

## January 6

Next meeting via virtual link, please come early for socializing. Room will open at 5:30, meeting will start at 6:00 PM.

*We will meet via zoom.*

*DEC 16 from 5:30 PM until 8 PM*

<https://zoom.us/j/7038772293>

### January Birthday

**JAN 6 Carol Browning**

**Please enjoy a treat at home with your housemates and stay safe. Happy birthday!**



### Midwestern Region

#### Mission Statement

*Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.*

## January

## 2020



## Message from our President

Hey, all!

Just thought I'd do a quick President's message for the month. It's been quite a year. I hope you are all feeling as I am, the optimism that next year must be better. I always have that thought, then I think, we can make it so! We are doing so much good work, within our club and within our lives. Look at all we've accomplished this year--Chocolate Fantasy, scholarship distribution, welcoming a new member, hanging on through COVID ups and downs, developing and following through on a brand-new fundraiser, raising our involvement at the District/Region level-- Thank you for that. I see you!!



I just wanted to let you know of an opportunity that I've been following, which coincides with our initiatives on the international level. I follow Margaret Ikiara, who is part of Soroptimist International-Meru in Kenya. You may also recognize the "Orange the World" tag in the background, which is an international effort to stem violence against women and girls. They are doing such excellent work, even during the pandemic, supporting teen girls to get their education, avoid pregnancy, get menstrual supplies, and avoid FGM (female genital mutilation). It is excellent work, and if you feel moved to support it as I do, the organization

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is: [www.cifordkenya.org](http://www.cifordkenya.org) and they have a PayPal-enabled donation link. Thanks for considering!

Take care of yourselves, and do the things that help you feel connected during the holidays...if anyone wants a phone call or texting session, feel free to contact me. I miss all of you and hold you in my heart...hope to see a lot of you at some point next year!!

Cheers,  
Linda

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### FDL Soroptimist Club Christmas Giving

The Soroptimist International Service Club of Fond du Lac is happy to support two very deserving local programs with their annual winter giving. The Shop with a Cop program received a donation of \$750. While the program looks a bit different this year due to COVID precautions, local children and their families will still be receiving gifts and goods, thanks to the generosity of local law enforcement with their time and resources. Pictured here are some of the Sheriff's Office and community members who help facilitate Shop with a Cop. From Left to Right: Deputy Steve Kastenschmidt, Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt, Soroptimist member and shopping helper Meggin McNamara-Horn, Deputy Derek Rehfeldt, and Deputy Kieran Weed.

A second donation of \$1100 along with diapers and hygiene items went to the Family Resource Center, which supports families in Fond du Lac County through a variety of pregnancy and parenting programs. Pictured: Current Soroptimist President Linda Uselmann with Family Resource Center Executive Director and fellow Soroptimist member Claudia Hawkins-Moise.

Soroptimist International-Fond du Lac is a group of women of various ages, professions, faiths, and interests who come together around issues that affect women and girls. They work to promote awareness of women's issues, to support women in their lives, education, and professional journeys, and to enjoy fellowship and friendship with other Soroptimist members both locally and around the world. For more information call 920-322-0339 or visit <https://fdlsoroptimists.wixsite.com/bestforwomen>.



Do you have any club expenses?



Currently, our link to the treasury reimbursement form is not working, until we get it fixed our treasurer will have reimbursement forms by emailing our treasurer directly. [evmzschnook4@aol.com](mailto:evmzschnook4@aol.com)



[soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org)  
[soroptimistinternational.org](http://soroptimistinternational.org)  
[simwr.org](http://simwr.org)



## Book Club Information

From: Cathi McGowan

The next read for the SI-FDL Book Club is ***Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*** by Jennifer Chiaverini. Please contact Cathi McGowan to make arrangements to get a copy from the book club kit.

A **tentative** date for the discussion of ***Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*** is Wednesday, January 20th, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Please watch your email for the Zoom link as well as confirmation of the date and time.

This is a no guilt book club. That means is we are interested in getting together to discuss the books, if you don't finish the book there is no guilt and we welcome you to the meetings.

## Exciting Award given to one of our sisters -congrats Jan

Pictures are from Jan Youwer's beautiful yard and home. Thanks for making our town beautiful.

I was notified by the chairperson of the FdL beautification committee that our butterfly garden and landscaping had been nominated for their annual award.

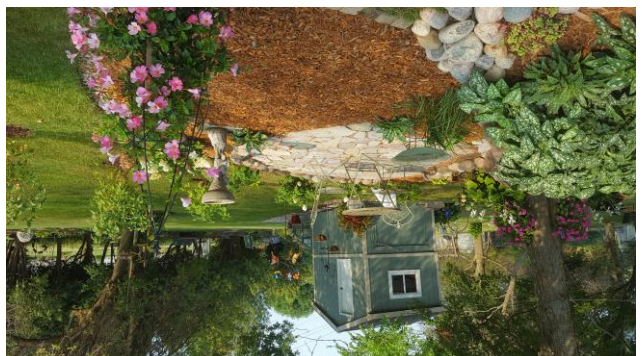
The committee came out to view and photograph the garden in late July.

John called in October to tell me we had been selected to receive the award.

We feel truly honored by this recognition.

Here is the website where the rewards were listed:

<https://www.fdlco.wi.gov/Home/Components/News/News/8200/103?backlist=%2f>





## Secret Sister and Planning and Service Update

From: Dawn Nelson

Secret Sister match ups have been sent to interested parties. Use your creativity to surprise your Secret Sister with notes, little gifts, etc. all through this coming year. Try not to get caught! Have fun, and support one another!

## Some Holiday Cheer

From: some of our members

Here are some pictures of some of our members holiday cheer celebration



## Chocolate Fantasy Update

From: Desiree 'dezzz' Grin and Dawn Nelson

We do not have a meeting scheduled in the future, but there may be one in February to start planning for 2022 Chocolate Fantasy. Dawn and I will be meeting soon to discuss the plans going forward. We may even have an announcement date at our next Soroptimist Gathering. Thanks for all the love you give to the community.

## Announcements

Fox Valley Savings Bank has generously provided a donation of \$1,000 to Soroptimist of Fond du Lac. These funds were given to help support the annual awards that the club gives out each year.

Club 250: Thanks for all the PHENOMENAL work that allowed us to sell all tickets for this event! If you still need to square up with Jan, please do so ASAP. Winner pulls begin Jan 6th...so exciting!!

Here is the link to the 2020 Vision (our Midwestern Newsletter)

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/21d0004cdaf5014aa0d6b812d923ed7c?AccessKeyId=2B8763E274FB3998662C&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

We are each asked to login to our Soroptimist Facebook page and answer this question "What does being a Soroptimist mean to me?", also on our Chocolate Fantasy page, please answer this question "What are you looking forward to when chocolate fantasy runs again, or what will you miss about Chocolate Fantasy?" If you do not have Facebook, or don't know how to post, send your answers to Whitney [cargirlforever@yahoo.com](mailto:cargirlforever@yahoo.com) and she will gladly post these for you..

## From Your Editor

From: Desiree 'dezzz' Grin

Hello sisters.

Welcome to the New Year's ladies. I look forward to work with all of the members to ensure that we have a fantastic positive impact on our community. It is great to know that I have the support of all the members of Soroptimist to help me out with all the undertakings. With that said, if there is anyone who might be interested in allowing me the privilege of mentoring you for the next year of our club to become the next Beacon editor. I have used a Gmail account to organize out incoming Beacons and a word processor on my computer to create them. I would be happy to help anyone come on board and look forward to sharing my experience with the members. I do not mind continuing to do the Beacon, but I also realize this is a great way for our members to get involved and I am certain that anyone who is interested could be trained to create and send out the Beacons to our ladies.

As always be sure to send your articles and other info to be published to [beaconeditor@gmail.com](mailto:beaconeditor@gmail.com)

Happy New Year's. Stay safe and stay connected please.

## Laurel M. Nett

1941 - 2020

Fond du Lac - Laurel M. Nett, 79, of Fond du Lac, died Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at Hospice Home of Hope. She was born in Fond du Lac September 17, 1941, daughter of Edwin and Agnes (Schmitz) Nett. After graduating high school, Laurel joined the U.S. Air Force where she began her 20 year career in the military in accounting. During her 20 years she was stationed at Lackland AFB in Texas, Sheppard AFB in Texas, Hancock Field in New York, Stewart AFB in New York, Wiesbaden AB in Germany, Incirlik AB in Turkey, and retired from Fairchild AFB in Washington. She received several awards while serving, NCO Academy Graduate Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal, AF Longevity Service Award, National Defense Service Medal, AF Commendation Medal, AF Good Conduct Medal, and AF Outstanding Unit Award.



After retirement from the U.S. Air Force in 1979 she earned her Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Washington University. Laurel was a manager with B. Dalton Bookstores for 15 years. She was a member of Soroptimist International of Fond du Lac and Altrusa International of Fond du Lac. She also volunteered for Meals on Wheels for many years. She enjoyed going to baseball games and loved to spend time reading from her library of nearly 2000 books. She was a very generous spirit and donated to many organizations.

She is survived by five siblings, Mary Lou Gilgenbach, Helen (Bill) Paquin, Grace Schroeder, Darlene (Steve) Eisenhut, and Eugene Nett; nieces, nephews, and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her parents; two infant sisters, Lois and Gladys; two brothers-in-law, Jim Gilgenbach and Glen Schroeder; and a dear friend, Delores Gibbler.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials can be made to the Solution Center or Fond du Lac Food Pantry in Laurel's name. Donations and cards can be sent to Uecker-Witt Funeral Home, c/o Laurel Nett, 524 N. Park Avenue, Fond du Lac, WI 54935.

Guestbook and tribute wall may be found by visiting [ueckerwitt.com](http://ueckerwitt.com).