



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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February 2022

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- Feb. 17 – Crisis Support Services, Rachele Pellissier
- Feb. 14 – Trevor Macaluso, CEO of Eddy House
- Mar. 3 – Northern Nevada Hopes 100th Anniversary Project
- Mar. 8 -- Board meeting, Zoom at Noon
- Mar. 10 – Business meeting
- Mar. 17 –Child Assault Prevention
- Mar 24 – IGU Nepal Pledge Drive

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$25 for lunch.
RSVP to info@sitmnv.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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Four Live Your Dreams Recipients Honored

By Pam Robinson, Education/Women Co-Coordinator

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the SIA Live Your Dream awards in a big way on February 3. Four amazing women were recognized as SITM Live Your Dream Award recipients at our annual 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 \$42,000 to 37 women since 1998 as part of this program. This year, two outside judges, Dr. Frieda Hulka and Paula

Smith Dermody and our own life member and Charter President, Jaci Jones, assisted two Education/ Women Committee members in choosing our recipients. We were fortunate to receive a generous anonymous donation which matched our budget of \$4,000 enabling us to award each woman \$2,000.



Education/Women Co-Coordinator Carol Dinneen; committee members Jeanne Naccarato and Sarah Carrasco; LYD recipient Ashley Hasting; Co-Coordinator Pam Robinson and LYD recipient Sarah Ley and daughter Ella.

Continued on page 2



Join District 5 Director Susan Horst
Virtual District 5 Winter Meeting
Saturday, February 19, 2022
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

It is our time to **'Renew in '22.'**



Join other members of District 5 as we are encouraged to shine and share our Soroptimist mission. We will hear an uplifting message from our keynote speaker as well as news from our individual clubs.

Online Registration Link: <https://registration.soroptimistsnr.org/events/2022-wdm-d5/>

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83728747192>

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Salina Islas with Aurora and Luke

Selina Islas received our first place Live Your Dream Award and her application was forwarded to Sierra Nevada Nevada Region for additional consideration. Selina is the single mother of two children, ages 5 and 1. Her educational goal is to earn a degree in dental hygiene from TMCC. Selina has worked in the dental field for the past six years and is excited to be working toward this goal. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused her to be unemployed for a period of time and spoiled her plans to save part of her income to use for her education. She is dependent on herself to fund her education as well as care for her children, and has tremendous determination.

Our second recipient was Amanda “Andie” Gozza. Andie’s educational goal is to earn a bachelor’s degree in Rangeland or Forest Management. She is currently enrolled in an associate degree program at TMCC



Andie Gozza with Major and Raven

with plans to transfer to UNR. Andie, a mom of two children, ages 4 and 1, has been on her own since before completing high school. She lost her job during the pandemic and has struggled to find another that would give her enough income to afford child care. She dreams of the day when she can provide enough for her children so they can follow their own dreams.

Our third recipient was Ashley Hastings. Ashley is the single mother of three children ages 6, 2, and 1 and supports herself by cleaning houses for roughly 35 hours per week. She recently graduated from TMCC with an AA degree and a 3.8 GPA and is now enrolled at UNR. She is working toward a degree in political science and eventually wants to earn a law degree. Before enrolling in law school, she plans to take a break from school to devote time to her children.



Ashley Hastings with Leonidas Azariah, Aria Rose, and Liviticus.

Our final recipient was Sarah Elizabeth Ley. Sarah attended the luncheon with her four-year-old daughter, Ella, who made a big impression on all of us. Sara is currently enrolled in the TMCC nursing program and plans on seeking employment at a local hospital once she graduates. She plans to earn her BSN through an online program and would love to train as a nurse anesthetist. Life right now is stressful for Sarah while



Sarah Ley and daughter Ella.

trying to be a good mother as well as a good student. She works part time and has worked hard to be where she is now.

We were fortunate this year to have two returning Live Your Dream recipients address our group and our guests. Our first speaker was Lisa Perryman. Lisa received our LYD award in 2017 and also was a Dreams Moving Forward scholarship recipient. Lisa graduated from UNR in 2020 with a degree in engineering and is working for the Carson City Public Works Development Division. Lisa has just returned to start work on her master’s degree.

Our second speaker was our 2009 LYD recipient, April Hunter, whom we met as April Perkins. April graduated from TMCC with a degree in radiologic technology with the additional support of our Dreams Moving Forward program. She later received additional scholarship funds to further her bachelor’s degree and subsequently joined the Elko Soroptimist club. She now works at Tahoe Forest Hospital and at several medical offices in Truckee. Both speakers were tremendously inspirational, and it was wonderful to see them again.

100th Anniversary Project Closes with a Surprise Gift for Hope Springs

Excerpted from Coordinator Margie Hermanson's 100th Anniversary Project Report



Committee members, from left, Holly Nash, Jeanne Naccarato and Margie Hermanson at Costco for the "mega-shop".

SITM's 100th Anniversary Committee has wrapped up the project to provide meals and much more to Hope Springs Bridge Housing. The project was adopted to recognize the 100th Anniversary and founding of Soroptimist.

Launched last March, club members and

some local businesses provided one meal per day, for 100 days, to the neighbors residing at Hope Springs, the tiny home community for the homeless. Some members made or purchased meals, while other members donated money to provide meals. While the task may have seemed daunting at the beginning, members went above-and-beyond to complete the 100 meals task in August. Meals were continued once-per-week through the end of 2021.

Committee members delivered turkeys and all of the trimmings for a Thanksgiving feast. Ham dinners were provided for Christmas, along with a Christmas tree and decorations. Neighbors residing at Hope Springs received Christmas stockings filled with socks, hats, hygiene items, gloves and a warm blanket.

Since many members provided meals without seeking reimbursement, the committee had approximately \$1,200 left over so they could provide a surprise for Hope Springs. Committee members performed a "mega shop" at Costco in order to stock the freezers and pantry at Hope Springs. A stockpile of staples such as meat that could be frozen, pasta and sauces, beans, tuna, and other canned meals were delivered, much to the excitement of the neighbors and staff. With about \$100 remaining, it



The stockpile covered every inch of counter space in the Hope Springs kitchen.

was decided to provide Valentine goodies and treats for the residents this month.

Thank you to all the members, family and community supporters who contributed to the success of this project. It would not have been possible without you.

The balance of the money unspent from the Hope Springs project were used to purchase some Valentine's Day treats for the neighbors.



Time for Nominations for SITM's 2022 - 2023 Club Year

Would you like to become part of the leadership team to guide SITM in the 2022-2023 year? It's time to nominate a member whom you think would be good in these positions, including yourself.

At the February Board and Business Meetings a Nominating Committee was named to prepare a slate of members willing to stand for election. Diana DeMatei was named committee coordinator by President Valerie Hahn. The board selected Kay Dunham and the membership selected Jeanne Naccarato.

In the next month these three members will be distributing nomination forms for the following positions. The Nominating Committee will ascertain members' willingness to serve in office.

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

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

For further information, please contact Nominating Committee Coordinator Diana DeMatei, or members Kay Dunham or Jeanne Naccarato.

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.

An Update on Afghan Refugees in Reno-Sparks by Aimal Hamil

There was good attendance at the January 27 meeting by members anxious to hear Aimal Hamil give an update on Afghan refugees moving to Reno. About 40 families are currently attempting to settle here, each with their own unique set of circumstances and needs.



Aimal and his wife Asma have been a great resource offering to meet with many of the families, act as translators and interpreters of the difference between Afghanistan and American culture. They've hosted families at their home to familiarize refugees with "American living". It is especially different for women now living in the U.S. who are viewed as equal individuals, with equal rights as men.

Aimal explained that cultural adaptation, laws and educational classes are all part of the resettlement effort being conducted by the Northern Nevada International Center for the newly arrived refugees. The biggest need right now is housing. Some families are still living in hotels or other temporary housing. As we all know, Reno is a very tight housing market right now, making it difficult to find adequate housing for refugees.

Joining us on zoom was Staci McLin representing the Kings Row Community that is assisting refugees. Recently they hosted a gathering of 180 refugees from Afghanistan with opportunities to enjoy ethnic food and get to know other refugee families resettling in the area.

Members wishing to donate furniture and other household items should contact Aimal and he has compiled lists of needs, plus donations. Without more permanent housing, and no place to store large items, please be patient and hold onto your donations for now. He will continue to check his lists of who needs immediate things like coats, clothing or backpacks for the kids. He can keep your name on those lists.

Volunteering your time is also an important option now. Aimal spoke about a 16-year-old Wooster High School student who has her learner's permit to drive, but needs someone with a car to help her with practice for the driver's permit exam. Refugees also need rides to doctor's or other appointments, or to go shopping. Walmart gift cards are also an option since they carry both household items and groceries.

Finding employment is also important for both male and female refugees. He talked about six single young

men who are living in a single house and all are working at ITS. Several have wives and children back in Afghanistan. Several of the women have found employment in the housekeeping departments at local hotels. Job opportunities are another immediate need for the refugees.

Without getting into politics, Aimal said many of those working are saving money to send back to family in Afghanistan, where two-thirds of the population is facing starvation conditions, since the Taliban take-over of the country.

Contact information for Aimal Hamil
Cell: 775-530-8671

Email – zabit_aimal2005@yahoo.com (the space between zabit and aimal is an underscore.)

Celebrating International Women's Day

Join SIA for a special tea party celebrating women's empowerment on International Women's Day! We encourage you to sip a cup of tea and wear your fanciest hat, pearls and gloves while enjoying a festive and inspirational program featuring a variety of Soroptimist leaders and members. Program will be interpreted in all SIA languages.

- DATE: International Women's Day – Tuesday, March 8, 2022
- TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
- COST: Free
- LOCATION: Zoom (*Note: Zoom space is limited, however tea party will also stream live on [SIA Facebook page](#) during event*)

GET INVOLVED: [Download and share invitation](#)



“Ghosts” Calendars Donated to Local Veterans Groups

Thank you to the generous members who purchased vintage “Ghosts” airplane calendars for donation to local veterans. A total of 25 calendars were delivered last month to the Northern Nevada Veterans Home, the Veterans Guest House and the Veterans Resource Center by Pam Robinson and Darlene DeLancey.

This fall, members again sold 160 “Ghosts” calendars for \$17 each. Including the 25 calendars purchased for donation, SITM netted \$1,745 from the sales.



Darlene DeLancey delivers calendars to the Northern Nevada State Veterans home.



Kathi McGathey, House Manager at the Veterans Guest House, accepts calendars from Darlene DeLancey, left, and Pam Robinson.



Jessie Ramirez, from the Veterans Resource Center, receives calendars from Darlene DeLancey.

Providing Services for Human Trafficking Victims

Representatives from the Salvation Army were on hand for the January 20 meeting to discuss their services and initiatives to provide services for human-trafficking victims.

Major LeAnn Trimmer, Washoe County Coordinator, Reno Corps Officer, began with a history of the Salvation Army, founded in 1865 in East London, England by William and Catherine Booth. She told us Catherine was an avowed feminist, challenging the cultural roles of women and serving as an evangelist, preacher, theologian and co-founder of the Salvation Army.

Major Trimmer outlined the services of the Salvation Army that most of us are familiar with – disaster services, food and nutrition and worship services. She went on to explain the many other services offered like adult rehabilitation centers, housing/residence services, family counseling, domestic violence services and more.

Major Trimmer, along with Salvation Army Donor Relations Manager Donna Ruiz both discussed the

Army’s exploration into partnering with local coalitions to raise awareness of the injustices of human trafficking. Those include prevention activities, reduced demand for forced labor and commercial sex, as well as rescue of current victims. The Salvation Army also has their vast array of services that can be employed when serving human trafficking victims.



Joining us from the Salvation Army were, from left: Major LeAnn Trimmer, Army Advisory Board Member Tracey Cole, Donna Ruiz Army Donor Relations and Holly Nash.

NYEP Provides Help for Homeless Young Women

What happens to young women in our community (ages 18-24 years) who are homeless, parentless and undereducated? There is hope and there are services available for these young women at the Nevada Youth Empowerment Project (NYEP), founded in 2007, that provides housing and basic needs, life skills training, opportunities to practice new life skills, and the support and love of a family.

Cindy Allen, a Transition Specialist with NYEP, gave SITM members an overview on January 6 of the current and planned services of this 100% community-funded program. Marvetta Lewis, a graduate of the NYEP program, accompanied Cindy. Marvetta acts as a mentor to girls currently in the NYEP program.

Their Community Living Program (CLP), known as Sonder House, is Step 1 and provides basic needs like housing and food, with direction and structure they've been missing their entire lives. In the 9–18-month

program, the women are held accountable with clear expectations and outcome to show measurable progress.

Step 2 is the transition of CLP participants to living on their own, through an affordable housing program. Strict guidelines and program support are required at individual units within walking distance of public transportation.

Plans for the future include a 10-unit housing complex that will target five CLP graduates, as well as five local senior women who are in need of extremely low-income units.



Marvetta Lewis & Cindy Allen

Actor Christine Baranski Embraces the Dream Big Campaign to Empower More Women

Excerpted from the SIA "Best for Women Newsletter"

When we received word that **Emmy and Tony-award-winning actress Christine Baranski wanted to publicly support our Dream Big Campaign**, we were beyond thrilled! Not only were we excited to have such an influential figure show support for our new campaign, but we were impressed by the ingenuity of the Soroptimist members who made it happen, Sue Stephen, Rosemarie Burton, and Tracy Scala.

"When Rosemarie and Tracy first approached me with the idea, I was excited to support them in pursuing this opportunity to connect with Christine," says Erica Cheslock, Director of Donor Relations.

"Influencer marketing is a critical brand-building tool and an avenue we hope our members explore as a way to generate momentum for our Dream Big Campaign."

To help us leverage this opportunity, we are asking **Soroptimists to share the above quote graphic on their own social media channels**. Let's let the world know that celebrities are rallied behind our Dream Big Campaign and our 2021-2031 Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education.

"I truly believe women's education is one of the most compelling issues of our time. We must imagine a better future for women and believe it's possible for lasting change. Equal pay, equal rights, leadership positions. It's a time for optimism and forward-thinking."

Christine Baranski
American actress, comedian, producer, and singer

Dream Big SOROPTIMIST Investing in Dreams

January Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

Committees' six-month progress reports were featured at the February Board and Business meetings, with coordinators reporting on progress on their committee tasks for the first half of the year. President Valerie sent copies to all members, along with the monthly meeting agendas and materials.

Nominating Committee Named

At the February Board and Business Meetings a Nominating Committee was named to prepare a slate of members willing to stand for election. Diana DeMatei was named Committee Coordinator by President Valerie Hahn. The board selected Kay Dunham and the membership selected Jeanne Naccarato. Nomination forms will soon be available, if you would like to nominate someone for office, including yourself. See page 3 for more details.

Sock and Underwear Drive Coming in April

The board recommended and the membership approved a motion from the Community Outreach Committee to conduct a sock and underwear drive during the month of April to support Project 150 to support high school students. Donation guidelines can be found below and on the attached flyer.

January Happy Dollars Supported NYEP

A total of \$298 in January Happy Dollars was collected for the Nevada Youth Empowerment Project, which provides housing and basic needs, life skills training, opportunities to practice new life skills for young women aged 18-24. February Happy Dollars are designated for the Eddy House, which works with homeless and at-risk youth to develop the life and job skills necessary for sustainable independence.

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

Banner and Pop Ups Coming Soon

During a discussion of the missing SITM podium banner and pop-up signs, two generous Soroptimists spoke up and offered to donate the costs of replacements. A new podium banner is estimated to cost approximately \$100 and was generously donated by Jo Ann Roberts. Approximate costs for the pop-up signage is \$250 each, again generously donated by Linda Walker and her husband Bill, from B&L Gift Distributors, Inc. Thanks to both these members, a new banner and pop-up signs should be replaced soon.

Celebrating February Birthdays

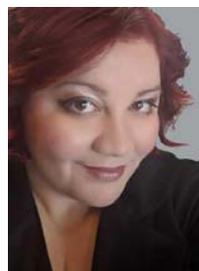
The following members are also celebrating February birthdays.



Millie Mitchell will celebrate her birthday February 23. Holly Nash, from the hospitality Committee, presented members with February birthdays.



Marilyn Pearson
February 8



Cinammon Davies
February 11



Anna McArdle
February 18



Gayle Kmetovicz
February 22

April Sock & Underwear Drive

The community outreach committee is hosting a sock and underwear drive for Project 150 for the month of April. Project 150 provides basic needs such as clothing, shoes, toiletries, and snacks to homeless, displaced, and disadvantaged high school students.

- Project 150 is in need of men's socks that are long any size.
- For the ladies any size socks that are colorful.
- For underwear men's medium boxer brief.
- For the ladies they prefer the boy shorts underwear style or bikini briefs size 6,7,8.
- Brand new socks and underwear only please.

Please remember Project 150 only serves high school students, which are young adults.

Donations can be dropped off at Doris Phelp's house or at lunch meetings please give to Bev Perkins. If you have any questions please contact Niki Ewing.

Thank you for your support!



Thank You from Northern Nevada HOPES for Happy Dollars

Dear Friends,

Your gift to Northern Nevada HOPES means you understand just how valuable high-quality, affordable, accessible healthcare is for every member of our community, especially in light of the pandemic. This past year has been challenging and we would not have been able to be as creative or nimble without people like you. **Thank you – you are wonderful!**

Words can't express our gratitude for your recent gift of \$500 Happy Dollars to Northern Nevada HOPES. As an organization committed to serving our neighbors who need us most, HOPES was able to deliver life-saving and life-changing services to nearly 11,000 patients last year, that's a 4% increase above the previous year. YOU make our work possible, even in times of uncertainty.

Together, we will continue to remove barriers and address some of the most pressing issues in our community. Your support provides wrap-around services necessary to improving health outcomes. Your gift will help in the following ways:

- Increased access to **Housing**
- Expansion of our **Pediatric Care**
- Tracking the social determinants of health by providing services like **Telehealth Visits**, parking lot Clinics, expanded **Pharmacy Access** and informed **Care Managers**
- Increased capacity and access to **Behavioral Health** services

Truthfully, we could not do this without you. We, and those we serve, sincerely appreciate your generosity.

With gratitude,

Sharon Chamberlin, CEO

SIA Club Operations Training

Are you ready to learn more about building a better club experience?

We hope so! An African proverb states: "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

As members of a club, we want to accomplish something greater than anything we could accomplish on our own as individuals. TOGETHER we can ensure women and girls can live their dreams!

To help clubs function at their highest level, we invite you to join us for an upcoming training. Although this training is designed for club officers to improve the club experience, all members are welcome to attend.



We hope you will join us and Soroptimists from all around the world! More information about how to register will be sent in the coming weeks.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions at this time.

Sincerely,
SIA Headquarters



Reminder ...

Please make your lunch reservations with the Attendance Committee (email: 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.



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 775-432-5822

Contributing to this issue

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Jo Ann Roberts | Margie Hermanson |
| Valerie Hahn | Holly Nash |
| Pam Robinson | Jeanne Naccarato |
| Kay Dunham | Darlene DeLancey |
| Niki Ewing | |

SITM Board 2021-22

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



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 . . .

SIA 100th Anniversary Virtual Celebration Replay

Join us on Thursday, March 24 at 6pm ET for a one-night, condensed replay version of SIA's 100th Anniversary Virtual Celebration that was originally aired on September 25 and 26, 2021.

If you previously paid and registered for the September 2021 event, you have been automatically pre-registered for the Replay Event at the same email address used for your previous registration.

If you have any questions, please contact siahq@soroptimist.org.

Time: Mar 24, 2022 06:00 PM in [Eastern Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

Webinar Registration through [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Microsoft \(Outlook\)](#)



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