



Soroptimist

Improving The
Lives of Women
and Girls

Congratulations Staten Island Soroptimists !

The North Atlantic Region Board would like to congratulate you on a job well done. We are the recipient of one of the 2020 NAR Peace Begins at Home grants. The NAR board has determined that our program meets the criteria for this grant and therefore, will be receiving funding in the full amount of our request, \$600., for our work with "Amethyst House", a refuge and recovery place for domestic violence prevention for women.

Thank you to Carol Lundrigan who was tasked with writing the successful grant by our President Janet McFarland.

We will receive the award check during the rescheduled NAR Conference to be held, August 28th, 29th, and 30th, at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, State College, PA. We can then plan a time to present the award to Amethyst House.

One requirement for receiving this grant is that we must file a "Peace

Begins at Home Grant Impact Report" along with an itemized accounting of how the money will be used by December 15th, 2021.

You may recall that Amethyst House, has also been a past focus for our Club. They received a Community Service Award from our SISI Soroptimist Club in June 2017 which was initially brought to our attention and sponsored by SISI Club member, Jayne Cooper.

Amethyst House was founded by Marilyn Cole and was incorporated in New York State in December 1981. Amethyst House is a Residential Halfway House for women, ages 18 and up. It serves women needing substance abuse treatment, transitional housing or halfway house and a refuge and recovery place for domestic violence prevention for women. Residents are provided with on-going support and guidance in problem solving, conflict resolution, assertiveness skills and an orientation to self-help groups. They accept clients on opioid medication and medications for psychiatric disorders.

It is our honor to support programs like Amethyst House that lift up our women's voices, especially in the climate we are in where women are still fighting for equal pay, equal work and overall respect. Now that is something Soroptimists are proud to support!

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

Ruby Awards Luncheon POSTPONED -

New date will be September 20. 12 Noon at The Vanderbilt, guests and members are all welcome to attend, support the honorees, play all the raffle games, enjoy the waters edge. A great afternoon out with friends.

June 3 - Please join our SISI membership meeting via Zoom (Online) at 6:30pm. We will install the New Board of Directors. If you have never used Zoom before then please look at this You Tube tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQOE>

Look for an email from Dawn, our treasure, with the Zoom Meeting Number to click on.

Summer 2020 - No membership meetings

July 22-25 -- **CANCELED** 46th Biennial Soroptimist Int. Convention

Aug 28-30 Spring Conference will be held at State College in Pa. at the Ramada Inn Conference Center & Hotel. Reserve by email with Janet at soropjanet@gmail.com
All members are encouraged to attend.

Left: Amethyst House" Completion Ceremony", Right: Residents taking part In "The Walk For Recovery". Photos have been altered to protect privacy: Photos by: Thomas Altfather Good



2019 -2020 SISI Board of Directors: Janet McFarland: President; Fran Real: Vice President; Treasurer: Dawn Reid-Green; Recording Secretary: Ellen Mitchell; Corresponding Secretary: Tina Belcher-Murphy; Directors: Jayne Cooper & Rosemary De Figlio; Delegates: Lorri Senk and Carol Lundrigan; alt Delegate: Lauren Aquino

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



A Poem Written in 1869, Reprinted During the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic and Reprinted Now During the Covid - 19 Pandemic 2020

"And people stayed at home
and read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth."
End

Final 2020-2021 SISI Board Nominations:

President - Martha Venditto
Vice President - Dawn Reid-Green
Secretary - Tina Bilcher-Murphy
Corresponding Secretary-Lauren Aquino
Treasurer - Carol Lundrigan
Director - Janet McFarland
Director- Jayne Cooper
Delegate - Elissa Ramirez
Delegate - Jennifer Bollinger
Alternate Delegate - Angie DePompo Seff

In April the new Board slate is proposed. May is the official membership vote **You can vote Online at:**
<https://forms.gle/YV65AUFZnj7BLhMq5>
It is a 2 page ballot. June is the installation of the elected Board members.

We look forward to the June 3 Soroptimist Meeting which will be held via Zoom (Online) at 6:30 p.m..

SISI new Board of Directors will be installed at this meeting. This is the last meeting of the season before a full Summer recess. We hope to see you all there on Zoom, healthy and happy.

It's important that you look for an email on the day of the meeting from our treasurer, Dawn Reed-Green and click on the meeting number key at 6:30p.m. the evening of the meeting. Any questions contact Dawn at:
dreidgreen@gmail.com

NYC Mayor Names 7 Staten Islanders To Aid in Safe Re-opening of NYC

Mayor de Blasio has named 113 people to four sector-based advisory councils - including 7 with Staten Island ties - who will aid in developing a plan for safely re-opening New York City.

Pat Kane told the Advance/SILive.com that reopening will not be possible without making sure front line workers' concerns are listened to. Gov. Cuomo announced a set of regional "control rooms" made up of the top government officials and academic and healthcare professionals in each region to help plan eventual, gradual re-openings in each region. Janice Monger, our Soroptimist Club member, is part of that group of people.

To All Club Members from our District 1 Director

The North Atlantic Region (NAR) board has been working for the past 4 weeks on NAR elections and By-laws for the upcoming merger of NAR plus NER (North East Region) and for club dues. The elections went well and the results will be shared shortly.

The by-laws are simple and will be for one year 2020-2021. For the years after 2021 and beyond the NARs will be compiled of the following states -New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Wheeling WV, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. We welcome the inclusion of the North East Region Clubs.

The revised by-laws were sent to the club Presidents and delegates for review and any questions can be sent to Karen Gehers (NAR Treasurer). A vote will be conducted by Mid-May.

It has been exciting to work together with the NAR board via ZOOM. We even had a Federation guest on the call to go over the NAR Healthy Region Report.

These are difficult times and I wish everyone to be well.

Yours in Soroptimist solidarity,
Martha Venditto, District 1 Director

Resources During This Pandemic

Lincoln Center Free Performances:

http://lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=041320L

CatHome%3ANewsletter5 (TICKET BUYERS)&utm_content=version_A&uid=347654&sourceNumber=23476#homepage-upcoming

If you have kids trapped at home, you might be interested in the "History at Home" Online classes that the N.Y. Historical Society is offering. You have to fill out a form OnLine:
<https://coronavirus.schools.nyc/RemoteLearningDevices>

Your Board has been carrying on SISI business by using ZOOM Board meetings!