



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

Meet new member

Sarah Schroeder Wants Bright Future for Women



Sarah Schroeder

“I’ve been very fortunate in life and I feel that requires me to be generous and helpful to others, it requires paying forward with a generosity of spirit to those in need.” Those words pretty well sum up the attitude of Sarah Schroeder, SI Milwaukee’s newest member. Her decision to choose involvement with SI Milwaukee is a direct result of her close friendship of nearly 50 years with Kazuko

Morita, incoming president of SI International.

“She’s more than a dear friend—she’s big sister, auntie and mentor.” Sarah praised Kazuko’s intelligence, her ability to communicate and her kind heart.

When Sarah retired from being a Japanese interpreter and business consultant, Kazuko urged her to look into Sorooptimist membership. “I found that Sorooptimist goals and interests are the same as mine,” she said. “I want to see women self-actualized, to live with an open heart and an open mind,” Sarah said.

“My mantra is ‘Small Life, Big Thoughts.’” Sarah is married to David Schroeder, who works in finance, and is the mother of a daughter, Kate, who is a data scientist living in Seattle with her husband, Alan, and 4-year-old daughter, Josephine. Sarah and David’s recently married son, John, is an evolutionary biologist doing research with the Rocky Mountain Institute on electric transportation vehicles. “He is concentrating on ways to reduce pollution in some of the world’s most populous cities, Shanghai, Mumbai and Los Angeles.” John’s wife, Emily, is an environmental outdoor educator teaching children about the out-of-doors. Their home is in Colorado.

Sarah’s facility with Japanese is the outgrowth of the year she spent at a high
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school in Nagano, Japan, in an area where absolutely no one spoke any English. “I learned Japanese the way a child learns language,” she said. Two years later, while a student at the University of Indiana, she spent a year at International Christian University in Tokyo focusing on Japanese language and culture. That’s when she met Kazuko and began the friendship that still flourishes.

Today Sarah and David, who have lived in the Milwaukee area for 29 years, are sticking pretty close to their home in Mequon because of the pandemic, but she embraces many interests, including doing tai chi several times a week with her 93-year-old aunt. “She keeps me on my toes,” Sarah said. Though a qualified yoga teacher, Sarah is not teaching right now. She lists gardening, cooking, entertaining, hiking, fly fishing, reading and Japanese food and culture among her many interests.

“I love perennials. Not all neat and tidy, but messy, interesting.” She also likes pets. “This is the first time we have not had a dog. When the children were little we had a menagerie including rats and spiders and a six-foot-long snake.” She said. “Once we lost the snake. Looked everywhere for it. We found it a year and a half later in the basement. It was still alive. We think it was probably eating mice.” While Sarah is looking forward to being able to travel again, she is also looking forward to her time in SI Milwaukee. “I align with the club’s core values and I’m interested in volunteering in this capacity,” she concluded.

Just This Minute

Inspirational thoughts presented by Aggie Ressel.

If we’re thoughtful just this minute,
In whate’er we say or do,
If we put a purpose in it
That is honest through and through
We shall gladden life and give it
Grace to make it all sublime;
For, though life is long, we live it
Just this minute at a time.
Just this minute we are going
Toward the right or toward the wrong;
Just this minute we are sowing
Seeds of sorrow or of song.
Just this minute we are thinking
On the ways that lead to God,
Or in idle dreams are sinking
To the level of a clod.
Yesterday is gone; tomorrow
Never comes within our grasp;
Just this minute’s joy or sorrow,
That is all our hands may clasp.
Just this minute! Let us take it
As a pearl or precious prize,
And with high endeavor make it
Fit to shine in Paradise.

Author Unknown

**Next meeting Saturday, Oct. 10,
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., via Zoom**

Three Women Win Soroptimist Awards



GERALYN STIEMKE, Live Your Dream Winner

In a note to SI Milwaukee Awards Chair Barbara Collignon, GERALYN STIEMKE, Hartland, left no doubt about the value to her of the Live Your Dream Awards she received after years of stress and financial hardship:

“I can tell you that I am in such a better place mentally and emotionally since being blessed with winning the award. It alleviated a tremendous amount of stress for me. I even feel like a different person. I strongly believe that my situation will only continue to improve. I am six months into my surgical technician program and have one year left. I am working full time at a nursing home on the night shift. As hectic as my schedule is, there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel. A huge reason for that is due to what you all do with Soroptimist. You actually change lives. Thank you so many times over for giving my children and me hope. God bless you.”

GERALYN has been working at two to three jobs to support herself and her daughter, Mikayla, 17, and son, Hunter, 14, after divorcing the husband who was imprisoned for abuse of the

children. She knew she had to get more education in order to provide a better life, and, after eight years away from school, she entered the surgical technician program at Milwaukee Career College.

“I’m chomping at the bit to graduate and get going,” she said. “I see only good things ahead.”

When she can find some free time, GERALYN enjoys being a role model by showing her children the pleasure to be found in the out-of-doors. She said she loves hiking and hunting and fishing. Closer to home she maintains a vegetable garden and supports three cats and her son’s African bull frog. “That thing is huge, and really ugly,” she said.

GERALYN also makes time to support friends who need a helping hand.



LAUREN TATUM, Live Your Dream Runner-up

She’s a woman of many talents and many interests and she is runner-up for SI Milwaukee’s Live Your Dream award, 2019-2020.

Lauren Tatum will be graduating in December from Alverno College with a major in integrated studies. “That lets me combine many of my interests, with a concentration on politics and a minor in arts, focusing on dance, theater and creative writing.”

At the very top of her list is caring for her daughter, Felicity, who was born in April. “She doubled her weight in the first four months, so she’s way ahead of the growth curve,” Lauren said. All of Lauren’s courses this semester are on-line, giving her at-home time with the baby and with Sean, her partner of 14 years.

Loren’s goal is to become a midwife and she is currently waiting to be accepted into Alverno’s direct entry program for a master’s degree in nursing. This summer she became a certified yoga instructor in both standard and prenatal yoga. “I hope to include this in my midwifery practice,” she said. She is also a certified lactation consultant and a Zumba instructor. “I love to dance and to move,” she said.

She has been awarded for civic engagement on campus and participates in a nonpartisan organization which concentrates on getting out the vote. “I just talk to people about the importance of voting, I don’t try to persuade them to vote for any particular candidate.”

Catching Up

Shaunna Brown, Live Your Dream winner in the 2018-2019 club year, sent the following note of appreciation to SI Milwaukee Awards Chair Barbara Collignon as she embarked on her new career:

I want to show my appreciation for the ladies of Soroptimist International of Milwaukee. Thank you for welcoming me and supporting me in my nursing pursuit. I am happy to share with you that I finished my degree program May 15, 2020. Additionally, I have accepted a job at Froedtert Hospital as an RN. My training started May 22nd. I am forever grateful.”



AUGUSTA IKE, Virginia Wagner Award Winner

Her family won the immigration lottery in Nigeria, in 2001, opening the way for them to find a better future in the United States.

“God led me here,” Augusta Ike said, “but it is my parents who inspired me. They have worked very hard to get out of poverty and to advance the lives of all of us.” Augusta has three brothers and a sister.

“Education is a gift that I never took for granted. I always wanted to know more, do more, and be more. Since my mother dropped everything to make sure her children have a life worth living, I will make sure that I never forget who I am, where I come from, and what got me here.”

Augusta said she felt the need to understand herself before she could be able to help others escape depression and trauma.

“I am not an African American but American African. I assimilated to American customs to move through spaces efficiently. I learned what makes an American an American and mimicked it to be seen as normal and not an outsider. For a long time I lost myself in trying to be a true American, but as time continued I realized that I am a Nigerian (Continued on Page 5)

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American who can't be broken because it is my destiny to help people," Augusta wrote in applying for the Virginia Wagner Award.

This fall she moved to Madison to start her pursuit of a future in which she will be able to help the trauma healing process after earning certification in communications or gender women's studies. She entered the University of Wisconsin already having earned credits in her psychology goal while a student at Rufus King High School in Milwaukee.

The switch from neuropsychology to an emphasis on abnormal psychology and trauma came this summer when she was able to lead a friend away from suicide. "Some keep their emotions bottled up and feel that showing them makes them look weak, but showing them is when you really are the strongest." She said, "God gave life, then it is worth living."

"I am joyful. I'm still searching for who I want to be. Perhaps it eventually will be teaching. I give all that worry to God. But I know the future is bright," Augusta said.

In her spare time she loves to read, dance (she was in a competitive dance team in high school) and shop. She's especially happy celebrating birthdays, socializing and networking.

Future Uncertain As Virus Rages

Much remains to be decided about SI Milwaukee's new year, President Aundrea Price told members Sept. 12 at the club's first official 2020-2021 meeting. Changes from the norm in all areas are brought about because of the Covid 19 pandemic that has affected millions of Americans and killed more than 200,000 people.

Aundrea said the club will meet via Zoom at least until December, as it did on the 12th and she is looking at the possibility of conducting the Dream It, Be It program, cancelled in the spring because of the pandemic, via Zoom as well.

There also are plans underway for a virtual Lunafest presentation which could raise some much-needed funds for future awards.

Midwest Region Governor-Elect Christine Fowler Shearer, who participated in the virtual session from her home in Ohio, recommended checking the district web site for ideas on ways to raise money in these uncertain times. "Lots of clubs have shared what they are doing," she said.

In other matters:

Membership Chair Kathy Endrizzi welcomed Sarah Schroeder as the club's newest member. She had been sworn in by immediate Past-President Monica Phillip at the unofficial session in August.

Cathedral Center cannot accept any physical donations because of the virus, Monica said.

She also reminded members that grant money for projects such as the Cathedral Center has been withheld from all clubs this year.

Sunshine Chair Aggie Ressel, who had been delivering the basic household supplies to the Cathedral Center, will resume distribution, when that is permitted, with the aid of Barbara Collignon.

Barbara, who is Awards Chair, reported that three applications have been filed for the 2020-2021 Live Your Dream Award.

The District Meeting Oct. 23-24, will be available to all members virtually, Christine said, adding that more information will be made available soon via email.

Members were asked to review 2019-2020 club assessment summary report that appeared in the March newsletter and comment at next meeting on desired additions, subtractions or other changes.

The Ladies Who Aren't Lunching

Instead of holding the club's unofficial get-together in August at one of the local eateries, as would usually be the case, members checked in from their own homes due, of course, to the pandemic's demand for social distancing. SI Milwaukee President Aundrea Price snapped these shots via Zoom. Lighting conditions in various homes varied considerably, so some tinkering was required to be able to see the faces of Aundrea and Monica Phillip.

Lunch or no lunch, everyone seemed to be having a good time.

District I Director Susan Frankel paid the club a visit from her home in Fond du Lac.



Barbara Collignon and Aggie Ressel



Aundrea Price



Monica Phillip



Kathy Endrizzi and Mary Esser



Myrna Collins

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Sarah Schroeder

Club Officers Installed for 2020-2021

When District I Director Susan Frankel made a Zoom appearance at the Aug. 29 informal meeting of SI Milwaukee, she used the occasion to sketch a picture of the club and to install the club’s officers for 2020-2021. She shared the installation procedure and demands of the offices as follows:

I am honored to be a part of Soroptimist of Milwaukee’s installation of officers. This is, of course, not your normal event, but a Virtual installation, so all the actual pomp and celebration has to be postponed.

I know Soroptimist International of Milwaukee has shown the true Soroptimist spirit in awarding both the Live Your Dream and the Virginia Wagner Awards each year. Your club has also found many ways to work within your community, including partnering with the Sojourner Family Peace Center, and submitting and winning an SIA grant to continue with your “move in” baskets at Cathedral Center for the homeless women



District I Director Susan Frankel

as they move into their own apartments. I have always loved your Fashion Shows – especially the ones with the Milwaukee Rep costumes—and your awards dinners.

You support other Soroptimist clubs by participating in their events when you can.

You were the first District I club to present the Lunafest in our area, and I know you continue to be diligently working on a Dream It, Be It program.

Soroptimist of Milwaukee has always shown me what Soroptimist is all about.

I would like to thank your past officers for the work you have done these past years to promote and support the Soroptimist International of Milwaukee, District I and Midwestern Region, and I know you will continue to support your new officers.

Now, on to the installations:

**Directors—Immediate Past-President
Monica Phillip and Aggie Ressel**

You have been elected as directors of your club and you shall serve for two years or until

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your successors are elected. You are important to the smooth operation of your club and to the planning and carrying out of activities resulting in the growth in stature of your club. I urge you to shoulder your full share of the load and to keep yourselves well-informed concerning all Soroptimist matters on club, region, federation and international levels. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Treasurer—Jean Rabe

You have been elected treasurer of your club. You shall have custody of the funds of the club. You shall be responsible for recording all money collected, for depositing club money and collecting club dues. You will disburse money as approved by the club and present a monthly financial report to the club and be responsible for obtaining and filing all necessary tax forms. Good records are very important. Keeping your board and your membership informed is also a must. Remember, the time and talent represented by the dollars you care for, and the personal involvement of members, are your most precious of assets. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Secretary—Myrna Collins

You have been elected secretary of your club. Your duties are to record the minutes of each club and board meeting and provide a copy of the minutes to the president. You shall preserve in a permanent file all minutes and records of value to the club. You shall handle club correspondence as requested. You shall receive payment and give receipts for club dues or other monies in the absence of the treasurer and shall turn over all payments, accompanied by an itemized report to the treasurer. As secretary, you shall maintain a roster of officers, committee chairmen, and

committee members, and report all status, name, address and email changes to the club, Region, and Federation. Do you accept these responsibilities?

President—Aundrea Price

You have been elected president of your club and your duties shall be those as implied by the title. You shall preside at all club and board meetings, carry out the policy of the club and represent to the community the spirit and character of Soroptimist. Worthy of note are the leadership qualities that you will need as president—wisdom, patience and understanding. As the presiding officer, you must be fair, tactful and just, and—above all—you will be gentle and kind. Common sense and willingness will carry you far in the development of communication, understanding, participation and a Soroptimist viewpoint. This means you will be alert to the changing needs in your community and be knowledgeable about Region, Federation and International aims. Do you accept these responsibilities?

I now ask each of you to pledge to do your very best to carry out the requirements of your respective offices. To each, I recommend a study of the SIA Federation Bylaws so that you will be thoroughly familiar with them. Also, know that we are here to assist you in anything you need and know that you can rely on your club members to help you.

I now declare these officers duly installed in the offices to which they were elected.

VOTE!

At right, SI Milwaukee's Janet Nortrom dons the white clothing and carries a white parasol of the Suffragettes, whose determined pursuit of the right to vote for women was finally successful with the passage of the 19th Amendment one hundred years ago. She described the history of the movement on the Shorewood Women's Club's Women Get the Vote Day.

In honor of this centenary, SI Milwaukee's very own poet laureate Barbara Collignon composed this poem. It can be recited or sung to the tune of "Jesus loves the little children."

Vote, vote, vote and work for justice,
education and for health.
We are equal, we are smart.
We are armed with all our art.
We will vote and make a better world
--that's right!

Vote, vote, vote your conscience, Ladies.
Take your neighbor to the polls.
Red or yellow, black or white,
we can exercise our right
now we've won the right to vote
and play a role.

Vote, vote, vote your conscience, Ladies.
Don't forget to register to vote.
Take your ID, take your coat.
You don't want to miss the boat
to make a difference in the world
and do what's right.



Photo by Barbara Collignon

Suffragette re-enactor Janet Nortrom