

# The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe  
June 2023



## President-Elect's Message — Yep, it's Bette, not Karrie, this month!

Hello to all! I sincerely hope this letter finds you well and enjoying your spring days.

If you read the May newsletter, Karrie brought you up to speed on the Midwestern Spring Conference. It was well worth the time and participation! We have an awesome club. Thank you!

Derby Day at Sugarbush was a fantastic Membership/Fundraising event. Please check out the pictures and enjoy either reliving the day or getting a taste of another worthwhile event! Thank you to Karrie, her husband, son, and her daughter-in-law to be, for all the before/after setup and take down! Thank you to so many of you who stepped up to make this event outstanding! (See photos on pp. 7-10)

Reminder: Hybrid meetings have been suspended and will be provided on an as-needed basis. Karrie requests 24-hour notice so she has time to arrange audio and video with Fishbones. Thank you!

The ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS! advertisement was published in the May 18, edition of *The Grosse Pointe News*. Get your tickets before they're gone! See the list of sponsors and how to purchase tickets on our web page! <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/>

Five Soroptimist women walked the 5K at Belle Isle on Saturday, May 20, to support the Sparrow Freedom Project! The walk's purpose was to raise awareness about human trafficking and raise money for those who have been trafficked. Look for other opportunities we women can do to support others!

I'll leave you with this thought:

You are important and valued.

Thank you for being "YOU."

I am grateful you are a Soroptimist Woman!



*Derby Day (l-r): Marlane Washington, Karrie Blankenship, Bette Lepouttre and Diana Langlois.*

— Bette Lepouttre, President Elect

# ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS!

## **Soroptimist Infinity cruise to support women's education**

**Tuesday, July 11, 2023 • 11:30am-3pm**

- Boarding at Jefferson Beach Marina, 24400 Jefferson, St Clair Shores
- \$175 per person • Brunch and drinks included
- Yacht is handicap accessible on 1st level
- Use QR code or Checks made payable to SIGP mailed to:  
Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe  
32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
*Check must be received before June 22, 2023, to ensure reservations.*
- **Only 100 tickets available**

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.



[grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com)



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[grossepointesoroptimist.net](http://grossepointesoroptimist.net)

## Get your tickets **NOW!** Sales end Thursday, **JUNE 22!**

As you know, we are sponsoring an ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS! cruise on the Infinity Yacht on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Members have done a phenomenal job finding sponsors to support our awards by collecting \$14,450 in donations! Now we need to sell tickets. There is limited seating, so if you have not bought tickets and you plan to attend, buy them **NOW!** The deadline for ticket sales is **June 22.**

Please encourage family, friends, and neighbors to support women's education by buying a ticket. This ticket allows you to experience an exclusive cruise on the *Infinity* yacht down Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. Part of the cost includes an array of food and an open bar to top off the experience.

Our mission as Soroptimists is to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. To meet our mission, we need to raise money. Selling tickets for ALL ABOARD FOR AWARDS! is one way to achieve our goal.

Please contact Francine Pegues, Mary Ellen Burke or me if you have any questions. Meanwhile, go to our web site (click below) and press the "DONATE" button on the site to buy your ticket (\$175).

— Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President

See list of sponsors on next page!

[CLICK HERE TO BUY YOUR TICKET.](http://grossepointesoroptimist.net)

Once you're at the site, click "DONATE"

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karrie Blankenship  
*President*

Diana Langlois  
*Vice President*

Bette Lepouttre  
*President Elect*

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*Secretary*

Nancy Solak  
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Kerri Green  
Carolyn Barth  
Aleksa Andjelcovic

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

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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Marchiori Catering

### BRONZE

Flame Furnace

Fidelity Appraisals

Peter Jost, DDS, PC

Fraternal Order of Police, Grosse Pointe Lodge #102

### IN-KIND DONATIONS

Grosse Pointe News

Infinity—Ovation Yacht Charter

### Honorable Mention

Lakeshore Financial Planning

### BENEFITING

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe Awards & Programs

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

## Business Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, at Fishbones, starting promptly at 6:30.

If you want, you can arrive around six to give yourself time to settle in and greet other members.

Feel free to bring a guest.

# DUES ARE DUE JUNE 14, 2023

## FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

### GOOD NEWS...DUES ARE STILL \$125

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) has not increased dues since July 1, 2010. This means that for 13 years we have managed club expenses without raising dues. Please see the **FY 2023-2024 Dues Invoice** on the next page for the breakdown of allocations to Soroptimist International (SI), Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA), Soroptimist International Midwestern Region (SIMWR), and Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP).

You can pay \$125 by check, or \$130 by credit card on PayPal (SIGP website DONATE button), or \$130 via credit card (call Mary Ellen at 313-399-8934).

If you pay by check, you may deliver it in person at our June meeting (to Mary Ellen or Ross), or you can mail your check to either of these two places:

Soroptimist International of GP  
32 Lake Shore Drive  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Mary Ellen Burke  
2037 Shorepointe Lane  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Or you may drop off your check at the following locations through the member's mail slot:

Mary Ellen Burke  
2937 Shorepointe  
Grosse Pointe Woods

Ross Braun  
515 Middlesex  
Grosse Pointe Park

Bette Lepouttre  
191 Ridgemont  
Grosse Pointe Farms

### PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES BY JUNE 14, 2023.

If you have any questions, please call either:

Ross at 313-909-0230 or Mary Ellen at 313-399-8934.

<https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/>





**SOROPTIMIST®**  
**Investing in Dreams**

## FY 2023-2024 Dues Invoice

### Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

*Investing in Dreams*

32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com

## JULY 1, 2023

JULY 1, 2023—JUNE 30, 2024

TO



SIGP DUES	NEW MEMBER ONE TIME FEE	PAYMENT TERMS	DUE DATE
\$125.00	\$25.00	Due on receipt	June 14, 2023

DISTRIBUTION	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
	Soroptimist International of the Americas--Federation		
	SIA dues	76.00	76.00
	per capita payment to Soroptimist International	9.00	9.00
	Club liability insurance	11.00	11.00
	Founders' pennies	6.18	6.18
	Soroptimist International of the Midwestern Region	15.00	15.00
	Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe	7.82	7.82
		SUBTOTAL	125.00
		NEW MEMBER FEE	
		TOTAL	

**OUR VISION:** Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

**OUR MISSION:** Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

# Derby Day at Sugarbush Is THE Winner!



The Horse Named **MAGE** came in first

The winners of the Derby at Sugarbush who shared the winnings were Dwayne Miller, Membership Chair Diana Langlois, President Elect Bette Lepouttre and District III Director Kellie Klingel. Dwayne placed five tickets on horse #8 so he received a good portion of the winnings.

Congratulations to all of you! And congratulations to our club which made \$996 on the raffle and \$614 on donations for a total of \$1,610!

*Left: SIGP members Anita Sandercott, Mary Ellen Burke and Donna Fitzgerald.*



*Wearing fancy hats ,as is the custom at the Kentucky Derby, are (l-r): Kerri Green, Pam Trendell, Karrie Blankenship, Deborah A. Thomas and Diana Langlois.*

**More photos on following pages**



Derby at Sugarbush (continued from previous page)

We are fortunate to have a bona fide judge in our club. At right is the Honorable Deborah A. Thomas who judged attendees' hats by placing them in WIN, PLACE & SHOW.

## FIRST: WIN



First Place Winner, Mike Lucas, shows off his blanket of roses as his wife, SIGP Member Liz Lucas, looks on.

Below left is a photo of the back of the octopus hat. Liz made many of the baubles representing bubbles on the hat.



Right: SIGP member Sharon Zmick won second place with her Kelly green hat. She's holding her prize — a set of Kentucky Derby glasses.



## THIRD: SHOW

SIGP member Marlane Washington came in third. She is holding her new piece of artwork she says she'll hang in her office. She, like others at the Derby, made her own hat.





*Derby at Sugarbush (continued from previous page)*



*Far left are SIGP members Paula Davis and Katherine Baetz. Near left is a closeup of the back of Katherine's hat.*



*Enjoying each other's company are at left, SIGP member Francine Pegues with Mark Anthony and SIGP member Maureen Anthony.*

**MORE PHOTOS OF DERBY DAY  
ON NEXT PAGE**



*At right, SIGP member Carolyn Barth.*



**Derby at Sugarbush (continued from previous page)**



*SIGP member Nancy Kelley and her husband Mike Calloway. Note the horses running around the rim of Mike's hat.*



*We were happy to have members from SI Greater Macomb join in the festivities. Above are Jackie Wajer and Debbie Colomba.*



*Above are SIGP member Sue Plath with her guest Fran Ahee.*



*Above are guests Sophia Barnas and her daughter Donna Iding.*

***Lots more on next page!***



Derby at Sugarbush (continued from previous page)



SIGP member Carol Hofer with guest Josephine Navetta.



SIGP member Laurie Jost and her husband Pete.



(Left) SIGP members Kerri Green, Diana Langlois, Jane Evola and Mary Ellen Burke.

(Above) A closeup of the back of Mary Ellen's hat.

See more photos on next page



Derby Day at Sugarbush *(continued from previous page)*



We were honored to have Midwestern Region Governor Christine Shearer of SI Cleveland along with District III Director Kellie Klingel.



Jan McMillan, friend of SIGP member Carolyn Barth.



President Karrie Blankenship's son Kyle (with help from Diana Langlois) helped mix up the mint juleps providing an authentic Kentucky Derby experience.

TVs in the garage and house allowed participants to watch the Kentucky Derby throughout the evening, culminating in the final race which was won by Mage.

# POSITIVE IMAGES MOTHER'S DAY TOTE BAGS



Once again, SIGP honored 50 women residing at POSITIVE IMAGES, a therapeutic residential recovery center in Detroit. Our club gave them Mother's Day tote bags (see photo at left) filled with these items (see photo below left): jewelry, mugs, scarves, tissues, journals, pens, cosmetic bags, nail polish, nail files. Many thanks to:

- ♦ **FLAGSTAR BANK** for its donations of tote bags, journals and pens.
- ♦ **Mary Ellen Burke** and **Maureen Anthony** who sorted jewelry into matching necklaces, bracelets, earrings and pins! Glamorous sets!
- ♦ **Anita Sandercott** who washed and ironed 50 scarves! Beautiful!
- ♦ **Members** who donated cosmetic bags, mugs, and nail polish!
- ♦ **Bette Lepouttre** for donating of 50 tissue packs. Nice addition!
- ♦ **Mary Ellen** for hosting members **Barb Skelly**, **Carolyn Chandeshaker**, **Cindy Gohlke**, **Laurie Jost**, and **Diana Langlois** as they packed up the tote bags.



**Diana and Barb delivered the 50 tote bags to  
POSITIVE IMAGES on Thursday, May 11.**

## Happy June Birthday to ...

*Photo by SIGP member Diana Langlois,  
taken at Belle Isle.*



Ernesta Kurrle, June 5  
Lori Schumann, June 6  
Karrie Blankenship, June 7  
Peggy Hart, June 14  
Marilyn Schafer Meyer, June 16  
Francine Pegues, June 18  
Kerri Green, June 27



# MENTORING FOR SUCCESS

## Looking back to 2020 illustrates are club's mission



What a surprise it was when **DEBORAH SMITH** called Maddy Colavito in Washington to tell her she graduated with a Master's in Social Work from Wayne State! We had not heard from Deborah in a while, so this was wonderful news.

In 2020 both Deborah and another shining star, **LAVINA HUTCHINSON**, were **Live Your Dream** awardees. Lavina has worked in the Emergency Room at Beaumont Royal Oak for a year now. She was also awarded the Virginia Wagner Educational Award in 2021.

**DESIREE PERRY**, our third Live Your Dream awardee, texted, "Last semester went surprisingly great. No plans for summer semester since my financial aid was canceled."

Desiree would love to get together in the summer at a park to catch up with the other awardees! SIGP will make that happen for all of our mentees and mentors! Stay tuned for date, time, and place.

**DENISE SARGENT**, Live Your Dream awardee from 2022, is entering her third year in the Honors Bachelor's Social Work Program at University of Windsor. She received the Madeline Colavito Continuing Education Award of \$500 this year. But her biggest news is that she got married on May 4, in her home, wearing joggers! She is very excited to have a spouse that supports her and her family: children ages 13, 10 and 2.

### CONGRATULATIONS DENISE AND STEVE!

Hats off to **President Elect Bette Lepouttre** who initiated meeting with the awardees before the awards dinner. This extra effort helps the women feel more comfortable at the dinner since they have already met with Soroptimists. The personal relationships developed over the past few years happened because the Mentoring for Success Program has made a positive difference in the lives of our awardees! Kudos to all members involved in this volunteer service project!

— *Diana Langlois, SIGP Vice President*

## A letter from Damongo, Ghana! From a St. Anne student!

Damongo, Shalanna Region.

26th-05-2023

Dear Madam

I am very Delighted to write to you this letter.

I am in the person of Haja Anatu Ishawu. I attended New life preparatory junior high school.

And currently I am attending St. Annes girls Senior High school.

I am a year one student of this noble Institution, and here at St. Annes girls senior high, I am pursuing General arts as a course. I am 16 years of age.

I am plumpy, short, dark in complexion.

I am a young girl of ambition, I like to read a lot.

I am calm, determine and unique in my own way,

My parents are Mr and Mrs Ishawu. And my siblings are Bariwu, Basit and Farida. I am the first born of my mother the second born of my father.

Continued on next page





My Dad has four wives, so in our family we are many.

My Dad is a Driver, my mom is a trader.

My aim is to be a lawyer by profession in future, and I pray and hope that, I would be able to achieve it.

I was shock and glad when Maa Karren Called me and told me about this Information.

I really appreciate and may God richly bless you, I will always pray for you in my prayers.

And I hope one day I will see you physically.

I also thank Maa Kareen for introducing me to you.

It is such a great honor, because I never thought one day an opportunity will come my way like this, or even happen in my life.

May God Continue to Bless you and protect you.

Thank you

Yours Sincerely  
Hajia Anatu Ishau

Interested in joining a book club?

See next page.

# If you would like to join a book club ...

If you would like to join a book club please contact Karrie Blankenship at [karrieb40@gmail.com](mailto:karrieb40@gmail.com) for more information.

We meet every third Thursday on Zoom at 7pm. We choose our books in October for the following year and here are 2023 book choices.

7:00 pm Mtgs 3rd Thursday	Book Titles / Author	Good Reads Rating
Thursday, January 19, 2023	The Book Woman's Daughter: by Kim Michele Richardson	4.28 · Rating details · 13,320 ratings · 1,874 reviews
Thursday, February 16, 2023	The Aviator's Wife: by Melanie Benjamin	3.90 · 70,964 ratings · 7,796 reviews
Thursday, March 16, 2023	The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah	4.31 · Rating details · 457,902 ratings · 46,394 reviews
Thursday, April 20, 2023	The Rent Collector by Camron Wright	4.25 · 42,484 Rating details · 5,886 reviews
Thursday, May 18, 2023	Both/And by Huma Abedin	4.35 · Rating details · 4,098 ratings · 508 reviews
Thursday, June 15, 2023	The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer by Anne-Marie O'Connor	3.98 · Rating details · 8,565 ratings · 959 reviews
Thursday, July 20, 2023	The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray	4.07 · 90,653 ratings · 9,147 reviews
Thursday, August 17, 2023	The Promise by Damon Galgut	3.94 · Rating details · 28,304 ratings · 3,054 reviews
Thursday, September 21, 2023	I'm Glad My Mom Died by Jannette McCurdy	4.66 · 126,051 ratings · 18,111 reviews
Thursday, October 19, 2023	Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate	4.39 · Rating details · 507,743 ratings · 39,006 reviews
Thursday, November 16, 2023	Afterlives by Abdulrazak Gurnah	3.84 · Rating details · 3,089 ratings · 411 reviews
Thursday, December 21, 2023	Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus	4.39 · Rating details · 154,269 ratings · 18,201 reviews



We hope you are just as excited as we are about our [48th Biennial Convention](#) being held in Bellevue, Washington, USA, July 24-27, 2024! — SIA Board



## 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  
(ktklingel@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](http://simwr.org)  
Soroptimist International of the Americas [soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org)  
Soroptimist International [soroptimistinternational.org](http://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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## SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

**WEBSITE:** [grossepointesoroptimist.net](http://grossepointesoroptimist.net) ..... Lori Schumann  
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](mailto:grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com) ..... Nancy Solak

### SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

SIGP WEBMASTER: [lorischumann@ameritech.net](mailto:lorischumann@ameritech.net) ..... Lori Schumann  
FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe](https://facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe)..... Geri Pleva  
INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://soroptimistgp)..... Geri Pleva  
ZOOM COORDINATOR: [brykmary@gmail.com](mailto:brykmary@gmail.com)..... Mary Bryk

### 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