

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



Volume 17 • Issue 2

August, 2012

www.sitmnev.org

President's Message

July was a very busy first month of the 2012-13 Club Year. We had wonderful attendance at each of our meetings. We were fortunate enough to have Monica DuPea, Executive Director, of the Nevada Youth Empowerment Project speak to us, and we also had three life members, Shirley George, Elsie Doser, and Sande Reimers-McLaughlin, attend our Air Race Committee Meeting on August 2, 2012. Everyone's support of the club continues to inspire me as your President.

Thank you again to all of the 2012-13 Committee Coordinators who attended the Committee Coordinator social on July 25, 2012 to share ideas, speakers, and enjoy one another's company. Your leadership and enthusiasm will ensure our club has another successful year!!

Eight of our members, Sue Camp, Kay Dunham, Patti Doty, Margie Hermanson, Pam Sutton, Mich Glazier, Vicki Schultz, Dot Watts, and myself, attended the Sierra Nevada Region Development Retreat July 27 and 28 at the Atlantis. It was wonderful to see our Governor, Janice Labadie, in action and for me to meet our District III Director, Stacey Sawyer, and her traveling mascot, Pinkey. Janice is a humorous and entertaining speaker and we all enjoyed ourselves. Thank you ladies for making this event so enjoyable this year!!

Our speaker for the August 23, 2012 meeting will be Samantha King, Transition Specialist, from Nevada PEP. This non-profit organization offers education,

empowerment, and encouragement to families of children with disabilities. The Education Youth Committee has done something special for one of their families so please plan to join us that day to welcome our speaker and share in the giving!!

August 30, 2012 is our field trip to Moana Lane Nursery so please plan to join in the fun and partake in the latest gardening tips. With our 100 plus temperatures, it is hard to believe that Fall is right around the corner.

As we gear up for the Air Races, our largest fundraising event, the club needs everyone's support. Please plan to volunteer your time and bring your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers as well.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and I am looking forward to the month ahead.

President Becky



It's Air Race Time Again



Air Race Committee Coordinators Diana Dillon, left and Kay Dunham pose with a 2013 "Ghosts" calendar of vintage airplanes. Members are asked to sell five calendars at \$15 each as part of our annual fundraiser.

Calendar

- Aug 23 – Sammie King, Nevada PEP
- Aug 23 – Farewell Party for Norma Rash – after work – Margie Hermanson's home, 7398 Little Easy Street, Sparks
- Aug 30 – Field Trip – Moana Lane Nursery – Hospitality Committee
- Sept 6 – Recruitment and Retention Committee
- Sept 9 -16 – Air Races RARA Official Booth, Stead Airport
- Sept 11 – Board Meeting – 5:30 PM – Dermody Properties
- Sept 13 – Business Meeting
- Sept. 20 –Candidates Forum
- Sept. 22 – District III Meeting, Fallon

August Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

It was a busy month for SITM, with reports given on the SIA Convention, the Soroptimist Development Retreat (formerly COTR) and new fundraising proposals being just part of the August Board and Business Meetings.

Two New Fundraisers Coming Up

President-Elect Margie Hermanson and the Hospitality Committee have been heading up an Ad Hoc Committee on Fundraising to explore and promote new fundraising schemes for SITM. The committee presented two such ideas which were approved by the membership at the August Business Meeting. The first, a wine and food pairing evening social, led by member Jennifer Burnitt was approved. A portion of admissions, along with a percentage from the sponsoring business makes up the proceeds to the club. Watch for the date and location of the event soon to come.

A second fundraising idea to host a "Gold Party" was approved by the members and Shirley George offered her home as the location. P-E Margie will arrange for a reputable gold buyer to join the party and members are invited to bring their old, broken, unwanted gold jewelry, other items, even gold fillings. The gold buyer pays each member directly for her gold. At the end of the evening he surrenders a percentage of the total bought to the club.

Website Update and CFWN Link

Pam Sutton, from the Public Awareness Committee, reported that SITM's website, www.sitmnev.org, has been updated to reflect the new year. The membership approved allowing a link from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada be added to the club's website to allow CFWN members and funders to go directly to SITM website. To inform visitors of the club's funding priorities, the membership approved the following: 1) Youth Scholarships and Projects; 2) Making a Difference for Women; 3) Women's Scholarships and Programs.

Garage Sale Set for September 29

It's time to gather up your unwanted treasures and donate them to the IGU Committee's Fall Garage Sale at Judge Connie Steinheimer's home. Friday set-up begins September 28, with the sale on Saturday, September 29. Volunteers are also needed to work the set-up and sale. If you have items to donate, but just can't hold onto them until then, Ethan Allen will store them in their warehouse. Call the store at 826-1722 for a time to make your delivery.

Report on SDR Happenings

Director/Delegate Mich Glazier reported that nine members

of SITM attended the July 27-28 Sierra Nevada Region's Soroptimist Development Retreat for a Friday evening and Saturday filled with workshops, speakers and meetings. See Mich's full report on pages 6 & 7.

Report on SIA Convention Happenings

SITM members and Past SNR Governor Sue Camp gave a slide presentation and report on her attendance at the 42nd biennial Soroptimist International of the Americas Convention, held July 17 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Her descriptions of official and unofficial activities can be found on pages 8 & 9.

Field Trip Coming in August

The Hospitality Committee is planning a field trip to Moana Lane Nursery on August 30. The nursery will be presenting the program and giving tours. A boxed lunch for the regular price of \$16 will be provided.

Membership Notes

The Board approved a leave of absence for Teresa Mentzer from August to November for work reasons. Remaining on leave are Marna Griffin, through September, for personal reasons; and Jayne George through December for work reasons.



The Air Race Committee hosted the August 2 program meeting and members were challenged with a game to list items that could be found in the RARA sales tent during the Reno Air Races. The "winning table" was awarded decorative sticky notes for their efforts. They were, seated from left: Penney Leezy, Jo Ann Roberts, Faye Andersen and Pam Sutton. Standing from left are: Vicki Schultz, Millie Mitchell and Betsy Dart.

The Sister Act - Nisha Ghosh Featured in Indian Press

Anjali Jhangiani : Mon Aug 06 2012

Editor's Note: The following article about SITM's friend and IPP of SI/Pune Metro East appeared in the The Indian Express Online, published in New Delhi, India.

Soroptimist Nisha Ghosh is the first Indian to be elected to the Federation Executive Board as the Friendship Link Coordinator.

The first part of the word Soroptimist has roots in the Latin word 'soror,' meaning 'sister'. Soroptimist International (SI) is an organisation made up of working women from different professions who come together for a common cause- to empower womankind.

"We are not full time social workers, as we have our own jobs, but we play a supporting role to those who work at the grassroots level. We are involved with filling the gaps in girls' education and have counselled over 400 girls from different age groups on nutrition, personal hygiene, bodily changes, life skills, budgeting, anger management and more," describes Nisha Ghosh, who recently became the first Indian to gain membership of SI's Federation Executive Board as the Friendship Link Coordinator.

"It is a great honour for me to be the first Indian in the Executive Board. My hard work and commitment has been recognised and that is a good feeling," says Ghosh, whose primary duty is to maintain communication and coordination between different Soroptimist clubs across the world. "I am looking forward to my new role at the Federation and hope that more representatives from developing countries will make it there to show the diversity of the organisation. This post will give me the opportunity to promote friendship between clubs worldwide."

SI was born in California in 1921, as a response to the Rotary Club not allowing women to join them. Since then, the organisation has spread to over 120 countries and is growing larger by the day. All the work done by the Soroptimists is guided by the United Nations, especially when related to education, gender issues and violence.

"Being a part of something as big as this is a matter of honour for me. In my travels abroad I've visited Soroptimists in over a dozen countries, including Pakistan, where we went on a peace mission. We believe that women can make a huge difference through international goodwill and understanding, and they can be ambassadors of peace," says Ghosh. The organisation also has an international chat line where Soroptimists around the world can connect and add to the conversation that covers a range of topics from cross-cultural issues to curries.

Ghosh is also a writer and filmmaker who has contributed to the literature of the organisation and has also shot three short films based on the upliftment of women.



Nisha Ghosh, right, is pictured with Linda Lamke and Patti Doty during her visit to the 2010 SNR Conference in Reno.

News of our Friendship Link Club SI/Puné Metro East

By Monica House

SI Puné Metro East is continuing to grow and do well. President Dr. Anupama Sen picked the theme JOSH (Just One Step Here) to be the theme of her two-year term which goes towards the three "E's", Empowering, Educating & Enabling women and children, and society at large.

Dr. Sen also recently visited the U.S. for the first time this summer, with her mother, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Her son now lives in Arizona where he and his wife are expecting their first child in October. She would have loved to visit our club on this trip, but unfortunately, there was not enough time. She hopes to visit us in the future.

Dr. Sen also says their latest achievement is their Immediate Past President Nisha Ghosh, whom many of you met when she visited in 2010. Nisha was elected the SI Friendship Link officer for which they are very proud. Congratulations Nisha!

Meet SITM Member Valerie Hahn By Pam Robinson

A member since July 2011, Valerie Hahn has taken on two very important committees this year – Recruitment and Retention, co-coordinated with Jean Neddenriep, and SOLT, co-coordinated with Liz Lukasavich. She feels it's a great way to get to know everyone, and she's absolutely right!

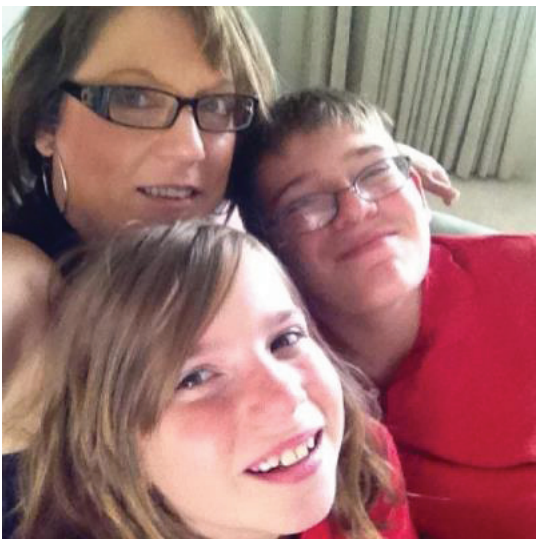
Valerie has a strong background in retail fashion merchandising, having worked for many name brand stores as well as a buyer for Weinstocks department store, when she lived in California. She moved to Reno 18 years ago from the Granite Bay/Loomis, CA area. She is currently looking for a new employment opportunity and with her impressive sales abilities, she'll be telling us about her new job soon.

After she moved to Reno, Valerie started a second career. For 15 years she was in senior management for Horizon USA in their wholesale computer and printer supply division. She took some time off to be with her two growing children, Savannah, age 10, and Sumner, age 12, and then went back to work not quite two years ago for Sierra Office Solutions in outside sales. She left that position to spend the summer with Savannah and Sumner.

In addition to working and raising a family, Valerie is also active in Professional Saleswomen of Nevada (PSN), Chamber of Commerce, WIN, and is a board member for Crisis Call. She loves fundraising and networking and actually enjoys making cold calls.

When asked what we would be surprised to know about her, she replied that she loves exotic fish and has 15 African Cichlids. Valerie enjoys politics. Her hobbies include shopping (she loves shoes!), running and walking, skiing, and Words with Friends. She has learned to shoot a gun. On top of that, she's a gourmet cook!

With her love of challenge, Valerie is a definite asset to Soroptimist.



Valerie, Sumner and Savannah.

GOT TOO MUCH STUFF?

Donate it to the Garage Sale
September 29



**Workers Needed for
Friday set up
and
Saturday Sales & Clean up**

**Sign-up sheets at the meetings
Questions: call Judge Connie at 771-7512**

Federation Program Liaisons Bring SIA Knowledge to SDR

By Kay Dunham, Federation Fundraising Liaison to Sierra Nevada Region

Gina Grether, Federation Program Liaison and I presented two workshops at SNR's Soroptimist Development Retreat focused on awareness of the Federation role and the connection to the local clubs. Gina asked participants to look at their Program projects to see if they can be replicated by other clubs. Several clubs related quick summaries of some successful and potentially replicated projects.

As the Federation Fundraising Liaison, my presentation focused on Federation related fundraising opportunities. The participants were given information about GoodSearch, Laurel Society, Laurel Legacy, Founders Pennies and the Annual Club Campaign. Clubs not already doing so were encouraged to provide a budget line item for the Club Campaign, President's Appeal and the Laurel Society. Clubs were reminded that Founders Pennies are a mandatory assessment collected with our annual SNR/SIA dues. Several clubs gave brief



SITM member and Federation Fundraising Liaison Kay Dunham, left and Federation Program Liaison Gina Grether were speakers at the retreat.

summaries of some fundraising ideas that might be duplicated by other clubs.

SITM's Year in Review summary of contributions to the community was also shown as a way to tie all parts of our mission together. By preparing a summary a club can use this in recruitment, public awareness, program focus and fundraising.

During the retreat SITM President-Elect Margie Hermanson and I sold Laurel Society bookmarks for an opportunity to win Laurel Society membership. Those in attendance were very supportive and purchased enough bookmarks for a drawing held at the end of the Retreat. Sierra Nevada Region will be forwarding the required \$1,000 to Federation for our newest Laurel Society member, Jan Uhalde of Redding. Bookmark sales will continue throughout the biennium with drawings held at Region events with the goal of awarding Laurel Society membership to as many members as possible.

An Easy Fundraising Opportunity to Benefit SIA

GoodSearch

GoodSearch and GoodShop Fast Facts

Do you GoodSearch and GoodShop for Soroptimist? Soroptimist International of the Americas can receive a donation every time you search the Internet and every time you make a purchase online.

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations for Soroptimist add up! GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to Soroptimist! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting Soroptimist.

Using GoodSearch/GoodShop is a great way to support Soroptimist programs by searching and shopping on the web. Soroptimist has been the recipient of more than \$3,500 from GoodSearch/GoodShop. Did you know that if just half the members in the United States use GoodSearch for just two searches per day, Soroptimist could earn more than \$73,000 per year! GoodSearch/GoodShop's new toolbar makes shopping easier and automatically credits your donation to Soroptimist. It's easy to install – go to www.goodsearch.com, select "Get the GoodSearch Toolbar" and follow the simple instructions. Download the GoodSearch/GoodShop toolbar today and start searching and shopping for Soroptimist! And don't forget to tell your friends and family to GoodSearch for Soroptimist.

Submitted by Kay Dunham, SNR Fundraising Liaison

Report on the Soroptimist Development Retreat July 27-28, 2012

By SITM Delegate/Director Mich Glazier

SITM made a great showing at the Soroptimist Development Retreat, formerly Club Officers Training Retreat (COTR) on July 27-28 at the Atlantis. Nine members, including Sue Camp, Mich Glazier, President Becky Moody, Margie Hermanson, Pam Sutton, Kay Dunham, Patti Doty, Dor Watts, and Vicki Schultz, all attended this fun-filled leadership academy. We were treated on Friday to an "Introduction to Your Region's Structure", by Governor Janice Labadie; "Effective Transfer of Leadership", by Kelly Morris, and "Strategic Planning at All Levels of Soroptimist", by Andrea Jones.

Governor Janice was hilarious when she introduced the regional structure and officers. She kept everyone alert when she mentioned that she has a lot of skeletons in her closet. She didn't provide the group with any further information, so we all figured she was kidding. Governor Janice will obviously keep everyone entertained this year while she is "serving hard time" as governor.

The topic of creating strategic planning through all levels of Soroptimist was extremely relevant and necessary this year with all clubs suffering from different effects of the recession. All clubs need to evaluate what events they plan as to efficiency, worth of member time spent, and cost.

Workshops on Saturday included "How to Win Awards" by Sarah Walker, SNR Secretary; "Treasurers Workshop" by SNR Treasurer Vicki Watson "Soropti-Words and Other Jargon", by Linda McDoniels, SDR Coordinator and "Diversity Challenge" by Willi Baer of SI/Pahrump.

Stacey Sawyer, District III Director, supplied great information to her district's members. She was delightful and informative. Dates for events included the Fall District Meeting on September 22 in Fallon, the President's Roundtable (District 2 and 3) is March 2nd. People are advised to look at the Region Calendar (www.soroptimist.snr.org) for correct dates. Also, members not receiving E-Blasts need to inform Stacey.

It was also recommended that each club has a ROAR (Retain, Orient, Activation, and Recruitment) event. Several ideas came out of this suggestion that SITM could

try. For instance, should we assign mentors to our new members?

Sarah Walker's presentation on "How to Win Awards" let everyone know what the SIA Programs are: Women's Opportunity Award, Violet Richardson Award, Celebrating Success Awards, SIA Club Grant, the Soroptimist Stop Trafficking Award, and the Soroptimist Club Award. Patti Doty is the new Celebrating Success Region Coordinator so get your focus reports to her by January 18th if not before.



SITM attendees at SNR's Soroptimist Training Retreat are clockwise from left: Margie Hermanson, President Becky Moody, Patti Doty, Pam Sutton, Kay Dunham, Mich Glazier and Sue Camp

The luncheon speaker, Lynne Holman, was inspirational. She gave a speech on diversity that received a standing ovation. Diversity is such an important topic, and we were lucky to receive such thoughtful information. Her thought for the day was, "Let your light shine."

Participants were advised to check out membership retention under membership resources on the website. It is believed that the strategic plans developed by the clubs will go a long way to create the necessary measurable goals that each committee needs to accomplish. SNR achieved a retention rate of 90% while SNR will grow clubs annually by 5%. Another SNR goal is to prevent the loss of clubs. Also, we learned that there are only three reasons people join a club: 1) the mission, 2) to learn a skill or obtain information, 3) to have fun.

"It was such a delight to hear Governor Janice speak. She is enthusiastic and humorous at the same time!" President Becky Moody

Fundraising and Program were the topics covered by Kay Dunham and Gina Grether, while Joanne Valentine and Lane Parks discussed Membership and Public Awareness. Items of interest discussed at these workshops included telling other clubs about what our club was doing that is successful. Making a Difference for Women was mentioned by President Becky, the Elko club told everyone about a Magic School Supply

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Bus where the Elko Club furnished backpacks. One club recruited community leaders and had high school juniors and seniors "shadow them". The activity was called, "Shadow Your Future". SI Sacramento worked with foster youth who were fostering out of the program. They gave them baskets with Wal Mart cards. One club worked with homeless children and gave them much needed comfort kids underwear.

Kay Dunham is our Federation Fund Raising liaison. Kay, with Margie Hermanson's help, sold bookmarks for the Laurel Society. Founder's Pennies were discussed and \$5.46 of each member's dues are collected for this fund. We were also told that if we click on the "Good Search" search engine that Soroptimist International of the Americas receives money from the search engine..

Some other fund raising activities that other clubs do to make money include: a \$.75 auction, and the club who held it made \$1,600; golf tournaments helped bring \$12,000 to another club's coffers; many have jewelry, potlucks, savories, and sweets. A crab feed with Kiwanis raised \$9,000 for each club; SI Lincoln, CA had a bowl-a-thon; there was an all charities raffle with tickets costing \$10.00 a piece, Texas Hold-em and bingo were mentioned; and one club raised \$42,000 for an elegant sit-down dining experience. SITM's happy dollars also brought praise to our club.

In conclusion, the Soroptimist Development Retreat was truly beneficial and fun for all attendees. Congratulations to all who worked so hard on this meeting.

District III Has a Traveling Mascot 2012-2014

With the start of a new biennium for the Sierra Nevada Region, District III Director Stacey Sawyer thought that District III needed a traveling mascot! She's planning to take pictures with fellow Soroptimists and documenting her next two years of travels for the upcoming 2012-2014 biennium...

Pinky Nuvo is a white bear with a pink party hat and sings the song by Pink "Get the Party Started". With a pink boa and pink sunglasses she fit right in at the recent Soroptimist Development Retreat event.

Pinky Nuvo and District III Director Stacey look forward to a fun and successful biennium connecting with all the clubs in the region and beyond.



Three Amigos: From left, President-Elect Margie Hermanson, President Becky Moody and District III Director Stacey Sawyer with "Pinky Nuvo".

In the eleven years I have been in the club I have never attended a SDR (or COTR) meeting before. I was quite excited for my first one. As I listened to Governor Janice talk about the upcoming meetings and seminars my head was spinning with the thought of all that I was about to learn. The time came for my first seminar....the Presidents Workshop with our District III Director Stacy Sawyer. Since I have never met her I did not know what she looked like, but was looking forward to our meeting. President Becky, Director Delegate Mich and I proceed to the assigned room for our seminar. All three of us are talking non stop as we enter the room and continue to talk as we find our seats among the many women there. We never even notice anything wrong until the woman at the head of the room looks at us and asks "Are you joining us today?" With a funny look she proceeded to explain to the three of us..... WE ARE IN THE ROOM FOR DISTRICT 1 These are your fearless leaders. President-Elect Margie Hermanson

Report of SIA Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii

by Sue Camp

I am hoping to give you a glimpse into the experience of attending a Soroptimist International of the Americas Convention. It really is a great experience and one that all Soroptimist members should have at least once.

Our plane left Reno on July 17th with seven Soroptimists aboard. Kathy Southern from SI Tahoe Sierra, Trudy Mills from SI Dayton, Shirley Boracci from SI Orland, Suzanne Borough, Pam Sloan and Lyla Messinger from SI Reno and myself all got up at 4 a.m. to make the 6 a.m. flight. We had a layover in San Jose and so had the chance to have breakfast together.

Once we arrived, we immediately started running into friends. Governor Elect Jackie De Martini and Federation Director Elect Poco Davis were just a couple of them. We settled into our room just in time to find out that the Reno Club, which we knew had brought 12 suitcases of merchandise, had nowhere to store their goods. The suitcases were brought to Shirley's and my room by a puzzled bellman who did not believe that only 2 people were staying in the room.

The 19th was the first day of business for the convention. There were only three housekeeping measures to vote on dealing with elections. The problem was that often there was the necessity for re-balloting due to the lack of a majority for the winner of an election. Changes were made in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order to allow clubs to vote for their first, second and third choice and then the results could be determined on a first ballot. If there was a tie for the first place then the winner would be decided by the second place votes etc.

We heard a report from Cheri Fleming, SIA Board of Directors Secretary/Treasurer. She reported that despite the worldwide economic woes in recent years, SIA remains financially stable. The Federation has a budget of about \$5 million annually. Our Federation has 1277 clubs in good standing but we continue to lose approximately 1,000 members a year.

Next, we heard from the new SIA CEO Elizabeth Lucas. She spoke of the new strategic direction which is "Shaping the Future of Soroptimist through Increased Collective Impact". She is asking all of us to do three things: 1) Continue helping women and girls gain access to education, primarily through the Women's Opportunity Award program, 2) Visit the new www.LiveYourDream.org and join the online community, and 3) That all clubs make Soroptimist their cause of choice by donating at least 10% of their fundraising to Club Giving so that we can cohesively achieve collective impact.

The Soroptimist Celebrating Success Awards were then given out at the General Session. Although we did have finalists in the group, none of the Sierra Nevada Clubs won. Next we had a speaker, Jennifer Seibel Newsom, the wife of Gavin Newsom, the former mayor of San Francisco and current Lieutenant Governor of California. She created a film *Miss Representation* that she wrote, directed, and produced for the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. In it she addresses the problem of how women are portrayed in the media. She feels that mainstream media glorifies youth and beauty in women, not leadership. She was a dynamic speaker and really got the audience to start thinking.

The luncheon on Thursday was aptly named "Focus on Girls". During lunch we heard about several programs aimed at improving the lives of young girls. The highlight was the presentation of the 2012 Violet Richardson Award to Lizbeth Cabrera for her work with *Nuestra Voz*. She has worked tirelessly to address teen pregnancy, substance abuse, gangs and education.



Some familiar Sierra Nevada Region Soroptimists, from left, SNR Governor-Elect Jackie DeMartini; Past SNR Governor Sue Camp; Federation Director Poco Davis, and SNR Laws & Resolutions Coordinator Shirley Boracci.

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In the afternoon, we had the opportunity to view the documentary *Miss Representation* and talk with Jennifer Seibel Newsom. She said that her idea initially came to her when her daughter was born. It seems that her son was given gifts such as t-shirts that read "Future President" while all gifts to her daughter dealt with the life of a princess.

Thursday was the Region Night Out which was held at Jimmy Buffett's restaurant. We had about 40 members in attendance and fun was had by all.

Friday continued our discussion of the above mentioned amendments and all passed with some additional wording for clarification. We heard from our Soroptimist International President Alice Wells who gave us further clarification on her President's Appeal, "Birthing in the Pacific". According to her report, less than 30% of women have a supervised delivery in Papua New Guinea. Through education, the lives of many women are being saved with the training provided for birthing attendants. President Alice further challenged us by saying "Don't be afraid to dream big!"

Next was the launching of the "Live Your Dream Online Community". By visiting www.LiveYourDream.org, women can decide their involvement level and how they'd like to engage or take action in a number of Soroptimist programs. The hope is that this online endeavor will increase involvement and membership with each page showing the Soroptimist logo and the statement, "Powered by Soroptimist". All of us were encouraged to sign up and the new theme song was debuted. I attended the workshop in the afternoon to hear more about the program.

Friday was a Kleenex lunch with the awarding of the Federation level Women's Opportunity Awards. The first winner was Rowena Tutana Navaira sponsored by SI Antipolo of the Phillipines Region. Her dream is to be the first in her family and her tribe to complete a college education. She is working on a degree in marketing. The second winner in attendance was Dawn M. Johnson nominated by SI Tri-Cities in Western Canada Region. After a life of abuse and addiction, she became pregnant at age 15. It was her daughter who gave her the will to turn her life around. She is working towards a degree in child care and plans to go on to law school after that.

Following workshops on Friday afternoon, the Laurel Society Reception was held. Only those who had contributed money during the previous biennium were invited. I was fortunate that someone donated for me. We celebrated with hula dancing and seeing old friends.

Next up was the "Dance Party". Three hours of frolicking and having a great time with our friends. You really missed a fun time here.



Taking a break from a busy SIA Convention are from left: SIA Executive Director Elizabeth Lucas, Lynn Wurth, SIA Immediate Past President Pat Donohue, SI President Alice Wells and Past SIA President Cathy Standiford.

Saturday brought us more workshops and a great speaker, Kathy LeMay, the founder, president and CEO of Raising Change which helps organizations raise capital to advance social change agendas and individuals to create Generosity Plans to help change the world. Her talk entitled "Voice, Activism and Money: Women Creating the World We Know is Possible" was inspiring. We later got a chance to talk with her one-on-one and she really has done some remarkable things.

Saturday night was the recognition dinner where the new Federation Directors and the new President were installed. Honor was given to past Federation Presidents, the outgoing Board and the outgoing Fundraising Council Members.

Speaker Update:

From Afghanistan to Reno: Aimal's Story

Last year, SITM was privileged to host a couple of speakers with an incredible tale that linked Reno, Nevada with Afghanistan. They were Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep from the Nevada National Guard and Aimal Halim, an Afghan translator for the U.S. forces of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

They told their story of working together in Afghanistan, their ensuing friendship and Kurt's miraculous offer to bring Aimal to Reno to attend the University of Nevada. Both are featured in a lengthy article in the July 2012 issue of the University of Nevada Reno's "Nevada Today" online



Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep, left, a 1994 University of Nevada, Reno graduate, and Aimal Halim, center, an Afghan translator for the U.S. forces of Operation Enduring Freedom, met in Afghanistan while Neddenriep served as executive officer for the 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry of the Nevada National Guard.

magazine. Together they detail their meeting and what lead to Aimal extraordinary journey towards an education in Nevada.

SITM has its own link to the story if you haven't already guessed it. Kurt is the son of Past President and long-time Soroptimist Jean Neddenriep. Aimal owes his new life and studies in America to Kurt and his wife Katie. Of course his "American Mom" Jean has been a big supporter. In addition, Mich Glazier and husband Bob have been particularly supportive of Aimal, as have Kay Dunham and Ana Nadimi. Various Soroptimists have helped contribute towards Aimal's school expense.

Jean has reported that Aimal recently obtained his drivers license and Kurt got him a car. He has been working at a summer job.

In the article, Aimal is quoted as saying, "Everyday, I still can't believe I'm in America and I'm going to an American university. I am so thankful for my American family support and also so grateful for being in America. What a nice country. It amazes me every day when I see what people have here. It's been amazing ... very different to experience something that you've dreamed about all your life. I still don't believe it."

If you would like to help defray some of Aimal's education expenses, donations can be sent directly to: LTC Kurt Neddenriep, P.O. Box 281383, Lamoille, NV 89828.

To read the entire article, go to UNR's "Nevada Today" at:

http://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2012/a-future-runs-through-reno?utm_campaign=nevadatoday&utm_medium=webpage&utm_source=newsletter



Aimal at UNR

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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SITM meets every Thursday noon at the Atlantis Resort & Spa, 3800 South Virginia Street in Reno, second floor convention center. For reservations www.sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com, no later than 8 a.m. on the Wednesday before the meeting. Lunch is \$16.

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 . . .

- In July 2012, Soroptimists entered 99 reports on club projects, raised \$47,536USD, directly helped 103,395 women and girls, and undertook 80 city-wide, 7 county-wide, and 12 nation-wide projects with indirect beneficiaries. SI UN Reps attended 2 meetings.
- At the 42nd biennial SIA Convention in Hawaii last month, it was noted that there are 1,359 Soroptimist Clubs in our Federation; 435 of which were registered at convention. A total of 1,068 attended the convention.



Leaders Gathering: President Becky, left, and President-Elect Margie, right, headed up a Committee Coordinators Social at El Adobe to swap information and map out the new club year.