

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
January 2023



President's Message — Welcome 2023!

Along with the new year will come innovative ideas, creative ways to improve our awareness and newfound ways to fundraise.

Natashia Al-Rafie (Tash), the new Director of Human Trafficking at Turning Point, reached out to us through our website. She hoped we might work together on anti-human trafficking awareness initiatives.

[Turning Point](#), located in Mount Clemens, recently received a federal grant and expects to open temporary housing in February for human trafficking survivors. Tash, along with SIGP members Liz Lucas, Aleksa Andjelkovic and I met virtually to discuss plans and ideas on how SI of Grosse Pointe can help.



Our fundraiser, the **Live Your Dream Award Infinity Cruise** aboard the Infinity yacht is set to sail on July 11, 2023, at 11:30 am, and we need passengers and sponsors. All amounts of donations and sponsorships levels are welcomed and needed. To learn more on how you can reach out and acquire sponsorships, please see page 4. If you have questions or need help, you can always contact the chairwoman of this fundraiser, Francine Pegues, at fepegues@comcast.net or 313-969-0523.

Our January 11, business meeting is an important one. We will vote on our club's proposed updated bylaws and other items needing your attention and vote. Please make sure to attend the meeting either virtually on Zoom or in person at Fishbones, in St. Clair Shores. A quorum for the bylaws vote is needed and will take place at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. You can come as early as 6 p.m. to get settled in and to visit with other members.

Have you sold all your raffle tickets? If you need more tickets, contact Bette Lepouttre at elepouttre@gmail.com. **For the Love of Wine Raffle** is our biggest fundraiser for our current fiscal year and is how we support women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

(Continued on next page)

President's Message (continued from previous page)

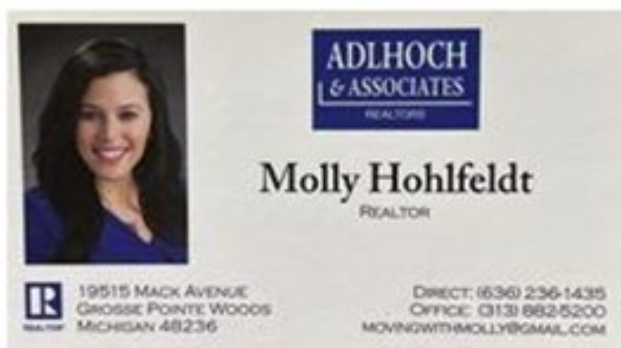
I would like to extend our thanks to the **Holiday Dinner Auction Committee** for a fabulous display of holiday items and to those who donated them. Because of your generous donations we raised more than \$1,600 for the Soroptimist International President's Appeal, [Opening Doors to a Bright Future](#).

Thank you to the Auction Committee members Carol Hofer, Donna Fitzgerald, Anita Sandercott, Dorothea Williams, and Barb Skelly. And thank you to Dawn Riddle for putting our dessert table together, to Roseanne Horne for chairing the event, and to Marchiori Catering for the great food and service.

On behalf of the board and myself, we want to thank you all for your continued commitment to Soroptimist and to the women and girls we help.

In Soroptimist spirit,
Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President

Thank you Sponsors of SIGP's Live Your Dream Award Infinity Cruise!



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The name Soroptimist was coined from the Latin *soror*, meaning sister, and *optimus*, meaning best. Soroptimist is perhaps best interpreted as “best for women.”

For the Love of Wine 🍷 Raffle

New Year ... new beginning! Please sell, sell, sell raffle tickets! This raffle funds women and girls and gives them a chance to grow and dream big! Your support is truly appreciated to meet our SIGP goals. If you need more tickets, feel free to contact me any time. (elepouttre@gmail.com)

Blessings in this New Year!
— Bette Lepouttre, President Elect

Ruby Award Nominations

The January 15, deadline for the Ruby Award nominations is near. If you are interested in nominating someone, here is a link to our webpage for information and a form:

<https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/programs-and-services.html>

For any questions, please contact Dorothea Williams, wdorothea@aol.com

SAT/ACT Preparatory Course

You may not know this, but our club finances five young women each year to take an SAT/ACT Preparatory course. Barb Skelly, chair of the program, reports that scholarships were awarded to 1 student from South High School and 4 from North High School. Whether they need to take the SAT or ACT or not doesn't matter. Every student who takes the course learns how to test better and increases their confidence while being tested.

Mentoring

It was good to see Maddy Colavito on our TGIF MENTORING FOR SUCCESS Zoom on December 9. The surprise was Denise Sargent from Windsor!

Mentees were reminded to apply for THE MADELINE COLAVITO CONTINUING EDUCATION AWARD of \$500 that is available to them once they submit the required documentation.

— Diana Langlois, Mentoring Chair



Positive Images

Once again, sincere thanks to the many members who contributed to the holiday bags for the women of Positive Images AND for the donations of children's gifts. Your service to Positive Images over the years is admirable and makes a difference in the lives of these women. Thank You!

— Diana Langlois, PI Liaison

SIGP to host fun summer event while simultaneously raising funds

Welcome aboard!



Our club is in the midst of planning a Detroit River cruise to be held Tuesday, July 11, 2023, aboard the beautiful *Infinity* yacht. We hope you will join us on this journey by soliciting a sponsor and attending the event (if you're available during the day). Your business or personal contact is the push we need to see our club arrive at its destination – \$13,000! The monies will support our myriad service projects and awards for women and girls.

If each SIGP member contacts just one individual or business to support SIGP's programs and educational awards, imagine how much we can give women and girls the boost they need. Help us identify individuals and/or businesses to support SIGP's mission.

Please email or snail mail the solicitation letter (attached to the email that brought you to this newsletter) to ask them to sponsor one of our awards in exchange for spreading their name/brand or service to more than 130 people aboard the *Infinity* on the day of the cruise. Augmenting that, the *Grosse Pointe News* plans to place an ad with the names of our sponsors—that's more than 5,000 readers! You can tell your prospective sponsor that graphics will appear in each month of our club newsletter during 2023 (which goes to 140 people) and every visitor to our club's web site will see it (QR Code at right brings you to our web site). Sponsors will also be invited to our Awards Dinner in March and, of course, to the cruise in July. Their names will be on every piece of promotional material we send out.



It's amazing to consider how Soroptimist of the America's (SIA's) "Live Your Dream" awards have been supporting women for fifty years! We know from mentoring and talking to previous winners how much our support helps.

Unfortunately, many women continue to be marginalized through no fault of their own, and just like their predecessors, they passionately yearn to get an education. **They** know how important an education is to their well-being and the well-being of their families. **And we** know how important an education is to the well-being of our community.

If you would like me to follow up with those to whom you mail or email the solicitation letter, let me know. Please note on page 2 the sponsors we have attained thus far.

If you need a copy of the solicitation package, open the attachments at the bottom of the email that brought you to this newsletter. If you have questions or need help figuring out how to proceed, contact me at fepegues@comcast.net or call me at 313-969-0523. We really need you to join us on this voyage. Your help could be a life saver. Thank you!

— Francine Pegues, Chair,
Live Your Dream Award Cruise Committee

2022 Holiday Dinner



SIGP members Carolyn Barth and Peggy Hickey.



AAUW-GP President Sandy Stanley, SIGP President Karrie Blankenship and SIGP President Elect Bette Lepouttre.



SIGP members Barb Skelly and Mary Ellen Burke.



The all-important Cookie Table. Thank you to all who made goodies for our Holiday Dinner. And thanks to SIGP member Dawn Riddle for coordinating their procurement.

More photos on next page!



Fr. Justin Kelly says grace. SIGP member Carol Hofer is seated next to him.



SIGP members Ellen Chapin and Francine Pegues.



SIGP members Kerri Green and Maureen Anthony.



SIGP members Liz Lucas and Lillian Frazier.

More photos on next page!



SIGP members Marlane Washington, Aleksa Andjelkovic, and Diane Kashuba.



SIGP member Toni Adams and her friend Margaret Shakespeare.



SIGP member Nancy Kelley with her husband Mike Calloway.



As is our custom, SIGP member Carol Hofer led us in singing carols. She's accompanied by Julie Beutel.

More photos on next page!



Yes, SIGP member Roseanne Horne is carrying two dinners, one for herself and one for Carolyn Barth.



SIGP members Carolyn Chandrasekar and Laurie Jost.



SIGP members Donna Fitzgerald and Anita Sandercott flank Frank Fitzgerald who amusingly emceed the auction that raised more than \$1600 for the SIA President's Appeal.



SIGP members Annie Mae Holt and Mary Bryk.

— Photos by SIGP member Nancy Solak —

In Memoriam RITA FLAHERTY (1935—2020)

Rita Flaherty, a member of Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) for 33 years (1978-2011), donated \$1,251.84 through her estate. I am filled with gratitude that she thought to remember SIGP in her will.

Rita grew up in Chester, Pennsylvania, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from West Chester State Teachers College in 1957. Shortly after graduation, she moved to Grosse Pointe Farms with her family. She taught fourth, fifth and sixth grades at Kerby Elementary School for more than 30 years.

Besides teaching elementary school children, Rita started a retail business. She owned and managed an educational supply store, The School Bell, for more than 10 years. She became a lifetime member of The Grosse Pointe Theatre and wrote and produced several plays. She was also committed to raising funds for Project Hope.

In 1978, Rita joined SIGP and remained an active member for 33 years. She attended monthly meetings, participated in fundraising events, and even attended an SI convention in Australia.

She then became involved in the Friendship Link program corresponding with one of the Soroptimists she met in Australia. She shared her love of the theatre with SIGP. Rita recruited many of us, including me, to perform in one of her plays. It was held at the Broadway Onstage Theatre in Eastpointe. Whether we were on stage or in the audience, we all enjoyed it.

We are grateful to Rita for her years of service as a Soroptimist as well as remembering our club in her will. Her donation will make a large difference helping to fund our awards, service projects, anti-human trafficking initiatives, international commitments, or a combination thereof.

She is survived by many loving friends and grateful parents and students who will miss her bright smile, generous spirit, and her love of teaching.

— Mary Ellen Burke, Assistant Treasurer

Insights on Mentoring

SIGP member Rasheda Williams, a mentoring consultant and founder of Empowered Flower Girl, recently shared her insights on mentoring and supporting youth as part of the Shondaland Power of Impact Series. Shondaland is the pioneering storytelling company founded by *Grey's Anatomy* and *Bridgerton* producer Shonda Rhimes.

The article ["How Mentorship Supports Young People in Difficult Times"](#) was published on the website in December. Check it out to learn about some amazing organizations across the country pairing youth with mentors and how you can make an impact.

Our club earns \$15 for each hour we work the Detroit Boat Show

Once again Soroptimist Grosse Pointe has been asked to help with staffing at a boat show. This time it is the Progressive [Detroit Boat Show](#) at Huntington Place (formerly Cobo Hall). Dates include the weekends of January 14 -17 and January 20 – 22. Please see Sign-up Genius for details.

Friends and family are invited to “volunteer” also. Our Club will earn \$15 for each hour worked.

Thanks for your support. All money earned will go to our programs and scholarships.

If you did not receive a SignUpGenius email that looks similar to the one below, or would like more information, please contact Roseanne Horne, 313-706-1801.

SIGP JAN 2023 INDOOR BOAT SHOW FUNDRAISER

THIS IS WHAT YOUR SignUpGenius EMAIL LOOKS LIKE.

You have been invited by Roseanne Horne to sign up for "SIGP JAN 2023 INDOOR BOAT SHOW FUNDRAISER." Please click on the button below to view details and the online sign-up sheet. Another wonderful way to raise funds for Soroptimist Grosse Pointe's educational programs and awards!

Sign Up



Natalia Nagorniak

Happy January Birthday to ...

Marlane Washington, January 16

The following poem, authored by previous Live Your Dream Award winner Tonesia Nesbitt, sends a positive message as we head into the new year. Tonesia is studying health care and pursuing nursing at WCCCD. She aspires to become an obstetrics and home health care nurse, researcher and motivational speaker. She is working toward publishing children's books and stories. Thank you, Tonesia, for adding your voice to our newsletter.

Stand Up! by Tonesia Nesbitt

So, you think you're down,
mouth all skewed, face a frown?
And you think you are down and out,
fists clenched, stomping, pout?
Shouts, screams
tears flowing, shattered dreams.
Country in disarray; hatred searing,
angry crowds, jeering.
Wine bottles, broken glass, windows shattered,
littered streets, fires, crash;
angry voices, raise.
Crowds assemble; peaceful praise.

Praise the broken-hearted
praise the targeted,
praise the educated,
praise the level-headed.
Praise the call,
the cry and call, includes all.
Praise the call for peace.
Rise up in the west, south, north and east.
Hands together, let's take a stand.
Our country will heal again - together;
joined hand and hand,
solutions will come as long we
rise up, and stand



SI of Monroe County
Invites you to
Ann Arbor, MI



The Kensington Hotel
3500 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

**SPRING
CONFERENCE**

**SAVE
~ THE ~
DATE**

April 21-23, 2023

It's About More Than It Seems

The Story of the Ukraine

SAVE THE DATE: AAUW GP EVENT

Date and Time: Saturday, January 28, 2023, 11:00 am

Location: Village Grille (lunch)

16930 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Michigan

Presenter: Natalie Melnyczuk

- NATO representative to Ukraine as the Head of NATO Information and Documentation Center in Kyiv, Ukraine
- Political Officer in the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division at NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium
- 30 years as an analyst, academic and diplomat for US think tanks

Look for an invitation in January to this timely and relevant discussion of the Ukraine. Natalie focuses on:

- Global impact of the Russia/Ukraine conflict
- Ukrainian woman's role and contribution as a result of the conflict



JANUARY MOVIE



When: Monday, January 9, 2023

Time: 2:45 p.m. (movie starts **promptly** at 3:00 p.m.)

Where: Okulski Family Theater at the Lavins Activity Center- Windmill Pointe Park-Grosse Pointe Park

Movie: **On Golden Pond** is a 1981 family drama starring Henry Fonda, Katherine Hepburn and Jane Fonda. It focuses on the estranged relationships of family members and in the things they felt for each other, yet in time, are resolved by human growth and change.

Cost: \$15.00 (pre-paid by following the instructions and completing the form below). **There will be no collections at the door and therefore no walk-ins will be honored.**

Masking is encouraged and social distancing at your discretion.

This is a fundraising event. Bring a friend and support the American Association of University Women Grosse Pointe Education Program with an afternoon of friendship and camaraderie.

RSVP deadline: Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Please return the form below with your payment. Proceeds will benefit our robotics, art contest/exhibit and scholarship programs.

Make checks payable to *AAUW Grosse Pointe Education Program* and send to:
Barbara Tecos, 1237 Balfour, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230, (313) 882-1081.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone# _____

Email address: _____ Total # attending: _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

Name(s) of those attending _____

NOTE: Soroptimist Grosse Pointe provides service projects and financial support to our local therapeutic recovery community, Positive Images.



POSITIVE IMAGES INC.
A Therapeutic Recovery Community



“To truly love we must learn to mix various ingredients — care, affection, recognition, respect, commitment, and trust, as well as honest and open communication.” — bell hooks

How to Help

“Ask the person in recovery how they’re doing and if they need anything.

Respect their boundaries regarding how much or how little they want to talk about it.

Family members also can be supportive by hosting substance-free celebrations or making sure to offer non-alcoholic beverages.”

Bronwyn McInturff, director of the UAB Medicine Addiction Recovery Program.

**CALL POSITIVE IMAGES AT 313-822-6940
WE'RE ACCEPTING REFERRALS FOR OUTPATIENT
SERVICES AND RECOVERY HOUSING!**

(Recovery Housing Referrals must be women with or without children.)

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Soroptimist Websites

Grosse Pointe Soroptimist: <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org/>
Soroptimist International Midwestern Region - simwr.org
Soroptimist International of the Americas soroptimist.org
Soroptimist International soroptimistinternational.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.



SOROPTIMIST®
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SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

WEBSITE: grossepointesoroptimist.netYOUR NAME!
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/sigp-calendar-.html> for calendar

Submit photos, club information, news, upcoming events, and dates to this e-mail so the information
can be accessed by all public awareness chairs.

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Nancy Solak

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe.....Geri Pleva

INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://instagram.com/soroptimistgp).....Geri Pleva

NEWSLETTER & MEDIA: *THE POINTER*

is on the club's website and is emailed to each member

Deadline for photos and articles is the 28th of each month..... Nancy Solak



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