



The Pointer

APRIL 10, 2019 MEMBERSHIP MEETING at VILLAGE GRILLE

16930 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe; Parking & Private Entry Door in Rear

General Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Meet and Greet at 6 p.m.

Soroptimist Grosse Pointe Awards Dinner 2019



*On March 13, 2019, SIGP awarded the following organizations and women at Assumption Cultural Center:
(l-r) Sr. Theresa Maynard, representing Gianna House; Tara Zilli and Ashley Nogueira, 1st and 2nd place respectively of Live Your Dream Award; Kimberby Frendo and Christy Baumeister, 1st and 2nd place respectively of Virginia Wagner Award, and Jenelle Lefief, representing Phoemale.*

More photos of our awesome Awards Dinner

(all photos courtesy of SIGP member Renee Rodriguez)



The evening was presented by SIGP President Aleksa Andjelkovic.

Chairwomen of the Virginia Wagner Educational Awards Diana Langlois and Liz Lucas.



Sr. Theresa Maynard is presented with an award for Gianna House from Ruby Award chairwomen Rosanne Morrow and Marlane Washington.

Past Co-Presidents Roseanne Horne and Ross Braun, and chairwomen of the Awards Committee.

SIGP members Kerri Green and Peggy Hart.



Far right: Toni Adams with SIGP member Carol Hofer.



A few more photos of the Awards Dinner



Guest Sheila Elis Sansbury with SIGP members Paula Davis and Karrie Blankenship.



SIGP members Vicki Granger and Nancy Hohlfeldt.



Nearly the entire Board of Phoemale, a 501c3 that supports women, attended the dinner.



SIGP members Anita Sandercott, Donna Fitzgerald and Bette Lepouttre.



At left: Darcy Merritt. She is the Governor-Elect of Mid-western Region



SIGP members Carolyn Barth, Marya Malkovich, and Katherine Baetz.

Kudos to our Award Judges Mary Alvin, Jenelle Lefief, Mary Jo Magee, Mary Ellen Anglewicz, Darcie DiBasio, Fran Twiddy, Pat Casey, Myra Golden, Roseanne Horne, Ross Braun, Marya Malkovich, Rosanne Morrow and Marlane Washington.

And last but not least, thank you to Marchiori Catering at Assumption Cultural Center for a lovely dinner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aleksa Andjelkovic

President

Carolyn Barth

Program/Service Chairwoman

Dorothea Williams

VP / Membership

Roseanne Horne

Ross Braun

Past Presidents

Mary Ellen Burke

Treasurer

Bette Lepouttre

Assistant Treasurer

Fundraising

Secretary

Ellen Chapin

Assistant Secretary

Public Awareness

Myra Golden

Director

Marya Malkovich

Director

Hospitality Chair

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGP Board Meetings:

Until further notice, SIGP Board Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month. The next one is Thursday, April 4, at MEB's residence.

Request from Robin Wilson:

I recognize that your Soroptimist International chapter is engaged in several initiatives to support women. Therefore, if it is not possible to come before your members at this time, I would like to share another way to support.

I have a fundraising campaign page. Please visit the link: <https://www.fundmytravel.com/campaign/QtPd5ZiKcC>

The link contains a video and detailed information about the cultural exchange program and giving opportunities.

Please share the link and supporting documents with anyone that may be interested in supporting me. I would appreciate it.

Thank you,
Robin Wilson

Soroptimist® Earns PANO Seal of Excellence® Accreditation in Nonprofit Governance

Soroptimist has been awarded the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organization's (PANO) Seal of Excellence for successfully completing the rigorous Standards for Excellence® accreditation program.

PANO is a statewide membership organization amplifying the impact of the community benefit sector. The Standards for Excellence program is part of a national effort to help nonprofits achieve high standards.

Shop Amazon and support SIGP!



We have 30 people using AmazonSmile to support SIGP. Our total donations received are nearly \$150! Please use smile.amazon.com each time you shop!

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases back to our organization. Use the link below when doing your online shopping, or go to smile.amazon.com and search for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe.

Supporting SIGP has never been easier!

[http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-6099835](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-6099835)

AmazonSmile Metrics

Donations from AmazonSmile

Cumulative

\$149.50

Received to date

Most Recent

\$40.62

Received in Feb 2019

The next donation will be sent in May 2019

Total Customers Supporting Your Charity

30

As of 03/19/2019

That ever made an eligible* AmazonSmile purchase

(Eligible purchases include products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.)

What our club needs now ...

- ♦ A secretary to take minutes (A former secretary will help you get started)
- ♦ A location at which to hold our Second-Hand Garage Sale (A former sale host will help you)
- ♦ A historian (A past president will help with this)
- ♦ Volunteers to commit two hours every other week to help in Computer Room at Positive Images (current volunteers will show you the way)

For more information, call, text, or email Aleksa, Roseanne or Ross.

MIDWEST REGION SPRING CONFERENCE

The Midwest Region Spring Conference will be held April 26-28, 2019, in Columbus, Ohio, at the Marriott. SIGP members are welcome to attend.

Whether you are attending or not, you might want to give the contingent a hand by putting together a Springtime Basket to raffle at the Conference. Their theme is, **"Pink Things That Can Go Into a Purse."** Deadline is April 20. If you have something to donate, contact Mary Ellen Burke.

SIGP members attending include: Mary Ellen Burke, Karrie Blankenship, Aleksa Andjelkovic and Roseanne Horne.



Mother's Day items for Positive Images Bags

If you have or had children in your life, can you imagine never having received a Mother's Day card or present? That's how it is for many women in recovery at Positive Images. SIGP member Mary Ellen Burke is currently collecting the following items for Mother's Day bags:

- ◆ "O" Oprah Magazines
- ◆ Jewelry (earrings, bracelets, necklaces)
- ◆ Scarves
- ◆ Keychains
- ◆ Cosmetic bags
- ◆ Dental floss
- ◆ Small, travel-size toothpaste

Bring your items (she needs 60 of each thing) to a meeting or contact her for further instructions. Please do not leave anything on her doorstep since they can get damaged by the weather. Thanks!



Photo courtesy of annie-spratt-197098-unsplash

Additional Thank yous!

- ◆ Special thanks to Maddy Jeffs for spearheading the Continuing Education Awards.
- ◆ "Wowzers!" to Diana Langlois and her spontaneous committee of writers/proof-readers to put together a "Beyond Live Your Dream" grant. The team consisted of: Maddy Jeffs, Cara Crawford, Mary Clare Toffanetti and Marya Malkovich.
- ◆ Thank you Carolyn Barth for volunteering to be the liaison between our club and *The Grosse Pointe News*.
- ◆ Kudos to SIGP member Irem Yoruk for helping to start a club in Ann Arbor.
- ◆ Hedgehog Success! Thank you to Rosanne Morrow for donating \$200 of her sales commission to SIGP for the Avon hedgehogs members bought!
- ◆ Warmest thanks to Marya Malkovich for arranging with College Quest to get 10 Grosse Pointe South and North high school girls in need to take the pretests for college exams.

Dream It Be It program completed again!

Thanks to Chairwomen Marya Malkovich and Ellen Chapin, along with a myriad of SIGP members, the Dream It Be It program of six sessions over a three-week period has again been a success.

Like last year, it was held at Kennedy Middle School in St. Clair Shores, and consisted of 16 middle school girls. The young women took time after school to learn how to empower themselves.

The focus of Dream It Be It centers on establishing goals, overcoming obstacles, and finding healthy ways to handle stress specific to the early teen years such as peer pressure, bullying and relationships with others.

The activities rated most highly by the girls in the survey afterwards included: making a dream poster, participating in skits to help find ways to respond to difficult situations, followed by paper snow ball fights, overcoming a land mind obstacle course with the guidance of a peer, and testing ways to handle stress (healthy eating, exercise, massage, yoga, music, journaling, crafts, and meditation).

We were especially pleased to have one of our members, and winner of the Live Your Dream Award, Sara Baker, as a guest speaker to talk to the girls about the challenges she faced in life, escaping from an arranged and abusive marriage and eventually graduating from college and acceptance into graduate studies to continue her dreams.

Accolades to Marya and Ellen for bringing this important program to our future leaders!

2018 Club Assessment Survey Completed! Here's what you said ...

Compiled and Written by Dorothea Williams, Membership

PLEASE NOTE: What follows is based on those who responded to the survey.

Volunteer Activity Importance: In this area SIGP members indicated that providing valuable Soroptimist mission-focused services that directly help women and girls is the most important aspect of our volunteer activities. Nine-nine percent agreed completely with that statement and 1% mostly agreed.

The next most important service was raising funds for various Soroptimist mission-focused projects with 100% agreeing completely or mostly agreeing.

Satisfaction with Your Club: The results show that 88% feel that being a member gives them a sense of pride. Unanimously, members feel that Soroptimist is an important part of their lives and 94% felt that Soroptimist makes them feel as though they are doing something positive to help others.

Meeting Satisfaction: In this area, 100% of SIGP members felt our club president follows an agenda, properly introduces guests, gives speakers adequate time for presentations, gives members the opportunity to participate and communicate, minutes are distributed and approved, and treasurer's reports are distributed and approved. Also, 94% felt there is a friendly atmosphere and that the club provides interesting and varied topics.

- ◆ 100% of members felt that meeting once a month is just right
- ◆ 76% said that meeting in person once a month is preferred
- ◆ Wednesday is the day of the week preferred by 84% of the members
- ◆ 94% said they prefer meeting in the evening
- ◆ 81% said they prefer for club meetings to include a meal

◆

Evaluation of Your Club:

- ◆ 100% of members feel our club raises significant funds for Soroptimist mission-driven projects and 100% also said our club provides valuable Soroptimist mission-focused services that directly help women and girls.
- ◆ 88% to 94% felt our club encourages members to take leadership roles, has regular meetings to allow members to socialize, has meetings to plan events, incorporates a sense of fun, ensures that activities help women and girls outside our local community, offer opportunities for all ages to participate, is welcoming and makes members feel like they belong.
- ◆ One area where our club could improve is to involve the families and children of members.

Wishes/Frustrations:

- ◆ 100% said they feel the leaders allow them to be as active in the club as they desire. All said they feel sufficient protections exist to ensure club funds are used properly.
- ◆ 94% said our club promotes and actively participates in Soroptimist programs (such as Live Your Dream Award and Dream It Be It), and that 94% also feel sufficient protections exist to ensure club elections are run fairly and that our club welcomes diversity in our membership (e.g., ethnicity, socio-economically).
- ◆ Most members (82%) feel our club embraces technology wherever possible to communicate with members.

Other Comments on Ways to Improve: More speakers at the general meeting, other service projects, meetings online for those who cannot attend, email specific timely events once a week.

As far as using some type of technology to encourage more to participate in meetings via technology/online, many did not even respond to the question. A few felt that less than half of the business meetings could be transmitted via technology and more than half of those who responded felt we should have no meetings via technology.

Other Comments:

"...this is a well-run group with vitality and ability to lead women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment."

"We need to have a way to help members rather than always helping those outside the group."

A word about Soroptimist Grosse Pointe “auxiliary groups”



Whether you're a new member or not, you should know that auxiliary interest groups sprout up in our club from time to time. These are not part of an official SIGP program, but more like spontaneous pods of people getting together due to a common interest.

For instance, there is both a Foodie Club (see photo at left) and a Book Club. Below are more opportunities!

(Pictured at left: Maddy Jeffs, Jean Kroll, Roseanne Horne, Diana Langlois, Marya Malkovich, Donna Fitzgerald and Laura McCourt.)

From Ross Braun:

I would like to form another foodie group that could meet on the 4th Thursday of the month, but not at Thanksgiving or Christmas.

While it is not an official SIGP program, I am offering other SIGP members the opportunity to join. Details are not worked out but for those interested we will have a formation meeting. If interested, please let me know by email braunross@aol.com or text 313-909-0230.

From Mary Ellen Burke:

I'm interested in starting a SIGP group MOVIE NIGHT. Another idea is to get people together for a GAME NIGHT at my house. If you are interested in either of these ideas, please let me know by email meb650@aol.com or by text 313-399-8934. We can work out details as a group later.

Now for a yummy report about the Foodie Group's German Night (see above photo) by Carolyn Barth

An elegant display of dinnerware with linen tablecloths and napkins is almost unheard of these days. Our group of eight women is accustomed to such finery since we are among the most creative and eloquent cooks in town.

Our German-themed evening began with an appetizer of soft pretzels complete with a Spicy Bavarian Beer Mustard Dip and a favorite wine....at least two German wines. Dinner began with a German Wilted Lettuce salad. The main dishes were: Sauerbraten and City Chicken complemented with side dishes of Red Cabbage, Latke and Spätzle. The evening was topped off with Black Forest Cake and Hummers.

We all left ready to go into dreamland with thoughts of Apple-date Chutney and fat pretzels dipped in Spicy Bavarian Beer Mustard.



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO) CSW63 FORUM EVENTS

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY advocates with member states for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across the globe in support of the work of the UN CSW and UN Women.

They lobby for the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, UN Security resolution 1325, the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. NGO CSW/NY represents more than 550 member organizations and individuals including Young Professionals who are concerned about the status of women and girls. They monitor and participate in events at UN headquarters in New York.

Every year NGO CSW/NY organizes the NGO Forum for the CSW that takes place during the two weeks in March. Consultation day, a 7-hour event held the Sunday before the opening day of CSW, prepares participants for the parallel events that focus on the priority and review themes decided each year.

Through its list of over 13,000 people, NGO CSW/NY keeps women worldwide apprised of gender-based issues. It promotes “women’s rights are human rights” at the UN and other international meetings.

CSW63 began with a welcoming address by Susan O’Malley, the Chair. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, stated that the most beautiful gift in the world is ENCOURAGEMENT. Then H.E. Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, the Permanent Representative Mission of Ireland, and Bureau Chair, CSW63 introduced this year’s themes.

Empowering women and girls will allow them to contribute fully in society

Women bear burden of “care” of most of the people in the world, and are deprived of care

Gender Equality is a government concern

Governments need to invest in women’s talent so women can contribute economically

Governments need to help women get back into the labor market when they drop out for child care

Women are deprived of promotions when they take child-care leave

20% of government expenditures are relate to social protection

Women are looking for power for women, not power over men

Need to free women’s time and “head space” from child-care issues.

Women need to use technology to spread their messages worldwide—creates empowerment.

“Me Too” highlights that everyday women are in the “fire,” and subject to sexual harassment.

Tradition and Culture can equal Oppression

The 2019 Woman of Distinction Award was given to Gharsanay Ibnul Ameen, a 22-year-old grassroots organizer from Afghanistan, the youngest awardee. She currently works as Special Assistant Unit/Secretary and is a Master’s degree Fulbright finalist in the 2019-20 Fulbright Cohort. She believes that educating girls is the most important force on the planet and it will improve the world economy. She convinced girls to enroll in a leadership program, which had had an impact on the entire country. Empowered women must step up to fight tyranny and promote human rights for women.

NGO Status of Women Report continued on next page

NGO Status of Women Report continued from previous page

Alix Garcia and Naima Penniman, members of Climbing PoeTree presented three dramatic poems on empowering women to change the world. Some themes include: “creativity is the antidote to destruction,” and “don’t let hate keep you down...rise up,” and, “up is the only direction we have to go.” You can listen to these moving poems online.



In March, Dorothea Williams and Mary Ellen Burke went to New York City to attend the NGO Committee on the Status of Women at the United Nations, pictured here. Mary Ellen wrote the summary on these pages.

A panel of four women presented what Social Protection is in today’s world. Vinicius Pineiro, the Deputy Director of the Office for the UN International Labor Organization focused his remarks on International Labor, Peace, and Social Justice.

Nadia Daar’s, Head of Oxfam Washington Office, talk focused on the growing super rich as well as the neglect of the poor. The role of governments should be to provide social protection, that is, education and healthcare through equal taxation.

Crystal Simeoni, Director of FEMNET in Kenya, spoke about women’s rights in Africa. Currently, most of the countries’ wealth are providing services for the residents of the large cities, instead of the rural areas which represent three-fourths of the population.

Corina Rodriguez Enriquez, Director of DAWN in Argentina, spoke about the financial support needed for the poor. The right wing government is a current threat to social protection. The conclusion of the panel was “Dignity before Development.” Women need to be recognized at the table, not on the table.

Mayor William Peduto of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania received the Cities for Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Global Leadership Award. The USA was one of only 5 countries in the UN that did not vote to support CEDAW, so individual cities in the USA are joining. Currently there are 50 US cities that are members.

Lopa Banerjee, the Director of Civil Society Division for UN Women, gave an update on Beijing +25. Currently, one in three women face domestic violence sometime in their lifetime around the world. Women are ignored, overlooked, harassed, or assaulted. There have been many multinational achievements as a result of Beijing +25:

- A five-year review of the 17 UN sustainable goals
- A ten-year anniversary celebrating the creation of UN Women
- Worldwide attention on Me Too movement
- Stand against male privilege
- Mobilize stakeholders to achieve gender equity and equality
- Women in powerful positions

NGO Status of Women Report continued on next page

Rapid, irreversible progress in gender equality

Focus on the key drivers of change: transformation, increase resources, strengthen accountability, feminist movement, empower young women to lead

The final presentation of the day was a panel discussion on Promising Social Protection Schemes. Heather Ibrahim spoke on the need for protection of widows in Namibia, Kenya and India. Women become widows through the death, or abandonment of their husbands, or by having an unmarried partner. Currently, Egypt, Tanzania, and India have large percentages of widows under 40 years old. Widows cannot inherit property, so have lost their income, right to justice, social protection, and freedom. This can lead to poverty, hunger, and poor health as well as human trafficking. Sometimes they marry off their children for economic reasons.

Helen Inga Stankiewicz Von Ernst talked about Equal Pay in Iceland. Iceland has been the #1 country guaranteeing equal pay for women for the past ten years. On October 24 women did not work but protested in order to achieve equal pay. Currently, the burden of proof in discrimination cases falls on the employer, not the employee.

Tania Goossens from Peru spoke on Zero Hunger: Cooking with a Cause. The Peruvian people love food, but have a high rate of malnutrition and anemia. 19,000 soup kitchens have been established and are managed by women in order to feed and to teach women how to cook nutritious dishes. This project is creating better health as well as social and economic change for women.

Sarita Pariya spoke about ending violence against Dalit Women in Nepal. This country still has a caste system, which treats the people of Dalit as untouchables. Most women face an increased risk of assault and rape.

Angela Mwai presented Safe Transportation for Women in Egypt. Women in Egypt chose not to take any public transportation because of sexual harassment. They choose to walk because they are safer. It takes them much longer and usually they are carrying heavy loads.

Sean Southy, spoke about ending child marriage in Bangladesh. Child marriage is high due to poverty, social mores, and the parents' need for safety. UNICEF, ASIATIC and PCI Media are combatting this practice through social media. Public service announcements are broadcast on TV, and Facebook. 90% of the population has access to social media, including 6 million people on Facebook (98%). Currently both fathers and sons are being targeted as a means to change social mores. The ads promote fathers who experience social disapproval from their peers for marrying their child daughters. Sons are shown to refuse to marry a girl if she is under 18 years old. The social pressure illustrated in these ads is succeeding in changing the culture.



kaung-myat-min-655005-unsplash

SAVE THE DATE!

September 21,
2019

SIGP's Second
STOP TRAFFIC 5 K

Human Trafficking Awareness
Walk/Run

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GROSSE POINTE

St Lucy's Church
23401 E Jefferson
St. Clair Shores

JOIN US!!
SEPT 21st

STOP TRAFFIC 5K

Human Trafficking Awareness Walk/Run



SHE'S NOT FOR SALE

SAVE THE DATE: SEPT 21, 2019

Follow us on Facebook to get registration information when it becomes available at:
<https://www.facebook.com/sigrossepointe/>

Visit our website for more information about all of our activities at
<https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/>

THIS IS AN UNTIMED EVENT.

 **SOROPTIMIST**
Good for Women

Proceeds benefit
anti-human trafficking organizations in the Metro Detroit area

APRIL

Happy Birthday to ...

Katherine Baetz, April 1
Cara Crawford, April 6
Donna Fitzgerald, April 11
Michelle Strait, April 18
Laura McCourt, April 27



Photo courtesy of sharon-mccutcheon-677023-unsplash

Missing and Exploited Children Hotline

1 (800) 843-5678

www.cybertipline.com or www.missingkids.com

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE: 1-888-3737 or TEXT BEFREE

The Who's Who of SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

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

WEBSITE: grossepointesoroptimist.net Carrie Petrocelli
or [https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/calendar of events.html](https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/calendar%20of%20events.html) for calendar

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe Renee Rodriguez
INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://instagram.com/soroptimistgp) Sarah Shepherd
TWITTER: [@soroptimistgp](https://twitter.com/soroptimistgp) Jean Kroll

NEWSLETTER: THE POINTER is on the website and
is emailed to members Nancy Solak

MEDIA: Newspaper articles, radio PSAs, etc. Diana Langlois



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

District III Emails

Governor-Elect **Kris Armstrong** - (krisquin@msn.com)

Governor Elect- **Darcy Merritt** (dmerritt81@hotmail.com)

Secretary - **Missie Austin** - (missieaustin@gmail.com)

Treasurer - **Audrey Jarvey** - (audreyjarv@charter.net)

District III Director - **Mary Pilon** (pilonmary0@gmail.com)

District III Secretary - **Lata Shastri** (shastrilata@gmail.com)

Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - (simwr.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas (soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International (soroptimistinternational.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas -

(soroptimist.org/about-us/contact-us/index.html)

For upcoming SIGP events and information, click the link

<https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org/>

Soroptimist Pledge



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

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.

PERFORMANCE BY
CASOE THEATER COMPANY

THE BOY FROM HUTCHINSON STREET

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019 • 7:30PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019 • 6:00PM



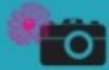
**TICKETS
ON SALE
SOON!**

CASOE THEATER HOUSE
8801 WOODWARD AVE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

DIRECTOR: HANK JACKSON • WRITER: JANICE SMITH • SONGWRITER: MARTRAVIS WILLIAMS
CHOREOGRAPHER: SPENCER RICHARDSON-MOORE • DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: GERALD MCLEAN

SIGP Member Ads

RENÉE RODRIGUEZ
PHOTOGRAPHY



Soroptimist Special

Mini Portrait Session \$100

30 minute photo session
10 high resolution digital images
Photo Print Release

Book your session today!
Contact

reneerodriguezphotography@gmail.com
248.778.8206

www.renee-rodriquez.com