



**SOROPTIMIST®**  
Investing in Dreams

# SITM Update

*Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows*

Volume 27 • Issue 7

January 2022

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

## In this issue ....

- 1 – Live Your Dream, Upcoming Meetings
- 2 – Holiday Social
- 3– SIA 2022 Convention
- 4 – Hope Springs Christmas
- 5 – Angel Tree Project
- 6 – Board & Business Recap
- 7 -- Message from SI President, “Ahh Ha Moment”
- 8 – Staff Box, Did You Know

## Calendar

- Jan. 20 – Human Trafficking, Salvation Army
- Jan. 27 – Afghan Refugee Update, Aimal Hamil
- Feb. 3 -- Live Your Dream Scholarships
- Feb. 8 – Board meeting, Zoom at Noon
- Feb. 10 – Business meeting
- Feb. 17 –Crisis Support Services, Rachele Pellissier
- Feb. 24 -- TBA

### SITM Meets...

#### Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$25 for lunch.  
RSVP to [info@sitmnhv.org](mailto: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.



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

## Live Your Dream Recipients to be Honored February 3

By Pam Robinson, Education/Women Co-Coordinator

Be sure to bring guests to our upcoming Live Your Dream Awards luncheon on Thursday, February 3. Our club received 8 applications, and we will be awarding \$4,000 to 4 very outstanding women! We have also invited a past Live Your Dream award recipient to share her story and successes with us.



Soroptimist International of the Americas has been empowering women through access to education since 1972 through the Live Your Dream Program and has disbursed more than \$30 million to 35,000 women who have overcome life challenges and determined to turn their lives around. Soroptimist invests in women's education because it transforms lives and communities. Our program has been recognized for its effectiveness and long-term impact.

These first awards provided one, \$1,000 award per region and one federation finalist. Region awards were increased to \$3,000 in 1991,

with one \$10,000 finalist award.

The SIA Board changed the name in 1997 to Women's Opportunity Award. At this time, the SIA Board decided there would be one \$5,000 award and two \$3,000 awards per region.

In 2014, the name was changed to "Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women". The program strives to help women by giving them cash awards and resources to pursue their educational goals and achieve economic empowerment.

Every year, Soroptimist distributes more than \$2.8 million in education grants to about 1,700 women all over the world. Our club has awarded nearly \$42,000 to 37 women since 1998. 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 program.

## Don't Miss These Upcoming Meetings and Events

**Sierra Nevada Region 46th Annual April Conference**  
April 1-3, 2022



**District 5 Winter Meeting**  
on Zoom

February 19, 2022

Watch for Director Susan Horst's "Call to Meeting" and Agenda for the Day.

## Holiday Social Was Both Fun and Profitabl



Bev Perkins donned her Mickey cap.

The Hospitality and Fundraising Committees teamed up to provide a meeting of fun and frivolity on December 16 that heightened the holiday spirit of members and raised a little money for the club's General Fund Treasury at the same time.

Members were asked to show off their baking/cooking talents and bring homemade goodies for auction to the Holiday Social. Several dozen items were auctioned during the meeting, ranging from cakes, pies, cookies, sweet treats and even homemade dog biscuits. The auction raised over \$600.



Undaunted without a tripod, Millie used her ingenuity to stack coffee cups to train her cell phone on the podium so members joining us by zoom could see/hear the speaker.



Showing off their Christmas attire were Margie Hermanson and Holly Nash.

Members were also treated to a holiday quiz with winning members (everyone was a winner) choosing between beautifully wrapped gifts prepared by the Hospitality Committee.

Thanks to the committees for their hard work in making it a holiday precursor to Christmas. And thanks to all who donated and purchased items for auction.



Linda Walker displays one of the door prizes given away that day.



Darlene DeLancey and Dot Watts were handing out door prize tickets.



Cindy Burk, center, with her mother Mrs. Wanda Beaman on the left and Jo Ann Roberts on the right.

Special visitors from Australia. From left: Kay Dunham, great grandson Thomas and granddaughter Supriya.



## 2022 SIA Convention Will Be Virtual This Year

*A Message from SIA President Kazuko Morita*

Dear Soroptimist Leader,

We send you well wishes and season's greetings from Japan and Korea.

We would like to share some important decisions made during the November 16, 2021, and December 2, 2021, SIA Board of Directors' meetings regarding the 2022 Convention.

After thorough consideration of the status of the COVID-19 global pandemic and to allow sufficient planning time to deliver a quality virtual event, SIA's Board of Directors has decided to hold the 2022 convention virtually. While many regions are planning face-to-face meetings, members may have a level of comfort when traveling within their own regions that may not exist when traveling internationally. However, in all instances, our members' safety is our priority.

The dates of the virtual convention are Friday, July 22, and Saturday, July 23, 2022, and registration will be

available in February 2022.

This was a very difficult decision as we were all looking forward to gathering again. Until then, we look forward to the various region meetings taking place face-to-face in the Spring and the 2024 Convention in Bellevue, Washington on July 24-27, 2024. Additionally, we are pleased to share the 2026 convention will be held in Seoul, South Korea on July 22-25, 2026. The Korean Convention Committee, leadership, and members are looking forward to hosting you in 2026.

Please email [siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org) with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
Kazuko Morita  
SIA President

Woon Kyung Lee  
Korean Convention Chair



## Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai to Keynote 2022 SIA Convention

*Reprinted from the SIA "Best for Women" January 2022*

SIA is thrilled to announce Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai as our keynote speaker for our 2022 Convention on Friday, July 22, and Saturday, July 23. Malala will speak that Friday.

The virtual convention will bring thousands together for professional and personal development and focus on our Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education by 2031.

**Early bird tickets will go on sale from February through April 30. See page 8 for details.**

"We are committed to helping women gain economic empowerment through education," says Ilesha D. Brown, Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement. "Our 2022 Convention will provide actionable opportunities including virtual training sessions, access to new resources, as well as powerful speakers such as Malala."

Malala's message about the importance of education for girls comes as the global pandemic has amplified the growing need for access to education. Due to COVID-19, an estimated 47 million additional women and girls have fallen into extreme poverty. With the Malala Fund reporting that 20 million more secondary school-age girls could be out of school after the COVID-19 crisis has passed.



Malala will be joined by other soon-to-be-announced speakers who will offer strategies to tackle current challenges in sessions on leadership, personal development, and Soroptimist's unified efforts to help half a million women and girls live their dreams.

Malala is a strong activist for girls' education, the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and the author of "I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World"—as well as other best-selling books.

Malala has a powerful story to share, and we cannot wait to be immersed in her story leading up to and during our 2022 virtual convention.

# Christmas Time at Hope Springs Bridge Housing

SITM's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee (aka Hope Springs 100 (+) meals project) did not forget the "neighbors" residing at the bridge housing project at Christmas time.

Fresh off the Thanksgiving turkey dinner, the committee provided ham dinners with all the trimmings for Christmas. They also provided an artificial tree with ornaments. As a special treat, each "neighbor" received an over-stuffed Christmas stocking filled with shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brush, socks, hat, gloves, candy and a big candy cane. Each "neighbor" also received a warm blanket.

Thank you to the committee members and all of the members who participated to make this project a success over nearly one year.



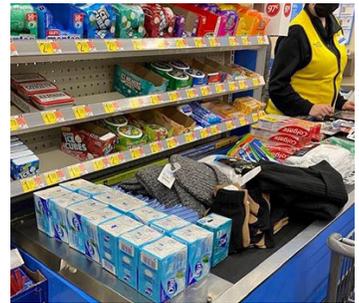
The committee donated a Christmas Tree, complete with ornaments.



Holly Nash shopping to fill Christmas stockings for the "neighbors".



A sample of the "neighbor's" Christmas stockings.



A "back seat" filled with blankets for the "neighbors".



A staff member carries the artificial tree into Hope Springs.



Margie Hermanson shopping for essentials for the "neighbors".

## Angel Tree Project a Great Success



*Family Baskets packaged for delivery.*

House (Monica's Mom) performed the wrapping and logistics for this donation.

Baskets for each of the 21 families were also assembled by Dot Watts and included special holiday treats such as cookies, hot chocolate, holiday napkins, candy kisses, popcorn and a \$25 Walmart gift card

Congratulations and thanks ladies for another successful holiday gifting program for Hunter Lake Elementary School Children in Transition (CIT) students. A total of 39 children and 21 families received gifts and Christmas cheer. (Children are designated as CIT because they do not have permanent housing, and instead live in motels, shelters, or other nonpermanent accommodations.)

When it was all gathered together, 41 large "garbage bags" with 3-6 gifts for each child within the 21 families, were readied for delivery. A couple of trucks and two SUVs were stuffed full for the delivery on December 17 to Hunter Lake School.

Forty SITM members, in addition to friends and families adopted students and provided \$100 to cover each child's gifts in a total of four categories: something to read, something to wear, something you need and something fun.

A total value of over \$6,000 was estimated for the very

Members from the Education/Youth committee acted as personal shoppers and "wrappers" for those who wished to donate money, rather than shop and wrap items themselves.



*Teresa Mentzer, Connie Steinheimer and Shirley George with a carload of gifts for delivery.*

Dr. Steve Friedlander and the staff at Nevada Retina Associates pitched in again this year and generously donated \$1,200 to adopt a dozen kids and provide "fill-in" for any missing gifts. Monica House did the shopping and member Annette Friedlander and Carol Ann

generous donations.

Once again, thank you to everyone who participated to make the lives of these students and their families a little brighter during the holidays.



*Soroptimisters assisting members with the delivery were, from left : Shirley and Dennis George, Teresa and Stan Mentzer and Connie Steinheimer's husband Jeff Ostomel. Connie was taking the photo.*



*Staff at Hunter Lake received the gifts, from left: Amanda Feehan, Counselor; Wendy Mulligan, Instructional Coach; and Amanda McWilliams, Principal.*

# January Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

Welcome to new member Maria Prado Espinosa, sponsored by Pam Robinson. Margie Hermanson conducted our first ever virtual Induction Ceremony on Zoom. Maria was one of our Dreams Moving Forward scholarship recipients a few years ago and has now completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work. She is employed as a social worker at McQueen High School. She has two grown children, a son age 12, and two grandchildren.



with opinions varying among members. A short survey was sent asking members to express their preference. See President Valerie's message on page 1 for more information.

## December Happy Dollars Benefited the SI President's Appeal

A total of \$237 in December Happy Dollars were designated for the December 10<sup>th</sup> Soroptimist International President Maureen Maguire's, "Opening Doors to a Brighter Future", 2021-2023 project.

Under the policy adopted by the club, any shortfall in Happy Dollars not reaching \$500 minimum is supplemented by the reserve service funds. An additional \$500 in budgeted dollars from the Service Fund treasury will also benefit the SI President's Appeal.

January's Happy Dollars are designated for the Nevada Youth Empowerment Project (NYEP), which provides housing and basic needs, life skills training, opportunities to practice new life skills for young women aged 18-24.

## Discussion of New Dormitory for Girls in Nepal

The board recommended and the membership approved a motion presented by IGU/Nepal Committee members Penney Leezy and Norma Webster proposal for the committee to continue exploring the building of a new girls' dormitory in Thulipokhari. Preliminary design illustrates costs of approximately \$100,000. There was also discussion of using some of the assets accumulated in the Community Foundation fund to offset some costs.

The IGU/Nepal Committee will bring another motion to the board and membership at the March Board/Business meetings to seek final approval of this project.

## Celebrating November Birthdays

Four members are celebrating January birthdays. Each was asked to share an "Ahh Ha Moment" that impacted their lives.

## November Happy Dollars Designation Changed

The board recommended and the membership approved a motion from Service Fund Treasurer Cindy Burk to change the recipient of the November 2021 Happy Dollars to Crisis Call Center & Support Services of Nevada. Nevada 211 is a program sponsored by the Nevada Department of Health & Human Services and is not a local nonprofit.

## Finance/Governance Committee Reviewing the General Fund

Committee Co-Coordinator Millie Mitchell discussed the committee's review of the General Fund Treasury and desire to retain a 1-to-2-year reserve.

## A COVID and Zoom Update

A discussion about the current surge in Omicron variant and in-person versus zoom meetings was held



Patte Robnett January 2



Pam Sutton January 4



Teresa Mentzer January 7



Paula Ringkob January 7

## An “Ahh Ha Moment”

During this month’s celebration of birthdays, each was asked to share an “Ahh Ha Moment” that impacted their lives. Patte Robnett shared an “Ahh Ha Moment” that was certainly worth sharing for those who didn’t hear it the first time.

“I was having lunch with Eve Johnson and she mentioned she was thinking about joining Soroptimist. I recognized the name but didn’t know what they did. Eve explained and I thought it sounded like something I might be interested in. The holidays were approaching and I actually forgot about it. Lunch again in December and Soroptimist came up and I said I was really interested. She took me to lunch meeting and I put on a name tag and Eve introduced me to the ladies at the table. Eileen Fuller was sitting across from me, she looked at me and said, “So tell us everything about Patte Robnett.” That was the “Ahh Ha” moment. I knew with that kind of interest these were some women I wanted to spend time with. Caring and smart always going and giving over 100%. Thank you, ladies.”



## Reminder ...

Please make your lunch reservations with the Attendance Committee (email: [info@sitmnv.org](mailto:info@sitmnv.org)) no later than noon each Monday for that week’s Thursday meeting. That includes if you are bringing a guest.

“No shows” will be billed for a missed lunch at the usual cost.

## A Final Message from SI President Sharon Fisher

To all my Fellow Soroptimists,

It has been a pleasure serving as your Soroptimist International President over the last two years and meeting so many new faces, whilst reconnecting with those I have known for years. As I reflect on the journey, we know there have been detours, but there have also been many wins. Although the SI Road to Equality altered its direction, we came together to ‘turn up the volume’ of our global voices and find new ways to support women and girls.

I always prefer to reflect on accomplishments, so today I will not focus my message on the pandemic but instead on our achievements as a Global Voice for Women – the things we can recognize and celebrate together.

The Road to Equality Appeal delivered four projects, with the fifth currently underway, addressing the issues of Female Genital Mutilation, Human Trafficking, Migration, Early and Forced Marriage, Domestic Violence, and the Rights of Older Women. As we increased our presence online, we launched the SI Voices Road to Equality webinars providing information from experts, stories from survivors, and details of Soroptimist projects tackling Gender-Based Violence.

This year saw the formation of the Soroptimist International Foundation established to create longevity in our international project work, together with a realignment of our advocacy committee, increasing our capacity in this important area of work. Together with the International Director of Advocacy and our United Nations Representatives, our profile and presence has extended through the delivery of statements, interventions, and many presentations at global events. We welcomed our global membership to share in our progress at online Annual General Meetings. I also had the pleasure of virtually visiting our Federations, unions, regions, and clubs, delivering greetings and reporting on the activities of Soroptimist International.

My most memorable moment was joining thousands of members at our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event, where we united in re-visiting our Bright Past, and were guided towards a Brilliant Future. What started as a vision became a reality, thanks to the support, commitment, and friendship of many – truly an unforgettable experience that we can remember for a lifetime.

Thanks to the Soroptimist International board members and position holders, to staff, and to you, the volunteers who serve our organization. You have all helped in so many ways to deliver the Road to Equality vision – so thanks for jumping aboard the bus, and it is wonderful to see this vision inspire many local Soroptimist projects.

Thank you for your commitment and your passion.

Wishing you all the very best, and to the next 100 years as a Global Voice for Women!

Sharon Fisher  
SI President 2019-2021





Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows  
P.O. Box 20125 • Reno, NV 89515  
[www.sitmnev.org](http://www.sitmnev.org)

**President Valerie Hahn**  
[valeriehahnsitm@yahoo.com](mailto:valeriehahnsitm@yahoo.com)

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

**Editor Faye I. Andersen**  
[fandersen@att.net](mailto:fandersen@att.net) or  
775-358-5149 or 775-432-5822

**Contributing to this issue**

Jo Ann Roberts      Margie Hermanson  
Valerie Hahn        Connie Steinheimer  
Pam Robinson       Monica House

**SITM Board 2021-22**

<b>President</b> Valerie Hahn	<b>Secretary</b> Kay Dunham
<b>President-Elect</b> Laury Macauley	<b>Treasurer/General Fund</b> Linda Walker
<b>Vice President/Program</b> Carol Dinneen	<b>Treasurer/Service Fund</b> Cindy Burk
<b>Vice President/ Membership</b> Pam Robinson	<b>Delegate</b> Cinammon Davies
	<b>Director –</b> Millie Mitchell



For information about our organization, check out these Soroptimist Websites:  
Sierra Nevada Region: [www.soroptimistsnr.org](http://www.soroptimistsnr.org)  
Soroptimist International of the Americas: [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)  
Soroptimist International: [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)



SOROPTIMIST®  
Investing in Dreams

# Did you know . . .

## SIA Virtual Convention Registration Fees

Following are the deadlines to register for the SIA Virtual Convention, July 22 and 23. Registration will open in February 2022.

### Registration Fees

**Early Registration Rate (applicable from the launch of registration through April 30, 2022)**

\$149 SIA Members in Good Standing  
\$199 Non-Members of SIA

**Regular Registration Rate (applicable from May 1, 2022, through event date)**

\$199 SIA Members in Good Standing  
\$249 Non-Members of SIA

**\$375 Mandatory Convention Club Fee**

Price covers registration fee for one delegate. Invoices will be sent to clubs the week of January 10, 2022.  
(Invoices will be sent to clubs the week of January 10, 2022.)



SOROPTIMIST®  
Investing in Dreams