



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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June 2017

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- June 15 – Ceec Abrahams Award; Patty Doty Book Signing
- June 22 – Photo/Scrapbook – Year in Review
- June 29 – Installation of 2017-2018 Board and Officers
- July 6 – DARK – No Meeting
- July 8-9 – Soroptimist Development Retreat, Atlantis, Reno
- July 13 – Race to the Finish Line with Service
- July 18 – Board Meeting
- July 20 – Business Meeting

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon
 at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
 Second Floor Convention Center
 \$20 for lunch
 RSVP to sitmtruckeemeadows@hotmail.com
 no later than noon
 on the Tuesday before the
 Thursday meeting.

Soroptimist Is:

a global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.



Reflections on the 2016-2017 Club Year

It’s been a whole year... can you believe it? Twelve months, gone in a Soroptimist flash!



I honestly believe leadership isn’t a solo act. It takes all of us fulfilling our own personal purposes to make a difference together -- and when that

happens, we all succeed. I would like thank those of you that have been so

supportive and flexible with my newer style of leadership. Your friendship and sisterhood will stay with me for a lifetime.

In Sincere Soroptimist Sisterhood, I thank you all for the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization for the 2016-17 year. I look forward to many more amazing and productive years beside you all, continuing the great work we do together.

President Jennifer

Welcome New Members

Two new members were inducted at the June Business Meeting. Kristina Garcia-Mentzer is sponsored by Teresa Mentzer. She works in the insurance industry. Piper Mullen was sponsored by Chris Fegert. She is a Realtor. Welcome new members!



Long-time member Teresa Mentzer introduces newly inducted member, her daughter Kristina Garcia-Mentzer.



Chris Fegert introduces newly inducted member Piper Mullen.

Two new members were inducted at the June Business meeting. They are, from left: Piper Mullen, sponsored by Chris Fegert; and Kristina Garcia-Mentzer, sponsored by Teresa Mentzer.



30th Annual Thanks to Youth

Photos by Marilyn Newton

Honoring the Best of the Community's Youth

The best of the community's youth were on display at the 30th Annual Thanks to Youth Luncheon on May 25. This year's annual showcase of youth featured eight high school scholars and nine "Unsung Heroes".



Guest speaker Sierra Meszaros.

Each of the high school seniors received \$2,000 scholarships to continue their college or university education.



Ana Nadimi, Co-Coordinator of the Thanks to Youth Committee.

The "Unsung Heroes", ranging in age from eight to 18 were recognized for their community service and rewarded with \$150 shopping sprees at Target.

The youth and audience were also inspired with a message of "Light, Love and Magic" delivered by Sierra Meszaros, the Youth Director for Temple Sinai.

The youth were introduced by Thanks to Youth Co-Coordinator Ana Nadimi and committee member Valerie Hahn, assisted by Education-Youth Co-



President Jennifer Burnitt with Thanks to Youth Committee member and youth presenter Valerie Hahn.

Coordinators Eileen Fuller and Moshay Akala.

Members of the committees accompanied the "Unsung Heroes" on their shopping sprees to Target following the luncheon.

Annette Friedlander accompanied Brady Long, a senior from Reed High School. Of the experience, Annette said, "Brady is a very pleasant young man who was truly grateful for his shopping experience. He mostly bought clothes, and a gift card." He was accompanied by his middle school teacher who has become a good friend to him and his family. "I was



Elise & Adelle Evans., aged 10 & 8, from Roy Gomm Elementary School enjoyed their shopping spree with Moshay Akala.

very pleased to be able to take him shopping and get to know him," she said.

Eileen Fuller accompanied Maddy McCluney, a senior from Reed High School. Eileen explained that Maddy is moving into an apartment by the university with her cousin and boyfriend, where



Margie Hermanson arranged and decorated the beautiful baskets for raffle at Thanks to Youth.

she is already enrolled. "She was excited to buy goodies for her very first place, like dishes, silverware, towels, pans and utensils, plus a new planner to organize her life!" Eileen said. "Right after our shopping time, she was off to meet with her choir group to get a special gift for their music teacher."

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Jennifer Eck, Margie Hermanson's daughter, sells raffle tickets at Thanks to Youth.

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Youth Scholarships

Imani Nia Akala
Truckee Meadows Community High School
Film Studies & English

Taylor Bauer
Damonte Ranch High School and TMCC
Kinesiology/Human Physiology

Amy Flores
Sparks High School
Nursing

Dajhanna Flores Sanchez
Wooster High School
Biology with a Cellular and Molecular Emphasis

Alondra Gomez Mena
Sparks High School
Software Development

Anahi Guerrero
Sparks High School
Nursing

Katherine Segura-Segovia
Reed High School
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



Scholarship recipients, back row from left: Dajhanna Flores Sanchez, Mickenzie Stretch, Imani Akala and Anahi Guerrero. Front row from left: Alondra Gomez Mena, Katherine Segura-Segovia and Amy Flores. Missing is Taylor Bauer.

Mickenzie Stretch
Galena High School
Medicine

Avery Fearnley
Roy Gomm Elementary School
Assists special education students

Brady Long
Reed High School
Assists senior memory care patients

Madison McCluney
Reed High School
Anti-bullying activist

Madison Schuster
Reno High School
Math tutor

Mikey Thomas
Lemmon Valley Elementary School
Student leadership program

Mark Fielding Thornton-Zahn
Academy for Career Education High School
Assisting elderly neighbors

Lindsey Wolterbeek
Roy Gomm Elementary School
Animal science festival and safety patrol.

Thanks to Youth Unsung Heroes

Elise and Adelle Evans
Roy Gomm Elementary School
Raised money for police K-9 bullet-proof vests



Unsung Heroes, back row from left: Brady Long, Madison McCluney, Mark Fielding Thornton-Zahn, Avery Fearnley and Elise Evans. Front row, from left: Mikelli "Mikey" Thomas, Lindsey Wolterbeek and Adele Evans. Missing is Madison Schuster.



SITM's IGU-Nepal Endowment Fund Reaches \$100,000 Goal

By IGU Co-Coordinator Monica House

What an accomplishment! SITM and IGU members have worked diligently over the years to reach this goal and we are so proud to say we did it!

What does this mean and how did we do it? This means after 34 garage sales SITM has raised over \$100,000 to be used towards ongoing scholarships for girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal. The money raised over the years has been invested in a principal-preserving endowment fund established in 2006 at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada (CFWN). This fund was approved by the SITM board and membership through votes in February 2005.

The IGU-Nepal Endowment

The purpose of creating the Endowment fund was that in the event that IGU/SITM was no longer able to continue with fundraising efforts --such as the annual pledge drive and

semi-annual garage sales-- the project would be able to sustain itself. Since establishing the IGU Nepal



Endowment, the fund has appreciated by \$26,310.24 between 2006-May 2017. This is equivalent to 88 more girl's scholarships at \$300 year- all of which are now supported by investment interest on our Endowment.

Simultaneously, while funding the endowment the IGU committee has also held an annual pledge drive. All funds raised at the pledge drive are wired to Nepal each year for girl's scholarships, micro-lending, or disaster relief, depending upon the donor's designation. These funds are not part of the endowment.

Now that we've reached our goal, it's time to move forward with a second fund (non-endowed) fund at the Community Foundation. The IGU and Finance and Governance Committee met on January 31, 2017 to discuss how the Endowment Fund and the Non-Endowed Designated funds would work in tandem with the Endowment. The non-endowed fund will act as a reserve and a depository for annual income from the Endowment, so there will always be funds to support scholarships for girls in Nepal even in a year the Endowment decreases in value. Additionally,

any future donations can be added to the Endowment Fund, or held in the reserve fund until they are needed to support scholarships for girls.

Humble Beginnings to Help Girls in Nepal

Again, reaching our goal is a major accomplishment for our club! "Removing Barriers to Education for Girls in, Nepal" was started in 2000-2001 as a way to protect girls from sex trafficking. SITM raised money and partnered with the people in Thulipokhari, Nepal to build a girls dormitory. In August, 2001, 20 girls became the first class to occupy the dormitory. Now, since this first class SITM has provided 1,338 girls (458 belonging to the Dalit caste) with scholarships to complete their education! Graduating girls have become bankers, business owners, teachers, mothers, government workers and more.

Project Expands to Help Families

In addition to raising money for girls' scholarships, SITM expanded their program in 2003 to add a Micro-Lending component that hundreds of families have benefitted from. In this program villagers in Thulipokari are provided low interest loans originally to purchase animals. The program has expanded to vital seeds, animal upkeep and enclosures and shelters, and collective group herds of animals. Preference for these loans goes to women. As the loans are repaid, the interest goes towards the support of the dormitory for the female students. The principal is available for re-lending to another villager or group of women who wish to use the money to start a business. No loan has defaulted to date.

Thank you and congratulations to all those who have contributed to the project's success!



Member Feature – Christy Clark**A Busy Wife and Mother Making a Difference in Her Community**

By Jo Ann Roberts

Christy is another native Nevadan, raised in Sparks and still residing there. She was one of three children and has two brothers, both of whom work at the Sparks Police Department. Christy is a graduate of Reed High School in Sparks and attended the University of Nevada, Reno.

Christy's work experience began in earnest when she began working in sales for a copier firm where she handled a portfolio of major accounts. When her daughters were born, she remained home for nine years being a full time Mom to them and to her two step children. As the children began kindergarten she returned to the workplace and began working with small business customers.

In 2008 she began working for Wells Fargo Bank and is now a Program Consultant for the Bank. Christy works with business customers including small businesses getting started as well as larger firms. She also provides financial education classes such as budgeting, credit, and online banking opportunities. Outreach in the community is another facet of her work especially working with non-profit organizations. Her work takes her to outlying areas of Nevada including as far as Elko, Yerington and other rural areas. Christy mentioned she has been working with Tribal members in Yerington and the Reno-Sparks area meeting the needs of financial education including banking services and importance of good credit. You may also find Christy in the schools working with students as young as in the third grade as she begins their education with financial literacy. She also is involved with training bankers to teach financial education to their customers as they are the first line contacts with the customers. Christy is passionate

about building a strong community through financial literacy. As busy as Christy is in her work life, she loves to work out, preferably five days a week, and physical fitness is very important to her. She is also an avid reader (any genre but she loves historical fiction and mysteries).

It was Dorothy Nash Holmes that introduced Christy to Soroptimist International of Truckee

Meadows. Dorothy brought her to a few of our meetings and Christy immediately realized SITM would be a "fit" to her interests in our community. Christy has served since her induction into membership, as a member of the Education Youth Committee. She contacted some of the schools in the area to solicit Unsung Heroes nominations and applications for the Youth Scholarships. Then as a member of the committee, she reviewed applications and was involved in the selection of the honorees for the Thanks to Youth luncheon. Her memories of the review of applications were how driven the students can be. Christy was especially impressed by Mark Fielding Thornton-Zahn one of the Unsung Heroes who is a ninth grade student at the Academy for Career Education High School. And Mark was the winner of one of the raffle prizes, a basket containing \$50 in cash!



Christy with daughters Kassidy & Kayla.

Christy and her husband, Eric Clark, have been married 18 years and are the parents of Kendra 24 years old who is a student at U. C. Davis; Sam who is 22 and a mechanic at the Toyota dealership in Reno; Kayla who is 17 and a student at Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology and Kassidy who is 15 and also a student at AACT. Kayla and Kassidy enjoy dancing and are dance students at Reno Dance Company. They have finished their latest production of Icons and Idols and will be dancing in the Nutcracker during the Christmas season at the Nugget in Sparks. Christy and the girls are very involved with Reno Dance Company. It is a non-profit organization and that provides underprivileged students in Reno/Sparks, Elko, Winnemucca, Yerington and Susanville with the opportunity to dance at no cost.

In addition to assisting with Reno Dance Company, Christy is a 15 year volunteer with Care Chest of Sierra Nevada, a Board Member of the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce and a volunteer for the Women's Network within Wells Fargo.



Christy with husband Eric.

Soroptimist Development Retreat July 8 & 9

Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno

Begins Saturday, July 8 at noon
with a lunch program

18 different workshops Saturday afternoon and
Sunday morning

Saturday Dinner features a showing of the film
"MISSrepresentation", exploring the ridiculous
standards that we hold women to who aspire toward
leadership. Join in the conversation.

Sunday morning workshops continue

Sunday lunch & speaker will conclude by 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$100 per member

SITM first-time attendees
are reimbursed by the club

Deadline to sign up is June 24 without late fee

Register at: <https://www.rsvpbook.com/event.php?575196>; or look for the link on the latest SNR
E-Blast sent to members.



Book Signing and Ceec Abrahams Award June 15

Members have two reasons to attend the
June 15 meeting and bring guests. The
member who will be recognized with the
Ceec Abrahams Award will be announced
at the June 15 meeting. Patti Doty will
also be there signing her new novel,
"Finding Home", the second in her Quinn
DeMello series, a sequel to "Runaway".



The Ceec Abrahams Award is presented annually to
recognize an "every member" for her tireless efforts. This
is a member who volunteers readily, perhaps without being
asked, is always there when you need her, is reliable and
responsible and demonstrates her support of the organization
and its goals.

Moshay Signing Her New Book July 27

Moshay Akala will also be signing copies of her new book,
"Extraordinary Lives: Stories of
Triumph and Inspiration" at the July
27 meeting.



Both Patti and Moshay have agreed
to a \$1 donation per book sold on
their signing days for SITM's Service
Fund.

Public Awareness Committee Featured Speakers

At the May 18 meeting provided by the Public Awareness
Committee, Asma Aimal spoke about her life, experiences, and
studies at UNR since she has come to America from Afghanistan.
At the same meeting, member Moshay Akala spoke about being
recognized as SITM's Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping
Women recipient last year. She also outlined her decision to write
about her life experiences, and joining SITM as a member.

Thank You from SI/Reno

Dear SITM:

Thanks for your presence and support of our 75th
Anniversary celebration. Thanks for your generous donation.
It's wonderful to have the support of our Soroptimist friends.

Best regards, Suzanne Boroughf, President, SI/Reno



*Education-Women Co-Coordinators Pam Robinson and
Penney Leezy present Asma Aimal with scholarship
money from SITM members and other donors. Penney
also presented Asma with a special UNR charm that she
hand-crafted.*

June Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

New General Fund Treasurer for 2017-2018

Congratulations to Kay Dunham, who was elected to serve the vacant position of Treasurer-General Fund for the remaining term of 2017-2018. Thanks for "stepping up" Kay.

Pick Up Your 50/50 Raffle Tickets

Your 50/50 raffle tickets are waiting for you, if you haven't already picked them up. Fundraising Co-Coordinator Penney Leezy and Barbara Atwell have packs of 15 or 21 tickets for you to pick up at any Thursday meeting. The cash grand prize is 50% of the money raised prior to December 14, when the winning ticket will be drawn.

Another Successful Garage Sale

Members, you've done it again. The June 3 garage sale has netted \$4,000. Thanks to all of the members, family and friends who pitched in for the set-up Friday night and the Saturday sale. We had 34 members, along with 10 other helpers worked to make the garage sale a success. At the end of the day, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada packed up and hauled away the leftovers to be used by their clients and in their own thrift shops. See pages 8-9 for photos.

IGU-Nepal Endowment Update

IGU Co-Coordinator Monica House and Finance/Governance Committee Co-Coordinator Vicki Schultz updated the board and membership about the IGU-Nepal Fund Endowment and how it will work in tandem with a non-endowed designated fund. The funds support SITM's projects in Thulipokhari, Nepal providing girls' scholarships and micro-lending funds. See page 4 for more information.

Membership Dues are Due

Treasurer-General Fund Vicki Schultz reminded members that your membership dues are due this month. She has emailed individual invoices to each member. Please respond as soon as possible. She needs to forward a portion of your dues to both the Sierra Nevada Region and the Soroptimist International of the Americas Federation by July.

Ad Hoc Committee Forming Needs Volunteers

At the June Board and Business Meetings, President Jennifer Burnitt announced the formation of an ad hoc committee to review SITM's committees and board positions. If you are interested in volunteering for this

committee, contact President Jennifer, or President-Elect Rikki Hensley-Ricker.

May Happy Dollars Fund Reno Cares Fund

A total of \$181 in May Happy Dollars was collected for Reno Cares Fund, a program of the Reno Municipal Courts to assist in paying for substance abuse and other counseling and treatment for misdemeanor offenders who cannot afford these services. Happy Dollars for June are always the "President's Choice". President Jennifer selected Project 150, a non-profit dedicated to helping homeless, displaced, and disadvantaged high school students at Damonte, Hug, Reno, Sparks, North Valleys and Wooster High Schools.

Membership Changes

Lynn Robins is on leave, for health reasons, through June. The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Alysia Peters.



Celebrating their birthdays in June at the Business Meeting with chocolate treats were, from left: Pam Robinson, Monica House and Enid Oliver.

Thank you from WACCS

SITM already received sincere thanks from the Women's and Children's Center of the Sierra for our February Happy Dollar donation. However they sent an additional card to SITM for being a donor. It reads:

What will it take?

You.

On behalf of every life your generosity will impact, thank you!

From all of us at WACCS

Garage Sale Fun and Funds Raised

By Judge Connie Steinheimer, IGU Committee



Marlys Pryor, Eileen Fuller and Annette Friedlander make sense out of donations arriving Friday night.

This year's June 3 spring garage sale was very successful. Thirty-four members worked at least one shift during the set up or sale, along with 10 additional family members or friends working at least one shift. Jeanne Baxter brought four members of her staff for the delivery and set up.

The cleanup was accomplished with the wonderful help of Catholic Charities staff and volunteers who arrived at 2 p.m. to help box, bag, and load the left overs onto trucks for our donation to Catholic Charities. It truly took a village to accomplish one of the most successful sales in our history of sales.

The IGU Committee wants to thank Jeanne Baxter, Dr. Steve Friedlander, Niki Ewing, Linda and Craig Lamke, Valerie Hahn, Carol Dineen, Monica House,



Members of the set-up crew, from left, Margie Hermanson, Linda Lamke and Carmela Cipollina.



Providing the manpower and heavy lifting are, from left, Enid's brother Mike, Bev Perkins' husband Chuck, Connie Steinheimer's husband Jeff Ostomel, Diana Dillon's friend Jeff De Matai and Jan Bogikes' husband John.

Annette Friedlander, Jeff Ostomel, and Judge Connie for the donation of the advertisement in the RGJ; and the food, drinks, and treats for the Friday night set up and Saturday sale. A special thank you

to Jeff who sets everything up in advance, Debbie Rovere who is still our pricing expert and comes Friday night to place stickers on hundreds of items, and Jeanne Baxter who provides the storage space, staffing, and expertise for our "junque" to be held until the sale at her business, Ethan Allen.

Also, a special thank you to Enid Oliver and her family, husband Jim, brother Mike and sister-in-law Bobbie Jo who help set up and staff the Garage Sale Boutique all day on Saturday then break it down and store it for the next sale. This effort has truly made a difference in our overall totals!

We raised money months

before the sale with pre-sales at Ethan Allen, the night we set up with pre-sales to our members and family, and the day of the sale. We have also continued to receive funds from the IOU's of members. At this time all the amounts, once the IOU's are received, add up to..... drum roll please\$4,000!!!

The IGU committee thanks each member of SITM for your continued support and

dedication to the young women of Nepal and to our commitment to do everything we can to keep them from the sex trafficking trade and out of poverty through education. We should all feel the pride in what our club has accomplished. You are the BEST!!!



Jan Bogikes found a new use for a donated item.



IGU Co-Coordinator Monica House tries out the merchandise.

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Continued from page 8



Relaxing with pizza and Margaritas Friday night were Liza Chapin and Mary Beth Roselli.



Ready to serve customers at the cashier's table are, from left: Jo Ann Roberts, Monica House, Judge Connie Steinheimer and Teresa Mentzer.



Mike chuckles over Craig's hair.



Staffing the Saturday shifts were, from left: Linda Lamke, Valerie Hahn, Anette Friedlander and Pam Robinson.



Braving the "clean up shift" were Doris Phelps and Vicki Schultz.



Anna McArdle shows off one of many chairs for sale.



Ready to sell in the "Garage Sale Boutique" are Marilyn Pearson, Penney Leezy, Enid's brother Mike and Enid Oliver.

Giving Strength to Renown Infusion Center Patients

At the June 1 meeting, the Health Committee gave members a chance to test their creativity and create beaded bracelets. (Fortunately, they had prepackaged beads of matching color and size.)

Joining us for the meeting was Tori DellaRocca, Marketing Business Partner for Renown Health. Tori is doing a story on SITM's "Beads for Strength" program for Renown's Infusion Center patients to be featured on their "BestMedicineNews.Org" website.

For many years, SITM members have created the bracelets for the patients undergoing treatments at the Renown Infusion Center. When a patient finishes their treatment, the nurses offer them their choice of the beaded bracelets. They also contain inspirational words, like: love, life, live, hope, encouragement, etc.

The nurses at the center have told SITM members how popular the bracelets are with patients, and how happy they are to be able to provide a token to those who have finished their infusions.

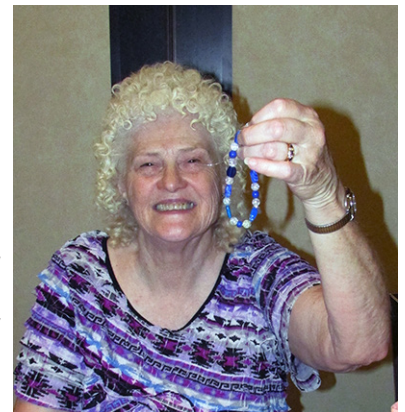


Pam Sutton and Pam Robinson hard at work on their beaded creations.



Our club's jewelry-maker, Penney Leezy brought her light and tools to help facilitate the beading process, as Margie Hermanson strings her set of beads.

Beading Mastermind Bev Perkins shows off her latest bracelet made for the Infusion Center.



Tori DellaRocca from Renown Health, photographs Eileen Fuller and Enid Oliver as they created their beaded bracelets.

Time to Sign Up for Committees in the New Year

Have you expressed your preference for committee assignments this year? Each member is asked to join and participate in one service, one technical and one special events committee.

Let President-Elect Rikki Hensley-Ricker know your preference as soon as you can. She's also looking for coordinators and co-coordinators for a couple of committees. Consider stepping-up and volunteering.

Membership Dues are Due

Don't forget, we're about to start a new Club Year. That means membership dues are due this month.

Treasurer-General Fund Vicki Schultz emailed individual invoices to each member. Please respond as soon as possible.

She needs to forward a portion of your dues to both the Sierra Nevada Region and the Soroptimist International of the Americas Federation by July.



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 Penney Leezy
 Patty Mamola
 Christy Clark
 Eileen Fuller
 Monica House
 Connie Steinheimer

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Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
 following the first Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
 Staybridge Suites
 10559 Professional Circle, Reno

SITM Board 2016-17

President
 Jennifer Burnitt
 President – Elect
 Rikki Hensley-Ricker
 VP/Technical
 Barbara Atwell
 VP/Service
 Alysia Peters
 Recording Secretary
 Doris Phelps
 Corresponding Secretary
 Jeanne Naccarato

Treasurer/General Fund
 Anna McArdle
 Treasurer/Service Fund
 Kay Dunham
 Director, 2 Years
 Vivian Ruiz
 Director, 1 Year
 Pam Sutton
 Delegate
 Bev Perkins
 Alternate Delegate
 Lynne Catrow
 Parliamentarian
 Margie Hermanson



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 . . .

50/50 Raffle Tickets are Now Available

Could you use an extra \$5,000 right before Christmas? You could be the lucky winner of that amount with the \$10 purchase of one of SITM's 50/50 raffle tickets. You can up your chances of winning by buying three tickets for \$25.

The Fundrai\$ing Committee has the 50/50 tickets now available for members to sell or purchase. Co-Coordinator Penney Leezy and Barbara Atwell are asking members each Thursday to pick up packets of 15 or 21 tickets to sell.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the SITM meeting on December 14 and the owner will receive 50% of the total amount raised. The goal is to sell \$10,000 worth of tickets and the club will split the proceeds with the winner. Last year's winning ticket-holder pocketed \$3,060.

You can help someone (and maybe yourself) win a very nice Christmas present this year.

