

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SCHENECTADY

MONTHLY GRAM

November, 2012

Missing Banner: Barbara is ordering a new banner.

Soroptimist Closet: Donations to the “closet” are always needed. Fall 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. Donations can be dropped off at the YWCA or brought to business meetings. Kathy Wadsworth has arranged with her Nova Society to conduct a clothing drive for the Closet and the Evangeline Booth Shelter. Clean clothing in good condition can be dropped off at Kathy’s house at 1800 Hillside Avenue, at the Knolls Cafeteria seating area where there will be a large box for the purpose or the YWCA. They are also collecting checks and gift cards for urgent clothing needs and these can be sent to Kathy. The collection will be held from November 12th through the 16th. Thank you, Kathy!

Monthly Meeting: November’s speaker will be Frank Ranucci speaking about “Home Furnishings”. If you have your name badge, please wear it. *Please see note under Reminders.

Garden Tour: This will be our 10th year! There are already 8 committed gardeners! The date is June 15th. Deborah DeGenova 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. Faddegon’s will host a reception from 3:00PM to 5:00PM on the day of the Tour.

October’s Meeting: The second meeting was held on October 16th at the Stockade Inn. We had six prospective new members joining us for dinner. Claudia Fennicks, whose daughter was a victim of domestic violence and was murdered by her boyfriend 20 years ago, shared her feelings and memories with us. Finally able to speak about it after all these years, Claudia’s talk was both heart-wrenching and thought provoking especially knowing that the murderer is up for parole this year. We thank her for expanding our knowledge of this issue. Jo-Anne Rafalik told us that only by education can domestic violence against women begin to be addressed.

NAR District 1 Fall Meeting: Lorraine attended the meeting on October 6th at the Essex County Country Club and stated that it was a great way to learn more about Soroptimists. The next meeting will be the 85th NAR Spring Conference in Atlantic City, NJ on April 26 – 28, 2013. Put the date on your calendar and make an effort to attend, more information to follow.

AAUW sponsored a conference on October 27th. The subject was violence against women and girls, prevention, support and advocacy. Frieda Tanski attended and learned that there are many agencies working to educate people with tools for dealing with and preventing domestic violence. Gwen Wright, Acting Executive Director of the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Tracey Brunecz, Special Victim's Bureau Chief with the Schenectady County District Attorney's Office spoke in depth about what can be done. The attention that is being focused on this issue is what can make a difference and I was proud that it is a subject that SI works to improve.

Christmas Party for Women at the Y: Party to be held on December 11th at the Y, time is 6:00PM. Here is a list of items that you can look for to help fill medium size gift bags: mugs, gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, socks or maybe small pans, spoons, cooking utensils," kitchen items". Use your imagination! We really need 4x6 picture frames for the ladies to put in their photo that will be taken at the party. They are always available at WalMart or the dollar stores. There are 54 members in residence at the Y so whatever you can do to help. Please bring to the November meeting. Also, please think of appetizers and desserts that will go a long way as the ladies love appetizers and our desserts. Please respond to Sally's email so the committee will know what foods will have to be provided by them. The Soroptimists and the Y ladies look forward to the party every year and for some of them it is the only seasonal celebration they have.

The committee is in need of paper products so please bring what you have to the November meeting. You are invited to help fill the gift bags at the Y on Friday, December 7th at 6:00 PM.

Schenectady BPW Fashion Show: Fashion Show & Brunch to be held on Sunday, November 18th at Glen Sanders Mansion. Yvonne Matthews tells us that 100% of the proceeds go directly to Scholarships for women. If you are interested in attending, please call Carolyn Sabol at 887-5851. Luncheon price is \$40.00 and doors open at 10:30AM. There will be a silent auction, door prizes, raffles and a mystery wine sale. Fashions by Ursula of Switzerland, shoes by Shush Shoes. Come and join Yvonne at her table.

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. Please get them to Susan.

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 can 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. 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 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.
- “Unloved Lemons” possible garage sale later in the year
- We are looking for fundraising ideas, even if we net \$200 or \$300. This will add to the treasury, be creative and think outside the box. Bring your ideas to the October meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 17th, please join us in decorating a Christmas tree for the “Festival of Trees” at 9:00 on Saturday morning.

November 20th, regular meeting at the Stockade Inn. Frank Ranucci will be speaking about “Home Furnishings”.

November 29th help women at the Y make table decorations for Christmas Party on the 11th. Medium to large empty candle jars can be given to Sue Daly at a meeting or anytime. Time: 6:00PM.

December 7th, filling gift bags at the Y, 6:00PM

December 8th, cookies and cards at the Boys & Girls Club

December 11th, Christmas Party at the Y, 6:00PM

January 15th, regular meeting

February 19th, regular meeting, Heart month

March 19th, regular meeting

April 16th, regular meeting

May 20th, regular meeting

June, Picnic

President: Lorraine Sturges
1st VP: Frieda Tanski
2nd VP: Ida Chisamore
Secretary: Mary Mortka

Treasurer: Barbara Andre-Maxwell
1 Year Director : Ellie Voris
2 Year Director: Sandy Johnson