



Land Acknowledgement

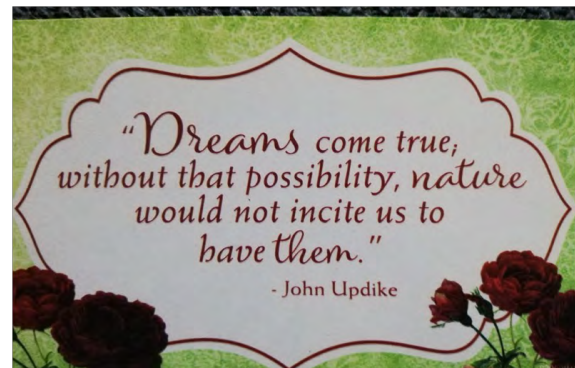
Soroptimist International of Thunder Bay would like to acknowledge that our gatherings take place on the traditional lands of the Fort William First Nation, Signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850.

We would also like to acknowledge the tumultuous history endured by the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, the contribution these communities have made to the fabric of our society and the beauty they have added to our multi-cultural nation. With this in mind we will do what we can to help Thunder Bay move forward with mutual trust, respect, reciprocity, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.

Connecting with Cindy



The club meeting is **Wednesday March 13th at the Cardinal Room CLE at 7 pm**. The **Live Dream winners** will be presented their cheques that evening so you won't want to miss this exciting event! After all, it is our Signature Program! The following quote is appropriate:



SIA is having their **First Walk for Women** during the month of **March**. You can register through the SIA website to participate <https://act.liveyourdream.org/walkforwomen/>.

On **March 7, 2024**, SIA (Soroptimist of the Americas) has their **Third Annual International Women's Day Tea Party at 8 pm ET (1 hour)**. For those wishing to attend, you have to register at <https://www.soroptimist.org> under Events. This event is free.

March 8th is International Women's Day. There is a link <https://www.internationalwomensday.com> to view events being held by others or post an event to be held.

March is when the **Nominating Committee** is formed so, please give serious consideration to joining the board and making your voice heard! It is a fantastic learning experience and we are all capable. There is nothing to be afraid of as we all learn from our mistakes and help each other out.

I found these 16 Fun Facts about **March** that you might enjoy:

1. March was the first month in the Roman calendar
2. March was named for the Roman God of War
3. Daylight Savings Time starts in March
4. It's host to the Vernal Equinox
- 5. And sometimes Easter Sunday! It is this year!**
6. Lent is a chance for self-discipline
7. Statistically, March is the least productive month
- 8. International Women's Day takes place in March**
- 9. As does St Patrick's Day!**
10. 'If March comes in like a lion, It will go out like a lamb.'
11. The birth flower of March is the daffodil
12. The telephone was first patented in March
13. And Monopoly was invented in 1933!
- 14. The Girl Scouts were founded by Juliette Gordon Low**
15. And for better or worse, Coca-Cola was invented
16. The birthstone of March is aquamarine

The **ECR Spring Conference April 26-28, 2024** deadline is April 12, 2024.

I have the **Raffle tickets** for those that would like some to sell. The **Home & Garden Show** is **April 5-7, 2024** and we will also be selling them there (CLE Building). There will be a schedule circulated for members to sign up to "women the booth"!

Your proud President, Cindy



Fund Raising: Touching Base



The GIFT CARD RAFFLE is fast approaching and membership is moving full steam ahead with ticket sales. A total of 830 tickets have been printed for this event. Out of that total, I'm over the moon to report that 300 tickets are in the hands of our dedicated Soroptimist salespeople who are pounding the pavement and knocking on doors to raise funds for the RFDA. KUDOS to all our pre-sale peeps. A great kick start to the main event on April 5th/6th/7th at the Home and Garden Show. We sold out last year, let's have a repeat performance again this year!

If you are able to spare a few hours over the course of the weekend to man the booth and spread the word about our organization that would be awesome. There will be a sign up sheet for the various shifts at our in-person meeting on March 13th. It's a great opportunity to mingle with the public and potentially entice someone to join us great group of gals in making a difference in the lives of young girls and women in our community and abroad.

Volunteer Sign-in Sheet

Affiliation:

Participants

| Name | Minor |
|------|--------|
| | Yes No |
| | Yes No |
| | Yes No |
| | Yes No |
| | Yes No |
| | Yes No |
| | Yes No |
| | Yes No |

REMINDER: \$100.00 each Can.Tire/Metro/Shell/Walmart/LCBO



As soon as the Home and Garden Show is over, we will quickly change gears and put our energy into our second main event of 2024, the TWO BIT AUCTION. As in previous years, the evening of, we will definitely need all hands on deck and then some. **SAVE THE DATE MAY**

9th. However, leading up to the evening there is lots that needs to be done. Most importantly, acquiring baskets/items that will catch the interest of our dedicated and eager bidders. The bargains are better than any thrift store. Like come on, where else can you buy a \$200.00 plus item for a mere 25 cents. Our goal is to have 30 baskets on display. This number seems to bring in a good chunk of change and time wise it is ideal, 2-2 1/2 hours of excitement is about all we can handle. LOL! At our March 13th meeting there will be donation letters available to anyone who wishes to distribute them to various businesses around town.



DONATE AUCTION ITEMS

If we continue to put our creative thinking caps on, we will no doubt reach our goal. Contact Shirley or myself and we will be pleased to add your donation to the list. A friendly reminder to those who wish, personal shoppers are available, just give us the word. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the needle is moving in a positive direction as we already have secured a few items.

- *Homemade Quilt *Scratch Tickets *Air Fryer *Barbeque * 31 Product
- *Cutting Board/Recipe Book/Grocery Gift Card *\$Home Depot Gift Card
- *Back Pack/Book/Wine/Munchies *Baking Dish/Cookbook/Spices *Foot Bath

Gratefully Submitted

Shirley and Kathleen

Co-Chairs Fundraising



Newsletter Update

Due to a lack of registrants, the DIBI Committee has cancelled the DIBI 2024 conference slated for March 13, 2024. As a result of this decision all speakers and the venue have been notified. Promotion on all web-based platforms has been cancelled also.

The committee feels it has a good footing for the next DIBI event as all speakers when contacted were very supportive of the rationale behind cancelling the conference and each stated a desire to participate at our next DIBI event.

DIBI Leads with the June Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre, and the CAS for DIBI, were completely understanding of the need to cancel out of respect for the time and effort that speakers make to prepare and deliver their presentations. Both stated that they will look forward to another opportunity to work Soroptimists in the future.

The decision to cancel was not taken lightly. The committee held deep discussions to assess the situation and alternative actions were weighed. All agreed that a pivot to a school-based model for 2024-25 would be best.

In the next month a connection will be made with local school boards to ascertain their interest in having DIBI in their schools. The committee is now looking to a delivery date in the Fall of 2024, if such is convenient for the school selected.

Before the required reporting dates, discussion will be held with the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada and the Soroptimist International of the Americas to determine how the grants we received will be affected by the cancellation of the conference.

The committee thanks all club membership for the help and support that each has given to us.

Respectfully Submitted by Devona Crowe, DIBI Chairperson

DIBI Committee: Cheryl Ball, Faith Crichton, Kathleen Rismondo



Wednesday March 13th at the Cardinal Room CLE at 7 pm. The **Live Dream winners** will be presented their cheques that evening so you won't want to miss this exciting event!

Membership

Happy "almost" spring ladies! The Membership Committee continues to go through materials and will be updating and copying the information for the Membership Packages. We presently have two packages ready for two prospective members. We hope to deliver the package to one of the prospective members in person. They have also been invited to attend our March in person general meeting where we could also give them the information package. Thank you to all for spreading the word about our club, especially to Cindy for reaching out to those who display interest.

We will not be having a Membership Drive this year but are still revelling in the successful **Friends of Soroptimist** event in November. However, if anyone has received interest from other prospective members, we would be happy to arrange a meet and greet with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim & Faith,
Co-Membership Chairs



Girls Transitioning to Adulthood

Below is the list of supplies needed in the CAS cupboard.

- * Canned fruit; pears only.
- * Some spaghetti sauce-bottle no cans.
- * Real KD
- * Pasta-no spaghetti noodles needed at this time
- * Minute Rice.
- * Cereal bars or granola bars
- * Cans of corn only
- * Cans of tuna
- * Mr. Noodle's is popular but we have lots of can soup.
- * Gravy,
- * Salt, pepper
- * Sugar, flour
- * Juice
- * Condiments-ketchup, hot sauce.
- * Coffee-instant
- * Quick cook noodles, Side Kick noodles
- * Peanut butter.
- * Box of pancake mix -just add water kind
- * Can meals-stews, ravioli,
- * Alfredo sauce
- * Toilet paper, Kleenex
- * Dish soap, Laundry soap
- * Can openers
- * Cutlery, Cups, Pots and pans, Plates/bowls

Thank you,

Melanie



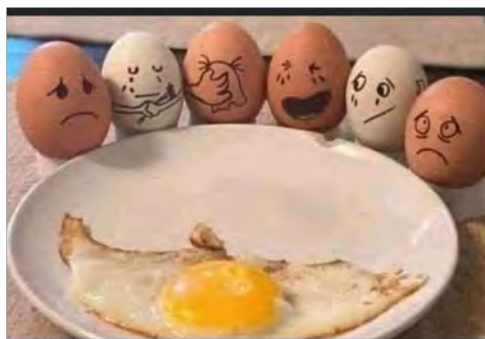


Registration deadline
April 12/24

Fee: \$300

Thank you to our club board member Melanie for volunteering for SFC to review and evaluate 80 grant applications. This was carried out during her spring break from teaching at the university. You never cease to amaze us Melanie.

Kudos from all of us.



He died last fry day. Thank God he wasn't beaten. Don't worry, he went over easy. He's now on the sunny side. He's definitely in a better plate.

Did you know

Loblaws, Shoppers Drug Mart and other Toronto stores roll out safety campaign using a code word

In Toronto, October 24, 2023 - Victim Services Toronto (VST) announced its ground-breaking partnership with Canada's grocery retailer, Loblaw Companies Ltd ("Loblaw") to launch a transformative program to enhance the safety and well-being of the Toronto community. This initiative marked the local adaptation of the highly successful *Ask for Angela* campaign, originally established in the United Kingdom in 2016.

The *Ask for Angela* campaign assists individuals who feel unsafe, vulnerable, or threatened at bars, clubs, and various other venues. This program aims to ensuring the safety and protection of patrons across the city.

By working together, the two organizations foster a safer and more inclusive community where everyone feels protected and supported. This partnership represents a powerful collaboration between a respected community service organization and a renowned retailer, highlighting their shared commitment to community well-being

A concise and user-friendly online training tool accessible to the staff of participating stores has been developed.

Participating stores include Loblaw, Real Canadian Superstore, Shoppers Drug Mart, No Frills, Valu-Mart and Your Independent Grocers.

I wanted to bring this story to the attention of members of the club for consideration of implementing the program in Thunder Bay.

<https://nowtoronto.com/culture/loblaws-stores-in-toronto-roll-out-ask-for-angela-campaign/>

Submitted by Cheryl Ball



In Ottawa, June 2017, a bar posted a notice in their washrooms and at the door of their business, Hi I'm Angela. The owner stated that after learning that one of their clients had a negative experience on a particularly busy night at the bar that it was important to left someone know. He heard about the Ask Angela program in the UK and instituted the program in his bar.

The idea he said is simple: If a patron's Tinder date is going sour or they're feeling harassed, he or she can go to the bar and ask for Angela, prompting trained staff to step in and discreetly deal with the situation. Once our staff hears that, they can offer assistance, escort you out of the property, call a taxi, or find a safe space for you in the bar.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/bar-robo-ask-for-angela-safety-sexual-violence-1.4139570>

Why the Soroptimist “Dream It Be It” Program is Important

At this year’s Grammy Awards, I heard a song by Tracy Chapman that was titled “Fast Cars”. It was written over thirty-five years ago (1988). (This is an abbreviated version of the lyrics – the ones that resonate with me.) I wonder how many girls continue to make the choice to hitch their stars to a “fellow with a fast car” – some fellow who they think will improve their lot in life.

The song starts with:

“You got a fast car
I want a ticket to anywhere
Maybe we make a deal
Maybe together we can get somewhere
Any place is better...”

The lyrics speak of a young woman with a plan who has saved a bit of money working at the convenience store.

“I got a plan to get us out of here
I been working at the convenience store
Managed to save just a little bit of money
Won't have to drive too far...
You and I can both get jobs
And finally see what it means to be living..”

We learn that her mother has left the family. The young girl has quit high school to take care of her alcoholic father.

“See, my old man's got a problem
He lives with the bottle, that's the way it is
He says his body's too old for working...
My mama went off and left him...
I said, somebody's got to take care of him
So I quit school and that's what I did”

As you likely predicated life is not kind to the girl in the song, but she is still optimistic.

“You still ain't got a job
And I work in a market as a checkout girl
I know things will get better
You'll find work and I'll get promoted
We'll move out of the shelter
Buy a bigger house and live in the suburbs”

As the song continues, we learn that the “fellow with the fast car” is like her dad – the cycle continues.

“You got a fast car
I got a job that pays all our bills
You stay out drinking late at the bar
See more of your friends than you do of your kids
I'd always hoped for better
Thought maybe together you and me would find it
I got no plans, I ain't going nowhere
So take your fast car and keep on driving...”

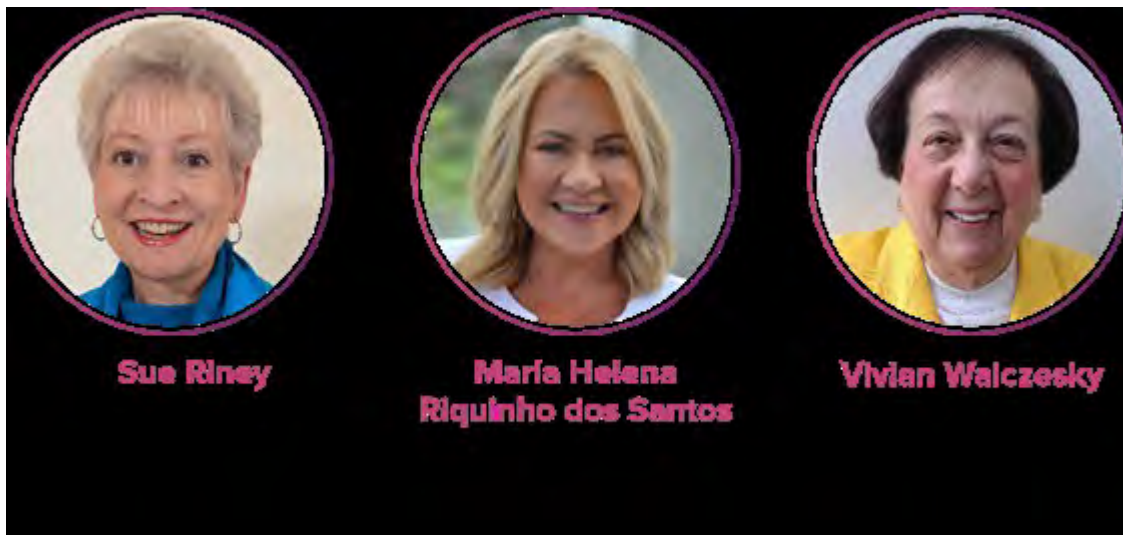
“You got a fast car
Is it fast enough so you can fly away?
You gotta make a decision
Leave tonight or live and die this way”

I can only hope that our Soroptimist “Dream It, Be It” programs carried out in communities around the world will influence girls to “hitch their star” to themselves and get an education in order to improve their lot in life. Fingers crossed!

Submitted by Cheryl Ball



Candidates for SIA 2024-2025 President-elect



Sue Riney

Maria Helena
Riquinho dos Santos

Vivian Walczesky

Please review the resumes for SIA President-Elect candidates and rank them in order from 1-3 before the next club meeting to discuss. There will be a vote and the board will submit its recommendation. All members were sent candidates information by email.



CSW NGO: Accelerating Gender Equality through Education with SIA

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) has a long history of improving the economic circumstances of women and girls through access to education. Educating women and girls is the key to ending poverty and achieving gender equality. Our volunteers through North America, South America, and the Pacific Rim have been doing just that through our Dream Programs and other projects in their communities. Learn about the power of education to achieve gender equality and end poverty and how Soroptimists put their own spin on it.

Presenter: President Bobbi Enderlin **Mar 19, 2024 8:00PM EDT**

Panelists:

Julie Kaye, SI/Metro Sacramento, past SI/Metro Sacramento President

Terri Craig, SI/Raleigh and Central East Coast Region Live Your Dream Award Chair

Laurel Lanham, Club President and Marilee Stefenhagen, Club Secretary of SI/Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs (winner of the Best in Federation Club Award for Impact)

This is a Zoom event go to:

<https://events.zoom.us/ev/>

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#TechTalks: Introducing your NEW! Member Portal

Date/Time TBA - June 2024

Sign up to be the first to hear about your NEW! Member Portal.

This summer, we'll be hosting live webinars (Learning Labs!) to train club leaders and members on how to navigate the new portal. The first Learning Lab will focus on how to log-in, update your roster and pay club dues in Salesforce.

Learn how tech is taking your member experience to the next level!

<https://soroptimist.jotform.com/sia/techtalks-learning-labs>

LATEST 

*At This Easter, May You Be Blessed With
Lots of Joy, Peace, Goodness, Happiness and Love.
Happy Easter to You and Your Family.*

