



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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September 2022

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- Sept. 15 – Beads of Strength Beading
 Sept. 17 – We’re MAD as a HATTER High Tea
 Sept. 22 – TBA
 Sept. 29 – TBA
 Oct. 6 – Candidates Forum
 Oct. 11 – Board Meeting, Zoom
 Oct. 13 -- Business Meeting

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$28 for lunch.
 RSVP to info@sitmnv.org no later than noon on the Sunday 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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An Appropriate Time for High Tea



As the world recognizes the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, it is so fitting that we prepare for our big fundraiser of the year, the MAD

as a HATTER High Tea the afternoon of September 17th. With a High Tea being a great British tradition, we also chose to use Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland as our theme for the tea. Our version of the High Tea is sure to be a fun and successful event, with a Chico’s fashion show and our own display of fashion highlighting hats and costumes from “through the looking glass.”

I am immensely proud of all of the hard work that the Fundraising Committee and our members have done and will do to see this event to its conclusion. I am heartened that our members have bought and sold many tickets and secured many donations for its success. And, amidst all this levity, it will be a day to remember and to celebrate that its outcome is going to greatly benefit women, girls and families in their times of need in our community. I look forward to this grand event and then, once SITM has completed this large task, we can move forward with the rest of the year’s work to put all the earned funds to good use for our local and international projects. Bring on the sandwiches and cookies!

President Laury Macauley

Welcome New Member Nicole DuPont

New member Nicole DuPont was inducted at the September Business Meeting. Her sponsor is Monica House. Nicole is a member of the team at Retina Associates of Nevada.



From left: Monica House, Nicole DuPont, Pam Robinson from the Membership Committee and President-Elect Sarah Carrasco.

Candidates Forum
Thursday October 6
See page 2



Getting Prepared for the High Tea



Millie Mitchell begins the task of sorting the auction items.

Just short of overwhelmed might be a good description for what the Fundraising Committee has experienced with silent auction items donated for the High Tea. Millie Mitchell was kind enough to lend her garage for storage, but expertly grouping and preparing the items for display was another matter. Committee Co-Coordinator Linda Walker and Margie Hermanson, joined by Finn, helped Millie make sense of what items will bring high bids.

Thank you to all of the members who donated and procured items for the High Tea. Now let's hope we have great bids!



Linda Walker and Margie Hermanson assisted by helper Finn.

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

Candidate's Forum

Thursday, October 6



Don't Miss the Candidate's Forum October 6

With just a month before the November election, on October 6 SITM will once again give members and guests an opportunity to see, hear and assess the contenders' positions on issues that are crucial to Nevada and especially to Northern Nevada. We'll be hearing from candidates for Washoe County School Board, Reno City Council and Sparks City Council, as well as representatives from some statewide races. Each candidate will have three minutes to explain their qualifications and why they're running. All candidates for the selected races were invited though all may not be attending.

This nonpartisan event is open to the public so please feel free to invite your friends. Lunch cost is \$28 and, to help the Atlantis, [please make your reservation as early as possible, but no later than Sunday, September 25, by emailing \[info@sitmnv.org\]\(mailto:info@sitmnv.org\).](#)

We'll be Zooming the Forum as well and guests will need to register in advance so we can send them the sign-on information. There's a registration link on the website home page, plus a downloadable flyer.

Bracelets Delivered to Renown Infusion Center

Mistress of Beads Bev Perkins, used her beading expertise to complete some unfinished bracelets and keyrings for the chemotherapy patients at the Renown Infusion Center. As they complete their treatments, the nurses offer patients the opportunity to select a bracelet for the women and keyring for the men,



Margie Hermanson delivered bracelets and key rings to nurses at the Renown Infusion Center.

Fundraising With Donuts at UPS

President Laury Macauley and the three Fundraising Co-Coordinator made their way on September 7 for a presentation to an unlikely fundraising source ... the employees of UPS. For the past several years, SITM has been able to make a presentation to UPS employees to encourage them to designate SITM when contributing during their annual United Way drive.

Armed with four dozen donuts, the troupe arrived during what UPS called "Wellness Wednesday". Who knew? The UPS Safety Manager had provided a buffet (in Ziploc bags) for drivers to select cucumbers, lemons, oranges, grapes, energy and granola bars, along with iced bottles of water, Gatorade and ice pops.

President Laury gave a rousing presentation summarizing all of Soroptimist's good works in the community with an encouraging pitch to designate SITM as their choice for giving. Last year, approximately \$3,000 came to the club from this source.

Oh yes, there were no donuts left-over for the troupe to take home.



Fundraising at UPS with donuts were, from left, Jeanne Naccarato, President Laury Macauley, Linda Walker and Margie Hermanson.

Update on New Nepal Dormitory Construction

By Monica House, IGU/Nepal Coordinator

Exciting news! The village of Thulipokhari, Nepal is ready to receive the first installment for the new girls' dormitory which means we should be breaking ground this month! The village has agreed to all of SITM's requests including receiving the final payment of 10% when the project is complete. Here is an outline of what the payment plan will look like and how the installments will be used:



1st installment - 18%/\$14,000 or 1,789,401 rupees. Will be used for clearing the land and preparing it for the new building, installing cameras, purchasing supplies such as lumber, bricks and cement.

2nd installment – 18%/\$14,000. Will be used for construction of the 1st story including making doors, purchasing windows and putting in a bathroom.

3rd installment- 18%/\$14,000. Will be used for

construction of the 2nd story including making more doors, purchasing windows and putting in a 2nd bathroom.

4th installment- 18%/\$14,000. Will be used for the construction of the kitchen, common area and a 3rd bathroom for the girls, housemother and cook.

5th installment- 18%/\$14,000. Will be used to purchase and install the solar and water system, plumbing, roof top.

6th and final installment- 10%/\$8,000 or 1,022,515 rupees will be sent when the project is complete.

As with any building project, the items listed above may not happen in the exact order, but should give everyone a good idea of what to expect. The village has also run into their first "hiccup" on the project of having to move an electric transformer for the new construction. The good news is the transformer has been moved and cameras are ready to be installed so we should soon have live coverage of the new building going up. The village has also been working hard to clear the roads leading to the village for building supplies to be brought in.

The IGU Committee also talked to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada and they will cover the international wiring costs just like CIT Bank did before member Cindy Burk retired. This is huge because it will save us approximately \$300 in fees (6 wires) which will cover the cost of a girl's scholarship.

Welcome New member Amanda Bean

By Pam Robinson

Born in Reno at St. Mary's hospital, Amanda's family was in mining and moved around often. She attended nine schools including three high schools and spent six years in Juneau, Alaska. After moving back to Reno and graduating from Wooster High, she went to UNR with plans to become a teacher.



Amanda was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was a junior in high school and spent time in the ICU at St. Mary's, but she determined early on that she would never let it stop her. So after being in college, for a time, she decided to study nursing instead

of teaching and perhaps become a nurse educator. She got into the mortgage industry when her aunt needed extra help and trained her to process subprime loans, loans which have unusual guidelines and programs. After about six months doing the subprime loans, she learned the traditional, what is called the "A" paper side of mortgage, or more traditional mortgage programs. She has worked for several mortgage companies over the years and really enjoys working with borrowers who need that extra help. She helps her clients manage their budgets, create savings plans, clean up their credit, and sometimes this can take up to three years before a home purchase.

The mother of two boys, Amanda was married for 12 years and lived in Elko where her boys' father was in mining. She was able to be home with her boys while running a daycare with her mother-in-law. After an amicable divorce, she moved back to Reno in 2017 and essentially started over. She now works at Northpointe Bank, and has a wonderful team which includes her husband, Jade. Jade and Amanda met through mutual friends on Valentine's Day and have been together for two years.

We met Amanda's oldest son, Joey, age 14, when he was honored as an Unsung Hero at our recent Thanks to Youth luncheon. He is involved in freshman football this year. Amanda's youngest is Wesley, age nine, who really loves hats and can often be found wearing his favorite fedora. Amanda serves on the board of the Nevada Diabetes Association, which is very dear to her heart. She is also part of Success Affect, a networking group which meets semi-weekly. Her latest hobby is learning golf with Jade. She loves to cook and especially loves singing along with the music when she's in her car. Her 96-year-old grandfather lives with her family, and she has an extremely busy household!

And her personal email of emandajane@hotmail.com isn't a typo! When she learned that amandajane was taken, she remembered that her cousin had always called her "Emanda", so decided to use that for her personal email.

Amanda's many activities can be found on Facebook, and she's already been a wonderful addition to our Public Awareness committee. Welcome to SITM, Amanda!

Washoe CASA Advocating for Children

Kendra Bertschy, Esq., gave an in-depth look into the workings of volunteers for the Washoe County Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA). Community volunteers act as legal advocates for neglected and abused children, protecting the rights and legal options that are in the best interest of the children. CASA volunteers become the "eyes and ears" of the court system for these children.

A Deputy Public Defender, Kendra became interested in CASA in college. In part it is what inspired her to go to law school as she has remained involved ever since.

She reported there are currently about 800 children in Washoe County Foster Care. Also currently, there is only one CASA volunteer available for every eight children needing such assistance. She explained that children with CASA volunteers are more likely to end up in safe, permanent homes, whether reunited with parents or adopted, rather than languishing in foster care.

Washoe CASA provides extensive training for CASA volunteers. For more information contact: washoecountyfamilyservices@washoecourts.us.



Long time CASA volunteer and board member, Kendra Bertschy, Esq. spoke at the August 25 meeting.

Welcome New Member Amanda Brown

By Pam Robinson



Although her parents are native Nevadans, Amanda's father was in the Navy and they moved around a lot. They were living in Washington state when it was time for Amanda to go to college, and she decided to study music at UNR. Her grandparents were here, and it felt like home. After she completed college, she started working at a high-risk insurance company. Meanwhile, things changed for her parents in Washington, they

moved back to Nevada, and her father started working for American General Insurance. Amanda has been working for American General for the past 25 years. Initially, she was working with her father, and although she still shares space with him, she has had her own practice for the last four years. She especially enjoys working with young clients to help them in planning for the future. There are a lot of things that can happen in someone's life, and it never hurts to have a contingency plan.

Amanda and her husband have been married for 24 years and have 3 children – Zach, Toby, and Michaela. Zach, age 20, recently graduated with a dual degree

from the University of Advancing Technology. He majored in cyber security, game art and animation. Toby is a senior at Reno High and interested in engineering and computer science. Michaela is a sophomore at Reno High and involved in Junior ROTC. Amanda's husband, David, was a 9-1-1 dispatcher for 20 years at the City of Sparks, but recently changed to a new job as an environmental protection officer.

As if work and family weren't enough to keep Amanda busy, she is the keyboard player at her church and also plays the flute and trombone. She has led children's performance groups and has taught band in small groups. She also sings. Early in their marriage, Amanda and David traveled to Israel as part of a church performance group. All three children are musically inclined – two drummers and one clarinet player.

Amanda enjoys water sports and recently took up stand-up paddle boarding, snorkeling, and kayak. She is involved in Tapestry, a faith-based group, eWomen network, and has a doTerra business. Her family are all in Reno. And one more thing – Amanda is a huge tea fan. She collects teacups, teapots, high tea ware, and loves visiting tea rooms. How perfect for our club as we get ready for our next MAD as a HATTER High Tea Party!

Welcome, Amanda!

Powering a Movement with Xquisite

Xquisite is a non-profit organization that works primarily with women (and sometimes men) who are the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. Based in Carson City, they recently acquired building space and grants to be able to sustain a small part-time staff to help provide outreach services to some of the community's most vulnerable.



At our September 1 meeting, Founder and Executive Director Brenda Sandquist explained that many such victims began their life of abuse early; age three for girls and age four for boys. Even tailoring her stories for a lunch meeting, Brenda told some horrific stories of women in abusive situations in our local communities.

A recently announced initiative is the Victim's Advocacy Coalition seeking to develop a network of community-

based advocates to provide wraparound victim services.

Volunteer advocate opportunities are available at Xquisite, with training classes available. For more information contact: www.xquisite.org

Save the Date

District 5 Fall Meeting

October 29, 2022

Hosted by SI/Quincy

*Special Friday night outing to a local "Follies Show",
October 28 for early arrivals in Quincy.*

*RSVP your interest for the Friday night show ASAP to
District Director Holly Nash, to ensure your reservation.*

More information on Saturday's District Meeting coming soon. Contact Director Holly for details.

September Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

September's Board and Business Meetings turned out to be on the brief side as focus was on the upcoming "We're MAD as a HATTER" High Tea.

Fundraising High Tea Update

The Three Fundraising Co-Coordinators, Linda Walker, Jeanne Naccarato and Margie Hermanson each gave updates on progress towards the September 17 High Tea. Ticket and table sales indicate there should be a crowd of about 150 for the event. Sign-up sheets for volunteers to help set-up, work during the High Tea and assist with clean-up, were circulated at the meeting.

Millie Mitchell reported there were over 50 items to be auctioned, actually many more items, but some have been combined. Jeanne reported 100 bottles of wine have been donated with the committee deciding to make two different themed Wine Wagon Raffles. Plus, some of the wine will be used for the Ring Toss game to win bottles of wine.

Motion to Volunteer for Xquisite's Golf Tourney Auction

Sarah Carrasco made a motion for SITM to have club members expend at most, 30 hours of members' time to make silent auction items look pretty, prepare bid sheets and sit in the silent auction area during Xquisite's fundraising Golf Tournament on October 3, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Toiyabe Golf Course in Washoe Valley. The motion was seconded by Millie Mitchell and passed by the membership. Sarah explained that the duties were to be shared with SI/Washoe County members.

Brenda Sandquist, Executive Director of Xquisite was our guest speaker at the September 1 meeting outlining the mission of Xquisite to provide assistance, support, shelter and counseling for women who are victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.

August Happy Dollars for CASA

Happy Dollars collected in August were \$160 designated for Washoe County Court Appointed Advocates (CASA), a community-based program that recruits, trains and supports citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and/or neglected children in courtrooms and communities.

September Happy Dollars are designated for the Nevada Youth Empowerment Program (NYEP). The program provides homeless young women (18-24) in

the Reno area a chance to reroute their lives through a structured program that provides housing and basic needs, life skills training, opportunities to practice new life skills, and the support and love of a family.

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

Celebrating September Birthdays.

President Laury Macauley (September 11) and Bev Perkins (September 18) were on hand to celebrate their birthdays by answering a question about their first "real job" (not babysitting).



Debbie Handke, member of the Hospitality Committee, with President Laury Macauley and Bev Perkins.

Also celebrating September birthdays are:



Kaylyn Dazey-Harper
September 12



Eileen Fuller
September 18



Darlene DeLancey
September 30



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

President Laury Macauley
laury@macauleylawgroup.com
Editor Faye I. Andersen
fandersen@att.net or
775-358-5149 or 775-432-5822

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

Contributing to this issue

Laury Macauley Pam Robinson
Liza Chapen Monica House
Jo Ann Roberts Pam Sutton
Jeanne Naccarato Margie Hermanson

SITM Board 2021-22

President Laury Macauley	Secretary Kay Dunham
President-Elect Sarah Carrasco	Treasurer/General Fund Linda Walker
Vice President/Program Debera Thomas	Treasurer/Service Fund Cindy Burk
Vice President/ Membership Carol Dinneen	Delegate Bev Perkins
	Director Valerie Hahn



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 . . .

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT

SI President Maureen Maguire and SI Immediate Past President Sharon Fisher are delighted to share the **Soroptimist International 2021 Annual Report**. The report showcases projects from ‘The Road to Equality’ President Appeal (2020 – 2021)’ and introduces ‘Opening Doors to a Bright Future’ President Appeal (2022 – 2023)’

Our International Advocacy work at seven UN centres shows SI Representatives in leadership positions and collectively how we worked through the pandemic to advocate for women and girls. In September 2021 SI held a virtual 100th birthday party to celebrate our Bright Past and Brilliant Future, read all about it on page 15.

Download a copy at:
<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/soroptimist-international-annual-report/>

