. The support that they need is housing, financial, groceries, personal hygiene products, transportation.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Cindy stated that the Treasurer's report will no longer be printed in the newsletter and will send it out directly to members.

Cindy went over the December report. The club's deficit is shown at \$200. As per our usual practice she put the proceeds from our Christmas penny auction and 50/50 in Conference Funds, but at the last Board meeting it was decided to put these monies in Club Funds. This change will be reflected on the January report. The bottle drive is almost at the \$1,000 mark.

We presently do not have Directors & Officers insurance. Eastern Canada Region does have this coverage and we can get in on theirs. To be included in their coverage we have sent a cheque for \$300 for the calendar year 2022. Cindy will review the multi-page insurance policy and advise what the indemnification amount is for each board member and will advise the Club.

### **Correspondence**

Cheryl checked our mail box and found nothing important once again. The need for the mail box was discussed and the cost of the mailbox will be reviewed for next year's budget. We believed that we needed to have a permanent address, however, Cindy learned that a post office box was not an acceptable permanent address when she filed the Trust documents and had to use her home address on the documents.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Spring Conference 2022**

A meeting with ECR just held to discuss Spring Conference. It was decided that a letter is going out in the next few days to all club presidents who are to ask their club members who would be willing to fly to Thunder Bay for our conference and who would be willing to attend virtually? We should know by Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> if our conference will be hybrid or virtual. We have 22 members registered but that number includes the ECR board and our own club members. There is a good possibility that we will be virtual because of Covid. Governor Jennifer asked would our club would consider hosting Spring Conference in 2023. Maxine told her that she did not think that our club would want to do that, but the club would have to make the final decision.

### **Trust Committee**

Cindy has the checklist for trust registration. She sought advice from the London and Cambridge clubs as they have recently gone through the registration process.

We are to supply a list of which businesses would donate to us if we had charitable status. She needs a list of names and business numbers, and asked members to submit them to her if they know of any.

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Sweet Dreams Auction**

Kathleen has picked up the data stick from Chrissy with all of the photos of the auction items. Chrissy has done a great deal of work for us. George and Kathleen have spent many hours inputting the items on to the 32Auction site.

We are now at 47 items! Two \$100 gift cards to local restaurants just came in. Cheryl thanked Kathleen on behalf of the club for all of her efforts.

Lauren will doing the "Around Town" Zoom interview on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Melanie will look after the Facebook advertising. Faith said that she sent in the ad to The Coffee News, arranged for advertisement in The Source for Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, and arranged to advertising in the "What To Do" section in the newspaper which will run for two weeks.

## **PROGRAM**

### **Live Your Dream**

We have received only one application. Judy went on the SIA email to check for any others. The deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>. She send an email to the one people who had requested an application.

Judy will contact Dana Leeder (from CAS) to see if she knows anyone who might be apply.

## MEMBERSHIP

### SI Policies & Procedures

Lee-Ann provided an update on her request to ECR and SIA for information on how other SI Clubs handle their club's "Policy and Procedures". SIA replied that they leave that up to individual clubs. Bonnie Domonchuk (ECR Membership Chair) replied that she had been looking into this matter as well. Lee-Ann will be contacting Bonnie to discuss the matter. Further, Lee-Ann will contact Western Canada Region regarding this matter. She will report back on her findings.

**Christmas Dinner meeting** – Judy A. and Kim were very pleased with the wonderful Christmas party. Thank you to Marilyn for arranging the use of the common room and to Shirley and Kathleen for organizing the Penny Auction and 50/50.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Women's magazine** – has been sent out to the region and to SIA.

Susan Peirce (ECR Webmistress) would like to put on the ERC website. Faith will first ask Heather Peden if we can do that, and will request a digital copy that can be sent to Susan Peirce. If a digital copy is not possible, Karen offered to scan the article and email it to her.

**ECR President's Meeting** - Cheryl said that the meeting had been postponed but will happen on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Monthly Tea/Coffee Break Zoom Chats** – Lee-Ann is willing but would like to know if members are interested in doing this again. She will send out an email asking members which days and times would work best for them.

**United National International Day of Education on January 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Faith sent an article to the Chronicle Journal about the UN International Day of Education including a blurb about SI Thunder Bay and the signature programs of LYD and DIBI. Faith hopes to have the article published in the "Our Stories" section.

**International Women's Day – March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of our club partnering with another organization for 2022 event. Karen Lynn advised that she is on the PARO organizing committee for a province-wide Women's Day virtual event. She will look into whether our Club could participate in this event and report back to the membership.

We said the pledge and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## DID YOU KNOW

I recently read an article entitled “VIOLET RICHARDSON-WARD, FIRST SOROPTIMIST PRESIDENT” by Anna M. Curren, M.A. PH.D SI San Diego Club Member. You can find the whole article on the SI San Diego website.

While reading this article, I couldn't help but think why didn't I find this article before I did all that research on the beginning of the Soroptimist organization. Well as the saying goes, “that is what under the bridge”. I had always wondered about the personal side of Violet Richardson. I knew she was an innovator in Physical Education field for women. After all she had a Master's degree by 1916 – likely unheard of for a woman in those days. .

I'm not sure if I touched on Violet's early life in my previous “Did You Know” articles. Violet was the youngest of three children. Her parents were described as an emancipated couple who had total respect for each other and concern for those less fortunate. Her parents actually met while working with William Booth in London. (Booth had founded the Salvation Army.) Violet's mother was self-educated. Her father was educated by his winning many scholarships and held responsible positions in early telegraphic work. This led him to work for the railroads in America.

Violet at the age of 12 travelled with her father to Mexico City where she met the President of Mexico. The same year she went with her father to Washington D.C. to see President McKinley inaugurated. While In Washington, her father took her to the slums that existed in the streets surrounding the capital buildings to broaden her perspective. The article says that her parents were unique in that they provided non-stop intellectual stimulation for the whole family by inviting unknown but interesting guests for dinner.

I found the following tidbit amusing; it said that Violet's father took his family to the Methodist Church. He dressed as a proper English gentleman, sat always in the front row. If the sermon did not please him, he stood up and he and the family left. Can you imagine the commotion that would have caused!

It is said that Violet had a “persistent streak” that was unmatched by her elder siblings Daisy and Stanley. While Violet was pursuing her education, she taught physical education classes to under classmen. She discovered that she was being paid \$20.00 a month by the university when a man who merely took attendance was paid \$40.00 a month. Violet insisted on equal pay and when they refused, she quit. The University re-hired her at \$40.00 a month, but paid the man \$60.00. Violet quit again. She did not return to teaching until the University Board of Regents signed an employment contract guaranteeing her an equal salary each month. There are many instances of Violet standing up or ignoring the status quo to protest inequalities of implement her ideas such as allowing her female students to wear bloomers while playing basketball.

It is noted that in 1914, Violet's father decided that she needed a car to help her in her work. She was one of the earliest car owners in Oakland area. She was hired as Supervisor of Health and Physical Education by the Berkeley School District. She established physical education classes for boys and girls in grade school and classes for girls at Berkley High School, In addition to her school work, she wrote Sunday supplements for the San Francisco Chronicle, the Oakland Gazette, and the Berkley Gazette, but received no writing credit. This didn't bother Violet as she felt it important to get her opinion out on issues of importance to her. She participated in many issues involving women, physical education and civil rights in the Bay area.

To say she stood out is an understatement. Violet was quite tall and her stature added to her forceful personality resulted in her having considerable influence in all the causes that attracted her.

Now for Violet's Soroptimist work. Violet at 33 was one of the 10 women who met to form the Club. It is said that many of the members voting for Club President were Violet's former students who voted for her. Violet liked to tell the story that she broke the tie on the third ballot by voting for herself.

Since Violet had a car, she remained active in many of the Bay area Soroptimist Clubs. Driving conditions were of interest. The Berkeley SI Club set up the first driving school in their city in 1932. They also insisted on having white center lines painted on the highways. In the same year, this club proposed a fingerprinting plan and contributed money to launch this plan. When the plan was adopted, the members of the Club were the first ones to be fingerprinted. Of course they are known for the "Save the Redwoods" campaign. The club raised "\$5,000.00 (a considerable amount of money at any time.) This amount was matched by the State of California resulting in the purchase and preservation of a grove of 7,6000,000 feet of old grove redwoods and 30,000 feet of trees. This grove was dedicated on August 14, 1949 as the Soroptimist Grove. SI Thunder Bay can say we have a Soroptimist Grove too!

Violet's volunteer endeavours included a variety of organizations. She found that she simply couldn't continue with so many commitments. Her mother encouraged her to remain with Soroptimists and is quoted as saying "There you shall be able to sit between a Catholic and a Jew, and this will be a broadening influence; make friends with other women in addition to educators, artists, physicians, lawyers and women of all

occupations, then you will learn a lot that can be applied to your own occupation."

It should be noted that Violet's parents were role models Violet always emulated. I found it interesting that Violet (age 38) met her husband Stanley at a meeting of the Eastern Star in 1926. When Stanley arrived at Violet's home for a first date, she had forgotten and was out at one of her functions. Stanley spent the evening chatting with her mother Lucie. Lucie was clearly impressed with Stanley for when Violet returned home her mother said "You better marry that man." In fact, Violet did marry Stanley that same year at midnight in her mother's garden with only the two mothers in attendance. Violet referred to Stanley as her "friend-husband". Violet and Stanley lived with Violet's mother. Their only child a son named John was born in December 1927 and his grandmother Lucie took care of him while Stanley and Violet both continued to work.

Over the following years, both Stanley and Violet continued with their civic activities. Their son John grew up married and had 4 children. He divorced his first wife and married a woman with 4 children. Violet treated all 8 grandchildren as their own and was active in their lives.

Many accolades were bestowed on Violet over the years by Soroptimist. In 1971, Violet, Stanley and a granddaughter Sandra travelled to Rome for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Soroptimist celebrations. Soroptimists from all over the world were thrilled to meet Violet. She was presented a silver tray which she is said to have treasured for the balance of her life. On her way home, Violet and Sandra attended a Garden Party hosted by Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace. Stanley was not invited.

I should note that none of the female offspring of Violet and Stanley have been involved in Soroptimist yet. As the article says, "There is always hope for the future. Cheryl

## READY! SET! GO!

The stage is set and we are ready to roll out the goods. FORTY SEVEN items valued at \$6,589.00 soon to be showcased on our 2nd annual SWEET DREAMS AUCTION February 11th-17th. Prices range from \$35.00-\$360.00 with the lowest opening bid of \$15.00 and the highest at \$110.00, there is something to suit every budget. The wide variety of items include electronics, art, jewellery, gift certificates, appliances, home decor, accessories, sport memorabilia, locally crafted items, lotto tickets, eco-friendly goods, which are sure to appeal to a wide demographic. Thanks to our P.R. Department, along with our members, word out on the street is this epic event is something not to be missed. By supporting the, "LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD," together we can make a difference, empowerment through education, all while having fun. Let the bidding begin!

Co- Chairs Fundraising  
Shirley and Kathleen



Set your clocks for the second annual Sweet Dreams Online Auction.

There are 47 items valued at over \$6,000.00 on the auction block! Auction starts February 11, 2022 @ 9:00 AM and ends February 17, 2022 @ 9:00 PM

Visit our site to preview items and create your account for bidding [www.32auctions.com/dreams22](http://www.32auctions.com/dreams22)

Successful bids can be paid by e-transfer or cash

Proceeds support our Live Your Dream Bursary Fund.



## Public Awareness

All the promotion for the Dreams22 auction have been completed. Thank you again to Lauren for her spot on Around Town. Here are the dates of the submissions once again:

Chronicle Journal: **What to do section:** February 2-5 and 9-12

**The Source** (poster): February 4th

Radio, **Country 105/ 99.9:** Jan. 28-February 4th and February 4-11. (Goes Friday to Friday)

**Dougall media** about another add on tv. I sent her the information for the auction and it will be aired on the events calendar. Please add this to the newsletter update .

Thank you to Melanie and Judy for the on- line exposure and to all members for sharing the poster with friends and family!! An exciting time coming up.

Faith

**What  
TO Do**

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL THUNDER  
BAY** invites you to their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sweet  
Dreams Virtual Auction, from February 11-  
17, 2022. Support Soroptimist Thunder

## Sick and Visiting

It sounds like January has been pretty good to most of our members. At least the ones that I have been in touch with.

Lee Ann is happy, happy ,happy that she is feeling much better.

Let's hope that maybe we will soon be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Those whom I didn't get in touch with I hope

you all have been safe and well.

**Shirley**

I spoke to Yvonne this week. She will be 90 years old in July and is so happy to be alive. She is well and at home supported by community agencies. She asked that I say hello to everyone for her.

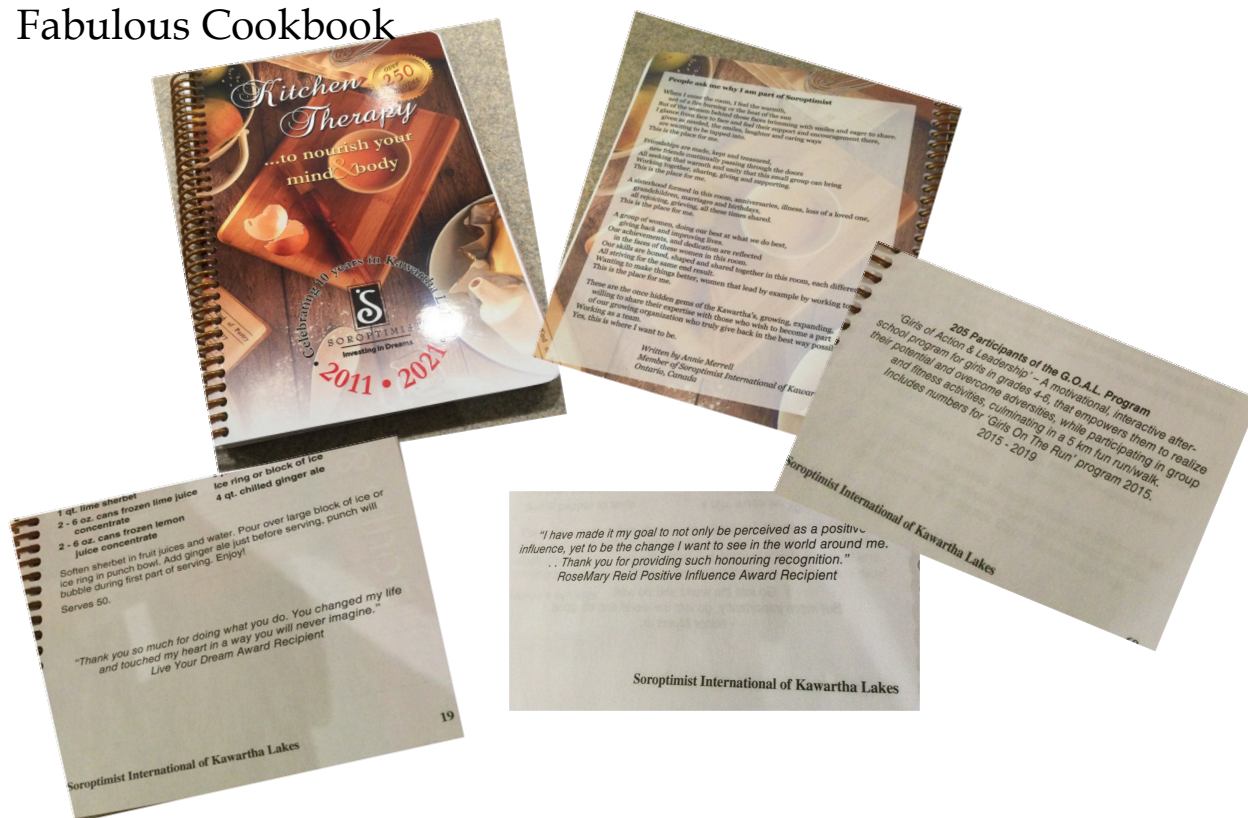
Lee Ann

## Call out to our clubs in ECR *SI Lightning Ridge, Australia*

Our Club is interested in becoming a sister club with any of your clubs in Eastern Canada. I emigrated to Australia in 1977 to marry an Australian and for the past 44yrs have lived in the outback in New South Wales, Australia. I joined SI Lightning Ridge (one and half hours away from our property), in 1991. I have held the positions of President(3 times) Secretary for four years, Delegate for four years, Treasurer for four years and Member for 31yrs. All of our members come from various walks of life and experiences which we feel enrich our lives and the club. If any of the clubs would like to become a penpal, please let me know. In the meantime, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay Safe and Well -

Cheers Mary Casey-Marshall - Secretary (Find the club on line and one of their biggest fundraisers at <https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/>).

## Fabulous Cookbook



SI Karwatha Lakes has produced a great cookbook fundraiser.

The captions and stories throughout the book provides a glance into the many activities carried out by the club. Order the book from their club.

Melanie served me the recipe below when we were discussing our policies and procedures. Since it is not in the Karwatha cook book, I wanted to share it here. Enjoy

## **Chocolate oatmeal cake**

Preheat oven to 350 F

1 cup boiling water

1/2 cup rolled oats

Soak oats in hot water

1/2 cup butter

1 1/2 cups brown sugar

4 Tbsp cocoa

2 eggs

1tsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

1 cup flour

1 tsp vanilla

1 tsp salt



Beat butter and cocoa well together. Add brown sugar, flour, eggs, baking powder, soda, salt and vanilla. Add oats and mix well

Bake in 9 x 9 greased pan for 35 minutes

Icing was 1tbsp butter, 2tbsp cocoa, 2/3 cup icing sugar, 1/2 tsp vanilla and enough milk to make the icing spreadable (start with 1 tsp and add more if needed)





# Every Restaurant & Bar Should Have This in The Ladies Room

FRISCO  
THE **BAR** & GRILL

## **Are you on a Date that isn't going Well?**

Is your **DATE** not who they said they were in their  
profile?

Do you feel **UNSAFE** or even a bit weird?

Is someone **BOTHERING** you or making you feel  
**UNCOMFORTABLE?**

**We're here to help, just go the bar or ask your  
server for an **ANGEL SHOT**.**

**NEAT** – someone will escort you to your vehicle.

**DRESSED** – someone will call you an Uber or Lift.

**WITH LIME** – we will **call the local police**.

**We will handle things discretely, and without a lot of fuss. (We want  
you to know that you are in a safe place and in good hands)**



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

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.®**

SI Thunder Bay Board Meeting  
February 9, 2022, Via zoom , 7 p.m.

**AGENDA**

Call to order	Cheryl
Why did you join Soroptimists	
Minutes of the Jan12 meeting	Karen
Treasurer's Report	Cindy
Correspondence	Cheryl

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Spring Conference 2022	Maxine & Kim
Trust Committee	Cindy

**FUNDRAISING**

Sweet Dreams Auction	Kathleen & Shirley
Regional Template for Fundraising events	Cheryl

**PROGRAM**

<b>Live Your Dream</b>	<b>Judy P</b>
	Judy
Invite a potential Member to LYD event	Cheryl
Follow Up Support for LYD Winner	Cheryl
<b>Dream It Be It Update</b>	
Vulnerable Sector Criminal Check	
Big Goal Accelerator Project	Cheryl

**MEMBERSHIP**

SI Policies &amp; Procedures

New Member Orientation (deferred)

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

SI Thunder Bay Letterhead wording (deferred)

Women's Magazine – Soroptimist Celebrating Success

UN International Day of Education

**Other Business**ECR Presidents' January 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting Update

Coffee &amp; Chat Zoom Chats

March 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day

Children's Aid Society – Next Steps

**NEW BUSINESS**

Club President

Sister Club Request see Cheryl's Feb. 2, 2022 email

Any Other Business

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.

**Kim and Judy**

Lee Ann &amp; Melanie

Cheryl

**Faith**

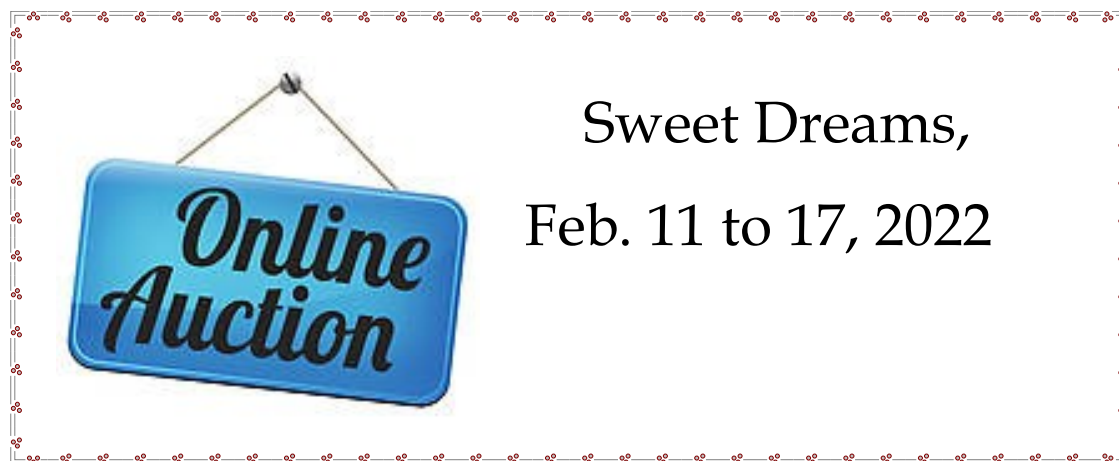
Faith

Faith

Cheryl

Lee Ann

Lorrie



## You're Invited!

Join SIA for a special tea party celebrating women's empowerment on *International Women's Day*! We encourage you to sip a cup of tea and wear your fanciest



hat, pearls and gloves while enjoying a festive and inspirational program featuring a variety of Soroptimist leaders and members. Program will be interpreted in all SIA languages.

- DATE: International Women's Day – Tuesday, March 8, 2022
- TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
- COST: Free

LOCATION: Zoom (*Note: Zoom space is limited, however tea party will also stream live on SIA Facebook page during event*)

GET INVOLVED: Download and share invitation

Source: <https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/whats-new/2022/best-for-women-february-2022.html>



**Are you interested in participating at the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women? Here's your chance! Dates are March 14 to 25, 2022.**

Given the unique circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, no formal registration is needed for CSW66 and virtual attendance is open to all.

### Themes will include:

Priority theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

Review theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

If interested in attending, email Wanda Price, SIA Representative to the SI Advocacy Committee at: [wprice4121@aol.com](mailto:wprice4121@aol.com).

Source: <https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/whats-new/2022/csw66.html>