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.

Connecting with Cindy

The December club meeting certainly helped to put me into the Christmas spirit and I don't mean alcoholic! Thanks to membership for organizing another memorial evening! It was nice to be able to just mingle socially without doing business.

This was a strange Christmas without snow and I believe it is a sign that times are changing. Although we are reluctant to accept changes, it is for the better. As proudhappymama said "New hope, new ideas and new opportunities to make our lives be the best they can be." So put on your thinking caps and brainstorm some ideas for our club. No suggestion is a dumb one! You can start with determining a beneficiary for the Gift Card Raffle at the January meeting (they have to be a registered charity).

The club meeting is **Wednesday January 10th by ZOOM at 7 pm**. It was decided not to meet in person given all the holiday socializing and the increase in illness.

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 90th Anniversary. This conference with not be hybrid so please give some serious thought to attending.

Canada has applied to present a Parallel Event at the **NGO CSW March 11-22** (Roads to Overcoming Poverty: Canadian Stories. See the **Soroptimist Across Canada** newsletter for more details on this and the conference.

Thanks to **Lee Ann Nalezyty** for her contribution to **Soroptimist Across Canada** newsletter! They listened to our comments and it was much shorter.

I am pleased to report that **Linda Adams** will take over **Charlene's Hipfner's** role as delegate and attend the ECR Spring Conference. Things have not changed with Charlene and she could not commit to attending conference. She has moved into her new home but continues to spend half her week with her mother and is still working full time. Our thoughts are with you Charlene! Although Linda was a delegate previously, conference was virtual not in person.

A reminder that there is and SIA ZOOM webinar **Tuesday January 9 at 7 pm**. It is free but you have to register for this. The topic is "**Soroptimist Club Grants - Crafting a Successful Application**". You will require your membership number and it is under Events.

Your proud President, Cindy

The 3 stages of life:

* *wanting stuff,*
* *accumulating stuff,*
* *getting rid of stuff*

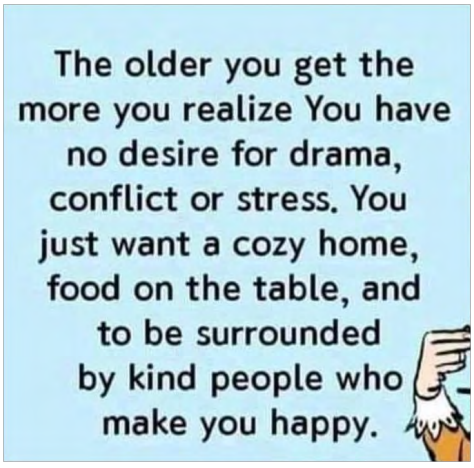
Girls Transitioning to Adulthood

"Hey folks,
My goodness there was so much stuff there. I was overwhelmed by your groups kindness, the stuff you donated filled the youth cupboard right up, and it was lighting workers hearts up around here-Dana, senior management, got goose bumps when I told her what you guys did. I sent out an email for all the “girls” workers asking them to see what is down there and we were able to make up a moving out package for one of the young ladies moving out on her own soon. I also have the blue tub to give back, and it will at the front by Wednesday. Thank you so much, I look forward to working with you folks again this year, and I want you all to have an extra special holiday. I am sending you folks all my positive energy vibes, and wish you all good karma.

Your biggest fan, Danny "

Our next collection will be in March and the focus will be " Pamper Yourself" (items for the girls to feel special – bath bombs, bubble bath, nail polish, facial packs).

Submitted by Melanie



Dream it Be It

Soroptimist Thunder Bay was pleased to present our Dream it Be it award to Nora Al Ali. Congratulations Nora on achieving your high school diploma.
Pictured with Nora (centre left) is our Dream it Be it committee Devona Crowe (centre right), Kathleen Rismondo left,Faith Crichton far right, back right Cheryl Ball, and back centre Brittany Murray Children's Services The Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay

Christmas Party and Presentation

Thank you to Judy and Kim for arranging such a beautiful Christmas gathering. We had the opportunity of meeting our DIBI winner. The potluck dinner was very tasty and everyone enjoyed the variety of offerings. The club auction was another hit and additional funds where added to the club coffers.

Annual Spring Conference April 26-28 2024 in Toronto

Please see the invitation (and draft agenda) to Spring Conference 2024, that was emailed to you and hosted by SI Toronto, and assisted (for venue) by Najet Hassan, SI London. Please mark your calendars, and watch for the official Call to Conference in February.
Regards,
Sue Rivers
ECR Secretary

Soroptimist Club Grants: Crafting a Successful Application

January 9 at 7 p.m. (ET) free event

REGISTER

Start 2024 with more knowledge about how to get financial support for your club's Big Goal eligible work! Join us January 9 at 7 p.m. (ET) for the Soroptimist Club Grant webinar. We will cover eligible projects, how to apply and answer questions from attendees.

https://events.zoom.us/ev/AlvQCAuC82Q61b5HJzpB4w1I4l-bU8FZvpz_meRpM6PROTuGL29wO~Atfvo1N9Ul_0JfQHU_8zJYKgx3hwRp8lta5UL86xktOOREZ3j2fmqli0lw

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48th Biennial Soroptimist Convention

Bellevue, WA, USA, July 24-27, 2024
Follow and share convention news with hashtag #SIAConv2024

Soroptimist Across Canada

Eastern and Western Canada Regions

It is hoped that everyone was able to read this newsletter. Please forward any comments and or suggestions to Lee-Ann Nalezyty at lnalezyty@shaw.ca

The February issue will be released that the end of the that month.

Our Governors Gertrud and Suzanne

New Zoom Backgrounds

Dress up your next Zoom meeting with a beautiful new background! Whether you want to sparkle or show off Soroptimist colors, there is an option for you! Need help applying your background? Click here

Download the zoom background image by right clicking on the image and selecting "save image as'

https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/new-zoom-backgrounds

SIA #TechTalks

We are halfway through building the foundation of our Salesforce Database and Customer Relationship Management platform.

In 2024, we'll begin designing the NEW Member Portal to enhance your member experience and increase connection with our global community. We're expecting to launch the new portal this summer!

Top 5 Features of the New Member Portal:

* Simplified club and membership management interface
* Searchable resource library
* Easily view your transaction history (donations, sales, etc.)
* Interactive chat with Soroptimists across the globe
* No more memorizing your club and member ID#s! (You'll use your email to log in to the new portal. Quick and easy access!)

Powered by the Dream Big Campaign—Thank you donors, taking SIA into the future!
https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/best-for-women-december-2023-s2tyh

When I received the award, I couldn't stop thinking how lucky I was and how these women must've saw something in me that I couldn't see myself at the time. Thank you so very much from the bottom of my heart.

I am sincerely proud of the progress I have made as a single mother and honored to be a part of this society of strong successful women. I hope one day I can give back to others in the way you have all given back to me. I feel like I got a second chance at life and I am forever grateful!

Ashley

Live Your Dream Award Recipient

If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

If they are going to talk about you

Make sure you are on the agenda.