



### 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*



February is truly a unique month. Not only is it the shortest month, 2024 is a Leap Year (29 days)! It also is known for Valentine's Day and Family Day. So, my Soroptimist friends, you are all very special to me and part of my family! That is why I am still a member after 25 years.

Speaking of milestones, the **Thunder Bay club celebrates their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** this year. We should do something special. Put your thinking caps on and speak up if you have an idea. The following members are celebrating their milestones as well:

**5 Years - Lorrie Haslam and Linda Adams**

**10 Years - Judy Anderson and Faith Crichton**

**15 Years - Marlene Crago and Karen Bortolin**

Congratulations to all!!!!

The club meeting is **Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> by ZOOM at 7 pm (Valentine's Day)**. So please wear something red/pink to celebrate! The day is extra special because it is **Linda Adams' birthday! Happy Birthday Linda!** It was decided not to meet in person given all the holiday socializing and the increase in illness. We have invited a potential member to join us (Kristen Anderson).



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. If you have any suggestions on what we can do, please advise us at the club meeting in February.

The **ECR Spring Conference** theme is "A Million Dreams". It is being held in Toronto **April 26-28, 2024** and the Toronto club is celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This conference will **not** be hybrid so please give some serious thought to attending. Presently **Judy Perrier, Linda Adams** and I will be your delegates and **Cheryl Ball, Governor-Elect** and **Karen Bortolin, Treasurer** will be attending representing the ECR board. **Faith Crichton** is still thinking about it. If anyone else is interested, please let me know. The Call to Conference will be released soon if not already done. At our ECR Presidents Meeting, they advised that they are looking to accept advertisements. If you know of anyone, please advise **Governor Gertrud** or **Jean Skillman**.

Your proud President, Cindy

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**COURAGE, SACRIFICE, DETERMINATION,  
COMMITMENT, TOUGHNESS, HEART,  
TALENT, DETERMINATION, GUTS.  
THAT'S WHAT LITTLE GIRLS ARE MADE OF;  
THE HECK WITH SUGAR AND SPICE.**

**Fund Raising**



As the caption suggests, it's that time of year when we start to gear up for our annual fundraising activities. Although the weather outside is indicating that Spring has arrived, don't let that fool you, as they say, "Fake News." Rest assured, when the REAL SPRING arrives, we will be well on our way to another successful season of fundraising.

It was decided at our January membership meeting that the beneficiary of the Gift Card Raffle would be the RFDA. There was some debate whether or not this fits our mandate of focussing solely on women and girls, therefore was it an appropriate organization for us to donate to? During our discussion, it was brought to our attention that statistics indicate women are among the highest users of food banks. This information confirmed that we are definitely within our mandate to support this worthy cause.



The Gift Card Raffle will take place at the Home and Garden Show April 5th/ 6th/7th. As in past years, we are counting on membership to put aside a few hours over the course of the weekend to man( oops I meant to say, woman the table) the table. A sign up schedule will be circulated in the near future. Members have also sold tickets in advance of the weekend with much success. It's nice to know we can always count on family and friends to support us when we come knocking. Contact Cindy to obtain tickets. We thank you in advance for pitching in.

We would like to acknowledge a few of our members who have already put in some blood sweat and tears behind the scenes to get the ball rolling on this initiative. And THE SHOUT OUTS go to.....



- \*JUDY ANDERSON for securing a spot at the show FREE of charge.
- \*CINDY and LORRIE for filling out the licensing application to the city.
- \*CINDY for contacting UPS and organizing the printing of the tickets.
- \*MEMBERSHIP for brainstorming and coming up with our worthy beneficiary, RFDA.

# 2-Bit Auction

Mark THURSDAY MAY 9th on your calendar. Our beneficiaries for this year's event are three-fold...1) 50% of the proceeds are going to Roots of Harvest Cultural Kitchen. 2) 25% of the proceeds are going to Lakehead University's Food Bank. 3) 25% of the proceeds are going to Confederation College's Food Bank. Due to licensing requirements, our monetary donation will be under the umbrella of the United Way, who in turn will pass the money onto the three groups listed above. Once again, thanks to Lorrie and Cindy for their work in getting the licensing in place and ticket info sent to the printer. Also, an honourable mention of gratitude goes to Judy P. for her investigative work into the Cultural Kitchen. Her research brought an awareness to a program we would not have otherwise thought of. In a nutshell (excuse the pun), it involves **WOMEN, EDUCATION and EMPOWERMENT**. A perfect fit.



We are aiming to have 30 baskets on display. Every year it seems like a daunting task to reach this goal, but through the generosity of our members in partnership with family and friends we always come out on top! With that in mind, if you can put on your creative thinking caps and are able to donate in any way, shape or form it would be most welcoming. Personalized shopping is also an alternative for those that A) feel they don't have a creative mind B) hate seeking out that perfect something C) are unable to get out and about. We accept all credit cards and we promise we won't spend beyond your limit. Guides Honour!

The good news is, we have already secured 3 baskets. We presently have a barbeque, Instapot and a homemade quilt. As you can see items don't necessarily have to fit in a basket. LOL. One of Dr. Phil's (remember him? T.V.'s famous behavioural psychologist) favourite lines was, "The best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour." If this holds true, we are definitely well on our way to enjoying another successful night of fundraising!

LET THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING BEGIN!

Shirley and Kathleen  
Co- Chairs Fundraising

When you're stressed, you eat ice cream, cake, chocolate and sweets. Why? because stressed spelled backwards is desserts.



Dream it Be It

Career Support for Young Girls

DIBI NEWSLETTER UPDATE

February 2024



## DIBI Career Support for Young Women

The DIBI Committee is moving quickly to confirm speakers for the 2024 DIBI Career Conference for young women.

The conference will be held at the Cardinal Room on the CLE Grounds on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM – 3 PM.

## Participants & Promotion

As you were previously advised, the participants to the conference will be young women associated with the Thunder Bay CAS and the June Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre (Dilico). It is hoped that between the two agencies there will be a minimum of 15 participants in attendance.

The committee is also encouraging young women not associated with the Agencies to attend. This invitation will be a “*soft*” opening of the event to our community. The event information will be shared on the Thunder Bay Soroptimist website and Facebook. Information will also be shared with Soroptimist members, so that they may share it in turn.

The intent of the “*soft*” opening is to build the number of attendees to the conference and to allow the Committee to assess a potential audience for DIBI 2025.

Young women not associated with the Agencies may contact [Devona Crowe](#) for more information at: [devona@me.com](mailto:devona@me.com) or [807-624-6926](tel:807-624-6926).

Young women not affiliated with CAS or Dilico must complete media consent, and parental consent forms. Devona will forward to them to interested participants.

## Future Developments

Details regarding speaker selection and training, food requirements will be determined during February.

There may be a role for other club members in the delivery of the conference on March 13<sup>th</sup>, if they have a desire to help.

**MEMBERS PROMOTION**

**PLEASE SHARE THE POSTER AND INFORMATION  
BELOW WITH ANY YOUNG WOMEN YOU KNOW.**



Are you in high school and looking to find the right career?

Do you want guidance on how to set and achieve your career goals?

Would you like to learn about careers from women in the work force?

Would you like to get resources to help plan your future ?

***The Dream It, Be It Conference can help you!***

Many young women don't know what they want to do for the rest of their lives, and everyone's plans change along the way. Soroptimist International of Thunder Bay is hosting a conference for young women aged 14-23. Come and learn about potential career opportunities through conversation with women in the work force. This will provide a springboard for the young women as they to plan for a self-sufficient, rewarding, and profitable future.

**DREAM IT, BE IT! CONFERENCE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024,**

**11 AM-3 PM**

**CARDINAL ROOM**

(Located on the WEST side of the CLE COLISEUM)

Lunch, and Attendance Prizes.

*Your future...endless possibilities!!!*

To register or to learn more about the conference contact:

DEVONA CROWE, Soroptimist

[devona@me.com](mailto:devona@me.com)



Registration deadline  
April 12/24

Fee: \$300

LET'S GET READY FOR BELLEVUE!

Early registration for SIA's 48th Biennial Convention will open soon! Stay tuned for details. #SIAConv2024



Third Annual International Women's Day Tea Party

SIA is once again hosting a virtual tea party to celebrate International Women's Day! Please join us for a global celebration, March 7, 8 p.m. (ET). This virtual event will be presented with simultaneous interpretation in all our languages. Register via zoom: <https://zoom.us/join?branding=zooomevents#/login> or Register via email as a guest.

Once registered, you'll receive a confirmation email with a link to join this event.



## February

Welcome to the first Global Voice Newsletter! of 2024!

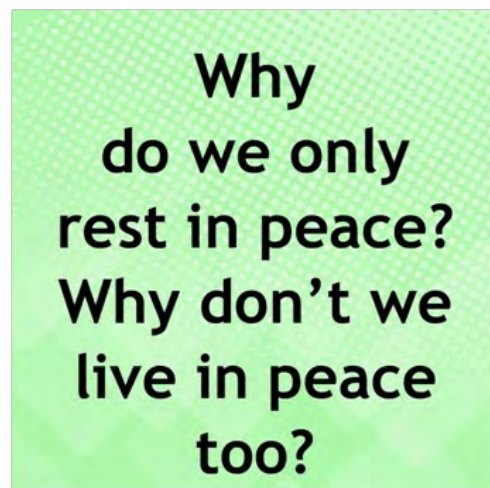
As we embark into this new year, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our outgoing President Maureen Maguire, and welcome SI President Siew Yong Gnanalingam from SI South East Asia Pacific for the 2024-2025 biennium. Join us in expressing gratitude for their efforts, and for the dedicated contributions from our members and volunteers around the world.

Global Voice covers important SI news, upcoming events and recent activities you should be aware of. This edition includes inspiring stories shared for International Day of Education, insights from our representatives at the UNESCO General Conference, and celebrates the winners of the Visible and Vocal Public Speaking competition held last December.

Stay connected for empowering narratives, updates, and a year filled with positive change!

- International Day of Education
- Our Voice at the UN: UNESCO General Conference
- Visible and Vocal: public speaking competition
- Commission on the Status of Women

<https://sigbi.org/2024/global-voice-newsletter-september-2023/>







## Step into Empowerment: Join the "Walk for Women" Event Throughout March!

The month of March gives us the chance to celebrate the strength and spirit of women around the world! This year, let's lace up our sneakers and move for a mission with the brand new annual Walk for Women event.

### What is the Walk for Women?

Throughout March, and on International Women's Day, join us in taking steps towards empowerment. This is more than just a stroll; it's a movement to honor the women who have shaped our lives and a chance to build community around our cause.

### How Do I Get Involved?

Get moving for women! Then step over to social media and post your "#WhyIWalk". You might also start a peer-to-peer fundraiser or organize a local group walk and outreach event.

Visit the [Walk for Women website](#) to find other ways to get involved, including the chance to purchase a limited-edition event t-shirt.

So, mark your calendars, gather your friends and family, and let's make every step count!



The Walk for Women is a worldwide event during the month of March to celebrate **Women's History Month** and **International Women's Day** (March 8). Everyone can participate—just get moving and share your **#WhyIWalk!** Help us spread awareness about the stories, struggles, and strength of women!

### JOIN

At LiveYourDream.org, we are dedicated to ensuring women and girls have the opportunity to reach their full potential, be free from violence, and live their dreams.

In partnership with Soroptimist volunteers, we **empower women and girls through access to education**. In the process, we're helping address issues that hold women back, such as discrimination, domestic violence, trafficking, and unplanned pregnancy.

<https://act.liveyourdream.org/walkforwomen/>

## Soroptimist International Foundation



Soroptimist International Foundation was officially launched at the Convention in Dublin in July. The Foundation will replace the President's Appeal and its charitable status will enable us to access more benefits, and in turn, help more women and girls.

Find out more about the Foundation, including how to donate, via the link below.

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/si-foundation-old/>

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### SIA #TechTalks

BIG changes are making waves for SIA, including launching a 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.

Are you interested in participating in our #TechTalks Learning Labs?

[Sign up to be the first to hear](#) how tech is taking your member experience to the next level.

Powered by the Dream Big Campaign—Thank you donors for investing in SIA's sustainability!

<https://wm-no.glb.shawcable.net/zimbra/mail#20>



Stay tuned! SIA is launching an online survey series to gather member feedback on various topics. By participating in our survey series, you'll not only play a crucial role in shaping future decisions, but two members will also have the chance to win a \$50 gift card!

Each month, SIA will share a new survey with members. To participate, click on the link, which will be available in Best for Women, on social media and the Soroptimist blog. Completing each survey will only take a few minutes of your time, but your feedback will be invaluable.

SURVEY 1: BEST FOR WOMEN E-NEWSLETTER

SURVEY 2: EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

SURVEY 3: SOCIAL MEDIA

SURVEY 4: WEBSITE

<https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/sia-survey-series>

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**60 may be the new 40 but the  
100 dollar bill is the new 20**



*Big goal Accelerator Project*

Make sure to share your accomplishments and report your club's Big Goal Accelerator Projects! Not sure if your club's project is eligible? Please consult our What Counts handout. Or email [program@soroptimist.org](mailto:program@soroptimist.org) for more information!

<https://soroptimist.jotform.com/form/210685659585067>

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