

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

President's Message

Dear SIGP members,
The final countdown to our 60th Celebration is here! We are looking forward to a fabulous night.

Our Silent Auction committee has been busy procuring and organizing over 50 wonderful Auction items for bidding. The Sponsorship committee has collected over \$3,500 in Sponsorships for the program. We have over 115 attendees registered to attend!

All of our Awardees will be there to accept their awards and tell their

stories. It will be a great night. If you haven't sent in your RSVP please give Kerri Green or myself a call.

In other news, our 2nd Ghana Grant has been submitted to request additional money to continue our Ghana girl's high schooling.

We are looking forward to Spring Conference in Ann Arbor April 22-24.

On May 5th we will be packing the Mother's Day Bags for the women at Positive Images. Please see the list of items Mary Ellen is still collecting in the article below.

Finally, please consider a position on our SIGP Board! You will be glad you did! The job descriptions are listed below.

Roseanne Horne
SIGP President



President Roseanne Horne
conducting her first business
meeting as SIGP's President



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

April 2016 Edition

Birthday's

Delores Goodger 4/11
Donna Fitzgerald 4/11
Michelle Strait 4/18
Andrea Lavigne 4/29

Dates to Remember

- **04/06** ~ Board Meeting ~ Amanda Be's 1115 Balfour, GPP ~6:30pm
- **04/08** ~ 60th Anniversary Celebration Assumption Cultural Center
- **4/22,23 & 24** ~ Spring Conference "Educate to Lead" ~ Kensington Court Hotel ~ 610 Hilton Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48108
- **05/03** ~ Pack Mother's Day Bags at GPW Library ~6:00pm
- **05/04** ~ Board Meeting ~ Mary Ellen's Condo~6:30pm
- **05/11** ~ General Business Meeting ~ GPYC ~ 6:00pm

Program & Service

Parenting Classes at Positive Images

Parenting classes at Positive Images continue with the help of Dorothy Wasinger, Ellen Chapin, Jane Lightfoot, Laura McCourt and Diane Kashuba. They facilitate a program that shows the steps in Child Development from birth through teen years. Big THANKS to these women who give Soroptimist service to Positive Images!

Ladies of SIGP,

It's TIME TO CELEBRATE our 60 YEARS OF SERVICE, Friday, April 8th! To date (March 30) 115 RSVP's have been returned! 90 items have been donated for Silent Auction (bidding) and Tin Can Auction (raffle tickets)! \$3000 has been donated from SPONSORS!

This past month there has been useful donations of dishes, silverware, household items and bedding to Positive Images II on Coplin. Also an infant bassinet, infant seat, diaper bag and many clothes were donated to a woman at P.I. who had a baby girl. All donations are greatly appreciated.

The Program is on it's way to be printed and all is ready for a fabulous fun event! Any last minute RSVP's can be called in to Kerri Green or Roseanne Horne.

Come early to enjoy cocktail hour!!! *Looking forward to seeing you!*

HUGS,

Diana and Mary Ellen

Mothers Day Items **Still Need**

Mugs	0
Cosmetic Bags	0
Tote bags	19
Oprah magazines	30
Keychains	44
Nail polish	27
Toothbrushes	50
Toothpaste (sample)	54
Dental Floss	49
Mouthwash	0
Scarfs	29



We can always use more jewelry (necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and/or pins) and jewelry boxes since each woman gets a wrapped gift of jewelry.

Thank you everyone who has donated these items and please keep the women of PI in mind before you toss these item in a draw. We collect item all year round.

**MARY ELLEN
BURKE**
meb650@aol.com



Grant Update—Our Ghana Girls

It is still chilly in Michigan, but you might find of interest that at this time of year in Damongo, northern Ghana, West Africa where SIGP and friends are supporting six students, the temperatures can easily soar over a hundred degrees. This is late in the Harmattan season, when the sands of the Sahara Desert drift down to the south. Even as I write this, the sands are leaving a film of dust everywhere as they do every year, making it necessary for students to wipe desks and tables morning, afternoon and evening.

Our girls are indeed grateful for any help they can get. We are in communication with the Head Mistress of St. Anne Girls' High School on a regular basis. She informs me that they are studying hard. They know they must take advantage of this opportunity or remain stuck in a life of grinding poverty.

I remember years ago trying to motivate my own students while in class on a scorching hot day with everyone sweating and nodding off and losing interest in the science lesson we were about to tackle. "I know you are hot and sleepy right now" I admitted, as the sweat trickled down my own back, "but we have to keep going and learn this." "If you don't," I asked earnestly, "then what do you want to do with the rest of your lives, sell sardines?" The students laughed. They understood the point. In a poor area the people have few choices to improve their lot, but one way to earn a few meager coins is by selling bread and peanuts and tins of sardines by the side of the road.

Well, our girls know that this is not the future they intend, despite immense challenges facing them. That is why a mighty team of SIGP members are working on their behalf. Diana, Marya, Myra, Mary Ellen and Mary Clare are surging forward with Carol to reach the finish line in our SI grant application. It is important that our girls surmount obstacles they face in continuing their schooling, and money is key. Without it, no further education.

But here are some additional challenges.

The cultural mindset against female education leaves much to be desired. Men have a sense of entitlement and superiority in Ghana and in so many parts of the world, and the education of girls is not a priority. If a family has a boy and a girl, but can only afford to send one to school, the boy will be chosen, even if the girl is a better student. St. Anne works to change this mentality. An educated young woman is a boost to all of society. Consider this: studies in Ghana show that when females earn money, the money is more likely to be put into savings, into the community, into education, or into a family's wellbeing and health than when that same amount of money is earned by a male. Thus, females' choice of spending tends to be more beneficial for the family, community, and country as a whole.

Unfortunately girls are often seen as commodities by parents, especially in impoverished areas, and are easily withdrawn from school for early marriages or commercial sex. The tradition of early marriage, with girls as young as nine being married off, has catastrophic consequences. In many regions it is typical for girls to marry around age 15, often to the dismay of most of them who are not ready or willing and who wish to stay in school. Thus, poverty and a stunted life take root. St. Anne seeks to combat this tradition.

Another problem is that female students often undergo uncomfortable harassment and teasing from their male peers, and a lack of privacy, which create an unwelcome environment at school, and discourages the girls from attending. They explain it this way: "A boy will ask you to be his girlfriend (this is sometimes a euphemism for sexual relations, and not an actual relationship), and if you refuse he will taunt you in front of his friends and spread rumors about you. Boys want to intimidate you, they want you to feel so inferior."



At St. Anne, this barrier is broken because there are no male students. Teachers and staff are there to support the girls, creating an atmosphere of discipline and encouragement and high expectations to help these students "be all they can be," strong, intelligent, women of integrity, capable leaders for their families and communities.

No doubt about it, this step is huge in the developing world.

Take a look here at the photos of the six girls that we are trying to help. Without support they could well remain among the destitute of the world. I for one do not want to see them selling sardines by the side of the road.

MemberSHIP

2016 MIDWESTERN SPRING CONFERENCE
APRIL 22 - 24, 2016



When: Fri, April 22, 4:00pm –
Sun, April 24, 2:00pm

The Kensington Court
610 Hilton Blvd,
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Call for Reservations (800)
344.7829



Mention that you are requesting the Soroptimist room rate.
(For more information please visit <http://www.simwr.org/upcoming events/ The Call>)



Health & Hospitality



Mary
Parsigian
Shelby's
father
passed away

this week. He was 93
years old and passed
away as result
of complications from an
upper respiratory
infection. Please keep
Mary and her family in
your thoughts for peace
and strength at this
difficult time.

A family Memorial Service
will be held at a later date.

Please keep Cathie Baldwin in your
prayers as she is having a procedure
on her heart valve today, March 21. To
simplify it I'll just say that a team of
Doctors are going to put a putty-like
substance around her leaking valve to
stop the leak. They will do it
robotically through the groin and
throat. It will take 3 to 4 days to know
if it worked. They hope that it stops the
leak or dramatically slows the leak.
This is not a common procedure and
not often done, so prayers are needed!
Cathie is in good spirits but very
scared, she is a trooper!

As of March 31st Cathy is having some
challenges stabilizing from her procedure
but hopefully by next month
there will be good news.

Please keep her in your prayers

Ann Cunningham: Ann has
had an upper respiratory
infection and it's gotten her
down for a couple of weeks.
The Dr. put her on
prednisone and it made
Ann extremely tired.
However, in the past day or
so, she is bouncing back to
her usual spirits! If you
would like to send a card or
give Ann a quick call, I'm
sure that it would help her
spirits immensely! Good
news: Ann is planning on
coming to the
60th anniversary party!

OFFICER DUTIES (July 2016/ July 2018 / All officers are board members)

The President shall

1. direct the conduct of the business of the Club;
2. set meeting agendas for Club and Board meetings;
3. preside at Club and Board meetings;
4. oversee all committees, working closely with the President-Elect and Vice-President;
5. be an ex-officio member of all committees, except nominating;
6. sign all checks in the absence of the treasurer;
7. appoint delegates from a list of district, region, Federation, or International meetings;
8. serve as the club delegate at district, region, Federation, and International meetings, or appoint an alternate from a list of meeting attendees.

The President-Elect agrees (program chair)

1. to assume the office of president at the end of her two-year term;
2. shall be responsible for program of service committees;
3. shall have such duties and powers as arise from membership on the board or as assigned by the president or the Board.

The Vice-President shall (membership chair)

1. be responsible for the activities of the membership activities;
2. shall have such duties and powers as arise from membership on the Board or as assigned by the President or the Board.

The Secretary shall

1. keep the minutes of the Club and the Board meetings;
2. be custodian of The Club's permanent records;
3. submit to the membership the minutes of the business meetings and the recommendations of the Board;
4. submit to the Board the minutes of the Board meetings;
5. send out notices and carry on such correspondence as does not properly belong to other officers.

The Assistant Secretary shall (public awareness chair)

1. maintain a log of attendance at Club business meetings;
2. fulfill the responsibilities of the secretary in her absence;
3. perform any other duties assigned by the president or the secretary;
4. be responsible for overseeing public awareness.

The Treasurer shall

1. receive all funds of the Club and deposit them in financial institutions authorized by the Board;
2. sign all checks or arrange for the president to do so;
3. make remittances as required by Federation Bylaws and Procedures;
4. prepare monthly Treasurer's Reports for each of the Club funds serve as ex-officio member of the Finance/Budget Committee;
5. have the authority to define and supervise committee procedures as they relate to the finances of the club

The Assistant Treasurer shall (fundraising chair)

1. be responsible for overseeing fund raising;
 2. maintain a roll of membership (directory);
 3. prepare and send acknowledgements for donations from non-members;
 4. assume the responsibilities of the treasurer in her absence;
 5. serve as ex-officio member of the finance/budget committee;
 6. perform any other duties assigned by the president or the treasurer.
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Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

2014-2016 Board Members &

Chairs

Roseanne Horne-President

Amanda Duda-Pres. Elect/

Program

Ross Braun-VP / Member

Mary Ellen Burke-Past Pres

Jane Evola-Treasurer

Kerri Green-Assst. Treasurer /

Fundraising

Diana Langlois-Secretary

Ellen Chapin-Assst. Sec. /

Public Awareness

Karrie Blankenship-Director /

Webmaster & Editor

Marlane Washington-Director /

Hospitality



For upcoming events and to see what SIGP has been up to check out our website by clicking the link below

[http://
www.grossepointesoroptimist.org/](http://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org/)

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 larger fellowship in
home, in society, in business, for country and for God

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, through programs leading to social and economic empowerment in local communities and throughout the world.

Bulletin Board



SAVE THE DATE

2016 Used Book Sale:

Dates: May 17th – 21st , 2016

Location: First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier Rd, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Book collection will begin on Monday, March 28, 2016, and end on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

Book collection sites:

- Kroger's at 23191 Marter Rd, St Clair Shores
- CVS at 17120 Kercheval Avenue, Grosse Pointe, GP
- Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, GPW

Appointments for book pick-up are now being accepted.

What You Should Know about Human Sex Trafficking

Hosted by
The Institute on Human Trafficking Education &
Livonia Human Relations Commission

Tuesday
April 5, 2016
From 7 pm to 9 pm



Bell Creek Church
30000 5 Mile Rd
Livonia, MI 48154

Panel Members:

Senator Judy Emmons - Sponsor of Michigan State Laws
Judge Thomas - Wayne County
Joyce Haskett - Human Sex Trafficking Survivor
Derek Moss - Homeland Security
Julie Van Ameyde - Human Trafficking Ed. Board Member

Moderator:

Laura Toy - Former State Senator and Livonia Councilwoman
Everyone Welcome
Space is limited, please RSVP to Carol at: [734-765-0842](tel:734-765-0842)

Information Table Available. Donations are requested but not required.

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe will be setting up a table at this event. Elaine Flowers and Roseanne Horne will be arriving at 4:30. If you would like to help with the table please contact either Elaine or Roseanne.



The **Outreach Committee of the Wayne State University President's Commission on the Status of Women**, in collaboration with **First Step** and **Dean of Students Office** invites you to join us as we unite to



TAKE BACK ^{THE} NIGHT

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016

**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY | STUDENT CENTER BUILDING
BALLROOM
5221 GULLEN MALL | DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

Take Back The Night, which began in the U.S. in the 1970s and focused on unsafe streets, cities, and campuses, highlights the problem of violence against women as well as the broader issue of sexual violence. Events take place during the month of April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and seek to draw attention to the problem of sexual violence and to support those who have been victimized.

Guest parking is available for \$7 in Structure 5 (5501 Anthony Wayne Drive). You must swipe your credit card upon entry and exit. Enter off Anthony Wayne Drive. Visit www.parking.wayne.edu for a campus map and more details.

For more information, please contact Sara Byczek at (313) 577-8564 or visit cosw.wayne.edu.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

VENDORS

5:30-5:45 PM

Get information about services and resources.

SPEAKERS

5:45-7:00 PM

Presenter

Laura Starzynski

Lecturer for WSU
Department of Criminal Justice

Keynote Speaker

Kim Trent

African American 490
Challenge, WSU Board
of Governors

Mistress of Ceremonies

Kalimah Johnson

Founder/Director of
SASHA Center, Assistant
Professor of Social Work
at Marygrove College

SPOKEN WORD

ARTIST

Mahogany Jones

MARCH/RALLY

7:00-7:30 PM

Show support for our
sole purpose: to raise
awareness about sexual
violence.

SURVIVOR'S STORY

Shift focus as we shine a
light on a survivor of
sexual assault.

OPEN MIC

8:00-8:30 PM

Share your thoughts
and shatter the silence
about sexual violence.

Light refreshments will
be served during this
portion of the program.