

# SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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

## The Halfway Mark – Time to Reflect on Good Works

" Some people see the glass half full. Others see the glass half empty. The enlightened are simply grateful to have a glass. " - Mark Desvaux

Hello 2016! The new calendar year is upon us, and this means that many of us are focused on our goals for the year. For example, some people want to eat healthier, get out more, or maybe want to be more organized. And more often than not, we don't meet all of our resolutions, which in turn makes us question if we are trying hard enough. Women are especially notorious for doing this. However, we should cherish what we do accomplish. We are human, and therefore we cannot take on absolutely everything without any setbacks or downfalls. I believe that

instead of focusing on the things we didn't do, we should focus on the things we did do, and in turn use that as fuel to do even bigger and better things in the future.

This time of the year also marks my having been President for SITM for six months. I am very grateful for all of you, as well as your amazing aspirations to make this club even better. We have achieved so much in the past six months. Our committees are continuing to work very hard by planning and organizing things for this year, as well as juggling their personal lives.

We have many events coming up, such as nominations for the Ruby Award, the Live Your Dream Award,

Making A Difference For Women, and Thanks to Youth. These events are an amazing opportunity to empower women and children in our community. Not only do we teach women job skills with MADFW, but we also acknowledge the youth in our community who have gone above and beyond to give back, and so much more.

I am so inspired by all of your amazing efforts towards our cause. I am certain that there will be even more great things that we will do in the future. So yes, I am nearing the end of my term with each passing day, but I am excited to see what the next half of my term holds.

So, let's look at the good things to come and the good things we have done. Our glass is already wonderfully made, and we have filled it with the best of memories so far.

President Vivian



*President-Elect Jennifer Burnitt and President Vivian Ruiz got into the act of drawing a Christmas scene on a paper plate balanced on their heads. For the complete story, and more photos of SITM's Holiday Social, see pages 5 & 6.*

### In this issue ....

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## Members Needed for February 13 Event

By Norma Charette

We are also seeking volunteers for Friday, February 12 and Saturday, February 13 to assist in the loading/unloading of the clothing donations to assure we are able to transport the clothing from Ethan Allen to the Atlantis in a timely manner. If you are interested, please contact Norma Charette.

We are also seeking volunteers to be "models" for the fashion show. If you are interested please advise Georgina Baker-Flambures.

The all-day seminar is designed to give re-entry women trying to return to the workforce the skills, confidence and contacts they need to meet the challenges of full-time employment.

The MADFW committee is seeking donations of clothes for the "clothes closet". Ethan Allen has generously offered to accept donations Tuesday-Saturday from 9-3 p.m. Please ensure that all clothes are placed on hangers with sizes clearly marked. If you have any questions, please reach out to Norma Charette.

### Reminders About Needs for the Event

Donations of beads are being sought to be used for bracelets that will be given to the women attending the event. Please give any bead donations to Bev Perkins.

We are also seeking donations of items to fill tote bags that are given out to all registrants.

### Special Notes for Members and Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Please use the sign-up sheets that are being circulated during our Thursday luncheon meetings or feel free to contact any committee member. The cost of the lunch is \$33.00. Please remember to wear your Soroptimist name badge as well as your red shirts and black skirt/slacks for the day's event!

### Calendar

- January 21 – Live Your Dream Award -- Education Women
- January 28 – Emergency Preparedness – Health
- February 4 – History of Soroptimist
- February 9 – Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Disability Resources
- February 11 – Business Meeting, Atlantis
- February 13 – MADFW, Atlantis
- February 18 – The Eddy House Education Youth
- February 25 – Economic & Social Development
- March 1 – Fundraising

You can follow our weekly activities on:



### Notes About Clothing Donations

Ethan Allen (located at 9065 S. Virginia Street, Reno) has graciously agreed to be the SITM designated location for collection of donations (clothes and accessories) that will be displayed at the "Clothes Closet" during the day-long seminar.

Donation Hours: Tuesday - Saturday; 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Donation Drop Off: Near the flagpole and be sure you mention the donation is for Making A Difference so not to be confused with the items to be placed in the SITM Garage Sale area.

\*\*Please mark the size(s) on the clothing items and provide hangars to allow for easy storage and transportation.

If you have any questions, please contact Co-Coordinator Norma Charette or Jeanne Naccarato.

*Raquel Casarez, a previous attendee at one of SITM's Making a Difference for Women Skills Training Seminars. She spoke at the January 7 meeting describing her experience at the seminar. She has since obtained her cosmetology license and eventually hopes to open her own business.*



## Enid Oliver's Business Growth - Beyond Expectations

By Paula Ringkob

A recent Reno Gazette-Journal story announced a new Reno firm, Oliver, Wickes & Associates led by SITM's own Enid Oliver! Enid has been an SITM member since 1996. I wanted to learn more about Enid and her challenges and successes and to share it with SITM Update readers. She worked hard to get where she is today, learning from each of her many jobs.

Enid was born in Norman, OK and is named after Enid, OK where her father was born and raised. At six months old, her family moved to Southern California where she and her six siblings were raised. The family of nine struggled and when Enid graduated from high school, she looked for jobs she could walk to and took a few college courses.

When she was 19, she met Jim Oliver (her husband of 53 years) on a blind date. They fell in love but he was in the Air Force and soon was transferred to Hawaii on temporary duty. Enid worked at hamburger stands to raise money to go visit him. In Hawaii, she worked as a waitress in the evening and enjoyed the sun and surf during the day. After two months, they both flew back to California and he proposed.



*Enid surrounded by son Eddy and husband Jim.*

In 1962, they married in Artesia, CA and lived in San Bernardino, while Jim finished his military service at Norton Air Force Base. Not having a car meant limited opportunities for her. While in San Bernardino Enid worked in a beauty shop for one year.

A few years later, at the age of 23, they moved to Reno and Jim worked as a carpenter apprentice doing

finish work. Enid took business classes at night hoping to get a better job and also graduated from beauty school as a cosmetologist.

Once they moved to Reno, while waiting to take the Nevada Cosmetology boards, Enid took a job as a keno runner at Harold's Club and made twice as much money as she did as a hairdresser.

This full-time job with good tips meant stability and good earnings for women at that time. After three and one-half years of working at Harold's Club, she and Jim bought a house in Reno. Their son Eddy was born and Enid stayed home to raise him.

Jim was a contractor now but there was a building moratorium in Reno so Enid and Jim sold their house and bought a motor home so they could travel the U.S. for six months. They decided to settle in Medford, Oregon, where Enid worked at the Montessori school that Eddy attended and in a wallpaper shop. She also became active in the League of Women Voters.

They returned to Reno in 1982. Jim was working with insurance companies rebuilding damaged homes and Enid wanted an office job. She found one at G. E. Credit for a year and then worked doing loan processing at American Federal and as an escrow officer at Ticor Title.

This series of jobs positioned Enid for an opportunity as a financial advisor at Ameriprise in 1987. She leveraged the skills she acquired from her various jobs and life experiences and started work at a large company where there were opportunities. She persevered to learn the technical skills needed at Ameriprise to pass the required series of exams so she could assist clients with more services. She also developed the essential



*Enid is a tireless worker and shopper at the semi-annual garage sales.*

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Enid Oliver, continued from page 3

marketing and people skills. She is proud that she still sees some of her early clients and enjoys her client relationships.

Eddy is now a construction supervisor in Reno and is married with three children. Jim and Enid bought a 24-acre ranch near Quincy, CA where they board horses (to eat the grass) and have a home furnished with many SITM garage sale bargains.

Enid has been active at the club's semi-annual garage sales. A few years ago, she proposed that there be a boutique area at the garage sale for designer items that would command a higher price. She set up the area, selected the merchandise and displayed it. It has

been successful for the club!

Marigale Compton introduced Enid to SITM in 1996. Marigale and Marie Edwards were her sponsors. In addition to her work at the garage sales, Enid has enjoyed serving on the Education Women Committee. Outside SITM, she is an active supporter of the Nevada Museum of Art and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

Enid is a success story! She started working in entry-level jobs at a time when few women occupied professional-level careers. Through hard work and determination, she has been able to achieve a successful career in a field that is dominated by men. We congratulate her and her new firm and know it will be successful too!



*The Oliver, Wickes and Associates Team.*

## Applications Now Available for Women's Scholarships!

By Niki Ewing

Do you know any women looking for financial assistance with a college degree?

If you know of a deserving woman, please ask her to apply for one of these scholarships!

The Gomes/Gojack scholarships are for undergraduate, re-entry women who are pursuing a four-year degree or a health sciences degree of some kind at the community college level. The maximum award for the undergrad scholarships is \$6,000.

The Jack Simon scholarships are for graduate students. The maximum graduate award is typically \$4,000.

The deadline to apply for the SITM scholarships is February 15, 2016. The scholarship application is on the SITM website [www.sitmnev.org](http://www.sitmnev.org) and is now fillable and revised to make it easier and less time consuming for our applicants.

Over the past 35 years, we have awarded \$951,100 in scholarships to over 379 women!



*Becky Moody, left, presents a \$1,500 check from Dermody Properties to Thanks to Youth Committee member Chris Fegert.*

## Fun and Games at the Holiday Social



Rikki Hemsley-Ricker displays her artistic talents, drawn onto the plate on her head.



SI/Reno members, from left, Ellie McGuinness, President Sarah Carasco and Anne Tavernia attended the social to sell items from their recent Christmas Boutique.



Dot Warts and Patti Dory work on their paper plate artwork.



Showing off their Christmas Sweaters are, from left, Harmony Hobbs, Barbara Atwell and President Vivian Ruiz.

The responsible party for the Holiday Social gift exchange, fun and games and prizes was the Hospitality Committee. They are pictured here, seated from left are, Maryann Decker, Georgia Baker-Flambures, Marilyn Pearson and Patty Downs. Standing are Jean Neddenriep and Shirley George.





Diana Dillon and Niki Ewing trying their hand at drawing on the top of their heads.



Acting as MC for the Holiday Social was Michelle Jones.

Millie Mitchell, Barbara Arwell and Linda Lamke show off their exchanged ornaments.



A handmade thank you from Principal Amanda Lee McWilliams, Ed.S.



At this year's Holiday Boutique, SITM members were asked to help Hunter Lake Elementary School by selecting the name of a girl or boy in transition attending Hunter Lake. A group of Santa's SITM helpers wrapped 75 gifts for 40 students, with a value of approximately \$2,600 prior to delivering them to the school. From left: Jeanne Naccarato, Connie Steinheimer, Shirley George, Eileen Fuller, Teresa's friend Susanna, Marlys Pryor and Teresa Mentzer.

## One View: Human Trafficking and Exploitation a Major Issue in Nevada

By Kelly Ranasinghe

*January is Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. January 11 is Human Rights Trafficking Awareness Day. The following appeared in the January 15 issue of the Reno-Gazette-Journal. Continuing its focus on human trafficking, the Human Rights/Status of Women sought and received permission from Mr. Ranasinghe to reprint his article in the club newsletter. The Committee will be presenting a speaker from Awaken at the April 21 SITM meeting.*

January is Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, which highlights a growing problem in local communities, including Reno and Washoe County. Human trafficking is often mistakenly believed to only affect urban areas and immigrant populations. In reality, trafficking is a problem in all 50 states and United States territories. Both U.S. citizens and permanent residents are being victimized. Even the tiny island territory of Guam has experienced trafficking, along with isolated rural areas and tribal reservations in the United States interior.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges works extensively with courts to improve their response to domestic child sex trafficking (DCST) and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). DCST and CSEC cases are among the most difficult and challenging cases for juvenile courts to handle. Victims may suffer from complex trauma and require therapeutic services beyond the capacity of local jurisdictions. Child trafficking victims may exhibit delinquent conduct such as substance abuse, truancy, physical aggression or larceny fueled by trauma.

Cases are further complicated by the trafficker's insidious practice of recruiting victims with pre-existing vulnerabilities such as mental illness, family dysfunction or trauma. Child sex traffickers target youth at critical stages in their development, warping common beliefs about gender and parental roles to construct unhealthy quasi-parental or romantic relationships. Isolation of the victim from family and social support systems is part of the recruitment process while incoherence and confusion fosters a sense of dependence, ultimately reinforcing the power and control of the trafficker.

It is challenging for courts to accurately screen and identify young trafficking victims within a criminal context. Victims rarely self-identify, and are often coached by their traffickers to conceal their exploitation from law enforcement and health-care professionals. It is common for an exploited child to enter the court system through seemingly unrelated crimes like drug possession, petty theft or even truancy. If investigative procedures are not trauma-sensitive, a child may be less inclined to disclose or engage with investigating officers. Symptoms of complex trauma such as shutting down, defensiveness, or defiance can be misinterpreted by professionals as uncooperativeness.

Barriers can develop between court professionals and the child, which benefit the trafficker and increase the chances that the victim will return to her exploiter.

Nevada ranks first in the nation for the arrests of minors for prostitution, nearly 15 times the national average. Nevada is also ranked below Tier 1 status by the Polaris Project (which operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center), as Nevada lacks safe harbor laws. "Safe harbor" is the colloquial term for laws designed to protect sexually exploited minors from being prosecuted for their own victimization. In Reno, Awaken continues to dedicate their efforts to the prevention of sex trafficking and rehabilitation of victims alongside law enforcement, who are well-trained on child sex trafficking dynamics. However, despite Awaken's and law enforcement's monumental efforts, sex trafficking of both minors and young females continues to be problematic. Only two months ago, a John Suppression Operation resulted in nearly eleven arrests for trafficking and related crimes and the detention of three runaway exploited minors. Recent media has focused on the arrests of victims — young girls in this case — rather than those who sought to purchase sex from children. In our community, this problem is not going away and the support of the community, including the media, is needed to change the way victims are treated and how those who purchase sex from or traffic children are prosecuted.

Studies show that communities which foster coordinated community response networks tend to have the best results. In ideal situations, all agencies and providers which may contact a victim of child trafficking work in concert from the very beginning, with a mutually agreed-upon goal of recovery and support. Similarly, trauma sensitivity at every stage of the recovery process, including within the courtroom, plays a substantial role in helping minors feel like the court system is a partner in their recovery, rather than a punitive entity.

To learn more about trafficking, or how you can help combat DCST and CSEC in your community, you can visit the NCJFCJ website or the websites of our partner agencies: Futures Without Violence, Human Rights for Girls, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Office for Victims of Crime..

*Kelly Ranasinghe, JD is the senior program attorney for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.*

## Hard Working Committees Are the Backbone of Club Activities

If you've missed committee meetings, then you've missed a lot. If it sounds like it could involve work, it does. But it also involves fun, camaraderie, getting to know fellow members, and more likely than not, food. Soroptimists like to "meet and eat" and that extends to a lot of committee meetings too.

Each member, except for committee coordinators and board members is expected to serve on one service committee, one technical committee and one Special Events Committee.

Here are some samples of these hard-working committees that make SITM's scholarships, awards, events and social activities possible.



*Photo Scrapbook (above)*

The Photo-Scrapbook Committee recently gathered at Dor Watts' home for an intensive scrapbooking session and a shared meal. Enjoying Dor's hospitality from left are: Patti Doty, Margie Hermanson, Bev Perkins, Dor Watts and Eileen Fuller.

This committee collects photos and mementos to compile the President's scrapbook and conducts the annual "Year in Review" meeting in June with a program featuring the club's events and activities over the past year.



*Human Rights/Status of Women (at left)*

Members of the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee gather after dinner and meeting at Coordinator Doris Phelps' home. From left are: Millie Mitchell, Faye Andersen, Jo Ann Roberts, Liza Chapen and Carol Dinneen. Doris is seated.

The Human Rights/Status of Women Committee is responsible for generating member awareness, advocacy and action for the Soroptimist International President's December 10th appeal project. The committee solicits nominations and selects the annual Soroptimist Ruby Award for Women Helping Women recipient. The committee also brings informative programs to the membership regarding human rights, such as human trafficking, prevention of domestic violence and the elimination of discrimination.

*International Goodwill and Understanding (below)*

Members of the IGU Committee are "meeting and eating" at Judge Connie Stenheimer's home as they make plans for the club's Nepal project. Clockwise from top are Connie Steinheimer, Coordinator Monica House, President Vivian Ruiz, Linda Lamke, Patty Downs, Teresa Mentzer, Jo Ann Roberts, Paula Ringkob and Enid Oliver.

This committee administers SITM's project "Removing Barriers to Education for Girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal" by raising money to support girls' scholarships for tuition and dormitory housing and oversees the Animal Assistance Project to provide low-cost loans to villagers to purchase animals. The committee monitors and maintains relations with our Friendship Link Club SI/Punè Merro East.



## January Board & Business Update and Meeting Highlights

By Faye I. Andersen

The January Board and Business Meetings were short, but not to worry. It only signals that SITM's committees are super busy soliciting and judging scholarship and award applications and planning upcoming events. But there was still business to conduct.

### Wear Red for Making a Difference Event

SITM's Making a Difference for Women Skills Training Seminar will be held Saturday, February 13 at the Atlantis in Reno. Many members and volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs that day, Members are asked to wear their red SITM shirts, or just wear a red blouse with black slacks or skirts so we are readily identifiable to the day's participants. SI/Reno members will be attending upcoming Thursday meetings in order to sell Soropti-wear red shirts, if you would like to purchase one of those.

The cost per participant for lunch/breakfast is \$33. Members who would like to contribute to cover the cost of their meals that day, can provide a check to Service Fund Treasurer Kay Dunham. Please sign-up on the sheets circulating at club meetings, if you plan to attend and work. See page 2 for more information.

### Emergency Preparedness and Raffle Set for January 28

The Health Committee will host a presentation on January 28 on Emergency Preparedness. Come learn what you and your family need to know to prepare for an emergency such as an earthquake, fire or flood. The membership approved a fundraising raffle to take place at that meeting with preparedness prizes offered.

### Get Ready for Sierra Nevada Region Award Applications

Attention committees: President-Elect Jennifer Burnitt will be contacting selected committees about completing paperwork and examples to apply for the Sierra Nevada Region Star Awards, due March 1. That would include information about the club's social media, website, newsletter and innovative public awareness programs. Contact Jennifer for more information.

### Change of Date for March Business Meeting

This is a reminder that the membership last month approved a motion brought by the IGU Committee to switch two meetings in March – delaying the Business Meeting to March 24. The March 10 meeting will feature special guest speakers regarding the club's

Nepal project to Remove Barriers to Education for Girls in Nepal. Watch for further announcements soon.

### Happy Dollars for December

Happy Dollars in the amount of \$426 were collected in December on behalf of SI President Yvonne Simpson's 2015-17 December 10<sup>th</sup> President Appeal Project, Educate to Lead: Nepal. This amount will be paired with \$250 allocated for this project in the Service Fund budget for a \$776 donation to the project. January Happy Dollars are designated for Bristlecone Family Resources. November's Happy Dollars totaled \$223 and were designated for the Volunteers of America Women's Shelter in Reno. An additional \$200 was donated anonymously to the Women's Shelter as well.

### Additional Youth Scholarship Money Donated

Education-Youth Co-Coordinator Teresa Mentzer, announced that an anonymous donor has donated an additional \$1,000 for each of the Education -Youth Scholarship recipients from 2015, in recognition of the work SITM is doing to assist youth. Teresa reported that when she notified the youth recipients, "They were thrilled," she said.

### Member Leaves

The board approved a continuation of a leave of absence for Lynne Catrow for lunch meetings, for personal reasons. Remaining on leave are Kathy Hudson through March 1 for health reasons; Monica House through March 1 for personal and health reasons. We wish you ladies well and hope to see you soon.



*Celebrating their January birthdays at the Business meeting, are from left: Paula Ringkob, Jennifer Burnitt and Teresa Mentzer.*

## SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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**Also contributing to this issue**

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Patti Doty

SITM meets every Thursday noon at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, 3800 South Virginia Street in Reno, second floor convention center. For reservations [www.sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.soroptimistsnr.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas: [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International: [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)



## Did you know . . .

### Afghans Made with a Golden Touch

The yarn lady, the crochet teacher, the afghan maker, the crochet-er extraordinaire ... these titles all describe SITM's own Diana Dillon. At the January Business Meeting, Bev Perkins (one of the crochet disciples) presented Diana with a 14-carat gold-plated crochet hook. Ask Bev for the story behind the presentation.

Diana opens her office each fall for several "afghan socials" where experienced members and those just learning to crochet can gather and practice their craft.

However, Diana is just one of SITM's faithful members crocheting afghans annually as gifts for the residents of the Volunteers of America Reno Family Shelter. Over the past seven years, SITM members, family and friends have crocheted at least 800 afghans.

Over time, the afghan-makers have taken a more methodical approach to the number of afghans made each year by contacting the shelter in advance so each resident of the shelter gets an afghan. Afghans needed for this year total 140-150.



*Bev Perkins, right presents Diana Dillon with her appropriately-adorned golden crochet hook.*