

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

Welcome to 2014, the Halfway Mark

For those of us that were adults in 1999, we looked at the year 2000 as the amazing future. Hard to believe that was 14 years ago. Remember the term Y2K was on everything. We thought the computers would crash and society as we knew it would not survive! Well survive we did and the computers are still up and running faster and stronger than ever. Even your technically challenged President has come a LONG way with her computer skills. My eyes still glaze over when someone tries to tell me about a new feature or how to do something. I try....but unless it has a new purse or pair of shoes included I may look like I understand.....but trust me I do NOT!!!

Y2K was a lot like our club...we have so many different personalities we wonder how it can all work. But work it does. This amazing club has pulled off events, meetings, fund raisers, projects and yes, even computer skills that would destroy a lesser group. We are closing in on a very busy time of the year. We have Making a Difference for Women just weeks away. (March 8). Whoever thought we could gather 85 women from the streets and shelters to teach them the skills that can change their lives? Whoever thought a group of "mothers" from Reno Nevada could build a dorm for girls to attend school in Nepal? And who thought we could supply \$30,000 to \$40,000 for women to return to school? (Education Women Scholarship Luncheon April 24) What child in this area ever thought someone would realize all the good they are doing and give them a shopping spree...just to say thanks for being a good kid? (Thanks to Youth May 22). Who does all this

and in just a few months time? None other than our own SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL of TRUCKEE MEADOWS!!

We have passed the half way mark of the club year 2013-2014...but we have NOT passed the half way mark of the activities and projects. Get ready to roll with all the upcoming events! So get out your cutes shoes (or at least the most comfortable ones), get on board and enjoy the ride. WELCOME 2014...we are here and we are READY!!!

Love, Margie

Save These Dates

It's that time of year, when special programs and meetings become plentiful. So put these dates on your calendar now so you don't miss them.

January 23 – Women's Opportunity Awards will be presented.

February 22 – District III Winter Council Meeting

March 8 – Making a Difference for Women, Skills Training Seminar

March 27 – Ruby Award Presentation

April 24 – Women's Scholarships Presented

April 25-27 – Sierra Nevada Region Conference

May 22 -- Thanks to Youth (tentative)

In this issue

- 1 – President's Message, Save These Dates, Air Races
- 2 – Holiday Social & Secret Pal Reveal, Calendar
- 3 – Thanks to Youth, Scholarships, Dr. Peter Reed
- 4 – Member Feature - Vivian Ruiz
- 5 – Friendship Link Club, SI/ Punè Metro East
- 6 – 10 Things We Want Our New Members to Know
- 7 – January Board & Business Update
- 8 – Staff Box, Did You Know ...



Diana Dillon, right Co-Coordinator of the Air Race Committee presents a check to President Margie from the Reno Air Races Association for \$13,500. It represents 1,500 hours of work at the RARA merchandise booth by members, family and friends for the week of the races.

Holiday Social and Secret Pal Reveal



Calendar

- January 23 – Women's Opportunity Awards
- January 27 – Making a Difference for Women Committee Meeting; 5:30p.m., Kay Dunham's office
- January 30 – Finance and Bylaws
- February 6 – Making a Difference for Women, event planning
- February 11 – Board Meeting, NV Energy
- February 13 – Business Meeting

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Annual Thanks to Youth Luncheon Update

By Pam Robinson

Our annual Thanks to Youth luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2014. We are so fortunate that the Atlantis generously sponsors the cost of the room and luncheon each year. All proceeds of the luncheon go for our Unsung Hero Awards, scholarships to deserving high school seniors, and other youth projects in the area. The funds earned at this luncheon come from sale of lunch and raffle tickets and community sponsorships and grants.

The committee will be meeting soon to plan the luncheon. We are asking that you submit names of potential sponsors either to Pam Robinson (pamscolumn@aol.com) or Mich Glazier (michglazier@yahoo.com) as soon as you can!



The club's Secret Pal program came to an end on December 19 at the Holiday Social where Secret Pals revealed themselves. Niki Ewing, left received this beautiful water color painted by her Secret Pal Eileen Fuller.

Education Women Scholarships Available

By Pam Robinson

The Education Women Committee has sent out applications to TMCC, UNR, and other northern Nevada colleges for our Gomes/Gojack and Jack Simon scholarships. The Gomes/Gojack scholarships are for undergraduate, re-entry women who are pursuing a four-year degree or a health sciences degree of some kind at the community college level. The maximum award for the undergrad scholarships is \$6,000. The Jack Simon scholarships are for graduate students. The maximum graduate award is typically \$4,000.

The deadline to apply for the SITM scholarships is February 14, 2014. The scholarship application is on the SITM website. The scholarship application is now fillable and was revised to make it easier and less time consuming for our applicants.

Over the past 33 years, we have awarded \$881,100 in scholarships to 348 women!

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

Club Roster Update Coming

A Club Roster Update is in the works and it will include new members since the beginning of the Club Year and any other member changes since then. If you have a new email address, phone number, even a new photo, mark your changes on the clip boards circulating at club meetings. Or, contact Faye Andersen with your changes.



Dr. Peter Reed of the Sanford Center for Aging at the University of Nevada was the speaker at the January 9 meeting. He talked about the services they offer and opportunities for volunteering. For more information go to the website: www.unr.edu/sanford

Vivian Ruiz: A Lifetime of Helping Others

Vivian Ruiz is a busy executive, wife and mother. She's also committed to making a difference in our community. So, when searching for a way to do that, she chose Soroptimist.

"I began researching various clubs in the area and learned about Soroptimist from the website," Vivian says. She was intrigued and decided to attend a meeting.

"I was thoroughly impressed by what Soroptimist does, not only for the community, but across borders as well," she said. "It was important to me to feel that I was truly making a difference, which I found through Soroptimist."

Vivian joined SITM in 2009 and served as Director/Delegate in 2010-12, and is currently serving as Vice President-Technical Committees.

Vivian began life in Stuttgart, Germany, but was raised in Burbank, California. Ambitious at an early age, she began working in a convalescent home at the age of 12. She spent time with the residents and says, "I could see the happiness it brought to many who just wanted companionship and someone to listen. From this experience I knew I wanted to help others."

Her early experience was a preview to what would become Vivian's life path of helping others.

After high school, she followed a passion for science to the University of Nevada, Reno, where she graduated with a Bachelor's of Science Degree. While attending college she worked as a medical assistant working with dialysis patients.

After graduation, Vivian began working with Disability Resources, Inc. Throughout her tenure there, she has held various positions and is currently the acting Executive Director. The nonprofit dedicated to supporting those with



developmental disabilities to become as independent and self-sufficient as possible. New 2U Computers, is a subsidiary which provides computers to individuals with disabilities, at no cost, and to the public through their store. They also have collected over one million pounds of e-waste donations from the community.

Vivian said "I'm very fortunate to have a job that I love by making a difference in the lives of others."

But that's only one dimension of Vivian's life. "My family is what gives me strength," she said.

Vivian says, "I'm very fortunate to say that I was lucky enough to marry my best friend." She and husband Ed celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary in March. They have two children, 14-year-old Cheyenne and five-year-old Aiden. Cheyenne will be competing in fencing at the Junior Olympics in Portland next month. The family enjoys "traveling, exploring and learning new things together." Some of Vivian's favorite pastimes include snowboarding, reading, metal detecting, geocaching and writing children's books.

If you haven't spent any time with Vivian at a meeting, or an SITM event, you have missed her great sense of fun, even mischief.

During this year's Reno Balloon Races, the family dressed up as characters from Alice in Wonderland in hopes to win tickets to Disneyland. "We may not have won, but we had a blast!" she reports. SITM members were treated to her Mad Hatter costume during our Halloween social.

What's next for this ambitious woman? She admits it would be tough to take on more while her children are small. But she's interested in joining the Daughters of the American Revolution, following in the footsteps of her 100-year-old grandmother, a 50-year member of the DAR.

Vivian, the members of SITM are glad you chose Soroptimist.



SI/Punè Metro East**News from Our Friendship Link Club**

By Monica House

President Dr. Anupuma Senn's medical outreach project to help women and children in a small village, Phulagoan, continues to expand. This project started after Dr. Senn, who is a pediatrician, discovered that the girls and women in this village were having severe abdominal pain because they were only allowed to go to the bathroom before sunrise or after sunset.

SIPME's members went on to help the village of Phulagoan build outhouses made out of bamboo and helped them clean up their village. When my mom and I visited Phulagoan we saw the small medical facility where they do exams and we listened to another member, Ritu speak to them about breast cancer detection.

This project has now expanded into four villages where their primary goal is to educate the women and children about various diseases and ways to prevent them. Dr. Senn now dreams of building a full time "cottage hospital" in this region.



SI/ Punè Metro East President Dr. Anupuma Senn

Girls Moving Forward Named an SI Project of Excellence

Soroptimist International has recognized SI Punè Metro East's Girls Moving Forward program as a Project of Excellence. In a Soroptiblog feature, written by Founding President Nisha Ghosh, the program is outlined as using the skills of Soroptimists to provide non-formal education to girls from deprived backgrounds.

Sound familiar? Nisha visited SITM in 2010 on a Soroptimist Grant of Friendship. Nisha went on to found the Punè Metro East Club. Its first service project for girls was patterned after SITM's Women Moving Forward. SITM also donated \$1,300 for them to launch their first effort.



To read Nisha's write-up about the program <http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/blog/post/587-projects-of-excellence-girls-moving-forward-india>

Nisha Ghosh, at far left (in white) with members of the SI Punè Metro East club and Girls Moving Forward participants.

10 Things We Want our New Members to Know!!



Chris Fegert



Anna McArdle



Patty Tucek

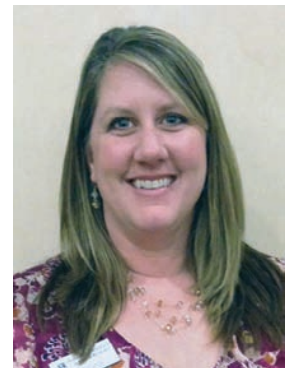
1. We are so glad you joined us!
2. If you can't make a meeting, please cancel by emailing sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com by Tuesday 7:00 PM the week of the meeting. If you want to bring a guest the same RSVP is required.
3. Our Roster, Calendar of Events, and Committee Listings are listed on our website: www.sitmnev.org. If you have difficulty accessing the website, contact Pam Sutton at pam@crystalwindglass.com.
4. We miss you when you can't make our meetings. Please let us know if you are going to be gone for an extended period.
5. If you change your email address, phone number, or mailing address, please let both President Margie and Faye Andersen know! When the emails come bouncing back, we wonder what happened!
6. Make sure you volunteer on Friday nights for the semi-annual garage sales....The IGU Committee serves margaritas!!
7. We are so so glad you joined SITM! If there is anything we can do, please feel free to ask us.
8. You can attend board meetings and volunteer at major fundraisers to make up any missed meetings for perfect attendance awards.
9. We wear our red Soroptimist shirts to our Making a Difference for Women, IGU Garage Sales, and Air Race events.
10. We are very glad you chose to join SITM and look forward to getting to know each of you better! Thank you for choosing us!!.



Margie Tankersley



Barbara Atwell



Lynne Carrow

January Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

It's officially the half-way mark for the Club Year. Committees that have been working behind the scenes are ready to bring their programs to the forefront over the next few months.

New Recording Secretary Elected

Georgia Baker has been elected to fulfill the term of Recording Secretary. Regrettably, Sarah Galetti needed to resign the position due to work considerations. Thank you Georgia for stepping up to the position. Good luck Sarah with your work assignments.

Making a Difference Program Needs Your Help

The Making a Difference for Women, skills training program, is scheduled for March 8 at the Atlantis. The committee is looking for chatzkes, or "give-aways" to include in "goodie bags" intended for the attendees. If you can help, contact Coordinators Georgia Baker or Monica House. The next committee meeting is scheduled for after work on January 27 at Kay Dunham's office.

Air Race Totals Announced

The Air Race Committees announced total proceeds to date are \$18,057.94. The amount represents the hours members, family and friends spent working at the races, sales of calendars and a percentage of art sales.

Not Too Late to Crochet

The impromptu crochet committee is short a couple of dozen afghans and needs your help. Several of SITM's more prolific crocheters have been sidelined by injuries and more recruits are need to make afghans for women in the Reno Homeless Shelter. Don't know how

to crochet? No matter. Watch for the next "afghan social" at Diana Dillon's office and learn to crochet, or donate yarn to those who can.

Happy Dollars for Volunteers in America

A total of \$238 was raised during December Happy Dollars for Volunteers of America, which operates the Reno Homeless Shelter. January Happy Dollars are designated for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

Membership Update

Leaves of Absence were granted by the Board for Joan Hughes until May 15 for travel and Sarah Galetti through June for work. Remaining on leave through January is Eileen Fuller for travel and Ploypun Pihakane through June for work and personal reasons.



Kay Dunham instructs Patti Doty's granddaughter Cecily in her first attempt at crocheting



Cheryl Le, Nutrition Program Manager for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN), center, and Trista Kreth, her assistant, at left, are shown with President Margie. Cheryl and Trista gave an overview of the FBNN programs and services at the January 9 meeting. January Happy Dollars are designated for the Food Bank.



Bev Perkins and Barbara Atwell

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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SITM meets every Thursday noon at the Atlantis 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 Tuesday before the meeting. Lunch is \$17.

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 . . .

Seven Shocking Facts You Never Knew About Trafficking

January 11 was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and LiveYourDream.org provided seven shocking facts about trafficking as part of a campaign to STOP trafficking.

1. How many victims? According to the United Nations, there are 2.5 million victims trapped and exploited in what is considered a modern form of slavery.
2. Who are they? Women and girls make up 79% of the 2.5 million victims, and nearly all are sex trafficking victims.
3. Where is it? Everywhere. From across the globe to just down the street. Human trafficking affects all countries and communities.
4. It's not a movie ... Sex trafficking doesn't happen "somewhere else" to "someone else". It's not like a movie, it's a harsh reality that affects women and girls just like your mother, sister, daughter and yourself.
5. How much do they make off forced sex? Human trafficking is a multibillion dollar business. The ILO estimates global profits from all forced commercial sexual exploitation amount to \$33.9 billion. Half -- \$15.4 billion -- realized in industrial countries.
6. Any convictions? In 2012, for every 500 people trafficked, only one person was convicted throughout the world.
7. The #1 WHAT? The Superbowl is commonly known as the single largest human trafficking incident in the United States.