



The Pointer

SIGP General Meeting, Wednesday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Physical Distancing Will Be Employed

Please bring all you need for yourself: A mask, lawn chair, hand sanitizer, bug spray, your own refreshment and/or snack (optional).

Grosse Pointe Shores Park, 800 Lake Shore Road

Grosse Pointe Shores—Gatehouse Phone: 313-884-7018

Although the meeting will be short, the fresh air and fellowship will be sweet.

At the gate, tell them you are a Soroptimist. Your name will be on the list.

Special thanks to club member Marina Houghton for reserving the space for us!

FUNDRAISING SIGP STYLE!

We're off and running after a great Fundraising meeting via Zoom on June 24th! There were several potential fundraising opportunities discussed by the 11 members who attended.

We are looking forward to having a successful fundraising effort this year and need YOU! Check your email for a survey coming your way with details about possible fundraising opportunities.

WE need YOUR input and thoughts. Our ultimate goal is to continue to fund our Soroptimist Programs. That's what we are all about!

Take the time to provide feedback! Take care, be safe! Best for ALL women!

— Bette Lepouttre, SIGP Treasurer

SIGP Treasurers Bette Lepouttre and Mary Ellen Burke continue to accept donations to our club in
MEMORY OF MYRA GOLDEN.

Please make checks payable to: SIGP and send them to either treasurer:

Bette Lepouttre, 191 Rdigemont, Grosse Pointe Farms 48236

Mary Ellen Burke, 2037 Shorepointe, Grosse Pointe Woods 48236



To date, \$350 has been donated in Myra's name. Thank you!

CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE NOW THROUGH JULY 31, 2020

Avoid the bottle-return line

Avoid the sticky-icky chore of returning bottles & cans

Donate your returnable cans and bottles to support

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

Proceeds go to Programs and Scholarships for Women in need



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Drop off donations at either address below:

Roseanne Horne at 1247 Elford, Grosse Pointe Woods, 313-706-1801

Nancy Solak, 458 Cloverly, Grosse Pointe Farms, 313-820-1179

OR

Return your own cans and bottles and donate the money to

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

Please make checks payable (in any amount) to: **SIGP**

www.grossepointesoroptimist.net

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We are well on our way to reaching our \$1,000 goal!!! In just 2 weeks we have cashed in more than \$200 worth. Nancy Solak, Carol Hofer, and I have been busy collecting, picking up and returning cans and bottles! Please spread the word to your neighbors, family, and friends. (Feel free to copy the flyer on this page.) Most people are happy to donate to our cause. Call Roseanne Horne at 313-706-1801 or Nancy Solak at 313-820-1179 if you would like us to come pick up your donations. Anyone want to help out? Let us know! Thanks! – *Roseanne Horne*

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PLANS ARE BLOOMING FOR MORE FUN ACTIVITIES

Since we've been having our monthly meetings in the Village (before COVID), I thought it appropriate to lend a hand in their bi-annual beautification project. Ellen Chapin and Peggy Hart and I volunteered to be part of the "Beta test," and Madeline Colavito stepped in and helped us plant more flowers at Neff Park. All of us agreed it was a fun morning and added community awareness of Soroptimist. The Bloom committee kindly acknowledged our effort with the sign (see photo above) planted in "our bed."

As incoming VP and Membership Chair, I'm looking forward to developing more fun, low-cost or no-cost activities in which our membership can participate.

— Laura McCourt, SIGP Vice President/Membership Chair



SIGP members Ellen Chapin, Peggy Hart and Laura McCourt.

STILL LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO TO HELP OTHERS?

Many of you who attended the membership meeting when Gail Marlow of Motor City Mitten Mission (www.motorcitymittenmission.org) was our speaker. She described their Plarning Project to make mats and pillows for the homeless. This is not an official Soroptimist project; however members have been happily involved during this downtime when we volunteers miss volunteering.

You can even watch TV, listen to an audio book or music while doing it!

The first step in Plarning is to collect plastic bags from the grocery store. Those are always needed and can be delivered to the porch of SIGP member Maddy Colavito at 926 Nottingham, Grosse Pointe Park. **PLEASE CALL HER FIRST (509-551-1695) SO SHE CAN RESCUE THEM BEFORE THE WIND PLAYS HAVOC WITH THEM.**

The second step is to cut the bags into strips and make them into balls. It takes 30 balls to make one mat. The only supplies needed for each Plarn ball are 20 plastic store bags and a pair of sharp scissors. (If your bags are 2 weeks old or have been wiped clean, it is unlikely they still harbor the virus.) It doesn't matter if you have different color bags. And, if you don't quite have 20 bags, you can just add onto your Plarn chain as more bags become available to you.

Completed balls can be delivered to the porch of Diana Langlois, 561 Hollywood, Grosse Pointe Woods. **PLEASE CALL HER FIRST (313-690-1515) SO SHE CAN RESCUE THEM BEFORE THE WIND ROLLS THEM AROUND HER NEIGHBORHOOD.**

If you go to the MCOMM website (noted above), you will find Gail's tutorial on how to make the Plarn chain that becomes the Plarn ball.

— Maddy Colavito

WELCOME NEW SIGP MEMBER MARGARET (PEGGY) HICKEY!

Peggy, the grandmother of two grandsons, is a retired Medical Staff Coordinator for local hospitals. She volunteers at the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology and is an election worker for St. Clair Shores. She's hoping to get back to these duties once the current health crisis ends. Please welcome Peggy when you get the chance.



SIA's 46th Biennial Convention Goes Virtual!

JULY 22-24, 2020



#SIAConv2020

Dear Soroptimist,

Although we can't come together in person, we are excited to bring the convention to you as an online experience. While this can't take the place of the fun and fellowship a gathering brings, we hope you'll enjoy a different kind of convention from the comfort of your home.

Watch convention co-chairs Sue Riney and Stephanie Smith (link to video is below) share the daily activities you can look forward to during SIA's virtual convention!

A digital convention program will be emailed to all members in early July.

Regards,

SIA (Soroptimist of the Americas) Headquarters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6b65qIKwVbQ&feature=youtu.be>

JOINT OLD/NEW SIGP BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020, 6:30 P.M.

GROSSE POINTE SHORES PARK, 800 LAKE SHORE ROAD

MYRA GOLDEN'S WORK CONTINUES AT SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF NORWICH, ENGLAND

The work of SIGP member Myra Golden, who passed away in May, continues to ripple—this time all the way across the ocean to Norwich, England! When Myra's friend, Frances Moss, moved to England, Frances joined the Soroptimist International of Norwich club near London. Myra kept in touch with Frances and the projects in her new club. Myra, who collected "Dimes for Dreams," suggested we donate the \$152 to SI of Norwich's project called Freedom Charity.

SI of Norwich was founded in 1952, in Norwich, England. Like our club, they are now conducting their meetings via ZOOM. There are many similarities between our clubs.



SI of Norwich has many "Programs of Service." They support:

- Opening Door, a self-help group for people with learning difficulties.
- 4Women is a resource center for women released from prison, or who are on probation.
- EACH stands for East Anglia Children Hospices.
- They work at Leeway Women's Refuge and provide prizes for local primary school children for attendance.
- They also pick up litter on local walk and bike paths and
- They donate toiletries and food to Food Banks, a local organization.

Besides Opening Doors, they donate to Blood Bikers, Norwich YMCA, and the UN Association in Norwich. Their international projects include Education in Hillcrest, South Africa, and Empowering Girls in Nepal, Hamara Sahaas in Jodhpur, India, and Kori in Sierre Leone.



(At left) Sarita, new member and daughter of Aneeta Prem, founder of Freedom Charity

A few years ago, they inducted a new member, Sarita Prem, into their club. Sarita is the mother of Aneeta Prem, the founder of Freedom Charity. Aneeta founded Freedom Charity in 2010 in London to raise awareness of forced marriage and dishonor-based violence in the United Kingdom (UK).

Aneeta was born in London to Indian parents and became a magistrate. In her magistrate job she served in adult, youth, and family law courts in London. She discovered many young girls were spending their summer vacations in either Africa or India. Some would return victims of female genitalia mutilation (FGM) or arranged child marriages.

Aneeta became instrumental in making forced marriage a crime in the UK. She wrote two books for children 9 years and older. *But It's Not Fair* is a fun, easy read about forced marriage showing a window into different cultures. It offers courses of action to help victims. *Cut Flowers* is an informative, witty book about FGM. It illustrates the danger and ways to prevent it.

In addition to these two books, Aneeta has developed an accredited professional training program for teachers, police, judiciary, NHS, and social services. It provides guidance on how to spot signs of violent and dishonor-based crimes, how to support and protect young people at risk, and how to educate and support young people about forced marriages, FGM, and dishonor-based violence.

SIGP is now another proud supporter of Freedom Charity per Myra's dedicated involvement in helping women and girls.

— Mary Ellen Burke, SIGP Assistant Treasurer

FROM OUR GHANA SISTERS

We received an email note from our Ghana SI friends, written by our contact Karen Korsah in Accra, the capital. Thought you might like to read it. Three weeks ago, I had enquired about the corona virus situation in the country.

She gave me the statistics but because they're out of date now, I omitted that portion from her following email. (NOTE: The current Ghana statistics as of a few days ago are as follows: Cases- 16,431, Deaths--103, Recovered--12,257. Few or no cases in Damongo, site of St. Anne school ...YAY!)

Soroptimist women are referred to as "Best Sisters." I like the sound of that.

*Dear Carol,
Thank you for your email. We continue to observe the prescribed protocols and pray for an end in the rise, and indeed the pandemic itself. Great to hear from you and know that all is well with your contacts at Kasoa and Damongo.*

*Do stay safe. Greetings to all best sisters.
All Best Sisters in Accra
Karen Korsah*

We also heard from the headmistress of St. Anne. Her note follows:

*Dear Carol,
Greetings from Ghana, SAGISS (St. Anne Girls Secondary School). Hope you are doing well in pandemic time. How are all your friends? The students, both the old students and the current students send you their warm greetings. It is their prayer that everything including your health is under God's control.*

We will reopen school on the 22nd June 2020

We wish you God's blessings and protection throughout this pandemic period.

*Madame Pauline.
SAGISS. (St. Anne Girls Secondary School)*

Unfortunately, the American volunteers were sent home at the start of the pandemic and have not been able to return to the country. Last year when we visited, they were the ones who kindly took us around and fed us.

"Best Sisters" of Grosse Pointe, do you understand the wonderful work we are doing not only locally but internationally? Our support for our Ghana girls means so much in this time of Black Lives Matter, because, sadly, racism flourishes internationally, and we are taking a stand to say that these young women of color in a world that thinks they do not matter so terribly much, DO MATTER!

— Carol Hofer
SIGP member and liaison to Ghana SI

LAUREL SOCIETY

What is the Laurel Society?

It was established in 1994 by Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) to honor individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more or make SIA their charity of choice. Since inception, nearly 7,000 Laurel Society members have given more than \$12 million to help economically empower women and girls through our Dream Programs.

How is the money used?

For nearly 100 years, Soroptimist has been improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world. Because of the unique membership structure of Soroptimist, while dues pay for member services, governance, and administration, your charitable contributions are used for fundraising and programs.

How can you become a member of The Laurel Society?

We cannot all give \$1,000, but you have an opportunity to purchase one (or more) square of our SIGP Laurel Society Blanket of 100 squares for \$10 each. When you purchase a square, you will be given a label on which to put your name and square number. This label will be tied onto the blanket square number you choose.

When all squares have been purchased, all labels will be put into a vessel from which one will be drawn. If your number is drawn, you will be the winner of the blanket thereby, becoming a member of the prestigious SIA Laurel Society and have the honor of re-selling 100 squares again.

See me, Carolyn Barth, to purchase your square(s) for \$10 each.

— Carolyn Barth

JULY — HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

Sara Baker, July 1
Aleksa Andjelkovic, July 8
Renee Rodriguez, July 14
Rasheda Williams, July 16
Jane Lightfoot, July 19
Rosanne Morrow, July 23
Catherine Baldwin, July 24
Mary Ellen Burke, July 27
Jane Evola, July 30



MIDWESTERN REGION BOARD District III

Governor - **Darcy Merritt** (dmerritt1963@hotmail.com)
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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 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

Best for Women®

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](https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/calendar%20of%20events.html) for calendar

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe)..... Renee Rodriguez

NEWSLETTER: THE POINTER is on the website and is emailed to members Nancy Solak

MEDIA: Newspaper articles, radio PSAs, etc.Carolyn Barth



Remember to use AMAZON SMILE smile.amazon.com
(look for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe)

SIGP Member Ads

RENÉE RODRIGUEZ
PHOTOGRAPHY



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