



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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October 2023

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- Oct 16 – Afghan Social, 5 p.m. Kay Dunham’s Office
- Oct 19 -- 3 Strands Speaker, Human Trafficking
- Oct. 26 – Halloween Social and SITM’s 45th Birthday
- Nov 2 -- STEAM at Hunter Lake
- Nov 4 -- Ana Nadimi’s Persian Dinner
- Nov. 7 – Board Meeting, Pam Robinson’s Office/Zoom
- Nov 9 – Business Meeting
- Nov 16 – Membership Committee
- Nov 23 -- DARK

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

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

Successful High Tea, New Members and Upcoming Events

What a busy few weeks we have had! The Queen of Hearts High Tea was a roaring success as a key fundraiser for the club. Dozens of items were included in the silent auction, the wine wagon was full, the wine toss and new Cake Walk all provided extra income. Kudos to the committee coordinators Linda Walker, Jeanne Naccarato, Margie Hermanson and the rest of the fabulous Fundraising Committee.

Fall has fallen with the rapidly changing leaves and much cooler



President “Queen of Hearts” Kay Dunham did a wonderful job presiding over the High Tea activities.

nights. I’m hoping for a few more warm days so I can finish up the ripening of the large crop of tomatoes still on the vines! It’s time to break

out those sweaters too.

Our club will continue a full calendar this month with the board and business meetings to include the induction of new member Mary Ann McCauley and current member Heather Altman. Our Membership Committee has done a wonderful job of attracting six new members since July. YEA Membership! Let’s help them out by inviting a friend to an upcoming meeting. I had the pleasure of having three of my High Tea guests inquire about becoming members and expect to have at least 2 of them officially join by January.

We are such a dynamic club with so many interesting committees, projects and of course, the comradery provided with our membership. In an effort to keep things interesting we will be adding three smaller scale fundraising options: Ordering/Selling Christmas Wreaths, 12 Months of Flowers gift cards sale and a spring garage sale. Of course, we always have our ongoing scholarships, youth awards, Live Your Dream, STEAM at Hunter Lake Elementary, new International Connections ideas and much, much more. Hospitality will have some special surprise fun at the October 26th meeting when we will also celebrate the 45th birthday of Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows!

It is such a pleasure to be President of such a wonderful group of women who are working tirelessly for our mission of Investing in Dreams through education for women and girls.

President Kay Dunham

New Member Inducted at the October Business Meeting

Welcome to new member Mary Ann McCauley, inducted at the October Business Meeting. Mary Ann is a consultant to nonprofits specializing in strategic planning and board development. She came to Reno in 2014 from Minnesota where she was active on multiple nonprofit boards. Mary Ann is accredited by the International Association of Business Communicators and was named an IABC Fellow in 2012. Her sponsor is Doris Phelps. We're glad you've joined us Mary Ann.

Mary Ann McCauley is joined from left, by President Kay Dunham, Membership Committee Co-Coordinator Patty Elam (Mary Ann) and Membership Committee Co-Coordinator Doris Phelps.



Don't Miss These Upcoming Meetings and Events

Afghan Social Set for Monday, October 16

Come with your yarn and crochet hooks in hand – UNLESS YOU ARE A BEGINNER – interested in learning how to crochet. There will be an afghan social on Monday, October 16 at President Kay's office at 5 p.m. Bring your unfinished afghans to work on, or finished afghans to show off.

Beginners will be provided with a crochet hook and yarn, plus instructions on how to crochet an afghan.

A Persian Dinner Hosted by Ana Nadimi

It could be your treat of the season ... a Persian dinner at the home of Ana Nadimi on November 4 at 6 p.m. Ana and a dinner committee of helpers will serve a complete Persian-menu dinner. There are only seven seats left, (as of this publication) so hurry and make your reservations by emailing Cindy Burk at servicefund@sitmnv.org or text 775-232-7231, if you are interested. Cost is \$40 per person and Ana is generously donating the total proceeds of dinner tickets sold.

Holiday Social and SITM 45th Birthday

Come in costume. Come in a themed hat. Come as you are to the October 26 Halloween Social. The Hospitality Committee is cooking up something special for the day. They ask each member to bring a small bag of candy to be used to fill small bags or share on the tables.

October 23 is SITM's 45th Birthday and we will be celebrating that at the October 26 meeting.

Collecting Toiletries for Project 150

The Community Outreach Committee is seeking your donation of toiletries throughout the month of October for Project 150. Project 150 provides clothing, toiletries and other services to homeless, displaced and disadvantaged high school students.

Individual-sized soaps, shampoos and toothpaste (from your last hotel stay) or full-sized toiletries are all acceptable. Feminine hygiene products are also welcome for the girls.

Bring them to the Thursday meetings, or contact Coordinator Diana DeMatei for pick up.

International Connections Committee Speaker on Human Trafficking October 19

The International Connections Committee will host Kristi Merrill, a Survivor Leadership Advocate, from 3 Strands Global Foundation (3SGF) via zoom at the Thursday, October 19 meeting. 3SGF is an international anti-human trafficking group. She spoke at the Stop Trafficking Workshop at SNR's Soroptimist Development Retreat in August.

Kristi is an expert at facilitating support for those at risk for sexual exploitation, working in residential group homes for commercially sexually exploited children and providing advocacy and wrap-around services for youth who were at high risk for experiencing exploitation.

A “Queen of Hearts High Tea” That Would Make Alice Proud

Soroptimists and guests took-over two-thirds of the Paradise Ballrooms and Terrace at the Atlantis Hotel Resort and Spa for this year’s “Queen of Hearts High Tea” on Saturday, September 30. The capacity crowd, with 200 tickets sold, entered “Wonderland” in the Paradise Terrace, where they found games and pictures.



Greeting guests while having fun, from left: Cindy Burk, Annette Friedlander, Dot Watts and “Princess” Bev Perkins.



Marilyn Pearson overseeing the “Unbirthday Party” game at the High Tea.

Once inside the ballroom, there was an opportunity to buy tickets for this year’s Wine Wagon, a \$1,200 value of wine and accompanying gifts.

This year’s Silent Auction featured



Fundraising Co-Coordinator Linda Walker with husband Bill.



“Queen of Hearts” Angela Owings and White Rabbit Beth Sharp.

Guests could take chances at the Wine Ring Toss to win a bottle of wine. If cake was more to their liking, they could take a walk at the Unbirthday Party and win delicious cake and pastries. There was also the opportunity to have a free memorable photo of you and your guests at the PicBox photo booth.



Fundraising Co-Coordinator Jeanne Naccarato with Cindy Burk staffing the “wine ring toss” game.

PicBox Photos Available Online

If you had your photo taken at the PicBox booth at the “Queen of Hearts High Tea”, and would like a digital copy of the photo, you can access it on their website at: <https://picboxphotobooth.com/event-gallery-access/>. Your password will be: 12345. Just look for the Soroptimist Gallery.

If you have trouble, let Faye Andersen know and she has downloaded the entire file.

126 items ranging from jewelry, purses, household goods, paintings and photographs, quilts, numerous services and lots of baskets filled with a variety of goodies to take home.

“Queen of Hearts” President Kay Dunham kicked off the High Tea with a welcome, followed by a parade of guests to show off their special tea hats and themed costumes to win prizes. As tea, finger sandwiches and desserts were being served,

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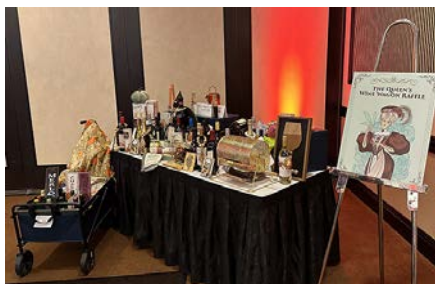
A family affair from left: Angela Owings, Kaylyn Dazey-Harper and husband Jared with daughter Jolynn.

President Kay took the opportunity to display photos on large overhead screens that highlighted some of SITM's most outstanding projects, especially projects that are funded by the proceeds from the High Tea.

Door prizes were awarded several times in the afternoon to those whose lucky entrance ticket was drawn.

Attendees were treated to a fashion show of clothing from Labels Consignment Boutique, owned by Blythe Anderson. Labels motto is: "All the best names in town end up here!" and the fashions proved it. Member Deb Thomas gave the commentary on the stunning outfits as SITM members and family modeled the clothing, from casual wear to daytime and evening wear.

SITM models doing their best "Catwalk" poses were: Pam Robinson, Holly Nash, Gayle Kmetovicz, Vicki Schultz, Heather



Up for raffle, the wine wagon was valued at \$1,200.

Altman and her daughter Bella, Margie Hermanson, Dot Watts and Doris Phelps.

The afternoon concluded with the last-minute bidding on the Silent Auction items and drawing for the lucky winner of the Wine Wagon. With some numbers still to be calculated, the High Tea overall netted approximately \$16,000 this year.

SITM's Fundraising Committee worked for a good part of the year to stage this year's event. They are: Co- Coordinators Linda Walker, Jeanne Naccarato and Margie Hermanson



"Queen of Hearts" President Kay Dunham with her own "mini me", Jeanne Naccarato's granddaughter Maddie.



Holly Nash and Gayle Kmetovicz modeling Labels Fashions.

thank you

The Fundraising Committee Coordinators, Linda Walker, Margie Hermanson, and Jeanne Naccarato, send their heartfelt thanks to our fabulous committee and the members who donated to the auction, donated to the wine wagon, bought tickets, invited friends and sold tickets, sought sponsorships and monetary donations, and donated their time on the day of the Tea.

It takes a village to make a successful Fundraising event and we're so blessed that SITM is our village!

District 5 Fall Meeting

“Recalling the Past to Empower the Future”

Excerpted from Delegate Patty Elam’s Report

The District 5 Fall Meeting was held in Fallon this year on September 23, as SITM’s Delegate, Patty Elam attended the Friday Night Social, hosted by SI/Fallon at the Twisted Vine, a combination gift shop and eatery, that featured cocktails, finger food accompanied by a musician playing his guitar and singing country tunes.

If you missed the Friday Night Social, Delegate Patty had this to say, “I wanted all to know, that so far with my participation in the meetings that I have attended, I found everyone to be open and welcoming. I have met some wonderful ladies and made a few connections that if I am ever traveling for example, I know I could reach out and meet up for coffee or to share a meal and connect with these women. I loved the Fallon group.”

The meeting was called to order by SITM’s own District 5 Director Holly Nash. Following protocol, Governor Lisa Fitzgerald gave an update on the SI Convention held this past July in Dublin, Ireland. Some 40 Soroptimists from the Sierra Nevada Region attended. Her region highlights included announcing the addition of 88 new Soroptimists this year. She also offered the upcoming dates for future SNR Conferences and Soroptimist Development Retreats. All will be held at the Atlantis Casino Resort.

SNR Conferences

June 7-9, 2024

June 6-8, 2025

June 5-7, 2026

Soroptimist Development Retreats

August 17-18, 2024

August 16-17, 2025

The 48th Biennial SIA Convention will be held in Bellevue, Washington in July, 2024. Pre-registration will begin sometime next March.

The Region’s Federation Chairs for Programs, Membership, Fundraising, Public Awareness gave reports. Plus, the SNR Nominating committee is seeking members to stand for election for District Director and Region Board Members.

During lunch break there was a Chautauqua presentation. One portrayed Laura Mills, a woman who never had children of her own, but throughout her life in Fallon supported many programs for women and children. There is a park in Fallon named for Laura Mills.

Delegate Patty’s report concluded with her sentiments: “It was overall a very fun, informative, worthwhile meeting,



SITM members were joined by SNR Governor Lisa Fitzgerald, seated far left. Also in the front row, from left, is Jo Ann Roberts, President Kay Dunham and Doris Phelps. Standing, from left: Director Margie Hermanson; President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato, Delegate Patty Elam, Parliamentarian Diana DeMatei, Bev Perkins and District 5 Director Holly Nash.

ending in hugs, and praises for the SI Fallon club. If all of this is not a reason to inspire you to come to the Winter District Meeting, the lovely drive alone and the friendly people of the Fallon Cub should be at the top of your list.”



First time attendee Patty Elam, second from right, was honored with other Fall District Meeting attendees.

New Member Ana Chacon**Determined to Make a Life for Herself and Her Children****By Pam Robinson**

Although Ana was born in Reno, her young mother sent her to live with her grandparents in El Salvador when she was two months old. She lived there until she was 15 years old when she returned to Reno. It was a challenge as she did not speak English, but she enrolled in Reno High and graduated. Because of a difficult family situation, Ana moved out on her own shortly after she arrived here when she was still only 15 and supported herself. Her first job was at McDonalds, then moved on to Fitzgerald's Hotel/Casino where she worked for several years as a hostess/cashier.

Ana enrolled in UNR and finished two semesters there, even though language and finances were a hurdle. She then married and became a mom of two children, Mariana who is now 19 and Diego who is 17. She has been a single mom most of the time and treasures her children. Mariana is working on her bachelor's degree at UNR and will graduate in May 2024. She plans to go on to graduate school and become a therapist. Diego will finish high school this spring and wants to own his own business.

*Ana and Mariana and Diego*

After working hard at her jobs but struggling financially, Ana decided to return to school to make a better life for herself and her children. It took a while to graduate from TMCC with her paralegal degree, and it was during that time we met Ana. She was awarded the Live Your Dream award from SI/ Reno and applied and received our undergraduate scholarship. Ana also received a Sierra Nevada Region Live Your Dream award. Ana wasn't initially aware of scholarship opportunities and was so glad she found our club. The financial support she received from SITM was invaluable. After she finished her degree, she worked in law for 3-1/2 years and then decided to become a realtor.

Now at Realty One Eminence, Ana loves the opportunity to show her clients that it is possible to own a home. It takes a lot of patience, but she loves sharing the information and helping them. Ana loves to travel, meet new people, and enjoys concerts. The best part of her life is sharing these experiences with her children. Ana is truly an inspiration to all of us in SITM, and we are so glad she has joined our club!

38 Beads of Strength Delivered to Renown Infusion Center

The Community Outreach Committee has delivered 38 hand-crafted bracelets and keyrings to the Oncology Unit Infusion Center at Renown Medical Center. Twenty-five members at the September 21 meeting worked diligently, and had a lot of fun crafting the unique mementos that are given to patients as a symbol of the triumph of completing their treatments.

Members select the beads and designed the patterns, and completed 38. Coordinator Bev Perkins and her sister Barbara perform the prep work and the tying, bagging and tagging at the end. Thank you to all the members who participated.

*Millie Mitchell shows off he bracelet in progress.**Margie Hermanson and Marilyn Pearson selecting the beads for their bracelets.**Eve Johnson is almost finished with her bracelet.*

STEAM Project Continues at Hunter Lake Elementary

After-school STEAM classes (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) continue at Hunter Lake Elementary School for third-through-fifth grade girls. The program began more than a half-dozen years ago focusing on simple science and engineering principles and experiments. It has since moved into programming robots and today is emphasizing graphic arts that will enable the girls to design a website, thanks to member Kaylyn Dazey-Harper, who works as a graphic designer.

The girls work in teams reviewing the different types of websites, deciding on a theme and a logo. The girls are always excited and super engaged.

If you would like to join SITM's STEAM Team, they meet at Hunter Lake from 3-4 p.m. every other Tuesday. Contact Coordinators Kay Dunham or Patty Mamola for more details. You don't need to be an expert, and the girls always love packaged snacks.



Kaylyn Dazey-Harper reviews the girls' drawings as they begin to design their own websites.

Learn the “Do’s and Don’ts of Recycling

Carly Norton, a recycling education representative from Waste Management (WM) was our September 28 speaker discussing the “do’s and don’ts” of recycling. She also brought along some miniature “green totes” fashioned as pencil cups that were a big hit. Carly is a Reno native with a B.S. degree in environmental services and has specialized in conservation, environmental and forestry work.

She shared some interesting facts about recycling, in the Reno-Sparks area, including a disappointing 20 percent contamination rate of what customers should not put in their “blue-topped” recycling cans. The biggest offenders are the plastic grocery sacks that jam up their machinery if not caught during the sorting process, followed by Styrofoam, air filters and cardboard boxes that are not flattened. She said WM collects approximately 160 tons of recycling per day. The local recycling center sorts and bundles most materials for processing outside the area.

Carly reminded us that WM has a 3,200-acre dump site in Storey County, east of Sparks that includes a “gas-to-energy” plant that generates enough electricity from the garbage to power approximately 2,000 homes. She also said WM customers can participate in “free dumping” for a week each April; customers can use stickers sent by WM to put out 20 extra bags of trash each year; and haul a pickup load to the dump for free four times a year.



Carly Norton, center, is flanked by Cindy Burk left and President Kay Dunham right, showing one of the illustrations of how plastic bags foul their machinery and are not acceptable recycling material.

RECYCLING RULES

1. RECYCLE ALL BOTTLES, CANS AND PAPER

2. KEEP ITEMS CLEAN AND DRY

3. NO PLASTIC BAGS

Always recycle:

 <p>Plastic Bottles & Containers Plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs</p>	 <p>Food & Beverage Cans Tin, aluminum, steel food and beverage cans</p>	 <p>Glass Bottle, Jars</p>	 <p>Paper Cardboard, paper, newspaper, paperboard, magazines</p>
		 <p>Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard Flatten all boxes (do not bundle/tie up)</p>	

October Board and Business Recap

by Faye I. Andersen

SITM celebrated the Induction of new member Mary Ann Mc Cauley at the October Business Meeting. Delegate Patty Elam gave a report on the District 5 Fall Meeting. Several motions were recommended by the Board and approved during the October Board and Business Meetings for members to voluntarily participate in some new small fundraising projects. The ideas came to life after recommendations were made at this summer's member retreat. A Fundraising Research Committee was formed to explore the various ideas. So far, their work has resulted in motions made at the October Board and Business Meetings. Be watching as they unfold.

Welcome Mary Ann McCauley

A big welcome to new member Mary Ann McCauley, inducted at the October Business Meeting. Mary Ann is a consultant to nonprofits specializing in strategic planning and board development. Her sponsor is Doris Phelps. We're glad you've joined us Mary Ann.

District 5 Fall Meeting Delegate's Report

SITM Delegate Patty Elam attended the District 5 Fall Meeting, including the "Friday Night Social", while several other SITM members attended the Saturday, September 23 meeting, hosted by SI/Fallon. See page 5 for Patty's report.

Project 50 Needs Socks for High School Students

The Board recommended and the membership approved a motion from the Hospitality Committee to conduct a sock drive among members and friends in November and December to benefit Project 150 Reno. The socks will be for high-school-aged girls and boys. Project 150 provides clothing and other services to homeless, displaced and disadvantaged high school students in 30 northern Nevada schools. Please bring socks to any meeting for committee members to pick up.

Selling Christmas Wreaths to Benefit SITM

Diana DeMatei made a motion, seconded by Pam Robinson, that was recommended by the Board to offer holiday wreaths for sale as a fundraiser in October through December as a fundraiser for the club's Service Fund. The membership approved the motion to work with Christmas Forest to provide marketing materials to members. SITM receives 10% of the proceeds at the end of the season.

Enjoying "12 Months of Flowers" from Sparks Florist

The Board recommended and the membership approved a motion by Vicki Schultz, seconded by Cindy Burk, to work with Sparks Florist on a "12 Months of Flowers" fundraising card program. Members approved and will

be surveyed on purchasing the cards which are sold at \$40 each, with SITM receiving 25%, or \$10 per card sold. The card purchaser/recipient receives a \$15 bouquet of flowers each month for 12 months. Watch for a chance to purchase cards for holiday gift-giving, or for yourself.

Return of the Spring Garage Sale

SITM members' enthusiastic favorite -- the garage sale -- is coming back this spring, thanks to a motion by Marilyn Pearson, seconded by Cindy Burk, recommended by the Board and approved by the membership. President Kay Dunham graciously agreed to the use of her home for the sale. The original motion was amended and approved to allow exploration of an alternate location. (Perhaps, President Kay's office.)

Happy Dollars and Other Monetary Donations

Happy Dollars for the month of September totaled \$491 and are designated for a scholarship in the name of Dee Ann Roberts, daughter of Jo Ann Roberts, for a deserving education major. SITM also received a generous \$5,000 donation from the Douglas and Gloria Rumberger Foundation designated for SITM scholarship awards.

Happy Birthday Soroptimists

Celebrating her October 27 birthday was Linda Walker, with Hospitality Coordinator Dot Watts. Also celebrating October birthdays were:



Faye I. Andersen
October 9



Deb Thomas
October 15



Denise Rupracht
October 15



Carmela Cipollina
October 23

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

President Kay Dunham
kaydunham@yahoo.com
Editor Faye I. Andersen
fandersen@att.net or
 775-358-5149 or 775-432-5822

Contributing to this issue

Kay Dunham	Jeanne Naccarato
Liza Chapen	Bev Perkins
Jo Ann Roberts	Cindy Burk
Pam Robinson	Doris Phelps
Margie Hermanson	
Patty Elam	

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

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

SITM Board 2023-24

President Kay Dunham	Secretary Debbie Handke
President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato	Treasurer/General Fund Linda Walker
Vice President/Program Pam Robinson	Treasurer/Service Fund Cindy Burk
Vice President/ Membership Dot Watts	Delegate Patty Elam
	Director Margie Hermanson



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 . . .

Excerpted from Soroptimist International of the Americas

On October 3, 1921, the very first Soroptimist club was founded in Oakland, California, USA. It was a day when women pioneers, led by President Violet Richardson, united in their purpose to create an organization committed to improving the lives of women and girls.

102 years later, we are celebrating President Violet's incredible legacy—that Soroptimists like **you** continue to build upon—with the second annual **Violet Richardson Month of Giving!**

In honor of The Violet Richardson Month of Giving and the anniversary of Soroptimist's founding, please consider becoming a Soroptimist Stargazer Monthly Donor. Your monthly gift, whether it be \$100, \$50, or \$10, in honor of Soroptimist's first president, helps provide the resources we need to invest in the dreams of women and girls for another 102 years.



"Let us continue the work together and with others, toward the development of a better womanhood, a better manhood, and a better citizenship."

— VIOLET RICHARDSON, FIRST PRESIDENT OF SOROPTIMIST