



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

**April 2024
Issue**

SOROPTIGRAM

Soroptimist International of Harrisburg, PA Inc
Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.
North Atlantic Region
District IV

Chartered June 1, 1938
Making a difference for Women since 1921
The vision of SI is:
To be a Global Voice for women through
awareness, advocacy and action.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARYBETH

April Program

Ruby Award
Literacy Council

INVOCATION

April
Sally Straining

DATE: April 24
TIME: 6 P.M.

**PLACE: Faith
Immanuel
Presbyterian
Church**

Cost: \$20.00

April is here windy and wet, as nature offers, but it appears to want to outdo itself this year. At least we can look forward to May flowers. Actually, with the weather we've had we just need to look out the window. Spring is showing itself in a grand show. We have had a few tastes of spring as the spring flowers and trees are blooming giving us hope of renewal.

We held forth aspersions of a calmer future last year only to returned to more turmoil in the world as we watch and listen to all that is happening in Ukraine for the second year or are we in year three?? We now hold our breath for calm in the Middle East with Israel and Gaza. Unfortunately, it is spreading further and further by the month. Let's hope and pray that things can be brought in line without putting American boots on the ground. We've all seen this in the past.

Let's spring forward with our Awards thanks to all the hands of dedicated committee members. Thank you one and all. April's award is the Ruby Award. Patty and her committee have chosen the Cracked Teapot for this award. We will again welcome the

The Literacy Council with funding as well. We can be proud of all we do in the community for women and girls. Thank you, Patty for all your effort. If you know of someone who should be recognized in the future, please let the committees know; this will help with next year. It is always great to work from a list.

The Tuesdays roll by quickly as does the year. We are coming closer to the end of our business year, but we are still working hard in our efforts to serve women and girls. In May, we have our budget for 2024-25 to complete so, if you have suggestions or want additional money added to an award or scholarship, let Alice know so she can bring those changes to the board and Club at large for consideration and approval. We have lots of positions on the board coming to conclusions and need to be filled. When Sally and her committee calls, shower them with Yes Yes Yes. . . Many hands light work makes.

Let April showers bring you May flowers to bloom and may we continue to shower our community with goodwill. Most of all enjoy the spring and accept the rejuvenation of nature and pray for a brighter year to come.

Marybeth

APRIL 24th MEETING



Our dinner meeting on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24th** will be held at **6:00 PM** in the Nevada Room at Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Colonial Road.

In April, we will celebrate our Ruby Award winner. This award is to celebrate a local woman who is helping women and girls in the Harrisburg area. This year's winner is Emily Schmidt, owner of The Cracked Pot Coffee Shop which employs and develops youth aging out of the foster care system.



In addition, we will celebrate the efforts of the Central PA Literacy Council by providing support for their ongoing program teaching adults to become literate.

You need to contact Marybeth and Billie by Friday, April 19th to inform her if you will be attending.

APRIL COLLECTION

We will be gathering items for the NAR Spring Conference Service Project, the YWCA Hanover Domestic Violence Pantry Needs. They are asking clubs to bring any of the following items to Conference with the club members:



- Rice • Pasta • Pasta Sauce • Fruit (Canned or Dried) • Hormel Compleats - or microwaveable shelf stable meals • Ramen • Tuna • Canned Chicken • Multicultural Hair Products • Baking Soda • Spice - especially Salt • Reusable Shopping Bags • Individually wrapped snacks - granola bars, crackers, cookies, Chips etc. • Cleaning Supplies • Diapers (especially large size) • Pullups • Baby Wipes • Gift Cards - Walmart, Target, Amazon

We will send our collection with our Club attendees.

NAR SPRING CONFERENCE



The NAR Spring Conference will take place at the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center from April 26 through 28. Our delegates attending are Alice Lubrecht, Joan Gibson and Sally Straining. Reports from the meeting will be provided next month.

CANDIDATES for SIA 2024-2025 PRESIDENT Elect

The resumes and videos for all the candidates are now available for your review on the [SIA website](#). We will need to review the candidates and determine how to vote at our April meeting.



SI HARRISBURG ELECTIONS



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Will take place at our May meeting. We encourage you to say yes to the Nominating Committee if asked.

WEAVER SCHOLARSHIP

The application for the 2024 Weaver Scholarship has been shared with the Dauphin County high schools and is located on our website (www.si-harrisburg.org) Do you know a senior girl who is planning to major in a science, math, engineering, or technology subject in college? Encourage her to apply for the scholarship before May 6.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



April 24th SI Harrisburg dinner meeting 6 p.m. Nevada Room, Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church

April 26-28, 2024 – NAR Spring Conference, Gettysburg, PA

May 14th SI Harrisburg Board, 6 p.m. at Billie Hawk's residence

May 28th SI Harrisburg dinner meeting, 6 p.m. Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church

July 24-27, 2024 – SIA Convention, Bellevue, Washington

SIA MEMBER PORTAL

Starting in June 2024, SIA will no longer require a Member ID Number. All members need a unique, valid email address to securely access the NEW! Soroptimist Member Portal.

Your email address will be your username for logging into the portal to:

1. Update your member profile.
2. See your membership status.
3. View your giving history and Laurel Society Level.
4. See your store purchases.
5. Access the Member Resource Library.
6. Manage your Club Roster, Pay Dues, Assign Leadership Roles (Club and Region Leaders Only)
7. And more engagement opportunities!



will

This summer, SIA will be hosting live webinars (**Learning Labs!**) to train club leaders and members on how to navigate the new portal. The first Learning Lab will focus on how to log-in, update your roster and pay club dues in Salesforce.

Our club has current email addresses in SIA's system for all everyone but our Life Members who don't have email so everyone should be good to go when they switch the process.



SIA Participates in the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women



The 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) served as the United Nation's largest annual gathering on gender equality and

women's empowerment. This year's event, which took place March 11-22, carried the theme "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective."

Many Soroptimists from all over the world joined governments, civil society organizations, experts, and activists worldwide to agree on actions and investments to end women's poverty and advance gender equality.

In addition to workshops and presentations, it was also a meeting place for Soroptimists to connect on their mission of advancing gender equality through education. "I find these events motivating and inspiring," says Michelle Burnett, SIA Executive Director/CEO.

As part of the event, SIA was invited to host our own CSW parallel event, Accelerating Gender Equality through Education. The Zoom panel discussion focused on the power of education to end poverty and achieve gender equality. President Bobbi provided an overview of SIA's long history of improving the economic circumstances of women and girls through access to education. More than 288 attendees participated in six languages.

A group of vibrant panelists also shared their thoughts on our Dream Programs and

Big Goal Accelerator Projects. Julie Kaye of SI/Metropolitan Sacramento, CA (Sierra Nevada Region), introduced members to her club's extremely successful *Dream It, Be It* program. She also shared their gorgeous mural, which the girls had the opportunity to paint with a real artist in Sacramento. Terri Craig of SI/Raleigh, NC, and the Central East Coast Region *Live Your Dream Awards* Chair shared inspiring ways for regions to support clubs and work together to reach even more women through the *Live Your Dream Award*

SIA Board Director Vivian Walczesky and Board Director Maria Helena R. dos Santos

Finally, Laurel Lanham, club president, and Marilee Stefenhagen, club secretary of SI/Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs, CA (Desert Coast Region) shared their project, which was the recent winner of the Best in Federation Club Award for Impact. Their club has been paying General Educational Diploma fees for women in the Custody to the Community Transitional ReEntry Program and providing other support, including school supplies. This project has helped women earn their GEDs and shorten their sentences at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

"It's always so exciting to be part of CSW and its global impact," says Iesha D. Brown, SIA Chief Impact and Engagement Officer. "Our webinar attendees were inspired in the chat, gathering ideas for creating their own impact or sharing more about Soroptimist in their communities—the ripple effect of education for women and girls is truly limitless!"

WHO ARE SOROPTIMISTS

Soroptimists are women of all ages, cultures, and ethnic groups. They are working moms and single women, small business owners and corporate executives, attorneys, teachers and physicians. Soroptimists are leaders across all professional disciplines that also serve as role models for younger women at the beginning of their careers. The common thread that connects all Soroptimists is the desire to make a difference for others through volunteer service.

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) is part of Soroptimist International, the world's largest classified service organization for executive and professional women.

The Harrisburg Club's mission is to use our time, talents and resources to advance the status of women and children. To accomplish this mission, we establish and support specific projects to address the needs locally, regionally and internationally.

*We are on the web at:
WWW: si-harrisburg.org*

SOROPTIGRAM DEADLINE: Deadline the first Wednesday of month

SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE

**I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist
and to the ideals for which it
stands.**

The Sincerity of Friendship

The Joy of Achievement

The Dignity of Service

The Integrity of Profession

The Love of Country

**I will put forth my greatest effort
to promote, uphold and defend
these ideals, For the larger
fellowship in home, in society, in
business, for Country and God.**

Editor: Alice Lubrecht

SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
Of
HARRISBURG, PA, INC.

2023-2024 OFFICERS &
BOARD

President: MaryBeth Lehtimaki

Vice President:

PLEASE CONSIDER

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