The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe March 2023



President's Message — Take a look-peek at what's going on in March!

March is an exciting month for Grosse Pointe Soroptimists because this is when our fundraising efforts will be realized. Plus, you will meet the young women we are helping work toward their educational goals.

On **Thursday, March 9**, at Assumption Cultural Center in St. Clair Shores, SIGP will host our annual Awards Dinner. Winners, judges, and guests have been invited to share a meal in celebration of these exceptional women and to hear their stories. Tickets are \$42 cash or check and \$45 credit cards or PayPal. Please have your money to Mary Ellen Burke at 2037 Shore Pointe, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48230. To pay by PayPal please visit our website at **grossepointesoroptimist.net** and click the "DONATE" button. To charge over the phone, call Mary Ellen at (313) 399-8934.

Once again Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) has been asked to help with staffing at a boat show. This time it is the Novi Boat Show at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, MI. Dates include **March 9 & 12**, and you can set your own hours. Contact Roseanne Horne at (313) 706-1801 if you're able to volunteer for \$15/hour—all of which goes to SIGP!



Karrie Blankenship

On **Monday, March 13**, SIGP's Anti-Human Trafficking Committee, led by Liz Lucas, will take place at 7 p.m. on Zoom. If you're available, let Liz know and she'll send you a link.

ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS! Soroptimist Infinity Cruise to Support Women's Education is full steam ahead. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 in sponsorships to help support our 2024 awards. To date, we have nine sponsorships totaling \$8,250 and two in-kind donations valued at approximately \$1,800. It's not too late to ask for a sponsorship since the deadline to get listed in the *Grosse Pointe News* is Friday, March 31. (See p. 4 for sponsorship levels.)

Mark your calendars for our membership event featuring good wine, scrumptious food, beautiful accessories for purchase and best of all FRIENDS! All proceeds from the accessory sale benefit SI of Grosse Pointe's awards and programs. You will not want to miss this event, ladies (And please bring a friend or two!) on **Friday, March 31, 2023**, at 7:00 PM at the home of Donna Fitzgerald. (See p. 6 for details.)

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 as a focal point in the women's rights movement. IWD is commemorated in a variety of ways worldwide; it is a public holiday in several countries and observed socially or locally in others to celebrate and promote the achievements of women.

— Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President

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."

Our opportunities keep expanding!

Once again Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe has been asked to help with staffing at a boat show. This time it is the Novi Boat Show at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, MI. Dates include March 9 and/or 12, 2023. You can sign- up for as many or as few hours as you would like.

Thursday, March 9: Hours: 2:00 - 9:00 pm Sunday, March 12: Hours: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Friends and Family are invited to volunteer also. SIGP earns \$15 for each hour worked!

FYI: Seven SIGP members worked a total of 33 hours at the Detroit Boat Show. We made \$500 for SIGP programs and scholarships! Thanks to each of you for your support!

If interested in helping at the show in Novi, contact Roseanne Horne at 313-706-1801

DON'T MISS!

Grosse Pointe Soroptimist Awards Dinner Thursday, March 9, 2023

Assumption Cultural Center, St. Clair Shores

Doors open 6 p.m. — Dinner at 7 p.m. — Cash bar \$42/person check payable to "SIGP"

Deliver to Mary Ellen Burke, 2037 Shorepointe, GPWoods, Or call her to charge your credit card: 313-399-8934

Or pay via PayPal (Click "Donate") grossepointesoroptimist.org

The evening of the Awards Dinner is always one of celebration—celebrating our club's fundraising efforts, celebrating another year of fulfilling our mission to help educate women and girls and, of course, celebrating the awardees!

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 float 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
- Receive an invitation to attend our Awards Dinner, Thursday, March 9
- Be listed as a sponsor in our monthly newsletter & on our SIGP webpage
- Be acknowledged on the cruise.

Send me the name of the business or individual, a contact name at the business, their email address, mailing address, and phone number, 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 kar-vieb40@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,

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!



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, 2 attendees at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the recipients will attend; your company logo on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website; in our monthly newsletter; 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, 2 attendees at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the recipients will attend; your company logo on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website; in our monthly newsletter; 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, 1 attendee at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the
recipients will attend; your company logo on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website; in our monthly newsletter; 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, 1 attendee at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the recipients will attend, your company logo 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 sponsorship includes 1 attendee at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the recipients will attend, your company logo on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website, and in our monthly newsletter through 2023.

Silver Sponsor Donation: \$499 - \$300 Recognition in our monthly newsletter through 2023. **Bronze Sponsor Donation:** \$299 - \$250 Recognition 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!





O: 313.885.4414 | M: 313.806.0217

Mary Ann and Robert Victor



EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Iuliana Keyes

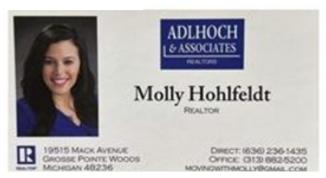
FINANCIAL ADVISOR* 248.828.2800 iuliana@tfg4u.com

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901 Tower Drive, Suite 180 • Troy, MI 48098







MEDIA SPONSOR





SOROPTIMIST

MEMBERSHIP EVENT

An evening of fun, friendship, food, wine, beer, non-alcoholic beverages and accessories with a focus on



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GROSSE POINTE

This is an opportunity for you to come and <u>invite your friends</u> to meet the dynamic women of SIGP in a relaxed social setting to see what projects SIGP is involved in at the local, national and international levels.

To add to the enjoyment an in-house accessory sale of jewelry, scarves, purses, belts, hats, brand new shoes, wine accessories and some surprises will be offered for your shopping pleasure!

FRIDAY MARCH 31, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Home of

DONNA_FITZGERALD

280 RIDGE RD., GROSSE POINTE FARMS
313-300-7594 — dafitzgerald21@yahoo.com

Food and beverages will be <u>available</u> but you are welcome to bring a dish or dessert to share or a bottle of wine to talk about if we do some wine tasting! Please note: This is your choice as it is not required to attend this event.

Donna is accepting accessory donations now until March 20th. It's a <u>fact</u> that something you no longer have the need to keep becomes a treasure to someone else! Text Donna and then you can drop donations on her porch.

All donations <u>must be like-new and shoes have to be brand new, never worn.</u>

Lots going on in mentee and mentor news!

MENTEE News and Notes

(The following women are previous Live Your Dream recipients)

Nealmetria Loper - Congratulations on receiving the Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA) Certification Training Program Scholarship Award! The training, which is on Zoom is manageable for her and will result in a certification that will lead to more job opportunities.

Tonesia Nesbitt has taken a short break from classes but will be resuming her nursing Clinicals in March. She is a recent recipient of the WISP (Women's Independent Scholarship Program) Award of \$2000 for each semester she stays in school until graduation! Congratulations, Tonesia, on this wonderful scholarship!

Delia Mustin is purchasing a home! She works with her children keeping them healthy and making sure they do their schoolwork. Delia is not currently in school but hopes to go back this spring semester.

Jeritha Brown - Her new home is lovely and SIGP member Mary Ellen Burke will be bringing drapes to her – the final touch! Jeritha is doing dialysis three days a week, 2 ½ hours each time. SIGP will be walking to support Jeritha in the National Kidney Foundation Walk on Sunday, May 21 at the Detroit Zoo. Details will be in the April edition of *The Pointer*.

Danyelle Easley continues in school while working for a bank. Her daughter is a sophomore at Michigan State University. I reached out to her after the February shooting to ensure her daughter was all right. Danyelle drove to MSU at 1 a.m. to pick up her daughter and bring her home for the rest of that week. What a tragic event at one of Michigan's most popular universities.

MENTOR News and Notes

Award Chair Bette Lepouttre arranged a dinner meeting on Saturday, February 25, at Leo's Coney Island for SIGP's newest group of Live Your Dream Award winners: Jamie, J'nai, and Desiree.

You will get to meet these most deserving women at the Awards Dinner on March 9.

They are all in the nursing field at different levels in their educational journey. You won't want to miss this very special wonderful evening – the best club get-together of the year!

APRIL 1: Scheduled: A combined new and current mentees and mentors gathering. Decision of breakfast or dinner meeting will be made by majority vote. Details will follow in a group email. Needed: members interested in mentoring!

THANK YOU TO DIANA LANGLOIS AND BETTE LEPOUTTRE FOR KEEPING THE MENTORING PROGRAM HUMMING ALONG!

International Concerns

By SIGP Member Carol Hofer

How incredible that during my Peace Corps stint in Damongo, Ghana, West Africa, I never fully realized the crying need of young girls and women. In my first year of teaching, the classes were filled with boys. My second year saw a sprinkling of girls. It was not the custom in the region to send girls for schooling past the early grades—if at all. But that injustice was not my focus. I was struggling just to stay one step ahead of my students, having landed in a remote village with the school just starting up and at first offering no books, no paper, no pencils, no lab equipment. A crash course in science teaching during our training — somewhat useless at that moment — was supposed to prepare me for the task. Oh, boy.

Throughout the market area and in the village many females did not speak English. Since all schools are taught in English, it was clear they had no schooling. This too often remains the case today, with the literacy rate of the region (33%) remaining the lowest in the country, although more girls now are permitted by their families to attend classes.

But in remote areas, the tribal traditions often rule. A young girl is promised to an older man in marriage. Why educate her in reading or math? Cooking, cleaning, farming, and care of children are her only destiny, regardless of poverty or her own aptitude in other areas. This is precisely why Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) is supporting students at St. Anne High School for Girls (SAGISS) in Damongo. Education is key.

Toni Adams, Kerri Green, Rosanne Morrow, and I, all SIGP members, have made the trip to Ghana in recent years to visit the school. We encountered dedicated, promising students. Their uniforms were neat and clean; they appeared healthy and enthusiastic. We snapped photos of the school, the students doing tribal dances to welcome us, the food, and the nearby game reserve, a popular tourist site.

But what is not shown in our photos is what we did not see. This is a country where over a half a million girls aged 19 and younger gave birth (some as young as ten years), between 2016 and 2020. Many of these girls live in areas of extreme poverty far from town. The earning power in remote areas can dwindle to only a dollar or so a day. Females remain at risk

maphill

maphill

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Here are two maps to give you a sense of where Damongo, Ghana, West Africa, is located. Our club concerns itself with the education of women and girls at the local, regional and global levels.

of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, terrible infections, and lives of continuous backbreaking toil. They may become moms much too early when they are not ready physically or emotionally.

Some of our Ghana girls come from similar backgrounds. When they are given a chance to improve their lives and the lives of their families and communities the benefits can be enormous. SIGP is offering them a wonderful, lifechanging opportunity. God bless SIGP.

For the Love of Wine Raffle: Yay! Another successful raffle

Our sincere thank you to all who supported this fundraiser. The drawing was held at Fishbones on February 8, 2023. We raised \$6000+ for our awards programs. **And the winners are:**

1st - Richard Solak 2nd - Dawn Riddle 3rd - Marya Rosenthal Malkovich 4th - Mimi Koppany 5th - Sue Plath 6th - Mary Clare Toffanetti



Nancy Solak accepts the 1st place basket on behalf of her husband.



SIGP member Sue Plath helped draw a winning ticket. She is with SIGP President Karrie B.

Sincere thanks! Ross Braun & Bette Lepouttre Co-chairs, Love of Wine Raffle





Left: We were fortunate to have Kellie Klingel, District III Director (SI Flat Rock Area) join us for the drawing. With her is SIGP President Karrie B. Right: Robin Crawford helped draw a winning ticket. She is with SIGP President Karrie B.



With SIGP President Karrie B. is Lori Schumann who helped draw a winning ticket.



SIGP President Karrie B. with SIGP member Ross Braun, co-chair of the raffle.

THANK YOU

BETTE AND ROSS

CHAIRING

THIS FUNDRAISER.



Fifty-year old Soroptimist Time Capsule opened in 2021

Our club was fortunate to have Lisa Mangiafico, associate senior director for records and risk management at SIA head-quarters, speak at our February meeting. She not only gave us a glimpse of Soroptimist's beginnings, but also shared the contents of the 50-year-old Soroptimist time capsule she was honored to open.

The time capsule, created in 1971, was opened in January 2021. It included six cylinders, found in good condition, wrapped in foil. The cylinders held newspaper articles of the event, event programs and transcripts, a copy of the region's history, and letters of thanks and congratulations, including one from then California Governor Ronald Reagan.

Two cylinders held capsules of club histories and prophecies for Soroptimist's 100th anniversary in 2021. Strips of paper had been tightly rolled and placed in empty veterinary pill capsules. There were more than 100 capsules in the two cylinders. Since each strip had been tightly rolled for almost 50 years, relaxing each to handle it was next to impossible. In the end, Lisa decided to place each strip in an inert archival polyester sleeve for preservation and storage. Each side of the



paper slip can be read without handling the paper itself. In most cases, there was a short club history on one side, and predictions on the other. Some were handwritten, others typed; most on plain white paper. Some were written vertically like in the photo at left.

Many of the club histories and even the prophecies reflected the lack of focus on women and girl issues prevalent in Soroptimist clubs in the 1950s and 1960s. But others had a forward focus on advancing women.

Here are a few prophecies: SI of Sonora: A Soroptimist President in the White House. SI of Lodi: typed in at the bottom... Yes! That astronaut is a Soroptimist! (And yes, Soroptimist does have an astronaut among our members: Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper joined SI of Oak Harbor, Washington, in 2017, and flew on two space shuttle missions as a mission specialist.) In fact, there were many mentions in the prophecies about space—having a Soroptimist club on the moon, and space missions to other planets. Of course, at that time the U.S. was heavily engaged in its space program. SI of Redding: Teen problems, population decrease, generation gap, no smog, women will be the deciding factor of world problems—helping to make policies of the world.

The time capsule was placed inside the base of a bronze bust of Violet Richardson Ward. The Violet Richardson

Award honored young women between the ages of 14 and 18 for volunteer action such as fighting drugs, crime, and violence, cleaning up the environment and working to end discrimination and poverty. The award is named after Violet Richardson, the president of the first Soroptimist club in Alameda County, California, in 1921.

At the time of its creation, the sculptor, Mr. Ono deRuyter said of the bust of Violet Richardson Ward, "I have sculptured her larger than life-size because she is large in her thinking and in her living." The bronze portrait was cast at the San Francisco art foundry.

Link to full history: Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.



DERBY FUNDRAISER ... MAY 6, 2023! President Karrie's home 47956 Sugarbush Rd, Chesterfield, MI



Mark your calendar to attend this exciting Soroptimist Grosse Pointe fundraising event. Below are your March **DERBY DABBLINGS** ... answers will appear in the APRIL newsletter.

1. In what year did the Kentucky Derby see its first female jockey?

1968 1970 1974

2. Elwood was the first horse to start and win the Kentucky Derby that was owned by a woman, and also the first winner bred by a woman. In what year did this occur?

1804 1904 1972

1420 800 600 1420 800 600 12840 1540 1700 100 17

3. How many women have ridden in the "Race for the Roses"? 3 6 10

FEBRUARY ANSWERS:

Question 1: What percentage of jockeys worldwide are female despite scientific findings that women can jockey just as well as men? **12**%

Question 2:

In **1942**, how many of the first eight finishers in the KENTUCKY DERBY were owned by women? **7** In the 1940s women owners in the Derby were almost commonplace. In 1942, **seven** of the first **eight** finishers were owned by women!

Question 3:

Has a woman TRAINER'S horse or a woman JOCKEY ever ridden to first place in a KENTUCKY DERBY? No



CELEBRATE and HONOR WOMEN who are making a difference

MARCH 8, 2023

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS MIDWESTERN REGION CALL TO SPRING CONFERENCE



APRIL 21 - 23, 2023 ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN



Every year in April, the Midwestern Region holds a Spring Conference with a different club hosting it. This year's Spring Conference will be in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and hosted by SI of Monroe. The conference will be at the Kensington Hotel on South State Street in Ann Arbor.

If you are planning to attend, you will need to have your money to Assistant Treasurer Mary Ellen Burke or Treasurer Ross Braun no later than March 27. One check is written from our club along with one registration form and will be filled out and sent by the treasurers, so please let them know if you are planning to attend.

Hotel accommodations are your responsibility. The region secures a block of rooms at a discount so if you plan to attend, don't delay; they fill up fast. Hotel reservations open on March 1, and the deadline is MARCH 30, 2023.

We will keep you informed of who will be attending so you can make carpooling and room sharing arrangements if you are interested.

Happy March Birthday to ...

Marya Malkovich Rosenthal, March 8



Diane Kashuba, March 26

Barb Skelly, March 26

Pat Casey, March 29



When: Monday, March 6, 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: **West Side Story** is a 1961 musical drama inspired by Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet and stars Natalie Wood. The story is set in the 1950's in the upper west side of Manhattan in New York City, then a multi-racial blue collar neighborhood. The musical explores the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage gangs of different backgrounds.

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 1, 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	Phone#
	Total # attending:Total enclosed: \$
Name(s) of those attendin	9

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 (Isa6976@gmail.com)

District III

District III Director - Kellie Klingel, SI Flat Rock Area (ktklingel@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.



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.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

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