



The Pointer

SIGP General Meeting, Wednesday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m.

WEATHER PERMITTING: Grosse Pointe Shores Park, 800 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores
At the gatehouse (313-884-7018) tell them you are a Soroptimist. Your name will be on the list.
Physical Distancing Will Be Maintained along with Wearing a Mask

THE MEETING WILL ALSO BE BROUGHT TO YOUR HOME VIA ZOOM! A link will be emailed to everyone.

**Whether we're indoors or out, Membership Chair Laura McCourt has arranged for
Grosse Pointe Public Library Outreach Librarians to speak with us.
Although the library doors have been closed for months, the staff has much to tell us about
what is happening in our libraries and what is planned for the future.**

Guest speaker answers members' questions about COVID-19



Pictured at left, Marc Rosenthal, Ph.D., D.O., an emergency room physician with international experience in disaster response, was the featured speaker at our September general meeting.

We had a great turnout, with active participation from members attending at the Grosse Pointe Shores Park, as well as Soroptimists attending on Zoom.

COVID-19 is still very much an issue for all of us and we were fortunate to have an expert answer our members' questions. Thanks to Liz Lucas and Maureen Anthony for suggesting this important topic. (See more photos on p. 10.)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

10/07 SIGP Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
10/13 Anti-Human Trafficking Meeting,
via Zoom, 6 p.m.
10/14 General Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

10/21 Basket of Cheer Fundraising Meeting,
via Zoom, 7 p.m.
10/28 Bylaws Committee Meeting via Zoom, 7 p.m.
11/02 Mentor/Mentee Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
11/15 Live Your Dream Award Application Deadline

Accepting Our New Reality

By Ellen Chapin and Marya Malkovich Rosenthal

“Stepping onto a brand-new path is difficult, but not more difficult than remaining in a situation, which is not nurturing to the whole woman.”—Maya Angelou

Six months ago, everyone’s world changed as we realized the gravity of the pandemic. As members of a club dedicated to helping women, we were confronted with a new reality of our own. A 65th Anniversary party, Dine Around Town raffle, Dream It Be It, and Christmas Dinner, were all thrown to the wind as we found ourselves blocked by obstacles out of our control. But stepping onto a new path has led to new, exciting ways to meet our goals beyond expectation.



Ellen Chapin



Marya Malkovich
Rosenthal

In fundraising, a bottle-and-can drive nearly matched our revenue of previous Dine Around Town raffles. A garage sale was a success with masks and social distancing. Members came up with new ideas for a virtual book sale, a wine raffle, and a Go Fund Me page.

When schools went virtual, so did the Parenting classes at Positive Images, the residential treatment center our club helps support.

Not wanting to give in to isolation, we quickly adapted to Zoom meetings but took advantage of the nice weather to meet socially distanced as well as in person. The seasonal change means stepping back to the path of meeting with members virtually again, but we are ready!

We realize that membership engagement is more important than ever during these difficult times. Meetings are enhanced by guest speakers and activities. While the weather has cooperated, we socialized safely after our meetings, engaging with new members and old. Six months ago, who would have imagined that we would be doing yoga with goats?

We will continue to adapt and follow new paths as we are confronted with new challenges. We are resilient women.

Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it’s less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you’ve lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that’s good.” — Elizabeth Edwards

Next SIGP Board Meeting Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Marya’s backyard

In case of inclement weather, the board will socially distance indoors or meet on Zoom.

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

EXPECT NOTHING; RECEIVE EVERYTHING!

A Good News Fundraising Update

- ◆ Bottles and Cans: Sincere thanks to Roseanne Horne, Nancy Solak, Carol Hofer, Mary Ellen Burke, Diana Langlois and everyone else who continues to support this fundraiser. To date, they have netted more than \$4,000! The fundraiser is still open for returns until November 1st. Drop off at either Roseanne Horne's house (1247 Elford in Grosse Pointe Woods) or Nancy Solak's house (458 Cloverly Road in Grosse Pointe Farms).
 - ◆ Myra Golden Garage Sale: Another awesome job by women making a difference! We were blessed with good weather, sellers and buyers which allowed us to raise \$3,284.00! See details and list of volunteers on page 7.
 - ◆ Our Go Fund Me page is LIVE! Pass the word on, contribute or not, but send out the message! Share and like on Facebook and Instagram. We can do this TOGETHER!
- <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/>
- ◆ Basket of Cheer Raffle: Ross Braun is leading this initiative and if you're willing to help out, please let Ross know.
 - ◆ Book sale: Ellen Chapin and Kathy DiCenzo are leading this endeavor! Please see their periodic emails of updated book lists! To date \$148 has been raised! (Just \$2 for paperbacks; \$4 for hardcover!)
 - ◆ Virtual Garage Sale information coming soon!

Other opportunities and possibilities always welcome! Thank you to all! Our Programs continue to thrive because we can and do care! TOGETHER!

*All the BEST to you!
Bette Lepouttre*

AWARDS UPDATE

LIVE YOUR DREAM APPLICATION UP & RUNNING

Deadline: November 15, 2020

We are up and running with the Live Your Dream Award (LYD) for this year.

The portal is open on our website that takes individuals to the online process. [Click here for application](#). The flyer is also on the next page of this newsletter. Liz Lucas, chair of another SIGP award (see below), has also distributed LYD information to Macomb Community College students.

Please make copies and send flyers to any and all contacts that you know might be interested in applying. Many thanks!

— Bette Lepouttre
LYD Chairwoman

VIRGINIA WAGNER AWARD APPLICATION UP AND RUNNING

Deadline: January 15, 2021

The 2021 updated application was put up on our website in August. [Click here for application](#). I have been in contact with WSU about the scholarship and it is being distributed. Also contacted, was the Director of Operations at the University Centre at MCC (12 universities are housed there). A virtual Open House is being held in October and the Virginia Wagner information will be distributed there.

Please make copies and send flyers to any and all contacts that you know would be interested in applying. Many thanks!

— Liz Lucas
Virginia Wagner Chairwoman

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.

LIVE YOUR DREAM APPLICATION FORM

Please make copies of this form and distribute to schools and churches. The award is for women already enrolled in an undergraduate or vocational skills program who might be looking for financial support with her education. Perhaps you even know someone you could mail this to.

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:

Club Application Deadline: November 8, 2020

Amount of Club Award: \$3000

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

Please send to email noted above. Thank you.



powered by volunteers of
SOROPTIMIST®



empowered by activists of
LIVEYOURDREAM.ORG®

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMITTEE & SUBCOMMITTEE TO MEET RE 2021 5k/Walk/Run Event — Tuesday, October 13

The Anti-Human Trafficking Committee has scheduled back-to-back Zoom meetings on October 13.

1. At 6pm the **5k Walk/Run Committee** will meet to determine sub-committee chairs to start work on the sponsorship letter, flyers and other pertinent duties to get our 5k Walk/Run up and running—no pun intended.
2. Immediately following the 5k Walk/Run meeting, the **Virtual Event Committee** will meet to work on its strategies for the January Virtual Event.

SIGP and SI of Greater Macomb (SIGM) are partnering with St. Lucy's Church for the 5k event in June and the Virtual Event in January. A list of volunteer duties will be supplied to both clubs for the day of the events once we have the details finalized to ensure we have two successful events.

— Karrie Blankenship, HT Co-Chair

More good news for Positive Images!

Bette Lepouttre continues to do Parenting on Tuesdays at 1:00 with the women living at E. Grand Blvd., the intake house for Positive Images. There can be from 2 to 9 women present who watch Bette on the big screen TV! Kudos, Bette, for your continued commitment to these women and the Positive Images Program!

A carload of household items left over from the garage sale were dropped off to Positive Images at the residential center on Coplin. Items included lamps, a vacuum cleaner, blankets, a quilt, a mirror, art work, and housewares. They were very grateful! Also, **SIGP member Jane Evola** donated dishes, sheets, and other household items. Thank you, Jane, and to all who donated to the garage sale—we have become very good at finding new homes for leftover items!

NEW GRANT FOR POSITIVE IMAGES — To help middle and high school students!

Positive Images has just received a grant to implement a substance abuse prevention program for middle and high school students. It is a two-year program where the curriculum is already designed by Life Skills. It will require additional staff to be hired and may be a challenge to fully implement under COVID restrictions for in-person teaching situations. But isn't it great that Positive Images can think about reaching out to prevent substance abuse in teens during these challenging times and taking the effort and time to write a grant to work with adolescents!

Here are some details...

"Life Skills Training (LST) is designed to target students who have not yet initiated substance use or are early stage users. The target age group for LST is early adolescence when peer groups and social pressures begin to influence children into substance use experimentation, particularly with tobacco, alcohol and marijuana. The program will serve youth between the age of 10-18 and their caregivers. The youth will predominately live in Detroit, MI zip codes 48213, 48214, 48215, and 48224.

"LST is designed to: (1) increase knowledge of the adverse consequences of substance use; (2) promote anti-drug attitudes and norms; (3) teach personal self-management skills; (4) teach general social skills; and (5) teach skills for resisting social influences to smoke, drink, use illicit drugs, and engage in aggressive or violence-related behaviors."

SIGP's Myra Golden Garage Sale was golden in every way

I am happy to report that our SIGP Golden Garage sale named in honor of Myra Golden—a veteran garage sale volunteer and member who passed away this past spring—was a HUGE success! We raised more than \$3,000 and we are still selling some items online thanks to SIGP member Cara Crawford!.

As garage sale committee chairs, **Diana Langlois** and I would like to thank all the members who donated items to the sale, helped set up, sell, organize, tarp the tables each evening and remove tarps each morning, as well as those who helped clean up and pack up all the remaining items to be donated! We had the BEST clean up team ever!

More than half of our membership contributed items or volunteered at the event! (See list below.) We are so grateful for your time and donations.

This was a great team-building event for our club! Plus we were able to spread our name in the community and may have even found two new members!

Thanks again to all who worked the sale or donated items to sell, we were able to raise needed funds during a global pandemic! Good job!

— Roseanne Horne
Garage Sale Co-chair

SIGP Members and Garage Sale Volunteers who helped in one way or another (in no particular order)

Roseanne Horne
Diana Langlois
Mary Ellen Burke
Carol Hofer
Anita Sandercott
Donna Fitzgerald
Nancy Solak
Bette Lepouttre
Jane Evola
Roseann Morrow
Peggy Hart
Dorothy Wasinger
Laurie Jost
Carrie Petrocelli
Dorothea Williams
Aleksa Andjelkovic
Maureen Anthony
Katherine Baetz



Sara Baker
Carolyn Barth
Pat Casey
Ellen Chapin
Maddy Colavito
Cara Crawford
Judi Dara
Kerri Green
Peggy Hickey
Laura McCourt
Renee Rodriguez
Marya Malkovich
Rosenthal
Anne Schwartz
Mary Clare Toffanetti

At left, a poster of photos at the check-in table showing the many activities Myra Golden volunteered for.

MENTORING FOR SUCCESS LAUNCHED!

Maddy Colavito and Diana Langlois have completed the MENTORING FOR SUCCESS initial training of mentors and mentees. The goal of this program is to be a support for our Soroptimist award winners to encourage them to finish the educational programs they are enrolled in.

Mentors and mentees have been paired:

Nancy Solak and Angeles Cervantes (Virgina Wagner Educational Award winner, 2020)

Bette Lepouttre and Lavina Hutchinson (Live Your Dream, 2nd place awardee, 2020)

Katherine Baetz and Deborah Smith (Live Your Dream, 1st place awardee, 2020)

Maddy Colavito, Karrie Blankenship and Lakissa Purnell (Live Your Dream awardee 2018)

Mentors have agreed to contact their mentee at least twice per month from September 2020 to September 2021. Both groups received a binder with pertinent information about mentoring, a Mentor/Mentee Agreement Form that was completed by both parties, 12 Monthly Participation Reports, and a booklet written by Maddy and colleagues entitled "PITFALLS AND PAYOFFS: The Challenges and Rewards of the Adult College Student."

Maddy and Diana will oversee the program and provide additional training to both mentors and mentees on a semester basis or as needed.

The next training for mentors and mentees is scheduled for November 2, on Zoom, at 7:00 p.m.

As the program develops and new awardees are selected in 2021, it is anticipated that additional SIGP members will continue this initiative to support our awardees to graduation. Contact Maddy or Diana for further information.

PLUS, SIGP members ready to mentor for Alternatives for Girls

Three SIGP members, Nancy Solak, Bette Lepouttre and Diana Langlois, have been interviewed and approved to mentor at ALTERNATIVES FOR GIRLS (AFG). AFG is waiting on clearances from the State of Michigan after which these members will be assigned a mentee. AFG mentees will be middle to high school age girls and the program involves permission from their parents.



At left, LYD award winner Deborah Smith with her mentor, SIGP member Katherine Baetz.

SIGP members create a Suffragist named “Ruth”

Halloween is coming and what better way to celebrate fall than planting a scarecrow in a front yard while sharing the So-optimist spirit with our community? Co-President Ellen Chapin had the bright idea to take up The Grosse Pointe Historical Society's (GPHS) offer to create a one-of-a-kind scarecrow. The GPHS fundraiser provided a painted burlap bag and two sticks. Ellen, the Artistic Director, gathered her crew: Co-President Marya Malkovich as the living model, and new member Karen Ridgway as “structural engineer” (Karen is a real engineer). Carolyn Barth found the dress for the scarecrow, Couture Coordinator Mary Ellen Burke made a lace mask and purse for “Ruth” and Peggy Hart was an enthusiastic worker. Laura McCourt, that’s me, having no discernable skills, was “management.” Wish you all could have joined us but social distancing and “too many cooks” to start with kept the group small by necessity.



Putting “Ruth” together are: new member Karen Ridgway and Ellen Chapin in first two photos, and Peggy Hart on ladder.



In honor of 100 years since women obtained the vote, she had to be Suffragist. Our scarecrow has been named Ruth, in honor of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who did so much to further the cause of women. “Ruth” will be posing on Co-president Ellen Chapin’s lawn at 1003 Harvard, GPP through Halloween. Please stop by and see her.

NOTE: The term “suffragette” originated in Great Britain to mock women fighting for the right to vote. The original term was suffragist.

Above left: Co-president Marya Malkovich Rosenthal models the outfit before ceding it to “Ruth.”

Here's what else happened at our September meeting ...

We celebrated all our members who reached (or will reach) a decade birthday this year. At right are Jane Evola, Ellen Chapin and Peggy Hickey. Not pictured, several of whom were watching on Zoom, include Sara Baker, Ross Braun, Mary Ellen Brayton, Paula Davis, and Kerri Green. Afterward we socially distanced while munching on mini-cupcakes. Happy "ZERO" birthday, Ladies!



It rained the afternoon of our September meeting, but attendees dressed for the dampness. When the sun set, the lights and heaters in the pavilion were turned on. More members also attended via Zoom and even more (not pictured) are behind the camera person. Above, SIGP members listen to Dr. Rosenthal (see page 1). They are: (l-r) Carol Hofer, Marya Malkovich Rosenthal, Carolyn Barth, Maureen Anthony, Diana Langlois (taking minutes), Mary Ellen Burke, Karen Klein, Karrie Blankenship and Bette Lepouttre.

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



Natalia Nagorniak

WELCOME New Members!

- ♦ Peggy Hickey
- ♦ Karen Ridgway

AND ...

Welcome Back...

- ♦ Cathie Baldwin



A call to increase voter turnout from the League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe

I am helping the League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe in a voter awareness and education programming fundraiser by selling Vote411.org lawn signs to our fellow community members. They are \$10 cash/check or \$12 PayPal on our website lwvgrossepointe.org.

Vote411.org is a non-partisan website that has all the information on voting, candidate platforms, etc., that you will need for our 11/3/20 election.

I have them available on my porch: 274 La Salle Place, Grosse Pointe Farms (across from GPF City Hall) off Kerby – 3rd house on the left.

Just slip a check or cash for \$10 (in an envelope with your name on it) in my side door mail slot or go to our website listed above for a PayPal donation of \$12 and grab a sign. The extra \$2 covers the PayPal fee.

We need to get the word out so people can vote safely either by Absentee Ballot or by having all their choices ready when they go in person to vote. Thanks for your consideration!

*Mary Ellen Brayton
Director of Voter Services
League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe
313-808-0343 cell
lwvgrossepointe.org*

Another opportunity to get out the vote!

SIGP members have an opportunity to participate in a NON-PARTISAN, NO COST activity you can do from home. The League of Women Voters is working with the ACLU to encourage people to vote in the upcoming general election. Volunteers are given a list of names and addresses, along with a postcard, and asked to fill in the address and write a brief message about why you feel it is important to vote. It can be a one-liner but needs to be non-partisan, and positive in nature.

Here are the logistics:

1. Text/phone or email Laura McCourt at 954-232-4398 or lauraleecook@yahoo.com. I can answer your questions and arrange delivery of the materials you need.
2. I will deliver the postcards to you.
3. The organizers need your completed postcards and list returned within a week. They supply the stamps.
4. I will pick up your completed work and deliver it to the coordinator. All cards are vetted before mailing to ensure the recipients are receiving a non-partisan comment.

SIGP member Mary Ellen Brayton is the LWVGP Director of Voter Services and in charge of this activity for the League in addition to the one in the article above.

I've already completed 25 cards—it was easy and makes me grateful for the women who did the hard work to get us the right to vote. Looking forward to hearing from you.

*Laura McCourt
VP/membership chair*

AAUW G.P.

celebrates

the
100th Anniversary of the
Ratification of the 19th Amendment

with a parade on
October 11
at 1 p.m. starting at
G.P. South High School



Register at
www.grossepointe-mi.aauw.net

SUFFRAGE

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) _____

Ladies (2XL) _____

Picture shows Ladies (S)

Circle embroidery choice

Jacket Cost **\$45**

Shipping: **\$10**

Embroidery: **White** or **Blue**

Cash: _____

Check: _____

Credit Card: _____

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe



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

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

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK and [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.Diana Langlois

Remember to use AMAZON SMILE. Each dollar you spend on amazon.com gives .05 to SIGP
smile.amazon.com



(look for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe)

SIGP Member Ads

RENÉE RODRIGUEZ
PHOTOGRAPHY



Soroptimist Special

Mini Portrait Session \$100

30 minute photo session
10 high resolution digital images
Photo Print Release

Book your session today!
Contact

reneerodriguezphotography@gmail.com
248.778.8206

www.renee-rodriquez.com