



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,

**April 13th
at 7 pm**

In person/Zoom meeting

Items of interest:

- Did you know
- Show us the money
- Girls aging out
- Free the girls
- Sick and visiting
- TBSO
- Volunteer week



Inside this Issue:

- Conversation with President Cheryl
- Minutes of March 9
- Agenda

A Conversation with Cheryl



As I write this article I can't help but think of the late Madeleine Albright. She passed away a short time ago. She was a trailblazer. There are many famous quotes attributed to her. I am going to mention a few of her quotes that I think about from time to time:

.Madeleine is quoted as saying ***“I have said this many times, that there seems to be enough room in the world for mediocre men, but not for mediocre women, and we really have to work very, very hard”:***

“Women can't do everything at the same time; we need to understand milestones in our lives come in segments.”

This quote applies to the majority of women who often have to juggle a number of sometime conflicting priorities such as work, children, family life, and aging parents and so on. I think that's why this statement resonates with me!

It wasn't until recently when Maxine mentioned that she thought men were better at networking than women were that I thought of this quote ***“I think women are really good at making friends and not good at networking. Men are good at networking and not necessarily at making friends”.*** SI Thunder Bay members are hoping to change that when we have our Charitable Trust up and running. We hope to partner with other organizations. This may allow us to do projects that have a larger impact on women and girls!! We are currently in holding pattern – two months and counting. Apparently, we should anticipate a wait of at least 6 months after the filing our Charitable Trust documents with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to hear back from them. Still counting.... .

Originally I was going to start my article with this quote “**and just remember – there’s a special place in hell for women who don’t help each other.**” I am smiling because I know I talk in circles but now I see that I do it when writing an article. It took all these lines for me to get to my main message that when women help other women and girls the results are outstanding!! Of course, I’m not worried about the afterlife since as a Soroptimist, I have witnessed with my very own eyes the impact that our hard work has made on the lives of women and girls in our fair city!

Did you know that SI Europe’s first Soroptimist “e-Club Milano Net Lead was chartered on January 16, 2021? It is made up of a motivated and determined group of women all **under the age of 35**. Yeah!! It made me think about the Soroptimist International Atlantic Club that is currently being formed. It will be a virtual club. Governor Jennifer went to Halifax in early March and met with a number of the women who will be charter

members of this virtual Soroptimist Atlantic club. The SIA requires twelve members to form a new club. Governor Jennifer stated that she is very hopeful that the new club will be chartered in June of this year! It makes me happy to think of all the Soroptimist women young and old who have the common goal of making a difference in the lives of women and girls!

Speaking of helping “girls” – the Children’s Aid Society “Girls - Aging out of Foster Care” committee has been formed. The first committee meeting was held on March 23. These committee members are very excited about their plans they have for helping the girls. In this edition of our newsletter, you will be hearing more about their exciting plans.

While we are on the topic of “girls”, check out our Face Book page to see the photo of Judy P, Kathleen and Faith delivering the 165 new or gently used bras to Eco Superior. Our club partnered with Eco Superior for an International Women’s Day project to help “Free the Girls” a non-profit organization that supports victims of human trafficking by enabling them to sell the gently used bras in the market place. THANK YOU Judy for your work on this project!! It was heartwarming to be able to help these women and girls!!

By now, you likely have heard from one of the Nominating Committee members. Maxine will be presenting the Nominating Committee’s report at our May meeting. It is not too late to let your name stand for a position on the board. If you are unsure of what positions are open, please feel free to contact Joan, Karen B. or Maxine for more information.

Have you registered for our virtual Eastern Canada Spring Conference May 16 and 19th, 2022? There is still time. This year’s theme (that our Club picked two years ago) is “Soroptimists Building Superior Friendships”. Maxine Kim and their committee members have worked on an “in person” spring conference on and off for a very long time!! Thank you, thank you to all the Conference Committee members for all your hard work!! Now with a virtual conference, our Club’s responsibilities are limited to the key note speaker as well as the game to be played. Please consider registering for this “free” event. The Club will be covering the registration fee which I believe is \$50.00.

When I originally started this article, the sun was shining! Spring was in the air! Today it looks like a snowy day leading up to Christmas with the trees boughs laden with snow! Where is spring? The calendar has indicated that spring has officially arrived some weeks ago. Let’s hope our new song won’t be “snow, snow go away, come again another day” like the childhood rhyme that says “rain, rain go away come again another day!” We want the snow to go and stay away until the fall.

While I'd like to say that there are "hints of spring", alas I can't. However, I can remind you that we will be celebrating our Club's May birthday on Friday, May 13 at the Courthouse Hotel. Judy P. and her committee are finalizing plans for a dinner and some fun activities followed by a sleep over for those who wish to. It reminds me of a pajama birthday party I attended as a young girl. Stay tuned for more information on this evening which is sure to be fun and will elicit a lot of laughter! I seem to recall that doctors say that "belly laughs" are the best medicine and I couldn't agree more!

Of course April this year means Easter! I hope you all have a wonderful Easter where you are able to make special memories with family and friends! I am excited about being able to gather with family and not have to worry about capacity restrictions! Yes, spring may be a while off, but surely the sun will shine, the snow will melt and the gardens will come back to life! It is an exciting time for our Club. The seeds of new Soroptimist projects and ideas have been planted. There is work to be done to ensure these "seeds of project ideas" "flourish. I can't wait to see what "fruits" our Soroptimist Club garden brings forth. I know it will be amazing and it will impact many women and girls!

Happy Spring and Happy Easter to you and your families!

Cheryl

SI THUNDER BAY CLUB MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2022 - Via zoom - 7 pm

Present: Cheryl Ball, Marlene Crago, Karen Bortolin, Judy Perrier, Linda Adams, Shirley Smith, Cindy Figus, Lee-Ann Nalezty, Joan Taddo, Lorrie Haslam, Kathleen Rismondo, Judy Anderson, Faith Crichton, Melanie Cates, Marilyn Fenwick, Maxine Tenander, Karen Lynn Evans

Guests: Marlene Gammond, Devonna Crowe, Tina Bennett

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

Judy Perrier introduced our 2022 Live Your Dream Winner, Marlene Gammond.

Marlene was asked to tell us a little about herself. She shared that she had been a PSW worker for 15 years and decided to go back to school to become a Social Service Worker. She has finished the first year of her studies. She is a single mom and has two teenagers living at home. Kathleen, Devonna, and Melanie spoke to offer congratulations and best wishes. Our club was pleased with our winner, and felt that Judy P and Linda did an excellent job in finding us a worthy recipient of our award.

Karen introduced her friend Tina Bennett, one of our guests this evening. Devona Crowe needed no introduction as we met her last month and she will be joining our club next year.

Minutes of the Feb. 9th Club Meeting – It was moved by Karen, seconded by Judy P., that the minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter. Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Cindy went over the February financial report and was happy to point out that the Club funds are no longer in the negative thanks to the 15% of the funds raised by the Sweet Dreams Auction.

Why Did You Join Soroptimist? Shirley, Karen Lynn, Cheryl, Maxine, Lee-Ann, Judy P. told us how they were introduced to Soroptimist. At our meeting in April the rest of our members will be given an opportunity to share their story.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Spring Conference 2022 - The conference will be held virtually on May 16th and 19th. Maxine arranged for a guest speaker, Lana Bullough, to speak for 30 minutes on one of the evenings. Our original speaker does not do virtual speaking but will honour her contract with us by speaking at our special event in the fall. The Courthouse Hotel is also honouring its contract with us and we will make use of the venue for our fall event – the date available is Saturday, October 15th. Maxine will be having a meeting with ECR Governor Jennifer Oliver to clarify things to make sure that we are all on the same page. The Conference Committee will meet virtually on Wednesday, March 30th. Maxine told us that our club's duties for the conference will only be the entertainment portions of the agenda. Lorrie and Kathleen are working on the quiz for one of the evenings, and Judy P. and Karen are trying to come up with some fun thing to do on the other evening. Lee-Ann asked if members could gather to take part in the virtual conference. Maxine responded that members have usually taken part in their home on their own device, but there would probably not be problem if some members were together.

Trust Committee Cindy told us that there were no changes to report and reminded us that it could take six months before we hear back from the Government about our application.

FUNDRAISING

Sweet Dreams Auction - Kathleen declared that the auction a success and the financial report for the auction showed that we raised almost the same amount as last year. The popular items were the lottery tickets and gift cards. Kathleen asked the successful bidders how they learned about our auction was told that they heard from SI members and from Faith's good efforts on getting the word out – on the radio, on TV with "Around Town", in The Source, and in the "What To Do" column in the paper. Thank you cards have been sent out the donors of the auction items (members were thanked in the newsletter). Our photographer Chrissy was been presented with a Michael's gift card as a token of our appreciation – she did a great job.

Yard Sale - We discussed having a yard sale. The members approved taking on the yard sale with a show of hands. Judy A. will confirm with the CLE that we want the Cardinal Room for Saturday, Sept. 24th. Lorrie had asked Joan Taddo if we could store some of the yard sale items in her garage over the summer and Joan agreed that we can.

Jewelry Sale - A little background info for new members – Faith’s friend Rob is a widower whose late wife was really into jewelry. Rob didn’t know what to do with it all, so he generously turned it over to Faith to sell to benefit our club. Faith had a private sale at her house a couple of years ago, but still has a lot left – Sherman pieces, costume jewelry, and some gold and silver items. Faith is going to do another sale - first by emailing pictures of some of the pieces of jewelry to club members (members can share the photos with family and friends, then they can email Faith back if there is an interest), and then Faith will put out a jewelry display at our April meeting. There are a lot of quality pieces that can be obtained for a very reasonable prices.

ECR Fundraising Chair Meeting Feb 28/22 update -

Some of the other clubs in ECR shared what they were doing and Cheryl reported on some of those fundraising ideas. They also discussed SIA’s Big Dream Campaign (\$15 million dollars and 500,000 lives touched) and learned of a few very generous donations that were received that reaches 91% of the present year’s campaign goal of 1.5 million.

PROGRAM

Live Your Dream - Our winner has been chosen for this year, and soon Judy P. will be thinking about next year as the portal for on-line submissions opens on August 15th. Our soon-to-be member, Devonna Crowe, has expressed an interest on being on the Live Your Dream committee.

Follow Up Support for LYD Winner - Judy said that a schedule for sending cards was drafted up, with contact to be made about 8 times over the course of the year. Some cards will have a gift card tucked in them. Lorrie expressed an interest in being part of this process. Marilyn asked if we could donate gift cards and the answer was “yes!”

Dream It, Be It - Big Goal Accelerator - Cheryl will send out the details of this project to the club members.

MEMBERSHIP

Plans for April 13th Club meeting

Our plan is to have an in-person meeting in April meeting at Maxine’s condo at 7 pm. Coffee and goodies would be served, Shirley had graciously offered to provide the baking. Faith will have the jewelry on display. Maxine stated that as of March 31st the Covid mask requirement will be lifted at her building.

Policies & Procedures

This is still a work in progress. Lee-Ann emailed Governor Jennifer and was told that we can use ECR Resource Manual to produce our own document. And this manual will be revised.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Faith and Kathleen will get together to look at revamping our letterhead.

Faith was pleased with the PR for the auction and that the Chronicle-Journal printed her submission the very next day.

We learned that SIA is going to put our article from the Women’s magazine on its FaceBook page. It looks like they were impressed once they finally looked at it.

OTHER BUSINESS**Coffee/Chat Zoom get-together**

Lee-Ann said that 11 members participated in the March 8th chat. The chats are for social connection only and minutes are not taken, although Kathleen declared that they managed to solve many of the world's problems.

International Women's Day activities

Cheryl reported on two special SI Zoom events that she took part in. SIA had an International Tea with 300 attendees what was very well done, and SI Cambridge also had a tea with a guest speaker who spoke about racism.

Children's Aid Society

Melanie meet with Danny Michaud from CAS who gave her a lot of information about the needs of the 28 young women who live independently with very modest funding from CAS. He told her that the main concern is food and feminine hygiene products and had some suggestions as to how we could help. CAS would be pleased to partner with us. We had a lengthy discussion and a number of ideas were offered. Cheryl suggested that all of the ideas should be emailed to her and she stated that this project would need a committee to manage as it is too big to discuss at Club meetings. Lorrie volunteered to be on the committee. Lee-Ann shared that she had viewed a YouTube Feb. 3, 2020, video entitled "A Future for Foster Kids" with Steve Paikin, host of TVO's "The Agenda".

Possible Sister Club in Australia

Marlene read the response she received from the Australian club. Their club will ratify whether or not to be a sister club and begin the process if they decide to do so.

NEW BUSINESS**SI Thunder Bay Nominating Committee**

Maxine advised that the Nominating Committee is made up of the Past-President (Karen), a member of the Board (Maxine) and a club member who is not on the Board (Joan Taddo volunteered). The roster will be divided up and every member will be called.

Present Board members will be asked if they intend to remain on the Board in the same role or if they would like another position. The Nominating Committee will need to know how many positions they are looking to fill. Members will be asked which committee (Program, Membership, Fundraising, or Public Awareness) they would like to be on. Cheryl reminded the members that every member is considered to be on the Fundraising Committee.

Maxine was very pleased to announce that two of our members have agreed to be on the Board for Eastern Canada Region for the next two years. Cheryl has agreed to be Governor-Elect which means that after two years she will be the Governor! Karen has agreed to be Treasurer for the Region. Cheryl and Karen are not able to be on our Board while they are on the Region Board. Our Club will need to look for a President for one year and a Secretary.

SIA President 2022-23

Our club voted by a show of hands and Bonnie Enderlin from SI Benicia, California was our choice for President.

March Birthdays –

Cheryl Ball - 9th, Rosa Martin - 18th and Kim Koivukoski - 19th. We sang “Happy Birthday” to Cheryl.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS**Free the Girls Project**

Judy P. saw a local news story on EcoSuperior’s International Women’s Day Project to gather gently used or new bras to support the “Free the Girls Project” and thought that our club might be interested to participating. Judy also thought that this could be another way that SI Thunder Bay could celebrate SIA’s 100th anniversary, and attempting to collect 100 bras would be a good target for us to aim for. The response from the club was positive and Judy is even willing to collect our contributions. She would like to present the 100 bras to EcoSuperior on March 28th. Contact Judy if you have a contribution for the bra drive. An article on “Free the Girls for International Women’s Day” is in this month’s Walleye magazine.

We said the pledge for Eastern Canada Region and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

DID YOU KNOW

As you may recall, Saturday March 26, 2022 was the date for the “Paint for Peace” fundraiser held for Soroptimists and friends of Eastern Canada and Western Canada Regions. The money raised will be sent to SI Europe to assist the women and girls in Ukraine. As of March 28th, they had raised \$2,500.00. The final date for donations is coming up quickly.

In looking for more information about the work being done by Soroptimist Clubs in Europe, I found that many countries had web pages and face book posting in the language of their country. While I am not a linguist, I didn’t let that dissuade me. I kept searching and found information about some of the projects undertaken by SI Europe clubs.

I found it interesting that under “About Soroptimist International of Europe” they refer to Soroptimist members in Europe as “a **network of professional women**”. Also it said that Soroptimists educate, empower and enable women and girls to improve their lives (such as we strive to do in our neck of the world.) SIE is a network of 32,500 professional women who work together at local, national and international levels to achieve this aim. SIE currently has 1,222 Clubs, operating across 57 countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean. It is the largest of the five Federations making up Soroptimist International which counts around 70,000 women as members. (I am not sure about the SIE clubs in Africa since they (Africa) recently became a federation. Perhaps not all the clubs joined the new African federation.)

I then found “Soroptimist International of Europe Overview Brochure”. Beside this tab, I found one that was entitled “Key Messages” Soroptimist International of Europe – a global voice for women. They list the **17 key messages** as follows:

We help educate women and girls to lead.
 We empower women to find employment.
 We fight violence against women and girls.
 We help improve the environment and promote sustainability.
 We encourage women in all walks of life to voice concern and address injustices.
 We communicate evidence-based information on women's issues to the relevant organizations
 We lobby at all levels of society to advance women's issues.
 We offer a worldwide network of professionally, socially and culturally diverse women.
 We offer opportunities to build new friendships with like-minded women.
 We provide women with a platform to serve their communities.
 We offer a forum to learn and share knowledge and experience
 We show how women can be an inspiration.
 We give women a voice.
 We are an organization of and for women.
 We offer a worldwide professional and social network for women.
 Our Clubs and members help improve the lives of women and girls in very concrete ways.
 By taking a stand on specific issues, we act as a **global voice for women.**

After reading this list, I am sure that there are a number of statements that will resonate with you.

Now back to the SI Europe Overview Brochure. In this brochure they cover topics such as "Who We Are" (network, members and countries); "History (Why we are relevant); under the section on Organizational structure – they explain the composition of the SIE "Restricted Board" and the "Enlarged Board". There are references to a Council of Governors, National Unions, Union Clubs, Single Clubs, HQ – Executive Director and Secretariat.

The brochure continues on with the mission, vision and principles as follows.

SI Europe's "Mission, Vision and Principles"

"Our ambition is to transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

We want to see women and girls achieve their individual and collective potential, realize their aspirations, and have an equal voice in creating strong **peaceful communities worldwide**. As Soroptimists, we strive for the **advancement of women's status high ethical standards**, equality, development and peace and the promotion of international goodwill and understanding. (In our little corner of the world, I don't think we gave much thought to "peaceful communities" or "high ethical standards" as Canadians we expect people to act that way.)

It goes on to describe who their members are...and that "Soroptimists are a platform to share our knowledge and experience. They want to ensure all women and girls have the opportunity to become leaders in their communities and will continue to lobby for them at all levels of society".

Following this section the five areas of focus are outlined. I had originally planned to put all the information from the brochure in this article, but it became too lengthy. I went to plan "B", I am only going to include the winning project under each of the five areas and yes perhaps a word or two of my own comments...I can't help myself.

#1 EDUCATION

The 2021 Soroptimist International Europe's winning project which was Club Lauterbach-Vogelsberg Germany. Aligned with their moto of "*Awareness, Advocacy, and Action*", this club started the project "No more war!" At the time of the award, it was noted that many of us are living in peace there are untold number of wars and conflicts taking place all over the world excluding women and girls from developing their strength and abilities. They wanted to raise consciousness that war, and that warlike conflicts only bring sorrow and loss to all, especially women and girls. On September 21st, Day of Peace, the Club dresses the statute of a lion (brochure provides background information about the symbolism of the lion) in 2018, the lion was covered with red woolen items knitted by 300 people from all over Europe.

In 2019, approx. 600 coloured balloons were released from the monument each with a peace card attached written & decorated by children, refugees and families. In 2020, the lion bloomed. He was covered with 168 boxes of flowers planted by children, senior citizens and church members. With each dressing, the war monument is transformed into a monument of peace. The brochure describes other educational “peace” activities that they carry out having reached almost 7,000 people.

Just think in 2018 this SI Club endeavoured to remind people of the perils of war. Little did they anticipate four years later, there would be a war raging only 1487 km away in Ukraine.

#2 WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

I couldn’t help but note that Clubs in SI Europe help build wells in communities to save women the time spent fetching water. They also train them on how to increase their crop yield! Very different work from what Soroptimists in our Region and country likely do!

The SIE Project Winner for 2021 was four SI Clubs in Finland. In February, 2020, four SI Finnish Clubs established a working group, set about developing a program for “Girls Day 2020” aligned with the **UN International Day of the Girl Child**.

The main objective was to support the activities of the local Girls’ House which provides girls ages 12 to 28 with activities free of charge such as dialogue groups, personal guidance, sexual guidance and multicultural projects. They organized creative workshops and offering informative presentations aligned with their chosen theme “Creativity and its empowering and educational significance for girls”. 43 girls took part and benefited from workshops on IT and social media, well-being, dance, textile art. Five girls were supported beyond the workshops by receiving financial support and girls facing social exclusion received help. Money was raised when the local hospital and another group bought articles designed by the girls during two textile art workshops. The money raised funded summer activities for 180 girls.

(In case you didn’t know, a few years ago, our club members individually donated money to KIVA (micro loan organization.) Lee Ann manages our loans and advises us yearly on the status of our small loans we have given women around the world who are trying to establish a business.)

#3 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The SIE winning project for 2021 was Club Costa del Sol – Spain for **Women’s Safe house**. This club has been assisting women experiencing domestic violence since 2008. Initially the Club informed the local foreign community about available resources. They progressed to ensuring that these women get the help they need for example emergency accommodation, food, a “go bag” for survivors and their children. Trained Soroptimists assist the women who don’t speak the language to navigate their way through the Spanish system. They help with paperwork, official visits to authorities, medical and psychological assistance, legal representation, financial assistance or aid in finding employment as well as put in contact with schools if children are involved. The club prepared “The Magic Book” to inform the local police about what the Soroptimist club can help with when a critical situation arises. It also provides information for survivors themselves in many different languages.

4 HEALTH & FOOD SECURITY

The SIE 2021 winning project was won by *Club Chernihiv Ukraine for “Clean Wells Means Clean Water”*. I didn’t realize that every third woman in Ukraine lives in a rural area. Rural women and girls face multiple forms of gender-based discrimination based on their place of residence i.e. age, displacement, health and other factors.

The SI Club of Chernihiv together with Danish clubs mobilized to improve the living conditions of isolated women. The situation with wells supplying water in two villages in the area had become critical. There is no centralized water supply system in this district, therefore the population uses excavated wells. In the summer, the water disappears from most wells due to climate changes and a lack of cleaning and maintenance.

In these remote areas, women are predominant (percentage of women is higher than men) most live below the poverty line, are elderly and disabled. Wells are vitally important to daily survival since they are the only source of water.

The Soroptimists hired specialists to pump out the wells and analyze the water and clean the wells. They raised this issue with local governmental bodies. They drew attention to this social issue via local and regional TV, radio, newspaper and on social media. As a result 10 wells were cleaned – improving the water supply for 85 women and girls.

SUSTAINABILITY & ADVOCACY

The brochure defined what they meant by sustainability & advocacy but no awards were noted under either of these two areas.

PROJECTS, SCHOLARSHIP & MENTORING

SIE Unions and clubs implemented thousands of projects that focus on the above five key areas. The Scholarship Fund awards grants totaling in excess of 100,000 pounds per year to young women covering needs such as university fees, vocational training and general support the student’s studies. Also there is a scholarship in memory of their founding president Dr. Suzanne Noel. They are involved in mentoring programs that pair up young women starting their careers with established professionals to gain insight and confidence to achieve success.

PEACE PRIZE

For over fifteen years now, SI Europe has awarded the SIE Peace Prize to visionary women for their outstanding contributions towards the establishment or maintenance of peace in their own communities and abroad. Since 2005, SIE has awarded a biennial Peace Prize.

Speaking of Peace, I thought how lucky we are to live in Canada. Then I thought about the “*Truth and Reconciliation Commission*”. I wondered if the Soroptimist Foundation bylaws/constitution would allow the possibility of a monetary award for a project that targets the healing of Aboriginal women and girls or a special education program for these women and girls. Just a thought. Now onto my final thought – I bet you

can’t believe I am almost finished!

BECOME A SOROPTIMIST

The brochure concludes with the Soroptimist emblem and additional information. I like their statement “**If you want to make a difference in your community, further women’s issues on a wider scale, extend your professional network and make new friends outside your normal circles, we invite you to find out more about us.**”

Is this something we could put on our SI Thunder Bay web page and Face book page? Food for thought!

Cheryl



Girls Aging Out of Foster Care

An ad hoc committee meeting for girls aging out of foster care was held on March 23, 2022 (currently there are 28 girls being supported in our region). The committee structure was determined and a preliminary template for our roadmap to work collaboratively with Children's Aid Society (CAS) was developed.

Co-chairs: Faith Crichton and Kathleen Rismondo

Members: Linda Adams, Melanie Cates, Devona Crowe, Lorrie Haslam, Lee Ann Nalezty, and Judy Perrier (other club members are welcome to participate as able)

The immediate need we determined was to stock the food cupboard. *We are asking our members, if able, to bring nonperishable food items to our next club meeting on April 13, 2022.* Kathleen has a letter to provide members if they are seeking donations from local businesses for food items. Linda Adams will drop off items to CAS after our collection.

A list of urgently needed items as provided by our CAS liaison Danny Michaud are noted below

Peanut butter, Nutella, canned tuna/ ham/meat, nuts, beans, canned chilli, canned stew, soups

Pasta, Mr Noodles, Minute Rice, Kraft Dinner, pasta sauces, Rice (microwave ready)

Flour, sugar, honey, vegetable oil

Instant cereal, pancake mix (just add water type), dry cereal

Canned vegetables, juice, canned fruit, canned tomatoes

Snacks (granola bars, etc)

Canned milk or milk substitute

Our ongoing work with CAS is still under development but suggestions include coaching the girls on life skills/career choices using guest speakers and teaching sessions, providing feminine hygiene and personal hygiene items (Comfort Kits), cleaning supplies and paper products and items for their independent living spaces.

CAS and Soroptimist Thunder Bay are very excited about this partnership to help the girls in our community who are transitioning out of foster care.



\$\$\$\$SHOW ME THE MONEY HONEY\$\$\$\$

The primary aim of the fundraising committee is to assure that we have the necessary funds to support our two signature programs, Live Your Dream and Dream It Be It. Traditionally, this goal was reached by hosting the popular in-person Two Bit Auction. When Covid hit and we were forced to pivot to our Sweet Dreams virtual auction we all breathed a sigh of relief knowing our programs were not going to be compromised. A feat, we as a club should be very proud of. Soroptimist United! Soroptimist Strong!

The secondary aim of the fundraising committee, but equally as important, is to raise funds to keep the club from falling into that dreadful red zone and/or earmarking it to support other projects that don't fall under the official heading of program. Over the years, club members have been very creative in this regard and the membership has supported these various initiatives with enthusiasm.

On that note Shirley and I have put together an outline of, "What's What," in the world of SI Thunder Bay fundraising ventures. Be sure to mark the dates on your calendar.

APRIL



Thanks to the generosity of, "Friends of Soroptimist," and Faith's creativity, the virtual estate jewellery sale is happening until April 13th. Three simple steps required 1) view the various pieces via email 2) decide which item would suit your fancy 3) pay the piper. If you would like a closer look at the items, they will be available at our April 13th in-person meeting. Kudos to Faith for organizing this and an extended thanks to her good friend who appreciates the positive impact that Soroptimist have on the lives of women and

young girls.

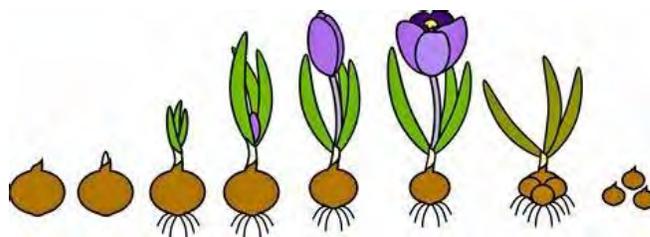
MAY

At our May sleepover we will be initiating another fundraiser called a Calcutta. For those members who are unable to attend the Courthouse Party there is no need to panic. We will have the Calcutta available at our June membership meeting as well. What exactly is a Calcutta you ask???. . . .details to follow closer to the date.



JUNE

Food for thought.... SI Guelph had a fundraiser last year that involved selling bulbs. As in, plant the bulb in the fall and the flower appears in the spring. They raised \$1600.00. We will discuss what it all entails at our April meeting and make a decision from there.



SEPTEMBER



Mark your calendar for **September 24th.** We have the Cardinal room at the C.L.E. booked for our yard sale. One mans junk is another mans treasure. If you are cleaning out a cupboard/drawer/basement/shed/garage keep us in mind. All donations welcome as well as manpower the day of.

OCTOBER

We have the Heritage Building on the C.L.E. grounds penciled in for **October 13th.** Wait for it, YES, Two Bit Auction. The good old days, the good old days, remember those? Of course it all depends on memberships thoughts and feelings as to whether or not we want to re-introduce what once was. Lots to consider at our April meeting.



ON-GOING



Drinking For Charity.... Cheers

Shirley and I welcome any additional ideas regarding a fundraiser that would benefit our club. Doesn't have to be extravagant, every bit helps.

Shirley and Kathleen
Fundraising Co-Chairs



In honour of International Women’s Day,

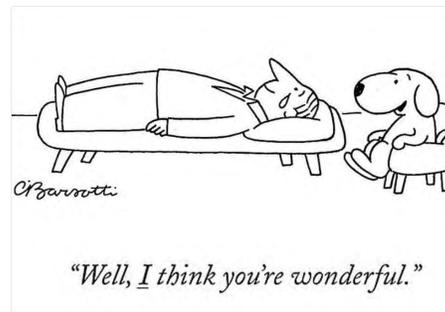
Soroptimist International Thunder Bay partnered with Eco- Superior to gather 165 gently used or new bras in support of “Free the Girls” , a non-profit organization that supports victims of human trafficking by helping them earn a safe income through the sale of second hand bras in the marketplace. This initiative also supports Soroptimist International’s mandate of providing economic empowerment to women and girls in our community and around the world. Pictured here (left to right) are Jesse Hamilton, Rethinking Waste Program Coordinator, Judy Perrier, Kathleen Rismondo, Faith Crichton, Soroptimist International Thunder Bay, and Sue Hamel, Executive Director, Eco- Superior, accepting the donation. Our gratitude to friends and family of Soroptimist International Thunder Bay for their generous support. For more information of women’s programs, go to: www.tbaysoroptimist.com

Sick & Visiting

During my phone calls I found most of the members doing well.
 Although; Maxine was sick with a terrible cold.
 Joan had pulled some muscles in her chest; after closing the garage door.
 All are looking forward to spring.

Also spoke to Yvonne. She had a fall in her bathroom and had been in the emerge. She was quite sore but coming along.
 Sorry to have missed some of you but hope all is well
 Looking forwards to seeing you’ll soon.

Shirley



Thunder Bay Symphony

The Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra is once again holding a fundraiser this spring, with pickup at the Italian Cultural Centre on Algoma Street on May 16 and May 17. They are not selling fruit this spring, due to a number of reasons, but have several varieties of cheese, as well as honey, maple syrup and coffee. Preserves will also be available at pickup. If you would like an order form, please call me at 344-6568 or email me at kfenwick@shaw.ca.

Volunteer Week

Every April, Volunteer Canada leads the National Volunteer Week (NVW) celebration. It is the perfect time to recognize volunteers and celebrate the power of volunteerism in our communities. **This year, National Volunteer Week is April 24-30, 2022.** This year's theme is: "Volunteering Is Empathy In Action."

The National Volunteer Week theme for 2022, Volunteering Is Empathy In Action, affirms the strong connection between volunteerism and empathy. This profoundly human connection is at the heart of healthier individuals and stronger communities.

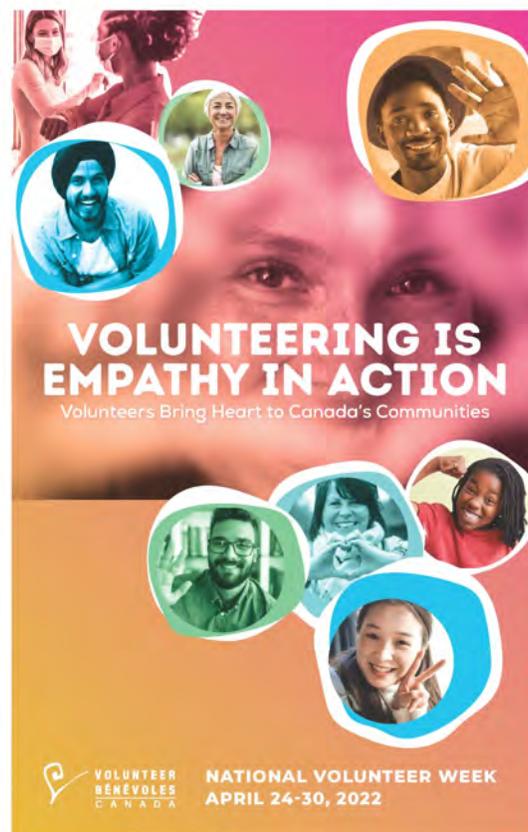
Empathy is a quality that can help people relate to others and build awareness around different experiences. It connects people in ideas and actions and helps create bonds forged in common goals and aspirations.

Volunteering can help us develop empathy, to see the world through the eyes of others. It can connect people from diverse backgrounds and life experiences, expanding our views. It can build our capacity to work collectively and contribute to a vibrant, inclusive society.

From coast to coast to coast in formal and informal settings, volunteers create caring, collaborative, and compassionate communities. During National Volunteer Week 2022, we celebrate the contributions of Canada's millions of volunteers: their actions, their understanding, and their genuine concern for the world around them.

Volunteering, putting empathy into action, can build communities where people feel happier, healthier, and more welcome – creating a stronger, more connected Canada.

<https://volunteer.ca/nvw>





SI Thunder Bay General Meeting

April 13, 2022

Hybrid – In Person @ 315 Hilldale Road & via zoom 7 p.m.

AGENDA

- Call to order Cheryl
- Minutes of the Mar 9 Karen
- Treasurer’s Report Cindy
- Correspondence Cheryl

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Spring Conference 2022 Maxine & Kim
- Trust Committee Cindy

FUNDRAISING

- Yard Sale – Fall 2022 date Kathleen & Shirley
- Jewelry Sale Kathleen
- The Calcutta Faith
- Two Bit Auction in person fall event Kathleen

PROGRAM

- Live Your Dream Judy P
- Dream It, Be It
- ECR meeting Mar.21- Insurance – Police Checks Cheryl
- Eco Superior’s Int’l Day Project “Free the Girls” Judy P.
- Children’s Aid – Girls Aging Out Melanie

MEMBERSHIP

SI Policies & Procedures

Kim and Judy A.

May 13th Birthday/Pajama Party

Lee Ann & Melanie

Coffee/Tea & Chat last Thursday of the month

Judy P.

Lee Ann

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Faith

SI Thunder Bay Letterhead see Faith's Apr. 7th email

Faith

Possible Sister Club in Australia

SI Thunder Bay Nominating Committee

Maxine

SIA President 2022-23

Cheryl

NEW BUSINESS

Club By laws – see April 7th email

Cheryl

Voting credentials for ECR Spring Conference

Cheryl

Soroptimist Foundation of Canada meeting May 25th

Cheryl

SI Cambridge's 40th Anniversary Sun. June 12th

Cheryl

April Birthdays Kathleen April 17 and Joan Taddo April 30th

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.

**May this day bring you
blessings of love, joy, peace and
hope. May it linger in your
heart forever.
Happy Easter!**

