When and where is the Soroptimist 100th anniversary worldwide celebration?
The worldwide celebration of Soroptimist’s founding will take place October 1-3, 2021 at the Fairmont San Francisco Hotel in San Francisco, California, USA. It will bring together Soroptimists members from all federations as we celebrate our bright past and look forward to our brilliant future.

What are we celebrating?
This event will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Soroptimist in Oakland, California. Before there were federations or Soroptimist International, there was one dedicated group of women, under the leadership of a man named Stuart Morrow, who came together to network and help other women and girls. Because our current structure didn’t exist in 1921, this event is a celebration for our volunteers — Soroptimist members. It is not an SI or a federation meeting. Other 100th anniversaries occurring over the next decade include:

- 1921: First Soroptimists form a club in Oakland, California, USA.
- 1924: Stuart Morrow charters Soroptimist clubs in London (February) and Paris (October).
- 1926: Nine Pacific Coast Soroptimist clubs meet to consider forming an association or federation and buying out Morrow’s rights to the Soroptimist name; first club chartered in Canada (Vancouver, April).
- 1927: At a conference of clubs in San Francisco, Soroptimist clubs buy out Stuart Morrow for his rights to the organization for $5,500; Soroptimists write a constitution for an international alliance of clubs.
- 1928: Soroptimist International Association, the American Federation of Soroptimist Clubs and the European Federation of Soroptimist Clubs are established.
- 1934: The Federation of Soroptimist Clubs of Great Britain and Ireland is established.
- 1978: Soroptimist International South West Pacific is established.

Who is planning this celebration?
As the federation with the first Soroptimist club charter, Soroptimist International of the Americas is delighted to organize this event for Soroptimist members. A worldwide 100th Anniversary Celebration Event Committee made up of members from the four federations and a representative from Soroptimist International are aiding SIA. A Local Arrangements Committee has been formed to work with the Event Committee and SIA to implement the plans.

Who is invited? Is there a limit to attendees per federation?
Every Soroptimist from around the world is invited to attend. Space is limited and registration will be first come/first served. There is no limitation on the number of members who can register from each federation.

What events are you planning in San Francisco?
The event in San Francisco is a celebration! On Friday evening, there will be a reception. On Saturday evening, there will be a gala dinner and dancing evoking the Roaring Twenties, the period of our founding. On Sunday, the day of our founding, there will be a champagne brunch. Events celebrating the history of Soroptimist and looking to the future will be offered. An exhibit of special Soroptimist artifacts is also being planned. Local tours are being considered. Planning is ongoing and more information about speakers, the program and other activities will be released in the coming months.

Will there be plenary sessions and workshops like at an SI convention?
This special 100th Anniversary Celebration Event is not a federation or SI convention. Rather, it will be focused on coming together to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Soroptimist.
The Fairmont San Francisco Hotel is a small and expensive hotel. Why did you select that location?
SIA committed to holding the celebration as close to the location and dates of Soroptimist’s founding. A citywide convention in San Francisco limited our options for hotel space. We were happy the Fairmont San Francisco Hotel could accommodate our event because of its historic significance. It marks the site of the very first worldwide Soroptimist convention in 1927. At that event, Soroptimists purchased their organization from Stuart Morrow. Because of its significance in our history, it was chosen as the perfect location for this event.

Is space limited at the event?
The event space can accommodate 750 people, which is anticipated to meet the number of people who will want to attend. Some key events will be live-streamed so Soroptimists everywhere can join in the celebration. The Local Arrangements Committee is investigating an optional offsite event to enable more people to participate.

How much will it cost to attend?
Registration and related costs are not available just yet. The event is anticipated to be more costly than Soroptimists are used to paying to attend federation or SI conventions because of the nature and location of the event.

Why is an event being planned that may be considered costly for many of our members?
The site was selected to honor and celebrate the area where Soroptimist was founded. Food and lodging in San Francisco is expensive, as is doing business there. This will not be the only opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary. Federations and SI will offer other opportunities. Check with your federations to learn more.

When will registration open and how will I know it is open?
Registration will open in October 2020. One of the roles of your federation member on the 100th Anniversary Celebration Event Committee is to ensure all members in their federation know when registration will open as well as other details about the event.

What is the room rate and when can we make reservations?
The room rates were specially negotiated at $299 per night for a standard room and $389 for a Tower Deluxe room (Plus 16.45% tax). Reservations will be available through a special website and will be announced soon.

Why isn’t the SI emblem part of the event logo?
The 100th art is a special event seal, which is used to give this one-time event its own special identity. It’s meant to be used in tandem with federation logos and/or the SI emblem. It is also acceptable to use it alone.

A 100th Anniversary website page is available at: https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/whats-new/100-anniversary.html

A Facebook group will be formed soon!