

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
November 2022



President's Message — Thankful for all of you!

Happy November! November is the time to reflect on what we are thankful for. As Soroptimists our fundraising gives women and girls the opportunity to be thankful for the ability to live in a safe location, continue their education and give them the security and economic empowerment to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

Programs like *Dream It, Be It* (DIBI) are another way we help young girls make good choices so they can be thankful for the guidance they received.

For the Love of Wine raffle is our biggest fundraiser and tickets will be available soon. This raffle will help fund our 2022/2023 awards this coming March, and we are asking every member to sell at least \$100 worth of tickets. Thank you for your support thus far.

An email went out last month with the sponsorship information and a sample email/hard copy letter for the *Infinity* cruise event in July 2023. We are asking you to deliver these letters to members of your community, corporations in your community or even your employers to help us fund our 2023/2024 awards. We have already received a \$1,000 donation and a \$500 donation for the Ruby Award. Splendid work, ladies.

November's meeting will be at Fishbone's, and you will receive a SignUpGenius via email to RSVP. A response would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support. Without you, Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe would not be the club it is today.

Soroptimist Strong,

— Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President



Next SIGP Business Meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.

23722 Jefferson Ave, St Clair Shores, MI 48080

Come at 6:00 p.m. for Meet & Greet

The meeting is also available on Zoom.

You will get your invitation to the meeting that day.

Please RSVP via SignUpGenius (check your email)



SIGP's Holiday Dinner & Raffle for SI President's Appeal

Oh, my goodness – ready or not, the holidays are upon us! Can you believe Costco set up their lighted Christmas trees two months ago? So, it is high time to remind you about our annual Holiday Dinner & Raffle on Wednesday, December 14. You can look forward to delicious food (yes, the roasted potatoes are on order!), fun, camaraderie and winning raffle prizes. This get-together at Assumption Cultural Center is also our chance to make a difference by supporting the SI President's Appeal "Opening Doors to a Bright Future" through education.

SI President Maureen Maguire sees education as key to attain a bright future – say Amen, somebody! – empowering women to break the cycle of poverty, increase their confidence, and spur economic growth for themselves, their families and their communities. (To learn more about the SI President's Appeal, go to [Soroptimist International](http://SoroptimistInternational.org).)

Here's the scoop. Your support is needed. We are inviting you to search for new and gently used treasures for our annual raffle. Examples: jewelry, scarves, cologne, knick-knacks, gift cards, home décor, Christmas stuff, etc. Contact us if you are not sure about what to offer.

We ask for delivery of items by December 7, a week prior to our celebration. They can be dropped off at Donna Fitzgerald's house, 280 Ridge Road, Grosse Pointe Farms. Text or call (313-300-7594) to let her know a package will be left on her front porch.

Our team of elves will then assemble the treasures for our annual dinner. Better yet, bring your item(s) to the next business meeting on Wednesday, November 9. Questions? Contact Donna or Carol at 586-774-3144.

— Donna Fitzgerald and Carol Hofer, Holiday Dinner Co-chairs



For the Love of Wine Raffle – ready to be rolled out!

A sincere thank you to the women who supported our initiative to date. I'm happy to say we received enough wine and monetary donations to match last year's raffle of 6 prizes!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
Coming soon – the list of wine prizes!

— Ross Braun, Treasurer, & Bette Lepouttre, President Elect

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The name Soroptimist was coined from the Latin *soror*, meaning sister, and *optimus*, meaning best. Soroptimist is perhaps best interpreted as “best for women.”

New Member Induction—October 12, 2022



Photos by SIGP Member Kerri Green

Welcome new members! Above L-R, Lori Schumann, Dawn Riddle, Toni Adams, Annie Mae Holt, and Barb Skelly.

At right, (L-R) New member Lillian Frazier and SIGP Membership Chair Diana Langlois.

The induction of new members took place at Fishbone's St. Clair Shores in its French Quarter room. The yellow roses signify friendship.



SHOPPING FOR THE CHILDREN OF POSITIVE IMAGES'S WOMEN



A service project that SIGP has done for years is to buy an outfit and a gift for one of the children of the women residing at [Positive Images](#). This is a volunteer activity for SIGP members who choose to participate. The amount spent per child has a value of \$50.

I hope to have a database of the children for the business meeting on Wednesday, November 9, at Fishbones.

You can select the child you want to shop for, or donate \$50 to SIGP for the shopping committee to buy an outfit. Either way, you select the child.

Let's review the guidelines for shopping:

- * Buy a pant-and-top set, or pant and sweater/fleece, value of around \$25. If you have a male teen, we have found that a cool-looking hoodie works better than an outfit.
- * Buy something that is not clothing and is appropriate for the age of the child, value around \$25.
- * Remove all sales tags and all bar codes.
- * Place in a gift BAG with some tissue paper.
- * Label the outside of the gift BAG with the mother's name, child's name, age, size of outfit.
- * **Drop off before Saturday, December 3, to Maureen Anthony, 524 Thorn Tree Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods.**

Questions: contact Maureen, 734-255-0865 or Diana, 313-690-1515.

This project will be explained more fully at the November business meeting.

— Diana Langlois & Maureen Anthony

Midwestern Region Conference runs hot and cold

The Midwestern Region Conference of Districts I & III, held October 14-15, in Benton Harbor, was exceptional. The morning began in a freezing room – Karrie actually had to put her jacket on! — and progressed to being a sauna in the afternoon.

A lot of information was shared, along with lots of camaraderie. For the conference planners, lots of ups and downs. All in all, well worth the time to re-engage in getting to know one another and share clubs' efforts to meet SI and SIA goals. Most importantly, was the need to focus on moving forward with strategic plans for the Region.

Karrie and I are looking forward to sharing lots of information!

— Bette Lepouttre, President Elect

“Our” Ghana Girls Update

Those who are new to SIGP will be pleased to know of our support for students at St. Anne Girls’ High School in Damongo, Ghana, West Africa. Classes are well underway and the students are studying hard. One of our girls, Prudence Bigra, was taken under our wing several years ago. She showed promise and had applied to the school, but the family had no money. We are making a difference in her life, and she will make a difference in many lives with her abilities and education.

She writes (an excerpt): “I am very glad to write you this letter. I hope you are doing well. I am very glad for you accepting to make it possible for me to study in St. Anne’s Girls Senior High School to further my education. You have been paying my school fees for three years now, and I am very glad for that. I pray you live long to continue to give help to the needy.

— Yours Faithfully, Bigra Prudence Npaa-Imwin

We are fortunate that a volunteer, Karen Hunka, a CPA from the United States, is now managing finances at the school. Communication is easy and replies come quickly. The additional good news is that she is extending her stay one more year.

On the home front, you might find it of interest that another priest, Fr. Beyuo, from Damongo, came to Michigan to do a mission appeal. He reports that the school struggles to keep afloat financially, but the students take their classes seriously and are hopeful for their futures.

When my friends and I met with Fr. Beyuo, we learned it was his birthday. By happy coincidence the Mexican restaurant where we dined offered special birthday greetings to customers. Staff sang and played a mariachi version of *Happy Birthday*, offering a sombrero and a delightful ice cream treat for the occasion. Ice cream is something one does not find in most parts of Ghana, and certainly not in the remote region of Damongo. In fact, with the massive blows of climate change, COVID and inflation, this region has enough trouble just trying to survive. Our girls may someday make a difference solving these problems.



Fr. Beyuo, celebrating his birthday in a sombrero and eating ice cream, with SIGP Member Carol Hofer

AKWAABA! Welcome to Ghana!



SIGP member Carol Hofer will give a presentation of her experiences in Ghana as a Peace Corps volunteer on Tuesday, November 15, at 12 o’clock. She will also talk about the students SIGP helps support. If you are interested, a simple \$3 lunch will be available beforehand, at 11 a.m. Location: Senior Activities Room of the Roseville, Recreation Center, one block north of I-696, just east of Gratiot, (behind Costco).

Friends, you have heard us describe the school and the girls. Now you are invited to enjoy more fully the ambience of the country with a bit of food to taste, artifacts to examine, and pictures to see. A raffle will be held with artifacts as prizes. There is no charge to attend, although free-will donations for the students will not be refused.

If you would like to join us, kindly reply to Carol at carolhofer@aol.com or 586-871-1278.

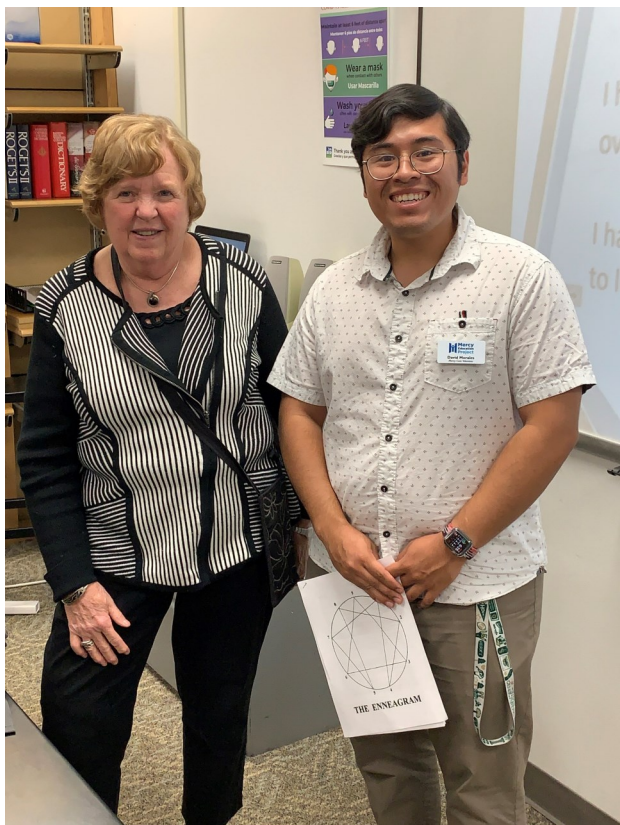
Dream It, Be It underway at Mercy Education Project

We're pleased to report that thanks to SIGP member Rasheda Williams's recommendation, we have found a fitting venue for Soroptimist's award-winning educational program, *Dream It, Be It*. The six young women who chose to be part of this six-week program are juniors and seniors in high school. The main purpose of *Dream It, Be It* is to allow young women to learn more about themselves and think about possible careers they'd like to pursue.

Right: A Dream Collage made by one of the girls.



The first week, SIGP member Mary Ellen Burke administered the Riso-Hudson Enneagram Type Indicator (RHETI® version 2.5). It is a scientifically validated, forced-choice personality test with 144 paired statements. This helped the girls better understand their strengths and weaknesses. This test, along with handouts provided by Soroptimist International of the Americas, helped them discern their deep-down passions.



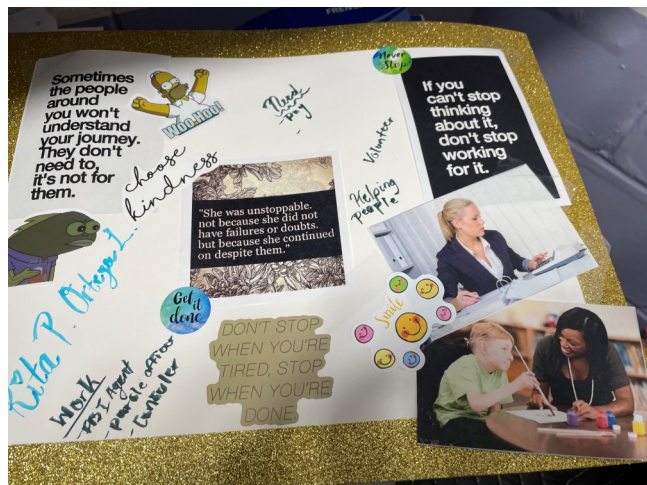
SIGP Member Mary Ellen Burke with Mercy Education Project Staffer David Morales

During the second session, we helped the students work on what is called the Common Essay for their college applications. Unlike the old days when students had to write a different essay for every school they applied to, today most schools accept the Common Essay. Their need to write an essay fit perfectly with our chosen fields as writers and editors. We worked one-on-one with each girl to help them polish their essays while Mercy Education Project's David Morales encouraged the others to create outlines for their essays. David was particularly helpful in drawing out their thoughts when they felt stuck.

By week three the essays were blooming yet needed a little more tweaking. While we continued to work individually with the girls, the others worked on their Dream Collage with art supplies we brought. They also used the scissors many of SIGP's board members provided so we didn't have

Continued on next page

Dream It, Be It (continued from previous page)



Two more Dream Collages above.

to buy them. Thank you! The girls did a fabulous job illustrating their career goals and values for their futures and were eager to explain them to the group.

Since most of the participants attend different schools, it was great to see how quickly they developed respect and camaraderie for each other.

There are three weeks left to the program and in next month's newsletter we'll give you an update about what happened and how the girls liked the program. Thank you to SIGP members for making this program possible!

— Nancy Kelley & Nancy Solak, Co-Chairs, Dream It, Be It

And just for the fun of it ...



Snack time! At left, "Ants on a Log."
Celery smeared with peanut butter (or cream cheese) and topped with raisins.

At right, "No ants on a log."

The take-away? Not everyone does everything the same way.



Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

Ruby Award Nomination Form

The Soroptimist Ruby Award honors a woman who, while volunteering or working for a nonprofit organization that provides services to women and/or girls, makes an extraordinary difference in improving their lives. Not only does her work make a significant impact, but it also inspires and encourages other women. The monetary portion of the award is given in her honor to the nonprofit organization she represents.

Nomination Guidelines

Women may nominate themselves or another woman for this honor. Soroptimist members are not eligible to receive this award.

On a separate sheet, provide a typed statement of no more than 750 words describing why the nominee should receive the Soroptimist Ruby Award.

It is necessary to get the written permission of the nominee. See below.

Complete this form and return it with the statement on or before the deadline of January 15 to: Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe, 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Nominee's Information (Please print)

Nominee's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Organization: _____ Date: _____

I consent to my nomination for the Soroptimist Ruby Award and to the accuracy of the information contained in this nomination form. I understand that my application and supporting information becomes the property of Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe upon submission and that they have permission to use this information for the purpose of publishing the Ruby Award program.

Nominee's Signature _____ Date: _____

Nominator's Information (if different from nominee)

Nominator's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

POSITIVE IMAGES'S BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT 700 E. GRAND BOULEVARD

There was an unexpected surprise of **DOORBELLS** ringing at 700 E. Grand Boulevard and two other houses that Positive Images, Inc., owns on E. Grand Blvd.! A big thank you to new member, Dawn Riddle and husband, Terry, for taking the initiative in this project. After speaking to Charlotte Hunter, the 700-house supervisor, they bought three doorbells and Terry installed them. Positive Images is reimbursing them for the cost of the doorbells. So, no more banging on the door to get in! Just ring the doorbell!

Director Maisha Kenyatta, would like to thank each member who contributed anything to this beautification project: bath vanities, beautiful artwork, nightstands, rugs, mirrors, lamps, closet hooks, towels, sheets, crib sheets, paper products, cleaning products, their time painting walls, and COLLEGE HUNKS. The women moving into the house are most appreciative. As of October 28, there are five women living at 700 E. Grand Blvd.



If you take a photo of this QR code on your phone, you will be directly connected with Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe.

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT RETURNABLES FOR EDUCATION!

We're in our third year of collecting bottles and cans FOR EDUCATION! During the first two years, our club garnered more than \$7,000 thanks to the dedication of members saving and dropping off their returnables and a cadre of members returning them. Please ask your friends and neighbors to give theirs to you. Then, deliver them on the front porch, back porch, by the garage, wherever, to either:

Roseanne Horne—1247 Elford Court, GPWoods OR Nan Solak—458 Cloverly Road, GPFarms

Happy November Birthday to...

Dorothy Wasinger, November 2
Roseanne Horne, November 6
Anita Sandercott, November 6
Sandra Mengel, November 28





The [Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women®](#) is now open for applications! And this year's application season marks the 50th anniversary of this life-transforming program. Isn't that exciting?

Since 1972, Soroptimists have distributed grants through the *Live Your Dream* Awards and helped over 39,000 women make a better life for themselves and their families. By empowering women to change their lives, the award has paved the way for new generations of independent, educated, and financially secure women and families, who in turn give back to their communities and countries.

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15!

August 1 through November 15 marks the annual award application period, in which eligible women may apply for the award by submitting their application to a club near them (or by applying through the online application portal if located in the U.S. or Canada).

Apply for LYD by clicking [here](#).

If you know of any women who might qualify for the Live Your Dream Award, please make copies of the form and distribute them.



**SI of Monroe County
Invites you to
Ann Arbor, MI**



**The Kensington Hotel
3500 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108**

**SPRING
CONFERENCE**

**SAVE
~ THE ~
DATE**

April 21-23, 2023



The following poem was written by a previous SIGP Live Your Dream Winner,

TONESIA NESBITT

who continues to pursue her dream at Wayne County Community

College District of becoming a home healthcare nurse.

Dangerous Minds

By Tonesia Nesbitt

You think dumb, you think we are down

You think we look weird, face all a frown

Do we wear floppy shoes

Rubber noses, dress like clowns

No we scratch our butt or head

Attitudes maybe or instead

Are we lazy as a couch potato

Never comb our hair

Always wear a fro, NO!

We help build this country, you see

Braved the raging storms and sea

We survived the torment and shame

Bleeding lashes, again and again

Wanting to break us like a Great Dane

Stories of escape notorious, breaking the chain

The Chain of poverty and self doubt

The chain of anger, tearful pout

The chain of outward humiliation

The chain of physical mutilation

The chain of fear and depression

Releasing ourselves; Self expression

Realizing our inner strength, power

Realizing you don't have to cower

Minds; sharper than any sword

Engineering, Biochemistry, Statistics

Knowledge belongs to us, hoard

Prepared weapons of this world

Knowledge within like jewels, pearled

Take this, Take that

Knowledge rules, that's a fact

Stand up and be heard

Nouns, pronouns, adverb

Arm yourselves, find the weapons;
each kind

Calculus, Analysis, Biostatistics

Research and Arm yourselves

Because what "They" don't know

Is that we have a Dangerous Mind



RECHARGE AND REJUVENATE YOURSELF!

AAUW Fundraiser to benefit STEM, STEAM,
and Scholarships for young women

aretée



Grosse Pointe (MI) Branch

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

1 pm to 8 pm

At: Aretée Day Spa 20559 Mack Ave.

Donation
\$25



FOOD & BEVERAGES

SHOPPING, VENDORS

FASHION SHOW, AUCTION

HOLIDAY CHEER AND NETWORKING!

SPA SERVICES Extra and by Appointment (313-423-0087)

(For pricing visit aretée-michigan-spa.com)

For info contact: Eva Habib

evarizkhabib@gmail.com

Sponsored by: The American Association of University Women Grosse Pointe

Make checks payable to: AAUW GP Education Program



When: Monday, December 5, 2022

Time: 2:45 p.m. (movie starts **promptly** at 3:00 p.m.)

Where: Okulski Family Theater at the Lavins Activity Center- Windmill Pointe Park-Grosse Pointe Park

Movie: **Trading Places** is a 1983 comedy film. It tells the story of an upper-class commodities broker and a poor street hustler, whose lives cross when they are unwittingly made the subject of an elaborate bet to test how each man will perform when their life circumstances are swapped. It stars Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy.

Cost: \$15.00 (pre-paid by following the instructions and completing the form below). **There will be no collections at the door and therefore no walk-ins will be honored.**

Masking is encouraged and social distancing at your discretion.

This is a fundraising event. Bring a friend and support the American Association of University Women Grosse Pointe Education Program with an afternoon of friendship and camaraderie.

RSVP deadline: Wednesday, November 20, 2022

Please return the form below with your payment. Proceeds will benefit our robotics, art contest/exhibit and scholarship programs.

Make checks payable to *AAUW Grosse Pointe Education Program* and send to:
Barbara Tecos, 1237 Balfour, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230, (313) 882-1081.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone# _____

Email address: _____ Total # attending: ____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

Name(s) of those attending _____

Midwestern Region Board

Governor – **Christine Fowler Shearer, SI Cleveland**
(simwrgov@gmail.com)
Governor Elect: **Audrey Jarvy, SI Fond du Lac**
(audreyjarv@gmail.com)
Secretary - **Sheila Zingler-Gilbert, SI Fond du Lac**
(sheilasifdl@gmail.com)
Treasurer - **Linda Alpers, SI NE Suburban Franklin County**
(alpers.1@osu.edu)

District III

District III Director - Kellie Klingel, SI Flat Rock Area
(kclklingel@yahoo.com)
District III Secretary - Gail Hutra, SI Monroe
(gahutra1960@yahoo.com)

Soroptimist Websites

Grosse Pointe Soroptimist: <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org/>
Soroptimist International Midwestern Region - simwr.org
Soroptimist International of the Americas soroptimist.org
Soroptimist International soroptimistinternational.org

Soroptimist Pledge

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist
and to the ideals for which it stands:
The sincerity of friendship,
the joy of achievement,
the dignity of service,
the integrity of profession,
and the love of country.
I will put forth my greatest effort to
promote, uphold and defend these ideals,
for a larger fellowship in home, in society,
in business, for country and for God.



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

WEBSITE: grossepointesoroptimist.netYOUR NAME!
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/sigp-calendar-.html> for calendar

Submit photos, club information, news, upcoming events, and dates to this e-mail so the information
can be accessed by all public awareness chairs.

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Nancy Solak

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe.....Geri Pleva

INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://instagram.com/soroptimistgp).....Geri Pleva

NEWSLETTER & MEDIA: *THE POINTER*

is on the club's website and is emailed to each member

Deadline for photos and articles is the 28th of each month..... Nancy Solak



Remember to use AMAZON SMILE smile.amazon.com
(Look for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe)