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.".

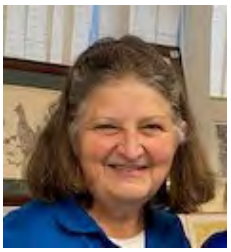
Vision: "Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams".

***Soroptimist Thunder Bay Club Meeting* Wednesday,**

April 12 at 7pm at Maxine's condo

Judy will send information for Zoom attendance

Connecting with Cindy



ion

Happy Easter everyone to you and you families!

Melanie Cates did a wonderful job of getting the Live Your Dream winners article on the newspaper. Thanks to **Faith Crichton** for taking the photo which is also important.

Devone Crowe and her DIBI (Dream It Be It) committee (**Kathleen Rismondo, Faith Crichton, Cheryl Ball and Marlene Crago**) wrapped up their session held on March 14 with a very positive response. We reached out to 8 girls. Well done ladies!

It was wonderful to be at the CLE Home & Garden Show and mingle with the public once again. Spring was definitely in the air! Thanks again to the CLE for the generous donation of a booth in a prime location and **Judy Anderson** for all her hard work. Also, kudos to all that volunteered their time to attend and sell tickets as well as promote our good work. There were a couple of enquiries that have been passed onto membership. We didn't sell out but are trying hard. I also want to acknowledge those that were able to sell tickets on their own

Items of interest:

- **50/50**
- **DIBI**
- **Membership**
- **LYDA**
- **KIVA**
- **2 Bit Auction**
- **Did You Know**

Inside this Issue:

- **Connecting with Cindy**
- **Minutes March 8th**

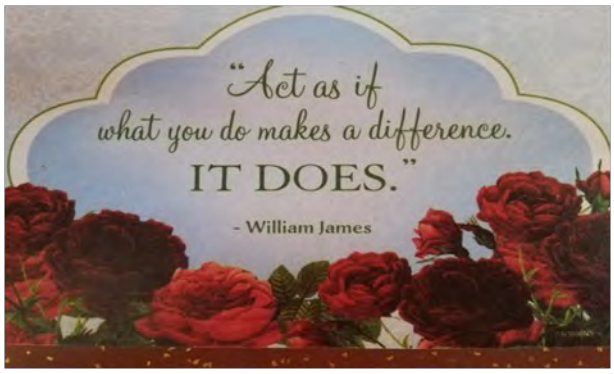
The Two Bit Auction (May 11th) is coming up fast and tickets are ready to sell! All hands on deck are needed for this and if you can drag along your families and friends, it will be much appreciated!

Budgets are needed to be sent to Lorrie Haslam and reports to **President Cindy** by the chairs of the 4 pillars. The reports are needed before the end of May and Lorrie will need her information early May.

The ECR Spring Conference is being held May 5-7, 2023 in Brantford. Online registration has been decreased to $50 so I would encourage to you to participate.

The Yard Sale will be the next Fund Raiser so start collecting!

Your proud President, Cindy



SI Thunder Bay Club Meeting

March 8th, 2023, CLE Cardinal Room, 6:30 pm/Zoom

Attendees: Barb Fraser, Karen Bortolin, Maxine Tenander, Linda Adams, Devona Crowe, Lee Ann Nalezyty, Cheryl Ball, Shirley Smith, Kim Kovukoski, Faith Crichton, Enid McKenzie, Cindy Figus, Marilyn Fenwick, Judy Anderson, Judy Perrier, Kathleen Rismondo

Zoom: Karen Lynn Evans

Guests: Aashvi Gupta, Sophia, and Oskar and Sarah Foglia

Regrets: Lorrie Haslam, Marlene Crago

Secretary: Melanie Cates

Meeting Notes

LYD Your Dream presentation 6:15 pm

Aashvi Gupta and Sarah Foglia were presented their awards and shared information about their path to education achievement. Cindy Figus presented the awards in collaboration with the Live Your Dream Committee.

Dinner 6:30

Call to order @ 7:25 PM – Cindy Figus also informed the club of a change in the order of agenda items to ensure that all members who needed to present information could do so. Some meetings have gone longer than anticipated and people presenting later get less time. Cindy also reviewed meeting etiquette.

Minutes of the February 8, 2023, club meeting – Melanie called for any edits to circulated minutes. One edit for the February meeting was noted as Kim Koivukoski had given her regrets. With this edit Melanie moved that the minutes be accepted. Judy Perrier seconded it. Approved with edits.

Treasurer's Report (Feb. 2023), Budget reminder, conference monies – Cindy Figus presented for Lorrie Haslam.

Income – bottle drive $93.95 (some additional money has come in since the report was prepared and it will go next month's report), Purse sales from club luncheon $480, Coin donation $10.50.

Expenses – Christmas meeting supplies $62.64, printing of business cards $47.44.

Program funds –

Donation – Income - $20 donation

Conference funds –

Donation $65 50/50 from club luncheon

Expenses - $500 donation for Turkey Earthquake Relief

Lottery Account – Expenses $15 for license for Gift Card Draw and monthly fee of $3.75.

No change to Garden Fund or Olive Ede's Fund.

Club chairs were reminded that the budgets for next year are due to Lorrie Haslam for the April club meeting.

The club owes Karen Bortolin $500 for the gift cards for our upcoming draw. We will reimburse her from the proceeds from the sales.

Correspondence – Judy Perrier has received information from the website about a potential new member. She will be attending our May club meeting. Judy also received an inquiry on the website asking if we were still collecting wedding dresses for shipping to Cuba. She will respond that we are no longer doing this.
Cindy continues to forward any information on other club fundraising events and from SIA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ECR Spring Conference May 5-7th 2023 Brantford (ZOOM registrants?) – 6 members attending. Cindy Figus, Judy Perrier, Devona Crowe (our delegates), and Linda Adams, Cheryl Ball, and Karen Bortolin.
The cost for attending the conference is approximately $927 per person (air fare, hotel, conference registration of $225, and ground transportation). Currently our club reimburses the delegates $700. ECR reimburses our club $500 for travel to the Spring Conference. Cindy has asked

club members to review the costs and the reimbursement and provide feedback at another meeting. This change to the budget would need to be considered for future events.
Club members can also join the spring conference for Zoom at a cost of $100 per person. ECR has hired an AV technician to help with the conference and this additional cost necessitated an increase in virtual attendance fees.

Dublin Convention (Kim and Lee Ann) – both are registered and Cindy wondered if the club could provide any monies to assist the attendees with their costs. Both Lee Ann and Kim declined any money to attend the event.

MEMBERSHIP

Faith has distributed business cards to committee chairs. If anyone wants cards, see Faith.

SI Policies & Procedures – Lee Ann Nalezyty reported that the formatting is almost completed. She is waiting for feedback from Cindy, but Cindy had not received it.

Bylaws deferred (with Sharon Godwin) – no update.

Archives adhoc mtg deferred until after DIBI event.

PROGRAM

Live Your Dream – Judy Perrier reported that the portal opens on August 15.

Dream It, Be It – Devona Crowe reported that there are 11 participants registered for the DIBI event on March 14. There was a final meeting on March 6 with CAS. Devona has submitted a grant request to SIA and has received confirmation that the request has been received and is being reviewed. A decision will be made by June 1. The grant is $1500 US.

Following the DIBI event, a report will be submitted.

Devona is also going to apply for the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada grant of $1000 which is due by June 30. If successful, these funds will be used for future DIBI events.

A debrief meeting will be held on April 14.

FUNDRAISING

Two Bit Auction – April 27, 2023 – Kathleen Rismondo has letters available for anyone who is soliciting donations for items for the auction. If anyone has donations of basket items, please let either Shirley Smith or Kathleen Rismondo know.

Licensing for the event needs to be submitted to The City of Thunder Bay and needs to include the number of baskets and the approximate value of each basket. Cindy will get the license for the event based on 35 baskets.

$500.00 Gift Card Raffle (Spring 2023). Cindy has tickets and has asked the club members if they take any for presale to not give them to other club members as it is difficult to track tickets. If there are unsold tickets from club members, we are to return them to Cindy. The beneficiary for the sales is the June Steeve-Lundrum Family Resource Centre.

Kathleen Rismondo circulated a sign-up sheet for selling at the CLE Home and Garden Show March 31, April 1, and 2.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Replacement for Faith? – still looking for a replacement. Melanie continues to cover and will submit the article to Our Stories for the LYD Award.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Land Acknowledgment (see below) – Devona Crowe had brought the idea forward to be doing a land acknowledgement and provided the information we should include.
Maxine moved that we start each meeting and event with the land acknowledgement as noted below. It was seconded by Lee Ann Nalezyty and carried.
This will be included in our Club Guidelines Document

Nominating Committee – Cheryl Ball is chairing this committee. We need one club member (who is not a board member) to join Cheryl and Lorrie Haslam to call members about vacant board/ committee positions. Contact Cheryl if you are interested.

Governor Award form- Cindy Figus will be submitting the form on club activities from March 2022 to March 2023. This form includes hands on activities that we participated or collaborated on.

SIA President Elect ballot- information was pre-circulated. Cheryl Ball moved that our club support Sue Riney as SIA President Elect. Seconded by Lee Ann Nalezyty and carried.

Birthdays:

Cheryl Ball – March 9th

Rosa Martin – March 18th

Kim Koivukoski – March 19th

Pledge for Eastern Canada Region

We are Soroptimists committed to: the sincerity of friendship, the joy of achievement, the dignity of service, the integrity of profession, the love of country. We will put forth our best efforts to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

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-cultured 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.

April club meeting will be in person at Maxine's Condo and our gift card draw will be done at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:40 PM

This is No April Fools Joke….. What a weekend it was at the Home and Garden Show! Without a doubt, an overall success.

Prior to the weekend we had sold $675.00 worth of tickets. By Sunday afternoon an additional $1,126.10 was in the cash box, bringing our total to $1,801.10. But hey we aren't done. There are still a 194 tickets up for grabs to anyone who is willing and able to take a few bundles and get your saleswoman pitch on. Who's up for the challenge??

The primary goal of the Gift Card Raffle was to support the June-Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre, which we definitely achieved. In the process of accomplishing our initial objective, many other positives came to light. First and foremost, the exposure our club received in BOOTH #3 was invaluable. We have a few interested potential new members, fingers crossed. Secondly, we also had folks inquiring about our upcoming Two Bit Auction on May 11th. Last but not least, the informative literature on the table was so well received we had to photocopy more pamphlets to keep up to the demand. More potential members on the horizon perhaps??

It was great to meet Daniel and her colleague from the June-Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre who joined us for part of the afternoon. They expressed how grateful they were to us for supporting their centre. They also appreciated the exposure the event was giving their organization, like Soroptimist, another hidden gem. It will be a privilege to present them with a cheque in support of single mothers on their journey of raising the future generation of leaders.

THANK YOU to EVERYONE who helped make our Gift Card Raffle a HUGE SUCCESS!

We would like to extend an additional and very special thank you to **Judy A.** for her NUMEROUS behind the scenes perks, Booth #3 at no cost to name a few. You always have our best interest at heart and we are grateful to you for it.

Shirley and Kathleen
Co- Chairs Fundraising

Membership

1. 250 "Hand Out Cards" were ordered. They can be filled out with pertinent information on the back. Kim and I distributed some to Committee Chairs at the in person meeting in March.

2. A self-inking stamp was also purchased at Staples to use with the cards or any material to identify **S.I. Thunder Bay**

3. The Membership pamphlets and Welcome Letter to prospective members have been updated and revised.
The fee amount will be stated and revised when necessary on the letter, and people are encouraged to view the website for further information.

4. Faith inquired about printing of the pamphlets at Staples. The cost would be approximately $30 for $25. The letter and attached breakdown (in colour) would also require printing.

5. Judy A. kindly copied the revised pamphlets for the raffle day. We also included the postcards to hand out with edited website change on it

Respectfully submitted

Faith & Kim

Girls Transitioning to Adulthood

The next quarter for the Girls asks for: Food/Snacks and other essentials (e.g. toilet paper, Kleenex, cleaning supplies)

LYDA Winners and Committee Members

KIVA Update

This group of women was created in April 2021. They live in the same locality and have excellent relations of friendship and solidarity. Their main line of work is agriculture. Ndeye is the representative at the far left of the photo raising her hand. She is 54 years old, married, and the mother of 4 sons. Madam Ndeye intends to work in rainfed peanut farming. She will use this new loan to buy seeds and fertiliser for the crop, and after harvesting, she will sell her production on the local market at a good price, hoping to obtain a better income. The profits made will allow her to support her family and buy seeds for the next winter.

In this group: Ndeye, Amina, Thiebou , Fatou, Oumy, Satou, Mbengue, Amine

This group is paying back, loan made in August 2022.

At present the club has only $18 to put towards a loan

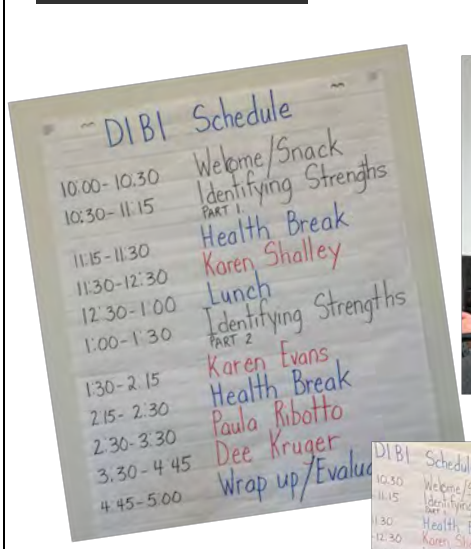
Initial deposit was $472

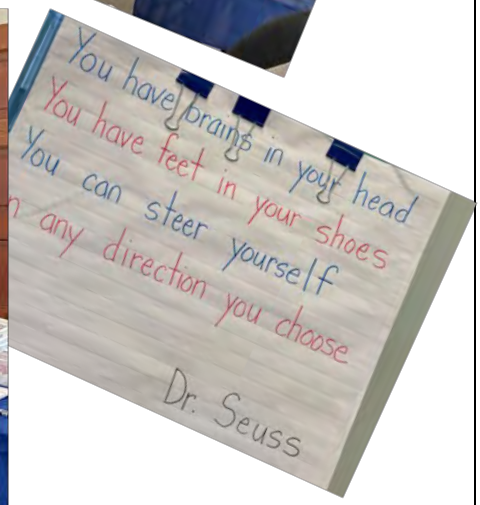
Total lent $4300 in 147 loans in 36 countries

Total of 129 loans repaid (88%)

Others are still paying, expired or defaulted

DIBI REPORT





The Evaluation Reports for SIA and ECR have been submitted and the DIBI team is in debrief mode.

On Tuesday, April, 11, Devona will be meeting with our CAS contact, Danny Michaud for a debrief session. Following this the DIBI team will meet on Friday April 14 to review the input from CAS , the evaluations from the participants, and DIBI team reflections on the 2023 process and DIBI event. Discussions will also be had regarding DIBI 2024.

On behalf of the DIBI team, I thank all the members SIA of Thunder Bay for their on- going support.

Personally, I wish to thank the truly magnificent team that I have had the pleasure to work with: Cheryl Ball, Marlene Crago, Faith Crichton and Kathleen Rismondo. What energy, creativity and problem solving skills they have! Thank you each of you. ❤

Devona Crowe
DIBI Chairperson

DID YOU KNOW

On March 8, 2023 (International Women's Day) we celebrated the achievements of Aashvi Gupta and Sarah Foglia by presenting our Club's Live Your Dream (LYD) awards. Many thanks to Judy Perrier and her committee for all their work!

With this successful night on my mind, I checked out the SIA website under "Real Stories' and found the stories of the 3 women who's stories I have included in this article as well as many other stories. The women don't live in our 'neck of the woods', however, I think they represent the hardships women all over the world experience and have overcome with the help of the Soroptimist "Live Your Dream" program.

Sandra, from California, USA, is one of those LYD finalists who has bravely conquered trauma from her early life and is on the successful path to living her dream and creating a better life for her family.

A sexual abuse survivor, Sandra was first molested at age nine. Then her father was deported, and Sandra's mother abandoned her when she was 11. She was raped at age 13, which resulted in a pregnancy, and spent years in an abusive relationship. Yet this strong mother of four would not be defeated. Inspired by the academic advisors who have helped her navigate the higher education system, she is studying sociology and hopes to become an academic advisor. She looks forward to a brighter reality for herself and her children.

"My dream is to earn a bachelor's degree and eventually a masters in order to leave all these hardships behind. I want to show my children that even through all the messy obstacles it can be done, and goals can be reached."

Alma's family immigrated to the United States when she was a child. She grew up on a migrant farm, where her parents worked in the fields. Alma and her parents did not speak English, making it hard to communicate and integrate into their new country.

Alma dreams of completing a degree in child development, becoming a math teacher, and eventually earning a master's degree.

"As a child I had many dreams and aspired to reach every single one of them. However, life has many ways of reminding us that some dreams are harder to reach—and not just because my family faced harsh socio-economic struggles—but also because as a teenager, at the peak of my adolescence, I became quite ill."

Alma contracted an aggressive kidney disease that plagued her for several years, and was bullied in high school for the visible side effects of the treatment. Despite her health challenges, Alma was still responsible for sustaining a family of six, by cooking and cleaning after school while her parents worked.

After graduating high school, Alma became pregnant with her daughter and was told that having the child had high risks because of Alma's illness. The doctors warned the pregnancy could result in the death of her child or herself. Alma was determined to have her daughter and fought to get stronger. This devotion to the well-being of her daughter continues to this day.

Alma is pursuing her education goals in order to create a better life for her daughter.

"Overcoming all the obstacles life has set before me have reminded me of my dreams and how hard they can be to achieve." Alma acknowledges the work and dedication needed to fulfill her dream, and her perseverance has her on the right path. Alma is already close to completing an associates of arts degree in child development. Along with work and school, she maintains a supportive and loving relationship with her daughter, and shows her goals can be accomplished despite obstacle.

"Receiving these awards is a small testament to my ongoing fight in achieving a career so I can create a better life for my daughter."

Coming from poverty and adversity made growing up a challenge for Jayme. The daughter of a single mom, Jayme struggled to find stability while battling mental health issues, abuse, sexual assault, an eating disorder and suicidality.

Jayme proved to be strong and determined and enrolled in college despite her earlier traumas and lack of financial resources. After becoming pregnant and then a single mom, she dropped out due to her inability to pay tuition.

However, Jayme soon realized that she did not want her daughter to live the life of poverty Jayme had experienced.

It terrified me that my daughter could potentially repeat the life I had growing up, so I decided to change my story.

With her daughter serving as her inspiration, Jayme eventually went back to school to try again. Determined to succeed, Jayme sometimes brought her daughter to lectures, events and student meetings when childcare was not available. "I dream that my daughter will look at me and, rather than be fearful of the future, see hope for who she can become."

Ultimately, Jayme hopes to pursue strategic advocacy work for marginalized groups of people—including women and children living in poverty and survivors of trauma. Jayme wants to use her childhood experiences as a way to support people going through similar experiences. In addition, she dreams of becoming a lawyer and effecting social policy.

"I am learning that the inequality women face is multi-tiered and needs a high degree of commitment. I took several women's studies courses, started working at a feminist-based transition house, and joined the university's school of social work.

With the help of the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards, I can actualize my dreams.

I can't help but think of the *line "yes Virginia there is a Santa Claus"".* I'll close by saying simply '**Yes Soroptimists do make a difference in the lives of women and girls all over the world! We have done so for over 100 years!"** Please stand up and take a bow, or at least pat yourself on the shoulder for all the work you (we) have done and continue to do!

Cheryl

If we were truly honest about the climate change hysteria we would be planting millions of these every year

Update

With our Gift Card Raffle coming to a close we can now focus our attention solely on the Two Bit Auction scheduled for **Thursday May 11th.** It's a big undertaking that involves all hands on deck and in this case feet as well. Speaking of feet, Rosa is in the process of lining up her youthful students to be our runners for the evening. This is a massive addition to our auction's success, many thanks Rosa for rallying the troops for us.

Our tickets are in the process of being printed and will be **ready for distribution at our April 12th meeting.** Kudos to Cindy once again for being our in-house, "Ticketmaster." Hopefully our neighbours, family and friends don't run the other way when they see us coming with more tickets to sell. The majority are sold at the door the evening of, but it's always reassuring to know we have put a dent in attendance via our pre-sales.

Advertising for the event is in place and will be going out soon. It will be popping up on the radio (Country 105/99 The Bay),in the "What to do Section" of the newspaper, tbnewswatch.com, as well as, "The Source" and of course on our website and Facebook page. Thanks to Melanie for taking on this responsibility, much appreciated.

We are slowly creeping up to our goal of 25-30 baskets with the generous donations from our members and outside resources. We have presently acquired the following items…..*Air Fryer…*Two $250.00 Home Depot Gift Cards…*Pasta Maker…*Silicone Frywall Splatter Protectors…*Two Framed Prints…*Jumbo Wok…*Rice Cooker…*Ten Canadian Tire car wash gift cards…*Bedding Ensemble…*Wine Kit and accessories…*Baking Basket…*Leather Bag/Scarf…*Baby Basket… *Purse…*22 inch T.V…*Kitchen Basket…*Pamper Yourself Basket…*Buy Local Basket…*Framed Lotto Tickets…*Hand Crafted Soduko Quilt…*$150.00 donation AND 12 bottles of wine for the Wine Raffle kudos to Faith's husband Jim.

We have a few ideas jotted down for potential items, sooooo if you willing to donate, but are short on an idea contact Shirley or myself, we would gladly be of assistance. We are anxious to get this PARTY STARTED!

With Gratitude
Shirley and Kathleen
Co-Chairs Fundraising

Eastern Canada Region

Soroptimist International of the Americas

91st Spring Conference

May 5-7, 2023

Call to Conference

Soroptimists Around the World

ECR Governor: Gertrud Hocke

Host Club: SI Grand Erie

SI Thunder Bay Club Meeting

April 12, 2023

Maxine's condo Common Room 7:00 pm.

AGENDA

Gift Card Draw Kathleen

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.

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.Call to order	Cindy
Minutes of the March 8, 2023	Melanie
Treasurer's Report	Lorrie
Correspondence	Cindy
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
ECR Spring Conference May 5-7th 2023 Brantford	Cindy
Dublin Convention (Kim and Lee Ann)	Cindy
Nominating Committee	Cheryl
MEMBERSHIP	**Kim and Faith**
SI Policies & Procedures	Melanie
Bylaws deferred (with Sharon Godwin)	Cindy
Archives adhoc mtg deferred	Devona
PROGRAM	**Judy P**
Live Your Dream	Judy P.
Dream It, Be It	Devona
FUNDRAISING	**Kathleen & Shirley**
Two Bit Auction – April 27, 2023	Kathleen
$500.00 Gift Card Raffle (Spring 2023) tickets	Kathleen
Yard Sale	Kathleen
PUBLIC RELATIONS	**Faith**
Facebook Boost Two Bit Auction	Melanie
Replacement for Faith?	Cindy

OTHER BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Birthdays:

Kathleen Rismondo – April 17th

Joan Taddo – April 30th

Pledge for Eastern Canada Region

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