



SITM NEWSLETTER  
2010-2011

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# SITM Update

*Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows*    *President Patti Doty*    [www.sitmnu.org](http://www.sitmnu.org)

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MAY 2011

## President's Message

The author Anais Nin said, "Life is a process of becoming, a combination of states we have to go through." I understand this so much better now than I did when I took on the office of President-elect. In the past two years I have grown and resisted growth, been confident and timid, plunged ahead and dug in my heels. And I have seen SITM do the same. Nin goes on to say, "Where people fail is that they wish to elect a state and remain in it. This is a kind of death." In organizations, this state could be labeled "the way we've always done it."

Soon we will laugh and cry as we honor the

youth of our community, young people who have accomplished much in their



process of becoming. We will watch The Year in Review and revel in all the things we have accomplished, some unchanged from previous years, some newer and more risky, maybe fewer of the "risky" variety. As I look over the things I have done, and not done, for SITM this year I cannot help but wonder: Did I play it too safe; did I fail to consider enough possibilities?

I believe it is our responsibility as members of this large and vibrant organization to ask ourselves these questions. It is only through self examination can we find our way, celebrate who we are and who we are becoming.

I love being your President. I am sad my year is coming to an end. I appreciate each and every one of you and the contributions you have made to make my life easier and to make SITM stronger and better. Our world is difficult right now yet we continue to rise up together in service. Each day presents challenges—opportunity or danger? Consider the possibility.

## Message from SIA

In the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Soroptimist has made a \$10,000 donation to The Iwaki Fureai Support Center, an organization that works with domestic violence victims in Iwaki City, Fukushima prefecture. Funds are being used to repair a damaged domestic violence shelter. Click [here](#) to donate to help women and girls in Japan.

In related news, [Soroptimist](#) is committed to raising awareness about the increased risks of violence and sexual assault Japanese women and girls face while living in evacuation centers. To learn how you can help, visit [Act Now!](#) on the SIA website.



# Board Meeting by Past Governor Faye I. Andersen



**Board Meeting held  
May 10, 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.*



2009 • 2010



**SITM UPDATE**

New club budgets and club bylaw revisions were on tap for the May Business Meeting as SITM winds down to the end of the club year.

## **New Budgets and Bylaw Changes Approved**

The 2011-12 club General and Service Fund Budgets were presented at the April Business Meeting and brought back in May for a vote of the membership. The budgets were passed with a \$9,025 deficit. Depending upon income from the members' work at the Reno Air Races, the club's uncommitted funds will have to cover the deficit. The Finance Committee was asked to review the budget for possible revisions. Thank you Finance Committee and SITM Treasurers for your hard work to produce next year's budget.

Proposed club Bylaw changes were presented at the April Business Meeting and passed by the members at the May Business Meeting. The revision included the name change for the Ways & Means Committee to "Special Events" and reclassifying the Making a Difference for Women Committee from a Service Committee to a "Special Events" Committee.

## **Notes from Conference**

Past President Bev Perkins reported on the Sierra Nevada Region Conference. Twenty SITM members attended all or part of conference. Many members worked in the sales room to

sell our "Soroptimists Are Hot" fans. Thanks to President-Elect Norma Rash's good idea, the club sold \$1,770 in fans. There are some left and they will be available on an on-going basis and at the Club Orientation & Training Retreat (COTR) in July.

Thanks also to Gayle Baxley who edited the conference newsletter with the help of some SITM members acting as reporters. Way to go ladies!

SITM was honored at conference with a number of Soroptimist Celebrating Success awards for our Making a Difference for Women Program; Newsletter; Year in Review; and recruiting and retaining new members. SITM also received two Certificates of Appreciation for participating in the four areas of the Strategic Plan and for the work of our President Patti Doty.

## **Money Matters**

The IGU Committee has wired \$10,000 to our girls' dormitory and scholarship program in Thulipokhari, Nepal. Some \$800 of that amount is for our Animal Assistance Program for low-cost loans for the villagers.

The Economic & Social Development Committee has made a \$500 donation to the scholarship fund for Aimal Zabitullah, the military interpreter from Afghanistan that spoke at our March 31 meeting, along with Jean's son, Lieutenant Colonel Kurt Neddenriep.

The Air Race Committee has submitted their budget for the 2011 races and anticipates the club will net approximately \$10,000 for that event.

A \$400 donation to the Making a Difference for Women Program was received as a result of one of CPA Gayle Baxley's clients. The client made a \$100 donation to this club program and her out-of-state employer made a three-to-one match.

## **Two Opportunities to Party**

An "Unholiday Party" is being organized by Kay Dunham, Georgia Baker and Jean Neddenriep for June 15 at the home of Ana Nadimi. The gathering will be an after work potluck fundraiser to benefit the scholarship fund of Aimal Zabitullah with a suggested donation of \$30 per person and \$50 per couple. Contact any of the organizers if you can contribute to the potluck.

Monica House will be hosting an after work graduation party for Jayne George at her home on May 25. Contact Monica for additional details.

## **Happy Dollars**

A total of \$387 in April Happy Dollars were collected and matched by the club for a total donation of \$774, which will be divided Equally between the Crisis

(continued on Page 9)

# IGU UPDATE BY MICHELLE JONES

At the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, we had the pleasure of a delightful visit from Purna Subedi who gave a wonderful presentation with an update of our Nepal project. For many of our members, this is one of their favorite SITM projects, and for some, it is the very reason they joined our club!

This past November, Purna and his family traveled to Thulipokhari and visited the dormitory. He said it was the first trip to Nepal in 11 years, and it was the very first trip ever for his children. He was so amazed at how much the village had changed since his last visit. There is now even a seasonal dirt road that leads right to the village. Some major changes he noticed was electricity in the village and many households have a TV. One of the most surprising changes was that just about everyone in the village now has a cell phone. They may not have any shoes on their feet, but they do have a cell phone! He was also surprised to find the village was much cleaner and free from open sewage. He noticed many have outhouses, and some are equipped with a crude

septic system. The living conditions have remarkably improved. The people look more “robust”, and “the general health of the villagers appears much better.”

For more than a decade, over 600 girls have received help of some kind through Soroptimist donations. Many who have graduated hold jobs in government, as well as in the private sector, as social workers, school teachers, computer operators and business owners. In addition to the existing Higher Secondary School program, a recent addition of a two year College Bachelor’s program will even further expand the opportunities for these girls.

About seven years ago, the IGU committee secured the approval from the Board and the membership of the Club to proceed to invest the funds we were raising, but not required to send to the school to support the girls, at the Community Foundation. We anticipated being able to realize better gains from the investment and also attract more donors. Our approved goal was to have at least \$100,000 dollars in the fund (*similar to an endowment but within the*

*Foundation*) that we could use the interest off of to provide scholarships for as long as our Dorm was habitable. We would like the program to become more self-sufficient in case the members get tired of garage sales, or donations in the annual Pledge Drives are not as generous. Since the members have continued to want to do the fundraising, we have been able to get very close to realizing our goal of guaranteeing sustainability. We currently have \$60,059 at the Community Foundation and \$11,612 at Mutual of Omaha Bank, which gives us a total of \$71,671. We are only \$28,329 away from our goal.

We encourage you, and anyone you know, whom you think would be interested in donating to our annual Pledge Drive for this project in order to make our dream goal of \$100,000, a reality! You should have received a letter along with a pledge form in the mail. If you did not, and wish to make a contribution, you may obtain a pledge form from Jo Ann Roberts.



## Save the Date – June 4

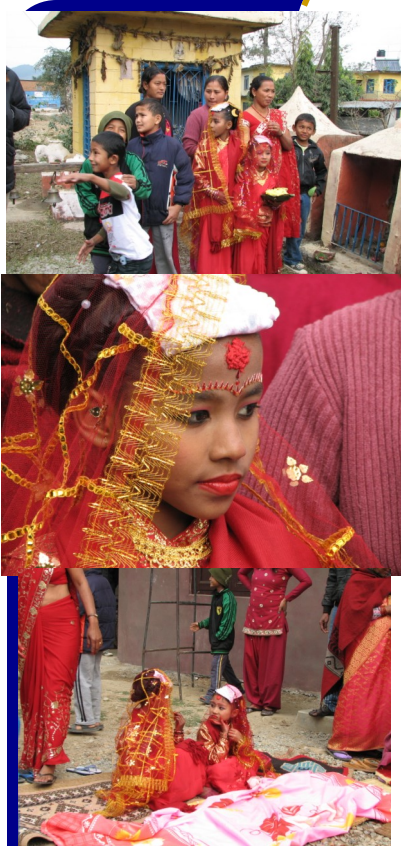
Save those Treasures and donate them to

### IGU Committee Semi-Annual Garage Sale At Judge Connie Steinheimer's Home

Sign-up to work Friday, June 3 for set-up and pricing,  
and/or work on Saturday, June 4 during the sale

Donate your gently-used junk and treasures.

All proceeds support SITM's girls' dormitory and  
scholarship program for girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal.



# A Story from Nepal by President Patti

According to the SI newsletter, Global Voice, "in many countries, widowhood is not treated as a natural part of the life cycle of a woman, but as a social shame. In cultures where it is not acceptable to remarry, widowhood is often a sure way into poverty, discrimination and neglect, regardless of age."

On my recent trip to Nepal, I was privileged to attend a "Marriage Ceremony" which marked the onset of menstruation for two Newar girls. The Newars are the indigenous people of Nepal and while their population is dwindling, their influence is still felt.

As we drove along a public road we noticed commotion

and stopped to see what was happening. Generously, the people invited us to their party which was held at a private home with a temple. The guest list numbered 1,000 but public transportation was suspended on the ceremony day so we travel bus people were invited to participate—after all, they had food for the masses and their culture is one of inclusion.

Prior to the ceremony, the girls (always in pairs for comfort) had been sequestered in a closed room for 2-3 weeks in preparation. Their needs were met by an older female cousin. Then they were dressed in ceremonial red including makeup and honored throughout the day with

prayers, gifts and offerings to whichever gods inhabited the temple. During the ceremony, each girl is "married" to a wood apple (kind of produce). After the ceremony, they go about their regular life, marry, have children, etc. but if a husband should die, plunging most women into widowhood, these girls are still married to their wood apples and thus are spared the indignity of widowhood. According to our guide, they can even remarry. What an ingenious way to honor an old custom while also protecting women.

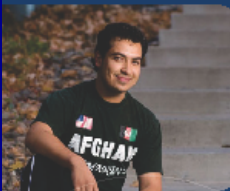
Nepal is a lovely country and the people were generous in their welcome wherever we went. I smile when I remember.

## Help Still Needed for Aimal

As you are all aware because of last month's newsletter, an effort is underway to help Aimal Zabitullah. Currently he must send \$500 a month home to his family as well as cover his educational expenses. Kurt Neddenriep is currently covering these expenses but he cannot nor should not have to do it alone. Anyone who can help, please do so by sending a check to Kurt Neddenriep at the below address.

Also, our Unholiday Party scheduled for June 15th is also a fundraiser for Aimal so sign up for a potluck item that you can bring, enjoy the fun and help Aimal to achieve his dreams. Suggested donations for the party are \$30 for a single or \$50 for a couple.

### how can you help?



**exhibit**  
"Aimal Haïm stepped out of his one-man tent and into the darkness of the Afghanistan night. He was walking across the base to deliver his daily report when the sky lit up with mortar fire."  
© The Nevada Sagebrush, Catherine Skiles

**consider**  
MAKING A PLEDGE FOR AN ANNUAL DONATION  
CONTINGENT ON AIMAL'S SEMESTER GPA.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO  
"NEVADA BOARD OF REGENTS -  
FBO ZABITULLAH AIMAL"  
Mail to: Kurt Neddenriep  
P.O. Box 281383  
Lamaille, Nevada 89828

**1. MAKE A TUITION DONATION WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO "NEVADA BOARD OF REGENTS - FBO ZABITULLAH AIMAL".**

Total tuition and fees per semester is approximately \$10,000 for international students.

**2. HOST A FUNDRAISER DINNER IN YOUR HOME.**

- Invite friends that are willing and able to make a donation towards Aimal's tuition.
- Arrange a time that Aimal can attend and join you.

➤ Enjoy an engaging evening where Aimal will discuss his experiences growing up in Afghanistan and his hopes for a bright future for his country.

**bridge the gap**

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MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO  
"NEVADA BOARD OF REGENTS -  
FBO ZABITULLAH AIMAL"  
Mail to: Kurt Neddenriep  
P.O. Box 281383  
Lamaille, Nevada 89828

Please add me to your email list for updates about Aimal (email)  
Please keep this donation "Anonymous"  
Credit the donation to Aimal  
 I WILL CONSIDER FUTURE DONATIONS IF AIMAL AVERAGES A 3.0 GPA OR BETTER.

will you help with tuition?



## Soroptimist Project Matching - Drilling a Well in the Farada Village

This village only has small wells, that get dry during the dry season and whose water is not safe and clean. This large well is thus necessary, to fight against water-related diseases. Moreover, in the village, women and girls are in charge of collecting drinkable water. To do so, they have to walk long distances, such as 8 km, to reach the closest neighboring village with an access to safe water.

This new well will thus also reduce their long walking journeys. The [construction work](#), as well as the monitoring of the project will be followed by SI Club Espoir Bamako.

Goals:  
Furnish safe and clean water to the families in Farada, through the construction of a large diameter well, and give

them some basic sanitary rules to fight against water-related disease; Avoid long distance that women and girls have to travel to find clean water:  
Save the population against the dangers she is facing when looking for water.  
For more information, visit [www.soroptimistprojects.org](http://www.soroptimistprojects.org).



## Friday Digest *by President Patti*

### Friday Digest 4/22/11

Come, play games & win prizes—and that’s just what we did yesterday at the Thanks to Youth Kickoff. Did you know that this is TTY’s 22nd year? We played ping pong toss, ring toss (or as Marilyn calls it, the “wine bottle toss”), bowling with automatic pinsetter Bev and golf. Game winners accumulated tickets for the ensuing raffle and lots of really great prizes were carried home by happy winners. Thanks to Marilyn Pearson, Cindy Burk and the Thanks to Youth committee for fun and games.

### Friday Digest 4/29/11

Yesterday the Education Women Committee, Co-coordinated by Georgia Baker and Patty Downs, presented our yearly scholarship luncheon. We welcomed special guest SNR Governor Kay Whitaker and most of her board, as well as dignitaries from city and state government. Julia Ratti, CEO of Girl Scouts of Sierra Nevada, described her journey from a girl too shy to order food at a restaurant to the woman of influence she has become. Her message emphasized the importance of mentoring, of supporting and of giving back. Over 80 members and guests enjoyed Cobb salad and chocolate mousse and celebrated the awarding of \$35,000 worth of scholarships to nine deserving women. (see their stories on Page 7)

### Friday Digest 5/6/11

Yesterday Education Youth brought us an uplifting program by Lisandra Sepulveda from Big Brothers/Big Sisters. BBBS mission is “to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.” Children matched are 52% less likely to skip school, 46% less likely to use drugs and 33% less likely to solve problems with violence. What a great program! Our own Past President Marilyn Pearson introduced the program with a bit of her own experience as a Big and she encourages us to volunteer.

### Friday Digest 5-13-11

For a business meeting, yesterday’s wasn’t too bad. Important matters discussed and settled, votes cast, budgets passed and a report from conference. We learned of two upcoming parties to put on your calendars: Unholiday Party at Ana Nadimi’s home on June 15th and a graduation party for Jayne George at Monica’s home on May 25th.

# Upcoming Event .....

*SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF TRUCKEE MEADOWS PRESENTS*



## Thanks to Youth

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2011

NOON TO 1:30 P.M.

ATLANTIS CASINO RESORT

COST \$20

Come join us as we celebrate the good deeds done by our community's youth.

Sponsorships available at \$250 for a table of 8

Please provide:

Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please return info with check payable to SITM to Cindy Burk, c/o Mutual of Omaha Bank, 6275 Neil Road, Reno, NV 89511)

### Reservation and Ticket Information Contact:

Contact:

Cindy Burk at [cindy.burk@mutualofomahabank.com](mailto:cindy.burk@mutualofomahabank.com)

Marilyn Pearson at [atthrrmp@gmail.com](mailto:atthrrmp@gmail.com)

Vicki Schultz at [vschultz@sfginc.com](mailto:vschultz@sfginc.com)





# Scholarship Winners *by Faye I. Andersen*

Following is a summary of our scholarship winners that were presented at our April 28th meeting.

## Nancy Gomes – Mary Gojack Scholarships

**Christina Basso** – Is the primary provider for her husband and daughter whose job at UNR has been cut for budgetary reasons. She will receive her bachelor of science in elementary education from UNR in December 2012.

**Jessica Caro** – Is a single mother for two who left an abusive relationship and returned to school. She will graduate in August 2012 with her associate's degree in radiological technology.

**Stephanie Dosey** – Left an abusive relationship and returned to school as a single mother, but has struggled with personal health problems and the loss of her new husband's job. She will graduate in December 2012 with a bachelor of science in nursing.

**Heather Easdon** -- Is a single mother of two children with health issues. She will graduate in May 2012 with an associate's degree in paralegal law.

**Gina Hames** – Became divorced after a long-term marriage and returned to school to finish her degree. She graduated this May with her bachelor of science degree in secondary education, but still needs to complete her student teaching.

**Heather Holland** -- Is currently working as a certified nursing assistant and has her phlebot-

omy license to support her two children. She will graduate in May 2011 with her associate of applied science degree and will immediately apply to radiology tech school.

**Deborah Johnson-James** -- Has overcome alcoholism and a failed 23-year marriage to raise three daughters. She has transferred from TMCC to UNR to begin work on her bachelor of social work, with a goal to be a licensed clinical social worker.

**Trista Mitchell** – Has overcome a history of alcoholism, addiction to crystal meth and time in jail. She is enrolled at TMCC pursuing an associate degree to become a mental health technician, and she hopes to provide a comfortable life for her three young children.

**Michelle McHardy** -- Michelle owns All Things Equine, providing horse training and riding instruction, but her income is unstable due to the current economic conditions. She is pursuing a degree in psychology from UNR while raising her two teenage daughters.

**Jeannette Nunez** – Was a mother at 13 and is raising her nine-year-old son. She has graduated with an associate degree, but needs a few more classes before she can apply to nursing school.

**Eva Vasquez** – Is a single mother of two daughters who is working full time. She is four credits shy of her associate's degree and plans to apply to nursing school.

**Andrea Winterburn** – Has suffered through alcoholism and abusive relationships. She is the

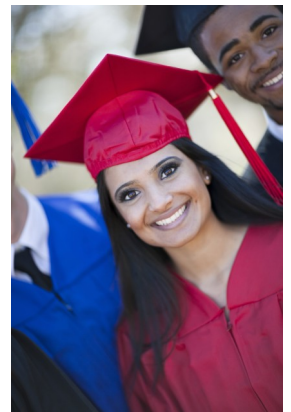
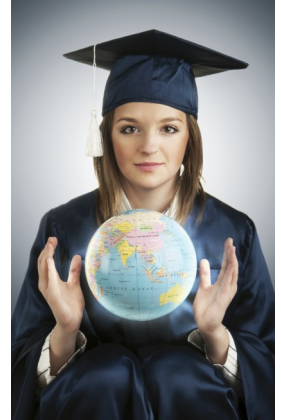
single mother of a daughter. She will graduate in May 2012 with an associate degree in nursing.

## Jack Simon Memorial Graduate Scholarships

**Jennifer McCombs** -- Jennifer is a previous recipient of this scholarship and will graduate in May 2012 with her master's degree in social work. Her passion is writing and she hopes to blend the two and help women and children reach their full potential.

**Kate Mondeschein** -- After receiving a bachelor's degree, Kate established a successful career in marketing and advertising. Then had an epiphany and is now pursuing a master's degree in school counseling that will allow her to make a difference in the lives of adolescents.

**Nadia Noel** -- Nadia discovered our scholarship program while working with students in the Upward Bound program helping them to find educational grants. She is working on her master's degree in secondary education with a goal to become a biology teacher in an at risk high school.





# May 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Region Conference	2	3	4	5 Education Youth	6	7
8	9	10 Board Meeting	11	12 Business Meeting	13	14
15	16	17	18 SI Reno Award's Breakfast	19 Committee Signups	20	21
22 Makeup Artist of the Year at Tres Image	23	24	25 Jayne George Graduation Party	26 Thanks To Youth	27	28
29	30	31				

# June 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Public Relations Website	3	4 IGU Garage Sale
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9 Business Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15 Unholiday Party	16 Economic & Social Development	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Year in Review	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Installation 2011-2012 Board		



# Board Meeting (continued from Page 2)

Pregnancy Center and the Patient Care Fund at the Access to Healthcare Network. May's Happy Dollars are designated for Step and Adrienne's Smile.

## Membership Update

Welcome back to Joan Hughes, who has been on leave for travel to Mexico. Remaining on leave through June is Sonya Hem Giroux for work and personal reasons. The Board accepted, with regrets, the resignations of Peggy Smith for work reasons and Susan Hargrove for work reasons.

## Conference Photos



*Friday Night Attendees: Marilyn Pearson, Patty Downs, Faye I. Andersen, Kay Dunham, Georgia Baker, Gayle Baxley, Norma Rash, Sue Camp and Jo Ann Roberts.*



*Saturday Night Attendees: Gayle Baxley, Pam Robinson, Patty Downs, Norma Rash, Connie Steinhilmer, Teresa Mentzer, Bev Perkins, President Patti, Sue Camp, Jo Ann Roberts and Holly Welborn-Hight*

*Celebrating Success Awards at conference with our President Patti in the center.*

*We won:*

- 2nd Place for Program for Making A Difference for Women*
- 4th Place for Year in Review*
- 1st Place for Recruitment & Retention*
- 2nd Place for Newsletter*
- SNR finalist for Making a Difference for Women*
- Certificate of Appreciation for our President and for participation in the 4 areas of the Strategic Plan*



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*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!*