



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Transform Dreams into Reality

help enable women and girls fulfill their dreams through

- awareness
- advocacy
- action

SECOND ANNUAL BENEFIT BREAKFAST

funding educational awards and programming for Twin Cities women and girls

Saturday, April 12, 2014

Sabathani Community Center

310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis

Registration 9:30 a.m. Program 10:00-11:15 a.m.

Free Admission



Thank you...



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF THE TWIN CITIES

Thank you so much for taking the time to be here with us this morning.

Soroptimist International is an international classified service organization for professional women. The name Soroptimist is coined from Latin words meaning “Best for Women” and that is what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimist are women at their best, working to help other women and girls to be their best.

The first Soroptimist club was formed in Oakland, California in 1921. The Soroptimist International (SI) of the Twin Cities club was chartered in 1939. Today Soroptimist International has 95,000 members and 3,000 clubs located in 125 countries.

As Soroptimist members, we participate in international and federation programs such as our See Solar, Cook Solar program providing women with education on renewable sources of energy, solar cookers and lanterns, the Women’s Opportunity Award and the Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence. Soroptimist members also participate in their local club activities which are chosen by the local club. SI of the Twin Cities club has a strategic focus on awareness, advocacy and action concerning human trafficking and domestic violence prevention. We also believe in empowering women through education; and therefore, we provide educational awards to local women and girls.

We are so grateful that you could join us for our second annual benefit breakfast and learn more about the work that SI of the Twin Cities is doing in our community and around the world. We are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their potential, realize their aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide. We hope that you will support us in these activities.

Sincerely,

Lynne Peterson, President

Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities

Our Generous Sponsors

We want to give a very special thank you to our generous event sponsors who have donated goods and services that allow us to keep our fundraising expenses low, ensuring that the majority of funds raised go directly to the women and girls we serve.



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www.dbrians.com



Sha Cage, Actor, Writer, Arts Activist

www.Shacage.com



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Our Guest Speakers



Kelcey Carlson, Emcee

Kelcey Carlson is the newest member of the Fox 9 family as the co-anchor of Fox 9 News at 5 and 5:30 and Fox 9 News at 9 as of February 2014. She was previously at WRAL-TV in Raleigh, North Carolina where she was the main morning show anchor, as well as an investigative reporter. Kelcey has Midwest roots; she grew up in Indiana and graduated from Indiana University. Kelcey is a strong storyteller and getting to our market has always been a career goal of hers. Kelcey and her husband Dave have two boys, Charlie and Kellen, and a dog named Stubbs. Kelcey is also an avid runner having completed nearly 20 marathons (including 5 Boston Marathons). She says her goal is to do one to two marathons a year.



Gail Rosenblum ***Finding Their Voice, Changing the World***

Gail Rosenblum is the social issues columnist for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, writing two to three columns a week on current issues, trends and the complexities of human relationships. She is author of “A Hundred Lives Since Then: Essays on Motherhood, Marriage, Mortality and More,” (Nodin Press). Before coming to the Star Tribune in 2000, Gail worked for nearly 20 years as a reporter, editor and essayist for many newspapers and national magazines, focusing on family issues and women’s health.

She has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of New Mexico and a master’s degree in journalism, with a concentration in public health, from the University of Minnesota. She has appeared many times as a guest on the Lori and Julia Show on 107 FM, as well as on KSTP/1500 AM, and KLBB of Stillwater. She has taught writing at the University of Minnesota and the Loft Literary Center. Gail’s writing has garnered awards from the Associated Press, American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors, and the Society of Professional Journalists in Minnesota and Texas.

Gail is the mother of three children and “bonus mom” of three others. Learn more about her work at www.gailrosenblum.com.



Shá Cage

Named one of the leading artists of her generation, a Changemaker by the *Women's Press*, and boasting several awards; Shá Cage moves across artistic disciplines as an actor, playwright, spoken word artist and arts activist. She has taught in over 100 middle and high schools in the U.S. and abroad and has been an adjunct faculty professor at the University of Minnesota in the BA department for the past four years.

Her work and activism has taken her across the U.S, to South Africa, England, France, the Netherlands, Croatia, Mali, and Canada. Recent mainstage theater roles for her include Francine/Lena in the Guthrie Theater's Clybourne Park, Nellie in the Minnesota History Theater's Nellie, Agnes in Mixed Blood Theater's Agnes Under the Big Top, Lizzy K in Park Square's Mary T & Lizzy K and Ms. Sally in Penumbra Theater's Amen Corner. She is a 2012 recipient of the distinguished McKnight Fellowship.

She is a founder of Mama Mosaic Theater (for Women) and the Minnesota Spoken Word Association; and consults and facilitates commissions regularly through both. She has also worked with Frank Theater (F^cking A, Eclipsed, Venus), Ten Thousand Things, Pangea Theater and Theater De La Jeune Leune.

The past few years for Cage marked regional and national print and television commercials, performance commissions, Twin Cities theater artist of the year mentions, international touring projects, and the female voice in Target's 'Art Connects' national commercial campaign; launched on the '09 BET awards. She can be seen regularly in television commercials such as Slumberland, AAA, and Hamburger Helper. She is currently in a commission with Intermedia Arts to create a theater piece titled U/G/L/Y about the female perception of beauty.



Peggy L. McNamara

Peggy L. McNamara is a lifelong entrepreneur and an accomplished real estate executive. She served as the VP of Client and Agent Services with John L. Scott, a company of 3,000 agents, in the Pacific Northwest. Peggy was instrumental in creating the Career Development Center, setting up company-wide recruiting practices and working collaboratively with affiliated services to increase market share.

Prior to working with John L. Scott, and living in the Seattle area, Peggy co-owned a Huntington Learning Center, was the Director of Education for the number one real estate company in Minneapolis, Coldwell Banker Burnet, founded a pre-license real estate school which is now completely online and has given hundreds of presentations around the nation on overcoming challenges. In addition, she has been hired as a consultant for various small businesses to improve their sales and marketing performance, streamline and rejuvenate their administrative processes and re-focus their efforts.

Peggy currently serves on the Board of Directors for Acres of Diamonds (AOD), a transitional home for homeless women and their children to age 12, in the East Puget Sound area. She just finished up a two-plus-year project with AOD to revive the organization. Peggy knows from experience the challenges of growing up in an incredibly dysfunctional environment, to being a really young single mom, to making decisions that were rooted in survival versus wisdom and how truly amazing transformation can be! Peggy is a former member of Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities and is a native Minnesotan who lives with her husband and three adorable dogs in the Cascade Foothills in the Seattle area. Her son and daughter-in-law live in Denver.



Linda Larson

Recipient of the Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities' 2013 Women's Opportunity Award, Linda is a survivor, overcoming many challenges, including an early introduction to street drugs, an unplanned pregnancy, an eating disorder, being widowed on her first wedding anniversary, subsequently surviving a series of subsequent abusive relationships and living homeless for over two years. Over the last nine years, her story has been one of transformation and exemplifies the resilience of the human spirit. Linda is currently enrolled at North Hennepin College with a 3.97 GPA while working two jobs, has rebuilt her family relationships and has plans to use her paralegal training to help others who are disadvantaged or underrepresented.

Transform Dreams into Reality



10:00 a.m. **Welcome** Emcee Kelcey Carlson

Finding Their Voice, Changing the World Gail Rosenblum

I Remember! Shá Cage

Transform Dreams into Reality Lynne Peterson, President
SI of the Twin Cities Video

Women's Opportunity Awards Linda Larson
Twin Cities 2013 WOA Recipient

Video Message from Peggy L. McNamara
Soroptimist International of the Americas
1990 WOA Recipient

11:00 a.m. **Thank You and Closing** Lynne Peterson, President

**Thank you for making this event possible.
Money raised today will be used to fund the
education awards given by Soroptimist International
of the Twin Cities such as the Violet Richardson Award,
Women's Opportunity Award and Resilience Award.**

Award Programs



Soroptimists work to improve the lives of women and girls in their communities and throughout the world. There are several award and scholarship opportunities available to help meet this mission. Over the past two years, Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities (formerly known as Soroptimist International of Greater Minneapolis) has awarded over \$4,000 to local women and girls.

Women's Opportunity Award

A signature project of Soroptimist International of the Americas, this program is intended to assist women heads of households who are entering or re-entering the workforce to obtain the skills and education they need to improve their employment status through higher education.

NCR Past Governor's Award

This is a special award given by the North Central Region for a woman pursuing postgraduate studies. This \$2,000 award is given annually through special donations from local clubs within the North Central Region.

Violet Richardson Award

Honoring young women for volunteer action, this award is named in honor of the founder of Soroptimists and is a recognition program for young women, ages 14-17, engaged in volunteer action in their communities or schools.

Resilience Award

Created by Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities in 2013, the Resilience Award is intended to assist high school senior girls who have shown resilience and determination in overcoming difficult obstacles continue their post-secondary education.

Ruby Award

This award is designed to honor women who work to improve the lives of women and girls through their personal or professional activities. Recipients are ordinary women who have worked in extraordinary ways to benefit women and girls. As part of the award, the organization most identified with this extraordinary woman receives a \$200 donation in their name.

Stats & Facts



We will share our time, talents and financial resources to enrich our communities. Together, we will:

- improve the lives of women and girls
- help women achieve economic and political equality
- serve as a global voice for women
- provide outstanding leadership development opportunities for women
- enhance world peace and understanding

Soroptimist Objectives

1. Increase access to formal and nonformal learning opportunities
2. Improve access to economic empowerment and sustainable opportunities for the employment of women
3. Eliminate violence against women and girls and ensure women's participation in conflict resolution
4. Ensure women and girls have food, security and access to the highest attainable standard of health care
5. Address the specific needs of women and girls by improving environmental sustainability, and mitigating effects of climate change and disasters

Reducing the incidence of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, self-image and education all depend not only on helping current and past victims, but in building a culture that values and respects the full human rights of women and girls.

Facts About Human Trafficking

- The UN estimates that 27 million people are enslaved worldwide. That is more than at any other time in history. 80% of victims are female, of which, 50% are children. *(Kevin Bales, Free the Slaves and US Dept. of Justice)*
- Human trafficking is the fastest growing black market crime on the planet second only to drug dealing and generating an estimated \$32 billion per year. *(The UN)*
- The average age of entry into commercial sex in this country is 12-14 years old. *(UNICEF)*
- Females are typically sold for the purpose of sex. Domestic victims report being forced to service as many as 10 men per day on average. International victims report as many as 40 per day. *(Breaking Free)*
- Minnesota is ranked one of the top 13 states in the nation for highest incidence in recruitment of minors. *(FBI)*
- In 2010, the online sales of minor girls being sold in Minnesota increased by 55% over a six month period. *(Schapiro Group Study)*
- When asked, 89% of women and girls used in prostitution wanted to get out but didn't know where to turn for help. *(Journal of Trauma Practice 2, 2003)*

Domestic Violence Statistics

- Every 9 seconds in the US a woman is assaulted or beaten.
- Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own family.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women—more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.
- Studies suggest that up to 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually.
- Nearly 1 in 5 teenage girls who have been in a relationship said a boyfriend threatened violence or self-harm if presented with a breakup.
- Everyday in the US, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends.
- One in every three adolescent girls in the US is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner.
- 92% of women surveyed listed reducing domestic violence and sexual assault as their top concern.
- Domestic violence victims lose nearly 8 million days of paid work per year in the US alone—the equivalent of 32,000 full-time jobs.
- Based on reports from 10 countries, between 55 percent and 95 percent of women who had been physically abused by their partners had never contacted non-governmental organizations, shelters or the police for help.
- The costs of intimate partner violence in the US alone exceed \$5.8 billion per year: \$4.1 billion are for direct medical and health care services, while productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion.
- Men who as children witnessed their parents' domestic violence were twice as likely to abuse their own wives than sons of nonviolent parents.

Minnesota Stats About Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

- Nearly half of Minnesota women experience some kind of sexual abuse. (CDC 2011)
- About 22% of Minnesota women have been raped in their lifetime.
- More than 48% of Minnesota women have experienced sexual violence other than rape.

Source: www.minnesota.publicradio.org

Our International Impact



Soroptimist International has consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which oversees UN activities and policies promoting human rights. Representatives from Soroptimist International can request agenda items, submit written statements for

circulation to all members of the council, make oral statements at meetings and contribute to other UN gatherings and seminars. Soroptimist representatives are volunteers and work in one of the four UN centers in New York City, Paris, Vienna or Geneva. It is in this forum that Soroptimist representatives can advocate for the Soroptimist mission of improving the lives of women and girls.

Each year, on Human Rights Day (December 10), the President of Soroptimist International announces a project for all the local clubs to participate in. The current project is *See Solar, Cook Solar*.

Key Facts

- One quarter of the world's population does not have reliable access to electricity; 70% of these are women and girls living in developing countries.
- Women are particularly affected due to their role in collecting fuel, cooking and domestic work. Girls are prevented from studying in the evening.
- Harmful smoke from cooking fires damages women's health.
- Lack of electricity hinders communication by internet or cell phones.
- Lack of electricity prevents girls from studying in the evening.
- Lack of electricity poses a greater risk of violence to women in low-lit or darkened streets.

Project Objectives

- This year's project strives to educate women about renewable energy and empower and enable opportunities for them, by providing solar lanterns and cookers. Soroptimist International works with local partners to apply international best practice and evidence.
- Increasing their access to solar energy will provide women and girls with:
 - Increased time to pursue other activities
 - Ability to read and study at night
 - Ability to undertake income generating activities at night
 - Health benefits (decreased harmful smoke)
 - Increased access to health services (powered by renewable energy)
 - Water purification
 - New jobs and areas of employment
 - Decreased risk of violence with increased lighting
 - Increased communications (cell phones, internet, radios)

Our Federation Impact



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)

is one of four federations that make up Soroptimist International. SIA clubs are located in 20 countries and territories:

Argentina	Guam	Peru
Bolivia	Guatemala	Philippines
Brazil	Japan	Puerto Rico
Canada	Korea	Taiwan
Chile	Mexico	United States
Colombia	Panama	Venezuela
Ecuador	Paraguay	

Our programs are the heart of our mission and work, and they continue to empower women and girls everywhere to live their dreams. In 2012-2013:

- In total, \$2,345,000 disbursed both directly and indirectly and through our clubs
- This benefited 8,732 women and girls, who are now on their way to better lives
- More than \$1.6 million went to Women's Opportunity Awards, benefitting 1,300 women

Additional major programs include:

- Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence
- Violet Richardson Award
- Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls
- Soroptimists STOP Trafficking
- Disaster Relief

“Don't be afraid of the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so.”

—Belva Davis

www.soroptimist.org

Soroptimist White Papers



An organization dedicated to assisting women and girls, Soroptimist aims to create true social and economic equality for women and girls. As a public service, Soroptimist provides white papers on various topics relevant to women that can help those who wish to become more educated about issues facing today's women, or learn what can be done to provide direct assistance to women in need.

Women and Aging Examine the issue of women and aging, including concerns around health care; economic security; retirement; violence; housing and caregiving.

Putting Girls First Examine three basic areas in which girls face systemic gender inequalities: education, health and violence.

Unhappily Ever After: The Plight of Child and Mail-Order Brides Examine the issues of child marriage and mail-order brides, practices that rely on the historical, social and cultural beliefs that view marriage as an economic transaction.

Women and HIV/AIDS Read about the many factors that make women vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, as well as the devastating consequences of the disease.

Teen Dating Violence Examine the issue of teen dating violence and learn about the obstacles teenagers face when deciding to end an abusive relationship.

The Gender Wage Gap Read about why women are earning less than men, long term affects of this issue and global solutions that could close the gender pay gap.

Balancing Work and Family Life Examine the many issues women around the world face as they juggle work and family life, and learn about what decision-makers are doing to help parents find balance.

Women at Work Learn about women in the working world, the issues they face and what needs to be done to them.

Women and Education Read about how schooling impacts a woman's financial status, health and social well-being, and what can be done to end gender disparity in education.

The New Face of Slavery Learn about the trafficking of women and girls worldwide, and find out what can be done to end this widespread problem.

Women and Cardiovascular Disease Learn about the number one killer of women and how they can protect themselves from this deadly disease.

Women and Poverty Explore poverty as a gender issue and find out what can be done to end the growing problem that affects women the world over.

Reaching Out to Women When Disaster Strikes Learn about the special challenges facing women during natural disasters and acts of war, and what can be done to assist this vulnerable population.

Domestic Violence as a Workplace Concern Examine the ways that domestic violence can affect the workplace, and what businesses can do to keep their employees safe.

Breast Cancer and Low-Income Women

Learn how women throughout the world are affected by breast cancer by varying degrees.

Prostitution is Not a Choice Read about how the world's oldest "oppression" continues to be one of the most overlooked human rights abuses of women.

Source: www.soroptimist.org/whitepapers/whitepapers.html

Beginning in 2008 and continuing to the present, the Minneapolis/Twin Cities club has had a strategic focus on human trafficking, domestic violence and empowerment through educational awards, awareness, advocacy and hands on service.



When we dare to dream for women and girls, amazing things can happen. They go forward with courage to do great things for themselves, their families, communities and the world.



Our Local Impact

Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities (SITC) is one of 15 clubs within the North

Central Region of SIA federation that covers:

Iowa • Minnesota • Nebraska
North Dakota • South Dakota



For the past few years, the Twin Cities chapter has strategically focused on human trafficking, domestic violence and empowerment through educational awards, awareness, advocacy and hands-on service.

Community impact in the past two years has included:

- Over \$6,100 in educational awards to deserving local women and girls overcoming adversity
- Over \$3,000 donated to award winning local organizations dedicated to the elimination of human trafficking and assistance to survivors such as: Breaking Free, Civil Society, Sarah's...Oasis for Women and Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
- Hands-on service projects and donations to: Jeremiah Program, Sarah's...Oasis for Women, Robert B. Lewis House, Alexandra House, Habitat for Humanity and Emergency Foodshelf Network

Other community impacts include:

- SITC and Rasmussen College in Blaine co-hosted a free film screening of the Sundance award-winning documentary *Miss Representation*, followed by an interactive discussion between attendees and panelists regarding how to build awareness and take action to combat the way women and girls are misrepresented in the media and how that impacts their ability to fulfill their full potential. (2013)
- A Child Slavery Art Exhibit from child victims of human trafficking at the Minnesota State Capitol was held to raise awareness about human trafficking. The Twin Cities club worked with Civil Society, a St. Paul agency that provides victims with food, shelter and medical and legal help. (2011)
- Hosted a *Dreams Die Hard* human trafficking awareness event at the Varsity Theatre, Minneapolis (2009)
- The Twin Cities club was awarded a \$7,500 grant from SIA that allowed us to provide services to the Robert B. Lewis House (of 360 Communities) that included mentoring and tax assistance, financial assistance that would allow women to maintain their path forward in recovery from domestic violence when other funding was not available. Examples include payment of first month's car insurance to maintain transportation to work and storage facility rent to avoid losing what little possessions the women had when they came to the Lewis House. (2008)

www.soroptimist-twincities.org

Fiscal Responsibility

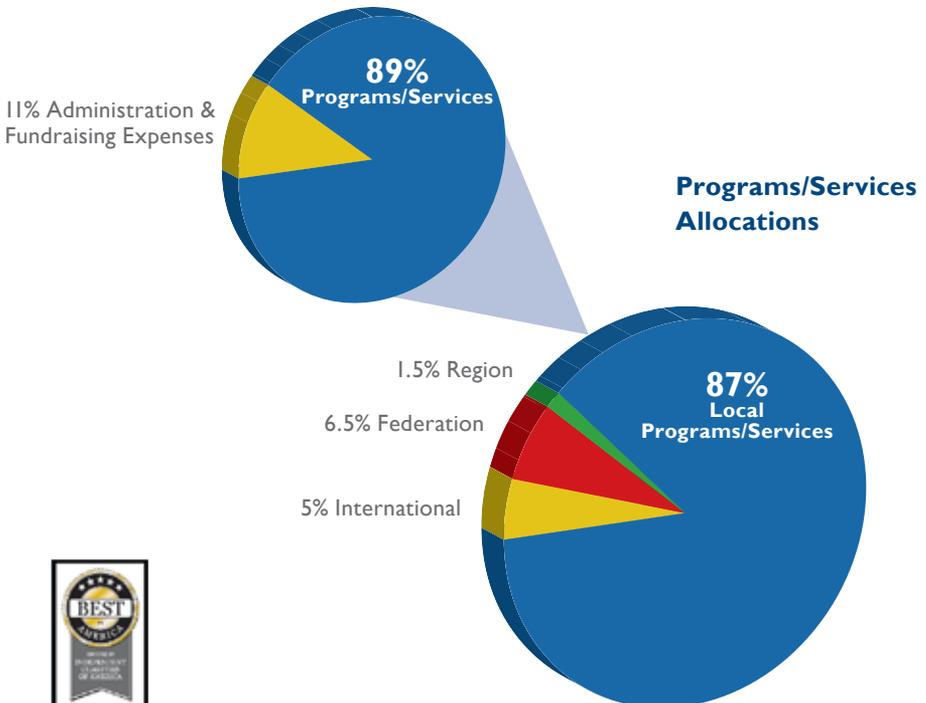
A Nonprofit Operational Analysis is a measure of how well the organization is managing money with regard to its sector and mission. For 2010-2011, SIA received an above average rating, which means the organization is managing its money well when compared to others in the women's rights revenue category. Find us on www.guidestar.org.

Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities Financial Analysis

SITC works very hard with area merchants to gather in-kind donations whenever possible, allowing 89% of all funds to go directly to programs and services compared with an industry average of 78%. Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities is a recognized public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Federal Tax ID #41-6025028.

87% of all programs and services funding stays within the Twin Cities community to benefit local women and girls.

Total 2012-13 Funds



What we can accomplish together...



\$50

Provides a new resident welcome kit (*basic hygiene essentials— toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, sanitary supplies, etc.*) at Sarah's...Oasis for Women and their birthday gift card



10 people donating \$50 each

Provides an additional Resilience Award to a deserving high school senior girl to pursue her educational goals



15 people donating \$100 each

Provides an additional Women's Opportunity Award to a deserving woman head of household to pursue her educational goals



One person donating \$50 per month

Provides an additional Resilience Award

You can help women and girls through Soroptimist

Sponsor – make a monetary donation (monthly or one time)

Volunteer – your time or services to assist in a local club project

Join – become a member of the local club

Educate – host a joint awareness event with Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities or invite a Soroptimist speaker to your event



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Soroptimist International is a vibrant, dynamic organization for today's professional and business women. We are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realize aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.