



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

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, Jan. 13th at 7 pm

**Join Zoom Meeting:
Judy will advise connection details**

Items of interest:

- * Arches
- * Committees
- * Board
- * Reach for the top
- * Sick and Visiting
- * Why I am a member
- * Friends
- * Roots to Harvest

Inside this Issue:

- Conversation with Cheryl
- Treasurer Report : December
- Club Minutes None for December

A CONVERSATION WITH CHERYL



Happy New Year! As I sit to write this submission for our monthly newsletter, I can't help but think 2020 certainly was quite a year!! Usually when someone expresses that sentiment, it has a happy connotation. I think we'd all agree that at some point in the past year, we couldn't believe our eyes or ears; a worldwide pandemic. For a few months, while the country shut down for the most part, we huddled in our homes, and listened to daily COVID 19 infections and deaths around the world. It reminded me of watching the evening news during the Vietnam War and hearing the daily death count of American soldiers. If someone had predicted the pandemic and its impact at the beginning of 2019, we would likely have thought that they were referring to a science fiction novel or movie! All the above to say that 2020 sure was a **MEMORABLE!**

As a Soroptimist club, we didn't let a pandemic slow us down. We continued to meet via zoom. Again, I imagine, many of you like me never dreamt that we would come to view zoom as a tool that is relatively? easy to use. At our June virtual meeting, we ate pizza and drank a beverage in our own homes and chatted.

Karen displayed her magic touch once again by using a deck or decks of cards to add spice to the meeting and in the installation of the new board. The Comfort Kits that previously been filled at the June meeting were postponed and completed in December with Judy A. and Lorrie leading the charge.

The pandemic didn't dissuade Linda from continuing her work with obtaining new Club shirts for the members who needed or wanted them. She brought sample shirts to our September our only "in person" meeting. When other shirt sizes were required, she obtained samples and offered the use of her home for the applicable members to try them on. Remember if your shirt "shrunk" over the Christmas holidays it may have had something to do with the hot chocolate or other beverages and food you consumed and the not the shirt size!!

Judy P. oversaw the "Live Your Dream Program" in a year that had potential applicants learning remotely. Judy didn't let that deter her and due to her efforts, we have applicants to consider for our bursary. Speaking of bursaries, Kathleen and Shirley are heading up our first ever (how exciting!) virtual "Sweet Dreams" auction for our "Live Your Dream" bursary. The auction which is scheduled for early February has a number of items and more are needed in different price/value points and for differing demographics. Kathleen is an amazing shopper. If you need a sweet talking bargain shopper, call on Kathleen. Stay tuned for details on Kathleen's great shopping expedition!!

I don't want to forget to mention that due to the pandemic, Soroptimist regional as well as national meetings had to change from "in person" to virtual ones. A few of our members attended the Soroptimist Foundation meeting that was held on a Saturday in October. The ECR Fall Conference was held over two nights with many of our club members attending. In both the Foundation and ECR Fall Conference, there were more participants than when they held "in person" sessions. Maybe this will be the way of the future. It certainly saves money and time; however, it does present challenges with regard to fostering friendships with other Soroptimists in other cities and towns in our region and Canada.

Our zoom Christmas meeting was simply WONDERFUL! It was lovely to see Barb and Yvonne on zoom! Thank you to Lynda Fraser and Mark Zurevinski for their assistance. Shirley and Karen did an outstanding job in creating a lot of laughs and fun with the penny auction, the bingo and trivia contest. Susan was certainly a "lucky duck" with her winning numbers.

The folks at Elevate were once again very pleased to receive our Christmas gifts for their female clients. It is apparent that our Club's generosity takes them by surprise each year! Thank you to Cindy for delivering the items that had been dropped off at Marlene's home to Elevate. Our support of the female clients of Elevate likely has a big impact on these marginalized women. It demonstrates that someone cares in a tangible way!

Well even in these changing times, our club accomplished a number of things! Now we are onto a new year 2021!! As you may recall, OCTOBER 3, 2021 is a BIG DAY in the Soroptimist worldwide organization! It will be the Soroptimist organization's 100th birthday!! We will be hearing more about this day and celebrations as time goes on.

You will likely hear more about the Soroptimist BIG GOAL which is to invest in dreams of one half a million women and girls through access to education and training by 2031. The Soroptimist Dream Programs economically empower women and girls who face obstacles such as poverty, racism, violence or teen pregnancy will be key. To achieve our BIG GOAL, we need to invest our resources in growing the impact of our Dream Programs and recognize other club work that includes access to education and training for women and girls so they reach their full potential. By investing our resources in our Dream Programs we will increase the number of women and girls we reach and as a club be better known for our work. This is an ambitious goal, but one that the organization feels is possible to achieve.

There is a lot to consider in the coming months, but imagine being no longer a secret and being known for the difference we make in women and girls lives!! Could we be as well known as Rotarians for their house draws; Christmas Cheer for the work they do to make Christmas a bit brighter for folks? After all, "things are changing" and as Winston Churchill said "to improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often!" I'm not sure about striving for "perfect", but as I have mentioned in previous "chats", the Soroptimist organization is a wonderful organization of WOMEN that has changed over the years to fit the needs and wants of its members and the people the various [clubs have helped. While in my twenty-year membership, the focus](#) has been on helping women and girls, we now have the signature "Dream " programs that are identifiable and continue to help women

and girls. Maybe just maybe, Soroptimist will finally cease to be the “best kept” secret! Just Imagine.....

As we go forward into the New Year, we have vaccine(s) that will hopefully eradicate this deadly pandemic. We may be a bit more thankful for a family and friends! After all we had that “2020 pause” that afforded many of us the opportunity to consider all that is good in the world. I can’t help but think of this famous saying “Never in the field of human conflict (in this case I mean the pandemic) has so much been owed by so many to so few”!

This statement was made in September, 1940. I think you will agree that it can be applied to the past year! We owe a debt of gratitude to the health care professionals who worked tirelessly for those who were and are ill and for the scientists who worked diligently to develop the vaccines!!

Happy New Year! Imagine what we can accomplish in the year ahead! As Abraham Lincoln said, “The best way to predict the future is to create it”. In line with our Dream Programs, I’ll end with a quote from the late Eleanor Roosevelt

**“The future belongs to those who
Believe in the beauty of their dreams!”**

Happy New Year!

President Cheryl



Hugh Hefner became a multi-millionaire staying home in his pajamas.

I’m not having the same result.

<p><u>PROGRAM COMMITTEE 2020-21</u></p> <p>Chair: Judy Perrier</p> <p>Live Your Dream Award: Judy Perrier</p> <p>Dream It Be It: Cheryl Ball</p> <p>Community Projects -</p> <p>Comfort Kits: Lorrie Haslam & Judy Anderson</p> <p>International Friendship Gardens: Enid McKenzie, Maxine Tenander & Marilyn Fenwick.</p> <p>Program Committee Members: Linda Adams</p>	<p><u>MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE 2020-21</u></p> <p>Chair: Karen Bortolin & Marlene Crago</p> <p>Meeting Hostess(Dinners): Kim Koivukoski & Judy Anderson</p> <p>Meeting Speakers/Activities: Marlene & Karen</p> <p>Archives Joan Taddo</p> <p>International Goodwill: Barb Fraser</p> <p>Sick and Visiting: Shirley Smith</p> <p>Soroptimist of the Year: Maxine Tenander</p> <p>Protocol & Club Policy: Lee Ann Nalezty</p> <p>Orientation Cheryl & Karen</p> <p>Membership Committee Members: Rosa Martin, Melanie Cates, Cindy Figus, Lauren Buttman</p>
<p><u>FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE 2020-21</u></p> <p>Chair: Kathleen Rismondo & Shirley Smith</p> <p>Two Bit Auction</p> <p>Sweet Dreams Auction - Kathleen & Shirley</p> <p>Bingo Fundraiser: Karen B.</p> <p>Fundraising Committee Members: Karen Evans as well as all SI Thunder Bay members work at fundraising</p>	<p><u>PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE 2020-21</u></p> <p>Chair: Faith Crichton</p> <p>Newsletter: Lee Ann Nalezty</p> <p>Web mistress: Judy Perrier</p> <p>Social Media: Melanie Cates</p> <p>Club Photographer: Faith Crichton</p> <p>Public Awareness Committee Members Sharon Godwin.</p>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS. 2020-2021

PRESIDENT: Cheryl Ball.

DELEGATE: Linda Adams

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Judy Perrier

FUNDRAISING: Kathleen Rismondo & Shirley Smith

TREASURER: Cindy Figus * Lorrie Haslam

PUBLIC AWARENESS: Faith Crichton

SECRETARY: TBA

MEMBERSHIP: Karen Bortolin & Marlene Crago

Lorrie is shadowing Cindy as treasurer



The first week of 2021 is over ALREADY, which means Auction 32 is just around the corner. Thanks to members generosity and creative thinking we thus far have secured 26 items. As previously stated, our goal is to showcase 32 items on our, "Sweet Dream" site. Mathematician I am not, but my calculator is indicating that we are 6 items away from REACHING THE TOP of what we hope to accomplish. To surpass it would be even grander! For those that have great intentions, but just haven't got around to it yet cause life keeps getting in the damn way, we are accepting donations (actual or monetary) till **JANUARY 11th**. Give Shirley or myself a call and one of us will swing by and pick it up. Keep in mind, because we are reaching a broad audience of gender and age, items don't have to be outlandish in price. Lower valued items can sometimes garnish just as much equity as more valuable items. A few more male and youth oriented items would be a welcome asset.

Similar to our in person, Two Bit Auction, a vital component of making the site appealing to the potential bidders is to dress up the items that will be on display. We are very fortunate to have been able to engage Chrissy(Shirley's daughter) to help us with this task. She has agreed to be our in house creative producer and photographer. We are very grateful that she is willing to take on this monumental task and we have no doubt the final product will be outstanding. "Friends of Soroptimists," how lucky are we.

The following is a list of items we have received thus far. Depending on our final numbers, some items will stand alone, while others may be paired. The more the merrier!

- *Earrings from Callico Hills
- *BMX Bike
- *Woman's Purse
- *Painting /Colouring Kits (The Creative)
- *Mini Photo Session(Agnes Paisley Photography)
- *Bilgana Baker Print
- *Lufuma Multiposition Reclining Chair
- *P.J.'s/Socks/Bottle of Wine
- *Two Paintings/one on canvas
- *Scratch Tickets
- *Bedding in a Basket
- *"Food for the Soul"(\$100.00 of coupons for shops and eateries/ no expiry date)
- *Google Mini/Sony Wireless Headphones
- *Sherman Jewellery (2 sets)
- *"Spa for You" (3 foot detoxes)
- *Woman's Bracelet
- *Man's Basket
- *Shower Head
- *Solar Panel
- *\$25.00 gift card/t shirt(Sleeping Giant Brewery)
- *Godiva Chocolates (2 boxes)
- *Kaija Maki original paintings
- *Monetary Donations to purchase;
 - > Beer Fridge
 - > Towels to accompany the shower head
 - > Battery Pack to twin with Solar Panel

Last spring when we awarded the, "Live Your Dream," Award to Jasmine and Brittany I recall how moved we all were by the gratitude our two recipients displayed. How privileged are we to be able to pay it forward once again, by supporting another deserving and determined young woman. Helping someone REACH FOR THE TOP, is what Auction 32 is all about. ♥☐

Gratefully Yours,

Shirley and Kathleen
Co-Chairs Fundraising

Sick & Visiting Report for January 2021

Cindy is having surgery *today* on her finger as a result of her fall.

Barb F. had pin holes in her water pipes over *Christmas*.

Marlene being tested for Sleep Apnea' her daughter is much better and son has a new Doctor

Marilyn having knee issues/going to have a cortisone shot

Rosa husband having surgery on his shoulder next week

Judy P. had a busted hot water tank with a real mess

Those I didn't get a hold I'm sorry I missed you. Hope all are safe.

The others all have said they are fine but bored.

Respectfully Submitted

Shirley

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

sunshine is not cancelled
spring is not cancelled
love is not cancelled
relationships are not cancelled
reading is not cancelled
naps are not cancelled
devotion is not cancelled
music is not cancelled
dancing is not cancelled
imagination is not cancelled
kindness is not cancelled
conversations are not cancelled
hope is not cancelled



#keeplookingup
SimpleStencils.com

Friends

I have been thinking about "friends". We likely all have many different types of friends. Some we would describe as "school friends", "long-time friends", or "friends" within a certain setting i.e. work friends, church friends, exercise group friends. Some refer to people they know casually as a "friend". I decided to look for a definition of the word "friend" in the trusty dictionary and found the following definition "Friend - a person who you know well and who you like a lot, but who is usually not a member of your family"

I think many of us in our Soroptimist Club would refer to each other as friends. Some members have known each other prior to joining our club. Others have made long standing friendships from years of Soroptimist club involvement/membership. While others are forging Soroptimist friendships as they work on projects. These projects are not all work. There is an opportunity to chat and laugh and find out more about each other's lives.

With these relationships, we can celebrate the good things in each other's lives and support each other when they face challenges.

It is in regard to "support a member facing a challenge" that I refer to today. Some of you may not know that Kim Koivukoski's childhood friend Maureen has passed away on December 16th, 2020 from cancer in Ottawa. What you may not know is that Kim travelled down East a number of times to support her friend on her final journey. Kim's last trip was in December driving along Lake Superior in the winter! Kim is certainly a brave soul. Travel by any means is not easy these days with COVID. It is a bit nerve wracking when there is the possibility of winter storms and of course the short daylight hours for driving.

In speaking with Kim, I inquired about her friend Maureen. She said that it was an honour and privilege to be with Maureen as she passed away. While Kim could likely written pages about her friendship with Maureen, she

provided this thumbnail sketch of Maureen's life.

"Her name is Maureen Hodgins. She went to Shuniah Public School (now the site of Roseview) and Lakeview High School. Her mom Marian Hodgins taught business at Hillcrest and her dad Bill taught high school also. She went to university in Guelph. After her husband John Allistone left the Air-force, they settled in Ottawa where they were in the retail business. They had a high end gift shop called "Homespun"; a card and gift shop and a kitchen store. After retirement, they bought a beautiful home in Puerto Vallarta and a cottage in Kettle Point. The PV home is still on the market and the cottage was sold quickly.

When Maureen was diagnosed with cancer in March, they decided to move back to Ottawa and were living in a retirement home, The "Villagia" in the Glebe. It was a hard move, but a good one for them. John has Parkinson's with a related dementia and it gave Maureen peace knowing that he would be taken care of."

From sadness, I'm sure there are smiles as Kim reflects on her memories of times she spent with Maureen. Also Kim now has a

companion - a small dog named "Teddy" after Maureen's aunt. I'm sure Teddy is good company for Kim as they go forward without their dear friend.

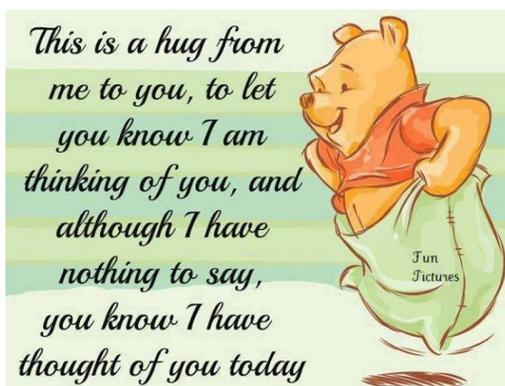
I wanted to share Kim and Maureen's story with you since we are not able to meet face to face at dinner tables where we often share what is happening in our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

A thought...

In order to keep connected, Lee Ann has suggested that we have monthly afternoon tea and conversation get-togethers via zoom. These get-togethers will be an opportunity to chat and see each other and keep in touch. The monthly tea and chat will be an agenda item for our general meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.



President Cheryl





I found this poem written by a member of the Kawartha Lakes Club. It really spoke to me. I hope you have room to print it.

- Karen

People ask me why I am part of Soroptimist by Annie Merrell (SI Kawartha Lakes member)

When I enter the room, I feel the warmth, not of a fire burning or the heat of the sun
 But of the women behind those faces brimming with smiles and eager to share
 I glance from face to face and feel their support and encouragement there, given as needed, the
 smiles, laughter and caring ways are waiting to be tapped into

This is the place for me

Friendships are made, kept and treasured, new friends continually passing through the doors
 All seeking that warmth and unity that this small group can bring
 Working together, sharing, giving and supporting

This is the place for me

A sisterhood formed in this room, anniversaries, illness, loss of a loved one, grandchildren, marriages and birthdays, all rejoicing, grieving, all these times shared.

This is the place for me

A group of women, doing our best at what we do best, giving back and improving lives.
 Our achievements, and dedication are reflected in the faces of these women in this room
 Our skills are honed, shaped and shared together in this room, each different
 All striving for the same end result

Wanting to make things better, women that lead by example by working together

This is the place for me

These are the once hidden gems of the Kawartha's, growing, expanding, willing to share their expertise with those who wish to become a part of our growing organization who truly give back in the best way possible.

Working as a team. Yes, this is where I want to be.



Erin Beagle from Roots to Harvest. was the guest speaker at our December Zoom meeting. While minutes were not taken at the meeting, the following information taken from their web site provides a brief introduction to their service.

Good Work: We offer young people the opportunity to engage meaningfully in the food system as growers, market gardeners and lifelong learners. By doing so, youth develop skills that lead to qualities necessary for obtaining a sustainable livelihood in the future, and a more vibrant and healthy community. With the understanding that food plays a crucial role in the health, resilience and independence of individuals and communities alike, Roots to Harvest believes in the restorative power this concept promotes

Our Approach: Roots to Harvest offers employment and experiential education opportunities to young people who face barriers to success in these areas. Combining youth development with urban agriculture, Roots to Harvest works to build stronger connections between young people and the community. Youth who are connected, valued and confident will make healthy life choices now and for years to come.

In the Community: In the city, on farms, or in schools, Roots to Harvest works with young people and the community all year round. There are always opportunities for people to engage with sustainable food production and Roots to Harvest aims to ensure such opportunities are experiential and meaningful for all. We employ passionate and compassionate staff who lead by example and work to develop inclusive, instructive and empowering programs. <http://www.rootstoharvest.org/about-us.html>

Roots to Harvest offers speaking services to organizations or individuals holding meetings, AGMs, conferences, professional development activities or other events.

We have a wide variety of topics and formats available to present to your group, including PowerPoint and handout options.

Presentations can be booked by the lecture or as a half- or full-day presentation for your event. The following topics are on offer:

- Food Security in the North West
- Youth Employment
- Working in Diverse Communities
- Urban Farming
- Food Literacy in Schools
- Engaging Youth
- Not-for-Profit Development
- Social Enterprise
- Food Procurement
- Strategies for Engaging People Through Food.
- Apiculture
- Composting and Vermiculture

<http://www.rootstoharvest.org/speaking.html>