Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

April 2022



The Pointer

President's Message April showers bring May flowers ...



While staring out the window and seeing the drizzling rain of April, let's instead look ahead to the May flowers the rain will bring. Spring brings new beginnings and as you read your newsletter you will see new beginnings for the Club. The slate of officers for 2022-2024 is announced (see p. 3) and once they are voted on and installed, they will be bringing new ideas to blossom.

Spring will allow us to once again meet outdoors. Those long winter months of Zoom meetings will be behind us and we can renew our friendships and activities in person. Interesting events are in the planning stages.

We are looking forward to the Spring Conference April 22-24 in Akron, OH. SIGP will be well represented. SIGP members Karrie Blankenship and Laurie Jost will present a workshop with the *Insights on Human Trafficking* documentary and our Live Your Dream winner, Nealmetria Loper, will receive a regional Live Your Dream award. We are proud of the accomplishments of these dedicated women.

Here's to hoping our May flowers blossom into new beginnings....

- Marya Malkovich Rosenthal and Ellen Chapin SIGP Co-presidents

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

Mother's Day Bags – Positive Images Project

Once again, we will honor the women of Positive Images (PI) with Mother's Day gifts. PI is a nonprofit therapeutic residential and outpatient community located in Detroit, not far from where most SIGP members live. As many of you know, we give 50 women a Mother's Day gift bag every year. Some of these women have never received a Mother's Day gift before, so you can imagine what it must be like for them to know someone cares.

We have been collecting the following items all year but still need more to reach 50.

- Jewelry (earrings, bracelets, necklaces)
- Decorative 4 X 6 or 5 X 7 gift boxes—Birchbox, or stationery boxes preferred
- Scarves—spring, summer, no winter wear
- Cosmetic or small travel bags
- Nail Polish
- Emery Boards
- Mugs
- Toothbrushes—new
- Dental floss
- "O" Oprah Magazines

Drop off items: MARY ELLEN BURKE 2037 Shorepointe Lane, GPW APRIL 1 through APRIL 28, 2022

Prepare bags: MARY ELLEN BURKE2037 Shorepointe Lane, GPWThursday, APRIL 28, 2022 1:00 P.M.

Please TEXT Mary Ellen at 313-399-8934, to let her know if you drop any items on her patio and/or if you plan to assist in this rewarding activity of preparing the bags.



IMPORTANT: Nominating Committee Report

Presently the nominating committee has a candidate for each position on your 2022-2024 SIGP Board: President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Three Directors and Past President(s).

However, all these positions remain open to the membership until the May 11, business meeting. If you are interested in running for any of the Board positions, contact Kerri Green at: 586-651-9222 or JAZZYKERRI@yahoo.com before the May 11, business meeting.



ARTICLE V. Section 2 — Nominations and Elections according to Bylaws

The election shall be held at the May business meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be read again. Additional nominations may be made from the floor provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained. The election shall be by secret ballot if there are two or more nominees for any office.

Please plan to attend the May 11, business meeting since a quorum must be present to conduct a vote.

Below are the duties of the SIGP Officers as stated in the current Procedures. Please note that both the Bylaws and Procedures of the Club are in the process of being updated and the duties of officers will be finalized in the near future.

ARTICLE IV. Officers — Officers according to Procedures

All officers are members of the Board.

Duties of Officers.

A. The president shall: direct the conduct of the business of the Club, set meeting agendas for Club and Board meetings, preside at Club and Board meetings, oversee all committees, work closely with the President-Elect and Vice-President, be an ex-officio member of all committees, except nominating, sign all checks in the absence of the treasurer, appoint delegates from a list of District, Region, Federation, or International meetings, serve as the club delegate at District, Region, Federation, and International meetings, or appoint an alternate from a list of meeting attendees.

Continued on next page

- B. The president-elect agrees: to assume the office of president at the end of her two-year term, shall be responsible for program of service committees, shall have such duties and powers as they arise from member-ship on the board or as assigned by the president or the Board.
- C. The vice-president shall: be responsible for membership activities, shall have such duties and powers as arise from membership on the Board or as assigned by the President or the Board.
- D. The secretary shall: keep the minutes of the Club and the Board meetings, be custodian of the Club's permanent records, submit to the membership the minutes of the business meetings and the recommendations of the Board, submit to the Board the minutes of the Board meetings, send out notices and carry on such correspondence as does not properly belong to other officers.
- E. The assistant secretary shall: maintain a log of attendance at Club business meetings, fulfill the responsibilities of the secretary in her absence, perform any other duties assigned by the president or the secretary, be responsible for overseeing public awareness.
- F. The treasurer shall: receive all funds of the Club and deposit them in financial institutions authorized by the Board, sign all checks or arrange for the president to do so, make remittances as required by Federation Bylaws and Procedures, prepare monthly Treasurer's Reports for each of the Club funds, serve as ex-officio member of the Finance/Budget Committee, have the authority to define and supervise committee procedures as they relate to the finances of the club.
- G. The assistant treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing fund raising, maintain a roll of membership (directory), prepare and send acknowledgements for donations from non-members, assume the responsibilities of the treasurer in her absence, serve as ex-officio member of the finance/budget committee, perform any other duties assigned by the president or the treasurer.
- H. The directors (2) shall: be a SIGP member for 2 years, attend all board meetings as a voting member, assist the board with her knowledge and opinions.
- The past president(s) shall: serve as the Awards Chair, oversee the LYD Award Chair, the Virginia Wagner Education Award Chair, the Ruby Award Chair, the Continuing Education Award Chair, and the Awardee Associate Program, plan the Awards Banquet, attend all board meetings as a voting member, assist the board with her knowledge and opinions. [Note: Not yet finalized.)

If you have any questions about the above information, feel free to contact Kerri Green, Ross Braun or Diana Langlois.

Soroptimist Grosse Pointe Business Meeting Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you the day of the meeting.

Soroptimist Grosse Pointe is happy to announce ... Another AMAZING Awards Banquet

On Wednesday, March 9, 2022, Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) held its Annual Awards Ceremony at the Assumption Greek Cultural Center in St. Clair Shores, MI. Forty people attended the event, which included 27 SIGP members, 5 awardees, one award judge and other guests including Soroptimist District III Director, Kellie Klingel.

SIGP co-presidents Marya Rosenthal and Ellen Chapin moderated the evening. Each awardee received a gift bag that included an award check, yellow rose, award certificate and a clever "survival kit."

The Live Your Dream (LYD) award is the signature award of Soroptimist International of the Americas. It honors women who are going to school to improve employment opportunities, are the head of household, enrolled in a training or educational program and have financial need.

The first place Live Your Dream (LYD) winner, Nealmetria Loper, was awarded \$3,000. The second-place LYD winner, Delia Mustin, \$2,000. The third-place award winner, Denise Sargent, \$1,000, and this year we gave a fourth-place award of \$1,000 to Danyelle Easley.



SIGP members Roseanne Horne (above) and Diana Langlois co-chaired the Awards Ceremony.



SIGP LYD Chairwoman Bette Lepouttre presents the First Place LYD Award to Nealmetria Loper.

District III Director, Kellie Klingel announced that our first-place winner, Nealmetria Loper, was the district winner and will be given an additional monetary amount at the Regional Spring Conference.

The Virginia Wagner Award honors a woman who is enrolled in a university degree program and has financial need. SIGP presented the Virginia Wagner Educational Award of \$3,000 to Lavina Hutchinson.

Continued on next page



AWARDS BANQUET (continued from previous page)

The Soroptimist Ruby Award is given to women who have made a positive difference in the lives of other women and girls. This year SIGP gave two Ruby Awards. Kimberly Williams, executive director of the Dominican Literacy Center, was awarded a \$500 donation to be used toward educational programs. We also awarded Dr. Janice Brown, O.P., director of the Siena Literacy Center, \$400 to continue her work.

This year the Continuing Education Award in the amount of \$500 was given to previous LYD award winner Tonesia Nesbitt (see more on p. 8). This award is given to provide additional support and mentorship to previous LYD awardees.

Each awardee was introduced by an award chairwoman and then given an opportunity to speak. All the awardees expressed their gratitude for the monetary award and explained how the money would help them to continue in school. After hearing the struggles these women endure, SIGP members know their fundraising efforts will have a profound effect on these women's lives. — *Roseanne Horne & Diana Langlois, Awards Ceremony Chairwomen*



SIGP Co-presidents Ellen Chapin (L) and Marya Malkovich Rosenthal (R) were the evening's moderators.

Second Place Live Your Dream Awardee: Delia Mustin



Denise Sargent, Third Place LYD Awardee, was unable to attend. This is what she wanted to say:

"I am so grateful to Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe for selecting me as a recipient of the Live Your Dream Award! I am truly blessed to finally be able to pursue my Bachelor's degree, and likely a Master's in Social Work! With the support of my Soroptimist 'sisters,' I am sure to succeed and live my dream! Thank you so much!" **Danyelle Easley,** Fourth Place LYD Awardee, was unable to attend. This is what she wanted to say:

"I want to thank Soroptimist for selecting me as an award recipient and giving me the honor of being part of a society that wants to empower, embrace and encourage women to become the best version of themselves."

SIGP Ruby Award Winners



(L-R) First Place Ruby Awardee Kimberly Williams, executive director of Dominican Literacy Center; Dr. Janice Brown, O.P., executive director of Siena Literacy Center, and SIGP Ruby Award Chairwoman Maureen Anthony.



(L-R) Delia Mustin, Nealmetria Loper, Lavina Hutchinson, Dr. Janice Brown, O.P., and Kimberly Williams.

Not pictured: Denise Sargent and Danyelle Easley



The banquet is not over. More photos on the next page!

AWARDS BANQUET (continued from previous page)



(Above I-r) Continuing Education Award (CEA) Chair Maddy Colavito, CEA recipient Lavina Hutchinson, and CEA Co-chair Judi Dara.



At left, SIGP member Sara Baker, is a LYD winner at the local, district and federation levels, holds a Bachelor's degree in Special Education, and is working on a Master's degree in Educational Studies at the University of Michigan. Here she and SIGP member Diana Langlois, Mentoring for Success Chair, hug. Sara gave a stirring speech of her progression from arriving in the U.S. into a violent home life and escaping that situation to becoming a student at U-M. graduate!

Applause for Continuing Education Awardee

Unfortunately, Tonesia Nesbitt was unable to attend the banquet since she was attending evening classes that night. She wants us to know that she is extremely grateful for the support she is being given.

She actively and tenaciously seeks out every resource that might possibly assist her. For example, when we provided our mentees with information about the Michigan Reconnect college tuition program, Tonesia immediately applied and had her tuition waived. Knowing that students may not have learned or taken advantage of the program, she spread the word and her advocacy of the program was such that she received an invitation to introduce Governor Gretchen Whitmer at a press conference to announce the program.

Those who were able to attend the banquet gave Tonesia a hearty round of applause.

- Maddy Colavito, Continuing Education Award Chair

So you think the banquet's over? Not quite yet. Two more pages!

AWARDS BANQUET (continued from previous page)



Soroptimist District III Director Kellie Klingel (L) presents Nealmetria Loper (R) with her district award while Bette Lepouttre, LYD chairwoman looks on.



After Nealmetria Loper accepted her award, fellow awardee Delia Mustin gave her a big hug. Note standing ovation in background.



(L-R) Lavina Hutchinson, Virginia Wagner Education Awardee; Delia Mustin, Second Place LYD Awardee; and Nealmetria Loper, First Place LYD Awardee, celebrate together at the banquet.

Special thanks to our award judges for their time and effort

Virginia Wagner Award: Katie Elsila, Paula Gianoplos and Susan Madro. Ruby Award: Maureen Anthony, Karrie Blankenship, Ellen Chapin, Diana Langlois, and Marya Rosenthal Live Your Dream: Mary Lou Cook, Angie Mize, Sheila Sansbury, and Chrissy Ventimiglia Kudos to our Awards Committee Members:

Aleksa Andjelkovic, Maureen Anthony, Karrie Blankenship, Mary Ellen Burke, Ellen Chapin, Maddy Colavito, Judi Dara, Bette Lepouttre, and Marya Rosenthal.

AWARDS BANQUET (continued from previous page)





SIGP members Peggy Hart and Nancy Kelley



SIGP member Rasheda Kamaria Williams

~ Photos by SIGP member Nancy Solak ~



Sample of Some Survival Bag Contents:

Eraser: To remind you everyone makes mistakes, but you can erase them. Crayon: To color your day bright & cheerful. Stick of Gum: To remind you to stick with it. Jewel: Because you are as valuable as a precious stone. Snicker Bar: For the day when nothing is funny. Tootsie Roll: Try not to bite off more than you can chew. Paper clip: For you to hold it all together. Candle: For you to share the light.

Happy April Birthday to:

Katherine Baetz, April 1 Cara Crawford, April 6 Donna Fitzgerald, April 11 Laura McCourt, April 27



Membership Update:

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to the 45% of our members for completing the Annual Membership Survey. The results have been tabulated and will be discussed at our April Business Meeting, Wednesday, April 13. Please join us, and bring any additional ideas you may have to make our Club experience even better in the coming year.

SIDE HUSTLE MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

Books on the Lake is returning to our community after a two-year hiatus. Remember way back when Grosse Pointe Public Library (GPPL) librarian Kathleen Gallagher visited SIGP at one of our outdoor meetings? She had kindly filled us in on the many services the library provides its residents. *Books on the Lake* is another of the fun events offered by GPPL. While many of you participate in book clubs or may already have plans to attend this event at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, it would be fun to put together a SIGP table.

If you are interested in forming an SIGP table, please contact me by April 7, when the tickets go on sale. Cost is \$35 per person.

 Laura McCourt Vice President/Membership Chair phone/text: 954-232-4398 email: lauraleecook@yahoo.com

"Free Money" fundraising! Returnable bottles & cans RETURN!

You'd think Roseanne Horne, Nancy Solak, Mary Ellen Burke and Carol Hofer, among others, would be tired of returning bottles and cans. But no! It's more like they've got the process down. It goes much more quickly with practice!

Returnables (NOT water or wine bottles), but bottles and cans that had something fizzy in them such as cola, beer and flavored carbonated water garner money.

Since COVID began, our club has returned and collected close to \$9,000!



Photo by lacey-williams-Jwh_k0K_QOM-unsplash

Thank you to everyone who has donated cans/bottles or donated the money they collected from returning their own.

Two drop-off locations:

Roseanne Horne, 1247 Elford in Grosse Pointe Woods and Nancy Solak, 458 Cloverly Road, in Grosse Pointe Farms

Tell your families and friends: Leave 'em on their front porch, their back porch, by their garage, in their backyard, they don't care. Members will return 'em and you'll be helping empower women and girls! THANK YOU!

SIDE HUSTLES: Events not sponsored by SIGP but related to the Soroptimist mission (reprinted from last month in case you didn't have time to read)

The Michigan State Medical Society's Documentary Men Who Buy Sex-Everybody Pays

Sex buyers are the key to tackling the human trafficking epidemic. This documentary sheds light on the "men who buy sex" by examining the demand side of human trafficking. If you haven't seen it yet, here is the link.

https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/human-trafficking-awareness.html

Several SIGP members attended the premiere of *Men Who Buy Sex-Everybody Pays* at the Emagine Theater in Royal Oak on February 23, which was presented by the Wayne County Medical Society Foundation.

Laurie Jost, the foundation's Human Trafficking Awareness Committee Chair and a Grosse Pointe Soroptimist moderated the Q&A session after the preview. The panel of 12 men and women included survivors, law enforcement, medical professionals, and advocates for human trafficking victims and survivors.

Laurie Jost is the executive producer alongside Joseph M. Beals, MD who is the Wayne County Medical Society Foundation chairman. Please take the time to watch the documentary and share it.

Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo

Many, many thanks to those of you who read my recent email to all our members and have already registered to participate in the National Kidney Foundation in Michigan's (NKFM) "Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo," on May 15, 2022. Thanks, too, to those who volunteered to help at the event. I hope to see many of my fellow Soroptimists there as well.

This is a major fundraiser for the NKFM, so I hope many of you will join with me in supporting such a worthy organization. Jeritha Brown, our Live Your Dream recipient from last year, has struggled so hard to continue her education even as she remains optimistic that she will receive a donor kidney.

As promised in my last email about the National Kidney Foundation in Michigan "Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo," here are links to Jeritha's story and to the "Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo."

Jeritha's story: <u>https://www.candgnews.com/news/st-clair-shores-woman-overcomes-medical-issues</u> <u>-to-help-others-112684</u>

Registration for Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo: https://nkfm.org/event-post/walks/

— Maddy Colavito Continuing Education Award Chair

Your chance to attend the 2022 SIA Convention virtually!

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.®

After thorough consideration of the status of the COVID-19 global pandemic and to allow sufficient planning time to deliver a quality virtual event, SIA's Board of Directors has decided to hold the 2022 convention virtually. While many regions are planning face-to-face meetings, members may have a level of comfort when traveling within their own regions that may not exist when traveling internationally. However, in all instances, our members' safety is our priority.

The dates of the virtual convention are: Friday, July 22, and Saturday, July 23, 2022 Registration will be available in February 2022

Pricing for this event is as follows:

<u>Early Registration Rate (applicable from the launch of registration through April 30, 2022)</u>
\$149 SIA Members in Good Standing
\$199 Non-Members of SIA

Regular registration rate (applicable from May 1, 2022 through the event date) \$199 SIA Members in Good Standing \$249 Non-Members of SIA

\$375 Mandatory Convention Club Fee (Invoices will be sent to clubs the week of January 10, 2022.)

This was a very difficult decision as we were all looking forward to gathering again. Until then, we look forward to the various region meetings taking place face-to-face in the Spring and the 2024 Convention in Bellevue, Washington on July 24-27, 2024. Additionally, we are pleased to share the 2026 convention will be held in Seoul, South Korea on July 22-25, 2026. The Korean Convention Committee, leadership, and members are looking forward to hosting you in 2026.

Please email siahq@soroptimist.org with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Kazuko Morita, SIA President and Woon Kyung Lee, Korean Convention Chair



When: Monday, April 4, 2022

Time: 2:45 p.m. (movie starts promptly at 3:00 p.m.)

Where: Okulski Family Theater at the Lavins Activity Center- Windmill Pointe Park-Grosse Pointe Park

Movie: Stand and Deliver

Stand and Deliver is a 1988 American drama based on the true story of high school mathematics teacher, Jaime Escalante, who takes a class of undisciplined students struggling with fractions to move from basic math to passing the Advanced Placement calculus exam.

Cost: \$15.00 (pre-paid by following the instructions and completing the form below). There will be no collections at the door and therefore no walk-ins will be honored.

Masking is encouraged and social distancing at your discretion.

This is a fundraising event. Bring a friend and support the American Association of University Women Grosse Pointe Branch for an afternoon of friendship and camaraderie.

RSVP deadline: Thursday, March 31, 2022

Please return the form below with your payment. Proceeds will benefit our STEM Program and the AAUW Scholarships.

<i>e Pointe Branch</i> and send to: Pointe Park, MI 48230, (313) 882-1081
Phone#
al enclosed: \$

District III Emails

Interim Governor – Christine Fowler Shearer (fowlerartistic@gmail.com)

Secretary - Sheila Zingler-Gilbert - (sheilasifdl@gmail.com) Treasurer - Audrey Jarvey - (audreyjarv@charter.net) District III Director - Kellie Klingel (ktklingel@yahoo.com) Secretary - Patricia Cavell (bsktpac@comcast.net)

Soroptimist Websites

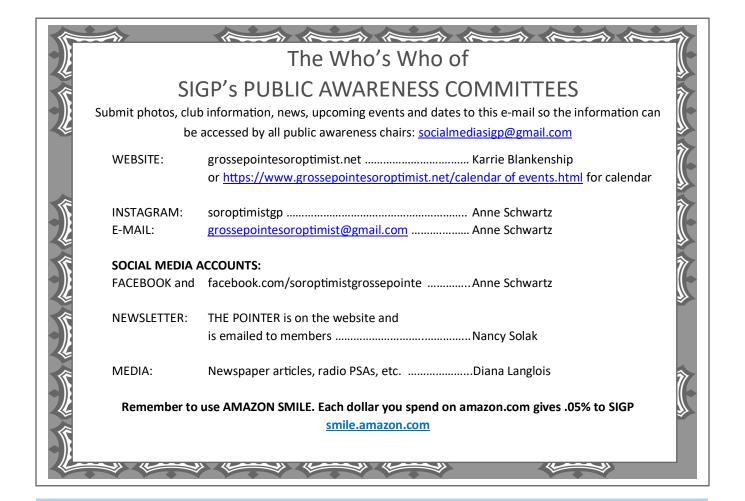
Soroptimist International Midwestern Region - (<u>simwr.org</u>) Soroptimist International of the Americas (<u>soroptimist.org</u>) Soroptimist International (<u>soroptimistinternational.org</u>) Soroptimist International of the Americas -

(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.





SIGP Member Ads

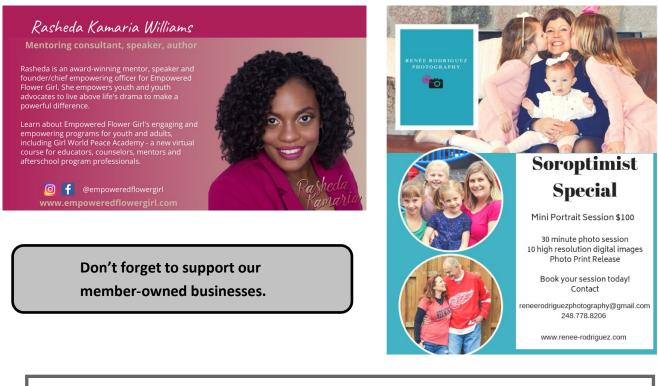
A SIGP Member Has a Special Deal for You!

Due to the virus and surgery on my hand, I have been off of work many weeks off and on. Now I am back and ready to help you with YOUR aches and pains. I am an independent massage therapist. Independent means no staff, no major company to hire me. I am on my own. So you'll know that you get all my time. No time taken off for you to get on and off the table like the chain companies do. I have 20 years' experience with knowledge of many modalities. I blend many options within your time with me.

My office is in a private, quiet location above WOW Gym (Women's Only Workout), 22601 Greater Mack Ave, SCS. It's across from Tropical Smoothie Cafe, corner of Elizabeth, opposite corner of SCS CVS. My special for any Soroptimist member is 70 minutes for \$60; 90 minutes for \$90.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE — Call today, don't delay!

Sincerely, Rosanne Morrow at 313-205-7117



SIGP members are welcome to place ads here at no cost. To place an ad, contact *The Pointer* editor, Nancy Solak, at solaksinitaly@yahoo.com