



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

FEBRUARY 2025



PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

February is here and we do have a lot to be excited about! Our meeting programs have been very interesting and brought several guests and new members to the club. With that in mind, thank you to Betty for once again offering to conduct mentoring sessions for our new members.

We all wish our new members to feel welcome and look forward to sharing the enriching experiences we have gained during our time in the club. Our social time during dinner is a great forum for explaining our roles on the various committees and projects. The important point that we want everyone to remember is that it takes the collective group to accomplish our mission of

helping women and girls to “live their dreams”, and we will guide our new members to learn how they can best contribute.

Everyone, please know that new meeting guests and suggestions for speakers are always welcome. I am a strong follower of Helen Keller's adage, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".

February is also Women's Heart Health Month. Know your risks and check out information at www.goredforwomen.org



SPECIAL ACTIVITY

We will have a special activity at our February meeting. We will make T-shirt bags. If you choose to make one, please bring a T-shirt you will no longer want to wear. We'll cut off the sleeves and stitch them up to make an easy bag to fit in your purse for when you need a bag. If you have a pair of sewing scissors to cut material, please bring them to share.

In February we will also run our HundredX campaign. The campaign runs Feb 3- Mar 4.

By now we should be in the preplanning of getting your initial contact out. I will have the official sign-up email from HundredX for you to send out as soon as they release it to me. Good luck everyone!

Please remember to bring t-shirts to our February 13 meeting to make t-shirt bags. If you have any extra to share please bring them.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

There will be no board meeting as I anticipate having a Zoom with all to launch HundredX

Feb 13 General Meeting
Empowering Jr. High Women
Guest Speaker: Kelly Carstens

Induction of new members
Christine Birhanzls and Mary Ann Stilzie

T shirt bags

Gayle

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Our club can earn money when we shop at Kroger. If you have a Kroger account, log in at <http://www.kroger.com> and search for Soroptimist International of Middletown or enter LD932 and click enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid e-mail address, and a rewards card. If you do not have a rewards card, you can get one at a Kroger customer service desk. Participants must swipe their registered Kroger rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

If you have not already designated a non-profit to receive your points, please consider listing Soroptimist International of Middletown. You do not need to be a club member to donate your points, so ask your family members and friends if they will choose our club as their beneficiary. Your choice will print at the bottom of your receipt

SPRING CONFERENCE

If you've never been to a Spring Conference, this would be a good one to attend. It's April 25-27 in Lafayette, IN.

SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline for our Miami Scholarship is February 15. Please help spread the word. Interested women can find writeable applications on our website www.middletownsoroptimist.org

CALENDAR

February 2—Groundhog Day
February 3-March 4--HundredX
February 6—no board meeting
February 7—National Wear **Red** Day for heart disease
February 13—club meeting. Come at 5:30. Feel free to bring a friend or potential member.
February 14—Happy Valentine's Day
February 15—Miami University scholarship applications due to club
February 20—10:00 a.m.- noon—suicide awareness and prevention training at Hope House Men's Center 1001 Grove St.
March 31—Governor's Club Award form due to Gov. Audrey
April –25-27 Spring Conference in Lafayette, IN

FEBRUARY INSPIRATION & RAFFLE

June

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

none

FEBRUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Betty 1988

TRAFFICKING

We're looking for someone to cover Ann's list while she winters in Florida. If you'd like to cover her 20 or so places, please let Jennie or June know.

TOO MUCH STUFF

Ingrid shared this as last month's inspiration, and several of you asked if it could be printed in our newsletter, so here goes:

Too much stuff, too many things. How much joy does all that bring? Fill up the closets, the mantles and walls. Rent a storage shed, still no room for it all,

Too much stuff, too many things, Collectible treasures, rummage sale flings. Garage full of tools, some pieces of bling. When you look at what counts, it won't be those things.

It won't be those things you bought at the mart. It's something more special you hold in your heart.

It's Kathy and Ron and the family dog And Sundays and movies and fireplace logs. And reading in bed with someone you love And looking for answers from God up above. Cold water when thirsty, a smile and a hug, A baby you're holding gives your ear a big tug. A walk in the park, a run to first base. The rush that you get when you see a friend's face.

It's those things so special you hold in your heart. It isn't those things you bought at the mart.

Too much stuff, too many things. How much joy does all that bring?' Garage full of tools, lots of pieces of bling.

When you look at what counts, it won't be those things.

It's playing gin rummy with your mom and your dad.

Lookin' at pictures of good times you've had.

Songs you sing along with, a sport that you cheer, the pride you feel when graduation is here

A voice from the past, a burger and fries Something so funny, you laugh till you cry.

A moment comes true, just like you were wishin'

And what are you doin', nothin', just fishin'

Those things so special you hold in your heart

Nothing at all that you bought at the mart.

Too much stuff, too many things.

How much joy does all that bring?

Fill up the closets, the mantles and walls,

Rent a storage shed, still no room for it all.

So when you think about buying more things and more stuff,

Take a good look around you, you might have enough.

Take a good look around you, you might have too much.

Maybe give it to someone who doesn't have stuff.

By John Chaffee



CONTACT US

P.O. Box 525, Middletown, OH 45042

simiddletown@soroptimist.net

www.middletownsoroptimist.org



28 Word Poem for February

Freezing
Cold winds,
Biting chills, and
White snow fluffed hills
Valentine's Day, oh how gay!
President's Day is coming our way.
February, sweet and small, greatest
month of all.

—Eric Lies

INFORMATION TO SHARE

Sojourner to serve the homeless: need grocery bags, disposable plates, bowls, utensils, napkins, and cups. Also clothing and blankets. NOT camping supplies. Goal to get them off the street and out of the woods and to help with food/supplies and counseling. Work to get homeless off drugs and into rehab when they are ready.

Contact Christine Birhanzi, Sojourner Recovery Addiction Services, 513-341-0331

Our **Hope House** baskets can always use hangers, good used towel sets, used hair dryers, extra hair brushes and combs.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ at 114 S. Broad St., Middletown, across from the library has a free clothing closet. It is open on Tuesdays between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. They don't need business clothes, but men's, women's, and children's clothes are always needed. Call 513-422-4519 to arrange to drop off donations during office hours, or Barb can take them.

Contact Bethany Tompkins (**Sew Purpose**) at **Kingswell (Job Threads)**, 513-435-2678, 1124 Central Ave. Middletown, third floor

Always call first- no set hours. Can get donations to Ginger.

Also does Alterations/mending and sewing classes as well as sewing machine repair.

Accepts clothing donations for Job Threads (male and female). For interviews, for work, prom or dressy clothing for all ages/events. Also shoes, jewelry, purses, socks, and underwear.

Also fabric/office supplies/ hangers, garment racks, sewing machines.

Bethany will assist in clothing selections and do alterations if needed.