



**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women

## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

**JANUARY 2020**

### **PRESIDENT MARTI'S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year!!

Let's ring out the old and ring in the new as we look to the future and increasing our membership!

Feeling my Celtic heritage, I will offer you Celtic New Year Blessings!

"Always remember to forget

The troubles that pass away.

But never forget to remember

The blessings that come each day."

and

"Count your blessings instead of your crosses.

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes.

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears.

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full times instead of your lean.

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth.

Love your neighbor as much as yourself."

Blessings

*President Marti*

JANUARY



## **JANUARY MEETING**

Unless we hear otherwise, we'll meet at Sue and Rick's for dinner and Holiday Auction. The membership committee will be in touch with the details.

## **HOPE HOUSE UPDATE**

Another 7 "Going Home Bathroom Baskets" were delivered to Hope House before Christmas. The baskets were for the end of December and all of January. This brings our total baskets delivered since the first of September to twenty (20). We still have not heard back from Menards about our mop request for 48 mops for the year, so I will be following up on our request in January.

If you missed Tammi Ector, Director of the Hope House Center for Women and Children when she spoke at our Soroptimist meeting last fall or would like to hear her again, she and Tim Williams, Hope House Director, will be speaking at an upcoming Middletown Rotary Club meeting. They are scheduled to join us on Tuesday, January 21 at noon at Central Connections. Please feel welcome to attend as my guest.

Ann

## **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

Do any of you have any updates for our membership directory? Maybe you received a new phone or computer or e-mail address for Christmas. If so, give updates to Judy or to Barb to print in the newsletter.

Barb's new e-mail

[bflory2307@gmail.com](mailto:bflory2307@gmail.com)

## **JANUARY INSPIRATION**

Jo

## **JANUARY RAFFLE**

Jo

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

January 6—Betty

## **JANUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Dee—1998

Beth—1998

Marti—2017

Diane—2018

Jennie—2018

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS**

Do you know a woman attending college who could use some extra money for her schooling? Interested women can find writeable applications for Virginia Wagner Award and our Miami Regional scholarship on our website [www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org). This is an easy way for them to get an application. Every year we struggle to find deserving applicants, so please share this information freely.

Virginia Wagner applications are due January 15.

## **SPRING CONFERENCE**

Spring Conference will be April 24-26 in Ann Arbor Michigan. Put the date on your calendar now and plan to attend Spring Conference

## PINS

Remember to wear your pin and nametag to the meetings. Otherwise, feed the piggy bank. The money collected in the piggy bank goes toward operating expenses. Feed the piggy \$1 if you forget to wear your pin or if you have a birthday during the month.

## KROGER PLUS CARD

If you are a Kroger Plus Card holder, make sure you select SI Middletown as your community giving partner. That way, when you shop at Kroger, a percentage of your spending will be donated back to the club.

Visit <http://kroger.com> Once logged in to your Kroger account, you can search for Soroptimist International of Middletown, OH either by name or LD932 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address, and a rewards card. If you do not have a rewards card, you can get one at the customer service desk.

## CONTACT US

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[www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org)



Fun was had by all at our sock exchange party—plenty of unique gifts and laughs.

## CALENDAR

January 2– 6:30 board meeting at Mt. Pleasant

January 9-- **Change of location.**  
Dinner and auction will be held at Sue and Rick's

January 13—National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness

January 15—Virginia M. Wagner applications due to club

March 1—Miami University Regional applications due to club

March 31—Governor's Club Award form due to Gov. Kris

April 24-26—Spring Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan

July 22-25—46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Bellevue, Washington



SOROPTIMIST  
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## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

FEBRUARY 2020

### PRESIDENT MARTI'S MESSAGE

Happy Heart Greetings!

As I am sitting here trying to think of something to write, I checked last February's message. Guess what! I was talking about increasing our membership. And now, in my final months of my presidency, I am thrilled that we have actually begun working vigorously on our membership project. There is a great deal of thinking going into how we approach getting our name and our mission out to the public. I'm excited about the direction the committee is heading.

This has been more challenging than I ever thought. With each generation, there are new life-style preferences that create the need for getting out of our comfort zones. What we enjoy we don't want to lose, and that is fine. We have to find ways to incorporate new approaches to continue the mission of our great organization.

We may be taking baby steps to begin, and that is OK. We will take what we learn and move forward with planning to find ways to get our message out.

See you on the 13<sup>th</sup>! Wear red and get a jump-start on Valentine's Day!  
*Love and hugs to all!*  
*President Marti*



### 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 may 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

Thanks!  
Sue

### **SPRING CONFERENCE**

Put the date on your calendar now and plan to attend Spring Conference April 24-26 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It will be a good experience for some of you who have never attended! A new governor and Region board will be installed.

### **OUTING POSSIBILITY**

Here is a possibility for an outing. Those who are interested could carpool and eat lunch or dinner afterward. We could also take guests with us so they will have a better idea of some of our involvement and learn more about human trafficking. The cost is \$5. It's at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. The exhibit is there through April 4 Check out <https://freedomcenter.org/motelx> for more information. The exhibition reveals the grim reality of human trafficking.

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

The deadline for our Miami Regional Campus Scholarship is March 1. Please help spread the word. Interested women can find writeable applications on our website [www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org)

### **FEBRUARY INSPIRATION**

Ginger

### **FEBRUARY RAFFLE**

Beth

### **FEBRUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Betty 1988

### **CALENDAR**

February 2—Groundhog Day

February 6—board meeting

February 7—National Wear **Red** Day for heart disease

February 13—club meeting. Come at 6:00 to socialize. Dinner is at 6:30. Our speaker will be Suzanne Prescott from Butler County Educational Services. She will be speaking on Early Childhood Programs and impact.

February 14—Happy Valentine's Day

March 1—Miami University Regional Campus scholarship applications due to club

March 31—Governor's Club Award form due to Gov. Kris

April 24-26—Spring Conference and installation of Governor Darcy Merritt in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the Kensington Hotel  
Friday night theme is Tropicana and Saturday night will be cocktail dress.

July 22-25—SIA Convention in Bellevue, WA to kick off our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

October 23-24—District Meeting in Canton, OH at the Holiday Inn.

## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

October 1-3, 2021 in San Francisco, CA.

Join Soroptimists from all four Federations as we celebrate our *Bright Past* and look forward to our *Brilliant Future*. The Fairmont San Francisco Hotel is special because of its historic significance. It marks the site of the very first worldwide Soroptimist convention in 1922. Because of its significance in our history, it was chosen as the perfect location for this event. The dates in October are significant because they are close to the date of our founding.

A website page is available at <https://www.sotoptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/whats-new/100-anniversary.html> There will also be a Facebook group formed soon.

## PINS

Have you ordered your new pin yet? Maybe we can all combine our orders into one order. The cost of the S pins is \$15.

Remember to wear your pin and nametag to the meetings. It helps visitors and newer members put names and faces together. Otherwise, feed the piggy bank. The money collected in the piggy bank goes toward operating expenses. Feed the piggy \$1 if you forget to wear your pin or if you have a birthday during the month.

## ANTI-TRAFFICKING NEWS

There's something about numbers that help us see the reality of what's happened. Here are some hopeful stats:

93 locations in our city each day now have their employees looking at the faces of the 8 missing kids from our area because of posters our group has distributed.

10 restrooms have stop sign pull offs in case someone needs help.

5/8 missing children found in Butler/Warren Counties; Montgomery County, 8/8.

A new round of posters planned for March.

We have found out about a trafficking exhibit at the Underground Freedom Center in Cincinnati. We are hoping to get our club interested in taking a trip to see it. After our committee meeting next week, we will be ready with details at the meeting the 13th .

As you see, we have a number of good activities going on. What a difference our numbers are making.

Jennie

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## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

MARCH 2020

### PRESIDENT MARTI'S MESSAGE

March already? How did that happen??

I'm sure all of us are happy to see Spring right around the corner! However, with April, I think I recall a saying about April Showers bringing May Flowers? On my! More rain!

Regardless, I'm praying that with spring coming, we will all feel a sense of renewed strength and energy for what lies ahead for our organization! As seasons change, so must our organizations, businesses, churches, etc. and our thinking. It isn't always easy, but as next generations come along, we need to appeal to them on their level while preserving what is relevant and needed.

So with that, I will see you at our meeting. Hopefully we will not need to be wearing waders or wetsuits!

*President Marti*

### SPRING CONFERENCE

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# MARCH



registration deadline as well as the hotel reservation deadline is March 31. Sue will fill out the registration form at our March meeting. Each person attending will make her own hotel reservations.

### KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

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a rewards card. If you do not have a rewards card, you may 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

Thanks!  
Sue

### **FIELD TRIP**

We have found a unique opportunity to see the exhibit Motel X at the Underground Freedom Center in Cincinnati. This is an interactive activity that is supposed to reveal clues that would let a concerned person realize that this is a trafficking situation. This happens as you explore a motel room setting.

We will meet in the Mt. Pleasant parking lot by the main building at 9 am on March 11. We have 8 going so far with Ann Munafo and I driving. If you are interested, please call Ann for a ride. And if she gets full, Barb has offered to drive. Or you could meet us down there.

We will ride the streetcar to exhibit from Music Hall, \$2.00, take in Motel X, \$18.00, eat at Yard House, ?, and on home.

The exhibit is there through April 4  
Check out <https://freedomcenter.org/motelx> for more information. The exhibition reveals the grim reality of human trafficking.

Jennie

### **ANOTHER OUTING POSSIBILITY**

Soroptimist International of Dayton is presenting a free movie on how traffickers prey on teenagers for sex trafficking on March 28 at 3:00.

Please forward this out to all you friends and family who have children who may be vulnerable to Human Trafficking. Subject matter is for mature audiences.

Register to attend this free event through Event Bright at [www.eventbright.com](http://www.eventbright.com) and enter in the Search: **I Am Jane Doe** or click on the link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/i-am-jane-doe-a-special-showing-tickets-94902892105?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

### **MARCH INSPIRATION**

Jennie

### **MARCH RAFFLE**

Pam

## MARCH CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

2015 Magda Rinder

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Beth Miller
- 7 Marti Kelley
- 11 Pam Linzie
- 13 Mary Maurer
- 13 Ingrid Standafer
- 16 Jennie Webb

### CALENDAR

- March is Women's History Month
- March 1—Miami University Regional Campus scholarship applications due to club
- March 5—board meeting, 6:30 Mt. Pleasant
- March 8—International Women's Day
- March 12—club meeting—socialize at 6 and dinner at 6:30
- March 31—deadline to register for Spring Conference and make hotel reservations.
- March 31—Governor's Club Award form due to Gov. Kris
- April 24-26—Spring Conference and installation of Governor Darcy Merritt in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the Kensington Hotel  
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## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

APRIL 2020

### PRESIDENT MARTI'S MESSAGE

First and foremost, I miss all of you and will miss our April meeting. Perhaps we will miss the rest of our meetings during my term, and that is kinda, sorta, sad! So many good things happen in April, May, and June. Maybe by the end of May things will change. Wishful thinking—perhaps. Due to the pandemic, we must follow the safeguards set forth by Ohio. We need to stay safe and stay well!

The Board and I will be communicating, and I will be reaching out to all of you via email and snail mail with Mary. We will still have our approval for officer candidates in April. I will ask that you respond by email or phone to get your vote and subsequently report via email and snail mail to Mary the results. Any other business that the Board feels needs to be reported will be done by email.

You may have been getting email with some funny things to bring a smile or outright out loud laugh. I have had several, and I will end my message with a few laughs (hopefully). Know that I am thinking of all of you and praying that no one I know personally is stricken this terrible virus. Be safe, stay well, and stay positive.

*President Marti*

*~What if they close the grocery stores? We'll have to hunt for our food. I don't even know where Doritos live!*

*~My wife is singing in the house. I'm sitting outside so the neighbors don't think I'm hurting her.*

*~To those who have bought 17 bottles of soap leaving none on the shop shelves for others, you do realize that to stop getting coronavirus, you need other people to wash their hands too!*



## **SPRING CONFERENCE**

Because of the coronavirus, Spring Conference 2020 has been cancelled. Information will be shared when it becomes available as well as information about the installation of the new Midwestern Region Governor and board.

## **KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS**

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Thanks!  
Sue

## **AWARD WINNERS**

Our Live Your Dream Award winner is Kayla Freeman. She is from Middletown, is a survivor of domestic violence, and is a single mother of one. She attends Sinclair Community College and is majoring in psychology. Her goal is to work with those who have been abused and to make others aware of domestic abuse.

Our Virginia Wagner Award winner is Mikayla Alcorn. She lives in Oxford and attends Miami University. She works at Kroger and totally supports herself. She is an accounting major. Her goal is to work her way up to a senior accountant position within a moderate to large company after earning her bachelor's degree.

Our Miami University Regionals scholarship winner is Kate Leigh Broderick. She will be awarded \$1500. She is studying to become a lawyer. She works 10-15 hours a week cleaning homes and landscaping.

Ellie Louise Earls is a close runner-up. She will receive \$1000 and is studying to be a social worker. She works at Miami Regionals for the Center of School Impact and also in the Recreation Center.

Congratulations to all our winners! They will receive their checks and certificates in the mail.

### **DREAM IT BE IT**

There is conversation going about next year. We will need to revisit in the fall. The idea is to do an afterschool program if bus service can be arranged through the elementary school.

What would have to happen is that there would be seating availability on the elementary buses for the junior high girls to ride home.

Gayle

### **HOPE HOUSE BASKETS**

I have arranged to deliver 8 Going Home Bathroom Baskets to Hanna Hamblin at Hope House the first week of April. These eight baskets are for April and May. That leaves only 12 baskets remaining for June, July, and August. That makes a total of 48 baskets for the year. I have everything for those final 12 baskets except 11 mops.

I do hope we will continue this project in 2020-21 and if approved in our next year's Middletown Soroptimist budget. I have left a message for Tammi Ector, Director of the Hope House Center for Woman and Children to determine if she wants to continue this project or if she has ideas about an alternate project that she feels would better serve the women and children at the Center. If we approve the budget to continue and Tammi approves the project, I volunteer to continue to purchase, prepare, and deliver the baskets for the next year.

Ann

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Here is the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee. The slate will be voted on in May, and officers will be installed in June.

President—Gayle Martz

Vice-President—Sue Willis

Treasurer—Ann Munafo

Recording Secretary—Jo Ashworth

Corresponding Secretary—Beth Miller

2-year Board Member—Marti Kelley

1-year Board Member—Elaine Garver

### **APRIL CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

2015 Magda Rinder

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

6 Magda

### **CALENDAR**

April 1—April Fool's Day

April 12—Easter

April 15—tax deadline—extended to  
July 15

July 22-25—SIA Convention in  
Bellevue, WA to kick off our 100<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary. Still being evaluated  
to decide if it will be postponed or  
cancelled due to coronavirus.

October 23-24—District Meeting in  
Canton, OH at the Holiday Inn.

## A TRIP TO MOTEL X

As Ann, Barb, Beth and I entered the motel room exhibit, we were immediately surrounded by the menacing atmosphere created by low red and black lights and graffiti on the wall.

First, we saw a closet with a few suggestive outfits hanging and a floor filled with dirty looking shoes, tees, jeans and papers.

The central focus of the room is the bed. It has the words, "The trafficker makes the victim fall in love with him" embroidered on the pretty coverlet. Under the quilt, the ways this is done are described on more words embroidered on material.

All four of us smiled for a picture as we entered the display, but any pleasant feelings were quickly replaced by mesmerizing sadness as we watched a ballet playing on the TV. It is a violent, disparate dance of the attraction between a man and a woman that captures the power vs. powerlessness in this type of hateful relationship. In this room, there is also a nightstand with drawers that light up with red light when opened. One held notes from victims to read; another items labeled with things taken from victims like innocence and hope.

The bathroom holds a medicine cabinet with the most common types of work for labor trafficking victims written on pill and mouthwash bottles - domestic,

construction, etc. The bathtub contained a life sized wire sculpture of a young lady chained in place. A cleaning cart had its bottles labelled with ways to identify trafficked victims.

The rest of the Underground Freedom Center is devoted to all types of slavery and human bondage both present and past. We learned so much as we toured and talked. It renewed our commitment to do what we can to stop human trafficking.

Jennie

## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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## **PINS**

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## **UPLIFTING THOUGHTS**

Marti asked us to share some uplifting thoughts to help take our minds off the pandemic news. Here are a few that were shared:

Ginger had volunteered to give the inspiration at the April meeting. She sent several so I could choose. I couldn't choose, so here goes. Thanks, Ginger.

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life.

Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your inner voice.

And most important, have the courage to

follow your heart and intuition

-Steve Jobs

Before you speak let your words pass through three gates:

At the first gate, ask yourself, "Is it true?"

At the second gate ask, "Is it necessary?"

At the third gate ask, "Is it kind?"

-Adapted from "Three Gates" by Beth Day

## **Be More**

Plan your life and do what you do best.

You can be absolutely anything you want to be.

You may not want to be a star, but you do want to star in your own dreams.

Dolly Parton

Some things to do to be "with others"

Friday night two friends of mine (one in Massillon and one in Beavercreek) FaceTimed each other on our iPads and then we play Yahtzee - we each had our own dice and scorecards (I scanned a scorecard I had and emailed to them so they would have one). It was fun. I also found an app that will roll dice for you in case you want to play with friends who don't have physical dice.

Yesterday my sister, niece and I were on a phone call together and on our individual iPads we played Phase 10 - an app that my niece shared with us. She also found an UNO app and a Yahtzee app that we are going to try. If anyone wants a link to those apps, text me at 513.325.7666 and I'll send the info to you.

If anyone else has a game or challenge to share, please do so.

Betty

On a personal note, I have been using face time to stay in touch with two of my cousins in Belgium (one on my mom's side and one on my dad's side of the family). They are pretty much in the same boat as we are, isolate, isolate, isolate. So it is fun to talk and see each other and reminisce about happy or funny memories and spend some time laughing together!

p.s. When the weather is nice, Kenny and I go for a walk around the neighborhood and enjoy the sun and spring flowers!

Ingrid

It is not boring at all to stay in the house. But how come one bag of rice has 7456 pieces and the other bag 7,398?

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## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

MAY 2020

### PRESIDENT MARTI'S MESSAGE

Greetings to everyone! I have not had any bad news about any of you and your health, so I am very happy about that!! Please, let's keep it that way!!

How things have changed this year! However, change is a way of life. Some changes are less destructive and frightening, but nonetheless, change is always with us.

It is needless to say that it is difficult to plan ahead with all of the uncertainties; however, that is what we are faced with for our organization. The Board has been working on our budget proposal for the ensuing term, and it has not been easy. As Ingrid said in a note I received from her, her crystal ball broke years ago, and so have all of ours!

So without our Soroptimist Crystal Ball, we are facing changes for our club this coming year. We need every one of our members to help us get through the year with the plans that are forthcoming. After we have a clearer picture of how our lives are going to function after this pandemic is contained, we will all need to be flexible and change what needs to be changed in order to continue to meet our mission goals.

While we have a substantial bank balance, we need to continue to get our message out through our fundraising. We have a challenge before us to maintain our income to cover our scholarship and awards through fundraising. We were hoping to do more inventive membership activities this coming year, and that is subject to whether we will be able to meet in larger groups. So my message to all of you is to stay well, stay committed to our Soroptimist mission, and meet the challenges ahead of us, as our routines will no doubt have to change. We can do it!

Hugs to all of you! (Boy! Do I miss getting a hug!)

*President Marti*



## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The following slate of officers is presented by the nominating committee. Because of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, the slate will be voted on either by e-mail or during a Zoom meeting, and officers will be installed in June if we are permitted to meet then.

President: Gayle Martz

Vice-President: Sue Willis

Treasurer: Ann Munafo

Recording Secretary: Jo Ashworth

Corresponding Secretary: Beth Miller

2-year board member: Marti Kelley

1-year board member: Elaine Garver

## **INSPIRATION**

Elaine was scheduled to have the inspiration at the May meeting. She sent the following to share with you.

I have the May inspiration for the newsletter since it looks like we won't be getting together anytime soon. I had the raffle last month and glad to say Dee won. I sent her a gift card. Of course, I received the nicest note from her.

The COVID-19 has impacted all our lives. I've received text messages from friends sharing a blessing or a gratitude for the day. These have helped keep us grounded, alleviate some of our fears and focus on the positive things we have and can do. I'd like to share a couple quotes – one we have all heard and another that was new to me.

"I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or kindness I can

show to any human being, let me do it now." Quaker missionary

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more so that we may fear less." Marie Curie

Reaching out to others at all times is the nature of our Soroptimist members. I read a quote from a young man but didn't note his name at the time but I thought was good for what we are currently experiencing. "Helping those in need is not charity, it's humanity."

## **TREASURER INFORMATION**

Here is some information Sue shared.

## **Ohio Nonprofit COVID-19 Survey**

The Ohio Attorney General's Office, Philanthropy Ohio, and The Ohio State University are partnering to administer the Ohio Nonprofit COVID-19 Survey intended to understand the greatest needs of Ohio's nonprofit sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the club member registered to file our annual Ohio Charitable Report, the voluntary survey was emailed to my attention.

The data from the short ten minute survey will be used to inform policymakers, funders, media, and other decision makers about how to best support the non-profit sector during this time, as well as for research purposes. They plan to follow up with us in the coming months to ask for updates, so that they can monitor the situation over the long run.

While not all questions and situations applied to our organization, my answers communicated these primary impacts due to social distancing restrictions.

- We will have to significantly modify our fundraising initiatives which may put our revenue results at risk.
- The economic impact of COVID-19 will decrease the pool of public donations to be shared among an increasing number of charitable causes.
- Our ability to grow our membership will be challenged due to meeting size and location limitations, as well economic downturn.

It was encouraging to see the state's focus on the important role of non-profit organizations. Our club's efforts to plan ahead and adopt creative changes to get the job done will help make it a fun and successful year!

## American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State Cancelled for 2020

Our club has been notified that the Buckeye Girls State Program scheduled for June 14-20, 2020 on the campus of the University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

This national program which is part of the American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism program helps mold high school girls to be our country's leaders of tomorrow. Delegates learn more about City, County and State Government in one week than they will

learn in an entire semester of high school. Once again, our club sponsored a delegate for \$275 which includes housing, food and the government activities.

Our local American Legion Auxiliary Unit has asked us to consider allowing them to hold our donation for the 2021 program. We have agreed to do this, and will utilize those funds for 2021 toward one of our other programs.

### HOPE HOUSE

Here is some information Ann sent. She received it from Hope House as a thank you to volunteers. April 19-25 was National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Dear Hope House Mission Volunteers,

Thank you greatly for coming alongside Hope House Mission this year to help break the cycle of poverty and despair. We want to celebrate all you have done to empower residents to take the next steps in restoration. Attached you will find a letter from our Board Chair, on behalf of our Board of Directors to you.

We have also created a small photo slideshow of some of the volunteer activities that have gone on this past year. You can view that by clicking [here](#). We are honored to celebrate each and every one of you that are making a difference in our community by serving others in need. We are encouraged every day by your hearts and generosity.

Thank you!

*Hannah Hamlin*

Preview YouTube video Hope House Volunteer Appreciation Video 2020



## CALENDAR

May 7--??? Virtual board meeting  
May 14--??? Virtual meeting  
June 11—??? meeting and installation of officers  
Oct. 23-24—District Meeting in Canton, OH  
April 23-25—Spring Conference in Fond du Lac, WI  
2021—100<sup>th</sup> Soroptimist Anniversary in San Francisco, CA

## MAY BIRTHDAY

27 Barb

## CONTACT US

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[simiddletown@soroptimist.net](mailto:simiddletown@soroptimist.net)

[www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org)

Facebook: Soroptimist International of Middletown & the Cin-Day Corridor

## ZOOM CALL

Barb, Betty, Gayle, and Pam joined a Happy Hour Zoom call with Midwestern Region ladies since we couldn't meet at Spring Conference. It was fun to see familiar faces.

## RAFFLE

May—Dee

June--Ann

## INSPIRATION

May—Elaine

June--Ann





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## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

JUNE 2020

### PRESIDENT'S FINAL MESSAGE

Two years ago when Pam Linzie installed the officers, she gave me a 'diamond studded' star wand. Boy did I need a magic wand as a relatively new member stepping into the presidency with very little background about Soroptimist, and a daunting task of leading a well-established organization! I must have been nuts! However, you were all so kind and supportive. It didn't seem to make a big deal to you to have to tell me what to do and when to do it.

Then at the end of that year, I was silly enough to allow myself to run for president again! And again, you were all so supportive and kind. Barb Flory, at my second installation, gave me a director's baton, and I tried to use it wisely.

As I look back over the two years, I am so proud of all of you and for what we have accomplished as an organization; especially recently in this 'new normal' for all of us. And now that it is time to pass along that baton to Gayle, I am really excited about how we are going to progress.

I look forward to being a Board Member for another couple of years, and I look

forward to what we will be able to accomplish.

Thank you for two years of friendship, patience and encouragement.

*President Marti*



### SLATE OF OFFICERS

The following officers will be installed in June:

President: Gayle Martz  
Vice-President: Sue Willis  
Treasurer: Ann Munafa  
Recording Secretary: Jo Ashworth  
Corresponding Secretary: Beth Miller  
2-year board member: Marti Kelley  
1-year board member: Elaine Garver

## DUES

Bring your dues of \$150 to the June meeting or mail them to Sue by June 11. Also, if you ordered a new pin, bring that money, too.

## VIRGINIA WAGNER AWARD

We all know about the Virginia Wagner Award that our chapter awards every year to a young woman in our community. This award honors the effort and scholarship of a woman attending a college or university to earn a baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree. Judging at the club, district and region level is conducted by three non-Soroptimist judges who utilize a standardized scoring sheet for each applicant; judging is based on effort toward education (35%), general impression (20%), scholarship (15%), extra-curricular activities (15%), and need (15%). Winning applications at the club level advance to the district level for judging; winning applications at the district level advance as high as the region level for judging.

Our Club has been awarding \$1,500 to the Club's winner and those funds come out of our Service Funds. The four District winners are awarded \$1,000 each and the Region winner of the "Virginia M. Wagner Educational Grant" is awarded \$2,500 at Spring Conference. These funds all come out of the Midwestern Region's funds.

But does everyone know the history behind the award? Each of the Soroptimist Regions selects and supports a specific region project. In 1972, the Midwestern Region

established the "Region Award Project" to be given annually to a woman who was attending college/university to further her education to provide advancement. At the 2004 Spring Conference, the name of the award was changed from the "RAP" award to the "**Virginia M. Wagner Educational Grant**" in honor of Dr. Virginia M. Wagner, MWR Governor 1982-1984, to commemorate her interest in higher education for women.

Years ago, the Award was funded by collecting \$2 from every member in the Midwestern Region every year as part of their MWR Dues. I found a dues statement from 2001/2002 for the Cincinnati Club and it listed \$2 for the Region Award Program. History of the funding gets a bit hazy here with no one sure what changes were made in the following years. In 2017 Kris Armstrong (our immediate-past governor) came up with an idea of establishing the Acorn Guild (donation of \$100) to secure funding for the Wagner Award. She thought this capital campaign could create a large nest egg. It was designed as a three-year program to raise \$100,000. The hope was that 350 people would donate \$100/year for three years. By investing those funds, we could build a way to fund the award. Kris then came up with the Hildy & The Acorn Guild title/theme since Midwesterners are a hardy and prepared bunch who save up for winter. Hence the squirrel and acorns. The Hildy reference is from Wagner/Valkyries/Brunhilde which apparently has something to do with handmaidens in Norse mythology, about which I don't have a clue. Kris' intent was that the necessary funds would be raised by the end of this

biennial which ends July 1, 2020. Those funds have not been raised and the new Board will be discussing it at their future Board Meetings.

So here is something to think about, if you are looking for a very worthy program to donate to, The Virginia Wagner Award should be on your list. Where SIA has the Laurel Society to fund the various programs and awards they give out, "membership" starts at \$1,000. Membership in the Acorn Guild starts at only \$100. Stay tuned for updates on the Acorn Guild – or whatever replaces it for funding the VWA. Many of our Club winners have gone on to be District and Region winners. If we don't support/donate to the VWA we will be limiting our Club winners when they move on to the next level.

Betty

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Do you need to update your directory information? Perhaps you have a new job title, are newly retired, have a new cell phone number, have a new e-mail address, etc. Please give that information to Judy (not sure if she is still the one this year) so our records will be up to date. Ann will also update the information with SI.

### TRAFFICKING & MISSING CHILDREN

Jennie submitted this message she received from Susan from the Dayton club who keeps us updated on the trafficking and missing children project.

Good Day!!! I hope it is for you!!!

I wanted to let you know that even in unsettled times... good things can happen!

Two more of the children ( Latrell Shivers & Talayeh Clay) on our poster



were found!

We are now still looking for Madison Daugherty. Please feel free to pass on her picture and description in emails/Facebook/etc. as we continue to



help find her.

I thank each of you for caring about our

children and acting on that care .



I'm sending prayers for you and those you love to stay well and safe, and have contentment, peace and many reasons

to make your heart smile!



With A Grateful  
Susan



## COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Kroger and Gordon Food Services both offer a Community Rewards Program for non-profits. .Maybe other stores do, too. If a member signs up and names an organization, that organization receives a donation after each purchase. It's not a large amount, but every little bit helps, and we need to think of some ways to increase our operating budget.

Visit <http://www.kroger.com> . Once logged in to your account, search for Soroptimist International of Middletown, OH by name or click LD932 and then click Enroll.

## CALENDAR

June 4—Virtual Board Meeting  
June 11—Installation of officers

## MONTHLY RAFFLE

Ann

## MONTHLY INSPIRATION

Ann

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

23 Jo  
24 Sue  
27 Judy

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

19 Ginger  
27 Elaine  
29 Ann

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

none

## JUNE CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Gayle 2015  
Mary 1958

## JULY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Ginger 1997  
Elaine 2012  
Pam 2010 (second time)  
Ann 1993

## CONTACT US

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## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

SEPTEMBER 2020

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

Soroptimist Heroes,

Where has time gone? Time is getting close for us to begin our new year. New Year, New President, and New Challenges for our Club. As we face CDC guidelines for meetings and activities we will have to do things differently and things can change from month to month. I am up for the challenge and I hope you all are as well. As you can see below a lot has happened over the summer.

Our Fundraising Heros have been meeting and working hard to deliver a new and different yet safe approach to our "Fall Event".

The Audit Committee has completed the audit and the books are in perfect condition.

We have received the boxes of old Soroptimist pictures, reports, and lots of other stuff that Carolyn Dennin had been storing for us. It is now safe at Sue's farm. We will form a team to review and organize for future reference.

Looking forward to September meetings we will be holding both our Board and General Meeting as Zoom meetings.

- Our September Board Meeting 9/3/2020 will be via Zoom.



- Our September General Meeting, 9/10/2020 will be via Zoom

Barb, Betty, and myself attended the July 23-24 SI Conference virtual break out sessions on Nex-Gen, and Membership Engagement. We will be sharing key points that we took away from the sessions at our next couple General Meetings.

Some things I would like to share at this time are:

- The District Meetings are canceled face to face but we will have Zoom Meetings in October. Sessions will be one hour and more information will come soon. I do encourage you to attend one or two of the sessions.
- We will have an exciting "Virtual" Fall Event and our Fundraising Committee will share at our September Meeting Kick Off.

Looking forward to Zooming in September!

Stay safe, stay healthy!

Gayle

## TRAFFICKING & MISSING CHILDREN

The team is distributing the new posters of missing children.

## COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Kroger and Gordon Food Services both offer a Community Rewards Program for non-profits. If a member signs up and names an organization, that organization receives a donation after each purchase. It's not a large amount, but every little bit helps, and we need to think of some ways to increase our operating budget.

Visit <http://www.kroger.com> . Once logged in to your account, search for Soroptimist International of Middletown, OH by name or click LD932 and then click Enroll.

## CALENDAR

- Sept.3—Zoom board meeting
- Sept.10—Zoom club meeting
- Oct. 23-24--District Meeting cancelled, but there will be Zoom sessions
- April 23-25, 2021—Spring Conference in Fond du Lac, WI
- Oct. 1-3, 2021--Soroptimist's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in San Francisco

## MONTHLY RAFFLE

## MONTHLY INSPIRATION

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

None

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

None

## AUGUST CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

None

## SEPTEMBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Jo	1988
Barb	1988
Judy	1988
Sue	1995

## CONTACT US

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## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

OCTOBER 2020

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

Happy October and fall is here or it certainly feels like it! In the past this has been our busy month with all the hustle and bustle to roll out our style show but things have changed and I don't know about everyone else, but I am so excited about the launch of our NEW Dream Luncheon Raffle ticket sales. You have been real go getters!!

October is also very exciting this year because of the launch of our new website. We have an updated look with lots of possibilities to attract new members. By the time you read this it will be up and running with PayPal in full run mode. This will give us more possibilities for fundraising in the future. Please check it out as soon as it is up and running.

Meetings this month will continue via Zoom! Hope that we can be back together soon. I sure miss seeing everyone!

Zoom Board Meeting :           October 1,  
2020           7:00p.m.

Zoom General Meeting:       October 8,  
2020           7:00p.m.

Please check out the email sent previously about the changes in by-laws. We will be voting to approve these. Let me know if you need the link resent.

The in-person District Meeting is cancelled. There will be Virtual sessions:

October 23, Virtual-6 p.m.

October 24, Virtual- time to be announced

More information and links will be sent closer to the date.

As a club we do need to think going forward how we can attract new members. I have already pointed to the use of the website. Let's get creative.

Don't forget to send your monthly raffle money (\$16) to Ann so she can forward your name to Jo for the drawings.

Enjoy this fall weather.

See you soon with Zoom!

*Gayle*



### 2020-21 CALENDAR

**August 1** Live Your Dream Online Portal Opened

**October 16 -17** District I & III Meeting at Essenhaus, Middlebury, IN—cancelled; will have virtual sessions

**October 23-24** District II & IV Meeting at Double Tree by Hilton, Newark, OH—cancelled; will have virtual sessions

**November 6-8** MWR Winter Board Meeting, Middlebury, IN

**November 15** Form 990 due to IRS

**November 15** Live Your Dream Applications Due to Clubs

**December 2** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

**December 10** Human Rights Day – President’s Appeal

**December 15** Club Live Your Dream Award Winner due to District Director

### 2021

**January 11** National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness in the US

**January 15** Virginia Wagner Award Applications due to Clubs

**January 15** District Live Your Dream Award Winner due to Region Chair

**February 1** Club Live Your Dream Report due to District Director

**February 15** Virginia Wagner Club Award winners due to District Director

**February 15** Region LYD Winner info due to both SIA and Treasurer Audrey Jarvey by Region Chair

**March 1** Soroptimist Club Grant applications due at SI HQ

**March 8** International Women’s Day

**March 8** Virginia Wagner District Winners due to Region Chair

**March 15** Award Report due from District Directors to Governor Elect Christine

**March 31** Region Virginia Wagner Award Winners names to Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey by Region Chair

**March 31** Governor’s Award Form due to Governor Darcy Merritt

**April 22 & 23** MWR Board Meeting Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Fond du Lac, WI

**April 23-25 2021** Spring Conference  
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center,  
Fond du Lac, WI

**May 31** Club Giving and Founders  
Pennies contributions to SIA for 2020  
recognition

**June 1** Dream It, Be It Online Club  
Reporting due to SIA

**July 1** Club Celebrating Success forms  
due to Kris Armstrong

### **CLUB CALENDAR**

October Breast Cancer Awareness  
Month and National Domestic Violence  
Awareness Month

October 1—7:00 Zoom board meeting

October 8—7:00 Zoom monthly meeting

**October 8—Happy 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday,  
Middletown club**

October 23-24—District Meeting virtual  
sessions

March 1—Miami Regional Campus  
scholarship applications due to  
club

April 23-35, 2021—Spring Conference  
In Fond du Lac, WI

### **NO OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS OR CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

### **OCTOBER RAFFLE**

Diane Drennan

### **OCTOBER INSPIRATION**

Magda Rinder

### **DREAM LUNCHEON RAFFLE**

Everyone has the Dream Luncheon Raffle Procedures that Gayle sent out to you on Sept 9. I just want to clarify a point. Under Procedures it says “All ticket order forms with payment are to be mailed or delivered to Betty.” This order form should only be submitted with payment when Betty needs to fill out a ticket for the purchaser. If you have an actual ticket filled out, you do not need to submit an Order Form. This order form is only to get the information to someone who can fill out the ticket (namely, Betty). When Betty gets this order form she will fill out a ticket stub, make a copy of the ticket and email or mail it to the purchaser so they have a copy of their ticket. If someone fills out their ticket stub and submits it with payment, they will keep the large part of the ticket for their records. This order form is mostly for any tickets ordered from our website, or any additional tickets you want and don't need me to give you the actual ticket to fill out – eliminates the additional steps of dropping the tickets off to you and picking them up again. The order form with payment can be mailed to me or given to me when I pick up your original tickets that you have sold.

Since we will be meeting on October 8 on Zoom, I would like to have as many as possible of the sold and completed ticket stubs. This will let me log all the tickets into the spreadsheet and get the checks for payment to Ann so that she can deposit them before she leaves town. Also, we can then know how many of the tickets have been sold.

So please let me know when I can pick up your sold ticket stubs with the checks for payment. I am available the

following days and times to come by and pick up. If you want to drop your sold tickets off to another member in Middletown to make for fewer pickup points, that is fine with me. Please let me know that you are doing that, so I know where your tickets are.

Wednesday – Sept 30 – Between 12:30 and 1:30 or After 5:30

Thursday - Oct 1 - After 5:30

Friday - Oct 2 - After 1:00

Saturday - Oct 3 - After noon

Sunday – Oct 4 – After 1:00

Monday – Oct 5 – After 4:30

Wednesday – Oct 7 – After 5:30

If you need additional tickets, let me know and I can drop them off to you when I pick up your tickets. I will always bring the remaining tickets with me when I pick up any of the sold tickets. If you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thanks,  
Betty

### **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Let Elaine know if any info has changed for your listing—different job title, newly retired, new address, new phone number, etc.

### **NOTE FROM TREASURER**

Don't forget to send your \$16 meeting raffle check to me. This enters you in all monthly raffles held during our virtual or actual monthly meetings this year. So far only 3 people have paid and have their name in raffle for the year. At this rate, I'm excited about being one of

three big winners! Ann Munafa's address is 7194 Hetzler Road, Middletown 45042.

Don't forget to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards with SI Middletown as you designated charitable organization. If you need help signing up, I would be happy to help. Middletown Soroptimist will get a percent of sales quarterly. We received a check for \$31.68 in June and it looks like we only have 8 people signed up at this time. Sign up for community rewards

at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). and select Soroptimist International of Middletown, OH or LD932. You do need to use your Kroger card each time to capture your purchase.

### **HOPE HOUSE AND GRANT**

Hope House Update: HANGERS ARE NEEDED. If you have any kind of hangers to donate, please call Ann or Beth to arrange for delivery/pickup. Our grant request to Butler Rural Electric Community Connections was successful and we were granted \$410 to help with this project. Two more requests will be sent out before the end of September. Six baskets have been delivered to Hope House to start off this year. We have committed to provide 48 baskets over the next twelve months. Getting our supplies for the baskets is more challenging this year as many of the items we provide are from the Dollar Tree Store are in limited supply and/or on backorder. Ann

## SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

Do you know a woman attending college or technical school who could use some extra money for her schooling? Interested women can find writeable applications on our website [www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org) This is an easy way for them to get an application. Every year we struggle to find deserving applicants, so please share this information freely.

## CONTACT US

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Facebook: Soroptimist International of Middletown Ohio & the Cin-Day Corridor

Instagram:





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## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

NOVEMBER 2020



### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

**Hello and Happy November! I hope that this finds you all safe and well. We would normally be celebrating the success of our Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon at this time but as we all know nothing is normal. Instead we are going to celebrate our members and club for taking on the new challenge and success of our Dream Luncheon Raffle. Thank you to all of you who have been selling your tickets.**

**Although this is not 100% reporting, it looks as though we have about 47 tickets to sell and we will be going online. We also have some PayPal activity so that is GREAT!**

**I am happy to say I was able to attend all of the virtual District Meeting and learn about a super way of communicating club business without email threads and where our information can remain safe for all to keep up with. It is called SLACK. Betty, Barb, and I used it during the meeting and it was super easy to use. I would like to get us all up to speed and try to use it to make our communication more efficient.**

**Speaking of the meeting, I was very inspired by the keynote speaker Rosa Beltré, Executive Director, Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. Rosa is also a member**

of SI Cleveland. Her passion and enthusiasm for not only that the State of Ohio will be free of sexual violence but that we seek equality and inclusivity for all women. This was definitely a highlight of the meeting for me and well worth having her present. Every club should have a Rosa! I will share more when we meet.

A few other important bits of information that came out of the meeting were some guidelines for virtual fundraising and ways to do virtual fundraising, also presentations are on line for all to view. There was also a good presentation about our online presence through our Facebook and Instagram. This is an opportunity for us to let our community know who we are and what we do.

Since we started out saying nothing is normal, as we all know, it looks like we will need to continue to meet through Zoom. Looking at the state as the positive numbers climb, and the thoughts of the members it is the best for all of us to stay safe. I miss seeing all of you, however, I don't feel that in person is worth the risk. With that said I do have a fun activity up my sleeve for the meeting.

See you soon through Zoom. Until then stay safe and well. And remember, If you can dream it, you can be it!

Please remember to check in with each other during these times.

Gayle



## **Dream Luncheon Raffle Rounding the Corner to Success!**

We are just twenty tickets away from our goal of selling 250 and earning nearly \$7,000 in net revenue! The plan was to sell all tickets by December 15<sup>th</sup>, and we are blowing that target out of the water at the beginning of November! Hats off to our hard-working members for persevering during these challenging fundraising times. We developed and have implemented a promotion that is a win-win for all.

It is important that we recognize the special efforts that established a strong foundation for this year's fundraiser. Our webmaster, Edwin Toy, implemented the new look of our website, including the showcase of our raffle and the set-up of PayPal. While we have sold just 4 tickets to-date through PayPal, this credit card payment capability represents significant growth potential for our future fundraiser initiatives.

We are also positioned not only for increased fundraising revenue but also for greater community awareness of our club, through the efforts of Magda Rinder as our new social media chair. The opportunity presented by this new focus is limitless!

Tying all of this together is the outstanding effort put forth by Betty Huck to deliver all tickets for sale, pickup raffle stubs and money for all sold tickets and report up-to-the-minute sales results. During this period of remote meetings, her services have been invaluable!

Thanks again to all for rallying to this fundraising challenge. We are strongly

moving forward in our mission to help women and girls live their dreams!

Sue

## **CLUB GRANT**

Our club received a check for \$2,000 as a grant from the Miriam G. Knoll Foundation to support our "Sweet Dreams of Home" bathroom basket project. Way to go, Ann!

## **HOPE HOUSE**

Hope House Update: HANGERS ARE NEEDED. If you have any kind of hangers to donate, please call Ann or Beth to arrange for delivery/pickup. We have committed to provide 48 baskets over the next twelve months. Getting our supplies for the baskets is more challenging this year as many of the items we provide are from the Dollar Tree Store are in limited supply and/or on backorder.

Ann

## **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Let Elaine know if any info has changed for your listing—different job title, newly retired, new address, new phone number, etc.

## CLUB CALENDAR

November 1—Daylight Savings Time Ends  
November 3—Election Day  
November 5—7:00 Zoom board meeting  
November 11—Veterans' Day  
November 12—7:00 Zoom monthly meeting  
November 15—Live Your Dream applications due to club  
November 26--Thanksgiving  
December 15—Deadline for Dream Luncheon Raffle  
January 15—Virginia Wagner Award applications due to club  
March 1—Miami Regional Campus scholarship applications due to club  
March 1—Soroptimist Club Grant applications due at SI HQ  
March 31—Governor's Award Form due to Gov. Darcy Merritt  
April 23-35, 2021—Spring Conference, Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Fond du Lac, WI  
May 31—Club Giving and Founders Pennies contributions to SIA for 2020 recognition  
July 1—Club Celebrating Success forms due to Kris Armstrong

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

14 Gayle  
20 Diane

## CLUB ANNIVERSARY

1978 Ingrid

## NOVEMBER RAFFLE

Elaine

## NOVEMBER INSPIRATION

Diane

Sue volunteered for both the raffle and inspiration for December.

## NOTE FROM TREASURER

Don't forget to send your \$16 meeting raffle check to me. This enters you in all monthly raffles held during our virtual or actual monthly meetings this year. Ann Munaf's address is 7194 Hetzler Road, Middletown 45042.

Don't forget to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards with SI Middletown as you designated charitable organization. If you need help signing up, I would be happy to help. Middletown Soroptimist will get a percent of sales quarterly. We received a check for \$31.68 in June and it looks like we only have 8 people signed up at this time. Sign up for community rewards at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). and select Soroptimist International of Middletown, OH or LD932. You do need to use your Kroger card each time to capture your purchase.

## A SEASON TO REMEMBER

A notice came to our PO Box announcing changes to Hospice Care of Middletown's tradition. In the past there was a candlelight chapel service and fellowship at Woodside in December. Stars and handmade ornaments were displayed on trees at Central Connections and in the Community Room at Woodside Cemetery and Arboretum. If you want to participate, handmade ornaments will be mailed as the orders come in and will be mailed to whomever you designate. The stars will also be ready to be picked up at the hospice office, 4418 Lewis St., Ste. B, between 8:30 and 5:00 Monday through Friday. The last day for pick up will be Dec. 23. All orders must be placed by Dec. 4. For a minimum donation of \$10, you receive both ornaments. Include this information with your check: your name and address, in memory of or in honor of, and the name and address of the person the acknowledgement should be mailed. Make checks payable to Hospice Care of Middletown and send to 4418 Lewis St., Ste. B, Middletown, Ohio 45044

## SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

Do you know a woman attending college or technical school who could use some extra money for her schooling? Interested women can find writeable applications on our website [www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org) This is an easy way for them to get an application. Every year we struggle to find deserving applicants, so please share this information freely.

## CONTACT US

P.O. Box 525, Middletown, OH 45042

[simiddletown@soroptimist.net](mailto:simiddletown@soroptimist.net)

[www.middletownsoroptimist.org](http://www.middletownsoroptimist.org)

Facebook: Soroptimist International of Middletown Ohio & the Cin-Day Corridor

Instagram:





SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

DECEMBER 2020

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

December is upon us and what a year 2020 has been. As I reflect back on where we are, I am so happy to say that although we have not met much face to face, our club has done a wonderful job meeting our Fall Event Goal. Congratulations and thank you to each member for the outstanding job done. Thank you to Betty for all of her hard work and to the rest of the Ways and Means committee for an outstanding job. Together we have made a difference.

As we enter the Holiday season remember that this can be such a wonderful time of the year as we celebrate, however, as this year is so different it may also be a difficult time for some as well. Please remember to check in on each other even if it is a text, an email, a card, or phone call.

Congratulations to Mary, she was our winner of our November Scavenger Hunt! Congratulations to Marti, she was the raffle winner.



It looks as though we will continue to meet via Zoom. December will be our holiday "Party" and we will do our Auction to go toward our Operating Fun. Please have a wrapped gift of \$20.00 value for bidding. Each person will show their wrapped item one at a time and the bidding will begin. Once the bidding has stopped the gift will be unwrapped. Payment will be sent to the treasurer. We will also have a game of Holiday Bingo for prizes. Cards are printed and will be mailed to each of you! We will meet at 7:00P.M., December 10.

Our January Meeting will most likely be Zoom as well. We will have a speaker Ann Marie Babb. She is a trafficking survivor and January is Trafficking Awareness month. She will be sharing updates and what is new and how we can continue to help put an end to trafficking.

Spring Conference for April 2021 may end up being virtual. Decisions will be made hopefully by December.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in December. If you are having trouble using Zoom please call me or text me and we can do a practice meeting. You can also call in to an 800 number and use the id and password to get on.

Blessings for a wonderful holiday! Hope for a Happy and Normal New Year.

*Gayle*

### **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Let Elaine know if any info has changed for your listing—different job title, newly retired, new address, new phone number, new email address, etc. We would like to update our pages for our membership directory.

### **CLUB CALENDAR**

December 3—**NO** board meeting  
December 10—7:00 Zoom club meeting  
December 15—Deadline for Dream Luncheon Raffle  
January 15—Virginia Wagner Award applications due to club  
March 1—Miami Regional Campus scholarship applications due to club  
March 1—Soroptimist Club Grant applications due at SI HQ  
March 31—Governor's Award Form due to Gov. Darcy Merritt  
April 23-35, 2021—Spring Conference, Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Fond du Lac, WI  
May 31—Club Giving and Founders Pennies contributions to SIA for 2020 recognition  
July 1—Club Celebrating Success forms due to Kris Armstrong

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAY**

28--Dee

### **DECEMBER RAFFLE & INSPIRATION**

Sue

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Ginger. She was awarded the Roland P. Ely, Jr. President's Award at Middletown Community Foundation's Annual Meeting. Well-deserved, Ginger!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

From time to time, member spotlights will be sent in separate emails. Since our newsletters are available online on our website, we don't want to put personal information in our newsletters. The first spotlights will be past-president Marti and new president Gayle. Several were spotlighted last year: Mary, Ingrid, Judy, Jo, Betty, Barb. If you haven't turned in your information, you will receive a new questionnaire.

## CONTACT US

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## TRAFFICKING NEWS

In these difficult times, the group has agreed to deliver the latest poster of missing children to our local businesses with public restrooms while masked and distancing. We're planning on doing this by mid December. Let's hope that this poster brings home as many as the last one. Susan Gruenburg shared:

### POSTERS:

Miami Valley Poster (Montgomery and Greene), 6 found

I-75 corridor, 6 found

Middletown, 6 found

### NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Eight missing children were rescued in a 5-day rescue operation in the Indianapolis area called "Operation Homecoming" according to the U.S. Marshals Service Southern District of Indiana. The children are between the ages of 6 to 17 years old and are "considered to be some of the most at-risk and challenging recovery cases in the area."

As the weather gets more challenging, it feels good to be doing what we can to help bring these children home safely.

Jennie