



Soroptimist International of Chicago Newsletter January 2020

Save the Date

Jan. No club meeting	Dream it, Be it committee planning
Jan. 18 Sat. 11-1pm	Women's March - Grant Park
Feb. TBA	Judging VWA - Joy Kadlecik's Home
March 7 Sat, 11:00AM - 1:30PM	SI Milwaukee Spring Fundraiser featuring Milwaukee Repertory Costume Show.
March 24 Tuesday	Luna Fest SI Milwaukee
April 8 Wed.	Education Awards - Bucktown Library
April 24- 26	Spring Conference, Ann Arbor MI

Welcome to a new decade. Hello 2020

President Terry's Message

This decade is a big one for Soroptimist. In 2021, Soroptimist will celebrate our **100 year Anniversary**. All clubs are asked to increase their **membership** so we are looking for women who want to be actively involved in service helping women and girls globally and in our community.

The Chicago Club is on sound footing. We enter this year in good **financial** shape due to the generosity of our members and friends. Our members are always generous and provide many in-kind items for our projects. This year alone we collected over **500 bras** for Free the Girls programs in Africa, educating women who have been trafficked. We will provide the supplies for **300 hygiene kits** for women and girls in refugee camps, in partnership with **Days for Girls**.

Our **Dream it, Be it program** is growing and we know we make a difference in the lives of the girls we work with. We will be setting up a program to take the girls downtown in addition to the in-school presentation thanks to the Wintrust Grant. We will be meeting next week with the students to see what they want to do about participating in a service project.

Thanks to all for their work as we move into a bright future for Soroptimist.

Live Your Dreams winner - Madethe Mdegla

Madethe is the mother of 3 children, working fulltime making \$12.00 per hour and attending school to become a nurse. She is struggling to leave an abuse relationship.

Learn, and meet Madethe at our Awards evening April 8.

Special Thanks to LYD Chair, Sarah Lloyd, who contacted the references and judges.



Dr. Demetra Soder loads her car with toys donated by Soroptimist for pediatric patients at Cook County Hospital.

Dr. Soder, a past Making a Difference for Women recipient, contacted the Soroptimist because there had been no donations of toys for the pediatric patients at Cook County Hospital. On very short notice Soroptimist brought toys to our holiday party. They were distributed to 60 children of various ages. 30 inpatients, 10 in ER, 20 outpatients.



Holiday Party and Fundraising

Joy Kadlecik graciously hosted our holiday party in her home. **JoAnne** made festive Christmas desserts. We shopped, ate and visited. Marge, Claire and Terry worked on gift certificates. Jeanette sent many boxes of items that helped us exceed last year. Our total sales exceeded \$1700 and we had 2 very generous donations to cover the education awards.

Our thanks to all who made this possible.



Stained glass windows – Marshmallows & Chocolate



Puff pastry and Nutella tree

Join the Women's Saturday Jan. 18 11am-1pm in Grant Park

As the 2020 census and presidential elections approach, Women's March Chicago plans to march to encourage participation in the two national events. This is an opportunity to keep women's issues in the public eye. There is much more to be done for equality.

Anyone interested in marching please contact **JoAnne** to set up a place to meet.

Dolphinwatch99@gmail.com

Advancement's women have made in the past 49 years.

For those who turn up their noses at the words feminists and feminism or scoff that feminism is a dirty and utterly pointless word please read this and realize the following is a list of NINE things a woman couldn't do in 1971 – yes the date is correct 1971.

Especially interesting for the younger members who do not remember that date.

In 1971 a woman could not:

1. Get a Credit Card in her own name – it wasn't until 1974 that a law forced credit card companies to issue cards to women without their husband's signature.
2. Be guaranteed that they wouldn't be unceremoniously fired for the offense of getting pregnant – that changed with the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978.
3. Serve on a jury - It varied by state (Utah deemed women fit for jury duty way back in 1879), but the main reason women were kept out of jury pools was that they were considered the center of the home, which was their primary responsibility as caregivers. They were also thought to be too fragile to hear the grisly details of crimes and too sympathetic by nature to be able to remain objective about those accused of offenses. In 1961, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld a Florida law that exempted women from serving on juries. It wasn't until 1973 that women could serve on juries in all 50 states.

4. Fight on the front lines – admitted into military academies in 1976 it wasn't until 2013 that the military ban on women in combat was lifted. Prior to 1973 women were only allowed in the military as nurses or support staff.

5. Get an Ivy League education - Yale and Princeton didn't accept female students until 1969. Harvard didn't admit women until 1977 (when it merged with the all-female Radcliffe College). Brown (which merged with women's college Pembroke), Dartmouth and Columbia did not offer admission to women until 1971, 1972 and 1981, respectively. Other case-specific instances allowed some women to take certain classes at Ivy League institutions (such as Barnard women taking classes at Columbia), but by and large, women in the '60s who harbored Ivy League dreams had to put them on hold.

6. Take legal action against workplace sexual harassment. Indeed the first time a court recognized office sexual harassment as grounds for any legal action was in 1977.

7. Decide not to have sex if their husband wanted to – spousal rape wasn't criminalized in all 50 states until 1993. Read that again...1993.

8. Obtain health insurance at the same monetary rate as a man. Sex discrimination wasn't outlawed in health insurance until 2010 and today many, including sitting elected officials at the Federal level, feel women don't mind paying a little more. Again, that date was 2010.

9. Also, take the birth control pill: Issues like reproductive freedom and a woman's right to decide when and whether to have children were only just beginning to be openly discussed in the 1960s. In 1957, the FDA approved of the birth control pill but only for "severe menstrual distress." In 1960, the pill was approved for use as a contraceptive. Even so, the pill was illegal in some states and could be prescribed only to married women for purposes of family planning, and not all pharmacies stocked it. Some of those opposed said oral contraceptives were immoral, promoted prostitution and were tantamount to abortion. It wasn't until several years later that birth control was approved for use by all women, regardless of marital status.

In short, birth control meant a woman could complete her education, enter the work force and plan her own life.