



# Soroptimist

Improving The  
Lives of Women  
and Girls

## Staten Island Soroptimist Club presents Awards

Comfort B. Asanbe, SISI Chair of **Live Your Dream** presented our Awards to two women at the March 3 SISI club Zoom meeting. Malita Maharaj, 43 years old, struggled to complete her education as an RN nursing student at Trinity. She has a 15 year old son and a 5 year old daughter. She wants her children to see that it is possible to get educated and improve life. SISI presented her with \$2,000.

Our second award winner was Grace Miranda-Villalobos, who struggled over 10 years to get an education. During that time she worked as an art

There were over 25 attendees at the March SISI Zoom Meeting including two award winners and visits from previous winners.

teacher in a nursing home while working toward her degree as an art therapist. Our Club awarded her \$1,000 towards completing her education.

We were graced with the attendance of previous **Live Your Dream** winners. Lori Catricola, now in graduate school at Fordham University. Also visits from Rosel Garcia and Christine Buck, both previous winners.

## June 2-3 SISI Is Sponsoring A Symposium at Wagner College

History Professor at Wagner College and Director of the Wagner Holocaust Center, Lori Weintraub, gave a presentation at our March 3 meeting. The presentation was titled, "Heroines of the Holocaust" that

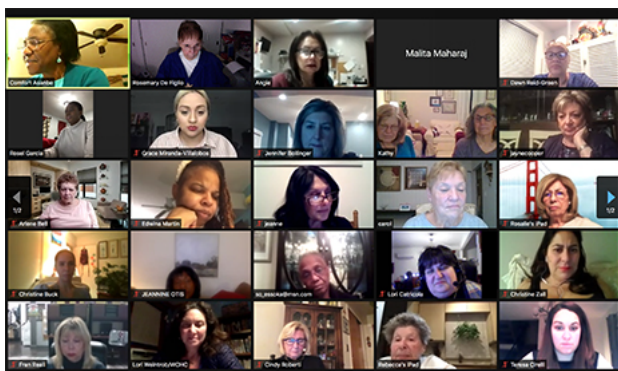


Lori Weintraub



Margo Capell

inspired courage. She brought a guest, Margo Capell, a holocaust survivor. Margo spoke about the horrors she endured but said she was lucky to be sheltered by Christian Nuns. She earned the school



valedictorian award but was denied the tittle and accolade because she was Jewish.

On June 2 and 3 the Wagner College Holocaust Center with Lori Weintraub will host a 7:30 a.m. breakfast followed with a symposium on Rwanda Genocide. Our SISI Club is proud to sponsor this event. You are most welcome to attend.

You can get details and ask questions by emailing Lori at: [lori.weintraub@wagner.edu](mailto:lori.weintraub@wagner.edu) or look at the website closer to the June date: <https://wagner.edu/holocaust-center/programs/>

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

**Ruby Awards Luncheon-Rescheduled for September 26, 2021**- Noon at The Vanderbilt. We hope to have our Ruby Awards luncheon celebration in person!

**May 5, 2021 at 7pm** meeting on Zoom

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

**June 2021** the NAR Spring Conference will be virtual and held the first two weekends in June 2021. Details to come.

## Your Participation is Needed

**DREAM IT \* BE IT \*  
CAREER SUPPORT  
{for girls}**

"Dream It, Be It" is a career support program for young women that aims to equip them with the necessary tools to achieve education and career goals.

District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and Soroptimist International of Staten Island are proud to announce their partnership for the "Dream It, Be It" program.

April 10th will be the first virtual session with participants. All mentors should send their names, DOB, and SS# to **Jennifer Bollinger** for mandatory background checks. Club members may not serve as mentors without a background check.

Mentor training session date TBA.

We are still seeking donations of gift cards (\$15-\$20) as incentives for participants. Gift cards can be dropped off to **Jennifer Bollinger (917-887-4878)**.



# Soroptimist

Improving The  
Lives of Women  
and Girls

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF STATEN ISLAND VOL. 17, page 2, APRIL 2021

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.soroptimistsl.org>
- Contact [carollundrigan@aol.com](mailto: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@soroptimistsl.org](mailto:info@soroptimistsl.org)

## Join in the Soroptimist International of Staten Island Zoom Regular Meeting

**Regular SISI meeting, April 7th at 7 p.m.**

**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.

Our guest speaker will be Stephanie Pendergast founder of **Pajamas for Pals**. As the founder of Pajamas for Pals, Pendergast is used to bags and bags of new pajamas in newborn through adult sizes. She founded Pajamas for Pals back in 2011. Pajamas that are collected are then donated to a host of local organizations including: House of Mending Hearts Ministry; the Dr. Theodore A. Atlas Foundation; Project Hospitality; Safe Horizons; Guyon Rescue; Autism Speaks; Gianna Nicole's Heart of Hope Foundation; International Christian Community Church and Outreach Center; Our Lady of Good Counsel Pantry; United Cerebral Palsy, as well as local families in need.

**April Community Service project: Pajamas for Pals.** donation of new pajamas (ages 12 to adult sizes) for residents of homeless shelters. Donations can be dropped off to Dawn at 630 Delafield Ave, 10310 or e-mail Dawn to arrange pick-up at: [dreidgreen@gmail.com](mailto:dreidgreen@gmail.com)

**Join the April Zoom Meeting via the internet at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84736766437?pwd=c2NmdUxiSWkwOHp4TTJRQkc4ZEJKQT09>

**Meeting ID: 847 3676 6437**

**Passcode: SoropSI**

**No computer? Then use your telephone:**  
**Dial In: 646-558-8656 US (New York)**  
**84736766437#, \*0584413#**

See you on Zoom !

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

**The deadline is April 15** and the application can be retrieved on our Club Website. 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.

Contact Tina Bilcher Murphy or Christine Zall who chairs this Community Service Nomination Committee for SISI. Contact either via email:

Christine - [thatszall@aol.com](mailto:thatszall@aol.com) or

Tina - [murphygirl4@verizon.net](mailto:murphygirl4@verizon.net)

Application forms can be found

on-line at: <https://forms.gle/mvnnAF8i13mBVssZ>



March was Women's History Month, and SISI recognizes the women who have made contributions like the women depicted on this new Central Park NYC statue: Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

## 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. It's never too late. 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 April Birthday to club members Anna Williams, Joan Giebelhaus, Sharon Liander, Rosemarie Ruggero, Comfort B. Asanbe, and Carmela Demisay and anniversary congratulations to Comfort B. Asanbe and Janice Monger for 5 years each of Soroptimist service in our Staten Island Club.



## SIA Board Suspends Face to Face Meetings

The SIA Board of Directors has made the decision to temporarily pause face-to-face meetings, activities and travel authorized or sanctioned by SIA until further notice. Please visit our FAQ for more information.

## 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 was **March 29th at 7 p.m.** The First Selection was a Short Story: "The Winged Thing" by Patricia Lockwood. Use this link to get a free copy of our first read: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/11/30/the-winged-thing>

The date of our next meeting will be forthcoming. You can contact and ask questions about being involved by emailing: [info@soroptimistsl.org](mailto:info@soroptimistsl.org)

## Soroptimist Forward: Focus on Apps & Tools You Can Use

Video conferencing, digital fundraising and file sharing are just some of the tools you can use to engage virtually with your fellow members.

Headquarters put together apps and tools to help you continue the critical work you do in your communities.

Go to: <https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/digital-toolkit/index.html#apps>