



# Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

**APRIL  
2019  
Edition**

# The Vision

## 2019 Date to Remember

### SPRING CONFERENCE

- April 26-28th  
Columbus Airport  
Marriott

### SI CONVENTION

- July 18-21, 2019  
Kuala Lumpur

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SI of:

Flat Rock

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Zanesville

Governor Elec.  
Darcy Merritt

Membership Chair  
Roseanne Horne

## Governor's Message

Hello Midwesterners

It's raining as I type this. Which means it's not snow, which means that it might actually be spring. I'm sure you've all seen the news about the horrible flooding to the states west of us, the weather has really hit our neighbors in the North Central Region, please keep them in your thoughts.

Frankly, I can't believe this article is for April and that we've got Spring Conference coming up at the end of the month – amazing how time flies by. In March, a number of MWR members attended the 63<sup>rd</sup> Convention on the Status of Women at UN Headquarters in New York City. In addition to myself, those members are: Missie Austin; Vivian Walczesky; Lata Shastri; Lee Ann Cochran, Mary Ellen Burke; Dorothea Williams and Bev Bucur (who kind of had to be there given that she is the Director of Advocacy for Soroptimist International). Please take a look at the

[www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org) and read the reports from all Soroptimists who attended. This was the first one I've attended and it was quite an experience.

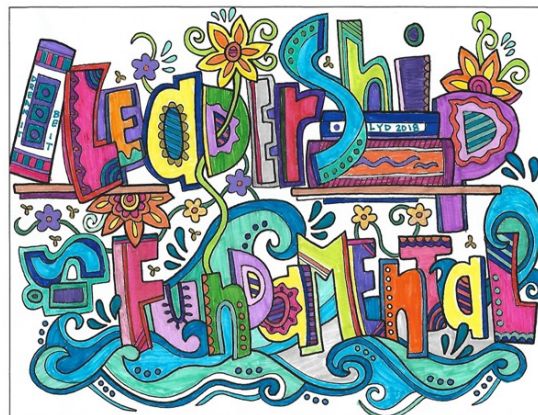
My attention is now firmly focused on Spring Conference and all of its associated tasks. For those of you who've attended a Spring Conference in the past, you may notice a few tweaks – nothing

major – just trying out a few new things. One of those new things being "Governor's Office Hours". There's little opportunity for me to get to see and chat with everyone, so I'm making time. On Friday afternoon, I'll be available for a couple of hours to answer questions, address concerns, brainstorm or just listen. And we'll do the same thing after the official program on Friday evening.

Speaking of Conference, we're going to have a big crowd – I can't believe that we sold out our room allotment and had to get more – that's pretty unheard of. Personally, I'm looking forward to meeting our new members and seeing old friends. And with that, I'm going to stop typing as I just realized that I still need to put a raffle basket together and have no idea what I'm going to do... See y'all soon!



Kris Armstrong  
Midwestern Region  
Governor



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Spring Conference April 26-28, 2019



**2019 SPRING CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION**

*MARRIOTT COLUMBUS AIRPORT*

*1375 N. CASSADY AVENUE*

*COLUMBUS, OH 43219*

*PH – 614-475-7551*

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – MARCH 31, 2019**

**ROOM RATE - \$129/NIGHT + TAX**

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**Vicky Hicks at**

**614-519-6408; email –**

**[vickylou56@gmail.com](mailto:vickylou56@gmail.com)**

See flyer/order form for T-shirts on next page



**SIMWR Charm  
Price: \$10**

Prices starting at \$17

These items will be for sale and available to order at 2019 Spring Conference in Columbus OH

For pre orders contact Christine Shearer at: [FowlerArtistic@gmail.com](mailto:FowlerArtistic@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE – all names must be on the room reservation if you are not traveling together and/or plan to arrive at different times. DO NOT make room reservations under your Club Treasurer name for club members (ie 4 rooms for Susie Smith) - they will not register you! Also, do not make room reservations unless you need them.**

**Education is the key to gender equality, which has yet to be achieved anywhere in the world.**

## Soroptimist International Of Milwaukee

### Farewell to Polly, She Never Gave Up



She was a tiny woman with a huge heart and a will of iron. On Jan. 25, Pauline Sharkey Christensen, our beloved Polly, succumbed to the cancer that she had been battling for a long time.

**Pauline "Polly" Christensen** Polly had been a member of SI Milwaukee for nine years, just one of the activities she involved herself in after retiring from the job she took on with the unexpected death of her husband, Walter, when he was 54 years old. She once said she was a mother of three children, two of them in private colleges, she was still paying the mortgage, had no job, no insurance and no income and a second son in the throes of serious mental illness.

"I didn't know anything about running a business, but there it was. I didn't have a choice, it just slapped me in the face," Polly said. So she set about learning the ins and outs of supplying products to kosher bakeries. She kept the clients and the business until retiring 25 years later, kept her wicked sense of humor and kept her love of travel.

"She wanted to see everything and traveled every chance

she got," her son, Paul, said at the memorial service for her on Feb. 1.

Polly had seven grandchildren, Grace, Michael and Colleen Christensen, the children of Paul, and McLean, Charlotte, Miles and Leo Purcell, children of daughter Francine Purcell. She was preceded in death by her son Walter Jr.

Polly attended DePaul University on a part-time basis and did modeling as well, as she had during her years at Catholic high schools in Chicago.

The Christensens married in 1957 and moved to Milwaukee in 1968 where Polly's main focus was on caring for family and home and entertaining. When her older son became ill, Polly became very involved with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). That is where she met SI Milwaukee Secretary Avis Haasch, who eventually led her to the Soroptimist organization.

"I stayed active there for a long time, I tried to help families and individuals," she said. "Mental illness can be a terrible, terrible cross to bear, but he (Walter) seems to be happy in the life God has given him. He's very loving," she said last year before Walter Jr.'s death.

In addition to work and family, Polly was involved in a variety of volunteer projects. Her favorite was serving as a docent at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Polly enjoyed playing bridge, doing needlework, traveling, going to exercise class, golfing and following investments.



Bellevue, Washington • July 22-25, 2020

### Save the Date

Join SIA for our convention in July 2020. Be there to kick off our 100th anniversary celebration!

Be there to kick off the  
100th Anniversary  
Celebration !



### Soroptimist International Of Grosse Pointe

Welcome New Inductees!

New members were inducted to SIGP at the Village Grille on Wednesday, February 13, 2019.

Pictured (l-r): Ross Braun, (Past President), Mary Ellen Brayton, Irem Yoruk, Anne Schwartz, Cara Crawford, Robin Crawford, Ernesta Kurrle, Dorothea Williams (Vice President/Membership), and Roseanne Horne (Past President).



### Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago



Georgia Koch Speaks about Career Vision/PEO

Georgia spoke at our February meeting. She works with students and adults who are in career development or transition. Career Vision was established in 1989 to provide career planning

services to people of all ages. The Career Vision team is comprised of credentialed and experienced profes-

sionals dedicated to help clients make decisions about career and educational programs. Their services are subsidized by the not-for-profit Ball Foundation whose mission is to study aptitudes and to use that information to help people discover and develop their potential. As part of a research organization, they are committed to the highest professional standards.

Georgia is also a member of the Philanthropic Education Organization (P.E.O.) The P.E.O. Sisterhood is a U.S.-based international women's organization of about 230,000 members, with a primary focus on providing educational opportunities for female students worldwide.

## SI of Suburban Chicago cont'd

Among other projects, it owns and supports Cottey College, an independent college for women in Nevada and Missouri. PEO gives small grants and/or loans to female students who need support in completing their pursuit of a degree. The PEO is a philanthropic organization where women celebrate the advancement of women and the education women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans. They define themselves as women helping women reach for the stars.

Georgia saw some possibilities of offering more financial assistance to our award winners through PEO. Possibly a small grant or a loan at a very low interest rate. Members with high school/college aged children were also interested in PEO opportunities for their daughters.

## SIMWR Membership Chair Roseanne Horne

### Lead the Way

Some lucky people are born leaders, but for the rest of us, we need to work on improving our skills. Whether you are a club president, work as a manager in a corporation, or serve as an active Soroptimist member – most likely you are taking on a leadership role. Check out [10 tips](#) to improve and become a strong leader – in your club, at work, or at home! [\(10 tips is linked to a pdf\)](#)

### Time is a Precious Gift

As Soroptimists, you know membership is good for your health, keeps you happy, and is amazing for your community and the world's women and girls. But, it does take something valuable to us all – time. Use this [customizable flyer](#) to entice prospects to share this important gift today! [\(customizable flyer is linked to a pdf\)](#)

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## Soroptimist International 21st International Convention Coming July 18-21, 2019



The international convention happens every 4 years and should be supported by all Federations.

Installation for President (Sharon Fisher) from SIA, treasurer (Kathy King) from SIA and our own Beverly Bucur from SIA, Midwestern Region, Illiana Club to remain as Director of Advocacy.

Please support SIA's installation of members by making your reservations today and attend

Soroptimist International Convention in Kuala Lumpur, July of 2019

Visit the SI Kuala Lumpur Convention Website [HERE](#)

## Soroptimist International Of Flat Rock

### STUDENTS LEARN TO EXPECT RESPECT

On March 6, Soroptimist International of the Flat Rock Area, together with The Guidance Center and First Step, sponsored a workshop for the sophomore class of Flat Rock High School. The presentation was designed to educate students on the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to avoid dating violence. It is called Expect Respect and SI Flat Rock Area has been presenting it to schools in the area since 2012.

Many Soroptimist clubs undertake projects that raise awareness of teen dating violence. Members distribute literature for teens, parents, and school personnel that present facts about teen dating violence; provide warning signs; and provide resources indicating options for help. Soroptimist also developed a bookmark to raise awareness about teen dating violence. One side of the bookmark provides the signs of a healthy relationship and the other side lists signs of an unhealthy relationship.

The first part of Expect Respect contained a brief PowerPoint presentation led by Judge Jennifer Hessen Coleman and a panel of lawyers, as well as a former victim of domestic vio-

lence. During the second part of the workshop the students broke into small groups. The facilitators asked students pre-existing questions and then listened to them discuss and helped to guide them through the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to get help if they think they need it. Trained professionals were on site and available if needed.

Headquartered in Philadelphia, Pa., Soroptimist <Soroptimist.org> improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Its major program, the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards, provides cash grants for women seeking to improve their lives with the help of additional education and training. Since 1972, the award-winning program has disbursed more than \$25 million to tens of thousands of women, helping them to achieve their educational goals. Soroptimist, a 501 (c)(3) organization that relies on charitable donations to support its programs, also powers LiveYourDream.org—an online community offering offline volunteer opportunities in support of women and girls.

If you would like additional information about the Flat Rock Club, call Diane Flynn at (248)719-3977.

## SIMWR Governor Elect Darcy Merritt

Greetings from your Governor Elect & Program Chair

As your Governor Elect I am pleased to share with all of our members that the Midwestern Region had 100% participation in our Live Your Dream Awards this year. We had 49 women receive Live Your Dream Awards across our Region. That is an increase of 4.25% over last year. Our clubs awarded \$52,050 in Live Your Dream Awards and it is an increase of 5.9% over last year. You should all be proud of your hard work. Especially our Live Your Dream Chairs.

I realize you all have other awards that your clubs participate in and I am thankful that all our clubs in the Midwestern Region supported our Signature program. My hope is that we continue to increase the number and amount of our Live Your Dream Awards each year. We need to be consistent across Soroptimist International of the America's and we need to strive to have a minimum amount awarded of \$1,000.

Our Region Live Your Dream winners for 2018/2019 are, First Place - District I Emily Harley, Second Place - District III Rikki Austin, Third Place District II Daniella Cortez and Fourth Place - District IV Brandi Benton. Congratulations SI of Fond du Lac, SI of Oakland County, SI of Canton Stark County and SI of Middletown for your winning applications.

### SIMWR Governor Elect Darcy Merritt cont'd

I am still waiting on some of the numbers for the Virginia Wagner awards and I will share them with you at our Midwestern Region Spring Conference in April. However, I do have the winning applicants and the Districts that submitted them.

First Place - District III Erinma Eliba , Second Place - District II Paige Forrester, Third Place - District IV Jillian Decker and Fourth Place - District I Molly Dull. Congratulations to the clubs that submitted the winning applications.

I hope to see you all at Spring Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Best Regards,

Darcy Merritt -  
Governor Elect  
Midwestern Region



## Soroptimist International Of Trenton

### Trenton Area Soroptimists Host “Mommy and Me Tea Party”

To celebrate Mother’s Day and introduce women and girls to Soroptimist, the Trenton Area Soroptimists are hosting their second “Mommy and Me Tea Party” on May 4, 2019. This fun event, themed Alice in Wonderland’s “Down the Rabbit Hole,” will take place from 1:00 – 3:30 P.M. at the Cook Community Center, 14100 Navarre Street, in Gibraltar.

Please join us for this very special tea party for mothers, daughters, granddaughters, or nieces. Bring a new doll with you that will be donated to underprivileged girls, and you will be entered into a raffle to win an American girl doll.

The cost is \$25.00 for mom and one child; \$10.00 for each additional child. Lunch, beverages, dessert, and entertainment are included in the price.

You can purchase tickets on line at this link: <https://formsmarts.com/form/1qb6?mode=h5> or contact Sarah at (313) 903-0105.



## Soroptimist International Of Trenton

### 2019 Soroptimist International of Trenton Area Awards Banquet

Pat Bryan, member and publicist

Three local women were recognized with monetary awards from the Trenton Soroptimists for their ambition and contribution to society. The honors banquet was held on March 19 at Trenton's Grand Event. Several judges, local professional and business people, were in attendance to celebrate with the winners. The applicants were evaluated on a set criteria and essays that assessed their contributions to women and society.

Soroptimist is an international organization of almost 1,500 clubs in nineteen countries for and by dedicated women who use their collective power to help other women and girls transform their physical, mental, and emotional lives and the lives of their families.

The **Virginia Wagner Educational Award** honors a woman who is attending college or university to earn a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree. Judging factors included efforts toward education; scholarship based on cumulative grade-point average; extra-curricular activities; financial need; a general impression of stated goals and aspirations; and a good attitude toward education, community, and self.

Trenton resident and 2008 Carlson High School graduate, **Erinma Elibe** is completing her master's degree in Cancer Chemical Biology from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor this April, with a current GPA of 3.918. She holds a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences with a minor in psychology, and she plans to attend medical school to specialize in oncology and academic medicine focused on the brain, neuroanatomy, and the science behind cognition

Because of both of her parents' diagnoses with cancer, her greatest interest is cancer: its prevention, earlier detection, safer more effective treatments and increased access to those treatments. Ms. Elibe pursued projects and research experiences regarding nervous system cancers including creation of a 900-patient database. The experiences in caring for her parents also motivated her to continue her educational and career goals.

Erinma has co-authored several peer-reviewed journal articles and abstracts and has made twelve presentations at scientific meetings. Her honors include receiving a 2018-19 Rackham Non-traditional Fellow scholarship, 2017 Physician Researcher Initiative Fellow scholarship, and Western Michigan University dean's list.

The **Live Your Dream Award** is about helping women who are heads of household who are facing economic and personal hardships as they struggle to live their dream through skilled training, apprenticeships, or college enrollment.

**Elissa Gonzalez**, a single mother, is striving to receive a bachelor's degree in Communications at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Her goal is to start her own public relations firm that will focus on fundraising campaigns to expand urban and suburban farming in the metropolitan area and promote solar power and other environmental improvements. She is the president of the Public Relations Student Society of America and the U of M Dearborn SOAR (Support, Opportunities, Advocacy, and Resources) Public Relations and Social Media Assistant. She was chosen as a delegate to attend the National Public Relations Student Society of America in Austin, Texas. Ms. Gonzalez has overcome many obstacles, but with the support and encouragement from her family, is well on her way to achieving success in her goals.

To qualify for the Soroptimist International of Trenton Area's **Soroptimist Prime** award, a young woman who is attending high school in our five-city region must be actively helping to make her community and world a better place through volunteer efforts.



## SI Of Trenton, cont'd

**Rebecca Roman** is a senior at Woodhaven High School who enjoys her volunteer work at Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry in Taylor. The pantry, in operation since 2008, has assisted more than 9,100 households. Rebecca has distributed food to over 13,000 people, and her many duties include seeing that the day-to-day operations go smoothly. Rebecca's mission is to "better the lives of the women and girls so that they can shift their focus on improving themselves and achieving more."

Pictured left are: Erinma Elibe, Rebecca Roman and Elissa Gonzalez



## Soroptimist International Of Dayton

### SI Dayton Update for February 2019

Soroptimist International of Dayton conducted its annual retreat in February. The focus was strategic planning for the next two years, upcoming event details and fundraising for the future.

We received an update about the STOP Human Trafficking Sticker program. In addition to the 58 locations that the CORY project has placed the stickers, President Susan reported that there is progress with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Criminal Justice Division in placing them with ODOT and other divisions.

March Madness begins in Dayton with the First Four of the NCAA tournaments. Traffickers are plotting on invading the Dayton area to make big money. This is our opportunity to make a dent in stopping Human Trafficking. The CORY (Community Outreach for Runaway Youth) Project, is currently distributing the newest poster of missing children.

It is with deep sadness we report the passing of former club member, Patricia Huber. Pat began with the Venture Club and was a SI Dayton member from 1973 to 2015. She served in a variety of roles including District II Director and Secretary, and as Chair of the Public Relations Committee for Midwestern Region.

**NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE**

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## Soroptimist International Of Greater Macomb

Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb partnered with the MSU 4-H Program of Macomb County for a successful Dream It Be It Conference on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Conference held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. had 9 participants from various schools and included one 8<sup>th</sup> grader, five freshmen, two sophomores, and one junior. SIGM offered participants the seven sessions in a condensed structure to meet the goals and objectives of DIBI. Participants enjoyed the activities, liked talking with other girls, and had a positive experience. They received a Soroptimist snack-pack of goodies, lunch, a journal and pen, a DIBI bracelet, (see photo to the right) and the DIBI folder with specific curriculum materials. Although SIGM integrated additional games during the conference and allowed for more group discussions, a review of the Evaluation Form showed that the participants wanted even more activities and socialization. SIGM will continue to incorporate activities that enable the participants to enjoy, understand, and discuss the DIBI curriculum.



### Upcoming events include:

- Awards Banquet on April 18<sup>th</sup>
- 10 members traveling to Columbus, Ohio, for Spring Conference.

### Save the Date –

- Annual Potluck Picnic on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 4 p.m.
- 2nd Annual Steps for Freedom 5K Walk/Run on Sunday, October 13, 2019, at 9 a.m.

## Soroptimist International Of Suburban Chicago

### Suburban Chicago and Family Shelter Service

Suburban Chicago has been working with Family Shelter Service in Downers Grove for thirty years. On Sunday, March 24th, the club welcomed the largest group ever to their Bingo & Dinner function. The Safe Home Coordinator, Natalie Kuj, posted the invitation and menu plus talked to each of the residents to make sure that they were aware of the dinner. The residents all came to have fun and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Suburban Chicago also celebrated a first that evening when our first male resident joined in the fun. By state law the shelter must have accommodations for both women and men. Currently 4 of the 47 beds are dedicated to male residents



## Soroptimist International Of Indy Metro

We had an awards dinner March 11th at George's Neighborhood Grill to award the Live Your Dream Scholarship to our winner Betha F. Doyle.

Betha was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. She is attending the University of Indianapolis for Nursing . This award is for Education and Training and to assist women who provide the primary financial support for their families. Live Your Dream Awards give women the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Every year, Soroptimist distributes more than \$2 million in education grants to about 1,500 women all over the world. Over half of our Live Your Dream Awards recipients are survivors of domestic violence, trafficking or sexual assault. Nearly all of the women and families we serve have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, teen pregnancy, and drug or alcohol addiction. Live Your Dream Awards recipients may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition and transportation.

Congratulations Betha!!

## G.E.M.S. Girls Empowered and Motivated to Succeed

Soroptimist of Central Indiana has partnered with GEMS, a young woman's group that meets on Wednesdays after school at Lawrence North High School. The young woman are 14 to 18 years of age. We will meet with the group one Wednesday every month while they are in school.

On March 20th we meet with the group for the first time. It was impressive to see how some of the young woman take a leadership role within the group. The Soroptimist members brought in magazines, markers, scissors and other supplies needed to create dream boards. We also brought in pizza. It was a fulfilling evening getting to know some of the young woman and talk about their goals and dreams.

We are excited for our next meeting April 17th.

## Soroptimist International Of Zanesville

At the March meeting, members got to meet one of our Education Award Winners, Hannah Stoepfl. Hannah is a Maysville graduate. She attends the Newark Campus of OSU, majoring in language. Her hope is to become a teacher in the Appalachian region. Hannah attended the meeting with her very proud mother, Toni. Best of luck and congratulations to Hannah!



## Soroptimist International Of Monroe

Re: The United Nations March 10 – March 22, 2019

From: Vivian Walczesky, SI Delegate to CSW63



The Commission on the Status of Women (or Conference on the Status of Women) takes place each year in New York City and this year, it was March 10 to March 22, 2019. I attended the first week of CSW63 as a Delegate for SIGBI (Great Britain and Ireland) on behalf of Soroptimist International. Others who attended were delegates for SI, SIA, or Women Water & Leadership, all of which fall under SI. When slots are filled with SIA, we are then assigned remaining slots in SIGBI, SI Europe, or Women Water & Leadership. Bottom line—we are representing Soroptimist International at the United Nations.

Electrifying. Exciting. Energy. That's the United Nations. You can feel the energy in the rooms and in the hallways every day. The estimates of women in attendance at this year's CSW63 was over 4,000 participants.

The first week of CSW63 encompasses receptions hosted by SI, SIA, and Taiwan. These events are great networking opportunities for women to exchange ideas and information. So bring all your business cards!

During each day, you can attend side events inside the UN or parallel events at other locations outside the UN. The app "CSW63" may be downloaded at: [www.unwomen.org/csw/mobile-app](http://www.unwomen.org/csw/mobile-app). Each side event or parallel event is standing room only and sometimes floor sitting only. The attendees are eager to hear speakers from around the world speak on women's issues. To give you an idea of the subject matter, here are a few examples of the sessions and who sponsors the sessions:

*Addressing Gender Through the Compact for Safe and Orderly Migration Sponsored by Pan Pacific & Southeast Asia Women's Association, and Soroptimist International*

*Vocational Training of Women: An Excellent Investment Sponsored by: SI of Europe and Women for Water Partnership*

*A Cross Cultural Conversation: NGO/GO Partnerships Serving Women Under Domestic Violence Sponsored by: Modern Women's Foundation and SIA Taiwan Region*

*Widhood: What Happens to Me After They Take Everything? Sponsored by Global Fund for Widows and The World Bank*

*Lifting Women from Poverty Through Lifelong Learning Sponsored by Soroptimist International*

The Forum Consultation Day began at 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Subsequently we had SI Advocacy Training at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Finally, SI reception hosted by the Taiwan delegation from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. And that was just the first day!

We also attended a presentation on Women's Suffrage Anthology by lecturer Sally Roesch Wagner on March 11 at The New York Society Library and also received a signed copy of Sally's book entitled "The Women's Suffrage Movement." Sally currently serves on Adjunct Faculty in the Honors Program at Syracuse University. Those who attended: Gov. Kris Armstrong, Region Secretary Missie Austin, SIA Financial Chair Lee Ann Cochran, Region District 3 Secretary, Lata Shastri, and me.

Starting Tuesday, March 12, and each morning thereafter, we attended Briefings beginning at 8:30 a.m. inside the UN to hear from our representatives on the caucuses and meetings taking place regarding the "Agreed Upon Conclusions" document.

A Town Hall meeting was held on March 12 and we heard UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres address a packed room on aspects of the Beijing +25 where governments agreed on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Artisans Fair was held on March 13 and was attended by so many women buying handmade items from around the globe. I did purchase a CSW63 scarf and a bag from India. I also purchased items from the UN Gift Shop and Bookstore. Both places have anything and everything with the UN logo.

## Soroptimist International of Monroe, continued

We did manage to see two shows while in New York. On the first day we arrived, Lata and I attended the showing of "To Kill A Mockingbird" with Michigan's own Jeff Daniels. I purchased the tickets for this show back in November and we were lucky to get them because the show has been sold out since each month. Then Gov Kris got tickets for "The Cher Show" and it was a big hit. Also attending the Cher Show with Gov Kris was Missie, Lata, Lee Ann, Kathy, and me.

On my last day in New York, I took a food tour and we stopped at a bagel shop, pizza place, 2 cupcake shops, and an Indian taco restaurant. The best thing about this food tour was that we got samples at each place!!

After the food tour, I attended the 9/11 Memorial. The reflecting pool is a reverent place and everyone there was so respectful. There are no words to describe the entire place. Inside there is a wall of photos of all those who perished on 9/11. It's a somber moment.

A few UN terms:

- NGO/GO – Non-governmental organization / governmental organization
- CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- SDGs – Sustainable Development goals
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Each year I look forward to attending the UN CSW. It is an exciting time, meeting old and new friends, networking, and having a little fun in spare moments. Restaurants are everywhere, and having dinner with friends just makes the whole experience complete. Lata and I always share a room and our view is of the Chrysler Building. It's a beautiful view especially since we are on floor 35 or above.

We had wonderful representation from the Midwestern Region: Gov Kris Armstrong, Region Secretary Missie Austin, Region District 3 Secretary Lata Shastri, SIA Finance Chair Lee Ann Cochran, SI Director of Advocacy Beverly Bucur, SI Grosse Pointe members Mary Ellen Burke and Dorothea Williams. I encourage anyone in our Region to try and attend at least once the UN experience. You will never regret your decision to attend the UN CSW.

Vivian Walczesky  
Soroptimist International Delegate  
CSW63





## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO) CSW63 FORUM EVENTS

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY advocates with member states for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across the globe in support of the work of the UN CSW and UN Women.

They lobby for the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, UN Security resolution 1325, the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. NGO CSW/NY represents more than 550 member organizations and individuals including Young Professionals are concerned about the status of women and girls. They monitor and participate in events at UN headquarters in New York.

Every year NGO CSW/NY organizes the NGO Forum for the CSW that takes place during the two weeks in March. Consultation day, a 7 hour event held the Sunday before the opening day of CSW, prepares participants for the parallel events that focus on the priority and review themes decided each year.

Through its list of over 13,000 people, NGO CSW/NY keeps women worldwide apprized of gender-based issues. It promotes “women’s rights are human rights” at the UN and other international meetings.

CSW63 began with a welcoming address by Susan O’Malley, the Chair. PhumzileMlambo-Ngcuka, the UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women stated the most beautiful gift in the world is ENCOURAGEMENT. Then H.E. Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, the Permanent Representative Mission of Ireland, and Bureau Chair, CSW63 introduced this year’s themes.

- *Empowering women and girls will allow them to contribute fully in society.*
- *Women bear burden of “care” of most of the people in the world, and are deprived of care*
- *Gender Equality is a government concern.*
- *Governments need to invest in women’s talent so women can contribute economically.*
- *Governments need to help women get back into the labor market when drop out for child care.*

- *Women are deprived of promotions when they take child care leave.*
- *20% of government expenditures are relate to social protection.*
- *Women are looking for power for women, not power over men.*
- *Need to free women’s time and “head space” from child care issues.*
- *Women need to use technology to spread their messages worldwide—creates empowerment.*
- *“Me Too” highlights that everyday women are in the “fire”, and subject to sexual harassment.*
- *Tradition and Culture can equal Oppression*

The 2019 Woman of Distinction Award was given to Ghar-sanaylbnulAmeen, a 22-year-old grassroots organizer from Afghanistan, the youngest awardee. She currently works as Special Assistant Unit/Secretary and is a Master’s degree Fulbright finalist in the 2019-20 Fulbright Cohort. She believes that educating girls is the most important force on the planet and it will improve the world economy. She convinced girls to enroll in a leadership program, which had had an impact on the entire country. Empowered women must step up to fight tyranny and promote human rights for women.

Alix Garcia and NaimaPenniman, members of Climbing PoeTree presented three dramatic poems on empowering women to change the world. Some themes include: “creativity is the antidote to destruction”, and “don’t let hate keep you down...rise up” and “up is the only direction we have to go”. You can listen to these moving poems online. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wD0p8KI9jRc>

A panel of four women presented what Social Protection is in today’s world. ViniciusPineiro, the Deputy Director of the Office for the UN International Labor Organization focused his remarks on International Labor, Peace, and Social Justice. Nadia Daar, Head of Oxfam Washington Office, talk focused on the growing super rich as well as the neglect of the poor. The role of governments should be to provide social protection, that is education and healthcare through equal taxation. Crystal Simeoni, Director of FEMNET in Kenya, spoke about women’s rights in Africa. Currently, most of the countries wealth are pro-

## Soroptimist International of

of the rural areas which represent three-fourths of the population. Corina Rodriguez Enriquez, Director of DAWN in Argentina spoke about the financial support needed for the poor. The right wing government is a current threat to social protection. The conclusion of the panel was “Dignity before Development”. Women need to be recognized at the table, not on the table.

Mayor William Peduto of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania received the Cities for Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Global Leadership Award. The USA was one of only 5 countries in the UN that did not vote to support CEDAW, so individual cities in the USA are joining. Currently there are 50 US cities that are members.

Lopa Banerjee, the Director of Civil Society Division for UN Women, gave an update on Beijing +25. Currently, one in three women face domestic violence sometime in their lifetime around the world. Women are ignored, overlooked, harassed, or assaulted. There have been many multinational achievements as a result of Beijing +25:

- *A five year review of the 17 UN sustainable goals*
- *A ten year anniversary celebrating the creation of UN Women*
- *World wide attention on Me Too movement*
- *Stand against male privilege*
- *Mobilize stakeholders to achieve gender equity and equality*
- *Women in powerful positions*
- *Rapid, irreversible progress in gender equality*
- *Focus on the key drivers of change: transformation, increase resources, strengthen accountability, feminist movement, empower young women to lead*

The final presentation of the day was a panel discussion on Promising Social Protection Schemes. Heather Ibrahim spoke on the need for protection of widows in Namibia, Kenya and India. Women become widows through the death, or abandonment of the husbands, or by having an unmarried partner. Currently, Egypt, Tanzania, and India have large percentages of widows under 40 years old. Widows cannot inherit property, so have lost their income, right to justice, social protection, and freedom. This can lead to poverty, hunger, and poor health as well as human trafficking. Sometimes they marry off their children for economic reasons.

Helen Inga Stankiewicz Von Ernst, talked about Equal Pay in Iceland. Iceland has been the #1 country guaranteeing equal

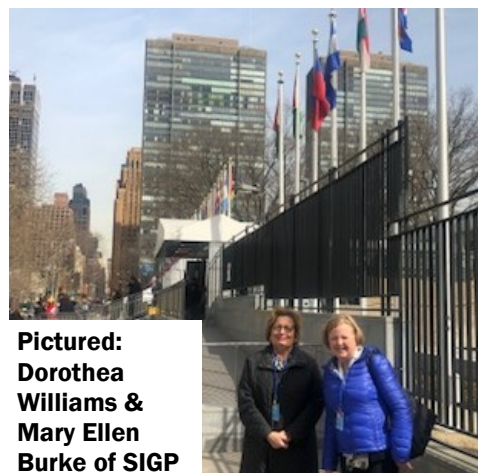
pay for women for the past ten years. On October 24 women did not work but protested in order to achieve equal pay. Currently, the burden of proof in discrimination cases falls on the employer not the employee.

Tania Goossens from Peru spoke on Zero Hunger: Cooking with a Cause. The Peruvian people love food, but have a high rate of malnutrition and anemia. 19,000 soup kitchens have been established and are managed by women in order to feed and to teach women how to cook nutritious dishes. This project is creating better health as well as social and economic change for women.

Sarita Pariya spoke about ending violence against Dalit Women in Nepal. This country still has a caste system, which treats the people of Dalit as untouchables. Most women face an increased risk of assault and rape.

Angela Mwai presented Safe Transportation for Women in Egypt. Women in Egypt chose not to take any public transportation because of sexual harassment. They choose to walk because they are safer. It takes them much longer and usually they are carrying heavy loads.

Sean Southy, spoke about ending child marriage in Bangladesh. Child marriage is high due to poverty, social mores, and the parents need for safety. UNICEF, ASIATIC and PCI Media are combating this practice through social media. Public service announcements are broadcast on TV, and Facebook. 90% of the population has access to social media, including 6 million people on Facebook (98%). Currently both fathers and sons are being targeted as a means to change social mores. The ads promote fathers who experience social disapproval from their peers for marrying their child daughters. Sons are shown to refuse to marry a girl if she is under 18 years old. The social pressure illustrated in these ads is succeeding in changing the culture.



**Pictured:  
Dorothea  
Williams &  
Mary Ellen  
Burke of SIGP**

### Soroptimist International Of Grosse Pointe

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GROSSE POINTE**

St Lucy's Church  
23401 E. Jefferson  
St. Clair Shores

JOIN US!!  
SEPT 21st

# STOP TRAFFIC 5K

Human Trafficking Awareness Walk/Run



**SHE'S NOT FOR SALE**

SAVE THE DATE: SEPT 21, 2019

### Soroptimist International Of Mount Vernon and Knox County

*Soroptimist International of Mount Vernon and Knox County present*



## Step into Spring

### 2019 Fashion Show & Luncheon

**APRIL 6**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 11:00 am**

Individual Tickets: \$25  
Corporate Tickets: \$250  
*8 tickets includes prime seating and favors*

**GALLAGHER CENTER**  
at the Ohio Eastern Star Home  
1451 Gambler Road  
Mount Vernon

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT**  
**FLOWERS FOR YOU**  
22 East Gambler Street  
Mount Vernon

**THE WEATHER VANE**  
103 Scott Lane  
Gambier



Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

### Soroptimist International Of Monroe

## Soroptimist International of Monroe County

# Presents LUNA FEST

- FILM FESTIVAL -

**Monday, April 29, 2019**

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm • Doors open at 6:30

**Monroe High School Auditorium**

901 Herr Drive - Monroe, Michigan



LUNA FEST is a traveling film festival celebrating, showcasing, and championing women in film. Enjoy snacks and eight short films 3-17 minutes per "movie".

The film festival will benefit Soroptimist awards and projects that empower Women and Girls in our community.

The festival is a public event with high school aged girls invited free of charge. We may end up with some filmmakers "to be" in the audience.

Women in the community are invited with a suggested donation of \$10 a free-will donation of their choosing, or a donation of personal items such as: sports bras, shampoo, conditioner, combs, hair ties, socks, feminine hygiene products, Haynes or Fruit of the Loom boy cut or bikini underwear or a \$5-10 gift card.

Who we are: Soroptimist (Suh-rop-tuh-mist) International is active in 122 countries and Soroptimist International of Monroe County works to help make a difference in the lives of women by assisting women and girls with educational awards, raising awareness and advocating for women's issues, and engaging in community service.

Please contact Pam Barker for more information @

734.755.1028 or misspjb1@gmail.com

[www.monroecountysoroptimist.org](http://www.monroecountysoroptimist.org)

**For more details  
about these up  
coming events  
visit**

**[www.simwr.org](http://www.simwr.org)**



## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

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**Governor-Elect Darcy Mettitt**

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CHECK US OUT ON  
THE WEB!

WWW.SIMWR.ORG



Editor for The Vision  
Karrie Blankenship  
SI Grosse Pointe  
karrieb40@gmail.com

## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2018 / 2020 Board



**Back row: Lata Shastri , Christine Shearer, Mary Pilon, Audrey Jarvey, Susan Frankel, Barb Flory, Jenny Prater, Abby Bouton**  
**Front Row: Darcy Merritt , Kris Armstrong ,  
Connie Gindt , Missie Austin**

## Connections for the 2018–2020 Midwestern Board

### Emails Contacts

Governor-Kris Armstrong - ([krisquin@msn.com](mailto:krisquin@msn.com))

Governor Elect -Darcy Merritt - ([dmerritt81@hotmail.com](mailto:dmerritt81@hotmail.com))

Secretary - Missie Austin - ([missieaustin@gmail.com](mailto:missieaustin@gmail.com))

Treasurer - Audrey Jarvey - ([audreyjarv@gmail.com](mailto:audreyjarv@gmail.com))

Soroptimist International of the Americas - ([siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org))

### Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - ([simwr.org](http://simwr.org))

Soroptimist International of the Americas ([soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org))

Soroptimist International ([soroptimistinternational.org](http://soroptimistinternational.org))

Soroptimist Summary ([soroptimistsummary.org](http://soroptimistsummary.org))

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Social Media connections

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SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS  
MIDWESTERN REGION BOARD 2018-2020

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**GOVERNOR**

Kris Armstrong – SI Bloomington-Normal IL  
607 W. Hamilton Road  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
Cell: 309-530-5989  
Email: krisquin@msn.com

**SECRETARY**

Missie Austin – SI Kenton Hardin Co OH  
513 N. Detroit Street  
Kenton, OH, 43326  
Cell: 419-673-7374  
Email: missieaustin@gmail.com

**DISTRICT I DIRECTOR**

Susan Frankel – SI Fond du Lac WI  
291 Old Pioneer Road  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
Cell: 920-251-2259  
Email: smfrankel5@gmail.com

**DISTRICT II DIRECTOR**

Barb Flory – SI Middletown OH  
5016 Oakview Drive  
Middletown, OH 45042-4901  
Home: 513-422-1882  
Email: bflory@cinci.rr.com

**DISTRICT III Director**

Mary Pilon – SI Wyandotte Southgate Taylor MI  
1711 Chestnut Street  
Wyandotte, MI 48192  
Cell: 313-405-5807  
Email: pilonmary0@gmail.com

**DISTRICT IV DIRECTOR**

Christine Fowler Shearer – SI Canton Stark Co OH  
4590 Rockridge Way  
Copley, OH 44321  
Cell: 216-408-4124

**GOVERNOR-ELECT**

Darcy Merritt – SI Monroe MI  
1554 Riverview Avenue  
Monroe, MI 48126  
Cell: 734-968-7991  
Email: dmerritt81@hotmail.com

**TREASURER**

Audrey Jarvey – SI Fond du Lac WI  
N74W13737 Appleton Avenue #116  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
Cell: 920-979-0606  
Email: audreyjarv@gmail.com

**DISTRICT I SECRETARY**

Connie Gindt – SI Fond du Lac WI  
250 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
Cell: 920-948-1357  
Email: Connie@ep-direct.com

**DISTRICT II SECRETARY**

Jenny Prater – SI Hancock Co OH  
PO Box 156  
Findlay, OH 45839  
Cell: 419-979-9884  
Email: Jmprater92@yahoo.com

**DISTRICT III SECRETARY**

Lata Shastri – SI Wyandotte Southgate Taylor MI  
37279 Aspen Drive  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
Cell: 248-890-0343  
Email: shastrilata@gmail.com

**DISTRICT IV SECRETARY**

Abby Bouton – SI Columbus Franklin Co OH  
2101 Mackenzie Drive  
Columbus, OH 43220  
Cell: 614-285-8212

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