



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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February 2021

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- February 18 – Tami Hance-Lehr, Communities in Schools
 February 25 – Chris Fegert, Hope Spring Village
 February 27 – District 5 Winter Meeting
 March 4 – Community Involvement Committee
 March 9 – Board Meeting, Noon
 March 11 – Business Meeting

SITM Meets...

We are currently meeting on Zoom through March 11, 2021. To request access to the Zoom link contact info@sitmnev.org.

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

Whole Hearted Success

I am repeatedly amazed by and ever so proud of the ability of SI/Truckee Meadows to roll with the flow and adapt to the challenging environment we have been faced with as a result of the coronavirus pandemic over the past 11 months. Once again, we have surmounted an obstacle – not being able to hold an in-person event for fundraising purposes. You will read more about the financial success of our Whole Hearted Online Auction later in a newsletter. And it was tremendous success financially. Bravo, everyone! What I want to recognize, however, is some other benchmarks of success that we reached as a result of the Whole Hearted Auction.



• We tried something that we had never done before – and that’s a good thing. If we limit ourselves to only doing what we know how to do, we cannot change and grow. For sure the world around us is changing by leaps and bounds.

• Most of us are not what some of my colleagues at the University would call “digital natives,” and we’re not always comfortable or adept at living in an increasingly digital world. And yet, we were brave enough to try using the internet, Facebook, and a mobile app in our fundraising endeavors. We took a leap of faith, with the encouragement of some of our younger digital native members, and we reaped the rewards.

• We told our story – the powerful story of all the many ways that SI/Truckee Meadows serves women and girls in need in our community and beyond – to a much broader audience than we might normally reach. That’s also a good thing. Telling our story to a broader audience invites new members and support from local business – all of which enhances our ability to help more women and girls achieve their dreams.

We should all be very proud of what we managed to pull off!

[Continued on page 2](#)

Join the District 5 Meeting February 27

District 5 Director Susan Horst has themed her District 5 Winter Meeting, “Tangled in Strawberry Fields”. You’ll have to join this virtual meeting on Zoom, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. to find out exactly what she means. Some highlights include:

- Mental Health Encouragement
- Club Presidents’ Reports
- Surprise Entertainment

The session will end with a group photo.



Continued from page 1

From my many years in non-profit fundraising, I know first-hand that none of this happened easily and it took a team of SI/Truckee Meadows members to make it happen. Successful teams have great leaders, so I want to give a big shout out to Darlene DeLancey and Linda Walker, our Fundraising Coordinators. These two women are just incredible, and they are so deserving of a virtual round of applause and our gratitude. Shout outs also to Laury Macauley who turned her office into auction central and managed to catalog the 94 auction items; to Cinammon Davies for her tech savvy and coordinating with Q-giv; to Kaylyn Dazey-Harper for her creative graphic design and coordinating with Facebook; and to Faye I. Andersen who wrote copy for PSAs and flyers, created forms, and crafted thank you letters, among lots of other things.

Many other members from the Fundraising and Public Awareness Committees participated in producing the Whole Hearted Auction and they deserve our appreciation as well. Thank you, also, to the club members who contributed or secured items for the auction, some of whom went above and beyond, and to everyone who placed bids throughout the weekend and/or made outright contributions.

Each and every one of you has my heartfelt gratitude! If I could, I'd give you all a big hug and pop several bottles of champagne to share with you in celebration. Know that your efforts have provided the financial means for SI/Truckee Meadows to help women and girls in our community achieve their dreams – and we now have another tool we know how to use in our fundraising tool box!

Millie Mitchell, President

Don't Miss Tami Hance-Lehr on February 18

Communities in School (CIS) of Nevada CEO and State Director Tami Hance-Lehr is the featured speaker for the February 18 meeting.

CIS of Nevada was founded in 2004 as a single non-profit with three dependent affiliates serving over 70,000 students at 75 school campuses, in four school districts across the state. Communities In Schools of Nevada believes every child has potential but may lack the opportunity to succeed and places caring, well-trained, full-time employees in high poverty schools to build trusted relationships with students, assess their needs and remove the barriers they face to learn, stay in school and graduate. In 2020 CIS of Nevada had a statewide graduation rate of 90% for their case-managed students, and 98% for their academy students.



Showcasing Hope Springs February 25

SITM's own Chris Fegert will be the featured speaker at the February 25 meeting, speaking about the new Hopes Springs, Northern Nevada's first bridge-housing community for the homeless. Chris is the Philanthropy Partnerships Manager for Northern Nevada Hopes.



Chris will be showcasing the 30 individual sleeping units of the recently completed Hopes Springs. The units surround a central 3,200 sq ft facility with restrooms, showers, laundry, a kitchen, and community space. Residents will be connected to Northern Nevada Hopes life-saving care and life-changing services through the HOPES clinic. And very unique to Hope Springs, the facility accepts residents with dogs, has a dog park built into the campus and provides access to veterinary and training services.

SAFE Embrace Speaker on March 4

Jessica Cisneros, MS, Executive Director of Safe Embrace will be the speaker at the March 4 SITM Meeting sponsored by the Community Involvement Committee.

Safe Embrace provides compassionate and trauma-informed services to individuals suffering from current or past domestic abuse, sexual violence and/or human trafficking. We also facilitate educational programs and work to increase public awareness about these issues.



In December, SITM's crocheting members, family and friends donated 82 adult youth afghans; 10 baby afghans; 2 baby caps; 5 caps; and 10 scarves.

IGU Committee Nepal Update March 25

You don't want to miss the March 25 SITM meeting, where the IGU Committee will be "Celebrating 20 years of success on our Nepal Project". Topics include how the project originated and how far it has come. It should be a good meeting to invite Zoom guests too.

Whole Hearted Auction an Online, an SITM Success

Could you hear the hollering? Could you feel the excitement? As the Whole Hearted Online Auction came to a close Sunday, February 7, SITM members were cheering the success. What was originally budgeted to raise \$5,000 as a first-time fundraising effort, has grossed an estimated \$8,663, as of this publication. The auction website is still active through February 21 and collecting donations for SITM in general or some club specific Fund-a-Need projects.

Never ending thanks and recognition goes to every member who participated, from the members of the Fundraising and Public Awareness Committees, to the members who donated or procured auction items, bid on items and spread the word about the auction. Ninety-four items were up for auction and the diversity of items was astounding, from gift cards for meals, pampering and shopping, to legal services, to handmade items, accessories, jewelry, even leather and fur clothing and much more.

Anticipating a report by Fundraising Co-Coordinators Darlene DeLancey and Linda Walker at the February Business Meeting, President Millie presented ROSES to each member of the two committees, adding "a job well done".

According to Co-Coordinator Darlene, "It is important to note that the Public Awareness Committee has assisted the Fundraising Committee with the Whole Hearted Auction and the event would not have been possible without



their assistance and technical expertise." She noted that we purchased a Facebook ad for the first time.

A very big thank you to those of you that donated auction items and/or funds and for those that participated in the auction. It was definitely fun! A full list of these individuals will be included in the final report. And a very, very big thank you to the active Fundraising Committee and Public Awareness Committee members who helped shape and implement the auction. They are: Faye Andersen, Cinammon Davies, Kaylyn Dazey-Harper, Darlene DeLancey, Margie Hermanson, Jeanne Naccarato, Penney Leezy, Laury Macauley, Holly Nash, Doris Phelps, Pam Sutton, Linda Walker and Dot Watts.

All members are invited to attend an auction debriefing meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m. on zoom. Come and voice what you liked, disliked, had questions about, or suggestions for improvements. If you are unable to attend, please send your input via email to Linda Walker or Darlene DeLancey.

SIA Pause in Meetings During COVID Pandemic



On January 7, Soroptimist International of the Americas President Penny Babb, sent a letter to members explaining the Federation Board's decision to "place a federation-wide temporary pause on all face-to-face meetings and activities authorized or sanctioned by SIA, along with associated travel, until further notice."

Explaining that it was a difficult decision for the board members to make, President Penny acknowledged that interacting is important. "As members, the board understands the cost of energy, morale and money that not holding face-to-face meetings or events is likely to cause." She said, the board went on to discuss the further disruption this causes members and clubs.

"While recognizing all of this, your board also has an obligation to protect our organization from the legal and financial risks of someone becoming infected or becoming a super spreader despite all protocols being followed," she said.

The temporary pause includes region conferences, other region/district meetings and activities, as well as local club meetings and activities, and any travel associated with those meetings.

As we have all experienced, our club meetings, as well as our district meetings have been via Zoom. SNR Governor Sarah Carrasco has also announced that this year's region conference will be a virtual event with "real time" programming.



Three Honored with Live Your Dream Awards

By Pam Robinson, Education/Women Co-Coordinator

Three amazing women were recognized as SITM Live Your Dream Award recipients at the February 4 Zoom luncheon. The Live Your Dream Award is intended for women who are the primary financial support of themselves and their dependents, have a financial need, and are enrolled or accepted into a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree. Our club has disbursed nearly \$35,000 to 34 women since 1998 as part of this program. This year, two outside judges assisted three Education Women Committee members in choosing our recipients.

Funmi Sheddy received a Live Your Dream Award of \$1,500, and her application has been forwarded to Sierra Nevada Region for additional consideration. Funmi, who is also a recipient of our Dreams Moving



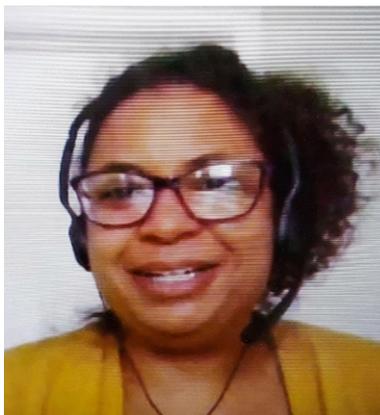
Funmi Sheddy and son Seun

Forward undergraduate scholarships, will be graduating from UNR this spring with a BA in Communications Studies and Psychology. She is applying for the Behavioral Analysis master's degree program to start in the fall. Funmi had a difficult childhood but an amazing father. She married young while struggling with depression and

then experienced a difficult marriage. After her divorce, she was on her own. She was laid off from her job after having surgery but then saw a different path for herself and returned to school. She has an 11-year-old son, Seun.

Our second recipient was Savannah Patton who is the single mom of a 6-year-old daughter. As a child she never got the opportunity to further her education and was on her own from the age of 15. She worked two jobs to get by, and with no family support dropped out of school and got her GED. She has overcome being raised around drug use and domestic violence and put herself through the medical assistant program. Her goal is to become a nurse, and she is currently working at a cancer center. She is enrolled in the Unitek nursing program and wants to be a strong example for her daughter.

Our final recipient was Donny Nou.



Donny Nou

Donny's career goals are to work with families who need stabilization due to poverty, unemployment, and lack of affordable housing that causes homelessness. Only a little over a year ago, she found herself and her 3 children homeless with no family or friends to depend on. She entered a family shelter, graduated from their program, and now has a home for her family. Donny is enrolled at TMCC



majoring in human development and family studies. She plans to continue on at UNR.

Our speaker this year was Autumn Smith, our 2020 LYD recipient and also a Dreams Moving Forward scholarship awardee. Autumn was accepted into TMCC's dental hygiene program last year and will be graduating in the spring. She is the divorced mother of two children, ages 15 and 20. She returned to college in her 40's, and in addition to being a dental hygienist, her goal is to bring joy and laughter to those who need it most – those battling cancer. Autumn sells jewelry and accessories online to benefit cancer patients.

In 2020 SIA disbursed a total of \$2.8 million dollars in awards to 1700 women across 21 countries. The Live Your Dream Program has been recognized for its effectiveness and long-term impact, and our club is honored to have recognized these three women.



Autumn Smith

February Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

Mid-Year Committee Activities Recap

President-Elect Valerie Hahn and Vice President - Program Laury Macauley presented reports on what SITM Committee have been up to these past six months. President-Elect Valerie reported on the Fundraising, Thanks to Youth and Public Awareness Committees, as well as filling in for Vice President – Membership Patti Doty, who is on leave, and oversees the Membership Committees. Vice-President Laury Macauley reported on committee activities of the seven Program Committees.

Thanks to our officers for keeping up with and assisting their many committees. A special thank you to the Committee Co-Coordinator and the members who keep the committees and their work vibrant and active. President Millie will be attaching copies of the reports to her Weekly Update.

Proposal for the 100th Anniversary of Soroptimist

Last month, President Millie appointed a special committee to explore and propose a project for SITM to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Soroptimist on October 3, 1921 in Oakland, California. Headed by President-Elect Valerie Hahn, the committee made a motion that was recommended by the board and approved by the membership for a project.

The Legacy Project would support Hopes Springs Bridge Housing Project by providing one meal a day, for 100 days, to the residents there. The housing project for the homeless is being occupied slowly, as operations and staff are ramped up. At full occupancy, the project will house 30 previously homeless people. Joining President-Elect Valerie on the committee are Chris Fegert, Margie Hermanson, Holly Nash, Penney Leezy, and Sarah Carrasco. (See page 2 for more information.)

Nominating Committee Ready to Enlist on 2021-2022 Officers

A Nominating Committee was empaneled at the board and Business Meetings in February. The effort will be coordinated by Pam Sutton, with members Penney Leezy and Liza Chapen.

They will be soliciting nominations for the 2021-2022 officers. So please forward your nominations to them. Feel free to nominate yourself. Elections will be held at the April Business Meeting. (See page 6 for more information.)

January Happy Dollars Benefit Northern Nevada HOPES

A total of \$501 in January Happy Dollars were collected for Northern Nevada Hopes, a community health center in Reno providing medical and wellness services to the insured and uninsured in our community. February Happy Dollars are designated for Communities in Schools of Nevada, to address the issue of poverty that stops children from graduating from school.

You Can Still Contribute to Happy Dollars

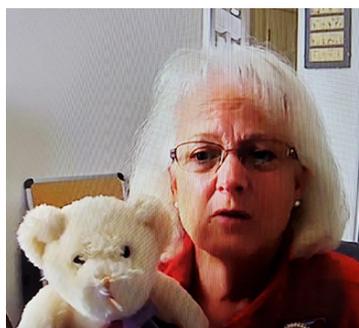
Don't forget there is a "donate button" for Happy Dollars on our website, www.sitmnev.org. Or, you can always mail a check to Service Fund Treasurer Ana Nadimi. Make sure you designate Happy Dollars in the "notes" on your check.

Leave of Absence

Jeanne Naccarato remains on leave of absence as she is busy settling the affairs of her mother, who passed last month. Drop Jeanne a note a card or email. She'd love to stay in touch.

Celebrating February Birthdays

Five SITM members were born during the month of January. Those in attendance were asked to share their favorite Valentine's Day memory. Marilyn usually celebrates in Hawaii; Millie closed on her house; and Anna McArdle accepted a marriage proposal on Valentine's Day.



Millie Mitchell



Marilyn Pearson

The following members are celebrating February birthdays.

Marilyn Pearson	February 8
Cinammon Davies	February 11
Anna McArdle	February 18
Gayle Kmetovicz	February 22
Millie Mitchell	February 23

Ghosts Calendars Donated to Veterans



Sandi Tenboer, Director of Volunteer Services at Northern Nevada State Veterans home, received Ghosts calendars donated by SITM members, from Doris Phelps.

SITM members donated a total of 30 calendars to local veterans' organizations this year. Three groups happily and gratefully received calendars: Northern Nevada State Veterans Home, Northern Nevada Veterans Resource Center and the Veterans Guest House. "Each time we deliver these calendars, the veterans' group's representatives tell us how thrilled their clients are when they see the calendars arrive," says air race calendar coordinator Doris Phelps.



Sylvia Du Beau, CEO and a staff member with Doris (center) delivering Ghosts airplane calendars to the Veterans Guest House.

Nominations for 2021 – 2022 Club Year Now Being Accepted

We're past the midpoint in the Club Year and now is the time to nominate candidates for new SITM officers for the 2021-2022 Club Year.

Would you like to become part of the leadership team to guide SITM next year? Now is your chance. It's time to nominate a member whom you think would be good in these positions. Nomination forms will be available to every SITM member via email. The Nominating Committee will ascertain members' willingness to serve in office.

At the February Board and Business Meetings a Nominating Committee was named to prepare a slate of members willing to stand for election. Pam Sutton was named committee coordinator by President Millie Mitchell. The board selected Penney Leezy, and the membership selected Liza Chapen.

In the next month these three members will be distributing nomination forms for the following positions.

President-Elect
Vice President/Programs
Vice President/Membership
Secretary
Treasurer/Service Fund
Delegate

The positions of President, Director and Treasurer - General Fund are completing their terms of service.

For further information, or to return your nomination form via email, please contact Nominating Coordinator Pam Sutton pam@crystalwindglass.com, Penney Leezy penneysitm@gmail.com or Liza Chapen chapen@charter.net

A slate of members willing to stand for election will be available next month, along with candidate bios. The election will take place at the April Business Meeting.

Thank You From Children of Persia

Following is an excerpt from a thank you letter from 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. The group was the recipient of SITM's November 2020 Happy Dollars,

Dear Ana Nadimi and Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows:

I am writing to express our gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for your recent donation in December 2020 in the amount of \$500 to Children of Persia (COP). Your generous gift provided the financial and moral support needed to continue our mission.

At Children of Persia, our goal is to lift children's lives and make sure the hope of a brighter future is a reality for many children whose youth is short-lived under the hardship of family, social and economic responsibilities, and their struggle for the daily living. These children and their families are facing even greater challenges during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Your kind donation goes a long way in helping us to continue to pursue this goal and aim to reach more children and families in need..

Katayoon Shaya, Chair, Board of Directors

Girls Who Code, Robotics and Programming at Reed High



Leigh Metcalf

There is no shortage of girls in the engineering, programming and coding programs at Reed High School, thanks to Certified Science Teacher Leigh Metcalf. But it wasn't always that way.

Leigh was the January 21 program speaker, along with junior student Alyssa Purnama, presented by the Dream It, Be It Committee, which oversees our STEM

education program for girls at Hunter Lake Elementary School.

From a handful of students just a few years ago to 28 students today, the students design, build, program and solve problems through engineering and robotics. Since the robotics teams have grown over the years, today they boast a ratio of 1:1 girls and boys.

Over the past seven years, the Reed students have participated in numerous national competitions such as Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, Girls Go-Cyberstart and the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams. Six years ago, Leigh shepherded a group of girls to initiate a Girls Who Code Club.

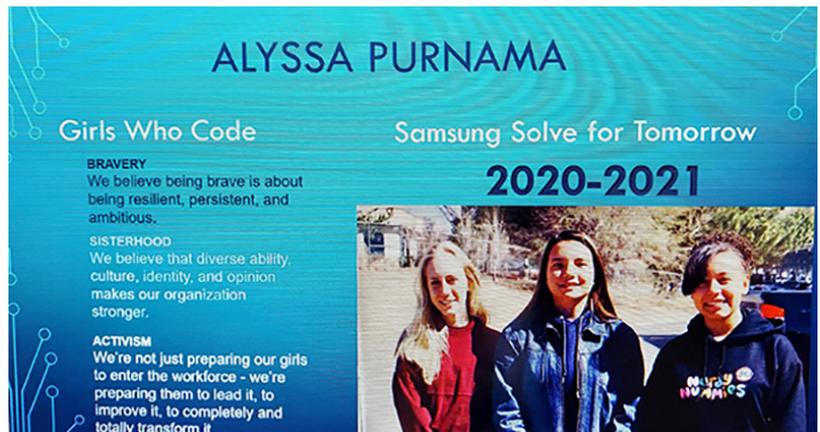
Alyssa Purnama, a junior at Reed High and a leader in the club today, explained the structure and make-up of the club, as well as her own ambitions to continue her college education in programming and robotics.

Their belief-statements sound a lot like Soroptimist.

Bravery – We believe being brave is about being resilient, persistent, and ambitious.

Sisterhood – We believe that diverse ability, culture, identity, and opinion makes our organization stronger.

Activism – We're not just preparing our girls to enter the workforce – we're preparing them to lead it, to improve it, to completely and totally transform it.



Alyssa Purnama is in the center of the photo. Their belief-statements sound a lot like Soroptimist.

Community – Leadership Principles During the Coronavirus

By Doris Phelps

Community is the fifth principle of the “7 Leadership Principles in the Time of Coronavirus.” John A. Quelch, the author of “7 Leadership Principles in the Time of Coronavirus” says, “All of us live in communities. We are leading by example, not just within our own organization, but within our broader communities. With an infectious virus, it’s important that we set an example, model behaviors that are community friendly and supportive.”

With the impressive attendance at each of our Zoom meetings, it’s obvious that our SITM community is important to us. We truly have a community of friends and are inspired by each other as the work of the club goes on quite successfully in spite of the obvious challenges. We see so many acts of kindness in the cards mailed, the emails sent and personal visits

(socially distanced, of course) taking place every week.

Here’s what some others have to say about community:

“Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless” Unknown

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Mahatma Gandhi

“In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.” Marianne Williamson, author and activist

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” Martin Luther King



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

Contributing to this issue

Jo Ann Roberts	Doris Phelps
Millie Mitchell	Chris Fegert
Pam Robinson	Diana DeMatei
Darlene DeLancy	Monica House
Linda Walker	Pam Sutton
Cinammon Davies	
Kaylyn Dazey-Harper	

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



SOROPTIMIST®
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Did you know . . . Looking for Some New Soroptimist Bling?

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Soroptimist with a new pin. SIA has them available for pre-order, for delivery March 18. Go to the SIA website at www.soroptimist.org and click the "Shop" Tab (far right).



Pre-Order! 100th Engraved Octagon w/Crystals (152)

Celebrate & commemorate Soroptimists' 100th Anniversary with this new Gold pin. At the center is our signature "S" punctuated by a blue stone and set against a high polished matte background. Adorning the centerpiece are a series of synthetic Swarovski crystals finished at the border by a beaded edge design. The back features a safety pin clasp and just below, engraved in high detail, "Soroptimist 100th Anniversary." Pre-Order now and pin will ship on March 18th when received. This pin measures 1 1/2" around. \$59



Pre-Order! 100th Silver Oval w/ Pearls (153)

Celebrate & commemorate Soroptimists' 100th Anniversary with this shining Silver Oval with Pearls. At the heart of this pin is our Signature "S" set against a highly polished silver backdrop. Adorning the "S" are 10 elegant Pearls finely interlaced with 10 Cubic Zirconia, which form an eye catching perimeter. Pre-Order now and pin will ship when received March 18th This pin measures 1 1/2". \$80

