The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe July 2022



President's Message – Working Toward Sustainable Goals



Karrie Blankenship

Hello to All!

As the new president I would like to thank Ellen Chapin and Marya Rosenthal for their leadership throughout two of the most challenging years this club has seen.

During their leadership SIGP overcame the challenges of fundraising amid a pandemic, celebrated a holiday event on Zoom, and kept all members involved by having hybrid meetings in the park once the weather turned warm. Without the resourcefulness of Ellen, Marya, and the board, SIGP might have seen a considerable drop in membership during these past two years of seclusion and uncertainties. Thank you.

For the next two years I am looking forward to working with our new board implementing innovative fundraising ideas, new programs, all while enticing new and current members to join us in our efforts to improve the lives of women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

During my term as president, I would like to move our club further into the technology age. Doing this may attract young women who will keep our club progressively active when we are no longer physically able.

One of my appeals for a new program falls within the Sustainable Development Goal #5, Gender Equality.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

(Continued on next page)

President's Message (continued from previous page)

The SDGs are global goals, and the targets within them include commitments to eliminate genderbased violence, eradicate human trafficking, ensure access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, expand economic opportunities for women, increase access to water and sanitation, and adopt legislation and policies that promote gender equality. The SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls.

For the next two years I would like to focus on Elder Women Equality. Our emphasis will be on the injustice and discriminations senior women face as well as the neglect and abuse endured by them. As we help ease the financial burden for young women and girls with their education, we are providing them a better economic life and by doing so their equality as elder women will hopefully follow.

Throughout my presidency hybrid meetings will be the norm. This does not mean we are not going to meet in person; on the contrary. I am looking forward to getting back to in-person meetings (see next page). I also want those members who are not comfortable yet attending in person, are not physically able to attend, or are out of town, to participate in our business meetings.

I look forward to leading our club into our next phase of service. We are a solid club, and we can become stronger with innovative ideas and making sure ALL members' voices are heard.

- Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President

Happy July Birthday to ...

Sara Baker, July 1 Aleksa Andjelkovic, July 8 Renee Rodriguez, July 14 Rasheda Williams, July 16 Jane Lightfoot, July 19 Rosanne Morrow, July 23 Mary Ellen Burke, July 27 Jane Evola, July 30



Change in Business Meeting Venue Starts July 13

Grosse Pointe Soroptimist Business Meeting, Wednesday, July 13 Wave's Chill and Grill, 24223 Jefferson Ave, St Clair Shores, MI 48080

SIGP's private room will be available for meet and greet at 6:00 pm. and the meeting starts promptly at 6:30 You can enjoy a meal from the selected menu (see below) while we discuss business All meetings will be hybrid and recorded

Menu for Business Meetings

NO variations. Drink charges are stipulated on the menu

All entrees below are \$20 plus tax and gratuity. Separate checks.

CHICKEN BIBB (w/cup of soup)

GOURMET GREENS AND ROMAINE TOPPED WITH SUNDRIED CHERRIES, CINNAMON PECANS, DICED SEASONAL FRUIT AND GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST, SERVED WITH RASPBERRY VINAIGRETTE

VOO DOO CHICKEN (comes with house salad and baked potato)

GRILLED BREAST OF CHICKEN, TOPPED WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS, MUSHROOMS,

GUAVA BBQ SAUCE AND SWISS CHEESE

WAVES PARADISE BURGER (cooked medium, w/French fries) BLACK ANGUS GROUND ROUND TOPPED WITH BACON, PROVOLONE AND CHEDDAR CHEESES, SERVED ON A BISTRO STYLE BUN GARNISHED WITH

LETTUCE, TOMATO, MAUI ONION AND PICKLE

FRIED LAKE PERCH (w/house salad and baked potato) LIGHTLY COATED WITH ISLAND BREADING, DEEP FRIED TO A GOLDEN BROWN

SERVED WITH TARTAR SAUCE

CHANGE: "True life is lived when tiny changes occur." — Leo Tolstoy

You have probably noticed a change in the look of this edition of *The Pointer* newsletter. The change is meant to synchronize with the branding Soroptimist of the Americas (SIA) has developed. Organizational branding helps distinguish one organization from the others. We hope you like the new colors. For those who don't like change, the same formatting has been retained.

Great news! Our Club has been Approved as a Charity by Rocket Mortgage Classic Birdies!

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) has been approved as a charity for the Rocket Mortgage Classic Birdies for Charity_PGA event in Detroit this month. This means Soroptimist Grosse Pointe will receive donations from our friends and families. Please consider donating so we can reach our goal of \$15,000.

- 100% of collected donations go back to SIGP.
- There are no online fees for donors since the administrative and processing fees are covered by The Rocket Giving Fund.
- This is a great opportunity to generate contributions through flat-rate donations or make a pledge based on the number of birdies made by PGA TOUR players during the 2022 Rocket Mortgage Classic.
 - ♦ A flat rate donation is whatever amount you choose to give.
 <u>Deadline for flat-rate donations: July 31, 2022</u>
 - A per-birdie pledge is the amount you choose multiplied by the total number of birdies made during the tournament. This could create a large expenditure, which becomes the donation for which you will be invoiced. For Example: In 2019, a total of 1,895 birdies were made by PGA TOUR Professionals at the Rocket Mortgage Classic. A \$1 pledge totaled a \$1,895.00 donation to the selected nonprofit. Deadline for per-birdie pledges: July 27, 2022

Here is the link to make your flat-rate donation or your per birdie pledge: PartnerHQ

Easy to donate, no need for serious golf skills!

Spread the word. Tell all your friends. You can cut and paste the letter on the next page and send it to your friends, or guide them to our website, <u>www.grossepointesoroptimist.net</u>, or Soroptimist Grosse Pointe Facebook page.

Please help us raise funds for our Award programs by contacting potential donors. We need your help in making this opportunity available to as many people as possible.

If you have any questions about this you can contact me at: fepegues@comcast.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

SIGP Member Francine Pegues Event Coordinator SIGP Rocket Mortgage Classic Birdies for Charity



PGA TOUR Golf is coming back to Detroit July 28th – July 31st and SIGP is getting involved in the excitement by participating in the Rocket Mortgage Classic's Birdies for Charity Program! BOARDOFDIRECTORS

Karrie Blankenship President

> Diana Langlois *Vice President*

Bette Lepouttre President Elect

> Mary Bryk Secretary

Nancy Solak Assistant Secretary

> Treasurer Ernesta Kurrle

Mary Ellen Burke Assistant Treasurer

> Directors Roseanne Horne Kerri Green Carolyn Barth

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

Cut or copy the following letter to give to friends and family. There is space at the bottom to sign your name.

Dear Friend,

Have you heard? Soroptimist International Grosse Pointe is participating in the 2022 Rocket Mortgage Classic's Birdies for Charity program! We are excited to announce our 2022 partnership with the Rocket Mortgage Classic and this unique fundraising program centered around the return of the first-ever PGA TOUR event in Detroit!

Birdies for Charity is a giving platform where nonprofits can create awareness and generate donations around the excitement of the tournament. Most importantly, there is no cost for (nonprofit organizations) to participate and 100% of donations collected are given to these nonprofits. Donations can be made by a per-birdie pledge or by a flat-rate donation to the charity of your choice!

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

We hope you will join us as we raise funds through Birdies for Charity. For 2022, our goal is to raise \$15,000. These funds will support our Award programs which provide financial assistance to women and girls' education and training. Please help our mission by donating through the Birdies for Charity program today.

For more information about Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe: <u>www.grossepointesoroptimist.net</u>

To donate to Soroptimist International Grosse Pointe use this link: <u>PartnerHQ</u>

Deadline for per-birdie pledges: July 27, 2022 Deadline for flat-rate donations: July 31, 2022

Thank you for your support!

"If you want something done, ask a busy person." — Benjamin Franklin. We know you are all busy as bees, that's why the following are calls for kicking off another year of supporting women and girls. Peruse the following volunteer opportunities to see if any suit your interest.

Here's a way to kick off the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee

Ladies,

Thank you for taking time to read this.

If you have not already done so, I would appreciate it if you would take the time to read and answer a 7question survey about our club's Anti-Human Trafficking Committee. Please follow the link to the survey below. <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TGC9R7V</u>

If possible, please answer before August 1. I want to get things started and have inclusion in the activities. Your responses will help us to plan ahead. There are many places where we can have an impact where we currently do not have a presence.

I look forward to our future committee. Thank you. — Liz Lucas, Anti-Human Trafficking Chair



Membership Committee Launch! TUESDAY, JULY 19, 7 p.m., in person or on Zoom

Ladies of SIGP, I'm in need of a small Membership Committee and hoping YOU will join!



I have two goals to share with you: find additional organizations where SIGP members can give volunteer service and choose new "Spirit Wear" (Soroptimist tees, sweaters, caps, vests, etc.) for members to wear and sell at conferences.

This will be a worthwhile volunteer opportunity that you'll be able to fit into your schedule, plus we'll have a good time exploring options and making decisions!

If interested let me know and mark your calendar for Tuesday, July 19, 7 p.m., at my place or on Zoom, TBD. Text or call me at 313-690-1515. Thank you! HUGS!

— Diana Langlois, Membership Chair



POSITIVE IMAGES ... Parenting/Life Skills class You could learn a new skill too!

Calling anyone interested in interacting with women in recovery!

I'm willing to offer a few workshops to go over the Parenting/Life Skills lesson plans. The sessions at Positive Images usually run an hour or so on Tuesdays. Parenting booklets are given to each woman. We cover infancy through young adult. We include eight chapters, and each chapter has questions for input and discussion—discussion being the key word here. At times I provide separate articles and activities to change up the sessions.

If interested in sharing time with these women who are working hard to regain their health, please contact me via email (<u>elepouttre@gmail.com</u>) or leave a message at (586) 557-3287.

I'm taking the next two months to recruit help, support and bring others on board. Thank you in advance!

— Bette Lepouttre, President Elect

You're cordially invited to help plan "fun"raising!



With a new fiscal year starting, it is time to focus on creating and continuing successful fundraising strategies. As you all know, we have many ways to support and empower women and girls. Fortunately, we have come up with many creative and fun ways to capture money. I have reviewed many of our club's past, present and some future fundraisers, which are a combination of patterns.

Some revolve around activities or events. These fundraisers were planned as "fun" events for club members and friends that included a "donation" in the cost. Some highlights were a day at Artee Spa, a dinner and tour of the Royal Eagle Church, a night of painting a picture of downtown Detroit, and a lunch and tour of the Yankee Museum.

Some include celebrations or parties. We had a 50th and 60th SIGP Anniversary party which included a dinner, tin can raffle, and of course a silent auction. These were huge events which fortunately netted large profits.

Some fundraisers included sales. We have engaged in many of these—from selling raffle tickets, accessories, entertainment books, popcorn, TCBY yogurt, books, baked goods, garage sale items, ornaments to embroidered clothing. We even participated in a shopping evening with wine at Circare and earned 10% of the sales that evening.

Fortunately, during COVID, a member created a "service" project that has netted us thousands of dollars for the past two years. We have been collecting donated "returnable bottles and cans" and returning them for ten cents each. The members who have volunteered to collect, deliver, and return the cans have raised almost \$9,600 so far.

Then there are ways to solicit donations. We have done that with a letter to members. We have signed up for Amazon Smile, which is an ongoing source of revenue, even if small. We initiated GoFundMe on our website.

We are now participating in Birdies for Charity thanks to Francine's influence.

So, this year we need more than our standard fundraisers. We are continuing our Can and Bottle Drive, our SIGP clothing sales, our Amazon Smile donation program and hopefully, our For the Love of Wine Raffle. We have already added the

(Continued on next page)

Volunteer Opportunities (continued from previous page)

Birdies for Charity donation platform. We need more "fun" raisers to continue and increase funds for our awards and other programs. Several members have already approached me with great new ideas. I have one of my own, and I believe many of you have one to share.

I am inviting you to come and brainstorm your "scathingly brilliant" ideas, as positive thinking Pollyanna would say, with the SIGP Fundraising Committee. We will meet at my home on Wednesday, July 20 at 7:00 PM. We will plan activities or events or sales or monetary donations to increase our funds to help empower women and girls' lives. You won't want to miss this "fun" raising meeting. Hope to see you here.

- Mary Ellen Burke, Fundraising Chair

Ghana Girls and the Scarcity of Water

As I reflected on life in Ghana this morning my attention was drawn to the TV reports of numerous forest fires sweeping the West of our own country. What devastation! The lack of moisture makes it all so much worse. I am reminded of an incident of long ago while living in Damongo, Ghana, as a Peace Corps volunteer. A friend was helping me water the tomato plants lining the edge of my bungalow. He splashed quite a bit out of the bucket before reaching the plants and I shouted quickly, "Be CAREFUL, Saaka, you're wasting it like it was water!"



Then I paused, stunned at what I had said.

Water! How priceless! In so many areas of the world it determines life or death. Yet, we take it for granted.

Do any of us in Michigan realize how very special is the ecological niche in which we live, surrounded by one fifth of the planet's fresh surface water? In Ghana water is always precious and sometimes rare. Clean water, even more so. St. Anne high school, which includes young women our club helps with support of tuition, resides in the north, far from the rainforests of the southern part of the country. Farmers in Damongo suffer when there is lack of rain during the dry season, with the winds drifting down from the Sahara Desert bringing sand and hot air.

Crops shrivel and die. People go hungry. The nearest pond may be miles away and sometimes every drop for daily use means walking a great distance with a bucket. Our girls at St. Anne know this reality. Yes, clean water is available at the school now and they no longer have to walk two miles to the nearest pump. But some of them return to homes in remote areas where their friends and families struggle and where poverty and hardship thrive. The dry season remains particularly painful.

This is the world where we are trying to make a difference with our support. Our students at St. Anne remain truly grateful for the chance to be educated. Perhaps some of them will pursue science and then investigate ways for more families to enjoy clean water and better irrigation of crops. It would mean a better life not just for them as individuals but for their families and communities. Maybe one of our girls will discover a way to improve wells. Or economically convert ocean water into fresh! Now THAT would be an accomplishment worthy of a Nobel prize!

Regardless, their lives and communities will benefit because of our continued help. Go Girls! - SIGP Member Carol Hofer

Introducing the 2022-2024 SIGP Board Members



L-R: Kerri Green, Director; Roseanne Horne, Director; Mary Bryk, Secretary; Mary Ellen Burke, Assistant Treasurer; Bette Lepouttre, President Elect; Karrie Blankenship, President; Nancy Solak, Assistant Secretary; Carolyn Barth, Director; Diana Langlois, Vice President. (Photo by SIGP member Nancy Kelley.)

Since it was a hybrid meeting, someone also snapped a photo of Ernesta Kurrle, Treasurer, at right!

Thanks to Kerri Green's ingenuity, each board member received a placard with a description of her duties using candy bars. The one at right says: *You will be in charge of MOUNDS of money, and don't lose a ZERO when balancing the books each month.*

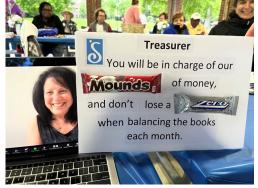
There was lots of food, hot and cold, brought by members to make it a memorable send off for Maddy Colavito who has moved to the State of

Washington. Speaking of Maddy, she expressed surprise and gratitude when it was announced that the Continuing Education Award she developed for SIGP will now be called the: Madeline Colavito Continuing Education Award (MCCEA). She felt honored; we honor her.

Laura McCourt was awarded the Ann Cunningham Dedication Award for outstanding membership activities that continued despite COVID. Roseanne Horne, the previous winner, passed the engraved silver bowl to Laura to keep for the next two years.

The outgoing Co-presidents Ellen Chapin and Marya Malkovich summarized their term, symbolically passing the gavel. Incoming president Karrie Blankenship followed by outlining her hopes for our club's future. (See page 1).

It poured rain throughout the evening but spirits were not dampened one bit. Thank you to the past officers, thank you to the ones who have either re-upped or joined the board. We look forward to seeing every SIGP member at one or more committee meeting(s), at business meetings or on Zoom. See pages 6 & 7 to decide which committee might work for you. There are more committees if none of these are in your wheelhouse. No experience necessary for any of them. Part of SIGP is to provide an opportunity to gain skills. Whether you volunteer for a few hours or for many hours, be assured, there will be gratitude. And please tell your friends the important work SIGP does and invite them to join. Remember, a member does not have to live in Grosse Pointe to be a Grosse Pointe Soroptimist!



MOTHER'S DAY BAGS FOR Positive Images DELIVERED & ENJOYED!

Once again, we delivered Mother's Day bags of goodies to 50 women at Positive Images (PI). This year we packed the goodies in baskets instead of gift bags.

During the Parenting session that followed Mother's Day, the women of PI shared their appreciation with SIGP member Bette Lepouttre, one of our club's Parenting facilitators. They were very thankful for all the gifts we gave them, especially the jewelry.

I want to thank everyone who continues to participate in this project. I receive donations from so many Soroptimists and their friends and family all year, it is almost impossible to keep track. We would never be able to create 50 gift bags without all your help.

So, THANK YOU for your contributions of gifts, especially jewelry, as well as your time.

Maureen Anthony	Roseanne Horne	Nancy Olis
Karrie Blankenship	Laurie Jost	Francine Pegues
Mary Bryk	Nancy Kelley	Justine Pouttu
Pat Casey	Kathy Kraydich	Dawn Riddle
Kathy DiCenzo	Diana Langlois	Anita Sandercott
Peggy Hickey	Bette Lepouttre	Nancy Solak
Carol Hofer	Elizabeth Lucas	Dorothy Wasinger
		Dorothea Williams

If I missed your name, please forgive me. There are some members who drop off their contributions at my home and don't share their name. Thank you all so much.

We will be collecting items for next year. Most of the items will remain the same. However, I am no longer collecting Oprah magazines or any lotions, shampoos, conditioner, or shower gel. Here's what we are still collecting:



Costume jewelry: Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, pins Gift boxes: 4 x 6 size, decorated preferred, OR stationery boxes Mugs: Can be colorful, decorated, but no advertisements Cosmetic bags: New or gently used, decorated preferred Scarves: Polyester or synthetic preferred, no small square sizes Dental items: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash

We buy journals, gift bags, and last year we added a single artificial flower.

THANK YOU AGAIN EVERYONE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

— Mary Ellen Burke

FREE Advertising for Members: If you would like to advertise your business, product, or service, please email *The Pointer* editor, Nancy Solak, at solaksinitaly@yahoo.com

Mentoring for Success Breakfast Meeting held June 11



L to R: Toni Adams, Maureen Anthony, Diana Langlois, Diane Kashuba, Tonesia Nesbitt (Awardee Associate), Maddy Colavito, Katherine Baetz, Bette Lepouttre, Paula Davis, and Marlane Washington, at Leo's Coney Island, Jefferson at 9 Mile, in St. Clair Shores.

One of the challenges of the Mentoring for Success initiative is to find a time when the mentees can come in person. A breakfast meeting on June 11, at Leo's Coney Island in the private dining room, was chosen by the group. Each of the mentees notified us that they could not make it and all for good reasons: school labs, work, family. For the nine mentors who attended, it was an informative meeting with everyone engaged in discussion and suggesting ideas for the program.

The mentors were asked to contact their mentee individually, meet with her in person, look over and sign the Mentor/ Mentee Agreement and review the Monthly Activity Log. The Awardee Associate Application included inviting the mentees to participate more in Soroptimist activities.

Each mentor/mentee decides how and when they want to meet. It has been suggested to meet twice a month or as needed. A directory was given to each participant not only with the contact information for mentees and mentors, but also the special resource each mentor can provide. Mentoring for Success will meet again as a group in August.

As we closed the meeting everyone gave accolades for Maddy and her dedication working with Mentoring for Success. Her energy and commitment will be missed! Big HUGS Maddy, as you return to the State of Washington and begin the next chapter in your life with your son and his family. You have made a positive difference in Soroptimist of Grosse Pointe! Thank you for EVERYTHING!!!

- Diana Langlois, Mentoring for Success Chair

The photo above is our dedicated group of SIGP members

who offer their time to support our 2022 winners who include:

LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARDEES: Nealmetria Loper, Danyelle Easley, Delia Mustin, and Denise Sargent

VIRGINIA WAGNER EDUCATIONAL AWARD: Lavina Hutchinson

A summer walk led by members of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy



On June 22, eight SIGP members took advantage of the last membership activity of the fiscal year by going for a walk along the Detroit River. They started at Cullen Plaza and ended at Vlade Park. (L-R) Maureen Anthony, Laura McCourt, Ellen Chapin, Karen Ridgway, Karrie Blankenship, Nancy Solak, Roseanne Horne and Paula Davis.



Leading the tour were Elena Nuño and Frank Ford of the Detroit Riverwalk, voted "Best in the USA" for the second year in a row.

Empowered Flower Girl one of three Detroit area organizations to win a \$5,000 Social Impact Grant

Note: Empowered Flower Girl was founded by SIGP member Rasheda Williams. To read the story about the grant, go to: <u>https://thejewishnews.com/2022/06/24/three-detroit-nonprofits-win-5000-at-israeli-consulates-michigan-social-impact-grant-awards-ceremony/</u>

The Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest announced winners of its Social Impact Grants during an awards ceremony on Friday, June 17, in Detroit.

Empowered Flower Girl was selected among three Michigan-based organizations to receive a grant.

Other organizations awarded include: Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice and Quartz Water Source.

"Out of the numerous applications that we received, these three grassroots organizations reflect a value that is also quintessential to Israeli society: 'taking care of our own and each other,'" said Yinam Cohen, Consul General of Israel to the Midwest.

Empowered Flower Girl will use the funds to host events this fall, including a Be the Impact Summit in honor of International Day of the Girl and service-learning showcase for youth.

Congratulations, Rasheda!

Midwestern Region Board

- Governor Christine Fowler Shearer, SI Cleveland (fowlerartistic@gmail.com)
- Governor Elect: Audrey Jarvey, SI Fond du Lac (audreyjarv@charter.net)
- Secretary Sheila Zingler-Gilbert, SI Fond du Lac (sheilasifdl@gmail.com)

District III

Treasurer - Linda Alpers, SI NE Suburban Franklin County (alpers.1@osu.edu) District III Director - Kellie Klingel, SI Flat Rock Area (ktklingel@yahoo.com) District III Secretary - Laura Ferguson, SI Kenton/Hardin County (laura.r.ferguson@gmail.com)

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>) Grosse Pointe Soroptimist: 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'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

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Nancy Solak

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

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

NEWSLETTER & MEDIA: *THE POINTER* is on the website and is emailed to members Newspaper articles, radio PSAs, etc.Nancy Solak

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