



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

The Pointer

Presidents' Message: What does it mean to be a Soroptimist?

For me, being a Soroptimist means having the privilege and opportunity to help women and girls empower themselves. As a retired educator, I see education as the road to power and choice in order to provide a path toward this goal. – *Marya Rosenthal*

For me, being a Soroptimist (whose definition is “best for women”) is being part of an organization which empowers women and girls to Dream and to achieve their “best.” Whether that empowerment comes from an educational award; a Dream It, Be It program; a parenting class; an anti-human trafficking initiative; or encouragement from a mentor, Soroptimists work with and stand by these women and girls on their journeys to achieve their Dreams. It is an honor to be a member of this organization. – *Ellen Chapin*

What better way to celebrate being a Soroptimist than to take part in our 2021 Annual Awards Ceremony and honor women who are on the path to empowerment through education? While we are unable to be together in person this year to pay tribute to our award winners, we look forward to meeting these talented, hardworking, perseverant, resilient women on Zoom.

Covid-19 has tried to knock us down in so many ways. In fact, it was one year ago from our 2020 Awards Ceremony that we were last able to get together in person before sheltering in place. It is heartwarming to see the phenomenal effort of our SIGP members to keep a steady, unfaltering path toward our mission and not let a pandemic slow us down. It is with great pride and excitement that we await the opportunity to celebrate, once again, the quest for education to improve the lives of women and girls. See you Wednesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom!



Ellen Chapin



*Marya Malkovich
Rosenthal*

See Awards Ceremony invitation on next page.

ATTN: SIGP MEMBERS
Please log in at 6:45 p.m.



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

**Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
cordially invites you to**

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe's Annual Awards Ceremony

To be held virtually on Zoom

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

SIGP members will automatically receive a Zoom link.

It will be emailed the day of the awards ceremony.

If you are not a member and would like to join us,

contact SIGP member Roseanne Horne at rosewa33@aol.com / 313-706-1801

Our February “100” Activity: Random Acts of Kindness



Pictured are (l-r): Co-president Ellen Chapin, Membership Chair Laura McCourt, and Laura Rhodes of Gleaners, with the pallets of food donated by SIGP members in January. Obviously SIGP surpassed its goal of donating more than 100 food items!

In February, Co-Presidents Ellen Chapin and Marya Rosenthal asked our membership to perform 100 random acts of kindness. Soroptimists responded in many ways: shoveling a neighbor's driveway after the storm we had earlier in the month, remembering older friends and neighbors with cards and phone calls, running an errand for a friend, picking up groceries for someone who isn't comfortable at the store, letting a stranger go ahead in the line, giving treats to the UPS driver and more. Ellen and Marya participated with bags of treats and a thank you note to each board member and committee chair for their efforts on behalf of the Club.

We can't see the smile that comes from doing a small favor for another person, but we can feel the goodwill created by reaching out to others. Thanks to all for your efforts in promoting acts of kindness.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen Chapin and
Marya Malkovich Rosenthal
Co-Presidents

Karrie Blankenship
President Elect

Laura McCourt
*Vice President
Membership*

Aleksa Andjelkovic
Past President

Mary Ellen Burke
Treasurer

Bette Lepouttre
*Assistant Treasurer
Fundraising*

Maureen Anthony
Secretary

Diana Langlois
*Assistant Secretary
Public Awareness*

Carolyn Barth
*Director
Grant Coordinator*

Madeline Colavito
Director

Nancy Solak
Director

Thank you from members to members

A sincere thank you for the flowers, cards and notes of condolence following the death of my mother. Your kind words and support are much appreciated during this time and mean more than words can say. —*Pat Casey*

One huge THANK YOU to ALL for the support in fundraising this year. We've accomplished a lot and your support is greatly appreciated! —*Bette Lepouttre*

SIGP Friday Zoom Cocktail Hour

You don't have to drink a cocktail to attend SIGP Friday's Zoom Cocktail Hour. It's more about socializing, getting together, and connecting with your Soroptimist people. Please mark your calendar FRIDAY ZOOM COCKTAIL HOUR on first and third Fridays, March 5 & 19, at 6:00 p.m.

Positive Images and a satisfying volunteer opp

Bette Lepouttre has once again started Parenting Classes for the women living on E. Grand Blvd. SIGP members are invited to come on Zoom with Bette to see if this is a place for you to volunteer. Tuesdays from 1:00 - 2:00. Please contact Bette (586-557-3287) for further discussion.

SIGP continues to collect bottles and cans!

Please deliver returnables to either 1247 Elford in Grosse Pointe Woods, or 458 Cloverly (first block off Mack where Jagged Fork is located) in Grosse Pointe Farms. If someone wants them picked up, contact Roseanne Horne at (313) 706-1801.



Natalia Nagorni-

Happy March Birthday to ...

Marya Rosenthal, March 8

Diane Kashuba, March 26

Pat Casey, March 29

100 PAIRS OF READING GLASSES



During the month of March we are collecting reading glasses for the women at Positive Images (PI). Without clear vision, we can't read a book or a recipe, see our phone messages, or thread a needle to sew on a button. All it takes is a simple pair of reading glasses.

BRIGHT PAST
BRILLIANT FUTURE

We want those glasses that no longer work for you. Maybe you now need a stronger lens, a different style, or a different color. Don't throw them away. Donate them.



Drop them in the labeled box at the home of:
Ellen Chapin 1003 Harvard Rd GPP
Nancy Solak 458 Cloverly Rd GPF
Roseanne Horne 1247 Elford Court GPW

Please no prescription glasses, reading glasses only.

REMEMBER: No Seroptimist in-person meetings until Seroptimist International of the Americas gives the okay

Empowered Flower Girl to host EmPOWERing Conversations in honor of Women's History Month

(Note: SIGP members can join and be done in time for the Awards Ceremony! – Ed.)

This Women's History Month, Empowered Flower Girl will host "EmPOWERing Conversations: Inspiring Sisterhood" to engage girls/women and allies across generations for an in-depth discussion about friendships.

Despite what popular media depicts, most girls and women desire drama-free relationships with one another. But they may lack the courage and confidence to spark the conversations that lead to these fulfilling friendships.

Join us as we stream via Facebook and Zoom on March 9 and 10, from 6 to 7 p.m. EST. Our dynamic speakers will discuss the value and benefits of sisterhood, how we can transform our relationship realities and resources to support girls' positive development.

Rasheda Kamaria Williams, SIGP member and chief empowering officer for Empowered Flower Girl, will moderate the discussions. "Our girls need positive relationship role models, and this event encourages collaboration over competition," she said. "We want to change the narrative. Our relationships don't have to be drama-filled. We can come together to uplift and support one another."

Tune in at www.facebook.com/empoweredflowergirl or via Zoom at <http://bit.ly/empwrtalk>
Meeting ID: 884 0850 9651, Passcode: 682545



Mentoring for Success: Following up with award winners



Maddy Colavito and Diana Langlois took on the challenging task of organizing the 2020 MENTORING FOR SUCCESS program into a large-ring binder so the material (hard and electronic) can be available to all members. A photo of it is at left.

"We learned a lot this past year," Diana and Maddy write. "As we move forward, the program will be adjusted to meet the needs of members and mentees.

"We are seeking four SIGP members who would like more information on this initiative! We would like to Zoom meet with you for an overview and orientation in March."

Please call Maddy or Diana and come on board for this rewarding service to our awardees.

Maddy: 509-551-1695 Diana: 313-690-1515

2021 MIDWESTERN REGION VIRTUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

April 23 & 24, 2021 (PLUS PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS)

Preconference Midwestern Region Monthly Events

Leading up to spring conference the goal is to have two events for members to attend each month; one socializing event to give members a chance to connect with one another and one informational event.

- 03/23 Be a Brand Warrior
- 04/01 Virtual Fundraising Workshop
- 04/14 Happy Hour: Celebrate our 100 Years!
- 04/19 Dream It Be It Panel

For preconference programs, scroll down once you get to the following link:

<https://mailchi.mp/f415487bb82c/simwr-spring-conference>



About the Actual Conference

Join us for virtual spring conference on Friday, April 23, and Saturday, April 24. Once you are registered, you will receive the links for the conference on April 22 via your email.

While the conference is free, we are taking donations to support the region. Whoever makes a donation will have their name entered into a prize drawing. Depending on your donation amount, your name will be entered more than once.

All activities require registration.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/simwr-spring-conference-tickets-141200800395?aff=ebdssbeac>

WHY SHOULD I CONTRIBUTE TO THIS CONFERENCE?

- You don't have to drive to it (saves gas money)
- You don't have to stay overnight (sleep in your own bed and save hotel cost)
- You don't have to pay for meals (eat at home—ok, maybe it'd be good to get out!)
- It's free.

So please consider giving a generous donation to help the Midwest Region keep running.

For the Love of Wine Raffle

The results are in! And they are better than expected!

Our fundraiser to replace our Dine-Around-Town raffle was chosen because it could be handled remotely, be advertised on social media for a few months, and it might just be a winner. The committee of volunteers decided to have the drawing just prior to Valentine's Day and give meaning to "For the Love of Wine" title.

Our membership and others made donations to launch the fundraiser and we filled two baskets with quality wines and accessories for a drawing held on February 10, as part of our Business Meeting via Zoom.

The first-place winner was Laura McCourt's granddaughter, Katie McCourt. She won a basket filled with 12 bottles of fine wine along with accessories: a wine table runner (made and quilted by SIGP member Mary Ellen Burke), wine opener, aerator, wine saver, four Lenox crystal wine glasses, cloth cocktail napkins and chocolates.

The second-place winner was Jen Rau, a friend of SIGP member Carrie Petrocelli. She won four bottles of fine wine, cloth cocktail napkins, two crystal stemless wine glasses, a wine saver, and chocolates.

Raffle tickets were distributed to each member to sell to friends, neighbors, and family, or to purchase for themselves. Ticket sales were not required, yet the results were quite encouraging and made this a successful fundraiser during a pandemic with no in-person meetings!

We ordered 2,000 tickets to be printed and packaged in books of six for \$20, and individual tickets were \$5. We sold 87% of our tickets. Most of our members participated to some degree, and our fundraiser raised more than \$5800 after expenses!

A full report will be submitted to the SIGP Board with all the data. A meeting of the committee will be scheduled to discuss the success and next steps, if any, about this fundraiser.



The first prize winner of the wine raffle, Katie McCourt, granddaughter of SIGP member Laura McCourt.

To all our members who helped with this effort, we thank you!

Next SIGP Board Meeting Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Time to Prepare for Mother's Day!

We are preparing to create Mother's Day Gift Bags for the Positive Images residents this year.

This is what we need:

Cosmetic bags—new, or like new
Costume jewelry—necklaces, bracelets, earrings and pins
Jewelry boxes—4" x 6" or 5" x 7" (NO TINY BOXES)

You may drop off items at my home on my patio, but please text me first.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU
Mary Ellen Burke.....313-399-8934



PET PROFILE: Pandemic Time Is Puppy time!

In late 2019 Nancy Kelley and her husband, Mike Callaway, mourned the loss of their beloved Gordon Setter and vowed to wait at least a year before considering a new dog. Then the pandemic hit. Here's that story from Nancy's perspective.

Even before hearing of COVID-19, I secretly began looking at pet adoption sites. Our next dog, we agreed, should be a rescue. Unable to find a suitable pup for us online, I signed up with the Grosse Pointe Small Dog Rescue. No prospects developed there either. Then the pandemic hit, and the availability of adoptable pups and adult dogs plummeted to near zero.

The thought of being homebound without a canine companion seemed impossible! I gave up on the idea of a rescue, and holding fast to dreams of a fluffy, little buddy on my lap, I contacted a reputable golden-doodle breeder. Maybe I'd find she anticipated a litter in the coming months.



"Actually," the breeder said, "I have two males here right now not spoken for. Born two weeks ago. Want me to send pictures?"

"Yes, please," I said, knowing there'd be no turning back. Within ten minutes my phone pinged and two adorable, rust-colored doodle puppies stared at me from the face of my iPhone. I was smitten. I handed my phone to my husband who responded similarly.

Two weeks later we went to meet the pups and make our choice. That was easy. The one who licked my chin and grew drowsy as I stroked his head seemed to "ask" me to be his human.

My husband looked at the breeder and said, "Looks like *he* chose *us*!"

We paid our doggie deposit and left, eager for three weeks to pass when we could bring him home for good.

"Toby was the name of my first dog," Mike said. "I always loved that name." And so it was.

Toby came to his forever home on June 1, 2020. Playful, funny, happy, smart, cuddly, and devoted are only a few of the adjectives that describe the little guy. He is the love of our lives and the reason the past nine months have been so full of joy. If anyone reading this is considering a puppy as we did, think of the three short words Nike uses, "Just do it!"

100 RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

February 14 - 20 is Random Acts of Kindness Week

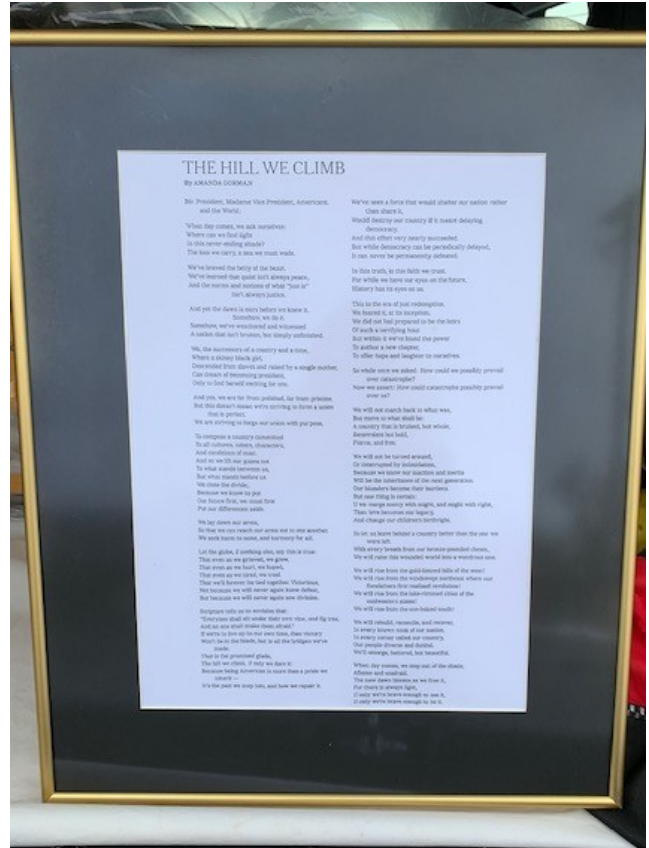
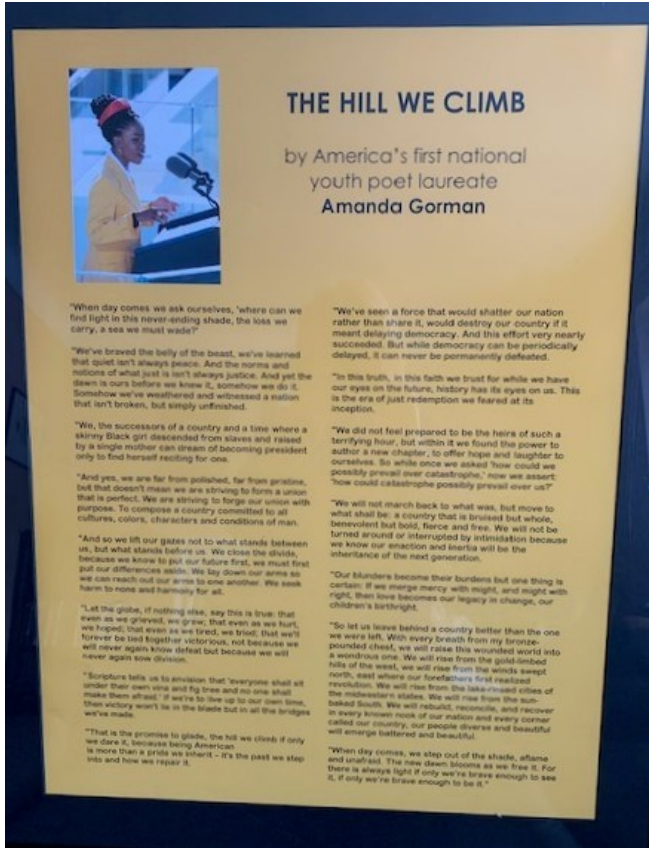
Celebrate SIA's 100th anniversary by performing random acts of kindness. Together we can reach 100 if we each perform two small acts. HOW?

- ❖ Give a smile or say hello to a stranger
- ❖ Compliment someone you encounter
- ❖ Pick up litter when on your daily walk
- ❖ Pay for the person behind you in line at the drive thru
- ❖ Leave treats for the mailman and delivery people
- ❖ Give a heartfelt thank you to the grocery clerk
- ❖ Reconnect with a cousin or old friend
- ❖ Send a thank-you note to someone who has been kind
- ❖ Tell your family how much you love & appreciate them
- ❖ Treat yourself to a day of pampering
- ❖ Feed the birds
- ❖ Buy donuts and deliver to the police or fire station
- ❖ Leave a small gift on a friend's doorstep
- ❖ Write a check to a charity
- ❖ Deliver cookies to your neighbors
- ❖ Let someone go in front of you in line at the store
- ❖ Bring flowers to a nursing home
- ❖ Take time to appreciate the richness of your life
- ❖ Be extra generous when leaving a tip

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Aesop

Speaking of random acts of kindness ...

Anyone who watched the inauguration of President Biden couldn't be anything but impressed with America's first national youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman. For three SIGP members, her words were a call to action. After putting their heads together, they created two framed posters, seen below, of Amanda Gorman's poem, *The Hill We Climb*, and donated them to Positive Images.



Save the Date

Join us for SIA's 47th Biennial Convention in Seoul, South Korea!



Together in Motion

47th SOROPTIMIST Biennial Convention

Seoul, South Korea • July 20-23, 2022

Friendship Link News: Soroptimist International London, Ontario, Canada

SIGP Friendship Link Chair Nancy Solak has been having a productive exchange of information with SI of London, Ontario, Canada. After reading SIGP's February issue of The Pointer, Sheryl Lodge wrote:

It is good to hear from you. I am going to send your newsletter to our club members. We do not have one... I don't know where you find the time and energy, but congratulations!!

Our Lunafest is soon...(see poster below). Not sure if you've already seen the films.

I am looking forward to the films. They are always inspiring and the money goes to our future LYD [Live Your Dream] winners. We are presently working with the Boys and Girls Club in London (here...Ontario) to put on our DIBI [Dream It, Be It] conference on April 23, 24 and 25. They are a really creative group of individuals and we are grateful for all that they are doing.

I hope that you are doing well. We are fine here, but getting into too many potato chips due to frustration with the lack of social contact. We are, nonetheless, very fortunate and grateful for the blessings that we have. There are so many that have suffered greatly during this difficult time.

So, carpe diem. Spring is on its way. Take care, stay safe, and please congratulate your club on the fine work it is doing. Bye for now. — Sheryl

LUNA FEST

Soroptimist International London
PRESENTS
FILMS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN

JOIN US VIRTUALLY
March 6, 2021
Viewing available for 48 hours from 3:00pm

TICKETS: \$18 General Admission/\$20 Family before March 1st
\$25.00 after March 1st

TO LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE TICKETS:
lunafest.org/screenings

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: **LUNA**

BENEFITING: **PROGRESS**

20 YEARS OF PROGRESS
SPOTLIGHTING FILMS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN

For tickets click on the link below:

<https://www.lunafest.org/screenings/virtual-screening-si-of-london-on-030621>

District III Emails

Governor– **Darcy Merritt** (dmerritt1963@hotmail.com)
Governor Elect - **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 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

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

INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://www.instagram.com/soroptimistgp) Anne Schwartz

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK and [facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe) Renee Rodriguez

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. Each dollar you spend on amazon.com gives .05% to SIGP
smile.amazon.com

Roseanne Horne
c/o SIGP
1247 Elford
Grosse Pointe, MI 48236



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Name: _____

Shipping Address: _____

Shipping City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Soroptimist club: _____



Ladies (S) _____

Force (2XL) _____

Ladies (M) _____

Force (3XL) _____

Ladies (L) _____

Force (XL) _____

Ladies (XL) _____

Ladies (2XL) _____

Picture shows Ladies (S)

Circle embroidery choice

Jacket Cost **\$45**

Shipping: **\$10**

Embroidery: **White** or **Blue**

Cash: _____

Check: _____

Credit Card: _____

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe



updated 5/27/20

All proceeds from the sale of jackets go to SIGP. Each one has a zipper, hood and pockets. Length to hips. Order yours today!

SIGP Member Ads

Rasheda Kamaria Williams

Mentoring consultant, speaker, author

Rasheda is an award-winning mentor, speaker and founder/chief empowering officer for Empowered Flower Girl. She empowers youth and youth advocates to live above life's drama to make a powerful difference.

Learn about Empowered Flower Girl's engaging and empowering programs for youth and adults, including Girl World Peace Academy - a new virtual course for educators, counselors, mentors and afterschool program professionals.

  @empoweredflowergirl

www.empoweredflowergirl.com



<https://thriveglobal.com/stories/rasheda-kamaria-williams-if-you-want-something-youve-never-had-you-must-be-willing-to-do-something-youve-never-done/>

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

SIGP members are welcome to place ads at no cost. To place an ad, contact *The Pointer* editor, Nancy Solak, at:

solaksinitaly@yahoo.com



Soroptimist Special

Mini Portrait Session \$100

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

Book your session today!
Contact

renerodriguezphotography@gmail.com
248.778.8206

www.renee-rodriquez.com