



**SI Toronto's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch** was held at St. Georges Golf and Country Club on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sixty seven people attended. The day was beautiful, the location great and the food delicious, but more important was the renewing of friendships and making new ones with members of other clubs and our guests. We had a display of photos and other items of our club members at various events over the years. We thank all those who helped us make this special day so special.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day** saw 10 members serving brunch to the residents of Street Haven. We had very positive comments from the women and we were so pleased that they liked what we cooked for them. Besides eggs, bacon, ham and home fries there was delicious home made brownies and banana bread as well as some candy. Eight of us then went out for a dim sum lunch on Spadina Ave.

**New Members:** We welcome the following who have joined us recently:  
Laura Brooks [see below], Madeline Earl, Lorraine Galloti, Angela Teo, Cynthia Young , Sandra Romano Anthony and a transfer from Barbados, Rosita Mandeville.

**Violet Richardson Award [VRA] Winner is Lauren [Zhaoyan] Long.**

The best news of all is not that only is she our winner she is also the winner of the Eastern Canada [ECR] Award VRA.

This is the third time that our winner also won the ECR award.

Lauren has been a Student Ambassador with the Kids Help Line since 2006. Kids Help Line helps children and youths with their pain. This could be physical, emotional and sexual abuse, drugs and suicide. She has also been involved in fund raising for the help line, she gives talks about it and helps train new Ambassadors.

She not only works with children but also people with Alzheimer's disease [at Sunnybrook Hospital], and raises money for many other groups.

### **Women's Opportunity Award [WOA] Winner is Chevenne Stamp**

Chevenne is a single mother of two and is currently enrolled in Police Foundation Program, School of Community and Social Services at Humber College. She is a founding member of "Jane and Finch on the Move", an interviewer with "Access Alliance" which researches link between poverty and health. Chevenne works part time with Project Y.O.U. which educates teens about drugs abuse. She won the Kay Blair bursary at Humber for outstanding leadership in improving community life. Chevenne is a very worthy recipient.

### **A snap shot of one of our newer members: Laura Brooks.**

Laura is from the Niagara Region and has lived in Font Hill and Welland. She went to Queens and has a BA in Political Studies and History. Laura worked at CIBC, first in a branch and then in Human Resources [HR]. She has worked as a trainer and was Director of HR of the division of mortgages, leading and insurance. Also worked in President's Choice banking area.

Laura is married and has two cats and feeds strays.

Laura has volunteered at Working Skills Centre which mainly helps women and at Moorelands. She is currently on the executive of University Council at Queens.

She loves gardening, has a good wine cellar and enjoys going to the family cottage on an island near Parry Sound. Her husband is the good cook in the family.

It is interesting that Laura is a DJ for weddings and parties. Her husband is a keyboard player so they often work together on these events.

### **Moorelands: This is our project for this year.** Their office is on Merton Street.

They work in several areas of improving lives of families in poverty.

The area we are involved in is Baby Bundles for Newborns. Public Health Nurses identify mothers [to Moorelands] who are in need of clothes etc for their newborn. Volunteers [including us] make up the bundles. Each bundle include, receiving blankets, diapers, underwear, sleepers, socks and baby products such as diaper rash cream, a small toy and a gift for the mother. Strongly recommend that members volunteer to put the bundles together. It is very interesting to meet other volunteers there and the staff as well as seeing the work this agency does first hand.

**Ella Marie Felker left a legacy to the club.** We have applied the money to various projects and we are having the city plant a tree in her memory. There will be plaque with her name and that she was a member of our club.

### **Friendship Link with S. I. Kisumu, Kenya. From President Marnie Taylor**

Linda Jones contacted me last fall about the possibility of us assisting girls in Kenya to go to school. She is a development worker who travels widely and has made friends with some Soroptimists in Kisumu, Kenya. While visiting there, she heard that a local family had had to sell their cow in order to pay school fees for their daughter. She generously agreed to sponsor the girl and committed to paying her school fees. Her Soroptimist friends told her there might be a way to facilitate her donations through a local Soroptimist club in Canada and she followed up on her return.

Linda is now sponsoring one girl's school fees, making her donation through the Toronto Trust. An additional donation was made by the brother of one of our members, to start a second girl in school. S. I. Toronto has donated \$750 from the Felker legacy to keep this girl in school and to help a third girl with fees. A friend of Linda's has donated more money to send to Kisumu to help with other club projects there, including the women's hospital and the women's prison. This initiative has grown from a small idea to a project with the potential to help many women and girls in Kenya.

S. I. Kisumu has asked for a Friendship Link with S. I. Toronto. Their secretary, Christine Achola, corresponds regularly with me and the Trustee, Janice Legg, about the donations and what is happening in Kisumu. Kisumu is not very far from the home of President Obama's father and is receiving a lot of interest from American tourists lately.

Linda Jones will be visiting in Kenya again this spring and will be attending one of our meetings as a guest speaker. She hopes to bring Christine's sister, who lives in Canada, with her. Linda promises to give us an update, including pictures, on what we are accomplishing with our sister club in Kisumu.

### **Southern California – 7 days and 3 Soroptimist Events! From Margaret Gilbey**

In late March I visited my Soroptimist sister Susan in Orange County, outside of Los Angeles and had the opportunity to attend two Soroptimist fundraising events and a Women's Opportunity Award and Violet Richardson awards luncheon.

On the day I landed in L.A. I was whisked off to a "Bras For A Cause" fundraising event for SI of Lake Forest. As the event was held close the Academy Awards, the theme for the bras was "movies". All bras were displayed on busts (no pun intended!). There were over 30 bras decorated in movie themes from "Jewel of the Nile", "The Aviator", "Pretty In Pink", and "Young Frankenstein" to name a few. As attendees at the event we got to vote on which bras we thought were the funniest, the prettiest, and the most creative. All participants you could also place a bid through a silent auction for the bra; all bras had a gift basket of goodies associated with it too so not only did you get a lovely decorated bra you also got a basket of goodies. There was a wonderful buffet provided, drinks and my favorite.... although it shouldn't be - sweets! All funds raised went to the club's service projects. Great news was my sister and I won the 50 / 50 draw - \$150 US funds!

A few sunny days later we went to the Mad Hatters Low Tea held by SI of Garden Grove. Dawn Marie Lemonds, who is Programme Director for Soroptimist International was "The Mad Hatter" and did a great job as mc of the event. Given that this is the thirteenth year that the low tea has been held by Garden Grove, many of the guests in attendance knew to wear fun hats to the event. There were prizes for the best male and female hat, the most creative hat and the best "themed" hat. There was a Chinese auction including a basket of "picked that day" avocados and 3 live auction items. All funds raised went to the club's service projects.

And finally, with Kleenex in hand, we went to the Women's Opportunity Award (WOA) and Violet Richardson Award (VRA) luncheon for my sister's club, SI of Westminster. As with our award recipients, two very deserving candidates were selected. A little

different twist is that SI of Westminster invites the runner up for both the WOA and the VRA award to their luncheon and recognizes the women which made them feel very special and were happy to be recognized.

So all in all it was a great week away from work, great weather, I won some money, met some great Soroptimist and saw first hand some ideas of how other clubs do things!

## **Recipes from Members**

### Gumdrop Cookies

1 C flour	1 egg
½ tsp baking powder	1 Tbsp water
½ tsp baking soda	
½ tsp salt	1 tsp vanilla
½ C butter [soft]	1 ½ C rolled oats
½ C brown sugar	¾ C gumdrops [cut-up]
½ C white sugar	1 ½ C coconut

Blend flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.  
Add butter, sugars, egg, water, and vanilla. Mix well  
Add oats, gumdrops and coconut  
Shape into 1" balls and place on baking sheet  
Bake at 350F for 12- 15 minutes.  
Makes app 4 ½ dozen cookies

- **From Beverley McClelland.**

### Frozen Pea Salad

One large package of frozen peas  
One small can of Smoked almonds - app 170 g [Blue Diamond is one make]  
\*\* Chop almonds very coarsely

Miracle Whip  
Curry powder

Make this salad at the last minute.  
Put frozen peas in a large bowl.  
Add almonds and enough Miracle whip to coat the peas well.  
Add curry powder to taste.  
Serve.

From Kelly Meachan

Served at one of our pot luck dinners a couple of years ago.