

Soroptimist International of Thunder Bay



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

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, November 12th at 7 pm

Cardinal Room at the CLE. The cost is \$5.00 for room rental.

OR

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5424872863?pwd=czi0UnJRQ2w2M2hrZkNkUjF4MUIHdz09>

Meeting ID: 542 487 2863

Pass code: 582986

Items of interest:

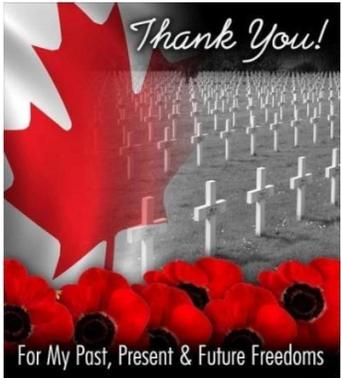
- * Remembrance Day
- * Sick and Visiting
- * KIVA Update
- * Auction 32
- * New member Susan Chopp
- * President's Appeal
- * Petition

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Canadians recognize Remembrance Day, every 11 November at 11 a.m.

We honour those who fought for Canada in the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945), and the Korean War (1950-1953), as well as those who have served since then. They gave their lives and their futures so that we may live in peace. <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/a-day-of-remembrance/intro>





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SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.®

October SI Thunder Bay General Meeting

October 14, 2020 - 7 pm via Zoom

Present: President Cheryl Ball, President-Elect & Program Judy Perrier; Treasurer Lorrie Haslam, Delegate Linda Adams, Public Awareness Chair Faith Crichton, Membership Co-Chairs Karen Bortolin & Marlene Crago, Fundraising Co-Chairs Kathleen Rismondo & Shirley Smith, Conference Co-Chairs Maxine Tenander & Kim Koivukoski, LeeAnn Nalezty, Cindy Figus, Susan Chopp, Judy Anderson, Marilyn Fenwick, Enid McKenzie

Regrets: Secretary Lauren Buttman

Cheryl called the meeting on order at 7:05 pm. Karen was asked to be recording Secretary for this meeting as the Secretary was not available.

Our new member Susan Chopp was introduced and installed as a member. While Cheryl was having technical issues Karen asked each member to introduce themselves and welcome Susan.

The minutes of the September 9, 2020 general meeting were approved. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Shirley, seconded by Lee Ann, and carried.

Lorrie Haslam gave the Treasurer's Report. The motion to approve her report was made by Judy Anderson, seconded by Shirley, and carried.

Correspondence

We received a "thank you" from Barb Fraser for the flowers and the cards she received from the members.

We received a notice for the mail box rental. Since the cost is now nearly \$200 the matter was discussed at the Board meeting. It was decided not to cancel it as we will be hosting conference next spring and it will be necessary for registration. We will revisit the renewal next year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Maxine spoke about the **Spring Conference 2021**. She has spoken with ECR Governor Jennifer Oliver and we will know by the end of February 2021 if the conference is a go this time.

Cheryl spoke about the **ECR Virtual Fall Conference** which is being held on October 21 and 27. The theme is "Changing Colours, Changing Times, Changing Soroptimists". The invitation has gone out by email to all members of Eastern Canada Region. Members are to contact ECR Secretary Sue Rivers to register.

Maxine spoke about the **SI Friendship Gardens**. Our name is going to be put on the two arches! The City of Thunder has agreed to pay for one arch and we are to pay for the second arch. This will cost approximately \$4,300, we have enough in the Garden Fund. Cory (from the City) will match our blue colour for the lettering. Kathleen suggested that we should also put up a sign that states that the gardens were established in 1967. This was an excellent suggestion and it will also be done. Maxine also told us that 2 trees will be planted next spring for Olive Ede and for Rose Frim. The trees will bring our total to 13 trees in the grove. Maxine also explained what the criteria is for having a tree planted in someone's memory – they must be a current member or have been a Soroptimist for 25 years. (Editor's note – the cost for planting a tree is around \$800.00).

FUNDRAISING

Kathleen and Shirley lead a discussion about the possibility of doing an **on-line auction**. Maxine had brought forward this suggestion at the Board meeting. As neither Kathleen nor Shirley felt they had the technology to set this up Judy Perrier offered her assistance. We then discussed the details of how, when, what.

The members were asked for a show of hands to indicate whether or not they approve of the idea – it was approved.

We discussed a Valentine's Day theme since is already too close to Christmas and we will be too busy in the spring with Conference. The bidding will take place from February 7 – 12. Judy Perrier will contact Auction 32 to make the arrangements.

The membership are asked for ideas and donations, and are encouraged to use whatever connections they might have to order to solicit donations. Judy Anderson was asked if we could expect any help from the CLE as they have been amazingly supportive of us in the past. Judy replied that the CLE is not really in business these days due to Covid so we would be on our own this year. Maxine mentioned that for the recent Alzheimer's Auction a number of their members donated cash which was then used to purchase higher end items.

The members would have to get the word out to their friends and family. It was stressed that the use of social media is crucial for an event like this to succeed. Members will be asked to get the word out to all of their Facebook (etc.) contacts.

Karen was asked about the **Bingo Fun Night**. The date that is booked is Tuesday, January 26th, and that the event is an easy fundraiser, so if bingos are not shut down due to Covid we will do it if we can. The money earned can be used by the club however the club chooses as no Lottery License is necessary for this event.

PROGRAM

Judy Perrier talked about the **Live Your Dream (LYD) Award**. At present we have one applicant but it is still early.

Kathleen and Faith spoke about a **Dream It, Be It (DIBI) event**. They are talking about doing it via Zoom, possibly one day a week for 4 weeks, for girls in Grades 7 & 8, possibly next spring, with a health/wellness/self-esteem/mental health theme. A few ideas were thrown around. If any of the members have an idea for who might be a guest speaker they are asked to connect either Kathleen or Faith by the end of October.

Judy Perrier talked about a recent **DIBI Webinar** that she took part in. She was very impressed with the speakers.

International Day of the Girl was October 11th. Judy said that she was unable to participate due to Thanksgiving Dinner but the media blitz that occurred with clubs across Canada was incredible.

Judy Anderson and Lorrie are in charge of **Comfort Kits** and asked for ideas on what could go in them, and how many we should prepare. It was very recently on the news that someone else in town was making Comfort Kits. Margo Ellis from Uncommon Ladies was preparing Comfort Kits for Shelter House and Grace Place. We talked about whether our bags should be more of a Covid Kit with some personal hygiene items and things like mitts and socks. There is \$400 budgeted for Comfort Kits that can be used to purchase some items, but the members are welcome to make donations. Kathleen offered to donate 50 pairs of socks. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP

Karen said that she has discussed with Marlene the idea of looking over and possibly updating the New Member folders. She has asked Rosa Martin to pass along to her the material from last year. Cheryl would like to reinstate **mini orientation sessions** at our meetings and has already used the newsletter to help teach members (especially new members) some Soroptimist facts.

Lee Ann reported that she and Karen have been asked by President Cheryl to review and update the **SI Club Procedures**. It is intended to assure continuity in what we do and provide a resource especially for our new members. Procedures from other clubs have been requested. This is a work in progress and will be shared with the club for their input. Membership can pass along any ideas they have for consideration to either Lee Ann or Karen.

Lorrie's husband Peter will be building the shelves in our **Storage Unit** in the very near future. Lorrie explained his plan. The members will be advised when we are ready to accept their stuff.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

There was a recent **Soroptimist Forward Tool Kit webinar** that Judy Perrier, Maxine, Lorrie and Cheryl took part in. They all said that it was excellent and suggested that all of our members look at Judy's article in the newsletter for the link and check it out. Apparently it was two hours of their time that was well spent!

NEW BUSINESS

We discussed the need to print the **SI Thunder Bay Board minutes** in the newsletter. It was moved by Maxine, seconded by Karen, and carried, that the board minutes do not need to be printed in the newsletter. It was stated that should any member wish to see the board minutes they are welcome to have a copy.

Cheryl told us that ECR Governor Jennifer Oliver was so impressed with our latest **newsletter** that she asked if it could be posted on the ECR website. Congratulations to Lee Ann for her good work! Lee Ann stated that she does not include our financial reports in the ECR's copy of the newsletter.

Cheryl talked about the **2020 Proposed Amendments to SIA by laws**. Cheryl is planning to summarize the changes and send it out to the members. Members are welcome to read all of the documents if they wish to.

Any Other Business

Linda Adams said that she planned to have shirts available at this meeting but since we are back to having Zoom meetings, she will have to arrange a time when anyone interested in obtaining a **new shirt** can try them on at her home or she will make other arrangements if that doesn't work for the member.

We said the pledge and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

A Conversation with Cheryl November 2020

I recently noticed that the letterhead for Soroptimist International said “a **Global Voice for Women**” beside it were the words “Soroptimist with the circular disc emblem for Soroptimist and the word “International”. This made me think about the meaning of the Soroptimist emblem.



The Soroptimist emblem is a circular disc with the figure of a woman appearing as the central figure. She emerges as the “spirit of womanhood” – vital, steadfast and dauntless.

A plaque bearing the name “Soroptimist” is held in her upraised arms.

The leaves and acorns of the oak bend downward to the right of the word “Soroptimist” and are emblematic not only of the strength and growth of the organization, but of the progress and achievements that it will attain.

The leaves of the laurel are on the left of the word “Soroptimist”. Laurel is renowned as the symbol of victory and typifies friendship and success, both of which are vital to club life.

The word “International” forms the lower portion of the emblem and signifies the worldwide institution that Soroptimist has become.

This emblem is more than just a badge of identification, it is a symbol of the aims and ideals of Soroptimist everywhere.

Well, I am sure that was a walk down memory lane for some of you and maybe something new for a few others. I pointed out the change in letterhead as it symbolizes to me that Soroptimist is an organization that is ninety-nine (99) years young that has adapted to meet the changing needs of women and girls throughout its existence.

“Adapting to change” is almost the new “buzz” phrase. With the COVID 19 pandemic, we have all had to “adapt” in big and small ways to how we live our daily lives. Rather than lament about what “we can’t do”, I am happy to see that our club is talking about what “WE CAN DO”!

Our club is growing. We are very happy to welcome Susan Chopp as our newest member of SI Thunder Bay. What a wonderful way to start the 2020-21 year! We were thrilled to learn that Susan knew about Soroptimist since her friend was a recipient of our Women's Opportunity now Live Your Dream award. Susan attended our 2019 Membership night and kept our group in mind when she retired this fall.

Maxine garden committee chair has advised that we will soon see the Soroptimist name on the two arches at either entrance to the beautiful garden.

Judy A. and Lorrie have agreed to take the lead for our COVID kits that will be distributed to woman in need. A listing of items to be included in these kits will likely have been sent out to our members by the time you read this article.

Linda Adams is overseeing the purchase of new SI Thunder Bay shirts. She is arranging to have the full range of sample sizes available for anyone interested in purchasing a new shirts/tops.

Lorrie and her husband Peter are fitting our storage room with shelves that will make it easier to find things and to keep items off the floor.

The Fundraising committee headed by Kathleen and Shirley are looking into a new way of fundraising. It will be an on line auction entitled "Sweet Dreams" to be held around Valentine's Day. I personally think that this is a very catchy title!! O to be creative!! I wish!!

Judy P. as Program chair has confirmed that we have one application so far for Live Your Dream (LYD) award, but it is still early. Judy and I have participated in the regional DIBI zoom meeting. Faith and Kathleen have asked for names of individuals who could speak at our DIBI "Building Confidence Through Health and Wellness" zoom sessions planned for the Spring 2021. They are looking for speakers on Risk Taking, Friendships (being yourself), Physical and Mental Health and Thinking and Mindfulness. If you know of someone who may be able to assist with speaking at one of the zoom sessions, please give Faith or Kathleen a call.

Well ladies, the "times they are a changing", but I like to think that some things remain the same – our club's commitment and willingness to help women and girls to transform their lives through empowerment and education! We continue to strive to be a "global voice for women and girls" by doing all this great work in our community and participating in regional and national events.

Sincerely, President Cheryl

Sick & Visiting

November phone calls were made and of those individuals I spoke said all were fine.

Joan had her scope done and is waiting for results.

Yvonne had a growth removed from her cheek but doing fine.

Marlene was looking after a sick grandchild.

Enid was about to try out her new Lift chair. She said she had been moving furniture all morning to make room for it. So she was tired.

Those whom I didn't make contact with; I hope there aren't any issues and that I will be able to reach you next month.

Respectfully **Shirley**



to;

Kiva update as of Nov 5, 2020

Username: lnalezty@shaw.ca

Password: sorop2008

Amount lent	\$4,100.00	Paying back	5
Amount repaid	\$3,864.31	Paying back delinquent	3
Amount lost	\$26.05	Repaid	121
Amount refunded	\$125.00	Repaid with currency loss	7
Delinquency rate*	52.80%	Ended in default	2
Amount in arrears	\$44.69	Refunded	3
Outstanding loans	\$84.64	Expired	1
		Total	142

*The percentage of loans you've made that are being paid back and that are past due in repayment. How this is calculated: Amount of payments past due / Total amount outstanding.

Las Marias Chucalibal Group Juana is requesting her 2nd KIVA loan as she needs to buy a large quantity of high quality thread in various colors. "Las Marias Chucalibal" is the name of the Friendship Bridge Trust Bank that Juana and 6 other women formed. They work hard at their businesses that include convenience stores, animal husbandry (poultry, pigs) and traditional textile production.



Latitude: 44.248076
Longitude: -91.08901
Elevation: 2340.71 m
Precision: 2.5 m
Tiempo: 09-08-2020 09:32
Nota: 9C1 de Marias Chucal

Powered by NoteCam

President's Appeal

I thought I would speak about the President's Appeal. You may recall that each December, our members are asked to donate to President's Appeal. While we have collected the donations to this worthwhile cause at our December meetings, you don't have to wait for a meeting to donate individually



President's Appeal prior to confirming what the appeal was for this year, I didn't give this project a lot of thought. I knew that our club collected for the President's Appeal at our December meeting. I knew that there would be a basket for me to drop my money in with a note stating where/what the money would support. I was likely more interested in our Christmas dinner meeting - seeing all the wonderful pot luck dishes, the items on the penny auction table and of course all of you and your guests brightly dressed for the occasion. My memories of these dinners centre around all the fun and laughter and great food that we have!!

Now onto President's appeal. Are you wondering why December was chosen as the month for President's Appeal? December is the month that we celebrate Human Rights Day. Human Rights Day this year is December 10, 2020.

Every Soroptimist International President proposes a project to which Soroptimists worldwide contribute during their two year tenure. Soroptimist International President Sharon Fisher's President's Appeal is "Road to Equality". She invited Soroptimists around the world to join her on her two year trip to empower women and girls and raise awareness of the challenges that continue to prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Did you know that Un Secretary General. Mr. Antonio Guterres said **"achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the "unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world."** Pretty powerful stuff

Did you know that women and girls represent half the world's population and, therefore, half of its potential? With that said, there is a long "road" to travel to achieve full equality of rights and opportunities. SI President Sharon stated that "it is of paramount importance to end the multiple forms of gender violence and secure equal access to quality education and health, economic resources and participation in leadership, decision making and political life".

She also stated to “ensure the sustainability of our organization we need to come together globally and locally to work on the complex problems that are creating turmoil in our world. We need to work with others. We need to fight the pushback. We need to celebrate the perseverance of those who have overcome adversity for they are the ones that can rise and tell their stories. Let’s change the narrative to show the benefits of equality and not spend time debating which issue is the most important. Gender Equality is a cross cutting issue and women and girls are at the centre.”

SI President Sharon and her committee were considering up to 5 topics for project work and application of funding to support each of the chosen projects that would/will bring the best practices. They considered:

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

While it is good to know that February 6th is International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM. You may be surprised to learn that the practice is still hidden in many societies while in others, they are beginning to see the practice banned and still in other countries where it is growing. **Canada is one of those countries where the practice is growing likely due to migration/immigration.**

Child and Forced Marriage Did you know that 1 in 3 girls in developing countries are forced into marriage by the age of 18 and 1 in 9 girls are married before the age of 15?

The Rights of Older Women – combating “ageism”. Why do people tend to treat old people like babies – that’s “ageism”.

Domestic Violence – Physical and Sexual Violence.

This is done through: the use of coercion and threats; intimidation; emotional abuse; minimizing, denying and blaming her; isolation; using children- threatening to take them away; using economic abuse – preventing person from being gainfully employed; using male privilege- treating her like a servant.

Modern Day Slavery – Human Trafficking

Victims of sex trafficking are often lured into enslavement by the promise of a better life, only to find themselves trapped in exploitation. We had a speaker at a club dinner meeting speaking about Human Trafficking in Thunder Bay.

Covid Kits-

We've been busy. Linda Adams and I spent a day together, with a brief masked visit with Faith. We were able to make and prepare our donation of 50 triple layer cotton masks for the kits.

Regards

Judy



Susan Chopp

I had a conversation with our new member Susan Chopp. She was born and raised in Port Arthur, and attended Pine Street School and PACI. She has two degrees from Lakehead University and has a teaching degree from the University of Toronto. Susan is newly retired after working for 27 years as an occasional teacher for the Roman Catholic School Board. She had heard of Soroptimists in the past because she knew someone who received one of our awards years ago, and she thinks our club will be a good fit for her. We look forward to getting to know her better.



Karen



Bill S-203 Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act

I will have a petition that was sent to us from **SI Edmonton** to go to the House of Commons regarding a private Bill S-203 Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act (on-line commercial purposes). Sponsored by [Sen. Julie Miville-Dechêne](#). The bill was first introduced on September 30th, 2020. Second reading was November 3rd, 2020. The real objective of this bill is to protect the mental

health of young persons and, more broadly, to protect Canadians, in particular young persons and women, from the harmful effects of pornography, which is a public safety issue. More information regarding this bill can be obtained at

https://sencanada.ca/en/content/sen/chamber/432/debates/008db_2020-11-03-e#58.

Should anyone wish to add their signature to the petition I will have it available at our November and December meetings.

Karen

FUNDRAISING : AUCTION 32

Ladies due to the present state of affairs, A.K.A. COVID, Soroptimist Thunder Bay is entering the VIRTUAL world of fundraising. Who would have thunk when we left the Heritage Building last fall on the eve of another successful Two Bit Auction, we wouldn't be back to repeat what has been a tradition for many years. Like so many other organizations, we have decided to dig in our heals and re-tweak how we do business so we can continue to support the needs of woman in our community.



With the seed planted by Maxine in September and favourable discussions that followed, AUCTION 32 is beginning to materialize into a promising fundraiser for our, Live Your Dream Award. The application process has been completed and the date set. It will be held mid February which encompasses Valentines Day. Our auction name is SWEET DREAMS. Sweet was suggested because it is being held in the month of February. Dreams being a reflection of the purpose we are fundraising for, Live Your Dream Award. Our auction link will end with, Dream 21. Again sticking with the

WE NEED YOUR TREASURES!

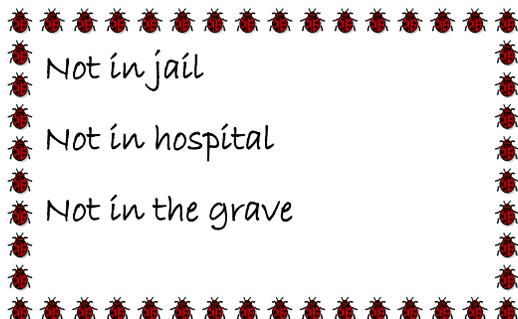


dream theme and 21 noting the year it is taking place, 2021. Another part of the application process required a narrative of our organizations mission and the goal we hope to reach. Thanks goes out to Faith who volunteered to submit the write up. With the application finalized there is only one piece of the puzzle left to assure our goal of \$2000.00 is reached. That my friends is where our membership now needs to rally and collectively begin thinking about acquiring THE GOODS to be auctioned. We do have a few items already donated which is a great start to what we predict will be a successful auction even though it has a

totally different vibe to it. Shirley and I look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions and or donations.

In closing we would like to give a big SHOUT OUT to Judy Perrier. As we venture down uncharted territory of cyber-space, her computer wizardry is an essential element for AUCTION 32 to be AWESOME!

Fundraising Co-Chairs
Shirley and Kathleen



Not in jail

Not in hospital

Not in the grave

Stay Safe
AND
Healthy