

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SCHENECTADY

MONTHLY GRAM

March, 2013

February's Meeting: Speaker for the evening was Melanie Grossman, a lawyer from the NYS Department of State, the Consumer Assistance Unit. She spoke about identity theft, fraud, and recognizing scams. It was certainly an eye-opening experience.

Monthly Meeting: The March meeting will be at the Stockade Inn at 6:00. If you have your name badge, please wear it. Pins and scarves will be available for sale, please consider buying one to identify yourself as a Soroptimist at any function. If you have lost your name badge, ask Barbara to order a new one.

Garden Tour: This will be our 10th year! Please remember to set aside the date as there will be 8 gardens and we need sitters at each one. The date is June 15th. Deborah De Genova has offered to host the "Greet the Gardeners" event and will decide when at a later date. The committee will do the work and planning. It is usually held during the week immediately prior to the Tour. Something new this year, Faddegon's will be hosting a reception from 3:00PM to 5:00PM on the day of the Tour. Carole is donating a painting for the raffle. Ida and Sandy are passing out fliers wherever buses are leaving for garden shows (Wade Tours, etc.) this Spring, advertising our Tour, wonderful idea!

NAR Spring Conference: The Spring Conference, this year is being hosted by the Atlantic City Chapter. It is to be held on April 26, 27, and 28 at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, West Atlantic City, 6821 Black Horse Pike, Atlantic City West, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. Really affordable room rates that includes breakfast each day and complimentary shuttle service into Atlantic City are as follows: \$69/night – Single or Double, \$79/night - Triple, \$89/night – Quad, \$109/night – Suite. For reservations call 1-609-272-0200 or go to www.clarionacwest.com and mention Soroptimist Conference 2013, these discounts will only last until 3/24. Friday night, following the Conference opening, at 6:00PM there will be a wonderful meal and witty entertainment provided by Ms. Senior New Jersey". Carol Dugan, a member of the Atlantic City club, is a professional entertainer. The theme is, the "Boardwalk Empire", so dress appropriately in Gangster or Moll, "Roaring Twenties" apparel and come and have some fun!

There will be some great workshops on Saturday that will present tools for enabling our clubs to grow, engage members and our community, and address issues critical to our mission. Plus there will be voting on key matters, too. Dress is business casual but if you wish, Saturday's dinner will give you the chance to shine and sparkle.

The Conference runs from 9:00AM to 11:30AM on Sunday. For more info, request a packet from Lorraine or any member of the Board.

Calling All Shoes!! Our Region needs 2 new computers! The NAR has launched our newest fundraising program and all you are asked to do is donate your old shoes! Just bring them along to Spring Conference and place them in the Shoe Box Collection boxes located near the Registrations Desks. We will then be returning them to the collection organization which transports them to third world countries. It will take 40 pairs to fill a box and each box earns the region \$20.00. If you so desire, you may put a note in your shoes with your contact info and when your shoes reach someone else, they will then be able to thank you and become your "Sole Mate", but this is optional. Bring as many pairs of shoes as you want, including sneakers. No winter boots. All money raised will go towards covering the cost of the computers our Region desperately needs.

If you are not attending the Conference, bring them to our April meeting and the ladies who are going will bring the shoes along. More information about the Spring Conference will be in the March GRAM, please think about attending.

Regional Officers: The region is looking for people to run for Secretary, Governor-elect and a District 1 director. A pre-requisite is that you must have held the office of President in your club. Please notify Lorraine if you are interested.

Schenectady Day Nursery: An event is being held on Monday, April 29, 2013 from 5:30-8:00PM to honor Jane Golub, a long-time SDN board member and fellow Soroptimist, as the 2013 "Special Friend of SDN." The 111 year old day care center is one of Jane's favorite charities. As a former elementary school teacher, mother and grandmother, she fully appreciates the importance of early childhood education and has always strived to advance the cause as a working board member. The celebratory party will be at Cornell's Fine Italian Restaurant, 39 North Jay Street, Schenectady. Party-goers can expect scintillating company, Chef Armando's wonderful food, complimentary beer, wine & waters, the distinct jazz/pop stylings of Colleen Pratt & Friends, and, of course a chance to let Jane know how much we all appreciate her. All proceeds will benefit Schenectady Day Nursery. For further information, to make a reservation (\$75.), or join the honorary committee (\$150.), please call Mary Holloway at 374-3092 and leave a message. Mary's e-mail address is: mhk12309@gmail.com.

Cookies at the Boys & Girls Club: Susan would like to have the cookie decorating for Mother's Day on Saturday, May 11th. We will need sugar cookies and frosting, tubs or decorating tubes. Susan will bring her box of beads so the kids can make necklaces for Mom. Set up starts at 10:30 with decorating from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. Please let her know that you are coming. 428-8830

Soroptimist Closet: Donations to the "closet" are always needed. Fall/Winter clothing and business attire are welcome, as well as nightgowns, sweaters, sweats, tee shirts, scarves, hats and gloves, etc. Large & Extra-large sizes needed. Gently-used bras and new underwear are always needed and greatly appreciated.

Rosary bead collection: Susan Daly asks that we donate any spare rosaries, even broken ones, to the Funeral Directors so that they may be passed on to the people of Haiti. It is a tradition to be buried with a rosary. Please get them to Susan. Broken ones will be repaired by nuns.

Reminders:

Please note change 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 lmstur57@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 \$25.00. (Do not call Mary Mortka).

- 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 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 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 so she can send a card.
- 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.
- Fundraising Committee members are going to present some ideas for making money to fund our commitments to various awards.

- Garden Tour in 2014 will need a new chairperson. Please think about it.
- Board meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month and all are welcome.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 19th, regular meeting, Heart month

March 19th, regular meeting

April 16th, Awards night, please make an effort to attend.

April 20th, Highway Cleanup, 8:00AM, Lesley Schimer is chairman. We meet at the parking lot behind Oliver's on Freeman's Bridge Rd., if you have a reflective vest, please wear it. Our name as an organization is on a sign there and it's great advertising for Soroptimist.

April 26, 27 & 28, NAR meeting in Atlantic City, there's still time to sign up.

May 11th, decorate cookies & make necklaces, bracelets

May 21st, regular meeting

May (?), possible breakfast at Guardian House for the women vets.

June 15th Garden Tour- Please mark the day on your calendar, we'll need sitters

June, Picnic

July, Picnic/Party at Blaine's Bay Marina near Colonie Town Park, no business, just fun. If enough are interested, we are considering asking husbands/partners and old members to join us. Let Barbara Andre-Maxwell know. There will be rides on a pontoon boat!

President:	Lorraine Sturges	Treasurer: Barbara Andre-Maxwell
1st VP:	Frieda Tanski	1 Year Director : Ellie Voris
2 nd VP:	Ida Chisamore	2 Year Director: Sandy Johnson
Secretary:	Mary Mortka	

Committees

Members

Program Committee	Lorraine, Ellie, Jane, Deb, Susan, Frieda, Carole
Communication, Public Awareness, Publicity Committee	Jo-Anne, Sally
Membership Committee	Ellie, Sally, Dot, Sandy, Ida, Ann, Barbara Lorraine-Reservations, Frieda GRAM & Sunshine
Fundraising Committee	Mary M., Sally, Ida, Frieda, Deb, Carolyn
Nominating Committee	Ellie

Awards & Scholarships:

Beatrice Hocking Award to SCCC: \$1500.

Violet Richardson Award: \$300. & \$200.

Women's Opportunity Award: \$1500.

Community Service Awards: \$2000.

Susan Rosenthal Award: \$500.

Chairmen of any Committee will be required to turn in a project report when your event is over. A sample can be downloaded from the Soroptimist web site.