

The Pointer

President's Message

SIGP's first place LYD Winner said, "I won again!"

When our club's first place Live Your Dream Award winner, Nealmetria Loper, was notified she won the Live Your Dream Award at the **District** level, she exclaimed, "I won again!" Then she added, "And the women want to give me a mentor, and they said I can join their club as some kind of affiliate awardee!"

You will be delighted to meet Nealmetria at our Awards dinner on March 9 (see p. 3). She is so thankful for what she has already received from SIGP. How exciting it will be if she continues to be recognized for her tenacity and determination to live her dream at the Midwestern Region level and beyond. She is already talking about giving back to others in appreciation for what she has received.

It is worth noting that our Awards Banquet, on March 9, is one day after International Women's Day, which celebrates the social, economic, and political achievements of women around the world. The day also brings international awareness to gender parity. This means equal access to the same rights and opportunities regardless of gender. These rights and opportunities include healthcare, education, employment, pay, protection under the law, the right to vote, and freedom from violence.

Nealmetria, along with all of our other award winners, will share their inspiring stories with us at the Awards Banquet, and we will be there to encourage them and cheer them on to pursue their education. The women we support through our awards programs are one step closer to achieving their dreams. When you meet these remarkable women, you will be proud of our commitment as a club to encourage and celebrate women.

— Marya Malkovich Rosenthal
SIGP Co-president



FIRST PLACE WINNER: LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD – NEALMETRIA LOPER

Nealmetria Loper is the mother of four daughters and lives in Detroit, MI. She is passionate about helping mothers and their children become self-sufficient through resource education and community support. Nealmetria is a community support specialist who is always looking for new and innovative ways to help her community. Her favorite pastime is playing games, watching movies and girls' nights with her daughters!



SECOND PLACE WINNER LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD - DELIA MUSTIN

Delia Mustin was born on the Caribbean Island of Saint Lucia and graduated from the Vide Boutielle Secondary school. There, she was awarded her first scholarship to pursue computer literacy studies



at the Caribbean Computer Literacy Institute (CCLI). Afterward, Delia branched into media arts, starting with formal training at the University of the West indies and serving as an apprentice at Daher Broadcasting Station (DBS). Since then, Delia has garnered support and business from reputable and long-established enterprises in St. Lucia in her role as graphic designer and news reporter.

Delia is the mother of four children ages 2-12, and the wife of Eugene Mustin, of Roseville, MI. She looks forward to completing studies at the Specs Howard School of Media Arts at the Lawrence Technological University. Delia's goal is to produce an educational documentary that will help bolster

school curriculum and make visual learning readily accessible to all K-12 students, as well as for students with learning disabilities.

Award Winners (continued on next page)

Award Winners (continued from p. 2)

THIRD PLACE WINNER: LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD - DENISE SARGENT



Denise Sargent is the single mother to three children and is nearly 40. Employed as a pharmacy assistant for more than 15 years, she says, "I love my job, but have always felt something was missing, or I was squandering my potential." Her oldest child is 12 years old and has special needs. As a parent of a neurodivergent child, she has often felt alienated and judged when her child struggled with his "big feelings." This can be especially true when it happens in public or at school.

Diagnosis and treatment did not come easy for them. This is why she decided to pursue a Bachelor of Social Work and Disability Studies at the University of Windsor. She has a passion for learning about ADHD and other mental health disorders, as well as advocating for those who are facing barriers to support.

She says, "There is a stigma associated with ADHD, and it is not fair to those who suffer from it or to their families. Accessing services can be difficult and time consuming when one does not know what their communities have available to them."

Having navigated the mental health care system in Windsor, ON, for many years, she hopes to translate that personal experience into guidance for others. Her family has gone through many challenges over the years and her goal is to make it easier for children, their caregivers, and their families and to advocate for change.

FOURTH PLACE WINNTER: LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD - DANYELLE EASLEY

DANYELLE EASLEY is from metro Detroit, and currently works full time. She is enrolled in Wayne County Community College to pursue a career in the healthcare field. In her spare time, she enjoys watching stage plays and being outdoors.



Soroptimist Grosse Pointe Awards Banquet
Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter Road, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
For reservations, call Bette Lepouttre, 586-557-3287

All attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination and masks are recommended when not eating or drinking.

FIRST PLACE RUBY AWARD WINNER - KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

Kimberly Williams, Executive Director, Dominican Literacy Center (DLC). A true rners educational opportunities literacy champion and advocate, Ms. Williams began her career with DLC as program coordinator in 2006. At the time she had no idea that the need for a literacy program was so great. Her interest in the field of adult education and literacy led her to enter a Reading Specialist program at Marygrove College where she earned her M.Ed. in reading instruction. Williams took over as executive director of Dominican Literacy Center in 2017. "I thank God for a career and a job that I love. The work that we do literally changes lives, and I am so happy to be a part of that change."

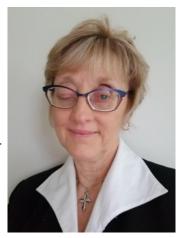


Williams began working in community service in 1999 and never looked back. She enjoys helping people and considers her work with DLC (an Adrian

Dominican Sister sponsored institution) full circle from her work with the Sisters in her early adult life at Coalition of Temporary Shelter (C.O.T.S.) and with the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Farmington Hills. Williams is an avid gardener, enjoys making things from scratch because "anything you can buy in a store you can make." Williams lives in Detroit with her husband Mario who she says "is a really good sport." Their daughter, Kayla, is a junior at Wayne State University.

SECOND PLACE RUBY AWARD WINNER - SISTER JANICE BROWN

Sister Janice Brown, Executive Director, Siena Literacy Center. Sister Janice Brown, O.P., is an Adrian Dominican Sister. She has been involved in adult education and the workforce training since 2005. Her background includes business, finance, education, and theology. Dr. Brown has both an MBA from Western Michigan University and a Doctorate in Ministry from the Catholic Theological Union. In addition to developing curriculum, Dr. Brown enjoys presenting on adult education including Adult Basic Education, Workforce Development, Student Motivation, Leadership Skills, and English Language Acquisition.



SIGP member Rasheda Kamaria Williams' latest endeavor: An interview with VOYAGE MICHIGAN

Click below to access the interview:

https://voyagemichigan.com/interview/rising-stars-meet-rasheda-kamaria-williams-of-metro-area/? fbclid=lwAR1kdlx1gdpTxnfGeX26Df-68M EqbN55fu4a-WWq7VXJu08vxhZnOtXVDQ

VIRGINIA WAGNER EDUCATION AWARD – LAVINA HUTCHINSON

Even at an early age, Lavina Hutchinson had a passion for nursing. As she explains it, nursing is a profession requiring compassion, empathy, and caring through lifelong learning and experience. When one of her patients asked her, "How long did it take you to learn all of this technical stuff?" Lavina replied, "I am still learning," which is evidenced by her goal to complete the RN-BSN program at Oakland University. And her learning will not end there since she has every intention of becoming a Nurse Practitioner. Lavina received the 2020 Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) Live Your Dream Award. At that time, she was striving to complete an Associate Degree in Sciences at Macomb Community College. Because she continued her enrollment with good grades, she received SIGP's Continuing Education Award in 2021.



In addition to these accomplishments, Lavina became the primary support of her two younger half-sisters at an early age. She took on the role of mother so her sisters wouldn't have to struggle as hard as she did. They are now on their own, having benefited from an outstanding role model.

To members of Soroptimist Grosse Pointe:

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Please accept our gratitude for all the support and generosity you, our members, gave us to help make these women's dreams a reality. We are awed by these extraordinary women who have won the 2022 Live Your Dream, Virginia Wagner, Ruby Award, and Continuing Education awards!

SIGP Awards and Fundraising committees

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SIGP is sorry to report that one of our lifetime members, Dolores "Dee" Goodger, passed away on August 21, 2021.

You may remember that we celebrated Dolores on her 100th birthday as one of our 100's activities by sending her individual birthday cards in April. As a lifetime member, she had kept up with our goings on and spoke very kindly of our club to her son. SIGP sent a card with our condolences to her son, but if anyone would like to express their individual condolences, you can send them to Dolores' address since her mail is being forwarded to her son Don Goodger. The address is: 900 West Lake Road, Apt F186, Palm Harbor, FL 34684

A woman of faith, Dolores "Dee" Goodger passed to her Lord on August 21, 2021 at the age of 100 years young.

Dee was born in Detroit, MI on April 11, 1921, to Emil & Marian (Priehs) Humrich. After her retirement from the savings & Ioan industry, she moved to Palm Harbor, FL in 1987 with her beloved husband, Arthur, of 66 years, where they truly enjoyed the retirement life. They continued to golf and bowl together, and she served as the bowling league secretary/treasurer for nearly 25 years. And she seldom declined the opportunity for a game of pinochle.



She enjoyed raising her family in Detroit, her many friends there, and their Northern Michigan cottage where many memories were made. She also cherished the many friends she had made in her 30+ years in Florida. Art predeceased her in 2010. She was also predeceased by her sons, Gary & Doug, her sister, Betty Kunath, and her parents. She loved them all.

Dee's greatest source of pride and joy was her family. She loved them deeply and they shared that same love for her. Surviving and honoring her legacy are her son, Don (Shirley) Goodger, grandchildren Scott (April) Goodger, Brian (Kris) Goodger, Kim (Jerry) Durham, Jef (Emily) Goodger, Kevin Goodger, and Michelle (Joe) Szparaga. The grandchildren blessed her with greatgrandchildren Kendyl (Kaden) Gilreath, Logan Goodger, Nicholas Goodger, Delaney Goodger, Micah Durham, Austyn Durham, Samantha Durham, Jordyn Durham, and Katelynn Szparaga. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, 1551 Belcher Rd, Palm Harbor, FL 34683, on a date to be announced at a later time. Interment will be next to her husband at Cadillac Memorial Gardens East, 38425 Garfield Road, Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in her honor to the Palm Harbor United Methodist Church Memorial Fund. Dee was a supporter of and donor to various military veterans' organizations as an expression of her respect for the service of her husband, Art (WWII), and son, Gary (Vietnam). As an alternative, please also consider donations to the military veterans' organization of your choice.

And the winners of FOR THE LOVE OF WINE raffle are . . .

On February 9, 2022, SIGP's business meeting included a "Wine Chat" (see below) and the FOR THE LOVE OF WINE raffle drawing. The drawing took place at the Grosse Pointe Public Library-Ewald Branch and was run by SIGP members Diana Langlois, Ross Braun, Mary Ellen Burke, and Bette Lepouttre. Congratulations to the winners! We are happy to report that the proceeds from the raffle, including donations and less expenses, totaled \$7500.31!

- 1. Mary Clare Toffanetti, SIGP member
- 2. Sue Lewandowski, SIGP member
- 3. Chrissy Ventimiglia, daughter of SIGP member Kathy DiCenzo
- 4. Diane Kashuba, SIGP member
- 5. Amanda Melkert, member of SI Macomb
- 6. Louise Taylor, friend of SIGP member Diana Langlois



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Wine: There's a Lot to Chat About

Kerri Green moderated a "Wine Chat" with Maddy Colavito and me at the beginning of our February business meeting. This was the prelude to our much-anticipated For the Love of Wine raffle drawing. With Maddy representing "Reds" and me talking "Whites," a lot of territory was covered in a few minutes. If you are interested in learning more about wine, here are some interesting resources.

Wine information appears weekly in the *Grosse Pointe News* Features and the weekend *Wall Street Journal* Eating and Drinking sections.

Many films about wine followed the 2004 movie *Sideways*, including *Uncorked* (Netflix 2020) which got a "corks up" from me, and Sour Grapes (2016 Amazon Prime), an interesting documentary on a major wine scandal. Just type in "wine" in the Amazon search engine for additional movie options.

The War Memorial has a entire series of fun-sounding wine events coming up. Our members can visit: warmemorial.org and go to Events/Food and Drink for more information.

Grosse Pointe has many excellent places for buying wine. Visit Cal at Merchant's Fine Wine, or Zack at Village Wine with your questions. Also, Kroger's on Mack and Vernier has an excellent wine manager, along with experts at Fresh Farms Market and Village Market. Also, don't forget Trader Joe's; they have much to offer besides Three Buck Chuck.

Maddy put together an excellent review of our entire talk, along with a great deal of interesting additional information. Email me at: lauraleecook @yahoo.com, and I will be happy to send you a copy.

Finally, our rescheduled SIA convention, in Seattle in 2023, provides a great opportunity for wine touring in the area. Drop a note to Laura or Maddy, and we can talk about the potential for a group activity in Washington next year.

Laura McCourt,Vice President/Membership

SIDE HUSTLES: Events not sponsored by SIGP but related to the Soroptimist mission

The Michigan State Medical Society's Documentary Men Who Buy Sex-Everybody Pays

Sex buyers are the key to tackling the human trafficking epidemic. This documentary sheds light on the "men who buy sex" by examining the demand side of human trafficking. If you haven't seen it yet, here is the link.

https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/human-trafficking-awareness.html

Several SIGP members attended the premiere of *Men Who Buy Sex-Everybody Pays* at the Emagine Theater in Royal Oak on February 23, which was presented by the Wayne County Medical Society Foundation.

Laurie Jost, the foundation's Human Trafficking Awareness Committee Chair and a Grosse Pointe Soroptimist moderated the Q&A session after the preview. The panel of 12 men and women included survivors, law enforcement, medical professionals, and advocates for human trafficking victims and survivors.

Laurie Jost is the executive producer alongside Joseph M. Beals, MD who is the Wayne County Medical Society Foundation chairman. Please take the time to watch the documentary and share it.

Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo

Many, many thanks to those of you who read my recent email to all our members and have already registered to participate in the National Kidney Foundation in Michigan's (NKFM) "Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo," on May 15, 2022. Thanks, too, to those who volunteered to help at the event. I hope to see many of my fellow Soroptimists there as well.

This is a major fundraiser for the NKFM, so I hope many of you will join with me in supporting such a worthy organization. Jeritha Brown, our Live Your Dream recipient from last year, has struggled so hard to continue her education even as she remains optimistic that she will receive a donor kidney.

As promised in my last email about the National Kidney Foundation in Michigan "Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo," here are links to Jeritha's story and to the "Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo."

Jeritha's story: https://www.candgnews.com/news/st-clair-shores-woman-overcomes-medical-issues-to-help-others-112684

Registration for Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo: https://nkfm.org/event-post/walks/

Maddy Colavito
 Continuing Education Award Chair

ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO JOINED SOROPTIMIST GROSSE POINTE for leadership training. You don't have to be on the board to attend the following Webinar.



Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.®

Dear Soroptimists,

Registration is open for the Soroptimist Club Operations Training Webinar!

Thursday, March 31, 2022 7:00pm-8:30pm EDT *Interpretation Provided*

Designed for club officers, this webinar explores building a better club experience so we can accomplish more TOGETHER. All members are welcome to attend this leadership development opportunity!

You can also find Zoom Tips here to help you navigate the Zoom interface we will use for the webinar.

JOIN US

Soroptimist celebrates 100 years

stone celebration for any nonprofit women's service organization. Soroptimist economic empowerment, has reached that milestone.

The first Soroptimist Club was founded 100 years ago in California. Soroptimist comes

from the Latin "soror," meaning versary of Soroptimist,
"sister," and "optima," meaning Soroptimist International of
"best," fully translated to mean Grosse Pointe, founded in 1956
"best for women." Eighty dedi- and active in the community International, whose mission is cated women signed the first more than 65 years, proclaimed to provide women and girls charter and chose to provide a monthly initiative of "100s." access to the education and vocational guidance to girls as training they need to achieve one of their first service projects. One hundred years later, Soroptimist is more than 72,000 women strong in 121 countries worldwide

To celebrate the 100th anni-

To name a few, members donated 100-plus children's books to Head Start classrooms in Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods; 100-plus cleaning sup-

See 100, page 4B



BRIGHT PAST BRILLIANT FUTURE

100:

Continued from page 3B

cans of food to Gleaners, a food bank in southalso performed more than 100 random acts of kindness and shared they learned during the pandemic.

Soroptimist's Live Your of \$11,000 to five women Dream educational plies to Turning Point, for Success program, which helps survivors anti-human trafficking have made a positive of domestic violence initiatives, supplying and sexual assault; 100- tuition for high school plus bottles of hand girls in Ghana, Africa, sanitizer to My Sister's the Dream It Be It pro-Keepers, a nonprofit gram or volunteer ser-located in Highland vice to Positive Images, to attend the awards Park that works with local Soroptimist dinner, which starts at youth; and 100-plus International of Grosse 6:30 p.m., to meet the Pointe members are seven awardees as well proud of their accomeast Michigan. They plishments for women bers. and girls.

Wednesday, March 9, at Assumption Cultural tion. Tickets are \$35. more than 100 things Center in St. Clair Visit grossepointe they learned during the Shores, Soroptimist soroptimist.org for International of Grosse more information.

Whether through Pointe will award a total who are working toward awards, the Mentoring certificates and degrees and two others difference in the lives of women through leadership in community service organizations.

The public is welcome as Soroptimist mem-Call Bette Lepouttre at (586) 557-3287 to make a reservaGrosse Pointe News, February 17, 2022

SIGP Public Awareness Chair Diana Langlois wrote and submitted the article at left to the Grosse Pointe News. If you have a moment to read it, you will be proud of all the activities our club did to celebrate Soroptimist's 100th birthday. Our club, SIGP, celebrated its 65th birthday in 2021.

Happy March Birthday to:

Marya Malkovich Rosenthal, March 8 Diane Kashuba, March 26 Pat Casey, March 29



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Soroptimist Grosse Pointe will have a contingent attending this much-anticipated conference, in Akron, Ohio.

Deadline for <u>reservations</u>: March 31, 2022

You can attend too! For more information, contact SIGP Co-president Marya Malkovich Rosenthal at mmalkovich@gmail.com

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Your chance to attend the 2022 SIA Convention virtually!

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.®

After thorough consideration of the status of the COVID-19 global pandemic and to allow sufficient planning time to deliver a quality virtual event, SIA's Board of Directors has decided to hold the 2022 convention virtually. While many regions are planning face-to-face meetings, members may have a level of comfort when traveling within their own regions that may not exist when traveling internationally. However, in all instances, our members' safety is our priority.

The dates of the virtual convention are:

Friday, July 22, and Saturday, July 23, 2022 Registration will be available in February 2022

Pricing for this event is as follows:

Early Registration Rate (applicable from the launch of registration through April 30, 2022)

\$149 SIA Members in Good Standing

\$199 Non-Members of SIA

Regular registration rate (applicable from May 1, 2022 through the event date)

\$199 SIA Members in Good Standing

\$249 Non-Members of SIA

\$375 Mandatory Convention Club Fee (Invoices will be sent to clubs the week of January 10, 2022.)

This was a very difficult decision as we were all looking forward to gathering again. Until then, we look forward to the various region meetings taking place face-to-face in the Spring and the 2024 Convention in Bellevue, Washington on July 24-27, 2024. Additionally, we are pleased to share the 2026 convention will be held in Seoul, South Korea on July 22-25, 2026. The Korean Convention Committee, leadership, and members are looking forward to hosting you in 2026.

Please email siahq@soroptimist.org with any questions you may have.

Sincerely.

Kazuko Morita, SIA President and Woon Kyung Lee, Korean Convention Chair

District III Emails

Interim Governor – Christine Fowler Shearer

(fowlerartistic@gmail.com)

Secretary - Sheila Zingler-Gilbert - (sheilasifdl@gmail.com)

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

District III Director - Kellie Klingel (ktklingel@yahoo.com)

Secretary - Patricia Cavell (bsktpac@comcast.net)

Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwestern 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

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.



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 Karrie Blankenship or https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/calendar of events.html for calendar soroptimistgp Anne Schwartz **INSTAGRAM:** grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz E-MAIL: **SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:** FACEBOOK and facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointeAnne Schwartz THE POINTER is on the website and NEWSLETTER: is emailed to membersNancy Solak MEDIA: Newspaper articles, radio PSAs, etc.Diana Langlois Remember to use AMAZON SMILE. Each dollar you spend on amazon.com gives .05% to SIGP smile.amazon.com

SIGP Member Ads

A SIGP Member Has a Special Deal for You!

Due to the virus and surgery on my hand, I have been off of work many weeks off and on. Now I am back and ready to help you with YOUR aches and pains. I am an independent massage therapist. Independent means no staff, no major company to hire me. I am on my own. So you'll know that you get all my time. No time taken off for you to get on and off the table like the chain companies do. I have 20 years' experience with knowledge of many modalities. I blend many options within your time with me.

My office is in a private, quiet location above WOW Gym (Women's Only Workout), 22601 Greater Mack Ave, SCS. It's across from Tropical Smoothie Cafe, corner of Elizabeth, opposite corner of SCS CVS. My special for any Soroptimist member is 70 minutes for \$60; 90 minutes for \$90.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE — Call today, don't delay!

Sincerely, Rosanne Morrow at 313-205-7117



Don't forget to support our member-owned businesses.



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To place an ad, contact *The Pointer* editor, Nancy Solak, at solaksinitaly@yahoo.com