



Notes from the President by Monica Phillip

Wishing all of you a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year! Hope all of you had a



wonderful Christmas season, and enjoyed the good travel weather we experienced--no boots!

Our first meeting in 2020 is the 3rd Saturday, January 18th, at The Brass Key. At that meeting, we will need to set a date for our Awards

Dinner in April. We will also be discussing our upcoming fundraiser on March 7th. We need everyone's participation in making this year's fundraiser even a bigger success than last year. Also, taking place on March 24th is our second annual Lunafest event. We would like to see this event grow this year with more attendees.

At the January meeting, I will be distributing a short Club Assessment Tool Survey, which you will return before the February meeting to me or Myrna, who will be tabulating the results. It is important that we hear from you so that we can improve on things, change things, add or eliminate things. We want our club to be the best for each and every member.

In February, we will have a visit from our District Director, Susan Frankel, and she will be our speaker, and bring us up to date on Region issues.

I can't believe that in less than six months my term as President will be over, and Aundrea will take the reins. She will expect our complete support--and this means that members need to step up and serve in club officer positions, like secretary and treasurer. Also, we will be electing a President-Elect to follow her in two years. It really is not that difficult, and you always have other members to help. Please think about this seriously. I am really proud of our club's accomplishments and the dedicated service of its members.....YOU.

A Word from the Editor

As editor of the SI Milwaukee newsletter I'm quite sure there are two things fellow members know about Myrna Collins. One, I have a dog who barks very loudly whenever I'm on the telephone, and two, I am a technophobic idiot in the world of cameras and photography. Now we can add a third thing to my list of certainties, my friends in the club are fabulously wonderful people who are willing to cut into their own busy schedules to help dig me out of a hole.

I created the hole quite unintentionally (most of the things that happen in my world involving computers and cameras happen quite unintentionally). When downloading photos of both the November meeting and the Christmas party I apparently hit the delete button instead of the view-photos button. The two are tiny and right next to each other. I can tell you that the delete button works very well—it deleted every single photo in the



camera—all of them. I thought they might possibly have gone to a cloud someplace, whatever that means. But no, they are unretrievable. A black hole of dismay. That's when Aundrea Price and Tim Bailey as well as Avis Haasch came to the rescue, sending me photos they had taken of both events. All of the pictures in this issue of the

newsletter are the gifts of these kind and generous people. I give them my heartiest thanks and promise to try to do better next time.

We are here to make the world a better place.



Some members of SI Milwaukee gather round the new banner presented to the club as a gift by President Monica Phillip during the November meeting. The banner displays Soroptimist International's new logo, the stylized "S" and dot. From left are Aggie Ressel, Avis Haasch, President Monica Phillip, Jean Rabe, Myrna Collins, Aundrea Price and Kathy Endrizzi. (Photo by Tim Bailey)

Faith Can Create Courage to Try

Cindy Price passed along an inspirational message that had its genesis in the Bible at SI Milwaukee's November business meeting. Additional thoughts follow.

James 4:13-15 (NIV)

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."



You've met people like this—people who are told, "That won't work." Or, "That cannot be done." Their response is to get busy and do the impossible thing. It's exciting to be around people like that. The creativity seems to flow from them and encompass all who are around them. Energy, joy, positivity and success come with that kind of drive,

Have you ever had a yearning to try something but someone in your world poured cold water on your dream? Don't let them. Maybe God gave you that yearning for a reason. If He plants a dream in your heart then He will help you accomplish it—even if there are problems along the way. Ask God to help you have the courage to try...you never know what will happen!

*You see things and you say,
"Why? But I dream things that's
that never were and say, "Why
not?"*

-George Bernard Shaw

Keeping up on Wisconsin

Updated Wisconsin Blue Books are available for free by requesting them from your state representative. The Blue Book contains current and historical information about state officials and government plus much general interest information. Find the name and contact information for your legislator on the Wisconsin State Government website.

Dates to Remember

Saturday, Jan. 18, 11 a.m.—Soroptimist business meeting at The Brass Key Restaurant, 4952 W. Forest Home, Milwaukee.

Sunday, Jan. 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.—Chocolate Fantasy, SI Fond du Lac's yearly fund-raiser, Knights of Columbus hall, 795 Fond du Lac Ave., Fond du Lac.

Wednesday, July 22-Saturday, July 25, 2020—SIA 100th Anniversary Convention, Bellevue, Wash. Early registration fee of \$550 through Jan. 15, then \$625.

Saturday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m.—Soroptimist business meeting at The Brass Key Restaurant, 4952 W. Forest Home, Milwaukee.

Saturday, March 7—SI Milwaukee fund-raiser at the Elks Lodge, 5555 W. Good Hope Road, Milwaukee. More information will follow.

Tuesday, March 24—LUNAFEST®. More information on club webpage. Final arrangements for SI Milwaukee's first Dream It, Be It event are pending. More information will follow.

Greetings from Brisbane

Holiday greetings have been exchanged between SI Milwaukee and SI Brisbane, our Friendship Link for more than 40 years.

Brisbane club secretary and designated correspondent Val Quinn has made available a 32-page book describing her club's history and celebrating its 70th anniversary. It is a beautifully designed work. Activities of the club are divided by decade and enhanced with many photos as well as general history of the



era and personal recollections from some of the long-time members.

A PDF file of the document is available [at this link](#).

Electronic Voting on the Way

In late February, SIA will conduct its first all-electronic mail ballot to elect the 2020-2021 president elect.

Club presidents and club treasurers will receive notification of the ballot through their personal email addresses on file with SIA headquarters, but the authenticated link will be sent only to the club email address. Clubs not regularly accessing its @soroptimist.net club email address should start doing so now. Any questions should be directed to the membership services team at the following e-mail address: siahq@soroptimist.org.

Research to Improve Health Care Described for Club

All of us are different, but when we're sick we all get pretty much the same health care, Tara Jackson told club members at the SI business meeting in October.

In order to help physicians make better, more accurate diagnoses and treatments and to eventually determine ways to keep people healthy, the National Institutes of Health, partnering with the University of Wisconsin, has created "All of Us," a program designed to advance precision medicine based on the individual.

Tara, who is a PhD candidate in medicine and publicity, pointed out the need for a diverse group of volunteers for the 10-year study.

For example, she said, since all research now is done on men, it is a goal to get at least 40 percent participation from the underrepresented, such as women and members of the LGBTQ communities and people covering a wide range of ages.

The goal is to have one million participants answering questions about where they live, what kind of work they do, family health history, and genetic makeup, according to Tara. These are all factors that can affect health. All personal information is removed from the research data, assuring privacy. Information gathered over time will be shared with the participants, who could use findings to determine where to find effective treatment or to learn the risk factors for certain diseases.

The concept represents a new era in which researchers, health care providers, technology experts, community partners and the public all work together.

For information about joining the effort to make medical treatment work more efficiently and effectively, visit the All of Us website at infosignup@joinallofus.org.



Santa's hat decorates the Christmas tree - the perfect topper for the party.



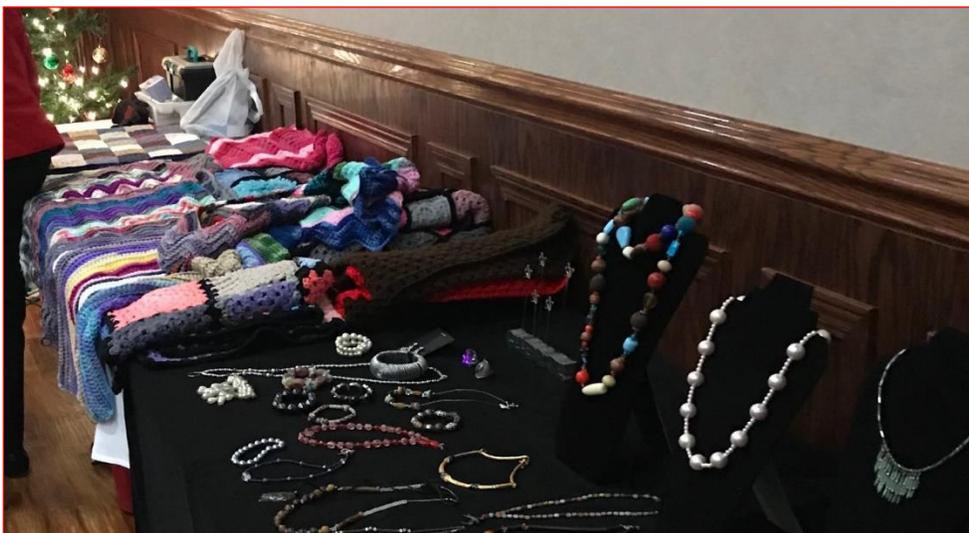
SI Milwaukee President Monica Phillip is delighted to show off her Santa and Pals holiday britches at the club's Christmas dinner Dec. 18 at Meyer's Restaurant.



Party-goers had to work for their supper. Monica sprang a food-related quiz on the group after dessert. The prize for those who answered all of the questions correctly was self-satisfaction.



Barbara Collignon shows her sister, Avis Haasch, the quilt she purchased at the Christmas dinner. The handmade quilts and crocheted items were donated by Patricia “Pet” Novak.



A display of some of the donated items including “Pet” Novak’s quilts, as well as crochet and jewelry created by Aggie Ressel.