

# ***SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SCHENECTADY***

## ***MONTHLY GRAM***

***December, 2013***

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***Monthly Meeting:*** No monthly meeting in December due to the Holiday party at the Y.

***Tastefully Simple Party:*** The party to say “thank you” to hostess, Linda Gallagher, was a huge success. In addition to the Entertainment Collection which includes six items, we earned \$145.00 in free items which were selected for a raffle basket at the Garage Sale in the spring. Linda will also send us a check for 10% of her profit. Thank you everyone who participated!

***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>. Our tree is decorated with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SI of Schenectady as the theme for our tree. Please try to get down to the Y and to the Historical Society to see the many beautiful trees. 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.

***Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army:*** Volunteers will be “ringing the bell” at the Rotterdam Square Mall on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a Community service so stop by and put some money in the kettle. Soroptimists will be there from 1:00PM to 8:00PM.

***Christmas/Holiday Party:*** The Party is to be held on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30PM. Chairwoman, Carole Merrill-Mazurek has asked that everyone donate a \$10.00 gift card as a gift for a woman, these can be from Walmart, CVS, Kmart or any store that might be appropriate. If you have any gloves, scarves, hats, etc., please drop them off at the Y by Thursday as the Committee will be stuffing the bags with the “gifts” that Jane has gotten from her Trade Partners. Those at the November meeting were asked to sign up for appetizers or cookies, if you did not attend, please call Carole and let her know what you will be bringing. All who are interested in helping with this year’s party, please get there early and plan on staying to clean up. As in past years, if you have any travel sized soap, shampoos or conditioners, please bring them.

***Boys & Girls Club:*** Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, meet at 10:30AM to set up in order to decorate cookies and make cards with the children from 11 – 1PM. This takes place at the Rotterdam Boys & Girls Club. Please donate a batch of plain sugar cookies & frosting to decorate with. Call Susan for information.

**SIS's YSS:** Your sister store will be open from 10:00AM to 3:00PM at the Empire State Plaza on the Concourse, December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Craft Show. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Barbara for particulars.

**Biennial Garage Sale:** We plan to hold this event next year on Friday, May 9<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. As chairman of the committee, I need some input from all of you. Please let me know if you will have items to sell. We may accept some clothing, shoes and pocketbooks but only if they are in excellent shape. "Special" seasonal items will be accepted. No stuffed animals, but toys, if in good shape, with all pieces. We will accept books, jewelry, furniture, kitchen items, collectibles, knick-knacks, etc. Start setting aside and saving now. Mary Burch-Macherone has donated many boxes of items that were left after moving into her new home. 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. Barbara has offered her garage to store and for the sale.

**Garden Tour:** Gillian and Frieda have gotten 9 committed gardens for next year. The date in 2014 will be Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, mark your calendars now so we'll have 100% participation. We will need every member sitting at a garden.

**BFW:** After a successful comeback, we need to keep the momentum going towards next year. We need a committee and a Chair. All ideas will be considered and we will start working earlier to plan BFW 2015.

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

**Guardian House:** Mary is looking into doing something for the women after the first of the year.

### **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 to have 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. There will be no Board meeting tomorrow evening.

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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 /Mary Mortka	2 year Director:	Deb DeGenova

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00PM-8:00PM, Rotterdam Square Mall by Kmart, bell-ringing for the Salvation Army. Irene & Frieda 1:00PM to 5PM & Yvonne & Jo-Anne 5:00PM to 8:00PM.

December 5<sup>th</sup>, help ladies from the Y make table decorations for the party. Bring supplies to donate to the project.

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

December 21<sup>st</sup>, Rotterdam Boys & Girls Club, decorate cookies & make cards.

May 9 & 10–Biennial Garage Sale

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

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### **Awards & Scholarships:**

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

*Violet Richardson Award: \$600. & \$100. Women's Opportunity Award: \$2,000.*

## *Thank you's*

Nancy McKiernan who keeps our web-site "up to date".

Special thanks to Barbara who went to Sharon Springs to pick up more supplies for YSS.

Ida, Sandy, Barbara & Frieda who staffed YSS at the ESP on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sandy Johnson for making special scarves to sell at YSS.

Irene, Yvonne & Jo-Anne for joining me at the bell ringing for the Salvation Army.

To anyone that I forgot.

To all the Soroptimist members without whose support we could not continue.