



The Pointer

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2020 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING at VILLAGE GRILLE

16930 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe; Parking & Private Entry Door in Rear

General Meeting starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. — Meet and Greet at 6:00 p.m.

The Fabulous, Uplifting, Delicious SIGP Awards Dinner

Our annual Awards Dinner, scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, is one of the main reasons SI-Grosse Pointe exists. It is a delightful evening as we bear witness to deserving recipients as they accept their awards. Friends and family members of the awardees, as well as the judges, also attend.

The dinner will be held at Assumption Cultural Center, 6:30 p.m., and costs \$30. Please make checks payable to: **SIGP**. You can mail or give your check to Co-Treasurer Bette Lepouttre at our upcoming general meeting February 12, meeting at Village Grille.

We look forward to as many of you as possible joining this joyous event. If you can help set up before the dinner, please contact one of the chairwomen: Roseanne Horne or Ross Braun.

Ruby Award Deadline Coming Up Fast

The Ruby Award honors a local woman who is making, or has recently made, a significant contribution to a non-profit (501(c)(3), that improves the lives of women and girls. A \$500 gift is made, in her honor, to the nonprofit she works or volunteers for. The winning applicant will be recognized at our annual awards banquet, March 11. (SEE NOTICE ABOVE.)

To date, Laura McCourt and Rosanne Morrow, co-chairs, have received 4 nominations but will accept additional nominations until February 28. If you have an applicant you wish to nominate, please do so as soon as possible. See the SIGP [website](#) for additional information or contact Laura or Rosanne if you have questions.

The Ruby Award committee will meet February 29, at the Ewald Library meeting room, from 11:00 am 1:00 pm.

Editor's Note: Time-sensitive information on pages 2, 5, and 6



S O R O P T I M I S T

Best for Women

Join Us for a Wine Tasting and Accessory Sale
An Evening of Friendship and Information about
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GROSSE POINTE (SIGP)

website: grossepointesoroptimist.org



Photo by [Scott Warman](#) on [Unsplash](#)

If you are interested in supporting and helping women in the community and around the world, this is an opportunity for you to meet the dynamic women of SIGP and take a look at SOROPTIMIST projects at local, national and international levels.

Take part in the Accessory Sale during the wine tasting ...
bring new or gently used items (jewelry, scarves, purses, belts, surprises)
Something you no longer want may become a treasure to someone else!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020, 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Home of Ross Braun, 515 Middlesex, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Bring a favorite bottle of wine to share.
Members please bring an appetizer or dessert to pass and
2 bottles of wine so we can include 1 in our free raffle!

RSVP by Monday, February 24, to Ross Braun at

(313) 909-0230, or email: braunross@aol.com

P.S. Feel free to photocopy this flyer to give to a friend or relative.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aleksa Andjelkovic
President

Carolyn Barth
Program/Service Chairwoman

Dorothea Williams
VP / Membership

Roseanne Horne
Ross Braun
Past Presidents

Mary Ellen Burke
Treasurer

Bette Lepouttre
Assistant Treasurer
Fundraising

Mary Ellen Brayton
Secretary

Ellen Chapin
Assistant Secretary
Public Awareness

Myra Golden
Director

Marya Malkovich Rosenthal
Director
Hospitality Chair

January Meeting Illustrates SIGP's Depth

SIGP member Kerri Green gave an entertaining and informative slide presentation about the recent trip she made to Ghana with SIGP members Carol Hofer and Rosanne Morrow.

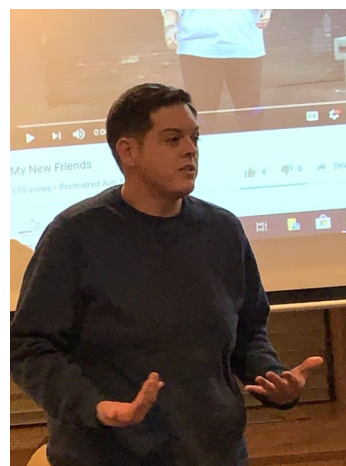
We also had guest speakers Gail Marlow and Aaron Richards of the Motor City Mitten Mission. If you're one of our members who has donated plastic grocery bags, you'll be happy to know that 4 million of them have been collected and made into washable, durable and insulating mats and pillows for the homeless.

The Motor City Mitten Mission (www.motorcitymittenmission.org) has also served more than 17,000 meals to people who live on the street. Volunteers go out each evening to distribute the meals. If you're interested in volunteering in one of several capacities, go to their website listed above.

With Kerri, Gail and Aaron, we learned a lot about our own community and that of Ghana's.



At left, Kerri Green dressed in typical Ghana garb, and at above, the gorgeous photo album she made of the trip.



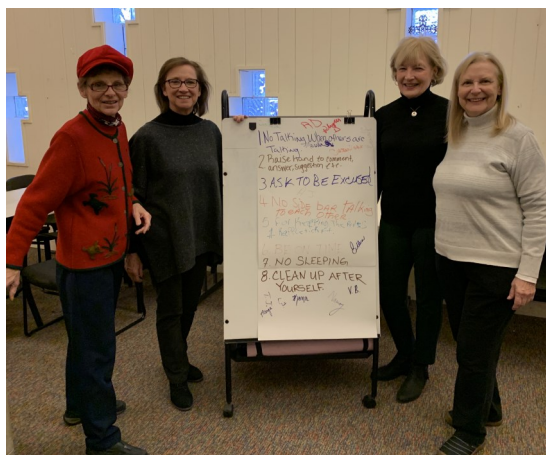
At left is Gail Marlow, founder and executive director of the Motor City Mitten Mission, and one of its volunteers, Aaron Richards.

POSITIVE IMAGES (PI): A quick update

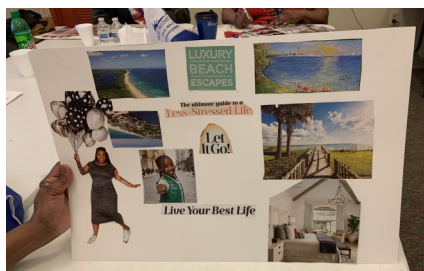
Maisha Kenyatta has faith in the Lord and is therefore applying for a loan to cover the renovation of the E. Warren building. A builder has been selected and the roof repair will happen during February into March. Not only will the roof be repaired, but Maisha's plan also includes repainting the counselors' rooms and the installation of new carpets throughout. It will be a fresh new look when the building reopens! If you know of anyone who is willing to donate to this very expensive project, please ask them to make a check donation to Positive Images, Inc., which is a 501(c)(3).

DREAM IT BE IT

Ellen Chapin and Marya (Malkovich) Rosenthal began another session of DREAM IT BE IT with the PI women who live on E. Grand Blvd. and the Coplin residential center on Tuesday, January 21. Although the sessions with 12 women went well (see photos below), the logistics of being at Coplin have not been good. When the sessions are over, an evaluation will be made whether to continue this initiative at Positive Images.

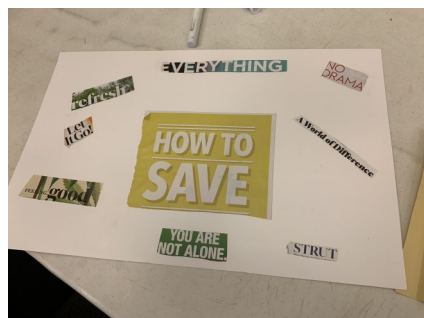


At left are just a few of the SIGP members who volunteered for the Dream It Be It program. They are (l-r): Carol Hofer, Marya Malkovich Rosenthal, Ellen Chapin and Nancy Solak. PI clients developed their own rules for the program on the whiteboard seen here.

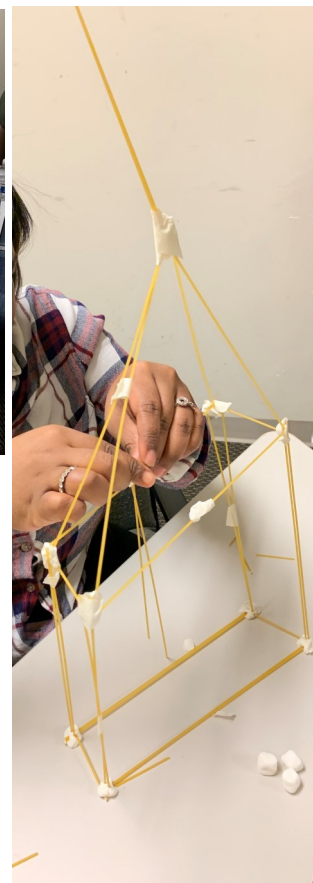
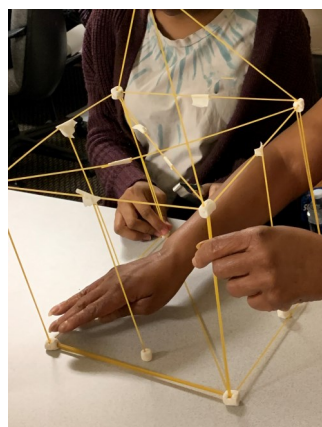
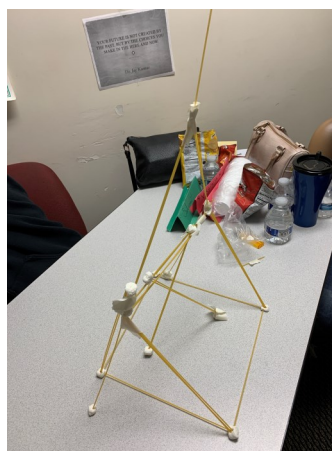


Lots of activities are part of the Dream It Be It program.

At left, samples of participants' Dream Boards, an exercise to help in planning ahead.



At right, three teams compete to see whose spaghetti/marshmallow structure is the tallest—an exercise in frustration and teamwork!



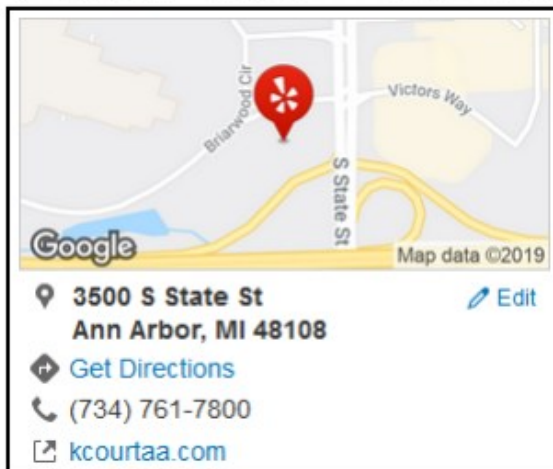

SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Save the Date
Spring Conference 2020
April 24, 25, & 26
Kensington Hotel Ann Arbor MI

Educate to Empower



Darcy Merritt
Installed as Governor of the
Midwestern Region



**MORE INFORMATION
TO FOLLOW**



**Helping women and girls
live their dreams**

Welcome new members Geri and Deborah!

Since our New Member Orientation last November, SIGP has gained two new members: Geri Pleva and Deborah Weatherston. Another New Member Orientation is planned for April. **Our club now has 67 members!**



We always welcome anyone interested in our club to attend a general meeting to learn about all the wonderful projects and services we offer to make a difference in our community. Please consider inviting a friend to attend our **Wine Tasting and Accessory Sale on Friday, February 28**, for a fun evening of friendship and information about SIGP. **More infor-**

Photo by [Belinda Fewings](#) on [Unsplash](#)

CALLING FOR MEMBERS WHO WANT TO WORK ON GRANT WRITING...

Needed: A few members to help work on a Club Grant that will provide additional money for **Live Your Dream Award** winners as they continue to overcome obstacles to attending classes toward their degree or certificate. SIGP submitted a similar grant last year to Soroptimist of the Americas, Federation level, but it was not selected.

Let's try again! Brainstorming meeting, Sunday, February 2, at my house, 561 Hollywood, GPW, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Please let me know if you are coming or if you're interesting in jumping on board after this meeting.



FEBRUARY — Happy Birthday to ...

Maddy Colavito, February 20
Deborah Thomas, February 22
Liz Lucas, February 23
Karen Klein, February 26



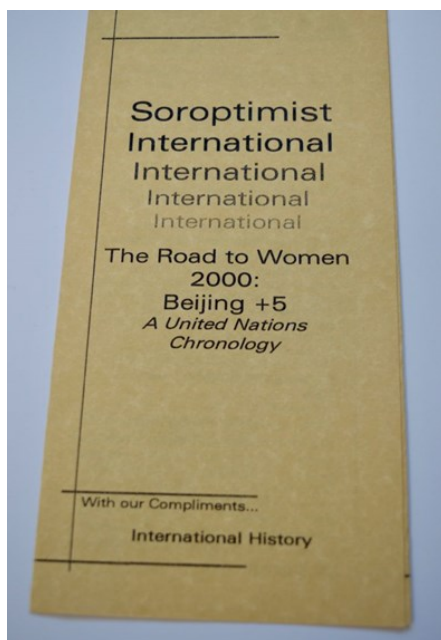
Bellevue, Washington • July 22-25, 2020

Registration for SIA's 46th Biennial Convention in Bellevue, July 22-25, 2020, is in full effect. Click here to [register](#)

“LET’S KEEP ON MOVING FORWARD” TOWARD EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

by Dawn Marie Lemonds, a participant in the NGO Forum September 1995

“Not one of the 50,000 people at the opening ceremony of the 4th World Conference on Women (4WCW) in Beijing 1995 could ever forget the power of voices singing together at the largest event ever held on women’s issues. The **Beijing Declaration** continues to be a “guiding document” articulating the 12 critical issues impacting women of the world. The parallel NGO conference, themed “Look at the World through Women’s Eyes,” was attended by 45,000 women in the nearby city of Huairou and presented over 2000 scheduled events in the ten-day period.

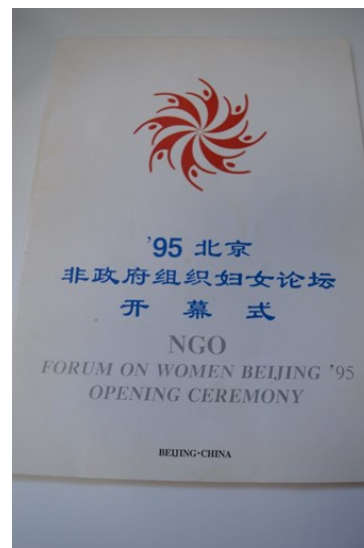


More than 100 Soroptimists participated in both the 4WCW and the NGO Forum – led by then SI President Patsy Daniels, SI Leaders and UN Representatives. Soroptimist leaders served as advisors to the Government delegations, particularly on Human Rights issues and Education. At the NGO Forum, workshops were presented by Soroptimists on topics such as: *Women in Prisons*, *Women’s Rights in Kenya*, and workshops on education. Ironically, the issue of Human Trafficking was hardly on anybody’s minds in 1995 and only mentioned as an afterthought in the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) – although there were a few great workshops on the subject.

The two conferences focused on Poverty and recognized that a lack of education, lack of paid employment and violence against women are key contributors to the issue. In 1995, there were few elected leaders in power, a great disparity in all services for women, and many countries had prohibitions against women owning property or even making decisions for their children. Technology was revealed in 1995 as something that would positively impact the world and microcredit loans were being given to women to remediate poverty. I attended over 50 workshops and programs, including an 8-hour tribune on *Violence Against Women*, a workshop on *Muslim Women’s Experience of Violence*, an amazing play from the Philippines on human trafficking, and I soothed my soul at a singing workshop with a

gospel group from Washington DC. My life was forever changed.

Fast Forward to Beijing + 25 and the world is now focused on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since 1995, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) annually addresses the progression toward areas of the PFA and the SDG’s related to gender. What is better—what is worse now? It is affirming that due to constant and persistent NGO presence, gender is now being addressed. Much to the surprise of many, UN Women was formed in 2010, giving women a seat at the BIG UN Table. Poverty reigns as a predominant issue, human trafficking has gained a front seat of concern, climate change, overpopulation, food security and violence in society are also gaining recognition as key issues affecting women. There has been some progress made for women in education, a slight increase in elected women leaders, and some economic advances. Yet, there is much to do. We, as Soroptimists and as citizens of the world, must continue our own work and partner with like-minded organizations through advocacy and service. We must “keep on moving forward, never turning back, never turning back” (Reference Holly Near song, sung at the Opening Ceremony).”





“Journey of Grace” Survivor Retreat

Editor’s Note: The information below is part of SOAP PROJECT’S retreat for female survivors of domestic abuse and trafficking. If you know someone who is a survivor and might be interested in attending a healing retreat such as this one, please forward them this information. The cost is free to survivors but SOAP PROJECT needs help fundraising for this. SOAP pays for airfare as well. An average retreat of 30 survivors costs \$14,000. Frequently Asked Questions are below.

Where is the retreat held?

The retreats are generally located in Michigan or Ohio at various locations each year. We will pick you up at the closest airport if you are flying. No visitors are allowed while at the retreat.

Are survivors required to participate in the all activities and meals provided?

No but there are some required sessions for the entire group. Most activities are optional and by selection. We ask that everyone join the entire group for meals. Activities are important to the healing process and have been carefully planned. We ask that everyone give it a chance.

Is this a religious or Christian retreat?

The retreat is spiritually based but not specifically Christian. Our volunteers come from a variety of faith backgrounds. Many of them have chosen to assist with the retreat because of their faith and beliefs. Survivors of any faith background and sexual orientation are welcomed.

What services are provided?

Rooms are generally double occupancy. We will send out a list of the names of everyone attending the retreat so if you know another person and want to room with them, just let us know. We provide breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are also snacks and drinks. We also have healthy snack options at certain times of the day. In the past, activities have included budgeting/finance assistance, jewelry making classes, massage, haircuts, makeup, self-defense, yoga, nutrition, how to be a professional speaker, etc.

What are the requirements for “The Journey of Grace” Survivor retreat attendance?

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must be willing to try all the classes offered
- Must bring all prescribed medications
- Must not be currently in a “program” for trafficking or recovery.
- Must agree to stay on the property the entire weekend.

What does a retreat weekend look like?

A typical weekend includes:

Rooms – Each woman will share a room with another survivor in a safe environment and is able to go there when they need some time alone.

Common Dining – Three meals are served each day in a common space. This will allow survivors a way to meet and build relationships with others and learn about options and healthy nutrition.

Morning Programs – Each morning, activities are planned. These can be outside or inside, depending upon the weather, but are on the property.

Optional Participation – Our goal is to assist survivors in creating the weekend that helps them to rejuvenate, heal and grow. We believe in options and choices as much as possible, but also know the value of our programs. It is sometimes difficult to heal and grow, and because of this, we ask that survivors try everything offered.

Afternoon Enjoyment – Same as in the morning but also break/alone time is built into the schedule to allow reflection, journaling and bonding.

Evening Fun – Each night, we will host activities which are fun such as a drum circle, female comedian, music, etc.

Continued on next page

Journey of Grace continued from previous page

What do survivors need to bring with them to the Retreat?

Many of your needs will be provided at the retreat but you should bring comfy clothing, toiletries and a list of current medications. Phones are permitted. We are fortunate to get many donations to make your stay comfortable.

What if a survivor plans to come but needs to cancel at the last minute?

Space is very limited for the retreat and we ask that a survivor commits to coming once accepted. We understand things happen though. If you have to cancel, we ask that you let us know a week prior to the retreat so another survivor can attend. *IF we have purchased an airline ticket, it is your responsibility to repay the SOAP PROJECT.*

Who are the volunteers at the Retreat?

It is important to know that ALL retreat volunteers are Female. Retreat volunteers help us make this an amazing experience for you. They are trained professionals, doctors, nurses, therapists, pastors, various religious orders, law enforcement, bankers and much more. It is important to know that they have given up their weekend and some have traveled far to be able to facilitate this retreat for you.

What is the long-term goal for “The Journey of Grace” Survivor’s Retreat?

Our hope for the future is to have retreat venues that can maximize the number of survivors who can experience a retreat weekend. We also are hoping to expand these services to alumni survivor retreat attendees for continued support, to have an all-male human trafficking survivor’s retreat, and LGBTQ survivor retreat. (Currently any female who has been trafficked is eligible to attend the weekend regardless of gender identification or sexual orientation, but we recognize the need for more specialized programs for healing and support to this population)

If you need to contact me, call: 740-405-1308 or email us at theresa@soaproject.org



The Casoe Group presented Soroptimist Grosse Pointe with this Honorary Membership Award for our individual support of its mission. Casoe is a performing arts organization and multimedia center for young adults in Detroit. For more information, call 313-656-4600.



2020 – NEXT STEP ON THE JOURNEY TOWARDS EQUALITY

6TH JANUARY 2020 PRESIDENT NEWS

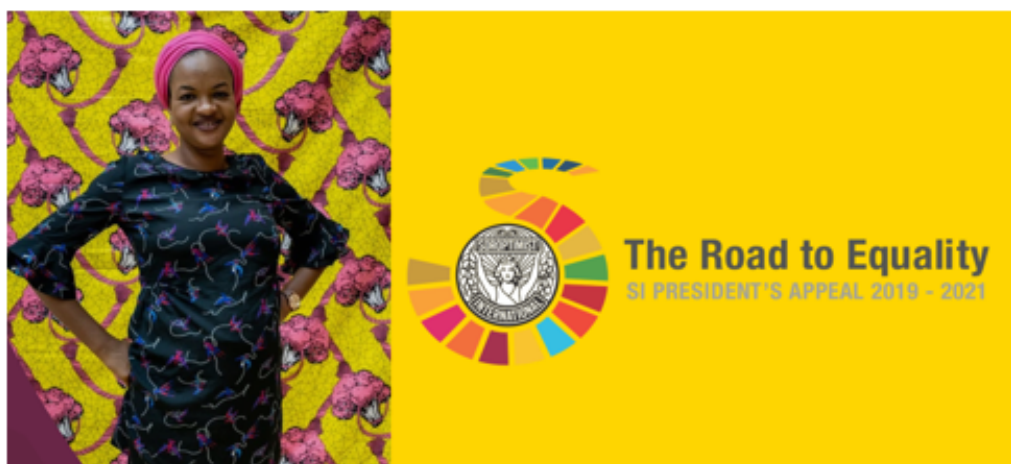
Dear Soroptimists
“Happy New Year to you all!

The value of any social movement is having everyone moving in the same direction toward common goals. We can be the messenger that brings the complex global issues facing women and girls into focus and aligns them with the program work of Soroptimist International (SI). We all share the dream for Soroptimists to be a voice for gender equality, and as we *Educate*, *Empower* and *Enable* women and girls, we can realize a better future for all. I believe we are stronger together – working in harmony at all levels will strengthen our Clubs, Federations and organization, to meet the challenges that we will face.

We know that education is key to removing barriers for women and girls, and yet often access to education can be negatively affected by gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices, conflict, disaster, and climate issues. Violence not only has negative consequences for women and girls, but also for their families, the community, and the country at large.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page



There is much work to do and lots to celebrate in the next two years, including:

- 1 Increasing our profile by collaborating with other organizations;
- 2 Completing the dream of chartering the Africa Federation;
- 3 Celebrating 100 years of service;
- 4 Filling the buses to travel the "Road to Equality";
- 5 Supporting the work of our dedicated Advocacy Team;
- 6 Increasing and maximizing communications to Federations and Members;
- 7 Launching the next century of Soroptimist International!

A warm welcome to 2020 and I look forward to our cooperation in meeting our goals, fulfilling the dreams of women and girls, and sharing fun and laughter with Soroptimist friends.

Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to show their support for the new SI President's Appeal 'The Road to Equality', there is so much more to come.

The world is changing, and change creates opportunities for the issues we are passionate about. I am excited to join you as we engage in the possibilities".

SI President 2020-2021 Sharon Fisher

THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

• 27TH JANUARY 2020 SIHQ CSW64

The sixty-fourth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2020. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world will join together with 100 delegates of Soroptimist International (SI).



SI Director of Advocacy Bev Bucur says: “I am excited to be coordinating the activities for CSW64. SI President, Sharon Fisher will be leading a delegation of almost 100 Soroptimists from around the world at this important meeting focusing on the anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The theme of this year’s CSW64 ‘*Realizing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls*’ focuses on the outcomes of the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#) and current challenges in meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

Soroptimist International will have many activities, including several Parallel Events and Side Events, planned in partnership with the Federations, and other partners. You can participate even if you cannot personally come to New York. Official sessions will be broadcast on [UNWebTV](#). Be sure to visit the Soroptimist International website, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest news”.

SI President Sharon Fisher says: “Having attended the United Nations CSW numerous times, I have gained a broad understanding of the role of Soroptimist International and the dedication consistently shown by our delegates each year. This particular year is particularly significant, due to it being the anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. With 100 Soroptimists joining together in New York, together with member states, civil society and other members of our global community, I look forward to working to accelerate the realisation of gender equality, and sharing the experience with Soroptimists from all over the world”.

This year the global community will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) and the adoption of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (1995) in numerous ways. A five-year milestone will be reached towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

District III Emails

Governor- **Kris Armstrong** - (krisquin@msn.com)
Governor Elect- **Darcy Merritt** (dmerritt81@hotmail.com)
Secretary - **Missie Austin** - (missieaustin@gmail.com)
Treasurer - **Audrey Jarvey** - (audreyjarv@charter.net)
District III Director - **Mary Pilon** (pilonmary0@gmail.com)
District III Secretary - **Lata Shastri** (shastrilata@gmail.com)

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

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

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe Renee Rodriguez
INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://instagram.com/soroptimistgp) Sarah Sheppard
TWITTER: [@soroptimistgp](https://twitter.com/soroptimistgp) Jean Kroll

NEWSLETTER: THE POINTER is on the website and is also
emailed to members Nancy Solak
MEDIA: Newspaper articles, radio PSAs, etc. Carolyn Barth



Remember to use AMAZON SMILE smile.amazon.com
(look for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe)



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

We just saw history. Today, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment – crossing the three-fourths threshold of support required from the states. Now we need Congress to remove the deadline so the ERA can become a permanent part of the U.S. Constitution.

When the ERA passed Congress in 1972, lawmakers attached a 1977 ratification deadline to it, which they later extended to 1982. Earlier this month, the League of Women Voters of the United States sent a letter to the United States Congress urging them to remove the ratification deadline on the ERA.



Thank you to the many League volunteers who have worked tirelessly for ratification in their states—and who continued to push for ratification even after the deadline passed. Now that the ERA has been ratified, we will not stop fighting for equality under the law and pushing to see the ERA become the next amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Women have waited decades to see the ERA pass, and this is the perfect way to kick off 2020, a year that celebrates 100 years of women's voting rights. It's time for Congress to remove the ERA deadline and make this dream a reality!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Carson".

Chris Carson
President, League of Women Voters

SIGP Member Ads

RENÉE RODRIGUEZ
PHOTOGRAPHY



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
248.778.8206

www.renee-rodriquez.com