

# The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe  
October 2022



## President's Message — “What can I do to help?”

The weather is getting cooler, but Soroptimist members are just getting warmed up. Thank you to all who volunteered at the Metro Boat Show. We have many more volunteer opportunities coming up in the next few months. Make sure to read your emails so you can help make a difference.

March will be here before we know it. This is when all our hard work is realized in the form of distributing awards to women in need. Last year we gave away almost \$10,000. We anticipate exceeding that amount this year. But to do so, we need your help.

**For the Love of Wine Raffle** is our major fundraiser which financially supports our awards. Remember last year's first place winner, Nealmetria Loper? Because of every member's role in our fundraising initiatives, she was awarded our first place Live Your Dream Award and then went on to receive awards and recognition at the Regional and Federation levels. **YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE IN HER LIFE!** So, contact For the Love of Wine co-chairs, Ross Braun or Bette Lepouttre and ask, “What can I do to help?”



A cruise on the *Infinity* yacht! WOW! This fundraiser is set to sail in July 2023. Soon you will receive an email with two attachments: One will be an already prepared “Request for Sponsorship” letter and the other will be a list and description of the sponsorship categories. You will be able to email, snail mail or hand these two documents to a prospective sponsor. You never know—maybe your employer, your place of worship or even a family member may be willing to sponsor a Live Your Dream Award or help a woman or girl receive the resources and opportunities she needs to reach her full potential and live her dream.

Dream It, Be It, Soroptimist's signature educational program, begins October 12, 2022, at the [Mercy Education Project](#) on Howard Street in Detroit. The young ladies participating are high school juniors and seniors. The focus is on careers and self-identity. Contact Nancy Solak or Nancy Kelley and ask, “What can I do to help?”

Eighty-six percent of Detroit third graders cannot read at grade level. [SOAR Detroit](#) is asking for help to change that. Interested SIGP members attended a Zoom meeting on September 20, to learn more about becoming a tutor. If you were not available and have interest in what SOAR Detroit needs and does, please contact SIGP

(Continued on p. 2)

**President's Message (continued from p. 1)**

member Mary Bryk for the Zoom recording. SOAR Detroit's goal is to gain 200 volunteers to help these children improve their reading skills.

[Free the Girls](#) exists to help women rescued from sex trafficking reintegrate into their communities. So, if you would like to help empower a survivor, your Anti-Human Trafficking Committee is asking for new or gently used bras to be donated to Free the Girls organization. You can drop off your donation to Bette Lepouttre or Karrie Blankenship. We will be taking the donations to the District Meeting the weekend of October 14, and 15.

At the September general business meeting Ross Braun was voted in as our new treasurer. Congratulations Ross! The 2022-2023 budget was also approved.

I would like to thank all of you who sent suggestions for a new venue for our in-person meetings. We investigated all of them. Some were not available for our date and time, and others either didn't have the proper or adequate amenities we are looking for or did not accept monthly bookings. The board and I are still investigating so, until then, the meetings will be held on Zoom.

We are Soroptimists because we want to make a difference. Find your inner power and say, "What can I do to help?"

*Soroptimist Strong,  
Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President*



**Show your friends a magic trick and our club's web site at the same time!**

The crazy-looking icon at the left is our club's QR code. It's like magic! Try it right now. Point your phone's camera at it, zero in on it, snap the photo, and a yellow band appears at the bottom with SIGP printed on it. Touch that yellow band and you're immediately transported to our club's web site. If you're not familiar with QR codes, you will be now, and you'll wonder why you hadn't noticed them before. They're everywhere!

**Next SIGP Business Meeting:  
Wednesday, October 12, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karrie Blankenship  
*President*

Diana Langlois  
*Vice President*

Bette Lepouttre  
*President Elect*

Mary Bryk  
*Secretary*

Nancy Solak  
*Assistant Secretary*

Ross Braun  
*Treasurer*

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.”

## Call for posters

Soroptimist International (SI) is inviting members to play an important part during the 2023 Convention in Dublin, Ireland. A curated group of posters illustrating recently completed projects will be showcased at the convention. Entries will come from Soroptimist clubs, unions, regions, federations, and national associations. Your board voted to submit a poster.

There is a 3-step process and the first was to submit an overview of our project through a specially designed submission system. This has already been done. The SIGP Board elected to submit our human trafficking awareness video, *2021: Insights on Human Trafficking*.

In the first round, each application was considered by a designated panel to ensure the criteria was met, and an email was sent to those being asked to move onto the second round. Our submission was accepted!

The next step is to create a poster. Each poster will be examined by a panel of senior SI members representing each Federation to ensure compliance to the criteria. Fifty posters will be selected for display on boards at the convention.

Each of the 50 selected posters must be accompanied at the convention by at least one member of the submitting club, region, national association, or country. This person must register and pay to attend the convention and be available to answer delegates' questions. At this time, I am aware of five SIGP members who are registered for the conference and two from the Macomb Club who served on the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee.

I will keep you informed of our progress with our submission.

– Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President

## MENTORING FOR SUCCESS

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW to attend ... the

Saturday morning Zoom coffee chat at 10:30 a.m. for mentees and mentors. It's a time to catch up on each other and see how the semester is going. If there's anything you want to talk about, just text me (313-690-1515) the topic and I'll have some information for you! See you then! – Diana Langlois, Mentoring Chair

## For the Love of Wine Raffle

### Our Club's Signature Fundraiser



Thank you to those who donated wine (3 bottles) and monetary donations (\$185) to date. We need your support to be successful. Please consider donating a bottle of wine (90 points or higher) or a monetary donation for us to buy wine!

Drop off at Ross Braun's house or mine! Our deadline for bottles of wine and monetary donations is our next General Meeting, October 12. This timing will allow us to make decisions on how many raffle prizes to give out!

Thanking you ahead of time for your support in this endeavor!

*Best to all of you!*  
*Bette Lepouttre, SIGP President Elect*  
*Live Your Dream Chair, 2022-2024*

## ACT/SAT Prep Class Update – A great volunteer opportunity!

Our club will again sponsor five young women to take the preparatory course that is so crucial before sitting for their ACT and/or SAT test. SIGP member Barb Skelly has contacted the counselors at both North and South High schools and given them applications to distribute. The counselors give them to juniors who they think will benefit from the class and do not have the finances to pay for it. The classes start January 15 and run until March 26. The girls will take the SAT in April. The classes are taught by Scott Allen, owner of College Quest, at First Presbyterian Church.

Barb says she especially likes that Mr. Allen will allow them to retake the prep class for free if they do not score well on the April test.

Barb has asked that the applications be returned to her by November 18. This is where other SIGP members can become involved. She's looking for 3-5 members to help evaluate the applications. SIGP member Mary Bryk has already volunteered but more members are needed. Barb will arrange to have the girls' applications given to each committee member, after which they can meet in person or on Zoom to select the winners.

If interested, please contact Barb Skelly. Her number is on the Membership Roster. If you do not have one, please contact any SIGP Board member, and she will email one to you.

## Days for Girls program in Grosse Pointe to end on October 8

by SIGP Member Sandy Mengel and Mary Garlough

We have an announcement, but first we have a bit of history to recount.

The Grosse Pointe Farms team of Days for Girls (DFG) started in 2017 after Joan Richardson, Mary Garlough and Sandy Mengel visited Susan Smith's vast and exceedingly friendly DFG operation in Farmington and decided we could do something similar closer to home. Many of you joined us in 2017; others of you came to us through the years. Regardless, while we were operating at peak volume, and then during COVID and after, we produced quite a number of components and kits for women across the globe.



*This young lady, who is sporting a kit over her shoulder, would not be able to attend school if it weren't for Days for Girls.*

According to DfGI records, between 2017 and now, we shipped 1,878 kits and shared another 806 kits for use in underdeveloped countries like Haiti, Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya, and the Dominican Republic. After we could no longer support mission partners, we shipped 8,869 separate sewn components (bags, liners, and shields) to our assigned distribution center in Pittsburgh for inclusion in kits that were sent to refugee points in Jordan, Chad, Lebanon, and the Ukraine border area. At the beginning of the Ukraine war, women associated with our team sent close to 6,000 disposable sanitary pads to Pittsburgh where they were accumulated for shipment to Ukraine/Poland. At the beginning of COVID,

*(Continued on next page)*

Days for Girls (continued from previous page)



members of our team assembled hundreds of cloth face masks for delivery to local ER nurses and other health care providers before commercial masks were widely available. Who helped create this enormous body of work? Over 100 different women volunteered with us through the years, from an occasional six-year-old who carried work from table to table, to high school girls who folded liners or snapped shields, to young mothers and middle-aged and senior women, all of whom learned to do just about everything to turn yards of fabric into beautiful durable kits. And now, this year, our six-year-old has started middle school and our high schooler shield-snapper is a freshman at MSU.

Your team was led by women who made niches for themselves from the various tasks that were needed to start the team and keep it going. Joan got us going and made our first connection with GP United Methodist Church as a funder and a meeting location and a connection to a community in Haiti where we sent our first kits. She also took on the task of learning to thread and use a serger, which neither Mary nor Sandy ever accomplished. Mary became the organizer of work and developed a deep bench of home sewists who kept us supplied with shields and liners even when we weren't working in person because of the pandemic. She also hosted Monday afternoons at Mary's where we sewed and cut and ironed and traced and singed ribbons while enjoying each other's company as crafting women have done for centuries. Mary's husband Jim cut acrylic and wood templates that helped us routinize our fabric handling. Libby serged liners and liners and liners and made a great many of the cloth face masks that we sent out into the community. Sandy created photo-illustrated instruction booklets and handled paperwork and bookkeeping.

Now, five years later, we are at a point where we have decided to wind down our involvement with Days for Girls. We have just about used up the fabric on our shelves and will send the remainders to Susan Smith in Farmington. As to the funds in our treasury, we have found a needy local enterprise in Nepal to which we can direct the funds so that the work that Celeste Mergens started years ago can continue in its new form of teaching local women how to make kits and sell them to their communities, thereby providing friends and neighbors with days at school and work and in their communities that they would otherwise lose when they are menstruating, while also creating income for the women in the enterprise.

**On Saturday October 8, we are meeting one last time at 9 am at GP United Methodist, 211 Moross (second floor), to wrap up some work and celebrate what we've accomplished with each other. A SignUpGenius will be sent out closer to the date but you might mark your calendar if you'd like to come work or just drop by to say hi.**

For those who want to continue working with Days for Girls, you might contact Susan Smith in Farmington at [FarmingtonMI@daysforgirls.org](mailto:FarmingtonMI@daysforgirls.org). Susan emails periodic newsletters that talk about what they are doing on their team and the kind of help they might need. She is indefatigable in every sense of the word and a worthy person to whom you could offer your support. Or see <https://www.daysforgirls.org/our-mission/> if you want to donate funds to the organization.

Thank you for your friendship and hard work and enthusiasm for this important work. If we don't see you on October 8, please know that we value everything you did for Days for Girls.

## Two local events to raise your awareness re human trafficking

An open invitation to attend Jaco Booyens' presentation  
**Modern Trends in Human Trafficking on October 19, 2022**  
**Westin Southfield from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

This event, presented during the Michigan State Medical Society meeting, is worth one hour of continuing medical education (CME) for physician attendees. This special event is open to the general public. A complimentary cocktail reception and dinner are included. I hope you can attend.

**Please invite all Soroptimists interested in learning more about human trafficking.**

– Laurie Jost, former Anti-Human Trafficking Co-chair

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT HERE, sponsored by the Macomb County Anti Trafficking Task Force—Register by Oct 3!



MCAT in Partnership with G.H.O.S.T  
Presents

# IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT HERE

A Nick Nanton Film

Red Carpet  
Invite Only

**Tuesday, October 11, 2022**  
Doors Open - 6:00pm | Show Starts - 7:00pm

**Emerald Theatre | 31 N. Walnut St. | Mt. Clemens, MI 48043**  
Inquiries 586.469.6147 or events@macombgov.org

**MCAT**  
TASK FORCE

**G.H.O.S.T.**  
GENESEE HUMAN OPPRESSION STRIKE TEAM

**MARK A. HACKEL**  
Macomb County Executive

**ANTHONY WICKERSHAM**  
Macomb County Sheriff

**CHRIS SWANSON**  
Genesee County Sheriff

The Macomb County Anti Trafficking (MCAT) Task Force in partnership with the Genesee Human Oppression Strike Team (G.H.O.S.T.) is excited to invite you and a guest to an exclusive premiere of *It's Happening Right Here*, a human trafficking documentary by Emmy award-winning director Nick Nanton. The MCAT Task Force, we ask that you join us to help bring awareness to the prevalence of sex trafficking in Macomb County.

Due to limited seating, all attendees must be pre-registered. We ask that you please reserve your spot as soon as possible. This exclusive invitation will expire on Monday, October 3, in order to extend open seats to other Macomb County leaders. Click [here](#) to register.



*(L-R) SIGP members Geri Pleva, Mary Ellen Burke, Diana Langlois, Bette Lepouttre, Maureen Anthony, Carol Hofer, Siena Literacy Center Director Sister Janice Brown, OP, and SIGP members Kerri Green, Roseanne Horne, and Jane Evola. Not pictured: Francine Pegues*

As you can see, many SIGP members attended the Celebrate Siena 2022 benefit at the Bayview Yacht Club on Thursday, September 8. The gala offered scrumptious food treats, live music, fine art and more while relaxing by the scenic Detroit River. You might remember our club's last Award Banquet at which Sister Janice Brown, OP, received the Ruby Award on behalf of Siena Literacy Center.

*(Note: The invitation to this event was submitted to be published in last month's edition of The Pointer, but was inadvertently overlooked. My apologies. – Ed.)*

## **WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT RETURNABLES FOR EDUCATION!**

We're in our third year of collecting bottles and cans FOR EDUCATION! During the first two years, our club garnered more than \$7,000 thanks to the dedication of members saving and dropping off their returnables and a cadre of members returning them. Please ask your friends and neighbors to give theirs to you. Then, deliver them on the front porch, back porch, by the garage, wherever to either:

**Roseanne Horne—1247 Elford Court, GPWoods OR Nan Solak—458 Cloverly Road, GPFarms**

## Our Ghana Girls—Fr. Towoni visits Detroit

By SIGP Member Carol Hofer

Good news! Our students at St. Anne Girls High School in the Northern Region of Ghana are starting their classes once again. Their school terms are on a different schedule from ours, and they look forward to a fresh start with eager hearts.

Fr. Augustine Towoni has worked with the school finances in Damongo where the school is located. He visited the Detroit area a few weeks ago to do mission appeals. He had never been to a drive-through restaurant before, and when we stopped at McDonalds, he was amazed that we could speak to a billboard and food would come through “a little window.” How does that happen? He was curious about this custom. When I gave him his coffee he could not figure out why there was a tiny door” on the cap. I explained that we drink from that tiny door in order to keep the coffee warm. Oh, the USA is filled with so many customs that are not part of life in a remote village of Ghana.

Do you ever wonder if our support does any good for students so far away? Here is a description of the region where our girls call home. (Google “literacy in Ghana” for more information.)

*Comprising a large portion of the country, the linguistically diverse Northern Region has **the lowest rates of literacy in Ghana**. This region has been plagued by the migration of its young people moving to the more economically vibrant cities in the south of the country. Due largely to limited agriculture options, the region does not have strong job prospects, driving youth out of the region in droves. The **literacy rate is as low as 12%** in Gushiegu-Karaga, with the highest region of literacy in the capital of Tamale, at 43%. This is still 15% lower than the average for the entire country. Additionally, **literacy is 12% higher among males than females**.*

Yes, good women of SIGP! Our support makes a difference. Our students come from areas of low literacy and little chance to better their lives. But at St. Anne they are given a chance to improve not only their own lives but also the entire community because of us.



Here is part of a note of gratitude from Bawaala Joyce, one of the girls we support.

*My entire family and I are in good health and wish to extend our sincere gratitude to you for paying my school fess. Thank you very much. We are much grateful and words cannot explain your thoughtfulness. May the good Lord bless you and your work and still give you the heart to continue to help the poor and the needy. I would like to pursue studies at the upper level after successfully completion of this school to render services to the people and the country at large.*

*At left: Bawaala Joyce holds her note of gratitude for our support.*



There are key milestones on the path of growing up that have an outsized impact on whether a child becomes a thriving adult. **One of those milestones is learning to read by the third grade.** For example, children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade "are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma."

## KIDS WHO CAN'T READ BY AGE NINE ARE...



And kids who **DO READ** by age 9 have an **89%** chance of graduating high school

**4X**

more likely to drop out of school



**66%**

more likely to end up in prison or on welfare



## Volunteer as a SOAR Detroit Tutor!

SOAR DETROIT is a nonprofit organization with a literacy program dedicated to helping children learn to read. Their data on reading test scores shows a student improves by **one** grade level in just 11 weeks of one-to-one tutoring for 90 minutes a week.

**SIGP members Mary Bryk, Barb Skelly, Lillian Frazier, Maureen Anthony, Bette Lepouttre and Diana Langlois** are going to give it a try this semester. Tutoring will begin the week of October 16 for eleven weeks. Many of us have chosen to do two sessions, so 11 children will be tutored by Soroptimist this semester.

It's not too late if you want to jump on board this service project! Call Mary at 586-839-8754 or email her at [brykmary@gmail.com](mailto:brykmary@gmail.com)

## Happy October Birthday to...

**Paula Davis, October 01**

**Nancy Kelley, October 06**

**Nancy Hohlfeldt, October 15**

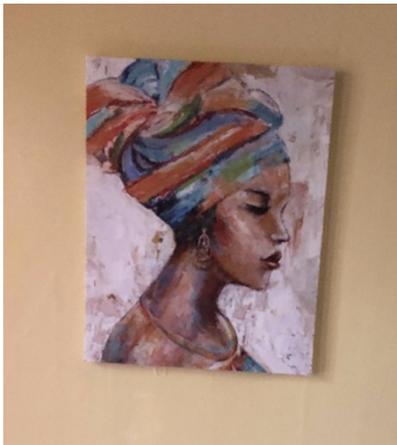
**Dorothea Williams, October 26**

**Marina Houghton, October 28**

**Carolyn Barth, October 30**



## POSITIVE IMAGES: East Grand Blvd House Beautified!



We have completed the beautifying of 700 E. Grand Blvd. house which is run by Positive Images, a therapeutic community located in Detroit. Huge thanks to the 16 SIGP members who volunteered their time and/or resources to find newer nightstands, dressers, lamps, new artwork (see sample at left), new nonslip throw rugs, new sheets and pillow-cases, new fans, new trash cans, new hooks, fresh paint in the hall, and a big update with new vanities in two of the bathrooms (see photo at right) including updated plumbing in the tub and toilets! The house is ready for residents as soon as Positive Images completes its licensing certifications.

A shout-out to **COLLEGE HUNKS** who were connected to us through SIGP Member Sandy Mengel! They saved nightstands and a dresser for us and picked up dressers at a residence all pro bono! Can't thank them enough since delivery is always a big issue with moving furniture!



**THANK YOU, DIANA LANGLOIS  
FOR SHEPHERDING  
THIS INITIATIVE FROM START TO FINISH!**



*L-R: SIGP members Roseanne Horne, Bette Lepouttre and Jane Evola volunteer at the Metro Boat Show, earning money for our awards' programs.*

## Boat Show Update

Thanks to the following members who volunteered to work at the Metro Boat Show at the Lake St. Clair MetroPark (Metro Beach Park). Here are the people who earned money for our Club: **Jane Evola, Bette Lepouttre, Karrie Blankenship, Mary Ellen Burke, Annie Mae Holt, Carol Hofer, Barb Skelly** and **Diana Langlois**. A big shout out to Jane Evola's sister, **Rose Merlo**, and her friend, **Diane Turner**, who also volunteered their time to support our club! The weather was beautiful, and the boats were amazing. What a fun way to earn money toward our scholarships and programs.

**THANK YOU, ROSEANNE HORNE  
FOR SHEPHERDING  
THIS INITIATIVE FROM START TO FINISH!**

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## Membership Orientation—FIVE NEW MEMBERS!

It was wonderful to get to know our newest members Lori Schumann, Barb Skelly, Annie Mae Holt and Dawn Riddle as we met on Zoom for the new-member orientation on September 28. We missed Carolyn Chandrasekar but will catch up with her soon. And it was great to have newer members Toni Adams and Lillian Frazier join this meeting.

Board members Karrie Blankenship, Mary Ellen Burke, Ross Braun, Bette Lepouttre and Roseanne Horne shared their Soroptimist years. Diana Langlois, membership chair, presented a PowerPoint that highlighted Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe as well as briefly exploring Soroptimist International of the Americas and Soroptimist International.

SIGP is excited to induct our new members at the October 12 business meeting! Please come to introduce yourself and welcome them to our club!

– Diana Langlois, Membership Chair

## What it means to me to be a Soroptimist

“I joined SIGP because of the difference I believe we can make in the lives of women and young girls in our community and around the globe. My hope is that we can help women and girls begin a journey in a direction that will inspire, empower and uplift them.”

*Ernesta Kurrle, Member since 2018*

“I joined this club many years ago because I believe in the works we do to support and encourage women and girls. The fact that we are an international organization helps in broadening my own understanding of what is going on around the world. Women helping women across the globe. If I only surround myself with women who think and act like me, then opportunities are lost to hear the hearts of others and see where I can be of service. I am constantly impressed by the stories of resilience we hear from our award winners. It pushes me to be a better person and to give generously to this club as we unite together to help those less fortunate.”

*Mary Bryk, Member since 1998*

“For me it means to be part of a sisterhood of women who are dedicated in making a difference in our community and in the world. I enjoy having a good vibe tribe and I believe Soroptimists are part of that. It does not matter our age, race, background, or where we live; it is about working together to help improve the lives of women and girls.”

*Rasheda Williams, Member since 2012*

## FRIENDSHIP LINK on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



### Email sent to SI Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Dear Sheryl,

Our club, so near to you here in Michigan, wishes to express our heartfelt condolences on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. She was revered by Canadians and Americans alike, as was evident when she visited Canada in 1957 and 1984. It was her visit in 1984 that forged the International Canadian-American Freedom Festival we celebrate jointly here in Detroit and Windsor each year.

Today, U.S. President Biden decreed our national flags be flown at half-staff in her honor.

Queen Elizabeth's strength as a leader is testament to what SI is about. She who stands up for what she thinks is right, even in the face of opposition, yet is gracious to all regardless of their views, is a woman to be admired and held in high esteem. The world mourns her passing and the passing of an era.

— *Best for Women, Nancy Solak, SIGP Friendship Link Chair*

### Response from SI Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Thank you so very much Nancy. How kind of you to think of us. I will forward this to the club.

You brought back a memory. When my father was president of the Optimists in Windsor a picture was taken of him with the Canadian flag, along with a member holding the American flag ... near the Ambassador bridge I believe. Now I recall how it was always a treat for a young kid to see the fireworks that exploded over the Detroit River in celebration of our two countries. Thank you for bringing this back to me. 😁

I will be staying in touch with our club members, so am sure that I will be hearing more good news from our American sisters in Grosse Pointe.

— *Wishing you all that is good. Sheryl.*

### Email sent to Soroptimist of Manchester, United Kingdom

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, USA, sends our condolences to all UK club members on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She was revered by Americans and was greeted en masse whenever she visited here. It was her visit to Canada in 1984 that forged the International Canadian-American Freedom Festival we celebrate jointly and annually here in Detroit, Michigan, USA, alongside Windsor, Ontario, CANADA.

U.S. President Biden decreed our national flags be flown at half-staff in her honor for the duration of her internment.

Queen Elizabeth's strength as a leader is testament to what SI is about. She who stands up for what she thinks is right, even in the face of opposition, yet maintains grace and gives respect to all regardless of their views, is a woman to be admired and held in high esteem.

We are sorry for the world's loss, and for yours.

— *Best for Women, Nancy Solak, Friendship Link Chair*

*(Continued on next page)*

*Her Majesty the Queen (continued from previous page)*

## **Response from SI Manchester, United Kingdom**

Dear President and members of SI Grosse Pointe,

We thank you and truly appreciate your words at this sad time.

SI Manchester was chartered in 1926, the year of Queen Elizabeth's birth, we quietly hoped that we would be celebrating our centenaries 'together'. I was born in 1952 and I am in awe of, and humbled by all that Queen Elizabeth has achieved in her 70 year reign of phenomenal changes.

I am on holiday in France so have only the media and experience of friends to assess the atmosphere at home, but 'surreal' and 'disbelief' are words that keep appearing...as well as concern for the welfare of her beloved corgis.

Thank you Nancy for the history of the origin of the International Canadian-American Freedom Festival...I for one did not know that!

As you say, "Queen Elizabeth's strength as a leader is testament to what SI is about".... now we have Queen Consort Camilla at King Charles' side. She has shown her support for Soroptimist in the past, long may that continue.

Thank you all for thinking of us.

*In friendship, President Sue*

## **Now here's this, from SIGP Member Rasheda Karmaria Williams!**

Empowered Flower Girl is hosting a FREE virtual Be the Impact Summit on Oct. 8. It's for youth as well as those who work with youth (parents, mentors, educators, etc.). SIGP members who work with young people ages 5-25 are encouraged to participate. Empowered Flower Girl will be giving away a \$250 e-giftcard. Part of Rasheda's press release is below (edited for length). You can get all the information from the link at the bottom of this page.

## **Empowered Flower Girl to Host 2022 Be the Impact Virtual Youth Service Summit**

Empowered Flower Girl (EFG), a social enterprise on a mission to transform the way young people relate to one another and themselves, will host the 2022 Be the Impact Summit on **Saturday, October 8, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET**. The virtual youth service event will be held during National Bullying Prevention Month and the weekend before International Day of the Girl.

The event showcases and celebrates young people making or aspiring to make positive contributions to society as well as helps them discover their passion for community service. The summit is free and open to youth and youth advocates globally and includes:

For more information visit <http://www.empoweredflowergirl.com/2022BethelImpact>.

Diana Langlois  
c/o Soroptimist  
3305 Country Club Dr.  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48082



**Soroptimist Shirt Order Form, \$30**

**Complete this order form with \$30 payment and drop off at to Bette Lepouttre's home at 191 Ridgemoor, GP Farms... or ... mail order form with \$30 SIGP check to Diana Langlois at the above address to be received by September 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Ladies (S) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (M) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (L) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (2XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (3XL) \_\_\_\_\_

60% cotton/baumwolle/cotton; 40%modal/viskose

Sleeve length is to the elbow and it is a loose fit at the waist.

**SHIRT: \$30 Must be received by September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Make check to Soroptimist Grosse Pointe or SIGP.

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: # \_\_\_\_\_ Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

\* To pay with a credit card, call Mary Ellen Burke directly, 313-399-8934.

\*Additional credit card fee will apply.

[Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe](http://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org)

[www.grossepointesoroptimist.org](http://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org)

September, 2022



The ***Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women***® is now open for applications! And this year's application season marks the 50th anniversary of this life-transforming program. Isn't that exciting?

Since 1972, Soroptimists have distributed more than \$39 million in education grants through the *Live Your Dream Awards* and helped over 39,000 women make a better life for themselves and their families. By empowering women to change their lives, the award has paved the way for new generations of independent, educated, and financially secure women and families, who in turn give back to their communities and countries.

**August 1 through November 15 marks the annual award application period**, in which eligible women may apply for the award by submitting their application to a club near them (or by applying through the online application portal if located in the U.S. or Canada).

Apply for LYD by clicking [here](#).

If you know of any women who might qualify for the Live Your Dream Award, please make copies of the form and distribute them.

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# A Day at the Races



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## Kentucky Derby at Sugarbush Rd.

### SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to join us and experience the Kentucky Derby in all its glory. Make sure to wear your hat because there will be prizes for Best in Show and First Place! Mint juleps will be available and a betting form for that day's race. Money raised will benefit our mission to provide women and girls access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

**Date: May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023    Time: TBD**

**Place: Karrie Blankenship / 47946 Sugarbush Rd. / Chesterfield Twp.**

FUNDRAISER



FUNDRAISER

**When:** Monday, November 7, 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:** *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is a 1958 drama film starring Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman. It features motifs on social mores such as greed, superficiality, mendacity, decay, sexual desire, repression and death.

**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 2, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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**  
(alpers.1@osu.edu)

## 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.



SOROPTIMIST®  
Investing in Dreams

## SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

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

### SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe).....Geri Pleva

INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://www.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](http://smile.amazon.com)  
(Look for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe)