



# The Pointer

## Presidents' Message

*An end is only a beginning in disguise.* — Craig D. Lounsborough



As we end our two years as co-presidents of SIGP, we look forward to new beginnings for the Club. The Board which will be installed this month is a group of experienced dedicated women who have new ideas and will move the Club forward on a new path.

We are proud of what we have achieved in two years. Our term as co-presidents began in the midst of a pandemic. This created many obstacles and challenges. Children always ask, "Are we there yet?" We kept hoping the end was just around the corner and it would be back to business as usual, but Covid persisted, and the challenges remained. The Club rose to meet the challenges and thrived. Zoom became not only our nemesis but our necessary friend.

How were we to retain our membership when we couldn't even meet in person? Not a problem. Membership engagement became a top priority with monthly 100's themes, interesting speakers, and socially distanced hybrid summer meetings and activities. New member orientation took a new twist with membership bingo. Who would imagine we'd be practicing yoga with goats!

The Midwestern Region lost four clubs and according to Iesha Brown from SIA, "We are losing members at a large rate." We are grateful that our Club did not succumb, but continued to attract new members.

Following SIA Covid guidelines, we were able to meet in person for our Holiday dinner in December instead of on Zoom, and it was great to see even more members in person at our Awards Dinner. We long for the day when every member will feel safe and comfortable being together face to face as a Club. No, we're not there yet, but the weather is improving, and our we'll have hybrid meeting at the Grosse Pointe Shores Park in June!

*(Continued on next page)*

Presidents' Message *(continued from previous page)*

Parenting continued once restrictions eased and mentors were able to connect with their mentees via Zoom and summer picnics. Our Human Trafficking Awareness 5k walk/run had to remain virtual, but as Covid restrictions eased, it was a pleasure to be in Royal Oak to view the documentary *Men Who Buy Sex: Everybody Pays* in the company of our Soroptimist friends.

Fundraising achieved new heights in spite of Covid's persistence. This year we were able to give four Live Your Dream Awards with one of our awardees continuing on to win at District, Midwestern and Federation levels. Two very deserving women won Ruby Awards, six high school girls won the opportunity to attend an SAT/ACT Preparation Course, and a previous LYD award winner made an encore appearance as our Virginia Wagner Award recipient. And the Continuing Education Award went to a previous LYD award winner who is fulfilling her dream of becoming a nurse. Mentoring continues, stronger than ever, with a new group of dedicated mentors and very excited mentees!

Dream It, Be It hit some potholes and icy patches with Covid outbreaks and staffing shortages at Positive Images, but financial support from the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation and a new virtual platform using Chromebooks with Google Classroom allowed the program to continue. With the grant, we expanded our reach with Healthy Cooking and Computer Classes.

We haven't hit the end of the road. We are ending our term as co-presidents and look forward to new beginnings, not only for the Club, but for ourselves as we all travel new paths.

— Marya Malkovich Rosenthal and Ellen Chapin, SIGP Co-presidents



## Time for Mentors and Mentees to Meet!

It's time for new mentees to meet their mentors for the coming year!

SATURDAY, JUNE 11 at 10 a.m.

LEO's CONEY ISLAND private dining room

23815 Jefferson at 9 Mile, St. Clair Shores, 48080

Mentors met on May 17, at Bette Lepouttre's home to discuss issues that may affect the mentoring relationship. Diane Kashuba led the discussion with members engaged in the conversation: Katherine Baetz, Karrie Blankenship, Maureen Anthony, Marlane Washington, Nancy Solak and Diana Langlois. It was an informative and uplifting meeting that will help us in coping with the emotions of our mentees that can be triggered by an event or words. Thank you everyone for your insights!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**SIGP's Business Meeting, Wednesday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Grosse Pointe Shores Park, 800 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores, & on Zoom**

**Stop at gate and give your name**

**INDUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS — There will be food to celebrate end of year!**



**SOROPTIMIST®**  
**Investing in Dreams**

### Dues Invoice

**Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe**  
*Investing in Dreams*

**JUNE 1, 2022**

32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com

TO Member Name:

Member Phone Number:



SIGP DUES	NEW MEMBER ONE TIME FEE	PAYMENT TERMS	DUE DATE
\$125.00	\$25.00	Due on receipt	June 8, 2022



DISTRIBUTION	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
	Soroptimist International of the Americas--Federation		
	SIA dues	74.00	74.00
	per capita payment to Soroptimist International	9.00	9.00
	Club liability insurance	9.00	9.00
	Founders' pennies	6.12	6.12
	Soroptimist International of the Midwestern Region	15.00	15.00
	Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe	11.88	11.88

SUBTOTAL 125.00

NEW MEMBER FEE

TOTAL

**Don't forget, Club dues are due June 15. If you haven't already paid, you can bring your check made payable to SIGP for \$125 to the meeting!**

## 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*

## SIGP's new officers to be installed June 8

Twenty-seven members attended the May Business Meeting and voted unanimously for the 2022-2024 Board of Directors. Your new officers will be:

President: Karrie Blankenship

President-Elect: Bette Lepouttre

Vice President: Diana Langlois

Secretary: Mary Bryk

Assistant Secretary: Nancy Solak

Treasurer: Ernesta Kurrle

Assistant Treasurer: Mary Ellen Burke

Directors: Roseanne Horne and Kerri Green

Non-voting Director: Carolyn Barth

Please plan to attend the June 8, Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Grosse Pointe Shores Park Pavilion. The meeting will also be available via Zoom. This will be the last meeting of the current Board so annual reports will be given before the installation of new officers. See you there!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### A social get-together for members and guests

- ENJOY A STROLL ON THE DETROIT RIVERWALK
- TOAST THE START OF SUMMER
- AND STAY FOR A BITE TO EAT

Please mark your calendar for JUNE 20, at 5:30 p.m. Soroptimists and guests are invited to see what is happening at the Riverwalk (voted best in the U.S. for the second year in a row). Details to follow after Memorial Day.

— Laura McCourt, Membership/Vice President





## Healthy (AND FUN) Cooking at Positive Images



### WARNING:

#### This article may make you hungry!

Last month, Soroptimists Ellen Chapin, Peggy Hart, Marya Malkovich Rosenthal, and Laura McCourt spent the afternoon at Positive Images (PI), offering clients and drop-in staff the opportunity to learn the basics of Air Fryer and Crockpot cooking. Marya demonstrated the Air Fryer while the rest of the crew put the finishing touches on pre-prepared Crockpot dishes. The early dinner included Ellen's bar-b-que shredded chicken sandwiches, and Laura supplying chili and beef stew. Corn bread and Cole slaw were served with the roasted potatoes and chicken wings prepared by Marya during her demonstration. Peggy supplied elbow grease to a kitchen in much need of cleaning.



The clients at PI experience many challenges in achieving a healthy diet. The women have limited income, live in a food desert, and often do not have either the tools or the know how to ensure proper nutrition. In addition to supplying both Coplin and the Boulevard locations with a Crockpot and Air Fryer, our group developed and distributed a cookbook featuring easy, low-cost meals using both appliances. SIGP members donated cookbooks and storage containers so clients can "make and eat a recipe," "freeze the leftovers," and "trade a meal with another client."

All participants agreed this was a productive afternoon for everyone involved, demonstrating an area of need for this population of women in recovery. Participants in the activity graciously presented SIGP members with a card of thanks for the meals, information, and appliances. — *Laura McCourt*



*Clockwise, starting from upper left: SIGP members Marya Rosenthal, Peggy Hart, Laura McCourt and Ellen Chapin doing a cooking demonstration at Positive Images. At left, the thank you note from PI.*



## CIVILITY WORKSHOP

Iesha D. Brown, SIA's Chief of Impact and Engagement, presented a Zoom workshop May 19 on the topic of Civility. She stated that the number-one reason why members have terminated their membership is due to a "lack of civility." Number two is "club functioning and operations," with number three being "not meeting expectations."

SIA is addressing the issue of civility since clubs are losing members at a large rate. She defined civility as interactions between people while demonstrating respectful behavior even when they disagree. Civility can be intentionally learned. There are basic rules for civil discourse. They are: be truthful; be attentive to tone; be conscious of facial expressions; be attentive to your opponent's point of view; process what is said; don't repeat yourself. Uncivil behavior includes: eye rolling; texting during Zoom; cliques; dominating; insisting on doing it the old way; shutting down ideas; being rigid; not listening.

There are ways a club can avoid incivility. Standards must be set. A member code of conduct with buy-in from all members can be instituted. Deepen connections with each other. Address instigators—if you see something, do something. Focus on the mission. Encourage niceties.

SIA is working on a member code of conduct. They are incorporating 10 important guiding principles of trust, respect, grace, communication, teamwork, leadership, diversity, inclusion, innovation, and decentralization. It will be launched in May 2023.

Information on how to view this workshop online will be in SIA's upcoming *Best for Women*, an online magazine each Soroptimist member receives via email.

## Happy June Birthday to:

Ernesta Kurrle, June 5

Karrie Blankenship, June 7

Peggy Hart, June 14

Marilyn Schafter Meyer, June 16

Francine Pegues, June 18

Kerri Green, June 27



nick-fewings-kmLUCvqhSo-unsplash

## Change in Business Meeting Venue Starts July 13

As the newly elected president of SI Grosse Pointe, I am excited to start a new phase for our Club with you. I have new ideas I am excited about, and I hope you will be too.

**Our July 13, Business Meeting will be at Wave's Chill and Grill, 24223 Jefferson Ave, St Clair Shores, MI 48080.** The private room will be available for meet and greet at 6:00 pm. and the meeting will start promptly at 6:30 pm.

We will meet at Wave's for all our Business Meetings, and you are welcome to enjoy a meal from the selected menu while we discuss business. Details and menu choices are listed below.

All meetings will be hybrid and recorded. I believe this will give members a chance to participate who are not yet comfortable attending in-person meetings or are unable to attend.

Thank you for your commitment to Soroptimist and our Club.

— Kind regards,  
Karrie Blankenship, President-Elect

### Menu for Business Meetings is as follows:

#### **NO variations. Drink charges are stipulated on the menu**

All entrees below are \$20 plus tax and gratuity. Separate checks.

#### **CHICKEN BIBB (w/cup of soup)**

GOURMET GREENS AND ROMAINE TOPPED WITH  
SUNDRIED CHERRIES, CINNAMON PECANS, DICED  
SEASONAL FRUIT AND GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST,  
SERVED WITH RASPBERRY VINAIGRETTE

#### **VOO DOO CHICKEN (comes with house salad and baked potato)**

GRILLED BREAST OF CHICKEN, TOPPED WITH  
CARAMELIZED ONIONS, MUSHROOMS,  
GUAVA BBQ SAUCE AND SWISS CHEESE

#### **WAVES PARADISE BURGER (cooked medium, w/French fries)**

BLACK ANGUS GROUND ROUND TOPPED WITH  
BACON, PROVOLONE AND CHEDDAR CHEESES,  
SERVED ON A BISTRO STYLE BUN GARNISHED WITH  
LETTUCE, TOMATO, MAUI ONION AND PICKLE

#### **FRIED LAKE PERCH (w/house salad and baked potato)**

LIGHTLY COATED WITH ISLAND BREADING,  
DEEP FRIED TO A GOLDEN BROWN  
SERVED WITH TARTAR SAUCE



## Tonesia Nesbitt wins Scholarship America Dream Award!

"A student in motion stays in motion." That's the philosophy of the Scholarship America Dream Award. Our very own previous LYD Award winner, Tonesia Nesbitt, has won this national renewable scholarship program. It's serendipity that the word "dream" is in both SIGP's **Live Your Dream** Award and this national scholarship called the **America Dream Award**. She will be going to Washington, D.C., all expenses paid, to receive her award. Congratulations, Tonesia!

Getting into college is a huge achievement. Similar to SIGP's dream awards, the Scholarship America Dream Award is designed to help students keep moving toward their degree by providing awards that stay with them. Students who have completed at least a year of college can earn Dream Award scholarships of \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year, renewable for up to three years.

The awards are offered to students across the nation who find themselves in need of financial assistance while overcoming barriers ranging from physical disabilities, family matters to social inequalities.

Each eligible potential scholar must have at least a 3.0 GPA, financial need, demonstrate overcoming great obstacles to fulfill their educational endeavors and, while continuing to do so, they must also show exceptional leadership qualities, community involvement, and commitment. Exceptional leadership qualities, community involvement, and commitment—that's "our" Tonesia! The description fits her to a "T"!

### Meet the 2022 Dream Award Scholars

#### Tonesia Nesbitt

Eastpointe, MI // Wayne County Community College, Detroit, MI // Nursing



A single mother whose daughter was born with multiple special needs, Tonesia is a student and inspirational speaker, pursuing her dreams of becoming an obstetrics nurse and author. She's working toward her degree in nursing at Wayne County Community College in Detroit; her goal is to educate and offer guidance on topics of health, wellness, medical support and community resources to new mothers. An avid writer, Tonesia has penned inspirational articles, poetry, and children's books; as a speaker, she had the opportunity to share a stage with Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Tonesia says her daughter's health struggles have taught her the true meaning of faith, sacrifice and unconditional love, and she continues to work hard in school to create a better life for herself and her family.

### Meet the 2022 Dream Award Scholars



### Special Guests



**Keynote Speaker: Meria J. Carstarphen, Ed.D.**

[Read Dr. Carstarphen's bio.](#)

AA scholarshipamerica.org





NATIONAL KIDNEY  
FOUNDATION®

of Michigan

KIDNEY  
WALK

National Kidney Foundation

## SOROPTIMISTS FOR JERITHA

May 15 dawned early for fellow SIGP members who participated in the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Walk at the Detroit Zoo. The morning was crisp, the skies were starting to open to the sun and everyone on the **Soroptimists for Jeritha** team was ready to support our 2021 Live Your Dream recipient who is courageously battling this insidious disease. Fifteen of our members joined 31 of Jeritha's friends and family as one of the largest registered groups.

I was really bummed, though, since I contracted COVID the weekend before and did not wish to compromise anyone else. So, I had to be satisfied with occasional texts and photos from the walkers who all seemed to be having a great time!

I would be remiss if I did not thank all of you who helped in any way to make this event a success. And while we can feel good about what we have done for Jeritha and others, their challenges continue. Since Jeritha's landlord has decided to sell the house she has been renting, our efforts have been geared toward finding suitable housing. We are very excited to report that Phoemale, a Grosse Pointe organization, offered to provide some funding toward Jeritha's housing, furniture and transportation. Beside all the meals made by our members, we also provided her a computer and printer. What more can I say besides **SOROPTIMISTS ROCK!**

— Maddy Colavito, Continuing Education Award Chairwoman



Family, friends and Soroptimists for Jeritha team!

(Continued on next page)

## SOROPTIMISTS FOR JERITHA *(continued from previous page)*



Soroptimists who were able to attend the Kidney Foundation Walk at the Detroit Zoo. (L-R) Mary Ellen Burke, Roseanne Horne, Carol Hofer, Bette Lepouttre, Kerri Green, Marya Rosenthal, Karrie Blankenship, Jeritha Brown, Maureen Anthony, Laura McCourt, Diana Langlois and Ellen Chapin.

## A Note from Maddy

My most sincere thanks to all of you who have responded with support for Jeritha and her family. Whether you were in any way involved with the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo, or have donated towards Jeritha's search for a new home, or helped with food when she was hospitalized, or prayed for her health and well-being...I thank you, thank you.

I will be moving to Washington State on June 13 to help with my newest grandchildren, but I know Jeritha will continue to receive our support and be in the most capable of hands.

Amongst all her challenges, Jeritha recently graduated at the top of her class and received her medical assistant certificate from Dorsey College in Roseville. Along with recent good news from each of our Live Your Dream recipients, our Club has much to be proud of. Our Mentoring for Success program is bearing fruit and I hope to encourage the Soroptimist Club in WA to consider establishing some of our programs. SIGP ROCKS!!!

**P.S. From Team SIGP: Thank YOU, Maddy for all you've created for our Club, especially growing the mentoring program and helping Jeritha. You are a precious gift and we will miss you so very much!**





*SIGP members Anita Sandercott (above) and Roseanne Horne helped pretty up the Mother's Day baskets with ribbons before Diana Langlois and Bette Lepouttre delivered them to the women at Positive Images. Women residing at Positive Images kindly wrote notes of appreciation. All of them were thrilled to get a basket full of assorted goodies. Club members collect the items all year round and Mary Ellen Burke holds on to them until they're ready to be sorted and counted. Thank you to everyone who donated items, sorted them, wrapped pretty boxes containing a matching jewelry set, put the baskets together, delivered, etc. Giving 50 baskets to Positive Images each Mother's Day has become a Club tradition.*



*SIGP members Peggy Hart and Laura McCourt (at left) represented SIGP at the annual Bloom Project in the Grosse Pointe Village shopping district. The rain held off long enough so they could plant 6 pots of flowers. A resident who is new to Grosse Pointe gave them a hand with the work, learning about Soroptimist, things to do in the area, and how to pronounce Goethe in the process. This is the third year Laura has spearheaded this public awareness activity.*

## Your chance to attend the 2022 SIA Convention virtually!



Today, we invite a delegate from each club and all other members, to join us at SIA's Virtual 47th Biennial Convention as we look ahead and dream of our brilliant future!

**July 22 & 23, 2022**  
**6:00-10:30pm EDT**  
**Interpretation Provided**

**Mark your calendars and register today!**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

There is so much to share about this unique event! Please see our [Call to Convention](#) for more exciting information. Included is a preliminary schedule of events to help you plan for the events.

On behalf of the SIA Board of Directors, we look forward to welcoming you to this exciting event. The dreams of our brilliant future can't happen without you!



## District III Emails

Interim Governor – **Christine Fowler Shearer**  
(fowlerartistic@gmail.com)  
Region Secretary - **Sheila Zingler-Gilbert** - (sheilasifdl@gmail.com)  
Treasurer - **Audrey Jarvey** - (audreyjarv@charter.net)  
District III Director - **Kellie Klingel** (ktingel@yahoo.com)  
District III Secretary - **Patricia Cavell** (bsktpac@comcast.net)

## Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwestern 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/soroptimistgrossepointe ..... 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](https://smile.amazon.com)

# SIGP Member Ads

## A SIGP Member Has a Special Deal for You!

Due to the virus and surgery on my hand, I have been off of work many weeks off and on. Now I am back and ready to help you with YOUR aches and pains. I am an independent massage therapist. Independent means no staff, no major company to hire me. I am on my own. So you'll know that you get all my time. No time taken off for you to get on and off the table like the chain companies do. I have 20 years' experience with knowledge of many modalities. I blend many options within your time with me.

My office is in a private, quiet location above WOW Gym (Women's Only Workout), 22601 Greater Mack Ave, SCS. It's across from Tropical Smoothie Cafe, corner of Elizabeth, opposite corner of SCS CVS. My special for any Soroptimist member is 70 minutes for \$60; 90 minutes for \$90.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE — Call today, don't delay!

Sincerely, Rosanne Morrow at 313-205-7117

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



**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  
[reneerodriguezphotography@gmail.com](mailto:reneerodriguezphotography@gmail.com)  
248.778.8206  
[www.renee-rodriguez.com](http://www.renee-rodriguez.com)

**SIGP members are welcome to place ads here at no cost.**

**To place an ad, contact *The Pointer* editor, Nancy Solak, at  
[solaksinitaly@yahoo.com](mailto:solaksinitaly@yahoo.com)**