

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

Year-end Reflections and Thanks from President Pam

A common theme among outgoing SITM presidents (I know this from looking in the newsletter archives) is to wonder how the year zipped by so quickly. Being president is a unique opportunity - especially in a club as large and dynamic as ours. Even though I had been a member of SITM for many years, I had no idea how much I didn't know until becoming your president. The complexity of our organization, including



President Pam conducts the Joint June Board Meeting at her home.

our responsibilities to the Region and SIA, takes a while to wrap your head around. A master calendar is essential! Even more essential is the support and combined knowledge of our members, who are always there to help a fledgling new president. This support and encouragement exemplifies why "together we can do so much!"

One of my objectives this year has been to encourage members to find where their passion lies and to follow it. We're all members of SITM because we want to do something to enrich the lives of women and girls - whether it's here in Reno, across the world in Nepal or somewhere else. We have a strong sense of purpose and enthusiasm to get out and get stuff done. But the specific things we're each passionate about, and the skillsets we bring, vary a lot. To achieve satisfaction from being part of this club, each member needs to feel that their efforts are of value and appreciated. I hope I have helped with that.

We have a robust and demanding assortment of projects, some of which have existed for many years. This year we used the strategic planning process to take a hard look at what was working and what wasn't. We found strong affirmation for much of what we currently do - but we also found interest in pursuing other things. With renewed emphasis on recruiting new members with new ideas, different skillsets and diverse passions, we have an

opportunity to explore additional ways to serve.

A challenge coming up this year will be to create a new fundraising model. While there was always some grumbling about working out at the Air Races, there was never a lack of appreciation for the financial benefit we derived from all that work. Things are different now and in order to continue funding our programs at the same level or to expand to other programs, we need to get creative about raising money. The economy is finally getting strong again so the timing for change is favorable.

As I close out this year I want to thank each and every one of you in our Soroptimist family for your encouragement and support. For me, it has been a lot of fun, a lot of work and a lot of growth. Together we have really done a lot this year. Thanks!

President Pam Sutton



Retiring and new board members at the June Board Meeting: President-Elect Vivian Ruiz, foreground; Recording Secretary-Elect Harmony Hobbs, also seated; Parliamentarian Patti Doty top right; and Vice President-Technical Michelle Jones.

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SI/Puné Metro East Launches SNAP Program

SITM's Friendship Link Club, SI/Punè Mero East recently launched a new program on March 15, 2015, Sanitary Napkin Advocacy Project (SNAP). This is an extremely important project because for countless girls and women, sanitary pads are an unaffordable luxury which means sometimes they are forced to resort to unsanitary and sometimes unsafe measures to meet their needs.

This includes retrieving and recycling used disposable pads and improvising makeshift pads from old clothes, rags, newspapers, bits of mattress, and other readily available material. SIPME will start this project by supplying bio degradable sanitary napkins for seven women in a small village in the Puné District at Tulapur. Through this program they aim to educate women about personal hygiene, empower them towards economic independence, and enable them to run a small scale industry of their own.

Four members of SIPME will oversee the project which will run for a year. At the end of the year, the club will evaluate the program and decide if they would like to replicate it in other rural areas.



Providing instruction to young women in Tulapur about the SNAP program.



Members of SI/Punè Metro East gather in Tulapur, a small village in the Punè District.

Calendar

June 18 – Year in Review. A comprehensive look at the club's year in photos.

June 26 – Installation of President-Elect Vivian Ruiz and the 2015-16 officers, directors and delegates.

July 2 – DARK – Happy 4th of July!

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Sign up for Next Year's Committees

President-Elect Vivian is still looking to fill slots on several club committees, including several which need a coordinator or co-coordinator. If you missed the May 28 meeting where members signed up for committees, please contact President-Elect Vivian with your preference, or she will assign you to a committee.

As of the June Business Meeting on June 11, some of the spots where members are still needed were:

- Members of the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee.
- A coordinator and members of the Photo/Scrapbook Committee
- A co-coordinator and more members for the Fundraising Committee
- Members of the Newsletter Committee
- Co-Coordinators for Thanks to Youth Committee

There may still be other spots where you are needed, so please contact President-Elect Vivian.

Joan Hughes, a Citizen of the World

By Doris Phelps

Joan Hughes was born in a town about 30 miles outside London. As a child, she remembers the impacts of World War II, the bombing raids at night and having very little food and no candy. She also remembers her and her neighborhood friends being free to play outdoors during the day. Her father served as an air raid warden. Her family had a garden and, as most families during that era, they were unknowing trendsetters with the "raw food" movement. The children from her neighborhood walked the 1 ½ miles to school each day. Joan lived a very different childhood than most of us remember.

After graduation, Joan moved to London and took a job as a secretary; she continues to write notes in shorthand to this day. There, at age 20, she joined with three other girls to embark upon an adventure and moved to Toronto, Canada. A year later, her high school sweetheart joined her and they were married. She also continued her education at the University of Toronto, majoring in French.

Her husband worked in electronic engineering related to major equipment manufacturing for television studios. They soon tired of the harsh winters in the city and moved to the countryside. They learned that the Toronto Italians loved rabbit meat so Joan and her family started a rabbit farm as well as the family garden. The idea of living in America appealed to them and, after a year getting through the approval process, they packed up three kids (two daughters and a son), one dog and one guinea pig and moved to Grass Valley, California in 1978 in answer to a job opportunity for her husband. In 1981, they started their own electronics engineering company and, in 1984, they divorced.

1981 was also the year Joan joined SI of Grass Valley where she was active in various board positions and with the club's "Just Friends" project which helps shelter homeless women and children, runaways and victims of abuse. The members collected clothing and other donations, cooked and served breakfast, shared recipes

and played games with the children. Joan was honored by SI Grass Valley's Women Helping Women Award in 2002. Joan also was a founding member of the local Soroptimist Women's Investment Group. Women from all three Soroptimist clubs in the area participate in the investment club, paying \$25 per month at meetings to research, buy and sell stocks. It is still going strong today.

Joan met her current partner Richard while working for an electronics manufacturer in Nevada City. She and Richard started a new business in Penn Valley, called MarketPro, to provide marketing support for high tech

companies. They sold the business in 2000 and decided the next logical step was to start a vineyard for something to do in retirement. They named the vineyard Kempster Winery and Vineyards in recognition of Joan's maiden name, and successfully produced and sold wine in Nevada County for five years.



Joan and husband Richard with son Jamie and partner Ruth on Father's Day in San Diego.

Owning a vineyard is a huge commitment of time and hard work with no time off when the budget only allowed for hired labor during the harvest. After selling the vineyards, they began traveling to Mexico every winter, first by motorhome, and then to a townhouse they purchased after the campgrounds along the way to Mazatlan began to close.

In 2008, Joan and Richard moved to Reno and she transferred her Soroptimist membership to SITM. She remembers attending a few meetings that summer, then leaving to spend seven months in Mexico. Upon returning to club meetings the next spring, she was so impressed that members remembered her name when welcoming her back. Joan's favorite program is the IGU Nepal support where very little money can do so much to improve the lives of others. She sees that same impact when helping to support a facility in Mexico run by four "Mother Teresa" nuns who provide services and shelter to those living on the streets.

Continued on page 4

Joan Hughes, cont. from page 3

In addition to her three children, Joan has seven grandchildren. Her eldest granddaughter just graduated from Johns Hopkins in Baltimore with a degree in cellular and molecular biology; she has been recruited for an internship at the National Institute of Health and will continue to work toward her Master's Degree. Joan has three brothers who live in England, France and Australia and her family visits add up to many frequent flyer miles.

Joan, with son Jaime and kids on a bowling outing on Christmas Eve .



Bylaw Changes Finalized and Approved

Upon the second reading of changes to Club Bylaws at the June Business Meeting, the membership approved what are mostly administrative changes, which include:

- Combining the Recruitment and Retention and Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training (SOLT) Committee into a single committee named Membership.
- Deleting references and duties for the Violet Richardson Award.
- Eliminating the inactive Environment Committees.
- Combining the Bylaws and Finance Committees into one.
- Changing the club dues and fees to \$190 annually for new and returning members to reflect the SIA increase; eliminating new member fees and setting a reduced fee schedule for members joining later in the Club Year.
- Adding a Fundraising Committee to the Special Event Committees section.
- Removing Special Events Committee procedures from the Club Bylaws and establishing procedures separate from the bylaws that can be more easily addressed as warranted.

SITM SUMMER SIPS AND APPS!

SOROPTIMIST
WINE & FOOD
PARING
Thurs. June 18
at 5:30 p.m.
\$30. ALL INCLUSIVE

Place:
We Olive &
Wine BAR
in Reno

4991 S. Virginia St
(next to Nordstrom's Rack).

4 tastings &
4 small bites

THERE WILL BE A REFFLE

Contact: Jennifer Burnitt
jburnitt@me.com
775-338-0020
EVERYONE WELCOME !!




June Board & Business Update and Meeting Highlights

By Faye I. Andersen

President Pam Sutton and President-Elect Vivian Ruiz welcomed the retiring and incoming board members to the June Board Meeting at President's Pam's home, followed by a delicious buffet dinner. At the June Business Meeting several end-of-year items were addressed as we head into the new Club Year.

Join Members, Family and Friends for Wine and Food

A summer social, Soroptimist Wine & Food Pairing, at We Olive & Wine Bar will be held Thursday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person and includes four pourings and four small bites, plus a raffle included with admission. We Olive & Wine Bar is located at 4491 S. Virginia St. (next to Nordstrom's Rack). Contact Jennifer Burnitt for reservations.

Sue Camp Memorial Golf Tournament to be held

A memorial golf tournament honoring SITM member and Past SNR Governor Sue Camp will be held July 12 at Thunder Canyon Private Golf Club in Washoe Valley. It will be a four-ball scramble that includes green, cart and range fees, plus a buffet lunch. Cost is \$125 per golfer, which includes a \$50 donation to SITM in the name of Sue. Sign up by July 4 at the Thunder Canyon Country Club Golf Shop.

If you don't golf, but would like to volunteer to help stage the tournament, contact Margie Hermanson.

Sign up for Next Year's Committees

President-Elect Vivian is still looking to fill slots on several club committees, including several which need a coordinator or co-coordinator. If you missed the May 28 meeting where members signed up for committees, please contact President-Elect Vivian with your preference, or she will assign you to a committee. See page 2.

Nepal Disaster Relief Efforts are Successful

The IGU Committee reports the May 30 garage sale was an enormous success, netting over \$5,000. Donations for disaster relief for the village of Thulipokhari, Nepal continue to roll into the Community Foundation of Western Nevada as well as directly to the club. For a recap of events and totals, see page 6.

Strategic Plan Nearly Finalized

Coordinator Doris Phelps reported that members of the Membership and Public Awareness Committees, along with other interested club members, met to discuss the roles of their committees in SITM's Strategic Plan. These are the last two committees and events to be analyzed and discussed as to how they fit into SITM's goals. The

year-long effort began last August with an "advance" (not retreat) session at President Pam's home with facilitator Katie Simon.

For a copy of the goals established at the beginning, see the September issues of the SITM Update newsletter. Or, contact Doris for copies of each individual committee or event analysis.

Final Budget for 2015-2016

Service Fund Treasurer Kay Dunham and General Fund Treasurer Vicki Schultz presented the final budgets for their respective treasuries at the June Business Meeting. The budgets were approved last month by the membership. For a copy of the final reports see Kay or Vicki.

Bylaw Changes Finalized

Upon the second reading of proposed changes to the Club Bylaws, many housekeeping in nature, were approved by the membership. A short recap can be found on page 4.

Happy Dollars for May and June

Happy Dollars collected for the month of May totaled \$200 and were designated for Volunteers of America, who operate the Reno family shelter, to assist women clients with expenses related to employment and job placement. June Happy Dollars are reserved for President Pam to select. She chose the cause of serving victims of human trafficking in Nevada. A particular organization has not yet been named.

Membership Changes

The SITM Board accepted, with regrets, resignations from Doreen Rogers, who has retired and is traveling, and Ploypun Pihakane, who is moving to San Francisco.



Celebrating June birthdays, were from left: Monica House, Enid Oliver and Pam Robinson. After being feted with crowns and Lifesavers (because Soroptimists are "lifesavers") Enid is telling members her "one wish" for her birthday.

Disaster Relief Fund Fundraiser/Garage Sale -- a Huge Success

By Monica House

Great job ladies! What an incredible job our organization has done in such a short period of time to help the people in Thulipokhari, Nepal. Since the devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake on April 25, 2015 and the aftershock on May 12, 2015, SITM has raised close to \$12,000 and we still have more donations coming in. This has been done through the hard work of our members and the help of the local media. Funds were raised at several events including a presentation at our Thanks to Youth luncheon and our 30th semi-annual garage sale.

Most Successful Garage Sale Ever ...

Unpredictable Reno weather got our semi-annual garage sale off to a rocky start! We had to change the initial date of May 16th to May 30th, but the sun came out and it was our most successful garage sale yet! I have worked the garage sale for many years and I honestly have to say I have never seen so much "stuff." We had furniture, mounds of clothes, sporting goods, housewares, pet supplies and so much more. It took seven truck loads from Ethan Allen/Bassett to deliver everything. Thank you Jeanne Baxter for letting us drop off items throughout the year and for delivering everything to Connie Steinheimer's house Friday afternoon. And another big thank you to Judge Connie and her husband, Soroptimist extraordinaire Jeff Ostomel, for hosting the garage sale for the umpteenth straight time!

The scene Friday afternoon was overwhelming when we saw all the donated goodies, but Soroptimists and friends came together to organize and price everything so we were ready to go bright and early Saturday morning. On Saturday, the traffic seemed slower than past garage sales but we heard that there were up to 42 other garage sales happening that same day. Yet, the end result was amazing! SITM made \$5,205 - the most ever brought in by this twice-yearly event!

SITM Gathers Disaster Relief for the Village of Thulipokhari, Nepal

On May 1, 2015 just six days after the initial earthquake, the IGU committee directed \$3,000 to be wired from our club to the village. The funds were received and immediately began being distributed by the Disaster Relief Fund Committee. Plans are underway to send the remainder of the funds-as I write this. Our donations are put in place locally by a trusted group of Nepali citizens that several of us have personally met including Mr.

Hari Subedi, the campus chief, Mr. Hem Raj Sapkota the high school headmaster and Mr. Hom Prasad Subedi, to name just a few. The money has been used to provide water, blankets, food, and shelter in the short term and rebuilding their damaged structures is a long term goal.

Please read the thank you letter from the campus chief. Thulipokhari is so grateful to SITM and this would not have been possible without everyone pitching in wholeheartedly to make the Disaster Relief Fund for Nepal Earthquake such a success.

We are also happy to report that the girls are continuing to go to school and live in the dormitory. The pledge drive is active. We are very appreciative of any and all donations that will be used for future scholarships, micro-lending, animal assistance and the library.



जनता सुदर्शन क्याम्पस

JANATA SUDARSHAN CAMPUS

दुलीपोखरी, पर्वत, धवलागिरी अञ्चल

THULIPOKHARI, PARBAT, DHAWLAGIRI ZONE

(त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालयबाट संबन्धन प्राप्त)

(AFFILIATED TO TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY)

पत्र संख्या (L.No.): _____ मिति (Date): 20 May 2015.....

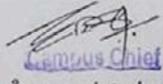
घरानी नम्बर (D.No.): _____

विषय (Subject) :-

श्री/Shree Letter of Thanks..

We all inhabitants of Thulipokhari including Janata Sudarshan Campus would like to offer thanks and respect to Soroptimist International who donated us economic help to make a relief from demdition, damage and human loss of great Earthquake and after earthquake. We always hope positive from this institution.

(मिति २०७२ साल वैशाख १२ गते र त्यसपछि गरका अन्य भुक्त्य को कारणले पर्वत जिल्ला थुलिपोखरी गा.वि.स.मा भएको क्षतिबर्ष महयान्तर गर्दै त्यस Soroptimist International ले गरेको प्राथिक र भौतिक साहायताका लागि सम्पूर्ण थुलिपोखरी वासि र जनता सुदर्शन क्याम्पस को तर्फबाट त्यस संस्थालाई हार्दिक धन्यवाद दिन चाहन्छौं। साथै अन्य सहयोगको पनि अपेक्षा गर्दछौं।



(Hari Prasad Subedi)

Garage Sale a Huge Success

Photos by Pam Sutton and Eileen Fuller.



Paula Ringkob with more treasures for the garage sale.



Monica House with Sumner and Savannah Hahn, Valerie's children.



Teresa Mentzer hauls items for the garage sale.



Susanna Money sorting clothing.



Kay Dunham and Marilyn Pearson enjoying the set-up duties Friday night.



Enid Oliver setting up the boutique for sales.



Jo Ann Roberts and Linda Lanke getting ready for the Saturday sale.



Margie Hermanson with her renowned cookies and husband Bob.



Bev Perkins shows off her strength.



Diana Dillon stands in a sea of housewares.



Vicki Schultz, Gayle Kmetovicz and Barbara Arwell, ready to sell at the garage sale.

Garage Sale Thank You and Follow-up from Ridge House

For several years, clients of the Ridge House have swooped in following SITM's semi-annual garage sales, packed up and hauled away the left-over items, saving members the task. Ridge House is the only statewide organization that provides comprehensive re-entry services for former offenders in Nevada. Following the May 30 garage sale, it took Ridge House an unprecedented number of hours and trucks to haul away the huge number of items.

Executive Director Steven Burt of Ridge House posted the following letter on their Facebook Page thanking SITM for our donation.

Tuesday Tidbit from the Ridge House
June 2, 2016
Dear Ridge House Supporter:

This past Saturday, the Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows had their biggest garage sale ever. When their successful sale ended, they contacted the Ridge House and donated over three U-Haul truck loads of household items for our clients to use as they are leaving our transitional living facilities.

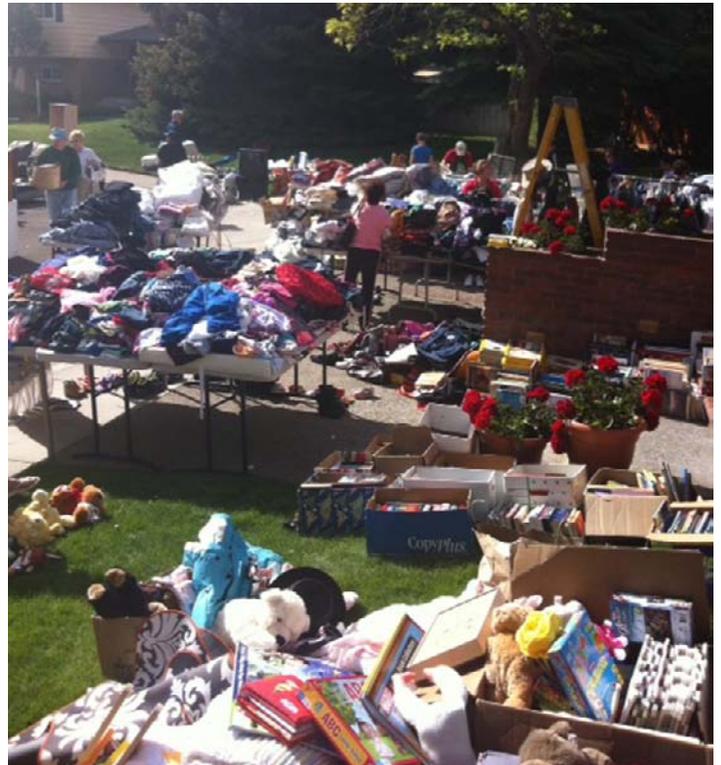
In addition, many items will be on sale in our Thrift Store, located at 900 West 1st Street. Store hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Monday, June 15.

Please join me in thanking the Soroptimist group with their support of the Ridge House.

If you would like more information, please check out our website at www.ridgehouse.org where you can find success stories, an easy way to make an online donation and much more.

Sincerely
Steven Burt, Executive Director

There was more furniture than we'd ever seen at a garage sale.



This is only part of the items for sale.



Record Attendance at this Year's Thanks to Youth Program

Story by Pam Robinson – Photos by Gayle Baxley

Nearly 350 people attended our recent Thanks to Youth luncheon. Our club raised over \$15,000 with the possibility of a few more dollars coming in. A big thank you goes to all the members who sponsored tables, brought in new sponsors, worked with their employers to contribute extra funds, donated raffle funds or prizes, and sold tickets and brought friends, family, and co-workers.

We awarded six \$2,000 scholarships to deserving high school seniors and gave \$150 shopping sprees to 12 amazing unsung heroes. The Education Youth Committee visited 42 schools and found excellent recipients! We had unsung heroes ranging from first graders to seniors in high school who have done amazing things from starting clubs to overcome bullying at their schools to being eco-warriors. Our scholarship recipients exhibited courage and determination and will go far in their chosen fields.

Once again, the raffle was extraordinary with themed baskets, and Co-Coordinator Pam Robinson and Margie Hermanson send hugs to everyone on the Thanks to Youth Committee for their planning and organizing!



Six youth scholarships of \$2,000 were awarded to, from left: Kimberly Garcia, Innovation High School; Eric Cruz, Coral Academy; Tania Gonzalez-Contreras, Hug High School; Karla Lopez, Sparks High School; Salma Valadez, Sparks High School; Lynn Ruby Wang, Damonte Ranch High School.



Twelve unsung heroes were honored during the Thanks to Youth Luncheon. Front row from left, they are: Jonas Pryde, 3rd grade, Coral Academy of Science; William Wilburn, 1st grade, Robert Mitchell Elementary; Thomas Ragan, 1st grade, Verdi Elementary; Roman Mendoza-Delgado, Coral Academy of Science; Shirley Cyrus, 2nd grade, Coral Academy of Science.

Top Row, left to right: Crystal Lopez, 6th grade, Verdi Elementary; Kendall Knuf, 8th grade, Our Lady of Snows; Alicia Wong, 12th grade, Reed High School; Katrina (Kat) Kallas, 8th grade, High Desert Montessori; Angela Becerra-Palacias, 5th grade, Libby Booth Elementary; Lauren Spadone, 5th grade, Coral Academy of Science; Desiree Zepeda, 9th grade, Hug High School.

Thanks to Youth continued from page 10



Above: Brisk interest and sales of tickets for raffle prizes helped raise more money for the youth program.

At left: Scarlet Ewy selling raffle tickets at Thanks to Youth.

Lower left: Harmony Hobbs, left, and one of her seven guests, Linda Walker.

Lower right: Thanks to Youth Co-ordinators Pam Robinson and Margie Hermanson, pack up after the event.



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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 Monica House
 Eileen Fuller
 Margie Hermanson
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SITM meets every Thursday noon at the Atlantis Resort & Spa, 3800 South Virginia Street in Reno, second floor convention center. For reservations www.sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com. no later than 7 p.m. on the Tuesday before the meeting. Lunch is \$17.

Soroptimist is an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.



For information about our organization, check out these Soroptimist Websites:
 Sierra Nevada Region: www.soroptimistsnr.org
 Soroptimist International of the Americas: www.soroptimist.org
 Soroptimist International: www.soroptimistinternational.org



Did you know . . .

Coming up for the next two meetings are some of the most interesting and entertaining programs of the entire Club Year. Don't miss these important meetings.

June 18 – Year in Review. A comprehensive look back at the club's year in photos. See yourself and your fellow members in action at the Reno Air Races, delivering holiday gifts to seniors, appreciating Libby Booth Elementary teachers, volunteering at Making a Difference for Women, attending the SNR Conference, congratulating women and youth scholarship recipients, and working the garage sales.

June 26 – Installation of Officers. Join with President-Elect Vivian Ruiz and the 2015-16 officers, directors and delegates as they are installed into their respective offices.

Bring a friend, a co-worker, a family member and let them see what Soroptimist and SITM are all about!