



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

Volume 26 • Issue 5

November 2020

www.sitmnhv.org

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Calendar

- Nov. 19 – Susan Horst, District 5 Director
- Nov. 26 – DARK for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 3 – Human Rights & SI President’s Appeal
- Dec. 8 -- Board Meeting at Ana Nadimi’s home or on zoom
- Dec. 10 – Business Meeting
- Dec. 17 – Hospitality and Fundraising Program
- Dec. 25 – DARK Merry Christmas
- Dec. 31 – DARK Happy New Year

Prior to each meeting President Millie sends a link to join the meeting via Zoom, if you would like to attend that way.

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$25 for lunch.

RSVP to info@sitmnhv.org 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.



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A Different Thanksgiving

I want to share a story with you about a Thanksgiving celebration from many years ago. As I often do before I start putting words on paper, I did a quick internet search and found some interesting articles about the history of Thanksgiving, varieties of celebrations, suggestions for safer gatherings in the age of Covid-19, etc. I let this all sit overnight (I like to give my brain a chance to mull things over) and the next morning a vision of a most unusual Thanksgiving from my past popped into my head.

It was my senior year of college (in Walla Walla, WA) and I had had the tradition of not going home to California for Thanksgiving and instead accepted invitations from roommates and friends to spend Thanksgiving with their families. Every year was different and fun. My senior year, I was very excited to travel to Spokane to spend Thanksgiving on Priest Lake with a Whitman alumna and her family. I hopped a plane to Spokane to meet my friend Bobbie, her husband, and two young children. We packed the car with all the things necessary for a great Thanksgiving weekend and headed off to their cabin on Priest Lake where we would join up with her parents. Two neighboring cabins, five adults, two young children. What could go wrong?

Thanksgiving morning arrived and my host was sick!

As my memory goes, *everyone* was sick to some degree – including me. I had my usual Thanksgiving cold, but I was in better shape than my host. If Thanksgiving dinner was going to get on the table then I was going to have to cook it – in an unfamiliar kitchen and without much help. It all worked out in the end. Everyone managed to help to the degree they could, and we eventually sat down to a simplified dinner and enjoyed each other’s company



President Millie at the Halloween social.

This year Thanksgiving will be different for all of us. Finn and I will go for a walk for sure, weather permitting, and maybe my young great nephews can join us from a safe social distance. I’m thinking about cooking but making up “to go” boxes for family members and just inviting everyone over for

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Meet our District 5 Director November 19



Susan Horst, District 5 Director will be speaking at our November 19 meeting. She will be brining updates about the Sierra Nevada Region and District 5 Clubs and their activities. Director Susan said: “I’ll be giving encouraging words on going beyond normal during the pandemic. Mark it on your calendar.

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a celebratory cocktail outdoors on my patio and then sending them on their way with dinner to go. We might Zoom and share dinner that way.

And that's what it's all about, isn't it? Making the best of a situation and enjoying the company of the ones you are with, in whatever way you can be together. Maybe even creating new traditions, new memories to

cherish, new stories to tell in years to come. Most importantly, as one of the articles I read said, I want to make sure that my friends and family members are here to celebrate Thanksgiving in person with me next year.

I want that for each and every one of the members of SI Truckee Meadows, too. However you celebrate

Thanksgiving this year, be well and stay safe. Happy Thanksgiving!

Mille Mitchell, President

P. S. I have fond memories of that Priest Lake Thanksgiving. For one, I had a terrific place to sleep: a pullout bed in the front room with a fire going in the fireplace.



Christmas Comes to Hunter Lake Elementary School

By Annette Friedlander, Education/Youth Committee

Once again, our very generous members are excited to bring the Angel Tree gifts back to the children at Hunter Lake. The Education/Youth Committee has taken on this project for several years to bring smiles to these Children in Transition. This year we have thirteen children to provide with gifts.

We asked for members to respond, and fifteen members stepped up. It is not too late if you want to join the giving team, to provide gifts or small treats to accompany the gifts. Just email Annette Friedlander at renoanaret@gmail.com to let her know you want in. We look forward to spreading lots of holiday cheer.

To Party or Not to Party?

We won't know that answer for a while now. But that doesn't mean we can't make plans while we wait.

Once again, the Fundraising Committee will be hosting a cookie/goodie holiday auction on Thursday, December 17. This is a joint meeting with the Hospitality Committee, so expect some fun games and other ways to brighten your holidays.



More details will be forthcoming. Standby for more information as it becomes



A Note to All Who Crochet

By Diana DeMatei, Community Outreach Co-Coordinator

Members with completed afghans can now drop them off on Diana DeMatei's front covered porch at 5449 Hidden Valley Court in Reno. Please let Diana know when you are planning to leave them so she can keep a look out for them on the porch. Diana's office is not always staffed so it's not a good idea to try to drop them there this year.

Diana Home 775-358-0969 Cell or Text 775-690-9587 ddillon702@aol.com

A Legislative Update from Senator Julia Ratti

The Finance & Governance Committee sponsored our October 15 speaker, Nevada Senator Julia Ratti, who is also Assistant Majority Leader and Co-Majority Whip.

Julia reviewed some highlights from the July 2020 Special Session and the 2019 regular legislative session. She also answered questions about how she became interested and involved in politics, starting as an appointed Sparks City Council member and appointed member of the Senate. Julia is a past SITM member and past CEO of the Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada as well as working for the Girl Scouts of the USA.



How Are Our Schools Coping with the Pandemic?

Dr. Kristen McNeill, Superintendent of the Washoe County School District had complete attention of members at the October 22 meeting. Dr. McNeill's presentation was sponsored by the Education/Youth Committee.

With the COVID-10 pandemic as a backdrop, Dr. McNeill detailed actions of the school district since March 2020 when much of the nation closed schools for the semester. Faced with the challenge of continuing to educate

students during the fall semester, she explained the decisions behind in-person, distance or hybrid learning for students for elementary, middle and high school.

Dr. McNeill also showed a video of WCSD capital projects, including recent and new school construction, but there was a problem with the audio due to technical difficulties. You can view It here: https://youtu.be/XhD5mS_cp3c.



Presentation for STEM Day

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math

November 8 was STEM Day, so SITM's new STEAM Day Committee presented an overview of SITM's STEM program for girls at Hunter Lake Elementary, plus plans for a STEAM Day.

STEAM Day was selected by the members last year as the new hands-on volunteer project to replace the Making A Difference for Women project the club sponsored for the past decade.

STEAM Co-Coordinator Angela Owings and Kay Dunham, along with committee members Jeanne Naccarato and Faye I. Andersen narrated the presentation. It included an outline of the club's STEM program at Hunter Lake Elementary School. At the start four years ago, the program focused a lot on the engineering aspects of STEM and had the girls pursuing simple projects. Two years ago, the committee introduced Spheros, a programmable robotic ball. Plans for this school year, before the coronavirus pandemic, included introduction of DASH Robots, a more advanced programming activity.

Two videos were shown during the program and links are listed here.

Sphero in the classroom- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yQYr7C1xBc&feature=emb_logo

DASH- https://youtu.be/LA9py48X6_o

What was planned for the STEAM Day was a day-long event to introduce middle school girls to various "imagination stations" where they could meet professionals and explore applications of robotics, coding, water/hydraulics, environment/ecosystems, construction design, electricity, geology/mining and others.

The committee is searching for some way to carry-out at least partial plans for STEAM Day while still adhering to pandemic requirements.

A Halloween Social of Fun and Costumes



Penney Leezy

From Marilyn to Mickey, from an astronaut to a hippie, plus a number of witches, SITM members dressed for the Halloween Social at the October 29 meeting. Members joining on Zoom even donned hats and festive backgrounds to join in the celebration.



Dot Watts and Carol Dinneen



Holly (Marilyn) Nash



Angela Owings

Hospitality Co-Cordinator Margie Hermanson and member Holly Nash entertained the members with some holiday word and phrase games. So as not to forget that October 31 is Nevada Day in recognition of statehood in 1864, Holly presented some common and many little-known facts about Nevada's history.



Kaylyn Dazey-Harper



Debbie Handke



Whose shoes are these?



Kay Dunham

A beautiful Halloween-themed quilt, created by Marilyn Pearson was auctioned. Holly's daughter-in-law provided plates of cookies for auction as well. A little fundraising with the day's fun.

These days, it's hard to tell who-is-who in these facemasks. Add a costume and you might never know who it is, until they speak.

Who lost her hat?



Patte Robnett, channeling her inner-hippie.



Valerie Hahn and daughter Savannah

Linda Walker



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Sarah Carrasco



Marilyn Pearson



Annette Friedlander



Jeanne Naccarato with Marilyn's beautiful quilt.



Darlene DeLancey



Bev (Mickey) Perkins



Jo Ann Roberts with Mickey



Margie Hermanson



Deb Thomas



Jeanne Naccarato



New Podcasts from Soroptimist International

The SI Voices series of podcasts launched October 3. Hosted by Soroptimists and friends, episodes so far include a fantastic interview with SI President Sharon Fisher and a history special revealing the story of how our global organization first started.

Podcasts are available on the SI website where you can find some handy tips on how to listen on the move! You can also listen on *YouTube*, *Spotify*, *Apple Podcasts* and *Google Podcast apps*, and on *Buzzsprout*. Simply search “SI Voices Soroptimist” – and subscribe to make sure you never miss a beat!



Soroptimist International is planning a 3-Day online festival of celebration for the 100th Anniversary of Soroptimist International in 2021. Save the date, and get ready to join in from all over the world – more information coming very soon!

SI President’s Appeal

The Road to Equality Webinars Available

The Soroptimist International Voices programme of webinars has now commenced, reflecting the key topics of the SI Road to Equality President’s Appeal, 2019-2021. Hosted by SI President, Sharon Fisher, and Appeal coordinators, Olga Sidenko, and Ayushi Kundu, the 1-hour webinars introduce a mix of speakers to engage and educate on subjects including the Rights of Older Women, Female Genital Mutilation, the Trafficking of women and girls, and more.

You can watch the webinars on our dedicated page on the SI website, or on the SI YouTube channel.

To Tech? Or Not to Tech? How Does SITM Measure Up?

On September 30, Soroptimist International of the Americas held a webinar to discuss our [Soroptimist Forward](#) tools. We asked the participants:

How is your Soroptimist club meeting now?

- 15% All attendees in person
- 64% All attendees virtual
- 20% Hybrid of in person and virtual attendees
- 1% Not meeting at all right now

How would you define your expertise level in Zoom?

- 3% What’s Zoom? I don’t use it.
- 32% BEGINNER: I’m figuring it out!
- 48% INTERMEDIATE: I’m pretty comfortable with the features!
- 17% ADVANCED: I’m a rock star! My club was already using Zoom to deliver programs!

If your club is planning on hosting a Dream It, Be It project this year, how are you planning to deliver it?

- 25% In person
- 30% Hybrid (in person and virtual)
- 45% Virtual



Share the celebration! Soroptimist International of the Americas is celebrating our 100th Anniversary and invites clubs to share in the celebration by joining our 100th Anniversary social media campaign.

November Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

Editor's Note: A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors was called by President Millie Mitchell on November 1 in light of the City of Reno and Washoe County's recommendations related to the recent very high incidence of coronavirus locally. Following discussion, members of the Board approved a motion to conduct club and board meetings as virtual meetings beginning November 5 through the end of November. The Atlantis is not holding us to our contract for weekly lunches through November.

Full Agenda for November Meetings

Reviewing and voting on bylaw amendments; detailing the procedures for an upcoming online fundraising auction and a discussion of the status of coronavirus in our community were just some of the topics covered at the November Board and Business Meetings.

Proposed Federation Bylaws Voted

Members voted on several Soroptimist International of the Americas, our Federation, Bylaw Amendments at the November Board and Business Meetings. Most were "conforming" amendments to bring the SIA Bylaws in accordance with Soroptimist International changes. The remaining amendments were specific to SIA.

Creating a New Electoral Area

One amendment proposed to increase the number of Electoral Areas from 13 to 14. If approved, the amendment would separate the regions of Korea and Taiwan, which made up Electoral Area 5 and create a new, Electoral Area 14 (bringing the total of SIA Directors to 16). The two countries speak different languages and have long-standing cultural and political differences. The board recommended and the membership approved the proposed amendment.

Changing the Role of the SIA President

Another amendment proposed to modify the role of the SIA President, changing her duties from "general supervision" to "oversight" of the activities of the Federation. Concerns were raised over the change possibly diminishing the authority and role of the SIA President. The Board recommended and the membership voted against this proposed amendment.

President Millie will submit the club's votes to SIA.

Fundraising Auction Platform Approved

Fundraising Committee Co-Coordinator Darlene DeLancey presented a motion from the committee and the Public Awareness Committee to utilize Qgiv online auction software for the online Valentine-themed auction scheduled for February 2021. She also presented an event budget and a project plan for the auction. Once approved by members, Cinammon Davies presented a Power Point program reasons for choosing Qgiv, outlining the operation of the system and how members and customers can interface with it during the auction.

Holiday Bake Sale Approved

The Fundraising and Hospitality Committees proposed to once again conduct a holiday bake/goodie sale at the December 17 meeting. The Board recommended and the membership approved the motion. Expect some fun games to brighten the holidays. Details will be forthcoming, especially since coronavirus restrictions may be in place at the time.

Supporting SI/Chico's Butte County Bear Fire Relief

Last month the membership approved a donation of \$1,000 from SITM's Service Reserve Funds to Soroptimist International of Chico for assisting women and girls impacted by the Butte County Bear Fire. SI/Chico is working to purchase cards for women evacuees to purchase immediate necessities such as underwear, bras, prescriptions and feminine hygiene items. Individual members also made a total of \$500 in voluntary donations to add to the club's donation to this cause. Thank you to all members for your support.

October Happy Dollars for WACCS

Happy Dollars in the amount of \$322 were collected in October for the Women & Children's Center of the Sierra, which supports women as they work to move out of poverty and improve their lives. November Happy Dollars are designated for the Children of Persia, which is a group of compassionate and caring friends who promote health, education and social services for disadvantaged children in Iran.

Under the policy adopted last club year, any shortfall in Happy Dollars not reaching \$500 minimum is supplemented by the reserve service funds.

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You Can Still Contribute to Happy Dollars

Don't forget there is a "donate button" for Happy Dollars on our website, www.sitmnev.org. Or, you can always mail a check to Service Fund Treasurer Ana Nadimi. Make sure you designate Happy Dollars in the "notes" on your check.

Best Wishes to Members with November Birthdays

Perhaps we can no longer sing "Happy Birthday to you, dear Soroptimists," or gather together for a group photo, but we can still recognize members having birthdays in November.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Dot Watts – the 4 th | Vicki Schultz – the 5 th |
| Kim Coulter-Davis – the 15 th | Carol Dinneen – the 17 th |
| Jeanne Baxker – the 21 st | Jaci Jones – the 27 th |

SITM Life Member Recognized by UNR

SITM Life Member and Charter President Jaci Jones was recently featured in Silver & Blue, the magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno. Jaci established a scholarship endowment for aspiring educators. Jaci is a Nevada graduate having spent 30 years in education, becoming the first female principal of a high school in Washoe County. Way to go Jaci!



Jaci Chiatovich Jones establishes endowed scholarship for educators



Eileen Fuller, President of the Artists Co-Op of Reno and SITM member displays the \$500 Happy Dollar check received by ACR for their building fund. Eileen is shown here in front of her first-place blue ribbon (upper left) for her entry into the Latimer Art Club annual "Miniature Show".

Thank You for Happy Dollars

October 17, 2020
To: Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

Dear members:
Thank you for your most generous donation of \$500 to our Artists Co-Op Building Fund. As you know, the Artists Co-Operative of Reno has purchased the existing building on Mill Street. We now have a loan to pay off. Our goal is to have it paid off completely in five years. Your gift will help us reach our goal, as well as making necessary maintenance and repairs to the historic building that we have occupied for 54 years. This means the Co-Op remains in our current location and that the building will be locally owned and maintained. In addition, the Co-Op will serve as a focus for the Reno community. Artists are welcomed to many of our monthly shows and we do fund raising for local nonprofits several times a year. In 2019 we raised funds for charitable organizations in excess of \$4,000. We are appreciative of our patrons and artists who have shown their support in our time of need. Thank you for being one of those supporters!

Sincerely,
Artists Co-Operative of Reno Members

I am a UPS driver and was a recipient of the masks that you all donated and made. I wanted to personally thank all of you that participated in making and delivering them to all of us.

Amazing thought of kindness. I hope you all know this.

Thank you.
David Brown, UPS Driver, Sparks, NV

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
 following the first Thursday, noon.
 Ana Nadimi's home

SITM Board 2020-21

President

Millie Mitchell

President-Elect

Valerie Hahn

Vice President/Program

Laury Macauley

Vice President/

Membership

Patti Doty

Secretary

Paula Ringkob

Treasurer/General Fund

Linda Walker

Treasurer/Service Fund --

Ana Nadimi

Delegate

Angela Owings

Director – Penney M. Leezy



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



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Did you know . . .

New SIA President-Elect Kazuko Morita

Kazuko Morita took office as the Soroptimist International of the Americas President-Elect in September. She will assume the office of SIA President on September 1 2021, and will serve in that position through August 31, 2022.

President-Elect Kazuko is a member of Soroptimist International of Kyoto. A member since 1985, she has held several leadership positions at all levels of the organization including district director; club president, vice president and secretary. Most recently, she was SIA Board Secretary/Treasurer, 2019-2020.

A national licensed pharmacist, President-Elect Kazuko graduated from Kyoto Pharmaceutical University and has served there as a teaching lecturer and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees for the University.

