

# ***SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SCHENECTADY***

## ***MONTHLY GRAM***

***October, 2013***

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***Monthly Meeting:*** The October meeting will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM at the Stockade Inn. Carole Merrill-Mazurek has asked Kim Siciliano, from the YWCA, to speak on domestic violence issues. We will vote on a new budget.

***Guardian House:*** Mary Burch-Macherone has advised that the women vets will be invited to the breakfast with Rotary, but that there is no role for us in this. Mary is looking into doing something for the women after the first of the year.

***Honoring Vets:*** Shop Rite is holding their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “To Honor & Serve” Veterans’ Day Breakfast on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:30AM – 9:00AM at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia. All are invited to honor those who have served and continue to serve our great nation. The Keynote speaker will be Jamie Summerlin, a 40 year old Marine from W. Virginia and an avid runner. Community guests are \$20.00 per person or a table for 10 at \$180.00. If you would like to attend at a Soroptimist table, please notify Barbara before November 1<sup>st</sup>.

***Peace Garden:*** The proposed plan for the Peace Garden has been postponed until the Spring.

***Home Furnishings:*** Their Antique & Collectible Sale on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> was a huge success. Sally says “Many thanks to the Soroptimists who helped make the sale a success. These small projects are worthwhile as far as fulfilling our mission and getting our name out there. Over \$1,800.00 was raised!”

***“Sweet Dreams”:*** This event was also a huge success! Thanks to a grant by ***The Schenectady Foundation***, the cash and proceeds from the sale of jewelry & silver will be doubled as long as it goes towards buying new beds. Congratulations to all members who donated and gave of their time. Good job, Susan and Mary. Many thanks to Sondra as well.

***Best for Women:*** The Stockade Inn will be the setting on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, for SIS to present: *Falling For Jazz with Colleen Pratt accompanied by Peg & Bill Delaney*. The time is 6:00PM and besides the music, there will be light dinner fare, raffles and a silent auction. Mary Mortka and Susan Daly are co-chairing the event and are hoping for full participation for this fun evening. We have the potential for raising a good amount of money towards our goal of making a better

life for women and girls with our scholarships and awards, so everyone is asked to participate. There is still time to purchase tickets, get in touch with Deb DeGenova at 374-4032 or email, [debd@nycap.rr.com](mailto:debd@nycap.rr.com) a small number of walk-ins will be accepted. There are a list of jobs that need to be filled that evening, so be sure to contact her prior to the 10<sup>th</sup>. Mary has to have knee surgery on the day of *Falling For Jazz*, and so will miss the party.

***Fall Highway Cleanup:*** Lesley Shimer has announced that the date for this year's Fall Cleanup is October 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00AM at Oliver's Café. Parking is available behind the café in the bank lot. If you have a reflective vest please bring it and wear gardening gloves. New members should know that there is a sign advertising that SIS is the group which takes care of one mile of Freeman's Bridge Road from the entrance to the Schenectady Airport down to Stewart's. The more that participate, the faster it goes. Afterwards, breakfast at Oliver's is a great ending, Dutch treat.

***Take Back The Night:*** Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, the ceremony will begin at 5:30PM. There will be refreshments, a Peace Garden dedication, Leesa Perazzo is the speaker. The ceremony and march will be in honor of the McCormack Women. Bring flashlights & the group banner. Please join us.

***District I Meeting:*** Saturday, October 26, 2013 is the date for the meeting and all are encouraged to attend because it is in Saratoga Springs at the Holiday Inn. The meal package, including a continental breakfast and lunch is \$35.00. Sign up with Lorraine, make your checks out to SI of Schenectady and put "District I meeting" on the check in info space, the club will send in one check for all attending. Money is due by 10/12. This is a great way to learn about Soroptimists and to meet some wonderful women. The Regional Board is planning an informative and interactive day. Barbara will set up the Soroptimist Store during breaks, so help will be needed to staff it.

***Festival of Trees:*** The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Trees runs from November 28<sup>th</sup> to December 16<sup>th</sup>. Trees may be decorated between November 18 through the 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have an idea or theme for our tree, let Frieda know and she will tell you what decorations we have and where they are. Proceeds from the Festival benefit SCHS and the YWCA. A Downton Abby Tea Party will be held from 1-4PM at the YWCA on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Y. Admission is free.

**SI NAR Leadership Seminar:** Barbara Andre-Maxwell has been asked to be one of the Vice Chairs for the Finance Committee for NAR. In this capacity, she has helped to create a Budget and will use her expertise in her capacity as our Treasurer. She has worked with both Donna Gigone and Deb Degenova to formulate SIS's new budget (2013-2014) which will be presented for a vote at the October meeting.

**SIS's YSS:** Your sister store will be open at the October meeting with some new items and our signature soap @4.50/bar. Volunteers will be needed for shows on the Concourse at the Empire State Plaza, dates to be determined and will be sent by email.

**Biennial Garage Sale:** There is a question of whether or not to hold this event next year. As chairman of the committee, I need some input from all of you. Please let me know if you will have items to sell. No clothing or shoes will be accepted. No seasonal items as they are difficult to sell. No stuffed animals, and toys don't really go. We will accept books and jewelry, furniture, kitchen items, collectibles, knick-knacks, etc. Start setting aside and saving now. A garage sale is a lot of work but the last one raised almost \$2,000.00 for Soroptimist. Please get in touch with me so I will know your thoughts.

**Garden Tour:** Gillian and Frieda have gotten 10 committed gardens for next year. The date in 2014 will be Saturday, June 14th, mark your calendars now so we'll have 100% participation. We will need every member sitting at a garden.

### **Reminders:**

- For members **unable** to attend a meeting , you are responsible for notifying **Lorraine Sturges** no later than 5PM on the Sunday preceding the meeting. Lorraine can be reached either by email at [lmstur@gmail.com](mailto:lmstur@gmail.com) or by phone at 399-6268. Members who fail to notify Lorraine by the date and time specified will be billed for the cost of the dinner. New or prospective members, please notify Lorraine that you **will** be attending. The cost of the dinner is \$28.00.
- Please remember to notify Jo-Anne if your address, phone number or email address changes so that the Membership Booklet may be kept current. Jo-Anne can be reached at [joannevr@verizon.net](mailto:joannevr@verizon.net) or 377-9602.
- Information needs to be submitted by the 3rd of the month for inclusion in that month's GRAM which will be out after the board meeting. Please notify Frieda at [ftanski@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ftanski@nycap.rr.com) or 885-9710 should you have any

information you would like included. If you know of the death or illness of a member or ex-member or a special event in their lives, please notify Frieda [ftanski@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ftanski@nycap.rr.com) so she can send a card.

- Remember to wear your name badges to all events, not only to identify yourselves but to advertise Soroptimist International of Schenectady. Wear your pins to spark a conversation!
- If you buy anything for the club, remember to use a tax-exempt certificate. If you need one, they are available from Barbara, our treasurer.
- Board meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at the Turf in Scotia (except for August) and all are welcome.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

October 10<sup>th</sup> - *Best for Women*, “Falling for Jazz” featuring Colleen Pratt and Peg & Bill Delaney. See information above.

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM , general meeting at the Stockade Inn. Dinner is \$28.00.

October 19, Fall highway cleanup, 8:00.

October 24, *Take Back the Night*, 5:30 at the YWCA.

October 26<sup>th</sup>, Fall District Meeting at Holiday Inn, Saratoga, all are encouraged to attend.

December 10<sup>th</sup>, Christmas/Holiday Party, Carole Merrill Mazurek, Chairperson

May 9 & 10–Biennial Garage Sale

June 14<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour

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President:	Lorraine Sturges	Treasurer: Barbara Andre-Maxwell
1st VP:	Frieda Tanski	1 Year Director: Sandy Johnson
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP:	Ida Chisamore	2 Year Director: Mary Burch- Macherone
Secretary:	Donna Gigone	2 year Director: Deb DeGenova

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*Awards & Scholarships:*

*Beatrice Hocking Award to SCCC: \$2,000. Community Service Awards: \$2500.*

*Violet Richardson Award: \$500. & \$250. Women's Opportunity Award: \$2,000.*

***Thank you's***

Budd Mazurek for an informative talk about the women vet's living at Guardian House.

Sally Bestgen for coordinating the Soroptimist participation in the Home Furnishings' Antiques & Collectibles Sale.

All members who worked on the Sweet Dreams event and volunteered at the Home Furnishings sale.

Donna Gigone who has stepped forward and accepted the Secretary position.

All of our Soroptimist women without whose support we could not continue.