



The Pointer

Presidents' Message: 100 Random Acts of Kindness

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. – Aesop

Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 14-20. In honor of SIA's 100th anniversary we will continue our 100s celebration by performing 100 random acts of kindness.

What can we do? We can start by being kind to ourselves. Take some time to pamper yourself. Do something just for you. Indulge. When you are kind to yourself it is easy to be kind to others.

How? A smile, a hello to a stranger, a positive comment to someone you encounter at the grocery store, a kind word to your delivery person, or just a heartfelt thank you to an essential worker. Reach out to that college roommate, cousin or childhood friend you have been thinking about. A phone call when least expected can brighten anyone's day. Don't forget your family and close friends who are easy to take for granted. A small token of appreciation will show your love.

If every member commits to performing two random acts of kindness this month, we will reach and exceed our 100s goal for February. As Jewel wisely sings, "In the end, only kindness matters."

— Ellen and Marya



**BRIGHT PAST
BRILLIANT FUTURE**

SOROPTIMIST GROSSE POINTE BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

SAVE THIS DATE: Wednesday, March 10, 7 p.m. SIGP AWARDS NIGHT via Zoom.

AN EMAIL WITH THE ZOOM LINKS WILL BE SENT PRIOR EACH MEETING

For the Love of Wine www.grossepointesoroptimist.org

A raffle to support programs and educational awards for women and girls

It is not too late to participate in this fantastic fundraiser. Be the very best Valentine by winning one of these amazing baskets and sharing with your love! Keep selling tickets until February 3. Friends, neighbors, clubs, family, yourself...there are wine lovers everywhere!

Don't forget to turn in all unsold tickets and money to Mary Ellen Burke or Bette Lepouttre by Wednesday, February 3. (You may also turn in unsold tickets to Ross Braun.)

The drawing will be held via Zoom at our February 10, business meeting.

Buy tickets as a gesture of love. Hopefully, you will win, and you can share the wines! Or you can gift tickets to someone, and that person will be the winner! You, literally, cannot buy too many tickets to support SIGP and, hopefully, win an amazing prize!

Soroptimist International Grosse Pointe presents...

For the Love of Wine Raffle

First Place Drawing: 12 Bottles of fine wine with accessories...Total value: over \$600

Second Place Drawing: 6 Bottles of fine wine with accessories...Total value: \$200

See reverse side for complete list of prize items.

A description of wines (all rated above 90 points) is available on our website.



First Place Basket



Second Place Basket

**Drawing will be held on
February 10, 2021**

You do not need to be present to win.

Prizes will be delivered to winners in time for
Valentine's Day!

\$5 per ticket or booklet of 6 tickets for \$20

Cash, check, credit card or PayPal

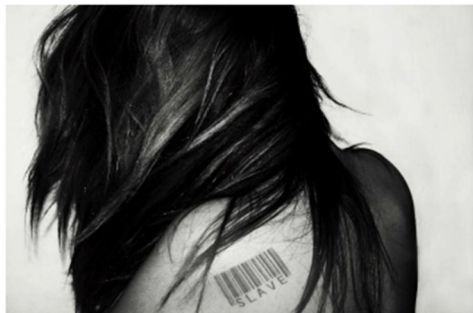
Visit www.grossepointesoroptimist.org for information on how to
purchase tickets

Or... Contact Karrie Blankenship at karrieb40@gmail.com

*Ticket sales will support programs and educational awards for women
and girls leading to economic and social empowerment!*

Anti-Human Trafficking – Your Soroptimist Club at Work

THE WORLD OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!



Did you know some victims of trafficking are tattooed with a barcode to show ownership?

If you haven't already done so, you can still watch the six videos that Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) & Greater Macomb (SIGM) Human Trafficking Committees provided during January in recognition of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness month. These videos aren't just for January, but for every month of the year.

Six of the programs are moderated by Kristi Kirschmann from [The Joseph Project](#) and include community leaders who deal with the crime daily. The speakers are: Nate Knapper, Dave Huffman, the Honorable Judge Deborah Thomas (who is a member of SIGP!), Angela Aufdemberge and Karen Hanks. The last video, sponsored by The Joseph Project, focuses on the story of a survivor from West Bloomfield, Michigan.

You can read about the speakers' backgrounds and watch their presentations by clicking here:
<https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/human-trafficking-interviews.html>

SIGP encourages you to share and promote each program with your family, friends, and professional networks.

The more we know, the safer our world will be for tomorrow's generations!

US NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

1-888-3737-888

Text **"BEFREE" 233733**

Call **911**

[US National Human Trafficking Hotline link](#)

If you take time to watch these presentations, you will not only be impressed by their professionalism but also by their usefulness and timeliness. Afterward, we ask that you send the link to your friends, family and professional networks.

**Our club is truly indebted to SIGP members
Karrie Blankenship and Laurie Jost (SIGP Human-Trafficking co-chairs)
who worked tirelessly on this project.**

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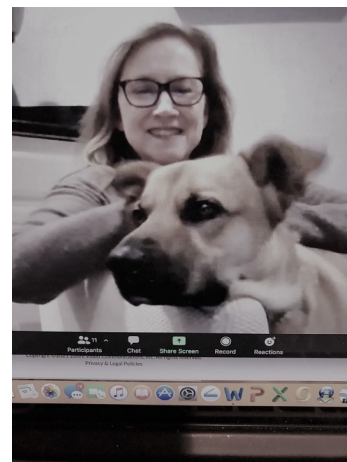
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SIGP Friday Zoom Cocktail Hour

You don't have to drink a cocktail to attend SIGP Friday's Zoom Cocktail Hour. It's more about socializing, getting together and connecting with your Soroptimist people. Please mark your calendar FRIDAY ZOOM COCKTAIL HOUR on first and third Fridays, February 5 & 19, at 6:30 p.m.

At right is a Zoom photo from a January Cocktail Hour. Co-president Marya Malkovich Rosenthal is seen here with Shadow, who was featured in January's pet profile. Bet his favorite cocktail is whatever Marya's having!



P.S. Pet Profile will return in the March edition of *The Pointer*.

Are You Zoom Insecure?

Please don't miss a meeting or an activity because you're having trouble navigating in Zoom. Every kind of device is different and many users have difficulty finding "Chat" and "Mute." If you would like a quick tutorial, specifically for the device you own, please contact lauraleecook@yahoo.com and you'll be put in touch with a member of the "Soroptimist Zoom Support" team.

P.S. This also goes for those of you who need help downloading the application Zoom.



Happy February Birthday to ...

Maddy Colavito, February 20
Deborah Thomas, February 22
Liz Lucas, February 23
Karen Klein, February 26

Time Is Running Out to Nominate a Woman for The Ruby Award – Women Helping Women

This award honors women, who through their personal and professional activities, are making extraordinary differences through their work to improve the lives of women and girls. The work of these women helps to promote the issues that are important to Soroptimists, such as access to education, empowering girls, and ending violence against women and girls. The Ruby Award enables Soroptimist clubs to thank these women and encourage others to explore ways to assist women and girls.

See page 10 for Ruby Award Form

DEADLINE: February 15, 2021

Eligibility Requirements*

Nominees are women who:

- ◆ Have worked to improve the lives of women and/or girls
- ◆ Have identified and focused on a need in their communities, which has significantly contributed to the improvement of lives of women and/or girls
- ◆ Have inspired and encouraged other women

Nominees are judged on the following criteria:

- ◆ Impact (numbers served)
- ◆ Commitment (length of time serving women and girls; 501c3 status; currently active)
- ◆ Encourages others to be involved (volunteer opportunities)

*Previous award winners, Soroptimists and Soroptimist employees are not eligible for this award.

Please nominate your candidate! There's still time!

Forward your nominations to: Maureen Anthony (maureen.anthony1@gmail.com) on or before February 15, 2021.

If you would like to be part of the Ruby Award committee (one meeting to determine the winner), email Maureen.

Next SIGP Board Meeting Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Did You Miss January's General Meeting Speaker?

If you were unable to attend this important meeting, please contact Laura McCourt at lauraleecook@yahoo.com for a copy of Susan Rhein's PowerPoint presentation. For a recording of the presentation, please contact Karrie Blankenship at karrieb40@gmail.com.

Susan Rhein, M.S. R.D., was our well-received January General Meeting speaker. As a member of the Greater Macomb Soroptimist Club, and a founding member of Macomb County Anti-Trafficking (MCAT), many of our members already know her in conjunction with SIGP's Anti-Human Trafficking initiatives.

With 24 years' experience in Public Health, she currently supervises the Macomb County WIC program (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). This Federal program provides nutrition to almost half of all infants born in the US.

In December 2020, Susan moved from her role as the COVID-19 Test Site Commander in the Macomb County Health Department to her current position of Vaccine Site Commander.

Susan graciously took time from her busy schedule and shared her frontline perspective with our club, providing valuable information on COVID, and the rollout of the vaccination program. Members submitted their questions prior to the presentation, allowing our speaker the opportunity to directly address the concerns of our group. — *Laura McCourt, SIGP Membership Chair*

GLEANERS FOOD DRIVE SURPASSES 100-ITEM GOAL!

Thank you SIGP members, family and friends, for your 100 PLUS donations of non-perishable items during our Friends and Family Food Drive. Your donations support the Gleaners Food Bank of Southeast Michigan. With participation by more than 30% of our members we are helping a locally based nonprofit that serves the five-county area.

A special thank you to Co-President Ellen Chapin for providing the use of her garage as a donation center, and making herself available to receive goods from us. A nice surprise was receiving Amazon orders from Soroptimist friends who contributed highly desired items such as tuna and peanut butter.

As we know from our recent speaker, there is a significant food insecurity problem in Detroit. If you find yourself with extra canned goods, or choose to make a financial contribution, please consider a donation to Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, or any other nonprofit that helps those in need. When life returns to "more normal" for all of us, there will be volunteer opportunities at all of these locations.

The donations from SIGP are scheduled to be delivered to the downtown Gleaners location on February 3.

— *Laura McCourt, SIGP Membership Chair*



SIGP member Maureen Anthony helping with the donations for Gleaners.

COVID-19 Doesn't Stop SIGP from Volunteering at Positive Images!

Despite COVID-19, SIGP continues to do volunteer service projects with the women of Positive Images (PI). SIGP member Nancy Solak, who facilitates writing workshops in the Amherst method, met twice in January via Zoom with five women who live at the residential center, Positive Images II, on Coplin Street in Detroit. Miss Nelson, a PI manager, assists Nancy in facilitating.

Nancy delivered copies of Amanda Gorman's inaugural poem to Coplin before meeting with the women on Zoom. At the writing workshop they first listened to the poem being read by Ms. Gorman and then watched the inaugural recitation on PI's large-screen TV. Needless to say, many lines from the poem resonated with the women.

The day's writings focused on the idea that even if we are broken, we can be repaired—that we're all works in progress. Nancy stated that it was a fabulous session and said, "I am still on Cloud 9 after listening to the creative writings the women shared!" Nancy will continue facilitating Amherst writing workshops at PI as long as clients show interest and Miss Nelson is available. Thank you, Nancy for sharing your writing passion with Positive Images!

SIGP member Bette Lepouttre is revving up to begin Parenting classes via Zoom again in February with the PI women living at E. Grand Blvd. This is the intake house where women take the first step on their road to recovery. Thank you, Bette, for your continued dedication to this very special group of women. Any member who has interest in assisting Bette, please contact her at 586-557-3287.

Charity Navigator gave Positive Images an overall score of **90** out of 100 under "Finance and Accountability"! Mary Ellen Burke shared this information about Positive Images at SIGP's January business meeting, and I wanted to pass it along to everyone.

Charity Navigator is a website that evaluates and rates a nonprofit organization's health. Financially they look at measures of stability, efficiency and sustainability, and track accountability and transparency policies to ensure the good governance and integrity of an organization. A 90/100 is a great rating!

— Diana Langlois

Writing Workshops Were Also Offered to SIGP Members

In the interest of helping club members get through a COVID winter, Nancy also offered writing workshops to nine SIGP members. A group of five, and another group of four, met via Zoom to write responses to prompts and to share them with each other. One participant observed that the two-session workshop "helped me get to know other SIGP members better."

SIGP Received the Following Letters from Ghana

Dear Carol Hofer [SIGP Ghana Representative]

Peace and the joy of Christ be with you all. We are doing very well over here. We reopen school on 8th January, 2021. Some of our students have reported to school, others yet to come. The students have written the attached story. We have not heard anything about the books yet. But I am following up. When they are in we will pick them up.

We received the money, it was 32,000. I sent acknowledgement when we got the money. Thank you very much. We are really blessed and we thank God for the gift of you and all the people who devise ways to help support the education of these young girls. May God richly bless you all. We wish you all the best. — *Pauline Siesegeh, Headmistress*

OUR STORY ABOUT THE PANDEMIC COVID-19

Peace and the joy of Christmas we greet you all! Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The Pandemic Covid-19 closed all schools and businesses down making the world so quiet. Over here in Ghana and in St. Anne's Girls Senior High School was not different.

Unaware and Unprepare, we were made to go home to our various places because there was a virus in the world called COVID-19. This was in March, 2020. We thought it was just one week or two weeks matter but no, the virus went on and on until this time.

We saw on television how people were dying in Europe, America and other places. We were afraid of what will happen to the world. We sort to hard prayers.

Yes, people died in Ghana but in the Northern part of Ghana we did not experience any dead. We thank God for that.

We got bore, tired, restless and hopeless at home without school. Now, the President of the Republic of Ghana has given permission for schools to open for teaching and learning to take place.

The protocols of Covid-19 are many. Constant washing of hands with soap under running water, wearing of nose masks, sanitizing of hands and many others.

As faith will have it, we are all in school now but we can not tell who has the virus and who does not have. We live in such fear and we commit ourselves to God that he will see us through.

How are all of you doing over there? And is the situation there different from ours here in Ghana?

We pray for God's protection over all of you and we promise to pass our final exams and make you all proud of us.

They six of us.

From all of us

Secretary Dery Jennifer

THIS IS A NO-NO

PLEASE NOTE: No in-person meetings until Soroptimist International of the Americas gives the okay

The SIA Board made the decision – effective immediately – to temporarily pause face-to-face meetings and activities authorized or sanctioned by SIA along with associated meeting travel, until further notice. This includes region conferences and other region and club meetings and activities.

The SIA Board is aware of its duty to manage the legal and financial risk of the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic and its effects on the members, staff, and other stakeholders, including our Dream Program participants and the general public.

It was only after careful analysis of all relevant factors the board decided that the **ONLY** absolutely effective action was to temporarily pause all SIA face-to-face meetings, activities and events, along with related travel, until further notice.

The detrimental effect on SIA is clear and of great concern to the board. But when weighed against the possible exposure endangering the health and safety of all concerned, as well as the financial risk to the organization and the infected individuals, the difficult but prudent policy is to take a temporary step back from face-to-face meetings and activities.

The board also considered several other possible mitigation strategies, none of which are as effective as the temporary pause.

Please remember this is a **TEMPORARY PAUSE**; the federation board will continue to evaluate the changing conditions of this global pandemic and remove this temporary pause when we can all gather safely. Until that time, we will support each other and create innovative solutions so we can remain strong for the women and girls who need us.

Ruby Award Application on Next Page

THIS IS A GO-GO

SIGP continues to collect bottles and cans!

Contrary to what you may have heard, the chief bottle and can collectors have decided to continue! So far SIGP has raised \$5,554 from this effort, and now the goal posts have moved again. How does \$7,000 sound?

Super Bowl Sunday is coming up and it's a great time to collect MORE returnables. Please deliver them to either 1247 Elford in Grosse Pointe Woods, or 458 Cloverly in Grosse Pointe Farms. If someone wants them picked up, contact Roseanne Horne at (313) 706-1801.



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Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

an international volunteer organization for women

SOROPTIMIST RUBY AWARD: For Women Helping Women Nomination Form

The **Soroptimist Ruby Award** honors women who, through their professional or personal efforts, are making extraordinary differences in the lives of women or girls. Honorees are women who have worked to improve the lives of other women or girls. Their work has had a significant impact and also inspires and encourages other women.

Women may nominate themselves or another woman they feel is deserving of this honor. Please complete this form and the essay and return them to the participating Soroptimist club listed on this form on or before the deadline.

Section I: Nominee Information

Nominee

Address

Organization

Date

E-Mail Address

Please include a statement (no more than 750 words) describing why you (if you are nominating yourself) or your nominees (if you are nominating someone else) should receive the Soroptimist Ruby Award. (Note: it is necessary to get the written permission of the nominee. See below)

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 which shall have sole discretion in using these materials for the purpose of publishing the Ruby Award program.

***Please note that as this is not a writable form so you will need to print the form, fill it out and mail it to the address below or scan it and email it to the Ruby Award Chair listed on the website.**

Nominees Signature

Date

Section II: Nominators Information (if different from nominee)

Nominee Address

Organization

Date

E-Mail Address

*Providing women and girls with access to the
education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.*

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe / 32 Lakeshore Road / Grosse Pointe Farms / MI / 48236 / USA

grossepointesoroptimist.org grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com

District III Emails

Governor— **Darcy Merritt** (dmerritt1963@hotmail.com)
Governor Elect - **Christine Fowler Shearer** (fowlerartistic@gmail.com)
Secretary - **Sheila Zingler-Gilbert** - (sheilasifdl@gmail.com)
Treasurer - **Audrey Jarvey** - (audreyjarv@charter.net)
District III Director - **Kellie Klingel** (kkl Klingel@yahoo.com)
Secretary - **Patricia Cavell** (bsktpac@comcast.net)

Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - (simwr.org)
Soroptimist International of the Americas (soroptimist.org)
Soroptimist International (soroptimistinternational.org)
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.



The Who's Who of 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

WEBSITE: grossepointesoroptimist.net Karrie Blankenship
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/calendar-of-events.html> for calendar

INSTAGRAM: soroptimistgp Anne Schwartz

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK and facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe Renee Rodriguez

NEWSLETTER: THE POINTER is on the website and
is emailed to members Nancy Solak

MEDIA: Newspaper articles, radio PSAs, etc.Diana Langlois

Remember to use **AMAZON SMILE**. Each dollar you spend on amazon.com gives .05% to SIGP
smile.amazon.com

Roseanne Horne
c/o SIGP
1247 Elford
Grosse Pointe, MI 48236



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Name: _____

Shipping Address: _____

Shipping City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Soroptimist club: _____



Ladies (S) _____

Force (2XL) _____

Ladies (M) _____

Force (3XL) _____

Ladies (L) _____

Force (XL) _____

Ladies (XL) _____

Ladies (2XL) _____

Picture shows Ladies (S)

Circle embroidery choice

Jacket Cost **\$45**

Shipping: **\$10**

Embroidery: **White** or **Blue**

Cash: _____

Check: _____

Credit Card: _____

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe



updated 5/27/20

All proceeds from the sale of jackets go to SIGP. Each one has a zipper, hood and pockets. Length to hips. Order yours today!

SIGP Member Ads

Rasheda Kamaria Williams

Mentoring consultant, speaker, author

Rasheda is an award-winning mentor, speaker and founder/chief empowering officer for Empowered Flower Girl. She empowers youth and youth advocates to live above life's drama to make a powerful difference.

Learn about Empowered Flower Girl's engaging and empowering programs for youth and adults, including Girl World Peace Academy - a new virtual course for educators, counselors, mentors and afterschool program professionals.



@empoweredflowergirl

www.empoweredflowergirl.com



<https://thriveglobal.com/stories/rasheda-kamaria-williams-if-you-want-something-youve-never-had-you-must-be-willing-to-do-something-youve-never-done/>

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Contact

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solaksinitaly@yahoo.com