



**SOROPTIMIST®**  
Investing in Dreams

# SITM Update

*Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows*

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## Calendar

No meetings are scheduled through April, maybe May.

### SITM Meets...

**Thursdays at Noon**  
at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa  
Second Floor Convention Center  
\$25 for lunch.  
RSVP to [sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com](mailto:sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com)  
no later than noon  
on the Monday before the  
Thursday meeting.

### Soroptimist Is:

a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.



## “We Can Do It”

Hello members.....What an extraordinary group of women we have in our club. I am so proud of our members that my heart is just bursting with pride and yes, tears do come to my eyes. It is an honor to be your President during this unprecedented time. Exhausting at times, but so heartwarming. When a need is seen in our community, we do not hesitate to jump in, with both feet, to help in any way we can! That is why we are Soroptimists!



*George and Penney Leezy*

Stay Safe and Healthy  
Penney M. Leezy  
President

## Editor’s Note:

I hope you are all surviving these crazy days whatever your circumstances. Despite it all, SITM members and committees continue to work on their assigned tasks, as well as our newest pursuit to sew facemasks for healthcare workers and patients.

Never let it be said that Soroptimists don’t communicate, and the emails have been flying. Whether you’re working at work, or at home, or something else, the “messaging” can become overwhelming just to keep up.

So you don’t miss anything, I’m publishing this special edition of the newsletter to try to corral all of that information in one place. (I hope I haven’t missed anything important.) That way you can be informed of actions your SITM Board has taken, what committees are up to and how members are “pitching in” during these extraordinary times.

## WE CAN DO IT SOROPTIMIST SEAMSTRESSES

When Soroptimists receive a “call to action” they take up the cause to get whatever is needed done, both quickly and efficiently.

When Angie Ruyak called President Penney she asked if any of our Soroptimist seamstresses would consider making cotton facemasks for her Infinity Hospice Care staff and patients. President Penney put out a call to all SITM Seamstresses and within one hour we had 10 members interested! In addition we have members’ families and friends, along



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with the Sierra Nevada Stitchers sewing these masks.

Marilyn Pearson took on the task of being the coordinator for pattern directions, where material could be



Angie Ruyak from Infinity Hospice Care got the ball rolling for the Soroptimist Seamstresses.

located etc. Together Marilyn and President Penney decided which homes would be the best central locations for members/friends to pick up supplies, drop off supplies and completed masks. The non-sewers ordered, purchased, picked-up and delivered supplies. Other members washed and ironed the fabric, and still others labeled and bagged the finished facemasks for delivery.

Following soon after were requests for sewn facemasks from Patty Downs at Northern Nevada Medical Center; Vivian Ruiz at Disability Resources; and Chris Fegert at Northern Nevada HOPES.



Life Member Shirley George shows off some of the fabric she brought for sewing.

Before the first week ended, more than 300 facemasks had been sewn

and delivered.

These facemasks are not a substitute for the professional N95 masks used in hospitals, but some healthcare workers are using them over their hospital regulated masks to prolong the life of those masks. The sewn facemasks are 100% cotton and can be washed and reused. Hospital staff other than those involved with direct patient care can also use these sewn facemasks.

It's been an almost seamless rally to apply Soroptimist time, resources, talents and passion to



President-Elect Millie Mitchell delivered finished masks, from a safe distance, to President Penney's home.

serve a pressing need during a viral pandemic that is threatening our country.

### SITM Gains Notoriety for Sewing

A half-dozen members of SITM gathered outside at Marilyn Pearson's home (practicing "social distancing") on Monday, March 23, to meet Angie Ruyak from Infinity Hospice Care and professional photographer Amber Ezell who agreed to take photos. Practicing safe "social distancing", members displayed their finished masks and fabrics.

On Thursday, March 27, Penney and George Leezy, welcomed Angie and the film crew from "Aging and Awesome", a syndicated show airing



Linda and Craig Lamke picked up finished masks for delivery to Northern Nevada Medical Center.

Saturdays on KTVN-TV at 7 p.m. into their home to film a segment about the facemasks. RGJ reporter Jenny Kane sent a videographer who filmed a segment with President Penney explaining members' efforts and demonstrating sewing the facemasks. The video was posted on the newspaper's website at rgj.com and a link is also on SITM's Website and Facebook page. When President Penney hears the date that the segment will be aired, she will let our members know.



Everyone pitched in to help. Tanner and Parker Ewing were ironing fabric for mom Niki to sew.

Continued from page 2

### **You don't sew, but want to help out?**

If you don't sew, but would still like to contribute to this project, there are a couple of things you can do. You can purchase and prepare fabric and elastic cord to donate to those sewing. The fabric needs to be 100% cotton and it must be washed and ironed before sewing; the elastic cord needs to be one-quarter-inch.

These supplies can be delivered to either Marilyn Pearson's or President Penney's homes. They have "drop boxes" set up outside their front doors for delivery of fabric and supplies. Once the masks are assembled, they need to be washed an additional time and ironed again. The masks then need to be counted, bagged and labeled. You can also pick up finished masks for delivery to one of

the outlets who have requested them. Check in with Marilyn or President Penney about times for pick-ups, deliveries or if you have questions.

If you want to financially support this project, you can send your donation to Service Fund Treasurer Ana Nadimi, earmarked for the facemask sewing project. We have set up a new line item "We Can Do It" for these funds.

## **SITM Members Never Stop Working**

### **A Recap of the Ongoing Activities of SITM's Committees and Projects**

Even though SITM members are not meeting weekly, or holding evening potluck committee meetings, our members have not stopped working. There are plenty of other activities keeping members engaged. They are working telephonically or through emails on club projects that may be postponed, but not canceled.

### **Thanks to Youth Postponed Until July 29**

Even before SIA's first mandate that clubs "must postpone or cancel all club events at least through April 15", Thanks to Youth Co-Coordinators Pam Sutton, Valerie Hahn and President Penney met with the Atlantis to explore open dates in July to reschedule the annual Thanks to Youth scholarships and "Unsung Heroes" recognition.

TTY Co-Coordinators Pam and Valerie, along with Education-Youth Co-Coordinators Monica House and Piper Mullen held a teleconference meeting with committee members to keep them up-to-date on what's happening and work on any advance aspects necessary leading up to the event.

Co-Coordinator Piper Mullen reported that all of the selected recipients have been contacted and Co-Coordinator Eileen Fuller has arranged for recipient photos through JC Penney on May 27 and 28.

At this point, the Atlantis has confirmed Wednesday, July 29 as the new date for the Thanks to Youth Luncheon. If you already purchased tables and would like a refund because you are unavailable on this new date, contact Vicki Schultz.

Tickets, tables, sponsorships and donations to TTY can be accepted on our website at [sitmnv.org](http://sitmnv.org).

### **Finance/Governance Committee Working on the Budget**

The F/G Committee met just days before the SIA mandate and agreed upon a tentative draft of the 2020-2021 budgets for the Service and General Fund Treasuries. Co-Coordinator Vicki Schultz is working with Service Fund Treasurer Ana Nadimi and General Fund Treasurer Pam Robinson on finalizing the budgets for presentation to the SITM Board and members for approval.

### **Gaining Publicity for SITM**

The Public Awareness Committee has been busy on a couple of fronts. Pam Sutton and Cinammon Davies have been working on the logistics for



*Angie Ruyak is being interviewed at President Penney's home for the TV show "Aging and Awesome".*

some promotional videos regarding Thanks to Youth. Vivian Ruiz and Niki Ewing have been busy posting photos of members' sewn facemasks on SITM's Facebook page. Thanks to Angie Ruyak, we will be able to get some publicity for our members' sewn facemasks from the syndicated "Aging & Awesome" TV show (airing 7 p.m. Saturdays on KTVN-TV.) Thanks to Valerie Hahn, Jeanne Naccarato and Faye I. Andersen for contacting news media about these pursuits that resulted in a Reno Gazette-Journal feature on their website at [rgj.com](http://rgj.com), or see SITM's website or Facebook page. The best of all thank you goes to President Penney for her outstanding interview and great representation of SITM. You will also see SITM's pursuits on the SNR E-Blast.

33rd Annual

**Thanks to Youth** Luncheon

Honoring Young Heroes in our Community

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**Happy Dollar Donations Can Be Made at SITMNV.ORG.**

Don't forget that Pam Sutton has added a donation button to the SITM website to collect March Happy Dollars for Disability Resources, since we aren't attending our Thursday meetings. April Happy Dollars are designated for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI).

Patti Doty also suggested making a Happy Dollar donation and then sending her a written version ([pdoty1943@gmail.com](mailto:pdoty1943@gmail.com)) of what you would have said to the group on Thursday, if we were meeting. Her first suggestion was ... "How do we keep our hands from turning into our mother's wrinkly skin with all this washing??" President Penney will forward all of these fun "what have you been doing" comments to members each week.

**Preparations Continue for the Second Annual High Tea**

The planned "We're MAD as a HATTER" High Tea, scheduled for September 29, is so far unaffected by organizational and government mandates. Fundraising Co-Coordinators Darlene DeLancey and Linda Walker, along with member Faye I.



Andersen, are meeting telephonically to draft and produce advance materials like flyers, tickets, etc.

**Want to Try a Meeting on Zoom**

If you need to get your committee together for a meeting, and want to include more than three people at one time, you might want to try Zoom. For a tutorial on how to use Zoom, go to [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us). There is a "basic" account that is free and allows up to 40 minutes of meeting time. There is another level for \$14.99 for an unlimited number of participants and



*George Leezy was among the first to start sewing.*

minutes within a 24-hour period.

President-Elect Millie Mitchell is a frequent user of Zoom and is willing to help others get set up for a meeting, if desired.



*Debbie Handke delivers beautiful fabric to President Penney's porch practicing "social distancing".*

**SITM Officer Elections Moving Forward**

Absent the COVID-19 Pandemic, SITM would be electing its 2020-21 officers at the April Business Meeting. However, with organizational and government mandates for "social distancing" and limits to the numbers of people in gatherings, the SITM Board took action to move the election to the May 14 Board Meeting.

**"The SITM Board moves to approve holding the elections of the 2020-2021 Board Officers at the May 14, 2020 Business Meeting. If we are mandated by SIA or the country to still self-quarantine, then we shall vote for Club Officers at the June 11, 2020 Business Meeting."**

Members may also vote by "absentee ballot". President Penney emailed to all members on March 18, an "absentee ballot", candidate biographies and instructions on how to vote absentee. These are to be returned by U.S. Mail to Nominating Committee Coordinator Doris Phelps.

President Penney will be emailing the Absentee Ballot, Instructions, and Bios of Candidates again later this week. Please consider sending your "absentee ballot" to Doris Phelps.



*Zoom meeting audio only.*



*Zoom meeting with video.*

## SIA President-Elect Election Needs Your Vote

It's time to elect the 2020-2021 Soroptimist International of the Americas President-Elect. Five candidates are standing for election. Each candidate's resume and video introduction is available on the SIA website at [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org). (Go to: For Clubs and Members; Federation Info; Nominations & Elections.)

President Penney has emailed a copy of their resumes in the weekly "Key Report" for March 12 (emailed March 13). The candidates were to be discussed at the April Business Meeting, but since that is not possible, please review what President Penney sent and share your preferences or comments with her. The deadline for the club's vote is April 30. The candidates are:

- Jane Carol Azavedo**  
SI/Brasilia, Brazil Region
- Ohran Choe**  
SI/Daegu, Korea Region
- Margo Hartman**  
SI/Scotts Bluff County, Rocky Mountain Region
- Kazuko Morita**  
SI/Kyoto, Japan Chuo Region
- Stephanie Smith**  
SI/Oak Harbor, Northwestern Region

## What are you doing on Thursdays?

Scrapbook Co-Coordinator Marilyn Pearson and Jan Bogikes are looking for photos for President Penney's Scrapbook and at the same time keeping members engaged during this time of "social distancing". Each week Marilyn is asking members to take a selfie based on a specific theme and send them to her.

Her first topic was "What are you having for lunch?" ... in lieu of the fabulous Atlantis buffet. The second weekly topic for a selfie was, "What can I do without?" ... meaning sharing your abundance of nonperishable food and donating it to the Food Bank, or donating your gently-used clothing to a local charity or shelter. Keep watching for upcoming weekly topics and keep sending Marilyn those photos.



Scrapbook Co-Coordinator Marilyn Pearson shares her meal alternative to the Atlantis' Thursday buffet lunch.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Nepal Dormitory & Micro Lending Program



Sad, but true. We missed the annual update and pledge drive for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SITM's "Removing Barriers to Education for Girls" project in Thulipokhari, Nepal. It was scheduled for March 26.

But, it's not too late to donate money

to this project. A "donate button" has been added to the SITM Website at [sitmnv.org](http://sitmnv.org). If you'd prefer to make a pledge in part, or one that can be paid in installments, contact IGU Coordinator Monica House.

The Nepal program was begun in 2000 when SITM worked with the people of Thulipokhari to build

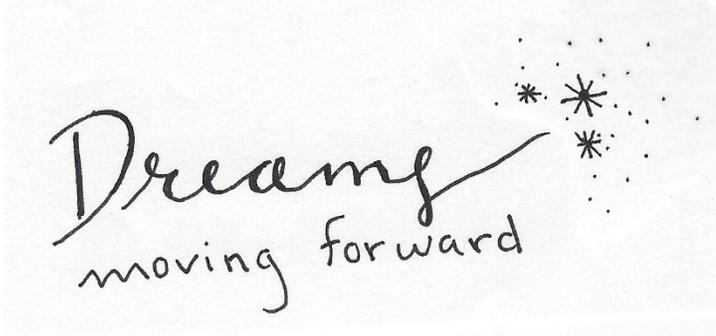
a dormitory for girls. Scholarships are also available to the girls for education, room and board. The program was later expanded to include a micro-lending program to assist in self-sufficiency by raising animals and growing crops.

## SITM Meetings Cancelled Until ?

Yes, you've been living under a rock if you didn't know that as of March 14, SITM's regular Thursday meetings, as well as some upcoming events have been canceled. Your SITM Board took action after receiving a mandate from Soroptimist International of the Americas on March 13 that all clubs "in North America, Japan and Korea, must postpone or cancel all club events through at least April 15." The SIA mandate has been further extended to at least May 11, or even June 1.

Following these directives, President Penney communicated with the Atlantis about the requirements in our weekly luncheon contract, if we were to cancel meetings. Soon, that became a moot point as Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak on March 17 declared a state of emergency closing all businesses except essential services, through April 16.

Standby for what comes next.



## Dreams Moving Forward Scholarships Postponed

Submitted by Sarah Carrasco

The unprecedented situation caused by the Coronavirus has necessitated the postponement of Dreams Moving Forward Scholarship luncheon. The Education Women Committee has completed the huge task of reviewing 60 applications and developed its list of interviewees. The Committee decided to hold off until April 15<sup>th</sup> the means in which interviews will be completed. We will keep you all informed as we move through this process.

Co-Coordinator Sarah Carrasco and Laury Macualey.



*Pam Sloan from Soroptimist International of Reno and her granddaughter Aubrey (shown at right) are sewing facemasks. They've sewn 50 masks so far.*



*Sarah Carrasco and her Mom are also sewing masks.*





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- Jeanne Naccarato
- Pam Sutton
- Sarah Carrasco
- Amber Ezell Photography

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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**Board Meets monthly on Tuesday**

following the first Thursday, noon.

Pam Robinson's office

5335 Kietzke Lane #210, Reno, NV

**SITM Board 2019-20**

President	Treasurer/General Fund
Penney M. Leezy	Pam Robinson
President – Elect	Treasurer/Service Fund
Millie Mitchell	Ana Nadimi
VP/Program	Director
Chris Fegert	Jeanne Naccarato
VP/Membership	Delegate
Valerie Hahn	Laury Macauley
Secretary	Parliamentarian
Linda Walker	Kay Dunham



For information about our organization, check out these Soroptimist Websites:

Sierra Nevada Region: [www.soroptimistsnr.org](http://www.soroptimistsnr.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas: [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International: [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)



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# Did you know . . .

## Green Light for 5th Soroptimist International Federation – SI of Africa

*Excerpted from the Soroptimist International News*

Congratulations to the clubs of the Soroptimist International Future Africa Federation (SIFAF), who voted overwhelmingly to form the fifth Soroptimist International Federation. Since their original founding most clubs in Africa were part of the SI Europe Federation or the SI Great Britain & Ireland Federation. With their vote this month the African clubs will now proceed with the election of officers and begin to form the new Federation.

The planned April SIFAF Conference in Abidjan, Ivory Coast has been postponed until November 2020. By then all the required steps will be completed to welcome the new Federation as a member of Soroptimist International. Many have worked tirelessly since 2012 to make this dream of a fifth Soroptimist International Federation a reality. The newest Federation is anticipated to charter with 106 clubs and 2,000 members in 26 countries.

