

# SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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

## Spring Brings an Abundance of Soroptimist Projects

The flowers are starting to bloom, the days are longer, the temperature is warmer....it must be SPRING! Of course those of us that have lived here for a while know this really means nothing. Reno is noted for its crazy, wait an hour and it will change weather. We all know that we will probably have some cooler days ahead... but right now it is so beautiful we can all enjoy and pretend this is the way it will stay until summer! We can get out our summer shoes and put away the boots and get ready for the next wave of SITM fun.

We have the Ruby Award Luncheon on March 20 and that will be followed by our Women's Scholarship Luncheon April 24. Right after that is our Sierra Nevada Conference. The dinner Friday night, April 25 will honor our very own Tracy Turner at the "Honoring Women Who Serve" presentation. You will all want to attend and support Tracy. Conference is such a wonderful way to really see a larger picture of Soroptimist. Registration is on line and I will be giving you more details at meetings.

Our Making a Difference Event went off just perfect this year. Everyone that attended gave us very positive feedback. Thank you again to our co-coordinators, Monica House and Georgia Baker and to everyone that worked that day and beforehand. The success is credited to all of you.

The Nominating Committee was very busy this year and gave us a wonderful slate of new officers. Make sure you vote via absentee ballot if you cannot attend the April 10 Business Meeting.

Thanks to Youth is really working hard to have another very successful event on May 22. The Education Youth Committee is screening the applicants and I know we will have another great group of kids. Our keynote speaker this year is Head Coach Brian Polian from the University of Nevada Football Team. This should be a lot of fun for the kids. Start asking your friends and co-workers now. Get your tables reserved and come celebrate these very deserving kids. Much, much more will be forthcoming and I know this is a lunch you will NOT want to miss.

Spring is springing.....flowers are blooming..... and Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows is ready for all that lies ahead. Get out your Spring Accessories and ACCESSORIZE YOURSELF WITH SERVICE!

Love, Margie



*Reed High School Principal Mary Vasco nominated Alyssa Inskip, who was selected as SITM's Violet Richardson Award recipient. Alyssa happens to be Miss Lake Tahoe Teen.*

*Following an inspirational presentation of her Random Acts of Kindness project at the high school, her platform on diabetes as a Miss Teen and her passion in speaking at elementary schools about "How We Can All Make a Difference".*

*Alyssa received a \$250 grant, which she designated to her project, the Reed High School Leadership Program, plus \$250 for her.*

### In this issue ....

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## Thanks to Soroptimists, One Small Corner of Nepal is Entering a New Era

Fourteen years ago, SITM members got the idea to provide educational scholarships for girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal. However, due to the lack of schools and the long distances to walk, few girls would be allowed to take advantage of the offer. Undaunted, SITM launched on a project to build a dormitory for girls, complete with housemother and cook where the girls could stay during the week and walk home on weekends. Since then, over 800 girls have received an advanced education through the Janata Sudarsham Multiple Campus in the village.

Dr. Purna Subedi spoke at the March 6 meeting to update 86 members and guests on the progress of "Removing Barriers to Girls' Education in Thulipokhari, Nepal" and to launch the IGU Committee's annual pledge drive for tuition and dormitory scholarships and more. Much has changed in the village since Purna grew up and went to school there.

In 2003, SITM launched the Animal Assistance Program for the village, providing low-cost loans to villagers for the purchase of bee hives, chickens, goats and water buffalo. Repayment of loans provides for additional loans, and interest supports the



*Conditions have improved. Even the water buffalo are smiling.*

dormitory and scholarships. More than 200 families have taken advantage of the program.



*Dr. Purna Subedi, left is shown with IGU Co-Coordinator Connie Steinheimer and Jeane Baxter, Purna's "American Mom", prior to speaking at the March 6 meeting to bring an update to members on SITM's project, "Removing Barriers to Education for Girls".*

In 2005 solar panels were added to the dormitory, making it the only electrified building in the region. After a visit to the village in 2013 by some SITM members, the club purchased a propane stove, along with pots, pans and modern electrical kitchen equipment to eliminate the need for cooking fires twice a day. Launched this year is The Vital Seed program to help supplement villagers meager diets, which consists mainly of rice and lentils, with a variety of seeds and various watering apparatus to the Mother's Group.

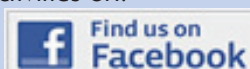
Today there is a seasonal road that motorized vehicles can reach the village at certain times of the year. Electricity finally reached the village in 2009. There is now a hospital built in the village, but still no doctor. A total of 260 girls and 217 boys are enrolled in Janata Sudarsham for the 2013-14 school year.

SITM members, family and friends have supported the projects over the years with annual pledges and a total of 28 garage sales, with all proceeds benefiting the project. For a beautiful color brochure and pledge form, see any IGU Committee member, or pick one up from the members' mailbox at club meetings.

### Calendar

- March 20 – Ruby Award Luncheon
- March 27 – Recruitment & Retention Committee
- April 3 – Thanks to Youth kick-off
- April 8 – Board Meeting, NV Energy
- April 10 – Business Meeting
- April 17 – OPEN
- April 25 – Women's Scholarships
- April 25-27 – SNR Conference, Reno

You can follow our weekly activities on:



*Purna's presentation attracted many project supporters.*

Doris Phelps**Soroptimist is a Significant Part of Her Life Story**

By Connie Steinheimer

I have known Doris Phelps for over twenty years. We have worked together on the SITM Board and shared far too numerous of SITM activities to remember them all. When she was selected to be the subject of this month's member profile, I realized in all of those years, I had never found out some interesting things. I loved making these discoveries, and now that Doris is retired and back spending more time than ever on SITM projects, I hope you find these fun facts enjoyable too.

**Q: Where were you raised and where did you go to school? What were your favorite subjects in school?**

A: I was born and raised in Auburn, Washington – a small town south of Seattle. I graduated from Auburn High School and attended Green River Community College and attained my AA degree in business administration. A few years later, I attended Central Washington University (Seattle campus) and earned my BA in business administration. I enjoyed the marketing classes, a public administration class and public relations. I definitely did not enjoy statistics!

**Q: Can you share some memorable highlights or pursuits from when you were a kid?**

A: I lived with my parents in a house on a dead-end street. Beyond the end of the street were abandoned orchards and the Green River. It was like being in the country and the neighborhood kids had the run of the place all summer long. My dad had a huge garden so I learned how to garden with him and how to can fruits and vegetables and make jam with my mom. I still have her canner and recipes. While I had one older brother and two older sisters (all deceased now), I grew up as an "only child" since the youngest sister next to me was 13 years older.

**Q: How did you come into your current profession?**

A: My career path was certainly not linear. My goal upon high school graduation was to be an executive secretary to a prominent business CEO (perhaps T. A. Wilson of the Boeing Co.!) because I didn't want to be a teacher or a nurse. It seemed that choices were quite a bit more limited in the 60's although that was changing rapidly. When my son (Richard) was young, I served as a part-time city councilwoman for the City of Tukwila, Washington and joined the newly-organized Elected Washington Women, a group that encouraged women to run for political office. That experience was a wonderful highlight in my life. I worked at my first non-profit organization which focused on advocacy and fundraising for private colleges in Washington. My college classes led me to marketing. When we moved to Reno in 1986, my first job was with development and sales of the Nevada Media Directory. "Commission only" wasn't going to support our lifestyle so I moved on to hotel sales & marketing in the casino industry. Fifteen

years later, I decided to "do good" at the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, developing their marketing and fundraising efforts. Two years ago, I retired to spend more time with family.

**Q: How did you learn about Soroptimist? Who is your sponsor? What's your favorite club project?**

A: While living in Tukwila, my role as a councilwoman brought me opportunities to meet with the business community and I learned of a group of women who were chartering a Soroptimist club in the community and I joined. When we moved to Reno, I transferred my membership to SITM; Laurie Chappelle, Mikey Becker and Janice Hoke teamed up as co-sponsors. My favorite club projects are the girl's school/dorm in Thulipokhari and Making A Difference for Women. Mentoring is important to me.

**Q: Can you tell us about your family?**

A: My husband Steve and I have been married for 45 years and are enjoying our retirement. We met at Green River Community College. Steve is retired from the engineering profession, mostly focused on storm water and wastewater treatment systems design. We look forward to enjoying more travel and cultural experiences before we settle down to grow tomatoes. Our son Richard has four children who take up much of our time, as you can imagine!

**Q: Anything else you would like members to know about you that I haven't asked?**

A: I am amazed at the many blessings, opportunities, friendships and learning that have been woven into my story. I could not have imagined the experiences I have had! The years I have been a Soroptimist are a significant part of that story.

Doris has served as President-Elect, President in 1995-96, alternate director and director on the SITM Board. We shouldn't forget to mention that she has two dogs that Doris calls "goofy", Jackson and Tootsie, who like to take her and Steve for walks. Thank you Doris, for all the service you have given over the years!

Friendship Link Club**SI Punè Metro East Recognized for “Girls Moving Forward”**

By Monica House, IGU Committee

Six months after SI Punè Metro East was chartered in June of 2010, their club started a project called “Girls Moving Forward”. Founding President Nisha Ghosh was inspired to start this project after learning about our “Making A Difference for Women” program when she visited SAI/Truckee Meadows. Their program is similar to SITM’s program, where we endeavor to help women in our community get jobs by providing workshops on job searching, preparing for an interview and writing resumes, do one on one mock interviews, etc.

SIPME conducts non-formal education workshops for young girls in or around their community on home budgeting, personal hygiene and grooming, anger



*The girls work on a craft project as part of SIPME’s Girls Moving Forward project.*



*Graduates of SI/Punè Metro East’s “Girls Moving Forward” program receive certificates of completion.*

management skills, teaching them about breast cancer awareness, providing pre-marital counseling, education on nutrition, yoga, and first aid. The girls are first generation learners and come from deprived backgrounds and often violent homes. The workshops help the young girls to be confident and face various challenges in life.

They end each class with a hands-on craft project such as painting or making flowers and are given a certificate of completion as the ones shown in the pictures. As mentioned in last month’s newsletter, “Girls Moving Forward” was also recently named an SI project of excellence in a Soroptiblog feature written by Nisha Ghosh.

This link leads to a Soroptimist International Blogpost with an article written by Nisha Ghosh, from SI Pune Metro East, our Friendship Link Club. She describes SIPME’s efforts to change attitudes and prevent gender-violence among a new generation, through outreach programs with schools.

<http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/blog/post/602-one-billion-rising---dance-learn-connect-for-change--india>

*Nisha Ghosh, at left, with Soroptimists from SI/Pune Metro East.*



Making a Difference for Women

## Women Improve Job Skills, Get a Boost Towards Employment

The seventh annual Making a Difference for Women skills training seminar was held Saturday, March 8 at the Atlantis Hotel Casino in Reno. The all-day session was attended by 74 under- and un-employed women from the community. Thirty-five SITM members, along with 12 volunteers, including staff members from Job Opportunities in Nevada (JOIN) hosted the day, acted as trainers and mentors.

The event featured a light breakfast, motivational speaker, mock interview sessions, training on how to write a resume and career counseling. Following lunch, a fashion show featured work-appropriate attire. Certificates were presented to all attendees and the day concluded with the popular Clothes Closet, where participants could take clothes suitable for job interviews or work.

Thanks to Co-Coordinator Georgia Baker and Monica House and their committee for another smashing success. Some of the comments written by participants on the evaluation sheets can be found among the day's photos.



*"I was blown away. It was so organized and informative."*



*"Meeting the Soroptimist ladies was great as good role models for the community."*

## More Making a Difference for Women



*"Each and every facilitator gave an outstanding presentation. An extra shout out to Kelli."  
(attorney Kelli Vilorio)*



*"I loved the mock interviews! I felt so empowered after each mini-session."*



*"I was so impressed with how kind and thoughtful everyone was. I felt so unique but still part of a huge family of women that has gone through so much of the same."*

## Thanks to Youth Committee is Gearing Up for a Great Event

By Pam Robinson

Plan to attend the kick-off luncheon on April 3

Our Thanks to Youth annual fundraising luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2014. Once again, Mr. John Farahi and the Atlantis are generously underwriting our luncheon. The Education Youth Committee is in the process of choosing some excellent scholarship recipients and unsung heroes. UNR Football Coach, Brian Polian, will be our speaker, and the committee is working on a few surprises to be announced before the event.

You will hear more about Thanks to Youth at our SITM kick-off meeting on Thursday, April 3. Some of our previous recipients will join us with updates on their

lives, and we will have raffle prizes for ticket sales and sponsor suggestions. Tickets for the event this year are \$25/each and will be distributed at this meeting. Sponsorships will be available in the amounts of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500. Once again, SITM members will have the opportunity to sponsor a table for six for the special price of \$250, or table of eight for the special price of \$300.

Start thinking about potential sponsors and guests, and plan to attend the kick-off luncheon on April 3! Please contact Thanks to Youth coordinators, Mich Glazier and Pam Robinson, with any questions, ideas, input, and sponsor names!



## Talented Soroptimists Crochet Afghans for Homeless Shelter



Sandy Isham, right, from the Volunteers of America homeless shelter receives \$238 in Happy Dollars from Niki Ewing.



Niki Ewing, right and Diana Dillon delivered 75 crocheted blankets to the family homeless shelter in Reno. According to Diana, the blankets were in high demand with lots of requests before they could even get them into the shelter. Diana and Kay Dunham have hosted numerous evening "afghan lessons". Members, family and friends have worked on the afghans since the fall.

## March Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

The March Board and Business Meetings were quick, not because there is nothing going on ..... but because Club Committees are nearing completion of their projects and every few weeks is another crescendo of special meetings with scholarship recipients, honorees, program awardees, etc.

### Slate of Officers for 2014-15 Named

The Nominating Committee of Cindy Burk, Coordinator, and members Doris Phelps and Bev Perkins announced the Slate of Officers standing for election for the 2014-15 Club Year. See below for the complete slate.

### Women Honoring Women Who Serve

SITM member Tracy Peterson Turner will be honored at dinner on Friday, April 25 at the Sierra Nevada Region Conference. This special conference program is a thank you to women veterans and those currently serving in our military. Tracy served in the Air Force. Honorees were chosen by clubs. If you'd like to attend the dinner you must register for conference. There is no registration fee, but the cost of dinner is \$50. See page 9 for information to register for conference.

### Aly's Prom Closet Needs Workers

Members voted at the March Business Meeting to again recruit members to volunteer to work at Aly's Prom Closet. The organization supplies prom-appropriate dresses and clothing to high school students who would otherwise not be able to attend their prom. Work schedules are April 10 from 4-7 p.m. and April 12 from noon to 4 p.m. Contact Ann Steckline if you are interested in volunteering.

### Still time to Donate Your Toiletries

Diana Dillon and Niki Champ are collecting toiletries again, this time for the Food Bank's backpack program at Wooster High School. So bring in your travel bottles of shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes. They will be collecting them at the club meetings.

### Outstanding Month for Happy Dollars

Aimal Zaibatulia's Education Fund is the recipient of \$789 in February Happy Dollars. Aimal is from Afghanistan where he acted as a translator for the U.S Military. He is now a student at UNR. March Happy Dollars are designated for the International Goodwill and Understanding (IGU) Committee.

### Membership Update

A leave of absence was granted to Lynne Catrow through April 17 for surgery. Remaining on leave through June are: Teresa Mentzer, Thuy Tran, Patty Tucek and Sarah Galetti, all for work reasons and Ploypun Pihakane through June for work and personal reasons, Remaining on leave through May 15 is Joan Hughes for travel.



*Faye I. Andersen, second from left presents a \$2,000 check from NV Energy to President Margie Hermanson for the Making a Difference for Women program. They are flanked by Co-Coordinators Georgia Baker and Monica House. Faye received the donation for SITM as the top volunteer for her division at her company.*

## Time to Elect 2014-15 Officers

The SITM Nominating Committee, Coordinator Cindy Burk, Doris Phelps and Bev Perkins are proud to present the following members who have agreed to stand for these respective offices during the 2014-15 Club Year.

President Elect..... Vivian Ruiz  
 VP Technical..... Jennifer Burnitt  
 VP Service..... Michelle Jones  
 Corresponding Secretary ..... Barbara Atwell  
 Anna McArdle  
 Recording Secretary ..... Georgia Baker  
 Treasurer, General Fund ..... Vicki Schultz

Election of officers will take place during the April 8 Business Meeting. If you know you will miss that meeting and would still like to vote, absentee ballots are available from President Margie.

Member bios have already been sent to members, but contact President Margie if you missed it. Thank you to all who agreed to stand for election and commit to serve the new Club Year in your respective positions.

## On Being a Good Committee Member

By Carol Dinneen, SOLT Committee

Before we know it President Elect Pam Sutton will be asking us to sign up for committees. This is actually an important event as committees are the life blood of a club. It is where things get done, where we go about accomplishing our mission but also where we have fun, get to know each other and share in a common goal. Committees are also responsible for making our meetings interesting and keeping us informed.

This year the SOLT Committee and I challenge you to put some thought into choosing your committees. Your interests are obviously important. But even though you may be interested in a particular area, does your schedule allow you to devote enough time to the chores that committee performs. Talk to current members and find out what kind of time you will need to devote to accomplishing goals. Some of our committees are pretty active year round and some only for short periods of time. Even if a committee is active all year perhaps you could work on just a few of its activities.

Consider your talents. Do you have a particular talent or ability that a committee could use? Are you networked into a segment of the community that could help a committee reach one of its goals? Talk to current coordinators and find out what they need from members and decide if this is something you could provide.

When you make your choices let the coordinator know if you will be unavailable for a period of time and find if you can handle some things via email. Many times there are projects that a committee member can take over and work on without the need for attending meetings. This is particularly true of committees such as Education Youth where there are multiple projects throughout the year. Some of these are short and take a minimal amount of work. Volunteering to handle them make the committee as a whole run smoother.

Finally, think about being a committee coordinator. It can be rewarding and is definitely a good way to have an influence on the club as a whole and to get to know members. The bottom line is to be the best member you can be, not just a name on the list.

Following is a list of club committees. At the beginning of each new year, SITM asks members to sign-up for one service, one technical and one special events committee.

### Service Committees

VP Service – Jennifer Burnitt  
Education (Women)  
Education (Youth)  
Health  
Human Rights/Status of Women  
International Goodwill & Understanding

### Technical Committees

VP Technical – Vivian Ruiz  
Attendance  
Finance/Bylaws  
Hospitality  
Newsletter  
Photo - Scrapbook  
Public Awareness  
Roster- Database  
Recruitment & Retention  
S.O.L.T.

### Special Events Committees

President-Elect Pam Sutton, Board Liaison  
Air Races  
Making a Difference for Women  
Thanks to Youth

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## Sierra Nevada Region Conference is April 25-27

The Early Bird Registration deadline to sign-up for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Sierra Nevada Region Conference is April 1. Planned for April 25 – 27 at the Atlantis Hotel Casino in Reno, a full meal package – two dinners, two lunches, one breakfast and brunch are \$151. Individual meal prices are also available. There is no registration fee, only the cost of meals.

Access to the online Call to Conference and registration form can be found in the March 10 issue of the SNR E-Blast emailed to members. A copy of the Call to Conference can be found here: <http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103470437730-1019/SNR+Official+Conference+Call+-+2014.pdf>

Conference Online Reservations can be found here: <http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103470437730-1019/SNR+Official+Conference+Call+-+2014.pdf>

SITM pays the cost for first time attendees.

If you have questions, contact President Margie Hermanson.

## 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](mailto: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](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 . . .

It's not too early to be thinking about attending the 43rd biennial convention of our federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas, July 23-26 in Vancouver, Canada. May 21 is the early deadline.

SIA's biennial convention brings women from all over the world together for mutual support, education and inspiration. It is a key component in keeping our members active and our programs relevant and successful. The days are jam-packed with workshops, speakers, details of federation, region and club projects, and best of all, the camaraderie and friendship of other Soroptimists.

For a Convention Schedule:

[http://www.soroptimist.org/members/meetings/Vancouver2014\\_Schedule.pdf](http://www.soroptimist.org/members/meetings/Vancouver2014_Schedule.pdf)

