



The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 95 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City
South Central Region

SOROPTIMIST®

October 2021

The Signpost

Investing in Dreams



President's Message
Heather Rollins



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Kay Stewart, Editor

www.kcsoroptimist.org

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Welcome to October! Fall is officially here and with it is the realization that holidays are quickly coming. I can't believe that it is time to start planning for Trick-o-Treaters, Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Christmas. Time has flown by and the weather is getting a tad bit cooler these days so make sure you're bundling up! The South Central Region Fall Meeting is quickly approaching on October 15th. I believe we have at least 6 members attending. I'm looking forward to learning more about how we can continue to move forward as an organization and reach new heights. I'll share my findings at the next business meeting. But it leads me to a few questions: What does giving back and service mean to you? How can we all grow as active members? We are all committed to giving back to our community and the power of service has shaped many of us into who we are today. Let's continue to grow and reignite the spark of service, community and membership.

Have a wonderful month, and I look forward to seeing all of you at the next business meeting!

Warm regards
Heather Rollins

Candy
Routledge
grew
sunflowers
in
her garden
this year.



Gorgeous!

October Calendar



October 13

Board Meeting

Blue Cross Blue Shield
2301 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64108
6:00 p.m.

October 15-17

Fall Region Meeting

Oklahoma City, OK

October 18

Foundation Meeting

Shepherd's Center

The Loretto
1111 W 39th St.
Kansas City, MO 64111 ·
6:00 p.m.

October 20

Business Meeting

Cinzetti's Italian Market

7201 W. 91st street
Overland Park, KS 66212
5:30 p.m. –6:00 p.m.



October Birthdays

Norma Tilton October 2

Business Meeting, Wednesday, October 20

Cinzetti's Italian Market

7201 W 91st Street
Overland Park, KS 66212 ·

5:30 Social Hour

6:00 p.m. Meeting

Menu

Italian Buffet

Adults 64 and younger - \$18.99

Adults 65 and older - \$14.99

Soda, coffee, tea - \$3.39

Water will be served with meal.

Limited cocktails are available.

Tipping amount is up to each individual.

Program

Barb Fitzgerald

Hillcrest Transitional Housing

Collection

None

Please RSVP to Marie Parker

by COB Friday, October 15



Power of the Purse

SAVE THE DATE!

Recruitment and Power of the Purse Fire Sale Mixer



Mark your calendar for **Saturday November 6, 2021**, from 12pm - 2pm for our Recruitment and Power of the Purse Fire Sale Mixer. Our get-to-gether will be held at **Charleston's Restaurant** located at 8817 State Line, KC, MO (on the southwest side of Ward Parkway shopping center). Hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks/tea will be provided.

You will receive an invitation via email by October 8th to share with friends/family who you think might be interested in joining our club, and shopping from a large selection of gently used purses, totes, evening bags, and billfolds.

Prices for the items range from \$10-\$15.

We're looking forward to a good turn out and a fun time!
Oh, and don't forget to wear your name tag and Soroptimist pin.

Editor's Note: And Jerri is looking forward to cleaning out her basement!



Service Objectives Application Time is now Open!

The Funding Criteria and Application documents are updated and on our SIKC website. If you know of any organization that is a 501(c)3, and they could use some funds for a project that meets our mission of advancing opportunities for women and girls, please ask them to go to www.kcsoroptimist.org and click on Service Objectives.

They can download and return the forms right there.

Our timeline has changed. Applications are due November 22, 2021 with awards to be distributed in February, 2022.



Service Objectives Update

Our club is once again working to assist our Friendship Link, SI Harare in Zimbabwe, Africa in their efforts to help the women in need in their community. The Society of Destitute Aged (SODA) has been one of their projects for a long, long time. A few years ago, we assisted them financially when they engaged in establishing gardening and chickens that could sustain the residents and be sold to help pay for utilities and supplies. The residents ranging in age from 74 to 95 do all the work. Despite their efforts, an extended drought season and power shortages are threatening to cause



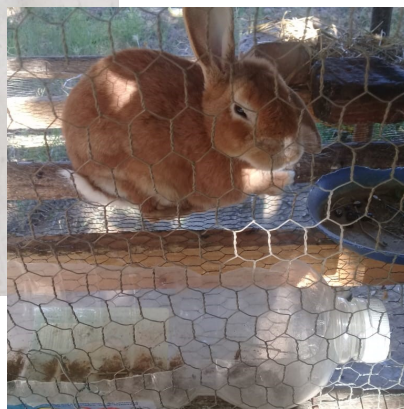
their gardening to fail. They have a borehole (well) but need power to pump water. The answer is solar panels. Our club sent them to funds to have the

panels installed and maintained. From their president, Miriam Mukorombindo, “Greetings to you Kay and I would like to acknowledge the receipt of funds for the SODA Solar Project. On behalf of SI Harare Club we say thank you SI Kansas we really appreciate your friendship and the donations you have rendered us to

continue with our projects. The work starts tomorrow and once finished we will send you pictures once again thank you so much.”

As chair of Service Objectives this year, I thank all of our club members for enthusiastically embracing this project. Kay

The photos are from last year's harvest. With spring approaching, we wish them much success this year.

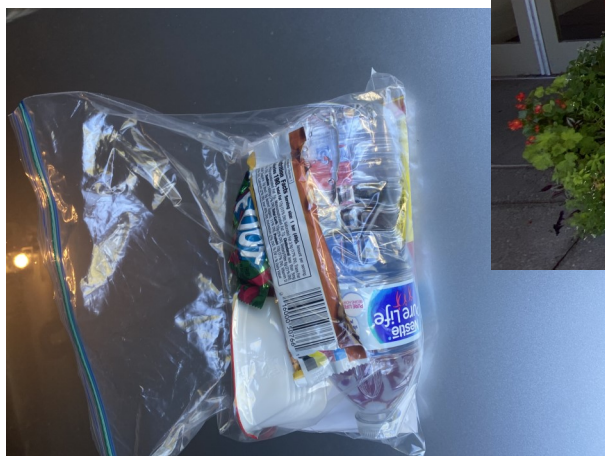


Community Service

At our last business meeting in September, Community Service Chair, Danielle Sidney brought enough snacks to fill 40 bags for the Ronald McDonald House.

She delivered them to Ronald McDonald last week. More good hands on service.

And more to come.....Stay tuned.



Summer Fun and Exotic Places



Dr. Margaret Smith used her free time this summer to learn something new and catch up with family.

Here she is at her graduation from Yoga Teacher Training. She is with her two teachers. She is now a certified yoga teacher!

Go Margaret!

High School Reunion Time

Dianne and Robert Young spent Saturday, September 18th with her graduating class of '66 for their high school reunion..prize winning

BBQ, from one of her classmate's sons, the group Pig Lebowski, incredible baked beans, pork ribs, flavorful tender brisket, and pulled pork! Wow..sides of potato salad, coleslaw, relishes, home baked sourdough rolls, pies, pies, and PIES again..Dianne and her baking buddy Jan baked Peach pies, caramel apple pies, cherry pies with a light orange glaze, and one very special blueberry pie with a lemon glaze! Recorded music of the times, videos of the past reunion, and new videos for our classmates that could not make it. To end the evening, a group from the Veterans of Foreign Wars were present, and they performed a tribute to our classmates that were lost in the year's past wars, very solemn and respectful. They had a wonderful time reminiscing with friends and making new ones..even Bob had to admit he enjoyed this day.



Summer Fun and Exotic Places

Margaret with her sisters in the US Virgin Islands in early September.
Looks heavenly.



Fall Meeting October 15-17, 2021



Several of us are going to attend the Fall meeting in Oklahoma. We will be representing our club, learning about what other clubs are doing and bringing back information to help us achieve our goals. We have been asked to bring some individually wrapped snacks for the Hospitality Suite. If you can donate, please call Kay Stewart by Wednesday, October 13 for pickup.

Meet Wakisha Briggs

Wakisha Briggs came to Soroptimist through a chance meeting at a funeral. Several of SIKC members attended the funeral of longtime member, Beverly Snyder. While there we met one of her neighbors, Wakisha Briggs. We mentioned we knew Beverly through Soroptimist which peaked Wakisha's interest. She Googled Soroptimist later and discovered we were an organization that works for the advancement of women in the community, a cause near and dear to her heart. Interest led to an invitation to a meeting and voila', we had a new member. ***Wakisha, who likes to go by Kisha, is a force of nature.***



Years ago as head basketball coach for women's basketball at Penn Valley Community College, she was acutely aware of the struggles young scholars were experiencing socially, emotionally and in the area of leadership development. She started looking for a way to tune into their strengths and make them aware of their values and stronger members of their families and communities.

She had a vision that she needed to pursue this path in a dedicated way for children in need in the future. She enlisted two friends to help her in drafting the Mission and Vision of Bridge Leadership Academy. The mission of the Bridge Leadership Academy is to foster forward-thinking progressive leaders through character-based development, educational, personal and professional discovery and a commitment to serve the community.

Kisha purchased a home in South Kansas City, Missouri where she became acquainted with Beverly Snyder. Having acquired carpentry and plumbing knowledge and skills during summer work in high school, she spent several months rehabbing the home she bought. Later she learned of a building close to her home on Blue Ridge that was slated for demolition. She convinced the city to delay demolition until she could bring it up to code. Her building skills and her ability to sway people to volunteer and help with her vision came to the fray. She and her friends, family and volunteers spent two years filling 40 dumpsters with trash and salvageable materials. Jim Disposal donated over 20 dumpsters for the project. And there were several companies that assisted her with the vision to build a learning center in South Kansas City Missouri. WEB Dubois, Kissick, McCarry Lumber, Taliaferro & Brown, Davidson Architecture, Custom Engineering, Price Electrical just to name a few. All the time she was working at Park University as the Director of Continuing Education. Kisha also served on the Board of Education for the Hickman Mills School and served two years as president. She had to give up her coaching, but she knew she was on the right path.

Today, Bridge leadership Academy serves over 50 students month teaching them leadership skills, mindful meditation, art- enrichment, goal setting and life-shills. The Bridge has three part-time team members and a whole battalion of volunteers. The Bridge also provides snacks for their students after each session. There is no charge for their services as 100 percent of our participants receive free and reduced lunch. Bridge Leadership Academy is a designated 501(c) 3.

During the pandemic, Kisha has reduced her classes forming Pandemic Pods to provide a structured learning environment for students in need. They partner with other community based organizations in order to provide wrap around services for the students with the greatest need. On a personal level, She and her spouse have been married nine years and have a son who lives in Springfield, Missouri.

Kisha! We are so glad you joined us!