



Soroptimist

Improving The
Lives of Women
and Girls

January ZOOM Meeting Was A Creative Success!

Hello, If you have never joined the SISI membership in a Zoom meeting please try it out for the February membership Zoom SISI Club meeting. See instructions on the flip side of this Newsletter in the yellow box. Please know that you do not need a computer! You can dial-in on a regular telephone, you can hear all and use your voice with your name showing on the Zoom screen below. Or you can join with visual and voice with your Smart Phone.

A guest at the January meeting was Italia DePompo selling her jewelry. A percentage of the sales benefited our Sorptimist Club. Want to purchase more jewelry and benefit the Club? Then go to this web address:

<http://www.touchstonecrystal.com/MW5LK1>

Your Participation is Needed

Our Staten Island Soroptimist Club will be starting the Soroptimist **Dream It Be It** program in partnership with the Community Partnership Unit of the Richmond County District Attorney's office.

This program will provide mentoring for girls so they can master the tools they need to achieve their education and career goals. The program will be conducted virtually and will be held bi-weekly beginning in March on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. We are looking for volunteers to be mentors. Please seriously consider volunteering. Contact Janet McFarland (347-742-5186), Dawn Reid-Green (917-991-5394) or Jennifer Bollinger (917-887-4878) if you would like to volunteer or have any questions or suggestions. See and review info and the curriculum on the SIA website <https://www.soroptimist.org/our-work/dream-it-be-it/index.html>

Club President Thanks All For Concerns and Good Wishes

Thank you all for your concerns and good wishes. I'm having breast surgery to have the cancer removed after completing 4 months of chemo (from Aug. to Dec.) and on January 25th I am having a mastectomy. Radiation will follow. I have decided for my health to take the next 3 months off. V.P. Dawn and the SISI Board will continue to work together with all of you to follow the Soroptimist mission of Best for Women. I thank you for your prayers and well wishes.

Enjoy, stay safe and stay well.
Yours in Soroptimist spirit,
Martha Venditto
President, Soroptimist International of Staten Island

Soroptimist International of Staten Island (SISI) Calendar of Events and Meetings

February 3, 2021 at 7pm Zoom --Items to be collected for Safe Horizon Family Shelter Drop off location: Dawn Reid-Green, 630 Delafield Ave, SI, 10310 or call to arrange pick up: 917-991-5394. Items needed: tampons, sanitary napkins, light pads panty liner, deodorant, soap or body wash, skin lotion, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo/conditioner, Comb/Brush, etc.

March 3, 2021 at 7pm on Zoom w/Live Your Dream Awards Presentation

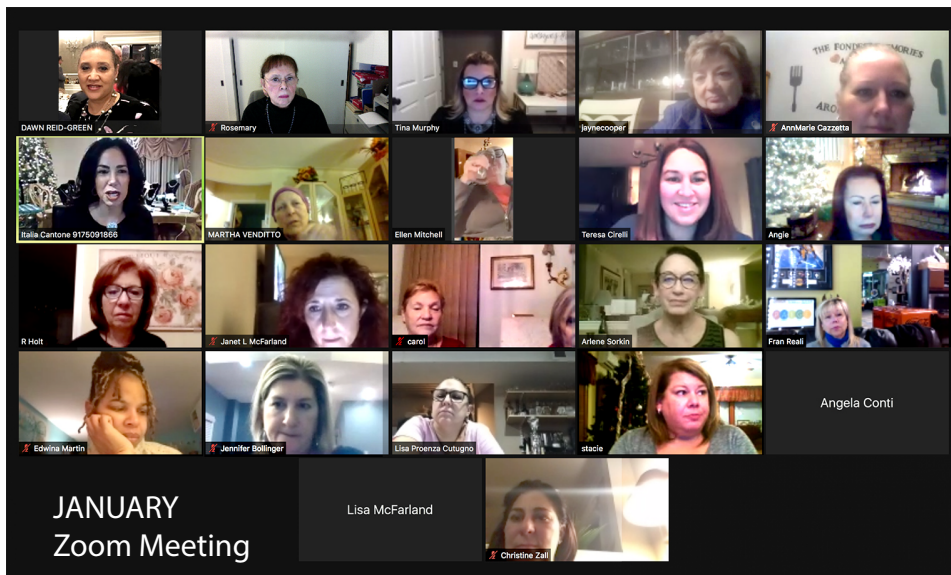
Ruby Awards Luncheon - Postponed -was March 21, Noon at The Vanderbilt. We will hold off until we can celebrate in person.

April 7, 2021 on Zoom or in person TBA

April 23-25, 2021 NAR Spring Conference VIRTUAL meeting-details to come.

May 5, 2021 at 7pm meeting on Zoom

June 2, 2021 at 7pm Zoom. Community Service Awards. Membership Induction and Anniversary Pin Presentation





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2020 -2021 SISI Board of Directors: President: Martha Vendetto; Vice President: Dawn Reid-Green; Treasurer: Carol Lundrigan; Recording Secretary: Tina Bilcher-Murphy; Corresponding Secretary: Lauren Aquino; Directors: Jayne Cooper & Janet McFarland; Delegates: Jennifer Bollinger and Christina Zall; alt Delegate: Angie DePompo Seff

- Our SISI club website address is: <http://www.soroptimistsi.org>
- Contact carollundrigan@aol.com for a reservation at any and all events / meetings
- SISI mailing address is: P.O. Box 140530, Staten Island NY 10314 or info@soroptimistSI.org

Join in the Soroptimist International of Staten Island Zoom Regular Meeting

Regular SISI meeting, Feb. 3 at 7pm on Zoom - The meeting is ready for you to attend, thanks again to the assistance of our Vice President Dawn Reid-Green who has provided and managed our Zoom activities. This month celebrates Black History Month, and Heart Health Month (Please wear **RED** for this Heart Health Month). Our Guest Speakers are Robin Semple and Debbie Paige, Co-Presidents of the Staten Island Chapter of the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society (SIAAHGS). The topic discussed will be Genealogical Research and their work with searching the roots of decedents of African-American, Afro-Caribbean, and African heritage.

Any questions contact Dawn at: dreidgreen@gmail.com

Join the Zoom Meeting via the internet at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761646109?pwd=ZnUOdzFIM1BPeId0YUkwaE9JbXJCQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 6164 6109

Passcode: SoropSI

No computer? Then use your telephone:
Dial In: 646-558-8656 US (New York) 86761646109#, *7999449#

See you on Zoom!

It's Time For You To Nominate Candidates To Receive SISI Community Service Awards

Each year we give grants to organizations for projects that serve the needs of women and girls on Staten Island and reflect the Soroptimist values of service to the community. The Community Service Awards complement Soroptimist International of Staten Island's other efforts that engage in awareness, advocacy and action through the recognition of women of distinction in our community, financial aid for women in crisis, scholarships for women and girls pursuing higher education and beginning new careers, and for youth involved in community service. Only Staten Island-based organizations are eligible. Organizations must be nominated by a Staten Island club member.

Christine Zall is chairing this Community Service Nomination Committee for SISI. You can propose a candidate and contact her via e-mail at: thatszall@aol.com

Also application forms can be found on-line at: <https://forms.gle/mvnnAF8i13mBVssZ>

As always you can ask any questions by emailing: info@soroptimistsi.org

If you are new to Zoom follow this YouTube Tutorial and join in the fun!

Go to and view this YouTube Tutorial on how to use Zoom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

or call a board member for detailed instructions. See contact info above. If you want, no computer necessary - you can call in on your phone to listen and converse.

SISI Birthdays & Anniversaries

Compiled by Lorri Senk and Elissa Ramirez.

Happy February Birthday to club members:

Nichollette M. Odilvac, Janet Warren Dugo., and Lorri Senk. Congratulations on 61 years of SISI service to Dr. Lina R. Merlino, and 7 years of service to Jeanne Zieff, Ellen Mitchell, and Arlene Sorkin.



We Are Looking For A Club Member to Step Forward And Accept the Position As Chair of The Nominating Committee For Our Staten Island Club

Is that you? Will you volunteer? Please contact VP Dawn with a **YES I CAN** at: dreidgreen@gmail.com

Soroptimist Book Club Looking for Interested Members

We are looking for avid readers who might be interested in joining a book club. Our first meeting is in April. More details will follow. You can contact and ask questions by emailing: info@soroptimistsi.org and referencing the "Book Club". If interested please complete this survey and let us know! https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6K_h-WSQfsQwkjwqokSwtXV2RR2iM_YYngu1AndtcQc-f0oQ/viewform

Turning Her Struggles Into A Passion To Give Back...



Rhea

Rhea grew up as the eldest of 13 children in the Philippines. Since her mother spent every day working, Rhea cared for all of her siblings from the age of 9 on. Her parents both worked for meager salaries, and if they ever missed a day of work, it could mean that Rhea and her siblings would have no food the following day. She was forced to put her dreams aside. Tending to 12 siblings left Rhea no time to go to school. Most of her life, Rhea was forced to put her dreams aside and focus on providing for her family. Rhea's passion for education was not lost in those years: she focused on getting her siblings to school, and in fact, one of them has recently gone to college. Rhea is

determined to give her siblings the opportunities she did not have when she was young.

Even though she is the primary provider for her family, Rhea is making her education a priority. For years, she has wanted to earn a degree in guidance counseling so she can help children who struggle like she and her siblings have. Rhea has taken her struggles and turned them into a passion to give back the community.

She wants to focus on extremely vulnerable children who live on the streets without access to education, safe food, or water. Rhea has already come so far with her goal, creating a program to help keep children off the streets and in school. "I have always wanted to do something toward alleviating poverty in my country." She knows that to achieve success and fulfill her potential, she has to finish college, which she is doing with help from the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards.