



# The Pointer

## Presidents' Message:

### SPRING CONFERENCE SUCCESS

ONE HUNDRED bravos to SIGP! We were honored at April's Midwestern Spring Conference with the Governor's Award for our January project of donations to Gleaners Food Pantry. This project was the kickoff to our yearlong 100s projects, celebrating Soroptimist's 100th anniversary. Our project was recognized for benefiting women in the Detroit area. Members and friends donated 602 pounds of food, supplying 499 meals to recipients. According to data from 2019, 50.4% of households in the Detroit area are headed by women. Detroit's poverty rate is 30%, three times the national average, and the child poverty rate is 43%. We were pleased we could do a small part to reach women who are raising families and supporting others.



BRIGHT PAST  
BRILLIANT FUTURE



*It was extremely exciting to witness the delivery of food boxes to a woman at a Gleaners community donation site shortly after we dropped off the food our club donated.*

The excitement continued with the announcement of Briana Cruga winning the Midwestern Region Virginia Wagner Award. In addition to the \$3000 awarded to her from SIGP, she received an additional \$2500 from the Region, a well-deserved honor for a talented and committed student. ONE HUNDRED kudos to Briana!

It has been a long pandemic, but we have carried on and have learned many things along the way.

See the flyer for the May 100s  
project on page 4.

## Oh, my! Mother's Day is coming up fast!

Our club is busy organizing its Mother's Day Bags for the women at Positive Images. Several Soroptimists have been making donations throughout the year. Here is the status of what we are giving.

Journals—donated by Flagstar Bank

Pens—donated by Flagstar Bank

Tote bags—donated by Flagstar Bank

Cosmetic bags—donated by members and friends

Mugs—donated by members and friends

Scarves—donated by members and friends

Sanitizer—donated by a member

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash—donated by a dentist

Oprah Magazines—donated by members and friends

Jewelry: necklaces, bracelets, earrings, pins—donated by members and friends

### STILL NEEDED:

**A few more necklaces and bracelets to create sets and Jewelry boxes—need 10 more large size (see photo at right)**



We plan to wrap the jewelry boxes and fill the bags [THIS Sunday, May 2, 2021, starting at 1 p.m.](#)

OUTSIDE, at the home of Mary Ellen Burke. Three to four Soroptimists will wrap the jewelry boxes on Mary Ellen's patio at two different tables. We will have two six-foot tables set up in front of her garage where four to six Soroptimists will be loading the items into the tote bags.

Please wear a mask. Bottled water will be provided in a cooler.

Call or text Mary Ellen Burke (313-399-8934) if you plan to come. We want to ensure there is enough space, so everyone remains safe. Thanks for all your support.

## Happy May Birthday to ...

Mary Bryk, May 7

Mary Clare Toffanetti, May 8

Amanda Be, May 10

Ross Braun, May 25



*isabella-and-zsa-fischer-sQoIRY84a2E-unsplash*

## SIGP Human Trafficking Committee running hot!

The 2021 Virtual 5K Walk/Run, being co-planned by Soroptimist Int'l. Grosse Pointe (SIGP) & Soroptimist Int'l. Greater Macomb (SIGM), has been busy preparing for the September event. The joint committee has voted on the recipient of the 5K, decided to skip giving out SWAG (Stuff We All Get), and approved the flyer for advertising.

By unanimous vote the beneficiary for this year's Virtual 5K Walk/Run is [The Joseph Project](#), a nonprofit organization that connects human trafficking survivors with pro bono legal services. A letter of congratulations has been emailed to Nate Knapper, founder and CEO of *The Joseph Project* and Kristi Kirschmann, the Chief Operating Officer of the organization.

The decision to not distribute SWAG this year stemmed from the economic struggles of the times and the fact that the items will most likely be discarded or never used. The extra funds will increase the 5K's impact by contributing more to our recipient, *The Joseph Project*.

The flyer will be available soon for distribution. We are waiting to find out if we are going to be charged for liability insurance since the event will span the entire month of September. Updates will be made accordingly if insurance is to be purchased.

### **ARE YOU A LEADER?**

### **IS ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING A PASSION OF YOURS?**

SIGP's Human Trafficking Awareness Committee (HT) will be looking for a new chair this September. Laurie and I will be stepping down from our position as co-chairs due to other obligations, although we will both still be on the committee. A new chair (or co-chairs) can bring new ideas and ways of creating awareness about human trafficking to the community.

Just because we have initiated the 5K Walk/Run and other programs in the past doesn't mean we need to continue doing it the same way. Fresh ideas and new events will help engage members to volunteer and become the Soroptimist they joined our club to be!

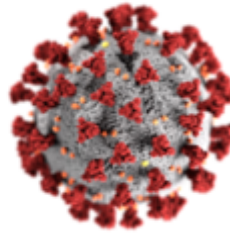
Think about the survivors! Think about the organizations who support them and how they will be missing out if SIGP doesn't have a team of volunteers in their corner shouting from the roof tops, STOP Human Trafficking! Put your "time" where your passion is, and volunteer to chair our Human Trafficking Committee.

If you would like to chair or co-chair SIGP's HT committee, please contact Karrie Blankenship at [karrieb40@gmail](mailto:karrieb40@gmail.com) or Laurie Jost at [jostlau@yahoo.com](mailto:jostlau@yahoo.com).

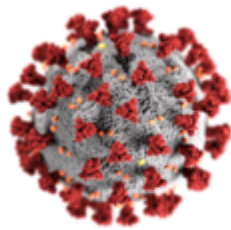
**REMEMBER: No Soroptimist in-person meetings until Soroptimist International of the Americas gives the okay**

**COVID 101**  
**THINGS I'VE LEARNED THIS YEAR**  
**THINGS COVID-19 HAS TAUGHT ME**

Together, let's list **100** things we have learned during this pandemic. They can be either lighthearted or profound, a new skill or a new insight.



Text/email your ideas to: 954-232-4398/[lauraleecook@yahoo.com](mailto:lauraleecook@yahoo.com) and a list will be compiled. No names will be attached, and it will be totally nonjudgmental, so feel free to be creative!



**READY, SET, GO!!!!**

1. I've learned to enjoy my own company; I'm my own best friend.
2. Who needs lipstick?
3. 80-year-old men still have what it takes. Go Dr. Fauci!
- 4.
- 5.
6. Etc. etc. etc. 100.

**SIGP Business Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 12, 6:30 pm. via Zoom**

**Look for your Zoom link in your email the day of the meeting.**

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy recently won the award for Best Riverwalk in the U.S. Our own SIGP member Rene Rodriguez can take a bow as the head of volunteers for the organization. Elena Nuno, a volunteer for the Conservancy, will speak to SIGP on the history and early days of the organization. Ms. Nuno will kick off our meeting with an informative talk at 6:30 p.m. on May 12.

Part Two of her talk will be a guided walk on the Riverfront for SIGP members and guests and will be scheduled when weather permits.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen Chapin and  
Marya Malkovich Rosenthal  
*Co-Presidents*

Karrie Blankenship  
*President Elect*

Laura McCourt  
*Vice President  
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Aleksa Andjelkovic  
*Past President*

Mary Ellen Burke  
*Treasurer*

Bette Lepouttre  
*Assistant Treasurer  
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Maureen Anthony  
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Diana Langlois  
*Assistant Secretary  
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Carolyn Barth  
*Director  
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Madeline Colavito  
*Director*

Nancy Solak  
*Director*

## And the Winners are:



SIGP member Anita Sandercott pictured here, who took a chance on the SI Allen Park Raffle and won an expandable hose with nozzle, a pair of Fiskars shears, a colorful quilted tote bag, a small seed-starter kit and a \$50 Home Depot gift card. The best part? Anita is a gardener!



Many SIGP members purchased raffle tickets for the SI Midwestern District Raffle during its outstanding program held virtually and free to all SI members in April. But only one of our own won and that was Diana Langlois, who won a “fan” favorite; a bunch of gift cards made into a fan. Congratulations, Diana, and thank you to everyone who either purchased raffle tickets or donated to the Virtual Midwestern Conference!

## ANOTHER WINNER!

Past SIGP President and Soroptimist Extraordinaire Roseanne Horne was nominated as OUTSTANDING SOROPTIMIST. See pages 8 & 9 for details.

## SIGP Dues Reminder

**SIGP Dues of \$125 for FY 2021-22 are due June 9, 2021.**

**Payments will be accepted starting May 12, 2021.**

## ANNUAL CLUB SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who has completed the annual survey. A second copy is being sent for those who haven't yet completed it, or might have lost it among their emails. When completed, and submitted, you will be eligible for the prize drawing that will be held during the May 12, Business Meeting. Most importantly, this SHORT survey asks questions that will help your Board of Directors guide SIGP in the coming year.



## Each month SIGP's 100s Campaign continues!

When Ruby Award Chair Maureen Anthony reached out to our 2021 winner, Tanesha Windom, she was looking for a possible "100s" project as a May activity. Ms. Windom, founder and CEO of [My Sister's Keeper](#), responded: "Your email couldn't be timelier. We are participating in Global Youth Service Day on April 23 by having a 'YOU Matter' donation drive-by." She suggested that 100 bottles of hand sanitizer would be most welcome as part of the donation the group would make to the Oasis Homeless Shelter.

SIGP members responded immediately and donated 178 bottles of hand sanitizer in just nine days! More than 20% of us participated, many anonymously, so THANK YOU to everyone!

Our donation was delivered on April 23, by Ellen Chapin and Laura McCourt. In addition to meeting Ms. Windom and her mother, we had the opportunity to meet several of the young women being served by My Sister's Keeper. We each received a

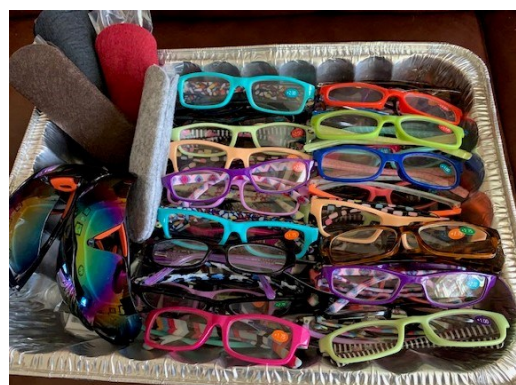


*(l-r) SIGP Co-President Ellen Chapin, Founder and CEO of My Sister's Keeper, and SIGP Vice President and Membership Chair Laura McCourt delivering bottles of hand sanitizer donated by SIGP members.*



"YOU Matter" sticker, completed a questionnaire, and had our car unloaded by several of the friendly, enthusiastic members of the drive-by team.

**Hey there, SIGP members ...**  
**YOU MATTER!**



*In March, SIGP members donated readers to be used by clients at Positive Images who have reached that age—you know, the one that requires reading glasses!*

**Next SIGP Board Meeting** Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

## **SIGP's Mentoring for Success initiative launches its second year**

On April 17, at 6:30 pm Maddy Colavito and I met on Zoom for a Mentoring for Success orientation with the mentees. Live Your Dream (LYD) 2021 awardees Ariel and Tonesia were on and Lavina (LYD 2020 awardee) joined us to be part of the Mentoring for Success mentee orientation. Lavina is now working in the emergency room at Beaumont Royal Oak after completing her Associate of Science in Nursing degree from Macomb Community College.

All three of these women bonded immediately, sharing stories of school, classes and children. Lavina was a shining star, inspirational and motivational for Ariel and Tonesia! After Maddy and I finished the PowerPoint, the LYD awardees just kept going and actually talked with each other till about 11:30 pm!!! We were on Zoom so Maddy and I left the platform about 8:00 and I turned off the volume on my computer and they had the evening to themselves. I imagine that was very special to each of them!

On April 28, the Mentoring for Success mentor orientation PowerPoint went well with Bette Lepouttre, Paula Davis and Maureen Anthony taking an active part. Marya Rosenthal is going to mentor Briana, our Virginia Wagner Educational Award winner. After reviewing the surveys of the LYD awardees, our mentors decided to take a team approach with the mentees when we meet in May. So, we will all meet and have a sharing time and see how it works.

Any members who are even a bit interested in mentoring, working with our awardees, please contact Maddy or myself to get your questions answered. Come on board, you are needed!

*— HUGS to all, Diana Langlois*

## **Positive Images: News in Brief**

- Parenting classes continue under the guidance of Bette Lepouttre.
- The Amherst Writing group under the direction of Nancy Solak has paused their workshops for now and will resume in the future.
- Solicitation letters are being printed and will be distributed by Positive Images for raising funds to help them expand their services to become the Positive Images, Inc. Behavioral Health Clinic.

# Roseanne Horne: Outstanding Soroptimist

***While we were pleased to win the Governor's Award for our Gleaners Project at the Midwestern Region Spring Conference, we were a little disappointed that our nomination of Roseanne Horne as the Midwestern Region Outstanding Soroptimist did not win first place. We are sharing our nomination writeup below so you can judge for yourself that Roseanne is an outstanding Soroptimist in the eyes of SIGP!***

The word that comes to mind when thinking about this Soroptimist is enthusiasm. No matter the challenge, this Soroptimist rises above all. Most women find their niche in a club and excel in that area because of experience and dedication. This Soroptimist is different: when a need is identified, she puts forth whatever effort, talent, time, or work is needed to achieve a solution. And she has an amazing ability to bring others along with her in her quest. She not only served as president, but also agreed to stay on for another term as co-president for a member who was not sure she was up for the job of president by herself. When her co-presidency came to an end, her replacement was called out of town for a job 90 miles away. The new president wanted to remain in office and serve her term but was able to do so only because this dedicated Soroptimist took on the additional responsibilities of presidency along with her duties as past president. This goes without saying, this outstanding leader served her first official role as president after a mere two years of membership in the club. It is likely she was ready for the challenge since those first two years were busy ones. Upon joining the club, she immediately agreed to be a project leader for an SIA grant our club received, taking on the responsibility of developing the strategies and objectives for implementation of the grant. She also served as fundraising chair and program and service chair during this two-year span, taking on major roles in our club's human trafficking awareness initiative and heading a large fundraising project. In the 8 months since this Soroptimist has officially passed the baton of formal leadership, she has taken on the responsibility of committee chair to revise/update the club's bylaws and procedures and worked closely with the "official" past president to plan a remarkable awards ceremony under the challenge of a pandemic and thus, a Zoom ceremony. Those present can attest to the careful thought and planning that produced a ceremony that was special to all who were present, especially the award winners. Without a doubt, this Soroptimist lives the ideals of a true leader!

One might wonder why our club depended so much on one person to lead us over an unusually long period of time, but a quick reflection of her leadership skills reveals the obvious reasons. She is well-organized, always prepared, and demonstrates strong communication skills. Her tireless effort to achieve goals contributes to her ability to inspire those she works with. She has a clear vision when taking on a challenge and has the grit to get the job done. The results our club achieves, while celebrated by all, clearly begin with her strength of getting members to accomplish things they never thought possible. It is no surprise that she has caught the attention of the Midwestern region and has expanded her leadership talents beyond our local chapter.

The nomination of this Soroptimist is also supported by her impressive list of accomplishments and her demonstration of the ideals of our organization. When the pandemic hit, we quickly realized the fundraising activities we grew to depend on were not possible to carry out. She came up with the idea to collect returnable bottles and cans well before it became a common practice among other organizations. Her quick thinking and determination have paid off with more than \$5,000 in returns to help fund our awards! She has established regular customers, allowing it to continue as an ongoing event with bottles and cans regularly dropped off at various members' homes. She has also been a frequent sponsor of our second-hand sales, providing her yard, garage, and basement as a drop off place of gently used household goods, clothing and collectibles. Each sale she hosts brings in thousands of dollars for our club. This follows many dedicated years of leadership in our signature fundraising events and activities as this member never misses an opportunity to volunteer at a women's drug rehabilitation center we support as a club. She has been responsible for assembling many Mother's Day and holiday baskets for the clients and actively takes part in organizing and participating in numerous social and educational activities for the women.

*Continued on next page*



### *Roseanne Horne (continued from previous page)*

Her performance is also noteworthy when it comes to her involvement with our human trafficking awareness initiative. We took on this awareness program way before human trafficking was openly discussed and our nominee ran with it. Not only did she take on leadership roles on the committee, but she also landed a spot on a local TV station to bring awareness to others. She took part in panel discussions in the community with professional groups and helped plan fundraising activities to provide monetary help for women and girls caught up in this devastating way of life.

Helping women and girls achieve educational goals is also important to this Soroptimist. She has participated on many award committees to find qualified candidates and select deserving award winners. She has played a major role in planning our previous awards banquets with details and creativity that makes the evening special for all involved. She was instrumental in developing an award unique to our club that addresses the socio-economic disadvantages of girls in our local high schools who are unable to afford preparation courses for the SAT/ACT examination in preparation to apply for college. And she has been an active volunteer in our Dream it, Be it program in every session we have conducted.

This nominee also finds time to promote the social needs of our members. She was the driving force in an extraordinarily successful, major anniversary celebration that not only provided awareness for membership but also managed to become a major fundraiser with her basket raffle and silent auction. She has hosted numerous wedding and baby showers for members, picked up birthday cakes for members' special birthdays and put on a special celebration for one of our members who celebrated a 100-year birthday. Her thoughtfulness and generosity have been felt by many in the club.

Most importantly, this member has gone above and beyond to promote the professional and personal growth of women in many situations. She has been a role model for our members, her daughters, and the women she works with. Whether it is women sold into slavery, women in rehab, or women in the community faced with obstacles, this Soroptimist is ready to use her professional experience, her contacts, and her compassion to help. She is always there to assist with a grant, volunteer her service, and promote membership in our club among the community. She has been an effective mentor and stands ready to get involved wherever needed. She is the face of Soroptimist to which all of us who know her hope to emulate.

— Marya and Ellen, SIGP Co-Presidents

## **Proposed Change in SIGP Bylaws**

At the April 7, 2021, Business Meeting, a proposed change to SIGP Bylaws was approved by the majority of Board members. At the August board meeting, membership will be asked to approve the following:

### **Current: Article IX Section 5 Club Budget:**

A club budget for the following fiscal year shall be prepared and approved no later than the July business meeting.

### **Proposed: Article IX Section 5 Club Budget:**

A club budget for the following fiscal year shall be prepared and presented to the board at the August board meeting.

Rationale: Financial statements need to be completed after the fiscal year ends on June 30, and the Budget Committee needs to meet after the fiscal year ends and financial statements are completed. In short, the proposal asks that the budget be approved in August instead of July.

### **Correction:**

In the April issue of *The Pointer*, our Live Your Dream Winner Jeritah Brown's profession should have said she is a Certified Medical Assistant. Apologies for the error.  
— Ed.

## Pet Profile: Meet LOLA who lives with Renee Rodriguez and her family



Lola is our first child and she will be turning 11 years old in December. She is a Labradoodle and so incredibly sweet. She has a lot of personality and loves to play fetch and watch people outside from the window.

She can sense when others are sick and just need some cuddles. When my dad was recovering from open heart surgery (our normally hyper dog )was very gentle with him, laid at his feet and watched over him. We got a labradoodle because we needed a dog that would work with our allergies. We chose the name Lola because we wanted a bilingual name (English/Spanish).

We always joke around and say Lola looks like a Muppet. We say her uncle is Rowlf from the show.



Rowlf



Lola

## 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](http://simwr.org))  
Soroptimist International of the Americas ([soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org))  
Soroptimist International ([soroptimistinternational.org](http://soroptimistinternational.org))  
Soroptimist International of the Americas -  
([soroptimist.org/about-us/contact-us/index.html](http://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](mailto:socialmediasigp@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: grossepointesoroptimist.net ..... Karrie Blankenship  
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/calendar-of-events.html> for calendar

INSTAGRAM: soroptimistgp ..... Anne Schwartz

E-MAIL: [grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com) ..... Anne Schwartz

### SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK and facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepoinete ..... Anne Schwartz

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](http://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



**All proceeds from the sale of jackets go to SIGP.**

**Each one has a zipper, hood and pockets. Length to hips. Order yours today!**

updated 5/27/20

## Save the Date

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



**Together in Motion**  
**47<sup>th</sup> SOROPTIMIST**  
**Biennial Convention**  
Seoul, South Korea • July 20-23, 2022



## 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.



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[www.empoweredflowergirl.com](http://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.**



### Soroptimist Special

Mini Portrait Session \$100

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

Book your session today!  
Contact

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248.778.8206

[www.renee-rodriquez.com](http://www.renee-rodriquez.com)

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**[solaksinitaly@yahoo.com](mailto:solaksinitaly@yahoo.com)**

**If you'd like your pet profiled, please contact Nancy Solak at:**

**[solaksinitaly@yahoo.com](mailto:solaksinitaly@yahoo.com)**