

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
April 2023



President's Message — Fun times on the horizon!

Our club has two fun activities coming up: An afternoon at the races, and a buffet luncheon aboard the *Infinity* yacht.

Saturday, May 6 is Derby Day at Sugarbush Road. If you have not sent me your RSVP yet, please do so by **April 30**, at karrieb40@gmail.com. Don't forget to wear your most spectacular hat. SIGP member, the Honorable Judge Deborah A. Thomas will determine the three winners for Win, Place, and Show. There will be prizes.

If you would like to bring a dish or other needed items, please contact SIGP member Jane Evola at janie730@msn.com. A sign-up sheet with our wish list items and volunteer options will be distributed at our April Business Meeting on Wednesday, April 12. They're also listed on p. 7. Note: Even if you are unable to attend we welcome donations to the event.



Karrie Blankenship

Have you purchased your ticket(s) for the **ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS!** cruise? Well, don't delay since tickets are limited, and you don't want to miss this event. We expect to fill the *Infinity* yacht and ask all members to help advertise this event. We encourage you to post the flyer on your social media pages, in your favorite restaurants, hair salons, or your place of worship, to name a few possibilities. Flyers will be available at the April meeting, and one is attached to the email you received to access this newsletter. Feel free to print a few copies and keep them in your car just in case you're at a place where one can be displayed or handed out.

Thank you to all the members who have been working to gain sponsorships for this cruise. We have 12 sponsors totaling \$9,500; our goal is to reach \$15,000 before July. We are almost there, keep the good work cruising along!

As a reminder, each of you has the choice of how and when you volunteer and/or give financial support. Your choices is what makes you, our club, women and girls WINNERS! Thank you everyone.

— Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President

SIGP celebrates five outstanding women at our Annual Awards Dinner

On March 9, 2023, SIGP members, judges, awardees, and guests, came together to celebrate the achievement of five outstanding women.



2023 Award Winners (l-r): J'nai Baker, Jamie Pakula, Lauren Gothro, Desiree Perry and Erin O'Mara.

Photo by Renee Rodriguez Photography

- ♦ **The Virginia Wagner Educational Award** honors a woman enrolled in a university degree program, shows effort toward scholarship, has volunteered in the community and/or school, and has financial need.

Lauren Gothro was named this year's Virginia Wagner Educational Award winner. She attends Wayne State University and plans to complete her Master of Social Work degree by May 2024.



Janet Stankowski, OP, says grace before dinner.

Lauren says she chose social work because she is "passionate about individual growth and large-scale changes." Her goal is to support people who are healing emotionally and to advocate for policies that will improve systemic issues in our country and communities.

- ♦ **The Live Your Dream awards** are given to women who provide the primary financial support for their families. It gives women the resources they need to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects.

First place awardee Jamie Pakula earned her Associate Degree in Nursing from Macomb Community College, and has been accepted at University of Michigan Flint. Her dream to go into nursing originated when she became a mother. She says, "I look forward to becoming a nurse and helping people who come in at their worst and helping them recover so they can go home feeling their best. I picture myself as an oncology nurse, as I am a cancer survivor myself."

2023 Award Dinner (continued on next page)



Second place awardee J'nai Baker graduated from Denby High School and currently attends Wayne County Community College. J'nai is taking her pre-requisites for the nursing program. She plans to be an anesthesiologist or CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist). She has three children, two siblings and a parent, all of whom she supports. She states: "I want to show them you can still get things done with discipline, perseverance and dignity."

After facing and overcoming personal hardships to reach her goal, **Third place awardee Desiree Perry** (photo on next page) has completed her pre-requisites and is enrolled at Macomb Community College to obtain her Associate Degree as a Nurse Practitioner. Desiree is a wife and mother of four children. She says, "I am confident that when I finish this program, I will have the skills needed to move from working as a nurse tech to being a registered nurse."

At left: Aleksa Andjelkovic, Awards Dinner Chair

- ♦ **The 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.

This year **SIGP's Ruby Award** was given to **Erin O'Mara**, director of community engagement at Mercy Education Project (MEP) in Detroit. MEP provides after-school educational programs for girls from second grade through high school.

Also offered is a College and Career Readiness (CCR) program for 11th and 12th graders who are determined to be college-bound. MEP provides girls with STEAM and leadership opportunities in its summer Emerging Leaders Program.

Erin says, "When we work one-on-one with our girls, we also affect generations to come. I do not think there is any more important work than this."



Lauren Gothro (at left) receives The Virginia Wagner Educational Award from SIGP members Toni Adams and Bette Lepouttre.



2023 Awards Dinner (continued from previous page)



MEP's mission is "Empowering Women and Girls through Education in Detroit since 1992." Except for a difference in expression, its mission is the same as SIGP's: "Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment."



*Live Your Dream Winner
Jamie Pakula.*



*Live Your Dream Winner
J'nai Baker.*



*Live Your Dream Winner
Desiree Perry.*



(Center) Ruby Award Winner Erin O'Mara, surrounded by Soroptimist Ruby Committee (l-r) Donna Fitzgerald, Anita Sandercott, Dorothea Williams (Chair) and Roseanne Horne.



SIGP members in the buffet line are (l-r) Marlane Washington, Anita Sandercott, Francine Pegues, Renee Rodriguez and Diane Kashuba.

2023 Awards Dinner (continued from previous page)

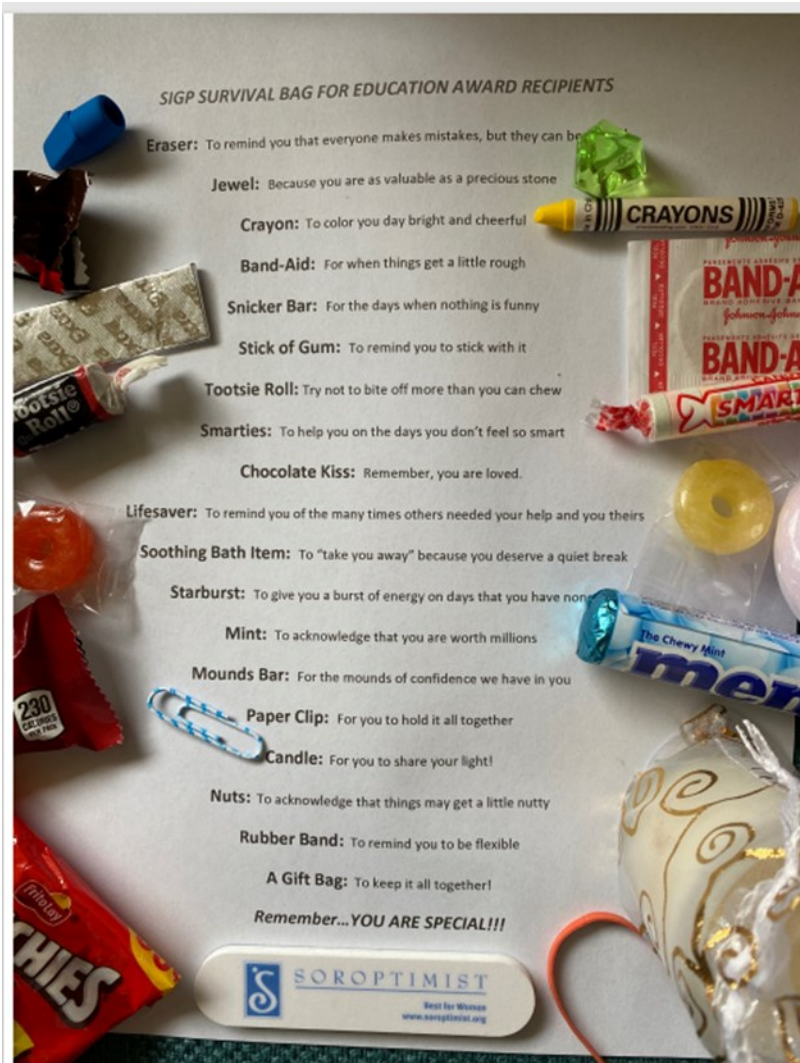


At left: SIGP Board member Diana Langlois presents the "Survival Kits" to the award winners.

Below is a photo of the items included in the kits and their significance.

At left: The bags containing the Survival Kit items and the evening's dessert.

Most of the Award Dinner photos are courtesy of
Renee Rodriguez Photography
Thank you to SIGP member
Renee Rodriguez



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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.”

Exceptional Opportunity!

Want a wonderful, rewarding experience?
You can have it by chairing the Live Your Dream Award program.
I am looking for a member willing to take on this exceptional opportunity!
And that member can have a committee to help.
And that member can receive guidance, if desired
Please consider this opportunity and let me know, elepouttre@gail.com
Thanking you ahead of time!

— Bette Lepouttre, *President Elect*

Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) Update

The AHT committee met on March 13. I'd like to announce that the Michigan Abolitionist Project has a new program called: Abolitionist Program 2.0. This is an enhanced program of engagement on various topics, with a new one each week. If interested, you can sign up here: <https://michiganabolitionistproject.org/>

— Liz Lucas, *SIGP Anti-Human Trafficking Chair*

Update on Liberator Award

SIGP President Karrie Blankenship and Assistant Treasurer Mary Ellen Burke attended the **2023 Liberator Awards Ceremony** in Columbus, Ohio, on March 25, 2023. They went in anticipation of accepting the Volunteer Liberator Award for SIGP Member Laurie Jost who Karrie nominated. Laurie was unable to attend and asked Karrie if she would accept her award on her behalf, and Mary Ellen kindly accompanied her. Unfortunately, Laurie was not chosen for the final award. Sally Popa, born in Michigan and now a resident of Columbus, Ohio, was the honoree. If you want to read more about the Liberator Awards and the finalists, here is the link: <https://www.liberatorawards.com/2023-finalists>

April Business Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, at Fishbones, starting promptly at 6:30.
If you want, you can arrive around six to give yourself time to settle in and greet other members.

Feel free to bring a guest.

ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS!

Soroptimist Infinity Cruise to Support Women's Education

We are still collecting sponsorships for our Infinity Cruise scheduled for July 11. The yacht will launch from St. Clair Shores and cruise on Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. The following are some of the benefits sponsors receive, depending on the sponsorship level.

- ◆ Tickets for the ALL ABOARD for AWARDS! Cruise on July 11, 2023
- ◆ Be listed as a sponsor in the *Grosse Pointe News*
- ◆ Be listed as a sponsor in our monthly newsletter & on our SIGP webpage
- ◆ Be acknowledged on the cruise.

Send me the name of a business or individual with their contact information, and I will be happy to take it from there. A committee member will mail the sponsorship materials to your contact, type your name as the sender, and then follow up with a phone call.

Send the contact information of a potential sponsor to SIGP President Karrie at karrieb40@gmail.com. The sponsorship levels are on the next page of this newsletter so you will know the opportunities being offered to sponsors.

For more information on soliciting sponsors, contact me at fepegues@comcast.net or call/text at 313-969-0523.

— Francine Pegues, Chair,
All Aboard for Awards! Cruise Committee

SAVE THIS DATE! Tuesday, July 11, 2023

An exclusive opportunity to cruise on the luxurious

INFINITY YACHT

on Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River with

GROSSE POINTE SOROPTIMIST.

Leaves St. Clair Shores at 11:30 a.m.; returns at 3 p.m.

Includes Lunch Buffet AND Open Bar!

Tickets are \$175 each. [CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE!](#)

Then click on the “DONATE” button.



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Listen to what two of our past awardees have to say
about the Live Your Dream Award and SIGP



www.grossepointesoroptimist.org

Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) is part of a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Our goal for this event is to raise \$15,000.

To raise these funds, we are hosting an afternoon **ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS!** on the [Infinity Yacht](#), **Tuesday, July 11, 2023**. We are inviting you to be a sponsor and join us.

Virginia Wagner Award Sponsor: \$3,000 Awards a woman who is attending college or university in pursuit of a bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree.

- Your sponsorship includes 3 attendees on the cruise; your company logo or name on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website; in our monthly newsletter through 2023; and in all promotional materials including the *Grosse Pointe News*.

Live Your Dream First Place Sponsor: \$3,000 Awards a single parent enrolled in training who is working toward a degree or technical skill that will improve her employment prospects. This is the signature award of Soroptimist International of the Americas. It is awarded to women around the world.

- Your sponsorship includes 3 attendees on the cruise; your company logo or name on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website; in our monthly newsletter through 2023; and in all promotional materials including the *Grosse Pointe News*.

Live Your Dream Second Place Sponsor: \$2,000 Awards a single parent enrolled in training who is working toward a degree or technical skill that will improve her employment prospects. This is the signature award of Soroptimist International of the Americas. It is awarded to women around the world.

- Your sponsorship includes 2 attendees on the cruise; your company logo or name on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website; in our monthly newsletter through 2023; and in all promotional materials including the *Grosse Pointe News*.

Live Your Dream Third Place Sponsor: \$1,000 Awards a single parent enrolled in training who is working toward a degree or technical skill that will improve her employment prospects. This is the signature award of Soroptimist International of the Americas. It is awarded to women around the world.

- Your sponsorship includes 1 attendee on the cruise; your company logo or name on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website, and in our monthly newsletter through 2023.

Madeline Colavito Continuing Education Award: \$500 Award provides additional financial support to Live Your Dream recipients so she can complete her educational program.

- Your company logo or name on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website, and in our monthly newsletter through 2023.

(Fair market value ticket sale for a full ship is \$105 per person)

Thank you Sponsors of SIGP's ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS! Infinity Cruise

**Grosse
Pointe
News**

INFINITY - OVATION
YACHT CHARTERS

An exclusive opportunity to cruise on the luxurious
INFINITY YACHT down the Detroit River
with GROSSE POINTE SOROPTIMIST.
July 11, 2023 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
To purchase tickets click the "Buy Now" button.

Buy Now



EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Iuliana Keyes

FINANCIAL ADVISOR*
248.828.2800
iuliana@tfg4u.com

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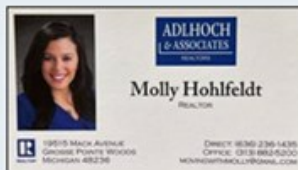
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GROSSE POINTE
ADVISORY GROUP
of
RAYMOND JAMES®



Mary Ann and Robert Victor



Chuck and Karen Shreve



Fidelity Appraisal

Mother's Day Bags – Positive Images Project

Once again, our club will honor 50 women at Positive Images with Mother's Day gifts this year. These gifts bring significant joy, particularly to the women who have never received a Mother's Day gift before.

Throughout the year, we have been collecting the following items, but we still need more to reach 50.

- ♦ Mugs—No advertisements
- ♦ Nail Polish
- ♦ Cosmetic bags
- ♦ Artificial flowers
- ♦ Scarves—long type, light fabric,
(no square or bandanna sizes)

We have already collected or purchased 50 of the following items:

- ♦ Jewelry (earrings, bracelets, necklaces, pins)
- ♦ Decorative 4 X 6 or 5 X 7 gift boxes
- ♦ Emery Boards
- ♦ Kleenex packs
- ♦ Journals
- ♦ Pens
- ♦ Cloth bags to pack items

THANK YOU!

Drop off items at: MARY ELLEN BURKE'S, 2037 Shorepointe Lane, GPW
APRIL 1 through APRIL 23, 2023.

Preparing bags: MARY ELLEN BURKE'S, 2037 Shorepointe Lane, GPW
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

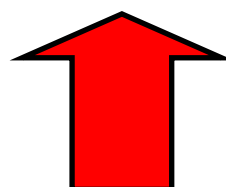
TEXT Mary Ellen at 313-399-8934, OR EMAIL her at meb65065@gmail.com to let her know when you drop off items on her patio and or if you plan to come help prepare the bags.





WHAT? DERBY FUNDRAISER

WHEN?
MAY 6, 2023!



SAVE THE DATE!

40 People are expected

A DAY AT THE RACES
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Item to be donated	Member Name
Pulled Pork	Bette Lepouttre
BBQ Sauce: Sweet 18oz	
BBQ Sauce: Spicy 18oz	
BBQ Sauce: Smokey 18oz	
Slider buns 12 pk	
Slider buns 12 pk	
Slider buns 12 pk	
Slider buns 12 pk	
Potato Salad	Donna Fitzgerald
Coleslaw	
Baked Beans	Ross Braun
Arizona Sweet Iced Tea 128 fl oz	
Arizona Sweet Iced Tea 128 fl oz	
Simply Lemonade 89 fl oz	
Simply Lemonade 89 fl oz	
Bagged ice 20lbs	
Bagged ice 20lbs	
Bagged ice 20lbs	
Bagged ice 20lbs	
Paper Plates, napkins & forks	Mary Bryk
Red Solo Cups	Karrie Blankenship
Plastic knives	
Plastic spoons	
Fruit Tray	Nancy Solak
Veggie Tray	
Cheese & Cracker Tray	Nancy Kelley
Debry Pie Cupcakes	Kerri Green
Debry Pie	Roseann Horne
Key Lime Pie	
BEER & WINE TABLE	There will be a donation container for the beer
5:00 - 5:30	
5:30 - 6:00	
6:00 - 6:30	
6:30 - 7:00	
SELLING RACE VOUCHERS	SELLING RACE VOUCHERS
1	5
2	6
3	7
4	8

WHERE?

President Karrie's home
47956 Sugarbush Rd,
Chesterfield, MI

WHO? SIGP members and their guests, and Soroptimists from other clubs.

WHY? To mingle, drink mint juleps (or other beverages), nosh on yummy food, watch this year's Kentucky Derby in real time, to dress up and have a hat-judging contest, to raise money for educational awards and, equally important, to have fun!

Please let Jane Evola know if you can bring something (see current list at left), and please RSVP to Karrie Blankenship if you haven't already done so. If you are unable to attend, please know we will miss you. However, because this event is really a ruse to raise money for educational awards, we will gratefully take in-kind or cash donations.

Our club's poster chosen for display at the SI Convention in Dublin!

In July 2022, SIGP President Karrie Blankenship submitted a poster on our club's behalf to be entered into Soroptimist International (SI) poster competition. Winners would be displayed at the SIA Convention this July in Dublin, Ireland. The criterion was to highlight club projects or services. The competition was stiff.

It is exciting to announce that our poster was chosen (at right) and will be displayed on Thursday, July 27, in Dublin, Ireland.

It bears repeating to congratulate both Macomb and Grosse Pointe Anti-Human Trafficking Committee members on making this important documentary.

Special thanks also goes to SIGP Secretary Mary Bryk's son-in-law, Tom, for designing it for us. Thank you, Tom.



Happy April Birthday to ...



Forsythia
(courtesy of Encyclopedia Britannica)

Katherine Baetz, April 1

Donna Fitzgerald, April 11

Laura McCourt, April 27



When: Monday, April 3, 2023

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: *Where the Crawdads Sing* is a 2022 mystery thriller drama. The story is set in the 1950's and revolves around an abandoned girl who grows up in a North Carolina marsh and becomes the prime suspect in a murder trial.

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, March 29, 2023

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 _____



Therapeutic Recovery Community for Substance Use Disorder

Inpatient Residential Program



Positive Images addresses the special needs of adults and families recovering from substance use disorders, mental impairment, co-occurring disorders, social problems, medical issues, and or environmental problems.

Our clinical staff offer individual, family, and group counseling daily. The overall treatment focus is to assist residents in achieving and or maintaining abstinence from drugs and to enhance their coping skills. The program includes anger management workshops, dual-diagnosis groups, and play therapy for children.

Positive Images adopted Carl Rogers' person-centered approach to treatment. It recognizes that each individual is the expert in reporting their history and needs and that the therapist is merely the facilitator. Positive Images values each consumer, the staff, and the leadership of the organization.

READY TO RECOVER FROM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER?

Beds are filling fast, so call to reserve your spot!
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(ktklingel@yahoo.com)
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(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.netLori Schumann
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