



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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March 2023

www.sitmnhv.org

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- March 16 -- Eaton Dunkelberger, CEO of Community Foundation of Western Nevada
- March 23 -- Jenny Williamson, Courage Worldwide
- March 30 -- Thanks to Youth Kickoff
- April 6 -- Community Outreach Speaker
- April 11 – Board Meeting, Zoom at noon
- April 13 – Business Meeting
- April 20 – Dr. Frieda Hulka on Breast Cancer

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$30 for lunch.
RSVP to info@sitmnhv.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.sitmnhv.org

Pausing to Recognize SITM’s Work for Women and Girls

On Wednesday, March 8th, we celebrated International Women’s Day during International Women’s Month—a time to celebrate the successes and achievements of women around the world. So, it is an appropriate time for us to pause and consider the work of SITM as we come together in our mission to invest in women and girls.

Our dedication to this mission was evidenced in this week’s report by the Nominating Committee regarding all of the many members willing to run for office for leadership positions for our 2023-24 Club Year. No matter who wins or loses, all of these members are winners for their willingness to step forward and offer their time and commitment to the club’s work.

While this election moves forward, our committees continue to work tirelessly on their projects for women and girls. The Education/Youth and Education/Women Committees are reviewing applications for scholarships and awards, while the Thanks to Youth Committee prepares for the large luncheon that will be the highlight of the Spring. The Fundraising Committee is already starting to prepare for the popular

We’re MAD as a HATTER High Tea in September. And the crocheting of blankets for needy families and the beading of bracelets for cancer

survivors organized by the Community Outreach Committee continues.

On the international front, the International Goodwill and Understanding/Nepal Committee reported that, as result of all of their diligence, ground has been broken on the new, updated dormitory construction across the world in Thulipokhari, Nepal, and is expected to be completed for the female students before monsoon season begins.

In the background of all this, the other SITM Committees keep our luncheon and processes moving forward.

Be proud about all of the amazing work that SITM is achieving for women and children in our community and in Nepal. I am.

President Laury Macauley



CFWN Foundation Speaker March 16

Eaton Dunkelberger, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Western Nevada will be our guest speaker at SITM’s luncheon on March 16. Learn how the foundation plays an important role in our community, why donors work with them and about charitable giving. It should be a very informative program for our members and guests to attend.

Candidates for 2023-2024 Club Year Officers

Congratulations and thanks to those SITM members willing to stand for election to the SITM Board for the 2023-2024 Club Year. SITM appreciates your commitment to the club. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their work in securing these nominations: Millie Mitchell, Coordinator, Kay Dunham and Connie Steinheimer.

President-Elect – Kay Dunham, Monica House
 Vice President – Programs – Amanda Bean, Pam Robinson, Dot Watts
 Vice President – Membership – Nicole DuPont, Jeanne Naccarato
 Secretary – Debbie Handke
 Treasurer – General Fund – Cindy Burk
 Delegate – Amanda Brown, Patty Elam, Doris Phelps

*** Completing a term of office**

*President – Sarah Carrasco
 *Treasurer/General Fund – Linda Walker
 *Director – Laury Macauley

Elections will take place at the April 13 Business Meeting. Members knowing they will not be attending can request an absentee ballot from Nominating Coordinator Millie Mitchell, along with a return envelope, and security envelope to enclose your marked confidential ballot for return to Millie. Ballots need to be returned postmarked by April 1.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the April 13 Business Meeting. However, if you would like to nominate someone "from the floor", you must secure permission from the nominee and provide a short biography from the nominee to members.

Afghan Social Monday, March 20

Learn to crochet, update your skills, or bring your yarn and crochet hook and join the camaraderie of like-minded crocheters at an Afghan Social. Meet at Kay Dunham's office (190 W. Huffaker Lane, Suite 405 in Reno) on Monday, March 20, from 5 p.m. to ???.

For more information, contact Diana DeMatei at ddillion702@aol.com or 775-690-9587.



Pam Robinson, Cindy Burk, and Kay Dunham

Thanks to Youth

Honoring Young Heroes in Our Community

Luncheon Set for May 23

By Pam Sutton, TTY Co-Coordinator

SITM's 34th annual Thanks to Youth luncheon is just around the corner! This year we will be honoring four graduating seniors and five Unsung Heroes on Tuesday, May 23 at the Atlantis. Please note that it's on Tuesday, not our usual Thursday. Our keynote speaker is Andrea Esparza, reporter for KRNV Channel 4 here in Reno.



Andrea Esparza
KRNV-TV

What's new for 2023? We've increased the sponsorship levels and the benefits for each level. There will be a much greater focus on sponsor benefits, through promotion on social media and our website, as well as in the program and at the event. President Laury will be sending a sponsorship request letter to all members for you to share with colleagues or businesses you know. The letter is also available on the home page of our website. This year we're also looking into expanding our reach by allowing people to attend by Zoom webinar – for a fee of course since this is a fundraiser!

Thanks to Youth founder, former SITM member and president Katie Simon Holland will headline our Kickoff Meeting on Thursday, March 30. We will also hear from our own Amanda Bean, whose son was an Unsung Hero recipient in 2022. It should be a great meeting!

34th Annual
Thanks to Youth Luncheon
Honoring Young Heroes in Our Community
 Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
 \$40 **May 23, 2023 • Noon - 2pm**
 Seating begins at 11:30am

TIME TO BLOSSOM

Presented by
Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

A portion of the donation may be tax deductible.
 Ticket printing generously donated by Digiprint.

Atlantis
3800 South Virginia
 Reno, NV

Additionally, funding for next year comes from sponsorships and ticket sales. The Atlantis is generously sponsoring about 200 lunches, but the room can accommodate at least 100 more seats so there's plenty of room. In keeping with inflation ticket prices have increased to \$40 and table prices to \$500. However – SITM members receive a \$100 discount so tables for eight are just \$400 for members. Thanks to Youth is one of SITM's signature programs and we hope you will all help us make this the best Thanks to Youth ever!

Welcome New Member**Marilee Cate, the Law and a Legal Connection to Soroptimist**

By Pam Robinson

Born and raised in Reno, Marilee attended UNR where she majored in criminal justice, with a prelaw emphasis, and a minor in business administration. When Marilee was young, she thought about being either an attorney or a marine biologist but her internship at the Washoe County District Attorney's Office in high school sealed her interest in law. While Marilee was at UNR, she was very involved in her sorority and its foundation projects--service for sight and guide dogs for the blind. After graduating from UNR, she went to McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento where she joined the Women's Caucus and co-chaired their fundraising gala.

Marilee held several jobs while she was in law school, but most enjoyed working for a Federal judge. Her husband, Adam, worked for the same judge before her, but they did not meet until Marilee's third year of school at an event for his former judicial externs. When Marilee and Adam met, she was already planning to return to Reno after graduation to work for Judge Connie Steinheimer as a law clerk. Adam had already accepted a law clerk position in Sacramento, so they dated long distance for a year before Adam decided to move to Reno.

Marilee worked as law clerk for Judge Steinheimer for two years and then went into private practice for a few years, where she focused on commercial and civil litigation. It was a few of her civil rights cases that reminded her that she liked criminal and constitutional law, so she went to work as a Deputy District Attorney for Washoe County District Attorney's Office in 2016. Marilee initially did trial work. Now she is on the appellate team, where she focuses on conviction integrity and post-conviction litigation. Her husband Adam also works as a Deputy District Attorney and prosecutes murder cases.

Marilee and Adam have a four-year-old daughter, Kaylee. They are fortunate to have a lot of family support in Reno and are particularly thankful for Marilee's mom, who retired from a local jewelry business to help care for Kaylee after she was born. Their family really enjoys the outdoors and traveling when they can, even if it is



Marilee, Adam and Kaylee

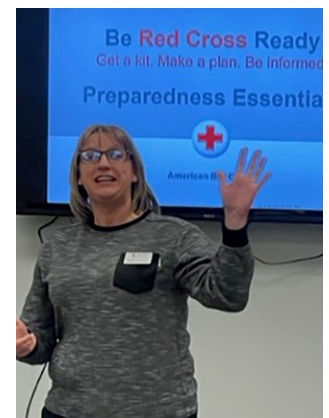
for short weekend getaways in Northern Nevada and Northern California. They are Giants baseball fans as well as Wolf Pack fans. Adam is a major bike rider and does a few 100 mile races every year. His newest activity is being the coach of Kaylee's soccer team. Marilee prefers her Peloton cycle! Marilee also enjoys cooking and reading fiction books.

Marilee's desire for community involvement stems from her family's example. Her mother volunteered for various community fundraisers when she was a child and always brought Marilee along to help. Her father was a county commissioner for a time and remains involved in a number of organizations in the area. Marilee is a past president of Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association, the 2022-2023 Chair of the Appellate Section of the State Bar of Nevada, and a disciplinary hearing chair for the State Bar of Nevada. For the last several years she has served on the Board of Directors for Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada, a nonprofit focused on providing legal services to low-income domestic violence victims and seniors in rural Nevada. Marilee also volunteers

for Girls on the Run's celebration 5K event every year, where she has been a running buddy several times and has helped with the pre-race events. Marilee has been impressed by SITM's work for women and children in this community and is excited to work with fellow Soroptimists on our impactful community projects.

Are YOU Prepared for an Earthquake

Nevada is the third most seismic state in the U.S. It's imperative that Nevadans be prepared for an earthquake. That's just the point that Mary Powell, executive director of the American Red Cross of Northern Nevada, was imparting to about a dozen SITM members at an evening presentation on, March 8.



Welcome New member

Growing Up with Soroptimist in the Family

By Pam Robinson

Jocelyn is no stranger to SITM, since her mom, Judge Connie Steinheimer, has been a member since Jocelyn was very small. She got to know many of us during the twice-yearly garage sales where we invaded their home!

Born and raised in Reno, Jocelyn traveled east for college and graduated from Duke University where she majored in Earth and Ocean Sciences with a plan to be a marine biologist. She worked for four years as a Marine Science Instructor for a non-profit on Catalina Island, CA. Students from surrounding schools would come to Catalina for 3-to-5 days where they would receive hands-on education and experiences. After some environmental issues arose, Jocelyn felt she could make a greater impact if she went to law school and specialized in environmental law.

While attending University of Oregon School of Law, she had the opportunity to work one summer in the Benton County, Washington prosecutor's office. She then decided to become a prosecutor. After graduating, she returned to Reno where she was a law clerk for a federal judge for approximately four years. She joined the Washoe County District Attorney's office as a Deputy District Attorney in January 2022 and prosecutes general felony cases. Jocelyn works very long hours and is usually in court 3-to-4 days a week.

In her precious spare time, she enjoys outdoor activities with her 5-year-old golden doodle, Leia. Leia loves the snow and Jocelyn takes her snowshoeing, backpacking, and hiking. In the summer, they can be found together

on a paddleboard. Jocelyn is excited for new adventures as an aunt. Her sister, Caitlin, and brother-in-law, Andrew, are expecting a little boy in about six weeks, and Jocelyn and Judge Connie just got back from a baby shower in San Diego.

Jocelyn is a past president of the Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association and is currently helping plan a fundraiser to present the organization's Outstanding Woman Lawyer award. This award is given about every five years. The majority of the proceeds raised at the event will go toward scholarships for needs-based UNR students planning to apply to law school after graduation. Funds are used by the students to defray costs of application, testing, and education.

Jocelyn has already jumped right into several SITM committees and will be a great member!



Jocelyn and Leia at Tahoe.

STEAM Education for Girls Continues at Hunter Lake

STEAM lessons for third through fifth-grade girls at Hunter Lake Elementary School continue every other Tuesday after school.

According to Coordinator Kay Dunham, "Our STEM teams are writing programs for the Spheros, testing them and then adjusting any coding commands that didn't work. That's followed by re-programming, re-testing, re-programming and recording the successful codes entered on their iPads."

"It's so nice to see the girls having such fun and have developed their own teams, with members from each grade," she said.

Volunteers are needed and welcome to join in to assist, or just be encouraging to the girls. Meetings are every-

other Tuesday in the school library from 3-4 p.m. The next two meetings are Tuesday, March 14 and Tuesday, March 28. Contact Kay Dunham for more information, or to assist the students.



Hunter Lake Elementary girls show off their programming work on their iPads.

Welcome New member**From Tripoli to Reno to School to Owning Her Own Business****By Pam Robinson**

Although Patty Elam has lived in Reno since she was 15, she was born in Tripoli, Libya, Africa. Her father was stationed in the Air Force on the island of Crete, but the military hospital was in Tripoli. Patty's father retired when she was three, and they moved to upstate New York, in the little town, Nunda where her father's family was from and he eventually found a position with the Disabled American Veterans in Buffalo. He was later transferred to Albany for six months before moving the family to Reno in 1979 when her father became the national service officer for the State of Nevada's DAV. Patty graduated from Reno High School in 1982 where she met her husband, Todd, during their sophomore year. They began dating after they graduated and married five years later. They've been married for 36 years, and Patty tells us that her husband is her high school sweetheart, soulmate and best friend!

They bought their dream home in 1993 in old southwest Reno. Patty and Todd have two sons, Blake, 34 who is a lead scientist for public health and safety at UNR, and Michael, 29 who has his own commercial janitorial company. Both boys worked for Patty's business, and she and Todd helped Michael buy his business.

Todd, her husband, has been a business broker for 33 years, originally working with his father. Todd was vice president and office manager of Corporate Investments International of Nevada until his father retired. Since then,
Todd



Pictured from left are, son Michael, Patty, granddaughter Maebble and son Blake.

has been a business broker with M&A business advisors as well as being a co-owner of Shannon's Personalized Home Cleaning with Patty since 2004.

Patty's journey to being a business owner started with many small steps. She attended college right after high school, but then decided to put that on hold to raise her family and support her husband while he got his career going. She was a cocktail server in the casino industry for many years, which worked well since she worked nights and Todd worked days. They were able to be with their boys with that schedule. Patty returned to UNR in 2000 and received her bachelor's degree in journalism, public relations with a minor in marketing in 2003. She looked for a job in the public relations field, but the salaries available were not what she hoped for, so she worked at the Silver Legacy in management for a short time and in 2004, she and her husband bought Shannon's Personalized Home Cleaning.



Patty and husband Todd

In 2013, things changed when their son, Blake, had a daughter. Patty and Todd became grandparents and instantly their lives became filled with this wonderful blessing! Blake was in grad school in California at the time, so Patty and Todd became very involved in their granddaughter's life. She is now nine and goes to school at Hunter Lake Elementary, where coincidentally Patty's boys went to school. When her granddaughter was younger, Patty cared for her four days a week, while managing her business. After Blake graduated, he returned to Reno and now has his daughter with him. Patty is still very involved with her as well as her school.

Patty joined SITM because she has a strong commitment to helping women and children as well as veterans. Since she has been involved at Hunter Lake school for many years, as a volunteer, she is very excited about our STEM program there. Patty has also been involved in many business networking groups, to help promote her business throughout the years.

Now that things have settled down in her life, she feels this is the right time to be even more involved in our community and joining SITM was just the right fit. She's hoping to utilize all her personal and professional experiences to help in her journey with SITM and her next life adventures!



District 5 & 6 Winter Summit Delegate's Report

By Bev Perkins, SITM Delegate

On Saturday, February 18, members of Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows gathered at Jeanne Naccarato's house (festively decorated, as always) Saturday morning for our district's winter meeting, which this year was a joint meeting with District 6. As always, the meeting was open to all members, but this meeting was especially inclusive, featuring a special panel of new members as part of the program. Attending at Jeanne's were Pam Robinson, Laury Macauley, Annette Friedlander, Nicole Dupont, Dot Watts, Bev Perkins, Patty Elam and of course, Jeanne.

Leadership Panel Speakers



Elaine Cassell

The opening protocol was performed by (our own) District 5 Director Holly Nash and District 6 Director Elaine Cassell. Following was a

Leadership Panel composed of Sierra Nevada Region Governor-Elect Stacey Jensen; 2020-2021 Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) Secretary-Treasurer Jackie DeMartini; and 2022-2023 SIA Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Gloria "Ginger" Cole about what prompted them to go for a leadership role in Soroptimist. Enticements to leadership included (for them) travel possibilities; meeting people and learning about them; greater opportunities to serve as a Soroptimist; and encouraging efforts from fellow Soroptimists, including those holding higher offices within the organization.



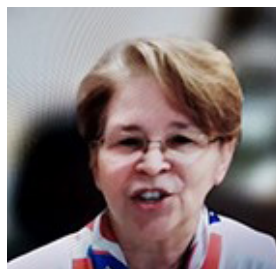
Ginger Cole

is not above or below any of us to do the work. She reminded us that our fellow Soroptimists will not let us fail. Jackie told us that we can believe them when they say "you can do this." In her club it's not "who wants to do this" but "whose turn is it." Stacey believes that we should do something every day that scares us (which is a scary thought by itself). She lives by this advice and believes that nobody wants us to fail and everyone gives good advice. All panel members said we could call on them or anyone else. All panel members agreed that other Soroptimists are always available to help in some way.

Focusing on Engagement

Governor-Elect Stacey said region leadership will be focusing on engagement of members; Jackie's future is helping wherever she can; and Ginger will be going back into helping at club level when her term ends.

As parting thoughts from these leaders, Jackie reminded us that we're in this organization together, so we should feel free to ask/answer questions. Ginger noted that we are "voluntold"



Jackie DeMartini

As advice to others, Ginger said, "if not you, who?" She feels that the work of Soroptimists is done by each of us, the members; and that it

to serve, and we should remember that we are wanted to serve. Stacey reminded us to stay positive and open to communication. Ginger also gave us a reminder of what Soroptimist is to her, using the initials DEIB (diversity, equity, inclusive, and belonging).

District 6 Director Elaine Cassell reminded us that leaders should delegate tasks and not micromanage, which makes our tasks that much easier to do.

Recruiting the Next Generation of Empowered Women

After a short break we heard from a membership panel, which included Devon Herrera, recent member of SI/Metropolitan Las Vegas; Amanda



Stacey Jensen

Brown and Amanda Bean, both recent members of SITM. The Amandas reported on their first "happy accident" experiences with our club: Amanda Bean's son won a Thanks to Youth award and Amanda Brown, who was invited by Amanda and Valerie, attended a meeting of our club where our speaker cancelled, so everyone there just shared why we liked being a member of our club. I can't imagine anyone not wanting to join a club with so many positive attributes. Shortly after their induction, they attended the Soroptimist Development Retreat, and were very impressed with what our organization does. They felt that SDR is critical to all members' knowing about our organization, and the only "down" was that one person could not attend every workshop.

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On a personal note, I would like to note that we were very well-represented on this membership panel. They really made our club look good.

After the panel presentation, we heard from various attendees on membership. We were encouraged to not only get sponsorships, but to give them as well to help expand awareness of our clubs. Amanda Bean noted that the strong sense of pride in our club was obvious to her, and she encouraged everyone else to share our pride in our clubs with everyone we know (noting that she sends invitations with every post).



Members assembled at Jeanne's house (wearing their High Tea hats) for the District Meeting on Zoom were, from left: Pam Robinson, President Laury Macauley, Patty Elam, Nicole DuPont, Annette Friedlander, Bev Perkins, Dot Watts and Jeanne Naccarato.

Advice and Activities From Clubs



Lisa Fitzgerald

Once again, SITM was given as a good example in the area of membership, with our annual Year in Review, both on paper (courtesy of Faye) and on video (courtesy

of Bev and Dot and the Scrapbook Committee).

We were reminded to wear our Soroptimist pins and badges to other events because people ask about them, which gives us the opportunity to tell them about our club and invite them to attend a meeting. Clubs were encouraged to involve the media in our events, and members were encouraged to keep inviting people to meetings.

Club Presidents were invited to share their various fundraising events with the group. President Laury reported on our "We're MAD as a HATTER High TEA". SI/Washoe County reported on their holiday See's Candy sale. SI/Carson City reported on their LUNA Fest film viewing. SI/Pahrump

Valley, described various activities. SI/Metropolitan Las Vegas reported on their Teddy Bear Brunch.

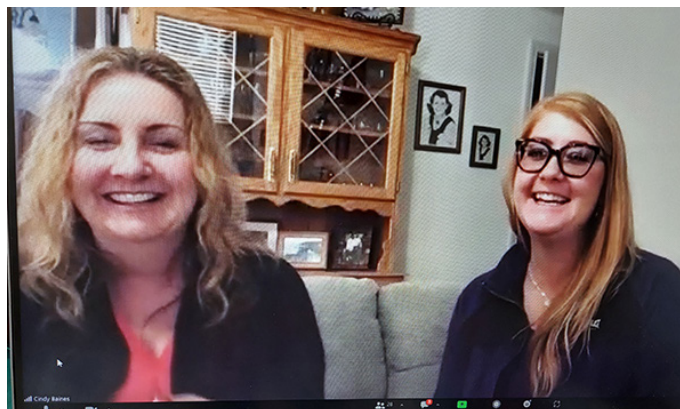
Governor Lisa Fitzgerald congratulated Directors Elaine and Holly on an inventive winter meeting spin on what was once a meeting for



Holly Nash

Presidents only, adding content for all club members to enjoy.

Please feel free to address any questions about this meeting to our attendees from SI Truckee Meadows – there were 22 of us: Kay Dunham, President Laury, President-Elect Sarah, District Director Holly, Faye I. Andersen, Jo Ann Roberts, Valerie Hahn, Jeanne Naccarato, Pam Robinson, Annette Friedlander, Dot Watts, Nicole DuPont, Patty Elam, Diana DeMatei, Cindy Burk, Cindy Baines, Linda Walker, Amanda Bean, Amanda Brown, Penney Leezy, Norma Webster, and your Delegate Bev Perkins.



Amanda Brown and Amanda Bean participated in the Membership Panel at the meeting.

March Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

Congratulations and thanks to those SITM members willing to stand for election to the SITM Board for the 2023-2024 Club Year. SITM appreciates your commitment to the club. The slate of candidates standing for election was presented at the March Business meeting. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their work in securing these nominations: Millie Mitchell, Coordinator, Kay Dunham and Connie Steinheimer. See page 2 for a complete listing.

District 5 & 6 Leadership Summit and Meeting

A record 22 members of SITM "tuned in" to the joint District 5 & 6 Winter meeting on zoom, Saturday, February 18. The meeting hosted informative panels on Leadership and one on Membership featuring our own Amanda Bean and Amanda Brown. To read all of the details, Delegate Bev Perkins' report is on page 6-7.

Report on Upcoming TTY and Date Change

The Board recommended and the membership approved a motion by the Thanks to Youth Committee to change the date of the planned event from Thursday, May 25 to Tuesday, May 23. The change was requested to avoid conflicts with a Nevada Women's Fund luncheon on May 25. As a result, there will be no regular meeting on May 25. The TTY Kickoff will take place on March 30. See page 2 for more information.

Update on Nepal Dormitory Construction Project

IGU/Nepal Coordinator Monica House reported that ground has been broken and construction has begun on the new girls' dormitory in Thulipokhari, Nepal. Construction is anticipated to be completed in nine months. See page 9 for additional information.

Increasing Membership Committee Budget

A motion made by the Membership Committee requesting an increase in their budget by \$500 to aid in recruiting new members at the Red Cross event associated with providing food and supporting additional women who are interested in joining our club, including funds needed for induction programs. The motion was recommended by the board and approved by the membership.

Display Table Approved for Members to Share Business and Other Information

A motion was made by Amanda Bean, seconded by Bev Perkins to add a table near the Attendance table

at meetings for members to leave business cards, business announcements, flyers or recommendations for our members in attendance at the meeting. The motion was recommended by the board and approved by the membership.

Celebrating March Birthdays



Celebrating their March birthdays at the Business Meeting were, from left: Kay Dunham, March 3; Connie Steinheimer, March 12; Nicole DuPont, March 6; Doris Phelps, March 15; Jeanne Naccarato, March 28; and Margie Hermanson, March 30.

The following members are also celebrating March birthdays:



*Laurie Chappelle
March 1*



*Linda Lamke
March 6*



*Patty Downs
March 23*



*Beth Sharp
March 30*

Two Motions to Amend Bylaws Referred to Finance & Governance Committee

Two motions proposed by President-Elect Sarah Carrasco to amend the Club Bylaws were referred to the

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Finance & Governance Committee for review and recommendations.

The first proposed to revise language describing member standing lunch reservations versus members being responsible for making individual luncheon reservations each week.

The second motion proposed to delete wording outlining attendance requirements in order to obtain a Perfect Attendance Award, effectively eliminating the award. (SITM does not have an attendance requirement for club meetings or activities.)

March Happy Dollars for Quest Counseling

A total of \$571 in February Happy Dollars was collected for Quest Counseling, which provides 24/7/365 crisis management for anyone experiencing mental health crisis and/or substance abuse.

Happy Dollars for March are designated for Step 2, which provides gender-specific long-term treatment services for substance use disorders, domestic violence intervention and education.

Update on the New Girls' Dormitory in Nepal

By Monica House, IGU/Nepal Coordinator

The building of our new girls' dormitory in Thulpokhari, Nepal is back up and running following a short delay due to several illnesses among those overseeing the project. The good news is everyone seems to be doing well and the project is now expected to be complete within nine months, prior to the monsoon season.

It took only three months to build our original dormitory in 2000-2001 so we know it's possible to be built in such a short period of time. I am including some pictures from our liaisons Shyam and Pratima showing some of the physical progress being made. Shyam and Pratima also plan to do an onsite visit over the next few months so we should have more updates and pictures soon.



Campus Chief Hari with House Mother Ganga in the background meeting with the building engineers.

Preparing the ground to begin building.



Shake the Winter Blues -- Learn to Hula to the Hukilau

By Holly N. Nash, Hospitality Committee Co-Coordinator

To chase away the Winter cold, we turned a recent SITM meeting into a "Hula" event. Thanks to Dot Watts and her amazing friends, we were privileged to receive instruction from Corinne McGrane. She brought an additional dancer, Diane Williams, with her. Dot's guest's name was Marilee Watts (no relation).

Club members arrived in Hawaiian attire and wore leis to get us into a festive state of mind. When entering the room, we were greeted with Hawaiian music and grass skirted tables, complete with festive table decorations. Cindy Baines displayed beautiful photos she brought from Hawaii and our water was festively decorated in bright colors thanks to some Hawaiian punch powder.

We enjoyed a luncheon of casual conversation at our tables. Then it was time to Hula! If you were in attendance this should bring back some memories. (I expect you all to be practicing!)

This event did indeed show that Soroptimists can do anything - including learning new things and expanding our horizons. Our thanks to Dot for bringing us out of the snow and into the Hawaiian Sunshine, if only for a little while.

Aloha!



Soroptimists can do anything.



Kay Dunham and Debbie Handke enjoy lunch before dancing.



Aloha Eileen Fuller



Hula Dancers Corinne McGrane and Diane Williams with President Laury.



Holly Nash and Margie Her-manson dressed for the dance.

Bikes and Much More at Kiwanis Bike Project

Ellen Jacobson, a member of Kiwanis and principal in the Kiwanis Bike Project, gave an enthusiastic presentation about the project at our February 16 meeting. Ellen is a long time Nevada resident and had been a Soroptimist for 15 years, mostly in Las Vegas. Today, the Kiwanis Bike Project and other Kiwanis projects consume her time.

Kiwanis members, friends and volunteers repair and refurbish bikes, host events for children and adults, providing better skills for riding and maintaining bikes. Their offices are located at the Kiwanis Activity Center, 5305 Mill Steet (the former Agricultural Extension Station).

Thanks to the project, SITM obtained a bike for one of the Children in Transition kids, who were part of the Angel Tree Project at Hunter Lake Elementary School in December.

Founded around 2000, the Kiwanis Bike Project focuses on:

Teaching (bike riding skills).

Repairing (keeping bikes safe to ride).

Giving bikes to youth in the area (through schools and non-profits focused in at risk youth), along with bike helmets.

One of their biggest fundraisers is selling older one-speed bikes to Burning Man attendees (for \$80 each) to take to the desert for a week at the annual Fall gathering in the Black Rock Desert. Ellen said they already have orders from "Burners" from around the world reserving bikes. Many of these are returned after the event.

Volunteers are needed to clean and work on bikes, teach riding and maintenance skills, host or volunteer at events, donate your bike, when you get a new one.



Ellen Jacobson, from the Kiwanis Bike Project, center, with President Laury Macauley and Jo Ann Roberts.

Liberty Dogs for Veterans is Coming to Reno

We were joined March 1 by Kyle Cory-Yaeggi and Marc Bello from Liberty Dogs for a lively presentation and Q&A session about the plans for this new facility, which broke ground last month, to be built in Reno.

According to Kyle, Liberty Dogs will be a service dog training program whose goal is to empower veterans to lead more independent and fulfilling lives, enhancing their emotional and psychological mobility through the support of a service dog.

Liberty Dogs takes a holistic approach to serving veterans with both physical issues and issues like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Veterans can then be counseled and matched with the dog specifically trained for their issues.

The new facility is to be located on 2,700 acres south of Mt. Rose Highway including eight buildings for training, dog housing, administration even housing for Veterans to stay to train with their service dogs. Funding is being provided by the Dave & Cheryl Duffield Foundation.



From left: Niki Ewing, Marc Bello and Kyle Cory-Yaeggi from Liberty Dogs, Diana DeMatei.

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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

SITM Board 2021-22

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For information about our organization, check out these Soroptimist Websites:

Sierra Nevada Region: www.soroptimistsnr.org

Soroptimist International of the Americas: www.soroptimist.org

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Soroptimist International of the Americas 2023 Leadership Roundtable

Leadership Round Table is an evolution of the Governors Round Table and will be open to **ALL** SIA members so they can access critical leadership development content. By attending the Leadership Round Table, you will develop your skills and be part of the ever-changing and growing Soroptimist organization.

Take this opportunity to learn and become a better overall leader or attend to feed your interest in becoming a future Soroptimist leader. Workshops and materials are being carefully developed based on your feedback and recommendations we've collected in surveys over the past several years.

Please note that the Leadership Round Table will be held annually—virtually in odd years, and face-to-face following the biennial convention in even years.

June 22 and June 23, 2023 • 6 – 9 p.m. EDT • Virtual

View the Agenda -- <https://soroptimist.imgix.net/events/leadership-development/lrt-agenda.pdf>

Early Registration

\$50 USD
 January 30, 2023 – April 17, 2023

Regular Registration

\$100 USD
 April 18, 2023 – June 17, 2023

Register Now -- <https://www.soroptimist.org/events/leadership-development/registration.html>

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