

The Pointer

SIGP General Meeting, Wednesday, November 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Brought to you via Zoom. You'll receive an email with the link.

Our November Zoom meeting will feature Charles Graham, a former director of the Gleaners Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. Mr. Graham will lead off our evening with information on the operation and importance of Gleaners and how food insecurity affects women and children. With winter coming, Gleaners and other food bank organizations will face unique challenges. Please join us for this important speaker. Business meeting to follow.

The holidays are quickly approaching, and the pandemic shows no sign of letting up. Gathering with family and friends for our traditional celebrations will take on a whole new look.

Why not make our December Zoom business meeting just as festive as ever? Games, contests, raffles, pre-ordered hors d'oeuvres ... we are only limited by the creativity of a few members who would like to serve on an ad hoc committee to plan a virtual holiday party.

If you would like to brainstorm ideas and help plan this event, please email Marya (mmalkovich@gmail.com) or Ellen (ellenchapin@sbcglobal.net).



Next SIGP Board Meeting Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

FRIEND TO FRIEND -

A new SIGP initiative to help get us through the dark days of winter

As our club moves to virtual meetings and get-togethers, we must not let the light of our friendships fade. Let's work together to keep our appreciation and commitment to each other alive during the dark days of the coming winter.

To that end, we are proposing a Soroptimist FRIEND TO FRIEND. Each person who chooses to participate will be randomly matched to another club member. A phone call, email message, note, a small remembrance, anything to brighten a day...hopefully a new friendship will be established.

Ellen Chapin Marya Malkovich Rosenthal

In the coming weeks, you will be invited to respond to an email to provide the following information which will then be shared with your future randomly selected friend.

Name, Birthday, Email, Phone number (preference of call or text), Address, Favorite snacks Favorite beverage, Favorite color, Hobbies and special interests, Can't get enough of Stay away from.....

To clarify, you will be given a member's name and the information she shared so you can connect with her. A different member will be given your information and she will reach out to you. Hopefully, two new friendships will blossom and grow. We plan to begin FRIEND TO FRIEND in December. Questions and concerns will be addressed at our next business meeting, November 11.

As the holidays quickly approach, we will be working on innovative ways to come together virtually to celebrate the season and express our gratitude and appreciation to the women we serve and to our fellow club members.



Shop with Amazon and support SIGP!

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases back to our organization. Use the link below when doing your holiday shopping or go to smile.amazon.com and search for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe. http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-6099835 Supporting SIGP has never been easier!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen Chapin and Marya Malkovich Rosenthal *Co-Presidents*

Karrie Blankenship
President Elect

Laura McCourt

Vice President

Membership

Aleksa Andjelkovic

Past President

Mary Ellen Burke *Treasurer*

Bette Lepouttre Assistant Treasurer Fundraising

Maureen Anthony
Secretary

Diana Langlois
Assistant Secretary
Public Awareness

Carolyn Barth
Director
Grant Coordinator

Madeline Colavito

Director

Nancy Solak Director

GINGERBREAD HOUSE-MAKING CONTEST!

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce has sidelined its annual Santa Parade in the Village due to COVID. Keeping in the spirit of the season, there will be a virtual parade and a contest for the best gingerbread house on Kercheval in the Village business district.

As a member of the Chamber, SIGP is ready to show its creative spirit and win some "dough" for the good causes our club supports. The top three houses will be awarded \$500, \$300, and \$200 in prizes.

Since Soroptimist doesn't have a storefront, our creation will be displayed at El's Boutique, located at 16849 Kercheval, right next door to Kroger.

The judging takes place November 27, at 10 a.m., and our "house," currently under construction at Cornwall Bakers, will be available for viewing during the holiday season. In addition to being a community awareness activity, our gingerbread house will be viewed at a woman-owned business located at a property owned by a local woman.

— Laura McCourt, Vice President and Membership Chair

SIGP Members Get Out the Vote

A big thank you to SIGP members Ellen Chapin, Marya Malkovich, Diana Langlois, Carolyn Barth, Peggy Hart, Kathy DiCenzo, Anne Schwartz, and Roseanne Horne for helping get out the vote. This group of volunteers addressed and wrote personal messages to 225 people in a one-week period. They were helping the non-partisan project sponsored by the ACLU and facilitated by the Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters to give people a nudge to let their voices be heard by voting.

SIGP Member Roseanne Horne speaks at Midwestern Region District Meeting

We're proud to announce that SIGP past president and currently Membership Chair for the Midwestern Region, Roseanne Horne, spoke at the Virtual Midwestern Region District Meeting. What's even better is that you can watch her video presentation by clicking on this link: https://youtu.be/

Soroptimist International wins prestigious award

The Incredible Impacts Programme has selected three winning associations as leading examples of excellence within the global meetings industry and **Soroptimist International was named one of the winners!** For more information, click on the link below.

https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/soroptimist-international-a-winner-in-the-incredible-impacts-programme-2020/

A Fundraiser in time for Valentine's Day

SIGP is having a wine basket raffle this year to replace our Dine-Around-Town Raffle. The basket (or baskets) will be filled with bottles of premium wines from Village Wine Shop (15228 E Jefferson Ave, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230), which Zack, the owner, has so generously selected for us to purchase at a 20% discount.



Photo courtesy of luke-southern- WASS1rGEcE-unsplash

A list of wines and their descriptions along with a list of suggested non-alcoholic items to be purchased as fillers for the basket has been emailed to you. If you are not interested in purchasing wine but would like to make a cash donation to help with this fundraising project, please send your check to either Mary Ellen Burke or Bette Lepouttre. If you would like to purchase wine from the list, please contact Karrie Blankenship before you make your purchase. She is keeping a list of donations to purchase the non-alcoholic items, raffle license, and printing of tickets.

Once the basket (or baskets, depending on the number of donations) has been assembled, a flyer with a photo and list of items will be created to be distributed throughout the communities and on social media. We are hoping you will participate by selling tickets to your family and friends. The ticket price will be \$5 each or \$20 for a book of six. The drawing will be held at our February meeting.

HIGH SCHOOL SAT/ACT AWARD — A short-term volunteer opportunity!

As you may know, our club financially supports several high school students to take an ACT/SAT preparatory class which is offered by private companies. These young women are vetted by Grosse Pointe high school counselors to ensure there is financial need.

With that in mind, a few members are needed to help with the judging of the award. This volunteer opportunity is perfect for members looking for a short-term and rewarding task. The judging will be done at the end of November. If interested, please contact Helen Clarren at 313-820-9852.

Update on Can and Bottle Drive—Total to Date = \$4500!

The "returnable" committee is thrilled to announce that SIGP has hit the \$4,500 mark! While SIGP is no longer publicly soliciting for more empties, members are welcome to continue to drop off their returnables to either Roseanne Horne or Nancy Solak's house. Deliver them at your convenience and place them on the porch. They are happy to continue expanding the growth of this fundraiser!

It's not too late to attend the virtual District Meeting of SIMWR

SIMWR stands for Soroptimist International of the Americas Midwestern Region

The first <u>virtual</u> District Meeting was held October 19-24. In case you missed it, you can still listen to and view the wonderful presentations, including two from our own Roseanne Horne. Click here to listen and see the meetings: https://www.simwr.org/

The four Soroptimist pillars of public awareness, programs, membership, and fundraising were featured Monday through Thursday. Friday's highlights included the 2019-2021 President's Appeal, "The Road to Equality," and information is given on the Midwestern Region's fundraising initiative. Saturday's keynote speaker was a sexual abuse survivor calling for action and empowerment by all women.

Information about Slack, a new communication application adopted by the Midwestern Region for communication with clubs, was presented. Take advantage of this opportunity to virtually learn about what Soroptimist clubs around the region are involved in.

The Midwestern District wasn't able to raise funds this year since the district meeting was held virtually. In order to distribute funds to the four district Live Your Dream and Virginia Wagner award winners, the Midwestern Region is asking for a \$20 donation from each member. Your donation will be gratefully appreciated.



fo	SIMWR 20\$20 FUND DRIVE PL or the SIMWR 2020/2021 Live Your Dream and	
Name	Club	District
Phone	Email	
Address		
City	State	Zip
l am pledging □\$20 □\$	40 □\$60 □Other\$ To	be paid by check on or before
	OR for PayPal VENMO send payments to	: mwrtreas@gmail.com
Send V	ENMO payments to mwrtreas@gamil.com	or mail to Audrey Jarvey at:
	74W13737 Appleton Ave, Unit 116, Meno	

YIKES!

Applications due **NOVEMBER 15**, for LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD

SIGP is seeking qualified candidates for a financial award that supports women in their educational or vocational programs. The LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD (LYD) is for \$3000 which can be used in whatever way the recipient needs to support her educational goal.

Applicants must be the primary financial support for herself and her dependents, have financial need, and be enrolled in a vocational skills training program or undergraduate degree program. **This application is due NOVEMBER 15, 2020.**

The application is online at the Soroptimist Grosse Pointe website: grossepointesoroptimist.org

Click under the tab at the top that says PROGRAMS, and it will direct you to the application which can be completed and submitted online.

For further LYD information contact Bette at 586-557-3287



FOUR (4) SHORT-TERM HOLIDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSITIVE IMAGES (choose one, none or more!)

Our club has supported Positive Images (PI) in a multiple of ways for decades. One of those ways is to brighten up the holiday season for its residents and their children.

PI is a private, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit, therapeutic community. The organization addresses the special needs of adults and families recovering from substance use disorders, mental impairment, co-occurring disorders, and other social, medical, and environmental problems.

As in previous years, each SIGP member can offer to buy an outfit and a toy/gift for a child or young teen. This annual project helps support PI and is totally voluntary; participation is entirely up to each member.

Guidelines have changed due to COVID-19:

- There is no in-person holiday party at Positive Images this year.
- The women will be given a time to arrive at the Coplin residence to pick up their gift from Positive Images and their children's gifts donated by Soroptimist Grosse Pointe and the church VOLUNTEER OPP #1 that co-sponsors PI's holiday gift program with our club.
- Residents will also select a holiday gift basket prepared by Soroptimist and will receive a food bag from PI.

Wednesday, November 11: Shopping for the Children of PI

- You can sign up for a child at the November 11, general business meeting. Shortly after, I will send you the information name/size and gender of a child and you will shop for him or her.
- If you cannot attend the ZOOM meeting but you would like to shop for a child, text or email me (Diana at 313-690-1515) and I will send you a child's information.
- OR ... if it is easier for you, you can make a monetary donation and someone on the committee will shop for you. Cash or check made out to Diana Langlois with P.I. Holiday in the memo line. Drop off in my mailbox at 561 Hollywood, GP Woods, by November 22.

Guidelines for shopping: Note that \$25 items can be purchased on sale—VALUE \$25

- 1. Buy a pant and top set, or pant and sweater/fleece, value of around \$25
- 2. Take off all the sales tags and wrap using a gift BAG and tissue paper.
- 3. Label the outside of the gift BAG with the mother's name, child's name, age, size of outfit.
- 4. Buy something that is not clothing and is appropriate for the age of the child, around \$25.
- 5. Take off all the sales tags and wrap using a gift BAG.
- 6. Label the outside of the gift BAG with the mother's name, child's name, age.
- Deliver both gifts (clothing plus toy/game/jewelry/or other gift) to my house, 561 Hollywood, GP Woods, by December 7.
- 4. Please let me (Diana Langlois) know what you bought or take a photo and send it to me so the committee can keep track. (Continued on next page)

Tuesday, December 8 and/or Thursday, December 10: Assemble 50 holiday gift baskets for the women at Positive Images



At left: Assembling the baskets in

Diana's garage warmed by space heaters

and the joy of creating together. In foreground,

Anita Sandercott and Bette Lepouttre. 2019

Below: Sample items to include in the baskets. 2019

At the bottom of page, our dear, late, Myra Golden who loved distributing the baskets to the women at PI. Even if she were alive, she wouldn't have been able to do that this year because of the pandemic. 2019

In small groups, SIGP volunteers will organize and create the gift baskets from **7-8:30 p.m.**, at my house, 561 Hollywood, GP Woods. Due to possible COVID restrictions that week, more times and dates may need to be added to assemble the baskets with fewer members at each session. It's too early to make these decisions.

Always needed for the baskets: small, like-new items that have a festive holiday feeling. Also this year baskets are needed or large cookie tins. Lotions, nail polish, gloves, holiday decorations, basically anything that you have in your house that is like new, that would fit in a basket and be a fun, surprise gift ...all of these make wonderful donations! The committee is excellent at putting these items together!



Saturday, December 12: Deliver gifts and baskets to Positive Images, 4825 Coplin, Detroit (about 15 minutes from Grosse Pointe)!

Last but not least: A committee is needed to help me with this Holiday project! This is a fun way for members to give volunteer service and to get to know and understand a little more about Positive Images. Please let me know if you want to be a committee member!

HUGS, Diana Langlois, 313-690-1515



Anti-Human Trafficking Virtual Event scheduled for January 2021

Soroptimist Grosse Pointe's January HT Virtual Event panel discussions will be a two-part series that will run the month of January 2021 on the SIGP website and will be available to outside groups willing to host the programs.

The first panel discussion will focus on Michigan's present and future HT law enforcement guidelines and policies regarding victims and predators. The second program will highlight available social services and the process of victim recovery.

The overall goal of the HT Virtual Event is to bring current, reliable data and information to SIGP members with the intent to educate our community and put an end to the human trafficking condition in Michigan. If you have any HT questions for the panel, send them to SIGP member Laurie Jost by November 12.

The next HT meeting is on **Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 6 pm**. Karrie Blankenship will send out the Zoom link to committee members. If you want to attend, let Karrie know.

Do you have something to sell that's worth \$20+?

Below is a link to a YouTube video that explains FB Marketplace with step-by-step instructions and helpful tips. For SIGP members who want me to walk them through it, I'm happy to do so at an upcoming meeting.

The video covers everything, but our members will want to add a blurb about SIGP under the description section such as: Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. This way buyers will know they're donating to a good cause. Also helps when people try to negotiate down the price. You can turn in any proceeds to either of our treasurers: Mary Ellen Burke or Bette Lepouttre.

I highly recommend going to a public area to make the exchange. I always meet people at the GPP library/city hall. Had a couple no-shows but never felt unsafe!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyNpSZVPqHQ

—Cara Crawford

Outreach Librarian Kathleen Gallagher speaks at October General Meeting

Some members braved the cold at the GP Shores Park, while others participated from the comfort of their homes via Zoom to attend the October General Meeting. The bottom line is that all of us enjoyed our featured speaker, Kathleen Gallagher who has worked for the Grosse Pointe Public Library since 2003. Kathleen did a great job of bringing us up to date on structural improvements at our three branches, what services are gradually being rolled out as COVID evolves, and touched on the many programs offered to residents.

Of special interest was Kathleen's description of outreach services to the homebound. It was apparent she really cares about her elderly and ill patrons and has special concerns about their welfare during this difficult time.

Visit <u>www.grossepointlibrary.org/events</u> for information on the many upcoming programs. A special "Don't Miss" is "Lincoln and Thanksgiving," November 18, at 7 p.m. A talented Lincoln presenter will tell you how he invented this beloved holiday.

— Laura McCourt, SIGP Vice President and Membership Chair



Outreach Librarian Kathleen Gallagher

Paying homage to the Suffragists who fought and won the right to vote 100 years ago



At the microphone is AAUW member Marie DeLuca who organized the event. To her left are SIGP members Mary Ellen Burke, Carolyn Barth and Ellen Chapin who are also members of AAUW.



SIGP members Diana Langlois and Peggy Hart.



AAUW Suffragist Parade

VOTES FOR WOMEN! This was the cry and slogan of the Suffragists' Movement to all women the right to vote. On October 11, 2020, a picture-perfect day, our local Grosse Pointe AAUW sponsored a parade in homage to this historic event.

Participants (about 100!) met at Grosse Pointe South High School and marched to the War Memorial where a few speeches were made that summarized the struggle to gain the vote.

SIGP member Mary Ellen Burke (pictured at left), and current President of the AAUW Grosse Pointe chapter was one of the featured speakers.

It was a great turnout with women, men, children and dogs in attendance.



At left: The girls who led the Suffragist parade while carrying a wide banner are Pierce Middle School students. They are members of the BOT-MASTERZ Robotics Girls Team.

Support today's girls to be free from online abuse

By Rasheda Kamaria Williams

Last month, we celebrated and observed International Day of the Girl. This year's theme was, "My Voice, Our Equal Future."

But many girls' voices are being silenced—silenced by cyberbullying and other forms of digital abuse.

Plan International, a development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls, released a new report that shines a light on the harassment and abuse of girls and young women on social media platforms across the globe.

Plan surveyed 14,000 girls in 22 countries, including the U.S., Brazil, Benin, and India, revealing more than half (58%) have been harassed or abused on social media. The organization spoke to 1,165 girls and young women between the age of 15 and 24 in the U.S. and found 43% reported that they, too, have experienced some form of online harassment on social media platforms.

As part of their #FreetoBeOnline campaign, **Plan International** has teamed up with girls around the world asking social app creators to develop stronger reporting mechanisms for violence and to hold perpetrators accountable.

You can support their efforts by signing the open letter to companies like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.

Do you know someone experiencing digital harassment or cyberbullying?

Reporting cyberbullying is an important first step in resolving the issue. Depending on the victim's age, they should tell someone they trust—parent, relative, teacher or mentor. But they should also take screenshots to keep a record of the cyberbullying.

If they don't feel comfortable telling someone right away, consider reporting the information anonymously. Some cities have ordinances against cyberbullying and online harassment and offer reporting hotlines and online tools. For additional tips and resources visit www.stopbullying.gov.

Rasheda Kamaria Williams is a proud member of Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe and the founder/chief empowering officer for Empowered Flower Girl, a social enterprise on a mission to transform the way young people relate to one another and themselves. She also is a mentoring advocate and consultant, speaker, and author. Learn more at www.rashedakamaria.com.



Happy November Birthday to ...

Dorothy Wasinger, November 2
Roseanne Horne, November 6
Anita Sandercott, November 6
Vicki Granger, November 8
Sandra Mengel, November 26

FRIENDSHIP LINK CLUBS OF SIGP

On October 15, you received an email explaining a request from our Friendship Link club in Moreton, Australia. Chris Knight, our contact for the Moreton club, she asked our members to send short messages of inspiration for the survivors of the bushfires in Australia.

So far, I have sent five messages from our club and Chris has replied with her gratitude. If you would like to send a short message of inspiration, please do so via email to: karrieb40@gmail.com or Nancy Solak at solaksinitaly@yahoo.com. Nancy will be taking on the position of Friendship Link Chair. Thank you, Nancy!

When the late Ann Cunningham was our club historian, she'd hand write letters to our Friendship Link clubs once or twice a year. In these letters she shared our club activities and successful fundraisers. When she passed away, other members took on this role. Later, when the position opened up again, I was newsletter editor at the time. I decided to take on the role of Friendship Link Chair. I contacted our Friendship Link clubs' chairs and asked if they would like to receive SIGP's newsletter. This was a good way for them to keep in touch with our club, and for us to gain more insight into their clubs as well.

Nancy Solak is now our newsletter editor and has continued to send our newsletter to these clubs. We have received feedback from Moreton, South Kolkata, Manchester and Accra on a fairly regular basis.

I have been asked what a friendship link is all about. The friendship link between clubs is a way to see what clubs around the world are doing to help women and girls in their area and, sometimes, to collaborate with clubs in a service project.

You may ask, "How do we collaborate with a club halfway around the world?" Well, it depends on the project. While I have been the Friendship Link Chair SIGP financially collaborated with the SIA Hikone club in Japan in October 2016. The project helped purchase 10 sewing machines, fabric, and materials for inmates at a local jail

where they made and sold eco bags through department stores and markets. The project was in South America, an SIA regional club project. We no longer share a friendship link with Hikone since, unfortunately, they've disbanded.

-Karrie Blankenship, President Elect

A Recent Email from Austrailia

Namaste Dear Karrie

Thank you so much for these lovely messages which have now been handwritten onto postcards to send.

You may like to see the latest update on how they are responding – it is very heart warming and I love the community catch-ups – I am hoping that this may be where they will be able to share the messages and the little greetings that are being sent with the postcards.

Namaste, Chris

FRIENDSHIP LINKS OF SI GROSSE POINTE

SI of the South West Pacific Federation:

Australia: Brisbane City & Moreton

SI of the Americas Federation:

Ecuador: Quito Japan: Osaka-Moriguchi

SI of Great Britain and Ireland Federation:

India: Bengal and South Kolkata United Kingdom: Manchester

SI of African Federation:

Ghana: Accra

District III Emails

Governor- Darcy Merritt (dmerritt1963@hotmail.com)

Governor Elect - Christine Fowler Shearer (fowlerartistic@gmail.com)

Secretary - Sheila Zingler-Gilbert - (sheilasifdl@gmail.com)

Treasurer - Audrey Jarvey - (audreyjarv@charter.net)

District III Director - Kellie Klingel (ktklingel@yahoo.com)

Secretary - Patricia Cavell (bsktpac@comcast.net)

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

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.



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 **INSTAGRAM:** E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz **SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:** FACEBOOK and facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointeRenee Rodriguez THE POINTER is on the website and NEWSLETTER: is emailed to membersNancy Solak MEDIA: Newspaper articles, radio PSAs, etc.Diana Langlois Remember to use AMAZON SMILE. Each dollar you spend on amazon.com gives .05 to SIGP smile.amazon.com

Roseanne Horne c/o SIGP 1247 Elford Grosse Pointe, MI 48236		SOROPTIMIST® Investing in Dreams	
Name:			
Shipping Address:			
Shipping City:		State: Zip	
Telephone Number:			
Email Address:			
Soroptimist club:			
	Ladies (S)	Force (2XL)	
	Ladies (M)	Force (3XL)	
	Ladies (L)	Force (XL)	
	Ladies (XL)		
Picture shows Ladies (S)			
		Circle embroidery choice	
Jacket Cost \$45	Shipping: \$10	Embroidery: White or Blue	
Cash:	Check:	Credit Card:	
Soroptimist Internati	onal of Grosse Pointe	Accepted VISA	
updated 5/27/20			

All proceeds from the sale of jackets go to SIGP. Each one has a zipper, hood and pockets. Length to hips. Order yours today!

SIGP Member Ads



 $\underline{https://thriveglobal.com/stories/rasheda-kamaria-williams-if-you-want-something-youve-never-had-you-must-be-willing-to-do-something-youve-never-done/$



SUPPORT OUR MEMBER-OWNED BUSINESSES!