

# SITM UPDATE ~ We are the World



*Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows*

## Letter from the President *by Marilyn Pearson*

We're off to a fabulous start this year! Committees are doing a wonderful job providing us with new and interesting program meetings. Several of our Board members attended COTR (Club Orientation and Training Retreat) to learn the ins and outs of running a club. Attendance remains high, even with vacations, and we're enjoying having our luncheon meetings in the new ballrooms at the Atlantis. If you haven't been to a meeting lately, you're missing out!

Speaking of vacations, in March, we'll have a program meeting called "Soroptimists Travel the World" in keeping with our "We are the World" theme this year. I encourage you to email 10 of your best travel photos to me to incorporate into a PowerPoint presentation for that program. Any travel you've done outside the US over the past few years could be used.

President Elect Beverly Perkins has volunteered to ensure that SITM receives all the awards/recognitions it is entitled to this year by making sure applications are filled out and submitted on time. Vice Presidents Jennifer Crowe-Clark (Service Committees) and Ann Steckline (Technical Committees) will be working closely with their committee coordinators to make sure everyone has the information they need to succeed.

Air Race Committee Co-coordinators Diana Dillon and Kay Dunham are gearing us up for another lucrative event September 8-14. Your participation during this week funds so many of our committees and projects. Be sure to join in the fun. Okay . . . it's hot, cold, dusty, chaotic, and exhausting.

## Air Races *by Tracy Turner*

Why is SITM involved in the Air Races ... And why are the Air Races such a big deal?

The simple answer is: to make money to support all the wonderful projects we do each year. But how long have we been involved and how did it all start?

It all started in 1982. Jo Ann Roberts was club president. The club, having been chartered in 1978, was looking for fund raising opportunities. A member of the club, Susan Hill, was involved with the Air Races and brought the opportunity and idea of being a vendor to SITM. That first year the club sold pennants and "flight bags." That early effort netted SITM enough to pay for the merchandise and generate a small profit. Thankfully, the Reno Air Race Association—fondly known as RARA—didn't charge their usual commission that year because bad weather really lowered attendance.

After that first year, SITM expanded its merchandise to include calendars, clocks, decorative mirrors, jewelry, books, art, posters, and clothing. My early memories of working the Air Races were working that booth to sell our merchandise and hoping it would all be gone by the end of the week. If it didn't, that meant our club would have lots left over and less money in the bank!

Four years ago, in 2004, RARA approached SITM through Diana Dillon to see whether SITM would be interested in staffing their smaller sales store. Under the direction of Georgia Baker and

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**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women

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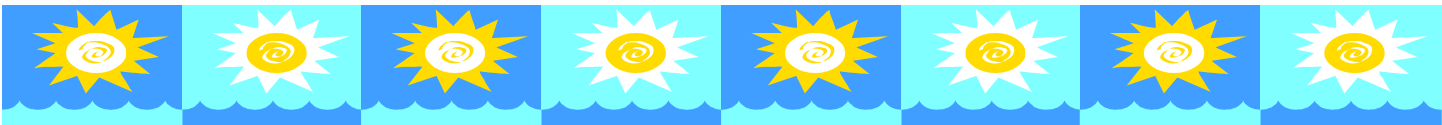
### Board Members 2008-09

- Marilyn Pearson—President
- Beverly Perkins—President Elect
- Jo Ann Roberts—Parliamentarian
- Ann Steckline —VP Technical
- Jennifer Crowe—VP Service
- Becky Moody—Recording Secretary
- Dorothy Nash Holmes—Corresponding Secretary
- Norma Rash—Treasurer G.F.
- Paula Ringkob—Treasurer S.F.
- Pam Robertson—Director 1 year
- Gayle Baxley—Director 2 years
- Marna Griffin —Delegate 1 year
- Paula Leyba — Delegate 2 year
- Patti Doty —Alt. Delegate 1 year
- Cheryl Powell—Alt Delegate 2 year

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## News of Our Members—HAPPY DOLLARS!

Peggy Smith's son is attending National Boy's Camp. Lyn Robins is glad to be back in Soroptimist and we are glad to have her back. Faye Andersen had an opportunity to promote Soroptimist when her boss, the CEO of Sierra Pacific Power saw her license plate frame which says "Proud to be a Soroptimist". The promotion worked so well, he is making a donation to our Nepal project. Our speaker on aging really inspired Kay Dunham who says she plans to live to be 100 so she can take her great grandchild to Disneyland. Pam Robinson is using her Wii Fit to exercise. She says it can be very strenuous. Linda Lamke has taken a tip from Billie Mendiola. When her family camps out, she stays in a hotel. She never again has to stay in a tent. Vicki Schultz' daughter is returning to the FBI, but will be working in Las Vegas instead of Washington. Vicki had the opportunity to babysit for a couple of days. Eileen Fuller's husband won a gift certificate to Wolf Creek at Thanks to Youth. They were able to use it and had a great time.

Beverly Perkins took a trip to Wisconsin for a family reunion. On the way back, who did she run into, but our own Enid Oliver. They both had plane changes in Colorado. Jennifer Crowe is excited that she has returned to her pre baby weight. She did it by attending "Baby Boot Camp". She also has family visiting from the East Coast. Ann Steckline also had company visiting for Hot August Nights. Becky Moody is back from vacation where they saw a baseball game in San Diego. She also took one of our unsung heroes, Alexis Compton, shopping and it was quite an experience. She was able to buy 13 items with her money. What made the day even more special was that it was the second anniversary of her adoption. Norma Rash was reporting for the IGU Committee, since Connie Steinheimer is recovering from an injury she suffered while bicycling. Norma also reported that she has spoken to Dawn Pontrelli, and that she is at home and recovering, though she did suffer from an infection after her surgery. Margie Hermanson is going to her class reunion. She was so pleased that her grandson said "Grandma, you look really pretty". Not bad for a two year old. Her husband is having radiation treatment and seems to be tolerating them well. Vicki Schultz enjoyed Hot August Nights and saw performances by Herman's Hermits, Davey Jones and Jerry and the Pacemakers. Some of our younger members may have no idea who they are, but they were all pretty big in the 60's. Sonja Hen has new staff at the Nevada Land Conservancy, which will free her up to do more of the work she enjoys. She also has a new basket and bell for her bike. See last month's newsletter to see about the bike. Tracy Turner is having house guests from Holland. They have been invited to reciprocate and visit in Holland.

Sue Camp is glad that husband, Vic, is going out of town without her. That is an unusual situation. Georgia Baker and John are rented motorcycles to ride to the Lake while they go to San Harbor to see Richard III. They had a bit of trouble when the

seat came loose and Georgia ended up with a burned leg. Linda Buszka is coming to town again. We always look forward to seeing her. Enid Oliver thanked Bev Perkins for letting her pick her brain on taxes. She also reported that her dad is quite ill. (We have subsequently heard that her dad has passed away. Please keep Enid in your thoughts.) Niki Ewing reported having a sonogram and her boys are growing just fine. They now weigh 2 lb 6 oz. Kay Dunham was approached at a United Way function and asked why she had not joined Rotary instead of Soroptimist. Kay was able to respond that Soroptimist focuses on "Women and Girls". That seemed to satisfy the questioner. Marna Griffin is in training to hike in Nepal. She has climbed Mt. Rose twice. Pam Robinson's daughter is now officially working for the FDIC, but has a job offer with another bank. Her son is thinking of leaving Nebraska and moving to Denver. As of September 1, Pam will be working for Met Life as they are purchasing First Horizon. She wants a picture of Snoopy on her business cards. Kris Olson also enjoyed the concerts at Hot August Nights. And the fact that husband, Wayne did not find any more cars to purchase. Gayle Baxley reported that she has been a victim of the real estate market, in that she has been laid off from Dickson Realty. She is actively searching new employment.

## SIA White Paper—Breast Cancer & Low-income Women

*Alexandra, a 42-year old mother of four children, lives in a small mining community in southwestern Ecuador. She provides her children with love and sustenance while also caring for her husband who suffers from a number of maladies caused by poor ventilation in the gold mines where he worked. He can no longer work, and she must earn enough money as a maid to support the family.*

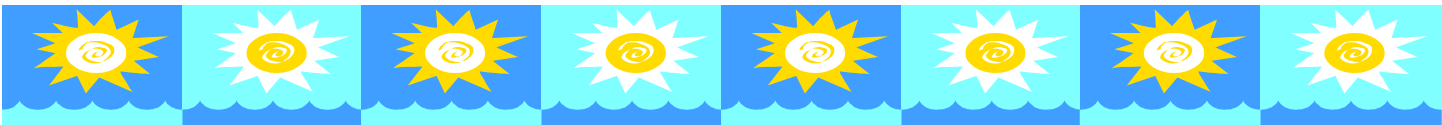
*One day, Alexandra notices that one of her nipples is discharging fluid. She is concerned, and tells her husband. He is also concerned, but he is unfamiliar with her symptoms and cannot offer advice. Her friends suggest herbal medicines and prayer as treatment. After spending several weeks fruitlessly waiting for the discharge to stop, Alexandra decides to travel to the city of Machala to see a doctor. Transportation costs and time off from work will cost her the equivalent of two weeks of food for her family.*

*At the hospital, Alexandra finds a nurse who performs a breast examination. The nurse discovers lumps in Alexandra's left breast,*

*(Continued on page 5)*







## August Board/Business News *by Faye I. Andersen*

August's Board and Business Meetings featured a number of financial transactions and actions.

### Money Matters

The **Finance Committee** recommended and the membership approved the move of \$20,000 in club funds invested in First National Bank of Nevada (now, Mutual of Omaha Bank) to First Independent Bank of Nevada, to ensure the balance at FIBN is under the FDIC \$100,000 limit.

The **Finance Committee** also recommended and the membership approved the renewal of the club's \$30,000 one-year CD reserve for Women's Scholarships at Mutual of Omaha Bank (formerly FNBN).

The **Hospitality Committee** received approval to spend \$550 towards a "surprise" for members to be revealed at the October 23 meeting, which happens to be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SITM's founding.

### Committee Funds Designated

The **Arts & Culture** committee presented \$500 from their committee funds to the Notables, a local musical group of unique individuals. Two members of the Notables performed at the July 24 meeting.

### Grant of Friendship Approved

The **IGU Committee** received approval to move forward with a new Soroptimist International program, offering a "**Grant of Friendship**", and permission to approach the Sierra Nevada Region to co-host the project with SITM. **Committee member Norma Rash** explained that a "Grant of Friendship" would be offered through SI publications and website, seeking Soroptimists from around the world to apply for the grant. The travel period would be in April 2009, to coincide with SNR's annual conference.

SITM would be responsible to act as hosts for the Soroptimist, providing some lodging, transportation and housing while she's in the area. Seeking a partnership with SNR would allow other clubs in the region to share the experience of hosting a visiting Soroptimist.

The **IGU Committee** also announced the date for the next garage sale as October 4. Next month the committee will be seeking volunteers to help sort items on Friday, October 3 and work on Saturday, October 4. Start saving your gently-used treasures now for donation in October.

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## Learning about SITM *by President Marilyn*

### Did you know?

The Articles of Incorporation of the Soroptimist Club were filed by Stuart Morrow on July 1, 1921 for our "Founder Club" in Oakland, California. Violet Richardson was invited as a speaker and later elected the club's first president (Founder President) by breaking the tie vote by voting for herself. When first organized, the Soroptimists met as a luncheon or friendship club, but not for long. President Violet was presiding at an inter-service council meeting, when Monroe Deutsch, vice-president of the University of California, Berkeley, suggested that these clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, Soroptimist and Optimist) should exist for service, rather than merely for friendship. From that day on, the stated purposes of the club were "to foster the ideal of service as the basis of all worthy enterprise and to increase the efficiency of its members in pursuit of their occupations by broadening their interest in the social, business, and civic affairs of the community through an association of women representing diverse vocations".

"From THE PAST, 1921-2006", produced by the Past Governors of the Sierra Nevada Region

## Coming up in October

Engineers Without Borders is a non-profit humanitarian organization that works with communities to develop sustainable solutions for impoverished regions of the world. The program was founded in 2000 by Colorado University after a humanitarian mission in Costa Rica. Since 2000, the program has grown into an international organization that takes applications for potential projects around the world. Here in Reno, we have a student chapter aligned with the University of Nevada Civil Engineering Department. The chapter began almost two years ago by John Thornley, and is focused on a village in northeast Brazil. The village lacks basic necessities such as running water, electricity, and waste disposal. Our chapter is working on a con-

*(Continued on page 5)*





## What you Missed

**July 24—Committee Jeopardy:** We learned all about our committees and their functions by playing “Jeopardy”, thanks to President-elect Bev.

**July 31—Air Race Committee:** The Air Race Committee showed us how the money we raise at the Air Races supports our many projects.

**August 7—Health Committee, Dr. Mark Gunderson:** We learned about the aging process and how we can slow the process for a healthier and happier senior life.

**August 14—Business Meeting:**

*(Continued from page 4)*

structed wetlands project that provides the village with a major necessity in life: a sanitary means of sewage disposal .

I am an advisor, spokesman, and organizer for the Engineers Without Borders chapter . Born and raised in Reno , I went to Anderson Elementary, Swope Middle, and McQueen High School graduating in 2000 . I received a B . A . in economics from Claremont McKenna College in 2003 and a B . S . in mechanical engineering from Columbia University in 2005 . Currently, I am a professional engineer for the engineering firm CH2M Hill, specializing in environmental and water issues . I am actively involved as a docent at the Nevada Museum of Art, advisor for Water For People, and am on the City of Reno 's Arts and Culture Commission

Hear more about this project when the IGU Committee has a speaker from Engineers Without Borders.

*(Continued from page 2)*

and asks Alexandra if she ever noticed them herself. Alexandra says they have been there for weeks, but she just assumed they were just a natural side-effect of aging. The nurse gently informs Alexandra that the lumps may actually be cancerous. Alexandra is stunned. She has never know anyone with breast cancer before. Alexandra also knows that there is no way she could afford any treatment the hospital may offer. She cannot even afford to return for a follow-up exam without sacrificing the welfare of her family.

Upon her return, Alexandra does not tell her family about her experience. She prays that the disease will go away on its own. A year later, Alexandra’s breast cancer has spread to her lungs and liver. She passes away soon thereafter, and nobody in her community knows why.

In 2007, breast cancer will be diagnosed in 1.1 million women. Responsible for more than 500,000 deaths each year, breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer-related deaths among women worldwide. Based on estimates of an average annual increase in incidence, the number of new cases projected to be diagnosed in 2010 is around 1.5 million.

Throughout the world, women are affected by breast cancer by varying degrees. In the United States, one out of eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. In Canada, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women; one in nine women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime and one in 27 will die of the disease. Breast cancer is also the most common cancer in England, and is the leading cause of cancer death in women. In Brazil, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women. The Phillipines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia, and the ninth highest incidence rate in the world. While breast cancer rates have traditionally been lower in Asian countries, breast cancer has ecome the most common form of cancer diagnosed in Japanese women between the ages of 25 and 55.

Although the incidence and fatality rates vary by race and geographic location, a clear pattern exists worldwide with regard to income level. Specifically, although high-income women tend to experience higher rates of incidence than low-income women, they also experience significantly higher rates of survival. Currently, 75 percent of global deaths attributed to breast cancer occur to a number of factors, including insufficient financial resources to screen for and treat breast cancer, poorly-structured health care systems and low public awareness. High fatality rates among low-income women in high-income countries have been attributed to similar factors, including unaffordable helath insurance and limited access to treatment.

Breast cancer adversely impacts millions of women of all ages, races and geographic origins. However, it most severely impacts

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low-income women who are disproportionately undereducated and under insured, and who live in developing countries. These women lack financial resources, health education, and access to preventive procedures and appropriate treatments-not only for breast cancer, but for all health issues. Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must focus attention on the larger issue of health care as a fundamental right and need of all women. Until they do, thousands of women will continue to lose their lives to diseases like breast cancer that-when detected early and treated properly-are often survivable.

**WEALTH AND HEALTH**

Evidence has long suggested an international correlation between income and health: low-income people are more often sick and live shorter lives than wealthier people. In other words, income poverty and health poverty are inextricably linked. As researcher Angus Deaton states: "Those who suffer from material deprivations are also those who suffer from health deprivations." Statistics on the correlation between health and income are telling: of the 10.8 million children under age 5 who die annually, 10 million (more than 92 percent) live in lower-income countries. This figure represents more than twice the total number of children born annually in the United States and Canada combined. In comparison, less than 1 percent of children die before age 5 in high-income countries. Of the four million people who die annually from respiratory infections, three million live in low-income countries. Ninety-five percent of HIV/AIDS-infected people live in the developing world. Ninety-nine percent of maternal deaths occur in low-income countries.

Despite such disproportionately high fatality rates, the world continues to under-invest in health research specific to the needs of developing countries. Without serious change to such investment, the burden of disease in developing countries is expected to grow. By 2020, 70 percent of deaths in developing countries will be caused by non-communicable diseases such as cancer. Life expectancy in South Africa is projected to decline by as much as 20 years by 2010 as a consequence of untreated HIV/AIDS cases.

Women, who comprise the vast majority of people living in poverty, are particularly vulnerable to health disparities. For example, more than twice as many women as men are living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. It also bears noting that low-income women experience high fatality rates not only in developing countries, but also in developed countries, where they suffer from limited access to quality care and affordable health insurance. Breast cancer is an example of disease that needlessly claims the lives of thousands of poor women in low- and high-income countries alike.

(To read more on this subject, go to [www.soroptimist.org/whitepapers](http://www.soroptimist.org/whitepapers))

**August Board/Business Meeting (continued)**

(Continued from page 4)

**July and August Happy Dollars**

Some \$296 in **July Happy Dollars** was collected throughout the first three club meetings of the new year for the Keaton Raphael Memorial, a support service organization for children and families afflicted by childhood cancer.

**August Happy Dollars** are designated for the Dano AIDs Clinic in Dano, Burkina Faso, West Africa to assist in clinical trials of an anti-oxidant to boost immune systems and render the virus inactive. The project was begun by Katy Warren and was brought to us by **Soroptimist International of Chico**.

**Special Guests at September Board Meeting**

The Board recommended and the membership approved a special presentation to be made at the **September Board Meeting** on the Washoe County School District's Ballot Question No. 1. Funds raised by the ballot question would support capital revitalization projects in local schools.

**Membership Changes**

The Board approved leaves of absence through August for **Karen Keister** for school and **Vickie Butler** through December for personal reasons. Continuing on leave are: **Liz Lukasavich** through August and **Pat Levy** through December, both for work reasons. Also remaining on leave are **Kelley Kordonowy**, following the birth of her son, and **Gayle Kmetovicz**, for medical reasons.

*Another Great Quote*

**"Those who turn good organizations into great organizations are motivated by a deep creative urge and an inner compulsion for sheer unadulterated excellence for its own sake."**

*Jim Collins*



## Announcements and Pictures





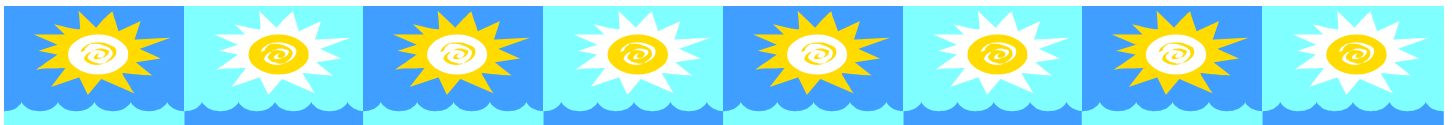
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**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women



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## **Celebrating September Birthdays!!!**



- Eileen Fuller..... September 18
- Bev Perkins ..... September 18
- Ann Steckline ..... September 25
- Dawn Pontrelli ..... September 28
- Wendi Dennis ..... September 30
- Cheryl Powell..... September 30

