

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

The Support and Sisterhood of Soroptimist Members

As the year starts to wind down, I must reflect back on the past nine months. Being President has been such an honor, but more than that, the support I have received is truly amazing. Having just gone through one of the most difficult situations imaginable, the death of a grandchild, I am inspired by the friendships and support of this club.

We have others that are also dealing with much grief and illness. Scarlet just lost her husband, as did Sande Reimers McLaughlin, earlier in the year. JoAnn lost her sister and then her brother-in-law a few days later. Jennifer lost both her grandparents in a very short time. Penny's husband had a serious fall, and Vicki's husband just had heart surgery. Jan has been dealing with cancer and the treatments that come with it. Sue has just been diagnosed and is waiting to see what the next step will be. Our members are there to pitch in and offer so much support. I could not be at the service for Scarlet's husband (due to my grandsons service in Sacramento) but I know several of our members attended. Our dear member, Jan, in cancer therapy right now has received

cards and emails and each one gives her renewed support. I too received many cards and emails and again each one was of so much comfort.

This is not about the sadness that life has brought our club of late, but about the support and sisterhood our members share. We are a diverse group, yet we are all the same. We all want to make this world a better place and we want to help women and children be all that they can be. However, where we really shine is for each other. Our club is a great support to our members and this is a source of happiness. We gather when others need it most, we gather when we just need a hug, we gather to have a glass of wine together...we gather to just gather. We have bonded beyond just being members of the same club. Each and every one of us knows we are there for each other. All anyone has to do is call a member and say..."I need"...and several members will be knocking at their door. To be a part of this type of organization is an honor to me, to be the President is beyond an honor...it is one of the best things I have ever done. Every one of you have helped me make it through a very difficult period and I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart.

Now get out your spring shoes and lets celebrate the start (hopefully) of warm weather. We have much to do in the next 2 1/2 months. Those shoes have a lot of walking to do with all the activities that will be happening in the near future. I hope that you will all be there (in your BEST shoes...of course!!)to celebrate this club, our members, and the amazing projects that are coming up.

With much affection,
Margie



Cary Groth, center, was selected to receive this year's Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women". In recognition of her outstanding work to improve the lives of other women. She is flanked by President Margie Hermanson and Human Rights/ Status of Women Coordinator Patty Downs. Cary retired last year as Athletic Director for the University of Nevada, Reno, one of only four female Athletic Directors at NCAA schools in the country.

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Thanks to Youth is Looking for Sponsors - Can You Help? Anything is Possible (with the right pair of shoes)!

By Pam Robinson

The SITM Thanks to Youth Committee is looking for sponsors for our annual luncheon, Thursday, May 22, 2014. Sponsorships are available in the amounts of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500. Once again, SITM members will have the opportunity to sponsor a table for 6 for the special price of \$250 or table of 8 for the special price of \$300. Individual tickets for the event remain at \$25. Ticket coordinators, Becky Moody and Vicki Schultz, distributed tickets to members at our April 3 kick-off luncheon. Please contact them if you didn't receive yours or if you need more!

Diamond Level sponsors (\$1,500) will receive the highest recognition in all publicity during the event and prominence in the program along with a reserved table for 8. Emerald Level sponsors (\$1,000) will receive recognition in the program and a reserved table for 6. Ruby Level sponsors (\$500) will receive 4 tickets to the event and recognition in the program.

The Education Youth Committee has chosen five scholarship recipients and five unsung heroes whom we will meet at the luncheon. UNR Football Coach, Brian Polian, will be our speaker, and the committee is working on a few surprises to be announced before the event. We will have fabulous, themed raffle baskets coordinated by President Margie Hermanson and Michelle Jones.

Please contact Thanks to Youth coordinators, Mich Glazier and Pam Robinson, with any questions, ideas, input, and sponsor names! Brochures, flyers and letters will be available at each week's meeting. We're looking forward to an exciting event!

Calendar

- April 16 – Bracelet making for Renown Infusion Center patients, 5:30 p.m., Marilyn Pearson's home.
- April 17 – Canine Rehabilitation Center and Sanctuary speaker
- April 24 – Women's Scholarships presentation
- April 25-27 – Sierra Nevada Region Conference, Atlantis
- May 1 – Bindi Eberle, "Whatever it Takes! Eating Healthy"
- May 6 – Board Meeting, NV Energy
- May 8 -- Business Meeting
- May 14 – Baby shower for Ploypun Pihakane, 6 p.m. at Ethan Allen Design Center, potluck.
- May 15 – Lieutenant Coronel Jo Ann Meacham and Melissa Fritz for the NV Project

You can follow our weekly activities on:



The Thanks to Youth Committee needs your help to assemble raffle baskets for the May22 event. Ten themed baskets will be raffled.

Your donations are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations will be accepted too, and the committee will shop for you.

Sports	Jewelry
Day of Beauty/Relaxation	Bar B Que
Gardening	Food/Cooking
Picnic/Beach	Night Out
Vacation	Wine
Kids Basket	

President Margie and Michelle Jones will be accepting items until Thursday, May 1st



Happy raffle winners Chris Fegert and Jennifer Burnitt show off their prizes at the Thanks to Youth program meeting.

2014-2015 Committee Sign-Ups Coming in May

By Michelle Jones, SOLT Committee

Looking back ... can you believe everything that our club accomplished this club year? And, those many lives that we touched and made a difference in? We would not be able to accomplish so many things without our members who volunteer much of their time in order to make it all happen. So, "THANK YOU" to all of you!

Fast forward ... 2014-2015 is going to be another amazing year! Committee Sign-Ups are right around the corner and we need YOU in order to make that happen!

Each member is asked to serve on one service committee, one technical committee and one special events committee. Below is a list of our club's committees, and a brief description of their functions. Of course, if you have any further questions relating to the specific functions of a committee do not hesitate to ask another member.

Getting to work with members on a committee is a great opportunity to get to know them better since we often do not get the chance to do so at our weekly meetings. At the same time, we are working together to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.

Please be thinking of those that are of interest to you, and those that could use your talents and/or abilities. Maybe even consider being a committee coordinator. You have the choice to sign up for committees that are of interest to you. We want you to be a participant, and not just a name on the list. Carol Dinneen said it best, "the committees are the life blood of our club".

The committee sign-up meeting will be Thursday, May 29th. Be sure to sign up!

Service Committees

- Education - Women – aim to improve the status of and make a difference in the lives of women with a strong commitment to the ideal of quality education for women.
 - WOA Award, Nancy Gomes/Mary Gojack/Jack Simon Scholarship Awards
- Education – Youth – focus on the needs of youth in our community.
 - Violet Richardson Award, Thanks to Youth Lunch (Unsung Hero Awards)
 - Partners in Education with Libby Booth Elementary School
- Health – strive for the goals of the well-being of individuals.
 - Flu Shots



Meeting or eating, or both? Members of the International Goodwill and Understanding Committee met after work to enjoy a potluck and conduct committee business. The IGU Committee is planning for their upcoming semi-annual garage sale on May 17.

- Human Rights / Status of Women – supports the Soroptimist International of the Americas Project, "Prevention of Domestic Violence" through awareness, advocacy and action; generates member awareness, advocacy and action for Soroptimist International President's December 10th appeal project, and promotes legislative advocacy.
 - Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women
- International Goodwill & Understanding – emphasize international relationships and generate member awareness, advocacy, and action regarding issues and projects, especially as they relate to the United Nations.
 - Friendship Link Club, SI Pune Metro East
 - Nepal Project – Girls Dormitory

Technical Committees

- Attendance – record attendance at weekly meetings, leaves of absence, perfect attendance awards, coordinates attendance and meals with Atlantis
- Finance/Bylaws – review and/or update proposed amendments, assists in preparation of annual budgets
- Hospitality – organize club functions and social events
- Newsletter – gathers news and prepares material to be published in the monthly club newsletter
- Photo/Scrapbook – takes photographs at different functions, responsible for compiling and completing the President's scrapbook, conducts the "Year in Review" meeting
- Public Awareness/Website/Facebook – promotes public awareness for the club in the community through different sources of media, maintains the club website
- Recruitment and Retention – reviews applications of proposed members for eligibility, promotes member development, continued strength and growth of the club

Committee Sign-Ups continued from page 3

- Roster/Database – update and distribute club roster information
- Soroptimist Orientation & Leadership Training (SOLT) – plans and conducts the induction of new members, provides new member orientation, provides Soroptimist education materials and club bylaws to new members, provides education to the club about Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) as well as the explanation of Founder’s pennies, selects and presents the annual Ceec Abrahams award winner

Special Events Committees

- Air Races – operates the merchandise tent at the

- National Championship Air Races, sells calendars
- Funds raised from this event support the service project budgets, Making a Difference for Women and others
- Thanks to Youth – annual luncheon honoring youth scholars and unsung heroes
- Funds raised provide scholarships and shopping sprees, as well as youth focused projects and expenses undertaken by the Education Youth Committee
- Making a Difference for Women – annual “hands-on” work-readiness seminar designed to give re-entry women looking to return to the workforce, skills, confidence, and contacts needed to meet the challenges of searching for full-time employment

April Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

SITM took a step closer to the new year with the election of club officers, directors and delegates to join incoming President Pam Sutton for the 2014-15 Club Year. Thank you to all who agreed to stand for office. See below for a complete listing of the new and returning officers.

SOLT and R&R Committee Revisions

A motion from Jennifer Burnitt was brought forward at the Business Meeting to combine a couple of club committees. The final motion, approved by the membership combines the Recruitment and Retention Committee with the SOLT Committee for a pilot program to last one year and then undergo evaluation.

New Budgets for A New Year

Treasurer – Service Fund Kay Dunham and Treasurer-General Fund Vicki Schultz, along with the Finance Committee presented the Service and General Funds budgets for the 2014-15 at the April Board and Business Meetings. A copy was provided with President Margie’s Business Meeting notice. A copy can also be obtained from either treasurer.

Also at the Business Meeting, President-Elect Pam Sutton and Public Awareness Coordinator Niki Ewing requested and were granted \$1,500 towards the establishment of a new SITM Website. The amount should include new software that is less technical to operate and more user friendly. The original website was established 5+ years ago and today is only operational by Pam.

Happy Dollars for IGU Projects Total

March Happy Dollars in the amount of \$541.80 were collected for the IGU Committee. It’s up to the

committee to decide on the money’s use. April Happy Dollars are designated for the NV Project, which provides “care packages” of food, books, games and other treats distributed to deployed military members.

Membership Update

Leaves of Absence were granted to Sue Camp for health reasons, and to Kathy Martin for work reasons, both through June 30. Remaining on leave through April 17 is Lynne Catrow, for surgery and Joan Hughes through May 15 for travel. Also, 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 personal reasons,

Welcome to New Club Officers

Congratulations to SITM’s newly elected 2014-15 Officers, Directors and Delegates. Thanks to all who agreed to stand for election.

President-Elect..... Vivian Ruiz
 VP-Service..... Michelle Jones
 VP Technical..... Jennifer Burnitt
 Corresponding SecretaryAnna McArdle
 Recording Secretary Georgia Baker
 General Fund Treasurer..... Vicki Schultz

Returning Board members:

President.....Pam Sutton
 Service Fund Treasurer..... Kay Dunham
 Delegate Bev Perkins
 Alternate Delegate Enid Oliver
 Director 2 Years..... Margie Hermanson
 Director 1 Year..... Becky Moody

Save the date!
Start gathering your treasures!
It is Garage Sale season!



The IGU Committee is sponsoring our 28th semi-annual garage sale on May 16 & 17. If you are in the midst of spring cleaning, and already have treasures set aside, there are several options for storing them until the sale.

1. You can drop them off at the Ethan Allen warehouse between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday,
2. You can call the store at 826-1722 to make arrangements for drop off.
3. You can check with the receptionist in the main store anytime Monday through Sunday during store hours which are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

And keep in mind that Ethan Allen will take donations throughout the year! We will also be setting up the boutique section for higher end clothing and items. Please mark these items if you are dropping them off at Ethan Allen.

And, we need members and their friends and family to volunteer at the sale, so block your calendar for Friday afternoon on May 16 for set up, early bird treasure finds, and snacks. We also need sales associates on Saturday during the sale. Snacks, of course, provided.

Shirley Green George

It's a Long Way from Missouri to Sparks, Nevada

By Faye Andersen

Shirley Green George is a long way from St. Louis, Missouri and surrounds, where she was born, grew up, went to school and began her teaching career. Shirley was the only child of two young parents, born after her dad returned from World War II. Her father was one of 12 children; her mother one of nine. "So the fact that they had only one child is interesting" Shirley observed.

When she was nine, her parents moved across the Mississippi River to Belleville, Illinois, a bedroom community to the big city, where she graduated high school. This October, she will attend her 50-year class reunion.

Another unusual fact is her dad was number five out of twelve children and her mom was number two out of nine children. "So the fact they had one is interesting!! However, all those aunts and uncles meant I became number two of 26 grandchildren on mom's side and number eight of 36 grandchildren on dad's side!! How many people have 64 first cousins?"

Even so, she was the first in the family to graduate from college. Four years after high school, she graduated from Southeast Missouri State and started her career as an elementary school teacher. Over the next four years of teaching in St. Louis, she obtained her Master's Degree in Teaching and Language Arts. She thought her life and career were set in her hometown.

"One day, my husband, Karl Katt, came home from work at Ralston Purina and said we would be going to look at a possible transfer to Sparks, Nevada," Shirley recalled. "Where was that?"

The initial trepidation started coming true. "In July 1972 I landed in Reno and I wasn't sure I would stay,"

Shirley recalled. "I couldn't get a teaching job even with my experience and Master's Degree. I substituted a few times but hated that and realized that not graduating from a Nevada college had me doomed to teach. At that time no new schools were being built," she said.

It was temporary office work that changed her mind. "It made me realize that I could learn to accept Reno since I got out and met a lot of nice people in the community," she recalled.

It was a temp assignment at the Washoe County District Attorney's Office that led to a permanent position in 1973

as an assistant in a new consumer fraud area. She was soon appointed by the D.A. to head the new division with a civil and a criminal attorney to provide counsel and handle court cases. "That was an 11-year experience that I never dreamt would be part of my career history," she said.

In 1976, she divorced and was remarried in 1981 to Dennis George. "Of all things, Dennis is a graduate of Sparks

High School, the city that got me out of the Midwest," she said. "In

1982 we had our daughter Lindsay, and when she was two I decided to change careers to real estate sales for a subdivision builder."

Giving up her safe county job, Shirley said, "I jumped ship and started selling new homes." It was a 25-year career for builder; McGah Bailey – 19 years in Northwest Reno and six years in Damonte Ranch.

"Dennis and I both retired in 2008 three months before the October crash, so it was not the best timing, but we had decided to take ten years and go and do and travel while we were able to with good health," Shirley said. "Wealth changed that October but we were determined to do the trips we could: Istanbul, Athens, Madrid, Lisbon,



Four generations, from left, granddaughter Katie, daughter Lindsey, mom Nina and Shirley.

"Shirley George" continued from page 3

Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and many other European cities."

Two granddaughters; Taylor, aged nine and Katie, aged four, keep Shirley and Dennis busy in between trips. "My mom is now 86 and still active and busy, living in St Louis."

"Life is good and like everyone else, has its challenges," she declared. "But I am thankful for fate bringing me to SPARKS !!!"

Shirley joined SITM in 1979, soon after the club was chartered. She has coordinated a number of committees over the years and served as Vice President-Technical. She became a "Life Member" years ago, when we had that membership classification. "I'm glad I have been able to attend more regularly since last year," she said. So are we Shirley.



Dennis & Shirley George



Key steps made towards a Soroptimist Africa Federation

African Soroptimists have made significant progress towards the establishment of a Soroptimist International Africa Federation at a Conference in Pretoria, South Africa last month.

Soroptimists from 20 of the 29 African countries with SI clubs attended the Conference, along with International President Ann Garvie and SI Federation Presidents Ulla Madsen (SI Europe) and Margaret Oldroyd (SI Great Britain and Ireland). The event was hosted by the Soroptimist International Southern Africa Network (SISAN) in partnership with the Taskforce of the Proposed SI African Federation.

Soroptimist International is currently divided into four Federations (SI of the Americas, SI Europe, SI of Great Britain and Ireland, SI South West Pacific), with the 29 African countries with SI clubs represented by SIGBI or SIE. Discussions about the establishment of an Africa Federation started in the late 1980s and in 2012 the Future Africa Federation Task Group was established and set out a plan to make the new Federation a reality by 2017.



At right, Annie Goni-Stewart, Managing Director of eWomen Network is shown with Penney Leezy, a member of the Recruitment & Retention Committee who sponsored the March 27 meeting. Annie spoke about the eWomen organization and her methods of building contact databases, acquiring new members and the power of networking.

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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 . . .

Look at what was accomplished last year ...

Our Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas reports ...

\$1.7 million – The amount contributed to support SIA's life-changing programs.

\$1.6 million – The amount disbursed through Women's Opportunity Awards, helping 1,300 women on their way to better lives.

724 – The number of girls recognized through Violet Richardson Awards. \$421,340 contributed to their volunteer organizations.

6,500 – The number of women and girls helped through SIA Club Grants projects.

\$150,000 – The amount disbursed through SIA/SIE Disaster Grants. More than 1,000 women and girls received assistance.

4,000 – The number of new Soroptimist members. 15 new clubs chartered.

17,910 – The number of actions taken on LiveYourDream.org on behalf of women and girls.