

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
February 2023



President's Message — What's on the docket?

February is the month when Grosse Pointe Soroptimists start to “**wine**” down and get ready for our **AWARDS DINNER** on Thursday, March 9. All our fundraising efforts will be realized on that date. (p. 6)

Also on the docket is our Third Annual **FOR THE LOVE OF WINE** raffle coming up next week, February 8, at our regular business meeting. We anticipate this one to be our best year yet. If possible, please make sure to have all your sold ticket stubs and money to Bette Lepouttre this weekend before the drawing, so ticket stubs can be prepared for the raffle. Unsold ticket stubs also need to be turned in. (p. 2)



Lisa Mangiafico

Lisa Mangiafico, associate senior director for Records and Risk Management at SIA headquarters, will join us via Zoom prior to the raffle drawing at our February 8, meeting. She'll reveal the contents of the time capsule the 1994-1996 Region Governors filled during the 75th anniversary celebration. It was opened at our 2022 convention.

Lisa is scheduled to talk at 6:45, so mark your calendars to see what was in the capsule. **FOR THE LOVE OF WINE** raffle drawing will follow Lisa's presentation.



Karrie Blankenship

ALL ABOARD for AWARDS!, our club's *Infinity* yacht fundraiser is cruising along. The committee chairs have scheduled the first meeting for February 15, at 7pm, on Zoom. At this meeting sub-committees will be formed, duties delegated, and ideas shared. So, if you signed up to help, mark your calendar and watch for the link in your email. (pp. 3-5)

Due to a scheduling conflict, this year's **AWARDS DINNER** will be on **Thursday, March 9, 2023**, and held at Assumption Cultural Center. Invitations will go out this month, so watch your email for yours. (It's also on p. 6.) There will be NO general business meeting in March.

*Warm regards,
— Karrie Blankenship, President*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President

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Vice President

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Carolyn Barth

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



FOR THE LOVE OF WINE RAFFLE

Thanks so much for getting out there to sell raffle tickets. Since we’re approaching the deadline, it would be greatly appreciated if you could return your FOR THE LOVE OF WINE RAFFLE stubs and money by Friday, February 3.

Any unsold tickets should also be returned as part of the State of Michigan rules. Return by snail mail or drop off at my house, 191 Ridgemont Rd GPF, MI 48236.

Thank you for your support!

— Bette Lepouttre, President Elect and
For the Love of Wine Chair

P.S. **For Love of Wine Raffle** is supporting this year’s awardees, and **All Aboard for Awards!** yacht cruise is supporting 2024 awardees.

SIGP Business Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Fishbones—St. Clair Shores & Zoom

6:00 Meet & Greet — 6:30 Meeting

6:45 Speaker — 7:00 Raffle Drawing

ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS!

Soroptimist Infinity Cruise to Support Women's Education

Yes, July 11, seems far off. However, before the yacht launches from St. Clair Shores and enters the waterways, we need Soroptimist members to help us identify businesses or individuals to sponsor this fundraiser.

Please provide us with one (1) contact we can approach about donating to our annual awards.

Sponsors can receive one or all of these benefits, depending on their sponsorship level:

- ◆ Tickets for the ALL ABOARD for AWARDS! Cruise on July 11, 2023
- ◆ Tickets to our Awards Dinner on March 9, 2023
- ◆ Be listed as a sponsor in the *Grosse Pointe News*
- ◆ Be listed as a sponsor in our monthly newsletter & on our SIGP webpage
- ◆ Be acknowledged on the cruise.

YOU can help make this cruise successful by providing us a contact we can approach with a sponsorship letter.

We need the name of the business or individual, a contact name at the business, their email address, mailing address, and phone number. We will mail the sponsorship materials to your contact, type your name as the sender, and then follow up with a phone call.

Since sponsors will receive tickets to our Awards Dinner on March 9, we need to identify sponsors as soon as possible so they can attend and meet this year's recipients.

Can we count on your continued support? Send the contact information of a potential sponsor to SIGP President Karrie at karrieb40@gmail.com. The sponsorship levels are on the next page of this newsletter so you will know the opportunities being offered to sponsors.

For more information on soliciting sponsors, contact me at fepegues@comcast.net or call/text at 313-969-0523.

— Francine Pegues, Chair,
All Aboard for Awards! Cruise Committee

CELEBRATE and HONOR WOMEN
who are making a difference

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
MARCH 8, 2023



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Listen to what two of our past awardees have to say
about the Live Your Dream Award and SIGP



www.grossepointesoroptimist.org

Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) is part of a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Our goal for this event is to raise \$15,000.

To raise these funds, we are hosting an afternoon **ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS!** on the [Infinity Yacht](#), **Tuesday, July 11, 2023**. We are inviting you to be a sponsor and join us.

Virginia Wagner Award Sponsor: \$3,000 Awards a woman who is attending college or university in pursuit of a bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree.

- Your sponsorship includes 3 attendees on the cruise, 2 attendees at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the recipients will attend; your company logo on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website; in our monthly newsletter; and in all promotional materials including the *Grosse Pointe News*.

Live Your Dream First Place Sponsor: \$3,000 Awards a single parent enrolled in training who is working toward a degree or technical skill that will improve her employment prospects. This is the signature award of Soroptimist International of the Americas. It is awarded to women around the world.

- Your sponsorship includes 3 attendees on the cruise, 2 attendees at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the recipients will attend; your company logo on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website; in our monthly newsletter; and in all promotional materials including the *Grosse Pointe News*.

Live Your Dream Second Place Sponsor: \$2,000 Awards a single parent enrolled in training who is working toward a degree or technical skill that will improve her employment prospects. This is the signature award of Soroptimist International of the Americas. It is awarded to women around the world.

- Your sponsorship includes 2 attendees on the cruise, 1 attendee at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the recipients will attend; your company logo on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website; in our monthly newsletter; and in all promotional materials including the *Grosse Pointe News*.

Live Your Dream Third Place Sponsor: \$1,000 Awards a single parent enrolled in training who is working toward a degree or technical skill that will improve her employment prospects. This is the signature award of Soroptimist International of the Americas. It is awarded to women around the world.

- Your sponsorship includes 1 attendee on the cruise, 1 attendee at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the recipients will attend, your company logo on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website, and in our monthly newsletter through 2023.

Madeline Colavito Continuing Education Award: \$500 Award provides additional financial support to Live Your Dream recipients so she can complete her educational program.

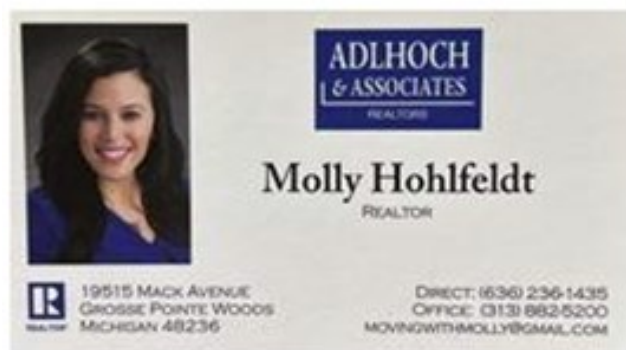
- Your sponsorship includes 1 attendee at the Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 9, 2023, where the recipients will attend, your company logo on the Grosse Pointe Soroptimist website, and in our monthly newsletter through 2023.

Silver Sponsor Donation: \$499 - \$300 Recognition in our monthly newsletter through 2023.

Bronze Sponsor Donation: \$299 - \$250 Recognition in our monthly newsletter through 2023.

(Fair market value ticket sale for a full ship is \$105 per person)

Thank you Sponsors of SIGP's All Aboard for Awards Infinity Cruise!





SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

cordially invites you guests to

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe's Annual Awards Banquet

Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Assumption Cultural Center 21800 Marter Road, St. Clair Shores, MI

\$42 Cash or Check per person

\$45 PayPal and Credit Card per person

RSVP and payment due by March 1, 2023, to:

Mary Ellen Burke at meb65065@gmail.com or (313) 399-8934

Mail or drop off payments to Mary Ellen Burke at
2037 Shorepointe, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Make check payable to SIGP

PayPal payment at grossepointesoroptimist.org

Credit Card payments – contact Mary Ellen at meb65065@gmail.com or (313) 399-8934

~ * ~

Doors open – 6 pm

Buffet style dinner – 7 pm

Cash bar

Awards presentation to follow:

Virginia Wagner Educational Award * Ruby Award * Live Your Dream Awards

Closing remarks

~ * ~

Membership Event
SAVE THE DATE



Join us for our **Wine Tasting and Accessory Sale**
An evening of friendship and fun centered around
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GROSSE POINTE

If you are interested in supporting and helping women in the community and around the world, this is an opportunity for you to meet the dynamic women of **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GROSSE POINTE** and see what projects they are involved in at the local, national and international levels.

The accessory sale of jewelry, scarves, purses, belts and surprises is an in-house fundraiser. Something you no longer want may become a treasure to someone else!

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
7:00 p.m.

Home of
DONNA FITZGERALD
280 RIDGE RD.
GROSSE POINTE FARMS
MI 48236

DROP OFF DONATIONS OF
SCARVES AND PURSES AT
DONNA'S HOUSE ASAP.

Watch for more details in the March newsletter.
Questions: call Diana at (313) 690-1515



Welcome Sue Plath, our newest SIGP member!

We welcome Sue Plath who was inducted at our January Business Meeting held at Fishbones on January 11, 2023. The yellow rose signifies friendship.

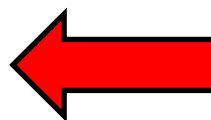
L-R: SIGP President Elect Bette Lepouttre, Sue Plath, and SIGP Membership Chair Diana Langlois.

DERBY FUNDRAISER ... MAY 6, 2023!

President Karrie's home

47956 Sugarbush Rd, Chesterfield, MI

Mark your calendar to attend this exciting Soroptimist Grosse Pointe fundraising event. Below are your February **DERBY DABBLINGS** ... answers will appear in the MARCH newsletter.



SAVE THE DATE!

Question 1:

What percentage of jockeys worldwide are female despite scientific findings that women can jockey just as well as men? _____%



Question 2:

In **1942**, how many of the first eight finishers in the KENTUCKY DERBY were owned by women?

Question 3:

Has a woman **TRAINER'S** horse or a woman **JOCKEY** ever ridden to first place in a KENTUCKY DERBY?

SIGP creates new service projects for Positive Images!

Newer members keep stepping up and taking the initiative to make good things happen for the women at Positive Images (PI)!

A shoutout to **SIGP member Lillian Frazier** who met with the PI women on January 26 to see if they would like to meet once a week for 2 hours to learn how to use a Chromebook. They will have their first gathering on Tuesday, January 31 from 2:00-4:00! If this proves to be successful, Lillian will reach out to other members to join her in this service project.

Kudos to **SIGP member Dawn Riddle** who thought of and created INTAKE WELCOME KITS (see photos below) for new clients of Positive Images as they enter the house on the Boulevard. The bag is sewn from sturdy placemats and fastened with an attractive button. Inside, the women will find socks, underwear, small travel bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, a nail file, nail polish, comb, journal, pen and inspirational saying from Soroptimist. They were delivered to Charlotte at Positive Images and put under "lock and key" to be given to women as they enter the program. Thank you for creating a bag in a thoughtful and meaningful way so the women can be supported as they enter recovery.

As the liaison to PI, I would like to thank Dawn and Lillian for taking on these projects! They remind all of us what it means to be a SOROPTIMIST...working to improve the lives for women and girls!

— Diana Langlois, PI Liaison & Membership Chair



Above: Some of the items included in the Intake Welcome Kits. At Right: The finished kit.



(Positive Images continued on next page)

We're not done with Christmas 2022 yet!

Recipients of our club's donations to Positive Images resulted in the following words of appreciation:

- * From MS - Thank you! I enjoyed the gifts. My daughter was very happy this year.
- * From TE - Hello my name is TE and I wanted to say I am so very grateful and gracious for the Christmas gifts you all gave to me and my children. They loved everything so much, all smiles. May God continue to bless you and your family. Sincerely, TE
- * From ST - Thank you for your heart-warming gifts.
- * From CCC - Much love and many blessings.
- * From SW - Thank you for everything. I am using everything I got.
- * From JL - I want to thank you for the Christmas gifts and I do smell good!
- * From AL -Thank you so much for the gifts. I really appreciate all of them and my daughter was so happy for her gifts as well. You really made our Christmas special.



PI Assistant Carol Classen and PI Founder and Director Maisha Kenyatta accepting a cart full of gifts for the children on December 8, 2022.

PI NOTE: The Parenting/Life skills program, facilitated by **President Elect Bette Lepouttre** in recent years, has been discontinued. The program is no longer required as part of recovery and, therefore, attendance became inconsistent.

Happy February Birthday to ...

Carolyn Chandrasekar, February 6

Deborah A. Thomas, February 22

Elizabeth Lucas, February 23

- ♦ **SIGP members help at Detroit Boat Show!**
- ♦ **SIGP members have fun doing it!**
- ♦ **SIGP members raise funds for SIGP!**



At left: SIGP members Roseanne Horne, Aleksa Andjelkovic, and Bette Lepouttre “working” at the Detroit Boat Show! Soroptimist members volunteered to work the Boat Show several days in January. They earned \$15 per hour which was paid to the club to support our scholarships and programs!



Above: #cleandraindry is the motto to keep your boat clean and prevent transporting invasive species of fish which ruin our marine life.



At left: SIGP Members Aleksa Andjelkovic and Roseanne Horne helped children attending the boat show sponge-paint t-shirts. They taught the kids about invasive species that are invading our lakes and rivers. Roseanne and Aleksa were still smiling at the end of a long day!

LOOK! Our own SIGP member Laurie Jost has been nominated for The Liberator Award!

CLICK ON BLUE "VOTE" [VOTE](#) RIGHT AWAY! VOTING CLOSES FEBRUARY 15.



You have been nominated!

THE LIBERATOR AWARDS

Congratulations Laurie Jost!

You have been nominated by your peers for the **2023 Liberator Awards**. This prestigious award is given yearly to a select few from around the country who are **making a difference in the fight against human trafficking**. You have been honored **for your work** and we hope this nomination will inspire others. Not familiar with the Liberator Awards? Please visit our site at www.liberatorawards.com.

You have been nominated for the Volunteer Category. Finalists and winners are determined by popular vote, as well as voting from previous winners and The SOAP Project Board of Directors. Nominations are submitted throughout the month of January and close on the 31st. **Voting is open February 1st-15th at www.liberatorawards.com. The Top Four finalists of each category will be notified via email and on The SOAP Project Facebook Live on Feb. 17th at 7pm. <https://www.facebook.com/soapproject.org/>.** We encourage you to promote your nomination to help raise awareness and boost your votes!

- Nominations are open now and close at **11:59pm, January 31, 2023**
- Voting is open **February 1st at 12:00am** and close **February 15th at 11:59pm, 2023**
- The Top Four finalists in each category will be notified via email **February 17th, 2023**
Nominees will be announced live on The SOPA Projects Facebook page **February 17th at 7:00pm**
- The Liberator Awards will take place **March 25, 2023** - The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Banquet Hall - Columbus, Ohio



**SI of Monroe County
Invites you to
Ann Arbor, MI**



**The Kensington Hotel
3500 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108**

**SPRING
CONFERENCE**

*SAVE
~ THE ~
DATE*

April 21-23, 2023



Midwestern Region Board

Governor – **Christine Fowler Shearer, SI Cleveland**
(simwrgov@gmail.com)
Governor Elect: **Audrey Jarvy, SI Fond du Lac**
(audreyjarv@gmail.com)
Secretary - **Sheila Zingler-Gilbert, SI Fond du Lac**
(sheilasifdl@gmail.com)
Treasurer - **Linda Alpers, SI NE Suburban Franklin County**
(lsa6976@gmail.com)

District III

District III Director - Kellie Klingel, SI Flat Rock Area
(kclklingel@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 simwr.org
Soroptimist International of the Americas soroptimist.org
Soroptimist International 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.



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Investing in Dreams

SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

WEBSITE: grossepointesoroptimist.netYOUR NAME!
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/sigp-calendar-.html> for calendar

Submit photos, club information, news, upcoming events, and dates to this e-mail so the information
can be accessed by all public awareness chairs.

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Nancy Solak

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe.....Geri Pleva

INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://instagram.com/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