



The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 95 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City
South Central Region

SOROPTIMIST®

December 2021

Investing in Dreams



President's Message
Heather Rollins



The Signpost



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Kay Stewart, Editor

www.kcsoroptimist.org

Soroptimist Kansas City Foundation
Soroptimist International
of Kansas City
1221 West 103rd #224
Kansas City, MO 64114

'The Holiday Season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek ways to make life better for those around us' ~Anonymous

Although I HATE cold weather, I LOVE Thanksgiving and Christmas. There's an excitement in the air that brings forth the spirit of Christmas magic. Now is the time to reflect on another year of life, health, and another year of success as a club! We've accomplished so much over the last 6 months that has required all of your support and dedication. And despite the fact that COVID still lingers around us, we have had some successful events thus far, including a yummy dinner at Cinzetti's, the annual Fall Meeting, a fun Power of the Purse wrap up and membership event, community service donations, and excellent program speakers. I've learned so much by being around all of you successful and humble women and look forward to another 6 months of being your club President!

Quick reminder, there will be no Board or Business Meeting this month. Let's celebrate Christmas with our fellow clubs next week but let's also cherish the season of Love. I pray you all have an opportunity to enjoy your holiday traditions, share exciting gifts, enjoy festive meals and most importantly spend time with friends and family. Cheers to the best month of the year and may you have time to relax, refresh, and reconnect!

President Heather



December Calendar



December 6

**Ways & Means
Committee Meeting**

via Zoom
7:30 p.m.

December 7

**Dream It Be It
Committee Meeting**

via Zoom
8:00 p.m.

December 8

**Combined Club Party
Conrad's in Liberty**

6:00 p.m.



December Birthdays

Kay Stewart December 19

Judy Dupre Pecararo December 21

Marcia Boutz December 29

No Board or Business Meeting in December

instead

**Come to the Combined Soroptimist Holiday Party
Wednesday, December 8**

SI Kansas City Northland, SI Kansas City, SI Liberty
& SI St. Joseph

Conrad's in Liberty

6:00 Happy Hour 7:00 Dinner

Intersection of Highways 291 & 152
(NW Corner by Crowley's)

Collection

**Feminine Hygiene products for teens and women.
to be placed in the pantry at St. Vincent's.**

**No gift exchange instead we will have
a Cookie Exchange.**

Bring a minimum of 2 dozen cookies and you can take
home 2 dozen cookies of your choice.

(They can be mixed if you like.)

Bring 3 dozen-and guess what?

You can take home 3 dozen.

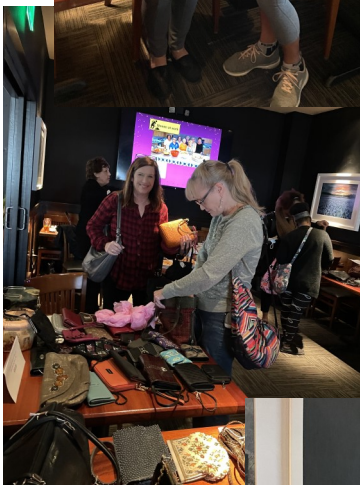
(They can be mixed if you like.)

JUST BRING THEM



Noshing and Shopping-What could be more fun?

The Power of the Purse Fire Sale and Recruitment event which took place on Saturday, November 6, 2021, was a success! We sold 63 purses, 2 knitted items, and received \$45 in donations, giving us an additional \$840.06 for our Live Your Dreams Awards. Ideas for ways and organizations to donate the remaining purses are being considered. In addition, 9 ladies completed a guest information card. Marie Parker will follow-up with those guests to say, "thank you" and ask if they are interested in joining our great organization.



November Business Meeting and Speaker

In November our speaker was member Tanya Johannes who gave us a history of the Salvation Army Angel project and it's impact on our community. The Salvation Army started the project in 1947 and each year it has grown to involve many charitable organizations in the metro area. Our club has been collecting toys for the Salvation Army Forgotten Angels since 1995. Not only is it a worthy project, it gives us a great reason to rummage through the toy departments at various stores. How fun is that?



This always seems to happen when I give Jane my phone to take pictures.

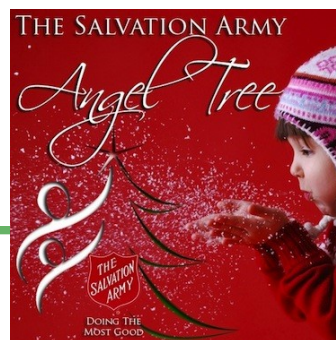


Introducing our speaker.....

The Salvation Army Forgotten Angels



Toys ready to go....



From Jennifer Stepp, Metro Social Services Director
with The Salvation Army

Dear Soroptimist Elves,

Thank you so much for the amazing presents for our kiddos! We greatly appreciate your continued support! You guys are amazing for providing gifts to kiddos who might otherwise not get any.



Christmas delivery.
They were thrilled!!

Meet Lynn LeCount

Originally joining us in 2010, Lynn LeCount was an active and engaged member of our club. She created our Facebook page, chaired Ways & Means and headed up the first LunaFest fundraiser we held for several years.

In 2015 she took a sabbatical from Soroptimists. During that time she kept up on our activities through reading our newsletter and keeping in touch with several of our club members. Recently she decided that it was time to re-engage with the club and our mission. Lynn rejoined our club in July.

Lynn's forte is working in the digital world. She is anxious to assist our club in expanding our digital footprint and drawing revenue from the general public to help others.

She has been the webmaster for three different not-for-profits. She is currently the Managing Editor of three journals, "Biochemical Pharmacology", "Pharmacology & Therapeutics" and "Advances in Pharmacology". While serving as the Administrative Officer of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, she published their newsletter, "Pharmacology International". Her Union responsibilities required a lot of traveling setting up and coordinating meetings all over the world. The only two continents she has not visited in her role are South America and Antarctica. In 2023 she will be heading to Glasgow, Scotland for their next Congress.

On a personal note, she and her husband, Jon Clark, belong to the Mid-America Chevelle Club. Jon owns a 1976 Malibu Classic known as "The Bicen" because it was manufactured in the bicentennial year of 1976 and is big, brown and lumbers. Hers is a 1971 Malibu convertible known as "Roxanne" as she is turquoise and topless. Along with their two dogs, Hyper Heidi and Neurotic Nerissa, they enjoy visiting their son, Trevor, and his wife, Alina, in Portland, Oregon where Trevor is a school architect and Alina is a school administrator.



Welcome back, Lynn. We are so glad you rejoined SIKC.



Soroptimist History



Since this series last ran, our club has gained quite a few new members. In an effort to give everyone a feel for our history, I am repeating this series from a couple of years ago.

I hope I don't bore you to tears.

Several members have expressed the desire to learn more about Soroptimist history. As chair of the History Committee, I decided to put our history in the Signpost in several installments. I've gathered facts from a variety of sources and combined them. For those of you who have been members a long time, if you find any discrepancies or omissions, please let me know and I will correct as we go along. I hope you find this column informative and enjoyable reading. Kay Stewart

1921

At the beginning of the 1920's, women in North America had established themselves in the political arena through suffrage and in the professional world as a result of World War I. The time was right for women actively engaged in professions and careers to come together for mutual support and friendship, and serve the communities to which they belonged. The time was right for Soroptimist.

As with most worthy endeavors, Soroptimist had a slow start. In the spring of 1921, Stuart Morrow, an organizer of men's service clubs, visited Oakland, California. In search of a potential member for an Optimist club, Morrow called on the Parker-Goddard Secretarial School, presuming it was run by men. He found instead that Miss Adelaide Goddard and Miss Mabel Parker owned the school. Explaining his mistake, Morrow excused himself. As Morrow left, Goddard remarked she would be interested in joining such a club for women if he ever considered forming one.

Goddard's remark set the wheels in motion for Stuart Morrow. He contacted a number of business women in the community, and invited them to a preliminary meeting on May 21. Of the six women in attendance, only one showed real interest. This woman began recruiting her acquaintances and on June 21, a luncheon meeting with 10 women officially launched the club toward its goal of 80 members in order to receive a charter from Morrow. This core group met once a week, and continued to gather the names of eligible women from Alameda County; they also chose the name Soroptimist for the organization, coining a word from two Latin words: "soror"-woman and "optima"-the best. Prospective members were asked to meet with the core group. After making her presentation, if it was apparent that the prospective member filled an open classification, she was asked to join the club. On September 26, the charter was closed and officers were elected. The presentation of the charter and an installation ceremony took place on October 3, 1921, the day officially celebrated as Founders Day.

(to be continued)

Don't Forget...



In November you received an invitation to make a contribution to the Foundation by December 31, 2021.

The Board of Trustees of the Soroptimist Kansas City Foundation (SKCF), has invited every Soroptimist International of Kansas City (SIKC) member to make a generous year-end, tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation to take part in the season of giving.

Any size gift will be deeply appreciated .

Please don't forget.

Community Service Calendar

Your Community Service Committee has put together the following calendar for the rest of the club year.

January 19, 2022 – Create No Sew Blankets for **SafeHome**



February 16, 2022 – Collect Pillows and Pillowcases for **BridgeKC**. Please bring 2 Pillows with Pillowcases to the Club Meeting

March 2022 – We will be having a Manifestation Board Party at **Mother's Refuge** with the Residents.

April 20, 2022 – Collect personal care items for **Sisters in Christ DaHomey Center**



May 2022 – Host a BBQ for **Women Veterans**

June 15, 2022 - Collect books about diversity for the **Keeler Women's Center**



Stay tuned for more information to come....

