

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

President's Message

January 2017 Edition

Dear SIGP members,

Happy New Year!

This is a time of reflection of our past year and anticipation and goal-setting for our 2017 year! So many of our members are forming New Year's resolutions (and I hope you all keep them), but in order to move forward with a vengeance and a purpose, I believe as a club we must reflect on our recent past, applaud our successes and truly commit to a fabulous future!

Last February we hosted our District III Roundtable Luncheon at the Assumption Greek Cultural Center, and we established a close relationship with the Center. We also held our 60th Anniversary Celebration in April at the same venue, which was a combination of great celebration of 60 years as a club, but also our Awards Dinner, which is the reason we do what we do!

We were able to secure several thousand dollars in sponsorships for this event, as well as hold a Silent Auction which raised an impressive amount! I cannot thank all those who gave countless hours to this event enough! It was truly a group effort, which is a hallmark of SIGP!

We continue to support our Ghana girls with payment of their tuition with a grant we received from SIA, and we are going to continue to support them from our own treasury. It is hard to imagine what life is like for these young ladies, in a third world country without much access to education. We have the benefit of hearing from the girls through journals they have written and they are profound! If you want more information about them and what we have been able to do for them, please ask us! We continue to support them and it is a very worthwhile use of

funds we have raised.

We have continued to support Positive Images for many years! Many of our members are there on a continual basis for parenting classes, Mother's Day support and gifting, Christmas shopping and Christmas party support. Maisha Kenyatta and her staff do amazing work helping women in crisis, and we try to do what we can to help!

Our new Governor, Vivian Walczesky, was sworn in at the Spring Conference in Ann Arbor in April. She is from our district, has been supportive of all we do and in attendance at many of our events. She is an energetic governor, totally knowledgeable about what happens in our region, and we can expect much support from her going forward. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting her, you will at an event soon!

Elaine Flowers 1/7
Marlane Washington 1/16
Myra Golden 1/21

Dates to Remember

2017 Calendar

- 1/4 Board Meeting
- 1/11 General Meeting
- 1/15 LYD Award winner due to LYD Award Chair
- 1/15 Virginia Wagner Award winner due to VW Chair
- **1/28 Pointer Articles Due to Karrie Blankenship**
- **02/17 Wine Tasting Party**
- 10/06&07 ~ Dist. I & III District Meeting ~ Hilton Garden Inn ~ 501 Gateway Blvd. Chesterton, Indiana 46304 #[219-983-9500](tel:219-983-9500)
- 10/21&22 ~ Dist. II & IV District Meeting ~ Holiday Inn & Suites Lima ~ 803 S. Leonard Ave. ~ Lima OH 45804 [419-879-4000](tel:419-879-4000)



Follow us on Facebook

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

President's Message con't

We grieved as a group when our long-term members, Ann Cunningham and Dena Cukr, passed away last August. Then suddenly, our newer member, Phyllis Darden, passed away too! Too much in such a short time for our club! It reminds us all to embrace those we love and tell them every day! I love you all, SIGP members! I appreciate all you do and hope we can make a difference in this world in 2017.

We cannot forget to mention the significant effort and dollars our SSS (Second Hand Sales) has raised this past year. Please thank Roseanne for hosting sales and storing much of our inventory this past year! It is a huge undertaking and she has been there for us every step of the way!

Roseanne attended the SIA convention in Orlando this past July. She reports many clubs have trouble attracting members to join their clubs and then poor attendance at monthly meetings. Thankfully, we do not have this problem!

We celebrated the birth of Margaret Mei-An, Amanda Duda-Be's new daughter, at a shower at Diana Langlois' home in October. Then we had a very successful, Dine Around Town Crawl in the Village and Hill organized by Laura McCourt and Marya Malkovich. Reports are it was the very best yet and we thank all who participated.

We have had wonderful speakers at our meetings this year and much to celebrate and ponder. Going forward we hope to continue to raise funds through our SSS (Second Hand Sales). We will keep you posted on dates and locations! We have a young member who has written a book, Rasheda Williams has published, Be Empowered, How to Live Above and Beyond Life's Drama. We will continue to help and promote her and her valuable message.

To anticipate a very bright future for our club, I hope to continue to support our awards, which will be richer in dollars this year because of our 60th Anniversary success, support Positive Images and all the great work happening there, and do much more to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. We will be promoting the movie created by the Wayne State Medical Society Foundation, which has a focus of human trafficking awareness.

Our goal always is to bring more like-minded women to our organization and help them help us! If you know of someone who would benefit from joining our great organization, please extend an invitation to them to join us at our general meeting at GPYC on January 11th!

Our very best regards,
Ross and Roseanne,
Your Co-Presidents

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.



Roseanne Horne (Left)
Ross Braun (Right)



Follow us on
Facebook

Awards Seeking Virginia Wagner Applicants

APPLICATION ARE DUE

January 15, 2017

The Midwestern Region's Virginia M. Wagner Educational Grant (VWA) honors the effort and scholarship of a woman who is attending a college or university to earn a bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree.

First established in 1972, the award was renamed in 2004 to honor Dr. Virginia M. Wagner (Midwestern Region Governor 1982-1984) to commemorate her interest in higher education for women.

The Virginia Wagner Educational Grant application can be found on our website: grossepointesoroptimist.org and the Midwest Region website: simur.org

and Facebook: *Soroptimist Grosse Pointe*.

Qualifications: applicant...

- is enrolled full time in a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree program
- has overcome obstacles to get an education
- has given back to community in some way
- submits a current complete transcript
- has not won previous VWA

The VWA is specific to states in the Midwestern Region: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Kentucky. Women living in these states and attending a college or university in pursuit of a bachelors, Masters or Doctoral degree are eligible to apply.

The award process begins at the club level where SIGP is awarding \$3000 to the winner. The winner's application is then forwarded to District III for further judging. The finalist from each of the four Districts will receive a \$500 award and in turn those four applications will be judged at the Region level. One Region winner will be chosen and will receive a \$2500 award

Please let your family and friends know about this award grant and direct applicants to websites and Facebook.

Questions: contact
Diana VW Award Chair
at
[313-690-1515](tel:313-690-1515)
or
dilang58@comcast.net

Awards

How much do You Know about the Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women?

This award honors women who, through their **personal or professional** activities, are making extraordinary differences through their work to improve the lives of women and/or girls. The work of these women helps to promote the issues that are important to the Soroptimist organization, such as, access to education, empowering girls and ending violence against women and girls. Honorees are ordinary women who have worked in extraordinary ways to benefit other women and/or girls. The program enables local Soroptimist clubs to thank these women and encourage others to explore ways to assist women and/or girls.



Finding the Person You Want to Nominate

Eligibility Requirements:

A Ruby Award recipient should be a woman who:

- Has worked to improve the lives of women and girls,
- Has identified and focused on a need in their communities, which has significantly contributed to the improvement of women and girls' lives,
- Would inspire and encourage other women.

The majority of the nominee's work should have occurred within the past two years. **Previous award winners, Soroptimists and Soroptimist employees are not eligible for the award.**

Please nominate your eligible candidates today! Forward your nominations to Marlane Washington, Ruby Award Chair, at marlanewashington@gmail.com on or before **January 15, 2017.**

Thank you,

Marlane Washington



MemberSHIP - SIGP Christmas Party



Karrie Blankenship and Paula Davis supporting SIGP member and author Rashida Williams purchasing her book Be EmPOWERed: How to Live Above & Beyond Life's Drama



A special thank you to Jane Evola for chairing the Christmas Party Committee and all the members who helped with the raffle, donations, setting up the table and baked cookies.

Great Job Ladies !



Fundraising - SIA President Appeal



Each year SIGP members donate items to be raffled off for the SIA President's

Appeal and typically SIA would like each club to donate \$300.

Member donations are usually Christmas decoration, crystal, pictures, etc. but it can be anything you feel someone else would maybe enjoy seeing in their home or be given as a gift. This year SIGP raised \$441. CONGRATULATIONS!



Member Awareness

SOROPTIMIST'S FOUR PILLARS

Beverly Becur, SIA Federation Board Member, and SI of Illiana club member, presented information about Soroptimist International (SI).

Soroptimist International is a limited corporation comprised of four federations: SI of the Americas, SI of Great Britain, SI of Europe, and SI of South West Pacific. All club members in all four federations contribute \$5.00 of their annual dues to Soroptimist International.

The focus of SI is advocacy not programs. This is accomplished through their participation in the United Nations.(UN) SI has a consultative status at the UN. SI participates on high-level committees and acts as an expert on the UN position. As a result, SI is well known and well respected at the UN.

The headquarters of SI is currently in Cambridge, England. It may be moving to New York City for two reasons. In England there is no not-for-profit corporation status, so taxes are not reduced. If SI is located in the USA, they can acquire the not-for-

profit corporation status. The other reason is SI's involvement in the United Nations. If the headquarters were located closer to the UN, it would enhance the effectiveness of the SI's role.

SI considers itself a service organization, not a charity. This is especially true due to its participation in the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Bette Levy is a Permanent Representative to the United Nations/New York Centre for Soroptimist International. She is also actively involved with a number of NGO committees, especially the UN Committee on the Status of Women. Soroptimists representatives to the United Nations act as volunteers and attend meetings all over the world, sometimes within their own country.

The December 10th President's Appeal 2015-2017 is 'Educate to Lead: Nepal', which seeks to Educate, Empower and Enable women & girls in Nepal to overcome adversity, and develop leadership skills that will in turn benefit entire communities. Calling on the collective power of Soroptimist International, the Appeal is launched with the an-

nouncement of the first three inspiring projects.

The first project supported is The Australian Himalayan Foundation and its Teacher Training & Quality Education Program. Project Two is a Soroptimist project proposed by SI Truckee Meadows, which works to remove the barriers to education for women and girls in Nepal. The Tharu Women's Project is the third project to be supported by the Appeal. Developed by SI Oita-Midori, Japan it aims to provide literacy opportunities to 200 women.

To learn more about SI President Yvonne Simpson's Presidential Appeal projects, go to www.soroptimistinternational.org.

To access the member section, the user name is SIA, and the password is Philadelphia. It is important to complete the Focus Reports in this section to provide SI current information on club projects. These reports are used for briefings prepared at the UN.

Submitted by: Mary Ellen Burke

Health & Hospitality

Dear SIGP members,

I am writing to let you know that a very involved Soroptimist and a former member of our club who is also a Past President of our Club and a former Governor of our Region, Mary Parsigian Shelby lost her husband, Bryan this past weekend. Bryan suffered from Alpha-1Antitrypsin Deficiency, which is a ge-

netic illness that usually results in serious lung or liver disease. Bryan's health had been declining the last year or so. He has been very ill since Thanksgiving. It has been a very difficult time for Mary, so please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

If anyone is interested in sending Mary a card, I know she would appreciate hearing from her friends in SIGP!

Mary Shelby
8223 Hunters Place
Indianapolis, IN 46236

Sincerely,
Roseanne Horne



**IF YOU HAVE NEWS AND
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IT
WITH THE CLUB PLEASE
CONTACT OUR
HOSPITALITY CHAIR**

Marya Malkovich

at

mmalkovich@gmail.com

Program & Service

What a way to spend
a Friday evening (Dec. 9)!!!
Roseanne made us a good ole
Italian lasagna dinner before we
headed to her basement to wrap 50
baskets for the Positive Images
Christmas Store. The baskets were
arranged by Anita with donations
from members and selected saved
items from the garage sales. When
Roseanne's grandchildren arrived,
Carol led a Christmas sing-a-long
with her guitar! Jane Evola's
friends made and donated 90
scarves which were wrapped and
distributed at the Christmas Store
for the clients! MANY HEART-
FELT THANKS to Roseanne, Anita,
Carol, Mary Ellen, Marya, Diana
and her neighbor, Nancy Smilak for

a job well done!!! And a thank you to
members for your wonderful dona-
tions!



Program & Service



Thank you everyone, SIGP members
and supporters who have donated
items all year. Please keep the women
of PI in mind before you toss an item in
a drawer. We collect items all year
round.

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

We can always use more jewelry
(necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and/or
pins) and jewelry boxes.



MOTHER'S DAY ITEMS

Mugs
Cosmetic Bags
Tote bags
Oprah magazines
Key Chains
Nail polish
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste (sample)
Dental Floss
Scarves



shutterstock - 123901525



Program & Service



SOROPTIMIST

Moving Forward in FY15/16

EMPOWERING WOMEN & GIRLS THROUGH OUR ACCESS TO EDUCATION DREAM PROGRAMS

Dear Member,



Soroptimist accomplished much in fiscal year 2015-2016. I am proud to share highlights of our efforts to help disadvantaged women and girls with multiple barriers increase their standard of living and economic opportunities. In every case, we outperformed our results for fiscal year 2014-2015. Congratulations to all of us! Happy holidays and best wishes for a wonderful new year. And remember, together we can and will make dreams come true for more women and girls!

Yours in Soroptimist friendship,
SIA President RoseMary Reid



[Click here to view a snapshot of FY 2015-2016](#)



DAYS FOR GIRLS
Packing/Assembling Kits

Upcoming Events

Trinity Church of Livonia
34500 6 Mile Rd, Livonia, MI
48152

Wednesdays Noon-4pm
January 4th, 11th, 18th and
25th
February 1st, 8th, 15th and
22nd

(Basically, ALL Wednesdays year round, except holiday weeks)

Saturdays 11 am-3 pm
December 17th, Jan. 21st,
Feb. 18th, March 18th

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

Antioch Lutheran Church
33360 W 13 Mile Rd,
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Tuesdays 6:30pm-9:00 pm
Jan. 17th, Feb. 14th

Questions? Please send us an email, we will get back to you ASAP!

farmingtonmi@daysforgirls.org

For up-to-date information
FACEBOOK

Days for Girls Farmington/
Livonia

Days for Girls are always looking for missionaries and medical teams to do distributions in developing countries. If you or anyone you know seems right for this work, send us an email, we'd love to talk about it and see what can be done.

Programs & Services - PI

Thanks to Marge Mulvaine every client at Positive Images received a winter scarf. Marge is a friend of Jane Evola 's who attended our May meeting. She was impressed with the Mother 's Day bags we gave to the Positive Images women. She asked me if she and her knitting group could make scarves for all the clients. So the six knitters in her Washington Township group made 60 scarves. Jane Evola picked them up and we added a Christmas bow to each one. The women at Positive Images picked the color they wanted at the Christmas Party. They all appreciated having a new scarf in time for winter. So thank you to Marge Mulvaine and her group of dedicated knitters. They added joy to the women of Positive Images which will last throughout the winter.



Our Jane Evola was one determined Soroptimist who wanted to get 3 TV's, a dinette set, a brass headboard and various types of chairs, and miscellaneous to the residents of Positive Images II on Coplin so she RENTED A TRUCK and moved the items herself! It's amazing what one can do if we just try!!! A big THANK YOU to Jane for her initiative and perseverance!



Programs & Services - PI Holiday Party

It was an unusual month at Positive Images - Parenting was cancelled the first two weeks due to the van breaking down therefore no transportation for the clients.

Then the third week they were scheduled for an outing. So no wreath making this year! We will save our wreath materials for 2017!

The Christmas Store for clients was a happy event. Many thanks to our generous SIGP members who bought clothing and toys and made contributions toward the shopping for children. We had enough funds to provide gifts for all the children on our list! Nancy S., Myra, Marya, Mary Ellen, Carol, Dorothy and Diana helped with the party and the store. The festivities were on Coplin this year, not E. Warren, and everyone liked the new venue. This is an annual event

that SIGP is involved in to support Positive Images and bring a little Christmas to the women.

One new addition this year was the beautiful hand -made scarves that Marge Mulvaine' s and her knitting circle. They were lovely!

Big HUGS to everyone in our Club that was involved in any way to support this service activity.



Bulletin Board

I thought that since some of us went to the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run last year some of you may want to read about the American Center for Mobility at Willow Run



Stabenow, Peters, Dingell Join Michigan Officials to Break Ground on American Center for Mobility at Willow Run

Senator Stabenow joined Senator Peters, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, and state officials and leaders in automotive technology to celebrate the groundbreaking of the American Center for Mobility at Willow Run, a global center for testing, education, and product development for connected and automated vehicles. "I am so excited to break ground on this new facility that will secure Michigan's future as a leader in autonomous and connected vehicles," said Senator Stabenow. "Today's celebration is another example of the big things Michigan can achieve when we work together. I look forward to a continued partnership with federal, state and industry leaders as we look ahead to the future of the industry that built the American middle class."

The American Center for Mobility, located at the former Willow Run Site in Ypsilanti Township, will be a purpose-built facility designed for research, education, testing, standards-convening, product development, validation, and self-certification for connected and automated technologies as well as future mobility.

[read more](#)



**ALEKSA
ANDJELKOVIC**

Aleksa has accepted a new full time position with the Salvation Army as their Anti-Human Trafficking director of the Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Region and a co-lead of the JATT coalition for tri-county.

Below is SIGP's book club picks for 2017.

If you are interested in reading any or all of this years picks and joining us in the discussion please contact Karrie Blankenship or Mary Ellen Burke for the details. Each month is hosted by a different member of the club.

Thursday, January 19, 2017

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Thursday, August 17, 2017

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Golda / Elinor Burkett

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan / by Lisa See

The Mountain Story / by Lori Lansens

The Shipping News / by Annie Proulx

Small Great Things / by Jodi Picoult

The Pearl of China / by Anchee Min

Born with Teeth / by Kate Mulgrew

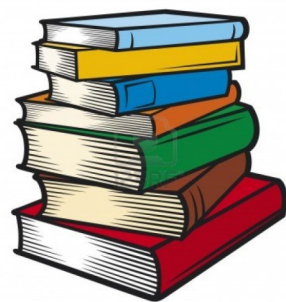
All the Light We Cannot See / by Anthony Doerr

Mademoiselle: Coco Chanel and the Pulse of History / by Rhonda K. Garelick

Flight Behavior / by Barabara Kingsolver

Circling the Sun / by Paula McLain

Born a Crime / by Trevor Noah





**Join us for Wine Tasting and
an evening of friendship and information about
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GROSSE POINTE**
website: grossepointesoroptimist.org

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 SIGP and take a look at SOROPTIMIST projects at local, national and international levels.

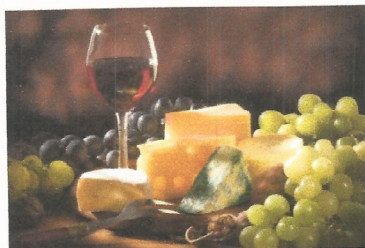
Take part in the Accessory Sale during the wine tasting...bring new or gently used items (jewelry, scarves, purses, belts, surprises) Something you no longer want may become a treasure to someone else!

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017
6:30 – 10:00 p.m.**

Home of
Ross Braun
515 Middlesex
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

**Bring a favorite bottle of wine to share
and an
appetizer to pass.**

RSVP by Monday, February 13th to Ross Braun at (313) 909-0230



2016-2018 Board Members &

Chairs

Roseanne Horne-Co-President

Ross Braun-Co-President

Aleksa Andjelkovic-Pres. Elect

Program

Dorthea Williams-VP

Member

Mary Ellen Burke-Past Pres

Kerri Green-Treasurer

Jane Evola-Asst. Treasurer

Fundraising

Ellen Chapin-Secretary

Nancy Solak-Asst. Sec.

Public Awareness

Myra Golden-Director

Marya Malkovich-Director

Hospitality



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 lar-
ger fellowship in home, in society, in busi-
ness, for country and for God*

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/>

Connections for Local, Region & HQ

District III Emails Contacts

Governor- **Vivian Walczesky** - (vivianwal@sbcglobal.net)

Governor-Elect **Kris Armstrong** - (krisquin@msn.com)

Secretary - **Anita Newman** - (siurbana@soroptimist.net)

Treasurer - **Valencia Clark** - (vcclark003@columbus.rr.com)

District III Director - **Darcy Merritt** (dmerritt81@hotmail.com)

District III Secretary - **Mary Pilon** (pilonm@sbcglobal.net)

Soroptimist International of the Americas - (siahq@soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - (simwr.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas (soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International (soroptimistinternational.org)



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

MIDWESTERN REGION 2016 – 2017

FOCUS – IMPORTANT DATES

July 1	Club Celebrating Success Entries due to Vicky Hicks
July 1	2016-2017 Club Dues to SIA HQ with Club Officer information
July 1	2016-2017 Member & Club dues to MWR with club officer information
July 1	Best for Women Fall issue article deadline to SIA HQ
July 20-24	SIA Convention – Orlando, Florida
August 15	Article deadline for Sept The Vision to Karrie Blankenship
September 30-October 1	District 1 and 3 meeting, Best Western, LaPorte, Indiana
October 1	Article submission deadline for Soroptimist Magazine due at SIA HQ For January – April edition
October 14-15	District 2 and 4 meeting, Deer Creek State Park & Lodge, Mt. Sterling, OH
November 15	Form 990 due to IRS
November 15	Live Your Dream Applications due to clubs
November 25	Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 10	Human Rights Day – President's Appeal
December 15	Club Live Your Dream Award Winner due to District Director
January 10	Deadline for The Vision article submission for February edition
January 11	National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness in United States
January 15	Virginia Wagner Award applications due to Club
January 15	District Live Your Dream Award Winners due to Region Chair
February 1	Article submission deadline to SIA HQ for May – August issue
February 15	Virginia Wagner club award winner due to District Director
February 15	Region Live Your Dream winner information due to both SIA and Treasurer Valencia Clark by Region Chair
March 8	International Women's Day
March 8	Virginia Wagner District winners due to Region Chair
March 11	Soroptimist Club Grant Applications due at SIA HQ
March 21	Award Report due from District Directors to Governor-Elect Kris
March 31	Governor's Club Award form due to Governor Vivian
March 31	Region Virginia Wagner Award winner names to Region Treasurer Valencia Clark by Region Chair
April 21-23	2017 Spring Conference – Kalahari Resort, Sandusky, Ohio