



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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November 2016

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- Nov. 15 – Sip & Shop, 5-9 p.m., Ethan Allen
- Nov. 17 – Education-Youth, Principal Amanda McWilliams
- Nov. 17 – Making a Difference for Women Committee Meeting 1 p.m., Atlantis
- Nov. 24 – DARK for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 1 – Human Rights of Women & Girls Worldwide
- Dec. 6 – Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Staybridge Suites
- Dec. 8 – Business Meeting
- Dec. 9-10 – Salvation Army Gift Wrapping

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Second Floor Convention Center
\$20 for lunch
RSVP to sitmtruckeemeadows@hotmail.com no later than noon on the Tuesday before the Thursday meeting.

Soroptimist Is:

a global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.



www.sitmnev.org

Time to Reflect and Give Thanks

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and the holidays that follow, I pause and reflect on the many blessings we enjoy—our loved ones, our freedoms as Americans, and the privilege of serving our community and country by being part of this great organization. Given the demands of our work, we too often get caught up in the pace of everyday life and don’t take the time to appreciate how incredibly fortunate we all are.



In my case, I feel extraordinarily grateful to be part of this organization. Over the many years, and different positions, I have worked beside countless and exceptional volunteers, and witnessed the sacrifices that each of you have made to make this organization GREAT. Now, as President, I have seen firsthand how each of you goes about your duties with unlimited and impressive ability, dedication, expertise, and selflessness. It is truly inspirational to observe.

So, at a time when we traditionally give thanks, I say THANK YOU for all of

your hard work and dedication to keep this organization strong and moving forward. From my family to yours, we wish you a happy and heartfelt Thanksgiving, filled with abundance and bright moments.

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!
President Jennifer Burnitt

How much do you know? Find Out December 1

How much do you know about the daily lives of women living in other countries around the world?

The December 1 meeting will give you a chance to test that knowledge with true stories “Ripped From the Headlines”. The Human Rights/Status of Women Committee will be celebrating International Human Rights Day, with a focus on human rights abuses suffered by women and girls around the world.

You Can Brighten Christmas for a “Transition Student”

Be sure to attend the November 17 luncheon to become a “Secret Santa” for a grateful child by selecting a tag from the Angel Tree. Speaking at the November 17 meeting will be Hunter Lake Elementary Principal Amanda McWilliams.

She will speak about the unique challenges of being a school principal with a very diverse population, plus the risks and rewards of working with students at Hunter Lake School.

Principal Amanda McWilliams



November Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

President-Elect Rikki Hensley Ricker, conducted the November Board and Business Meetings while President Jennifer was called away for work.



Celebrating birthdays at the November Business Meeting were from left: Dot Watts, Carol Dinneen, Lynn Robins and Vicki Schultz.

community through the Silver Angel Tree. Those dates are Friday December 9 and Saturday December 10. Members will be invited to gather for breakfast Saturday morning, as in the past, for breakfast at Nothing To It Cooking School, before heading out to wrap packages that day.

Happy Dollars for Now and Later

Happy Dollars collected during October were \$330 and presented to Vivian Ruiz, Executive Director for Disability Resources. Happy Dollars for November will be donated to Noah's Animal House.

Ruby Award Applications Available

Coordinator Doris Phelps from the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee announced the availability of applications to nominate a woman for the Soroptimist Ruby Award: for Women Helping Women. SITM annually recognizes a woman who has worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work.

Ruby Award applications are available on the SITM website at www.sitmnev.org, or you can pick one up at a club meeting. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, December 2. The woman selected will be honored by the committee at the March 16 meeting

December Holiday Schedule

It was recently discovered that the December holiday schedule on the Club Calendar was in conflict with Club Bylaws. However, our contract for weekly lunches at the Atlantis matched the Club Calendar. The Board recommended and the membership approved a one-time exception. What all that means is the December "Dark Days" for the holidays for this year are December 22 and 29. There will be no regular meetings on those days. November 24 is also dark for Thanksgiving, but you already knew that.

Senior Gift Wrapping, Instead of Deliveries

Coordinator Diana Dillion from the Economic and Social Development Committee informed members of a change in plans by the Salvation Army for the annual Senior Gift Delivery. First, members of SI/Reno will not be joining us this year. Second, the Salvation Army will be hosting holiday parties at individual senior housing complexes. Therefore, there is no need for deliveries. However, the Salvation Army still needs our help.

The committee proposed, the Board recommended and the membership approved two dates for members to volunteer to wrap gifts for seniors donated by the

Sell those tickets

Don't forget to sell your 50/50 raffle tickets. (Penney and Barbara won't let you forget.) If you have not picked up your tickets, Barbara and Penney are at each meeting distributing packets. In case you forgot, tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25. Currently the "pot" is up to \$3,100. Please make every effort to sell your tickets. The winning ticket to be drawn December 15. Proceeds benefit SITM's Service Fund.

 Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows	Raffle Ticket #0001	# 0001
	Drawing to be held on Thursday, December 15th, 2016 during lunch Make checks payable to SITM Winner need not be present to win	
Grand Prize 50 / 50 RAFFLE \$10 Per Ticket or 3 for \$25		
	Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows	Drawing to be held Thurs, Dec 15th, 2016 Name: _____ Address: _____

Celebrating Nevada Day with a Halloween Flair

SITM continued its tradition of hosting a "Halloween Social" where costumes were optional, but hilarity was contagious. Besides providing our own entertainment, the special guest speaker was Tammy Busick, retired teacher, historian, curator at the Bowers Mansion and Patty Downs' sister.

With October 31 being the anniversary of Nevada's admission into the union, Tammy gave a historical presentation of how quickly Nevada moved from territorial status to statehood in only 14 years. Her emphasis was on women's contributions to the process from the wagon trip to the state, to the first settlements in the state, to the creation of a state constitution. As we all know, few women from those days are remembered in history for their contributions.

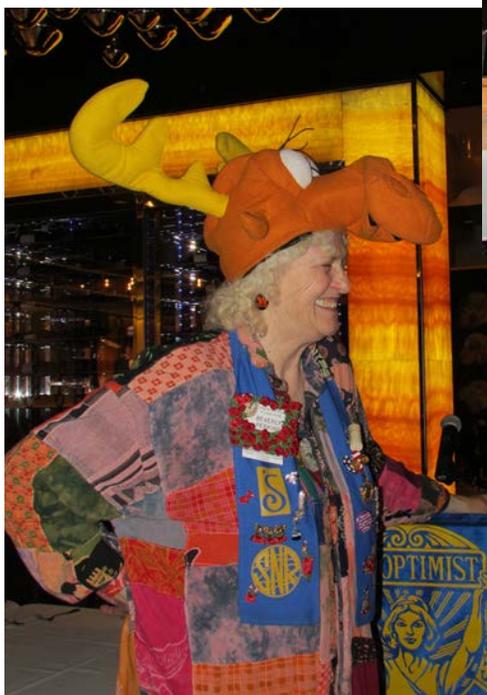
Prizes awarded for best costumes, included two winners, the duo of "Bad Girl Scouts" Valerie Hahn and Chris Fegert; with runner-up, Wicked Witch Jeanne Naccarato.



Posing for a group photo were, from left, The Bad Girl Scouts, Valerie Hahn and Chris Fegert; Wicked Witch Jeanne Naccarato; Minion Kay Dunham; Ballerina Dot Watts and Fisherwoman Mary Beth Roselli.



A coven of witches, from left, Cindy Burk, Jeanne Naccarato, Lynne Catrow and Rikki Hensley-Ricker.



Bev "Bullwinkle" Perkins



Tammy Busick

December 10th SI President's Appeal, Educate to Lead: Nepal

In honor of Human Rights Day, the Human Rights/ Status of Women Committee will make a special presentation at the December 1 SITM meeting on the human rights of women and girls around the world.

Each year, on December 10th, International Human Rights Day, the Soroptimist International President invites all Soroptimists to join her in making a personal sacrifice and donating money to be used to benefit SI projects for education and leadership.

The December 10th President's Appeal for 2015-2017 was designated by SI President Yvonne Simpson as ***Educate to Lead: Nepal***. The program seeks to *Educate, Empower* and *Enable* women & girls in Nepal to overcome adversity, and develop leadership skills that will in turn benefit entire communities. Calling on the collective power of Soroptimist International members, the Appeal announced the first three inspiring projects in December 2015.

The first project supported is **The Australian Himalayan Foundation** and its *Teacher Training & Quality Education Program*. Project two is a project from **SI/Truckee Meadows**, which works to remove the barriers to education for women and girls in Nepal. The **Tharu Women's Project** is the third project and was developed by SI/Oita-Midori, Japan, and aims to provide literacy opportunities to 200 women.

SITM was honored to host SI President Yvonne, along with current and past SIA Presidents for a visit in March 2016, along with a special presentation on our project, ***Removing Barriers to Education for Girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal.***

According to SI President Yvonne, "These first three projects alone will provide access to education and livelihood for at least 200 women and girls. By meeting or exceeding the donations from previous appeals, we will increase access to education for more than 1,000 women and girls. How many depends on our fundraising success!"



President Yvonne also said, "Thank you in advance for your generous contributions - the more we give, the more women and girls we can help in Nepal."



Education Youth Seeking Thanks to Youth Applications

By Eileen Fuller

The Education Youth Committee met at Connie Steinheimer's home on October 18, and filled the dining room with enthusiastic members, good food, water and wine!

Co-Coordinator Eileen Fuller, and past Co-Coordinator Connie Steinheimer and Teresa Mentzer, helped to bring our newest members up to date on our mission and plans for the year. Moshay Akala has volunteered to fill the Co-Coordinator position for the committee.

Plans include distributing letters, youth scholarship and Unsung Heroes applications, with a goal of blanketing the Washoe County Schools up-to three times to make sure they are covered.

Applications are available at www.sitmnev.org with PDF and fillable forms available for submission to edyouth@sitmnev.org. Questions can also be submitted to this email address.

The committee has set a goal of awarding a scholarship to a student in each high school in the Truckee Meadows. If you know a high school senior deserving of a scholarship for college or post-secondary education, or have connections to a school teacher or counselor, please direct them to our applications.

The committee is also seeking nominations of youth between the ages of 7-18 years-old whose contributions, attitudes and actions make the student an Unsung Hero.

The deadline for both applications is January 23, 2017. The committee members will review the applications and make selections of the recipients.

District 5 Director Sarah Carrasco

The Road from a Math Teacher's Praise to a Law Practice

By Faye I. Andersen



Sarah Carrasco was born in Los Angeles and grew up in the area. While in Elementary School, her algebra teacher told her parents, "Sarah is a math genius. She should be

an accountant." Anyone close to Sarah's age will recognize that her parents didn't pay much attention to the compliment. "No one was recognizing what women were capable of at the time," Sarah said.

But Sarah didn't particularly like school and ended up graduating early. She left home at age 17. "In those days, women just didn't do that," she said. She even put those math skills to good use by doing payoff of old loans while working at a title insurance company in the L.A. area.

After nearly 15 years moving from title company to title company as a title officer, she went with a group of four male title officers and started a title company in Beverly Hills, California. She says it's where she learned the importance of the Soroptimist hallmark concept of women helping other women.

According to Sarah, It was tough working with guys who were 20-years older. It was back in the days when they were drinking at lunch and fraternizing with clients to which she was excluded, since she was a women.

With a downturn in business at the firm, she was laid off. "Here I was a partner and I was laid off," she says rather incredulously. She decided to re-join her parents who had moved to

Reno. The move also precipitated a career change.

Sarah went back to school at TMCC, graduating with a 4.0 as a paralegal. After three months working for a local attorney, she said to herself, "I can do what this guy is doing and then some." It was off to UNR where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science.

"I was fortunate that the William S. Boyd School of Law in Las Vegas was just opening at the time," said Sarah. She was 40 when she entered law school and was the first in her family to obtain a graduate degree. Graduating early again, she headed back to Reno to go to work as a lawyer. Today she is a sole practitioner specializing in real estate, creditor's rights and bankruptcy in Reno.

Sarah joined SITM from 2004-2007. She left Soroptimist for a little more than a decade, returning in 2014 as a member of SI/Reno. So far, she has served the club as Vice President and was President last year. She was elected as District 5 Director for the 2016-2018 Biennium. District 5 of the Sierra Nevada Region encompasses nine clubs in northern Nevada and eastern California. She credits Margie Hermanson, serving as a member of the SNR Nominating Committee, for encouraging her to run for office.

Sarah is a member of the Step 2 Board of Directors, which got its start from SI/Reno. She's also a member of the Reno Weaving Guild, learning how to weave in her leisure time.

With two SNR Board meetings and almost six months in office under her belt, she says she, "has a different

understanding of Soroptimist." It's too soon, to have a long-term goal for District 5 clubs specifically and the region in general.

However, when asked by SNR Governor Vicki Watson, what she would like members of District 5 to "Imagine If", she said, "All clubs will increase their membership by five members each in the 2016-2017 club year."



Director Sarah, right, is joined by SI/Reno President Suzanne Boroughf, left, and Sir Topham Hatt, mascot for Thomas the Train, at the Virginia & Truckee R.R. in Virginia City. SI/Reno members volunteered to help with the children visiting Thomas the Train and Sir Topham Hatt.

She sees a lot of "top-down" direction from our federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas, and the region to the clubs, i.e. directing certain programs when clubs have their own, sometimes long-established programs and events. "I think buying into programs is easier

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when they come from the club upward,” she said, “not the other way around.”

Director Sarah sees a strong role for the District Director at the region level. She’s already had a chance to show it, conducting her first Fall District Meeting on October 8 in Reno to a packed house of District 5 clubs.



This is some of the yarn donated by clubs at the Fall District Meeting. Through Sarah’s contacts, she was able to utilize the services of the male residents at the Nevada Department of Corrections in Carson City. The men through the “True Grit” program crochet hats and scarves that SI/Reno then donates to school children at Lemmon Valley Elementary School.

Soroptimist International - Vision, Mission and Principles

A message from Soroptimist International President, Yvonne Simpson, 2015-2017

The Soroptimist International Board renewed its commitment to a world of peace, gender equality, and human rights at its September Board meeting. Soroptimist International moved forward with a revised mission to meet the SI vision, with confirmed principles and five strategic priorities in a Strategic Plan that covers 2016 – 2019 as below.

VISION

The Soroptimist International vision is that women and girls will achieve their individual and collective potential, realize aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

MISSION

Soroptimists transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

PRINCIPLES

The principles of Soroptimism are to strive for:

- The advancement of the status of women;
- High ethical standards
- Human rights for all;
- Equality, development and peace; and
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace

THEME UNTIL 2021: EDUCATE TO LEAD

Soroptimist International’s five STRATEGIC PRIORITIES and GOALS will steer our work:

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Global Advocacy:

SI advocates for human rights and gender equality through education and empowerment.

Global Communications:

SI communicates our collective global impact.

International Convention:

SI holds a convention in 2019.

SI President’s Appeal:

SI unites Soroptimists worldwide through a President’s Appeal to educate, empower and enable women and girls.

SI Strategic Leadership:

SI leadership employs best governance practices.



*Soroptimist International President
Yvonne Simpson*

Candidates and Ballot Questions Presented at SITM Meetings

Nine candidates for local elective office were on hand October 20 to present their qualifications for office and future plans if they were elected. Thanks to Margie Hermanson for arranging the candidates' visit to SITM.



Katy Simon Holland – Washoe County School Board District G



Julia Ratti – State Senate District 13



Bill Horn – Washoe County School Board District G



Shelly O'Neill – Reno Municipal Judge Department 2



David Bobzien – Reno City Council At Large



Kristopher Dahir – Sparks City Council Ward 5



Charles Woodman – Reno Municipal Judge Department 2



Jessica Longley – Sparks Justice Court Department 3, Justice of the Peace



Eli Smith – State Assembly District 25



Amber Johnson



Susan Morrison

President-Elect Rikki Hensley-Ricker presented the October 6 meeting on statewide Question 2, asking voters to approve the legalization of marijuana for recreational and commercial purposes. Amber Johnson, Prevention Specialist with Join Together Northern Nevada and Susan Morrison, Board Member, Nevadans for Responsible Drug Policy both spoke in opposition of passage of Question 2. Amber works in the community on drug prevention and Susan was a resident of the State of Colorado when the use of recreational marijuana was legalized.

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SITM's own Alysia Peters spoke at the September 15 meeting about the merits of passing the ballot question WC-1 raising sales taxes in support of the Washoe County School District to construct new schools and repair existing schools.

Seeking Nominations for the Soroptimist Ruby Award

Do you know an outstanding woman who has worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work? Nominate her for the Soroptimist Ruby Award: for Women Helping Women. Soroptimists throughout our Federation annually seek out women who have made a significant difference in the lives of women and girls through their business or profession, community volunteerism or personal endeavors.

Human Rights/Status of Women Coordinator Doris Phelps has announced that applications are now available on the club's website at www.sitimnv.org in the "Alerts" box, or can be picked up at a club meeting.

To nominate a woman, you only need to submit a statement (no more than 750 words) describing why she should receive the award. The selected recipient will receive up to \$750 donated in her name to the charity of her choice.

The deadline for applications is Friday, December 2. The committee will select the honoree and she will be recognized at the March 16 club meeting.

MADFW is February 1 Drop off clothes at Ethan Allen

The Making a Difference for Women Committee has announced the event has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, a departure from the regular Saturday schedule. More details to come.

In the meantime, keep collecting those work appropriate clothes, shoes and accessories to be donated to the Clothes Closet at the end of the event.

Once again Jeanne Baxter has graciously offered storage space at Ethan Allen. Drop off your donations at Ethan Allen (located at 9065 S. Virginia Street, Reno).

Donation Hours: Tuesday – Saturday; 9:00 am – 3:00 p.m.

Donation Drop Off: Near the flagpole and be sure you mention the donation is for Making a Difference. Check in at reception if you need assistance.

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



At the November 3 meeting, International Goodwill & Understanding Co-Coordinator Monica House presented a recap of the committee's international pursuits and projects over the past decade, plus an update on the ongoing project to educate girls in Nepal.



Four Soroptimists, along with two Soroptimisters-in-training spent an evening creating 35 bracelets for the patients at the RENOWN Oncology Center who have completed their chemotherapy infusions. Pictured from left are: Tanner Ewing, Margie Hermanson, Bev Perkins, Kay Dunham and Parker Ewing. Mom Niki took the photo.

SITM Committees: Where the Work Gets Done

Continuing on with spotlighting the hard work of SITM's many committees, here are three more committees engaged in their work towards scholarships and events.

Education Youth

Enjoying a good lunch and good company are the members of the Education Youth Committee. They are making plans and working on the Thanks to Youth Scholarships and Unsung Heroes program. From left are: Jo Ann Lessly, (Christi Clark's hand), Annette Friedlander, Dot Watts, Carol Dinneen, Co-Coordinator Eileen Fuller, Dorothy Nash Holmes, Teresa Mentzer, Jeanne Naccarato, Marlys Pryor and Co-Coordinator Moshay Akala.



Making a Difference for Women

The Making a Difference for Women Committee took advantage of the time after a regular Thursday luncheon to gather and make plans for the upcoming skills training seminar. From left are committee members Anna McArdle, Pam Robinson, Eileen Fuller, Bev Perkins, Co-Coordinator Jeanne Naccarato and Rikki Hensley-Ricker, plus Dot Watts.



Education Women

Members of the Education-Women Committee took the time before a regular Thursday meeting to plan their year's work. This committee is responsible for administering SITM's annual Women's Scholarships and the Live Your Dream Award (formerly Women's Opportunity Award scholarship). They also execute the annual scholarship luncheon. From left are: Carmella Cipollini, Norma Webster, Penney Leezy, Pam Robinson, Margie Hermanson, Niki Ewing, Marlys Pryor, Marilyn Pearson and Barbara Atwell.



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
 following the first Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
 Staybridge Suites
 10559 Professional Circle, Reno

SITM Board 2016-17

President
 Jennifer Burnitt
 President – Elect
 Rikki Hensley-Ricker
 VP/Technical
 Barbara Atwell
 VP/Service
 Alysia Peters
 Recording Secretary
 Doris Phelps
 Corresponding Secretary
 Jeanne Naccarato

Treasurer/General Fund
 Anna McArdle
 Treasurer/Service Fund
 Kay Dunham
 Director, 2 Years
 Vivian Ruiz
 Director, 1 Year
 Pam Sutton
 Delegate
 Bev Perkins
 Alternate Delegate
 Lynne Catrow
 Parliamentarian
 Margie Hermanson



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 Clubs and LiveYourDream.org

Powered by Soroptimist, the LiveYourDream.org online community offers an alternative way to deliver our mission; strengthen and grow the Soroptimist brand; and increase resources to improve the lives of women and girls.

Sign up, take action or follow LiveYourDream.org on social media.

78,000 supporters

have joined our cause to empower women & girls

SIGN UP

73,610 actions

were taken to improve the lives of women & girls

TAKE ACTION

18,206 fans

are regularly following us on social media

FOLLOW US

