

The Pointer

Presidents' Message

What does 100 mean and why is it important? By definition it is the natural number following 99 and preceding 101. As a student, 100% is the mark of excellence on an exam. A child is proud to finally count to 100. One hundred degrees is the boiling point of water. There are 100 senators in the U.S. Congress. A football field is 100 yards long. Campers enjoy singing 100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall.

As a Soroptimist, 100 reflects a time to celebrate! In 1921, 100 years ago, SIA began in Oakland, California, as an organization of professional women whose mission was service projects and education on worldwide issues. Soroptimist means "best for women" and today its 160,000 members strive to transform the



BRIGHT PAST BRILLIANT FUTURE

lives of women and girls through access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Our accomplishments have been many, and our impact continues around the world. It is with great pride that we look forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary.

You will see the theme of "100" throughout the year. We look forward to brainstorming ideas and projects at our January meeting to commemorate our "100" as Soroptimists! — Ellen and Marya

SOROPTIMIST GROSSE POINTE BUSINESS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021, 6:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM
AN EMAIL WITH THE ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT PRIOR TO THE MEETING

P.S. If you would like a tutorial on using Zoom, contact SIGP membership chair Laura McCourt at 954-232-4398

For the Love of Wine www.grossepointesoroptimist.org

A raffle to support programs and educational awards for women and girls

By now, each of you should have received your raffle tickets to sell to family, friends, and acquaintances for our Valentine's Day wine basket raffle. And don't forget to enter yourself! Could be a nice Valentine's Day surprise.

Thanks to the generous donation of club members, nearly all ticket revenue will go toward our programs and awards. You are not required to sell tickets, but we will need any unsold tickets returned to Ross Braun by February 3.

Ticket stubs and money may be turned in to Mary Ellen Burke or Bette Lepouttre. Mary Ellen Burke has extra tickets if you need more! If you need help getting more tickets or turning in money or ticket stubs, please call Marya Rosenthal and she will be happy to assist.

More information below and on next page!

Soroptimist International Grosse Pointe presents...

For the Love of Wine Raffle

First Place Drawing: 12 Bottles of fine wine with accessories...Total value: over \$600

Second Place Drawing: 4 Bottles of fine wine with accessories...Total value: \$200

A description of wines (all rated above 90 points) is available on our website.

First Place Basket



Second Place Basket

Drawing will be held on February 10, 2021

You do not need to be present to win.

Prizes will be delivered to winners in time for Valentine's Day!

\$5 per ticket or booklet of 6 tickets for \$20

Cash, check, credit card or PayPal

Visit <u>www.grossepointesoroptimist.org</u> for information on how to purchase tickets

Or... Contact Karrie Blankenship at karrieb40@gmail.com

Ticket sales will support programs and educational awards for women and girls leading to economic and social empowerment!



Soroptimist International GP presents...

For the Love of Wine Raffle!

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.

SIGP's Holiday Celebration raises \$1000 for SI Annual President's Appeal: Road to Equality!

Twenty-eight Soroptimist Grosse Pointe club members attended its December 9, 2020, Holiday Celebration dedicated to the SI President's Appeal (SIPA). The door prizes alone raised \$611. With the addition of cash donations by members, the total came to a whopping \$1000! Every dollar will go toward the SIPA fund with its focus on "The Road to Equality." Thank you to all who contributed so generously. Special thanks to SIPA Committee members: Carolyn Barth, Mary Ellen Burke and Roseanne Horne.

The celebration wasn't all about raising money—as important as that was. It was also a party on Zoom that included a trivia quiz, a scavenger hunt, and an ornament making contest. Co-presidents Ellen Chapin and Marya Rosenthal, along with Vice President Laura McCourt, came up with clever activities right down to providing crafts for

Even though everyone was given a packet of the same craft materials, the final products varied widely. So much creativity! The one pictured above was voted the best and was created by SIGP member Liz Lucas. Congratulations, Liz!

each member to conjure an ornament of her own making. The committee's creativity went above and beyond by including a charcuterie tray of goodies put together by Grosse Pointe's own Cornwall Bakery. Marya, Ellen and Laura were assisted by Carol Hofer in delivering the trays the same afternoon as the actual party. And lest we forget, an individual bottle of Brut champagne came with the package. (Continued on next page)

Holiday Celebration (continued from previous page)

The committee even arranged for a musical conclusion to the festive event by enlisting singer and guitarist Julie Beutel to lead everyone in seasonal songs.

In the days following, emails poured in complimenting Ellen, Marya, and Laura, for putting together such a noteworthy event.



Marya Malkovich did a great job of finding trivia questions that were fun and educational at the same time. Despite it being multiple choice, it wasn't easy. This is a screen shot of one of the answers.



Screen shot of singer/guitarist Julie Beutel. Since several people expressed interest in hiring Julie once COVID is over, here's her number: 313-884-9861. She performs for all manner of celebrations.

January Is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Many of you joined Soroptimist International Grosse Pointe (SIGP) because you were concerned with Human Trafficking (HT) in Michigan. Since this is such an important issue, and so many of you have expressed interest, SIGP's Human Trafficking Committee members, in partnership with Soroptimist International Greater Macomb (SIGM,) have arranged to provide you with the latest information from community leaders who combat this crime daily.

Throughout January, we will post links to interviews covering the broad spectrum of human trafficking in our nation, state, and within our communities. Our selected speakers are experts in their fields and will deliver the most up-to-date information available and provide useful insights to help put an end to this growing industry.

Look for the weekly HT link in your email throughout January. If you lose track of the email, you can always access each program on the SIGP or SIGM websites. Feel free to distribute the links to your friends, family, and people who will benefit from learning more about human trafficking. The more we know, the safer our world will be for tomorrow's generations!

Laurie Jost and Karrie Blankenship
 Human Trafficking Program Chairs

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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 of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Amount Raised in December from returning bottles and cans = \$225.70!

Gingerbread House Update

The SIGP Gingerbread House, created by SIGP members Anita Sandercott and Donna Fitzgerald, and displayed at El's Boutique on Kercheval in the Village, was a holiday delight. Although our entry didn't win a prize, many photos were taken and our "fan club" of customers and passersby definitely voted ours a winner. The house was a fun way to support our Grosse Pointe shopping district and raise awareness of our Soroptimist club.

Laura McCourt

Gleaners Food Drive

Our November speaker, Charles Graham, reinforced what we have all been hearing on the news. Food insecurity is a major problem both nationally and here in Detroit. People are very generous during the holidays, but hunger continues all year long. Our club is launching a "Friends and Family" food drive in support of Gleaners.

This is a small-scale event, asking for donations of canned goods and nonperishable items that YOU, your FRIENDS and your FAMILY purchased at the beginning of the Pandemic and now know you won't be able to use. Details will follow at our General Business Meeting. — Laura McCourt

Not too late to read article in GP News December 17, 2020, page 8B

https://www.grossepointenews.com/articles/soroptimist-performs-service-work-seeks-scholarship-nominees/

This year we're honoring three (3) Live Your Dream candidates

We have three awardees this year. A serendipitous alignment of good fortune occurred: We not only received applications from three worthy candidates but also raised enough money this year to allow us to award all three! (Normally we only award two.) Thank you to all of you who helped raise funds. You've made Ariel, Tonesia and Jeritha very happy! — Bette Lepouttre

JANUARY SPEAKER: Where will we be 100 days from now?

Dr. Marc Rosenthal, our September speaker, will join us again at our General Business Meeting on January 13, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. He'll give a brief update on COVID-19 and the vaccine rollout. He will answer your questions and concerns and will advise us as to how we can get through the rest of the winter safely, and what we can expect as the weather improves. Please submit your questions to: Laura McCourt at lauraleecook@yahoo.com or bring your questions to the meeting.

SIGP Awards Five Grants to High School Girls!

The ACT/SAT grants committee met in December and is happy to announce that we were able to award FIVE grants to local high school girls who were vetted by their counselors. The awards will allow them to take an ACT/SAT prep class through College Quest.

I'd like to thank Judi Dara, Carolyn Barth, Peggy Hart, Ellen Chapin and Marya Malkovich for taking time out during a very busy December to judge the applications.

— Helen Clarren, SAT/ACT High School Prep Award Chair

Did you receive an updated membership directory recently?

Our membership directory has been updated. Two SIGP members have moved: Rasheda Williams and Jane Evola. If you did not receive the updated member directory (or it's gone missing amidst your emails), please contact Diana Langlois at 313-690-1515. If you did receive it and noticed something in error, please let Diana know.



Happy January Birthday to ...

Marlane Washington, January 16

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

FRIEND TO FRIEND

Throughout the dark days of winter and during this long pandemic, a friend can help 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 friendship may blossom for you!



If you are interested, email Ellen Chapin: ellenchapin@sbcblobal.net or mail your request to 1003 Harvard Road, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT! HURRY! HURRY!

Virginia Wagner Educational Award

The Soroptimist Midwestern Region's Virginia M. Wagner Educational Award (VWA) honors the effort and scholarship of a woman who is attending a college or university to earn a Bachelor, Master, or Doctorate degree. First established in 1972, the award was renamed in 2004 to honor Dr. Virginia M. Wagner (Midwestern Region Governor 1982-1984) to commemorate her interest in higher education for women. The VWA is specific to states in the Midwestern Region: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Kentucky.

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe offers one award of \$3000 to the winner. Applications are judged on a rating scale by a panel of three judges who are not Soroptimists. The application can be found on the next page of this newsletter and on our website:

grossepointesoroptimist.org and are due online by January 15, 2021.

Qualifications

The applicant:

- is enrolled full time in a Bachelor, Master or Doctorate program
- has overcome obstacles to get her education
- has given back to the community in some way
- submits a current complete transcript with her application

For questions please contact Maddy Colavito at 509-551-1695 or mcolavito48@gmail.com Please see application on next page. Feel free to copy and distribute.



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Virginia M. Wagner Educational Award

Are you a woman living in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, or Wisconsin and seeking a baccalaureate or higher degree?

The Virginia M. Wagner Educational Award was designed to help women achieve their higher education goals.

Candidates are judged on the following criteria:

- Effort toward education
- Scholarship
- Extra-curricular activities
- Financial need
- General impression

For information about applying for the Virginia M. Wagner Educational Award, please contact:



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Name: Maddy Colavito

Email: mcolavito48@smail.com

Club Application Deadline: January 15, 2021

Amount of Club Award: \$3000.00

<u>Application Website:</u> https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/sigp-educational-awards.html
For application documents and requirements

ONLY FOUR WEEKS LEFT! HURRY! HURRY!

The Ruby Award - Women Helping Women

This award honors women, who through their personal and professional activities, are making extraordinary differences through their work to improve the lives of women and girls. The work of these women helps promote the issues that are important to Soroptimists, such as access to education, empowering girls, and ending violence against women and girls. The Ruby Award enables Soroptimist clubs to thank these women and encourage others to explore ways to assist women and girls.

Eligibility Requirements

Nominees are women who:

- ♦ Have worked to improve the lives of women and/or girls
- Have identified and focused on a need in their communities, which has significantly contributed to the improvement of lives of women and/or girls
- Have inspired and encouraged other women

Nominees are judged on the following criteria:

- ♦ Impact (numbers served)
- Commitment (length of time serving women and girls; 501c3 status; currently active)
- Encourages others to be involved (volunteer opportunities)

To nominate a candidate, please forward your nomination(s) to Maureen Anthony (maureen.anthony1@gmail.com) on or before February 1. If you would like to be part of the Ruby Award committee (one meeting to determine the winner), email Maureen.

Those ineligible for the award include previous winners, Soroptimist members and Soroptimist employees.



Happy New Year to every member of Soroptimist International, their friends, families and anyone reading this! May it be a healthy, peaceful and prosperous year for everyone!

Ruby Award Application on Next Page





Grosse Pointe Soroptimist International

an international volunteer organization for women

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SOROPTIMIST RUBY AWARD: For Women Helping Women Nomination Form

The **Soroptimist Ruby Award** honors women who, through their professional or personal efforts, are making extraordinary differences in the lives of women or girls. Honorees are women who have worked to improve the lives of other women or girls. Their work has had a significant impact and also inspires and encourages other women.

Women may nominate themselves or another woman they feel is deserving of this honor. Please complete this form and email it to Maureen Anthony at Maureen.anthony1@gmail.com.

Section I: Nominee Information

Nominee	
Address	
Organization	Date

E-Mail Address

Please include a short statement (no more than 500 words) describing why you (if you are nominating yourself) or your nominees (if you are nominating someone else) should receive the Soroptimist Ruby Award. (Note: it is necessary to get the written permission of the nominee. See below)

I consent to my nomination for the Soroptimist Ruby Award and to the accuracy of the information contained in this nomination form. I <u>understand that</u> my application and supporting information becomes the property of Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe upon submission which shall have sole discretion in using these materials for the purpose of publishing the Ruby Award program.

*Please note that as this is not a writable form so you will need to print the form, fill it out and mail it to the address below or scan it and email it to the Ruby Award Chair listed on the website.

Nominees Signature	Date
Section II: Nominators Information (if different from nominee)	

Section II: Nominators Information (if different from nominee Nominee

Address
Organization Date





Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe / 32 Lakeshore Road/ Grosse Pointe Farms / MI/48236 / USA

grossepointesoroptimist.org grossepointsoroptimist@gmail.com

Providing women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

SIGP members outdo themselves this year!

Clothing, toys, and stunning baskets donated to mothers and their children at Positive Images

Ladies of SIGP, as mentioned last month, but worth repeating, more than ONE-THIRD of our membership contributed to purchasing gifts for Positive Images (PI) children! We were able to supply 51 children with a new outfit and a toy or game! This was by far our best year of donations!!! You can see in the photos how wonderful the gift bags look!



Tah-dah! They finished putting all the clothes and toys together! A monstrous job since the number of volunteers had to be limited due to COVID-19. Pictured here in Diana's garage are: (I-r) Diana Langlois, Bette Lepouttre and Mary Ellen Burke.



Wreaths, artistically refreshed.

See more photos on next page.

On top of this, 50 gift baskets of all kinds of things were assembled by the efficient team of Anita Sandercott, Donna Fitzgerald and Ellen Chapin. Items in the gift baskets were recycled from garage sale leftovers or donated. Some examples of donations: Kathy DiCenzo, 50 pairs of gloves; Mary Ellen Burke, hand-made scarves; Mary Clare Toffanetti, 100 tea bags and silver bell candies; Jane Evola, 50 packages of cookies; Robin Crawford, china teacups; Nancy Solak, Kerri Green and Roseanne Horne, ornaments and holiday decorations.

Do take a look at the wreaths above. Ten of them and two table decorations donated this year! Dorothy Wasinger, Amanda Be and Donna Fitzgerald refreshed them and they looked brand new!

Delivering the baskets and gifts to Positive Images took five completely loaded vehicles: Bette Lepouttre, Roseanne Horne, Marya Rosenthal riding with Ellen Chapin, Mary Ellen Burke and myself.

Thank you again to everyone who donated money, items, or gifts. This was an extraordinary year!

— Diana Langlois

Positive Images Gift Giving (continued from previous page)



Working on baskets and wreaths indoors are (I-r): Anita Sandercott, Donna Fitzgerald and Ellen Chapin.



A sample basket.



All the goodies arranged by family on tables inside PI's Coplin Residence. The gifts are a part of the residents' party which will be held the next day.



Outside the Positive Images Coplin Residence are: (I-r) Mary Ellen Burke, Diana Langlois, PI's Administrative Assistant Carol Classen, Bette Lepouttre, and Mary Rosenthal. In the back is Ellen Chapin.

Our Ghana Girls

As of a few weeks ago there are no cases of Covid 19 in St. Anne where our girls are studying, nor are there any cases in Damongo, where the school resides. Alleluia! This is remarkable because other parts of the country have been hit, especially the larger cities

However, as of December 29, 2020, there are some remarkable statistics for COVID-19 in Ghana compared to the situation in Michigan. Ghana, which is a bit smaller than Michigan, hosts a population three times that of our state, around thirty-one million people compared to Michigan's population of around ten million people. But Ghana has "only" suffered 54,000 cases of the scourge, and 333 deaths. Michigan has suffered 480,000 cases with more than 12,000 deaths.

Perhaps the tight communities make a difference. Most people in developing countries do not have cars and do not visit various groups of people from other areas as frequently as do Americans. The vast majority of those in Damongo travel daily only as far as they can walk. We, in this country, tend to move around to many different places on a frequent basis and are in contact with many other people who are in contact with many others. Thus, the virus spreads. HURRY, VACCINES!

On a happy note, our club's first installment of donations for tuition and fees for the girls arrived safely. The girls are on their Christmas break right now, which lasts over a month, giving time for students to return home to various parts of the country for their home visits before the next term begins.

Several boxes of donated books were sent late last summer to St. Anne, but they are still in route. Hope the books arrive soon! Stay tuned. - Carol Hofer

January Pet Profile -- Meet Shadow!

After losing my beloved Hobbes to cancer, I thought it would be a while before I would be ready to bring another dog into my life. We had Sam, our chocolate lab, but even he was reeling from the shock of losing Hobbes.

And then a friend showed me a picture of an incredibly sad dog left tied to the door at Grosse Pointe Animal

Shelter in the middle of the night. Less than a week later, we were foster parents

to Sundance, the name given to him at the shelter. We renamed him Shadow because of the five o'clock shadow around his nose and mouth and because he literally became our shadow, afraid to leave our side.

We immediately decided to adopt him, and at 60 pounds, he continues to crawl into our lap any chance he gets.

When learning went virtual last March, Shadow became my Zoom mascot. The picture on the left is a screenshot during a Zoom math lesson with my 6th graders. I think most of them attended Zoom class just to see Shadow.



The picture on the right is Shadow hanging out with my grandson Jack. The two have become best buddies! — Marya Rosenthal

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!

Positive Images sends SIGP an appreciation note.



Continued on next page!



At left: SIGP members prepare baskets for the women at Positive Images (PI).

See pages 11 & 12 for details.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T READ THE ENTIRE DECEMBER ISSUE, you missed something.

At the end of the December issue of THE POINTER was a photo of a chubby squirrel wondering what sweet thing he should have for dessert. A free beverage (SIGP member's choice) was offered to all those who got that far and contacted the editor.

When COVID is over and it is safe to gather again, the editor will purchase a beverage to each of the following:

Kerri Green (who contacted the editor minutes after the newsletter went live! Obviously a speed reader!), Mary Clare Toffanetti, Bette Lepouttre, Peggy Hart and Karrie Blankenship. Congratulations all! And many thank for reading!

This will not be a monthly feature, however, it does pay off to be alert! Happy New Year to each and every one of you whether you read every word of the newsletter or not! — *Editor*

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 Internati	onal 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

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.

