

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



Volume 20 • Issue 1

July 2015

www.sitmnev.org

Aspirations to Inspire One Another

As quoted by Elizabeth Andrew, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; They have the heart." During my recent installation as President, this was the quote that was bestowed upon me by Faye Andersen.

This quote is a very great representation not only of myself, but also, in my opinion, so many of our club members too. We live in an era where we are constantly being demanded highly of by our personal and professional lives. It is our aspiration to make a difference that stimulates us to find the time in our busy schedules to empower others.

Of course, we cannot strive on aspirations alone. We also need motivation to achieve our aspirations, which is most commonly found in the form of inspiration.

My inspiration can be found in our members, that, like I stated before, make the effort to put aside time to make a change. It is this effort that inspires me to serve as your President, which cannot have been made possible without the foundation of our members' commitment, dedication, and kindness that has been displayed in the club since it was founded.

I want to personally thank you for being a valued member of SITM. It is indeed a great privilege to have been given the opportunity to serve as your President, and I am very excited to be embarking on this journey with the club. I thank the members for their trust, and shall strive to live up to their expectations. I would also like to thank the outgoing Board for their hard work and their impressive list of achievements.

They have provided us with the groundwork, along with earlier Boards, which is bound together by a sense of belonging and unity of purpose.

This year, I would like to encourage the club to focus on the recruitment of new members. Imagine what we can achieve if every member inspires one person at minimum to join our club. With the recent loss of the Air Races fundraiser, this action could potentially bring endless opportunities. With the diverse backgrounds of each member, there could be ideas that have gone unapproached until now. This could potentially mean larger projects as well as more projects that we could complete for our community or internationally, thus enriching it.

As a group, let's focus on opening new collaborations with organizations in the community, as well as accepting new ideas from both members and non-



President Vivian Ruiz and officers, directors and delegates at their first SITM Board Meeting on July 14 at Disability Resources.

members, as these could potentially be very beneficial to our club.

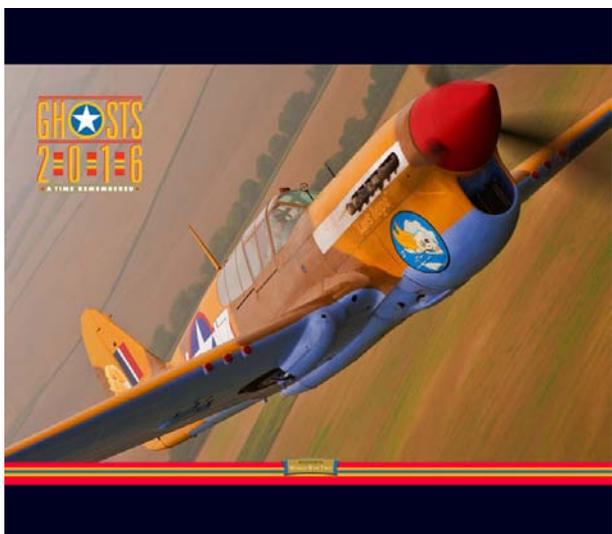
An example of this is an idea that was presented in April, which consisted of inviting local non-profits to speak about their projects that support women and children. This would be in search of a possible collaboration between SITM and said non-profits, which could potentially benefit both organizations overall.

Once again, I thank you for this opportunity to guide the club during the new year, and I also remind you that aspiring to inspire can create a snowball effect that can benefit both yourself, as well as the other people involved. So let's pair, "Aspire to Inspire" and see what transpires."

Thank you,
Vivian Ruiz

In this issue

- 1 – President's Message
- 2 – Air Race Calendars, Year in Review, Calendar
- 3 – Featuring Kathy Hudson
- 4 – Installation of Officers
- 5 – Board & Business Update
- 6 – SI Puné Metro East News, Girl Rising, Afghan Speaker
- 7 – Staff Box, Did You Know ...
- 8 – Year in Review, 2014-15



The 2016 GHOSTS calendars have arrived.

AIR RACES! AIR RACES!

By Kay Dunham

It's that time again to think about selling the beautiful World War II Ghosts calendars. The price remains \$15. If you have been asked to buy wrapping paper, cookies, candy, etc. as school fundraisers now is your opportunity for payback!

The calendars contain beautiful photographs of the actual planes in flight. Award winning photographer Phil Makenna has said he must hang out the door of a plane while looking for that perfect shot of the World War II aircraft he is photographing. Many purchasers collect the calendars year after year and the photos are suitable for framing as well.

It is extra important this year to make a strong sales effort since our Air Race project will depend on your presales and our artist partner sales at the event. Calendars are available for pick-up at Kay Dunham's office and will be distributed at each club meeting beginning August 13, 2015.

Calendar

- July 23 – Program by the VP Service/VP Technical
- July 24 – SNR Board Meeting - Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
- July 25 – 26-- Soroptimist Development Retreat – Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
- July 30 – Ceec Abrahams Award Presentation
- August 6 – Dark for Hot August Nights
- August 11 – SITM Board, Disability Resources
- August 12 – SITM Business Meeting, Atlantis

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Year in Review – Taking Time to Celebrate Successes

The next-to-last meeting of the Club Year, is always reserved for the annual Year in Review, presented by the Photo-Scrapbook Committee. It's a chance to show pictorially, all of the club meetings, programs, committee activities, member antics and more as we celebrate the year's accomplishments, poignant moments, hard work and making a difference in our community. An accounting of the funds raised and donated throughout the year, as well as the volunteer hours expended by members is printed in a single document attached to this newsletter.



Bev Perkins, left, from the Scrapbook Committee presents Immediate Past President Pam Sutton with a year's worth of memories.



Joan Griswold with the 2014-15 Year in Review slide show featuring the year in pictures.

Member Feature-Kathy Hudson

Musician, Singer, Movie Star and Rugby Player, Settles in Reno

Born in San Francisco, I am the fifth generation native Californian (and my daughter is the sixth). I was raised in the small towns of Oakdale and Manteca. I told my family that I wanted to be a movie star. When I was 10 years old, my family moved to the San Jose area for work and it was there that I grew up.

My favorite subjects in school were music and math. I played flute, oboe and cello by the time I was 13, but decided on a singing career instead (a singing movie star!). After high school graduation, reality set in – and I had to find a job. While in community college, I realized that my music major was not going to pay the bills. Even though I was performing with the San Jose Light Opera troupe, I still needed another steady job to support my daughter and myself.

I began as a bookkeeper for some small companies; then, landed an accounting job in the newest industry in San Jose, personal computers. I was promoted through the ranks and eventually became a manager. I spoke at seminars in the Bay Area in order to help women transition from lower paying traditional jobs to jobs that they could do in the high-tech industries.

For exercise, I joined a women's soccer team. When I changed teams, I met my new coach (and current husband), Ken. He was also a rugby player and soon I was playing on a women's rugby team in San Jose. Ken and I have been married over 30 years now.



Kathy and her daughter Christa at Disneyland

His rugby and soccer career allowed us to travel to many places, among them: Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Brazil, and Jamaica along with different parts of the United States. We were able to meet new friends and experience new cultures, as most of the time we stayed with local families while traveling.

In the early 1990s my mother-in-law introduced me to Soroptimist. I became a member of SI Reno and was treasurer while there. (I remember Faye doing my installation!) I moved to Texas and back to Reno several times to follow my husband's career. We finally moved back to Reno in 2010 to retire.

Shortly after we returned, I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma (cancer of the bone marrow). I was referred to Stanford for extensive chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant. I was finally able to return to Reno in March 2012. After this experience, I knew that God had given me another chance to live and that I had to give back to those in need. I could not think of any better way to do that than through Soroptimist.

Ken and I now live in Fernley (we are looking for a home in Reno/Sparks) with our rescue dog, Sweetness and rescue cats Bruiser and Cinnamon. Music is still very important to me, but I now do all my dancing and singing in my bedroom!



Kathy and husband Ken, at home.

SITM Begins a New Year with Installation of Officers

The installation of President Vivian Ruiz and her officers, directors and delegates took place at the June 25 meeting as members welcomed the changing of leadership and the start of the new Club Year. "Aspire to Inspire" is President Vivian's theme. Installing officer Faye I. Andersen incorporated quotes from famous and inspiring women when installing each member into their respective offices.

At the meeting, Immediate Past President Pam Sutton was lauded for all of the great club accomplishments this past year. She was also gifted with a Laurel Society membership from the club, along with a special gift of remembrance of her year.



Immediate Past President Pam shows off her gift which is a replica of her theme and logo on canvas, signed with good wishes from SITM members.



President Vivian Ruiz's gifts to her new board members included lots of useful items, including wine glasses and wine (to bring to the board meetings).



The 2015-16 SITM Board, from left: Delegate Barbara Atwell; Alternate Delegate Lynne Catrow; Director Pam Sutton; Director Margie Hermanson; General Fund Treasurer Vicki Schultz; Service-Fund Treasurer Kay Dunham; Recording Secretary Harmony Hobbs; Corresponding Secretary Anna McArdle; VP/Technical Rikki Hensley-Ricker; VP Service Teresa Mentzer; President-Elect Jennifer Burnitt; President Vivian Ruiz.

July Board & Business Update and Meeting Highlights

By Faye I. Andersen

President Vivian Ruiz got off to a running start and did a fine job conducting a full agenda at her first Board and Business Meetings

SITM Signs New Atlantis Contract

With the start of the new year comes a new meeting contract with the Atlantis Resort Casino Spa including two important changes. The new contract includes an increase in the price of lunch from \$17.33 to \$18.77. Following discussion and an amendment to the Board's recommendation the membership approved increasing the price of lunch to \$19 per week.

The new contract also requires a three-day advance notice of the Thursday luncheon count, so let the Attendance Committee know by Monday each week, if you will not be attending, or if you are bringing a guest. The committee can be notified at sitruckeemadows@hotmail.com.

SITM Partners with Tyche Fine Art Gallery Opening

The membership approved a proposal by President-Elect Jennifer Burnitt to partner with the Tyche Fine Art Gallery at their premier opening on Saturday, August 22 at 7 p.m. The gallery is located at 2195 S. Virginia Street, across from the old Park Lane Mall. The opening is formal and tickets are \$50 per person with proceeds going to SITM.

Members are needed to sell tickets, obtain food, wine and raffle or silent auction items and act as wine pourers and servers the night of the event. Contact Jennifer for more information, to volunteer, or coordinate donations for the evening.

Committee News and Requests

The **Membership Committee** is seeking donations of beads, small bells or wine rings, even recycled beads from bracelets, necklaces and earrings. They will host the September 3 meeting where members will be asked to assist in making wine charms for the October Wine Walk, where SITM will be the featured non-profit organization.

The **Roster Committee** is preparing to issue a new Club Roster for the new year after the induction of new members at the August Business Meeting. If you have changes or additions you wish made to your page, contact Coordinator Faye I. Andersen.

Perfect Attendance Awards will soon be awarded to members for their participation during the 2014-15 Club Year. If you know you will be receiving an award,

please turn in your attendance pin to Anna McArdle, so it can be recycled to another member.

A **New Member Application** has been revised by the Membership Committee and approved by the SITM Board. Copies will be placed in the Club Mailbox and can also be found in a writable PDF format on the SITM Website at www.sitmnev.org.

Are you an Amazon Shopper?

You can donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to SITM by going to <http://www.smileamazon.com> and designating SITM as your designated charity. If you have questions, see Kathy Hudson.

Happy Dollars Present and Future

Immediate Past President Pam Sutton designated June Happy Dollars for Awaken, a local nonprofit organization working to increase awareness and education about sexual exploitation and to provide shelter and restoration for its victims. Some \$386 was raised in June.

Happy Dollars for the following months have been designated to the following organizations.

July -- Safe Embrace
 August -- Step 2
 September -- Sierra Nevada Journeys
 October -- Women & Children's Center of the Sierra
 November -- Volunteers of America – Women's Shelter
 December -- President's Appeal
 January -- Bristlecone Family Resources
 February -- TBD
 March -- IGU
 April -- TBD
 May -- Awaken
 June -- President's Choice

July Birthday – There are many SITM members with July Birthdays, but only Kathy Hudson was in attendance for the recognition. Membership Co-Coordinator Susanna Money, left, presented Kathy with her birthday "crown" and a "sweets" surprise.



News from Our Friendship Link – SI/Punè Metro East

By Monica House

SI Punè Metro East's Vice President Anubha Ramgopal was recently selected to attend a NASA Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, USA. The camp took place in June 2015 and included



Anubha Ramgopal at NASA Space Camp during one of the space simulations.

100 math and science teachers from around the world.

At this camp Anubha and other educators had the incredible opportunity to experience the authenticity of simulated

space missions and bounce off curriculum ideas with other attendees while attending various workshops. The purpose of this camp was not only for attendees to have fun, but to also inspire educators from around the world to come up with creative ideas to bring back to their classrooms.

Special Screening of "Girl Rising"

SI/Washoe County and SI/Reno members have extended an invitation for SITM members to join them for a special screening of the movie, "Girl Rising". This powerful film was shown at SNR Conference in April. The film spotlights the unforgettable stories of 10 girls from around the world and the unbelievable obstacles they face for being born female.

The proposed date is August 15 and the proposed location is Double Diamond Elementary School. Suggestions of alternative locations are welcome. Reserve your calendar to attend and bring your daughters and other young women friends to learn about issues facing women and girls throughout the world.



The Life of an Afghan Woman

By Monica House

On August 27 you will have the opportunity to learn about the life of a young woman growing up in Afghanistan, a part of the world where women struggle for equality and freedom amidst a primarily male-dominated society. For example, in 2011 Afghanistan was one of the most dangerous countries to live in. 2013 statistics show that the number of women's deaths in the country had increased 20% from the previous year. Afghan women are said to face one of the highest levels of domestic violence. They are often forced into arranged and unwanted marriages even as children. It is a country where the horrific practice of "honor killings" continues. Honor killings are illegal but do happen when women refuse an arranged marriage, are in a relationship disapproved by the family, or for violating the principles of their community or religion. This barbaric practice may even be initiated by the woman's own family.

On August 27, we are very fortunate to have Asma Aimal as our guest speaker. You will hear firsthand what life is like for a young woman living in Afghanistan. You will learn from this amazing young woman what her



Asma Aimal studying at the university.

challenges were while living there and what her challenges are now living in the U.S.

Can you imagine how scary it would be to get on an airplane by yourself for the first time? What it would be like to leave your immediate family for a new life? These are some of just the few stories you will hear.

Asma is a young woman from a war torn country once controlled by the Taliban. She has seen the necessity of education as the only way to begin the process of lifting her country out of poverty and war. Over 80% of women and girls are illiterate due to the oppression of the Taliban in the recent past. Asma is one of only seven Afghan students to receive a visa to study in the United States this year. Of those seven, only two were issued to young women. She is now attending the University of Nevada, Reno, and is interested in pursuing a degree in nursing.

SITM Update

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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 Monday before the meeting. Lunch is \$19.

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 . . .

Soroptimist White Papers Available at SIA

An organization dedicated to assisting women and girls, Soroptimist aims to create true social and economic equality for women and girls. As a public service, Soroptimist provides white papers on various topics relevant to women that can help those who wish to become more educated about issues facing today's women, or learn what can be done to provide direct assistance to women in need. For more information, contact Lori Blair, Soroptimist's senior director of program services, at lori@soroptimist.org. The following Soroptimist White Papers are available at www.soroptimist.org.

- Women and Economic Empowerment
- Putting Girls First
- Teen Dating Violence
- Women and Education
- The New Face of Slavery
- Women and Poverty
- Reaching Out to Women When Disaster Strikes
- Domestic Violence as a Workplace Concern
- Prostitution is Not a Choice

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

2014-2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

*\$106,604 donated to the community & Soroptimist projects
4,216 Volunteer Hours raising funds and supporting community projects*

CONTRIBUTIONS to COMMUNITY

\$38,100 in Women's Scholarships

7 Nancy Gomes/Mary Gojack Re-Entry Women's Scholarships and 5 Jack Simon Graduate Women's Scholarships; 2 Live Your Dream Scholarships; 1 Sue Camp Memorial Scholarship.

\$14,560 Youth Scholarships & Awards

Scholarships for 6 High School Graduates; 12 "Unsung Heroes" stipend shopping sprees and awards.

\$9,870 Making a Difference for Women

All-day skills training seminar for 70 unemployed or under-employed women, plus Educational Grants & Stipends for: seven laptops; five work-related courses, software or books; three work-appropriate clothing/shoes; bus passes to get to work.

\$15,550 Education Project for Girls in Nepal and the Village of Thulipokari

Dormitory housing and tuition scholarships for girls to attend school; dormitory maintenance and upkeep; Animal Assistance programs to help villagers obtain animals in Thulipokari, Nepal; books for the village library and start-up funding for Vital Seeds program to encourage vegetable gardening.

\$14,000 Earthquake Relief Funding for Nepal

Donations to the Village of Thulipokhari, Nepal following the April 25 devastating earthquake, to provide water, blankets, food, and shelter in the short term and rebuilding damaged structures in the long term.

\$3,641 in Member Monthly Happy Dollars

Awaken/Communities United to End Sex Trafficking; Doors to Recovery; Northern Nevada HOPES; Disability Resources & New 2U Computers; Crisis Call Center Soroptimist Intl. President's Appeal Solar Cookers & Solar Lamps for women in Kenya; Soroptimist Intl. of the Americas Club Grants; Food Bank of Northern Nevada; Camp Lotsafun; Northern Nevada International Visitors Center; ALS Association, Nevada Chapter; Volunteers of America; Human Trafficking issues.

\$10,883 Club Committees & Member Miscellaneous and In-Kind Donations

133 hand-crocheted afghans for Volunteers of America Reno Women's shelter; 50 hand-beaded bracelets for Renown oncology infusion center patients; Libby Booth Elementary School multiple teacher recognition and appreciation projects, fulfilling teacher "wish lists", Christmas Craft Fair refreshments, hygiene drive donations for students, 75 specific title new books for school library; High Sierra Health Education Network; Northern Nevada Hopes; Nepal Disaster Relief and Nepal Animal Assistance; Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada. Including donations to Sierra Nevada Region Endowment, Fellowship and Conference, Soroptimist Intl. of the Americas Club Campaign, Club Grants, Founder's Pennies and Laurel Society, Soroptimist International President's Appeal for Solar Cookers and Lamps for women in Kenya.

Source of Funds

\$40,000	Scholarships & Grants
\$16,813	Reno Air Races & Associate Sales
\$15,028	Thanks to Youth
\$ 6,756	Nepal Project Donations
\$ 8,905	Garage Sales
\$ 8,795	Donations to Nepal Disaster Relief
\$ 3,642	Member Happy Dollars
\$ 5,161	Miscellaneous Income, Member & In-kind Income

Total **\$105,100**