

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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April 2016

www.sitmnev.org

Scholarships, Recognition Awards, New Officers, Winding Up the Club Year

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything." - William Shakespeare

I see April as a time of youth. There are new flowers beginning to bloom, kids are starting to go outside and play, and the earth seems to come to life again. This is the time for Spring cleaning, do-it-yourself projects, and our Thanks To Youth luncheon to recognize upstanding youth in our community.

Congratulations to the newly elected 2016-17 Board! Thank you to all those who ran for office as your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated. Our club fills an important need not only in our community, but internationally too, and I know that you will find serving on the Board a rich and rewarding experience. As a club, we've already achieved so much and I'm looking forward to the new ideas and growth for our future that the new Board will bring. Thank you to Nominating Committee Coordinator, Doris Phelps and members Pam Sutton and Kathy Benson for assembling a wonderful groundwork for our 2016-17 year,

and for conducting our Board elections.

At the end of the month, we will be holding our Education Women's Scholarship luncheon. This event gives women the opportunity to receive an education. We will be awarding \$35,000 in scholarships to women in our community. Thank you to the Education Women committee for all of your hard work in the lead up to this event.

On May 26 we will give out our Thanks To Youth awards, recognizing the unsung heroes of our community and also awarding some of our local youth with scholarships. I want to thank everyone involved for your tireless efforts towards this cause, especially the Thanks To Youth Committee.

As we are winding up to a new year, I encourage all of you to begin thinking about which committees you would like to be a part of for the 2016-17 year, as sign-ups are just around the corner. As we have many amazing projects and committees, I encourage you to branch out and explore ones that you may have not considered before, as you may find yourself pleasantly surprised. I had the opportunity to sit in on the Education Women interviews this year, and I was amazed at the amount of work that goes into this project, as well as the dedication of our members. But, we are Soroptimists, and I know that



President Vivian Ruiz and Doris Phelps show off a quilt donated by Sierra Stitches and raffled at the March 24 meeting. Proceeds were split 50-50 between SITM and the Sierra Stitches.

we do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Thank you for your gift of service, as we continue to aspire to inspire, to see what transpires.

President Vivian

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Mark Your Calendars

Thanks to Youth is May 26

See Chris Fegert or Valerie Summersille-Hahn for tickets to sell.

Table sponsors are still needed.

Friendship Link Club

SI/Punè Metro East Adopts New Project to Rescue Children

By Monica House

SITM's Friendship Link Club, SI/Punè Metro East, has formed a Friendship Link with SI/Dundee to help oversee The Free to Live Trust- Seema's Project to rescue children. The Free to Live Trust is a local Tayside charity set up to help victims of modern slavery and abandoned children. The project goals are:

- to rescue abandoned children of trafficked sex workers from the red light district of Punè, India
- to rehabilitate the sex workers who have been trafficked and would like to start a new life free from exploitation and sexual violence.



Members of SI/Punè Metro East meeting with Village Elders in Bori, India.

Sadly it is said that over 90% of these sex workers are trafficked from Nepal, Bengal and other parts of India. In March, four members of SIPME had the opportunity to visit the remote village of Bori, located about three hours outside Punè where the project is based. Through



Bori is SE of Mumbai where the children's home is located.

fundraising efforts they are building a home and rehabilitation center that will initially house 40 children. During SIPME's visit they were able to see firsthand the progress of the home, meet the village head and learn about the project they will help oversee. In this endeavor they are also assisted by Girl Guides and Soroptimists from Scotland.

To learn more about this project, visit the website for more details freetolivetrust.org.

Calendar

- April 21– Awaken
- April 28 – Education Women Scholarship Luncheon
- April 29 – May 1 – SNR Conference, Atlantis
- May 5 - The Note-Ables Perform
- May 10 – Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Disability Resources, Inc.
- May 12– Business Meeting
- May 19– Committee Sign-ups
- May 26 – Thanks to Youth Luncheon

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Members from SI/Punè Metro East and SI/Dundee wearing traditional headgear at the entrance to the children's home.

Get Ready for 2016-2017 with New Officers



*President, Jennifer Burnitt

Congratulations and thank you to all members agreeing to stand for election as officers, directors and delegates for the 2016-2017 Club Year. Here are the members of the SITM Board joining President Jennifer Burnitt for the coming year. Positions marked with an asterisk (*) are completing an unexpired term on the board.

Reminder: The SITM Board meets once a month on Tuesday, following the first Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to attend.



President-Elect, Rikki Hensley



VP/Technical, Barbara Arwell



VP/Service, Alysia K. Peters



Recording Secty, Doris Phelps



Corresponding Secty, Jeanne Naccarato



Treasurer/General Fund, 2 years Anna McArdle



*Treasurer Service Fund, 1 year Kay Dunham



*Director, 2 years Vivian Ruiz



*Director, 1 year Pam Sutton

Delegate, Bev Perkins



Alternate Delegate, Lynne Catrow



Ana Nadimi – From Chemistry to Real Estate

By Jo Ann Roberts

One of the most traveled of our Soroptimist members is Ana Nadimi. Ana was born and raised in Iran with her brother and two sisters. She attended elementary and high school in Iran and at age 18 left Iran to attend college in India. Her favorite subjects in school had been chemistry and mathematics. Ana attended school in Ahmedabad, Gujrat where college was a three year program taught in English. She received a BS in Chemistry but at the end of her college education could not go back to Iran. Because she was a member of the Baha'i religion, the government of Iran would not renew her passport and allow her to return to that country. Through the actions of the United Nations, the students from Iran who were Baha'i were granted refugee status and Ana relocated to Canada as a refugee.



Ana and husband David Meares at Arrowcreek Country Club.

Ana's brother had received his doctorate degree in India and had gone to Africa and then to Canada. Ana's two sisters are also in Canada and Ana is now an American citizen and lives in Reno.

In June 1982, Ana was married to another student from the college in India and after her relocation to Canada, she had a daughter and a son. Her daughter is 27 years old and her son is 31 and they both live in Atlanta, Georgia.

I asked Ana about her career as a real estate agent and she told me her degree in chemistry from India was not recognized in Canada. She had been separated and then divorced from her husband and had moved to Chicago. Ana married in Chicago in 1996 and two years after her marriage, her husband died from cancer. Knowing she had two children to support and yet not wanting a "nine to five" job, also her love for working with people, she



Ana with her Mother in Dubai.

decided to look at becoming a real estate agent.

Love grew again and she and David Meares were married in March of 2002 and in 2008 relocated to Reno. With a career in real estate in Chicago, Ana took the real estate test in Nevada and in 2009 joined Dickson as one of their agents.

It was Marna Griffin who introduced Ana to SITM. Ana had purchased her home in Arrow Springs from Marna and was looking for some volunteer opportunities. Marna knew that SITM would fill Ana's desire for volunteer opportunities. She joined in 2010 and certainly found her volunteer opportunities. Ana enjoys all our projects for different reasons but the IGU's Nepal project has been her favorite. She has seen firsthand the poverty and needs of the people of India and those in Nepal are very similar. At this time, the SITM programs have filled her volunteer time but in the past she has been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters and CASA.

[Continued on page 5](#)



Ana with her children in Atlanta for Thanksgiving 2014.

Women's Scholarships to be Awarded April 28

By Norma Charette

A grand total of 13 scholarships will be awarded at this year's annual Education Women Luncheon on April 28.

Ten undergraduate re-entry women are slated to receive the Nancy Gomes/Mary Gojack scholarships. Nancy Gomes was an educator, legislator and tireless advocate for Nevada's women and children. Mary Gojack, a charter member of SITM, was instrumental in establishing the original Nancy Gomes scholarship. After Mary's passing, the club decided to honor her by adding her name to the scholarship program.

A grand total of \$25,000 will be awarded for re-entry in undergrad scholarships to: Amy Heston, UNR Nursing; Arthi Sacdev, UNR Business Marketing; Asma Aimal, UNR Political Science; Ana Chacon, TMCC Paralegal; Herah Ashraf, TMCC Biology; Holly Nicole Hughes, TMCC Associates of Arts; Rebecca Nolan, WNC Associates of Sciences; Sahrah Ashraf, TMCC Associates of Science; Sonia Juvera, UNR Business; and Veronica Villarreal, TMCC Associates of Science.

We also have a graduate scholarship that is named after Jack Simon who generously supported our scholarship fundraising efforts for many years. Past President and Life Member Jeanne Baxter established the first graduate scholarship after Jack's passing in 1994. This year, a grand total of \$10,000 will be awarded for graduate scholarships to Camille Glanzmann, UNR Social Work; Jennifer Tappan, UNR School Counseling; and Luran Evans, UNR School of Medicine.

During our Luncheon Awards this year, we will be honored to have with us Jane Albright, UNR's Women's Basketball Coach as our featured lunch guest speaker.

Continued from page 4

Ana's hobbies include traveling and reading. She likes to socialize and enjoys cooking and having parties at her home.

I especially wanted to know more about Ana's mother, Molook Nadimi. She is 94 years old and had raised her children all on her own. Ana and Molook are working with the U.S. Consulate in Abu Dhabi to determine if Molook will receive a resident alien (green card) status which will enable her to relocate to the U.S. As of the time of writing this profile, Ana and Molook are still awaiting a decision from the Consulate.



Some of the girls studying in Thulipokhari, Nepal

Three Ways to Support the Nepal Project

By Paula Ringkob

Pledges and donations to the 2016-17 "Removing Barriers to Education for Girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal, and the Nepal Disaster Recovery Project" are still being accepted. Donations can be designated for any or all of these programs:

Girl's Scholarship Program – includes \$300 a year for one girl's education and other dormitory support.

Micro-Lending Program – includes animal, vital seeds, animal husbandry and agriculture equipment and women's groups' loans as needed by the village.

Disaster Recovery Program – includes loans to repair structures in Thulipokhari, Nepal, damaged by the devastating earthquake and aftershocks of April/May 2015.

To date, donations have been received from 11 SITM members and 12 community-at-large members. Also one SITM member pledged to make her donation later this year.

If you did not receive a packet containing a color brochure about the SITM activities in Nepal, a cover letter from Monica House, IGU Committee Coordinator, and a green donation form, please contact either Monica, Judge Connie Steinheimer or Paula Ringkob.

Your continued support of these programs encourages and improves the lives of women and girls in this part of Nepal.

Ruby Award Recipient Honored

At the March 17 meeting, the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee honored SITM's Ruby Award recipient Moshay Akala, known by everyone as Moshay. Moshay is the Career Resources Manager for the Gateway to Success program at the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra. Following the



Moshay, center, is shown with members of the WCCS Staff, who attended as guests of committee members.

presentation, Moshay spoke about the challenges in her life and said, "You have made an overambitious little girl from South Central L.A. feel like a superstar."



Moshay was presented with a check for \$750 by Committee Coordinator Doris Phelps, for the charity of her choice, which of course was the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra.

May Diaper Drive for Women's & Children's Center of the Sierra

By Liza Chapen

As a way to further honor this year's SITM Ruby Award recipient, Moshay Akala, the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee has received approval from the Board and the membership to hold a Diaper Drive during the month of May.

All SITM members are encouraged to bring at least one package of diapers to any of the club meetings in May. All diapers donated by the members will be given to the diaper bank at the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra, which is where Moshay serves as the Career Resources Manager for the Gateway to Success Program. The committee felt that a hands-on type of activity would represent additional recognition for Moshay, and felt it was especially appropriate to help mothers in need by commemorating Mother's Day with a Diaper Drive during the month of May.

The committee has been told that all diapers are welcome, but there is a special need for sizes 4, 5 and 6. If you are unable to attend one of the May meetings, please contact the committee coordinator, Doris Phelps, at skippyyellowsub@charter.net, or Liza Chapen at chapen@charter.net and one of the committee members will contact you to make arrangements to pick up your donated diapers. Monetary donations are also welcome and will be used to purchase additional diapers.

Thank you for your participation in further honoring Moshay by assisting Washoe County mothers in need.



In honor of Moshay Akala, this year's Ruby Award recipient, President Vivian Ruiz and President-Elect Jennifer Burnitt supplied a "Diaper Cake" and "Diaper Bicycle" for donation to the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra.

CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS!



Spring Garage Sale Set for June 4

The Spring Garage Sale has been re-set for Saturday, June 4 at Judge Connie Steinheimer's home. Workers are needed for Friday afternoon from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m., June 3 to help set-up, sort and price. Come join the fun. Margaritas and other refreshments will be served.

Workers are also needed on Saturday, during the sale. Morning donuts and afternoon sandwiches will be available. Sign-up to work from 7-11 a.m. or 11a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign-ups are available at club meetings, or contact Linda Lamke. Ridge House is no longer able to help pack and haul away the unsold items. Catholic Charities will be there to pick up the left-overs, so extra hands to box and bag items would be appreciated.

Donations may be made year round for spring and

late fall IGU Garage Sales, as well as for Soroptimist's Making a Difference for Women program. Small household items and clothing can be dropped off on the far left south facing end of the complex at Ethan Allen's warehouse between 9am and 3pm Tuesday through Saturday. There is a "people door" entrance to the warehouse next to a large roll up door facing south. If the roll up door is closed, please ring the bell to alert staff, and enter the warehouse. If it's during lunch, or if warehouse staff is absent, you may leave your items near the door. They will be stored with all donated items.

Please mark higher end items and clothing for the Boutique, and if applicable, please mark clothing being donated for Making a Difference for Women.

Large heavy items which require assistance from warehouse staff may require a little more scheduling due to availability of two warehouse staff members being present to off load. Please call the main store number, 826-1722, and speak with the receptionist or a manager. Let the attendant know what is involved, and when you would like to drop off those large items, so your trip can be coordinated with staff availability. Feel free to call ahead with any questions you may have. All staff are available to assist.

A gentle reminder to our members and our generous family members and friends donating items to the garage sale. Please make sure that donations of clothing are clean and gently used and only useful household items in good condition and in working order are part of your donated items. Thank You.



SITM has many members' with March Birthdays. Celebrating at the March Business Meeting were, from left, Kay Dunham, Patty Downs, Margie Hermanson, Jeanne Naccarato, Doris Phelps and Linda Lamke.



Celebrating April birthdays at the Business Meeting were Scarlet Ewy, right, and Niki Ewing.

New Record for Crocheted Afghans Set

From the looks of the piles of crocheted afghans, it must have been a long cold winter. Members, family and friends crocheted a whopping 160 afghans this year for the Volunteers of America Family Shelter in Reno. The afghans were delivered in March, and residents were allowed to take their pick of favorite colors or patterns.

According to Diana Dillon, who is one of the crochet



Making the delivery to the shelter.



The "delivery crew" with a pile of afghans at the VOA Family Shelter in Reno. From left: Niki Ewing, Pam Robinson, Diana's Mom Alice (who washed half of the afghans before delivery), Diana Dillon and Jeff De Matei.

instigators, along with Kay Dunham and Niki Ewing, one of the reasons so many were produced this year was "thanks to all of the donated yarn."

Crocheting afghans is primarily a winter pursuit for our members, with "Afghan Social" gatherings held after work at Diana's office. But if you would like to learn to crochet, or to donate yarn, contact Diana.



Young members of the Performing Arts Center performed Irish dances at the March 31 meeting.

Amanda Coulson, owner of Dancin! Performing Arts Center in Reno brought some young and seasoned performers to entertain members at the March 31 meeting. She is shown here in the center, along with members of the "Ladies Who Tap" group performing to the tune "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy".



April Board & Business Update and Meeting Highlights

By Faye I. Andersen

It's a very busy time of year and the April Board and Business Meetings were no exception with plenty of actions taken to get ready for the 2016-2017 Club Year.

2016-2017 Officers Elected

Congratulations and thanks to all of the members who volunteered to stand for election to join President Jennifer Burnitt on next year's SITM Board. See page 3 for complete results.

New Budgets Approved

The Finance/Bylaws Committee, along with the Service and General Fund Treasurers presented their preliminary budgets for the 2016-2017 Club Year at the March Board and Business Meetings. The draft budgets were presented again at the April meeting and were approved by the membership. If you missed a copy, see Treasurers Vicki Schultz or Kay Dunham, or Coordinator Barbara Atwell. They were also attached to President Vivian's emailed meeting notice

Club Bylaw Revisions Underway

The Finance/Bylaws Committee has undertaken an ambitious endeavor to completely revise the Club Bylaws and create a new Policies and Procedures document. Over the years, the SITM Bylaws have become encumbered by years of additions and edits leaving the club with a long document containing procedural details and redundancies. With the absence of a SITM Policies and Procedures document, specific directions for operation of the club, its officers, committees and projects were housed in the Club Bylaws.

The first draft of the new Club Bylaws and accompanying Policies and Procedures were presented to the Board and Business Meeting. Members are asked to take time to review both documents and provide any comments to Coordinator Pam Sutton by April 22. The committee will incorporate any changes and bring the revisions back to the May Board and Business Meetings.

Women's Scholarships Renamed

The Education –Women Committee brought a motion to the April Board and Business Meetings to revise the name of our women's scholarship program to

incorporate the name of our past SITM member and Past SNR Governor Sue Camp. The motion was recommended by the Board and approved by the membership. The new name is: The Nancy Gomes - Mary Gojack - Sue Camp Memorial Scholarships for Re-Entry Women.

Are You Attending SNR Conference? Can You Donate Some Time?

SITM members who are attending the Sierra Nevada Region Conference, April 29-May 1 at the Atlantis in Reno, are asked to donate a few hours of their time to help SITM and SNR.

SNR Archivist Jo Ann Roberts is bringing historic materials from the Region Archives to display during the weekend, commemorating our 40th Anniversary as a region. Members are needed to donate a couple of hours of time to act as monitors for the displayed items. You won't miss any of the action at conference since the display will be located at the back of the conference main meeting room. Let Jo Ann know if you can help.

Member Jan Bogikes has graciously agreed to donate another one of her beautiful hand-made quilts to be used in a fundraising raffle at this year's Sierra Nevada Region Conference, April 29-May 1 at the Atlantis in Reno. Members who are attending conference are asked to volunteer a couple of hours of their time at conference to sit at the club's table and sell tickets in the Sales & Display Room. See Jan to volunteer for a time slot.

Happy Dollars for March

March Happy Dollars in the amount of \$281 were collected for the IGU Committee's Nepal Project. April Happy Dollars are designated for the Sierra Nevada Stitchers, who produce hand-sewn blankets, hats and other items for local hospitals and children's organizations.

Membership Changes

The Board granted leaves of absence for Kathy Hudson from April 1 through June 30, for medical reasons. The Board also granted a leave of absence for Jan Bogikes from May 1 through June 23, for travel.

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Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows
P.O. Box 20125 • Reno, NV 89515
www.sitmnev.org

President Vivian Ruiz
vrui@disabilityresouresnv.com

Editor Faye I. Andersen
fia@pyramid.net or
fandersen@nvenergy.com
775-358-5149 or 834-4822

Newsletter Committee
Liza Chapen
Niki Ewing
Paula Ringkob
Jo Ann Roberts
Norma J. Charette

Also contributing to this issue
Vivian Ruiz
Georgia Baker-Flambures
Patti Dory
Monica House
Jeanne Baxter
Diana Dillon

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. 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 . . .

Happy Fortieth Anniversary Sierra Nevada Region

At this year's Region Conference, April 29 - May 1 in Reno, members will celebrate 40 years since the founding of the Sierra Nevada Region. At the 1976 Santa Rosa conference, the Southwestern Region was divided into three regions to become Founder Region, Sierra Pacific Region and Sierra Nevada Region. The Soroptimists of the Sierra Nevada Region dared to be different, to think creatively, act professionally, yet maintain the values and ideals expressed by founding Soroptimists.

Perhaps it was best said by a highly-regarded Charter Member of Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows.

"Sierra Nevada Region began its career with excellent leadership in its board and committee personnel, a very firm foundation for action and accomplishment was set, ... a climate for innovation was established which is still alive, and a feeling among the membership developed that Sierra Nevada is a "doer" region. We became well-known throughout the federation as a pacesetter, activist region. We developed a sense of who we are and of great cohesiveness. We are not afraid of new ideas. We opened every path of communication to the membership and streamlined many procedures. Long before the days of "Awareness, Advocacy and Action", we initiated, through our public affairs program led by Dr. Dorothy Patterson, just exactly such a program, using not exactly the same words, but the same logical process."

— Cecelia P. Abrahams, 1980