Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

October 2021



The Pointer

Presidents' Message

100 YEARS of SOROPTIMIST and 65 YEARS of SIGP

These are milestones to celebrate! The first Soroptimist Club was founded 100 years ago in California. Soroptimist comes from the Latin soror-sister and optima-best, meaning "best for women." Eighty dedicated women signed the first charter and chose to provide vocational guidance to girls as one of their first service projects. One hundred years later we are more than 72,000 women strong in 121 countries. All members work toward the same goal of empowering women and girls to dream big and to fulfill their dreams. Education is the key. Our Soroptimist mission is to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe was founded in 1956 with 18 charter members. Sixty-five years later, with 62 members, we are a strong, active, diverse organization working together on many varied projects to educate and empower women and girls. Whether it is through our many educational awards, mentoring program, anti-human trafficking initiatives, providing tuition for high school girls in Ghana, the Dream It Be It program, or the important parenting classes and aid given to the women at Positive Images, we are proud of our accomplishments as Soroptimists.

We will be celebrating these two important anniversaries at our December holiday dinner. Save the date, Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Be prepared to enjoy the evening by looking back through our Soroptimist history.

— Ellen Chapin and Marya Rosenthal, SIGP Co-presidents

DON'T MISS SIGP's General Business Meeting, Wednesday, October 13, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

Please help SIGP welcome guest speaker Marian Reich, President of Global Ties Detroit. She will introduce us to this Department of State sponsored program that cultivates global connections between Detroiters and international emerging leaders by implementing a wide range of exchange programs and organizing citizen diplomacy events. Thanks to SIGP member Francine Pegues, an active member of this program, for providing the opportunity for our Club to learn more about Global Ties and explore ways we can interact with participants.



SIGP Co-presidents Marya Rosenthal and Ellen Chapin clink glassed at the themed table aptly titled A Late Summer Garden Party

"A Late Summer Garden Party" is the theme of our Soroptimist table at The Daughters of Penelope annual fundraiser. This year, all tables of participants can be viewed online during the month of October at <u>dopfestivaloftables.com</u> and a "tip" can be given if you choose to donate to this event. Proceeds from this fundraiser are given to Ascension SE Michigan Breast Cancer Program to fund mammograms for uninsured women. SIGP is pleased to be a "Mingle" sponsor.

The table was artfully decorated with the creativity and help of SIGP members Ellen Chapin, Marya Rosenthal, Laura McCourt, Peggy Hart, Mary Ellen Burke and Roseanne Horne.

You are cordially invited to the World Premiere of our Club's documentary!

We have come to the finish line with our Human Trafficking (HT) Committee's production titled, *Insights on Human Trafficking* documentary. Its premiere showing will be at **SIGP's NOVEMBER Business Meeting.** Please mark your calendar to ensure you remember to watch our club's groundbreaking effort to raise awareness of this horrendous industry. SIGP's HT Committee has been working tirelessly over the years to bring this information to the world.

— Laurie Jost and Karrie Blankenship, HT Co-chairs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director

One-and-Done Volunteer Opportunities

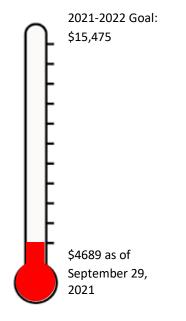
<u>Voteforward.org</u> seeks volunteers in a non-partisan effort to help get the vote out to underserved communities. Several Soroptimists participated in a similar initiative in October 2020. This quick turnaround project involves addressing envelopes from a list supplied by the organizers and completing a form letter with your own comments on "Why I vote." All letters will be mailed on October 16.

Please visit the website: <u>voteforward.org</u> for details and directions.

If you decide to join me in this project, I would appreciate hearing from you. Our membership has endorsed more volunteer opportunities, and it will be helpful to know if this opportunity is of interest to you. — Laura McCourt, call/text 954-232-4398.

Another One-and-Done Opportunity Continues...

Knitters have an opportunity to support a program designed for parents welcoming an adopted, foster, or biological baby into their homes. The Grosse Pointe Public Library will be distributing goody bags to participants in their New Parent group and hope to include a pair of gender-neutral color baby booties or baby caps in the bag. If you are interested in participating, I'll be happy to collect your donation by October 15. Give me a call/txt at 954-232-4398. — Laura McCourt



Fundraising Update

As of September 29, we keep moving toward our goal!

GOLDEN GARAGE SALE - \$2500 CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE - \$573 AMAZON SMILE - \$16.39 DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN SALE - \$1600

TOTAL TO DATE: \$4689

 Bette Lepouttre, Fundraising Chair and Assistant Treasurer

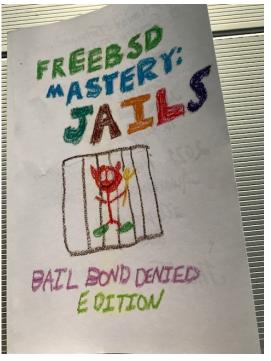
THE book that raised \$2,295 to help victims of human trafficking!

I would like to thank our members who were available to sign Mike Lucas's book he so generously auctioned to benefit our virtual 5K Walk/Run event. A special "thank you" goes to SIGP members Roseanne Horne, Nancy Solak and Ellen Chapin for making it possible and convenient for our members to sign his book.

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of SIGP members signed the book (see cover at right), making it a unique auction item for a winning bid of \$1,200. The total received from this auction, including the winning bid, is \$2,295!

Mike and Liz Lucas, on behalf of the Human Trafficking Awareness Committee and SIGP, we thank you for your generosity and dedication to our Club, and its anti-human trafficking initiatives.

— Karrie Blankenship, HT Co-Chair



A Note from Liz Lucas

Thanks to everyone who signed my husband Mike's book that was put up for auction. You made this a truly unique item. It is a prize for the owner, and will help lift some of the weight off people who were only trying to survive. I hope the money raised by this auction and the 5K Walk/Run helps them not only survive, but also thrive. Thanks for taking Mike's offer and running with it. It is an awesome thing.

— SIGP Member Liz Lucas

Update on "our" Ghana Girls

SIGP member Carol Hofer reports that a yard sale held in Roseville last month yielded almost \$1700 for our Ghana girls. Yay!

Soroptimist Int'l of the Americas has a BIG GOAL

SIA's BIG GOAL for 2021-2031 is to invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education. This ambitious goal will impact four times the number who are currently reached. How can this be accomplished? The new DREAM BIG campaign was launched to raise \$15 million to expand, deliver, and sustain the Dream programs: **Live Your Dream** and **Dream It, Be It** to empower women and girls to reach their full potential. The impact of these programs will be felt now and far into the future. See pages 12 and 13 for details.

Candle Lighting Ceremony inspired by a desire for world peace

Soroptimist International planned a Candle Lighting Ceremony that all 3,000 Soroptimist Clubs (ours included!) could participate in between September 21, 2021 (the International Day of Peace) and October 1, 2021 (SI's 100th Anniversary Celebration).



SIGP members, led by Mary Ellen Burke, participated in the Candle Lighting Ceremony in person and via Zoom, September 8, 2021. **Photo by SIGP Member Nancy Kelley**, Shores Park, Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

The event included the United Nations International Day of Peace, September 21. The 2021 theme is "Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World."

The wishes of our club (below and on next page) reflect what we stand for:

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe Sends Wishes:

Soroptimist International to Establish Gender Equity
Soroptimist International of the Americas to Enable Women to Live their Dream
Soroptimist International of the Midwestern Region to Educate Women for Empowerment
Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe to Eradicate Human Trafficking

Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting or attended via Zoom.

— Mary Ellen Burke, SIGP Assistant Treasurer

Candle Lighting Ceremony (continued from previous page)











Mentoring for Success hosts a Financial Strategies for Success Webinar

A big round of applause for Sharon McWhorter who presented FINANCIAL STRATEGIES for SUCCESS on September 22, from 6:00–7:45 on Zoom to our mentees Tonesia, Jeritah, Ariel, and 11 SIGP members! Sharon stated that everyone should review their credit report for accuracy. You need a copy of your credit report to correct or replace inaccurate information. Here is the contact information to the three major credit bureaus to obtain your credit report or credit score, alert creditors to a possible fraud using your name, or for any other reason:

Equifax: 800-685-1111 (general) or 800-525-6285 (fraud); P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374; www.equifax.com

Experian: 888-397-3742 (general and fraud); PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com.

TransUnion: 800-888-4213 (general) or 800-680-7289 (fraud); P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19022; www.transunion.com

Thank you, Sharon, for sharing your time and your expertise with us! It was very informative and worthwhile. Members who did not attend and who would like a copy of the handout, CREDIT EDUCATION, American Resource Training System, Inc., please contact Diana.

FINAL 100'S PROJECT CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SOROPTIMIST

Thanks to the many Soroptimists who made our final 100's project such a great success. To date, we have collected more than 100 books for the children of the Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Head Start classes.

If you still want to donate, SIGP has established a literary partnership with Scholastic Books, enabling us to order titles for 3-5-year-olds. To date, members have contributed more than \$100 toward our book order. Please take a look at scholastic.com, click on "Shop," then go to Scholastic Store and buy for pre-kindergarten and ages 3-5.



Books donated to GP Head Start classes

If you have specific books you want to contribute, or are interested in donating to purchase books, please contact Membership Chair Laura McCourt at 954-232-4398. The book order will be placed October 5.

It's time to send applications to prospective Live Your Dream and Virginia Wagner educational awards applicants!





SIGP is now accepting applications for our Club's 2021 signature programs – **Live Your Dream** and the **Virginia Wagner Educational** awards. Each year we offer these educational awards to women enrolled in programs beyond high school. Once again, we are pleased to provide financial assistance to women who struggle financially to attend college or a vocational program and strive to complete their educational goals.

We provide information about these awards and how to apply to Financial Aid offices of colleges and universities in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. However, I'm reaching out to you for help in finding qualified candidates for these awards. Word-of-mouth from SIGP members is important and beneficial. This is an important endeavor and getting this communication out is crucial.

The LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD is for \$3000 and the applicant needs to be head of household, have financial need and be enrolled in any program past high school. Applications are due by November 08, 2021. (Flyer available to be copied and sent out is available on page 11.) The VIRGINIA WAGNER EDUCATIONAL AWARD is also for \$3000 and the applicant needs to be enrolled in a bachelor, master or doctorate program and has financial need. Applications due by January 15, 2022.

POSITIVE IMAGES has some positively positive news!

Positive Images has received a grant from the McGREGOR FOUNDATION for \$150,000 to update and repair the building at 13336 E. Warren to expand its facilities to become the POSITIVE IMAGES FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CLINIC. Behavioral health refers to integrated care coordination for services and referrals relating to behavioral and mental health. The clinic will serve more than 350 residents of Detroit providing person-centered, multidisciplinary, evidence-based screening, assessment, diagnostics, treatment, and substance use disorder and prevention services in one convenient and family-friendly location.

The McGregor Foundation was founded by Tracy and Katherine McGregor in 1925 with a mission "to relieve the misfortunes and improve the wellbeing of humankind." In Detroit, the foundation focuses on underserved communities and funds programs that will enhance the quality of life in those communities. Positive Images, Inc., is certainly one of those programs! Congratulations to Positive Images! Soroptimist looks forward to supporting your endeavors in this exemplary project!

Positive Images has also received a grant from the State of Michigan that will fund a certified preschool for four-year-old children in the current daycare facility in the Coplin residence center. If you know of anyone who would be interested in being the lead teacher, please contact Diana at 313-690-1515 and she will forward the information to Executive Director Maisha Kenyatta. The applicant should have a current resume of her experience and degrees.

Parenting sessions continue under the guidance of **SIGP members Bette Lepouttre and Lillian Frazier**. Once again, if any member is thinking about becoming involved with this service and wishes to observe a session, please contact Bette at 586-557-3287.

Celebrating the Decade Birthdays of Anne Schwartz, Sandy Mengel, Dorothea Williams and Dolores Goodger



SIGP members who attended the September business meeting in person or online had fun guessing the meanings of slang sayings from the 1920s, 1950s, and 1960s. September is the month our Club traditionally celebrates members' "Zero" birthdays. The only celebrant's age being revealed here is that of Dolores Goodger who turned 100 this past April. Dolores, here's a shout out to you from your friends at SIGP in Michigan. Hope you are having a stellar year!

BRIGHT PAST BRILLIANT FUTURE recap

BRIGHT PAST BRILLIANT FUTURE was the theme of SIA's 100th anniversary celebration. This twoevening virtual event, Saturday and Sunday, September 25, and 26, began with a historical presentation of Soroptimist including archival material and photos. A tour of SIA headquarters, housed in a beautifully restored Philadelphia home, was given along with greetings from past SIA presidents. Wishes and hopes for the future, written by members at the 50th and 75th anniversary celebrations and stored in a time capsule, were opened and read. Legacy members were featured



during a fast-moving parade of the city sites. Saturday evening concluded with a one-hour dance party hosted by DJ Vader.

Sunday opened with a memorable presentation by keynote speaker Dawn Johnson. She is a prior Live Your Dream winner from Vancouver who shared her life story of overcoming abuse, sexual exploitation, addiction, and teen pregnancy. She learned to believe in herself as others believed in her and her dream of becoming a lawyer finally came true. Her story of survival, resilience, and courage is truly inspiring.

The Dream Big campaign was launched with much fanfare by the new SIA president. Soroptimist women from around the world gave greetings and congratulations on this 100th anniversary. The evening ended with a fun, competitive scavenger hunt with our own Bette Lepouttre as one of the featured participants. Sadly, Bette did not win, but we were rooting for her. On to the next 100 years!

— Ellen Chapin, SIGP Co-president

Happy October Birthday to ...

Paula Davis, October 1
Nancy Kelley, October 6
Nancy Hohlfeldt, October 15
Dorothea Williams, October 26
Marina Houghton, October 28
Carolyn Barth, October 30



zahra-tavakoli-fard-FYdTN14FuVM-unsplash

Members do their own thing for SIGP's Virtual 5K Walk/Run



Above: SIGP member Roseanne Horne is decked out in her Soroptimist accessories: visor, jacket, necklace, earrings and shopping bag! Ready to walk her 5K in support of Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe's Human Trafficking Walk/ Run.



Above: Since walking and running is a "no can do" for SIGP member Nancy Solak's back, she and her husband Rich biked the Soroptimist 5K Walk/Run at Belle Isle (6 miles).

Here they are seen visiting the newly opened Oldouf Garden (Belle Isle Conservatory in the background). Piet Oldouf also designed the Highline Gardens in New York City, and the Lurie Gardens in Chicago. Every fan of public gardens is pleased beyond words that this world-renowned garden architect came to Detroit!

Unofficial SIGP Side Hustles

You can arrange a group to see one of our Club's very own actors, Katherine Baetz, perform at The Players this November. **SIGP member Katherine Baetz** is currently rehearsing for a drama/comedy stage production with Fine Arts Society of Detroit. The play is titled, "A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody." Show dates are Friday and Saturday, November 19 & 20, at the Players Playhouse, 3321 E Jefferson Ave, Detroit, MI 48207, in Detroit. Curtain goes up at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$30/person and includes a wine reception that starts at 7 p.m. Masks required. There will be round tables for groups of four to accommodate social distancing.

Reservations can be made with checks payable to FASD. Please get them to Katherine Baetz, 1504 Aline Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1002 at least two weeks before the show. Seats are very limited.

PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS FLYER AND DISTRIBUTE TO POSSIBLE CANDIDATES!!!

Ready to begin a new life?

The Soroptimist Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women program has been helping women around the world since 1972. This program provides cash grants to women who are working to better their lives through additional schooling and skills training.



You are eligible to apply if you:

are a woman with primary financial responsibility for yourself and your dependents

are attending an undergraduate degree program or a vocational skills training program

have financial need

Apply for a LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD at bit.ly/LYDA-apply OR contact:

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

Name: Elizabeth Lepouttre

Email: elepouttre@gmail.com

Phone:

Online: grossepointesoroptimist.org

Club Application Deadline: November 8, 2021

Amount of Club Award: \$3000

Notes: Additional requirement for SIGP is to provide a copy of current coarse schedule.

Please send to elepouttre@gmail.com







Celebrate our Increased Collective Impact as we work toward our next Big Goal!

EIGHT YEAR PROGRESS: FY11/12-FY19/20

LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARDS 580 more women receive the award annually **4**49% from 1,200 to 1,700 (octual: 1,189 in FY11/12 to 1,770 in FY19/20)

\$1.2 million more awarded annually

▲83% from \$1.54 million to \$2.8 million (actual: \$1,538,074 in FY11/12 to \$2,815,272 in FY19/20)



DREAM IT, BE IT

73,727 girls have been reached since the program launched in FY15/16

Received the Summit Award—American Society of Association Executives' highest award



FUNDRAISING

\$210,000 more in annual funds raised A13% from \$1.6 million to \$1.8 million (actual: \$1,605,808 in FY11/12 to \$1,814,989 in FY19/20)

\$570,000 more overall funds raised from annual funds and major gifts in PY19/20 Overall funds raised ▲35% from \$1.6 million to \$2.17 million (Overalt \$2,174,792, Annualt \$1,814,989; Major Gifts: \$360,000)

Signed our first blue-chip corporate sponsor-



MEMBERSHIP

27,692 members in 20 countries and territories

▲24% membership loss from FY11/12 (Actual: 36,295 in FY11/12 to 27,692 in FY19/20)

1,120 members whose lives were disrupted by COVID-19 received FY20/21 dues payments from the Disaster Fund Appeal

30% (734) of all new members joined because of our Dream Programs



LIVEYOURDREAM.ORG

Attracted 159,000+ supporters (actual: 1,235 in FY11/12 to 159,014 in FY19/20)



Soroptimist.org | LiveYourDream.org

SIGP Board Meeting Wednesday, October 6, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Get Ready for 2021-2031!

To build on the success of increased collective impact, we began planning for the Big Goal that would carry us into our second century. Through engagement with leaders, clubs and members, we created a bold goal for 2021-2031: Invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education.

Join us as we work together to reach this audacious goal.

PROGRAM

Increase the number of women and girls your club serves by providing additional Live Your Dream Awards and holding Dream It, Be It projects.

MEMBERSHIP

Grow and retain members by creating an enjoyable and civil member experience.



PUBLIC AWARENESS

Gain greater recognition by promoting your club's impact through our Dream Programs.



FUNDRAISING

Increase funds raised to support our brand unifying Dream Programs.



FUTURE

Mobilize support of our 2021-2031 Big Goal: Invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education.



For more information about SIA's Big Goal visit:

<Soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/federation-information/sias-big-goal/index.html>.

Roseanne Horne c/o SIGP 1247 Elford Grosse Pointe, MI 48236		SOROPTIMIS Investing in Dream	
Name:			
Shipping Address:			
Shipping City:		State: Zip	
Telephone Number:			
Email Address:			
Soroptimist club:			
Picture shows Ladies (S)	Ladies (S) Ladies (M) Ladies (L) Ladies (XL) Ladies (2XL)	Force (2XL) Force (3XL) Force (XL) Circle embroidery choice	
645	ć10		
Jacket Cost \$45	Shipping: \$10	Embroidery: White or Blu	ue
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!

District III Emails

Interim Governor – 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 soroptimistgp Anne Schwartz **INSTAGRAM:** grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz E-MAIL: **SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:** FACEBOOK and facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointeAnne Schwartz NEWSLETTER: THE POINTER is on the website and 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

SIGP Member Ads

A SIGP Member Has a Special Deal for You!

Due to the virus and surgery on my hand, I have been off of work many weeks off and on. Now I am back and ready to help you with YOUR aches and pains. I am an independent massage therapist. Independent means no staff, no major company to hire me. I am on my own. So you'll know that you get all my time. No time taken off for you to get on and off the table like the chain companies do. I have 20 years' experience with knowledge of many modalities. I blend many options within your time with me.

My office is in a private, quiet location above WOW Gym (Women's Only Workout), 22601 Greater Mack Ave, SCS. It's across from Tropical Smoothie Cafe, corner of Elizabeth, opposite corner of SCS CVS. My special for any Soroptimist member is 70 minutes for \$60; 90 minutes for \$90.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE — Call today, don't delay!

Sincerely, Rosanne Morrow at 313-205-7117



Don't forget to support our member-owned businesses.



SIGP members are welcome to place ads here at no cost.

To place an ad, contact *The Pointer* editor, Nancy Solak, at solaksinitaly@yahoo.com