

LIGHT LINES

This is a beautiful and colorful installation. The Candle Ceremony can be used at your option at the end. Many feel that they have not been completely installed without the "light".

Long, long ago, the Bible tells us, "... and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness."

So this was the first thing that happened when the earth was created. Beautiful light! How much we all take it for granted! Yet light governs our lives. It is no wonder that early man worshiped the sun. His very livelihood was governed by the amount of light his crops received. The love of light carried over into the symbolical. Greek and Roman mythology is full of the story of light and fire and the wonderful effect it had on the life of man. Firelight and later candlelight was kept burning in the churches; phrases such as, 'Let your light shine before men ...' and "Don't hide your light under a bushel ..." were in common usage.

Light brings a sense of cheerfulness, too, as you watch people drawn to fires and fireplaces whether it be indoors or at camp sites. When skies are overcast, a light that is suddenly turned on seems to lift our spirits immediately. At Christmas time our homes are all ablaze with lights to celebrate the birth of Jesus, called "The Light of the World". When we want to have an especially festive evening, we light beautiful candles on our dinner tables to add to the gaiety. All religions use light in their most cherished ceremonies.

Light has been eulogized in poetry and prose for hundreds of years. It has always been compared to the better and higher ideals of life. When John Ruskin's life was drawing to a close, he sat at his window one evening watching a lamplighter with a torch in hand, ignite the street lamps on a distant hill. Since it was dark, the lamplighter himself could not be seen, but his progress up the hill could be observed as successive lamps were lighted. After a few moments, Ruskin turned to a friend and said: "That illustrates what I mean by a genuine Christian. You may not know him or ever see him, but his way has been marked by the lights he leaves burning."

We know that a white light is a combination of the colors of the rainbow, and when it is broken up by a prism or by raindrops acting as prisms, we get the beautiful display we call a rainbow. Here again, man has given light the attributes of his highest aspirations. RED has been compared to courage throughout literature; ORANGE with integrity; YELLOW with cheerfulness; GREEN with faithfulness; BLUE with true-blue friendship and loyalty; and

PURPLE with dignity and regalness. This is made-to-order for Soroptimists. The words in our Pledge seem to follow the rainbow from one year to the next like a colorful and binding bridge with a pot of golden friendships always at the end.

So tonight, to make what could be a long and fascinating story of light apply to our installation, I will focus on the RAINBOW. Will the following officers-elect please step forward?

Director
Corresponding Secretary-elect
Recording Secretary-elect
Treasure-elect
Vice President-elect
First Vice President-elect
President-elect

Opposite these worthy Soroptimists I would like to have those who have just completed their offices. If we do not have a completely new slate, places may be filled by other members.

Director, you know what your duties will be for the forthcoming year. Your club will lean on you for direction so I give to you the color RED for courage and love of country. This ideal requires more than "lip service" as we have discovered. It means more than reciting the Pledge of Allegiance; it means sacrifice cheerfully given and belongs not to Soroptimists alone. It belongs to all peoples of the world who love their countries. I therefore charge you _____ with keeping love of country before your group.

Corresponding Secretary, elect, I give you the color ORANGE for Integrity of Professions. This is the ideal which gives Soroptimism its basic foundation. It is the classification principle under which we are admitted to membership. We must be executive women of high integrity and business ethics. We are charged with fostering high standards in business and professional life. As you carry out your duties, you will further these ideals in your work. (optional duties in place of official description on page)

AS YOU GIVE EACH STRIP OF CREPE PAPER TO THE PERSON MENTIONED, SHE IS TO GIVE THE OTHER END TO THE PERSON OPPOSITE. LET THEM STAND FAR ENOUGH APART SO THAT LATER WHEN THE COLORS ARE RAISED A "RAINBOW" IS SEEN.

Recording Secretary, elect, I give you the color YELLOW for the Joy of Achievement. You will have the important job of keeping all minutes of club meetings and board meetings in good shape.

Treasurer, elect, I give you the color GREEN for

Faithfulness to duty and for Integrity. You will have much to do to keep the club's records of projects and expenditures. You will be the keeper of the pot of gold.

_____ Vice President, elect, I give you the color BLUE for the Sincerity of Friendship. We believe that friendship means kindly relations with our neighbors close by and with our sister members, but we must extend that kindness to other peoples and try to understand their points of view. It means Tolerance in the best sense. I charge you, _____ with keeping this ideal of Friendship warm and real in your club.

_____ First Vice President, elect, I give you this deeper blue called INDIGO or VIOLET which stands for Dignity of Service. You will be your president's right-hand-woman, who will take the chair whenever she is absent or wishes to voice her personal opinion.

_____ President-elect, I give you the color WHITE which blends in all colors into one harmonious whole. This will be part of your job as president. You will be a dignified representative in your community and to all meetings and conferences. Your fine leadership will bring joy to the service your club will give your community.

NOW IF YOU WILL ALL HOLD YOUR COLORS HIGH MAKING A RAINBOW, I DECLARE YOU ALL INSTALLED IN OFFICE AND WISH YOU ALL A VERY SUCCESSFUL AND HARMONIOUS YEAR WITH A BIG POT OF GOLD AT THE END.

THANK YOU.

Props: Crepe paper

Preparation: Cut three-inch strips from crepe paper in the following colors: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Violet & White. (Add Indigo blue if there is an extra name on the officer slate.)

Balloons, ribbons, pretty notebooks