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President's Message

Be the One!

It was wonderful to join with fellow Soroptimists on December 10 in delivering Christmas gifts to low-income seniors for the Salvation Army. I was thrilled to ride in President-Elect Becky's sleigh. Accompanied by her terrific son Nick, it was a great way to spend a Saturday morning in December. It served as a reminder of how very fortunate we are as Soroptimists to be able to serve others, especially at this time of year.

It also reminded me of the service activities I participated in when I was younger. In addition to being a wife, mother, youth advisor at my church, and 5th grade teacher (all of which I realize now were full-time jobs) my mother was a champion of those less fortunate. It was my early introduction to helping others. We collected food, clothing, and helped deliver packages during Christmas all while listening to Christmas music. Even now, I start playing Christmas music the day after Thanksgiving, much to the dismay of my children and husband.

So with holiday songs as my back-drop, I offer the following on the Christmas season:

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree – When I was young, our tree resembled a “Charlie Brown” tree, hence my propensity to have huge trees as an adult. Regardless of the tree, it’s a place to hang “collectibles” and create new memories of the holiday season.



Jingle Bells – Is there a happier sound than that of bells ringing? Whether it’s sleigh bells, Salvation Army bells, or door bells as family and friends gather, it’s a sound of joy and anticipation.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town – I was convinced by my father when I was almost 8, that the sounds we heard one night was indeed Santa in his sleigh with reindeers leading the way. It was probably the best affirmation that magic existed then and today as well.

The Night Before Christmas – Not a song but a story that explains the unexplainable. John and I were still wrapping gifts for our own children in special “Santa paper” until they became adults with families of their own. I still believe in the spirit of Santa.

Silent Night – As much as I enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the holidays, I also enjoyed the quietude of Christmas Eve, after returning from candlelight services, and after our children were asleep and the house was still. It was a time for me to reflect on the “reason for the season”.

May each of you, as you celebrate this time of year in your own way, be blessed with the love of family and friends.

President Norma

Board/Business Update *by Faye I. Anderson*

December 2011

2011 ends with a flurry of SITM projects and events, as members gear-up for a new year of awards, scholarships and a training workshop.

SITM Votes for SIA Board Director

It's the clubs of the Sierra Nevada Region's turn to elect a member of the SIA Board of Directors and SITM has voted to elect Immediate Past SNR Governor and SITM member Sue Camp. SNR joins Founder Region and Sierra Pacific Region to comprise Electoral Area 10 and rotate the privilege of electing a member of their region to the SIA Board. Also standing for election are Past SNR Governor Poco Davis and Past SI Programme Director Lois Sagel. If elected, Sue would serve during the 2012-14 term.

Happy Dollar Report

October Happy Dollars netted \$386 for Women Orthopedists Global Outreach. WOGO is a group of six female orthopedic surgeons who provide surgeries and treatment for women in developing countries suffering from knee arthritis. Some \$269 in November Happy Dollars was collected for the local courts' TRAIN (Treatment Resources Alliance for Individualized Need) program to bring together existing resources and funding to address the homeless and inebriate issue in Reno.

Happy Dollars for December will support the 2011 Soroptimist International President's December 10 Appeal "Birthing in the Pacific", a program to lower overall maternal mortality in Papua New Guinea by practical education programs, support for birthing attendants, and provide improved access to delivering in facilities. (See page 4-5 for further details.)

Get Out the Crochet Hooks

The Hospitality Committee will be offering a crochet social after the first of the year for interested members. Members can learn to crochet from the masters, Kay Dunham and Diana Dillon. Members may consider donating crocheted blankets to the Reno-Sparks Homeless Shelter for young children. Announcements of date and place to come.

Membership Notes

The Board approved a leave of absence for Penney Leezy through March for work reasons. Remaining on leave are: Holly Welborn-Hight through January, while she attends law school; Kathryn Keever through March for personal reasons; and Joan Hughes for her annual winter leave to Mexico.

Board Meeting
Held December 6,
2011

Board Meetings are held each month on the Tuesday prior to the second Thursday of the month. All are invited to attend and see the discussions at the board meeting.





A Very Merry SITM Holiday Celebration!

By Holly Welborn-Hight

SITM members spread the Holiday cheer with a white elephant silly Christmas sock exchange. Each member purchased a pair of socks for another member to enjoy. The socks were distributed anonymously to each table. Then the games began! Once one member opened a gift the next member could either open a new gift or take the socks from the other person! What better way is there to jump start Holiday shopping adrenaline than a little friendly competition?



Soroptimist International



A Message from Soroptimist International President Alice Wells

December 10, 2011

December 10th was Human Rights Day, commemorating the day in 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted. This day holds a special place in Soroptimist International's history, from 1981, when SI President Catherine Salt chose a project on the island of Pulau Bidong, Malaysia, to help refugee women and children.

This year, I would like to invite Soroptimists worldwide to join together to support a very special project under our international programme of work, "Educate to Lead". For the very first time, we have a Soroptimist project that was created in SI South West Pacific and became a federation project before being selected as the 2011 December 10th Appeal project. This project is called 'Birthing in the Pacific' and works to increase the skills and education of health professionals and birth attendants in Papua New Guinea with the goal of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. This project supports Millennium Development Goal #5 which is to improve maternal health.

Papua New Guinea has the second highest maternal and infant mortality rate in the Asia/Pacific! What is shocking is that 88-98% of these deaths could be prevented with improvements and investments to health care systems. The overall maternal mortality rate in PNG is 733 deaths per 100,000 live births. Most deaths occur in the first 24-48 hours after delivery. Untreated, deaths occur, on average, within 2 hours from post partum hemorrhage, within 12 hours from ante-partum hemorrhage, within 2 days from obstructed labor, and within 7-10 days from infection. How sad it is that in a developing country where there are over 1,000 births each month there is an expectation that mothers and babies will die from pregnancy complications. What is even more tragic is that 40% of the clinics in PNG have closed due to lack of funding.

What will your donations do to support Birthing in the Pacific?

- Your donation of \$1 USD can provide an obstetric wheel. This is a calendar that uses events such as Christmas and Easter to help birth attendants and pregnant women work out a due date so that they know when to go to a facility and deliver.
- Your donation of \$100 USD can provide:
 - A clinical birth attendant with a 'Karum work bilum' which is a pouch of essential work tools for safe deliveries....or
 - Provide buckets and goggles to a "class" of village birth attendant graduates to ensure clean deliveries for those unable to make it to a birthing center

- Your donation of \$300 USD can:
 - Send a registered midwife to a Midwives' Society professional development course....or
 - Cover costs for village (traditional) birth attendants to attend a local training course covering basic reproductive health care and hygiene....or
 - Support community health workers to attend a five month Department of Health maternal competency course.

The December 10th Appeal always takes place on Human Rights Day and requests that Soroptimists worldwide give up something of importance on this day and donate what would have been spent to the December 10th Appeal project. Perhaps it is a glass of wine, maybe a movie, or a special dinner or lunch at your favorite bistro (Back in 1984, SI President Catherine Salt suggested giving up a packet of cigarettes!). Soroptimists are caring and generous. Imagine what a difference that sacrifice can make to the realization of the rights to life, health, and safe motherhood for the women in PNG. As we educate, empower and enable these birth attendants, your donations will be saving women's lives....LITERALLY. Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile project.

For more information, please visit <http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/ourprojects/december-10-appeal/birthinginpacific>.

Alice Wells
SI President 2011 - 2013

**SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**



BIRTHING IN THE PACIFIC

December 2011

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| | | | | 1 Human Rights/Status of Women | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Board Meeting | 7 | 8 Business Meeting | 9 | 10 Senior Gift Delivery |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Holiday Party | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 DARK | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 DARK | 30 | 31 |

January 2012

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Open Meeting | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Board Meeting | 11 | 12 Business Meeting | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Education Women | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Health | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |



Kay's Kitchen:

A project to change the lives of Domestic Violence and Trafficking Survivors in our Sierra Nevada Region

Submitted by Faye I. Anderson

For the second year of the Sierra Nevada Region's 2010-12 biennium, Governor Kay Whittaker has designated a project to help outfit a kitchen for My Sister's House in Sacramento, California. Kay's Kitchen Project seeks members' and club donations

for a new transitional house for domestic violence survivors and human trafficking victims in the Sierra Nevada Region. SITM's Board recommended and the membership approved designating February Happy Dollars towards Kay's Kitchen Project. Clubs have been challenged by Governor Kay to donate to the project with a prize of 20 percent of the total dollars raised going to the domestic violence shelter of choice of the top money-raising club.

The project was the subject of SITM's November 4 meeting when SNR Governor-Elect Janice Labadie visited and spoke about the project.

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Certain articles taken from SI Global Voice Newsletter and SIA's monthly e-newsletter

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!