

Soroptimist International of Harrisburg

November/
December 2024

Soroptigram

President's Message:

Well, as usual, the holidays have arrived. The children and families celebrated Halloween with their usual vigor and candy seeking in October. And we had the opportunity to honor those who came before us with All Hallows Eve and All Saints Day. And we look forward to family gatherings at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

As we gather for our November meeting, we hope that our hands on project will bring joy to our veterans as we sign cards to be delivered to the Lebanon VA. With each card we sign, let's send a prayer giving thanks for their service as well as prayers for world peace and respect for all. Also let us uphold our ideals of Soroptimism to create a better world, not only for women and girls, but for all.

December is a month of giving as we share our good fortune with others. Our seniors reap the benefit through our senior-giving with the Salvation Army projects. Our community reaps the benefit as each of us participate in giving trees and help those of recent natural disasters. Our family and friends receive joy as we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and other holidays celebrated by the rich and diverse community which is America.

These individual celebrations make us the interesting and rich cultural mix that we are, as community and country. Let's remember daily to give thanks and offer prayers, remembering those who went before us to create a society which honors everyone. And, as Soroptimists, may we work for justice and peace in the world.

I am ever thankful for all your efforts in support of those in need. We may be few and only able to drop a pebble in the pond but take a moment in your mind's eye to watch the rings created by that pebble and see all those we have touched with these small blessings.

In a note of levity, "May your turkey be plump. May your potatoes and gravy never have lumps. May your yams be delicious, and your pie take a prize. And, most of all, May your Thanksgiving dinner bring blessings to each of you and yours.

Marybeth



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

NOVEMBER'S MEETING

PROGRAM

HELP Ministries

INSPIRATION

Marybeth Lehtimaki

MONTHLY COLLECTION

Cleaning Supplies

DATE: November 26

TIME: 6 PM

**PLACE: Faith Immanuel
Presbyterian Church**

DINNER COST: \$20

Menu is Soup and Salad



Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 26 — Dinner meeting, 6 PM Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church

December 10 — Dinner meeting/Holiday Party, 6 PM, Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church

January 14 — Board meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.

January 28 — Open House at East Shore Library, 1 p.m.

May 2-4, 2025 — NAR

November and December Meetings

In November:

We will hear from HELP Ministries about their winter shelters for Harrisburg's homeless. Our November collection will be cleaning supplies to assist with this effort. (Spray disinfectant such as Lysol Spray; All purpose surface cleaner such as Mister Clean; Surface wipes such as Clorox Wipes, Swifter Wet Jet pads, Paper towels, Paper plates (small) and cups)

- Bring your extra secular holiday cards in as we want to sign and address cards to veterans housed at the Lebanon VA.
- If you can, bring an unwrapped new toy for the Salvation Army's efforts to provide gifts to over 3,000 Harrisburg children. While this is technically our December collection, we must get the items to the Salvation Army in early December.

In December:

- Look to have fun as we celebrate the holidays with each other. Songs and games will be the theme for the evening. Bring a grab bag to participate in one of the games. More information in early December.



OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



- Dennise Hill, Executive Director of Brethren Housing Association and Marilyn Bellesfield, Director of Planned Development, joined us to tell us about the services offered by Brethren Housing. They are celebrating the 35th Anniversary of BHA.
- SI Harrisburg provided a certificate honoring BHA for their work with women and children in the community as well as a check for \$1,000 to assist in their vital services.
- Club members provided cleaning supplies to be shared with the residents of BHA housing units as well as one of our blankets for children. Club members completed the work on a second blanket which will be shared with BHA in the near future.
- After enjoying a beautifully catered meal from Cathy Mentzer, we voted to hire her for our November, December, March, April, May and June meetings. Our January and February meetings will be lunches at 1 p.m.



Soroptimist International of the Americas



We received our ballot to cast our vote on the Bylaws revisions which were discussed at the Convention this past summer. Many of the changes are the result of changes to Pennsylvania's Nonprofit Corporations regulations. The

board has reviewed the document and asks that you read the document before our November meeting as we need to cast our ballot in early December.

We encourage you to read the document online as it is 32 pages of printing. President Marybeth will have a copy for review at the November meeting as well.

LIVE YOUR DREAM

Deadline for Live Your Dream applications was November 15. By Tuesday, the 12th we had three applications. The committee will be reviewing applications next week.



FUNDRAISING



GIANT GROCERY CARDS: Treat a senior citizen, family member or give a gift to a family or individual in need to assistance. Giant grocery cards can be purchased in amounts of

\$25, \$50 and \$100 by contacting Jacalyn Speaks at jcspeack@aol.com. The club receives 5% of the value of cards sold to use towards our projects.

SI & UN News

Join an International Movement: 16 Days of Activism

The 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women (EVAW) is an annual international campaign calling for the elimination of violence against women and girls. The "UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls" campaign runs from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day).



Every year we support the campaign, 16 Days of Activism to end Violence Against Women and Girls, which starts on 25 November and goes through to 10 December, encompassing:

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women / White Ribbon Day (25 November)
- World Human Rights Day / Soroptimist International Foundation Day (10 December)

This year, we are developing a campaign for all five Federations, to create unified messaging for Soroptimists around the globe.

The theme for our 2024 campaign is:

“Prevention First” Starting With Awareness and Ending With Action!

Prevention First will promote different key strategies for preventing violence against women and girls – including raising awareness of the causes and effects, effective solutions and support, and actionable steps you can take to end violence against women and girls.

Soroptimist International of Harrisburg's Mission

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.



Soroptimist International of Harrisburg

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

SOROPTIGRAM DEADLINE:
The first Wednesday of
each month.

Editor: Alice Lubrecht

Soroptimist International of Harrisburg PA Inc

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