



The Link

A global voice for women

2/2010-2011 N° 221



*Helping Cope with Disaster
Projects Support Victims
in Hungary and Haiti*

*Soroptimist Project Matching
The Solution for Projects
That Need Funding*

*SI/E Headquarters in Geneva
The Team Serving the
Board and SI/E Members*

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 58 countries.

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

Cover page



The Link
SIE President Eliane and SIE HQ Programme Executive Suba were moved and inspired by the education projects for girls in Timbuktu, Mali.
Photo: Suba Parthiban

Note from the Editor

A SOURCE OF PRIDE – AND HOPE

Many of us have experienced similar situations. You're at a dinner party or talking to colleagues, and somehow the subject turns to Soroptimist. Perhaps they noticed your pin or you mentioned a project your club is working on. Sadly, people often don't have a clue about our organisation so you start to describe Soroptimist. 'Well, it's an organisation of professional and business women working to improve the lives of women and girls.' And how? 'Where should I begin!' Projects to provide water and secure better hygiene, the mentoring programme to help young women in their careers, lobbying at the UN to support women's issues, building schools to promote education, funding training to assure women a livelihood, expanding bonds of friendship beyond cultures and nationalities, offering aid in the wake of natural disasters, and the list goes on and on. We never have to be at a loss for words in describing what it means to be

a Soroptimist. SI is a source of pride – and a source of hope. And I know it so well because I have the pleasure and honour of putting together your magazine every quarter, which celebrates the solidarity, diversity and success of Soroptimist work throughout our Federation.

This issue offers many examples of how we can and do make a difference in the world. And the generosity of Soroptimists knows no bounds. The disasters in Haiti and Hungary prompted members around the globe to show their support – spontaneously and with complete trust that their donations would be put to good use. And the trials and tribulations of everyday life for women and girls also inspire generosity, as evidenced by our many biennium and education projects. This is what we should remember when asked what is Soroptimist – and then hand over a copy of *The Link!*

Christine Cromwell-Ahrens, Editor, The Link

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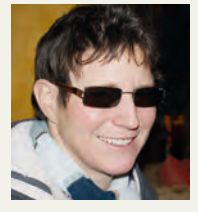
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The Link 2/2010-2011, N° 221. Quarterly magazine of Soroptimist International of Europe, published in English and French
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 Subscription forms are available on the SI/E website www.soroptimisteurope.org or from headquarters siehq@soroptimisteurope.org. A reminder to subscribers (individuals or clubs): any change of address should be communicated to SI/E headquarters in Geneva (72, route de Florissant, CH-1206 Geneva, Fax +41 22 789 04 43). If undelivered magazines are returned because of an incorrect address, we cannot assume responsibility for re-sending.
 Subscription rates (four issues per Soroptimist year starting December to September): Club bulk subscription (minimum five) €10.00 per subscription per language. Individual subscription per language € 12.50 (for airmail please add € 5.50 per subscription).



Dear Soroptimist Friends

The last weeks have been very busy, but in a positive way

because most of the work was dedicated to the core business of Soroptimist: projects and programme.

First I had the pleasure to visit Mali and Togo, two of our African countries, where I was to find out about their projects first hand. Our SI/E HQ Programme Executive Suba Parthiban joined me to see in person the many African projects she helps manage from HQ in Geneva. As you will read in her reports in this issue and the next, she learned a lot, enjoyed herself, made many new friends and, most importantly, discovered opportunities for new projects.

I too enjoyed the visit because I could go to several villages to inaugurate wells, schools and health centres. Each time I was impressed by the village women who took on the responsibility of establishing the well as a sustainable water distribution system. They are leaders in their community and outspoken in their wish to make life easier and better for the local women.



SI/E President Eliane Lagasse addressed the village of Soukoulabougou and her message was broadcast on Malian TV. With support from Club Bamako Espoir and Swiss Soroptimists, girls at the Centre Vicenta Maria receive lessons in tailoring.

Understanding the importance of education

All the villagers were proud to show us their schools even if it was only a crumbling mud building with no school furniture except for an old blackboard. Parents and children understand

the importance of education, and I was happy to see that half of the pupils were girls.

In Bamako I had the opportunity to talk to some of the young women who are supported in their university studies by the local Soroptimists. In spite of many difficulties they are very motivated and determined to obtain a diploma and start a professional career.

In February I first attended the SI Officers Meeting in Pennsylvania and then the CSW in New York. The themes of leadership and education dominated the discussions of both occasions.

SI meetings can be difficult because you must deal with differing opinions and step out of your comfort zone. It requires courage to make some hard decisions, to come to consensus and still have a clear vision of what is important. It is the kind of leadership you learn by taking up responsibilities and facing new challenges.

Soroptimist plays a prominent role at the CSW

The theme of the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was 'Access to and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work'. SI was well represented and with our 28 delegates and our excellent projects in education and mentoring. We also played a prominent role in discussions and interventions. SI/E's role at such meetings can only be enhanced by our new special consultative status.

Our collaboration with the WAGGGs at the CSW session was a success and the two interesting workshops made it clear that we are driven by the same mission to promote education and leadership for women and girls. Some of those young women were amazing and proved to be true leaders – of today as well as of tomorrow.

For me the most impressive part of the first week was the launch of UN Women and the stimulating speeches of Executive Director of UN Women Michelle Bachelet. She is an inspiration for all women and with her at the helm of the new UN entity all of us who participated feel confident that it will be successful.

The red thread during my hectic weeks is clearly education and leadership for women and girls, the theme that the members of SI have chosen for our Long Term Project. And to prove its importance I would like to end with a quote from UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon:

Where women are educated and empowered, economics are more productive and strong; where women are fully represented, societies are more peaceful and stable.

In friendship



RELIEF AFTER DISASTER IN HUNGARY

From left: Club Budapest member Katalin, Club President Erzsébet and SI/E HQ Programme Executive Suba met with the mayors of the affected villages to discuss the project.

The red toxic sludge spill has left ghost towns in its wake.

Disaster struck Hungary in October 2010, when red toxic sludge from an industrial site destroyed several villages, leaving people homeless, in psychological shock and unsafe. Members of Club Budapest have since been actively working to help the victims and plan to help build a kindergarten.

So far we have raised a significant amount of money from Soroptimist donations – mostly from Europe but also from some US clubs. We are most grateful for this immediate help!

Early January together with SI/E HQ Programme Executive Suba Parthiban, who was in Budapest for a training seminar, Club Budapest President Erzsébet Varsányi and I, as Coordinator for International Goodwill and Understanding, visited the sites of the red toxic spill in Devecser and Kolontár. We also met the two mayors of the villages most affected, Tamás Toldi and Károly Tili.

The mayors' account of the tragedy was deeply moving. Most of the 10 victims of the toxic sludge were elderly. They heard young women saying goodbye to family on mobile phones because they thought they would not survive. They saw old people struggling with infant grandchildren in their arms. 840 people were taken to hospital. Thousands of families, many of whom had lost their homes, were affected during the winter.

The factory in Ajka that caused the disaster directly provides work to some 1,000 people and an existence to their families; in total 6,000 people are affected. Most of these people still want to stay in this region because it is their home. Therefore it is essential to recreate a safe environment for and with them both existentially, as well as emotionally.

Devceser and Kolontár are located in the hills, which is why parts of these villages were totally

wasted when the sludge streamed down, while others remained untouched. The areas affected by the toxic sludge are now completely abandoned. With no more people, animals or plants, they are like ghost towns. The local county council is in the process of providing victims with new houses on an environmentally secure estate. Trees will be planted in the polluted area in order to support the natural revitalisation process.

After evaluating a number of options of how we can focus support on women and children in the revitalisation process, we decided to contribute to building a new kindergarten in Kolontár. One of our club members, who has been running a kindergarten in Budapest for more than 10 years, has the necessary experience. This will enable us to contribute financially, as well as with know-how. Once the facility is functioning, we intend to invite paediatricians, psychologists, dermatologists etc. for weekend meetings with parents to create more awareness about the possible effects of this toxic exposure on children. It is important to prevent and treat any repercussions quickly. Experts will also be invited to workshops for medical physicians to discuss the latest international best practices.

Among others things, we plan to combine our project with actions like giving special Christmas presents, such as educational toys to the children at the kindergarten. Not only will they provide skills, but also bring more joy and health into their lives.

We are very proud to be a part of Soroptimist International, whose members have been so willing to help Hungarian people in need.

Katalin Juhas on behalf of President Erzsébet Varsányi, Club Budapest



HELPING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

In the year since the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the SI/E fund with donations from all over the world, its Unions and Clubs as well as SIA have financed projects in and around Port-au-Prince totalling more than US\$ 130,000.

The orphanage Notre Dame des Victoires in Port-au-Prince is home to about 30 children and babies. Managed by Sister Véronique and four young women, the three-room orphanage survived the earthquake seriously damaged. The children of the Music School of Werdenberg, Switzerland, with their teacher Gerhard Wildener raised funds through concerts to redo the orphanage floors. Left over money and a donation from Club Bad Ragaz will be spent on healthier food for the children.

With the outbreak of cholera in Haiti, members of Club Port-au-Prince immediately went to Carries, near Saint-Marc, where the disease had started, to inform the population about contamination and prevention. They also brought drinking water and medical kits for 65 families.

The earthquake heavily hit General Hospital in Port-au-Prince (HUEH) with its important paediatric ward. The main building is virtually uninhabitable. Nevertheless, some 1,200 children were born here between October and December 2010. Many of the mothers living in surrounding camps come to the hospital to give birth to their children. 'Blankets and nappies for newborn babies' is a first-aid project aimed at these poor women. The 230 medical kits assembled and distributed by Club Port-au-Prince contain everything necessary for a newborn baby. The initial project was sponsored by a generous donation from SIA, and Christoph von Toggenburg and his Bike for Help Foundation helped with a second donation.

With the hospital itself so devastated, many babies and children have to be treated in a nearby field hospital or in huts. The paediatric service treats 150 children per week coming from surrounding camps. Dr. Jessie Colimon Adrien is still the medical director of the clinic. SI/E already helped her back in 2005, when revolutionary groups ravaged the hospital. But this time, the need is truly enormous because the hospital has mostly run out of the necessary medical supplies. SI/E continues to finance a whole range of equipment for this hospital.

Roswitha Ott, SI/E Project Manager Africa and the Caribbean

Thanks to all the generous donations, mothers from the makeshift camps have received medical kits and diapers for their newborn babies.

Members of Club Port-au-Prince distributed Christmas gifts to the children in an orphanage.





Soroptimist Project Matching

GOT PROJECTS, NEED FUNDING!

Raising awareness of the importance of education for girls is one of our SI's priorities and the focus of Club Nakuru's project.

SI/E and SIA collaborated last year to launch Soroptimist Project Matching and its corresponding website: www.soroptimistprojects.org/. Currently, there are 13 projects listed that require funding, but we encourage you to look at the site regularly because the content is constantly updated.

The Soroptimist Project Matching website works like a market. Let's say your club has an idea for a concrete project, but not enough money to fund it completely. With Project Matching, you can now present it on the special website with the aim to secure help from other clubs in the two largest Federations of SI. Alternatively, if your club has funds but perhaps not enough to finance an entire project, you can select a project from the website to co-fund.

One recent example of how this works is the RW0001 project for the construction of water tanks to collect rainwater and to promote environmental protection for women-headed households in Rwanda, which required over € 10,000 funding. The Danish Union donated € 3,400, which enabled the Rwandan Union to implement the first stage of the project. In the meantime, Spanish clubs have contributed another € 2,000. So, half of the finances are already in place for successful realisation!

Soroptimist projects help curb the number of girls dropping out of secondary school.



Some Soroptimists may have the impression that Project Matching involves a lot of bureaucratic work, but this is not true. The procedure is highly professional with the intention to initiate direct matches, club to club. The SI/E and SIA Federation Headquarters will ensure that the projects are viable and funds are transferred securely. Impact reports will provide the relevant documentation.

Below are four of the 13 projects currently presented on the Soroptimist Project Matching site:

1 KE0002 – Education, Training and Empowerment of Girls

Club Nakuru aims to raise awareness about the importance of girls' education, to inform rural girls about their social, economical, political and cultural rights, and to fight the discrimination they face in their daily lives. The project will help curb the number of girls leaving secondary education through training programmes, mentoring and awareness creation. It is targeting 60 young girls from secondary school, as well as community leaders, female teachers and other community members. Funding needed: € 3195

2 NG0001 – Mills for women's group

Club Ténére Niamey in Niger intends to build a mill for the women in the village to improve their lives by easing their domestic work. The project will fund the purchase of the mill and its motor, will oversee its installation, and ensure the training of the women for its future management. There are two women's groups in the area that are the first to be victims in case of food shortage as they are often alone in dealing with the burden of maintaining their households for their children and supplying food and water. The women's groups will be in charge of its management. Funding needed: € 2744

3 RW0001 – Construction of water tanks to collect rainwater

This is the project mentioned above. In Rwanda the numerous women who head households in the district of Ngoma live in poverty and have limited access to safe water supply. To overcome this, the goal of the Rwandan Union's project is to supply infrastructure for rainwater collection to 20 women-headed households. This will enable girls in these families to attend school instead of walking miles to fetch water and will also protect the environment by reducing soil erosion (resulting from heavy rain seasons, poor agricultural practices and lack of rainwater harvesting). Funds already received: € 5400. Funding now needed: € 5168

4 SG0001 – Training of women farmers

To improve the economic situation of 20 women in Ziguinchor, in Senegal, this project will train them in the preservation of fruits and vegetables for later commercialisation. It aims to help women who have been displaced by war. Small and medium enterprises make up most of the economy in Senegal, hence this project will also train them to start small businesses. Since posting this project, Club Zwolle in the Netherlands has volunteered to fund the full cost of € 2000.

↓ Market gardening is a way for women to feed their families, but also earn money as a livelihood.

freed from the task of fetching water, but also protects the environment.

↓↓ Rainwater harvesting not only conserves water and allows women to be

Even a relatively primitive mill like this one can help women maintain their households.



To obtain more information about these projects or to assist in funding them, please email suba@soroptimisteurope.org.

Suba Parthiban, SI/E HQ Programme Executive

When SI/E Executive Director Jenifer Beles was hired in 2008, SI/E HQ employed one full-time and four hourly and part-time staff members. To meet the challenges of today's heavier workload, there are now four departments at SI/E HQ with seven employees: three full-time, three part-time and one hourly employee, all dedicated to providing the very best service to members. In the following article, Jenifer explains the responsibilities of her staff.



Many of you are no doubt familiar with our full-time Programme Executive **Suba Parthiban** and the fabulous effort she puts into all programme-related issues. The Programme Department was created three years ago to better manage the core Soroptimist business: programme/projects. Because of the enormity of this department's daily requirements, we recognised the need to hire a part-time Programme Executive Assistant, **Héloïse Roman**. Besides supporting programme work, she also assists the financial department with research and dissemination of reports and helps in coordinating GM reports. Héloïse organises preparations for the Enlarged and Restricted Board Meetings and manages the collection and analysis of Action Fund applications.

Fund applications.

Livia Boscardin, who is a Masters student studying Women's Issues at the University of Geneva, was hired on an hourly contract to strengthen the Programme Department. Livia's primary function is to read, analyse and synthesise the Programme Focus Reports. For this, she reads over 50 PFRs a day. The Programme Department also supports the SI/E



BOARD AND SI/E MEMBERS

Programme and Assistant Programme Directors. Suba is on the SI Programme Team, which, for example, involves producing the Programme Newsletter and the brochure on the Best Practice winners. In addition, she writes the Programme Activity Reports for SI/E and SI Board Meetings. Suba provides



invaluable assistance to the Editor of *The Link*, by regularly contributing articles on Programme subjects and projects and proofreading every issue.

Claire Govaerts is our Accounting Executive, and she works on a part-time basis. Claire's responsibilities include daily bookkeeping, coordination with local and international banks, processing of payments/donations, management of the membership fees (SI/E and SI), administration of the subscription fees for *The Link*, organisation of the GM finances at HQ and on-site for the members, fund investment recommendations, SI/E HQ human resources management (salaries, pension funds, insurance) and the research needed to insure proper budgetary implications for the Federation. Claire supports both the SI/E Treasurer and the SI/E Financial Controller.

Our Logistics Department is solely managed by **Sylvaine Pietroff**, who also works on a part-time basis. Sylvaine reviews and expedites all inauguration/charter information to the respective members, handles SI/E HQ suppliers, coordinates *The Link* subscriptions, uploads new members to the database and coordinates the GM logistics (nametags, meals, flags, etc.). In addition, she manages all membership queries. Sylvaine supports the SI/E Extension Chair, the Vice-Presidents as well as the Editor of *The Link*.

Full-time employee **Carinne Domingos** is in charge of the SI/E Website and Database as well as the organisation of the Governors' Meeting. With the support of the professional web company, Global Vision, she

manages the entire website, including the animations and links and answers member queries concerning the website and database. She handles Friendship Links and coordinates SI/E Board Member and HQ member travels, including visas. Carinne also assists with the personal requests of SI/E members and the Enlarged Board. More recently, Carinne updated the power point presentation for SI/E Training, which is a complimentary tool for the Training Manual.

During GM preparation, SI/E HQ receives hundreds of emails every day. Everyone does her very best to answer every email within 24 hours. However, due to the ever-increasing workload it is sometimes a struggle.

Along with all of the responsibilities listed here, one of our main priorities is to maintain and cultivate our relationship with SI/E members. We do our very best to answer your questions, and we welcome everybody



who wishes to visit our offices in Geneva.

In the next issue of *The Link*, I will explain my own responsibilities in depth.



Jenifer Beles,
SI/E HQ Executive Director

In memory of Sadun Katipoğlu

A SOROPTIMIST ROLE MODEL



The Turkish Union deeply mourns the loss of its beloved 'Honorary President' Sadun Katipoğlu who passed away on 1st January 2011. She is survived by her two grandchildren, Can and Aylin Katipoğlu. Her funeral and the following memorial service were attended by several generations of Turkish Soroptimists for whom she was a role model. Sadun was a founding member of Club Boğaziçi, Turkish Union President 1974-76, SIE

First Vice President 1976-77, Chair of the SI Convention held in Istanbul in 1983, SIE President 1981-83 and SI President 1985-87.

The list of the offices she had held, although it is a clear indication of her brilliant Soroptimist career, is not sufficient to describe her as a person. First of all, President Sadun was one of the most intelligent people I have ever known; she also had wisdom, insight and a great deal of deliberative power. She could have been a first class chess player had she so chosen.

Her organisational prowess was exceptional. For many years she was the Secretary General of the Institute of Economic and Social Studies, a devoted wife and mother and, of course, a very busy Soroptimist. She combined all these duties with grace and efficiency.

I consider myself lucky to have worked closely with President Sadun on national and international levels. It was an invaluable experience to observe how a

dedicated and true Soroptimist thinks and works; you start with the local and national issues and go up to international ones and then starting from the international you go down to the Club level. President Sadun always expressed her belief that she was first and last a member of her Club.

Last but not least, the Turkish Soroptimists will always be grateful to her for showing the world what Turkish women are like and what they can achieve.

SI/E President Eliane Lagasse and Soroptimists from all over the world send their condolences to the Turkish Union in memory of former SI/E and SI President Sadun Katipoğlu.

Zeynep Davran,
Turkish Union President 1990-92

Federation statistics

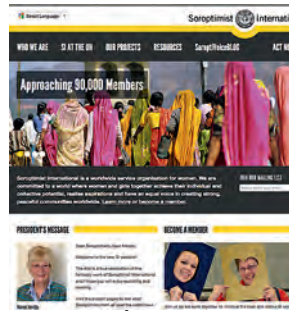
ONLY SLIGHT INCREASES FOR SI/E

The latest statistics for the period from 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010 (SIA reporting period is from 1st June to 31st May) show that while SI/E experienced a slight increase in membership (85) and clubs (10), SI as a whole has lost a total of 688 members. Thanks to SI/E, the number of clubs has remained more or less constant. The club numbers compared with 2008 indicate that SI/E is the only Federation seeing constant growth, albeit modest. But with so many clubs having 18 or fewer members, this may change.

Obviously, these statistics do not reveal how much the loss is affected by deaths, but the trend is nonetheless alarming. If we do not do more for Extension and Retention, the vitality of our organisation is at risk. In this connection, please see the article on the questionnaire for members who resign on page 16.

| | Members | | | Clubs | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| SIA | 38,441 | 39,055 | 40,259 | 1,409 | 1,415 | 1,433 |
| SI/E | 35,146 | 35,061 | 34,906 | 1,254 | 1,244 | 1,231 |
| SIGBI | 9,987 | 10,140 | 10,365 | 358 | 360 | 361 |
| SISWP | 2,589 | 2,595 | 2,541 | 138 | 139 | 139 |
| Total | 86,163 | 86,851 | 88,071 | 3,159 | 3,158 | 3,164 |

This graph shows the statistics on membership and club numbers by Federation from 2008 to 2010.



New SI website

EYE-CATCHING AND INFORMATIVE

One of the objectives of the SI Strategic Plan was to modernise the website. In February SI Headquarters in Cambridge launched the new website with a completely revised navigation system and layout. At the click of a mouse, readers can access the latest news and an events diary, as well as in-depth information on our work at the UN and our projects. Under 'Who We Are' the Vision, Mission, Values and Goals of our organisation are clearly defined. The Community section takes you to all the various social networks in which we are involved and have a voice.

With SoroptiVoiceBLOG various officers and members are provided with a forum to raise important issues and publish reports.

As SI President Hanne Jensbo says in her message, 'The site is a true celebration of the fantastic work of Soroptimist International.' Take a look at the new website at www.soroptimistinternational.org



The International Soroptimist

LATEST ISSUE OF TIS NOW LIVE

The next issue of TIS will be live on the SI website 15th March. The theme for this issue is Friendship, and we will be hearing from members across the globe who have found that Friendship Links inspire activities and develop a greater understanding of the lives of our sisters in other countries and continents. We will also report on Soroptimists in action during the natural disasters that have befallen the world in recent months as well as on the 55th CSW Session in New York. In addition, we will look forward to the SI Convention to be held in Montreal in July.

SI/E President Eliane Lagasse and Austrian Union President Gertraud Pichler inaugurate a well in N'Tangala.



Biennium projects in Mali

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

On their recent trip to West Africa, SI/E President Eliane Lagasse and SI/E HQ Programme Executive Suba Parthiban visited many impressive projects in Mali at the grass-roots level. They were amazed by the incredible results and the Soroptimists' tireless efforts in realising biennium projects. Here is Suba's report:

We first visited Club Bamako Lumière's long-term projects in the rural village of Difémou, which have resulted in a maternity ward, latrines for the school, a well and a multifunctional mill. To address the hygiene problem at the Difémou school, reduce illnesses amongst pupils, improve study conditions, and avoid girls dropping out of school at the onset of their first menstruations, SI club Bamako Lumière built four latrines (two each for boys and girls) to have a proper sanitary system. Before this project came about, the pupils were forced to relieve themselves behind the classrooms and in the bushes. Thanks to these latrines, 202 students have access to clean sanitation which in turn has a positive impact on the whole village's population. SI/E President Eliane suggested using cartoons on the walls of the toilets to educate about

hygiene and develop their understanding of safe, secure and healthy environment.

The women of Difémou have taken an active part in the projects, playing important roles in negotiations and maintenance. Moreover, the focus on women as an approach was explained to men in Difémou in order to increasingly involve women in development of projects as well as in the decision-making processes of the village.

After a meeting with the Minister of Social Development, SI/E President Eliane inaugurated three wells in the villages of N'Tangala, Kouloulabougou, and Moutougoulabougou and a mill in the village Soukoulabougou. Austrian Union President Gertraud Pichler also joined the celebrations. These projects were implemented under the leadership of Club Bamako Espoir. We were overwhelmed by the local population's warm welcome, and the event, including an interview with SI/E President Eliane, was featured in Malian National TV.

A crucial shortage of drinking water in these villages is the cause of many infectious diseases, such as typhoid fever, cholera and diarrhoea. To fetch drinking water, young girls from N'Tangala, for instance, were obliged to walk 4 km to a neigh-

bouring village after school. Thanks to the well in the village, girls can use their time to develop themselves. This project was financed by Club Düsseldorf-Pempelfort and Club Bamako Espoir.

A detailed report on the extremely successfully projects in Koriomé, implemented by Club Alliance Tombouctou, appeared in the last issue of *The Link*. This ambitious campaign to improve the water and sanitation situation as well as to raise awareness of hygiene is still ongoing.

In the village of Toya, situated 20 km from Timbuktu, there was only one well for a population of 16,000, and the river Niger is hopelessly polluted. SI Alliance Tombouctou, in partnership with local NGOs, installed a new well and trained the local population in the management of public goods. It will also be responsible for the monitoring and the

For six years now Club Rapperswil member Patricia Wenk has been helping the Tuareg nomads in the Taderass region of Niger in West Africa (see also *The Link* 1/2008-2009). Her projects have included renovating or constructing wells that provide drinking water, organising an elementary school, educating women, granting small loans for businesses runs by women and operating a mobile infirmary.

Since her efforts are in line with the SI/E biennium theme, Club Rapperswil decided to organise a charity concert to raise funds for the construction of a well on the grounds of an elementary school. We quickly collected enough donations to cover the costs of the concert.

For the actual concert in November 2010, we were able to enlist the Camerata Schweiz under the direction of Giovanni Bria. It was our deliberate intention to engage young women as soloists, and they were Corinne Sonderegger (oboe), Alexandra Jud (piano) and our Club member Sarah Maeder (soprano).

Playing to a full house, the musicians enthralled their audience with an exceptional performance of three Mozart pieces. Guests included Swiss Union President Ursula Jutzi, two politicians from the Canton of St Gallen and former Swiss Federal councillor Elisabeth Kopp. The event raised donations of about 14,000 Swiss Francs that will be used for the project.

To learn more about Patricia Wenk's projects please go to www.taderass.ch.

Marianne Tomamichel, Secretary, Club Rapperswil

Soroptimists go for
water
safe water = safe life

evaluation of the project. The project is still in the process of being implemented.

The projects we saw were truly remarkable, and I would like to remind all clubs to record your achievements in reports and PFRs. We thank the respective European Soroptimists for their generous donations and to the Malian Soroptimists for their selfless hard work.

Suba Parthiban, SI/E HQ Programme Executive

Charity Concert in Rapperswil

RAISING MONEY FOR A WELL IN NIGER



Club Rapperswil invited young soloists – Corinne Sonderegger, Sarah Maeder and Alexandra Jud – to perform with Giovanni Bria. Patricia Wenk admires one of the wells financed with the help of generous donations.

Expanding a French idea

A COCOON TO AID GROWTH



For over three years, the French Union – and especially the Marseille Club that created the concept – has funded more than 1,200 cocoons in hospitals and clinics so that premature babies can develop and grow in the same conditions as full-term babies. The clubs have invested almost € 100,000 in this project, whose handmade ‘Sorooptimist brand’ cocoons were designed by Danièle Salducci, member of the Marseille club.

The cocoons have won several awards, including prizes for innovation in Cologne and Belgium, a silver medal from *Bébé 9* and the Excellence

Prize awarded by the paediatric press. Hospitals have granted them a hygiene certification, and they won the SI/E Best Practice Award in 2009. With such a winning idea, the SI/E Board thought that clubs in other countries might be interested in investing in this worthwhile project.

There are four different sizes of cocoons, depending on the weight of the baby. They come with fitted sheets and are available from the ‘Red Castle’ company which manufactures them.

Depending on the size, the costs are from € 47.84 to € 53.82 for ‘câlins’ (the smallest cocoon), € 87.07 for N° 1 cocoons, € 85.99 for N° 2 cocoons and € 91.97 for N° 3 cocoons. For further information, please visit the French Union’s website www.sorooptimist.asso.fr.

Clubs and Unions can also contact Simone Nicoloff from the Marseille Club for more information at simone.nicoloff@sfr.fr.

Rina Dupriet, Vice President SI/E

The cocoons are made to cradle premature babies and come in different sizes.

Last Call for the 7th Peace Marathon

EXPERIENCE RWANDA !

Once again it is our Sorooptimist friends from Luxembourg and particularly Governor Guida Biewer who have been in the vanguard of organising a wonderful journey from 20th to 30th May 2011 in conjunction with the Peace Marathon (22nd May) and the Run for Children (21st May) in Kigali. The website provides all the details: www.kigalimarathon.com.

Védaste and his team will be our guides during excursions through the countryside of a thousand hills – www.mercatorassistance.rw – in Rwanda. You will meet other Sorooptimists from the Rwandan clubs and see their projects (for details please see *The Link* N° 220). And visiting our close relatives the impressive gorillas in their natural habitat is an unforgettable experience.



I hope to see you in Kigali in May either as a marathoner, a Runner for Fun or like myself a spectator with the very important task of cheering on the participants from all over the world. Guida Biewer is prepared to answer your questions and accept your registration: biewerg@pt.lu.

Kathy Kaaf, SI/E President elect 2009-2011

4th Soroptimist Charity Trophy

ENJOY A DAY OF GOLF !

Club Bellinzona e Valli invites you to participate in the 4th Soroptimist Charity Golf Trophy on Friday, 16th September 2011 at the Golf Club Ascona in Switzerland. The proceeds will be used to support the Swiss Union project Microcredit Fund Soroptimist Suisse. The programme and the application form can be accessed from the website www.soroptimist.ch/manifestations.

The day will end with an informal dinner at the Golf Club House Ascona (www.golfascona.ch).



ECOSOC

SI/E GRANTED CONSULTATIVE STATUS!

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations announced in early February that Soroptimist International of Europe was one of 24 entities to be given special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

Special status is granted in line with such criteria as the applicant's mandate, governance and financial regime. It means that SI/E can in future send its own delegates to attend ECOSOC meetings and circulate statements. We will also be obliged to submit a report every four years.

Many congratulations to SI/E HQ for this successful application, also considering the fact that a decision on more than 110 applications was postponed!

Luxembourg Soroptimist Fund

HONOURING A CRAFTSWOMAN

In the year of its 15th anniversary, the Luxembourg Soroptimist Fund, in collaboration with the Luxembourg Chamber of Trade, awarded a prize recognising the founder of a business in crafts to Josiane Jacob, a master carpenter, who started up and has since enlarged a carpentry business employing 41 people. The prize honours those who are involved in establishing or expanding a business in the crafts and comes with an endowment of € 5,000 from the Luxembourg Soroptimist Fund.

From left in the foreground : Prizewinner Josiane Jacob, President of the Luxembourg Soroptimist Fund Maggy Berckes, Minister for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses and Tourism Françoise Hetto and the Director of the Luxembourg Chamber of Trade Paul Ensch.



In recent years, losing club members has become a pressing issue in our Federation. The SI/E Board and the SI/E Extension Committee hope to find the reasons behind the loss of members in order to better cope with the problem. To determine our weaknesses and thus to prevent resignations, we need concrete information about why members are leaving. For a correct diagnosis we have to go directly to the source. Our Unions and their clubs as well as our Single Clubs have to assist in collecting the relevant data. For this purpose, the SI/E Extension Committee has

SI/E Questionnaire

WHY ARE MEMBERS LEAVING?

prepared and distributed a questionnaire to be given to members who have resigned from their clubs. We kept it as short and simple as possible so that it would not take much time or energy to fill in. With the membership of so many clubs dropping below 18 and even 15, it is of paramount importance to address this problem to secure the future of our organisation. So, please ask the members who feel they no longer want to be Soroptimists what can be done to change their minds.

*Nilgun Özler, Chair,
SI/E Extension Committee*



Proposed African Federation

IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF SOROPTIMISM

SI/E President Eliane with the Togolese Minister of Social Affairs and Soroptimists from the Ivory Coast, who were originally set to organise the General Assembly.

The 22nd General Assembly of the Proposed African Federation was held in Lomé, Togo from 3rd to 6th February 2011 with 102 Soroptimists attending from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and an observer from Liberia. It was also an opportunity for SI/E President Eliane Lagasse, Project Manager for Africa Roswitha Ott and SI/E HQ Programme Executive Suba Parthiban to gain a better understanding of African Soroptimists and the projects in their respective countries.

Highlights of the meeting included the presentation by Miss Togo 2010 of her predecessor's work in the area of water and her own theme of Girls' Education, the official opening ceremony by the Minister of Social Affairs and the installation of a new two-year interim Executive Committee selected on the basis of well-defined criteria. The preparatory meetings by the last Executive Committee bore fruit as evidenced by the fairly smooth running of the meeting and the decisions taken. For the first time, Suba offered a workshop on Programme work, which was well received. She reminded the Single Clubs that they could contact SI/E HQ directly for assistance.

In fact, Africans demonstrated their true spirit of Soroptimism in realising this meeting at all, which was supposed to have been held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. However, due to the political unrest, Togo graciously agreed to host it less than



SI/E President Eliane addresses participants of the meeting, hosted by the President of Club Lomé I, Ida Adjévi.

two months before the date. They surmounted many obstacles and their determination paid off. Our gratitude also goes to SI/E for their moral and financial support. In her words of thanks, a Nigerian Soroptimist said she was envious of the support SI/E gives to its clubs.

With regard to Extension, Nigeria has done a lot of work since the last General Assembly in Lagos. One club was chartered, and two others will be chartered in May 2011. One of the 'dying' clubs has been resuscitated, and three more clubs will hopefully be chartered before the end of the year. Benin is also hoping to charter a sixth club in 2011.

The idea behind the creation of an African Federation was born during the 1987 Congress in Athens, Greece with Gisela Freudenberg as Extension Officer for Africa, Nina Koumanakou as SI/E President and in the presence of Soroptimists from Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo. Reflections continued in Lugano, Switzerland in 1989. The subject was brought up once again at the Governors' Meeting in Hanover in 1990 during the SI/E Presidency of Gisela Freudenberg.

The assembly decided to have two meetings in 2012: one for West and Central Africa zone in Cameroon in February and a joint meeting of West, Central, East and South Africa in Nairobi in March. Ivory Coast will host the General Assembly in 2013.

We were particularly pleased with this meeting because we proved to be largely professional. Of course, there is still some room for improvement, and we hope to make even greater strides during the next meeting in Yaounde, Cameroon.

Maria Soumonni, Interim Executive Secretary of the West and Central Africa Zone, Proposed African Federation

Budapest Training Seminar

A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

Along with seven other Soroptimists from Hungary, Slovakia and Croatia, I represented Club Yerevan at a training seminar in Budapest in January, organised by SI/E headquarters for Single Clubs. The purpose of the training was to explain to new Single Club members how SI/E

works, to increase the knowledge and awareness of Soroptimism among the participants and to establish a dialogue between the various participating Clubs.

SI/E HQ Programme Executive Suba Parthiban conducted our seminar. With great enthusiasm she explained in detail the SI/E websites, programme work and projects, the Project Matching and Disaster Management programmes, Programme Focus Reports and Best Practice Awards.

She led the training very professionally and provided complete and detailed answers to our questions.

This was the first time I attended a Soroptimist Seminar and it was a very important for me as a Soroptimist from Armenia (and I am sure for



the others as well). It offered lots of takeaway value for me. I went home with many new ideas and thoughts regarding various projects, which I am going to share with the members of my Club.

Besides obtaining lots of information on the projects and programmes, I got to know seven wonderful Soroptimist sisters from around Eastern Europe. I think all the participants benefited greatly from the seminar. We not only learned more about each other but also gained a better understanding of our roles as Soroptimists.

I would like to recommend to have this training more often so that participants can share their experience with new Soroptimists and discuss issues of mutual interest.

I greatly enjoyed attending the seminar as well as my complete stay in one of the most beautiful Eastern European cities, Budapest. May I also take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the organisers.

Ashkhen Petrosyan, Club Yerevan

Participants in the training seminar in Budapest welcomed the chance to learn more about Soroptimism and meet fellow members.

CLUB PEINE AMAZED BY PROGRESS



From left: Cordula Heimburg, Jutta König, Marita Draheim, Claudia Natusch-Pleger from Club Peine were thrilled to still the positive changes.

Soroptimists from Club Peine took advantage of the stay in the Ukraine in connection with Club Lviv's 10th anniversary (see *The Link* 1/2010-2011) to visit two more projects that their club and others had funded. The first one was an orphanage in Lubinj Velikiy, which was started with their help eight years ago. The orphanage is home to some 100 children, aged 4-18, who have been seriously traumatised as orphans or street children. Many were also socially and cognitively deprived.

The classrooms and dormitories were in a deplorable condition, and the antiquated heating system did not work properly. The children had little if any school materials; books were old and torn, the furniture broken. If food was provided at all, it was mainly donated by the locals. The cook did her utmost to provide one meal daily. We were so utterly shocked by the plight of these children back then that we resolved to include the orphanage among our projects. Now, thanks to the active and close supervision of Club Lviv this emergency situation has been relieved. This project was initiated and closely monitored with great sensitivity for the children. Other clubs for example in Denmark have helped as well. All donations have directly benefited the orphanage, and every euro has been well spent.

Indeed, we were amazed by the remarkable change. The children are now in a good physical and psychological condition. Thanks to local SI presence and supervision, the city provides the orphanage with food and necessary utilities. Needless to say we are very proud of this accomplishment.

The second project was started in 2008 and involves a rural orphanage in Libschytze, 80 km from Lviv. In order to help them help themselves, we sponsored 20 beehives to produce local honey. Boys received workbenches and materials so that they could learn a trade, such as carpentry, or make small repairs. Girls were given fabric and other materials to learn how to sew. On this visit, we gave them the photos we took of them two years ago. Their grateful reaction was mirrored in the most beautiful and heartwarming smiles we have ever seen.



Marita Draheim, Club Peine

Helping Immigrants from Ethiopia

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ISRAEL

For the past eight years, members Club Nahariya, Israel have been giving of their time and experience at the Tapuz Absorption Centre to help immigrants from Ethiopia integrate into their new surroundings. This year, however, the Soroptimists had a special idea: to create a folkdance group to address the needs of the new immigrants.

The aim was to empower the women, raise their self-image, strengthen their confidence and reinforce teamwork. At the same time, we wanted to expose Israeli society to the richness of Ethiopian culture and vice-versa. Thanks to the SI/E Action Fund, this idea came to fruition. Thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity!

The project began as a course in dancing for young mothers and separately for young girls. They learned and practiced both Israeli and Ethiopian dances. A dance group was created called Olot Bamahol, whereby olot means 'newcomer' as well as 'rising' to meet a goal. With time and practice, the group began to perform at homes for the aged, in community centres, at school and at the Israeli Union's Annual Conference.

The audiences, both young and old, were delighted! 'Let us hope this blessed activity will go on also next year!' 'The bond between the dancers and the audiences made it an outstanding and magical event. Go on practicing, dancing and making people happy!' The director of the Absorption Center wrote, 'The girls of the dancing group had an outstanding experience, filling them with joy and self-confidence and making their absorption much easier!'

The members of our Club were involved in the project from the very beginning. We reassured the dancers and their coach, picked up the pieces when things went wrong and watched the group develop from one performance to the next. But most of all, we enjoyed the enthusiasm of the Soroptimists at the National Conference. The Ethiopian youngsters gained so much, but we the Israeli Soroptimists gained even more.

Hava Shurany-Feldman,
Club Nahariya and Past President Israeli Union (2008-2010)



In December 2010 IPP of the French Union Raphaëlla Mélon (centre) presented Dr Sylvie Claeysen (second from left) with a jointly funded scholarship for her research in the field of Alzheimer's disease.



French Union Project 2008-2010

CAMPAIGN AIMED AT ALZHEIMER'S

The biennium project I presented to the Clubs of the French Union in Guadeloupe in October 2008 culminated in Paris on 14th December 2010. The campaign aimed at Alzheimer's disease was divided into two parts: The first focused on 'care for carers' and involved hands-on support and donations for institutions treating Alzheimer's patients. The European Federation acknowledged our efforts, for which we raised over € 40,000, by awarding this project of the French Union with the Best Practice Award for Programme Focus Objective N° 4 in July 2010 at the Governors' Meeting in Ghent.

The second part of this campaign centred on research. The French Union contributed € 25,000 to a € 100,000 scholarship awarded to Dr Sylvie Claeysen, who is working with the CNRS-INSERM-Universities of Montpellier. On behalf of the French Union, I was extremely proud to award this prize to the winner, who has an outstanding CV. Dr Claeysen has a brilliant future ahead of her and looks set to head the laboratory. Her research is in line with our Long-Term project 'Education and Leadership for Women' and meets our Programme Focus Objectives N°4 and N°10 to support programmes and policies aimed at eliminating major diseases and to assure women's advancement, respectively.

Raphaëlla Mélon,
Immediate Past President, French Union 2008-2010

Chantal Cavin has been blind since the age of 14 and is the fastest blind swimmer in the world. Nothing stops this top Swiss athlete from achieving world records in swimming and realising her dreams. Gold medals at world championships, 50m crawl world record in Rio de Janeiro in 2009, three consecutive nominations for Swiss disabled sportswoman of the year award since 2008 are part of

Chantal trains up to 36 hours a week and jokes that she 'swims more than she walks'. Although she is aware that she needs a greater network of support mechanisms and requires more help, she does not see her disability as a hindrance. She is convinced that it is vital to 'do what makes you happy' and that's exactly the secret of her success; she is passionate about swimming.

She is an ambassador for disabled athletes. Since 2008, she and her teammates built up the Swiss association to promote integrative competitive sports top swimmers with and without disability.

Besides her commitment to sports, Chantal works for Credit Suisse, one of Switzerland's leading banks, in the Corporate Customer Care department. She vehemently opposes the discrimination against blind employees and says that more awareness should be created among employers about the technology used by visually impaired employees. She uses a Braille display for blind computer users and speech synthesisers. She also serves as her

bank's test person to assess how disabled-friendly their services are. Her enthusiasm and her motivation are incredible. Chantal is a role model to many sportswomen/men with or without disability thanks to her talent, her will, and her commitment.

There are many Chantals in this world who don't have the support they need. The aid we can provide to associations like Chantal's or to other disabled sportswomen can make a huge difference in their lives. This is an example of what we hope to achieve with the Long-Term project 'Soroptimists for Education and Leadership'.

Suba Parthiban, SI/E HQ Programme Executive



An exceptional athlete and woman: Chantal Cavin.

Chantal's ever increasing list of accomplishments. Even before the accident that left Chantal blind, she was an accomplished sportswoman. 'I always enjoyed sports,' says Chantal, who is 33 today. During her rehabilitation at a school for the blind and visually impaired, she joined the swimming group. After finishing school, she looked for potential clubs to continue her training and ended up with a swimming group for the non-disabled. Although she initially faced some difficulties with a mixed group, she and her coaches ultimately succeeded through mutual understanding. 'I can always count on my mates,' says Chantal. She has worked with the same coach since 2001.

RESEARCHING FAMILY ROOTS



One of the privileges of a Soroptimist club is to organise projects with different age groups and on various themes. Club Riga has already had a few years experience working on projects for children, and the club's latest project, called 'My Family Roots', focuses on children learning the history of their own family, including forgotten or even

unknown facts. Another aim was to draw children's attention to the values and lifestyle of their ancestors by comparing them with life today.

The competition requirements were published on our blog www.soroptimisti.blogspot.com. We also sent letters about the competition to 30 schools, inviting them to participate. After only

SUPPORT ACROSS BORDERS

While the red sludge spill received extensive media coverage, the devastating floods in Northern Hungary in 2010 were given far less international attention. As a consequence of severe weather and heavy rain in



The celebration ended with the children singing and dancing with the popular folk group Kokle.

three months, the results were more than satisfying. We received more than 50 descriptions, which were illustrated with photos, interviews or family trees. Most of the drawings included short explanation of the chosen subject.

Club members evaluated the descriptions, and art experts were asked to choose the best drawings from each age group. For the first time this year we invited Club Ogre/Kegums, the Lithuanian Union and Club Strand from Norway to choose their favourites and present prizes. Two more generous sponsors should also be mentioned Club Levanger from Norway and our local paper distributors, Antalis, without whose help our project would have been less successful.

The final event was held in January at Riga Technical University to which we invited all contestants, three of whom were only 7 years old, and their parents and teachers. After our president's introductory speech and the distribution of the prizes, the popular children's folk group Kokle performed. Ultimately, the children – and even the adults – joined the musicians in singing and dancing.

The best evaluation of the project was one boy's question before saying good-bye: 'What will be the theme of the next competition and when are you going to organise it?'

Anda Malere, Secretary, Club Riga



The children prepared descriptions of their family roots and some included illustrations.

North Hungary



Despite the heroic efforts by the community, the flood caused considerable damage

June, the rivers of Hernád, Sajó and Vadász overflowed their banks, forcing 270 people to abandon their homes. In spite of all the heroic efforts by the community, the evacuation of Ócsánalos was unavoidable. The flood and the standing water damaged and/or destroyed houses and public institutions.

Members of Club Szeged decided to raise money to help the flood victims, and our Friendship Links – Club Berne-Arcadia of Switzerland and Club Ilkley of England – generously joined this initiative. The substantial donations are covering the cost of installing the village's school. A plate will memorialise this international cooperation by the Soroptmist Clubs.

Katalin Párdutz,
President, Club Szeged, Hungary

Project of the Romanian Union

'HEARTS FOR OTHER HEARTS'

... these are not simply words; they are all about Soroptimist thoughts, feelings, action, real life and attitude. They are about women networking and showing solidarity.

Everything started at the Governors' Meeting in Ghent, Belgium, when the SI/E Board offered us support in the wake of the disastrous floods that struck the Northeast of Romania in the summer of 2010. There are no SI clubs in that part of the



With the support of the SI/E Disaster Fund, the Romanian Union was able to provide families affected by the floods with the bare necessities.

country, but there is commitment and compassion for people in distress that overcomes geographic distances. Governor Monica Scridon contacted Minodora Topala, a Moldovan member of a local NGO from the town of Botosani. Together, they set up a partnership between the Romanian Union and the association MEDO Botosani, thus launching the 'Hearts for Other Hearts' project.

The SI/E Disaster Fund donated € 3,000, which was used to cater to the basic and most urgent needs of the most affected families in the flooded area. The list of the priorities identified on the first visit to the area was altered three times. The bank transfer took longer than planned, and we had to look for the best prices for our purchases. However, despite all difficulties and delays, the project was completed successfully.

The families from the localities of Dorohoi and Hiliseu-Horia in the county of Botosani received most of the bare necessities that the angry waters

had taken from them: cookers, washing machines, refrigerators, radiators, furniture, blankets and bed-clothes, domestic supplies, winter clothes and footwear for the children. We thank the local MEDO volunteers for all their effort in helping us with this humanitarian project.

Of course, many needs still must be satisfied. People cannot get over such dramatic losses so easily and so soon. And yet, the timid smiles and the tears of joy on their faces told us that our gesture brought comfort to their sorrowful hearts. The project banners bearing the SI logo are kept in their houses as a reminder of our solidarity, respect and honour.

We cannot end without thanking, on behalf of all Romanian Soroptimists, those who cared so deeply for us: 'merci beaucoup', Eliane, 'dank u wel', Mariet and 'multumesc', Minodora – the sensitive and generous 'hearts' without which the project would not have been possible.

Elena Savu, Romanian Union President (2008-2010)

Monica Scridon, Governor (2009-2011) and Project Coordinator

Rodica Maciuca, Governor (2008-2010)

Club Vicenza

AN EXCURSION TO BELGIUM

Club Vicenza organised a long weekend last autumn for 19 members to meet the Soroptimists of Club Brussels and Club Brugge.

On the night of our arrival we had dinner at Hotel Marivaux in Brussels with Belgian Soroptimists, including SI/E President Eliane Lagasse, who received an etching by our Club member Livia Carta.

The following morning we visited the European Parliament where we were welcomed by the staff of an MEP representing Vicenza who explained how the Parliament works and invited us to a delicious lunch. After visiting the city of Brussels and its museums we had dinner at the Brasserie de



Club Vichy

FRENCH LESSONS IN FRANCE

Once again Club Vichy is offering two scholarships to Soroptimists or Soroptimist's daughters who wish to improve their French from 10th-24th September 2011. The highly

respected and specialized CAVILAM (audiovisual center of modern languages) will provide the teaching. Club Vichy will cover the teaching costs, while the students are expected to pay for their own travel and lodging. Families will supply lodging, breakfast and another meal for € 24.50 per day. During their stay the students will have the opportunity to meet members of Club Vichy.

Please submit your applications before 14th April 2011 to: Club Soroptimist International de Vichy, Hotel Pavillon d'Enghien, Rue Callou, 03200 Vichy, France.

The Club President's email address is marie-th.bordessoule@orange.fr.

l'Ommegang in the exceptional setting of the Grand Place, together with the Presidents and several members of the Brussels clubs Iris, Doyen and Sablon. The atmosphere was very friendly, and we exchanged ideas, information and gifts with the promise of meeting again in Italy.

The following day we proceeded to the beautiful city of Brussels, where the highlight was a boat trip along its canals with the president and some 15 members of the local club, some of whom spoke Italian fluently. The lunch in a typical Flemish restaurant was followed by visits to a chocolaterie and a beer factory, both owned by Soroptimists, and to some of the city's historic buildings.

Getting to know other Clubs and other cultures always widens our horizon and makes us aware of how great it is to be a Soroptimist. We hope to organise more such opportunities to establish further links of friendship among our members.

Luisetta Peronato, Secretary, Club Vicenza



The Italian Soroptimists were thrilled by the opportunity to meet new friends and see the sights on their excursion to Belgium.

Please send the Editor your contributions to the May issue of *The Link* by 15th April 2011!

NEW SI/E CLUBS TO BE CHARTERED

19th March 2011

Cahul (Moldova)
Charter to be presented by
SI/E President Eliane Lagasse
Club President
Angela Dunas
B.P. Hasdeu str, nr.3 B
MD - 3909 Cahul
Phone: +373 79 690 756/
29 932 323
E-mail: dunasangela@mail.ru

30th April 2011

Arad (Romania)
Charter to be presented by
Governor, Union of Greece,
Popi Athanassiou
Club President
Mariana Cletchin
Unirii str. No 1, ap 22
RO - 310123 Arad
Phone: +40 74 560 0771
E-mail:
cletchinmariana@yahoo.com

30th April 2011

Seyhan (Turkey)
Charter to be presented by
SI/E President Eliane Lagasse
Club President
Duygu Ugur Sezginer
Yenibaraj mah.1 Sokak Gülek
Plaza A blok 12-22
TR - Adana
Phone: +90 533 455 84 84
E-mail:
duygusezginer@gmail.com

7th May 2011

Vatagna de Diego Suarez (Madagascar)
Charter to be presented by
SI/E Project Manager Africa and
the Caribbean Roswitha Ott
Club President
Marie Annick
c/o Abdoul Hadiga
Ecole les Petits Lutins
MG - 201 Diego Suarez
Phone: +261 32 02 785 45
E-mail: mikidadyaly@yahoo.fr

14th May 2011

Gävle (Sweden)
Charter to be presented by
SI/E Extension Chair
Nilgün Özler
Club President
Ingalill Skanser
Tibastvägen 5
SE - 80269 Gävle
Phone: +46 266 872 84
E-mail:
ingalill.skanser@engelska.se

4th June 2011

Seeheim-Jugenheim (Germany)
Charter to be presented by
Governor, Union of Switzerland
Romy Martin Teutsch
Club President
Krista Funk
Schulstrasse 16
DE - Riedstadt-Leeheim
Phone: +49 6158 724 78
E-mail: krista.funk@i-mo.de

12th June 2011

Goldees Südsteiermark (Austria)
Charter to be presented by
SI/E President-elect Kathy Kaaf
Club President
Johanna Kohlenberger
Grassnitzberg 54
AT - 8471 Spielfeld
Phone: +43 664 923 8019
E-mail: office@polz-
buschenschank.at

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR SI/E

26th March 2011

50th Anniversary
Club Oostende (Belgium)

15th April 2011

50th Anniversary
Club Scheveningen (The Netherlands)

16th April 2011

50th Anniversary
Club Emmen (The Netherlands)

3rd May 2011

25th Anniversary
Club Darmstadt (Germany)

10th May 2011

25th Anniversary
Club Flevoland (The Netherlands)

22nd May 2011

International Peace Marathon
Kigali (Rwanda)

28th-29th May 2011

Governors' Meeting
Palermo (Italy)

1st June 2011

25th Anniversary
Club Kifisia (Greece)

4th-5th June 2011

50th Anniversary
Club Treviso (Italy)

7th June 2011

25th Anniversary
Club Münsterland-Süd/
Nordkirchen (Germany)

10th-14th July 2011

19th SI Convention
Montreal (Canada)

12th-14th July 2013

SI/E Congress
Berlin (Germany)

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAYS AND EVENTS

22nd March

World Water Day

5th June

World Environment Day

