



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

JANUARY 2021

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

Soroptimist Warriors and Heroes,

Happy New Year and to a prosperous and new normal in 2021. As I am writing this, I'm hoping that your holidays were special. Mine was quite special as I celebrated my first Christmas as a grandparent, and it was magical!! Now we are back to reality!

Let me just say that COVID is real and we need to stay safe. We will continue to Zoom both board and general meetings until it is safe to be together. The disease is still very active, and it does not discriminate.

Our Holiday Party and meeting with our auction was a success. Our auction brought \$480.00, and we also received a \$50.00 donation! Thank you all for your generosity. The bingo winners were Betty, Diane, and Beth. Such fun!

We will have Ann Marie Babb as our speaker in January. Her Bio is included. She has spoken to the group before, November 2016. A lot has changed, and she will have new and different information to share.

We will also have a speaker in February, Alex Coon, from our Cleveland Club. She will help guide us through Slack and get our members using it. Slack is a useful tool for our club, and I hope that it can improve ease of communication for everyone. It can also help us to search historical data with ease. This will also be the info drop of choice in the coming future of our region.

Information regarding Spring Meeting will be coming soon. The board will decide in February what the model will be: in person, hybrid, or virtual. So stay tuned. Please remember as members you may always go to the various websites available to them. <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/> is in charge of all the federations. <https://www.soroptimist.org/> is in charge of the Americas, [www.simwr.org](http://www.simwr.org) is our region's website.

So until we Zoom again Stay safe and well!

*Gayle*

# JANUARY



## JANUARY INSPIRATION

Barb

## JANUARY RAFFLE

Betty

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 6—Betty

## JANUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Dee—1998

Beth—1998

Marti—2017

## CALENDAR

January 7—7:00 Zoom board meeting

January 14—7:00 Zoom club meeting

January 15—Virginia M. Wagner  
applications due to club

March 1—Miami University Regional  
applications due to club

March 31—Governor's Club Award form  
due to Gov. Darcy

## BIO OF JANUARY SPEAKER

Ann Marie Babb is the VP of Business Operations for the WCWT Center, the founder and Executive Director of Springhaven Community of Homes in Middletown, Ohio, and was awarded the AK Steel Steel Magnolia Award in 2017. She is also the Director of Incarceration Support for Justice Consulting Group which concentrates on women who have been incarcerated for crimes revolving around their trafficking. Having experienced trafficking, Ann is a survivor, an advocate, and an activist. She has dedicated her life to sharing her story, developing her program, and demystifying mental health issues that are associated with trauma.

## RAFFLE

Gayle will make the first drawing for our raffle at the Zoom board meeting on January 7.

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Do any of you have any updates for our membership directory? If so, give them to Elaine.

## SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

Do you know a woman attending college who could use some extra money for her schooling? Interested women can find writeable applications for Virginia Wagner Award and our Miami Regional scholarship on our website [www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org). This is an easy way for them to get an application. Every year we struggle to find deserving applicants, so please share this information freely.

Virginia Wagner applications are due January 15.

Judy reports that the Live Your Dream checks will be mailed to the winners in January. Hopefully, we can honor them in person in April. Winners are Tabitha Rinesmith from Lexington, KY—first place at \$1500 and Jessica Lena Ndanjong from Cincinnati—second place at \$1000.

## CONTACT US

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FEBRUARY 2021

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE



Wow! January flew by fast! Here we are in February, heart month. The first Friday each February, American Heart Month, the nation comes together, igniting a wave of red. National Wear Red Day® is Friday, February 5, 2021.

As I sit here thinking about what we are doing going forward I need to share with you the SIA stand on Soroptimist activities which will shape us in the near future:

*"Your SIA Board held an emergency board meeting on January 7, 2021, to discuss the ever-changing COVID-19 situation and I felt it was important to provide you with the context and results of this discussion as quickly as possible.*

*The purpose of the board meeting was to discuss the overall risk associated with face-to-face meetings and other activities throughout the federation during the COVID worldwide pandemic. As part of this meeting we acknowledged that Soroptimists gathering together and interacting is important. As members, the board understands the cost of energy, morale and money that not holding face-to-face*

*meetings or events is likely to cause. While recognizing all of this, your board also has an obligation to protect our organization from the legal and financial risks of someone becoming infected or becoming a super spreader despite all protocols being followed. That is why after reviewing the situation, our options, the pros and cons and consulting with SIA's General Counsel, the board made the very difficult and necessary decision to immediately place a federation wide temporary pause on all face-to-face meetings and activities authorized or sanctioned by SIA, along with associated travel, until further notice."*

Even with this, I remain positive and hopeful. We have the advantage to have speakers as well as fun through our Zoom. January's speaker Ann Babb was wonderful and very informative. Next month we will have Alex Coon, a fellow Soroptimist to get us up to speed on using Slack, the information sharing tool that will become the Midwest Regions main way of communication. See Alex's short bio below:

*Alexandra Nicholis Coon, she is a member of Soroptimist International Canton/Stark County and the Akron Chapter DAR, and resides in North Canton with her husband and twin daughters. Her day job is executive director for the Massillon Museum, holds a BA in art history from Kent State University, an MA in art history through*

*the joint program at the Cleveland Museum of Art and Case Western Reserve University, and a collections care certificate from the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies. Among her many accomplishments are Twenty Under 40" award, was a 2012 inductee to the Canton YWCA Women's Hall of Fame, and in 2020 was honored with the DeHoff Emerging Philanthropist Award.*

Spring Conference will be 100% Virtual which gives our members (and guests/potential members) an opportunity to see what Soroptimist is about and get update information on fundraising, membership, and communication. Stay tuned for more information.

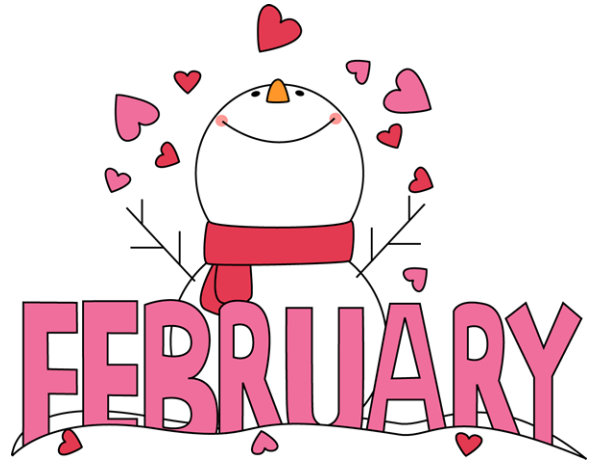
100 YEARS YOUNG, Soroptimists is celebrating 100 years. How can we celebrate it? A couple ideas are to have a Virtual Tea, or Cocktail Party, advertise it, invite guests, and have fun. We can go through our old pictures and do Throwback Thursday's on Facebook. Get creative and bring it to our next meeting.

We also can celebrate our four winners in our Dream Raffle, Charlene Moss, Angie Markle, Theresa Cory, and Mark Spaulding. We will continue to draw each week!

So until we Zoom, February 11, Stay Safe, well, and warm. Wear red to our meeting to celebrate Valentine's Day!



Gayle



## **FEBRUARY INSPIRATION & RAFFLE**

Ginger

## **FEBRUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Betty--1988

## **CALENDAR**

Feb. 4—7:00 Zoom board meeting

Feb. 11—7:00 Zoom club meeting

March 1—Miami University Regional applications due to club

March 31—Governor's Club Award form due to Gov. Darcy

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS**

Do you know a woman attending a Miami Regional campus who could use some extra money for her schooling? Interested women can find writeable applications our Miami Regional scholarship on our website [www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org). This is an easy way for them to get an application. Every year we struggle to find deserving applicants, so please share this information freely.



Greater Cincinnati's ONLY Furniture Bank

I recently watched a community spot on FOX19 telling the story of New Life Furniture Bank. Their mission immediately caught my attention, as I saw an added opportunity to assist local area women in need and their families and to broaden community awareness of our Soroptimist Club. I set out to learn more about this non-profit organization and to share my findings with all of you.

#### ALL ABOUT NEW LIFE FURNITURE BANK

New Life Furniture Bank is a faith-based non-profit organization located in Blue Ash, Ohio, serving the Greater Cincinnati area. They collect gently used furniture from people who have extra, inspect and clean it, and deliver the items directly to the homes of families in need. They strive to restore dignity and bring pride of ownership and confidence to those in need so they can be self-sufficient. They make giving easy and fulfilling by picking up, transporting and cleaning your gently used furniture and delivering it to those in need. They are the only nationally registered furniture bank in Southwest Ohio, striving to end the cycle of homelessness.

New Life Furniture Bank was founded in 2006 by Holly Young, Tim Nabors and volunteers from Milford First United Methodist Church in partnership with InterFaith Hospitality Network (IHN) who provides emergency shelter to homeless families.

Holly and Tim volunteered together helping families overcoming homelessness who were staying at their church. During this time, Holly met Teresa who had fled domestic abuse with her three children and just the clothes on their backs. Shortly after Teresa moved into a new house, she shared with Holly that she had pulled 3 twin mattresses out of the dumpster for her children to sleep on. Holly told Teresa that she would help her find clean mattresses for the children and quickly organized a furniture and housewares drive. The church responded with an abundance of furniture and everything she needed to start over.... her house was made into a home! This act of kindness restored Teresa's dignity, relieved the stress of buying furniture, and allowed Teresa to focus on providing for her children. InterFaith Hospitality recognized the need for a furniture bank and began referring more clients to Holly and Tim.

For the first few years, New Life Furniture Bank was a small ministry of Milford First United Methodist Church then in 2009 became a 501(C) 3 Furniture Bank. Now, New Life Furniture Bank partners with over 35 social service agencies and provides furniture and household goods to individuals and families throughout the Greater Cincinnati area moving out of homelessness, fleeing abuse and/or living in extreme poverty. People in need are helped by referral only through one of the over 35 Cincinnati agencies that are trained and approved to submit referrals. The complete list of qualified agencies can be found at [www.nlfurniture.org](http://www.nlfurniture.org).



## HOW WE CAN HELP

Our club members, families and friends can help by hosting a "FILL A TRUCK EVENT". New Life Furniture Bank will provide one of their box trucks for a donation event on the date and at the location of our

choosing. We can promote the event in advance as the host organization and include our club signage/information at the

donation site to network with potential new members.

- Kitchen Furniture
- Bedroom Furniture
- Housewares
- Linens

Acceptable donations include the following items which must be clean and free of pet hair, stains and tears:

- Living Room Furniture

## THE COMPELLING BENEFITS

All donations we collect to fill the truck will go directly into the homes of families overcoming homelessness, domestic abuse, extreme poverty or other devastating circumstances. **The second great reason to host a "FILL A TRUCK EVENT" is to successfully de-clutter and downsize the decades of items we have worked so hard to collect! (I may need a truck just for my donations)**

*Let's discuss this proposal at our next meeting!*

*Thanks, Sue*

New Life Furniture Bank  
11335 Reed Hartman Hwy.  
Unit 134  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241  
Telephone: (513) 313-0530  
Email: [info@nlfurniture.org](mailto:info@nlfurniture.org)

## CONTACT US

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MARCH 2021

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE



March is upon us, and hopefully Spring is around the corner. It has been a long and trying winter however, with vaccines becoming available to many of us there is hope of some normalcy returning.

But now it's raining. Rain, rain, go away! There is hope that we will eventually begin to meet face to face again and plan for some exciting events. Hope that we will be able to pull in some new members as well as continue to do what we do best again. Serve our community and the women and girls to dream their dreams and with our help live them!

A lot happens in March! Women's History Month, **International Women's Day is March 8, 2021** theme is 'Choose to Challenge' - #ChoosetoChallenge. If you go to the web site there is a lot of good information. There is **Daylight Savings Time March 14**, **St. Patrick's Day is March 17 for all of the Irish in us**, and March 20th is the First Day of Spring.

So speaking of Women's History Month, we should begin celebrating our own! This week's #Soroptimist100 tidbit relates to an historic figure in our organization's story: **Violet Richardson** (August 27, 1888 - August 1979). Violet Richardson Ward was born in New Jersey but moved to California in 1908. She started her college pursuits in the arts, but earned her bachelors and masters degree in Physical Culture. In addition to her many accomplishments, she founded and served as president of the first

Soroptimist club in 1921. Located in Alameda County, the club is part of what is known as the Founders Region. Richardson lived by the motto, "It's what you do that counts." In addition to her legacy with Soroptimist, she was extremely active in other aspects of the community, having founded the Berkeley Women's Gymnasium, helped introduce physical education into Berkeley schools, and started a hiking club.

So with all of my trivia for the month I will see you Via Zoom for our meeting March 11 at 7:00.

Stay safe, healthy, and happy.

*Gayle*

Board Meeting Zoom

Thursday, March 4 at 7:00

## **SPRING CONFERENCE**

### **Save the Date 4/23/2021-4/24/2021---Midwestern Region Virtual Spring Conference**

Here are more events leading up to the conference. Please register for each one individually. Use the link below to register.

<https://mailchi.mp/f415487bb82c/simwr-spring-conference>

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#### Dates for upcoming events:

2/24/2021---Covid-19 Vaccines: Import Things to Know

3/23/2021---Be a Brand Warrior

4/1/2021---Virtual Fundraising Workshop

4/14/2021---Happy Hour: Celebrate our 100 Years!

4/19/2021---Dream It Be It Panel

4/23/2021-4/24/2021---Midwestern Region Virtual Spring Conference



## MARCH INSPIRATION

Marti

## MARCH RAFFLE

Pam

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 Beth  
7 Marti  
11 Pam  
13 Mary  
13 Ingrid  
16 Jennie

## MARCH CLUB ANNIVERSARY

Magda 2015

## CALENDAR

March—Women's History Month  
March 1—Miami University Regional  
applications due to club  
Mar. 4—7:00 Zoom board meeting  
Mar. 8—International Women's Day  
Mar. 11—7:00 Zoom club meeting  
Mar. 13—**Mary's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!**  
Gathering 3:00-4:00 at Mt.  
Pleasant Activity Building. Please  
RSVP to Judy by March 6.  
Mar. 14—Spring forward  
Mar. 17—St. Patrick's Day  
Mar. 20—Spring!  
March 31—Governor's Club Award form  
due to Gov. Darcy

## CONTACT US

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APRIL 2021

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE



Happy Easter and I hope this finds all of you well and in a spring mode of thinking! It sure was wonderful to celebrate such a wonderful woman, a legend and hero, Mary last month. It reminded me of what we are all about. Empowering and lifting each other up! So now we move forward to May and June which hopefully will allow us to come together at least once before the end of our year. Fingers crossed.

The big thing to talk about this month is the Spring Conference. I hope many of you have had the opportunity to register for 4/23-24. I also hope that you have taken advantage of the pre-conference workshops. Be a Brand Warrior on 3/23 was excellent. If you were not able to attend, you can catch the amazing job Susie and Alex did at: <https://mailchi.mp/f415487bb82c/simwr-spring-conference> The past events are at the bottom of the list.

We will not have a Board meeting this month, but we will meet for a budget meeting before our May meeting! April 8th will be our general meeting and it will be Zoom at 7:00pm. Wendy Waters-Connell, Executive Director of the YWCA Hamilton will be our guest speaker.

I am including in this the SOLT PowerPoint that Pam presented at our March Meeting. This is a script only; if you want the slides, I will email them individually.

S.O.L.T.

Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training

## **10 TOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

### **LISTEN**

Take time to listen to each other. Remember that hearing and listening are different. Fight the urge to interrupt people and let them speak their opinions and thoughts. Be present in conversations, remove outside distractions, and ask questions. Great club leaders talk with their members, not at them.

### **PRAISE**

In the midst of working on programs and projects, serving on committees, and organizing events, it's easy to overlook accomplishments (both great and small). Acknowledging efforts and making members feel appreciated goes a long way toward providing motivation and boosting morale. Just when you think you've said "thank you" enough—say it again!

The more you reward, the more that gets accomplished.

### **THERE'S NO I IN CLUB**

I /CLIB

It's not all about you. Engage members, make them think, and get them involved. Keep in mind this quote from Lao-Tzu, the Chinese philosopher and founder of Taoism: "A leader is best when people barely know (s)he exists, when his (her) work is done, his (her) aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves."

### **BOOST THE FUN FACTOR**

Create a fun atmosphere in your club in order to keep current members engaged and remaining attractive to new ones. At your meetings, include ice breakers and build in some social time so it's not all "business."

### **NOBODY IS PERFECT**

It's inevitable that mistakes will be made and yes, there may be times when you, as a leader, are wrong! Even Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper editor because "he lacked imagination and had no good ideas." When times are tough, pick yourself up and give yourself a pep talk. Think about your strengths and work on your weaknesses. Be tenacious and strategize—seek alternative ways to meet goals.

## **BE THE MODEL**

If you expect members to be active and follow through on their commitments, it's up to you to set the example. Make sure your behavior exemplifies a team player attitude and you fulfill your promises. Actions speak louder than words, so be prepared and try to participate in the club's tasks as much as possible.

## **GAIN TRUST**

We are social beings and, therefore, healthy and happy relationships are essential. When you are able to establish trust, the dynamic of the club flourishes. By keeping promises, being transparent, telling the truth, and demonstrating fairness, you'll be on the path to obtaining the confidence of members.

## **MOTIVATE**

You can't motivate others unless you are motivated yourself. A positive attitude will be contagious as you strive to excel and commit yourself to your vision. Inspire others by being the leader others want to support.

## **DELEGATE**

Empower others by delegating. The leader doesn't do it all—like an orchestra, a club needs to work together, bringing all the strengths to the table in order to make a beautiful sound. Be supportive once you delegate responsibilities so others gain ownership in the task and hone their skills.

## **PASS THE TORCH**

There comes a time when even the best leaders must step away from their post and allow for another to take the lead. In order to ensure the future of the organization, it's important to plan and help develop future leaders. To take on the challenges of tomorrow, key members should be identified and guided so they are well prepared to continue on with our important mission.

See you soon!

Gayle

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4/14/2021---Happy Hour: Celebrate our 100 Years!

4/19/2021---Dream It Be It Panel

4/23/2021-4/24/2021---Midwestern Region Virtual Spring Conference

## **APRIL INSPIRATION**

Jo

## **APRIL RAFFLE**

Jo

Barb second raffle for those who do not have a new pin. Send your names to Gayle.

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

6 Magda

## **APRIL CLUB ANNIVERSARY**

2015 Magda

## **CALENDAR**

April 1—April Fool's Day

April 1---no board meeting

April 4---Easter

April 8—7:00 Zoom club meeting

## **NEW PIN**

If you don't have a new pin, please send your name to Gayle. There will be a second raffle drawing in April for a new pin.

## **UPDATED DIRECTORY**

At least a couple members have moved and have new phone numbers and email addresses since our last membership directory was printed. Have you sent your updated information to Elaine? We don't print updates in our newsletter in order to keep your information private.

## **SCRAPBOOKS**

Several members are sorting through and consolidating club records and noticed there are some club scrapbooks missing. Please check your houses to see if you have any club records or scrapbooks from the past.



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## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

MAY 2021

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

Welcome to May Flowers, Mother's Day, Budget Workings, and looking forward! This has certainly been an unusual year to say the least, but I congratulate all of you for hanging in there and working hard to try our best to remain positive. Congratulations to all. WE WON the Slack Contest! Way to go!

Flowers are beginning to bloom and the grass is green and it is looking up for us to begin to meet in person once again. We will have to closely monitor our State guidelines but for those who want to meet in person I believe June will be a go! We will continue to offer Zoom for anyone who still wants to meet remote.

Going forward we will be creative (as I know you all are) in how we work on membership. Social media presence is going to be important for building up community awareness and partnerships as well to attract members.

The district and region are moving forward with the Fall District meeting, October 22&23 in Canton and Spring Conference, April 21-24 in NE Ohio.

May 6 at 7:00 Board meeting will be Zoom. Our main focus will be our budget



May 13 at 7:00 General Meeting Zoom  
- We will be celebrating our Award winners.

Virtual Hugs to All! See you soon!

Happy Mother's Day to All!

*Gayle*

### KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

It's that time of year to enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards program. If you wish to sign up so our club gets a small check quarterly, follow the link to sign up or you may enroll in person at Kroger. If you are already enrolled, you need to renew yearly.

[https://www.kroger.com/account/community\\_rewards/](https://www.kroger.com/account/community_rewards/)

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The following slate of officers is presented by the nominating committee. Because of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, the slate will be voted on during the May Zoom meeting, and officers will be installed in June.

President: Gayle Martz  
Vice-President: Sue Willis  
Treasurer: Ann Munafo  
Recording Secretary: Marti Kelley  
Corresponding Secretary: Beth Miller  
2-year board member: Ginger Bruggeman  
1-year board member: Jo Ashworth

### **Trafficking News**

Another round of posters is going out this month. We hope to have distribution done by mid-May. I am so thankful that this round will be safer for our members since we have the vaccinations behind us.

Even during this strange year of Covid lockdowns and troubles, many of the young people have been located and hopefully brought to safety. Way to go, Soroptimists!

Here are some Human Trafficking facts to know:

1. Nearly 80% of Human Trafficking is for sex and 19% is for labor exploitation.
2. There are more human slaves in the world today than ever before in history.
3. Human Trafficking not only involves sex and labor, but people are also trafficked for organ harvesting.

Fact Retriever L.L.C. 2021

Jennie

## **RAFFLE**

May—Magda  
June--Ann

## **INSPIRATION**

May—Beth  
June--Ann

## **MAY BIRTHDAY**

27 Barb

## **CALENDAR**

May 6--Zoom board meeting  
May 13--Zoom meeting  
June 10-- meeting and  
installation of officers  
Oct. 22-23—District Meeting in Canton,  
OH  
April 21-24—Spring Conference

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[www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org)

Facebook: Soroptimist International of  
Middletown & the Cin-Day Corridor





## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

JUNE 2021

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone!

June is here and as I reflect on the past year, it was one year ago that we met in person for the last time. It has been such an unusual year but I feel like we held it together. Thanks to Zoom we were able to accomplish what we set out to do. We had an awesome fundraiser thanks to all of our members who believed in it and they sold their hearts out. We were able to work some on our anti-trafficking program and continue to support Hope House! We had some great guest speakers as well as some fun meetings. Now we will move forward as we end one year and prepare for the next.

Exciting things are to come! We will be meeting in person beginning June. It will be the installation of officers and a celebration of Soroptimist 100 as well as return to normalcy.

We will look forward to recruiting new members and having fun and interesting speakers going forward. It does take a village to make all of this happen and you are the village I want to be making this happen with!

Virtual Hugs for now!

*Gayle*

Remember to register for SIA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We have great news! Registration is open for SIA's virtual anniversary event on September 25 and 26.

Register now and save. **Early bird fee ends July 2 at 4:59 p.m. EDT.**



### **SLATE OF OFFICERS**

Officers will be installed in June.

President: Gayle Martz

Vice-President: Sue Willis

Treasurer: Ann Munafo

Recording Secretary: Marti Kelley

Corresponding Secretary: Beth Miller

2-year board member: Ginger

Bruggeman

1-year board member: Jo Ashworth

### **DUES**

**Bring your dues of \$150 to the June meeting or mail them to Ann before June 10.**

### **SURVEY**

Betty sent out a survey about our Miami Regional scholarship. Please return it to her by June 8. There will be discussion at the meeting.

### **RAFFLE**

June--Ann

### **INSPIRATION**

June--Ann

### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

23	Jo
24	Sue
27	Judy

### **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

19	Ginger
27	Elaine
29	Ann

### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

none

### **JUNE CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Gayle	2015
Mary	1958

### **JULY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Ginger	1997
Elaine	2012
Pam	2010 (second time)
Ann	1993

## CALENDAR

June 3—7:00 Zoom board meeting  
June 10—6:30 In-person meeting and  
installation of officers at Sue's  
farm  
Oct. 22-23—District Meeting in Canton,  
OH  
April 21-24—Spring Conference



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Facebook: Soroptimist International of  
Middletown & the Cin-Day Corridor





### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

Hello Ladies! It was so much fun seeing everyone last month. It was an informal night, but we were able to meet with our committees and had fun playing Left-Center-Right, and I even won a prize. A big thank you to Jo for donating the wonderful candles and to Sue and Rick Willis for their hospitality. For those who missed the evening, we sure missed you.

I am looking forward to a great year and very excited that we have our fundraiser planning underway. Our committee hopes to be able to bring everything to you at our September 9th meeting. Speaking of our meeting, we have a fun evening planned for you. Janna Garver Proctor, owner-operator of Stretch Lab, Centerville, will be our guest and presenter. Janna Proctor and her husband Chea offer a variety of one-on-one personalized stretching services, so please dress comfortably and bring an exercise buddy if you want.

As a reminder, we will be meeting at the Willis' farm with plenty of room to distance and follow covid guidelines. We will continue to follow Butler County and CDC guidelines. Masks are not required for fully vaccinated individuals, however, if you feel more comfortable



with the surge of the Delta Variant to wear one, please do.

I am including the names of our winners from last year's Dream Luncheon Raffle.

The Call to District Meeting is out. Our Meeting will be October 22-23, 2021 in Canton, OH.

Hotel and Meeting Reservations are due by September 20. If you have never attended or have not for a while, this is a good time to join in the festivities.

So here is to seeing all of you in September. Let's make this the best year ever!

*Gayle*

## **WINNERS' LIST**

### **Dream Luncheon Raffle**

Ann Munafo - GRAND PRIZE \$500.00

Jenny Spaulding 100.00

Joan Huck \$ 100.00

Jennifer Edwards\$ 50.00

5/27/2021- Sarah Webb - Ticket #165

5/20/2021 - Cody Martz - Ticket #109

5/13/21 - Marge Stafford - Ticket #217

5/6/2021 - Jody Long - Ticket #51

4/29/2021- Brenda Gehm - Ticket #248

4/22/2021- Judy Lambert - Ticket #241

4/15/2021- Marge Stafford - Ticket #217

4/8/2021 - Beth Susco - Ticket #74

3/25/2021 - Phyllis Mills - Ticket #153

3/18/2021 - Mollie Chamberlain - Ticket #123

3/11/2021 - Betsy Rossi - Ticket #115

3/4/2021 - Verla Voyles - Ticket #152

2/25/2021 - Ginger Bruggeman - Ticket #23

2/18/2021 - Jeff Flory - Ticket #235

2/1/2021 - Sis Jur/ton - Ticket #43

2/4/2021 - Kitty Blattner - Ticket #39

1/28/2021 - Mark Spaulding - Ticket #7

1/21/2021 - Theresa Cory - Ticket # 230

1/14/2021 - Angie Markle - Ticket #9

1/7/2021 - Charlene Moss - Ticket# 8

## **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL**

### **100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CHALLENGE**

Our region has a long history of engagement, support and leadership in Soroptimist International. We are all looking forward to continuing that partnership as we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

This is an opportunity to celebrate a century of Soroptimists transforming the lives of women and girls around the world - and that is definitely something worth celebrating!

Members will have options to learn about our bright past and plan for our brilliant future! This is your chance to connect with Soroptimists from around the world, be inspired by our keynote speaker, and gain new insights from discussions among members in breakout sessions.

To encourage our region to attend we created a fun challenge! For every 25 registrations we get from MWR we will have a fun prize that the registrants will

be entered to win. Please share this message via email with your Club and District and on social media. We also have a string on slack if you would like to comment there.

**Prizes:**

25 registrations: Present from SI President, Sharon Fisher and autographed copy of Wild Flower by Dr. Nina Smart

50 registrations: Soroptimist International friendship pin and scarf

75 registrations: Present from SIA Past President, Tina Pan and autographed copy of Wild Flower by Dr. Nina Smart

100 registrations: members Soroptimist Anniversary pin

**Registration for the celebration is open, and we encourage you to sign up as soon as possible to receive the greatest savings!**

- Early Bird Registration: Closes 15 June, 2021 / \$40.00
- Regular Registration: 15 June - 14 September, 2021 / \$50.00
- Last Minute Registration: 15 September - 2 October, 2021 / \$75.00

Email your receipt to CochranLYD@gmail.com to be entered into the registration!

Email Bev Bucur (bevannbucur@gmail.com) or Lee Ann Cochran (CochranLYD@gmail.com) with questions.

**SEPTEMBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Jo	1988
Barb	1988
Betty	2001 from Cincinnati club
Judy	1988
Sue	1995

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

None

**SEPTEMBER RAFFLE & INSPIRATION**

Sue



## CALENDAR

Sept. 2--7:00 Zoom board meeting  
Sept. 9—business meeting 6:00  
socialize, 6:30 dinner  
Sept. 25-26—SIA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by  
Zoom 7:00 p.m. EST. You must  
register.  
Oct. 22-23—District Meeting in Canton,  
OH  
April 21-24, 2022—Spring Conference  
July 20-23, 2022—SIA's 47<sup>th</sup> Biennial  
Convention in Seoul, South Korea



## CONTACT US

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[www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org)

Facebook: Soroptimist International of  
Middletown & the Cin-Day Corridor



## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

OCTOBER 2021

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

Happy October!

The leaves are beginning to change and fall is here. It is sad to see the days grow shorter and nights cooler. By now we are well into our 2nd Dream Raffle. I can't wait to see how quickly we sell all of our tickets. Good luck to all and happy selling!

As we enter October remember that it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I'm sure we can all say we know someone that has been touched by this disease. Please remember to get your mammograms.

I am sorry to say that we will not have anyone attending the District Meeting. I totally understand the apprehension; our health must come first. I hope that some of the sessions will be available online later for our viewing.

We are so blessed in our club to have awesome members who are willing to be our presenters for our October Meeting. Ginger, Elaine, Barb, and Sue will be sharing the outcome of our awesome meeting with the Mayor of Middletown. It was a very informative and interesting meeting. There will also be a round or two of some Halloween Fun to get your spooky vibe on.



The October board will be October 7, at 7:00 P.M. Zoom.

The General Meeting will be October 14, at 6:00 P.M. at Horse Power Farm.

October Raffle - Marti

October Inspiration - Marti

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather! See you soon.

*Gayle*

## CALENDAR

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**October 7** 7:00 Zoom board meeting

**October 14** 6:00 dinner meeting at Horse Power Farm

**October 8 Happy 66th Birthday, Middletown Club**

**October 22-23** District II & IV Meeting at Holiday Inn, Canton, OH

**November 15** Form 990 due to IRS

**November 15** Live Your Dream Applications Due to Clubs

**December 10** Human Rights Day – President's Appeal

**December 15** Club Live Your Dream Award Winner due to District Director

**January 11** National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness in the US

**January 15** Virginia Wagner Award Applications due to Clubs

**January 15** District Live Your Dream Award Winner due to Region Chair

**February 1** Club Live Your Dream Report due to District Director

**February 15** Virginia Wagner Club Award winners due to District Director

**February 15** Region LYD Winner info due to both SIA and Treasurer Audrey Jarvey by Region Chair

**March 1** Miami scholarship applications due to club

**March 1** Soroptimist Club Grant applications due at SI HQ

**March 8** International Women's Day

**March 8** Virginia Wagner District Winners due to Region Chair

**March 31** Region Virginia Wagner Award Winners names to Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey by Region Chair

**March 31** Governor's Award Form due to Governor Darcy Merritt

**April 22-24** Spring Conference at Hilton Fairlawn in Akron, OH

**June 1** Dream It, Be It Online Club Reporting due to SIA

**July 1** Club Celebrating Success forms due to Kris Armstrong

**NO OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS OR CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

**OCTOBER RAFFLE**

Marti

**OCTOBER INSPIRATION**

Marti

## **DREAM LUNCHEON RAFFLE**

This is just a reminder to bring your sold Dream Raffle tickets and checks to the October 14 meeting. If you are not going to be at the meeting, please let me know and I will pick up any sold tickets sometime during the week before the meeting - October 11-13. I can pick up tickets anytime Monday after 1:00, Tuesday between 1:00 and 3:00, or Wednesday after 1:00. If you have a bunch of sold tickets and would like to get rid of them before the meeting, let me know and I can pick them up on one of those days or even the week of October 4-10. Let me know and we can figure something out.

If you have any tickets you absolutely cannot sell, bring them to the October 14 meeting. You still have a couple months to try to sell them so I would rather they be in your hand to try to sell rather than in my office collecting dust.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,  
Betty

## **HOPE HOUSE**

Ten Sweet Dreams of Home Bathroom Baskets were delivered to Hope House in late August. They called and said they were almost out and had several women going home.

## **KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS**

Don't forget to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards with SI Middletown as you designated charitable organization. Soroptimist will get a percent of sales quarterly Sign up for community rewards at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). and select Soroptimist International of Middletown, OH or LD932. You do need to use your Kroger card each time to capture your purchase.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS**

Do you know a woman attending college or technical school who could use some extra money for her schooling? Interested women can find writeable applications on our website [www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org) This is an easy way for them to get an application. Every year we struggle to find deserving applicants, so please share this information freely.

## **ANTI-TRAFFICKING**

All eight children on our spring poster have been found. New posters will be distributed before the end of October.

## **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Let Elaine know if any info has changed for your listing—different job title, newly retired, new address, new phone number, etc.





### **CONTACT US**

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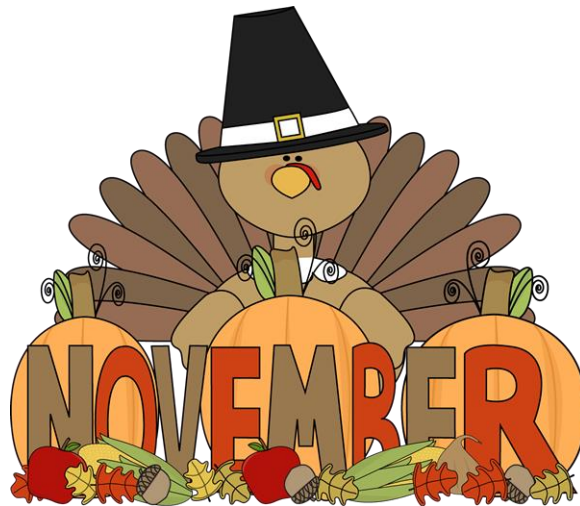
Facebook: Soroptimist International of  
Middletown Ohio & the Cin-Day Corridor

Instagram:



## **SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN**

**NOVEMBER 2021**



### **PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE**

November is such a wonderful month! It launches our Holiday season, a time of the year when we have so much to be thankful for. So I thought I would start out my newsletter with some of the things I am thankful for. There are the obvious things, my family, my health, friends, and being able to do some of the “normal” activities. But thanks and thankfulness goes beyond that.

I am so thankful that we have such a wonderful club and membership that have remained strong throughout this Covid Pandemic. You all have been a special support for each other.

I am especially thankful that we are able to welcome a New Member this month. Deb Peters joining our club officially, she has been a friend and supported Soroptimist through her Art contributions for a couple years! She will be a great asset to an already strong group of ladies.

Thank you to Betty Huck for her work on the "Bourbon Auction" bringing in \$500.00. Thanks also goes out to Magda Rinder for her contribution through her workplace! Way to Go.

Thanks to all the members for their work in selling Dream Raffle Tickets! You are awesome.

November is a busy month. We have an exciting meeting planned November 11. Our guest will be Lisa Rocklin , Women Writing for A Change:

Lisa Rocklin found her way to a Women Writing Saturday Sampler in 2006. From that first circle, it was wonderfully obvious that her writing voice had found a home. She is a 2015 graduate of the Conscious Feminine Leadership Academy and became a SoulCollage® facilitator in 2020. Lisa has a BA in English and an MA in Secondary Education from Northern Kentucky University, as well as a BA in International Affairs from the University of Cincinnati. Prior to joining the staff of Women Writing for (a) Change, Lisa spent 21 years as a high school English teacher. She credits her sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Patsy Cash Cole, with recognizing and encouraging her poetic tendencies. Helping young people cultivate their authentic selves through writing is a passion she pursues as a facilitator of teens' and young women's classes. She lives in Mt. Healthy with her husband Tony and dogs Daisy and Hazel.

Please remember our Veterans as we Celebrate them November 11. We owe so much to them for all they have given to keep us safe and free.

Some other things to remember in November are:

Daylight Savings Ends 11/7

World Kindness Day 11/13

Diabetes Awareness Day 11/14

American Education Week 15-19

Thanksgiving 11/25

So here is to being Thankful for many things, I hope as you read this it brings to mind what you are thankful for!

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Friendsgiving!

Board Meeting - Zoom

November 4,- 7:00 pm

General Meeting

November 11, - 6:00

Sue and Rick's - Horsepower Farm

## CALENDAR

**November 2** Election Day

**November 4** 7:00 Zoom board meeting

**November 7** Daylight Savings Time ends

**November 11** Veterans Day

**November 11** 6:00 monthly meeting

**November 15** Form 990 due to IRS

**November 15** Live Your Dream Applications Due to Clubs

**November 25** Thanksgiving

**December 10** Human Rights Day – President's Appeal

**April 22-24** Spring Conference at Hilton Fairlawn in Akron, OH

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

14 Gayle  
20 Diane

## CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

1978 Ingrid

## NOVEMBER RAFFLE

Gayle

## NOVEMBER INSPIRATION

Gayle

## DREAM LUNCHEON RAFFLE

All checks and cash for 162 of the 250 Dream Raffle tickets have been turned in to Ann to be deposited. So we still have 88 tickets to turn money in for - hopefully you all have sold those tickets!!!!

Please bring your sold Dream Raffle tickets and checks to the November 11 meeting. If you are not going to be at the meeting, please let me know and I will pick up any sold tickets sometime during the week before the meeting - November 8-10. I'd like to get checks turned into Ann to deposit and get any cash safely in the bank. I can pick up tickets anytime Monday after 1:00, Tuesday after 1:00, or Wednesday between 1:00 and 4:00.

Even if you are going to be at the meeting, if you have a bunch of sold tickets and would like to get rid of them before the meeting, let me know and I can pick them up on one of those days or even the week of November 1-5. Let me know and we can figure something out. If I get the tickets and money from you by November 10 I can give the funds to Ann to deposit at our meeting.

Please bring any tickets you don't think you will sell to the November 11 meeting. You still have a couple months to try to sell them so if you think you will sell them please keep them until the December meeting. If

you are out of tickets and need some to sell, let me know as soon as possible and I'll coordinate who has tickets to get to you.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.  
Betty

## **SLAVERY TODAY**

There are an estimated 21 million to 45 million people trapped in some form of slavery today. The most common forms are: Domestic servitude; Sex Trafficking; Forced Labor; Bonded Labor (work to repay supposed loan); Child Labor; and Forced Marriage.

Some ways you can do to end slavery:

1. Put the National Trafficking Hotline number in your phone. 1-888-373-7888
2. Did you know your coffee beans could be harvested by slaves? A Fair Trade label ensures a slave-free product. Download the Slave Free Buying Guide at [endslaverynow.org](http://endslaverynow.org) to find Fair Trade coffee and other products.
3. See how slavery today is not unlike chattel slavery in the 1800's. Watch Journey to Freedom. [Endslaverynow.org/journeytofreedom](http://Endslaverynow.org/journeytofreedom).

All information taken from the [endslaverynow.org](http://endslaverynow.org) website, a product of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. This 30+ minute video is definitely worth the time needed to watch.

Jennie

## **DONATIONS**

Thank you to members Betty and Magda for securing donations to our club.

Magda works for United Health Care, and the company donates money to a charitable group to reward the employee after so many volunteer hours. Magda asked for her contribution to go to our club.

Betty's nephew works at Bourbon Party Town in Florence. They offer a bottle of bourbon to non-profits to be used for fundraising. Our club applied and was chosen to receive a bottle. Before we could decide how to promote it, someone offered to buy it for a sizeable amount. Problem solved, so we didn't need to come up with another raffle or another idea.

Thanks, ladies, for adding to our treasury so we can increase the amounts and/or number of our awards.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS**

Do you know a woman attending college or technical school who could use some extra money for her schooling? Interested women can find writeable applications on our website [www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org) This is an easy way for them to get an application. Every year we struggle to find deserving applicants, so please share this information freely.

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## **SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN**

**DECEMBER 2021**



### **PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE**

December is here and so is the most wonderful time of the year. Where has the year gone? I am so happy to be celebrating our holiday season once again together at Sue and Rick's home. We will be able to enjoy each other, a great meal, and a fun gift raffle. So makers, bakers, shoppers, and treasure hunters, get ready for a fun filled evening!

The holiday season is filled with so much joy for most of us, but it is also a difficult time for others. If you are aware of someone struggling at this time, reach out in some way. It can be as simple as a card, a call, text or email.

I personally want to wish you and your families a very happy holiday, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please remember to get your raffle ticket stubs and money to Betty! Our first drawing is coming up soon!

There is no Board Meeting this month.

We do have one business matter to attend to at the December meeting and that is the election of 2022-2024 SIA Board of Directors. The candidates for 2022-2024 SIA Board of Directors Electoral Area 11 are Victoria Hicks, SI of Columbus & Franklin County, and Vivian Walczesky, SI of Monroe County. The resumes and videos for all the electoral area candidates are now available for your club to review on the [SIA website](#).

Merry Christmas All!

Gayle



## ***Holiday Party at the Willis Home***

Rick and I are excited to invite the members and their guests to our annual December meeting and party on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, at our home - 6548 Liberty Ridge Dr. in Liberty Township! The last several years have presented challenges that have postponed or cancelled this holiday gathering. We are looking forward to hosting this long running tradition on our regularly scheduled date. I have been hard at work since the beginning of November planning and putting up this year's displays with a "new look". With the giant store house of Christmas decorations I have amassed, I was intent on not buying anything new, but as usual I have added some new items that best fit this year's theme. I challenge those of you with a keen attention to detail to identify those items for a chance to win prizes.

Wear your favorite holiday apparel. For those who wish to do so, there will be a contest for the ugliest and most beautiful outfits. A full course Christmas dinner, preceded by drinks and appetizers will be provided at \$20 per person. As usual, Rick cannot tell me the menu he is planning. If I waited until he knew to announce it, I would have to publish it in the January newsletter! This year we will host the entire party in the house (versus the house and garage) for a cozy atmosphere. My holiday decorating energy is starting to wane in my later

years – don't forget I am now fully retired! LOL

Please come ready to bid high and often on our holiday auction items. This year we are not wrapping the items in the hope of maximizing our revenue. Our auction is the perfect opportunity to do some Christmas shopping for family and friends. Thanks in advance for your generous support.

Wishing everyone a great start to the holiday season!

*Sue & Rick*

## **CALENDAR**

**December 2** no board meeting

**December 9** 6:00 p.m.  
meeting/Christmas Party at Sue's

**December 10** Human Rights Day –  
President's Appeal

**January 15** deadline for Virginia  
Wagner Award

**March 1** deadline for Miami University  
Scholarship

**April 22-24** Spring Conference at Hilton  
Fairlawn in Akron, OH

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

28 Dee

## CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

2017 Marti

1998 Dee

1998 Beth

2018 Jennie

## DECEMBER RAFFLE

Betty

## DECEMBER INSPIRATION

Elaine

## DREAM LUNCHEON RAFFLE

There's been some great activity in the selling of Dream Raffle Tickets for the club. Congratulations to all of you for a great job!

If anyone still needs raffle tickets, please contact me as soon as possible as they may be going fast. I will be contacting those of you who have sold tickets with money to turn in to pick up between now and the December Meeting/Christmas party on December 9. I'd like to have all the tabulation of tickets done before the meeting so that we can all sit back and enjoy ourselves.

Thanks to all of you—you have done a fantastic job of selling the Dream Raffle Tickets!!!!!!!!!!

Betty

## CONTACT US

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