



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

President Patti Doty

www.sitmuv.org

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President's Message

Sunshine, then rain and wind, then a speck or two of snow—a typical Nevada spring to energize us as we embark on our spring projects. Recently, Purna Subedi inspired us with his pictures and his passion for our Nepal project.

What progress—never doubt the power of a few determined women.

With sadness, we contrast the devastation in our sister country, Japan. SIA has already created a link for donations. We can be proud to be part of an organization that moves so quickly in service.

If an organism doesn't change, it dies. So it is with countries, communities and individuals. As Soropti-



mists, we must hold fast to those things which define us—our service to women and girls—while challenging ourselves to change and grow as we learn more about our home and our world through our programs and our projects. In February, Making a Difference for Women created opportunity. This month we honor a woman of our community with the Ruby Award for Women Helping Women. In April our scholarships open doors to education. Thanks to Youth in May

celebrates the younger members of our community. Each year our committees revise and recreate these programs and each year they soar as we challenge ourselves and rise to the occasion.

An old Irish blessing: May the road rise up to meet you, the wind be always at your back, the sunshine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and—until we meet again—may God hold you in the palm of His Hand. Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Answers to SOLT Quiz (from last issue)

1. Faye I. Andersen
2. 61
3. Sierra Pacific Region
4. Jackie DeMartini
5. October 3, 2021
6. Thulipokhari
7. Darfur
8. Jo Ann Roberts, Faye I. Andersen, Kay Dunham & Sue Camp
9. Paula Ringkob
10. Jo Ann Roberts

Note: There will be no quiz this month due to excessive news.



Board Meeting by Past Governor Faye I. Andersen



Board Meeting held March 8, 2011

Everyone is invited to attend board meetings and food is served. You also get credit for attendance. They are usually held the Tuesday before the second Thursday of the month.

In less than a month, club members will elect new SITM Officers, Directors and Delegates for the 2011-2012 Club Year. Elections will be held at the April Business Meeting. If you do not plan to attend that meeting, you may request an absentee ballot from Nominating Committee Coordinator Niki Ewing, members Mich Glazier or Lynn Robins. See page 5 for a complete listing of nominees.

\$1,000 collected for Solar Cookers

Congratulations and thanks to SITM members, family and friends who have donated \$1,000 towards the Sierra Nevada Region's Solar Cooker Project. The project was launched last fall thanks to the efforts of SITM's IGU Committee and the SI/Fallon Club to bring this project to the region's attention. Affectionately known as Kay's Cooker's (after SNR Governor Kay Whitaker), a competition was launched among the region's clubs to donate money prior to next month's SNR Annual Conference.

The solar cookers are shipped to refugees who have fled the genocide in Darfur, Africa, a region of the Sudan and are currently in refugee camps in Chad. Women must walk long distances to gather firewood for cooking, exposing them to marauding bands of insurgents who rape or kill the women. The solar cookers eliminate the need to burn wood, are environ-

mentally friendly and keep children safe from burns. Each lightweight, small and fairly inexpensive kit costs \$30. Included are two solar cookers, two pots, two pot holders, a year's supply of plastic bags and skills training for refugee women and girls.

Thanks also to Jo Ann Roberts and Scarlet Ewy who have championed this project and spear-headed the fund raising efforts on behalf of the club.

Conference Newsletter Writers Sought

Gayle Baxley has volunteered to act as editor and produce the daily conference newsletter at this year's SNR Conference, April 29 through May 1 at the Atlantis in Reno. She is looking for members planning to attend conference to volunteer a little of their time to help cover the happenings each day by writing articles for the newsletter.

SITM members have volunteered to assist Gayle as editor for past conferences. Gayle will have a room at the Atlantis, and it's a fun way to enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow members, plus provide a valuable service for Soroptimists around the region.

SIA President to Visit

The Human Rights/Status of Women Committee is hosting Soroptimist International of the Americas President Sharon Fisher, as a very special speaker at the

March 24 meeting. The committee will be honoring Marcia Hoch, this year's recipient of The Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women. Marcia will be honored for her efforts to make an extraordinary difference in the lives of women or girls. She is the manager of the Advising Center at the Truckee Meadows Community College.

Aly's Prom Closet Volunteer opportunities

Your help is needed for two Saturdays, April 9 and 16 to staff the store for Aly's Prom Closet. This annual event enables high school girls, who could otherwise not afford to attend their school proms, by providing gently-used prom dresses and other services like make-up and hair styling. Volunteers assist the girls in selecting the gowns. Contact Economic & Social Development Coordinator Jean Neddenriep to volunteer.

Happy Dollars

A total of \$439 in February Happy Dollars were collected and matched by the club for a total donation of \$878, which will be divided equally between Quest Counseling and Consulting and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. March's Happy Dollars are designated for the American Lung Association for Camp Breathe Easy and to the Tahoe Rim Trail.

Membership Changes (Nothing New)



2009 • 2010





Soroptimist Project Matching *by Sue Camp*

51 girls from 6 to 17 years old are currently living in a boarding school in Boyarka, a Ukrainian town close to Kiev. They all have poor vision, ranging from 60% to 97% of vision loss for congenital or acquired reasons. Coming from very poor families or being orphans, they are staying at the boarding school where they can be treated and receive an education. Their disability as well as their

Personal situation, causes them serious issues in terms of physical, affective and mental development.

SI Club Kiev has been in touch with this boarding school for over 10 years And knows well the problems these girls are confronted with and the needs they have. Therefore the purpose of the project is to equip classrooms with the necessary material to teach them to cook and sew as well

as to help them becoming autonomous in the completion of these tasks.

For more information on this and many other great Soroptimist projects go to www.soroptimistprojects.org.



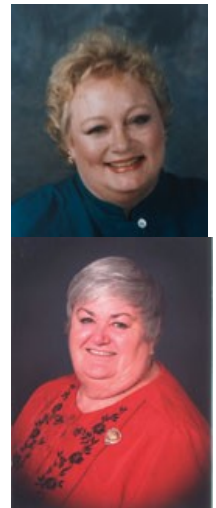
SIA Update *by Sue Camp*

Cathy Mitchell, SI/ Cloverdale, California, has been named chair of SIA's 42nd Biennial Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. Linda Sue Hansen of SI/Vallejo Gateway, California, has been appointed as vice chair. They will serve as local ambassadors and oversee all Soroptimist volunteers during convention. We wish Cathy and Linda Sue the

best of luck with their upcoming assignments. If you are interested in volunteering at the convention in Hawaii, please contact Cathy Mitchell at cathy2249@comcast.net.

As a part of its sponsorship with SIA, Jackson Hewitt is providing self-preparation, discounted online federal tax services for its deluxe and premium packages from now

until August 15, 2011. In order to access these discounted services, click on the following link: <http://www.jacksonhewittonline.com>. Enter the following codes: SoroDeluxe20 (\$22.50 deluxe service) or SoroPrem20 (\$36.95 premium service). Many thanks to Jackson Hewitt for its continuing support of Soroptimist.



Sad Tidings *By Sue Camp*

It is with great regret that I announce the passing of one of our newest members, Cheri Woods. She passed away unexpectedly on February 24th. Cheri was a fitness trainer and so much more. In her short membership with our club, she was enthusiastic and a true Soroptimist through and through. She was sponsored by Pam Robinaon and was Pam's personal trainer.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, March 12 with food and support provided by Cheri's Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Woods, three daughters and one precious granddaughter, Sierra.

Cheri, you will be missed!





Nepal Project Update by Faye I. Andersen



Current Residents of the dorm in Thulipokhari, Nepal

Nepalese girls being educated by SITM's project to "Remove Barriers to Education for Girls" are beginning their 10th year of support for housing and tuition assistance in Thulipokhari, Nepal. Dr. Purna Subedi, who grew up in Thulipokhari attended our March 3 meeting and gave a most interesting presentation with photos, based on his visit to the village in December.

In the Beginning ...

In 2000, the IGU Committee launched an effort to elevate the status of girls in Nepal by undertaking a project to build a dormitory for girls and provide tuition and housing scholarships for a two-year "college program" at the Janata Sudarshan Multiple Campus. A year later, the first class of girls entered the program. The girls are typically aged 12-16. In the past nine years, the program has granted over 600 full and partial scholarships and other assistance like school supplies and school maintenance.

SITM also operates an animal assistance program in the village providing low cost loans to villagers to purchase water buffaloes, goats, chickens and bee hives. Over the past six years, over 100 needy families have benefited from the program.

Pledge to Support Girls

All of these programs have

been made possible through the generous donations of members, family and friends who have sponsored a girl's tuition, or purchased an animal for the loan program. A pledge of just \$30 month/\$300 a year, provides a housing and tuition scholarship for a girl to overcome the barriers to education that are otherwise insurmountable for her to conquer on her own. Just \$15 month/\$150 a year provides tuition only scholarship for a girl. Donations in any amount are always appreciated for partial scholarships, school supplies or the animal assistance program.

For a pledge form and to make installment payments, contact Jo Ann Roberts.

Program Transforms Village

When SITM first partnered with the people of the village of Thulipokhari, girls were a rarity in school, the village had no electricity and water was only available at a couple of communal spigots. Walking six hours was the only way to reach the village from the nearest bus stop.

Today there is a seasonal road into the village; electricity has reached the village and more water sources are available. The government has built a hospital in the village. Once the only illuminated building due to solar panels installed by SITM. Today, electricity is relatively prevalent and some homes even have

television. SITM has paid for computers for the girls to use in the dormitory. The village has built communal sanitary toilets. Many of the villagers now have cell phones.

Healthier, Happier Villagers

During his presentation, Dr. Purna Subedi marveled at the improvements to the village where he grew up, showing off photos of healthy inhabitants, smiling and expressing gratitude for the transformation of their village and their lives. In good Soroptimist fashion, and inspired by the group of women who have funded the girls' education and animal assistance programs, the village women have formed a Mother's Club that is looking out for the community's needs.

A large part of the success of this program goes to Purna and his family members, including his father and brother, who have been SITM's liaison with the village council and the school's administration. They have overseen everything from the building and operation of the dormitory to the establishment and administration of the girls' scholarships and animal loans. All of their work has been done without compensation, so that every penny donated is put to work making life better for the girls and members of the village.



Certificate of Appreciation from the school in Thulipokhari, Nepal



SITM Board Nominations 2011/2012

..The Nominating Committee has reported the slate of members standing for election to office for the 2011-2012 Club Year. Elections will be held at the April Business Meeting. If you do not plan to attend that meeting, you may request an absentee ballot from Nominating Committee Coordinator Niki Ewing, members Mich Glazier or Lynn Robins.

* Members completing a predetermined term of office.

- *President Norma Rash
- President-Elect** **Becky Moody**
- VP-Service** **Ann Steckline**
- VP-Technical** **Mich Glazier**
- Cor. Secty** **Margie Hermanson**
- Record. Secty** **Teresa Mentzer**
- Treas.-Service** **Betsy Dart**
- *Treas.-General Pam Robinson
- Director (2 yr) Patti Doty
- Director (1 yr) Beverly Perkins

- Dir./Del (2 yrs)** **Tina Smith**
- Dir./Del (1 yr) Vivian Ruiz
- Alt. Dir./Del. (2 yrs)** **Ana Nadimi**
- Alt.Dir./Del. (1 yr) Rosalie Henry



Thank you to all who have stepped up to the plate to run for office. Serving on the board is a good experience, give it a try.

Friday Digest *by President Patti*

February 18, 2011

Can you think of anything more fun than to honor spectacular high school women for their volunteer work? Well, I can't and yesterday that's just what we did. We presented our 2011 Violet Richardson Award to Corinne Lowe with two runners up, Dominique DiPietro and Alexis Garduno.

February 25, 2011

We were inspired by our SIA President Elect Pat Donohue and her wise words about leadership. Did you know that some leaders "lead the parade" and others "lead the applause" and that both are valuable? Good leaders empower others, help people become better than they already are, help achieve goals, get members excited about common goals and encourage change!

March 4, 2011

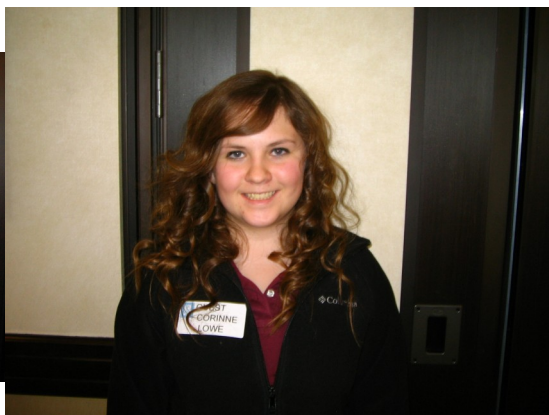
Yesterday to a packed house, Dr. Purna Subedi presented an update on our Nepal Project. See the article in this newsletter for further information.

March 11, 2011

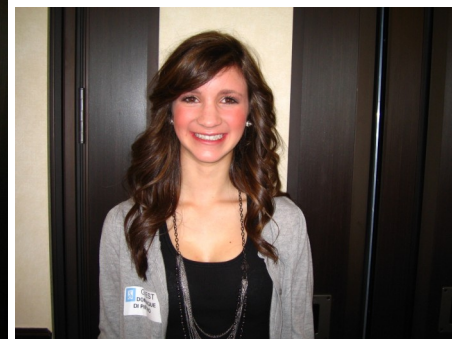
Another business meeting but without a quorum, disposition of minutes and financials awaits our next business meeting.



Alexis Garduno



Corinne Lowe



Dominique DiPietro



Upcoming Event

Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women Recipient to be Honored March 24

Don't miss this opportunity to honor an extraordinary woman and enjoy a special presentation by Soroptimist International of the Americas President Sharon A. Fisher.

The Human Right/Status of Women Committee is proud to announce this year's Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women helping Women recipient Marcia Hoch, the Manager of the Advising Center at Truckee Meadows Community College. She has spent 35 years in higher education as a counselor, assistant professor and administrator.



Special Guest Speaker



A special honor for SITM will be a presentation by Soroptimist International of the Americas President Sharon A. Fisher. She is a charter member of SI/The Langleys, British Columbia, Canada. A Soroptimist since 1986, Sharon has held several leadership positions including club president and Western Canada Region governor and treasurer. She is a self-employed entrepreneur who works as a director and chief financial officer of a crime-analysis software company.

Soroptimists from throughout the region have been invited to join us for this special meeting. The meeting may run a littler longer than the normal time, so plan ahead to stay a few extra minutes so you don't miss a thing.

The map displays various regions and countries where Soroptimist International has a presence. Regions include: NORTH-WEST ARIZONA, WESTERN CANADA, NORTH CENTRAL, NORTH EASTERN, NORTH ATLANTIC, SOUTH ATLANTIC, SOUTHERN, SOUTH CENTRAL, WESTERN MOUNTAIN, SIERRA PACIFIC, CALIFORNIA COAST, TAIWAN, PHILIPPINES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA, PANAMA, PUERTO RICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AMERICA DEL SUR, ARGENTINA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, GUAYANA, and JAPAN. Other countries shown include SOUTH AFRICA, INDIA, and AUSTRALIA.

Soroptimist International of the Americas has more than 1,400 clubs in 19 countries and territories.



District II & III Winter Meeting by Bev Perkins

Since February is Heart Month, we arrived to a meeting room strewn with pink and red hearts. The meeting was called to order by District II Director Trudy Mills with the pledge being led by SI South Lake Tahoe President Ellen Camacho. District III Director Debbie McMillin gave the thought for the day and President Sherry Griffin-Grundy, President of the host club SI Carson City gave the welcome.

Due to the snow storm, there were no region representatives in attendance. Of course the agenda was built around them

so it was lucky that SITM had the SIA President Elect in town. Pat graciously agreed to give the talk that she had given at our club saving the day for the District Directors.

After a heart healthy lunch, we were treated to an informative talk by Rebecca Flanders-Venis, Director of Annual and Corporate Giving at UNR. Rebecca is a heart disease survivor of many years and she opened our eyes to the risks of heart disease. She mentioned that red wine is a good thing to drink every day to help stave off heart disease so I guess our club has a head start.

To control stress, we were given 4 steps to take: 1) stop, remove yourself from the stressful situation; 2) breathe; 3) reflect (Is it so bad? Can it be changed?); then 4) choose the correct course of action or attitude to take.

After our speaker, Stacey Sawyer was elected as our new District III Director. She is from the SI Elko Club and takes over for Debbie McMillin who resigned due to an impending relocation to Ely.

Bev Perkins, Temporary Delegate



Thanks To Youth Update by Sue Camp

A bit of information about our upcoming "Thanks To Youth" Program.

First, the date is **May 26th** from noon to 2 p.m.

Members can sponsor a table of 8 for \$250.

All members must purchase a ticket (if you do not sponsor a table) at \$20 each.

All members will be given tickets to sell at the April 21st club meeting.

Anyone who knows of corporate sponsors should give that information to either Cindy Burk or Marilyn Pearson so that they can send out the appropriate materials.

The "Thanks To Youth" Committee is responsible for the April 21st club meeting at which there will be a fun fair with prizes so do not miss this meeting.

This year's theme is "Anything is Possible" and is a great event to bring associates, friends, family or even casual acquaintances to.



Thanks to Youth

Making A Difference For Women Event

On February 26, 2011, SITM held its Making A Difference For Women Event. We had a clothes closet, mock interviews, fashion show, and presentations on how to get information on job hunting and help in getting a job. This was a real eye opener for those attending, some of whom had attended before. The feedback was how useful the information was and how very grateful these women were that the program was available to them. They walked away with a full heart, a full brain of ideas, a full stomach after a great lunch and arms full of clothes. (Photos on Page 9)

Congratulations SITM on another successful event!



March 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 IGU	4	5
6	7	8 Board Meeting	9	10 Bus Mtg	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Environment	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Ruby Award President Sharon Fisher	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Econ & Soc Dev		

April 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Health	8	9
10	11	12 Board Mtg	13	14 Bus Mtg	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Thanks To Youth	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Scholarship Luncheon Region Bd Mtg	29 Region Conference	30 Region Conference



Making A Difference For Women Event



Kay & Wendy

Registration with Sue, JoAnn, Kay & Wendy



The Clothes Closet



Registration with Norma, Doreen & Paula



Our Graduates



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Betsy Dart
Marilyn Pearson
Tina Smith
Pam Robinson*

Photographers
Gayle Baxley

Anyone interested in membership, we would love to have you! We meet every Thursday at noon at the Atlantis Casino Resort on the second floor convention area. Lunch is \$16 so join us!