



The Vision



Governor's Message

Midwestern Region Governor Darcy Merritt

Greetings Midwestern Region,

I would like to Thank our members for supporting the Regions 20\$20 fundraiser. We raised \$8300.00. Great job everyone. We could not have done it without our amazing members.

I would also like to Congratulate District 1 for reaching their goal first. The winner from District 1 will get an additional \$500.00.

We will be able to fund our Live Your Dream Awards in 2021 and we will be able to continue to raise women up in our communities.

Again, thank you all for your support.

All the best,

Darcy Merritt
Governor- Midwestern Region

Fundraising In The Time of Covid h/t Gabriel Garcia Marquez

I've been working from home since mid-March and don't expect to be back in the office until next Spring. Needless to say, I am grateful to still have a job. And, I love working from home. Sleeping late, napping on my couch during lunch, and coffee close at hand are excellent perks.

In between work and napping, I've had some time to think about Sorooptimist stuff and I keep thinking about personal philanthropy. I know that some of you may have lost your job, had your work hours cut, or have a business that is struggling and I'm not crass enough to ask you for money. As for the rest of you, I am absolutely that crass - it's time to show Sorooptimist the money. Money for your club awards, money for region awards, money for federation awards and money for Sorooptimist International. Because clubs are limited in the manner in which they can fundraise, the need for personal philanthropy is greater than usual.

Our Big Goal requires us to Dream Big, as that goal is for us to invest in the lives of half a million women and girls through access to education. What are your plans for helping us reach that goal? Can you take the money you'd normally budget for Spring Conference or District meetings and donate to your club's LYD or Wagner funds? How about a nice fat check made out to The Acorn Guild? Maybe you already support Sorooptimist financially. Have you ever considered making a large donation? Now's the time. Personally, I've increased my monthly donation to Laurel Society and just sent in a donation for the District Challenge - Go District Onederful!

My favorite Sorooptimist quote is from nearly twenty years ago, when Jean Barth challenged us to "Be who we say we are". Our mission, and the women and girls for whom it exists, depends on us to do that very thing. We got this, let's go.

Submitted by Kris Armstrong

Inside
November 2020
Edition are:

Articles from
your
Midwestern
Region
and
Board
Members,
Chairs
&
MUCH MORE!



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

SI of Dayton

During this season of Thanksgiving our SI of Dayton Club had two members making the difficult decision to end membership for now; we are happy to announce our SID club recently welcomed two new members Margaret Kruckemeyer and Doris Moore.

We continue to hold meetings donning masks and distancing ourselves at *Cold Beer and Cheeseburgers* owned by member Michelle Brad. It is clearly understandable that some of our members are cautious and choose not to attend meetings in person, yet remain committed and supportive in various ways. Thank you Robin Dodge for coordinating virtual technology for some of our members.

One truly painful cancellation was our yearly joint meeting with SI of Tipp City and our Silent Auction. The Tipp City club decided to disband, SID plans to reach out to the regional club to invite members to join SI of Dayton.

During these atypical times, we are grateful for our Soroptimist International Midwestern Region and Soroptimist International members worldwide.
Happy Thanksgiving

Blessings,

Sheila Crane

**Pictured: Dr. Doris Moore
SID President Teresa Huntley and
Margaret Kruckemeyer**



SI of Grosse Pointe

THE VISION COPY FOR NOVEMBER 2020, FROM LAURA MCCOURT VP/MEMBER CHAIR

It has been a busy October for Grosse Pointe Soroptimists as we continue our activities honoring 100 years of Woman Suffrage. "Ruth" our suffragist scarecrow continues to grace the neighborhood of Co-President Ellen Chapin. She will be in place until November 1st, ensuring that all who visit her know Soroptimist is alive and well in our community. Mid-month, a contingent of masked, white outfitted, sash wearing SIGP members, joined the local AAUW chapter in a march of solidarity, celebrating the ratification of the 19th amendment, in 1920. The marchers: women, men, children and dogs, were led by female students from Grosse Pointe who are participating in a STEM program, sponsored by the AAUW. It was a beautiful fall day and even the cars stopped in traffic, sent up supportive cheers. Our final activity in the voting theme, involved 9 volunteers from our Club who completed 225 postcards in less than a week, urging traditionally low turnout voters to exercise their right to vote. SIGP participated in this non-partisan project sponsored by the ACLU, and facilitated locally by the Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters October 14 was, by popular acclaim, our last outdoor meeting of the season. SIGP "techies" are becoming adept at running a hybrid, in person and on Zoom, meeting, but it was just TOO cold, so we'll be Zooming until spring. Fortunately, our featured speaker is a native Michigander and knows how to dress for the weather. Kathleen Gallagher has been associated with the Grosse Pointe Public Library since 2003. She began her career in our community as a children's librarian, and is now the head Outreach Librarian in our community. With all our libraries closed due to COVID, the Library is working hard to complete planned improvement projects at each of our three branches. With 2 locations open, they are transitioning from curbside delivery, and donation drop-off, to limited use of the computers and new book browsing. In the meantime, the library staff is offering numerous new book clubs, webinars, and movie/discussion groups. Ms. Gallagher also has continued the outreach to the homebound, offered by the library. Before COVID, there were 90 Grosse Pointe residents regularly visited by Outreach librarians, providing them with much appreciated reading material. Although the libraries have been closed, we Grosse Pointe Soroptimists have benefitted since Co-President Ellen Chapin found her inner librarian. Ellen can be seen with a wheel barrow, hauling her "Book sale" to meetings. "Flash sales" take place in her garage, and low level wheeling and dealing has been reported. We are a community of readers and Ellen has helped us feed our habit. Soroptimists of Grosse Pointe has had a good month and we're looking forward to new activities in November. Stay well and turn your clocks back!

SI of MOUNT VERNON and KNOX COUNTY

At the end of September, our club was able to have an “in-person” meeting at Ariel Foundation Park. We had a lovely evening and a special guest – Abby Boulton! Thanks to Carolyn who came early to make sure everything was in good condition and brought “Soroptimist” cookies baked especially for us by Jenni Tharpe. It was really nice to see everyone! Abby spoke briefly about starting up Round Table discussions which we are on board with and she presented us with our awards which we would have received at conference. Nice Surprise!



The Vision

SI of Kenton/Hardin County

The SI Kenton/Hardin County club continued to have virtual meetings this summer and in September. The club had started a community service project in March when Covid-19 entered into the picture. The SI Kenton/Hardin County club collected feminine hygiene products and small cosmetic bags. Based on global, national, and local data that indicates that many girls miss school when they have their monthly cycle, the club decided to contact all county schools to determine if there was a local need. A letter was sent to the 6 county school district superintendents. The superintendents had the school nurses contact our members. All 6 districts notified us that they had a need for feminine hygiene products. At our meetings, we collected bags and products. Then Covid-19 hit and the schools were closed. Since then, we partnered with Ohio Northern University's Alpha Xi Delta sorority to combine the products into the bags, which we refer to as "dignity" bags. These little bags are colorful and private and offer a nice way to let women and girls know that we care about them. The women on campus put together 99 dignity bags. Now that the schools are open again, the dignity bags will be provided to the school nurses for distribution. Due to the overabundance of product and bags donated by our 32 members, we have enough bags to distribute to county food banks and county assistance programs. We have been so pleased with the response to this project and our partnership with the campus sorority. The club plans to continue with this effort and support our community as only Soroptimists can do!!

SI of Chicago**FUNDRAISING**

SI Chicago Virtual Auctions – New, Vintage, Handcrafted items will be listed on

[Charityationstoday.com](https://www.charityationstoday.com) under Chicago Soroptimist.

There will be 2 auctions with different exciting merchandise for all budgets. Please tell your members and social network and do your gift shopping now. November 8-11 preview November 12-18 Live bidding ends on Wednesday

December 1-5 preview December 6-13 Live Bidding ends on Sunday

**Thanks,
Terry Phillips
SI Chicago**

SI VOICES SPEAK OUT FOR OLDER WOMEN

Submitted by former Governor Vivian Walczesky, at a ZOOM meeting on September 24, 2020.

195 Participants from around the globe.

SUBJECT: SI VOICES SPEAK OUT FOR OLDER WOMEN

FIRST SPEAKER - One of our Soroptimist UN representatives from New York, Frances Zainoeddin, spoke on older women's positions in the world, and that by year 2050, women will comprise fifty-four percent (54%) of the world population age 65 and over.

Women have accumulated years of discrimination in the following:

Little education

Unpaid care work

Loss of property rights

Elder abuse

Abandonment

Accused of witchcraft

The work of global Soroptimists is to:

Educate

Prevent hunger

Mentor

Address homelessness

Medical and healthcare

Water and Sanitation

Caring for survivors of domestic violence

What about older women?

Where are the older women?

Grandmothers

How do we see older women

Where can we make older women visible?

Education

Sexual and reproductive health rights throughout their lives

Employment opportunities

Homelessness awareness

Abuse and neglect awareness

At what age does....

A women become invisible

A burden and of no use

What age does a woman lose her rights

We can also celebrate that....

Some women do not need help

May become a mentor to others

Help with education

We vote.

SI VOICES SPEAK OUT FOR OLDER WOMEN

What is the long term importance of helping older women?

Immediate needs

Long term solutions

Changing policies

Fighting discrimination of grounds of age

Hold governments accountable

Check the Madrid International Plan on Aging –from cradle to grave.

SECOND SPEAKER – Susan B. Somers, JD, Secretary General of International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

1 in 6 age 60+ suffer from elder abuse on a global level.

Physical and mental injuries

Harm and/or distress to an older person

Sexual abuse

Active / passive neglect

Poverty

Land ownership

Raise Awareness

In 2011 negotiations held at the UN to have a resolution passed on International Day of Older Persons

Topics discussed:

Use of drugs on older women report

Violence

What if a women has no sons/brothers to help her keep land

Isolation and lockdown of older persons

THIRD SPEAKER: Laura Tamblyn Watts of Canada. Voices of Older Women: Making Canada more Age Inclusive.

Can-Age: a nonprofit organization to advocate for seniors

Violence and abuse prevention by raising awareness, resources, responses, research and financial help.

Optional health care: awareness of dementia, mental health, substance abuse

Infection prevention and disaster response: vaccine uptake; prioritize adult vaccinations;

Caregiving – long term; home care; family caregiver support; long term care; staffing reform; infrastructure investment

Economic Security – funding retirement; protect pensioners; dispute resolution with financial institutions; workforce inclusion; tax filing for seniors

Social inclusion: loneliness and social exclusion; reduce ageism; promote intergenerationalism; indigenous seniors; transportation; seniors and technology

Website: CanAge.CA

laura@canage.ca

Laura received a Sorooptimist award and was able to further her education.

CONNECTING UN TO THE GRASSROOTS

Submitted by former Governor Vivian Walczesky at webinar on October 10, 2020, entitled:
ECOSOC CONSULTATIVE STATUS FOR SI: CONNECTING UN TO THE GRASSROOTS

The host of this meeting was SI of Calcutta India.

SI President Sharon Fisher began with informing all participants that this was a “great great idea.”

The four (4) speakers were:

Pat Black – SI Advocacy Advisor – breaking down the meaning of Consultative Status

Beverly Bucur – SI Advocacy Director – how the SI UN Reps use our work on the local club level to influence policy at the United Nations

Linda Wltong – SI Advocacy Advisor – how the work done by SI clubs at the grassroots level helped in shaping our SI Statements to the UN

Dr. Kay Richmond – SIGBI Programme Director – the difference between SI General Consultative Status and SIGBI’s Special Consultative Status

Pat Black is a member of SI Edinburgh Scotland and member of SIGBI. In 1946, SI became part of the UN, and what you do at the club level goes right through to the United Nations. NGO Consultative Status with ECOSOC—Sorooptimist is one of only 134 NGOs focusing on women and girls. Specialized consultative status held by three (3) federations: SI Europe, SI Great Britain & Ireland; and SI South West Pacific.

We have to demonstrate with General Consultative Status “substantial and sustained objectives” as follows:

- *a global presence
- *extensive expertise across their work
- *significant relevance in *most* areas of UN work
- *be highly active at the United Nations

Benefits of General Consultative Status to SI:

- *increase opportunities to input into the UN system
- *allowed to submit longer more detailed reports and recommendations
- *increased access to meetings
- ****being allocated more delegate places***
- *higher prestige and higher level acknowledgment
- ****enables access to UN agencies***

SIA does not have recognized consultative status but nevertheless can participate by being a delegate through the other SI delegation seats through CSW. For those of us who have been attending CSW / UN meetings annually, you can secure more information from your local club members who have attended.

Beverly Bucur – SI Advocacy Director. Member of SI Illiana, Midwestern Region. How the work of SI clubs to influence policies of the United Nations. Bev has 40 years of experience as an Educator.

SI and the UN connect globally. We have not made the advances we had hoped to make since Beijing and due to coronavirus as a global pandemic. We are a volunteer organization and recruit volunteers for representation to advocate for women and girls. In Rome, SI recognized international day of food. In Nairobi, working on environments. In Paris, education and UNESCO and future of education.

CONNECTING UN TO THE GRASSROOTS

Our UN representatives work to ensure that the work SI does is so important. We need your work on the local level and data to support your local club work. All our information is shared with our UN Representatives and UN member states. SI now has 21 representatives who work across UN centers. The newest center is in Bangkok.

All of SI advocacy work is based on the principles of human rights and driven by club projects. From your local projects to global voice, our local work covers the needs of women and girls. Feedback to SI via federation is extremely important including use of best practices local and globally.

Soroptimists work at the grassroots level. Soroptimists give hands-on knowledge recognizing the work we do in our local communities. Local projects tell SI/UN the following: quality and data tells your story; qualitative and quantitative data needed. Did we help women and girls, children, and even men. How did our work impact our community? What did we actually do?

Many agencies at the United Nations are looking for projects that local clubs are doing. What are our local clubs doing since Covid 19 hit? Our work is so very important but even more important now due to coronavirus.

Join Soroptimist LAB, a closed forum for Soroptimists to talk with our own members and UN reps. If you would like to have a UN Representative talk at a meeting, you can contact them through the LAB. Or check soroptimistinternational.org.

Linda Wiltong – SI Advocacy Advisor. How the work done by SI clubs at the grassroots level has helped in shaping SI statements to the UN. Linda is a member of SI Marin County California club. She has done femicide and human trafficking presentations, spoken on elder and child abuse; and is a former prosecutor, and current researcher for SI. SI represents the views from members all over the world. A reminder from Linda that we also have treaties and declaration documents applicable to countries of the world.

Linda began her presentation about the “austerity” of our concerns as Soroptimists. If you are unfamiliar with the word “austerity,” it has several definitions, but the one that concerns us as Soroptimists deals with the economic policies used by governments to reduce budget deficits during adverse economic conditions. These governmental policies may include spending cuts, tax increases, or a mixture of both. In reducing government spending, it generally also increases unemployment. So, what are Soroptimist concerns around the world? How are our governments helping women and girls?

In our outcome documents which are furnished to the UN, our data should indicate that women and girls are important in economic outcomes, not relaxed but intensified outcomes.

Linda provided information about women’s health care. Should women’s health care be expanded or diminished. What is lowering the standards and who decides. What is essential? What about medicine? All research should be compiled together on all these topics. What is universal and equitable and affordable. Is medicine up to date, relevant, and affordable? Will financial hardship be imposed on the user?

Linda discussed water and sanitation, food and energy. What is in the final outcome document and what is not? Women and girls should have equal access and transportation to water and sanitation.

CONNECTING UN TO THE GRASSROOTS

Is sanitation secure and socially acceptable to the cultural norms? Migrants affected by natural disasters should be included.

With each year that Soroptimists have been providing final outcome documents, many member states used ambiguous wording, catch phrases, caveats, and escape hatches, to not comply and/or remove a clause or phrase that they refused to agree with or wanted removed from the final outcome document. Finally, in 2017, the United Nations indicated that no more ambiguous wording, catch phrases, caveats, escape hatches, or any other forms of contradictory wording by member states would be acceptable.

Linda emphasized that education for all women and girls should be lifelong especially in this time of digital divide. Access to financial literacy was also necessary. STEM and STEAM must be available to women and girls. All clubs need to address gender and stereotypes in curriculums. Continued education must be provided to pregnant mothers. **BE LEADERS.**

Dr. Kay Richmond. SIGBI Programme Director. Special consultative status for SI Europe since 2011; for SIGBI since 2013, and for SISWP since 2014. As special consultative status, sustainable development is a federation programme dealing with: people, prosperity, peace, partnership, and planet. Dr. Richmond stated that likely CSW 65 will be virtual.

She stressed that partnerships were key to outcomes of equality, equity, and justice.

There are also eleven (11) other organizations working with/for women and girls, and among them are: Zonta, International Business and Professional Women, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, to name a few. What local partners could your local Soroptimist club partner with for a webinar, for an outside event, for a financial supporter?

One of the questions from Dr. Richmond concerned the UN removal of escape hatches, caveats, etc., and when that was done, did a member state then withdraw and would not want to honor the documents they previously agreed to. The pushback from grassroots to federations must continue, from our local clubs all the way to SI and the UN.

Your local projects are important. Please continue to be creative and help women and girls with your local projects that benefit your local community. From local, to region, to national, to global, that's what Soroptimists around the world continue to volunteer to do, and to pushback to get the SDGs done by 2030. **BE LEADERS. You can do this.**

Vivian Walczesky, former Governor Midwestern Region.



Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago Paparazzi Jewelry Group

During the month of October we had : **"BLING & BOOZZZ" Basket Raffle** containing various Halloween Goodies plus a couple pieces of Paparazzi Jewelry (being "The Bling" part of the basket)...and a Bottle of "Witch's Brew Spiced Wine"(for the "BOOZZZ")!

This idea came to be for welcoming in & have fun gaining new customers joining us during our **Live Jewelry Shows at 7pm Every Saturday night**. Anyone that joined us and purchased 1-piece of \$5.00 jewelry got entered into the Raffle for each of the Saturdays for the 4 weekends we had it running- this Saturday Oct31st is the last entry to for being entered in to win our **"BLING & BOOZZZ" Basket**. **We will have our drawing** of all participants names from all 4 weekends **on Sunday November 1st, 2020**

HAPPY HALLOWEEN **"BLING" & "BOOZZZ"** BASKET RAFFLE

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SUBURBAN CHICAGO PAPAARAZZI JEWELRY GROUP

Saturday Nights at 7:00PM

Join the fun of our Online "Live" Jewelry Parties via Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3313625178693883>

Each of the following 4- Saturday Nights of October:
 (Sat.10/10, Sat.10/17, Sat.10/24 & Sat.10/31)

You will have a chance each weekend to enter to win this Fun Halloween Trick-o-Treat Basket Full Goodies, along with winning a separate piece of Fabulous-Fall-Fashion "Bling" Jewelry Set!

Halloween Treat Basket includes: 2-cute orange skeleton wine goblets, with 1 bottle of delicious LEELEANAU "Witches Brew" Spiced Wine- Perfect for the Season! And 4 yummy Candies: MilkyWay / Hershey's Milk Chocolate PrezelBites / Peanut M&M's / and Brach's CandyCorn- traditional Halloween Sweet Treats ☺

Separate Festive Halloween Pumpkin Box will include: Fall Colors- Paparazzi Jewelry Set(Necklace/Earrings & Bracelet)

All you need to do for qualifying for this Halloween "Bling" & "Boozzz" Basket Raffle is join us during one of our "October Live Saturday Night Shows" listed above and purchase 1-\$5.00 piece of jewelry to enter your name into the drawing.

If you missed out on our Halloween Themed **"BLING & BOOZZZ" Basket Raffle**- Please don't worry... we are going to have another basket for November....**Thanksgiving Themed** of course: **"TRIMMINGS & TREASURES" Basket**... you will have to be come & see being surprised what goodies will be in this next basket raffle

To join for viewing and purchasing our Paparazzi Jewelry – please go to the following link below to our group's Facebook page and ask to join our group; **Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago Paparazzi Jewelry Group** ; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3313625178693883>

Every Saturday Night at 7:00PM we also are hosting **Online "Live" Jewelry Parties** via Facebook where everyone can have fun socializing/chatting online together and purchasing fun fashion jewelry, while having a hoot of a time! Please come and join us in our fun journey of raising scholarship dollars and uplifting women's spirits with some unexpected gift giving of bling to make this year a happier one for all while still being in the safety of our own homes!

SI of Suburban Chicago club members, along with the women receiving scholarships & the donated mystery jewelry bags THANK YOU for your participation, thoughtfulness & generous support!
 Marie Denise Czech; President of Soroptimist of Suburban Chicago &
 Marie Delos Santos; President-Elect of Soroptimist of Suburban Chicago


Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago



Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago

<http://www.si-suburbanchicago.org>

Education Scholarship 250/25 Fundraiser 2021

2021 SISC 250/25 Club	 2021 SI of Suburban Chicago 250/25 Club	Pull starts 1/1/21
Name: _____	52 Weekly Drawings-\$25 1 Year End drawing - \$250	
Phone: _____	<i>Proceeds will benefit local women and girls through educational grants and programs leading to social and economic empowerment.</i>	
Email: _____	Winners will be notified by phone or email. Checks will be mailed. Winners are put back in the pot. Winners will be posted in our web site, www.si-suburbanchicago.org	
No. 0001	No. 0001	

Please help support Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago Scholarships with purchasing our raffle tickets now for winning our 250/25 raffle drawings starting Jan.1st 2021... purchase ticket cost is \$25.00 for 1 ticket You can purchase tickets via our online website link below (or by contacting our club);

https://www.si-suburbanchicago.org/club_250

Each week during 2021, there will be a \$25 drawing. The winners will be put back into the pot for subsequent drawings. During week 52 (12/31/21) there will be an additional drawing for \$250. Winners will be notified by telephone or email and winnings will be sent in the mail.

Winners will also be posted on our website, see our winners for this year's 2020 drawings :

https://www.si-suburbanchicago.org/club_250/2020

The funds we raise with the tickets we sell will go towards our three main scholarships we award to the winner of submitted candidates throughout the year;

Live Your Dream Award assists women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

Virginia Wagner Award is assistance for any woman pursuing her bachelor, masters or doctoral degree. Named for a past Soroptimist International Regional Governor who believed in higher education for women. This grant is based on academic achievement and financial need.

GED Grant was created due to one of our members identifying a need for women who did not have a high school diploma. Higher education, better jobs or other goals related to training and education require that diploma or the GED certificate. This grant awards \$125 to two women currently enrolled in a GED program and covers the cost of the certification test.

We & the women who receive our scholarships Thank You for your generous support!

Marie Denise Czech -President of Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago &
 Marie Delos Santos - Co-President of Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago

Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago



In light- due to 'covid-challenges' - **SI of Suburban Chicago** not able to do our typical entertainment dinners for the Women's Shelters we usually have holiday dinners for around Thanksgiving and Christmas for the women at **Constance Morris House(La Grange,IL) & Family Shelter Services (Downers Grove, IL)** ... **instead we are collecting \$25.00 gift cards** to give to the shelters for the women to shop with for their holiday gift giving time for their children.

Collecting Gift Cards for the Shelters (collecting them now to deliver/**due by November 19th**) \$25.00 gift cards like Jewel, Walmart, Walgreens, Target to mail to **Marie Delos Santos**, our President-Elect of SI of Suburban Chicago... -so she can collect/bundle them for us to deliver to our shelter(s) that we will be supporting a new way instead this year.

...if you would like to contribute a gift card...please mail them to Marie Delos Santos's contact information given below:

Marie Delos Santos

332 Trinity Lane

Oak Brook, IL 60523

cell#: 630-207-2465

email: mdsantos_sisc@outlook.com



A message from our former Governor Vivian Walczesky

Webinar October 23, 2020
In Honor of International Day of the Girl Child

There were 62 participants from around the globe on this webinar including our own Bev Bucur.

Panelists as follows:

Kate Ryan Brewer, writer and film maker

Child marriage still prevalent in the United States. Check “Knots a forced marriage story”

Dr. Rochelle Burgess

Deputy Director UCL Center for Global Non-communicable diseases

Trauma; lack of education due to childhood marriage; abuse, domestic violence

Faith Mwangi-Powell

CEO Girls Not Brides

Childhood marriage is a global issue including in the United States

Dr. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda – human rights lawyer from Zimbabwe

CEO for Rozaria Meorial Trust

Hon. Jackie Weatherspoon – worked for US State Dept; UNDP, UNIFEM, and UN Women

Know your senators and congressman; know how to get a bill passed; AHA Foundation

Dr. Nina Smart – advocate for FGM (female genital mutilation)

And Isatu Barry – who told her story about being an FGM survivor

Angela Peabody – FGM survivor – education is the key to ending FGM. She said FGM and childhood marriage are “twin sisters” and both should be abolished.

Mariya Taher – SAHIYO Co-founder – FGM in the United States. The United Nations recognizes FGM as a global issue. What is the law in your state regarding FGM?

Dr. Ann-Marie Wilson – found & executive director of “28 Too Many” a research organization and information based.

Chiara Cosentino – head of policy & advocacy at the End FGM European Network www.endfgm.eu

Beverly Bucur – SI Director of Advocacy. Recently in Geneva, international recognition that FGM is a human rights violation and a national prior public health issue. The SI Road to Equality is our best practice model. SI working with six (6) local activists and media to change the mindset in various countries. Community leaders, religious organizations, law enforcement, etc., must be included in any talks about FGM, which is a cultural practice. There is no basis in either the Bible or the Koran for FGM. Bev’s call to action: know what’s happening in your local community about FGM; educate women and girls about their rights.

A message from our former Governor Vivian Walczesky:

Submitted by Vivian Walczesky. Webinar on October 21, 2020.

Meeting the Digital Divide Through Action.

Guest speaker: Dr. Mariagrazia Squicciarini, Ph.D. Senior Economist at CSOCD

We must understand what the issues are in order to fix the root causes of gender equality and gender differences in the percentage of women among STEM programs. Worldwide, women are 26% less likely to have smartphones. Compulsory education helps eliminate the digital gender divide. What obstacles are present for women/girls to bridge the gender equality gap? When do women/girls display greater literacy and problem solving and when does that gap dissipate in achievement where boys outperform girls.

Teachers need to be aware of the extent to which they may influence students especially anxieties, mindset, and approaches to support students and girls in particular. Does the school have the updated technology for girls who wish to excel in STEM programs and make the digital world more female friendly.

Skills are key to succeed and narrow the gender wage gap. Skills in high demand in digital intensive sectors are displayed more by men. How many girls/women continue on with STEM programs as they continue their education? Does the school/college have any organization that girls/women can join to help them navigate the STEM world or the digital world. How has the coronavirus impacted the digital learning for girls/women?

Girls/women face some important challenges in education. How do girls/women deal with societal, economic, technological, demographic, and political issues. How do we educate our girls for their future rather than based on the past. Education is the key. Are the learning institutions up for this task when faced with budget cuts, low motivation, keeping teachers on the cutting edge of learning, and keeping girls/women engaged in learning during this pandemic time. Do we have female role models coming from STEM? Who are these women? Have peer groups been established for girls to help each other. Teachers are active agents for change.

Has your local club had a STEM graduate speak at your local club? How can all of us assist girls who wish to excel in the STEM programs? What's in your local community regarding STEM programs?

SI Milwaukee

Greetings Club Members and Region Leaders:

We have successfully rescheduled our LUNAFEST 2020 Film Festival Event for **November 24**. Please see the attached PDF with all the details. Register on Eventbrite for two screenings: noon and 6:00pm. Each screening will begin with an intro from SI of Milwaukee and the Marquette University Women's Innovation Network (our original host).

Early bird tickets (before November 17) are **\$12** and General Admission (after November 17) are **\$15**. All ticket sales from the postponed event in March are honored for the virtual event.

This is an excellent opportunity for Soroptimists across the Midwest to view and discuss the films together!

Tickets available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-lunafest-milwaukee-tickets-91460726495>

Official trailer for the film festival: https://youtu.be/tjpSF6Qo_QU

Official anthem! <https://youtu.be/1ZkkRDow8jc>

More info on the LUNAFEST site: <https://www.lunafest.org/screenings>

LUNAFEST on our club website: <https://si-milwaukee.org/programs>

Thank you for your support!

Aundrea Price
President, SI of Milwaukee
Event Chair, DIBI and LUNAFEST

SI Milwaukee

Virtual LUNAFEST: Milwaukee

 [eventbrite.com/e/virtual-lunafest-milwaukee-tickets-91460726495](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-lunafest-milwaukee-tickets-91460726495)

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by Marquette University Women's Innovation Network (MU-WIN)

\$12 – \$15

About this Event

Join us for a Virtual Screening of LUNAFEST, films by and about women, featuring seven short films with a total running time of 97 minutes.

NOTE: This is the rescheduled date/time for the original event date of March 24, 2020. All tickets from that event will be honored for the new screening date.

There are two screening time options for this virtual event:

November 24th at 12:00 PM CDT

November 24th at 6:00 PM CDT

LUNAFEST® is a program of short films that are BY and ABOUT women. Groups like ours host LUNAFEST screening events annually all around the country. The Marquette University Women's Innovation Network (MU-WIN) is pleased to host this year's event virtually!

The 2020 Season features seven (7) short films with a total program **running time of 96 minutes**. There will be a 10-minute intro via Zoom before each screening. Films will be viewable via Vimeo streaming link + passcode which will be sent to all attendees the morning of the event date.

NOTE: Films featured in LUNAFEST are not rated but we suggest age 14+ for this season's lineup.

Learn more about about the films and filmmakers and the LUNAFEST story here:
<https://www.lunafest.org/filmmakers>

All funds raised will benefit our Milwaukee youth conference, Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls.

SI Milwaukee

Soroptimist International of Milwaukee has been a voice for change in our community for decades, making a difference in the lives of many women, girls and families. We couldn't do it without you! Join us to celebrate women in film and support local programs to help all women and girls live their dreams.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjpSF6Qo_QU&feature=youtu.be

Location

Online Event

[Organizer Marquette University Women's Innovation Network \(MUWIN\)](#)

The Vision

Fundraising

SI of Greater Macomb

Greetings from SI-Greater Macomb!

We are still energized by the District Meetings. Thinking back, it seems weird that they were virtual because my brain feels like we were connected. Thank you to everyone that worked so hard to execute the event.

Our club had to make the heart breaking decision to cancel the WORLD FAMOUS Bunco night at the New Baltimore Civic Center due to the ongoing pandemic. This event was quickly becoming our signature event and growing yearly. It was a sad moment but the moment passed quickly because our fundraising chairs Laurie Huff and Amanda Melkert had another plan all ready to go! Introducing SI- Greater Macomb 52 Week Raffle. "Make Money at home with SI Greater Macomb" For \$52 you are entered into our weekly drawing with the chance to win at least \$75! While you can only win one bonus prize you can win as many weekly prizes as your ticket is pulled. A special thank you to all the clubs that have shared this style fundraiser with us all. It really gives us hope for a successful fundraiser. If you want to see the rules and our payout schedule or feel inspired to purchase a ticket head over to www.si-greatermacomb.org flyer attached

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF GREATER MACOMB**

52 WEEK RAFFLE

**MAKE MONEY AT HOME WITH
SI GREATER MACOMB**

\$75 Weekly Winners	BUY YOUR TICKETS	\$250 & \$500 Bonus Drawings
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**Help us to invest in dreams for women
and girls in Macomb County**

Tickets are \$52.00 each

TICKETS DRAWN EVERY THURSDAY IN 2021

BONUS DRAW DATES
\$250 - 1/7/21, 3/4/21, 7/1/21, 11/18/21, 12/9/21
\$500 - 12/30/21

See si-greatermacomb.org for Official Rules.

Federal ID# 38-6091133 | Raffle License # X03704

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

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SI Monroe County

Governor-Elect *Chris Fowler Shearer*

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CHECK US OUT ON
THE WEB!
WWW.SIMWR.ORG



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Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2020 / 2022 Board



Front Row L to R: Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey; Region Governor Darcy Merritt; Region Governor-Elect Christine Fowler Shearer; D4 Secretary Mary Lorenzo
Back Row L to R: D2 Secretary Laura Ferguson; D2 Director Ruth Waggoner; D3 Secretary Patricia Cavell; D3 Director Kellie Klingel; D1 Secretary Connie Gindt; D4 Director Abby Bouton; D1 Director Susan Frankel;
Not pictured: Region Secretary Sheila Zingler-Gilbert .

Connections for the 2020–2022 Midwestern Board

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Soroptimist International of the Americas - (siahq@soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - (simwr.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas (soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International (soroptimistinternational.org)

Soroptimist Summary (soroptimistsummary.org)

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Social Media connections

Tweet us [@SoroptimistMWR](https://twitter.com/SoroptimistMWR)

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