



# SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

Volume 24 • Issue 4

October 2018

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

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## Calendar

- Oct. 18 – Public Awareness Committee
- Oct. 25 – SITM 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Nov. 1 – Mujeres Nuevo Comienzo A.C.
- Nov. 6 – Board Meeting, President Jeanne’s home
- Nov. 8 – Business Meeting
- Nov. 15 – Fundraising Committee
- Nov. 22 – Dark, Thanksgiving
- Nov. 29 – Dr. Cathy Fitzgerald from PlaceWorks

## SITM Meets...

### Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$22 for lunch.

RSVP to [sitmtruckeemeadows@hotmail.com](mailto: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.sitmnhv.org](http://www.sitmnhv.org)

## Fall is a Busy Time as SITM’s Committees Hit Their Stride

Fall has finally arrived and I don’t know about you, but at my house I can always tell Fall is here by the number of peanuts stashed in my planters on my patio by the Scrub and Stellar Jays. If their stash is any indication of the winter to come, I think it’s going to be a doozy. So start digging out those coats, jackets, scarves, and mittens to fight off the chill about to descend.

And speaking of Fall, 50/50 Raffle Tickets and Quilt Tickets remain on sale and there is still time to get out there and Sell, Sell, Sell! Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to support the work we do in our community for women and girls. Drawing will be November 15<sup>th</sup> for the lucky winners.

Those of you who did not attend our Candidate’s Forum last Thursday missed an epic event. Margie Hermanson and Pam Sutton planned and executed a fabulous forum. Thanks to Penney Leezy too. She arrived early and stepped in to straighten out the room set-up with the Atlantis staff so that all attendees would have a place to sit. She was also the designated timer for the candidates and performed admirably. This event marked the first time SITM had paired with Reno South Rotary, and their President Adrienne

Thomle. I look forward to more collaborative events between Soroptimist and other non-profits, or perhaps even businesses, as we strive to serve our community.



Not to be forgotten, we have the SITM 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Invitees include past presidents and past members to share in celebrating 40 years of serving women and girls in our community and internationally. It is shaping up to be a gathering not to be missed.

The Hospitality Committee and the Special Anniversary Committee have been working diligently to make this a memorable event. Plan to attend and bring friends to listen to our impactful history of the last 40 years, as well as, reminisce on the adventures experienced along the way.

I am continually amazed and grateful for the powerful and dynamic women of SITM.

Yours in Soroptimism,  
President Jeanne



## Celebrating SITM’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary October 25

Make sure you attend the October 25 meeting when we celebrate 40 years since SITM’s chartering. You will be treated to a photo-history of some of SITM’s greatest projects and programs. Be there and bring a guest.

# Getting to Know the Candidates – A Joint Meeting with Rotary



*Darin Balaam  
Candidate for  
Washoe County  
Sheriff*

SITM teamed up with Reno South Rotary to host a Candidates Forum on October 4 with 118 members, guests and candidates attending. Thirteen candidates participated, vying for offices ranging from city council, sheriff, school board and lieutenant governor.



*Janine Hansen  
Candidate for  
Lieutenant  
Governor*



*Heidi Howe  
Candidate for  
Washoe County  
Sheriff*

The joint meeting was gaveled to order by President Adrienne Thomie of Reno South Rotary and President Jeanne Naccarato from SITM. Forum Co-Coordinator Margie Hermanson laid out the ground rules and introduced the candidates.

*Kate Marshall  
Candidate for  
Lieutenant  
Governor*



*Dian Vanderwell  
Candidate for  
Washoe County  
School Board,  
District B*

Each candidate was allowed three minutes to speak and time after the meeting to answer individual questions, display and hand-out literature.



*Hillary Schieve  
Candidate for  
Reno Mayor*

Reporter Ed Pierce covered the forum for KOLO-TV and interviewed several SITM members.



*Ellen Minetto  
Candidate for  
Washoe County  
School Board,  
District B*

Thanks to Forum Co-Coordinators Margie and Pam Sutton, plus President-Elect Penney Leezy who facilitated room arrangements and acted as timekeeper for the forum.

*Eddie Lorton  
Candidate for  
Reno Mayor*



*Andrew Caudill  
Candidate for  
Washoe County  
School Board,  
District C*

In addition to the candidates speaking, the following were in attendance to support their candidates:

Noah Jennings representing Adam Laxalt for Governor



*Naomi Duerr  
Candidate for Reno  
City Council, Ward 2*

Sarah Adler representing Steve Sisolak for Governor

Diane Baranowski & Cher Daniels representing Bonnie Weber for Reno City Council, Ward 4



*Debbie Feemster  
Candidate for  
Washoe County  
School Board,  
District C*

*Jeffery Church  
Candidate for  
Washoe County  
School Board,  
At Large*



*Joe Lawrence  
Candidate  
for Reno City  
Council, Ward 2*



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Presiding over the Candidates Forum were, from left: Reno South Rotary President Adrienne Thomle, Margie Hermanson, Pam Sutton and SITM President Jeanne Naccarato.



Mary Beth Roselli and Carmela Cipollina chat with Jeffrey Church, candidate for the Washoe County School Board, At Large.



Ed Pierce from KOLO-TV interviewed Aimal Hamil, a new U.S. Citizen and first-time voter.



Pam Sutton explains to the news media the collaborative effort of Soroptimist and Rotary to help inform voters.



The Candidates Forum drew a big crowd from both Soroptimist and Rotary.

**Member Feature -- Norma Webster****From Youthful Adventurer to Thoughtful Philanthropist  
and Avid Genealogist**

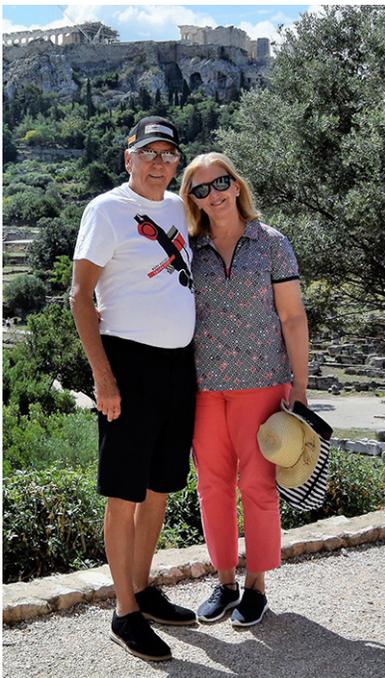
By Faye I. Andersen

Norma Webster was born, raised and schooled in the Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada area, in the nearby community of Burnaby. A sense of adventure along with a desire to travel struck her at age 21 while she was in college. It wasn't long before Norma was on a year-long adventure with a friend in the Fall of 1971. They set out for Hawaii and Fiji and then on to New Zealand, where the pair travelled extensively.

"Many young people were travelling in the early 1970s and there were plenty of youth hostels," Norma said. "We were looking forward to getting to Australia, and eventually were able to move on to Sydney to visit with her friend's family."

The stay in Sydney lasted almost a year and included some time spent in Melbourne. After working and saving their nickels, they took an extended trek through the Australian Outback ("People think Nevada is a desert ...") After a year, Norma was getting homesick and ready to head home and return to college.

While waiting out the time to re-enroll in school, she took a job with a Canadian Tour Operator as a guide. She began accompanying busloads of vacationing Canadians to Reno. "In those days, the casinos in town were booming and offered fantastic discounts and free offers to their northern visitors," she said.



*Norma and Ranson exploring Greece.*

It was on one of those tours that she met the man from Reno who would become her future husband, Ranson Webster. She began spending more of her free time in Reno and eventually quit her tour job. Soon after, they were married in Canada and returned to make their first home together in Sparks. Norma helped raise two stepsons. They've been married 43



*With friends from around the world at Burning Man.*

years now and have six grandchildren.

In those days, Ranson was working for a computer company that provided large computer systems to universities and research institutions. In 1975, when Ranson had difficulty having some manuals typeset, it became apparent that there was a growing need for typesetting service. Since Norma could type, they decided to start a typesetting company in their home. Norma learned to become a typographer and began providing typography services for local printers. It was the foundation for Nevada Typesetting/Nevada Advertising Art, a 25 year business, and her clientele expanded to serve a growing community customer base.

"In 1978, a woman called who was in a panic to have printed material typeset for a Women's Conference at UNR. We worked into the night and on the weekend and this project resulted in my first Soroptimist friend, Annette Wimmer," Norma recalled. "She invited me to a Soroptimist lunch, which at that time was one table at Sambo's Pancake House in Sparks." Just a few years later she would be serving as SITM's seventh president in 1985-1986.

Up to this point Norma remembers all of her acquaintances were neighbors, her husband's friends' spouses or people affiliated with the graphics world. "Soroptimist offered the opportunity to learn much more about my community and engage with interesting women in different business fields. Little did I know, my most enduring and closest friendships would result from this affiliation," she said.

Her business grew into the largest typesetting house in the

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The Webster - Laurenson Clan.

area, a business that she describes today as “gone the way of the dinosaur with desktop publishing.” By 1999, Ranson’s company, Computing Resources Inc., (CRI) had grown to the fourth largest payroll services company in America. CRI purchased Nevada Typesetting and not long after, CRI sold the business to Intuit. Norma continued her work for a time, but soon retired.

Since that time, Norma says she has spent a lot of time “in the pits”, as car aficionado Ranson took up racing. But she has her own interests as well. Travel and genealogy are two of her passions. She is very proud of the affiliation and involvement she continues to have with the Community Foundation of Western Nevada.

Recently, she’s become very involved with the Giving Circle, which is a network of women championing the wellbeing, achievement and advancement of women and

children. Each year there is a focus on one area of grant making. With a 10-year history, their most recent grants have been to the Committee to Aid Abused Women, Project Next Step, The You – Youth Drop In Center, Northern Nevada HOPES Financial Wellness Clinic and TMCC’s First Year (and Beyond) Experience for At Risk Youth.

“The most involved project was setting up a local Micro Lending Fund, the genesis of which was SITM’s micro lending project in Thulipokhari, Nepal.” she said. “This was a very hands-on, time consuming project - who would have thought it would be so difficult!”

“After three years of wading through the legal bureaucracy of lending we launched our program (in partnership with the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, Plumas Bank and Northern Nevada HOPES) and are close to completing our fourth loan,” Norma said proudly. “Our hope is to help lift women out of payday lender and high credit card interest cycles. Through this process it has become very apparent that education on financial literacy needs to start as soon as a child understands putting money in a piggy bank.”

Norma was named the 2017 Nevada Women’s Fund Hall of Fame Honoree. During her acceptance speech she gave credit to Soroptimist for some of her foundation in community service and philanthropy. She has become a great advocate for women in philanthropy, social capital and knowledge while making thoughtful contributions that make a difference. She admits it has resulted in “a huge network of ladies who will pitch in and get things done.”

Norma, we are proud you are part of our Soroptimist network.



Members of the Scrapbook Committee are making sure that President Jeanne has a scrapbook to commemorate her year as President. From left are Dot Watts, Marilyn Pearson, Bev Perkins and Jo Ann Lessly. Committee member Jan Bogikes is behind the camera.

## Congratulations to SITM's Newest Brides

SITM has three new brides and what better reason to hold a gathering to celebrate them and their grooms. Niki Ewing graciously hosted the evening reception at Montreux Country Club on October 2.

Melissa and Casey Kreck were married in February in Patagonia, Chile.

Diana and Jeff DeMatei were married August 24 at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church in Reno.

Valerie and Blane Harding were married September 22 at their new home.



*Blane and Valerie Harding*



*Casey & Melissa Kreck*



*Joining the celebration were, from left: Linda Walker, Jeanne and Drew Naccarato, Margie and Bob Hermanson, Bill Walker and Kay Dunham.*



*Jeff and Diana DeMatei*



*Eileen Fuller, standing, with Fernando and Nancy Madrigal, and President Jeanne Naccarato.*



*More couples join the celebration, from left: Jeff Ostomel, David Meares and Ana Nadimi, Connie Steinheimer, Russ and Vicki Schultz.*



*Eileen Fuller, standing, Co-Coordinator of the Education-Youth Committee conducts the meeting with Patte Robnette, left and Piper Mullen, Pam Sutton and Jo Ann Lessley (with her back to camera).*

## Thanks to Youth Set for May 16 - Save The Date

Thanks to Youth is held every spring, but it takes a good start in the Fall to make the program a success each year. The Education-Youth and Thanks to Youth Committees held a joint planning session this month to begin the long process of finding both youth scholarship recipients and Unsung Heroes honorees.

The Education-Youth Committee is currently soliciting applications from schools, churches, youth organizations and others. The Thanks to Youth Committee will soon be planning the special luncheon where the scholars and heroes will be honored.



*Members of the Education-Youth and Thanks to Youth Committees gathered in a planning session. From the bottom clockwise: Liza Chapen, Vicki Schultz, President Jeanne Naccarato, Teresa Mentzer, Linda Walker, Monica House and Connie Steinheimer.*

## Your Last Chance for 50/50 and Lucky Star Quilt Raffle Tickets

It's almost your last chance to get in on these two fundraising raffles. Winning tickets will be drawn at the November 15 meeting.

The Fundraising Committee still has tickets for you to take to sell to friends, family and colleagues. Check them out at the Fundraising Table, across from the Attendance Table at each meeting.

50/50 tickets are available for sale at \$10 per ticket or 3 for \$25. Currently the 50/50 raffle is approaching \$1,000.

Tickets are also available to win Jan Bogikes' beautifully hand-crafted Lucky Star Quilt, for just \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. The Lucky Star pattern is framed in warm golds and browns and could be just right for a standard double bed, or hanging on your wall as a piece of art.



## October 24 is United Nations Day



October 24 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

Soroptimist International is an officially recognized Non-Governmental

Organization (NGO) of the United Nations (UN) with Category 1 Consultative Status with the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), along with links to six other UN Agencies, plus supporting projects for three other UN Agencies.

The UN Charter sets out its main purposes: Maintaining worldwide peace and security; Developing relations among nations; Fostering cooperation between nations in order to solve economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian international problems.

Soroptimist International maintains representatives at each of the United Nations five locations in New York, Geneva, Paris, Rome and Vienna that are appointed by the Soroptimist International President.

## Global Peril to Journalists Continues

By Doris Phelps, member of the International Goodwill and Understanding Committee

The headlines these past several days are breaking news about the fate of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi who was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to complete marriage documents. While stories of his torture and death within the consulate surface, Khashoggi's plight serves as the most recent incident of assaults and other crimes against journalists.

The United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO took action on this subject in 2013 to proclaim November 2 as International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists. During the period 2006-17, nearly 1,010 journalists were killed around the world for

reporting news and bringing information to the public. Nine out of 10 cases go unpunished.

The proclamation urges UN members to implement definite measures countering the present culture of acquitting or dismissing the killers. It condemns all attacks against journalists and media workers. Additionally, impunity leads to more killings and is often a symptom of the breakdown of law and judicial systems, especially where a society is in conflict or decline. In the United States, our hyper-political media discourse hopefully will not lead to any escalation in abusive actions or violence.

## Member Survey Reveals Likes, Dislikes and Why Members Stay

by Patty Downs, Membership Co-coordinator

The Membership Committee conducted a survey at the September 27 meeting. During the "round-table" discussions, scribes captured the following comments and opinions from members.

According to Membership Co-Coordinator Patty Downs, "This is valuable information for committees as we plan activities and meetings."

A couple of common themes arising from the survey include inviting outside speakers, interaction among the members both during meetings and social activities, growth in membership and continual evaluation of projects.

### 1. Why do you stay a member

Serving the community, making a difference, being a part of something bigger, opportunities to learn,

broaden our horizons, supportive people, purposeful work, our projects, friendships, apolitical.

### 2. What would make you leave?

Expense, personal reasons, becomes political, religious or unethical, interpersonal rift, cliques, unresolved controversy, mission change or no longer making a difference.

### 3. What would you like to see more of?

Impactful guest & community based speakers (women's issues, educate, leadership), substantive discussions, fundraising from outside the club, growth, greater diversity, interactive meetings, impactful programs, programs that further our mission, consider two social meetings a year, extend meeting time 1:15 p.m. or 1:30 p.m., evening social activities,

more effort to increase membership, family events, events for seniors, refine our projects, keep re-examining, action from surveys.

### 4. Less of?

Stupid games, less committees, fundraising primarily from members, more budgeting, cell phone use during meetings, less meetings focused on us, no beading parties instead have a social.

### 5. What should continue?

Meeting format but consider moving to morning or weekend, scholarships, Unsung Heroes, community outreach, continue what we are doing but annually evaluate, our great projects, support of women with children and each other, collaborations (human trafficking event with AG's office, Rotary Candidates Forum).

# Skill and Creativity Shines at Beading Party



Beading organizers, from left, Bev Perkins, Marilyn Pearson and Jan Bogikes brought everything members needed to create bracelets, including matching bead packets, beading boards, even magnifying readers.



Margie Hermanson and Linda Walker trying their hands at beading.

Paula Ringkob tackles bracelet making.



SITM members participated in a “beading party” at the September 20 meeting. For several years members have created “Beads of Strength” bracelets for donation to the Oncology Infusion Center at Renown Hospital. When patients finish their treatments they are offered the opportunity to select one of the bracelets as a symbol of their completion.



Getting a little instruction from Bev Perkins, were Pam Robinson and Millie Mitchell.



Hard at work on their bracelets were, from left: Patte Robnette, Eve Johnson, Mary Beth Roselli and Amanda Strong.



President-Elect Penney Leezy and President Jeanne Naccarato joined in the beading fun.

Sarah Carrasco and her Mother Carmen Ferjo took a turn at making a bracelet.



## October Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

### SITM's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be Celebrated October 25

Don't forget to attend, bring a friend and/or a former member to SITM's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 25. You don't want to miss what the Hospitality Committee has planned for the occasions. The program will include a pictorial history of some of our service projects, fundraising pursuits and special occasions over the past 40 years.

### Vintage Airplane Calendar Sales Nearing an End

On behalf of the subcommittee of the Fundraising Committee, Diana DeMatei gave a near-final accounting of the sales of vintage airplane calendars. Some 240 calendars were ordered, 217 have been sold, and 56 of those sold were donated to veterans groups and individuals (thank you Pam Robinson). The remaining calendars are still for sale at \$17 each. The estimated net to date is \$2,482.

### Your Chance to Play Santa to a Disadvantaged Youth

The Board recommended and the membership approved a motion by the Education-Youth Committee for members to once again voluntarily participate in providing holiday gifts for disadvantaged youth attending Hunter Lake Elementary School. These are "children in transition" who live in motels in the Fourth Street corridor and shelters. The children number approximately 75, one-half of whom will be provided gifts by a local church. Members Connie Steinheimer, Teresa Mentzer and Shirley George will be bringing an "Angel Tree" to the November 15 Meeting. A gift return and gift wrapping party will be announced for some time in early December.

### Want to Learn to Crochet? Or Just Join Others Who Crochet?

As the weather turns cold, thoughts turn to crocheting afghans – for some of us anyway. The Board recommended and the membership approved a motion from the Community Outreach Committee for interested members to voluntarily crochet afghans to be donated to a community organization. An "Afghan Social" to learn how to crochet, or just join others will be held on Tuesday, October 23 after 5 p.m. at Diana DeMatei's office at SWAG Blue Moon, 1375 Greg St., #105. Contact Diana for directions. If you're just learning, just show up and yarn and crochet hook will be provided.

### New SITM Delegate Elected

Due to the departure of SITM's Delegate Amanda Strong, a new Delegate was elected at the October Business Meeting. Amanda has moved to Las Vegas and we wish her well. The Board recommended and the membership approved Diana DeMatei as Amanda's replacement. Thanks to Diana for stepping up to the job.

### September Happy Dollars Benefit Disability Resources

September Happy Dollars in the amount of \$193 was collected for Bristlecone Family Resources. The October Happy Dollars are designated for Disability Resources Inc.



Members with October birthdays got the chance to tell a funny Soroptimist memory. From left are Jean Neddenriep, Linda Walker and Faye I. Andersen.

## Mark Your Calendars for November 29

Our speaker will be Dr. Cathy Fitzgerald, a Civil/Environmental Engineer with PlaceWorks, a community planning and design firm headquartered in Berkeley, California. Dr. Fitzgerald will speak about her adventures to bring clean water to remote villages throughout the world.



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**Board Meets monthly on Tuesday**  
 following the first Thursday, 5:30 p.m.  
 President Jeanne Naccarato's home

**Contributing to this issue**

- Jo Ann Roberts
- Jeanne Naccarato
- Connie Steinheimer
- Jan Bogikes
- Doris Phelps
- Patti Doty
- Patty Downs

**SITM Board 2017-18**

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| President<br>Jeanne Naccarato     | Treasurer/General Fund<br>Pam Robinson |
| President – Elect<br>Penney Leezy | Treasurer/Service Fund<br>Lynne Catrow |
| VP/Program<br>Dot Watts           | Director<br>Rikki Hensley-Ricker       |
| VP/Membership<br>Chris Fegert     | Delegate<br>Diana DeMatei              |
| Secretary<br>Linda Walker         | Parliamentarian<br>Margie Hermanson    |



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 . . .

## SIA Club Roadmap For Success in 2018-2019

*Reprinted from Soroptimist International of the Americas*

SIA Clubs are committed to providing an engaging and meaningful, mission-based experience. But, of course, our members are busy women. And serving women and girls who face obstacles such as poverty, violence and teen-pregnancy – locally and throughout the world – can be a tall order.

To make it easier to accomplish our organization's goals we have developed this simple club road map for your use, in order to provide a positive club experience while helping to build our collective impact and recognition, clubs are asked to do these five things:

**Programs**

Increase the number of women and girls your club serves by providing additional *Live Your Dream Awards* and holding *Dream It. Be It.* programs

**Membership**

Grow and retain members by creating an enjoyable and civil member experience.

**Public Awareness**

Gain greater recognition by promoting your club's impact through our Dream Programs.

**Fundraising**

Increase funds raised to support our brand unifying Dream Programs.

**Future**

Mobilize support of our 2021-2031 Big Goal: *Invest in the dreams of a half million women and girls through access to education.*