



**SOROPTIMIST®**  
Investing in Dreams

# SITM Update

*Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows*

Volume 25 • Issue 10

April 2020

[www.sitmnev.org](http://www.sitmnev.org)

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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.



[www.sitmnev.org](http://www.sitmnev.org)

## With Meetings Canceled, SITM is Not Inactive

Remember, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and may today be filled with gratitude, renewal and kindness. I thought this was fitting as I write on the eve of the Easter weekend. We may not be able to be with our friends and family, but we can be thankful for all we do have.



As you may have already heard, SITM, their friends and Sierra Nevada Stitchers have made and distributed 1,000 facemasks as of April 7, 2020. We are serving Infinity Hospice Care, Northern Nevada Medical Center, Disability Resources and Northern Nevada HOPES. We, as members, may not be able to meet, but SITM is still providing a service to our community. I am so proud of every stitch that is being sewn! We Can Do It; and We Are!!

We are now making masks for UPS. They are being sewn by Jan Bogikes and Marilyn Pearson. You may ask why? Well, check out the Thursday update I emailed everyone, and you will find your answer there, as well as on page 8.

If you have fabric you can donate for our project, please contact me. We are always in need of 100% cotton, all-purpose white thread, and ¼” elastic. If you can’t do that and still want to help, you can donate money to our “We Can Do It” line item in the Service Fund. Just send your check to Ana Nadimi and be sure to include that you want it for the mask project.

Please Stay Home for Nevada and please Stay Healthy! We have a lot to accomplish when we are finally able to have a meeting. We need everyone healthy and able to continue all the good work we do.

In Soroptimist Service and Friendship,  
Penney M. Leezy  
President

## The Tale of Facemasks and So Much More

It all began March 12 when Soroptimist Clubs in North America, Korea and Japan were mandated by our Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA), to cancel club meetings and events through



April 15. (That was later extended to May 11, with recommendations to cancel until June 1.)

SITM Committee Coordinators and members were sent scrambling to cancel, postpone and reschedule as possible, some of SITM’s biggest events scheduled for this spring. Emails, teleconferences, Zoom

Continued on page 2

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The Soroptimist's pickup and delivery system at Marilyn Pearson's home while practicing safe distancing.

meetings and everything in between were buzzing to find alternatives for what was being canceled.

It was not long after the SIA mandate that the State of Nevada began ordering non-essential businesses closed and prohibiting gatherings larger than 10, until April 30.

One week after the SIA mandate, SITM Member Angie Ruyak came to SITM seamstresses asking for cotton facemasks to be sewn for Infinity Hospice's staff and patients. Her pleas were soon sounded by Patty Downs from Northern Nevada Medical Center; Vivian Ruiz from Disability Resources and Chris Fegert for Northern Nevada HOPES.

President Penney and Marilyn Pearson became logistical experts designating members' homes in central locations for pick-up and drop-off of supplies. Non-sewers were put to work washing and ironing fabric and running deliveries. The Soroptimist network went to work sharing sewing tips, sharing fabric and elastic between members in a collective of "who had what and who needed what".

SITM began getting some publicity after online and newspaper articles were published by the Reno Gazette-

Journal about our facemask sewing. It attracted public attention and requests from the public, as well as some firms wanting significant quantities of facemasks started pouring in. In defense, a message was placed on SITM's Website and Facebook pages to note the club was making facemasks for selected healthcare agencies only. The messages included patterns to sew facemasks, as well as a tutorial from Marilyn Pearson and instructions on making non-sewn facemasks.

President Penney and Angie Ruyak were also interviewed for Aging and Awesome's "Seniors and the Coronavirus, Part II", April 11 episode, KTVN-Channel 2.

During the first three weeks of sewing, the Soroptimist Seamstresses, Sierra Stitchers, with friends and family, have produced and delivered more than 1,000 facemasks. To be sure there will be many more to come, as orders for supplies of fabric and elastic are finally fulfilled.

## You Don't Sew, but Would Like to Help?

If you would like to make a monetary contribution to help offset the costs of fabric, elastic and any other supplies for the seamstresses making the facemasks, you can send a check made out to SITM to Service Fund Treasurer Ana Nadimi.

If you have 100% cotton fabric and thread, or ¼-inch elastic you can donate, contact President Penney or Marilyn Pearson for instructions and pick up.



## SITM Featured on Aging & Awesome

If you missed it Saturday night, you can still view it online at <https://agingandawesome.com/>. The segment featuring Soroptimist begins at about 16:00.

SITM member Angie Ruyak and President Penney M. Leezy were featured on the "Seniors and the Coronavirus, Part II", April 11 episode of Aging & Awesome, a weekly program on KTVN-Channel 2.

Representing Infinity Hospice Care, Angie spoke about her agency's

efforts to keep their clients safe from the virus. President Penney was interviewed about SITM's Soroptimist Seamstresses and helpers that are providing masks to Angie's staff and patients.



## There's No End to Soroptimists' Talents

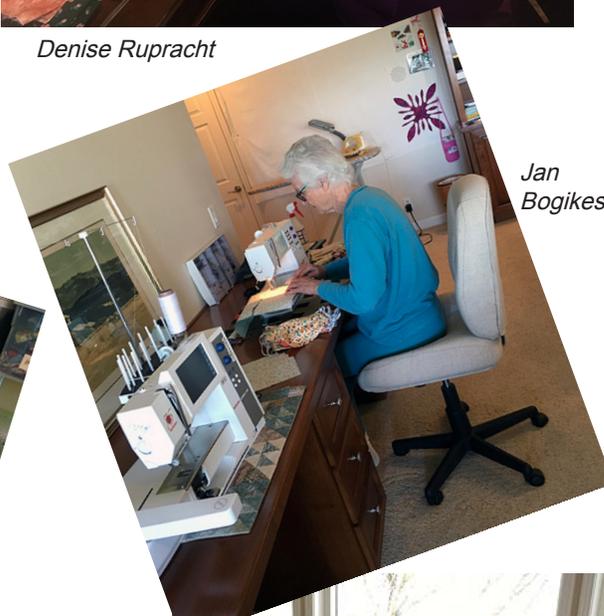
Meeting the challenge for sewn facemasks are a dozen-and-a-half members, along with another dozen family members and friends who have surpassed the 1,000 mark just three weeks into the project. Here are a few of our Soroptimist Seamstresses in action. (If YOU are sewing facemasks, send a selfie or have your significant other snap one of you, to Editor, Faye I. Andersen.



Dot Watts



Denise Rupracht



Jan Bogikes



Marilyn Pearson



Pam Robinson

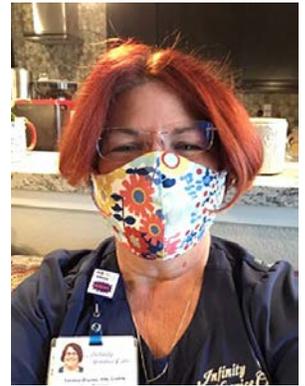
*Diana DeMatei's Mom, in the foreground and husband Jeff in the background, sewing facemasks.*



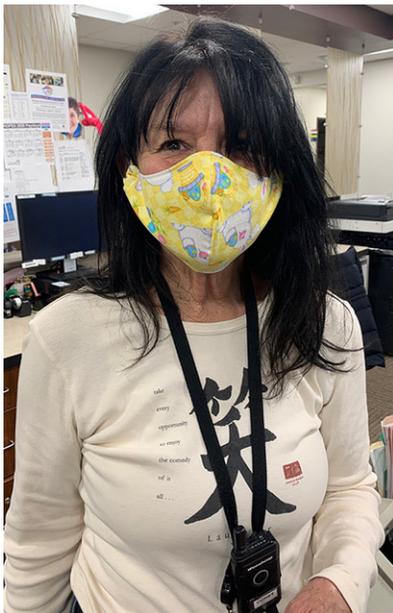
Thanks to these members for submitting their photos.



Some of the staff at Infinity Hospice Care.



**Thank You ! We are very appreciative for your support.**



Members of Northern Nevada HOPES staff: Tori, Ofelia and Margarita at right, and Connie above.



Thanks you Angie Ruyak, Chris Fegert and Vivian Ruiz for these photos.



Members of Administration and Direct Support Managers from Disability Resources, SITM member Vivian Ruiz, Amanda, Natali, Melvin, and Erin.



## Your Vote is Still Needed On SITM Officer Election

Absent the COVID-19 Pandemic, SITM would have been 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 Business 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 copies again to all members on

April 7. -- an "absentee ballot" and instructions on how to vote absentee. These are to be returned by U.S. Mail to Nominating Committee Coordinator Doris Phelps.

President Penney said, "We need members to participate in this election.

We have made it as easy as possible, with an absentee ballot emailed to every member, but we are still in need of additional votes. Let's make this happen today! "

She continued, "I have heard various reasons why someone hasn't voted, no stamps or envelopes available.... so now, all you need to do is send an email to Nominating Coordinator Doris



Phelps [skippyyellowsub@charter.net](mailto:skippyyellowsub@charter.net) and CAST YOUR VOTE!! Show that you care for our club and let's elect these officers!!

### President-Elect

Valerie Hahn

### Vice President/Program

Patti Doty

### Vice President/Membership

Laury Macauley

### Secretary

Paula Ringkob

### Treasurer/General Fund

Linda Walker

### Delegate

Angela Owings

### Completing a term of office

\*President – Millie Mitchell

\*Treasurer/Service Fund --

Ana Nadimi

\*Director – Penney M. Leezy

## Express Your Choice for SNR Officers and Directors

We all know that the Sierra Nevada Region 44<sup>th</sup> annual convention, scheduled for April 24-26 at the Atlantis has been postponed. That's where the election of new Region Officers and District Directors for the 2020 – 2022 biennium would normally take place. Even if conference is postponed it is imperative that each club's delegates vote for these candidates to take office July, 2020.

SITM's Delegates are President Penney M. Leezy, President-Elect Millie Mitchell and Delegate Laury Macauley and they will be casting the club's vote. Since we won't

have an SITM Business or program meeting, if you would like to express any comments or preferences for the candidates for Governor-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer or District 5 Director, send your comments before April 20 and copy all three delegates.

A brief biography and short presentation of all of the candidates can be found on the SNR website at [www.soroptimistsnr.org](http://www.soroptimistsnr.org). No password needed.

The SNR Board is contemplating a joint Conference & Soroptimist Development Retreat in July, if possible.



## SNR Board Meeting April 25 at 1 p.m.

Even with the postponement of the SNR Conference, the SNR Board will hold their sixth and final board meeting of the 2018-2020 Biennium on Saturday, April 25 at 1 p.m. via ZOOM.

Governor Lane Parks' "Call" to the Board Meeting and Agenda can be obtained from President Penney. The ZOOM connection information can be found in the April 15 SNR E-Blast. SNR Board Meetings are open to all members.

## We Missed These April Birthdays

Since there was no April Business Meeting, there was no opportunity to wish these April birthday babies a Happy Birthday. We hope their days were special.

Patty Mamola -- April 1

Niki Ewing – April 9

Scarlet Ewy – April 10

Mary Beth Roselli – April 23

# Education-Youth and Thanks to Youth Continue to Work Together!

By Monica House, Co-Coordinator, Education-Youth

33rd Annual

## Thanks to Youth Luncheon

Honoring Young Heroes in our Community

The Education-Youth and Thanks to Youth Committees continue to work hard to ensure we have a successful event as soon as we are all up and running again. As mentioned in last month's newsletter the tentative new date for the Thanks to Youth luncheon is now **Wednesday July 29**. Thanks go to co-coordinators Pam Sutton, Valerie Hahn and President Penney for working closely with the Atlantis to coordinate this event.

Pictures for our recipients have tentatively been rescheduled for the evening of May 26 and Wednesday May 27 at J.C. Penney Portrait Studios thanks to member Eileen Fuller. All 26 of our recipients along with their nominators have been notified of the new dates thanks to Piper Mullen. Piper is also currently working on the bios for all our recipients! Behind the scenes all of our committee members have been jumping in to help wherever needed.

We really have some outstanding recipients to honor at this years' luncheon and hope to see all of you and your guests on July 29.

Here are some quotes from our scholarship recipients.

**"First of all, I just want to thank you for the opportunity to succeed in higher education. It's such an honor to be able to be recognized by an organization such as this one."**

**"I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a recipient for the Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows Youth Scholarship. Thank you so much for your generosity."**

**"I would like to thank you immensely for awarding me this scholarship! I am beyond excited to meet you and thank you in person."**

## STEM Project at Hunter Lake Elementary On Hold

A Report to the Board from Co-Coordinator Kay Dunham and Patty Mamola



Olivia Feleciano shows off some of her coding work on an iPad, with Paige Warten in the background.

The Dream It. Be It. Committee had been very busy since the first of the year, until the schools closed. The girls had been working in teams to block code our Sphero bots to perform various functions. The girls were given a lesson plan with specific requirements to be included in their code. They are having great success mastering the basics of coding and working in teams as well. We are

pleased to see 5th and 6th graders teaming with 3rd or 4th graders.

Plans were in place for after Spring Break to introduce our new DASH robots. These require slightly more complex coding exercises which will provide additional challenges for the girls. When this happens, once again

the girls will be working in teams to design the code for the robot's actions.

The committee has requested some additional funds to cover the balance of the cost of the DASH robots. These will be very useful for our ongoing project at Hunter Lake Elementary School.



An additional 40 masks were made by Sarah Carrasco and her mother. She sent them to her sister who runs a dialysis unit. According to Sarah, their patients all have underlying health issues. The unit has nothing in the way of protective masks.

## COVID-19 Impacts on SITM's Girls Education Project in Nepal

By Monica House, IGU Coordinator

Due to the spread of the Coronavirus worldwide, our scholarship recipients have been sent home to be with their families. Just like here in the U.S., Campus Chief Hari Subedi, says that our dormitory (hostel) and the school campus have been temporarily closed. Hari goes on to say that his family and everyone in the village of Thulipokhari are safe and well at this time. He said to tell Soroptimists, "Thank you and to take care." Manisha, the daughter of our cook Dev, sent me a brief message that they are also doing "fine".

I've also been in touch with Shyam Paudel and his wife Patrima who are now helping us oversee our Nepal project. They asked me to pass on the following message to Soroptimists: "We, our family are safe and doing good precautions. This pandemic horrifies the world



Campus Chief Hari Subedi

and the US more. Please be safe Soroptimists home quarantined. Our confidence is to defeat the virus pandemic. #fight\_against\_Cov19. "

### Pledges for Nepal Project Still Being Accepted

Due to the pandemic, we missed the annual update and pledge drive for the 20th anniversary of SITM's "Removing Barriers to Education for Girls" project in Thulipokhari, Nepal. It



Shyam Paudel (Dr. Purna Subedi's cousin) and Patrima Acharya recently got married on Oct 5, 2019.



Manisha, daughter of Dev the dormitory cook.

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 [www.sitmnmv.org](http://www.sitmnmv.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 girl's dormitory (hostel) in Thulipokhari, Nepal.

## Thank You for Your Happy Dollars

March Happy Dollars netted a total of \$465 during the month for Disability Resources, helping local individuals with disabilities achieve their highest potential. Under the policy adopted last club year, any shortfall in Happy Dollars not reaching \$500 minimum is supplemented by the reserve service funds.

Happy Dollars for April are designated for the National Alliance on Mental Health. NAMI is a grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons

living with serious mental illness and their families.

### You Can Still Contribute to Happy Dollars

Don't forget there is a "donate button" for Happy Dollars on our website, [www.sitmnmv.org](http://www.sitmnmv.org). You can follow that up with the reasons you are happy (or sad) by sending a message to Patti Doty ([www.PDoty1943@gmail.com](mailto:www.PDoty1943@gmail.com)). At the end of a week Patti will send them to President Penney to include with her "Key Report".

## Brown Facemasks Being Sewn for UPS



SITM Seamstresses sewed 100 facemasks for UPS drivers and delivery personnel. Why, you ask? The short answer is: “To pay them back!” The longer answer goes back to the 2016-2017 Club Year.

At that time our member Harmony Hobbs, a manager at the Reno-Sparks UPS, approached employees during their annual United Way campaign and asked them to designate SITM as their preferred nonprofit. Many of them did. Their monthly contributions were critical that year and for the next two years when SITM was conducting multiple small fundraisers and looking for a more substantial event like the High Tea. We would not have made our fundraising budget those years without the generous donations from UPS employees.

Despite leaving the company and SITM, Harmony has continued to approach UPS employees each year during their annual United Way campaign. The employees have continued to designate SITM for their donations. From 2016 through March 2020, their contributions to SITM have totaled \$15,819.

When Harmony approached the idea for our seamstresses to sew masks for UPS employees, it was a way for SITM to give back to their generous employees.



Jan Bogikes shows off the brown fabric selected for the UPS masks.

### Yes, They Are All UPS Brown

The 1,000 facemasks already sewn by SITM Seamstresses come in all colors and patterns. But, we all know that UPS’s color scheme is brown – uniforms, trucks, etc. So the scramble was on to find brown 100% cotton fabric. Barbara Atwell found an



Wes Ebney, center, the UPS Sparks Center Manager, displays what turned out to be 115 masks Marilyn Pearson and Jan Bogikes made for their drivers. Joining him were President-Elect Millie Mitchell, left, and President Penney M. Leezy, right.

outlet, purchased the fabric and prepped it for sewing.

Marilyn Pearson and Jan Bogikes were asked to pause their facemask production lines for healthcare workers in order to sew the UPS facemasks. We are grateful to Jan and Marilyn for facilitating a way for us to “give back” to UPS.

### Late Breaking News

#### SIA 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention Cancelled

In an email on April 15 from Soroptimist International of the Americas President Tina Wei-Kang Pan to members, the SIA Board of Directors has decided to cancel the 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, which was scheduled for July 22-25 in Bellevue, Washington.

President Tina explained the reason as being the global health pandemic causing issues involving international travel restrictions, limits on the number of people who can gather together, as well as state, national and international restrictions. The SIA Federation has clubs in 22 countries.

The email message went on to outline provisions for refunding convention and hotel reservations, along with an FAQ factsheet to answer more questions.





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**Contributing to this issue**

- Jo Ann Roberts
- Penney M. Leezy
- Angie Ruyak
- Sarah Carrasco
- Chris Fegert
- Vivian Ruiz
- Monica House
- Kay Dunham
- Patty Mamola
- Patti Doty
- Barbara Atwell

**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 . . .

## SITM Scholarship Recipient Testing for COVID-19

UNR fourth year medical student Lauran Evans was featured in the Sunday, April 12 edition of the [Reno Gazette-Journal](#). Lauran is a recipient of SITM's Dreams Moving Forward scholarship. She was featured as one of several Med School students assisting with drive-through COVID-19 testing at the Washoe County Health District and University Health Internal Medicine drive-through locations.

Congratulations Lauran!  
Thank You for serving our community.

