

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

President's Message

As I am closing out 2017 and doing a little reflection and a little looking-forward to 2018, I want to share a few thoughts with you, our club members. Those of you who know me well, know I have an introvert's heart, know I read quite a bit, and I am consistently trying to do better, be better and always learn a little more, whenever possible. This part is not unlike most of you, if not all!

We had a wonderful, well-attended Christmas dinner at the Assumption Center on December 13th. Notwithstanding horrible weather, 33 members attended and we raised a respectable amount for the President's Appeal. Thank you, Jane, for your attention to every detail! We all appreciate all you do!

I read an article in the Wall Street Journal yesterday which had me changing this message to you because I want to share it! Supreme Court Justice John Roberts gave a speech at his son's 9th grade graduation last spring. Instead of wishing all the graduates "good luck and extending good wishes to all", he did something a little different. Instead he said he "would not do that, he would wish them bad luck, and I'll tell you why".

"From time to time in the years to come, I hope you are treated unfairly, so you will come to know the value of justice.

"I hope that you will suffer betrayal, because that will teach you the importance of loyalty.

"Sorry to say, but I hope you will be lonely from time to time so that you don't take friends for granted.

"I wish you bad luck, again, from time to time so that you will be conscious of the role of chance in life, and understand that your success is not completely deserved and that the failure of others is not completely deserved either.

"And when you lose, as you will from time to time, I hope every now and then your opponent will gloat over your fail-

ure. It is a way for you to understand the importance of sportsmanship.

"I hope you'll be ignored so that you know the importance of listening to others, and I hope you will have just enough pain to learn compassion.

"Whether I wish these things or not, they're going to happen. And whether you benefit from them or not will depend on your ability to see the message in your misfortunes."

I am not sure how the speech was received by the graduates, but I believe each and every one of us has seen the message in our misfortunes! We all have been treated unfairly, suffered betrayal, been lonely, had bad luck, experienced a loss, or been ignored, at some time. These are harsh realities most of us have experienced since we were in 9th grade and beyond.

How fortunate for each of us and our community we have joined together as Soroptimists, to alleviate the tragedy, pain and misfortune of others. Together we value justice, know the importance of loyalty, do not take our friends for granted, recognize the role of chance in life, the importance of sportsmanship, and have learned compassion. With the recognition of "bad luck" in our lives, and all these hidden gifts because of it, we can move forward into 2018. I wish us "Good Luck" and "best wishes" for an amazing 2018!

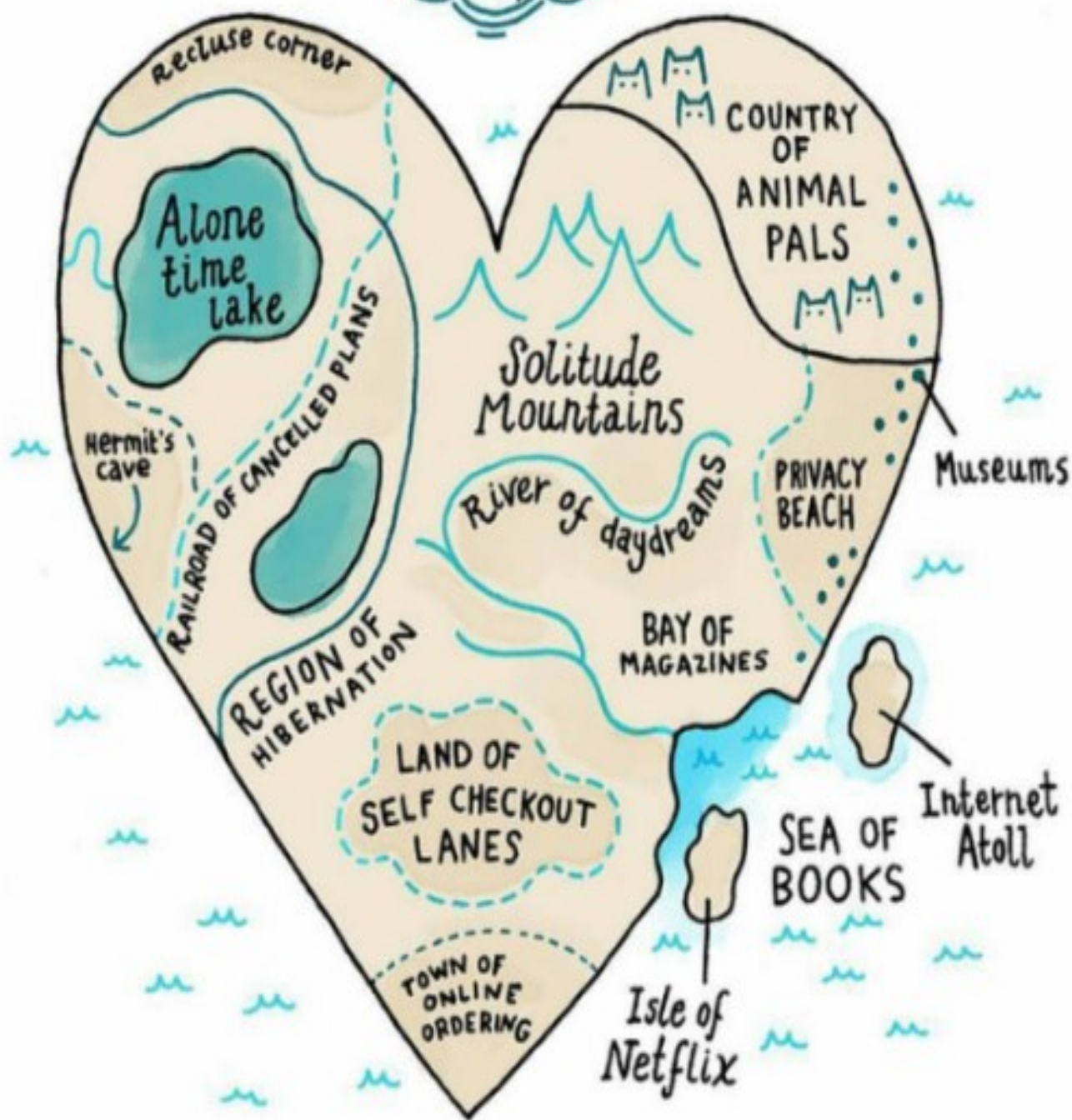
I remind you each to mark your calendars for the Wine Tasting and Accessory Sale on Friday, February 2, and the District Meeting on Saturday, February 3.

My very best to you and your families! Ross (and Roseanne)



Our Co-Presidents
Ross Braun & Roseanne Horne

((A Map of))



The Introvert's Heart*

BY AN INTROVERT

* NO CELL PHONE RECEPTION

Gemma CORRELL 2014

.....

DATES TO REMEMBER

SAVE THE DATE

SPRING CONFERENCE

April 27, 28 & 29, 2018

Sheraton Lisle Hotel in Lisle, IL

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3 Board Meeting 6:30 pm	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Gen. Bus. Meeting 6:30 pm	11 National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness in US	12	13
14	15 VW Award Applications due to clubs & District LYD Award Winners due to Region Chair	16 Marlane Washington Birthday	17	18	19	20
21 Myra Golden Birthday	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Pointer Articles due	29	30	31			



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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Jewelry Boxes



Silk Scarves
(infinity or fashion)

Cosmetic Bags



MOTHER'S DAY ITEMS

Mugs

Cosmetic Bags

Tote bags

Oprah magazines

Silk Scarves (No bandanas or winter scarves please)

Toothbrushes (individually wrapped)

Toothpaste (sample size)

Dental Floss

Jewelry boxes



shutterstock - 123901525



Thank you to everyone who has donated items in the past.
Please keep the women of PI in mind before you toss these item in a drawer.
We collect items all year round for our Mother's Day Bags.

See photo's below.

Please contact Mary Ellen Burke to deliver donations.

**MARY ELLEN
BURKE**

meh650@aol.com

Diana, Roseanne and Anita wrapping the Jewelry -

Mary Ellen counting the bags -

Items in each 2017 Mother's Day Bags



Days for Girls

Friends of SIGP

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and for getting back together in the Happy New Year to keep up our good work. I know some of you will be leaving soon for lengthier travels; we wish you well and look forward to seeing you in the spring.

Saturday December 2 was amazing. We had 20+ women working at just about every task you could imagine. We might have had 7 or 8 decades of ages, starting with our 5-year-old runner who brought shields from sewers to ironers and back again. Mary had to go home midway to get more pinned shields for the sewers. It was great.

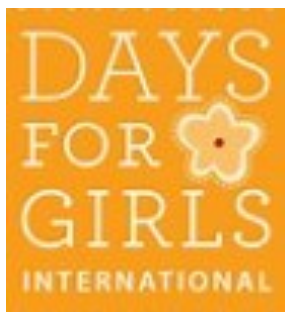
Coming up:

January 13 -- 9 am to 11 or noon -- GP United Methodist Church, [211 Moross, GP Farms](#). We will be packing 75 kits for H.A.R.T. and possibly previewing a bit of the education module used when kits are distributed on the ground.

January 27 -- 9 am to noon -- GP United Methodist Church. Regular gathering with a wide variety of tasks to join. It was so fun on 12/2, we want to do it again!

Best regards to one and all.

Sandra S. Mengel
[313.331.7728](tel:313.331.7728) home
[313.580.5965](tel:313.580.5965) cell



Ghana Girls Update

Reports indicate that our six students continue to do well at St. Anne High School. They will be sending writing samples next term which we will share in this column. In the meantime, the dry winds off the Sahara Desert are leaving red dust everywhere in the area, and the really hot season begins. This, as I shiver this moment thinking about our own temperature outside of 4 degrees F!

The headmistress of the School, Mary T, is taking another education position at another school in town, and so there will be a new person with whom we communicate. Stay tuned.

Preparations for PI's Christmas Party

Many hands working with the PI Christmas baskets and the PI children's clothing helped us to complete these tasks in just over an hour. Thank you Diana for hosting!



The Christmas Party for Positive Images

The Christmas Party for the Positive Images women and children was another great success this year. The beautifully wrapped Xmas baskets were a big hit again this year. Also all the donated new clothes and toys were much appreciated by the mothers as they "shopped" for their children. Maisha and her staff were so thankful for all of our donations and the volunteers that came to help!

A special thank you to Diana Langlois for organizing the shopping list and keeping track of the donations as well as the volunteers!

Thanks also to our 13 Soroptimist members and one guest who came to help: Mary Ellen Burke, Liz Lucas, Peggy Hart, Myra Golden, Anita Sandercott, Nancy Solak, Ellen Chapin, Marya Malkovich, Roseanne Horne, Carrie Petrocelli, Jessie Enole, Paula & Tishara Davis and Diana Langlois.



**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF MONROE COUNTY**
invites you to an informative
Roundtable Program

**FEBRUARY
3
SATURDAY**

We will discuss what the various clubs are doing as well as what is currently happening at Soroptimist International.

We will focus our efforts on ways to enhance wellness levels and how to promote healthy lifestyles.



**Healthy Living
2018**

SOROPTIMIST
Dedicated to Women

The featured presenter for our Roundtable will be **Cindy Vedra**, who is a certified health coach and massage therapist. Cindy will lead us in an exploration of workable ways to incorporate health and fitness into our daily lives.

This timely program can change the way you approach your own wellness routines and offer different perspectives on being your best self.

Make the time to join us for a helpful, insightful look at how you are ... and how you can be!

TIME TABLE FOR OUR DAY:

- 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
*Light & Healthy Breakfast
plus Socializing*
- 10 a.m. - Meeting begins
- 12 noon - Lunch is served

COST: \$35 per person

We will meet at Monroe Golf & Country Club
LOCATED AT 611 COLE ROAD, MONROE, MICHIGAN

Directions from North I-75: Turn right at exit #18 (Nadeau Road), follow Nadeau Road to Vivian Road. Turn left and continue on Vivian bearing to the right when it turns into Cole Road. The Monroe Golf & Country Club will be on your right.

Please park in the lot adjacent to the clubhouse.



Please R.S.V.P.
NO LATER THAN
Friday, January 26th

E-mail: heather.burkhart@mbandt.com
Or call Pricilla Hutra: 734.242.0153

SIA Headquarters

REMINDER: If you have not already done so, please click on this link:

[club member survey](#)

to take a quick 2 minute Club Member survey from SIA Headquarters. The purpose is to learn more about Soroptimist members so they can be better served.

**Join us for Wine Tasting and
an evening of friendship and information about**

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GROSSE POINTE

website: grossepointesoroptimist.org

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 2, 2018

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
and an
appetizer to pass.**



RSVP by January 31st to Ross Braun at (313) 909-0230

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2017 Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe's Christmas Party Photo's compliments of

Even six inches of snow couldn't stop the holiday festivities for our club's annual Christmas Dinner! 33 members and guests enjoyed the delicious food, abundance of cookies, fellowship and the tin can auction fun at Assumption Cultural Center. Thank you to Jane Evola and her helpers for organizing this event. Our tin can auction raised \$568 for the Soroptimist International President's Appeal: Woman, Water and Leadership. Amazing! Thanks to all who contributed auction items and those who purchased raffle tickets.



2017 Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe's
Christmas Party
Photo's compliments of

RENÉE RODRIGUEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

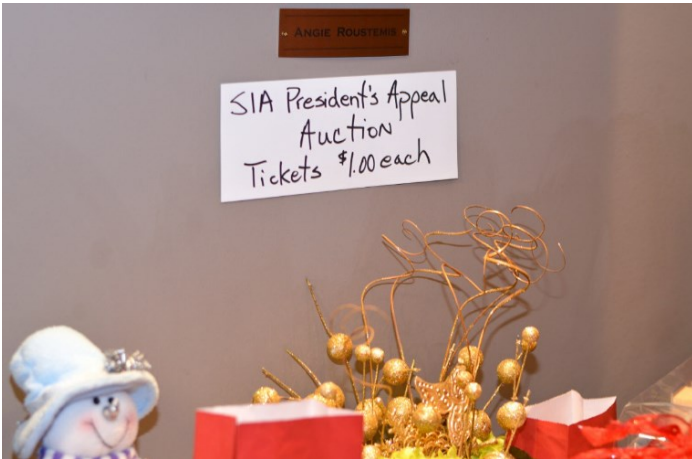


*Happy
Holiday's
To All*



2017 Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe's
Christmas Party
Photo's compliments of

RENÉE RODRIGUEZ PHOTOGRAPHY



How much do You Know about the **Ruby** Award: For Women Helping Women?

This award honors women who, through their **personal or professional** activities, are making extraordinary differences through their work to improve the lives of women and/or girls. The work of these women helps to promote the issues that are important to the Soroptimist organization, such as, access to education, empowering girls and ending violence against women and girls. Honorees are ordinary women who have worked in extraordinary ways to benefit other women and/or girls. The program enables local Soroptimist clubs to thank these women and encourage others to explore ways to assist women and/or girls.

Finding the Person You Want to Nominate

Eligibility Requirements:



A Ruby Award recipient should be a woman who:

- **Has worked to improve the lives of women and girls,**
 - **Has identified and focused on a need in their communities, which has significantly contributed to the improvement of women and girls' lives,**
 - **Would inspire and encourage other women.**
- The majority of the nominee's work should have occurred within the past two years. **Previous award winners, Soroptimists and Soroptimist employees are not eligible for the award.**

Please nominate your eligible candidates today!
Forward your nominations to *Marlane Washington*, at marlanewashington@gmail.com or *Rosanne Morrow* at rosanne723@comcast.net on or before **January 15, 2018.**

Thank you - Your Ruby Award Co-Chairs, Marlane Washington & Rosanne Morrow

VIRGINIA M. WAGNER EDUCATIONAL GRANT APPLICATION ARE DUE

January 15, 2018

The Midwestern Region's Virginia M. Wagner Educational Grant (VWA) honors the effort and scholarship of a woman who is attending a college or university to earn a bachelors, masters, or doctoral 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 Virginia Wagner Educational Grant application can be found on our website: grossepointesoroptimist.org and the Midwest Region website: simwr.org

Qualifications: applicant...

- **is enrolled full time in a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree program**
- **has overcome obstacles to get an education**
- **has given back to community in some way**
- **submits a current complete transcript**
- **has not won previous VWA**

The VWA is specific to states in the Midwestern Region: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Kentucky. Women living in these states and attending a college or university in pursuit of a bachelors, Masters or Doctoral degree are eligible to apply.

For questions please contact Diana Langlois at dilang58@comcast.net or Liz Lucas at elspetpeabo@gmail.com

Thank you - Your VW Award Co-Chairs, Diana Langlois and Liz Lucas

Sara grew up in Iraq. Her family sent her to the United States to marry a man she did not know, in hopes that she would have a better, safer life and escape the chaos going on in her country. As it turned out, her marriage proved to be a nightmare, when her husband began physically and mentally abusing her. "I lived in this miserable marriage for 10 years. I did not speak any English and had no friends or family I could ask for help."

When her children started school, Sara began taking parenting classes that provided resources and information about domestic violence. "I realized that if I wanted to leave, I needed a plan for economic independence, so I enrolled in my local community college."

But Sara's husband did not approve of this decision. He ripped up her high school diploma and refused to let her go. "Eventually, I was able to convince him that I would be able to support him with the loan money I would receive for going to school, and he agreed to let me go."

Within two years, Sara completed her associate's degree in pre-elementary special education and graduated with honors. From there, she transferred to a four-year university, and then the abuse escalated. "[One day] my husband drove me to the university to force me to drop my classes, threatening to kill me if I did not. But in the parking lot, I was able to get away from him and call the police. University staff was able to help me find a place for my children and myself in a first step shelter."

Sara felt lost and scared, as leaving a marriage is considered unacceptable in her culture. She's still fighting legal issues surrounding her divorce, which she says add a painful layer of emotional and financial struggle, but she is happy that she and her children are surviving and moving forward.

Sara continues to work on her bachelor's degree in

elementary special education and will graduate this year. Her dream is to become a teacher and eventually obtain a PhD so that she can help improve her state's public schools.

"Education is so important for mothers because they have a major influence on their children's education. This award will help me continue my education and graduate, so that I can provide a good example for my children and give back to my community."



Sara was a SI Grosse Pointe LYD award recipient then went on to win at the Regional Level and then she won at the international level, SIA's LYD Award.

Sara is now a member of SI Grosse Pointe.

To here Sara's story click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajTmJ5OQr3k>

Human Trafficking committee meeting 11-28-17

Present: Ross Braun, Carol Hofer, Karrie Blankenship, Sara Shepperd, Dorothea Williams, Roseanne Horne.

Not present: Mary Ellen Burke, Carolyn Barth, Carrie Petrocelli, Aleksa Andjelkovic

Items Discussed:



Walk-a-thon: Karrie Blankenship said she would co-chair. Sara Shepperd also will co-chair. We think Carrie P and Renee R. are both also interested in co-chairing

Decisions:

Date: we are considering April 15 or 22 or May 20
Venue: we discussed Grosse Pointe South HS track/
Belle Isle/ route along Jefferson/route along Kercheval

Slogan: Stop Traffic

Cost?: Need to cover cost of tee shirts

Need Sponsors:

Check with police about closing streets (GPW Police officer/ GPS Shores station) - Roseanne
Check calendars of events: GP Chamber of Commerce, city parks and recreation
Partner with Greater Macomb club?

Invite: Other Soroptimist clubs

Other organizations: Vista Maria/ Alternatives for Girls/Michigan Task Force/Wayne County Medical Foundation

Schools: GPN/GPS- Track and Cross Country teams/ Honor Society

Volunteer groups: St. Lucy's

Advertise: flyer/Save the Date/Facebook

Raise money and awareness for: Shelter? Soap? Vista Maria? Alternatives for Girls? Wayne County Medical Society?

We discussed having a speaker event a few weeks after the walk-a-thon and advertise at the walk-a-thon.

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, January 23rd
at 7:00 pm at GPW Library
All are welcome to join

[View Map and Directions](#)

Woods Branch

20680 Mack Ave | Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 | [313-343-2072](tel:313-343-2072)



END HUMAN TRAFFICKING NOW!

Report a tip

Call 1-888-3737-888 or text BEFREE

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>



Business Name
member of the Midwestern Region

2016-2018 Board Members &

Chairs

Roseanne Horne-Co-President

Ross Braun-Co-President

Aleksa Andjelkovic-Pres. Elect

Program Chair

Dorothea Williams-VP

Membership Chair

Mary Ellen Burke-Past Pres

Kerri Green-Treasurer

Jane Evola-Asst. Treasurer

Fundraising Chair

Ellen Chapin-Secretary

Nancy Solak-Asst. Sec.

Public Awareness Chair

Myra Golden-Director

Marya Malkovich-Director



Please have your article's to
Karrie Blankenship by 9:00 pm
on or before 28th of each
month to:
karrieb40@gmail.com

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 larg-
er fellowship in home, in society, in business,
for country and for God*

For upcoming events and to see what SIGP has been up to
check out our website by clicking the link below
<http://www.grossepontesoroptimist.org/>



Connections for Local, Region & HQ

District III Emails Contacts

Governor- **Vivian Walczesky** - (vivianwal@sbcglobal.net)

Governor-Elect **Kris Armstrong** - (krisquin@msn.com)

Secretary - **Anita Newman** - (siurbana@soroptimist.net)

Treasurer - **Valencia Clark** - (yclark003@columbus.rr.com)

District III Director - **Darcy Merritt** (dmerritt81@hotmail.com)

District III Secretary - **Mary Pilon** (pilonm@sbcglobal.net)

Soroptimist International of the Americas - (siahq@soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - (simwr.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas (soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International (soroptimistinternational.org)

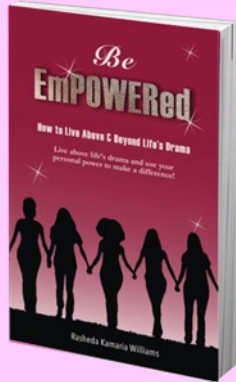


SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®



Bulletin Board

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TEENS TO LIVE
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WILL TRAVEL
In Office revitalize staff w/chair massage
REST, RELAX and RESTORE IN MY CARE

I have been a Massage Therapist for over 15yrs and I am licensed with the state of Michigan, insured, and attend continuing educational classes to stay current with the latest techniques.

I am trained in many styles of message therapy techniques some of which are listed below:

Swedish (lighter style)

Therapeutic (getting into those sore areas)

Deep (getting deeper into those knots)

Reflexology (concentrated massage on the hands, feet, legs arms, can stay mostly dressed for this one)

Prenatal (massage for the Mom to be).

Massage's help many different aspects of your life such as circulation, stress/anxiety, muscle soreness, headaches, insomnia, menstrual cramps, sinus problems, just to name a few. Since I work with the body muscles I can sell BioFreeze, a pain relief gel which comes in roll-on or gel in a tube for \$12 each.

YOU get my undivided attention, I work on you the whole time you pay for no cutting corners and I can design a massage program just for you and your specific needs. I have a massage special that can't be beat, a 70 minute massage for ONLY \$60, my office is located in a quiet and private area of the Eastin Inn complex, 2nd floor, located on Little Mack Ave. between Masonic Ave. and 13 Mile Road in Roseville, Michigan.

I offer gift certificates, I can travel to you, I also do private parties or come to your office to offer stress relief for the staff with my Massage Chair, the ideas are endless.

Feel free to call and discuss options [313-205-7117](tel:313-205-7117)

NEW LOCATION: 20166 Greater Mack, SCS, MI 48080
MOVING SPECIAL: \$50 for an hour or \$60 for 70 minutes
Anyone can take advantage of this offer, new are past clients. Buy a gift certificate for gifts, go in on a gift for the boss, teacher, or other people on your gift list.

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 **Agillence**
Optimization Company

KERRI GREEN
Manager
Supply Chain Services

Office: 1.248.731.4905
Cell: 1.586.651.9222
kerri.green@agillence.net




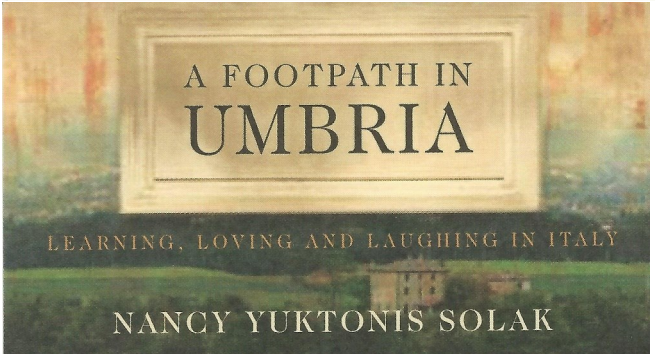
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A Reluctant Traveler

Nancy Yuktonis Solak

Nonfiction Editor:
memoir, travel, medical, health,
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E-mail: solaksinitaly@yahoo.com
Website: www.areluctanttraveler.net

A FOOTPATH IN
UMBRIA

LEARNING, LOVING AND LAUGHING IN ITALY

NANCY YUKTONIS SOLAK

JME Financial, LLC
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Retirement Planning & Insurance Professional

Jane M. Evola
President

586-263-5858
fax: 866-523-7533

direct: 586-322-2394
jane@jme-financial.com

Sarah Sheppard

313-804-4100
sshepp01@gmail.com



Writer, Book Editor, Copy Editor,
Ghostwriter, Writing Instructor

Below is SIGP's book club picks for 2018.

If you are interested in reading any or all of this years picks and joining us in the discussion please contact Karrie Blankenship or Mary Ellen Burke for the details. We meet the third Thursday of each month at 7pm. Every month is hosted by a different member of the club.



Thursday, January 18, 2018
Friday, February 16, 2018
Thursday, March 15, 2018
Thursday, April 19, 2018
Thursday, May 17, 2018
Thursday, June 21, 2018
Thursday, July 19, 2018
Thursday, August 16, 2018
Thursday, September 20, 2018
Thursday, October 18, 2018
Thursday, November 15, 2018
Thursday, December 20, 2018

The Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly
The Leopard by Guiseppe Di Lampedusa
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
Donut Dolly by Joan Puffer Kotcher
A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles
A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman
The Tour by Jean Grainger
The Wright Brothers by David McCullough
Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See
The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
Commonwealth by Ann Patchett



Bulletin Board

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Katherine Baetz **Nail Technician**

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or email to

Katherine Baetz
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Clinical Social Worker

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Email: Katherine@Baetz.net



Do you like to cook? Do you like to eat great food? Would you like to try new recipes and cuisines?

The SIGP Foodies group (Diana, Laura, Carolyn, Marya and Maddy) meets once a month, rotating at the home of that month's host member, with everyone providing a menu

item that compliments the "theme" chosen by the hostess. This year we have enjoyed trying new food experiences from Eastern Europe and Italy, while also learning more about soups and stews, making homemade ravioli, preparing a very portable Mediterranean picnic and making an elegant yet comforting beef dinner in a crockpot. We are eagerly looking forward to our second year of culinary delights.

Even more importantly, Foodies provides an ongoing opportunity to en-

joy the fellowship of our SIGP members outside of our typical venues. We would like to extend this same opportunity to other members, particularly those new to our club. Ideally we would like to add 1-2 new members to Foodies. If you have any questions about our Foodies or are interested in joining us, please contact Maddy Jeffs at 509-551-1695.



MIDWESTERN REGION 2017-2018

FOCUS - IMPORTANT DATES

**** Use MWR dates for ALL awards – do not use SIA dates ****

July 1	Club Celebrating Success Entries due to Vicky Hicks
July 1	2017-2018 Club Dues to SIA HQ with Club Officer info
July 1	2017-2018 Member & Club dues to MWR w/Club officer info
July 21-23	MWR Summer Board Meeting – Middlebury, IN
October 6-7	District I & III Meeting at Best Western – Hilton Garden Inn Chesterton, IN
October 20-21	District II & IV Meeting at Holiday Inn Express, Lima OH
November 15	Form 990 due to IRS
November 15	Live Your Dream Applications due to Clubs
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 10	Human Rights Day – SI President's Appeal
December 15	Club Live Your Dream Award Winner due to District Director
2018	
January 11	National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness in US
January 15	Virginia Wagner Award Applications due to Club
January 15	District LYD Award Winners due to Region Chair
February 15	Virginia Wagner Club Award Winner due to District Director
February 15	Region LYD Winner info due to both SIA and Treasurer Valencia by Region Chair
March 1	Soroptimist Club Grant Applications due at SI HQ
March 8	International Women's Day
March 8	Virginia Wagner District Winners due to Region Chair
March 15	Award Report due from District Directors to Governor-Elect Kris
March 31	Region Virginia Wagner Award winners names to Region Treasurer Valencia by Region Chair
March 31	Governor's Club Award form due to Governor Vivian
April 27-29	2018 Spring Conference – Sheraton Conference Center – Lisle, IL
July 30- August 2	SIA Convention – Yokohama, Japan