



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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December 2022

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- Dec. 15 – IGU Pledge Drive and Nepal Update
- Dec.22 – Holiday Social
- Dec. 29 – DARK for Christmas
- Jan. 5 – DARK for New Year’s
- Jan. 12 – OPEN
- Jan. 17 – Board Meeting, Zoom
- Jan. 19 – Business Meeting
- Jan 26 -- OPEN

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.



www.sitmnev.org

SITM Members Embark on the Giving Season

As we approach the end of 2022 and I look back on the progress of SITM, I can only say that I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished this year. Despite COVID, we set aside our fears and came together to achieve a great deal for and with our community.

It was during this year that we were finally able to throw another “Mad as a Hatter High Tea.” Not only was it a fun time for all who could attend but we raised an amazing amount of money during these difficult times to be used for our numerous service programs and scholarships. We also recently held a diaper drive for the Women and Children’s Center of the Sierra and conducted a holiday bake sale to raise additional funds. Presently, to top it all off, the Angel Tree Project is currently in full force, gathering and wrapping gifts for the needy families at Hunter Lake Elementary School.

Most importantly, despite our reduced numbers, we have continued to run all of our committees and their crucial programs, including Education/Youth and its Thanks to Youth luncheon, Education/Women, Community Outreach programs (including the magnificent crocheted blankets and the “Beads for Strength”), the STEM project (that will be starting up again in January), and the incredible work of the IGU Committee to raise monies and monitor the building of a new dormitory in the mountains of Nepal.



President
Laury Macauley

During 2022, despite many challenges, the Attendance, Hospitality, Public Awareness, Newsletter, Roster,

Don’t Miss the Nepal Update December 15

Bring guests; attend on zoom if you can't be there in person.



Monica House, IGU Nepal Coordinator, will be presenting an update on SITM’s Nepal Project and sharing exciting news about construction of a new girls’ dormitory in Thulipokhari, Nepal. Meet some of our scholarship recipients and see pictures of the new dormitory under construction.

SITM’s first girls’ dormitory was built and occupied in 2001 as part of the club’s “Removing Barriers to Education for Girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal”

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project to provide dormitory housing and scholarships for girls to attend school. Over the past 22 years, more than 2,000 girls have graduated secondary school through full or partial scholarships.

SITM now enters a new and exciting project to build a new dormitory for the girls, next to the original location. Engineering designs were commissioned for a two-story dormitory with a roof-top garden, plus a separate kitchen and meeting space. According to the design plans, the approximate cost to build would be \$100,000. Unlike 21 years ago, the new dormitory will have significant improvements, including electricity, running water and indoor toilets and showers and glass windows.

Like 21 years ago, the village is donating the land, the villagers are donating the labor, SITM is donating the cost of construction materials. This brings SITM's costs to approximately \$83,000.

The IGU Committee has moved their annual Pledge Drive to December instead of its usual spring date, due to the need to continue to raise funds to complete the new dormitory.

Donations in any amount are appreciated. Special recognition is available for those wishing to Sponsor a Room. See the attached flyer to this newsletter.



2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients

Sponsor a Room or Girls' Scholarship

- \$2,500 completes a common area for the girls to eat and study
- \$2,000 completes a girl's bedroom with furnishings, windows and shelves
- \$1,500 furnishes a shared bathroom with running water, toilets and showers
- \$500 completes a garden rooftop – a safe place for the girls to gather
- \$300 funds an annual scholarship for one girl's education, room and meals

Calling All Volunteers

The Return of the Dream It, Be It STEM Program at Hunter Lake Elementary School

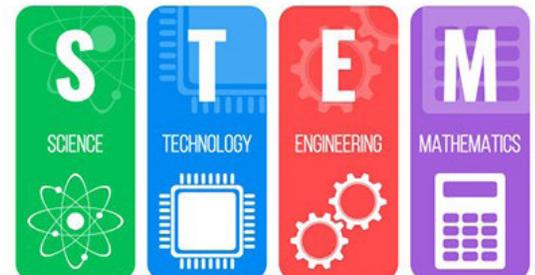
After a two-year hiatus, SITM's STEM/STEAM Committee is gearing up for the return of the "Exploring Your Future in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math" program inviting all girls grades 3-6 to participate free of charge.

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Scrapbook and Finance committees (and our Zoom Masters) have continued to keep us running seamlessly week after week. Lastly and remarkably, the Membership Committee has located a whole new class of impressive SITM members so that we can look forward to 2023 being an even more successful year for SITM. Bravo ladies!

The committee needs help --members willing to join in the fun, beginning January 31 and every other Tuesday, from 3-4 p.m. to meet with the girls. At the time the program was canceled, due to COVID, the club had purchased tablets and Spheros (app-enabled robot balls) for the girls to learn computer coding.

Even if you don't know how to code, the girls need encouragement, as well as snacks, which are provided at each meeting. So, if you can help in person on Tuesdays, or with snacks, contact Co-Coordinator Kay Dunham.



Holiday Goodie Auction and Sale

No one enjoys delicious baked goods more than the Soroptimists ... or so the Holiday Goodie Sale exhibited on December 1. Members were asked to bake and bring their favorite holiday dessert for auction at the meeting and bid on the items.

The meeting drew a good crowd and the bidding was fierce on some of the more than two dozen donated items. The fun and profitable event netted \$828 for the club's General Fund.

In between the bidding, members were invited to the podium to tell their favorite success, disaster, or triumph cooking story. Winning stories were selected by the Fundraising Committee Co-ordinators and culinary baskets were awarded to the top three – Dot Watts, Amanda Brown and Eileen Fuller.

There were many stories and below is a sampling.



Members and guests attended the fun-filled Holiday Goodie Sale.



Some of the many holiday goodies donated for the bake sale.



One of the culinary baskets awarded to the top story tellers.

After receiving a gift of moose meat from a friend, who was a hunter, Bev Perkins invited friends over for a moose dinner. She had made a side dish of spaghetti squash. After four hours in the oven, she reported the moose was awful. So, they had spaghetti instead.



At a wedding, Amanda Brown's husband was acting as a photographer. At one point he entered a room where the cake was placed and it tipped over. Thanks to the cake-maker, in attendance, she and another guest were able to save and restore the cake, as well as the tablecloth, without a trace of the accident. The bride never knew of the mishap.



Here's what not to cook in a microwave oven Dot Watts warned her husband not to try to cook a "hard boiled egg". But he decided he knew better, and did it anyway. It blew the door off their microwave.



When she was younger, Sarah Carrasco used to make enchiladas, her father's favorite. Preparing all those ingredients and rolling them in tortillas took about 2 hours to prepare. As she got older, with less free time, she decided to make a layered casserole of the same ingredients, but a much quicker fix. She described it as a success for her, but a failure for her father.

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After moving into a new neighborhood, Margie Hermanson invited new friends over for her lasagna dinner, which she prepared often, using a light sauce. But this time she used some “no boil” noodles, so the dinner was “crunchy”, even though her guests didn’t admit that.



As a new bride, President Laury Macauley was trying to replicate her mother-in-law’s recipe of roast beef with Yorkshire pudding. But instead of rising, they were flat. Trying to be nice, people ate them. It wasn’t until some months later that Laury discovered her husband had switched containers and instead of adding flour to the recipe, she added pancake mix.

Kay Dunham cooked a traditional Afghan dish for Aimal on his first Thanksgiving in America. She diligently researched and purchased the correct species and painstakingly prepared the meal. He said it was delicious and accurate to meals in his homeland.



Eileen Fuller’s uncle was a “fix-it” man and had repaired a broken handle on a cooking pot. Eileen’s mom and aunt were cooking lasagna sauce on the stove one day. After hours of simmering the sauce was ready to be removed from the stove when the pot handle broke, spilling sauce all over the floor. Since the floor had been freshly mopped that morning, they scooped up the sauce and no one knew anything different.



Millie Mitchell’s coveted sour dough starter traveled cross country with no problems when she moved to California. There it was stored in an empty oven until someone turned the oven on and blew up the starter.

At their home in Graeagle, Cindy and Nelson Burk were invited to join neighbors for a salmon dinner. Nelson agreed to deep fry a turkey, but when he arrived, he was asked to cook both the salmon and the turkey too. Trying to balance the cooking duties between the two, the salmon came out great, but the turkey was jerky, according to Cindy.



Ana Nadimi hadn’t had a freshly baked desert rollette cake with cream inside (like a cream puff) for 20 years. When her sister was visiting they decided to make this treat, but instead of using baking powder, Ana used baking soda and the pastry went flat. She has since mastered her mistake and now makes the treat all the time.



While living in the Bay Area Pam Sutton made a four-layered Mocha Cake to take to a party. When she wasn’t watching, her dog took a bite out of a quarter of the cake. Quick thinking Pam baked a new layer and patched and refrosted the cake and no one was the wiser.

Deb Thomas was staying with a friend and family in Utah and it was their “turn” to make dinner for six people. They decided on lasagna. In an unfamiliar kitchen they reached into one of the multiple freezers and pulled out what they thought was frozen shredded mozzarella cheese. It turned out to be frozen hash browns. She says she’s never lived it down.



Nevada Retina Associates Donated \$1,000 to the Angel Tree Project



Nevada Retina Associates' Dr. Steve Friedlander and Dr. Elena Geraymovych again this year donated \$1,000 towards SITM's Hunter Lake Angel Tree Project. The generous donation is being used to buy larger items such as laptops and tablets, along with jackets, clothing, toys and books for several families. Thank you to Nevada Retina Associates for always stepping up to help SITM members bring some holiday joy to these children and families.



Join the Angel Tree Wrapping Party Dec.12

You won't want to miss the Monday night, December 12 wrapping party at 5:30 p.m at Judge Connie Steinheimer's home. All members are invited to attend and join in the fun and camaraderie of wrapping all of those gifts purchased for the Angel Tree Project. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Please email Teresa Mentzer (teresa@mentzerinsurance.com) to confirm your attendance.



Knitted Hats for Angel Tree Children

All 28 of the Hunter Lake Angel Tree children are receiving a generous (and warm) donation of knitted hats, knitted and donated by local yarn shop, Yarn Refuge, SITM member Sarah Carrasco and former Soroptimist Pam Sloan.



Yarn Refuge is located on Lakeridge Court (off Moana Lane) and displays hats each year to encourage their customers to purchase the yarn and pattern to knit the hats.



Each of the Angel Tree children will receive a warm hat for the winter.



Return of the Afghan Socials



A small, but ambitious, group gathered at the first Afghan Social in over two years. From left: Kay Dunham, Bev Perkins, Cindy Baines, Pam Robinson and Cindy Burk. Also joining in was photographer Diana DeMatei.



Cindy's first Afghan

The next Afghan Social will be announced after the New Year.

An Early Christmas for WACCS Clients



Delivery driver Kay Dunham

SITM members, families and friends have done it again, providing an early Christmas for the clients of the Women and Children’s Center of the Sierra. Diana DeMatei, Co-Coordinator of the Community Outreach Committee reported a collection of 2,650 diapers, 2,000 diaper wipes, along with 30 pairs of children’s underwear, nine pairs of socks, three crocheted caps, two pairs of children’s winter gloves.

The value of the donations was estimated at \$1,040, plus WACCS was the October recipient of Happy Dollars and received a check for \$500.

WACCS Executive Director Pam Russell visited SITM in October and left a “wish list” from the nonprofit and members generously responded with donations which were delivered by Diana and Kay Dunham.



Delivery driver Diana DeMatei



Diana DeMatei and Kay Dunham with WACCS Executive Director Pam Russell and a pile of diapers. Pam is holding the Happy Dollar check.

Don’t Miss the Holiday Social on December 22

Dress in your holiday best! Wear an ugly (or beautiful) Christmas sweater! Come as you are and add to the fun. The Hospitality Committee has some



special holiday surprises for members. Make sure you attend to join in the festivities. Let’s make our last meeting of 2022 a great one to remember.

A “Getting to Know You” Meeting Hosted by the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee hosted the November 17 meeting by randomly assigning seats to members, so everyone could enjoy the company of others with whom they do not usually sit. Members were also given cards with the name of another member for them to write a thankful note to that member. The notes were distributed and to be opened on Thanksgiving Day.

Members of the Membership Committee, from left: Dot Watts, Pam Robinson, Sarah Carrasco, Annette Friedlander, Valerie Hahn and Holly Nash.



December Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

The December Board and Business Meetings were full of motions and discussions as committees are working towards their yearly goals.

Increase in Funding for Youth Scholarships

The Education/Youth Committee proposed a motion requesting a one-time \$5,000 grant from the Service Fund Reserve Account to augment what was raised last year at the annual Thanks to Youth luncheon. The committee wishes to increase the youth scholarship amount from \$2,000 to \$5,000 since the cost of education has increased significantly. The committee plans to offer four \$5,000 scholarships, plus recognize up to 10 Unsung Heroes at \$200 each. The Board recommended and the membership approved the motion.

Increase in Funding for Education/Women

The Education/Women Committee proposed a motion to increase the budget amount for Live Your Dream Awards by \$4,500 from the Service Fund Reserve Account. With the \$3,000 originally budgeted, along with the \$2,500 grant from the Helen Close Foundation, the additional \$4,500 would allow the committee to award up to \$10,000 to several deserving women. The Board recommended and the membership approved the motion.

Increase in Budget for the Membership Committee

The Board recommended and the membership approved a motion from the Membership Committee to increase their budget by an additional \$250 to cover expenses during the last half of the club year to cover the costs of pins, certificates and anything else they need to induct new members.

January 1 Change in Lunch Price

The Board recommended and the membership approved a motion that beginning with the regular Thursday luncheon meetings in January, the price for the plated lunch will increase from \$28 to \$30. In the past, the club has signed a yearly contract for weekly lunch at the Atlantis. But, this past July 2022, the Atlantis would only agree to a six-month contract, with a new contract for the second six-months for our fiscal year. As a result of inflation, the Atlantis contract increased to \$30. Luncheon costs beginning in January will be \$30 for cash or checks, or \$31 for use of a credit/debit card.

Sponsoring the new Sparks Soroptimist Club

A motion was proposed by Sarah Carrasco and seconded by Valerie Hahn to reply affirmatively to a request to be the Host Sponsor of a new Soroptimist Club in Sparks, if asked. The Board did not recommend approval, but the

membership, after lengthy debate, approved the motion by a narrow margin.

The Sierra Nevada Region's Federation Membership Chair Trudy Mills has been working with a former Soroptimist to start-up the club in Sparks. It's reported that they already have 12 members willing to commit to forming the club. The last steps are for them to file paperwork with the Federation and schedule a Charter Party.

November Happy Dollars for WACCS

A total of \$421 in Happy Dollars were collected in November for DDX3X, supporting parents of children diagnosed with DDX3X Syndrome. The DDX3X Foundation supports research, education and treatment programs for the syndrome.

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.

Happy Dollars for the month of December are designated for the December 10th Human Rights Day President's Appeal (2021-2023). The appeal from Soroptimist International President Maureen Maguire is "Opening Doors to a Bright Future" providing projects in each of the five Soroptimist Federations. Projects are already underway in Cambodia and Uganda.

Celebrating December Birthdays.

Cindy Burk (December 9) and Holly Nash (December 26) were on hand at the December Business Meeting to celebrate their birthdays, with Hospitality Committee member Debbie Handke.



Barbara Atwell
December 12



Penney Leezy
December 25



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Contributing to this issue

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Sarah Carrasco

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

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



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Did you know . . .

SI Dublin Convention 2023 Registration Now Open

*Registration has opened and the hotels are filling up!
Poll your members to see who's going; maybe you
can share a room.*

*Don't miss this opportunity to see the "Emerald Isle"
and meet fellow Soroptimists!*

*For more details go to:
SI Convention in Dublin 2023 Registration*



Removing the Barriers to Education For Girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal

It began 22 years ago ...
Providing dormitory housing and tuition for girls



To Date over 2,000 girls have successfully graduated
Time for the construction of a Modern, New, Safe Dormitory!
with Electricity and Indoor Plumbing!

Sponsor A Room or Girls' Scholarships

\$2,500 completes a common area for the girls to eat and study

\$2,000 completes a girls bedroom with furnishings, windows and shelves

\$1,500 furnishes a shared bathroom with running water, toilets and showers

\$500 completes a garden rooftop - a safe place for the girls to gather

\$300 funds an annual scholarship for one girl's education, room & meals

All sponsors of \$500 or more receive a plaque designated in their name to hang in the new dormitory



**Join Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows Thursday, December 15 at noon
at the Atlantis Casino Hotel Spa for an update.**

Choice of regular or vegan Cobb Salad, \$28

RSVP to info@sitmnv.org no later than December 9th. More info at sitmnv.org

To donate contact Monica House: monicah86@yahoo.com or 775-830-0801

DREAM IT - BE IT
CAREER SUPPORT
[for girls]

Think about...

What do you
want to say
yes to?



**Soroptimist International of
Truckee Meadows is bringing a
dynamic and exciting program to
Hunter Lake Elementary School!**

DREAM IT - BE IT EXPLORING YOUR FUTURE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH

All girls grades 3-6 are invited to participate at no charge. Girls will have a wide variety of hands-on projects to introduce STEM concepts and encourage girls to consider careers in these exciting and rewarding fields.

**Session #1: January 31, 3:00 - 4:00pm
in the library with new sessions
every other Tuesday.**

PARENTAL CONSENT AND MEDIA RELEASE:

I _____ hereby consent to permit my child _____
to participate in the Dream It - Be It STEM program after school.

SIGNATURE/RELATIONSHIP

DATE

I hereby grant permission to Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows (SITM) to use my name, likeness and/or voice for all publicity purposes and in any media format, relating to promoting and building awareness of the Soroptimist organization and its projects. Media formats include, but are not limited to: newspapers, magazines, television, radio, film, social media or on the Internet. This agreement is not saleable or transferable. SITM shall retain all rights to said materials. I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs or electronic matter that may be used in conjunction with them now or in the future, whether that use is known to me or unknown, and I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising from or related to the use of the image. I am the parent or legal guardian of the above-mentioned minor and have the legal right and authority to execute the above release on behalf of the minor.