

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
December 2022



President's Message — Happy Holidays!

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or any other spiritual holiday, we all come together this season to celebrate humanity. December is a season for giving, sharing, and loving. As Soroptimists we give, share, and love all year round.

For the Love of Wine raffle tickets will be distributed at the Holiday Dinner on December 14. For those unable to attend, your tickets will be delivered to your home. We ask that you sell at least the \$100 worth of tickets you will be given. This raffle is our biggest fundraiser and helps fund the **GIVING** of awards in March of 2023 to our Live Your Dream, Virginia Wagner Educational and Ruby award winners plus other projects we support throughout the year.



Positive Images (PI) has been a service project our club has supported for more than 30 years, and we continue to **SHARE** our kindness with the women and children of Positive Images during the holiday season and beyond. Our members buy toys and clothes for the children of PI, so no child goes without a gift for the holiday. Our members also donate items for the Mother's Day gifts so each woman at PI is felt **LOVED** and appreciated. Thank you to all who have purchased and donated to the women and children of Positive Images.

Each year at our **Holiday Dinner** we have an auction/raffle to support the Soroptimist International President's Appeal. This year's theme is, "Opening Doors to a Bright Future." Members have donated wonderful items to auction/raffle off and our committee has bundled them beautifully. More information about this event is on page 3.

December 14, 2022, we will gather at 6 p.m. to celebrate the holiday season at Assumption Cultural Center in St. Clair Shores. Tickets are \$42 per person for a buffet dinner, rolls, salad, and tea/coffee. Christmas cookies are being provided by SIGP members. Cash bar: soda, wine, and beer. Guests are invited and welcomed.

(Continued on next page)

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

President's Message (continued from previous page)

We need 50 paid attendees to comply with the contract.
We will accept payments until December 13,
so please drop off your payment to:

**Mary Ellen Burke, 2037 Shorepointe,
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
by Tuesday, December 13**



If you would like to purchase your ticket via PayPal, please visit grossepointesoroptimist.net, and use the donate button on the home page (See sample icon at left). The cost of \$45 includes fees. To pay by credit card call Mary Ellen Burke at (313) 399-8934 and the cost is also \$45 to cover fees.

Happy Holidays from my family to yours!

— Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President , 2022/2024

Holiday Dinner Silent Auction

**Jingle, Jingle, come and mingle
New this year a holiday silent auction
with decorations and gifts
We made a list
We checked it twice
Everything is beautiful and nice
And you may name your price!**



**We have lots of large items. THANK YOU!
If you have a small item or two to drop off
at Donna Fitzgerald's, that will round out
things very nicely.**

**Please remember to bring cash, check or
credit card to purchase items from the
auction.**



*Above: A few of the items
that will be in the
Silent Auction.*

Feel free to print this page to distribute to friends and family!



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams



You're Invited to the Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe's Holiday Dinner – **Guests Welcome!**

When: Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Where: Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter Road, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Cost: \$42.00 per person for Buffet Dinner, rolls, salad, and dessert. Cash Bar available.

Make checks payable to: Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP)

Send or drop off check to: Mary Ellen Burke, 2037 Shorepointe, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Paypal or Credit card accepted for \$3.00 extra fee. Call Mary Ellen to process card: 313-399-8934

A silent auction will be available to support Soroptimist International's President Appeal, "[Opening Doors to a Bright Future](#)"

Questions? Roseanne Horne 313-706-1801



SOROPTIMIST®
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Fill out and return with payment to Mary Ellen Burke 2037 Shorepointe, GPW, MI 48236, 313-399-8934

Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card (\$3 Fee) _____

Gifting Positive Images

Many heartfelt thanks to members for their generosity to the children of Positive Images (PI). The shopping list is complete!

Children's gifts will be organized at Maureen Anthony's home, 524 Thorn Tree Rd., GP Woods on Wednesday, December 7, at 1:00 p.m. Please deliver your gift to her home by then. Remember to take off all tags with a barcode and put the name of the child on your gift bag. Questions? Call Maureen @ 734-255-0865.

For the women of PI, we have 50 insulated bags. Each will be filled with a blanket, scarf, lotion, calendar, holiday ornament, socks and gloves. Last call for any near-perfect ornaments or holiday décor that you would like to pass on to the women.

Bring them to Bette Lepouttre's home at 191 Ridgemont, GP Farms before Monday, December 5, 10:00 a.m., when the bags will be assembled.

Delivery of all gifts to Positive Images is Thursday, December 8th at 11:00.

— Diana Langlois, PI Liaison



Mentoring Update

Coming up in December is a Zoom Coffee Chat with mentors, mentees, and Maddy Colavito in Washington State!

The application for the Madeline Colavito Continuing Education Award of \$500 for mentees who are continuing in school is due by January 15, to SIGP member Aleksa Andjelkovic. Please mail application to Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, or contact Aleksa @ 617-671-9252 for an alternate delivery method.

Here's a quick update on our mentees:

- Danyelle is now a full-time bank teller at Comerica Bank! She is finishing her semester at WCCC.
- Nealmetria is working full time at Detroit Parent Network and is investigating possibilities at WCCC.
- Tonesia is one semester closer to finishing at WCCC and moving forward to WSU. Her poem, DANGEROUS MINDS, was published in the November *POINTER*. Please keep her in your prayers and positive thoughts as her daughter was hospitalized November 26, and is currently receiving treatment for a skin condition.
- Delia continues to fit job, children, and school into her daily life. She talks monthly with her mentor, SIGP Member Marlane Washington.

— Diana Langlois, Mentoring Chair

Another opportunity to raise funds for SIGP!

We have been asked to work at the upcoming **INDOOR** Boat Show January 14 – 22, 2023. Members will earn \$15/hour for each hour they work, and the money will be paid to SIGP. We made \$1,095 during the Metro Beach Boat Show this past summer.

Here are some details about the Boat Show at Huntington Place (formerly Cobo Hall). A SignUpGenius will be emailed to you this week.

Show Dates:

January 14-16 and January 19-22

Show Location:

Huntington Place (formerly Cobo Center)
1 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

Show Hours:

Saturdays: 11am – 8pm
Sundays & Monday: 11am – 6pm
Thursday & Friday: 3pm – 9pm

Pay Rate: \$15/hr

There are a variety of jobs available! From the home décor store, filling bags, kids' zone with fun crafts, to the info booth helping show attendees and more! **Training will be provided for all positions.**

Please let me know which days you are available to work, and if any job position sounds interesting to you! I'll do my best to accommodate!

Please sign up on the SignUpGenius for the days and hours you are available to work. If you have a job preference let us know and we will try to accommodate!

— Roseanne Horne, 313-706-1801



Natalia Nagorniak

Happy December Birthday to ...

Helen Clarren, December 4

Carol Hofer, December 11

Peggy Hickey, December 12

Nancy Solak, December 17

Dream It, Be It completed at Mercy Education Project



Far left and sitting are Mercy Education Project staffers Ally Fenske and David Morales. The young ladies who participated in this fall's Dream It, Be It program are (l-r): Alexa, Naomi, Rita, Lessley, Leslie and Yaasameen.

The second half of the six-week Dream It, Be It workshops was even more fun than the first half. No longer under a time crunch to get their Common Essays in to colleges, we focused on “Obstacles to Success.” The obstacles covered were sex discrimination, sexual harassment, family obligations, poor body image, physical or sexual violence, and bullying.

The young women were given sample scenarios and enthusiastically created an enactment of them that included how the obstacle might be overcome. They did a great job once they started to speak louder. We kept reminding them, “Speak louder. There are two old ladies in the room, and we want to hear you!” They’d laugh and up the volume for us.

We had two fantastic speakers. First was SIGP member Kerri Green who spoke to the girls about a job many of us don’t even think about: Logistics. She says each day is a new puzzle for her to solve. She needs to figure out how to pack car parts into boxes and trucks to determine the most cost effective and ecological way of sending them. Her job also calls for travel. She enjoys both aspects of it.

The highlight of the last session was our second speaker, Angeles Cuevas Cervantes. She was our club’s Virginia Wagner Award recipient several years ago. Now she has graduated from Eastern Michigan University and not only works but also does a community building. She gave the college-bound women (some of whom have already been accepted to various Michigan colleges) tips on how to look for and apply for scholarships and how to manage the money that comes in to their accounts.

(Continued on next page)

Dream It, Be It (continued from previous page)

Erin O'Mara, girls' program director at Mercy Education Project (MEP), sat in on Angeles's talk, along with MEP staffers Ally Fenske and David Morales.

The last week participants wrote a letter to themselves outlining their values, dreams and hopes for their future. They learned how to address and stamp their envelopes, a skill most of us take for granted but apparently is no longer taught in school. The letters will be mailed to them in November 2023. That's always a nice surprise Soroptimist has built into the Dream It, Be It program.



Above, Yaasameen Watkins with SIGP member Kerri Green.

Left, Erin O'Mara, Mercy Education Project girls' program director and Angeles Cuevas Cervantes.

Such a pleasure to meet and work with these young women. Our hearts overflow with love and hope for their futures.

We want to thank all the staff at MEP who gave us a warm welcome each week and invited us to return. We especially want to thank David who seemed to always be running to solve this or that issue, whether it be with the DIBI program or other programs going on simultaneously in the building.

We also want to thank the young women who put their trust in us, attending every week and showing up on time. — *Nancy Kelley & Nancy Solak, Co-Chairs, Dream It, Be It*

P.S. We celebrated our time together with cake!



“Our” Ghana Girls Send Greetings & Gratitude

The news from St. Anne Secondary School in Ghana is this: The girls are studying hard and are looking forward to a break at Christmas. As their dreams of education continue to blossom, they send greetings, gratitude and best wishes to all who have supported them. That means us!

On another positive note, it seems our Ghana project is attracting attention. The Roseville Recreation Center allowed me to have a “show and tell” hour at the facility a few weeks ago. I lugged in half a ton (slight exaggeration) of African artifacts, pictures, tripods, foods, slides, cloth and prizes into the chosen room with the help of SIGP member Toni Adams (my partner during one of the Ghana trips). An artist friend carefully arranged it all.

The director of the center suggested we might place a donation basket for the school by the artifacts, so we did. The audience proved most receptive. Imagine my astonishment and delight when donations for our girls came rolling in that day and in days to come. The total so far is more than \$1,000! I am amazed, delighted, stunned, and most grateful for the support. And this wasn’t even a fundraiser!

— SIGP Member Carol Hofer and Ghana Liaison



At the November business meeting, SIGP celebrated members who are having a decade birthday this year. Above are (L-R) Dorothy Wasinger, Karrie Blankenship and Liz Lucas. Not pictured: Amanda Be, Barb Skelly, Judi Dara and Sue Lewandowski. Happy “0” birthday, ladies!

[Photo by SIGP member Kerri Green]

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

Ruby Award Nomination Form

The Soroptimist Ruby Award honors a woman who, while volunteering or working for a nonprofit organization that provides services to women and/or girls, makes an extraordinary difference in improving their lives. Not only does her work make a significant impact, but it also inspires and encourages other women. The monetary portion of the award is given in her honor to the nonprofit organization she represents.

Nomination Guidelines

Women may nominate themselves or another woman for this honor. Soroptimist members are not eligible to receive this award.

On a separate sheet, provide a typed statement of no more than 750 words describing why the nominee should receive the Soroptimist Ruby Award.

It is necessary to get the written permission of the nominee. See below.

Complete this form and return it with the statement on or before the deadline of January 15 to: Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe, 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Nominee's Information (Please print)

Nominee's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Organization: _____ Date: _____

I consent to my nomination for the Soroptimist Ruby Award and to the accuracy of the information contained in this nomination form. I understand that my application and supporting information becomes the property of Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe upon submission and that they have permission to use this information for the purpose of publishing the Ruby Award program.

Nominee's Signature _____ Date: _____

Nominator's Information (if different from nominee)

Nominator's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Soroptimist Grosse Pointe extends ...

... our warmest wishes to you, your family and friends for a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you for sharing each of your special skills to improve the lives of women and girls.

In gratitude. — SIGP





#1 holiday hack:

When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

amazonsmile

Shop with Amazon and support SIGP!

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases back to our organization. Use the link below when doing your holiday shopping or go to smile.amazon.com and search for

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe.

[http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-6099835](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-6099835)

Supporting SIGP has never been easier!



SI of Monroe County
Invites you to
Ann Arbor, MI



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

**SPRING
CONFERENCE**

**SAVE
~ THE ~
DATE**

April 21-23, 2023

DECEMBER MOVIE



When: Monday, December 5, 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: **Trading Places** is a 1983 comedy film. It tells the story of an upper-class commodities broker and a poor street hustler, whose lives cross when they are unwittingly made the subject of an elaborate bet to test how each man will perform when their life circumstances are swapped. It stars Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy.

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 Education Program with an afternoon of friendship and camaraderie.

RSVP deadline: Wednesday, November 20, 2022

Please return the form below with your payment. Proceeds will benefit our robotics, art contest/exhibit and scholarship programs.

Make checks payable to *AAUW Grosse Pointe Education Program* and send to:
Barbara Tecos, 1237 Balfour, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230, (313) 882-1081.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone# _____

Email address: _____ Total # attending: ____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

Name(s) of those attending _____

JANUARY MOVIE



When: Monday, January 9, 2023

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: **On Golden Pond** is a 1981 family drama starring Henry Fonda, Katherine Hepburn and Jane Fonda. It focuses on the estranged relationships of family members and in the things they felt for each other, yet in time, are resolved by human growth and change.

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 Education Program with an afternoon of friendship and camaraderie.

RSVP deadline: Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Please return the form below with your payment. Proceeds will benefit our robotics, art contest/exhibit and scholarship programs.

Make checks payable to *AAUW Grosse Pointe Education Program* and send to:
Barbara Tecos, 1237 Balfour, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230, (313) 882-1081.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone# _____

Email address: _____ Total # attending: ____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

Name(s) of those attending _____

Midwestern Region Board

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District III Secretary - Gail Hutra, SI Monroe
(gahutra1960@yahoo.com)

Soroptimist Websites

Grosse Pointe Soroptimist: <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org/>
Soroptimist International Midwestern Region - simwr.org
Soroptimist International of the Americas soroptimist.org
Soroptimist International soroptimistinternational.org

Soroptimist Pledge

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist
and to the ideals for which it stands:
The sincerity of friendship,
the joy of achievement,
the dignity of service,
the integrity of profession,
and the love of country.
I will put forth my greatest effort to
promote, uphold and defend these ideals,
for a larger fellowship in home, in society,
in business, for country and for God.



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SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

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

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

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Nancy Solak

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

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

INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://instagram.com/soroptimistgp).....Geri Pleva

NEWSLETTER & MEDIA: *THE POINTER*

is on the club's website and is emailed to each member

Deadline for photos and articles is the 28th of each month..... Nancy Solak



Remember to use AMAZON SMILE smile.amazon.com
(Look for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe)