

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

An Amazing Year with Gratitude to Dedicated Members

"Our laughs are limitless. Our memories are countless. Our friendship is endless." –Author unknown.

My goodness, how fast this year has passed! It feels like just yesterday I was busy prepping for my year, learning the ins and outs of the club that I had never truly seen before. I learned so much in the past year, whether through club members or their actions, as well as the impact we have on women and children. I knew that my year was off to a great start when it began with the gifting of the Era of Excellence Award to members Faye Anderson and Jo Ann Roberts. What better way to start off the year than to recognize two women within our club who have inspired so many of us!

There has been a truly impressive amount of hard work displayed from our board, members, and from the organization of our committees as well as the carrying out of our events and meetings. Our impact on the community and internationally has been absolutely amazing to see, and is one of the reasons why I'm proud to be a member of SI/Truckee Meadows.

I also saw an astounding amount of dedication from all of our members,

and I am truly very inspired by all the work we accomplished this last year. With the loss of funds from the Air Races, the uncertainty of some of our finances caused concerns, but the ideas from the members to compensate for this came in in large numbers. I want to give a special thanks to Margie Hermanson for her original idea to do a cookie sale at our business meetings. Another thank you to Kay Dunham who jumped in to assist Margie in baking the cookies and sales. Through their efforts, these delectable treats raised approximately \$2,000 for our club. Way to bring in the dough ladies! Also, thank you to all members involved in the creation of our new fundraiser, "Eat out for Education". This was a great way to raise money for the club, while also allowing members to have quality time with their families, friends, and fellow Soroptimists.

Through our collective effort, we aspired to inspire to meet our mission to the fullest by honoring youth in our community, awarding scholarships, empowering women in the workforce, revising our bylaws, developing our policies and procedures, induction of eight new members, crocheted Afghans, and delivered Christmas presents to seniors in the community in partnership with the Salvation Army, to name a few of some of our amazing projects we accomplished this year. We also had the most successful Thanks To Youth event of monies raised for the

club to date. As a club, we were the recipients of the \$20,000 SI President's Appeal "Educate to Lead: Nepal". Wow! You all have a lot to be proud of SITM!

This year has been full of enlightening experiences where we not only enriched the lives of those in our community and internationally, but



Michelle Jones, left and President Vivian Ruiz at Thanks to Youth.

also in our own lives. It has been full of so many wonderful opportunities, and I am so glad that I got to share them with all of you. This truly has been a phenomenal experience. The amount of drive that our members have for our club and our cause is truly spectacular to see, and I am excited to see what this puts in store for the upcoming year.

Thank you to all of our members for making this such a successful and fun

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June Board & Business Update and Meeting Highlights

By Faye I. Andersen

The last Board and Business Meetings of the 2015-16 Club Year were completed last week as we transition from President Vivian Ruiz's year to President-Elect Jennifer Burnitt and her Board.

New Bylaws and Policies & Procedures Adopted.

Congratulations to the Finance/Bylaws Committee on completing a wholesale revision of SITM's Bylaws and establishment of Policies and Procedures for the club. The second reading of the motion to adopt the new revision and addition was passed by the membership at the June Business Meeting. A copy of both was attached to President Vivian's Board/Business packet. It can also be found at the SITM website at www.sitmnev.org. Thanks to co-coordinator Pam Sutton and the hard-working members of the Finance/Bylaws committee and all of the volunteers who joined the re-write and have worked months to make these both cohesive and complete.

Special Set-Aside Fund for IGU Expenses Approved

The IGU Committee proposed a motion that the Board recommended and the membership approved at the June Business Meeting. Due to recent changes in the club budget, the committee's proposal was to allocate \$500 from the 2016 Spring Garage Sale proceeds for the committee to use for operating expenses, such as garage sale ads, signs and supplies; airfares for the speaker for the March Pledge Drive for Nepal; and special guest costs such as our recent SI and SIA visitors. The fund is being established for the 2015-16 year with any unexpended funds being carried over to the 2016-17 Club Year. Such expenses were previously paid for by members of the committee.

Thanks to Youth and Garage Sale Proceeds

Record funds were raised at the annual Thanks to Youth event and the Spring Garage Sale in the past few weeks. TTY honored 7 scholars and 14 Unsung Heroes

on May 26 and raised more than \$17,000. The Garage Sale on June 4 raised over \$4,700. See stories on pages 4-5 and 8-9 for the complete stories and photos.

Yearly Dues Are Due

General Fund Treasurer Vicki Schultz has emailed dues notices to all members. Please respond as quickly as you can, so Treasurer Vicki can make the club's annual dues payments to region and federation by July 1. Contact Vicki, if you have any questions.

Happy Dollars for Awaken

Happy Dollars collected during the Month of May were \$193 and designated for Awaken, whose mission is to increase awareness and education surrounding the issue of commercial sexual exploitation and to provide housing and restoration for its victims.

Kay Dunham was the member most likely to survive on a boat stranded at sea. It was all part of a survivalist game members played at the May 19 meeting while signing up for next year's committees.



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year. The past 12 months has been a testament to how our club impacts the world, especially the women and children within it. This year would not have been possible without the vision and commitment of our members. I hope that within your aspirations to inspire others, you also found that you have inspired yourself. You inspired me, and from that inspiration came a poem that was put in the Sierra Nevada Region E-Blast, and is now used by some other Soroptimist clubs to inspire their members.

It has been a true honor to serve as your President. I'm signing off, but this is not nearly the end. Thank you for all of the laughter that I have been able to share with you all this year. Thank you for all of the memories that I will cherish for years to come. Lastly, thank you for the friendship that you, my fellow Soroptimists, have given me, especially in the last year.

Sincerely,
President Vivian

Calendar

- June 16 – Disability Resources, Inc.
- June 23 – Club Year in Review
- June 30 – Installation of 2016-2017 Board
- July 7 – Dark
- July 12 – Board Meeting
- July 14 – Business Meeting

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Marlys Pryor - A Life of Science and Technology Across the Continents

By Paula Ringkob

During a get-acquainted lunch with Marlys Pryor, she saw a plane fly over and said "That's a C-130" and then told me about the C-130 engines made by Rolls-Royce Corp. She said that what got her attention was the approach angle/pattern. It was like the pilot was diving for the runway but more likely the pilot was practicing "touch and goes."

She grew up in White Plains, NY. Marlys' parents encouraged her and her brother (four years younger) to be the best person they could be. She had an early interest in space and the rockets that could take man (and woman) there. She wanted to be the first woman on the moon but



Marlys, right, during her induction into SITM as her sponsor, Jo Ann Roberts introduces her. Membership Committee Co-Coordinator Rikki Hensley is in the background.

it simply wasn't written in the stars. "High school physics and calculus made me realize I wasn't a 'Brainiac' so I aimed a little lower and studied aeronautical engineering at New York University," Marlys said.

Over the years, she has worked for two aircraft manufacturers (Sikorsky and Douglas) and two aircraft engine manufacturers (General Electric and Rolls Royce). At GE, she was the second woman working in field service and customer support and the first woman with an engineering degree. She loved her work which was a mix of management and technical. Technical involved aircraft engine design, manufacturing and testing

for military and commercial aircraft. Management involved running test facilities including staff, budget and performance reports to military or civilian customers, compliance with certification standards and liaison between departments, agencies and activities.

Her work required much international travel – often on short notice. She needed to be able to quickly get to where the customer was located, assess the situation, gain confidence of the customer and propose or negotiate a creative solution. She found that being a woman in a male-dominated profession and industry had its challenges! "You must be flexible and confident on the outside (though quaking on the inside)," Marlys recalled. "I once showed up at a combat-ready Air Force base and even though I had all of the proper credentials, I had an M16 rifle pointed at me because the guards had never seen a female civilian on the flight line."

When I asked what her best professional accomplishment was, she said, "Introducing computerized analytical tools to Allison Engine Company (Rolls-Royce Corp.). They were a "little behind the times."

During her working career, she also earned a Master of Science in Business Management and developed strong, technical computer skills. She has a pilot's license and learned to operate a forklift (and other heavy equipment).

Marlys moved to Reno in July 2015 from Indianapolis, IN. Nevada's favorable tax climate was a lure for her.

She knew about Soroptimist clubs from a friend in Indiana. After moving to Reno she checked the SI website, found there were three clubs in Reno, looked at their websites and visited all of them. When Marlys reached out

to the SITM website, Jo Ann Roberts replied and invited her to a club meeting. Marlys was inducted in October 2015 and her sponsor was Jo Ann. She is interested in helping women and encouraging children and would like to be on either the Education-Youth or Education-Women committee.

Marlys is a volunteer with Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ), a group that delivers innovative, outdoor science-based education to area youth. Marlys is a strong advocate of exposing young people to the sciences whether it be outdoors or outer space and encouraging study in science and math. Marlys recently learned she had been nominated by SNJ for a Governor's Points of Light Award for the Nonprofit and Community Organization Volunteer Program sector. If she becomes a finalist, she will be honored in Las Vegas in September.

She also is hoping to work with the local Habitat for Humanity and share her residential and commercial construction experience.

Marlys likes reading, plants and exercise. She is exercising her body with yoga, Pilates and TRX classes and recently bought a stationary bike. Her bucket list includes trips to New Zealand and maybe Antarctica



Marlys Pryor (left) and Jennifer Robinson (right) at a Family Science Night at Caughlin Ranch Elementary School.

next winter (the only continent she has not visited).

Throughout her life her mantra has been to be the best at whatever she does.

SITM Honors Twenty-One Local Youth

By Paula Ringkob
Photos by Gayle Baxley

SITM held its 29th annual Thanks To Youth Luncheon on May 26, 2016, at the Atlantis Casino Resort and Spa. The luncheon was attended by 340 people. Youth were recognized in two categories.



Reno High School all female Drill Team prepares to present the colors at Thanks to Youth.

Seven high school seniors who had expressed a desire and financial need each received a \$2,000 college scholarship award. All seven students had earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher, had been recognized by the National Honor Society and were active in their school

and community. Their career goals are diverse with three seeking to work in the health-medical field, two interested in business and public policy, one wanting to be a school principal and one whose goal is to be a lawyer.

SITM began recognizing Unsung Heroes in our community in 1987. These young people were nominated for their unselfish work with their family, their classmates and/or their community. Fourteen youth ranging in age from 3rd to 12th grade were commended for their efforts and initiatives.



Eileen Fuller, left, sells raffle tickets to a guest Jo Ann Lessly at the Thanks to Youth celebration.

Unsung Heroes were taken on a \$175 shopping spree at Target accompanied by an SITM member. In addition to choosing items for themselves, many students also chose gifts for their parents, grandparents and siblings. (see pages 6-7 for photos and more information about some of the awardees and the shopping sprees.)

All students received a folder with Certificates of Merit from Senators Reid and Heller, Congressman Amodei, Governor

Thanks to Youth Scholarship recipients, from left to right

*Mabel Sedano,
Sparks High School
Abigail Navarro Munoz,
Sparks High School
Marlyn Arce,
Sparks High School
Arivelle Joson,
Sparks High School
SITM President Vivian Ruiz
Giselle Ojeda Ramirez,
Hug High School
Jason Schulthess,
Hug High School
Zaira Diaz Rosas,
Hug High School*



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Unsung Heroes first row, left to right

*Ellyaunna (Elly) Turner, 3rd grade, Sepulveda Elementary
 Kate Jacot, 3rd grade, Sepulveda, Elementary
 Danica Sullivan, 3rd grade, Hunter Lake Elementary*

Unsung Heroes, second row, left to right

*Julianna Brown, 12th grade, Reed High School
 Delaney Sullivan, 4th grade, Hunter Lake Elementary
 Celeste Garcia Perez, 6th grade, Agnes Risley Elementary
 Paris Acosta, 6th grade, Lemmon Valley Elementary
 Annika Galvin, 8th grade, Pine Middle School
 Kristen (Ellie) Appleman, 8th grade, Mendive Middle School.*

Unsung Heroes, third row, left to right

*Chance VanCleve, 7th grade, Coral Academy of Science
 Jade (JJ) Sanchez, 8th grade, Sparks Middle School
 Eduardo Nieves Garcia, 8th grade, Dilworth S.T.E.M. Academy
 Chelsea Herdt, 9th grade, High Dessert Montessori Charter School
 Brooke Gallaway, 8th grade, Pine Middle School.*



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Sandoval, Mayors Schieve and Martini and SITM President Vivian Ruiz. Professional pictures were taken of each student by Paula Leyba and the student received 8 wallet-size pictures, two 5 x 7 pictures and one 8 x 10 picture.

The speaker was Sharon Chamberlain, CEO at Northern Nevada Hopes. She contrasted the uninhibited gusto of a child to the self-conscious and cautious behavior of adults and urged adults to face challenges by adapting some of the behaviors of children in order to succeed.

There were twelve baskets ranging in value from \$100 to \$300 in the raffle coordinated by and creatively produced by Margie Hermanson and Michelle Jones. Ticker sales were brisk!

Mr. John Farahi and the Atlantis Casino Resort and Spa hosted the luncheon. Proceeds from table sponsors, tickets sales and raffle ticket sales are expected to exceed \$17,300 and will be used for 2017 Scholarship Awards and Unsung Hero recognition.

The Education-Youth Committee, coordinated by Teresa Mentzer and Judge Connie Steinheimer, publicized the scholarships and awards and made the final selection. Chris Fegert and Valerie Summersville-Hahn, Co-Coordinators of the Thanks To Youth Committee, and their committee members coordinated the luncheon program, sponsors and ticket sales.



Busy preparing baskets for the raffle were Michelle Jones and Margie Hermanson.



Bev Perkins, left and Barbara Arwell, greet Judie Henderson, center, a former scholarship recipient and former member of SI/Reno.

Tales from the Unsung Heroes Shopping Trips

Photos by Teresa Mentzer

The 14 Unsung Heroes were treated to a shopping trip following the Thanks to Youth luncheon. Each youth was accompanied by a Soroptimist and a parent. Each was allotted a 175 total to select whatever merchandise they would like for themselves, and some bought gifts for parents or siblings too. Target was kind enough to open a separate register for the shoppers, and no sales taxes were applied, since it was an SITM purchase. Target also treated everyone to a free soda and Teresa Mentzer treated the parents to a Starbucks coffee.



Jade "JJ" Sanchez, an 8th grader at Sparks Middle School, with her father, Alvin Sanchez, sister Shea and Cindy Burk.

Carol Dinneen escorted Ellie Appleman, an 8th grader at Mendive Middle School. According to Carol, "She used some of her money to buy two boxes of diapers for our diaper drive and to purchase clothes for children in need. She asked me to donate the clothes through SITM. What a delightful and generous young woman."



Ana Nadimi with Celeste Garcia Perez, Agnes Risley Elementary School 6th grader, and her mother Maria and sister, Jennifer.

Paris Acosta, a 6th grade student at Lemmon Valley Elementary School, was accompanied by Michelle Jones. "Paris and I were joined by his mother and two younger brothers. To my surprise, Paris' first choice was the book section. He carefully picked out a couple of

books for himself. His little brother then threw a book into our cart. Paris reviewed the book and said he would get it for his brother. How sweet of him!

A few moments later his mother began to take over the shopping spree, which made me quite sad because this shopping spree was for Paris. He is a very kind young boy and some of his shopping spree was used to buy some more items for his brothers. Although, I could see the look on his face that this was not exactly how he had planned for his shopping spree to go, he didn't complain. He handled the



Mary Ann Decker with Kate Jacot, a 3rd grader at Sepulveda Elementary School, and father Robert.

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Shirley George with Danica Sullivan, a 3rd Grade student at Hunter Lake Elementary School, with her sister Delaney, and their mother, Andrea.

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situation in a very mature manner, and it shows he definitely meets the qualities we look for in our Unsung Heroes.

In closing, Michelle Jones said Paris' younger brother, Gabriel, remarked that he wished that he could receive this award someday. Paris said, "You can, if you would act more like me."

Margie Hermanson accompanied Elly Turner, a 3rd grader at Sepulveda Elementary School on her shopping trip.

"Elly was such a sweetheart. The FIRST thing she went to get was something for her sister. When we went to check out we had too much, so she returned a couple of things and then the amount was less, so I asked if she wanted the dress she had returned and told her I would pay the difference. Her reply was 'no thank you, I don't need it!' BTW, the four pair of shoes were totally her. I said NOTHING!! But then knew she was my



Connie Steinheimer and her daughter, Jocelyn, with Brooke Gallaway, an 8th grader from Pine Middle School.

kindred soulmate!"

A hand-written 'thank you' note was received by Judge Connie Steinheimer and her daughter, Jocelyn, from Brooke Gallaway, an 8th Grader Pine Middle School

Thank you so much for shopping with me at Soroptimist. I had so much fun with both of you. I am so grateful that I got such fantastic shopping buddies! Soroptimist was such a fun experience and I am happy that I got to share it with both of you. And thank you for letting me go \$10 over.



Congratulations to Ana Nadimi who has finally been able to gain permission to bring her Mother from Iran to America. Ana brought her Mother and sister to the May 19 meeting for all of us to meet them. Pictured are Ana Nadimi and her mother, Badrolmoolook and sister Aria.



Members of the winning table showed off their prize for correctly matching members' names with the information (or lack of information) about members, as printed in the Club Roster. From left are: Liza Chapen, Jean Neddenriep, Niki Ewing, Margie Hermanson and Diana Dillon.

Blow Out Spring Garage Sale Nets Over \$4,800

If not THE biggest, it was among the biggest garage sales ever held by the IGU Committee to support the various Nepal and international projects of SITM. At the end of the day Saturday, over \$4,857 was collected for merchandise sold before and during the sale, June 4, 2016.

Thanks go to all the members who donated items for the sale and gave up their time Friday night for set-up and Saturday for the sale and clean-up. Members, family and friends worked a total of 241 hours throughout the sale.



Diana Dillon and Bev Perkins have their work cut out for them in sorting through all of this stuff.



Liza Chapen, Joan Hughes and President Vivian Ruiz sorting the pile of clothing.



Jeanne Naccarato and Penney Leezy deciding what to do with all of these donations.



The Friday set-up crew helped Faye celebrate her retirement with a cake for the occasion. Front row from left: Teresa Mentzer, Faye Andersen, Monica House and Joan Hughes. Second row (kind of) from left: Enid Oliver, Vivian Ruiz, Connie Steinheimer, Ana McArdle, Kay Dunham, Jeanne Naccarato and Margie Hermanson. Third row from left: Linda Lamke, Scarlet Ewy, Liza Chapen and Bev Perkins.



Some of the Saturday sale crew, from left: Pam Robinson, Connie Steinhaimer, Monica House, Ana Nadimi, Jo Ann Roberts, Vicki Schultz, Teresa Mentzer, Enid Oliver, Faye Andersen and Becky Moody.



Carol Dinneen, Connie Steinheimer and Linda Lamke confer at Friday night set-up.

Customer Service in action as Wally Prendergast, forefront, Craig Lamke, in red cap and Teresa Mentzer, far left, help a customer load a dinette into his truck.



Becky Moody and Carmella Cipollina keeping the merchandise in order during the sale.



Scarlet Ewy finds a new use for a donated colander, with Ana McArdle.



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SITM meets every Thursday noon at the Atlantis Casino 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 Monday before the meeting. Lunch is \$19.

Soroptimist is a global network of women working to improve the lives of women and girls.



For information about our organization, check out these Soroptimist Websites:

Sierra Nevada Region: www.soroptimistsnr.orgSoroptimist International of the Americas: www.soroptimist.orgSoroptimist International: www.soroptimistinternational.org

Did you know . . .

Soroptimist: Defined.

Soroptimist International of the Americas has new recruitment ad designs, featuring a dictionary definition that will let interested prospects know exactly what Soroptimist is! Share our mission with your community by downloading the ad from the recruitment campaign webpage and updating it with your club's own contact information. *From the June 2016 Soroptimist Summary.*

Soroptimist

[suh-rop-tuh-mist]

noun. A global volunteer network of women working to improve the lives of women and girls.

Best for women. What the organization strives to be—women at our best, helping other women to be their best.

See **SOROPTIMIST.ORG**