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Calendar

- Dec. 21 – Holiday Party and Goodie Sale
- Dec. 28 – DARK for Christmas
- Jan. 4 – DARK for New Year's
- Jan. 11 – Finance & Governance Committee
- Jan. 16 – Board Meeting, Pam Robinson's Office/Zoom
- Jan. 18 – Business Meeting
- Jan. 22 – Project 150 Hands-on Work, 1-3 p.m.
- Jan. 25 – Public Awareness
- Feb. 1 – Community Outreach
- Feb. 8 -- Live Your Dream Awards

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

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

RSVP to info@sitmnmv.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.sitmnmv.org

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays, Joyous Kwanzaa, Season's Greetings to Everyone.



Christmas is my favorite time of year for so many reasons. I love making gifts for my family and friends. I love baking

to have a kind word for someone who may be having a difficult day.

Our family's tradition is to have our gift exchange on Christmas Eve because when I was a child living on a snow-covered cattle ranch, those cattle had to be fed even if it was Christmas Morning. My grandfather made a deal with Santa to come on Christmas Eve so the cattle wouldn't be hungry. My granddaughter and her family still honor this tradition even though the cattle are no longer waiting for breakfast.

goodies to give away. I love seeing all the Christmas lights. I love selecting something that would be a surprise for the recipient and watching that person open the gift. I love this season of generosity and giving. This time of year can be magical and joyous but it can also be one of challenge and stress. Families often face financial stress when trying to provide not only necessities but the hoped for extras. Many are not able to share the holiday with family or friends due to distance or other circumstances. Let us all remember

I know each of us has a special way to celebrate this season of giving. Those traditions are so important to maintain whenever possible. Enjoy the days spent shopping, baking, wrapping, donating, volunteering, serving, and spreading kindness and cheer as we prepare to celebrate whatever occasion you choose.

My very best wishes to all of you for a wonderful holiday season.

Merry Christmas,
President Kay



*Did Santa forget
to load some items
on the sleigh?*

See pages 4-5



Crocheting in Circles

Crocheters extraordinaire (experienced and beginners) joined a social gathering recently at President Kay Dunham's office. It was a packed conference room of 13, including five "newbies" who joined the group.

The next "crochet social" is scheduled for January 29 at 5 p.m. at President Kay's office.

From left: Bella, with Mom Heather Altman, Susan Ervin and President Kay Dunham, Debbie Handke, Bev Perkins with sister Barbara Foss and Cindy Burk, Deb Thomas, Marilyn Pearson, Billie Mendiola and Pam Robinson. Photographer Diana DeMatei is missing from the photo (of course).

Happy Holidays from Soroptimist International of the Americas 2023-2024 President Bobbi Enderlin

Transcribed from the "Best for Women" December 2023 issue

Greetings from sunny but cold California. On behalf of the SIA Board of Directors and headquarters staff, I want to wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with family friends and fun.



The holiday season always gives me a pause to take a look at the year and express my thanks for everyone around me and to all Soroptimists for the work we do in our local communities and around the world. Just think of the impact we have made over the years as we have invested in women through the Live Your Dream Awards. The girls we impact through our Dream It, Be It program, as well as the many, many local programs all over our Federation.

As we move into the new year, we often talk about New Year's Resolutions. But I think each Soroptimist Club should take stock and a hard look at the past year. Have you been focusing on our mission and our Big Goal of investing in the dreams of one-half million women by 2031? Are you and your club members providing a healthy, fun and impactful club experience? Does your club need a New Year's Resolution?

Maybe it's time to get back to basics or mix things up. Check out the myriad of resources available to you on the SIA Website. And be sure to invest in yourselves by attending your upcoming Region Conferences and of course the SIA 48th Biennial Convention in Bellevue, Washington this July. These meetings are a great way to be more inspired and share ideas with members from all over your region and our federation. I'm really excited about how much impact we can make on our world as we reach new heights together.

Thank you for all that you do. And I hope you enjoy the holiday season.

Member Feature**A Lifetime of Sharing Her Communication Skills****By Pam Robinson**

Born in Illinois, Mary Ann McCauley grew up in Iowa, and later lived in Kansas, Missouri and Minnesota. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri, Mary Ann worked for Hallmark and the American Nurses Association in Kansas City. She felt burned out by the corporate culture, so she and her husband Gary moved to Galena, Kansas where they bought a weekly newspaper. Unfortunately, the revenue they hoped for was not there, so they moved to St. Louis where Mary Ann worked at several communications jobs. After being merged out of her last position there, they ended up in Minneapolis, Minnesota where she and Gary lived for 31 years. Mary Ann held various corporate positions for a few years and then decided to start her own consulting business, which she ran from 1987 through 2015.

Gary was having health issues, so they moved to Reno in 2014 for our better climate. Her niece, Julia and husband Steve, live here and are in health care and were great resources for them. Gary passed away a year later. Mary Ann had continued her consulting business after moving to Reno, but Steve suggested she apply as the interim director of Washoe County Medical Society. She was surprised when she was offered the position and stayed there for 6-1/2 years. Her job was outsourced to an out-of-state company in May of 2023.



As a member of the Audi Club of North America, Mary Ann was driving at the Brainerd International Raceway.

in strategic planning and board development for non-profits. She also teaches an online strategic planning course for the International Association of Business Communicators.

Mary Ann and Gary were active in the Audi Club of North America for many years while they were in Minnesota and enjoyed road racetrack events. She was an instructor for a teen driving clinic and held women's car

Mary Ann has now returned to consulting, and she specializes



Mary Ann kayaking with her niece Julia.

control clinics. She loves road trips! For fun, Mary Ann enjoys walking, arranging flowers, and making beautiful floral wreaths. She still has a lot of family back in Minnesota and enjoys visiting.

A believer in giving back to her community, wherever she is, Mary Ann has been very involved on many boards, sharing her skills and experience. She is an advocate for women's issues and was a charter subscriber to Ms. Magazine!

Announcing the Soroptimist Foundation



Bev Perkins

If you were thinking we were missing the December 10th Soroptimist International President's Appeal in honor of International Human Rights Day, you are only partially correct. The International Connections Committee, led by Co-Coordination Bev Perkins and Vicki Schultz and committee members presented the change made by the SI Board to replace the annual President's Appeal by establishing the Soroptimist

International Foundation. Gaining charitable status has multiple benefits and the foundation will continue with many of the same pursuits of the previous SI President's Appeals. Its mission is to deliver short-, medium- and long-term projects internationally benefiting women and girls.

The ICC Committee has provided a brochure explaining the foundation that is attached to his newsletter.



Vicki Schultz

SITM Toiletries Donations for Project 150 were HUGE This Year

By Diana DeMatei, Community Outreach Co-Coordinator

Community Outreach Co- Coordinators Diana DeMatei and Niki Ewing delivered our HUGE collection of toiletries to Project 150 on November 6. We had an overwhelming amount of donations this time, and this might have been the most ever. The ladies at Project 150 were so grateful that we replenished their supplies so they won't have to go out and buy things for quite a while. We also donated 15 afghans the same day, and Niki brought a carload of clothing collected by her son's charitable organization.

Project 150 provides basic needs to homeless, displaced and disadvantaged high school students allowing them to focus on education and graduate from high school. Any high school student with a current school ID can shop for free!

We have an SITM volunteer/work/ social event scheduled on January

22 from 1-3pm for members to see the Project 150 facilities and to help with unpacking and displaying the donations for the student "shoppers". Project 150 is located at 1340 Foster Drive in Reno and their phone number is 775-203-4755. Members asked for more hands-on opportunities for service projects and we hope to have a good turnout on January 22 so that we can continue to hold SITM volunteer sessions at Project 150 every other month.



Hi Niki! Please let your friend know that the blanket her Mom made found a new home yesterday with this very happy student!

This beautiful afghan crocheted by Diana's mother was selected almost immediately by one of the happy Project 150 students.



Diana's husband Jeff and Mom begin the sort of the donated toiletries.

A hearty thank you ladies for your generous donations that have made this a successful toiletries drive for Project 150. If you are curious about what was donated, here's a partial compilation.

Soap and body wash were the top items (over 100) donated by members. More than 20 packages, of multiple quantities, of feminine hygiene tampons and pads were donated. Toothpaste and toothbrushes were next in popularity at nearly 100 items, plus dental floss and picks. Lip balm, shampoo and conditioner rounded out the list of most donated items, with deodorant coming in at nearly 50 items. The list of miscellaneous items is just as incredible.

Thank you again on behalf of the students that depend on Project 150.



Niki, at right, is joined by Suzanne and Sue from Project 150 to display the toiletries.



Niki with Suzanne and Sue and the donated afghans.

More incredible donations from SITM members.

Continued on page 5

More Items that Santa Left Off The Sleigh?

Thanks to Diana DeMatei for the photos and accounting of every last item.



Girls Still Engaged in STEAM After-School Classes

Kaylyn Dazey-Harper instructs the girls at Hunter Lake Elementary School on the difference between type faces and how to apply them to a website. As part of their STEAM after-school classes, Kaylyn has been helping them design their own individual website.

Members of the SITM's Dream It, Be It, STEAM Committee meet with the girls every other Tuesday in the school library. Before their holiday break, the girls will be given the engineering task of decorating holiday sugar cookies. A fan favorite. Thanks go to Pam Robinson for baking how many dozen sugar cookies?



Opening Doors for 3,000 Women and Girls

Reprinted from Soroptimist international's Global Voice, November 2023

After two years of dedicated efforts, Soroptimist International (SI) is thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of its President's Appeal, "Opening Doors to a Bright Future," officially ending September 2023. The initiative, led by SI President Maureen Maguire, was a remarkable journey that transformed the lives of 3,000 women and girls across the world.

Launched on 1 October 2021, "Opening Doors to a Bright Future" was a heartfelt mission, and were the first projects to be launched under the new Soroptimist International Foundation.

The appeal established projects across the five Soroptimist Federations, spanning Cambodia, Uganda, Georgia, Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay, and Malawi.

The appeal's primary focus was education, recognising its pivotal role as a catalyst for sustainable development, peace, and equality. Investing in the education of women and girls was central to the initiative, aiming to break the cycles of poverty and stimulate economic growth.

The Appeal's Key Objectives Included:

- 1 Providing access** to education in all its forms for disadvantaged and marginalized women and girls.
- 2 Offering education** in a safe, friendly, and supportive environment, promoting equality of opportunity.
- 3 Developing mentoring programs** to boost confidence, self-esteem, and the involvement of women and girls in society and decision-making.
- 4 Enhancing access** to information, educational resources, and services, empowering women and girls to make informed life choices.

The journey began with the launch of the first project in Cambodia in early 2022, titled 'Education and Learning in Cambodia throughout the life course.' Working in partnership with the Cambodian Community Dream Organization (CCDO), the project surpassed its initial targets, engaging 2,814 women and girls in its activities.

The second project, launched in Uganda's Soroti District in August 2022, aimed to empower 30 out-of-school girls and young women, promoting education, life skills, and positive behavioural change.

The third project, In Georgia, Eastern Europe, launched in October 2022 and focused on improving life skills and employability for women and girls in a region where 74% of women experience intimate partner violence.

The fourth project, in collaboration with 'Restore a Sense of I Can' (RSC), aimed to bridge the gender digital divide and provide training and resources to women and girls in



the Caribbean, addressing socio-economic and academic barriers.

The fifth project was based in Malawi. It was a transformative initiative which tackled child marriage, aiming to provide education and support to 150 local women who were child brides, transforming their attitudes toward education and improving their livelihoods.

The sixth and final project was a partnership between Soroptimist International and Fundación Moisés Bertoni (FMB) to construct a sports centre in Paraguay at the Mbaracayú Education Centre. The initiative empowers indigenous girls by providing technical education in Environmental Science and promoting their physical and mental well-being through sports.

SI President Maureen Maguire says., "I am very aware that there are many barriers women and girls face in today's world including poverty, gender-based violence, forced marriage and caring responsibilities to name just a few.

"As Soroptimists, we work to transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

"Investing in women and girls' education and learning brings high rewards, breaking cycles of poverty and aiding economic growth. Education empowers women, girls, and their communities, delivering skills and knowledge, whilst increasing confidence; enabling women and girls to make informed decisions affecting future wellbeing, health, participation, and quality of life.

"'Opening Doors to a Bright Future' underlined the Soroptimist commitment to education throughout the life-course, and its immense power and fundamental role as a driver for sustainable development, peace, and equality."

This two-year journey has left a lasting impact on thousands of lives, paving the way for brighter, more promising futures.

November Board and Business Recap

by Faye I. Andersen

During the chaos of this busy holiday season, at least one thing ran with efficiency and speed. The December SITM Board and Business Meetings were full of announcements, some financial and other business, with plenty of time left-over for Happy Dollars.

End of the Year Fundraiser Reminders

Holiday Bake Sale, Thursday, December 21

– Show off your cooking/baking skills and bring Holiday Goodies for auction.

Christmas Wreaths from Christmas Forest

-- Order for yourself, your family and friends at www.ChristmasForest.com, SITM receives 10% of the proceeds of the sales.

12 Months of Flowers in 2024 – Flower cards for \$40 from Sparks Florist. The card holder received a \$15 bouquet of flowers each month for 12 months. SITM keeps 25% of sales.

Project 150 Sock and Toiletries Drives

It's not too late. The Community Outreach Committee is still collecting men's and women's socks for high school-aged students to donate to Project 150. Community Outreach conducted a toiletries drive for Project 150 in October. See pages 4 & 5 for news about that project.

Project 150 provides clothing, toiletries and other services to homeless, displaced and disadvantaged high school students. Bring the socks to the next meeting.

Save the Date: A "work party" is being formed to facilitate, sort and distribute donations at Project 150 on January 22 from 1-3 p.m. Project 150 is located at 1340 Foster Drive, across from Reno High School.

Buffet Lunch is \$33 December 21

A motion from the Hospitality Committee was recommended by the board and approved by the membership to increase the cost of the weekly luncheon by no more than \$5 in order

to have a buffet meal for the Holiday Social and Holiday Bake Sale on December 21. Actual price will be \$33 per person.

Seeking Volunteers for the District 5 Meeting

SITM volunteered to host the District 5 Winter Meeting in Reno on Saturday, February 10. District Director Holly Nash says it is planned to be a hybrid in-person and zoom meeting. Tentative plans are to host the meeting at the Courtyard Marriott on South Virginia Street. If you wish to volunteer to help with the planning, organizing and hosting during the meeting, see Director Holly or President Kay.

Happy Birthday Soroptimists

Celebrating their November birthdays were Cindy Burk (December 9) and Holly Nash (December 26) shown below.

Also celebrating December birthdays were:



Barbara Atwell
December 9



Patricia Elam
December 18



Penney Leezy
December 25

A Financial Recap of Women's Scholarships Going Forward

The selection and awarding of Live Your Dream Awards for Women, as well as SITM's long-standing Women Moving Forward scholarships are underway for presentation after the first of the new year.

During her monthly Service Fund Treasury report, Treasurer Cindy Burk reported encouraging donations have been made to both the shortfall in the 2022-2023 women's scholarship budget and towards the 2023-2024 women's scholarship budget.

Generous members Deb Thomas, Carol Dinneen and Faye I. Andersen have each contributed \$5,000 to help offset the shortfall for the 2022-2023 scholarships. Combined with a Women's Scholarship Money Market balance of \$7,600, the 2022-2023 budget now exceeds coverage of the previously awarded scholarships by \$2,600.

An additional generous member, Diana DeMatei and her husband Jeff, along with the Rumberger Foundation, (a friend of Patty Elam's) each donated \$5,000 to the upcoming 2023-2024 scholarship awards. Combined with \$10,000 from the unrestricted budget and the \$2,600 overage, the Women's Scholarship Committee

will have \$22,600 available for Women Moving Forward Scholarships this spring.

The Live Your Dream Awards for 2023-2024 was already budgeted for \$3,000 (proceeds from the High Tea), along with a \$2,500 donation from the Helen Close Foundation, and a generous donation from Darlene DeLancey. Therefore \$6,070 is available for LYD Awards to be presented February 8.

Finally, after the establishment of the Dee Ann Roberts Memorial Scholarship for an Education Major, a generous donation of \$5,000 was made by Pam Sutton. Monthly Happy Dollars are also being collected to fund this scholarship. At the end of November, the balance is \$7,133.

Between previously budgeted amounts, generous donations and grants, Treasurer Cindy allayed fears that there would be any shortfalls and SITM's scholarship programs would be funded through the end of the 2023-2024 Club Year.

The Finance/Governance Committee will be meeting after the first of the year for any adjustment to the 2023-2024 Service Fund Budget for the remainder of the Club Year



SNR Holiday Greetings

May the joy and hope
of the holidays fill your hearts
the whole year through.

Your 2022-2024 Board of Directors
Sierra Nevada Region, Soroptimist
International of the Americas

First row, from left; Elaine Cassell, District 6 Director; Holly Nash, District 5 Director; Stacey Sawyer, Governor-Elect.

Middle Row, from left: Maureen Mason, Secretary; Lisa Fitzgerald, Governor; Emily Ziser, District 2 Director; Kathy Dunbar, District 4 Director.

Back row, from left: Billie Araiza, District 1 Director; Evie Wright, Treasurer; Sarah Lee, District 3 Director.



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Contributing to this issue

Kay Dunham

Jeanne Naccarato

Liza Chapen

Diana DeMatei

Jo Ann Roberts

Susan Ervin

Niki Ewing

Mary Ann McCauley

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

President-Elect

Jeanne Naccarato

Vice President/Program

Pam Robinson

Vice President/

Membership

Dot Watts

Secretary

Debbie Handke

Treasurer/General Fund

Linda Walker

Treasurer/Service Fund

Cindy Burk

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 . . .

Airline and Hotel Discounts for SIA's 48th Biennial Convention

SIA has announced two airline discounts for the Biennial Convention in Bellevue, Washington.

Check out the SIA page for more details. <https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/airline-and-hotel-discounts-for-sias-48th-biennial-convention-in-bellevue>

Option 1: Delta You may call Delta Meeting Network® at +1-800-328-1111* Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. (EST) and refer to Meeting Event Code **NM35P**.

***Option 2: United** You will need the following code to book your United flights: **ZNWZ721488**.

Stay Tuned for Hotel Booking Information Starting in January 2024!

Nestled in the heart of Bellevue, the Hyatt Regency Bellevue on Seattle's Eastside offers the perfect blend of sophistication and convenience. Just steps away from premier shopping at The Bellevue Collection and surrounded by many dining options, your stay promises to be both luxurious and convenient!



How can I make a donation?

As you do now and via the Federation.

Can I leave a gift to Soroptimist International Foundation in my will?

Yes. If you are all set and need the wording for your Will, please ensure to include our full name and details: "Soroptimist International Foundation, a Charity registered in England and Wales with number 1194895 whose registered office is Soroptimist International (Si) Ltd, 8a Romsey Terrace, Cambridge, CB1 3NH."

Please advise us if you decide to leave a legacy so we can thank you!

Are "legacy funds" restricted or unrestricted?

Legacy funds can be either restricted or unrestricted. However, unrestricted donations are encouraged which will allow the Soroptimist International Foundation to fund all projects selected. See our Legacy Policy at soroptimistinternational.org/si-foundation for further details.

Are endowment funds welcome?

Yes. Money and investments given to specific projects must meet Soroptimist International objectives and will be ring-fenced for the intended purpose. Some restrictions may apply and will need to be checked by the Charity Commission before accepting. gov.uk/guidance/permanent-endowment-rules-for-charities

How much of my donations go toward projects?

92.5%

How much will go towards administration costs?

7.5%



Soroptimist International Foundation

Delivering short, medium and long term projects internationally for women and girls. Step into a new chapter of impact with the Soroptimist International Foundation.

What if I want to make a donation or have a question about a project?

Email SoroptimistInternational.Headquarters@hq.soroptimistinternational.org

How do I get regular updates and info on what the Soroptimist International Foundation is up to?

Sign up for our GLOBAL VOICE Newsletter – go to the bottom of the Soroptimist International homepage to sign up soroptimistinternational.org

Where can I obtain more detailed information about the Foundation?

soroptimistinternational.org/si-foundation



8a Romsey Terrace, Cambridge CB1 3NH, UK.
Registered Charity in England and Wales
No. 1194895.



Soroptimist International Foundation



Why was the Soroptimist International Foundation established?

The Soroptimist International Foundation was established in March 2021 as a Declaration of Trust and gained Charitable Status in June 2021. The Trustee is SI (Soroptimist International) Ltd, and the Soroptimist International Board exercises and holds the Trustee function.

A CHARITY, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- certain tax exemptions
- do not pay corporation tax
- special treatment re: VAT (Value Added Tax)
- can apply for grants from public grant-making trusts and local government
- can reclaim gift aid on donations from UK taxpayers.
- insurance to the public that the Foundation is being monitored by the Charity Commission.

How is the Soroptimist International Foundation different from the Soroptimist International President's Appeal?

The Soroptimist International Foundation can apply for grant funding and receive donations from outside our membership without incurring taxes on those donations. Clubs, Regions, National Associations, Countries and Federations can propose projects for funding that meets the Objects of the Soroptimist International Foundation.

What will the Soroptimist International Foundation do?

Soroptimist International Foundation will collect donations from the 5 Member Federations and outside our membership and will make grants to providers that educate, empower and enable all women and girls. Projects and programmes will be funded in countries to improve the lives of all women and girls.

a global voice for women



Through the money raised, the projects funded, over the next 5 years, will focus on the following three Soroptimist International Objectives:

- THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION.
- THE RELIEF AND/OR PREVENTION OF POVERTY.
- THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY.

Projects will range from short-term, to medium-term and longer-term.

When is Soroptimist International Foundation day?

The Soroptimist International Foundation Day will be **December 10** (Human Rights Day or the International Soroptimist Day) to encourage others worldwide to raise funds and donate them to the Soroptimist International Foundation.

How are the projects identified and by whom?

A "Call" will go out requesting Project in the three focus areas. Once a project is submitted, Soroptimist International will issue an appropriate application form to be completed and returned to SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL HQ. All projects will be selected using the Due Diligence Policy, similar to projects selected for the Soroptimist International President's Appeal. (See Soroptimist International website for the "Call").

How will the overall management of the Soroptimist International Foundation work?

The Soroptimist International Foundation Committee will 'score' the application against the project criteria and the Soroptimist International Due Diligence Policy.

The Committee will make a recommendation to the Soroptimist International Board based on the outcome of the scoring process.

How can we support the Soroptimist International Foundation?

- Donations can be made through the federations, by Members, Clubs, Regions, National Associations and Countries.
- Fundraisers can be held by Members Clubs, Regions, National Associations and Countries to donate and support Soroptimist International Foundation projects.
- Legacies can be made.
- UK taxpayers can opt for their donation to be included in the Gift Aid scheme.
- Recommend a fundraising idea, grant application, or similar to the Soroptimist International Foundation Committee.

