



S O R O P T I M I S T[®]
Investing in Dreams



**Notes From the
Past President**

BY MONICA PHILLIP

WOW! What a year 2020!

First and foremost, President Aundra and I would like to wish you a Very Happy, Safe, Healthy, and Prosperous 2021.

Since our President is up to her ears with all of her responsibilities and virtual learning at Marquette University, she asked if I would do a short “President’s Report.” So here goes... Last year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) was not entirely unproductive, as we were able to hold meetings from September through February, have our summer outing at Barbara’s home, and hold our Fund Raiser at the Elks Club. Of course, we missed having our Awards Dinner and meeting our Awards winners personally. We did not have a formal farewell to the outgoing president and officers and installation of the new president and officers in person, but our District I Director Susan Frankel kindly did that virtually. We will not be holding an in-person Fund-Raiser this year, but are looking for clever ways to raise funding for our Awardees. So if you have any good ideas, please share them with the club.

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Update on Terese



Past President Monica Phillip has passed along a bit of information and word of a very generous donation from former President Terese Kramer, who left SI Milwaukee in 2018 when she moved to the San Francisco Bay area to create a new division at Bank of the West.

Here’s Teresa’s brief message:

*Monica and SI Milwaukee. Please accept this donation to my **favorite** SI club—in any way the board decides.*

I’m well and hoping to retire to Arizona in 2021.

All the best, Terese

A Look at Human Trafficking

Aggie Ressel recommends reading a story from the Nov. 12, 2020 edition of The Shepherd Express which delves into a topic that SI Milwaukee has frequently visited—human trafficking in Milwaukee. The piece can be found at:

[shepherdexpress.com/news/features/why-is-milwaukee-hub-of-human-trafficking](https://www.shepherdexpress.com/news/features/why-is-milwaukee-hub-of-human-trafficking)

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Notes...

We certainly can brag that we were able to pull off the Lunafest film fest activity and raised some funds on it. We are certainly looking forward to doing Lunafest again...either in person or virtually. It really worked pretty well doing it virtually.

The Region did the October District meeting virtually...not the same as being together, but we did socialize and receive pertinent information from the presenters. The Region Conference was cancelled, as was the SIA Federation Convention. It also looks like the Region is preparing to do this year's Conference virtually. Hopefully, this will be an opportunity for those who normally do not attend. See, there is always some good to be found.

We will continue to meet virtually every month until it is safe to meet at the Brass Key again. I know we are all missing one another's company and those "Bloody Marys".

I, as the outgoing President, would like to thank all of you for your constant support and generosity to the Soroptimist ideals and projects. I would also like to thank my officers and advisers for their service hours, cooperation, and friendship during my three-year term. (I had an extra year to coordinate with the Region Governor's term. We were off by a year, and now that is corrected).

One thing to consider, because of the Pandemic, we could not process a regular officer nomination activity, which left us short a President-Elect. We need to fill that office this year because of our By-Laws orders. The President-Elect would not take office for at least 1-1/2 years. Please think about this, and let President Aundrea know if you would be willing to make that commitment. WE NEED YOU!

Miss all of you! Stay Happy, Healthy, Safe, and Joyful.



Avis Haasch chose to share with the club the beauty of the flower basket she received after recent hip surgery and to thank the club for the gift. Her mobility is improving slowly but surely.

In Memoriam

This has been a painful time for friends and relatives of the SI Milwaukee family. We pay our respects to them.

- Sergio Gutierrez passed away Sept. 30 at age 51 from the Covid19 virus. Sergio was a dedicated supporter of SI Milwaukee events, attending as many of the fund-raisers as he could with his wife, Denise, and often with children Dominic and Aubri. Denise made a donation to the club in his memory.
- Laurel M. Nett died Dec. 30 at age 79 in hospice care in Fond du Lac. Laurel was an active member of SI Fond du Lac and often worked with members of SI Milwaukee on various projects. Laurel retired in 1979 to live in Fond du Lac after 20 years in the Air Force.
- Mark Frankel, 71, died Nov. 25 of Covid-19-related causes. Mark was the husband of District I Director Susan Frankel. In addition to supporting his wife's dedication to SI, he was also involved in wrestling and judo.
- Thomas McNamara, 74, Waupaca, died Dec. 21. He was the father of SI Fond du Lac member Meggin McNamara-Horn. For many years he was corporation counsel to circuit courts in Waupaca and Outagamie counties.



Ballet as the road to self-respect was highlighted in “Ballet After Dark” at the recent Lunafest presentation for SI Milwaukee.

Lunafest Ignites Tomorrow

A stage for women filmmakers, Lunafest’s 2021 lineup focuses on the theme of “Someday Is Now.”

The series of short films highlighting issues of gender, arts, education, sports, expectations and more, has been a successful entertainment, educational and fund-raising event for SI Milwaukee for two years. This year’s presentation was done virtually and there might be another later in the spring, according to SI Milwaukee President Aundrea Price.

These films fuel change and push boundaries. They are designed to ignite the movement of tomorrow.

Leading off the current festival was “Ballet After Dark,” which teaches women to respect their bodies through dance and trauma counseling.

Celebrating 61 Years of Love

Barbara Collignon received the following message of joy on the occasion of the 61st wedding anniversary of Janet and Marlowe Nortrom. She passed it on with love and gratitude for their many years of friendship.

“Family Morning Pointe, our retirement community, is helping to celebrate with flowers, candy, good food, etc. I am 82 and Marlowe is 89, many years together. Celebration now goes on. So thankful for all the friends. With goodwill, joy, gratitude, grace, and much love- Janet and Marlowe Nortrom, 2 UU's in Franklin Tennessee.

Stronger Together on the Road to Equality

On Nov. 19, 2020, former Governor Vivian Walczesky attended a United Nations webinar with 200 participants from around the world on The Road to Equality. She filed the following report on the global event, which appeared in The Vision.

SI President Sharon Fisher began this webinar by introducing Bette Levy, our main U.N. Representative in New York, who stated that she (Bette) relies on our local projects to provide her with data and information that is included in the global processes.

Bette spoke about the Beijing Declaration, globally agreed to in 1995, which is the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women’s rights. Bette also said that no country has yet fully met the objectives of the platform for action. As a defining framework for change, the platform for action remains.

There are 12 critical areas of concern:

Women and poverty: Education and training of women: Women and health: Violence against women: Women and armed conflict: Women and economy: Women in power and decision making: Institutional mechanisms: Human rights of women: Women and the media: Women and the environment: The girl child.

Speaker and current president of SIA, Penny Babb, spoke about survivors, and the impact our Live Your Dream awards provide. Penny spoke about the sustainable goals indicated by the U.N. as follows:

#1, No poverty: #4, Quality of education: #5, Gender Equality: #8, Decent work and economic growth: and #10, Reduced inequality within and among countries.

Speaker Anusha Santhirasthipam of SISWP (SI Southwest Pacific), spoke on the program (Continued on Page 4)

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entitled “bush to belly” showing young children and their mothers about secret recipes with food in the indigenous country of Australia and how the mothers then convince the elders in the community about the goals of no poverty, good health and well-being, quality education, and gender equality. Speaker Rita Nogueira Ramos, of SIE (SI Europe), spoke on projects regarding trafficking, violence against women, education of young people forced into prostitution, management of shelters and training those women leaving the shelters.

Speaker Nisha Ghosh, of SIGBI (SI Great Britain and Ireland), spoke on violence against women, and reminded us that in a majority of cases, it is the women who are abused and the other gender the abusers. President Sharon Fisher also stated that we will hear from the new African Federation during an upcoming webinar and we should all stay tuned.

Vivian also reported on additional U.N. webinar sessions held Nov. 25, Unite to End Violence Against Women, to Dec. 10, Human Rights Day. One take away from this webinar is that the pandemic has dramatically increased domestic violence against women and girls, prevented women and girls from calling hotlines and shelters, and exacerbated child marriages and FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), and in general, caused an increase in global violence against women and girls. Hosts were Zahra Al Hilaly and Stuart Moir. Orange is the new color with meaning of a brighter future and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Activists from around the world spoke about their grassroots efforts to combat violence against women in countries like Rwanda, Afghanistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Argentina, Nigeria, Ukraine, Albania, Tunisia, Nepal, Kenya, Georgia, Morocco, Nigeria, Trinidad



Vivian Walczesky

and Tobago, Malawi, and Australia.

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres opened the session and spoke on the global emergency of violence against women, gender-based, and increasing since the pandemic. Efforts by all grassroots organizations, first responders, and programs need to be collecting and analyzing data on violence against women. Violence is a blight against human rights.

Speaker Natalia Kanem of the U.N. Population Fund stressed “enough” to domestic violence, to rape, to trafficking, to slavery, to FGM, and to child marriages. Domestic violence occurs in all societies. In a three-month lockdown, Kenyan girls saw an increase in pregnancies, and also increased domestic violence, staying at home and not attending school. An ad campaign in New York showed posters all blocked out but with this message: “This is a photo of a man beating his wife. However, it is illegal to show it. But it is not illegal to do it.” Two U.N. Goodwill Ambassadors spoke: film and tv star Nicole Kidman who told the audience that in many places in the world, home is not a safe place because of violence against women. One in three women face gender-based violence. Provide services, learn about the issues. Volunteer your time and donate if

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More on U.N.

you can, she said. Cindy Bishop spoke about an event in Thailand where women were told to dress appropriately for a special event, but men were not told to act/ behave appropriately.

David R. Malpass, president of the World Bank Group, stressed that violence against women is unacceptable. The World Bank starting on Jan 1, 2021, will begin a new program disqualifying contractors and subcontractors from borrowing funds from the World Bank for a two-year period upon checks which indicate violence against women. The World Bank is pleased to work with the United Nations. Survivors included Amenda Nguyen, founder of “Rise” who succeeded in getting legislation passed during the Obama administration. Amenda said that if a survivor is not at the table to discuss solutions, then she is on the menu. Also, another survivor, Nadia Murad, a Yazidi woman, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, spoke on how women from her village were taken, displaced, raped, and not provided with basic services.

Get the Big Picture

Midwest Region Membership Chair Roseanne Horne reminds members of the informative webinars presented monthly by SI President Sharon Fisher. The webinars are one hour and usually consist of an International overview, an individual example and an “Expert” working directly in the chosen field.

You can listen to past webinars by visiting Soroptimistinternational.org and search for Webinars. If you would like to register for the monthly webinars contact: sharon.fisher@soroptimistinternational.org



District I Director Susan Frankel

Susan Frankel Offers Ideas for Fund-Raising

While virtually attending the January meeting of SI Milwaukee, District I Director Susan Frankel offered some suggestions on fund-raising based on activities of other clubs. With no possibility for in-person fund-raising events, all of the clubs are searching for alternatives. Here are a few of Susan’s offerings:

Community cookbooks can be created entirely on-line. One possibility is soliciting the community and asking both members and non-members to submit recipes, with photos if that’s what the contributor prefers. The club could ask a fee for using the recipe, then distribute the completed books free to the original donors and sell them to others. Variations on this idea are easy to develop. SI Milwaukee created a small slow cooker cookbook several years ago to accompany slow cookers which was given to previously homeless women who were moving out into the community.

On-line raffles paying out each week are another possibility, though Monica said this probably would require a special gambling license in Wisconsin.

Finding restaurant sponsors who would be willing to donate a percentage of sales on a certain day is another tactic. Several years ago SI Milwaukee had a similar arrangement with a chain restaurant. This could be tried with bakeries and theaters, and perhaps with other businesses as well.

One club was auctioning a wine basket, though shipping 12 bottles of wine plus accessories from Grosse Pointe, Mich. could be costly.

Susan also suggested checking newsletters and ads to get ideas of what others are doing in this financially trying time.