

The Pointer

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



DONATIONS OF NEW TOYS AND CLOTHING TO POSITIVE IMAGES SURPASSES PREVIOUS YEARS!

More than ONE-THIRD of SIGP membership contributed to purchasing gifts for Positive Images children! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! We were able to buy for 51 children! This is by far our best year!!! The members who shopped with monetary donations from SIGP members combined with their own contributions purchased gifts for 20 children totaling nearly \$1000.

If you are buying for a Positive Images child, please have your gift to my house no later than **December 7**. On the outside of the **gift bag**, **please mark the Parent and Child's name and size. Take off all tags with a bar code.**

PLEASE READ—THIS ACTIVITY NEEDS FINISHING TOUCHES!

2021 calendars: We have 33 large and 7 pocket size calendars. Need a few more to get to 50... if you have some, just drop them at my house.

Assembling 50 gift baskets at my house for the women of Positive Images:

Tuesday, December 8, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 10, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Six members have volunteered to assemble and wrap the baskets. If there were two or three more members, then there could be two shifts and you

would only have to come one night. Because we work in my garage, I think that four people wearing masks each night will work the best. Let me know if you can make it! I will contact those who have already volunteered and have them select a date to assemble.



This is just a portion of the items donated by our members to the mothers and children residing at Positive Images.

Donations for the baskets...

Donations of like-new holiday household decorating items or a gift that you haven't used and can pass on are always welcome. Everything that is donated gets put into the baskets. You can drop off items on my porch up until December 7!

I sincerely acknowledge the members in SIGP for their support in this worthwhile service project. It makes a difference to the women and children of Positive Images.

Thank you!

UPDATES...

In the past two months donations of two strollers, towels, linens, shower curtain, dishes, silverware, glasses, pans, lamps, framed paintings, toaster, blender, baby clothes and toys, and a couple of winter coats have been donated to Positive Images from members and from gently used garage sale leftovers. The women in the residential apartments on Coplin are the primary beneficiaries of these donations, but some of the towels and linens went to the intake house on East Grand Boulevard.

Thank you again, You are all THE BEST!!!

Diana Langlois, **561 Hollywood, GPW** Questions: 313-690-1515

SIGP's Holiday Celebration to raise money for the SI Annual President's Appeal: Road to Equality

For years our club has supported the Soroptimist International Annual President's Appeal at our annual holiday dinner. We will continue the tradition at this year's virtual celebration.

If you have registered (or RSVP'd) for the party and decide you want to add more tickets to your order, contact Marya Malkovich Rosenthal by Tuesday, December 8. If you are not attending the virtual celebration, you can still make a contribution to the cause via check made payable to SIGP and sent to either one of our treasurers: Mary Ellen Burke or Bette Lepouttre. All your contributions will help make a significant impact in improving the lives of girls and women all over the world.

Prizes will be awarded on a first-drawn, first-choice basis. Take a look-peek at the door prizes below to decide which one you'd like in case your name gets pulled.

> Carolyn Barth, Mary Ellen Burke, Roseanne Horne SI International Appeal Committee, Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

DOOR PRIZES: Below and on the next page are the door prizes. Take a look-peek now to see which one you'd like in case your number gets called.







Michelle Chardonnay Wine



Ice Bucket with





Crystal Vase



NEW Visibility Running Vest



English Bone Ashley China Candlestick



Kate Spade Votive, signed



Cut Glass Relish Server with Stainless Steel



Large Glass Bowl by The Palms, signed



Glass Bead Necklace, custom made by SIGP member Liz Lucas.



Ogio Prosecco, Italy w/2 flutes



Copper/Brass Casserole Holder with Glasbake Bowl with Lid.



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

TIDBITS, UPDATES & THINGS TO DO

Holiday Gift Giving Made Easy!

Some people are just hard to buy for, right? I default to gift cards for many folks on my "nice" list, but I hate to just hand over a card. It just seems crass. So, consider this: Pick up a like-new book and tuck a gift card into the pages!

Our members have donated some wonderful books for our sale – and it's obvious we all love the written word so much that we treat our books as treasures! These are NOT beat-up, garage sale, 25-cent books! These are like-new books – and they need a new home!

On top of our already LOW prices, we have a Special December offer:

Buy Two Books, Get the Third One Free!

And get this: We'll deliver to the Grosse Pointes and immediate surrounding areas!

Contact Ellen Chapin at ellenchapin@sbcglobal.net for an updated list of available titles. ALSO: Members are welcome to look at the books before purchase. Ellen has them in her garage, so you can review them safely without having to come indoors or interact with others.

Whether you shop for Christmas, or shop for yourself, you'll be helping SIGP and scoring a huge bargain! - Kathy DiCenzo

ZOOM MINI-TUTORIALS

Nobody loves Zoom, but we will all be living with it for several more months. If you are not comfortable attending a Zoom meeting because you don't feel comfortable navigating the site, please contact Laura McCourt at 954-232-4398. A one-on-one tutorial can be arranged at your convenience. You'll be up and running in a matter of minutes; it's a more tolerable form of communication when you know the basics.

NOVEMBER 11TH GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

Charles Graham, past Co-Chair of the Gleaners Community Food Bank, was our November speaker. Mr. Graham took us right back to the beginning of the organization when the founder, Gene Gonya, began distributing free potatoes out of the trunk of his car to people in need.

Last year, Gleaners, headquartered in Detroit, distributed 38,000,000 meals, has a budget of \$75 million, and 93% of its revenue funds its mission. Gleaners provides households with sufficient, nutritious food, and related resources. Soroptimist members are invited to tour the organization's main facility when conditions permit. Gleaners offers many volunteer opportunities that our organization can explore in the future. In the meantime, the Gleaners website gcfb.org is outstanding and well worth a

Tidbits, Updates & Things to Do (continued from previous page)

THE BILL and MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

After reading *The Moment of Lift* by Melinda Gates and recognizing her passion for helping women in Africa, SIGP members Karrie Blankenship, Carolyn Barth and Diana Langlois drafted a letter to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Their request on behalf of SIGP was to ask the Foundation if they would be interested in helping SIGP support its Ghana scholarship initiative. In the past, our club has supported the education of girls attending St. Anne's Girls Senior High School in Ghana. The letter was sent via email and U.S. mail on November 20. The best news would be to get a positive response from the letter asking for more information. We will keep you posted!

Update re Live Your Dream Award

We have three applications for Live Your Dream! The judges are currently reviewing and grading the applicants. Thank you to all who helped get the word out! Best to you! — Bette Lepouttre

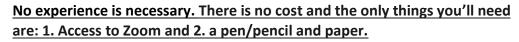
Kick Back for Cocktail Friday!

Have an Adult Beverage (or any beverage) and Zoom for fun with club members

This coming Friday: December 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Looking for community with other club members? Looking to learn more about each other and yourself?

SIGP member Nancy Solak, a certified workshop facilitator of the Amherst Writers & Artists method, is offering 2-hour writing workshops to SIGP members. (If more than six want to join, Nancy will offer two separate groups).





In these supportive workshops you will be given writing prompts to stimulate memories and creativity. The craft of writing (i.e., grammar, metaphor, simile, alliteration) will only be touched upon. The goal of the workshop is to tap into your creativity.

The last half hour of the session will be set aside for participants to talk to each other about their experience writing or ... any other old thing.

If you are interested, let Nancy know what time/days are best for you (they can be during the afternoon, evening or weekend. We're hoping to set this up in the dark days of January and/or February—two consecutive weeks as the same time. If you have any questions, email Nancy at: solaksinitaly@yahoo.com or call or text 313-820-1179.

FRIEND TO FRIEND

Throughout the dark days of winter and during this long pandemic a friend can help to lift our spirits and bring a bit of joy to our days.

YOU can be that friend. A phone call, an email, a card, a small remembrance can show that you care and are thinking of her.

You will be given a member's name and the information she has shared about herself. Make contact with her on a regular basis.

In the same way, another member will be given your name and the information you have shared about yourself. She will contact you on a regular basis.

TWO friendships may blossom for you!

Complete the following information and email to Ellen Chapin ellenchapin@sbcglobal.net or mail to 1003 Harvard Rd GPP 48230.

Name: Email:

Phone: Preference: Text or Call

Address: Birthday:

Favorite Snack: Favorite Beverage: Special Interests:

Can't Get Enough Of: I would like to contact a friend Y N
Stay Away From: I would like a friend to contact me Y N



Next SIGP Board Meeting Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

December Pet Profile—Brandi

This is the first of a new feature in *The Pointer* called Pet Profiles. We are pleased to introduce Brandi, a four-year-old cat named by her foster family. Her so-called owner is SIGP member Mary Clare Toffanetti, but Brandi knows who adopted whom!

They met at an adoption event at Pet Smart. If you haven't noticed, Brandi attends all SIGP General and Book Club meetings via Zoom. Her attendance record is 100%.

Shy around strangers, this is the first time most of us have laid eyes on her. When strangers come over, she hides under the far corner of Mary Clare's bed. Mary Clare says, "When my brother came to visit from Chicago, she would sneak out and watch him from around the corner and, if he looked in her direction, she would flee." One time she saw him working on his tablet. Curiosity overcame her fear and she hopped up on the arm of his chair to watch. Even though she only sees him a few times a year, she remembers him and doesn't hide when Mary Clare lets her brother into Brandi's house. Since he allowed her to play with his tablet, they became friends.



Brandi

Brandi has one other unusual habit: She licks Mary Clare's hair at 3 a.m. If you think that's gross, then you don't love cats. P.S. Special thanks to SIGP member Mary Clare for agreeing to have her pet be the first to be profiled in this space.

If you'd like your pet profiled:

Email Nancy Solak at **solaksinitaly@yahoo.com**. Please relate your pet's name, age, how you came to know him or her, what their favorite activities are and a favorite story about them. Oh, and please include a photo. Thank you so very much!



Shop with Amazon and support SIGP!

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases back to our organization. Use the link below when doing your holiday shopping or go to smile.amazon.com and search for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe. http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-6099835 Supporting SIGP has never been easier!

SIGP'S UNIQUE "MENTORING FOR SUCCESS" PROGRAM PROGRESSES PAST INITIATION PHASE

Maddy Colavito and Diana Langlois hosted a Zoom "check-in" with our mentors and mentees on November 9. The news of the day was that *Lavina Huthchinson completed an Associate Degree in Nursing from Macomb Community College!* This has taken 10 years of working through obstacles to completion! WE APPLAUD HER! She will now attend Oakland University for a bachelor's degree in nursing. She is an inspiration to all of us!

Another mentee, Angeles Cuevas Cervantes is on the go nonstop! She attends school, owns a business and is active with two, count them (TWO) internships.

Mentors and mentees talked about having balance in one's life and brainstormed suggestions on how to try to make that happen. Mindfulness, the practice of directing all your attention and awareness to the present, was discussed as we read the handout #1 (see below) together.

Deborah Smith was unable to attend but she and her mentor Katherine Baetz have been in contact with each other.

The Zoom session ended with a progressive muscle relaxation led by Diana (see #3 below). (Editor's Note: It was late for some of us and we left the meeting in a state of bliss!)

In case, you are interested, here are the links to the materials used for the meeting. Each is a quick read and might be a good reminder to all of us:

- 1. https://centerstone.org/our-resources/health-wellness/life/balance/
- 2. www.verywellmind.com/mindfulness-exercises-for-everyday-life-3145187 by Elizabeth Scott, MS July 13, 2020.
- 3. https://www.verywellmind.com/how-do-i-practice-progressive-muscle-relaxation-3024400 Author: Arlin Cunic, August 3, 2020

Mentor/Mentee Partners:

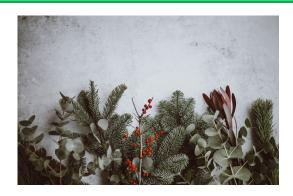
Bette Lepouttre and Lavina Hutchinson; Katherine Baetz and Deborah Smith; Nancy Solak and Angeles Cuevas Cervantes

- P.S. Inspired by the meeting, Angeles went to the Dollar Store and purchased three calendars: one for work, one for school and one for family. She reports that she's feeling more organized as a result.
- P.P.S. And here's an email from Lavina: Good morning Lovely people,

I wanted to wish you all a very special Happy Thanksgiving! I hope every one of you are well and safe. Thank you for being a part of my productivity. You all are awesome, and I am grateful to have met you. Let us use this time to appreciate life, love and family. Happy Holidays to you and yours. Take care, Lavina Hutchinson

Soroptimist Grosse Pointe extends

Warmest wishes to you, your family and friends for a safe and happy holiday season. It's been a challenging year and we thank you for all you've done to meet those challenges!



SIGP'S GINGER BREAD HOUSE BRIGHTENS THE VILLAGE!

Please stop by El's Boutique, located at 16849 Kercheval (next to Kroger) and see our beautiful SIGP entry for the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Gingerbread House contest. Cornwall Bakery supplied the house (in parts) and SIGP members Anita Sandercott and Donna Fitzgerald created a winter wonderland from just four walls and a roof. There are more than 50 entrants in the contest and you can view them all by using the map available in the November 25, issue of the *Grosse Pointe News*, or at the Chamber website: http://www.grossepointechamber.com

El's Boutique is open for business Thursday-Saturday 11a.m.-6p.m. as a pop-up shop created for the holidays. Every item in owner Ellen Durand's boutique is under \$100. We thank her for graciously pitching in to set up "our" house. You may be interested to know that Ellen also hosts private groups of five or more, Monday through Wednesday. Please call her at 313-889-8132 to arrange a free private event. — *Laura McCourt*



A whimsical gingerbread log cabin, dripping with confectionery goodies.

Complete with a CDC-compliant mask, encourages all holiday shoppers to spend their money where their house is, buy local, shop local, eat local.

The delicately decorated abode was created by Soroptimist members

Anita Sandercott and Donna Fitzgerald.

The message is timeless and relevant—support your local events and shop safely. Each snowman in this landscape is a reminder of all the possibilities when it snows...

Description of scene submitted by Donna Fitzgerald.



Above: SIGP member Dorothy Wasinger made the green sign indicating the Gingerbread House is sponsored by Soroptimist Grosse Pointe.

Above left: Ellen Durand with SIGP members Donna Fitzgerald and Anita Sandercott.



Soroptimist International GP presents...

For the Love of Wine Raffle!

Coming for Valentine's Day:

A chance to win a basket of wine and goodies!

FIRST PLACE: 12 bottles of fine wine along with wine accessories (wine table runner, quilted by SIGP member Mary Ellen Burke, wine opener, aerator, wine saver, 4 Lenox crystal wine glasses, cloth cocktail napkins and chocolates). Total value: more than \$500!

SECOND PLACE: 4 bottles of fine wine, cloth cocktail napkins, 2 crystal stemless wine glasses, a wine saver, and chocolates. This prize is valued at approximately \$200!

The raffle drawing will be held on February 10, 2021, at our business meeting. All the prizes are from club members who donated either a bottle or two of wine or contributed to the cost of accessories, raffle license and/or ticket printing. Ticket sales will support our programs and educational awards leading to economic and social empowerment for women and girls.

Tickets will be bundled in books of 6 tickets and will be delivered to you. We are hoping members will help by selling at least 3 books of tickets (optional but not required). Tickets will sell for \$5 for one or \$20 for 6 tickets. Ticket sales will begin in time for Christmas stocking stuffers and will continue until the drawing in February.

We will be sending a flyer via email soon. If you know of any business establishment that is home to wine lovers, please print the flyer and let them know about our fundraiser.



Happy December Birthday to ...

Helen Clarren, December 4

Carol Hofer, December 11

Peggy Hickey, December 12

Mary Ellen Brayton, December 13

Nancy Solak, December 17

Anti-Human Trafficking Virtual Event ready to launch January 1!

Soroptimist Grosse Pointe's January 2021 HT Virtual Event panel discussions event is moving along. Kristi Kirschmann, from The Joseph Project, conducted two successful interviews on November 20, for our program. Three more interviews will take place on December 4. The entire project will be ready to view January 1, in time to participate in the **2021**National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

The two-part pre-recorded program event will address Michigan's human trafficking laws and current social services available to survivors. The program will be available to both SI Grosse Pointe (SIGP) and SI Greater Macomb (SIGM) clubs with whom we are partnering, and to any organization willing to promote it. It will be videoed and then uploaded to YouTube and our websites.

Our panelists represent a broad spectrum of professionals fighting against human trafficking in our community:

- *Deborah Thomas, Judge, Michigan 3rd Circuit Court, and HT Committee Member, and SIGP member
- *Dave Huffman, Detective, Warren Police Dept., and Instructor, Anam Cara Group, https://www.theanamcaragroup.org/
- *Nate Knapper, Founder/CEO, The Joseph Project, https://josephproject.com/
- *Kristi Kirschmann, COO, The Joseph Project, https://josephproject.com/
- *Angela Aufemberge, President and CEO, Vista Maria, https://www.vistamaria.org/
- *Karen Hanks, LMSW. Trafficking Victims Advocate and Trainer, Bethany Lutheran Service, https://prezi.com/p/wvvgfuuxzcu3/trafficking-for-ems/

In the past two years, SIGP's 5k Walk/Run Event has raised over \$8,000 to help anti-human trafficking initiatives in the metro-Detroit area. Today, we are urging you to continue to support our mission. PLEASE HELP US HELP A SURVIVOR!

Laurie Jost & Karrie Blankenship

SIGP Human Trafficking Awareness Chairs

5K Walk/Run Update for 2021

SIGP's 5K Event Committee will hold a **Virtual AND In-Person** timed 5k Walk/Run race on **Saturday, June 5, 2021,** in partnership with Soroptimist Greater Macomb (SGM). It will start in the parking lot of St. Lucy's Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores. **Eastside Racing Company** will handle the timing, registrations, and other essential duties needed to have an even more successful event because this Walk/Run will be timed.

The sub-committee chairs listed below are in work mode and will reach out to club members for help. We are asking for volunteers to help collect sponsorship money and donations (all of which goes to anti-human trafficking organizations in the Detroit metropolitan area), deliver advertising via social media and provide flyers to businesses in your area, as well as other duties the morning of the event. If you would like to contact any of these committee chairs to ask what you can do to help, please contact them by their email listed below. —*Karrie Blankenship and Laurie Jost*

Sponsorship Chairs:

SIGP: Mary Ellen Burke meb650@aol.com SIGM: Monae Clugh meb650@aol.com

Exhibitor Tables Chairs

SIGP: Mary Ellen Bray-

ton maryellenbrayton@comcast.net

SIGM: Jackie Wajer jwajer@medcarecord.com

Snacks and Beverages

St. Lucy's Catholic Church

Promotional Bags Chairs:

SIGP: Helen Clarren hclarren@gmail.com
SIGM: Bev Todd bjt426@hotmail.com

Advertising Chairs:

SIGP: Roseanne Horne <u>rosewa33@aol.com</u> SIGM: Susan Rhein <u>srhein50195@gmail.com</u>

Look what Positive Images is doing!

SIGP helps support this local therapeutic community whenever and however we can!

BECOME AN ALLY! Positive Images Inc. - A Therapeutic Recovery Community



Housing Available for Women & Their Children

"According to Mental Health America, African Americans experience direct traumatic stressors (including being heavily policed or being the victims of physical and verbal attacks), indirect stressors (such as the effects of viewing the video of the killing of George Floyd), and transmitted stressors (from traumatic stress passed from one generation to the next).

Despite these challenges, however, African Americans are far less likely to seek care. Statistics tell us that about 25% of African Americans seek mental health care, compared to 40% of whites. Unequal access to health care is one major contributor to this disparity.

Each one of us can take steps to become an ally to someone—especially in the African American community—who is experiencing mental illness.

We can all work to:

- 1. Bring awareness to the use of stigmatizing language around mental
- 2. Educate family, friends, and colleagues about the unique challenges of mental illness within the African American community
- 3. Become aware of our own attitudes and beliefs toward the Black community to reduce implicit bias and negative assumptions
- 4. Each one of us can make a difference in the lives of those who need mental health support." - Read more https://www.mcleanhospital.org/essential/how-can-we-break-mental-health-barrierscommunities-color

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We are Thankful for Your Support! This Thanksgiving - Give Thanks by Giving Hope

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Visit our website

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 E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz **SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:** FACEBOOK and facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointeRenee Rodriguez 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

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)		
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		Accepted VISA	
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.

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www.empoweredflowergirl.com

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to-do-something-youve-never-done/

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

Me thinking "hmm... now I need something sweet" after I just ate



A chuckle for those of you who read the newsletter to the end! (If you see this, text Nancy Solak and after COVID she'll buy you a glass of your favorite beverage!)