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Calendar

- Jan. 25 -- Sue Davis, Nevada Women's History Project
- Feb. 1 – Community Outreach
- Feb. 6 – Board Meeting, Pam Robinson's Office/Zoom
- Feb. 8 – Business Meeting
- Feb. 15 -- Live Your Dream Awards
- Feb. 22 – Thanks to Youth Kickoff
- Feb. 29 – Soropti-fun, 5th Thursday Meeting
- Mar. 7 – Heart Tea Kickoff

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Second Floor Convention Center
\$31 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

An Amazing Six Months; With Even Greater Excitement to Come

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and that everyone is ready to hit the ground running for the second half of the club year. The first six months have been filled with excitement, refocus, success, growth, ideas, enthusiasm, fun and fantastic plans going forward.

Congratulations to the Membership Committee with 8 new members and the potential for some more this spring! WOW is all I can say!

Congratulations to the Fundraising

Committee for a hugely successful Queen of Hearts High Tea and the always popular Christmas Bake Sale! We are well positioned financially as we go forward into the last six months of the club year.



Congratulations to all the committees as all of you have held in-person meetings, ZOOM meetings, planned

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Welcome to SITM Barbara and Maryann



From left: Membership Committee Co-Coordinator Doris Phelps; sponsoring member Margie Hermanson, with new inductee Maryann Decker; sponsoring member Bev Perkins with new inductee Barbara Foss; and committee member Gail Plass.

SITM welcomes new member Barbara Foss, sponsored by her sister Bev Perkins. Barbara has been a stalwart in assisting the club's Beads of Strength project making bracelets for patients at the Renown Infusion Center. Welcome Barbara.

SITM welcomes back Maryann Decker. Maryann is the owner of Designing Women Interiors, Decluttering and Organizing. She was sponsored by Margie Hermanson. Maryann was a member from 2014-2022 and we're happy she has re-joined us. Welcome back, Maryann.

This brings the total to eight new members inducted since July 2023.

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for your various special events upcoming and have achieved great results so far.

Congratulations to the STEAM Committee at Hunter Lake – sessions began with approximately 15 girls as they learn to design their own website. A special thanks to committee member Kaylyn Dazey-Harper for leading this tech focused educational program through the rest of the school year.

Congratulations to the Board of Directors – We continue to hold in-person board meetings with the added ZOOM component for everyone to attend. We have dealt with the business brought before the board, given the club clear information and accomplished the duties we are charged with! All of this while we have held those meetings to a maximum of 1 hour! WOOT!

My message this month is focused on recognizing the hard work already done by every member of this amazing club. I know the rest of the year will be just as exciting and fulfilling. We have several important events upcoming in the next few months and will be nominating several new board positions in the spring. Our important work of Investing in Dreams continues!

Give yourselves a huge pat on the back for the incredible amount of work well done.

Always grateful,
President Kay

It's finally done. SITM's items in storage are officially moved into one unit at Emigrant Storage in Sparks, along with the club's records and archival materials. You will recall that SITM shared a storage unit with the Sierra Nevada Region for many years to store important records. The SNR Board moved their items out of the shared unit in August. Thanks to Diana DeMatei and Soroptimister Jeff, we've vacated unit #834 (way in the back of the storage lot), to unit #1148, up front next to the office.

For committees looking to retrieve event banners, signage and other event-related materials in storage, Archivist Diana DeMatei and President Kay Dunham have keys.

Nevada Women's History January 25

The Public Awareness Committee is proud to present Sue Davis, Chair of the Nevada Women's History Project, for a special presentation and slide show at our January 25 meeting.

Learn about the legacy of Nevada's women and their role building the fledgling Nevada Territory; honor the sacrifice of Nevada women's suffrage; hear the biographies of pioneering women from the creation of statehood to today's legislature.

Sue and Lisa Marie Lightfoot will also give a history of the NWHP, it's archives and research center. They will also outline NWHP's activities including speakers, tours and other fascinating Nevada women's history available to members and nonmembers.



Live Your Dream Awards February 15

By Pam Robinson, Women's Scholarships & Awards Co-Coordinator

Be sure to bring guests to our upcoming Live Your Dream Awards luncheon on Thursday, February 15. Our club received nine applications, and we will be awarding \$5,000 to five very outstanding women! We have also invited our own member and past LYD and scholarship recipient, Ana Chacon, to share her experiences.



Soroptimist International of America has been empowering women through access to education since 1972 through the Live Your Dream Program and has disbursed more than \$30 million to 30,000 women who have overcome life challenges and determined to turn their lives around. Soroptimist invests in women's education because it transforms lives and communities. Our program has been recognized for

its effectiveness and long-term impact.

Every year, Soroptimist distributes more than \$2.9 million in education grants to over 2,000 women all over the world. Our club has awarded over \$60,000 to 46 women since 1998. 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 program.

Goodbye #834; Hello #1148 storage units



Jeff DeMatei making a clean sweep.



Marilyn Pearson displaying her goodies for auction



President Kay Dunham and Maryann Decker having a "tussle" bidding on items.



Mary Ann McCauley, preparing items for bid.



Vicki Schultz and her oldest daughter Ilyse

An Outstanding Bake Sale/Auction and Holiday Social

The Fundraising Committee announced the Holiday Bake Sale/Auction was an extraordinary success, raising \$1,973 in sales and raffle ticket sales. Members donated over 50 different cakes, pies, cookies, candies, fudge and every other holiday goody you can think of for auction to members that day. Joining Jeff DeMatei's fan favorite lemon bars this year was Bill Walker's apple/pear pie as the top money raisers. (There's a rumor one member spent \$375 on goodies that day.)



President Kay Dunham and Parliamentarian Diana DeMatei presented our faithful server, Teresa Del Real, with a big thank you and holiday gift.



Jeanne Naccarato in a selfie as Pam Robinson is unaware.

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Playing Bingo for the Holiday Social

The Hospitality Committee conducted a Holiday Social simultaneously with the Bake Sale/Auction, including some amusing games of bingo. Diana DeMatei displayed pictures of Christmas-themed items to encourage members to find them on their bingo cards and cover them with peppermints. Members enjoyed the return of the buffet lunch for this special occasion.

President Kay took the time to recognize and thank our faithful server, Teresa Del Real with a special gift.



Enjoying the bingo games from left were: Cindy Burk, her mother Mrs. Wanda Beaman, Liza Chapen, Marilyn Pearson and Pam Robinson.



Looking for another bingo winner, from left: Pam Russell, Doris Phelps, Debbie Handke, Eve Johnson and Nicole DuPont.

Socks Donated to Project 150 Neared 400 Pairs

The focus in October for Project 150 was toiletries, and SITM members outdid themselves with nearly 1,000 (individual and multi-pack) items donated and delivered. In November and December, the focus changed to socks, and wow did members ever come through with donations for an estimated value of \$782.50 worth of men's and women's socks.

Diana Dillon, Co-Coordinator of the Community Outreach and Advocacy Committee, sorted and tallied up the haul for project 150. It included 156 pairs of men's tall and short socks. The young women will be receiving 238 pairs of tall, short and fuzzy socks.

The grand total of 394 pairs of socks will be delivered to Project 150 on Monday, January 22, when SITM holds a "work party" from 1-3 p.m., to sort all kinds of donations at Project 150.



Project 150 is located at 1340 Foster Drive, across from Reno High School. Contact Diana DeMatei or Niki Ewing for more information.

Project 150 provides clothing, toiletries and other services to homeless, displaced and disadvantaged

high school students.

Protecting Yourself from Cyber Crimes and Scams



Ben Gallagher, a cyber security professional was the January 11 speaker, sponsored by the Finance & Governance Committee. He led off with a startling statistic, with today's technology, a scammer can send as

many as one million scam emails, from anywhere in the world, in just a few seconds. Ben offered a list of things to look out for and be safe while online.

1. Is the message normal? Does it seem suspicious or urgent?
2. Who is it really from? Investigate before you "click".
3. Nobody wants you to buy gift cards online. Don't fall for this scam.
4. Keep passwords unique and secure (or use a password manager).
5. No human should ever ask you for your computer or account password.
6. Back up your data and important transactions. Don't rely on your computer for the only copies.
7. Don't share personal information on social media (like address, phone numbers, etc.)
8. Assume everyone is not who they say they are until you can make verification.
9. Never leave your computer or screen unlocked.
10. Don't let a scammers urgency make you panic. Tell them "You want to think about it", whatever it is.
11. Nothing is ever free. There is always a catch.

NYEP Volunteers to Help Beads for Strength Project

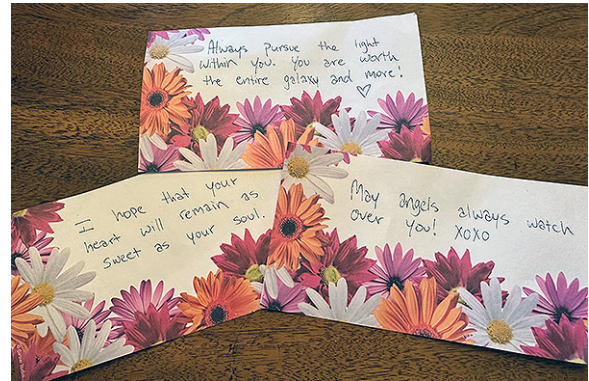
By Pam Robinson

As part of my volunteer time at Nevada Youth Empowerment Project (NYEP), we work on various projects. Recently, we participated in our SITM Beads for Strength project. Five young women residents (Sophie, Lona, Elysa, Elexis, and Kylie) and their house manager, Marvetta, created 32 bracelets. Bev Perkins and Barbara Foss put together kits for us. The women were asked to put personal notes with each bracelet. They enjoyed the beading and were excited that the bracelets are given to patients at Renown who have completed their chemo treatments.



Beads of Strength made by the young women at NYEP and the notes they attached

NYEP gives homeless young women (18-24) in the Reno area a chance to reroute their lives through a structured program that provides housing and basic needs, life skills training, opportunities to practice new life skills, and the support and love of a family. NYEP has a large 8-bedroom home and serves at least 15 at-risk older female youth residents each year. The residents gain self-confidence, personal independence and personal growth while learning to meet their obligations and fulfill their responsibilities. All volunteer at local organizations such as Domestic Violence Resource Center or Women and Children Center of the Sierras while going to school.



STEAM Girls at Hunter Lake Celebrated the Holidays

While it may not look like it, but when it comes to decorating cookies, there is a little bit of science, engineering, art and math involved in creating the perfect design. I guess you could say the technology part of this occasion was added by Pam Robinson, who baked all of those cookies as blank canvases ready for the girls to decorate. Thank you, Pam.

At the last Tuesday after-school meeting in December with the Hunter Lake Elementary School girls, SITM's STEAM Committee provided some holiday cheer, while allowing the girls to plan, measure, design, test and execute the application of frosting in colors and patterns of their making. Not so technical for this meeting, but just as much fun.



January Board and Business Recap

by Faye I. Andersen

The January Board and Business Meetings were a little short on business, but big on celebration for the two new members inducted at the Business Meeting. SITM is delighted to welcome Barbara Foss, sponsored by her sister Bev Perkins and returning member Maryann Decker, sponsored by Margie Hermanson.

Motions Regarding Luncheon Costs

Two motions were recommended by the Board and approved by the membership regarding weekly luncheon meals and costs.

The first was precipitated by the new contract from the Atlantis, which increased the meal cost, bringing the total for the plated lunch to \$31. One dollar will continue to be added to those paying by credit or debit card. These costs are based upon a minimum attendance of 20.

A second motion recommended holding a buffet lunch on Thursday, February 22 at a cost of \$33. Again, credit/debit card users will be charged an additional \$1. These costs are based upon a minimum attendance of 30.

District 5 Meeting is February 10

SITM members it's time to roll up your sleeves to attend and volunteer to work at the upcoming District 5 Leadership Summit on Saturday, February 10. SITM is the host club for District Director Holly Nash's final meeting of this biennium. It will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, 6855 S. Virginia Street in Reno, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person, which includes munchies, lunch, coffee, tea and water for those attending. Since it is the winter season, there is a \$10 registration fee for zoom attendance as well.

The day's theme is **"What's Your Heart Worth"** and will feature topics on self-care, heart care, mental wellness and chair yoga. **Wear RED and join in the fun.** To register, go to the SNR Website, "Events, then Registration" menus. Many members have already volunteered, but let Director Holly know if you can help.

Christmas Wreaths and Monthly Flowers Were Popular Among Members and Friends

Members, family and friends ordered Christmas Wreaths from Christmas Forest this year. The sales netted a 10% profit for SITM totaling \$208.

The 12-Months of Flowers cards fundraiser with Sparks Florist were also popular. Numbers are still being

calculated, but the club received 25% of the sale of each \$40 card, raising an estimated \$700.

Happy Dollars and Other Monetary Matters

Happy Dollars for the month of December totaled \$458 with an additional generous donation of \$1,000 by Jo Ann Roberts. Thank you, Jo Ann.

Happy Dollar funds are designated for a scholarship in the name of Dee Ann Roberts, Jo Ann's daughter, for a deserving education major.

Happy Birthday Soroptimists

Celebrating their January birthdays at the meeting were Barbara Foss (January 25), left, and Pam Sutton (January 2), right, shown here with President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato.



Also celebrating December birthdays were:



Patte Robnett
January 2



Paula Ringkob
January 7



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Contributing to this issue

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Jo Ann Roberts

Margie Hermanson

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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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 . . . What's Your Heart Worth?!?!

Wear your RED and join us.

District 5 Leadership Summit (Winter Meeting)

Host: SI Truckee Meadows

Join us for a look into your heart including topics on self-care, heart care, mental wellness and chair yoga.

Visit with other Soroptimists!

Taking care of yourself is an avenue to being a leader for Soroptimist and a better YOU!

February 10, 2024--9:00AM – 1:30PM

Courtyard by Marriott--6855 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89511

This is a Hybrid meeting.

Cost: \$35 (in person attendance)--\$10 (Zoom attendance)

Morning munchies, lunch, coffee, tea and water (in person attendance)

To Register: <https://registration.soroptimistsnr.org/events/2024-d5-winter-meeting/>

Questions? Contact Holly Nash: snr_district_5@soroptimistsnr.org