



The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 95 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City
South Central Region

SOROPTIMIST®

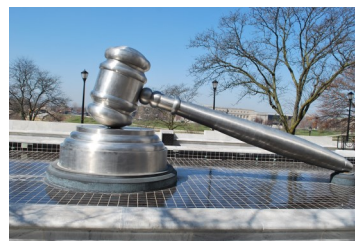
March 2022

Investing in Dreams



President's Message
Heather Rollins

The Signpost



(World's largest
gavel in Ohio)



Inside This Issue

Calendar	2
LYD Awards	3
Pillow Collection	4
Intl. Women's Day	6
SIKC History	7
Member News	8

Kay Stewart, Editor

www.kcsoroptimist.org

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

Greetings!

I start this newsletter by dedicating it to the families who are embroiled in the conflict in Ukraine. My heart goes out to all of the families who are impacted by this terrible attack. Please uplift them in your prayers.

We have quite a few things lined up as a club over the next couple of months. Please continue to think of ideas as it relates to the Big Goal Committee Planning. We need ideas and member involvement to help do what we do best and that is make an impact within our communities!

This month, we will celebrate with the winners of the Live Your Dream Award. Let's come together, hear their stories, celebrate them, and wish them all the luck on accomplishing their dreams.

Additionally, Spring is right around the corner. March 20th marks the first day of Spring and to me that represents hope, new beginnings, new life, and welcomed changed. Life can be challenging and we all face some difficulties but my hope is that Spring infuses a new spirit, endless beauty and a sense of renewal for each and every-one of you!

Thank you

SIKC President, Heather Rollins

"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring." Lilly Pulitzer



March Calendar

March 9
Board Meeting
 Central Library
 Turner Boardroom
 14 West Tenth Street
 Kansas City, Mo 64105
 6:00 p.m.

March 16
Business Meeting
Live Your Dream Awards
 O'Neill's Restaurant
 6:00 p.m.



March Birthdays

Olive Snider March 13
 Grace Boswell March 25
 Grace Kim March 31

Community Service Request Danielle Sidney

Do you have a
 magazines you don't use
 or need? Please let me
 know, and I can come pick
 them up from you this
 weekend,
 March 4-6.
 These will help with our
 Vision Board
 Community Service
 project.

Volunteers Needed!!

I am in need of four
 volunteers to assist with
 our Community Service
 project on
 March 7, 2022.

We are creating
 Vision/Manifestation
 Boards
 at Mother's Refuge from
 6:00 - 8:00pm, and I
 would love to have some
 extra assistance with the
 residents. If you are able,
 please let me know.

Business Meeting,
Wednesday March 16
O'Neill's Restaurant
9417 Mission Road
Leawood, KS 66206

Menu
Full Plated dinner
\$23.00

Choice of
Irish Pot Roast
 Mashed potatoes, carrots,
 celery, & mushrooms in a
 cabernet sauce.

Or
Chicken Marsala
 Lightly breaded, pan seared
 chicken topped with a creamy
 mushroom marsala sauce.
 Served with mashed potatoes.
 Brownie/cookie tray.

Program
Live Your Dream Awards

Please RSVP to Marie Parker
 with your choice of menu
 option by COB Monday,
 March 14





Come join us as we celebrate the accomplishments and goals of the three women chosen by your Live Your Dream committee.

The 2021-2022 SIKC Live Your Dream Awards committee consists of Grace Boswell, Rosemary Moran, Norma McKelvy and Margaret Smith, who contributed input and greeted our applicants during the judging event.

Our judges Jerry Snider and Edie Sladek, conducted the in-person interviews. Volunteering many hours of preliminary research and preparation, they charted specific questions in four areas based on financial need; financial responsibility/education/employment; sincerity and factual information; and the desire to make a positive difference in society and in their life.

The winners are:

1st place: Ashley Morrison

2nd place: Rachel Hampton

3rd place: Charlesetta McDaniel

We will honor them on March 16 at O'Neill's Restaurant with dinner, a celebration and their check. Please come meet them and our judges.



Don't forget! Daylight Savings Time goes into effect, Sunday March 13. Always a welcome harbinger of Spring.

Come on tulips!!!!



Pillow Drive Results



Our collection last month was for Bridge Leadership Academy headed up by our own Wakisha Briggs. Her organization works with young women in the Hickman Mills School District, developing their social, educational and leadership skills. Many of them do not have comfortable sleeping conditions so a pillow drive was very welcome. Our club donated over 20 pillows and pillowcases. Dianne Young's Little Gallery served as the drop off point. Kisha picked them up and distributed them to her young clients soon after.



Kisha has extended an invitation to our club to visit their facility. They are also very happy to have received a Service Objectives grant this year.

Kisha, we are so glad you gave us this opportunity to assist you and your wonderful organization.

Bridge Leadership Academy



Some of her youngest clients putting together a puzzle of the United States.





Every year, March 8 marks the global celebration of International Women's Day, a holiday which commemorates the achievements of women and spotlights the important work being done to advance gender equality.

Since the early 1900's when it was created to raise awareness for women's suffrage, International Women's Day has grown to include a range of women's rights issues—such as challenging gender bias, ending violence against women, representation in the workplace, and the economic empowerment of women and girls. This year, the United Nations has declared the focus of International Women's Day to be “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow.”

For almost as long as International Women's Day has existed, Soroptimists around the world have generously devoted their time, talents, and resources to helping women and girls thrive. Today Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc. (SIA) and its nearly 30,000 volunteer members focus on empowerment through education.

By supporting women and girls' educational goals and removing the obstacles they face (such as domestic abuse, poverty, and lack of mentorship), Soroptimists are shaping a future where women and girls have the agency, confidence, and skills necessary to reach their fullest potential.

That's why International Women's Day is such a meaningful time of year for SIA. Even though our organization focuses on women every day, March 8 invites us to celebrate our victories and dream of an even more brilliant future.

The more women and girls we serve, the more our impact ripples out to create waves of change. With education and training, the women and girls we serve are empowered to make the best decisions for themselves and contribute positively to their communities.

Many of the women and girls in SIA's programs go on to work in serving professions like healthcare, education, and social work. Take, for example, Kimberly, a Live Your Dream Awards recipient from the U.S. who now works to provide services to low-income families with young children. Or Nourhan, a girl in Canada whose ambition is to become a gynecologist and advance women's rights in healthcare. Or Yukiko, from Japan, who provides in-home care for people with severe disabilities. Or Rhea, in the Philippines, who is creating a program to aid vulnerable children on the streets and give them access to education, shelter, food, and water.

Each of these women and girls is a powerful example of the transformative impact of Soroptimist's mission. If we continue to find new ways to expand our program impact, elevate our volunteers' efforts, and cultivate new members and supporters for our cause, there is no doubt we can achieve our Big Goal of reaching half a million more women and girls over the next 9 years!

This March 8, 2022, Soroptimist around the globe will observe International Women's Day with special events, fundraisers, and projects. Together, we will rally behind the idea that unites and motivates us: that every woman and girl is worthy of the chance to live her dreams.

SIA thanks every one of its members, leaders, and supporters for their selfless and unwavering efforts to transform the lives of women and girls.

We wish you all a Happy International Women's Day 2022!



Soroptimist History

Butler Manufacturing's company newsmagazine, "The Butler Bee", December, 1952

On Sunday, May 11, 1952, almost ten months to the day after devastation had swept the Kaw River bottoms, families who had been dispossessed by the flood waters found new faith in the dedication of the Randall Jesse Community House in Trailer City.

Here the rolling ground is studded with a thousand-odd trailer houses in which approximately 1,000 children and 2,000 adults have been carrying on family life as best they can since early last fall. From the single trailer with an elderly man and wife to the three-trailer arrangement of the family with fourteen children—all represent hearth and home to a community living in circumstances more like the pioneers of a hundred years ago than like most of us today.

Members of the Soroptimist Club of Kansas City, MO, have been interested in Trailer City from the start. They immediately "adopted" thirty-five families, supplying them with winter bedding and other essentials. But members of their Service Committee—Mrs. Anton K. Westh, Mrs. John Spaulding, Mrs. Martha Franklin, and others—became increasingly concerned about the children.

Until the necessities of shelter and clothing had been met there was no time to think of recreation and community life. Last December, however, the Soroptimists announced their intention to try to provide a Community House for the new neighborhood, a place where all members of all the families might meet and take part in activities that interested them, a place to spend pleasant evenings getting acquainted, and a place for the children after school.

The Soroptimists knew they were tackling a big project, but they went to work with a will. Mrs. Franklin, as head of the "how-to-get-it-done" committee, went to local business firms, to the labor organizations, and to other civic-minded groups and individuals and stated her case well.

Months of hard work and cooperation were brought to wonderfully happy end when the Community House was dedicated recently. Miss Adalain Taylor, president of the Soroptimist Club, presided during the ceremonies. Indicating the spacious building with its attractive decoration and modern equipment, Miss Taylor said, "All this is a vital evidence of the spirit of cooperation which can exist among all groups when the cause is worthy."

Our Company (Butler Manufacturing), which made the building available at a minimum cost, was signaled out for recognition. Besides introducing Mr. Speakman to the audience, Miss Taylor mentioned the advice and help in erection and planning give by Wilbur Larkin and Clark Kjorlaug, both of whom sat on the platform during the program.

The climax of the afternoon came when the dedicatory plaque was presented to Randall Jessee, for whom the Community House was named in recognition of his tireless coverage of the flood over WDAF-TV, and the continued appeals and public information he gave on the progress of Trailer City and the post-flood rehabilitation of the families affected.

The Rev. Dr. John Nanson, who gave the invocation, announced that church services would begin at the Community House the following Sunday. A survey of the families, he said, revealed that twenty-three denominations were represented and that the families were eager to begin religious observances. A full program of events was scheduled to begin immediately at the Center, including Scouting for boys and girls, athletics, and evening programs including movies, television, games and talent shows.

(Next month, our club was just gearing up for community service projects. But how to fund them?)

Norma McKelvy Off on Adventures Again!

Last month Norma McKelvy and her husband Alfred took part in a mission trip to Southern Puerto Rico. They worked with the Methodist church and Rehace in their building back Puerto Rico project. She worked on the roof and putting up exterior gypsum board walls.



Norma, you look great in a hard hat!