



SOROPTIMIST®  
Investing in Dreams

# SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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www.sitmnev.org

## In this issue ....

- 1 – President’s Message, Hula Dance Lessons
- 2 – District 5 Winter Meeting, Nominating Committee
- 3 – Member Feature Kim Goodnight, Red Cross Social
- 4 – 6 Live Your Dream
- 6 – STEM at Hunter Lake
- 7 – Nevada Women’s Fund 40th Anniversary
- 8 – Board & Business Recap, High Tea Announcement
- 9 -- Staff Box, Did You Know

## Calendar

- Feb. 16 – Ellen Jacobson, Reno Bike Project
- Feb. 18 – Joint District 5 & 6 Winter Meeting, Zoom
- Feb.23 – Hospitality Committee Hula Dance Lessons
- March 2 – Kyle Cory, CEO of Liberty Dogs
- March 7 – Board Meeting, Zoom
- March 9 – Business Meeting, Atlantis
- March 16 – OPEN
- March 23 -- OPEN

### SITM Meets...

#### Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$30 for lunch.

RSVP to [info@sitmnev.org](mailto:info@sitmnev.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](http://www.sitmnev.org)

## Encouraging Next Year’s Leadership

At this point in SITM’s fiscal year, we start turning our attention to next year—to prepare and to assure that we can improve and grow on all of our amazing work.

To that end, we just formed the Nomination Committee to identify those willing to step up to leadership positions for next year and to make sure that the process in electing those members is done fully and fairly. Last year’s committee, led by Diana DeMatei, accomplished their work perfectly and gave us a wonderful leadership group this year. My Board has been very hard working and much has been achieved, and I can only hope and help to make sure that next year’s group is the same.

In addition to the Board positions, members should think about whether they are interested in coordinating a committee for 2023-24—that can be done individually or together with another member. If you are interested in doing that, you should contact President-Elect Sarah Carrasco, because she is tasked with the responsibility of choosing coordinators for all committees during her tenure. Because the committees

are really where our service work is accomplished, it is a very rewarding job.



I encourage every member to get involved next year if that will work with your life circumstances, because the club and our community will greatly benefit from your service. And I want the new members to be assured that they can take on a leadership role even if they are new to the club, because there are a plethora of experienced members that are always happy to help. The club always needs new energy and enthusiasm to lead us into its future.

Finally, I want to thank the Nominating Committee of Millie Mitchell (Coordinator), Kay Dunham and Judge Connie Steinheimer for their willingness to take on the work of that entity that will be so important for next year’s success.

Laury Macaulay, President



### Time to Get Your Hula On, February 23, Noon

The Hospitality Committee is bringing us Corinne McGrane and Diane Williams to demonstrate and instruct all of us on how to do the Hula.

Wear your best Hawaiian outfit, if you have one. Grass Skirts are optional.

**Hu-La: (hoola) NOUN** A dance performed by Hawaiian women, characterized by six basic steps, undulating hips, and gestures symbolizing or imitating natural phenomena or historical or mythological subjects.





## Combined Districts 5 and 6 Winter Meeting

February 18, 2023 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – On Zoom



A special invitation to all District 5 and 6 Club officers and members and potential members looking to explore their leadership potential in Soroptimist, and recruit the next generation of Empowered Soroptimists from SNR Region Governor, board members, committee chairs & representatives, SNR Federation Chairs.

Special Speaker for the day will be Ginger Cole, Secretary/Treasurer of Soroptimist International of the Americas and a member of SI/Los Angeles. You might remember Ginger spoke at the Sierra Nevada Region Conference in Spring 2022.

There is a nominal cost of \$5.00 to cover minimal expenses and the Leadership Fellows Program Incentive drawing for the region.

Discount code: 2023Free\_SNR

[Registration Link](#)

[Invitation to Zoom Winter Meeting](#)

District 5 Director Holly Nash encourages clubs to “attend together” in one spot, but please sign up each member individually, as those that do register and pay will be entered into a couple of special drawings. Have fun with this – consider a potluck, each bring their own food, serve “Soroptisnacks” serve a special “Soroptidrink” etc.

### Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Meetings From the Community Outreach Committee

**March 2, 2023** – Kyle Cory-Yaeggi, CEO of Liberty Dogs, will speak about their top tier service dog facility for veterans in Reno. Located in Reno, Liberty Dogs will serve veterans who join them from across the United States for a three-week immersive training program, as well as local Nevada veterans who receive weekly training, all at no cost to them. Liberty Dogs broke ground on their new facility this fall and anticipate a 2026 completion.

**April 6** -- Courtney Vogt with Spread the Word will speak about their 501© 3 nonprofit which is placing children’s books into local schools. Plus, she will speak about their Family Literacy Program, dedicated to advancing early childhood literacy by placing books into the hands and homes of children within Nevada’s at-risk, low-income communities. Since 2001, Spread the Word Nevada has distributed more than six million gently used and new books to more than 672,885 low-income youth in Nevada.



District 5 Director  
Holly Nash

Also, the District Directors would like clubs to wear something that represents their biggest fundraiser – hats, t-shirts, etc

The agenda and zoom link will be sent out to Club Presidents as we get closer to the date. For more information contact Holly Nash, District 5 Director at [hnash805@aol.com](mailto:hnash805@aol.com).

## Time for Nominations for SITM’s 2023 – 2024 Club Year

Would you like to become part of the leadership team to guide SITM in the 2023-2024 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. Millie Mitchell was named committee coordinator by President Laury Macauley. The board selected Kay Dunham and the membership selected Judge Connie Steinheimer.

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 – Service Fund  
Delegate

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

For further information, please contact Nominating Committee Coordinator Millie Mitchell, or members Kay Dunham or Connie Steinheimer.

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.



## Kim Goodnight -- An Active Attorney, Mother and Volunteer

By Pam Robinson

Welcome Kim Goodnight, a new member who joined SITM in January 2023 and was sponsored by Judge Connie Steinheimer.

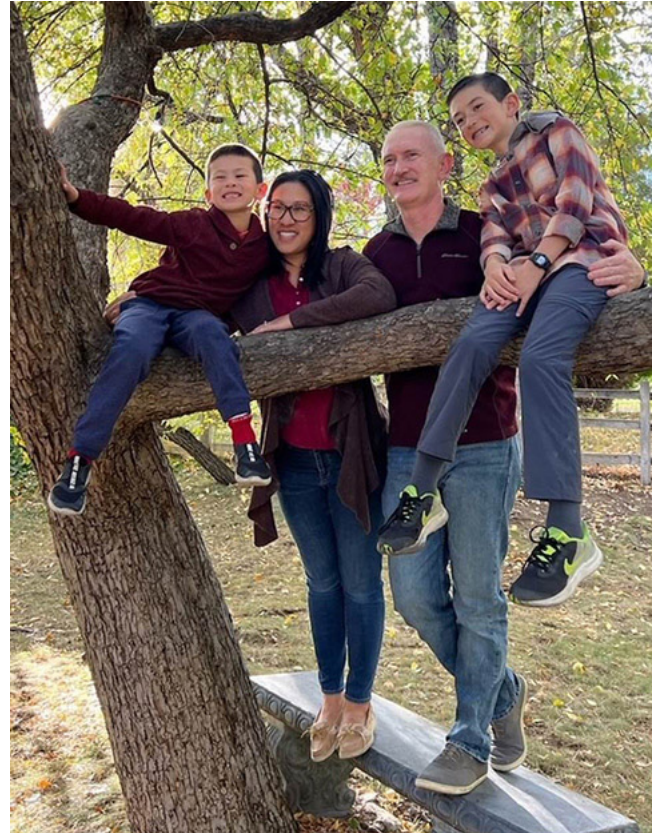
Kim was born and raised in Las Vegas. Her parents were originally from San Francisco. Both teachers, there was a hiring freeze in California when they were finished with school and ready to work, so they applied for jobs elsewhere. When they were offered positions in Clark County, Nevada, they planned to stay only for a few years, but they are still there!

After high school, Kim attended UNLV for her first year and transferred to Arizona State where she graduated with a degree in political science. She received a full-ride scholarship to UNLV Law School and returned home to complete her law degree. She came to Reno to clerk for Judge Procter Hug, Jr. and met her husband, Joe, who is a public defender. After working for a year in Reno, Kim moved to Atlanta for two years to work for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals. At that time, Joe was working in Chicago, so they had a long-distance relationship. They became engaged and moved back to Reno where they have made their home.

Kim and Joe have two lively sons, Bridger who is 10 and Graden who is seven. Bridger is involved in numerous team sports including soccer, basketball, baseball and skiing. Graden prefers karate and gymnastics. Joe is a hunter, and the family often camps in their teardrop trailer. Having been raised in the desert, Kim had never skied, so when Joe took her skiing for the first time, it wasn't the best experience. Several years later she took lessons and now enjoys skiing with her family at Mt. Rose.

Kim is a Supervisory Staff Attorney for the US District Court for the District of Nevada. In addition to supervising 10 staff attorneys, she helps draft orders on prisoners' civil rights cases for all the judges in the Federal District. Kim is Past President of Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association. She enjoys workshops at Atelier in Reno in many things including knitting, sewing, and cooking and loves to read. She is part of two book clubs as well.

Kim, Joe, and the boys helped an Afghan family they met through the Northern Nevada International Center. They helped them with their homework and learning English and helped establish a pop-up clothing shop to sell the beautiful clothes made by the Afghan women. Kim is also involved in the Mt. Rose K-8 PTA where her boys go to school. She has already signed up for several committees and looks forward to meeting and knowing everyone in SITM.



*Kim with husband Joe with sons Bridger and Graden.*



## American Red Cross

**Save the Date March 8, 2023**  
**Red Cross Earthquake Preparedness Social**

Members and guests are invited to join Annette Friedlander and the Red Cross on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for a social and a program on Earthquake Preparedness.

According to Annette, the program and instructor aren't your typical program. Instead, they raise a lot of questions about what YOU will do before, during and after the various stages of an earthquake

Please RSVP your attendance soon to Annette at [renoanaret@gmail.com](mailto:renoanaret@gmail.com). There are space limits.

# SITM Celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Live Your Dream Awards

By Pam Robinson, Co-Coordinator, Education/Women Committee



This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SIA Live Your Dream awards, SITM recognized six amazing women as Live Your Dream Award recipients and one special dream award recipient at our annual luncheon on February 2.

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 \$49,646 to 40 women since 1998 as part of this program. This year, two outside judges, Tammy Higgins and Marlene

restricted Education/Women funds.

Caitlin Lehr received our first place Live Your Dream Award and her application was forwarded to Sierra Nevada Region for additional consideration.



*Yarley Baragas receives her LYD Award from Co-Coordinators Pam Robinson (left) and Deb Thomas (right).*

Caitlin is a single mother of a nine-year-old and until recently was the legal guardian of her nephew. Her journey has been



*LYD recipient Kristen Schroeder was unable to attend the celebration.*

dream is to get a bachelor's degree in graphic design and eventually establish her own graphic design business. She is attending Full Sail University's online program in graphic design so that she has the flexibility to care for her son and support her father in caring for her mother.



*Caitlin Lehr receives her LYD Award from Co-Coordinators Pam Robinson (left) and Deb Thomas (right).*

challenging. After losing her brother (who was her hero) when she was a junior in high school, she came to realize that you never know when your last day will be. She moved to San Diego, endured an abusive

Collings, assisted the Education/Women Committee members in choosing our recipients. We were fortunate to receive a generous grant from the Helen Close Foundation and with an approved budget increase, we awarded \$10,000. The special Dream Award was funded from the accumulated CD interest from the

relationship for five years before she was able to escape back to Reno with her son. She has had many jobs that helped her pay the bills, but her

Our second recipient was Yarely Barajas. Yarely is a single mother of three children ages 10, 7 and 6. She escaped an abusive relationship four years ago and feels that she is now in a position of healing where she can pursue her dream of becoming

an elementary school teacher. She is attending Western Governors University. Her goal is to set a good example for her children. She is currently working 40+ hours a week as the assistant director at



*LYD Awardee Rebeca Dennis expresses gratitude for the award, with Pam Robinson standing nearby.*

[Continued on page 5](#)

Continued from page 4

Crosswalk preschool. She loves her job and wants to continue in this field.

Our third recipient was Rebecca Dennis. Rebecca is a single mother of a two-year-old and a three-year-old. Being a single mother and working has been a challenge, but she knows that her toddlers are seeing a strong hard-working woman and hopes this inspires them. She is on an up-hill battle getting her Associates Degree in Science but wants to enter the Radiation Technology program at Truckee Meadows Community College in the fall. This has been her dream for years. She is the first person in her family to go to college and wants to change that for her children so they will know they are capable of achieving their dreams as well.



*LaTara Misher received her LYD Award.*

Fourth was Kristin Schroeder. Kristin is a single mother of two 12-year-olds. She enrolled in the paralegal program at TMCC and took a job at a local non-profit in hopes of using her paralegal certificate there. While working, she has become enthusiastic about social work and is planning on enrolling in the social work program at UNR. Her lifelong dream is to be in an occupation that serves the underserved and enables



*Joakima Hillyard received a Special LYD award from Deb. Thomas*

her to provide for her children. Currently working 50 hours a week makes it challenging to attend school, so she is grateful for this opportunity.

Our final Live Your Dream recipient was LaTara Misher. LaTara is a single mother of three children, ages 12, 10 and 6. While working 40 hours a week, attending college is a challenge. She has a passion for technology and is pursuing an Associate's Degree at TMCC in Computer Science and Information Technology with a focus on Cybersecurity. She is the sole provider for her children and sees a better life ahead for her and her children when she completes her degree. Live Your Dream helps make that possible.



*Past LYD and Dreams Moving Forward recipient Yulisa Mendez spoke at the February 2 awards celebration.*

Joakima Hillyard received our special Dream Award. Joakima is working towards an AAS in Diesel Technology at TMCC. She looks forward to empowering women and people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and providing all people with resources to enable them to become the best technicians and people they can be. After a chaotic home life and dropping out of high school, she began to travel all over the country. She literally fought for her life and met the best and worst of people. Later in her travels she bought a truck and found that wrenching gave her pride in solving a puzzle. She was able to find work in different states and is now a full-time student. She is the primary caregiver for her father who has had a number of health problems. Joakima will graduate in Spring 2023 with a 4.0 GPA.

Our speaker this year was Yulisa Mendez. Yulisa received the Soroptimist Live Your Dream award in 2018 from SI/Reno and is a 2020 SITM Dreams Moving Forward recipient. She lives in Reno and is the parent to a beautiful nine-year-old daughter. She graduated valedictorian from Sierra High Continuation in 2016 and obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology from Sierra Nevada University in 2019. Currently, Yulisa is completing her master's in social work at UNR and working at Tahoe Forest Hospital as a Social Service Coordinator, providing necessary support services to the elder population. Yulisa shared her story with our group and was tremendously inspirational.

Every year SIA disburses a total of \$2.7 million dollars in awards to 1,891 women across 21 countries. The Live Your Dream Program has been recognized for its effectiveness and long-term impact, and our club is honored to have recognized these six women.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5



*Enjoying the celebratory occasion was SITM's 2023 Live Your Dream Recipients. From left: Education/Women Co-Coordinator Pam Robinson, Speaker Yulisa Mendez, Joakima Hillard, Caitlin Lehr, Yarely Barajas, LaTara Misher, Rebecca Dennis and Co-Coordinator Deb Thomas. Missed in the photo is Kristen Schroeder*

## STEM Program for Girls Returns to Hunter Lake Elementary

Nine excited girls participated in the January 31 return of STEM Education for Girls at Hunter Lake Elementary School. The project was begun four years ago, but has been on hold while Washoe County Schools were closed to visitors for an extended period during the Pandemic.

The girls prepared computer code to control the movements, colors, sounds of our Sphero mini bots.

"They were very enthusiastic and caught on quickly to the method of using blocks to chain together the many commands selected," according to Kay Dunham, Co-Coordinator. "We expect more participants next time as the girls talk with their friends about how much fun it is! Plus, the school's tutoring program conflicts with our sessions for 3 more weeks."

Besides Kay, representing SITM at the session were Patty Mamola, Co-Coordinator, Patty Elam, and a client of Kay's who is a clinical director for a behavior facility, Winta Haile. Thank you for your participation to re-start what was a very popular after-school program before the Pandemic.

Members are encouraged to volunteer at these future one-hour sessions. The next session will be February 14, 2023 3-4 P.M. at Hunter Lake Elementary School. Sessions will continue every-other-Thursday throughout the school year.



## Nevada Women's Fund's 40 Years of Women's Scholarships

The Nevada Women's Fund is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year with a legacy of empowering women through educational scholarships. Ila Achtabowski, NWF President and CEO, spoke at our January 26 meeting, accompanied by Norma Soltz, NWF Board Member and Scholarship Selection Committee.

NWF continues to host the largest corporate recognition fundraiser in the region with their annual Women of Achievement luncheon. Their other popular fundraiser is "Power of the Purse", featuring holiday shopping, raffles, food and beverages.

Over the past 40 years they have awarded \$9 million in scholarships, 100% of which is distributed to the scholarship recipient.

**The Women of Achievement luncheon will be on Thursday, May 25 this year at the Grand Sierra Resort. It is in conflict (as it is many years) with SITM's Thanks to Youth program and luncheon on May 25. Standby for details to see if there is movement (as their often is) with the May 25 TTY date.**

Ila was kind enough to mention that in 1996, SITM was honored as a member of the NWF Hall of Fame, one of only three organizations honored over the years. She brought along a photo of some of SITM's Past Presidents used in their printed program that year. Amidst calls to reprint it in the newsletter, here it is.

### 1996 NWF Hall of Fame

- 1 - Janice Hoke, 1988-89
- 2 - Katy Simon Holland, 1990-91
- 3 - Jo Ann Roberts, 1982-83
- 4 - Faye I. Andersen, 1986-87
- 5 - Chris Apollo (nee) Mason, 1987-88
- 6 - Norma Webster, 1985-86
- 7 - Jeanne Baxter, 1983-84
- 8 - Carole Mathisen, 1991-92
- 9 - Reverend Laurie Chappelle, 1984-85



From left: Norma Soltz, NWF Board Member, Ila Achtabowski, NWF President and CEO, and Cindy Burk, who invited and introduced Ila.



## February Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

Vice President /Program Deb Thomas undertook the challenge of reporting on all of the club's committees' six-month progress reports for the first half of the 2022-2023 Club Year. Whew! Congratulations to all of the hard-working members in their respective committees. It's not a "light read", but it's an important read if you want to know of all of the plans, progress, successes SITM members have accomplished so far this year. President Laury Macauley 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 for the 2023-2024 Club Year. Millie Mitchell was named Committee Coordinator by President Laury. The board selected Kay Dunham and the membership selected Connie Steinheimer. Nomination forms will soon be available, if you would like to nominate someone for office, including yourself. See page 2 for more details.

### Special Committee Being Formed to Research Weekly Meetings

President Laury has empaneled an Special (Ad Hoc) Committee to research the topic of meeting meals, locations, frequency and whatever else comes up regarding meetings. She appointed President-Elect Sarah Carrasco as coordinator and is inviting interested members to join the committee. Please email President Laury and President-Elect Sarah your interest in working with this committee. A deadline of the May Board/ Business Meetings has been set for their report.

### February Happy Dollars and a Motion to Increase Funding

A total of \$655 in January Happy Dollars was collected for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Considering the rise in inflation impacting food prices, Margie Hermanson submitted a motion to launch a members' "tuna drive" to support FBNN. It was later amended to increase the amount of Happy Dollars to an even \$1,000 donation to the FBNN in lieu of a tuna drive. The motion was approved.

Happy Dollars for February are designated for Quest Counseling, which provides 24/7/365 crisis management for anyone experiencing mental health crisis and/or substance abuse.

Celebrating her February 23 birthday at the Business Meeting was Millie Mitchell, pictured here with Hospitality Committee member Patte Robnett.



The following members are also celebrating February birthdays



Gayle Kmetovic  
February 22



Marilyn Pearson  
February 8

### High Tea Date Set for September 30

Fundraising Co-Coordinator Linda Walker announced that a date for the third annual High Tea has been negotiated with the Atlantis for September 30, 2023.

When making committee assignment selections in May, members please consider signing up to work with the Fundraising Committee on planning, scheming, dreaming up how to put the "fun" in fundraising for our fabulous High Tea.

Members will be needed to sell tickets to the luncheon, solicit sponsorships, collect silent auction items, wine for the wine wagon raffle, plus any other ideas to raise money for SITM's scholarships and many other programs. Plus, workers are needed the day of the event.

## SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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### Contributing to this issue

Laury Macauley	Kay Dunham
Liza Chapen	Dot Watts
Jo Ann Roberts	Jeanne Naccarato
Pam Robinson	Holly Nash
	Niki Ewing

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

### SITM Board 2021-22

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



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)



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## Did you know . . .

### Soroptimist International Convention – Dublin, Ireland 2023

**A convention like no other!** After two years of isolation, of computer screens and separation, feel the joy of physically coming together with your international Soroptimist community at the 2023 Soroptimist International Convention in Dublin, Ireland July 27 – 29, 2023. With a dedicated website – visit [www.sidublin2023.com](http://www.sidublin2023.com) for news and updates.

**A venue like no other!** The Convention Centre Dublin with its lofty atrium is full of air and light, overlooking the river Liffey right in the heart of Dublin city centre. All necessary health and safety precautions will of course be taken but Dublin, and all of Ireland, is fully open, restriction and quarantine free, ready to welcome you.

**A programme like no other!** A panel of global speakers are waiting to inform and inspire you. Our theme is “Challenge the Future” and we hope to include speakers from each federation exploring the topics and challenges affecting the lives of women and girls today. A new initiative for this year’s convention will be our poster sessions, Soroptimist groups from around the world will be invited to submit posters showcasing their ongoing initiatives,

