



The Link

A global voice for women

I/2010-2011 | N° 220



European Friendship Days
Sharing the Power
of Optimism

Providing Aid in Hungary
Red Toxic Sludge Leaves
Devastation in its Wake

European Mentoring Programme
Helping Young Women
Achieve Their Dreams

Soroptimist International (SI) is a worldwide organisation for women in management and professions, working through service projects to build a better world for women and children. There are currently over 90,000 members in more than 3,000 clubs in 124 countries.

Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) is one of four federations of Soroptimist International. It has some 35,000 members in over 1,200 clubs in 57 countries.

Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships. Please consult our website at www.soroptimisteurope.org for more information about the aims, activities and projects that characterise our organisation.

Cover page



Note from the Editor

CAN'T LIVE WITH OR WITHOUT IT

I apologise for any inconvenience caused by my email address not functioning in the past weeks. It all started with changing the provider for my landline telephone in Germany. How could I know that it meant losing the domain I've had for 15 years – much longer than the telephone number in question? Ah, information technology – we can't live with it/IT and can't live without it/IT.

Indeed, with today's communication technology and social networks, news spreads like wildfire. We learn about disasters within minutes of the actual events. If we need some particular bit information – no matter how obscure – the answer is at our fingertips – literally – thanks to a computer and a keyboard. And if I have to ask a contributor for a better quality photo, it is just an email away.

With the new website of the Project Matching collaboration, we can share ideas for worthwhile projects throughout the

Soroptimist world. So, a well in Africa can be built with the help of a Club in Japan or an education project in the United States can receive support from a Club in Turkey. Think of the possibilities!

Having family members throughout the world, I am a devoted user of *skype*. It has also become a useful tool with my new mentee in the European Mentoring Programme. By *skyping* at regular intervals, we can deepen the relationship. Of course, an electronic meeting cannot replace the real thing, but an on-screen exchange is more personal than a telephone call. And I can get a better sense of her enthusiasm for this rewarding programme.

So, I had a shock reminder of just how dependent on digital communications an editor's world is. It is essential to keep in touch with you – my contributors and readers!

Christine Cromwell-Ahrens, Editor, The Link

Contents

European Friendship Days	4	CoNGO in Geneva	11
No End to Suffering in Sight in Haiti	6	Grants for SI Convention in Montreal	12
Project Sierra Says Thank You	8	Biennium Theme Projects	14
Ecological Disaster Hits Hungary	9	Federation News	18
SI President's Appeal	10	News from Unions and Clubs	22

Page 6



Page 12



Page 19



Page 27



The Link

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Dear Soroptimist Friends

When I come home after a long hard day at work and find at least 50 mails waiting for answers, I sometimes wonder why I ever became a Soroptimist. Why should I have to continue working long into the night – for free – instead of enjoying a nice, quiet evening reading or looking at an interesting television programme?

But then I open the mails and read all those wonderful reports about projects, about women who were happy with the new well, about girls who could go to school because Soroptimist built toilets.

I also discover how new disasters endanger the lives of women and children, receive messages about toxic waste, floods, outbreaks of deadly diseases and learn how we Soroptimists can help. And it becomes clear once again why I do this voluntary work: because I can make a difference as a member of an international organisation. I can do more than give money to the Red Cross or another charity, as Soroptimists, we reach thousands of professional women who will not only give money but also their skills, knowledge, energy and time. I, we belong to an organisation of women who have embraced the mission to help women and children out of a feeling of solidarity.

Soroptimist is about solidarity

When I look at the content of this issue of *The Link*, it occurs to me that it is all about solidarity. How we, Soroptimists work together to give women and children a better life, to give them support after disasters and to allow young women to advance in their careers.

Clubs build wells in Africa, lobby for women's right, distribute cholera prevention kits in Haiti, give help after the disasters in Hungary and Haiti, sponsor scholarships and friendship grants. When you go to the websites or read the magazines of the Unions and Clubs, you will find numerous examples of how Soroptimists give time, work, skills and money to advance the cause of women and girls.

It is not just donations, it is not charity; it is solidarity – the feeling that we women are part of an international community where it is only normal that those who have much help those who have

less. In this time of instant and global communication we are immediately informed of every disaster, war or catastrophe and cannot stay indifferent to the distress of women and children, who are always the ones who suffer most. As members of a service club, it is our duty to bring help to communities in danger. I am proud that in SI/E we take this mission to heart with our many projects and advocacy actions. The newly initiated Project Matching and Disaster Recovery Fund will allow us to do even better work as we can now collaborate with other federations.

SI/E is extending its scope in programme work and its impact in the field of education and leadership for women and girls. We want to expand our scholarships and mentoring projects to help professional women to fulfill their potential and break through the glass ceiling. An overwhelming majority of SI members have voted for Education and Leadership for Women and Girls as the Long Term Project, and we at SI/E have already implemented and will continue to initiate many projects in this field.

But Soroptimist is also about opportunity

Soroptimist is not only work; it also offers many opportunities for local or international meetings, for interesting conferences, for exchanging professional news and for friendship. Our Federation encompasses many different cultures and countries, and we have the privilege to share in this diversity through our international contacts.

All this is Soroptimist: friendship, programme work, a network and I truly enjoy it.

On that note, I wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a healthy, successful New Year!

Eliane Lagasse, SI/E President

>>

**Non sum occupatus
umquam amico operam dare**

<<

In friendship

Eliane

During her trip to Haiti, SI/E President Eliane Lagasse visited an orphanage that receives Soroptimist support and distributed toys to delighted children.



Soroptimists from 18 countries came together for the 8th European Meeting and Friendship Days in Mijas, the Andalusian 'white village' in southern Spain. The theme of the event was 'The Power of Optimism' with the overall message being optimism is a powerful motivation and a cornerstone of success.

THE POWER OF OPTIMISM

1 Participants were welcomed at a reception in the Mijas Town Hall.

2 The Conference speakers offered interesting insight into the status of women in Spain today.

3 A highlight of the day was the Flamenco dance course and subsequent performance during one of the workshops.

4 SI President Hanne Jensbo discussed the latest SI issues at one of the workshops.

5 At the Gala Dinner SI/E President Eliane Lagasse (left foreground) had the opportunity to meet many of the participants.

6 Many thanks to coordinator Daphne Theunissen (in the centre with the pin) and her team.



Participants from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Soroptimists in Spain from 15th-17th October 2010. Coordinated by Daphne Theunissen, the programme was a joint effort of all five Spanish clubs.

A few years ago Hanne Jensbo had participated in a Spanish Interclub meeting on the beautiful Costa del Sol and suggested this region as a venue for the European Friendship Days. So, the current SI President Hanne was particularly pleased when

the Spanish clubs decided that Club Costa del Sol should host this special event in the Soroptimist calendar.

After the candle ceremony, roll call, and welcoming addresses by Lynda Tyndale, President of Club Costa del Sol, SI/E President Eliane Lagasse and Antonio Sanchez, Mayor of Mijas, Maguy Chabert, founder of the European Friendship Days, gave an overview of the history of this very special, yet relatively young SI/E tradition (see adjacent box). Amparo Serrano Iglesias discussed the foundation of the first Club in Val D'Aran, in 1981. Other inspiring speakers included: Marta

Eugenia Rodríguez, who received a scholarship for science studies at the age of 13 and later developed a unique method of learning and intellectual stimulation; Carmen Sebastián, founder of a company for personal development and for projects concerning the Management of Communication; Eva Levy, who currently heads up the Women on the Board of Directors Division of the prestigious head-hunting company ExcellentSearch; Carmen García Ribas, a journalist and expert in strategic communication and development of managers, who has worked for ten years on the ideology of Feminine

why there should be a service club exclusively for women. Another workshop swapped ideas about how SI could be made more visible.

Participants in the Andalusian workshops learned about the typical regional cuisine as well as the production and wonderful taste of Spanish olive oil. However, for many of us the highlight of the Andalusian workshops was the exclusive Flamenco dance class that ended with a performance by the artists. Great fun!

In her speech at the end of the meeting, the coordinator Daphne Theunissen thanked everybody for making this weekend such a great success and an unforgettable event for all, including the non-Soroptimists present. And of course the various excursions were the icing on the cake. Incidentally, the press coverage was also very good, which gives the relevant SI clubs excellent publicity.

Wendelgard Saßnick-Lotsch, Club Dortmund-Ruhr region



Leadership; and Pilar Oriente, coordinator of the Andalusian Women's Institute in Malaga spoke about the living conditions of many Andalusian women. Adequate education and vocational training are often still an issue. Domestic violence is yet another problem. She also took this opportunity to thank the SI Clubs for their efforts in raising awareness of domestic violence.

On Saturday afternoon members had the chance to exchange ideas in workshops focusing on Soroptimist issues and presenting Andalusian culture. President Hanne discussed the latest issues at SI, while SI/E President Eliane Lagasse explained

The History of European Friendship Days

At this year's European Friendship Days, French Soroptimist Maguy Chabert reviewed the historical development of this important event in the SI/E calendar. Back in 1987, Maguy, the then President of Club Clermont Ferrand, suggested launching a broad discussion on women and the structure of Europe. She wanted to treat the issues within the framework of Soroptimist International's main principles, in other words, understanding the evolution of the society in which we live, defending the values we believe in and carrying out actions in line with the spirit and ethics of SI. Thus, the idea was born to organise the European Friendship Days for clubs from the French Union, from SI/E as a whole and even from SIGBI.

The event was to comprise two parts: (1) a joint conference for presentations and discussion on major topical issues in Europe and on the status of women and (2) more informal sessions or workshops to inform participants about the region's geographical and cultural heritage.

It was decided that these meetings should be held at the end of the summer to offer SI/E clubs the chance to rekindle friendships made during other events such as the French-Speaking Days, Scandinavian Meetings and Dreiländertreffen for German-speaking countries. The first meeting took place in Clermont Ferrand on the 3rd-5th September 1988 with Valérie Giscard d'Estaing, former President of the French Republic, as guest of honour. Its central theme concerned how European institutions and major European projects are run. Since then, SI/E clubs have organised meetings every two years or so to discuss topical subjects. The venues have been Düsseldorf, Lugano, Brussels, Rome, Lisbon, Aarhus and now Spain.

Rina Dupriet,
SI/E Vice President



NO END TO SUFFERING IN SIGHT

SI/E President Eliane Lagasse and Roswitha Ott, Project Manager Africa, could not suppress their emotions after seeing firsthand the destruction of Haiti and the suffering of the population during their visit to the island nation in the Caribbean at the end of the summer. 'Just a few moments have destroyed the lives and hopes of a whole generation,' said Roswitha.



Nearly a year after the earthquake, some 500,000 people still live in makeshift 1,300 camps in the areas most affected by the catastrophe. Some of these sites are located in gullies, in flood zones or even in streets without protection from storms. The earthquake destroyed most of the infrastructure in Port-au-Prince and many other areas. The government estimates that 225,000 people were killed; some 250,000 homes and 30,000 commercial buildings were severely damaged. Cleaning up has started, but it will take generations to rebuild the already poor country.

Thankfully, the homes of our Haitian Soroptimists did not suffer severe destruction, but many of their businesses were damaged. Despite their own problems, they organised immediate help in partnership with 'Food for the Poor' and medical help, food and blankets together with the Hospital St. François de Sales.

Restoring a school in Haut Gorman

Located 25 km from Port-au-Prince, Haut Gorman comprises three villages and has 7000 inhabitants, mostly farmers. Club Port-au-Prince had already realised an agricultural project in this area. Now the Club intends to restore the partly destroyed 'Les Poupons de Carlo Germain' school and possibly add an extension. After certain questions are clarified, the plan is to restore the building, including the roof and the fence, improve the sanitation and furnish the classrooms with benches, tables and blackboards, books and other supplies for a total of US \$ 45,000.

The orphanage is home to about 30 children. With three rooms and a very small playground, the orphanage's school was completely destroyed, but the residential area survived seriously dam-

aged. After the earthquake Club Port-au-Prince decided to help this orphanage, and at the GM in Ghent, President Nadège Bance Jacques asked for immediate help. As the children of the Music School of Werdenberg, Switzerland had raised about € 2,600 through concerts, this money was invested immediately. The leftover money has helped to give the children healthier food. Because the roof is leaking, a new one will probably be installed as well.

One important part of the visit was to see firsthand the projects realised through the untiring work of the aid organisation, arche noVa. So, Eliane and Roswitha met with their Project Manager in Haiti, Wolfgang Meier, and toured some of the areas where water supply systems had been installed with our support. The cooperation of SI/E with arche noVa was very fruitful and has contributed enormously to help the suffering population of Haiti. SI/E together with Unions and Clubs and donations of the other federations supported arche noVa with € 79,000. The concept for a third project, which is already financed through previous donations, has just been completed and will be presented in a future issue.

Paediatric Department of the General Hospital

Eliane and Roswitha also visited the Paediatrics Clinic of the heavily hit General Hospital in Port-au-Prince. Many babies and children are still being treated in a field hospital or in huts. The SI/E Board has since approved a Club project to provide medical equipment to the Paediatric Department for € 16,000. SI Port-au-Prince has also distributed 225 medical kits to the needy mothers of newborn babies in five maternity wards. The medical kits were financed by SI/A with a Federation contribution of \$ 9,000.

During the visit Radio Metropole interviewed President Eliane and the Club. It was an excellent opportunity to inform the local population about our organisation and the implemented and planned projects to ease the suffering. 'We left the country with mixed feelings and with great appreciation for the hospitality of our Club Port-au-Prince,' said Roswitha.

In recent weeks a cholera outbreak has added further misery to the people of Haiti. In the meantime Club Port-au-Prince has distributed some 620 hygiene kits to fight this horrific water-born disease. Donations from SI/E and Club Bad Ragaz are funding this project.



Many needy mothers with infants were provided with medical kits, sponsored with the help of SI/A.



SI/E President Eliane Lagasse and Project Manager Africa Roswitha Ott visited an orphanage that received help from Club Port-au-Prince.



Soroptimists from Club Port-au-Prince distributed useful utensils to the women of Haiti.



Through its practical support, the Club has received greater visibility.





Project Sierra

A BIG THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT

At the end of a year one often looks back and says thanks. So, on behalf of Project Sierra, I want to send a BIG THANK YOU to all who have been supporting our four-year SI project. Donations have come from all corners of our Federation, but there is still time, and we do need even more support so that the whole Soroptimist world can reach our goal of US \$ 2 million (€ 1.395 million) by the end of the project in 2011. Until now € 812,000 have been collected.

Soroptimists in partnership with Hope and Homes for Children and HANCISL have already helped many young teenage mothers to live a life free from despair, poverty, hunger, life in the streets, prostitution and violence. These young women have been trained either in schools or as apprentices while their babies have been in day-care. As a result, many of them are now able to

earn a living for themselves and their family. They can stand on their own feet and have trust in their future, but at the same time feel that they still may need advice and support from the centre that sheltered them at the beginning.

Thanks to Project Sierra, many mothers or grandmothers who have been the carers of the children have been able to start their own little business or some modest farming. This allows



The children of Sierra Leone are cared for while their mothers attend school or work as apprentices as part of Project Sierra.



them to have enough income to afford food, clothes and school for the children.

Please go to the www.projectsierra.org and read more about the progress. The website also features case stories that will touch you and inspire you to support the project. You can also join 'Friends of Project Sierra' on Facebook too.

Project Sierra covers all the aims of Soroptimist International as we reach out for some of the world's most vulnerable women and girls, give them life-changing opportunities and make them feel that they are not forgotten.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Lisbeth Hass, SI/E Project Liaison

ECOLOGICAL DISASTER HITS HUNGARY

Hungary was hit by one of the worst environmental catastrophes in its history early October 2010, when an industrial reservoir collapsed, releasing toxic red sludge that covered numerous neighboring villages. Ten people including an infant were killed and thousands lost their homes. Hundreds of children, women and men suffering from the effects of the toxic substance were taken to hospital.

This is a major disaster for nature and for all the residents who may never be able to return to their homes, because the environmental damage is so severe. The now homeless victims are temporarily being sheltered in sport halls, at friends' homes and in government houses. They are deeply shocked by the loss of all their property and by the enormity of the situation.

Club Budapest hopes to raise funds to help these victims through our network of Soroptimists. The aim is to support the buildings efforts of one of the new villages being created to accommodate the victims who will have to start a new life. The focus will be on a project to help women and girls through a community revitalisation project by contributing to the rebuilding of a local grammar school. Budapest Club members are currently investigating the optimal use of the funds and where the aid can offer the greatest support.

We kindly ask Soroptimists – and any of your friends – to help us through your donations! Bank account details are:

Account holder:

Soroptimist Club Budapest

Bank address: OTP Bank, 1051 Budapest,
Nádor u. 16. Hungary

IBAN: HU15117050082049802300000000

BIC (SWIFT): OTPVHUHB

Please note that bank transfers up to an amount of €100 within the EU are free of charge.

Every contribution to our Red Sludge Victims Project will be truly appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Katalin Juhos at katalinjuhos@yahoo.com.

Erzsébet Varsányi, President, Club Budapest



The level of the devastation was enormous after the toxic industrial sludge flooded villages.



Ten people were killed and thousands lost everything in the disaster. Schoolchildren wear masks against dust from dried toxic mud in Devecser. (Photos: Reuters)



Greenpeace workers take samples to determine the toxicity of the sludge.

SI ONLINE MAGAZINE AT A CLICK

Don't miss TIS
– it is your
international
magazine!

The International Soroptimist (TIS)

Have you seen the new look TIS – The International Soroptimist magazine? TIS is now published quarterly in digital format, which means that you may instantly view it on any computer, anywhere in the world, free of charge. You may also forward the digital link to anyone, Soroptimist or not. Alternatively, you may download a PDF version and print any pages that you like, or email them to others.

The next issue will focus on the topics that will form the SI Long Term Project – Education and Leadership, with contributions from SI Clubs in all four Federations. It will also include articles on the Commission for the Status of Women in 2011, Human Rights, the 10th December SI Pres-



ident's Appeal and more.

The December issue will be live on 16th December 2010, the link can be accessed through the SI/E website, (www.soroptimisteurope.org) or the Soroptimist International website, (www.soroptimistinternational.org).

or you may email the editor (sheila@written-image.com) to subscribe (free of charge) to receive a link directly to your inbox.

TURNING TARGETS INTO ACTION

Women's Human Rights and Development

SI Representative to
the UN in Geneva
Sina Stiffler (left)
and SI/E Programme

The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) organised its Civil Society Development Forum (CSDF) – 'Women's Human Rights and Development: Inclusion, Participation, and Equality' at the International Labour Office in Geneva (ILO) from 30th

September to 1st October 2010. Soroptimist International was invited to discuss the Action Points that focused on internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, in regard to gender equality and women's empowerment. The two-day event comprised various keynote presentations and five panel

his welcome address that the 'harvest of words cannot feed the hungry!' Therefore it was proposed that there should be equal voice for women and men while discussing global policy.

SI/E Programme Officer Suba Parthiban then spoke about women and sustainable development. She pointed out that SI's grassroots approach to women's development and using women as critical agents was a successful way to move forward. Soroptimists empower women to devise their own projects, identifying local knowledge and resources for development. Suba provided examples of SI projects in Africa, Eastern Europe, as well as a water and sanitation project in India, which was implemented in partnership with SIGBI. She concluded her speech by saying empowerment is the key! 'Women are capable of unbelievable courage. With just a little help women will turn obstacles into opportunities!'

Officer Suba Parthiban discussed the Action Points at the CSDF.

discussions on legal and institutional mechanisms, women and sustainable development, gender discrimination, decent work, migration and reproductive health.

Generally, all speakers expressed their displeasure that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have not been sufficiently implemented. CoNGO President Liberato C. Bautista declared in

15 years after Beijing and 10 years after the initiation of the MDGs, the progress of women is still not satisfactory. Participants strongly agreed to include men and boys in the process of women's empowerment. The focus must lay on the implementation and better awareness of women's rights.

Sina Stiffler, SI Representative to the UN Geneva



FUNDING THE FUTURE

SI President's Appeal 2010

SI President Hanne Jensbo's December 10th Appeal is dedicated to securing funds to support the Long Term Project (LTP) 'Soroptimists for Education and Leadership' that will be launched at the SI Convention in Montréal in July 2011. Soroptimists around the world overwhelmingly chose the topic of Education and Leadership for the LTP.

Every year on Human Rights Day, 10th December, the President of Soroptimist International invites members to donate to an international fund to help women and girls. Last year's appeal was devoted to preventing human trafficking in Moldova by providing life-skill education to vulnerable children.

In her personal message, SI President Hanne admitted that this year's appeal is a departure from previous campaigns, in which money was donated to a specific project. 'But I firmly believe that by raising money now, we can ensure that the long term project has the means to empower women and girls from its launch date,' Hanne said.



The leaflet features a blue background with white and yellow text. It includes three small photographs: a girl in a white headscarf, a group of women and children, and a woman in a green jacket. The text reads: 'Soroptimist International', 'SI President's December 10 Appeal 2010', 'Funding the Future: Soroptimists for Education and Leadership', '1 girl in every 4 never makes it past fifth grade (10 years old)', 'Eight out of ten women workers are considered to be in vulnerable employment', '25% of all parliamentary members have less than 10% women members', 'But together we can make a difference....', 'Please support the 2010 International President's December 10 Appeal', and 'www.soroptimistinternational.org'.

For more information, download the leaflet available from the SI website.

A VOICE FOR EMPOWERMENT

Head of New UN Women

At last, women have an official voice at the United Nations! UN Women – whose full name is the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – will begin its work in January 2011. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet as the first head of UN Women. The 59-year-old paediatrician and epidemiologist also becomes a UN Under-Secretary-General.

Her appointment was widely applauded, as Bachelet is considered an effective leader of high integrity. In her letter of congratulations to Michelle Bachelet, SI/E President Eliane Lagasse wrote, 'Thanks to your extensive political background, the international community and women in particular will benefit from your skills.'

Recently appointed Head
of UN Women Michelle
Bachelet is highly qualified
for her new position.

UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras





19th International Convention
10th-14th July 2011 Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Deadline is end of February 2011

APPLY NOW FOR AN SI/E GRANT

Would you like to experience the excitement and hospitality of an International Convention? The SI/E Board has decided to offer a limited number of grants to Soroptimists from the European Federation requiring financial assistance in order to be able to attend the XIX Soroptimist Convention in Montreal, Canada in July 2011. The grant of € 1000 will go towards the full registration fee and travel expenses, but not necessarily cover the entire amount. Early full registration is Canadian \$ 600.

Details regarding the programme, registration and hotel accommodation will be posted on the official SI Convention website – www.si-montreal2011.org/index.html – by December 2010.

Applicants must be fluent in English and will be expected to prepare a report on the Convention for their Union or Single Club. Grantees will be asked to take advantage of the lower cost early registration available until April 2011. If required, the applicant is also responsible for applying for her own visa well ahead of the deadline.

Please send your applications with details of the anticipated travel costs and whether a visa will be necessary to SI/E headquarters by the end of February 2011.

Sisterhood Tour in Malaysia



THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

The Region of Malaysia invites Soroptimists to take part in a very special Sisterhood Tour from 20th-30th March 2011, which coincides with the 9th Biennial SIROM Conference from 16th-20th March. This guided tour with plenty of free time begins in Kuala Lumpur and includes destinations in Ipoh, Malacca, Kuching and the Mulu caves.

As President SI Region of Malaysia Indira Naidu says, 'Malaysia is truly Asia in a nutshell. A microcosm of rich cultural heritage, diverse eco-tourism attractions and gastronomic delights.' Enjoy the sights and the genuine hospitality that Malaysians are well known for.

For all the details of the Sisterhood Tour please see the full offer on the SI/E website – www.soroptimisteurope.org – under News. Until March 2011, Selamat Datang!



See the wonders of Malaysian culture during the tour coinciding with the SIROM Conference.

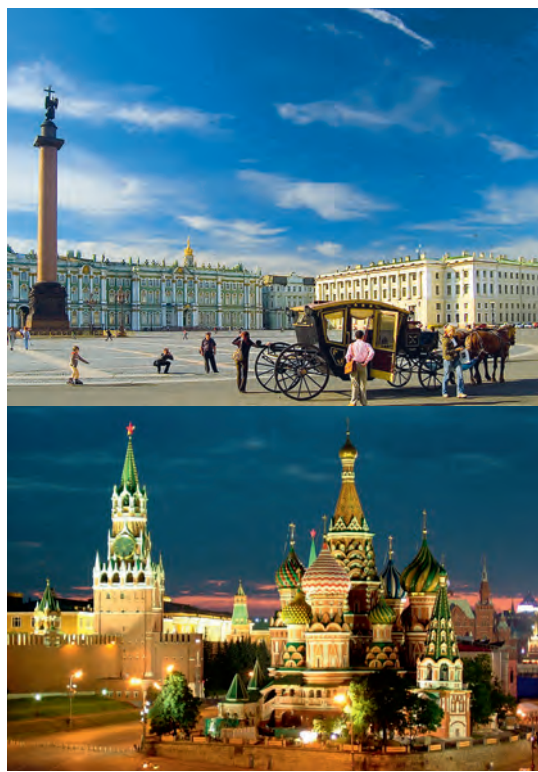
Cruise from St Petersburg to Moscow



A CONFERENCE – LITERALLY – ON WATER

Club St Petersburg-Neva has come up with an original way to contribute to the 'Safe Water = Safe Life' biennium campaign of SI/E. The Russian Single Club invites Soroptimists to participate in a conference – literally – on water on board a cruise ship travelling from St Petersburg to

The journey will include a number of famous tourist attractions, starting in St Petersburg (top photo) and ending in Moscow.



Moscow from 20th-30th September 2011. The journey is going to be truly fascinating and quite unique with tours of St Petersburg and Moscow and visits to historical sites, including Mandrogui (a village with traditional Russian crafts), Kizhi (an outdoor museum of wooden architecture), the legendary Uglich and an ancient cloister in Giritsi.

The actual cruise will last for six days so there will be plenty of time to discuss current questions regarding potable water supply and usage. There will be various seminars featuring professionals from St Petersburg and exhibitions on the agenda. The participants from different countries will have a chance to present their clubs' activities, share their projects and exchange experience.

Participants will be offered a wonderful cultural programme as well as the possibility to take part in the auction of children's drawings. The proceeds will go towards the Club's projects, which includes setting up water purification systems at a children's house and an orphanage.

For further information and details of the cruise, please contact Lubov Blinova, President of Club St Petersburg-Neva: luba_blinova@mail.ru.

Region of South Queensland

GRANT OF FRIENDSHIP IN AUSTRALIA



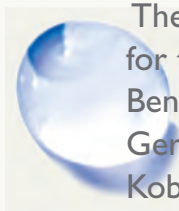
The Region of South Queensland is offering a three-to-four-week Grant of Friendship during September-October 2011 in Australia. Applications are invited from an overseas Soroptimist travelling alone, two Soroptimists travelling together or a Soroptimist and her partner.

The Grant includes travel and home accommodation for the duration of the visit, but recipients would be responsible for travel to and from Brisbane, Australia. They would also be expected to take care of any medical expenses incurred.

Interested Soroptimists with a good command of English should apply by letter or email by 31st January 2011, with a brief resume of their SI experience, their interests and what they would hope to gain from such a visit. Please address applications to: Alison Langdon, SISQ Friendship Grant Coordinator, 16 Aberdeen Street Rangeville, Queensland 4350, Australia or by email to alisonlangdon@westnet.com.au.



The Carnival of Flowers in September will occur at the same time of the Grant of Friendship. This park is located in Toowoomba, one of the largest inland cities in Australia.



The festive inauguration of the well for the population of Houéyogbé in Benin, realised with the help of the German Clubs Cochem-Mosel and Koblenz also marked the end of Moubaraka Akinocho's very active term of office as President of Club Cotonou Gazelle.



Four wells in Benin

CLEAN WATER FOR HOUÉYOGBÉ



It was a particularly special moment, when Moubaraka welcomed so many authorities of the district, the whole population and many members of the SI Clubs of Cotonou on this memorable occasion. She had every reason to be proud. During her term of office Moubaraka was able to complete four wells in the area, Houéyogbé being the fourth one.

In her ceremonial speech Moubaraka thanked all those who had contributed to the impressive achievement: 'It is a wonderful occasion that all the members of the Soroptimist Clubs and all the inhabitants of Houéyogbé are joining me in saluting the intelligence and also the excellent collaboration so evident since the launch of the construction of these wells. This new well offers water and drinking water to the brothers and sis-



ters of Houéyogbé. I am convinced that this event today is a special moment in history that will forever determine the relations between the community of Houéyogbé and the surrounding populations. Water, which in other parts of the world is a reason for war, will be a factor for peace in Dahé.'

I thank Moubaraka and her club and all the sponsoring Clubs in Europe for the enormous work and dedication in Benin. Building four wells in two years is hard work for a Single Club. With much effort Cotonou Gazelle has contributed to provide more people with safe drinking water and to lower the source of water born diseases affecting children, in particular, in Benin.

Roswitha Ott, SI/E Project Manager Africa

Nord Pas de Calais collaboration

BOREHOLES FOR BURKINA FASO

Like all Soroptimists around the globe, the French Union and its clubs attach great importance to offering aid to the world's poorest and to developing countries. The Interclubs of Nord Pas de Calais, comprising the Clubs of Arras, Bethune, Cambrai, Le Quesnoy, Lille Métropole, Tourcoing, Roubaix and Valenciennes, are a case in point. The collaboration between these clubs and Burkina Faso resulted in waterholes being built in the Sintenga district of the village of Namassa.

The Burkinabes formed an association of 10 villages in the GUIE region and joined together with 'Terre Verte', the NGO which is the association's main European partner working for the region's rural development. Joëlle Declercq, President of Club Bethune,

who had travelled to GUIE to help a centre for children in difficulty, abandoned, sick or malnourished, decided to initiate a project.

Motivated by SI/E's biennium theme 'Soroptimists Go for Water', the French Clubs decided to help GUIE with boreholes. Five boreholes did not have backers, and the villagers were still drawing their water from a muddy pond! Another aim was to supply drinking water to primary schools in Babon, Guié, Cissé Yargo and the Sintenga and Wob-



The new boreholes supply drinking water to the children of primary schools around Namassa.

zougou districts of Namassa. The cost of the project amounted to more than € 10,000. After two years of hard work, the French Soroptimists had raised the necessary sum and in the summer 2010 handed over a cheque for € 10,700 to the Burkinabes in charge of the project, in the presence of the Mayor of Bethune. A Soroptimist plaque will be placed at the boreholes.

This action again illustrates how worthwhile it is to collaborate between clubs and with local organisations to realise more ambitious projects.



Traditional water holes cannot guarantee clean water.



Clockwise from left: At the inauguration ceremony Moubaraka Akinocho (centre), President of Club Cotonou Gazelle, said the new well in Houéyogbé will be a factor for peace in the area.

Villagers celebrated the new well providing clean water to the wider community.

Soroptimists from Cotonou joined in the celebration of the fourth well to be constructed in two years.

Rina Dupriet, SI/E Vice President



Above: 'There's a hole in the bucket – let's fix it' was the motto of the side event organised by Women for Water Partnership

Right: Rehema Bavuma, Director and spokeswoman for the Katosi Women Development Trust in Uganda, articulated the needs of the women of Africa.

Below: Pipeline engineer Sara Crabtree acted as an interviewer and facilitator for the WfWP side event, which SI/E Past-President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen (second from left) also attended.

Photos courtesy of Debby Telatovich

AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

One of the biggest challenges of the 21st century is how to feed the world's nine billion people expected by 2050 in the face of climate change, economic and financial crises and increasing competition for the use of natural resources. There is also growing awareness around the world that the agricultural sector needs to change in order to seriously reduce greenhouse emissions.

Estimated to be responsible for about 14 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, agriculture therefore forms an important part of the solution to the food and climate crisis. Deforestation for agricultural land accounts for another 17 percent of emissions.

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, held from 31st October to 5th November 2010, brought together a wide range of stakeholders from governments, international organisations, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, philanthropic foundations and the scientific community to

develop a roadmap with concrete actions to link agriculture-related investments, policies and measures with the transition to climate smart growth. As both women and water are important factors in tackling these challenges, Women for Water Partnership (SI/Europe is one of the partners) organised an interesting side event, attended by ministers, ambassadors, NGOs and sponsors. At this event women from Africa, Asia and Latin America presented an integrated approach to food security, sustainable water management and climate change adaptation.

In 2011 Bonn, Germany will be the venue of an International Conference on 'Water, Food and Energy Security in the Green Economy'. This conference will have two objectives: to develop cross-sector solutions to achieve water, food and energy security and to position the water, energy and agriculture/food security interface within the 'Rio plus 20' process and green economy concepts. As our water projects impact sustainable development and poverty eradication, it is important SI/E is visible at this conference.

Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, SI/E IPP



MODERN TOILETS OFFER PRIVACY



Koriomé is a village near Tombouctou, Mali where all cars and visitors to Tombouctou must cross the Niger River. Despite of its important position, Koriomé with its 600 inhabitants had no infrastructure, no schools, no drinking water and no toilets. Already at the Charter of Club Tombouctou in 2006, the new club spoke about changing this situation because of the outbreak of cholera in Koriomé at that time.

Aissa Baba Kalil Touré, the Club's Founding President, and current Club President Kadidia Adiaakoye are important motors in Tombouctou. The pamphlet produced by the Club gives evidence of its diverse projects: a mill for the widows of Tombouctou, sponsoring 27 girls from poor fami-

lies at school, building a well in the Nomad camp of Koriomé and now constructing new toilets. Of course all these projects were made possible with the help of SI/E and European Unions and Clubs. And the results are impressive.

In June 2009 Club Koriomé started to build toilets in cooperation with the Austrian Union, which had collected € 7,150 from the Austrian Clubs for this important project. The 2009 SI/E Congress in Amsterdam contributed € 2,850 by selling pins and scarves.

Seven of the ten toilets are now finished and painted in Soroptimist colours of blue and yellow. Two toilets were given to a school in need of restoration and one to the mosque. The rest went to households in the village. A committee is in charge of regular controls of the toilets' cleanliness. The renovation of the school is planned as well as planting trees in the yard.

The project in Koriomé is one more step to safe drinking water and sanitation. I hope that education will be the next one. Many thanks go to SI Tombouctou, which is one of our most active clubs, and of course to all the many sponsors who never forget our club in far away Tombouctou.

Roswitha Ott, SI/E Project Manager Africa

Soroptimists go for
water
safe water = safe life

Left: One of the first projects to be completed was building a well in Koriomé.



Toilets have been constructed at a school, a mosque and near private households in the village.

Club Mendrisiotto

RESTORING A LOCAL FOUNTAIN

In the spirit of the SI/E biennium mottos 'Soroptimists Go for Water' and Preserving Local Heritage (2005-2007), Club Mendrisiotto in Switzerland has financed the restoration of a beautiful fountain, built in 1868. The refurbished fountain is located in the centre of Meride, a favourite tourist village surrounded by the rolling hills of the southern canton of Tessin. The aim was also to give Soroptimist International greater visibility and to leave a



In the presence of the mayor, Swiss Soroptimists inaugurated the restored fountain in the village of Meride.

souvenir for future generations. In former times the fountain was a place for the privileged, especially women, where they met to socialise. The restoration, carried out by a local craftsman, has returned this source of water to its former splendour.

Luisa Grisoni, Past President of Club Mendrisiotto

ADVANCING WOMEN BEYOND BORDERS

Mentees, mentors
and organisers
posed for a group
portrait at the
Kick-Off meeting
in Bensheim.

It all began in a fairytale-like Castle Schöneberg in Bensheim, Germany in mid-September, when 24 young women from Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and Sweden met for the three-day Kick-Off Seminar of the European Mentoring Programme 2010. The event marked the beginning of the nine-month mentoring programme, laying down the groundwork for successful training, co-operation and networking. 'We felt somewhat awkward at first with so many strong personalities gathered together, but we focused quickly because there was a lot of work to be done,' wrote the delegation of Belgian mentees (Christina Elvers, Liesbeth De Waele, Natalie Van Praet and Sarah Vermeulen). After all: 'We want to make the most out of this amazing opportunity!' The SI/E partner organisation in this programme – EAF (translated European Academy for Women in Politics and Business) – provided professional trainers throughout the weekend.

In addition to the official programme and discussions, this first meeting gave participants a chance to meet each other on a personal level. 'Different nationalities give an extra dimension to this programme,' said mentee Hedda Malm from Sweden. Besides building the mentee-mentor relationship, the idea is to build a network among mentees across borders and to inform them about the Soroptimist ideals.

Consultant and trainer Birte Raske made a big impression on the women. 'We really appreciated the way she helped us gain a clear vision about ourselves,' said the Luxembourg mentees Vanessa de Bartolomeo, Jennifer Saffran and Isabell Scherer.

EAF trainer Manuela Möller described the methodology of the mentoring programme to assist the mentees in deciding what they expect to gain from the relationship.

Hedda Malm was impressed by the advice provided by the mentors: 'never go against your gut feeling, see all your mistakes as experiences and do not regret anything'. Each and every participant seemed to take home something very special from the seminar. 'Although all of us were quite different in terms of age, nationality, profession and interests, we were all united in our enthusiasm for this diversity and in our curiosity to learn from each other,' commented German mentee Ulla Hüppe. By the close of the seminar, the participants had decided on three mottos for their programme: 'Women beyond borders', 'Women empower women' and 'Grow further – it's up to us'.

Parallel to the programme for mentees, many of the mentors received instruction on the role and responsibilities of mentoring. This was considered especially useful for the Soroptimists who had never participated in the process before.

The general consensus was that the Kick-Off was extremely enriching and productive. Since then, the national groups have met in their respective countries for further professional training. German mentee Verena Münsberg remarked after returning from the second meeting in Melsungen: 'My head and heart are full of new impressions and insights. The hours we spent together were demanding, exhausting and infinitely precious. I am very happy to be part of this wonderful group.' That says it all.

Preparations for the 7th Peace Marathon in Kigali on 22nd May 2011 began in September. Our man in Rwanda, Jean-Pierre Erzen, sports professor from Luxembourg and expert in marathon logistics, is already on site in Kigali, where he is on a three-year assignment to promote sport in Rwanda. For the first time ever, he is collaborating with our Soroptimists in Rwanda to organise preliminary competitions among the schoolchildren and select the best of these contestants to run in Kigali. A greater number of children will therefore take part in this competition, which is a good thing in itself, but these races will also offer the opportunity to scout for particularly talented young athletes.

Luxembourg Soroptimist and then SI/E Vice President Bettina Scholl-Sabbatini first initiated the Peace Marathon in Kigali during the bienium of SI/E President Heidrun Konrad (2003-2005). SI/E has partnered with the Rwandan Ministry of Sports and Culture and AIMS, the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races, to realise the Marathon. Many Soroptimists from all over Europe have since participated in this most unique sports event. Special thanks goes to the Luxembourg Friends of the Marathon in Rwanda who either travelled to Africa or simply donated to the organisation.

As in the previous years there will be special travel arrangements for those who have already been to Rwanda or who will come to Rwanda for the first time. Once again our friend Védaste and his team will be our guides in Rwanda www.mercatorassistance.rw. Seeing the impressive gorillas in their natural habitat is one experience you will never forget. You will also enjoy the wonderful

Rwandan food with the freshest imaginable vegetables and fruit. The Marathon is also an excellent occasion to meet our Rwandan Soroptimists and to visit their many education and water projects (see article about the Atelier Rwanda on page 24). Guida Biewer, Governor of the Luxembourg Union, is prepared to answer all of your questions and sign you up: biewerg@pt.lu. To find out more about the travel programme, please see www.kigalimarathon.com.

I hope to meet you in Kigali in May 2011 – as marathon competitor, a participant in the Run for Fun or as a spectator like myself. We spectators have the very important task of cheering on the runners from all over the world.

Kathy Kaaf, SI/E President-elect

Preliminary running competitions will offer the opportunity to scout particularly talented children.

The Peace Marathon is a unique experience for all – whether you compete, run for fun or are just a spectator.

RWANDAN SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL HAVE RUNS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY



A Call to the Peace Marathon 2011

SIA AND SI/E JOIN FORCES

The Boards of Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) and Soroptimist International of Europe (SI/E) agreed last year to partner on Soroptimist work in order to increase the impact on the lives of women and girls. The two main areas of collaboration are project exchange and disaster recovery.



The new Project Matching web-site offers lots of interesting projects that need support.

Both Federations already had their own versions of project matching and disaster grants; however, it was recognised that if combined, both programmes would be stronger and even more efficient. Respecting existing differences and building on the similarities, staff members at both federations worked on combining the two programmes. As a result, Soroptimist Project Matching and Soroptimist Disaster Grants were launched this autumn.

Soroptimist Project Matching The Link No. 219 featured an article titled 'Linking Efforts for Greater Impact' with details about the Project Matching Programme. For more information on how to get involved, see the new Project Matching website at www.soroptimistprojects.org.

Disaster Grants for Women and Girls Soroptimist Disaster Grants target the special needs of women and girls during and after disasters. This joint initiative builds on the success each Federation has had with their own disaster grant programmes and with previously partnered ventures addressing disasters in Kenya and Haiti. Collaboration can increase the awareness about the ways in which women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters as well as the impact of Soroptimist Grants.

Clubs and Unions from both Federations are eligible to apply for grants of up to € 15,000. To apply for grants, applications are made by submitting a description of the project. Applications can be submitted to the respective headquarters at any time throughout the year. For more details, please see www.soroptimisteurope.org/en/projects/disaster-grants.html.

Empowering women worldwide Both Federation Presidents are excited about this new partnership. SI/E President Eliane Lagasse: 'SI/E is thrilled and grateful for this opportunity to collaborate with SIA on the Project Matching and Disaster Relief initiatives. Eventually, Soroptimists worldwide will gain a stronger voice, thanks to proven and effective results on grass-roots level projects.' SIA President Sharon Fisher added, 'Soroptimists have always looked beyond their communities to help women and girls in places far from their homes.' With this collaboration, SIA and SI/E increase the opportunities to help women and girls across 74,000 members, 2600 clubs and 76 countries. Members have also expressed their enthusiasm about partnering.

Suba Parthiban, SI/E Programme Officer



Annabeth Studer

Scholarships in SI/E

HELPING

DREAMS COME TRUE

Besides numerous projects aimed at furthering the education and training of women and girls, especially in Africa and Eastern Europe, SI/E and its individual Unions and Clubs with their own programmes have long invested in Education and Leadership by awarding various scholarships and grants. In the year 2008-2009 alone, the total amount awarded was about € 370,000, the sum of € 72,000 from the Scholarship Fund and € 265,000 from Unions and Clubs.

At the SI/E annual meeting in Ghent this summer, the Governors of the Federation approved the suggestions of the SI/E Board to grant 14 scholarships from the Scholarship Fund for 2010. 30 applications were received from 17 Unions and six Single Clubs.



Scholarship Committee members Nelleke Fontein (right) and Gerd Wold Goddard review applications.



Thanks to a SI/E scholarship El Hajjaji Souad from the Rabat Single Club was able to attend a six-month course in Germany..

SI/E's Scholarship Fund was established in 1968. Since then women and girls of all ages and from countless fields have received financial aid for their studies or for further training. These scholarships are of enormous value – both for the empowerment of women and for a greater visibility of Soroptimist International.

Each year applications are submitted for a sum of around € 200,000. About € 70,000 are available from the Fund to distribute each year. The European Federation hopes to increase this amount in the future. It also intends to create a database of all available scholarships to evaluate how we are helping women and girls, to better follow the careers of the grantees and to improve information generally. To achieve this, we need the help of Unions and Single Clubs to provide details of your own scholarships and grants. Letters asking for this information have already been distributed to presidents of Unions and Single Clubs. It is vital to send us your details to ensure an accurate database and to show interested women and girls the kind of assistance we offer. If you have any questions, please contact me at annabeth.studer@bluewin.ch.

Annabeth Studer Meyer, SI/E Scholarship Committee Chair

Miniseminar in Latvia

LEARN BY TEACHING OTHERS

Each day when we discover, understand or learn something new is a perfect day! 20th October 2010 was exactly such a day when the members of Club Ogre-Kegums in Latvia came together for a 'miniseminar'. We are grateful to Kirsten Sveder, a special person for our club, for inspiration, encouragement and the professionally prepared seminar materials, as well as for the time she found to share her vast experience with our club! The assessment of the seminar was very positive! It is important to

continue seminars, which give us the opportunity to share knowledge, experience and methods of problem solving.

It was good to revise and brush up what we know about Soroptimist matters. It proved once again that the best way to learn is through teaching others, because everything we tell others must be clear to ourselves. For the seminar materials we also took information from the SI and SI/E websites and The Link.

Every participant received a copy of the Training Manual, and a questionnaire was distributed at the seminar, which the members were asked to fill out using the available information. We found that studying the manual helps us learn more our organisation. As the name Soroptimist International says, it unites similarly thinking women all over the world – women who have high aims and who work actively for the society, for the good of women and children. It is a great honor to belong to SI.

Club Ogre-Kegums, Latvia

Members of Club Ogre-Kegums were inspired by their miniseminar.



SI/E Appointees 2011-2013

FINDING QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

Each new SI/E President has a number of appointed positions to fill during her term of office. Some of the positions can extend over several terms, such as the representatives to various European organisations. Others change with each biennium. In the past several Unions have indicated that it would be useful to know when these appointed positions are available so that they can make suggestions from their own ranks. The SI/E Board has therefore decided to announce on the website the positions that will need to be filled during Kathy Kaaf's biennium 2011-2013. This will also allow a wider pool of qualified candidates. Information on the various appointments and the deadline for applications will be announced on www.soroptimisteurope.org in January 2011, in good time before the official call to make suggestions. Candidates are requested to submit their applications with a CV based on the SI/E format published on the website. They are also expected to inform their Unions before submitting applications. Please note, however, that the ultimate choice of the appointees remains the prerogative of the respective SI/E President and her Board, subject to approval by the Governors.

A SUCCESSFUL STUDY TOUR IN DENMARK

The international plastics manufacturer Pressalit has developed ways of saving on the use of chemicals. The Kenyan visitors see how an organic vegetable nursery is run. The textile factory is a model of cleaner production.



A group of 14 enthusiastic Kenyans arrived in Copenhagen on 25th September for a special study tour in Denmark. Initiated by the Danish Union for a joint effort with the Kenyan Union, the two-year Women and Climate Change project has received a subsidy from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the equivalent of € 281,500.

The group included five Soroptimists from the SI Kenya Project Steering Committee and a representative from the Kenyan National Cleaner Production Centre (KNCPC), a key stakeholder in the project. Other participants in the study tour were representatives from the Kenyan Ministry of Industrialization, Kenyan Association of Manufacturers and representatives – among them two Soropti-

mists – from six enterprises, including textile factories, hotels and schools. These six companies had been selected from 22 applicants. The selection process, in which Soroptimists from Kenya and Denmark participated, was based on a number of criteria, including the feasibility of introducing improvements in cleaner production, the number of women employed and senior managements commitment and interest in participating in the project. This selection exercise has led to high visibility and good PR on the project in Kenya.

Firsthand information from industry

The one-week study tour started in Copenhagen and continued in Herning, Aarhus and Vejle. At each place the participants were taken on a guided tour of different Danish and international businesses, all incorporating cleaner production values and practices in their services/production and work environment: Green Key hotels and training centres, textile companies, an organic vegetable nursery, a family owned willow water purification plant and a plastics manufacturer. The Group also visited institutions focused on awareness raising on issues such as waste management and recycling, energy conservation, CO₂ neutral energy consumption and environmentally friendly and safe working environments.

All the visits related to the main theme of the study tour: 'How can we be better equipped against the negative effects of climate change and practice environmental improvements in our work places and homes.'

Implementing improvements in Kenya

On return to Kenya each of the six participating enterprises will, with the help of KNCPC, undergo a detailed environmental assessment of their services and production and, based on this analysis, they will involve their employers, of whom many are women, in implementing one or more cleaner production measures. Such measures could in-



The environmentally friendly Green Car of the Green Key hotel chain is CO₂ neutral.

clude saving on water and/or electricity or possibly on the use of chemicals, or it could involve an improved management of waste. With the expected tangible results and cost savings, they are likely to become role models and demonstration projects for other similar enterprises. Over the next year, all 10 clubs in Kenya will facilitate practical training to women's groups, schools and institutions.

The study tour to Denmark was arranged by the Danish Project Steering Committee in consultation with members of many SI clubs in Denmark. The Danish clubs went out of their way to assist in making professional contacts to Danish companies, and in hosting our Kenyan sisters, which has led to many new friendships. Also the press coverage on the project has been fantastic with features on the front cover of many Danish national and local papers, and technical magazines. A major TV station also conducted interviews with a number of the participants.

Else Larsen,
'Women and Climate Change' Steering Committee

Empowerment Icelandic style

WOMEN STRIKE AGAIN



On 24th October 35 years ago, the women of Iceland went on strike. Back then in 1975 women received only about 2/3 of men's salaries and had very little influence in politics. So, they decided it was time to bring women's contribution to society out into the open on United Nations Day, the 24th October. It has since been called the 'Womens' Day Off' or the 'Womens' Strike'.

Women of all ages and from every level of society came out of their homes and did not go to work that day. The country was completely paralysed. At the time, it was one of the biggest demonstrations ever held in Reykjavik with some 30,000 women. The women's strike was a life-changing and

empowering event, and the Womens' Movement in Iceland was finally alive and kicking. Think of the repercussions: the world's first ever democratically elected female president, Vigdis Finnbogadottir, was elected in 1980, and the first political party of women only, was founded in 1982.

In 2010 it was time to strike again. The average working day in Iceland is from 9.00 to 5.00 pm. Women earn only 65.65% of men's total salaries. By 2.25 pm women have done their share of work, if there was real gender equality. So, this year on the 25th October (the 24th was a Sunday) women left work at 2.25 pm and went on a protest march. Some 50,000 women in Reykjavik and in many other parts of Iceland took part in protests. Quite impressive when you think that the total population of Iceland is 320,000.

The umbrella organisation 'SKOTTUR', consisting of 25 different women's organisations and unions, was formed to organise the event. Soroptimists in Iceland are among 550 of over 10,000 members. According to legend, Skottur were Icelandic female ghosts or spirits and not easily disposed of. An international conference devoted to women's campaign against violence and sexual abuse was also organised on 24th October. Rashida Manjoo, the UN special rapporteur on Violence Against Women, was the guest of honour. Among the speakers were Tania Bien Aime, Executive Director of Equality Now, and Knut Storberget, the Norwegian Minister of Justice and a member of Ban Ki-moon's network of 14 male leaders who have committed themselves to prioritising the campaign against gender-based violence. The conference focused on the justice system and how badly it is designed to protect women's rights.

Icelandic Soroptimists designed the logo and promoted the whole event. Special pins, in the form of glasses, so called gender glasses, were produced and paid for by the Icelandic Union of Iceland. There were sold all over the country to raise money to support centres for victims of sexual abuse.



The streets of Reykjavik were filled with women protesting against gender inequalities.



Prime Minister Johanna Siguroardottir and members of her government wear the Soroptimist-designed glasses symbolising gender equality.

La Biennale di Venezia

ATELIER RWANDA MUST CARRY ON



Various events took place around Atelier Rwanda at the renowned International Architecture Exhibition in Venice this September, starting with a preview of Bettina Scholl-Sabbatini's extraordinary artwork. Venice was bathed in sunshine, when SI President Hanne Jensbo and Soroptimists from all over Europe and Rwanda met Professor Gaddo Morpurgo and his students from IUAV

University of Venice at Campo Santo Stefano San Marco to celebrate the event together with students and professors from KIST (Kigali Institute of Science and Technology).

Craftsmanship based on tradition

The exhibition opened at the Palazzo Mangilli, headquarters of Fondazione Claudio Buziol, the main sponsor of Atelier Rwanda together with Club San Marino and the Italian Union. It was inspiring to see the results of two years' of workshops, organised by IUAV and KIST in collaboration with SI. Using traditional Rwandan techniques, artists had produced lovely modern jewellery. Results from the Atelier Rwanda laboratory of research for innovative and applied design, were also on display, including models of houses with roofs that make use of rainwater. Students sold bracelets and black T-shirts with the Atelier Rwanda logo.

An exhibition with photos of Rwanda and Burkina Faso took place the next day at the UNESCO Venice Bureau. Our San Marino Soroptimists had invited a high-ranking delegation from San Marino. We carried on to the IUAV Venice University to see

Atelier Rwanda's spectacular exhibition with prototypes of building materials such as bamboo and the hardy wood of the coffee tree.

A large audience of guests, professors, students and about 50 Soroptimists heard SI President Hanne thank everyone involved in the outstanding Atelier Rwanda project, which won both SI/E and SI Best Practice Awards. SI Italy President Wilma Malucelli and Club San Marino President Mara Verbena paid tribute to Professor Morpurgo for his commitment to the Soroptimist cause. It was wonderful to see Scholastique Ndirabacu from Club Kigali enjoy the fruits of ten years of hard work for the San Marco Kigali Educational Centre.

Your support is needed

The enormous effort of Professor Morpurgo and his team to train the Rwanda women to create these wonderful designs in the traditional vegetable fibres must carry on. The idea is to form a co-operative in which the trained women pass on their knowledge and craftsmanship to other women. To guarantee the quality of the process we need the continued support of these expert designers and their help to set up a business at our San Marco Centre in Kigali. Happily, designer Alice Cappelli has agreed to go to Kigali again in January 2011 to train the women so that they can earn a living with the jewellery they produce. I encourage all SI/E clubs to support this project. One suggestion is to market their crafts through various SI online shops. But for now, we need capital to set up the production. Details will be published on the Project Matching website. Bettina Scholl-Sabbatini - betmar@tango.lu - is travelling to Kigali in November to discuss the continuation of Atelier Rwanda.

Kathy Kaaf, SI/E President elect



Traditional Rwandan techniques were used to create unique modern jewellery, which was highly admired by the visitors of the exhibition in Venice.



The Atelier Rwanda has also produced prototypes of buildings made from bamboo and the hardy wood of coffee trees.



€ 1.2 million invested so far

FSL CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY

The Luxembourg Soroptimist Fund (FSL), a non-profit organisation, was set up in 1995 at the initiative of Bettina Scholl-Sabbatini, the then President of the Luxembourg Union, to be eligible for subsidies from the Luxembourg Government Development Cooperation, which finances up to 75 % of projects in aid of developing countries. After the FSL received Ministry of Foreign Affairs' approval in 1996, Luxembourg's Clubs focused on cooperation projects. Donations paid directly to the FSL are tax-deductible, and over the years private donors and companies have donated generously to our organisation.

Edmée Stoffel-Conzemius was FSL President from 1995 to 1999, followed by Mady Molitor from 2000 to 2005. When Mady died in 2005, Maggy Berckes, who had been Secretary since 1998, took over as president.

The first project in Togo was followed by several other projects in Ecuador, Egypt, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Mali and more recently India. Countless projects have been supported and realised with Luxembourg clubs or with the help of other European clubs. Valuable partnerships exist with local schools and administrations, and the FSL also funds its own projects. Projects in Africa are carried out with Club Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, Mali's Club Bamako and the Clubs Lomé I and Lomé Aurore in Togo, as well as Rwanda's Clubs in Kigali, Butare, Gisenyi, Kigali Etoile and Kibungo.

Over the past 15 years, the FSL has invested € 1.2 million in numerous projects in the following fields:

- Education – building schools and training centres, supplying schools with furniture and IT equipment, funding literacy courses and professional training (dressmaking and IT), sponsoring secondary-school students,
- Economic and Social – building and setting up a grain bank, helping women's groups to generate their own sources of income, often by means of appropriate training and microcredit,
- Health – building a rural clinic, support for children with AIDS, sanitation for schools, medical kits, training courses to increase awareness about female circumcision,
- Environment – building a micro dam to collect rainwater, supplying drinking water, waterholes and installations to collect rainwater, drilling wells, installing solar electricity,
- Human Rights and the Promotion of Women – building a village for 20 widows and 100 orphans, support for women suffering from exclusion,
- International Goodwill and Understanding – financial and material contributions to the 1st and 2nd International Peace Marathon in Rwanda.

In 2010, in partnership with Luxembourg's Chamber of Trade, the FSL launched the 'Setting up a Craft-based Business Award 2010' to encourage and reward those who set up or take over a successful, original or employment-generating craft-based business. The award includes a prize of € 5000.

The results of 15 years of cooperation inspire us to continue on this path. We treasure this precious experience and the friendships made with our partners in Africa and elsewhere. Their commitment in the field guarantees the success of our joint projects. Thank you to everyone for your invaluable support.

(From left) FSL President Maggy Berckes, Club Kibungo President Liberata Irambona and SI President Hanne Jensbo inaugurate one of the four projects financed by FSL at 'Les Hirondelles' school in Rwanda in May 2010.

FSL presented 120 water drums to Club Ouagadougou as part of a project to supply potable water to the inhabitants of five communities and five primary schools in Burkina Faso.

Maggy Berckes, FSL President

Bettina Scholl-Sabbatini, FSL Vice President



Balat Culture House

A SOROPTIMIST HAVEN IN ISTANBUL



The Balat Culture House has been beautifully restored for multipurposes.

Fener Balat, a district of utmost importance in Turkey's cultural heritage, is a historical tourist attraction in Istanbul. Recognised by UNESCO and the EU, the district, where Turkish, Greek, Armenian and Jewish people live together in harmony, reflects the influences of centuries past with the dynamism of our age. One such modern change was the addition of the Turkish Union's Balat Culture House.

In the typical architectural style of this region, Balat Culture House is a three-storey, bay-windowed building on Vodina Street. The building was leased for 29 years beginning in Isik Verbas's presidency of the Turkish Union in 1999. In 2008, with the support of the Governor of Istanbul, Balat Culture House was restored and handed over to Soroptimist International of Turkey in February 2010. The Balat Culture House Commission completed the interior decoration of the House in collaboration with Emine Erdem, President of Turkish Union from 2008-2010, and other Turkish Soroptimists.



In the presence of SI President Hanne Jensbo, SI/E President Eliane Lagasse, Austrian Union President Christine Peer as well as many other Soroptimists and distinguished local guests, the Balat Culture House was officially opened on 17th June 2010.

Consisting of two adjacent buildings and a small courtyard, the House is designed to serve different purposes. Soroptimists and visitors alike can use the cafe to enjoy a cup of coffee or lunch in a truly historical atmosphere. There is an art gallery where we aim to host an exhibition each month. Turkish Soroptimists have already begun to display their work in the gallery.

The building is also designed as a meeting place and training centre with classrooms on the second floor. Soroptimist Clubs can use the House for gatherings and vocational training programmes for local women and children. For example, a street festival was organised on the World Environment Day in June for the children in the neighbourhood. Experts provided information about plants, paint-



SI President Hanne, SI/E President Eliane and Austrian Union President Christine joined the then Turkish Union President Emine Erdem (second from right) at the opening ceremony in June 2010

ings were displayed and flower seeds distributed to children. The Turkish Union also plans an activity at the House each year on International Women's Day to which Soroptimists from all over Europe will be invited. The central idea is for the House to raise enough funds to cover the costs of these additional services.

However, the most important goal is for our House to serve the community in the years to come. It will be a place where our members, friends and visiting Soroptimists can meet. The Balat Culture House in Fener Balat offers opportunities for socialising at various levels of society by integrating work and celebration in the lives of the residents of the district and visitors to the House.

Many Soroptimists, prominent local guests and the Turkish media attended the opening event.

ROMANIAN WRITER WINS PRIZE

French-language novelists

Clubs Grenoble and Grenoble 2000 have awarded Liliana Lazar their 2010 Soroptimist Prize for Novelists Writing in French. In the presence of Josette Mesplier-Pinet, the French Union's Education and Culture Co-ordinator, the 21 members of the jury gathered in Grenoble on 15th September and chose Liliana Lazar for her first novel *Terre des affranchis* (translated 'Land of the Freedmen'), published by Gaia.

Soroptimists from 62 clubs in the French Union had joined the two Grenoble clubs in helping to select the winner of the fifth prize. More than 500 readers voted by post. The 2010 shortlist

consisted of nine authors from Belgium, Canada, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Iran, Morocco, Romania and Switzerland. The books give accounts of their different cultures, and the writing clearly transcends borders.

The Romanian writer was born in 1972. She came to France in 1996, and French is her language of choice for writing. The spellbinding atmosphere of her first novel is unforgettable, and her book draws in the reader from the very first pages.

The winner of this year's Soroptimist Prize for Novelists Writing in French is Liliana Lazar for her first book titled *Terre des affranchis*.

Photo: Jérôme Mazet

Sylvie Bernard, Club Grenoble

Danes visit Chernivtsi

SUPPORT FOR NEW FAMILY FOUNDATION

Nine Danish Soroptimists from Club Grenaa accompanied by seven 'Soroptimists' travelled to the Ukraine in October 2010, where they were warmly welcomed by the Soroptimists of Club Chernivtsi, their new Friendship Link. The hosts opened their homes and hearts to the guests, who brought with € 3,000 from Region 2 in Denmark and their Club. The financial support will go to the project 'New Family Foundation' in Chernivtsi. All donations were received with deep gratitude and appreciation. The New Family Foundation supports drug abusers, prostitutes and HIV-infected women and children. The adults are supported with information and health care to help them become 'clean'. The children receive practical help like schoolbooks, food, plain human warmth, and information on how they can take care of their own health and future.

Besides visiting the local project, the Danes enjoyed guided tours to historical and cultural places in the Ukraine. Gifts were exchanged, and cultural differences and likenesses discussed over good meals, featuring song and dance performances. New bonds were established during the visit, promising a bright future for Friendship Link between the two clubs in Denmark and Ukraine.

Birgit Aarsnes, Club Grenaa

The Danish guests enjoyed warm hospitality and typical Ukrainian entertainment during their visit to Chernivtsi.



10th anniversary Club Lviv

CELEBRATING REMARKABLE WORK



The Swiss Union funded the installation of sanitary facilities at the children's hospital in Brukhovychy, while Club Peine financed the renovation of one of the wards.

Photos: Swiss Union
President Ursula Jutzi-Isler

Club Lviv in the Ukraine invited Soroptimists from all over Europe to join them in celebrating their 10th anniversary. Fifteen clubs from Denmark, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Ukraine and Germany travelled to Lviv to join the party. Participants also included SI President Hanne Jensbo and Sina Stifter, President of the Swiss Union 2006-2008.

This special event gave everyone the opportunity to honour the numerous projects realised in and around Lviv. Included in the programme was a visit to the children's hospital in Brukhovychy. The restoration of the buildings was made possible thanks to the huge commitment of Swiss Soroptimists, who funded the installation of new pipes and sanitary facilities. With the financial help from Club Peine in Germany a whole hospital ward was overhauled. Floors were redone, walls painted and new furniture provided.

Visitors also inspected the project of Luxembourg and Denmark in the perinatal centre near Lviv, where rooms had been renovated and bathroom facilities added. As we toured the facility we were amazed by the work had carried out with SI support. In contrast, the non-renovated hospital

area was uninviting and definitely not conducive to improving health.

The 'Let Children Smile' project initiated by the Peine Club eight years ago was shown to all the visitors as well. Although many young people's teeth had been seriously affected by fluorosis, these children – primarily girls – are now eager to show off their healthy, clean teeth. The dramatic improvements made by Nina Smoljar, a Soroptimist and professor at Lviv Medical Hospital, and her colleagues are truly impressive. Dr Smoljar even trained other dentists to help treat these children. Thanks to donations of numerous SI clubs, some 450 children have since received free dental treatment.

For its 10 years, Club Lviv has achieved the extraordinary – also with the help of the Soroptimist network. Many congratulations!

Marita Draheim, Club Peine

No celebration would be complete without the Soroptimist song.



Bacchetti plays for Haiti

A FAIRY TALE THAT BEGAN IN LUCHON

Sunday afternoon, 26th September, was a very special moment at the Théâtre du Casino. Club Luchon Comminges invited the Italian virtuoso Andrea Bacchetti to give a recital for the benefit of young victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The money

raised will help fund the renovation of a school, which Club Port-au-Prince is coordinating.

A large audience, including Mayor of Luchon Louis Ferre, attended the event. And the recital brought the house down! Andrea Bacchetti was delighted to be back in Luchon. The relationship between the musician and Luchon is like something out of a fairy tale. Years ago, the owners of the 'Les Oréades' Gallery in Luchon, pianist and conductor Edmond Rosenfeld and his wife Isabelle Aboulker-Rosenfeld, composer and professor at the Conservatoire National de Musique de Paris, were staying in a hotel in Genoa, when they heard a little boy playing the grand piano with extraordinary prowess. They



Club President Andréa Baudrand thanks Andrea Bacchetti for the concert and his generosity in support of Haiti.

learned that as the boy had been given permission to practise at the hotel. They were so moved by his talent and circumstances that they contacted his parents and invited them to visit their home in Cazaril, a small village north of Luchon, so that the young Andrea could work at his music.

As soon as they returned home, they asked Luchon's mayor at the time, Jean Peyrafitte, if they could organise a concert so that Andrea could buy a piano. That was 1986! Bacchetti has since become an international concert pianist, but he has never forgotten Luchon, and Luchon has not forgotten him!

With this wonderful event, Club Luchon Comminges has further enhanced its image in the spa town and also raised a significant sum to help children who were victims of the disaster in Haiti.

The economic situation in Moldova is quite miserable, and the country suffers from high unemployment rates. Young people try their luck abroad, often leaving behind vulnerable children and the elderly.

After one year of fundraising and thanks to all the generous donations, in October 2010 Club Vaduz presented a cheque of € 30,000 to Angela King, who oversees the projects supported in Moldova. This amount was collected from several activities, including the yearly Christmas market and the SI/E Golf Competition.

Club Vaduz raised the funds to enlarge and run a soup kitchen in Cosauti, a village in the north of the country. In Moldova 40 soup kitchens help 5000 elderly and people in need with one warm meal a day. A single soup kitchen can serve up to 100 people. Padre Sporschill initiated this Concordia project. He also campaigns for children in need. In fact, it is the children who drew the attention of Concordia's mostly female staff to the desperate situation of many elderly people. The children themselves help distribute the food to the homes of the elderly.

Monika Studer, founding President of Club Vaduz, and her husband Alfred are both dedicated to this good cause and organised a wonderful party to express the Club's gratitude to the various sponsors. A quintet from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra played for the guests. Angela King, who has lived in Moldova for more than six years, talked about the desolate conditions of the elderly, especially in rural areas. Soup kitchens not only provide a warm meal and a place where people can meet, but also raise hope for a better future.

Christine Pucher, President of Club Vaduz



Club Vaduz and guests present Angela King with a cheque in support of a soup kitchen in Moldova.

€ 30,000 from Club Vaduz

SUPPORT FOR
SOUP KITCHEN
IN MOLDOVA

Four Federations represented

CELEBRATIONS MONGOLIAN STYLE

Club Darkhan prepared a traditional Mongolian meal for guests in this decorated yurt.

Soroptimists from all four Federations travelled to Mongolia to join Club Ulaanbaatar (UB) and Club Darkhan in celebrating their 10th and 5th anniversaries, respectively, in August 2010.

The trip began with a visit to UB where we enjoyed a wonderful evening with traditional music, photo presentation about the club history and a report about their projects. There was also an exhibition of paintings by Soroptimist artist Togs-

oyun. Yvonne Simpson, President of the SISWP congratulated their successes. Soroptimists from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Scotland, Sweden, Finland and Germany followed Yvonne. Germany was represented by Clubs Berlin, Gießen, Kiel, Konstanz and Lübeck. Club Konstanz, which has a Friendship Link with Club UB, had sent medical instruments for a children hospital. Clubs Lübeck and Passau supported UB Club's 'Parenthouse' project with € 2125.

Club Darkhan rented a tourist camp in the north of UB and welcomed us in a decorated yurt. They prepared a Mongolian meal traditionally offered at New Year or other important celebrations.

Both clubs are realising fascinating projects. Club UB buys sheep and goats for poor families in the Mogod area. The animals stay for two years and are then given to another family in need. This takes place at the town hall of Mogod with the support of the district governor.

Since 2005 Club UB has supported the Parenthouse situated near the children hospital. Parents of children suffering leukaemia from the country or other towns are offered accommodation

while their children are treated. Soroptimist and physician Chimgee, who went to Germany to learn about a special treatment, reported that child mortality rates from leukaemia have since decreased by 50 percent.

A third project involves replanting fir trees in the south of Ulaanbaatar.

In their projects Club Darkhan offers a home to mothers without a husband to stay as long as they are unable to earn their own livelihood. Here they learn how to cultivate vegetables and fruits to feed their families and earn a living.

Before and after the celebrations several wonderful trips were offered to visit the Gobi, the birthplace of Genghis Khan, Karakorum or the Mogod area. It was indeed a fantastic event. Thank you to the Clubs Ulaanbaatar and Darkhan!

Annemarie Czieslik, Club Lübeck-Bad Schwartau

A Rose Ball in Forchheim

SERVICE CLUBS JOIN FORCES

It started in a classical way – with people meeting at a party contemplating a joint effort in order to support a bigger project in the community. That's how the 'Rose Ball' of the three service clubs in Forchheim came about. And the premiere was a smashing success, which raised € 15,000.

The first meeting of representatives of the Forchheim Lions, Rotary and Soroptimists Clubs took place in early summer of 2009. The amicable get-together convinced the participants that a joint project would be beneficial to get to know each



Klaus Karl-Kraus auctions another piece of art with his assistants, Club Forchheim-Kaiserpfalz President Natasha Pohl and Baerbel Flessa.

To help them earn their own income Club Ulaanbaatar buys sheep and goats for needy families in the Mogod area.

Ulaanbaatar/Darkhan

other better and to support the project: a nifty wooden indoor climbing construction for the children of a new daycare center.

After the first official meeting, project groups for finances, entertainment, food and beverage and PR were established with specialist delegates from each service club. Since the event was planned for June 2010, we coined the name 'Rose Ball'. Contacts and creativity times three resulted in super ideas, especially regarding the question: how to raise the money? The winning idea was to ask local artists to donate one of their works for auctioning. No problem at all as it turned out, since all of the well-known local artists came forward with works ranging from pastel watercolours to bold abstract works in acrylic colours.

On warm June day, about 230 guests arrived at 'Schloss Thurn', an old castle that added to the festive ambience. Everyone enjoyed the food and entertainment and, happily, the local comedian Klaus Karl-Kraus auctioned off all eight of the paintings, including a wonderful faience by our Soroptimist sister Sigrid Frey. She had also created – and donated – ceramic white rosebuds for the table decorations and as souvenirs.

After the auction, and the mandatory fireworks for a summer ball, dancing continued until the early hours. At the follow-up meeting and handing over of the cheque, the presidents decided that the 'Rose Ball' of the Forchheim service clubs will be repeated in 2011!

Angelika Franzen, SI Forchheim-Kaiserpfalz

Club Katowice-Nike

PROMOTING A TALENTED ARTIST

Chartered in 2003, the Polish Club Katowice-Nike now has 25 active members. Among us are eminent women of different professions, including physicians, a journalist and film producer, an academic lecturer, a lawyer specialised in international agreements, an opera singer, a pianist and a violin-



ist. But here we would like to honour Anna Kulpinska, a young and highly gifted painter who has already had many artistic achievements, including exhibits in Milan, Berlin and Paris as well as in several galleries in Poland. Anna graduated from the Art Academy (ASP) in Krakow and also studied graphic art at the art academy in Katowice.

This year our Club arranged an exhibition for Anna Kulpinska in the gallery of Polish Radio in Katowice, where such celebrities as Jerzy Duda-Gracz, Urszula Broll, Witold Palka and Henryk Waniek have also exhibited. Anna presented 20 paintings from her series titled 'Kosmocje'. Shown on canvas up to two metres high and displaying a technique not dissimilar to street art or graffiti, the paintings border between realism and abstraction. Well-known art connoisseur Maciej Szczawinski opened the exhibition, commenting on the sophisticated structure of her art, their decoration element, unusual colouring and rare painting technique. Anna is certainly a rising star in the art scene, and we intend to help her with shows in Warsaw and Gdansk.

Besides promoting our own talented members, Club Katowice-Nike is also engaged in a wide range of charitable activities, such as supporting the Association of Friends for Orphaned Children 'Kropelka' in Katowice, where our Club President Róża-Maria Cwiek is a volunteer. Our members are also committed to environmental protection and have participated in ecological projects organised by the EU. Some also volunteer to work in animal shelters.

Club Katowice-Nike

Soroptimist Anna Kulpinska's paintings show a sophisticated structure and vibrant colours.

Art expert Maciej Szczawinski praised Anna's technique at the vernissage in Katowice.



SOROPTIMISTS EUROPE INTERNATIONAL

12th March 2011

Pafos (Cyprus)

Charter to be presented by
SI/E President Eliane Lagasse

Club President

Athina Florakis

24 Kavalas Str.

CY - 8027 Pafos

Phone: +357 997 880 08

E-mail: info@cflaw.com.cy

12th March 2011

Odder (Denmark)

Charter to be presented by

Past Governor, Union of

Lithuania, Aurelija Vaitkuvienė

Club President

Mette Tobiassen

Vesterled 45

DK - 8300 Odder

Phone: +45 865 475 22

E-mail: mto@dadlnet.dk

14th May 2011

Warstein-Möhnetal (Germany)

Charter to be presented by

Governor, Union of Austria

Helga Papst

Club President

Susanne Kemker

Erlenweg 45

DE - 59581 Warstein

Phone: +49 2925-2821

E-mail: susanne.kemker@

t-online.de

1st December 2010

25th Anniversary

Club Saint Denis de la

Réunion (France)

7th December 2010

25th Anniversary

Club Antsirabe (Madagascar)

17th February 2011

50th Anniversary

Club Umea (Sweden)

22nd May 2011

International Peace Marathon

Kigali (Rwanda)

28th-29th May 2011

Governors' Meeting

Palermo (Italy)

31st May 2011

25th Anniversary

Club Villach (Austria)

3rd-5th June 2011

50th Anniversary

Club Brescia (Italy)

17th-19th June 2011

50th Anniversary

Club Asti (Italy)

10th-14th July 2011

19th SI Convention

Montreal (Canada)

12th-14th July 2013

SI/E Congress

Berlin (Germany)

10th December

Human Rights Day

(celebrated by Soroptimists
worldwide)

8th March

International Women's Day

22nd March

World Water Day

5th June

World Environment Day

NEW SI/E CLUBS
TO BE
CHARTERED

INTERNATIONAL
AWARENESS DAYS
AND EVENTS

FORTHCOMING
EVENTS FOR SI/E

✓ Please send the Editor your
contributions to the March issue
of The Link by 31st January 2011!