

SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF

CORNERSTONE

Mission Statement

To solicit, attract, and manage charitable donations in order to provide educational funding for the advancement of human rights and the status of women. www.soroptimistfoundation.ca Editor: Aline Chan Spring 2013 alinchan@rogers.com

2013 Grants for Women Award Winners \$30,000 total was awarded to four recipients. Read more about them at

http://www.soroptimistfoundation.ca/grantwinners.html

Cecilia Alejo Rivas was born in El Salvador and arrived to Canada at age three along with her family who



Cecilia Alejo Rivas Juris Doctor Candidate 2014 University of Windsor were seeking protection from the civil war. Her story is one she later found to be similar to other immigrant youth: one of poverty, identity shaping, and the creation of a new family/ support system. It was the experience of poverty, familial breakup, and many of the obstacles seen as normal for other immigrant families that instilled in her an arduous passion for the rights of children, youth and women. It was this dedication that led to her pursuing her law degree. Cecilia is a Juris Doctor candidate in her final year at the University of Windsor's Faculty of Law. She also holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Ryerson University. Cecilia is working towards combining her experience as a social worker, artist and law student into an approach towards youth criminal law through a trauma-informed, antioppressive and gender appropriate framework. Cecilia has worked with various community organizations and is a vocal advocate for the development of female-centred spaces, woman's rights and systemic oppression. She has mobilized young artists, mothers, and community members to assist her in creating and facilitating non-traditional, arts-based programming for youth, with specific attention to young girls and youth deemed 'at-risk'

in Toronto, Cuba, El Salvador and Chile.

Jill Andrew is a full-time PhD student in the Faculty of Education at York University. Her dissertation is cur-



Jill Andrew PhD Candidate York University Faculty of Education MA, University of Toronto New College, Women & Gender Studies

rently titled "Abject in the City? Stories of Female Corporeality from the Margins." It focusses on female body images, personal narratives both in-person and online, body (re)presentations in popular culture and body activisms as resistances against controlling images and socially dominant normalized body ideals. Jill will explore different 'body projects' within her dissertation. Her topics include: "*Fat in the City: Monologues (and narratives) of Corpulent Proportions*" documenting fashion/dress/consumer/blogging and blog discourse experiences of some fat women in Canada; "Bleached in the City: Erasing Darkness" an exploration of the socio-cultural, economic, raced and gendered experience of some Black female 'bleachers' (or those who have bleached or thought of participating) in Canada and lastly "Empowered in the City: Transgressive Body Spaces & Places" investigating where, with whom and how female "marginalized" bodies construct and negotiate identity and belonging as a strategy to help find and execute their oppositional gazes.

Above all, Jill who also identifies as a Black feminist and fat activist is curious as to how some females create and sustain spaces within a society in which, all too often she believes, too much "fat" and too much "Black" are either fetishized or often produce feelings of fear, disgust and disavowal for many.

50TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF 2012 – and the two winners of \$50 were...

The winners of the **two \$50 cash prizes** awarded to the two Soroptimists attending the SFC's Annual General Meeting October 2012 were Margaret McCrae (SI Burlington) and Tanna Edwards (SI Peterborough). Congratulations!

The winners donated their prizes back to the SFC and received tax receipts. The winners also received a commemorative anniversary prize.

SFC AGM OCTOBER 26, 2013 Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites Winnipeg MB Phone: 1-204-783-1700



AGM organiser Lori Roblesky, Secretary secretary@soroptimistfoundation.ca



Margaret Alala Master of Social Work University of Victoria

Margaret Alala grew up in Kenya and during her teenage years, she decided she wanted to work with children with mental disabilities or mental illness. For various reasons, this dream was not an option. After completing her schooling in Kenya, she attended Adelphi University in New York on a full scholarship and graduated *summa cum laude* with a BBA in Computer Applications. She received a tuition scholarship to attend New York University where she earned an MBA in Information Systems. Margaret returned to Kenya and worked as an Accountant then as Head of Finance and Informatics at the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi. During this time, she worked on small projects in Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia and Ethiopia. She also provided temporary assistance during the conflicts in Somalia and Rwanda. In Nairobi, she was actively involved in the locally-engaged staff committee where she successfully advocated for fair wages and other concerns on behalf of local staff. In 1994, Margaret received a certificate of outstanding service from the Canadian Secretary of State (Latin America & Africa) and in 1995, Margaret was a recipient of the Award of Excellence from the President of the Treasury Board of Canada.



Cherry Smiley Masters of Fine Art Simon Fraser University British Columbia

Cherry Smiley is a Nlaka'pamux (Thompson) and Dine' (Navajo) woman living, working, and studying on unceded Coast Salish Territories in Vancouver BC. She has been politically organized in the women's liberation movement since 2008 as a feminist activist and anti-violence worker. Like many First Nations women, Cherry was raised in a home where the effects of colonialism were obvious, poverty, male violence against women and girls, abuse, disability, mental health issues, and drug and alcohol addiction. As a young girl, Cherry made the decision to abstain from drinking and drugs, and is proud today to say that she has never used alcohol or drugs. Cherry attributes her success in elementary and high schools to this decision, combined with some luck and with the support of her Grandparents. She eventually graduated from the University of British Columbia, Okanagan, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. It was during the final year of her undergraduate degree that Cherry enrolled in a feminist theory class and discovered a vocabulary to explain the conditions of her life, and the lives of so many First Nations women and girls in Canada. Cherry's work over the past six years in the women's liberation movement has taken her

across continents. At times beautiful and hopeful, at times exhausting, she has been gifted with a growing confidence in herself, her voice, and her artwork. This confidence is essential in the completion of a Masters degree, and in her continued growth as an artist, educator, and feminist activist working for the liberation of women and girls worldwide.

Message from the Foundation Chair

BJ Gallagher

LET'S ALL GET BEHIND THE SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The Soroptimist Foundation of Canada 1963 - 2013

THE NEXT 50 YEARS

The Soroptimist Foundation of Canada has grown through the support and generosity of our members and with that support, it has been able to continue providing its "*Grants for Women*" to deserving women pursuing their post-graduate studies in fields that will benefit society and, in particular, women.

Brigadier Frances Wagner was the first Canadian on the Board of Directors of the Foundation at its time of incorporation on June 27, 1963, by letters patent, in Ottawa. Revenue Canada granted charitable status to the Foundation on January 1, 1967. Governance of the Foundation depends solely on the dedicated efforts of the board of directors who update regulations, manage operations and provide communication with our Soroptimist members.

From its humble start-up with donations of \$4,125 to its current funds of approximately \$1,350,000, we foresee the Foundation continuing to grow through the support and generosity of our membership.

True to its mission, the Foundation has provided at least 147 women with a total of \$865,000 in grants, including the latest 2013 winners. These award winners have included Canadian women from all walks of life, with academic excellence in medicine, law, social work, environment, liberal arts and technology and these women are now giving back to society with the assistance provided by the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada and its Grants for Women program.

Winners currently receive \$7,500 during their academic year of application. The individual grants were increased from \$5,000 in 1983 to \$7,500 in 2000. We would like to see an increase of that amount to \$10,000 to each recipient and with help from the membership of Soroptimist International, we should be able to do that in the foreseeable future.

SFC also fund a number of Club Grants yearly and you are likely aware of these through the fine work each club receiving these grants does in their communities. Some examples are SI Central Alberta and their "Girls Forum", SI Hamilton/Burlington's project "Play Nice", SI Surrey Delta and their project "Totally Beautiful", SI Courtenay and their project "Yes You Can – Mentoring Program" and SI Winnipeg and their project "Girls Self-Esteem Forum".

SFC also grows because of all the honourable, hard-working, dedicated women who have preceded me and my Board members, Sarah Philips, Lori Roblesky, Aline Chan and Sheryl Hopkins and committee members Cora Salvador, Eileen Stanbury, Jas Salh, Janet Simms-Baldwin, Flora Francis, Jean Skillman, Alison Saunders, as well as our auditor, webmaster and investment team.

Our history committee has been working long and hard putting together a history book and expect it to be ready in the near future. It is fascinating to see how the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada has grown and developed.

We invite all Canadian Soroptimists to help celebrate our golden anniversary. We empower you to help us continue to advocate for Canadian women scholars as they endeavour to make our world a better place in which to live. Please unite and donate to the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada by making it your Charity of Choice. Your generosity ensures the financial assistance needed to enable these women to pursue their dream.

Your donation keeps giving as the principal remains in perpetuity. Please give now so that we can give more.



Soroptimist Foundation of Canada	Spring 2013	Page 4
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SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANAD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 – 2013 Elizabeth Jane Gallagher , Chair and Club Grants chair@soroptimistfoundation.c clubgrants@soroptimistfoundation.	r Lori Robles secretary@soropt Aline Char Grants for Women, Eastern	n Canada Janager cone
Sheryl Hopkins, Treasurer treasurer@soroptimistfoundation	Grants for Wome	Phillips n, Western Canada roptimistfoundation.ca
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Soroptimist Foundation of Canada grant helps new Doctor, 2004

It was a grant from the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada in 2004 that provided an opportunity for McMaster University graduate student Catherine Krasnik to finish her PhD. Financing education is a challenge faced by most students and Soroptimist Foundation of Canada annually offers four \$7,500 grants to female graduate students in Canada to assist them with university studies that will qualify them for careers working to improve the quality of women's lives.

"It has meant an opportunity for me to finish my PhD," Dr. Krasnik told about 80 members at an ECR meeting in 2005. The SFC funding helped make it possible to finish her research which studied the long- term effects of antipsychotic drugs on the brain and how they differ between women and men.

Dr. Krasnik earned her PhD in Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster in January, 2005. In 2009 – 2011 Dr. Krasnik was awarded a prestigious fellowship offering the rare opportunity to shape mental health policy, in anticipation of future leadership roles within the public sector. She was the third

Canadian recipient of this fellowship since 1980.

In addition to the fellowship, Dr. Krasnik worked with a team of psychiatrists from McMaster and Dalhousie University to update legislation and mental health policy in Guyana. Under the old legislation, which dates back to the 1800s, patients with mental health issues were required to go before a court to gain admission to a hospital.

"The skills that I gain in Guyana, from a systems approach, will be helpful here as well. Ultimately, I hope to become involved with public health and advocacy in Canada."

Dr. Krasnik's current role is Forensic and General Psychiatrist, Syl Apps Youth Centre, Oakville, Ontario.

Catherine Krasnik MD, PhD, FRCP(C) Clinical Scholar, Forensic Psychiatry Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences McMaster University, Forensic Psychiatrist

Club Grants

Club Grants in the amount of up to \$1,000.00 are available by applying to the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada.

The Foundation may offer five \$1,000.00 grants for clubs holding educational programs for women or girls that will help them to be the best that they can be by developing their abilities and their awareness so that these young women can reach their full potential. The exact number of grants and the amounts for those grants shall be determined each fiscal year at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, based on the funds available in that year's budget and the program needs of the Clubs applying.

Deadline for Club Grants is September 30th. Applications are available on the website. Click on Club Grants Application at <u>http://www.soroptimistfoundation.ca/</u>

Or go directly to <u>http://www.soroptimistfoundation.ca/application.html#clubs</u>

BJ GallaGher Manager, Club Grants

SFC Annual General Meeting Celebrating 50 Years! Saturday, October 26, 2013 ... Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites Save The Date .. Plan To Attend!

SFC MAPLE LEAF PIN RECIPIENTS Spring 2013

ECR Presentation

GOLD PIN RECIPIENTS - \$2500.00 Donation Maragaret Gilbey - SI Toronto Sandra Gray - SI Dundas-Flamboro-Ancaster Janet Simms-Baldwin - SI Guelph

SILVER PIN RECIPIENTS - \$1000.00 Donation Aline Chan - SI Guelph accepted by Flora Francis Barbara Halvorson - SI Thunder Bay (pictured in purple) Sheila Hambleton - SI Toronto (pictures in navy)

RED PIN RECIPIENTS - \$500.00 Donation Dianne Nielsen - SI Peterborough (pictured in turquoise & blue dress)

Carolyn Thombs - SI Stoney Creek-Niagara (at the end) Brenda Vanderlinden - Stoney Creek-Niagara (accepted by club president) Debora Polkinghorne - SI Hamilton Burlington (accepted by club president)

WCR Presentation Spring Conference in Red Deer the same weekend.

SILVER PIN RECIPIENT Colleen Schmidt - SI Abbotsford-Mission

RED PIN RECIPIENTS Chari Grant - SI Tri-Cities Colleen Penrowley - SI Tri-Cities Heather Schmidt - SI Edmonton

TREASURER'S CORNER



Donations for July 1, 2012 to June 14, 2013:

Donations from individual members, donations in remembrance of loved ones, donations from Club Fund Raising Events are all very much appreciated.

The total for this period is \$26,478.75

ENDOWMENT FUND AS OF JUNE 14 - 2013 \$1,363,235.00

OPERATING ACCOUNT \$ 4,710.47 ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT \$23,678.73

The official address in Winnipeg: Soroptimist Foundation of Canada c/o Albina Moran, Partner Thompson, Dorfman, Sweatman LLP 2200 – 201 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MN R3B 3L3

Full accounting of donations, income and expenses of the Foundation can be referenced at the Auditor's report to be approved at the Annual General Meeting on October 26, 2013 in Winnipeg.

Sheryl HOpkins, Treasurer

The joy of giving springs eternal to a Soroptimist. Please give your support to the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada, your charity of choice. The women we support depend on you! Cora Salvador



Spring 2013



ECR CONFERENCE REPORT

The Toronto Club chose the beautiful Fern Resort near Orillia as the venue for the Eastern Canada Spring Conference where sunny skies, accommodating facilities and food individually chosen from different daily menus were absolutely superb. Many members came home on Sunday with several dozen of the resort's freshly baked buns.

On Friday, Rama First Nations Lorraine McCrae gave us a traditional welcome. During the evening events, many seasoned SI members were recognized.

On Saturday morning regular business sessions occurred and Joan Sturch and Mandy Bonisteel from George Brown College presented the SI project in Education to Lead directed to furthering the educational process of Aboriginal women and girls in the North. They emphasized that money is needed for bursaries to assist with education advocacy programmes partnered with George Brown College and Negahneewin College (Confederation College) in Thunder Bay and that refurbished computers would be a great asset for students who are receiving education on line. Joan recommended that clubs should include a line in their budgets for the Education to Lead initiative.

Judy Dickson and an enthusiastic Brooke Gordon presented an interesting overview of their involvement with the U.N. conference in New York, stating that language interpretation in policy among the nations was an ongoing issue and that work is continually being interrupted by protest groups.

In the afternoon there were two workshops, the first given by Paula Voerding a Wyoming resident from the SIA Board. Her topic was about 'Putting the Zing Back in Membership', keeping pace with a changing world, using 21st century methods, tweaking what you like about your club, being receptive to change, making both old and new members feel welcome, overcoming alienation and cliques, and making meetings less business and more fun.

The second workshop, 'Fabulous Fundraisers' presented by Governor-elect, Donna Keating, needed more structure and time to be fully successful. There were, however, many worthwhile ideas put forward.

On Sunday morning, two life time achievement awards were presented and we were honoured to hear the stories of the two WOA winners and the Violet Richardson award winner who was a delightful young lady from Lindsay. In her presentation of these awards, Paula Voerding made several references and statements that impacted me. "Thousands of candles can be lif from a single candle and the light will not be diminished. We experience a ying and yang effect whereby individual dreams can create a collective impact." She expressed that 25 million dollars have been invested in WOA in the past and that \$1.6 million a year helps 1500 women worldwide. Last year 5 awards were given and this year, hopefully, there will be 10 awards presented. She emphasized the president's request to donate 10% of funds raised at the club level to the federation.

Our members, Dianne Nielsen and Sheryl Hopkins, made appropriate presentations about finances and budget and SI Canadian Foundation respectively.

At the luncheon, many awards were presented and Peterborough won the Conference Attendance Award, having 34% of their membership present and the Governor's Award for having the club with the most attendees (17).

Because of time restraints the bottle auction was changed to a silent auction and many of our members were pleasantly surprised with their winnings. Alex Oliveira and I both won prizes from the tickets we purchased from other clubs. Catalina was successful in obtaining money for our club through the ticket sales of a bracelet she donated and our Toonies for Towels was a roaring success. We successfully sold two completed charts with a total of \$200 donated to the purchase of 24 towels for Cameron House and \$100 each for the two winners, Bonnie Domonchuk and Margaret McCrae.

Excellent speakers, good networking, active socialization, good friends, food and fun made this conference well worth attending and one to which I look forward in the future.

Catalina Malin was recognized with a certificate and a beautiful pin in honour of the Peterborough's club choice for Soroptimist of the Year.

Submitted by Jan Axcell, SI Peterborough





Soroptimist Foundation of Canada

WCR CONFERENCE REPORT

May 3rd to May 5th, 2013

Black Knight Inn, Red Deer, Alberta, hosted by SI Central Alberta

The theme of the Western Canada Conference held in Red Deer was F U N - Friendship, Understanding, New Direction.

Governor Dana Martin called the Conference to order and introduced her team, first timers, long standing members, past governors and SIA Executive. SIA Secretary-Treasurer Angela Bunting then gave an address from Federation. Then it was time for lunch hosted by SI Banff National Park. After lunch, keynote speaker Melanie Hayden-Sparks spoke about her philosophy of 'playing it forward'. Melanie is a very positive person and she believes it is important to always put people first, her motto is "Do what's right - not what's easy - and profits last!" She spoke about her fight with breast cancer just about the time she was trying to put together a new business and how she dealt with this frightening situation. Melanie is a shining example of positive thought and she is proof that "U" are always bigger than "IT" no matter what "IT" is.

Friday Night's Pajamas and Pearls event was fun for all, a nice icebreaker to get all in the mood for Friendship, Understanding and New Direction and everyone was encouraged to wear "RED"!!!

Saturday, there were lots of tables set up with something to catch the fancy of everyone attending.

The morning began with committee reports and then it was my turn, a bit early, to explain what Soroptimist Foundation does and how and where our money comes from.

Sharon Fisher gave a very interesting report on controls and internal supports recommending that Soroptimist International Western Canada's Treasurer should purchase software to help in the duties of the Treasurer. A Treasurer's Handbook is being put together and will go to clubs as well. Ongoing training will be necessary for WCR Treasurer and the cost of training should be paid for by WCR and the incoming treasurer should transition into their position with the help of the outgoing treasurer. Governor Dana thanked Sharon for her report and said that the WCR was already taking most of the steps that the report had recommended.

It was my great honour to present SI Edmonton's president Meta Flemke with a platinum certificate and then to present pins to many wonderful women for their gifts to the Foundation. SI Edmonton member and past WCR Governor, Carell Wingrave, took the opportunity to make a presentation to the Foundation of a cheque for \$5000.00.

Lorinda Stewart, Saturday's keynote speaker, spoke about the kidnapping of her daughter, Amanda Lindhout, a freelance journalist working in Somalia at the time. Lorinda spoke about the horrendous difficulties she faced as Mother & Prime Negotiator during the 460 days that Amanda remained captive. Lorinda, her family and friends, eventually raised \$600,000.00 and hired a private security firm that managed to rescue Amanda. She spoke of her views on FOR-GIVENESS stating it is possible to forgive and how necessary it is to healing and finding peace. Lorinda explained what Amanda is doing now and that she has written a book which comes out on Amazon in September. The story was heart wrenching and it was later suggested that Lorinda should also write a book.

An invitation was extended to all to attend the 2014 WCR Conference in Abbotsford-Mission.

Lunch was hosted by SI Calgary, After lunch, there were many interesting and relevant breakout sessions.

Dinner Saturday evening was hosted by SI Central Alberta and the Region Board with lots of fun, presentations and silent auction items. F U N was had by all.

Closing remarks were by WCR Governor Dana Martin.

Submitted by Elizabeth (BJ) GallaGher Chair, Soroptimist Foundation of Canada



SOROPTIMIST CLUB CERTIFICATES

 RED \$100-\$200 1. SI Tri-Cities 2. SI Calgary 3. SI Chilliwack 4. SI White Rock 	 BRONZE \$201-\$500 1. SI Osoyoos 2. SI Winnipeg 3. SI Thunder Bay 4. SI Toronto 	SILVER \$500-\$1000 1. SI Hamilton-Burlington 2. SI Peterborough	GOLD \$1000-\$2000 1. SI Cambridge
PLATINUM Greate 1. SI Langleys 2. SI Kamloops (d 3. SI Edmonton (\$		(de-chartered)	

SFC 50th ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK

The committee is presently working against a tight deadline. We hope to have the final draft out to the Board in mid-July and out to the printers by the 3rd week in July. As of yet, we do not know what the cost will be per copy. The great "reveal" will be at the AGM in October and it will be available at that time.



Flora Francis has a good memory for past events that none of us knew. As well, she had multitudes of photographs from which we selected representative themes and these are being put into collages by Jean Skillman.

Jean also helped research through her own records and remembered a great deal from her two terms on the Board when writing about how governance evolved until today. Cora Salvador did the financial growth chart, Alison Sanders traced grant winners, Sandy Ng keyboarded, formatted and searched for publishers, and I have been busy from the get-go with research, fact checking and describing the overall picture of the Foundation. It has been interesting, fun, frustrating and time consuming!

Hope to see many of you the 26th of October!

Janet Simms- Baldwin Chair, SFC History Committee

GRANTS FOR WOMEN UPDATE

Grants for Women deadline was January 31, 2013. We

received 49 applications for Western Canada and 512 for Eastern Canada.



NATIONAL JUDGES WERE:

Susan Baldauf is a home economist retired from a long career as a secondary school Family Studies teacher/ department head. In Brantford, she promoted day care and parenting programs for teen moms and worked with community nutrition education programs. Susan promoted Family Studies as a member of the provincial Family Studies Subject Council, writing curriculum, mentoring new teachers, and facilitating teacher professional development. In her retirement, she works with quilting guilds and the Women's Institute.

Diant MOrGan is a former educator-geography teacher, department head, program coordinator and program supervisor. She taught in Ottawa; London, England and Brantford, Ontario. In retirement, she worked for the Grand Erie Board of Education as a consultant for teachers doing Action Research into their classroom practice.

Roseline Dufour served as our French translator.

Roseline is a retired school principal and worked for the French school board. Her career took her to several schools in the Brantford and the London area where she also worked as a school board consultant. In her retirement, her volunteer activities reflect her love of teaching as she has quilting classes in her home. She is presently an active guild member of the Brant Heritage Quilting Guild, taking the roles of President and Chairperson of the Quilt Show.

Spring 2013

ECR PHOTO OPPORTUNITY



SI Peterborough at Spring Conference – attendance winners





Sheryl Hopkins, SFC Treasurer, presenting update on the SFC and making Maple Leaf pin presentations.

ECR Spring Conference and eight past presidents from SI Peterborough

WCR PHOTO OPPORTUNITY SPRING CONFERENCE



BJ and Carell Wingrave, Past SIA Governor and member of SI Edmonton. Carel, on behalf of SI Edmonton, is presenting BJ with a cheque for \$5000, for the SFC. **THANK YOU!**



BJ and Meta Flemke, president of SI Edmonton. BJ is presenting platinum certificate for their last donation to the SFC. **THANK YOU!**