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

Happy **75th** Birthday! Our club was created on May 6 (1949). The meeting date has been changed to **Wednesday May 15th** due to the Two-Bit Auction being held the week prior. Keep posted for the exciting details to come as this is a Dinner Meeting!

We sold out the raffle tickets at the Home & Garden Show by Saturday afternoon! Thanks to all the sellers and members that volunteered their time to attend our booth! **Kathleen Rismondo** did an excellent job of organizing this by keeping us posted with humorous emails, setting up and taking down as well as checking on us! We will be drawing the winner for the Gift Card raffle at the Two-Bit Auction.

Bonnie Domonchuk, President of Soroptimist International of Cambridge is coming to Thunder Bay to attend the Celebration of Life for Maxine Tenander. She arrives the day of our Two-Bit Auction and leaves May 11th and will be staying with me. Bonnie agreed to help out at our Auction. She has been the Membership Chair for ECR and is a Past Governor.

8 of us attended the **ECR (Eastern Canada Region) Spring Conference (Cheryl, Karen Bortolin, Judy Perrier, Linda Adams, Lee Ann Nalezyty, Faith Crichton, Kim Koivukoski and myself).** The **Toronto** Club hosted and because it was their **90th Anniversary,** there were lots of celebrations! This was Faith's first conference so for those that have never attended one, please take a few moments ask about her experience.

There were 40+ people in attendance with **Federation visitor Melane Kenny** from Saskatoon who is currently on the **SIA Board** and is a **Past Governor of Western Canada Region.** We had a **Soroptimist visitor** from **Africa** who spoke about her Federation**.**
Cheryl Ball did an excellent **Remembrance of Maxine Tenander** and many members expressed their condolences. **Thunder Bay** was recognized for our **75 Years of Service** and our achievement in **Member Satisfaction. Karen Bortolin** presented the ECR Budget for 2024-2025. **Cheryl** also spoke about **Looking Ahead for the 2024-2026 Biennium** as our **Incoming Governor** after her induction**.** Her topic was about a Building Foundation with Communications as the roof and the pillars being Live Your Dream, Dream It Be It, the Accelerator Programs and Club Projects. The foundation was Membership. She went on to say how important social media was and discussed Tik Tok, You Tube and micro volunteering.
The new **ECR board** will be **Cheryl Ball,** Governor, Keshala Dissanayake, Governor-Elect, Aline Chan, Secretary, **Karen Bortolin**, Treasurer, and Raheleh Barkhordari, Live Your Dream director. They still are looking for a Dream It Be It director. Past Governor is Gertrud Hocke. The ECR numbers are stable presently. There is a **new membership portal** coming (which I already received an email about) with QR codes.

The **Soroptimist Foundation of Canada (SFC)** achieved another milestone as they reached $3 million so they have to disburse $150,000. This year they gave out $68,000 to 8 applicants in addition to the Live Your Dream Awards. **Melanie Cates** was thanked for being a judge for over 80 applicants. They asked members to consider one time or monthly donations and well as bequests and for clubs to consider donations in their budgets. They are planning to host Estate Planning and Cross Border seminars. The highlight of conference was listening to the 2 **Live Your Dream winners** which were well deserving. There wasn't a dry eye in the audience! **Daryn Brito of SI Guelph won 1st prize and Ida Mensah of SI Toronto was 2nd place.** Saturday night was spectacular with guests and spouses dressed in 70's styles dancing to the music of ABBA with a live band. The main guest speaker was **Dr. Philip Vayalumkal, Ironman athlete and philanthropist**. It was a speech to be remembered as not only Soroptimists help him, he returned the favour!

The **Two-Bit Auction** is May 9th and we would appreciate having all hands-on deck! A suitable task can be found for all.

Karen Bortolin arranged for a Spring Cleanup at the **Soroptimist International Friendship Gardens** to be done before the end of May. Supplies will be provided and the date to be determined.

Help is needed as we do **not** yet have a **Secretary** to take over from Melanie. This is not an onerous time commitment especially of you are already attending both meetings. The board meetings are always by ZOOM so you do not even have to leave your home. Please contact me directly if you think this is something you can do.

Our dues for 2024-2025 need to be in before the end of June and they have not changed from last year ($190.00). Please make arrangements with **Lorrie**.

Your proud President, Cindy

Fund Raising

TWO BIT AUCTION

Good morning fellow blue shirters....how many more sleeps till the auction....not too many...but that's OK cause the team is ready to roll out the red carpet as we speak (or would that be read)....everything is falling into place right on schedule...the advertising is reaching out to the masses....which is reflected in a boom in ticket sales....our volunteers are ready for their boots to hit the ground running....and the baskets are looking AWESOME...of course thanks to you know who/yes Chrissy..

NEWSFLASH...we reached our goal of THIRTY BASKETS ..a big SHOUT OUT going once...going twice...going to soooo many for their continuous generosity, commitment and support of this fund-raiser..the Dream Team I say

a few housekeeping items...

1)Wednesday morning May 10th at 10:00 if you are able to come out and help set up that would be great...not sure how long we will be but long enough to work up an appetite and go to Burger Barn and chow down afterwards...tradition

2) the evening of the auction we ask that everyone be there with their blue shirts on for 5:30....give us a little breathing time before the doors open at 6:00

3) if you haven't signed the volunteer work station schedule yet/give me a buzz and I will put your name down

4) we are hoping to pack everything up/clean up immediately afterwards so we don't have to face it Friday morning...especially with Maxine's service and possibly lunch with Bonnie...so if you are able to stay for a bit after the official auction is done that would be appreciated.

so back to the original question...How many more sleeps till the auction???...☀THREE☀...let's get this party started.

Your Fundraising Peeps
Shirley and Kathleen

Maxine Tenander Celebration of life

Will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024 in the chapel of Sargent and Son Funeral Home, 21 N. Court Street.

Wear Blue shirts

The reason why our families are not the same anymore is because we buried the ones who used to keep the family together.

Fund Raiser ECR Soroptimists

I normally do not send emails out for raffles. Jean's quilt was in the Merchant's 'Mall' but because the tickets were to be purchased by scanning the QR code, very few tickets were purchased. I could not get the QR code to work because there were too many shadows from the overhead lights.

The quilt (Box Step pattern) has an estimated value of $5,000. It takes roughly 200 hours to make the quilt top and then have it professionally quilted. I do valuations for quilts at the annual Mennonite Quilt Relief auctions and those quilts can go for 5–6-digit figures.

The draw is in June – and we would hate for the quilt to go for a ridiculously low amount of money because of low ticket sales.

And if a quilt is not in your future, consider your purchase a donation to the Dream Program and gift it to someone, if you do win. Proceeds to benefit the Dream program. The quilt does have a sales license.

Here is the link. $5 a ticket and 20 for $20.

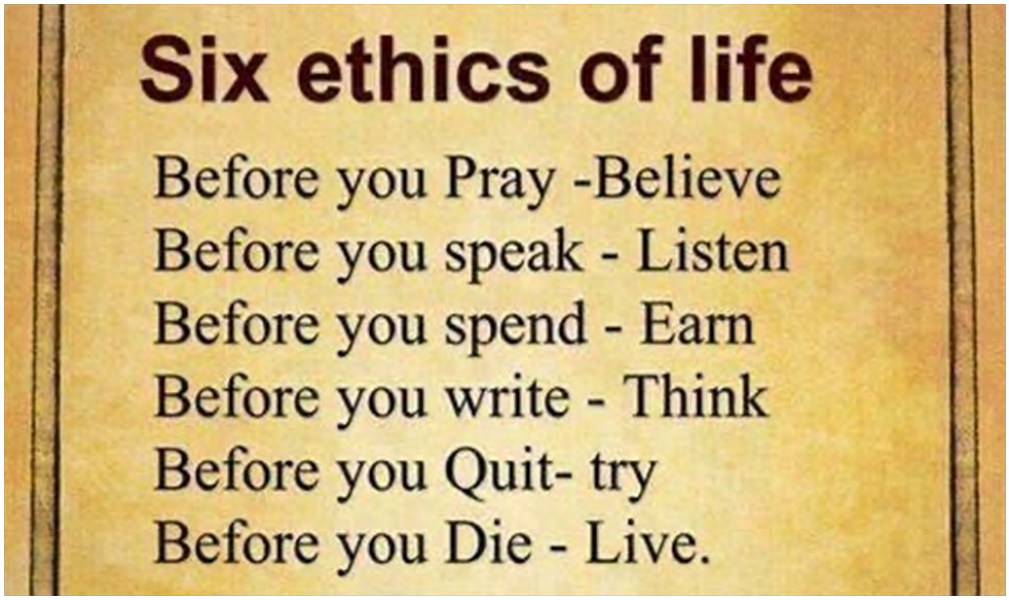
https://trellis.org/soroptimistdreamraffle-5050

KIVA

Palacio Del Rey Group's story

Yajaira is twenty-six years old and sells tortillas. She has decided to request a new loan since sales were good with the previous financing and customer demand is increasing.
The loan is to buy corn, lime, firewood, etc.
She is part of the Palacio del Rey solidarity group, along with Ana and Daritza, who work in commerce.
In this group: Yajaira, Ana, Daritza

This loan is special because it helps promote financial inclusion in Nicaragua's rural northwest.
This loan is facilitated by our Lending Partner, FUNDENUSE. Lending Partners are local organizations working in communities to vet borrowers, provide services, and administer loans on the ground.This group loan helps borrowers in the poorest regions of Nicaragua to run small businesses. There borrowers do not qualify for individual loans since they do not have traditional forms of collateral and only need small loan amounts. Loan amounts can be as little as US$30 per borrower. By supporting this loan, you are helping promote financial inclusion in Nicaragua's rural northwest.



SIA Honored by Congressional Club Museum and Foundation at First Lady's Luncheon

Apr 29, 2024

Founded in 1908, The Congressional Club was established to provide a non-partisan setting for friendships among the spouses of members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. While the basis of the organization remains the same, the Congressional Club Museum and Foundation has broadened its scope and activities to include serving its community and the nation with not-for-profit partners. Today, the club supports causes across the country, promotes volunteerism and encourages bi-partisan collaboration.

Annually, the Congressional Club Museum and Foundation hosts one of Washington's most exciting events, the First Lady's Luncheon. It serves as a gathering of spouses of current and former members of Congress, Administration officials, and other friends of The Congressional Club Museum and Foundation to honor the First Lady and to promote community service. This year, Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc., was chosen by the Congressional Club Museum and Foundation as the honored charity.

This partnership could not have been made possible without the help of outstanding Soroptimist member Heather Obernolte of SI/Big Bear Valley, CA (Golden West Region).

"We were thrilled that Heather was able to make such a tremendous connection on behalf of Soroptimist," said Bobbi Enderlin, 2023-2024 SIA President. "It was an excellent way to expose our life-changing mission to so many influential women."

In attendance at the event were 2023-2024 SIA President Bobbi Enderlin, SIA CEO/ED, Michelle Burnett and several Soroptimist members including Golden West Region Governor Margie Burke and Golden West Region Governor-Elect Elizabeth Glowka.

"The energy in the room was absolutely inspiring. It was wonderful to see such a diverse group of women come together and support SIA. Our mission to empower women and girls through education is one that everyone can stand behind."

SIA CEO/ED, MICHELLE BURNETT

https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/sia-honored-at-first-ladys-luncheon

Teamwork Makes Dreams Come True

Apr 29, 2024

The *Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women* is SIA's cornerstone program with 52 years of impact and lives changed to support it. Over 41,000 women have received over $41 million to support their dreams while they pursue their education as the primary financial provider for themselves and their dependents.

Most women apply to their local club and, if chosen, receive an award and support from Soroptimists who are their neighbors and fellow community members. But not all applicants are lucky enough to live close to a club—women who are more than 75 miles from their closest club in the US and Canada are called "SIAHQ Applicants" and are judged at SIA headquarters by volunteers.

For the 23/24 club year, SIAHQ received *861 applications* from these women not close to a club—and we only had the budget to give 60 women an award! That means that if those applications all stayed at headquarters, each woman would have only a 7% chance of receiving an award. Women typically fare much better at the club level, where applicants average a 47% chance of receiving an award.

Our staff, especially Program Coordinator Sarah Detwiler, worked furiously to redistribute applications and find clubs that were willing to consider women who were perhaps from their state or province, but not close by, or from even further afield within their region. The generosity of these clubs to consider non-local applications mean that these women had a much better chance of receiving an award and additional support to live their dreams. Additionally, many clubs shared applications with others in their region to help ensure all clubs with funding to share were able to distribute that to support women's dreams.

"This collaboration between clubs, regions, and headquarters staff to ensure all women have a fair shot at receiving an award is a great example of the Soroptimist spirit, and propels us forward towards our Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education."

CHIEF IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICER IESHA D. BROWN

We'd like to thank the clubs listed in the table for knowing that Soroptimist service doesn't end at the borders of your town and accepting non-local applications!

THANK YOU

• SI/Whitefish	**SI/Cambridge, ON (Eastern Canada Region)**
• SI/Wickenburg	**SI/Grand Erie, MI (Eastern Canada Region)**
• SI/Las Cruces	**SI/Guelph, ON (Eastern Canada Region)**
• SI/Boise	**SI/Haldimand-Norfolk, ON (Eastern Canada Region)**
• SI/Treasure Valley	**SI/Peterborough, ON (Eastern Canada Region)**
• SI/Tuscaloosa	**SI/Thunder Bay, ON (Eastern Canada Region)**
• SI/Cody	**SI/York Region, ON (Eastern Canada Region)**
• SI/San Diego	SI/Abbotsford-Mission, BC (Western Canada Region)
• SI/Hancock County Area	SI/Calgary, AB (Western Canada Region)
• SI/Algona	SI/Canada West Online (Western Canada Region)
• SI/Lincoln	SI/Edmonton, AB (Western Canada Region)
• SI/Fremont	SI/The Langleys, BC (Western Canada Region)
• SI/Davis	
• SI/Illiana	

https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/teamwork-makes-dreams-come-true

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Convention News & Updates

Regular Registration

Join the over 600 fellow Soroptimists who are already registered for convention in Seattle. Be sure to register by May 17, 11:59 p.m. (ET) to take advantage of regular registration and save US $100! Space is limited—act now if you plan to go!

SIA #TechTalks

Tech Talks are learning labs hosted by SIA to coach members on how to navigate new developments in the member portal and gain new technical skills. Sign up to be the first to hear how tech is taking your member experience to the next level!

Our first #TechTalks webinar is June 3 for club presidents and treasurers to learn how to manage your roster and process dues online.

Save the Date: Monday, June 3, 8:00 p.m. (ET)

Webinar: How to manage my roster and pay dues in the NEW! Member Portal
Audience: Club Presidents, Club Treasurers
During this webinar, club leaders will learn:

- How to log in to the NEW! member portal
- How to manage your club roster

How to generate an invoice to pay dues online

Resources:

- Handout: Getting Started
- Link: Member Learning Hub – Online Space for Training Videos & How-To Guides

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Club Leader Training: How to log in and pay dues in the new portal

Organized by SIAHQ Tech - Alyssa

Join this event via the Zoom client, web browser, phone or the Zoom Room. Not sure if your device is compatible with this event?

https://events.zoom.us/ev/AhPE9TOyjc7C3O-VAC80iSPkXY_BAFLcJkv7HMkzJOkDYbtA1ZQc~AkCPj28f-tTrYEmNdAejKTPFEj_KZW3qw20KF2bUoIctQmgO42rZvi9Opg

Things to Know

Congratulations to clubs celebrating a milestone anniversary during the month of May!
Read our new FY2023-2024 Key Messages, intended to help you understand and speak confidently about the direction our organization is heading.
A special thank you to clubs that went above and beyond and accepted non-local *Live Your Dream Awards* applications.

Happy May/Happy Anniversary!

Apr 25, 2024

CONGRATULATIONS to all the clubs celebrating a milestone anniversary during the month of May!!!

SI/Springfield, MO (South Central Region)	SI/Wakkanai (Japan Kita Region)
SI/Ogden, UT (Peaks to Plains Region)	SI/Kitami (Japan Kita Region)
SI/Dallas, TX (South Central Region)	SI/Rockwall, TX (South Central Region)
SI/Blythe, CA (Golden West Region)	SI/Lopez (Philippines Region)
SI/Thunder Bay, ON (Eastern Canada Region)	SI/Izuamagi (Japan Chuo Region)
SI/Snyder, Union & Northumberland Counties, Inc., PA (North Atlantic Region)	SI/Sendai
SI/Davis, CA (Sierra Nevada Region)	SI/Komatsushima (Japan Nishi Region)
SI/St. Helena, CA (Founder Region)	**SI/Tri Cities (The), BC (Western Canada Region)**
SI/Clear Lake, CA (Founder Region)	SI/Bellevue Metropolitan, WA (Northwestern Region)
SI/Yamaguchi (Japan Nishi Region)	**SI/York Region, ON (Eastern Canada Region)**
SI/Big Bear Valley, CA (Golden West Region)	SI/Ryukyu
SI/Tomakomai (Japan Kita Region)	SI/Saga Online (Japan Minami Region)

https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/club-anniversaries-may-2024

Key Messages

1. Access to Formal Education

Research confirms that access to formal education benefits women and girls, their families and their communities. This is education that can result in a credential and an increase in economic empowerment. Our members have limited time and funds and should invest those resources in the programs that will increase access to formal education and economic empowerment for women and girls: the Dream Programs and Big Goal Accelerator Projects. Awareness raising activities about issues like trafficking, intimate partner violence, or other topics do not increase access to formal education and cannot be counted towards our Big Goal.

2. Investing in Dreams: Our 2021-2031 Big Goal

Together with our clubs and leaders, we defined our 2021-2031 Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to formal education. This audacious goal will continue to increase our collective impact by helping four times the number of women and girls facing obstacles to economic empowerment as served in the prior decade. We remain committed to working together to reach our Big Goal through our *Live Your Dream Awards*, *Dream It, Be It* and Big Goal Accelerator Projects. As of the end of club year 22/23, we have reached 58,515 women and girls through increased access to formal education, 11.7% of our Big Goal total.

3. Investing in Sustainability for Today and Tomorrow

To increase our investment in the dreams of women and girls, we must continue to invest in ourselves. Our Dream Big Campaign raised over $4.6 million in funds needed to support and grow our membership, develop our leadership, increase the number of women and girls we serve, and elevate our organization's brand as a recognized leader in transforming the lives of women and girls. Together we have increased funding allocated for *Live Your Dream Awards* and Soroptimist Club Grants. We are transitioning from *surviving* with outdated technology to *thriving* with innovative technology with a new organizational database, member portal, and website. And we are increasing diversification of our fundraising revenue through new donor acquisition efforts, with a focus on new corporate, cause and foundation partnerships. While we continue to focus on building our capacity for future growth, we must also raise funds for our immediate program needs. Donors are encouraged to continue or increase their annual support to meet the growing needs of our organization.

4. Building a Unified and Globally Recognized Brand

When clubs and members are asked what they want most, they say more members and to be better known for our impact. The only way to accomplish this is to consistently be the organization we say we are and consistently do what we say we do: SIA clubs will work collaboratively, aligning their activities to support our 2021-2031 Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education. By unifying our work and visual identity to support our Big Goal we will build a movement capable of generating the funding needed to expand, deliver and sustain our global Dream Programs to build a strong, recognized brand.

5. Providing a Positive Club Experience

Future success relies upon growing SIA clubs and retaining members through an engaging and respectful member experience. We foster a collaborative experience by aligning club activities with our Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education. We value openness and inclusion of new members and their ideas, leaving interpersonal conflicts aside for the greater good of our life-changing efforts.

6. Volunteer Recognition

SIA surveyed Soroptimist leaders across clubs and regions in early 2021 to improve our volunteer recognition process. Survey results led to changes within the annual Club Roadmap Metrics and our recognition of club anniversaries. An internal project team was also formed to improve the Soroptimist Celebrating Success Awards and the Shaping the Future Awards. Challenges were addressed, including submission quality, activity alignment, bests practices, and operations. As a result, the SIA Board of Directors approved a revised award program to begin in fiscal year 2023-2024. Clubs will now be recognized annually through the Best in Federation Club Awards, and regions will be honored biennially through the Best in Federation Region Awards.

To be eligible for these awards, participants must achieve a percentage of the new **Roadmap Metrics**. Aligning with these metrics is imperative as they support SIA's strategic plan for building a positive and consistent club and region experience globally, developing our recognition, and aiding in achieving our Big Goal.

Applications will be scored by a volunteer committee to determine the winning clubs and regions. Winners will receive a formal certificate and be featured across SIA platforms, including *Best for Women*, the blog, social media, the SIA website, and during select events.

7. Aligning to Reach Our Goals

SIA's Strategic Plan highlights our vision, mission, core values, and strategic outcomes. Regions and clubs are provided with the roadmaps and metrics to achieve these goals. By adhering to these tactics, we build a positive and consistent global club experience, increase our recognition, and invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education. We will keep our organization healthy and vibrant for another 100 years by

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working together and optimizing how we use our resources.

Clubs are asked to focus on:

• Participating in *Live Your Dream Awards*

• Engaging with *Dream It, Be It*

• Reporting Big Goal Accelerator Projects

• Achieving an 85% or better membership retention rate

• Adding new club members

• Contributing at least 10% of funds raised locally to Club Giving

• Donating to Founders Pennies

Regions are asked to focus on:

• Increasing the number of women and girls reaching through *Live Your Dream Awards*, *Dream, It Be It*, and Big Goal Accelerator Projects

• Increasing new members and new clubs

• Achieving an 85% or better membership retention rate

• Maintaining a minimum of 300 members and 20 clubs

• Having a full slate of region officers

• Meeting member registration goals for SIA's Leadership Round Table and ensuring key leaders attend

• Increasing percentage of the clubs who participate in Club Giving

• Increasing financial support by individual members in their region.

8. The Soroptimist Store is Officially Open for Business

Experience the user-friendly platform, tailored to make your online shopping experience a breeze.

* Shop membership pins, apparel and other branded items—all designed to elevate your Soropti-style to new heights

* As always, we value your membership, and exceptional service is our priority, new items will be available in time for the 48th Biennial Convention in Bellevue, Washington.

https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/federation-information/key-messaging.html

Planting Your Spring Garden

For The Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce Be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnip For Meetings
2. Turnip For Service
3. Turnip To Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme For Each Other
2. Thyme For Family
3. Thyme For Friends

Water Freely With Patience And Cultivate With Love.
There Is Much Fruit In Your Garden Because You Reap
What You Sow. Pass It On!!!

NEW! Business Card Templates

Check out our new customizable public awareness resource—SIA business cards! Fill in your name and contact information and print directly through Canva. Contact a member of the Public Awareness Committee

https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/new-business-card-templates

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Hilarious Things My Mother Taught Me...

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE . "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL . "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My mother taught me LOGIC. " Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My mother taught me IRONY "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

Everything Mom

How did you find the energy, Mae
To do all the things you did.
To be teacher, nurse and counselor
To me, when I was a kid.

How did you do it all, Mom
Be a cook, maid and a friend,
Yet find the time to be a playmate,
I just can't comprehend

I see now it was love, Mae
That made you come whenever I'd call
Your inexhaustible love, Mom
And I thank you for it all.