

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
July 2023



President's Message - Happy 67th Birthday to Us!

Did you know that SI of Grosse Pointe was chartered on July 14, 1956, with 18 members? Well, 67 years later we are now 53 strong!

As we enter our 67th fiscal year as a chartered club, we will embark on new fundraising ideas, programs and membership events while keeping the mission of Soroptimist alive. Our mission is:

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

If you attended our June meeting, you had the pleasure of meeting three of our new members, **Cindy Gohlke**, **Gwen Shannon**, and **Sharon Zmick**. During the induction each woman was given her SIGP name badge and a single yellow rose representing friendship. Welcome ladies!



Our auction for the La-Z-Boy gift certificate was awarded to SIGP member Francine Pegues with a donation of \$500 to SIGP. THANK YOU, Francine.

July is the time when we start gearing up the application process for our awards. In order to provide women and girls the access they need to achieve their educational goals, they need to be informed about how to apply and where. We are looking to you to help with this. By distributing flyers, posting on social media pages a link to our website (<https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/educational-award-applications.html>) and distributing business cards in the community, these women will be able to apply and have a chance to make a difference in their lives.

Just a note to remind you that our **August** meeting will be at the Grosse Pointe Shores Osius Park located at **800 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236** and a potluck dinner is planned. See page 5 for details.

Make sure to also add to your calendar our **Wednesday, July 12**, meeting, which will be held at Fishbones starting promptly at 6:30. Feel free to come early to get settled in. Thank you for your continued support!

— Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President

July Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 12, at Fishbones, starting promptly at 6:30.

If you want, you can arrive around six to give yourself time to settle in and greet other members.

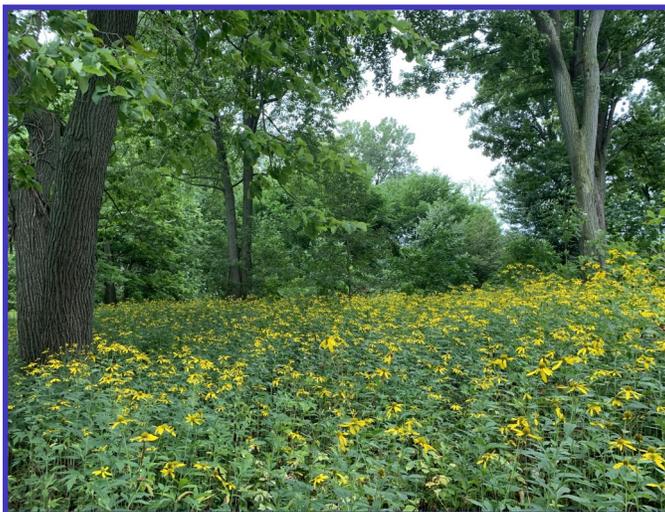
Feel free to bring a guest.

Welcome new members!



The induction of new members was held at Fishbones on June 14, 2023. (L-R) SIGP President Karrie Blankenship, new members Cindy Gohlke, Sharon Zmick, Gwen Shannon and Membership Chair Diana Langlois. The yellow rose is a symbol of friendship.

Happy July Birthday to ...



Sara Baker, July 1
Aleksa Andjelkovic, July 8
Renee Rodriguez, July 14
Dawn Riddle, July 15
Rasheda Williams, July 16
Mary Ellen Burke, July 27
Jane Evola, July 30

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karrie Blankenship
President

Diana Langlois
Vice President

Bette Lepouttre
President Elect

Mary Bryk
Secretary

Nancy Solak
Assistant Secretary

Ross Braun
Treasurer

Mary Ellen Burke
Assistant Treasurer

Directors

Roseanne Horne

Kerri Green

Carolyn Barth

Aleksa Andjelcovic

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

Infinity cruise about to launch!

We're looking forward to the *Infinity* cruise on July 11. Those with tickets will meet at Jefferson Beach Marina (24400 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores) to start boarding at 11:30 a.m. When you see or patronize any of our wonderful sponsors (see list below), please tell them “thank you” from all of us at Soroptimist Grosse Pointe.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

DIAMOND

Wells Fargo Advisors

PLATINUM

3-H, Hope, Healing & Health, Inc.

GOLD

Mary Ann & Robert Victor
Iuliana Keyes—Thomas Financial Group, LLC
MPS Company

Raymond James – Grosse Pte. Farms
Roy O'Brien Ford

SILVER

Molly Hohlfeldt, Adlhoch & Associates
Bokano Builders, LLC
GP Tax Service, LLC
Charles & Karen Shreve, IV
Miller Law Firm

PEWTER

Marchiori Catering

BRONZE

Flame Furnace
Fidelity Appraisals
Peter Jost, DDS, PC
Fraternal Order of Police, Grosse Pointe Lodge #102

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Grosse Pointe News
Infinity—Ovation Yacht Charter

HONORABLE MENTION

Lakeshore Financial Planning
Ann Mandelbaum Mann

MENTORING for SUCCESS

This is how our Soroptimist mission plays out!

June 19, 2023 - What a warm lovely evening at Bette Lepouttre's home where mentees **Desiree Perry, J'nai Baker and Tonesia Nesbitt** gathered with SIGP mentors Katherine Baetz, Lori Schumann, Gwen Shannon, Karrie Blankenship, Maureen Anthony, Bette Lepouttre and myself. Mentees shared stories of their educational endeavors this past semester while enjoying pizza, salad and Maureen's homemade brownies! After dinner Katherine led a discussion on recognizing stress and simple ways to relieve it in daily life. Just listening to her quiet calm voice relaxes you!

When the semester ends, **Desiree Perry** will graduate from Macomb Community College. She is currently working part time. Congratulations, Desiree!

J'nai Baker began online classes from AZ College of Nursing on June 26. Her young daughter, Jaycee, had fun playing with Auriel, one of Desiree's children.

Tonesia Nesbitt was awarded a scholarship for summer from Women's Independent Scholarship Program (WISP). Congratulations Tonesia as you continue on your educational journey to nursing!

Jamie Pakula, a LYD awardee from this year, graduated with her ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing) and is working at Henry Ford Main as a surgical nurse! Her response: "Loving it!" She and daughter, Aurelia, have camping plans and a trip to Seattle to visit family.

Delia Mustin, LYD awardee from 2021, has moved into her new home and is working full-time.



Maureen Anthony, Lori Schumann, Desiree Perry (LYD), Katherine Baetz, Gwen Shannon, Diana Langlois with Chase Baker, Bette Lepouttre, J'nai Baker (LYD), Karrie Blankenship, Tonesia Nesbitt (LYD)

— Diana Langlois, Mentoring Chair

Turning Point – SIGP members help at warehouse

In June, SIGP members helped organize donations at the warehouse of Turning Point. Four busy beavers helped make sorting and shifting of boxes “short work”! They also did a little shopping!



Hats off to SIGP members Mary Bryk, Bette Lepouttre, Carol Hofter, Mary Ellen Burke, and Liz Lucas (not pictured) who gave up their time to volunteer at Turning Point.

The new secondhand retail shop is clean and organized. Proceeds help women in need! Turning Point is working to provide a home for trafficked survivors. SIGP hopes to be supportive as we gain more details on this initiative.

If you missed helping in the warehouse, there will be more opportunities in the future!

— Bette Lepouttre, SIGP President Elect

P.S. If you want to visit, or drop off donations, Second Hand Rose Retail Shop is located at 36660 S Parkway just south of Metro Parkway in Clinton Township (southeast corner of Gratiot & Metro Parkway).

Join us at Grosse Pointe Shores' Osíus Park in August

The SIGP business meeting on Wednesday, August 9, will be held at the outdoor pavilion of Grosse Pointe Shores' Osíus Park.

Join us at 6:30 for a potluck dinner and summer social. Feel free to bring an appetizer, dessert, or dish to share if you wish.

We will have a brief meeting, while we get to know other members and hear stories from members who've just returned from the Soroptimist International conference in Dublin, Ireland.

Contact Kerri Green at (jazzykerri@yahoo.com; 586-651-9222) OR Roseanne Horne at (rosewa33@aol.com; 313-706-1801) with any questions.

P.S. Do not confuse this with the July 12 business meeting that will be held at Fishbones. See page 3.

POSITIVE IMAGES: Service Project # 1

SIGP members Dawn Riddle and Cindy Gohlke assembled 20 new WELCOME KITS for the incoming Positive Images clients on E. Grand Blvd. They were delivered on Saturday, June 24, to Charlotte Hunter, the administrative supervisor of the residence. It's great to have new members take active roles in helping women of the community!

If you are shopping and see any of the items listed below on sale, please feel free to pick up 20 for the WELCOME KITS and bring them to Dawn Riddle at 750 Westchester in GP Park! She will gladly store them.

We anticipate doing 20 WELCOME KITS three times a year.

This service project does not interfere with the Mother's Day gift bags since the clientele at the Positive Images E. Grand Blvd. intake house is quite transitory. Charlotte tells us the clients really love the actual bag which are placemats sewn together by Dawn!



Charlotte Hunter and Dawn Riddle.

— Diana Langlois, SIGP Membership Chair



Items in WELCOME KIT:

Notebook journals, pens, soap dishes, soap bar, cotton underwear all sizes (small to X-large), cotton socks size 9-11, combs, nail polish, nail files, small lotions, small shampoo, small conditioner, and anything else you may see that could fit in the bag.

See the beautiful welcome kits below left.



To read about Positive Images Service Project #2, see next page.

Positive Images Service Project #2

Let us introduce you to two men and a SIGP member who have provided computers and set up a reliable internet at Positive Images

Gordon Chan started Tech Shield 24/7 [<https://ts247.com>]. Tech Shield provides tech support for companies not large enough to have an IT department. The company (actually Gordon's) donated both the equipment and time to set up an original computer lab at Positive Images on Coplin and Warren streets in Detroit.

Mike Lucas, husband of **SIGP member Liz Lucas**, donated his time and talent to get the lab up and running. Now Positive Images has a reliable internet connection.

Once upon a time, Mike worked a tech job in the Detroit area. His specialty was network architecture and security. He also worked to help build the internet when it was a DARPA project before it went public in the 1990s. Now that's coming in to the 21st Century from the ground floor!

Mike ran a data center for a consulting firm that handled large local and worldwide networks. Mike hired several people for his team and Gordon Chan was one of those people.

Time moves on and since no one else was doing it, Mike wrote books about the Big System tools. He found and filled an empty niche. In the 2010s his success in publishing meant he could stop the 9-to-5 headache and write full time. He has been writing ever since. He now has well over 50 books written in addition to other publications. (<https://mwl.io/>)

Tech Shield 24/7 donated enough equipment for the lab at the Coplin building to create six full stations with Windows 11. These computers are exactly what you would find if you walked into any office job.

Mike, along with **SIGP member Lillian Frazier** set this up in June.

Mike and Lillian have developed a working lab with stable internet access at Positive Images. Lillian identified several areas of online weaknesses that she is working on to ensure the personal safety of the clients of Positive Images.

SIGP is grateful to Gordon, Mike and Lillian for their interest and hard work in bringing Positive Images up to date. The lab will provide the organization's clients with internet access as well as the ability to practice on current computers they may find in their future workplaces. Thank you SO much!

After 6 on Kercheval

Second Year Raising Awareness



This is the second year our club has participated in the popular street fair called After 6 on Kercheval. Despite the heat, SIGP members (above L-R) Karrie Blankenship, Mary Bryck, Bette Lepouttre, and Mary Ellen Burke promoted our club. As you can see from the photo, they set up an impressive display. A big THANK YOU for putting in the time!

In Memoriam

MARILYN SCHAFFER-MEYER



MARILYN SCHAFFER-MEYER

Marilyn Schaffer-Meyer, age 96, a resident of Laughlin, Nevada, passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2023. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, on June 16, 1926.

Marilyn became a Soroptimist in July of 1971 and remained a Soroptimist until her death. We will miss Marilyn, a 52-year SIGP member. We send our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

A letter to each member of our club from Ghana



Above: Haja is a student at St. Anne Secondary High School in Damongo, Ghana. Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe regularly helps underwrite girls' tuition at the school. This initiative, started by SIGP member Carol Hofer, is a part of our global outreach. And this letter from Haja is for you since she wants to show her appreciation for our support.

Damongo, Shalanna Region.
26th-05-2023

Dear Madam

I am very Delighted to write to you this letter.

I am in the person of Haja Anatu Ishawou. I attended New life preparatory junior high school.

And currently I am attending St. Anne's girls Senior High school.

I am a year one student of this noble Institution, and here at St. Anne's girls senior high, I am pursuing General arts as a course. I am 16 years of age.

I am plumpy, short, dark in complexion. I am a young girl of ambition, I like to read a lot.

I am calm, determine and unique in my own way,

My parents are Mr and Mrs Ishawou. And my siblings are Bariwou, Basit and Farida. I am the first born of my mother the second born of my father.

<https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/>

My Dad has four wives, so in our family we are many.

My Dad is a driver, my mom is a trader.

My aim is to be a lawyer by profession in future, and I pray and hope that, I would be able to achieve it.

I was shock and glad when Maa Karren called me and told me about this information.

I really appreciate and may God richly bless you, I will always pray for you in my prayers.

And I hope one day I will see you physically.

I also thank Maa Kareen for introducing me to you.

It is such a great honor, because I never thought one day an opportunity will come my way like this, or even happen in my life.

May God continue to Bless you and protect you.

Thank you

Yours sincerely
Hajia Anatu Ishanu

Member Ads Are Free: Contact newsletter editor Nancy Solak to place yours!



Get in shape on this cute exercise bike. Comfy, adjustable seat. Rear wheels allow you to easily move it where you want it. The highest offer will be donated to SIGP.

AND SIGP member Carol Hofer will deliver it! Call her to try it and see.



We hope you are just as excited as we are about our [48th Biennial Convention](#) being held in Bellevue, Washington, USA, July 24-27, 2024! – SIA Board

Midwestern Region Board

Governor – Christine Fowler Shearer, SI Cleveland
(simwrgov@gmail.com)
Governor Elect: Audrey Jarvy, SI Fond du Lac
(adreyjarv@gmail.com)
Secretary – Sheila Zingler-Gilbert, SI Fond du Lac
(sheilasifdl@gmail.com)
Treasurer – Linda Alpers, SI NE Suburban Franklin County
(Isa6976@gmail.com)

District III

District III Director – Kellie Klingel, SI Flat Rock Area
(ktklingel@yahoo.com)
District III Secretary – Gail Hutra, SI Monroe
(gahutra1960@yahoo.com)

Soroptimist Websites

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



SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

WEBSITE: grossepointesoroptimist.net Lori Schumann
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/sigp-calendar-.html> for calendar

Submit photos, club information, news, upcoming events, and dates to this email
so the information can be accessed by all public awareness chairs:

EMAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Nancy Solak

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe Geri Pleva

INSTAGRAM: 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