



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- Oct.21 – Chris Askin, Community Foundation of Western Nevada
- Oct. 28 – Halloween Social
- Nov. 4 – Susan Horst, District 5 Director
- Nov. 9 – Board Meeting, Zoom at Noon
- Nov. 11 – DARK for Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 18 – Business Meeting
- Nov. 25 – DARK for Thanksgiving

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$25 for lunch.
RSVP to info@sitmnev.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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Happy Fall! This is My Favorite Time of the Year

Fall colors and jewel tones are just beautiful! My mother used to love to watch the leaves change color. She would tell me, and I would try to appreciate as a younger person. I cherish the fall foliage and search them out when I am outside.

Virginia Woolf has a quote, “And all the lives we ever lived and all the lives to be, are full of trees and changing leaves”.

Life is constantly changing like the leaves that turn color and fall. Like the needs for our recipients and needs to have an active club. We have a lot of great things happening in October. Faye does an excellent job creating our monthly newsletter. Please make sure you read it all! Then see all the things going on and feel free to jump in any event we have whether it be delivering diapers to WACCS, going to a committee meeting on zoom or helping at the NCET booth.

I cannot say how much fun we had at the NCET Expo on Friday! Big thank you to Dave Archer for giving us a booth at the event. Thank you to members Cinammon Davies, Pam

Robinson Jeanne Naccarato, Holly Nash, Sarah Carrasco, Doris Phelps and Laury Macauley. These ladies worked setting up the booth three hours Thursday night and then nine hours on the floor Friday.



We networked with many people who walked by and we walked to other booths. Getting out in the public at these events and mixers are so important not only

to get SITM out to our community but for attracting members. We retained 86% of our membership this year from last. That is an amazing number considering the number of members that moved (still participate), pandemic and other life circumstances. We need to grow and bring in new members, new ideas, service and new friends.

Governor Sarah really hit it on the head with comments about leadership at the Fall District Meeting last weekend. We learn leadership skills training and on the job training while serving with SITM. You will be seeing a few mixers the next eight months and other ideas from our membership committee. How can you help?

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Decorate a Mask for Masks R On October 28

The Hospitality Committee will be presenting a Halloween Social on Thursday, October 28 with a “Masks R On”. Decorate your favorite facemask in a Halloween theme and come show off your handiwork at the meeting. Be imaginative -- scary, funny, sweet or ghoulish. You could win a prize!



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Please, come share your ideas with this great committee who has a big responsibility of learning how to attract new members. Reach out to Doris and Cinammon.

President Valerie Hahn

Member and Club Giving to SIA

Pam English, the Sierra Nevada Region's Federation Fundraising Chair spoke at our September 23 meeting and discussed the multiple ways clubs and individuals can support our SIA Federation's Dream Programs and more through the Live Your Dream Awards, Dream It, Be It, and Dream Big Campaign.

Laurel Society – recognition for member donors who contribute gifts totaling \$1,000 or more, with different recognitions up to \$100,000.

1921 Visionaries – recognition for donors who contribute consecutively for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years.

Stargazers – enrolling in monthly giving to the Laurel Society.

Laurel Legacy – donations designated from members' estate planning.

Founders Pennies -- are set at \$.06 per member times the number of years that SIA has been in existence (1921). For the 2021-2022 club year, \$.06 x 100 years = \$6.00 per member. (Collected through SITM member dues.)

Club Giving -- Each year, clubs are encouraged to give at least 10% of their locally raised funds

For more information contact Pam English, Sierra Nevada Region's Federation Fundraising Chair
Fundraising@soroptimistsnr.org;
408-316-2413

In Memoriam

Jean Neddenriep

October 3, 1944 – September 24, 2021

SITM members are saddened by the passing of long-time member Jean Neddenriep, following a long illness. Jean joined SITM in 1984. Over the years she served as Treasurer-General Fund, Vice President-Technical, President-Elect and President, 1996-1997.



Jean led and served on numerous club committees. She was one of the members to initiate our annual "Ghosts" Calendar sales at the Reno Air Races that are still sold as a fundraiser today. She was also one of the masterminds behind a fundraising evening of authors signing their books that became the inspiration for the successful "Arts & Authors" fundraiser.

Jean loved Soroptimist. Soroptimist members loved Jean. Upon learning of her passing, members remarked on Jean's joyful personality, her kindness, her willingness to help, whatever the cause. Of course, no mention of this gracious lady would be complete without remembering her beautiful red hair and bright smile.

Jean had a lengthy and stellar volunteer resume leading community and professional organizations – ranging from PTA, 4-H, Camp Fire, as Eucharistic Minister for her church and others while her children were young; to professional posts as Chair of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission; President of the Health Underwriters and the Nevada State Association of Health Underwriters Board, P.E.O. State President just to list a few.

Jean is survived by her children, Lizanne Thompson of Elko; Kristie Calder and her husband Bryan of Reno; and Kurt Neddenriep and his wife Katie of Elko; five grandchildren and one great grandson.

Services in honor of Jean's life include mass at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church in Reno on Saturday, November 27 at 11 a.m., with a gathering of friends and family at Our lady of the Snows Parish Hall directly following.

According to Jean's wishes, in lieu of flowers, remembrances should be made in the form of donations to Jean Neddenriep 62' scholarship at Bishop Manogue High School.

Jean's kind and gentle nature touched countless lives and she will be greatly missed.



Liza Chapen delivers her meal to a member of the staff at Hope Springs.

100 Meals for Hope Springs Update

By Holly Nash,

100th Anniversary committee

As many of you know, our 100th Anniversary Committee for SITM coordinated a goal to provide 100 Meals for 100 Days to Hope Springs.

We began this effort in March of this year. We reached our goal of providing 100 meals on weekdays in August. We then switched to once a week meals and plan to wrap up our commitment with a Thanksgiving Dinner for the neighbors at Hope Springs. I am sure that they will accept meals after that, if anyone is interested on an individual basis.

There have been between 12 - 13 neighbors thus far. The goal is for Hope Springs to reach 30 neighbors with each tiny home filled. The tiny homes are 900 square feet and include a bed, desk, chair and computer. All of this goes with them when they graduate and move to the next phase of housing.

Thanks to each and every one of you who has supported this effort in some way! You have been amazing providing and/or delivering meals, monetary donations, and helping to coordinate the effort. And of course, your support most of all! We did receive a grant to assist in our efforts as well as seed money from the club.

Without you - this would not have been a success! Many thanks to you.

Afghan Refugees Coming to Reno -- Here are Ways to Help

Aimal Hamil was our guest speaker at the October 7 meeting, giving insights and answering questions about the pending arrival in Reno of refugee families from Afghanistan.

Aimal is a native of Afghanistan who acted as a translator and cultural advisor to Lt. Colonel Kurt Neddenriep when Nevada Army Guard troops were in Afghanistan. Kurt helped him come to the United States in 2010 on a student visa. Aimal and his wife Asma, are actively involved with the Northern Nevada International Center in assisting new refugees to become assimilated to our country.

SITM members expressed their desire to help, so Aimal gave an overview of what kinds of things the refugees may need. However, the time of their arrival in Reno is still not confirmed.

Following is a list of items that families may (or many not) need when they arrive. Your donations are greatly appreciated, but please DO NOT "buy ahead" items. There are no provisions to store or stockpile your donations. If you would like to help specific families, please contact Aimal with your preferences. He will contact you with specific needs. Also, let him know if you have furniture or big items, so that he can create an inventory list of needs and what's available.

Here is the contact info if members want to contact Aimal about ways to help specific families.

By Kay Dunham

Aimal Halim
775-530-8671
zabit_aimal2005@yahoo.com



He is so appreciative of the generosity of our club and knows there are many ways these arriving families can be helped by us in an individual way. Each family will have different needs. The initial grant of funds to them and some basics for their living conditions are provided by the agency but we can help in a more personal way as we find out what is truly needed.

Aimal gave me some ideas for when they begin to arrive:

- The women all cook with pressure cookers in their native homes so the Instapot pressure cookers are perfect. Asma gives them some help with how the electric cookers work.
- The family members may need winter coats and perhaps shoes appropriate for the work they will be doing.
- School age kids may need a backpack or basic school supplies.
- New bedding and towels are so appreciated. (I personally hate the idea of used towels, sheets and pillows!)
- Some families may need furniture items if their apartment is not furnished.
- If anyone is an employer, job opportunities are always appreciated.
- Housing options are always a challenge as well, so ideas there are welcome.
- Transportation to medical appointments or job interviews.

There are lots of ways we as a club can make a difference in the lives of these new families.

Members Deliver a Truckload of Diapers to WACCS



Soroptimists Drew Naccarato and Bill Walker are joined by Jeanne Naccarato's daughter Emily delivering diapers.



Eve Jonson and Linda Walker toting those diapers.



Not too young to help is Jeanne's granddaughter Maddie.

A sortie of Soroptimists. Seated from left Faye Andersen and WACCS Executive Director Pam Russell. Standing form left: Eve Johnson, Laury Macauley; President Valerie Hahn, Jo Ann Roberts, Holly Nash, Jeanne Naccarato, Linda Walker, Jeanne's daughter Emily and granddaughter Maddie.

No, that headline isn't an over-exaggeration. Throughout the month of September, SITM members donated 3,356 diapers, sizes 1 – 6. Way to go ladies! At an approximate 25 cents per diaper, the accumulated donation was worth \$839. The donations included six large bundles of baby wipes, 10 little girls socks and 10 little boys socks.

Following the October 14 meeting, members made the short trip to deliver the diapers to the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra (WACCS). WACCS stocks a diaper bank for women who are participating in their work-readiness classes to withdraw a weeks' worth of diapers.

Thanks to Kay Dunham and Doris Phelps for drop-off points and Faye Andersen for storage leading up to the October 14 delivery to WACCS. Thanks to Jeanne and Drew Naccarato for loan of the pickup truck, and "toting and hauling and delivery" duties. Finally, thanks to all of the members who donated diapers and helped with the delivery.

WACCS was also the designated recipient of September Happy Dollars, which netted \$544.

Pam Russell with Holly Nash and diapers.



President Valerie presents the September Happy Dollar check to Pam Russell, Executive Director of WACCS.



Laury Macauley with diapers.



District 5 Fall Meeting Delegate's Report

Excerpted from Cinammon Davies' Delegate Report



District 5 Director
Susan Horst

A dozen SITM members attended the virtual District 5 Fall Meeting, hosted by District 5 Director Susan Horst on Saturday, October 9, 2021.

Sierra Nevada Region Governor Sarah Carrasco provided opening remarks about how technology and the wide use of zoom has made it possible for Soroptimists' good deeds to continue despite the pandemic. She reminded clubs to be sensitive to members who have not returned to in-person meetings due to the risk to themselves and household members. She was happy to report that SITM is ahead of the curve in facilitating hybrid meetings.

Loss of Members & Clubs During Pandemic

During the past 18 months, the Sierra Nevada Region has lost approximately 100 members, plus two clubs have surrendered their charters. Fortunately, some of the members of those clubs transferred to nearby clubs. Bringing in younger members will be the key to sustainability and seeing the next 100 years of Soroptimist.

Governor Sarah challenged the clubs to go back and locate our previous award recipients and get updates on their stories, and where they are now, as these success stories fuel clubs to continue the good work we do. She would like us all to focus on the Live Your Dream Awards, and to give as many awards as possible.



SNR Governor
Sarah Carrasco

Reminders of Soroptimist Service

Director Susan offered some reminders of why Soroptimists provide service to their communities and the world.

- 1) Serving others feels good.
- 2) Creates a sense of belonging and reduces isolation.
- 3) Helps keep things in perspective.
- 4) Makes the world a happier place; it's contagious.
- 5) The more you do for others the more you do for yourself.

The benefits of helping others last long beyond the initial act of service. Clubs shared their passion projects for service, and while they were all amazing projects, I personally feel SITM had the most ambitious project, by taking on 100 days of meals for Hope Springs.

Strategy for a Successful Club in 2021-2022

SNR Governor-Elect and Federation Program Chair Lisa Fitzgerald introduced Strategies for a Successful 2021-2022 Club Year.



SNR Governor-Elect
Lisa Fitzgerald

- 1) Foster Civility. (In-fighting causes people to leave.) Have members sit with others they might not normally sit with to foster civility. For example, randomly assign seating.
- 2) Club Operations - Make them effective, start and end on time, and make sure communication is clear. This makes the work rewarding rather than tedious.
- 3) Leadership Development - Offer trainings to help newer members feel connected.
- 4) Mission focused activities - Offer opportunities for members, community and prospective members to engage. Two programs emotionally driven: Live Your Dream, and Dream It, Be It.

When struggling with program management - remember to delegate, because people love to be asked to help.

Remember it is the responsibility of the leadership team to make sure the atmosphere is respectful and engaging. Try to overlook differences in personalities and remember we are working towards the same goal: the mission of Soroptimist.

The Need for Multi-Channel Communications

SNR Public Awareness Coordinator Tracey Edwards offered good advice. Use multi-channel marketing: social, newsletter, and any other way we share information. It's effective because members like to engage in various ways. If they miss the message in one location, they will see it in another.

Soroptimist club grants are back and due by March 1st for projects delivered in the 2022-2023 club year.

SNR Nominating Coordinator Lesli Brisson encouraged members to suggest names, including their own to stand for election to the SNR offices of Governor-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer and District 5 Director.

Governor Sarah presented awards to clubs. SITM was awarded for participating in the Live Your Dream program and Founder's Pennies and awarded for the Diamond Campaign since we achieved 85+ percent of member retention.

September Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

October's Board and Business Meetings featured several motions, a report on the District 5 Fall Meeting and a Sierra Nevada Region Visitor.

Nominations Open for District and Region Positions

Lesli Brisson, SNR's District 5 Nominating Committee Representative, paid us a visit to encourage members to consider standing for election as the District 5 Director, SNR Secretary, Treasurer or Governor-Elect. You must have served as a Club President, except to be elected as Governor-Elect, you must have served a term on the SNR Board. Nomination forms are available on the SNR Website and due November 15. Yes, you can nominate yourself.

Decorations for NCET Booth

The board recommended and the membership approved a motion from the Membership Committee to purchase decorations for the NCET booth event, October 15, to give exposure and draw attention to SITM to attract new members. Decorations will not exceed \$125.

Return of the "Angel Tree" project

The Education/Youth Committee proposed a motion, recommended by the board and approved by the membership to continue with the voluntary "Angel Tree:" project at Christmas time for Children in Transition at Hunter Lake Elementary School. Members voluntarily select a child. The limit is \$100 (two \$50 gift tags) that can be split between two or more members, depending upon your budget. Monetary contributions can also be made if you don't wish to shop. See Monica House for more information.

Requesting Shoes and Socks for WACCS

The board recommended and the membership approved a motion from the Hospitality Committee requesting SITM members to voluntarily purchase children's shoes and socks for donation to the Women's and Children's Center (WACCS) before Christmas. These donations will be in lieu of a gift exchange by members at Christmas. Dot Watts will be collecting donations prior to December 1. See Dot for more information.

September Happy Dollars Benefited WACCS

September Happy Dollars, in the amount of \$544, were collected for the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra (WACCS), empowering women to rise out of

poverty. Happy Dollars for October have been designated for Northern Nevada Hopes, a community health center providing medical and wellness services to the insured and uninsured in our community.

The Annual Tax Return is Done

Thank you Bev Perkins, CPA, for preparing and filing our annual tax return for the IRS. Your annual service to the club is much appreciated.

Members on Leave

Paula Ringkob will be on leave September 30 for six-to-eight weeks. She took a fall at home and broke her left wrist. She is outfitted with a spiffy "paw prints" cast now, but restricted from some of her usual activities. Paula would appreciate hearing from you while she recuperates.

Celebrating October Birthdays



Celebrating October birthdays were, from left: Debera Thomas (October 15); Faye Andersen (October 9); Linda Walker (October 27).

Three members with October birthdays were in attendance. They were given the option to choose between flying or being invisible, or describe how Soroptimist has impacted their life.

Also celebrating October birthdays are:



Denise Rupracht
October 15



Carmela Cipollina
October 23



Norma Webster
October 25



Angie Ruyak
October 26

SITM 100th Anniversary Celebration

SITM members and guests were greeted at the door of the September 30 meeting by nine members of the 100th Anniversary Committee, dressed in 1920s attire and wearing the nametags of the nine women who were the original organizers of Soroptimist.

Current members were also joined by some former members and representatives of several nonprofit organizations that SITM has supported over the years. Festive décor of black and gold balloons, crystal center pieces and 100th anniversary logos adorned the tables. The perimeter tables were decorated with displays from previous SITM projects and Past Presidents' scrapbooks.

Committee member Jeanne Naccarato narrated a Power Point history, "The Beginnings of Soroptimist".

Bev Perkins used her "100 Seconds of Soroptimist" to outline Soroptimist International of the Americas and SITM's "Dreams Programs", providing scholarships and career opportunities for girls.

Chris Fegert gave an overview of the work of Northern Nevada Hopes in general and Hope Springs, bridge housing and services for the homeless. She also congratulated and thanked members for providing 100 meals for Hope Springs residents, called neighbors, beginning in March and ending in August.



Greeting members and guests at the door were, from left: Bev Perkins, Holly Nash, Jeanne Naccarato, Chris Fegert and Doris Phelps.



Chris Fegert gave an overview of Hopes Springs and SITM's project to provide 100 meals in 100 days.



Our long-distance members Beth Sharp and Penney Leezy.



Some of the Charter Members of the first Soroptimist Club

The First Nine Women of Soroptimist

The first women who met with Stuart Morrow in the initial meeting show how widespread the interest for a woman's club was across professions:

- Blanche Rollar, Owner, Corset & Specialty shop
- Hattie Lehnardt, Owner, Confectionary Shop
- Sylvia Stenberg, Owner, Vogue Pleating and Button Co
- Sarah Hamon, Owner, Colonial Cafeteria
- Dr. Cassie C. Moreland, Physician
- Sue Ballard, Partner in men's clothing store
- Doris Tilton, Beautician and Scalp Specialist
- Gladys Barndollar, Owner, Printing Company
- Dr. Pauline Nusbaumer, Head of Laboratory

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Thanks to the members of the 100th Anniversary Committee for their work to make our celebration special.



Attending the celebration were members Norma Webster and Monica House.



Joining the fun were members, from left: Debbie Handke, Holly Nash and Penney Leezy.



Viewing one of the Past President's Scrapbooks are Holly Nash and Past President Doris Phelps.



President-Elect Laury Macauley introduces our guests.



Jeanne Naccarato presented the "Beginnings of Soroptimist".



Attending the celebration were members, from left: Margie Hermanson, Ana Nadimi and Jeanne Baxter.

Soroptimist International of the Americas 100th Anniversary Celebration

By Faye I. Andersen



SIA President Penny Babb, 2020-2021; SIA President Kazuko Morita, 2021-2022.

Soroptimist International of the Americas Federation began its Soroptimist 100th Anniversary Celebration on September 25 with a two-hour webinar. Day one featured greetings from current SIA President Kazuko Morita, along with greetings and hopes for the future from multiple Past SIA Presidents.

The Beginnings of Soroptimist

SIA President-Elect Stephanie Smith narrated a Power Point slide show covering the beginnings of Soroptimist from the chance meeting of Stuart Morrow and Secretarial School Co-Owner Adelaide Goddard to the nine women



SIA President-Elect Stephanie Smith

who championed the idea to bring about the first Soroptimist Club of Alameda County (later renamed the Oakland Club).

On October 3, 1921 an installation dinner was held and the first Club Charter was presented. Violet Richardson was installed as the first Soroptimist President. Immediately,

members set about drafting a constitution and bylaws, approved on November 21, 1921. Meetings were held weekly and featured invited speakers, member presentations and club business. Initiation fees were \$15 and annual dues were \$18.

Spreading the word about Soroptimist and chartering new clubs were the next task for Stuart Morrow and paid club secretary Helen Gamble. Each new club was self-sufficient and independent. In the first year, clubs were established in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Early service projects included:

- Vocational Guidance Program for young girls
- Heating plant for a rescue home
- Assistance to destitute families during the holidays
- 8-hour work-day bill
- "Save the Redwoods" campaign

Becoming an International Organization

In 1926, the West Coast Clubs met to discuss becoming an international organization and decided they could not move forward until they had the rights to Soroptimist, which were held by Stuart Morrow. After negotiation,

he agreed to sell his rights for \$5,500. The eight West Coast Clubs, comprising 602 members raised \$9.14 per member to buy the rights to the Soroptimist Charter.

In 1928, club delegates gathered in Washington D.C., to form an organization from all independent Soroptimist clubs in North America and Europe, becoming known as Soroptimist International Association. The American Federation of Soroptimist clubs, now known as Soroptimist International of the Americas was also formed at this meeting.

Tour of 1709 Spruce Street

Lisa Mangiafico, SIA Historian, Archivist and Curator, lead a videotaped tour of SIA Headquarters at 1709 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The building, purchased in the 1990s, was originally the home of a medical doctor who used it as his office and family residence. Besides the beautiful architecture, Lisa highlighted several gifts displayed at the office presented by Soroptimist Clubs. One of the highlights was a bronze bust

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Lisa Mangiafico

of Violent Richardson presented by Southwestern Region, a forerunner of our own Sierra Nevada Region, along with Founder and Sierra Pacific Regions.

A Legacy Parade of family members followed, highlighting grandmothers, mothers, daughters, aunts and nieces who all were Soroptimist members.

**A Soroptimist Tradition:
A Dance Party**



The second hour of the celebration included the Soroptimist tradition of a dance party, lead by DJ Vader Mixx from Cleveland, Ohio.

**Day 2 -- Celebrating the
Dream Programs**

Day Two concentrated on the SIA Dream Programs and the new Dream Big Campaign.



**Dream It, Be It:
Career Support for Girls**

A videotaped presentation showed girls who have benefited from the Dream It, Be It program explaining how the program helped them explore career opportunities and overcome obstacles such as poverty, teen dating violence and teen pregnancy in order to set goals leading to success and make their dreams a reality.

Live Your Dream Success Story



Dawn Johnson and Daughters

Live Your Dream gives women the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

Recipient Dawn Johnson is an indigenous woman from Vancouver, Canada who suffered abuse, abandonment, addiction and discrimination growing up, as well



as becoming a young mother. Nine years ago, she was awarded a Live Your Dream Award from a local club, which unlocked access to a network of Soroptimists that became mentors, offered guidance and encouragement where she could fulfill her dream of attending college and eventually graduating from law school. Today, she lives with her daughter, who is



BRIGHT PAST
BRILLIANT FUTURE

21, and a strong independent woman, plus her adopted niece is 15. This spring she becomes a law clerk for the British Columbia Supreme Court, when she hopes to address issues of indigenous women in Canada.

The New Dream Big Campaign

The newest Dream program was unveiled with a goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls, as well as raising \$15 million. Twelve percent of the funds, or approximately \$1.7 million has already been pledged from 517 donors. Support for the Dream Big Campaign provides critical funds for the expansion, delivery, and sustainability of SIA **Dream Programs** for decades to come—benefitting more women and girls year after year.



Soroptimist Scavenger Hunt

The day was concluded with a half dozen pre-selected Soroptimists for a live scavenger hunt. Each was given one minute to track down and display such items as a member pin, something with their club's name on it, an item displaying the Dreams programs. Two members were declared winners and awarded registration packages for the 2022 SIA Convention in Korea.

Soroptimist International 100th Anniversary Celebration

By Faye I. Andersen

The “Road to Equality”

Soroptimist International opened their two-day webinar celebration on both days with a candle lighting and “raise a glass” toasting tradition to begin celebrations. One hundred members from around the world were shown with candles and glasses wishing Soroptimist Happy 100th Anniversary in their native languages and some in native dress.



Directing the celebration live from Seattle were, from left: SIA President-Elect Stephanie Smith; SI President Sharon Fisher and SI Public Relations Sue Riney.

The two-day affair was hosted live from Seattle, Washington by SI president Sharon Fisher, SI Public Relations Sue Riney and SIA President-Elect Stephanie Smith, with SI Host Billie Wildrick, a professional presenter, actor and director.

Greetings and congratulations, were also played from presidents, mayors and governors from Soroptimist countries. A special welcome was offered by 2021-2022 SIA President Kazuko Morita and 2020-2021 President Penny Babb.

Welcome the SI Africa Federation

Connie Mutunhu,, SI African Federation President, was the first to report on the founding of the newest and fifth Soroptimist Federation in 2020, with 28 countries. The achievement was 23 years in the making due to language and cultural differences.

Some of the most recent SI projects were highlighted with photos and videos throughout both days, included SI Quadrennial Projects and SI President’s Appeal Projects introduced by Past SI Presidents. (For a recent list, see page 13. Photos and videos from hundreds of federation, region and club projects were also shown.



SI Africa Federation President Connie Mutunhu.

SI President Sharon Fisher outlined her own President’s Appeal “Road to Equality” which aligned with six of the United Nation’s 17 Sustainable Goals – 1) Migration; 2) Ending Female Genital Mutilation; 3) Trafficking; 4) Child forced labor; 5) Domestic violence; 6) Older women.

The six goals manifested into projects in Italy to change laws and cultures regarding gender equality. The Willing Hearts Foundation in Rural Kenya funded 250 girls for leadership training, self-defense and human rights education. Beyond Football (soccer) in India brought girls together with mentors and tutors, as well as taught teamwork. Migrant women in Romania were offered the opportunity for vocational training, housing and a path to



citizenship. A domestic violence program in Italy creating a separate room in police stations which were friendly to women and children. Partnering with Global Media to bring attention to the unnecessary practice of Female Genital Mutilation with radio broadcasts and on-the-ground meetings and trainings.

Speakers on the Impacts of Women

Keynote speaker Soon Young-Yoon spoke about looking at the world through the eyes of a woman. As an example, she cited women gaining the vote in 1920 and within 10 years infant mortality rates went down. She is the United Nations (UN) representative for the International Alliance of Women and author of “Citizen of the World—Soon-Young and the UN” (Ewha Woman’s University Press, 2021).



Soonyoung Yoon

Speaker Kim Bogucki, founder of the IF Project, is working with

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women in prison – to discover what could be done to keep women from a pathway to prison and curb recidivism. Her research shows that 90% of women incarcerated have their roots in poverty.



Kim Bogucki

SI's Roles at the United Nations

Next was a look at Soroptimist International's work at the United Nations. SI has 20 representatives in seven UN Centers around the globe, in specialized or regional agencies. Soroptimist International is recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization with General Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), SI is one of 11, of 134 organizations, that focuses on women and girls. SI's UN representatives each provided videotaped presentations about their respective work at their UN locations.



Break-out sessions were then facilitated, so members could speak with one another, describe their projects and share ideas.

A Second Day of Soroptimist Celebration

Following the candle lighting and "raise a glass" ceremony opening, greetings were offered by Maureen Maguire, SI President -Elect from SI/GB&I talking about collective impact of Soroptimist worldwide. She said, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to succeed, go with someone(s)."



SI President -Elect Maureen Maguire

Speakers on Gender Equality, Education for Girls



Emilia Reyes

Speaker Emilia Reyes was born and raised in Mexico and went to work in Guatemala as part of the Masters of Change Policies, activists providing long-term solutions for gender equality. She advises 1) Join forces with like-minded groups; 2) United voices bring structural challenges at local,



regional and national levels; 3) Step out of your comfort zone.

Speaker Maria Fernanda Espinos Garcia, the former President of the UN General Assembly, spoke about gender equality and the importance of educating girls must be a platform for an international strategy. So many girls are denied an education due to country and cultural laws and norms.



Maria Fernanda Espinos Garcia



Celeste Mergen

Celeste Mergen is CEO of Days for Girls, which focuses on the menstrual health of women and girls. She said up to 108 million girls miss a week of school each month. Her solution was to found Days for Girls to produce and distribute washable menstrual pads. The organization works with manufacturers and nonprofits to supply 25 million girls in 144 countries. She emphasized, "We are not our circumstances. We are what we choose."

The two-day session ended with the four live presenters singing and dancing to a rendition of the pop group Abba's "Dancing Queen".



Dancing Queens, from left: SIA President-Elect Stephanie Smith; SI Public Relations Sue Riney; SI Host Billie Wildrick and SI President Sharon Fisher.

SI Quadrennial and President's Appeal Projects

Considerable time over the two-days was devoted to presentations about the Soroptimist International Quadrennial Projects, which have since been discontinued, and the SI President's Biennial President's Appeals. Many photos and videos of the projects' progress and successes were narrated by several of the SI Past Presidents.

SI Quadrennial Projects

The Limbs for Life Quadrennial Project – Was launched (1999-2003) in Afghanistan, Angola and Georgia (formerly Soviet Union) with the International Red Cross following destructive wars. The project trained those without limbs to make and fit prosthetics for people needing them.

Project Independence: Women Survivors of War



Past SIA President and Project Coordinator Dawn Marie LeMond detailed the project (2003-2007) in Bosnia, Rwanda and Afghanistan allowing sponsorship by individual Soroptimists of a woman with one-to-one contact, education, training, and whatever was needed to support women displaced by war.

Project Sierra – an SI Quadrennial Project, 2007-2011, was recapped by Past SI President Margaret Lobo. Following years of civil strife, the project aim was to support women, especially pregnant teens, with training and job skills to help them earn a living.

SI President's Appeal Projects

Children of Peace: Dust of life -- the SI President's Appeal (2003-2005) of Past SI President Joan Cromer



that rescued orphaned street girls in Vietnam from slavery, prostitution and provided shelter and schooling. When the orphaned children who were HIV positive were denied treatment, the project supported one of the students to go to medical school and come back to treat the children.

Project Punjab: Helping Girls Into Schools

President Lynn Dunning's Appeal (2005-2007) partnered with Oxfam in Great Britain to provide educational opportunities for girls in Pakistan. Classrooms were rehabilitated, 40 teachers were trained and parents were encouraged to send their girls to school.

Restoring Dignity -- SI President Margaret Lobo's

(2007-2009) President's Appeal project to facilitate fistula repair for women in Ababa Abba, Ethiopia. Obstetric fistula is a medical condition that occurs due to prolonged or obstructed labor, resulting in a tear between the vagina, bladder or rectum. Obstetric fistula can result in constant incontinence, shame, social segregation and other health problems.



Hopes and Dreams for Everyone – SI President Hanne Jensbo's (2009-2011) President's Appeal was a project to prevent human trafficking of girls in Moldova (former Soviet Union) by teaching life skills and supporting them through high school and college towards viable careers.

Birthing in the Pacific -- SI's President's Appeal (2011-2013) in Papua New Guinea to provide health care for



women who die due to complications of pregnancy/childbirth. Past SI President Alice Wells explained the project increased access by training both skilled birth attendants and creating functioning healthcare services in rural villages.

See Solar Cook Solar -- was the SI President's Appeal (2013-2015) of Past President Ann Garvie in Mali, Uganda, Fiji, Nepal and Papua New Guinea to provide solar lighting for school, solar cooking and computers to increase enrollment of girls in school. Solar cooking in Fiji.



Educate to Lead – Following the 2015 devastating earthquake in Nepal, SI President Yvonne Simpson's President Appeal (2015-2017)



focused on education for girls in Nepal (including SITM's Nepal project) resulting in the construction of classrooms, secondary education scholarships for girls and leadership training.

Women Water and Leadership – SI President Marite Verhoff-Cohen's

President's Appeal, (2017-2019) provided training for women to construct, operate/ manage water systems and build cisterns to provide water for four villages around the globe. The project developed sustainable long-term solutions for water in Kenya, Bulgaria, Indonesia and Malaysia.



100 Seconds of Soroptimists History**SIA and SITM Dream Programs**

By Bev Perkins

Soroptimist International of the Americas began promoting the Dream Programs several years ago, and our club has created our version of the various Dream Programs. We generate funding through community donations and present three program awards locally.

Dreams Moving Forward

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows has had a women's scholarship program since 1980. We recently brought them under the umbrella of SIA's Dream Programs. Our Graduate Scholarship was originally created in memory of Jack Simon, husband of one of our Life Members Jeanne Baxter. Our club has awarded scholarships to women pursuing graduate degrees from institutions in Northern Nevada.

Our undergraduate scholarships are given every year in memory of three beloved former members of our club. Nancy Gomes held a seat on the Washoe County School Board and in the Nevada Assembly and was a tireless advocate for Nevada's women and children. Mary Gojack was a Charter Member of SITM and served in both the Nevada Assembly and Senate. Mary sponsored legislation requiring developers to set aside land for city parks. Sue Camp was an active member in our club and in our community. She served as President of SITM, District Director and eventually Sierra Nevada Region Governor. Sue had a passion for educating women and girls and was active on the scholarship committee prior to her death in 2014.

Since SITM began these scholarship programs, we have given a total of \$1,127,600 to 328 undergraduate and 113 graduate level women.

Live Your Dream

Soroptimist International of the Americas has been empowering women through access to education since 1975 in what has now been brought under the "Dream Umbrella" as Live Your Dream. Over the years, in excess of \$30 million has been given to more than 30,000 women who have overcome life challenges. Soroptimists have invested in women's education because of the transformative power of such education in women's lives and in their community. A survey was circulated amongst awardees a few years ago, with the unsurprising results that 94% of the awardees enjoyed increased self-esteem and 97% of those formerly in an abusive environment were now living in a safe environment. Our club has awarded nearly \$35,000 to 34 women who are 1) the primary support for

themselves and their dependent children; 2) are enrolled or accepted into a program; 3) have financial need.

**Dream It, Be It**

As of two years ago, more than 55,000 girls had participated in the Dream It, Be It program for girls. This is the newest of our club's Dream Programs, but it is something that Soroptimists across the entire SIA Federation have participated in and contributed to. Several clubs have held a one-day event with speakers, music, lots of food for the girls, games and prizes, and souvenir "goody bags". Many clubs hold two- or three-day events with a similar curriculum. Our club began our own Dream It, Be It program in 2017. Our club members focused on STEM Education for girls at the elementary school level, taking our program directly to the girls at Hunter Lake Elementary School. Girls from 3rd through 6th grade were invited to participate in the after-school program. Our first programs were quite diverse and very inventive – not to mention lots of fun for the girls and the members. Until the COVID shutdown, our members visited Hunter Lake School regularly throughout the school years, as opposed to hosting an annual event as other clubs have done.

The focus of the local clubs has varied, the methods have varied, the length of the program has varied; but the goal of every Soroptimist Club throughout the federation has been to engage young girls and encourage them to dream of a future and take action towards attaining that future.

Soroptimist international of the Americas Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls program won the 2017 Power of a Summit Award from the American Society of Association Executives. This award is the highest award given to associations distinguishing themselves with innovative, effective and broad-reaching programs which positively impact our country and the world. Our "Club Giving" funds the federation Dream It, Be It Program, so we can all be proud of that accomplishment.

Last Chance for "Ghosts" Calendars

They are mostly gone, but there are a few left – the 2022 "Ghosts" vintage airplane calendars, still \$17. Darlene DeLancey has them available at each Thursday meeting. You can also contact her for delivery. Darlene has some flyers if you would like one for your office, or post it at your gym, club house, local grocery, Starbucks, etc. For members not wishing to find buyers for calendars and purchase them instead, your calendars will be distributed to veterans in the area



Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows
P.O. Box 20125 • Reno, NV 89515
www.sitmnev.org

President Valerie Hahn
valeriehahnsitm@yahoo.com

Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
following the first Thursday, noon.

Editor Faye I. Andersen
fandersen@att.net or
775-358-5149 or 432-5822

Contributing to this issue

Jo Ann Roberts	Cinammon Davies
Valerie Hahn	Jeanne Nacarrato
Bev Perkins	Holly Nash
Penny Leezy	

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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 . . .

October was first declared US National Domestic Violence Awareness month in 1989

Since then, it has been a time to acknowledge the voice of domestic violence survivors. As Soroptimists, we know that domestic violence is prevalent in every community and effects victims regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion or nationality. Violence against women and girls occurs in many different forms – physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial and even through technology. It is a worldwide public health crisis and human rights violation of epidemic proportions.

Although there has been substantial progress in reducing domestic violence, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (www.ncadv.org) an average of 20 people are physically assaulted by intimate partners every minute.

Show Your Support – Wear Purple on October 21

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