

In this issue

- Page 1 – President’s Message
- Page 2 – Scrapbook Clouds
- Page 3-4 – Parking Lot Sale
- Page 5-7 – Thanks to Youth
- Page 8-9 – STEAM Terrariums
- Page 10 – Women’s Scholarships, FBNN Tour
- Page 11 – Board/Business Recap
- Page 12 – Staff Box, Did You Know
- Page 13 – CFWN Funding Letter

Calendar

- May 28 – Ceec Abrahams Award
- June 4 – Women’s Scholarships
- June 5-7 SNR Conference, Atlantis
- June 9 – Board Meeting, Pam Robinson’s Office/Zoom
- June 11 – Business Meeting
- June 18 – Scrapbook/Year in Review
- June 25 – Installation 2026-2027 Officers
- July 9 – TEAse Fundraising

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Second Floor Convention Center
\$34 plated; \$35 credit/debit.
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



How Do We Do It All?

Wow! This year has flown by for me as one of your co-presidents. I’ve enjoyed my time immensely, especially looking back to see all our busy club has accomplished.



The High Tea last September, the Halloween Social in October, our Holiday Bake Sale in December, our Live Your Dream Awards in February amid all our committee meetings, Afghan Socials, Project 150 volunteering, STEAM projects, interesting speakers, and more.

This month is no exception with

a highly successful Thanks to Youth awards fundraiser, raising \$12,000 for next year’s student scholarships and awards. And a Parking Lot sale which raised a record breaking \$2,970. Coming up in June is our Women’s Scholarships, the Sierra Nevada Region’s 50th conference, our SITM Year-in-Review meeting and the installation of the 2026-27 Board. How do we do it all?!

Your dedication to our club is how. We all have jobs/family commitments and/or other organizations that require our time/money/mental attention. Yet, somehow, we make time for SITM. It’s a time expense and a monetary expense. Please know every bit of your time and money is important and appreciated. We all give in different ways and that’s what makes our club so vibrant and successful.

I’m looking forward to our next Club Year which starts July 1st. I know President Holly Nash and her Board, along with the new/returning committee coordinators and all of you, will create another wonderful year.

Co-President Marilyn Pearson

Creativity Displayed

As SITM’s Co-Presidents are wrapping up their successful Club Year, members did some crafty work to help them remember their year.

See page 2.



Members Get “Clouded” for Co-Presidents’ Scrapbook

Whether you are a crafter extraordinaire or all thumbs, when it comes to crafty projects, there were no worries when the Scrapbook Committee hosted a “cloud crafting” party at the May 7 meeting.

Each member was issued a “card stock cloud” asking them to attach the provided photo of themselves and write a message to Co-Presidents Marilyn and Lisa. Next step was to add some “bling” to the cloud to make it special. Accoutrements like glue sticks, stickers and colored pens were provided to each table.

The Scrapbook Committee loves the creativity and camaraderie of building a scrapbook each year for the retiring presidents. They meet about five times a year to fill a beautiful scrapbook with pages that detail all of what the club has done during the year.

If you were unable to attend the May 7 meeting, but would like to create a cloud, please contact Liza Chapen. She can send you a cloud to decorate, or you can let Liza know your desired message and she will put it on the cloud for you and decorate it.



Millie Mitchell



Carmela Cippolina

Hard at work are, from left: Bev Perkins, Annette Friedlander, Dot Watts and Jeanne Naccarato



Sharing creative ideas were, from left: Mary Ann McCauley, Debbie Handke, Eve Johnson and Eileen Fuller.

Funds Wired for Girls Spring Scholarships

Attached to this newsletter is a letter from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada indicating that the Community Advised Fund has directed \$15,000 to the Janata Sudarshan Multiple Campus in Thulipokhari Nepal Camus to fund 32 girls living in the dormitory, housemother, cook and a field trip for the girls this spring.

The fund was matched \$7,500 from SITM and \$7,500 from SI Sierra Reno.

“Life is like a parking lot sale. You never know what you’re gonna get.”



Gayle Kmetovicz and Mary Ann Mc Cauley

One woman’s junk, is another woman’s junque, or so the saying goes. True or not, there were plenty of treasures to explore at our second Parking Lot Sale at Kay Dunham’s office, First Wall Street Financial Advisors at Sierra Pines Professional Plaza.

Approximately 30 members worked Friday, May 25 setting up tables, unloading and displaying merchandise, and/or Saturday, May 16 selling and enticing customers to open their wallets. Some SITM members noted their will-power failed too and they took home a few treasures.

Thanks to Kay Dunham, leading the charge for the event. She donated the pizza for a hungry set-up crew on Friday night, along with the hot dogs, chips, cookie and botte of water “special day’s meal” for a bargain \$5. Eve Johnson came through with doughnuts Saturday

Deb Handke & Cynthia



Bargains so good, they’re almost illegal (in some states).



Carmela Cipollina, Billie Mendiola and Eileen Fuller



The parking lot sales crew.

Continued from page 3



Come get your, “I don’t need it, but everything is so cheap fix.”

morning to make sure members started their day with an energy-boosting sugar rush.

Cynthia Tashiro Cramer handled the accounting, which totaled a gross \$3,240. After expenses the net was \$2,971. Not bad for a second attempt and with a little more expertise. Sales in 2025 were net \$2,027.



Eve Johnson and Deb Handke



Do you think Kay was wishing she could get off her feet?



Jeanne Naccarato’s daughter Emily Zmmerman with granddaughters Maddie and Ellie.

“All proceeds go towards our group therapist’s new car.”

Celebrating the Youth in Our Community

The Thanks to Youth and Youth Awards Committees staged a wonderful annual Thanks to Youth luncheon celebration on May 14 at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa. With more than 200 in attendance, including parents, teachers, friends, and Soroptimists, SITM honored two scholarship recipients. Each received a \$3,000 scholarship to further their education after high school. Ten Unsung Heroes were each awarded a \$250 shopping spree at Target following the luncheon. Each nominator whose nominee was selected received a \$500 grant.

Youth Scholarship Recipients

Benjamin Munson is an outstanding student at McQueen High School in Reno. He's active in numerous school and community volunteer activities, including lifeguarding, Debate Club, National Honors Society, and multiple community service activities on top of



a rigorous swim and school schedule. Not only does he value his grades, but he sets an example for everyone on the team on how to be a well-rounded individual. Ben's attending the College of Idaho.

Tyson Timmons balances Debate Club, National Honors Society, and multiple community service activities on top of a rigorous golf and school schedule. Not only does he value his own grades,



but he sets an example for all the athletes on the team on how to be a well-rounded individual. His long-term goal is a career in public health advocating for health communities. He plans to attend Willamette University to study health sciences where he's been offered a position on their golf team

Unsung Heroes

Students were nominated by a teacher, counselor, or principal. Recipients were considered based on their citizenship shown by the role they play in their

families' current and past situations, their commitment to improving other's lives through community service, and/or their positive participation in their school or faith communities.

Hasley Butler was nominated by her teacher, Cristy



Fernandez. Hasley is a remarkable fifth grader at Mt. Rose K-8 School of Languages, who exemplifies resilience, determination, and courage every day. She is enrolled in a bilingual program and faces unique challenges that she never allows to define her or limit her potential. Hasley is not only an outstanding student but also a role model for others.

Jaden Calderon, an English Second Language student at Traner Middle School, was nominated by his teacher, Meri Edgerton. Earlier this year Jaden had surgery and is on a very strict diet. It is hard for him to be around all the food that other kids are eating at school. (We have snack sales every Wednesday and our class has Fun Friday where I bring in treats.) Jaden cheerfully ignores these goodies and never complains about 'being deprived.'



Alia Jed, nominated by her counselor, Breanna Giannopoulos, has had to adapt to a variety of new



communities and has found grace along the way. She feels with her whole heart; something she often finds difficult to navigate at Incline Middle School. When a friend lost both parents in a building collapse, Alia chose to write a poem to share with her friend around the five stages of grief, which she's shared with fellow students. It demonstrated her

tenacity to persevere and overcome challenges calmly and with grace.

Hayes Kramer established a recycling project where his 5th grade classmates at Doral Academy of Northern Nevada volunteer to carrying a box of recyclables home each day. His teacher, Mrs. Leah Paquettee,



Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

who nominated Hayes, supported the idea. Hayes and a friend, Rylan, created a play to demonstrate proper recycling. The play shows a recycling bin with pictures of items that can be recycled.

Itzel Chagolla Lira, nominated by Evelyn Garcia Zuniga, her leadership teacher, always has a positive outlook. She never fails to offer people a helping hand and serve as their voice whenever needed. Itzel continuously rises above challenges and always goes above and beyond what is asked with persistence and care for those around her. She doesn't let anything get in the way of achieving her dreams and being there for the people she cares about.



Luis Lopez, nominated by his teacher, Stephanie Martinez-Calderon, consistently puts others before himself at Sparks Middle School. He is always willing to make the people around him feel happy, welcomed, and supported. He is especially in tune with the emotions of both his classmates and his teachers, often noticing when someone is having a hard day and stepping in with encouragement or kindness.



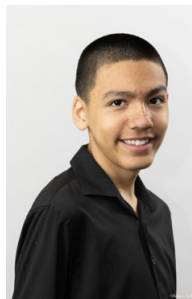
Nathan Magadia, nominated by Kimberly Gray, his counselor, was experiencing some bullying in the neighborhood from other students around his personal interests. Rather than letting the others bother him, he started a club at O'Brien Middle School during lunch. He asked a staff member to create a safe space, made flyers for the club and invited others to join him. He feels that no student should be bullied because of their interests.



Isabella Mello, nominated by Brianna Veil, her counselor, goes above and beyond to make sure that the students

in the Special Education Programs at Desert Heights Elementary School feel wanted and included. She goes out of her way to be a friend and an advocate for those with disabilities. She plays with students with Down Syndrome because she wants them to feel respected, making sure they are safe throughout the day. Because she has a younger brother with Down Syndrome, she knows the importance for everyone to feel cared for and respected.

Anthony Figuegroa Ruiz is a student with Autism. Nominated by Meri Edgerton, his teacher, Anthony is on track at Traner Middle School to get a standard high school diploma when he transitions to Hug High School this fall. This year has been a difficult year in that Anthony's math teacher accepted another job mid-year and he has a long-term substitute now. Despite this, and despite the fact that a lot of the other students are disruptive in this class, he continues to succeed and excel.



Despite all the challenges that exist in **Mila Fargo Youngquist's** life, she continues to come to Mt. Rose K-8 School daily with a smile and a positive attitude. Mila, nominated by her counselor, Candice Rutledge, uses the support she has in her life (parents/friends/teachers/counselor/etc.) when things get tough. Despite the many barriers Mila faces, she perseveres academically and socially, finding her voice in the process.



A beautiful setting, an enthusiastic audience, and best of all, youth scholars and ordinary youth doing extraordinary things.

Continued from page 6



Cindy Burk selling the winning tickets.



Greeting guests were, from left, Annette Friedlander, Bev Perkins and Vicki Schultz.

Top left, Patty Downs with Mila Fargo Youngquist, then clockwise: Cynthia Cramer with Hasley Butler; Eve Johnson with Isabella Mello; Hayes Kramer drawing a winning ticket.



Raising a little extra money with raffle



Margie Hermanson, left, shopping with Isabella Mello and granddaughter Reese.

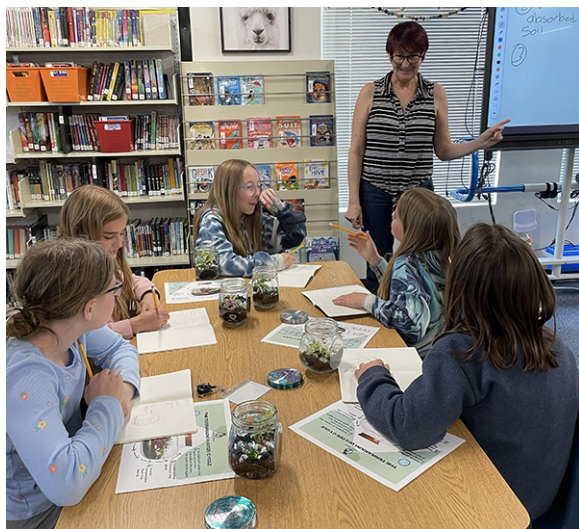
A Hands-on STEAM Project Building Terrariums

Story & Photos by Cynthia Tashiro Cramer & Deb Handke

Activity overview

To close out the year, we asked the girls what they'd like to do for our final activity. Some of the favorites were baking, cookie decorating and making terrariums.

Terrariums won out! Since we already decorate cookies during the holidays—and baking is tricky to manage in a library setting—we chose a hands-on plant project that fit our space and sparked lots of curiosity. We explored terrariums over three sessions.



Deb Richards begins with lessons about soil and water.

Session 1: Plants and plant parts

We kicked things off by talking about why plants



Decorating and personalizing terrarium jars.

are essential and reviewing the parts of a plant—and the important job each part does.

- **Mystery-bag challenge:** At each table, the girls examined a bag of fruits and vegetables and identified which plant part each item represents.



Are there enough stickers?

- **Plant fun facts:** Did you know that an artichoke is a flower and an onion is a stem?

Session 2: The water cycle and jar design

Next up was the water cycle -- how water moves through our environment and supports plant life. Afterward the girls added some personality to their terrarium jars using stickers and markers.

- **Key vocabulary:** precipitation, condensation, evaporation, and

transpiration

- **Jar-design tip:** The girls made sure to leave clear space so plenty of sunlight could reach the plants.

Session 3: Building the terrariums

For our final session, we tied everything together by looking at how a terrarium acts like a tiny enclosed ecosystem—recycling moisture much like the water cycle. Then it was time to build!



Deb Handke assists with building the terrarium with pebbles and soil.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8



Time to add the plants

- **Terrarium layers:** drainage rocks, screen, soil and plant.

Student Paige gave a great demonstration on how to gently remove a plant from its container and place it in the terrarium. Everyone enjoyed the hands-on building—and the girls proudly took their terrariums home! At our next meeting in two weeks, they'll report back on what they observed.



Terrariums finished and ready to take home.

Foster and At-Risk Youth Get a Boost

Foster and at-risk youth often struggle in school leading them to skip attendance or never receive a diploma. Enter Cooper Richardson, the Executive director and Co-Founder of Boosted Diplomas. Cooper and Jenny Kehoe, Program and Opportunities Director, were speakers at our April 30 meeting.

As an undergraduate at UNR, Cooper learned of the barriers facing foster and at-risk youth and experiencing low graduation rates. He found many students needing help were turned away from tutoring and mentoring services because they couldn't pay.

In 2019, Cooper Co-Funded Boosted Diplomas, a nonprofit focused on serving foster and at-risk youth in grades 1 through 12 with tutoring, mentorship and educational advocacy. Beginning with 14 students, the numbers have grown today to 330 students

Boosted Diplomas staff meet students wherever they are, including group homes, classrooms, after-school programs and treatment centers. The mission is to remain alongside the youth as a trusted and stable adult assisting them through challenges and transitions

If you are interested in volunteering as a tutor and have experience tutoring elementary through high school, visit the "Get Involved" tab at www.BoostedDiplomas.org.

The Ingenuity of the Zoom Warriors



No tripod. No problem. SITM's faithful Zoom Warriors are occasionally without a tripod to hold and aim a phone/camera at the podium to broadcast the meeting to members viewing on zoom.

Soroptimist ingenuity is alive and well, as long as you have enough coffee cups to stack up to hold the phone/camera.



Cooper Richardson speaking, with Jenny Kehoe.

Plan to Attend June 4 Women's Scholarship Luncheon

By Cynthia Tashiro Cramer

Our annual *Dreams Moving Forward* Scholarship Luncheon will be held on Thursday, June 4. This year, we will honor three graduate students and six undergraduate students pursuing fields ranging from social work and nursing to hospitality and construction management. We will also recognize one graduate and one undergraduate student with the Jo Ann and DeeAnn Roberts *Dreams Moving Forward* Education Scholarship.

These outstanding women are truly inspirational. After reviewing nearly 30 applications and interviewing candidates, the Women's Scholarships & Awards Committee selected this year's recipients. In total, we are awarding \$38,000 in scholarships -- \$30,000 through our regular scholarship program and \$8,000 through our education scholarship program.

We are pleased to welcome Katy Simon Holland as our guest speaker. A past president of our club and a familiar face to many members, she now serves as strategic advisor for Strengthen Our Community, a nonprofit dedicated to education, families, good governance, and sustainability.

Most scholarship recipients will attend in person, with perhaps one or two joining by Zoom. We are also looking forward to having Sierra Nevada Region Board members join us for our special luncheon.

This is a wonderful luncheon to invite guests!

Mark your calendars for this special event!!



From left: Millie Mitchell, Doris Phelps, Holly Nash and Billie Mendiola.

Touring the Food Bank of Northern Nevada

During the month of January, SITM members were asked to donate canned food, especially protein-rich items that seniors could easily prepare, even without contemporary kitchen facilities.

Members rallied with cans of soup, chili, stew and some additional offerings of ravioli and lasagna. The donations were delivered soon after, but Doris wanted to offer a tour of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to interested members. A few members took advantage of the offer.

A Memorial for Jeff Griffin

Several SITM members attended a memorial service for former Reno Mayor Jeff Griffin. He served as mayor from 1995-2002. His wife Marna was an active member of SITM participating in projects especially the one-day "Making a Difference for Women Skills Training Seminar", hosted annually by SITM. Marna and Jeff moved to Oregon years ago, but Marna staged a

At left are: Sorooptimists attending the memorial were, from left: Georgia Baker-Flambures, Patty Downs, Pam Robinson, Margie Hermanson, Kay Dunham and Marna Griffin.

May Board and Business Report

By Faye I. Andersen

The May Board and Business Meetings were delayed a week this month to accommodate another successful Thanks to Youth & Unsung Heroes luncheon.

Dues Increase from SIA

The Finance/Governance Committee presented two motions which were recommended for approval by the board and approved by the membership. The first was to outline a dues increase of \$2.31 annually from our Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas. The motion was to increase dues for the 2026-2027 Club Year for Regular Members, \$225; New Members, \$225; Life Members, \$145.

Laddering SITM's CDs

The second motion was to address a maturing CD as follows: move \$15,000 to cash to cover scholarship payments; and reinvest \$20,000 for a period of 150 days maturing in November 2026 when Spring scholarships are due. The increase is hoped to absorb increases in the next couple of years.

Fundraising TEAse Set for July 9

The Fundraising Committee proposed to host a July 9 "TEAse Party" as a kickoff for the Queen of Hearts High Tea, scheduled for September 19. Ticket sales and solicitations for raffle and auction items will be discussed. Show up and win a prize yourself. Approved by the membership.

The Fundraising Committee will be conducting a meeting on May 28 immediately following the regular Thursday lunch meeting,

Parking Lot Sale Success

Kay Dunham, for the Fundraising Committee, presented the results of the May 16 Parking Lot Sale. Merchandise sales grossed \$3,240, with \$2,970 net proceeds. Thanks to all who donated treasures for the sale and worked set-up Friday night and Saturday sales. Last year's net from our first Parking Lot Sale was \$2,027. Congratulations to all.

Treasury Fund Budgets for 2026-2027

The 2026-2027 Service and General Fund Budgets were approved by the membership. The proposed

budgets were initially proposed at the April Business Meeting for review.

Perfect Attendance Dangle

If you are expecting to be recognized for Perfect Attendance this year, it's time to turn your numbered badge "dangle" in to Annette Friedlander. (Your current dangle will likely go to another member's badge.) If you think you're close to Perfect Attendance, Annette can help you demine your status.

Money Matters and Happy Dollars

Donations designated for Thanks to Youth were received from Life Member Meg Price, who donated \$540 for 12 tickets to Thanks to Youth, to be used by recipients and their guests. A \$200 donation was received from jewelry artist Jill Atkins for Thanks to Youth. Thank you both for your generosity.

Happy Dollars collected in April totaled \$299 for the Jo Ann & Dee Ann Roberts Memorial Scholarship for Education Majors.

May Birthdays

Celebrating May birthdays were: Line Cousineau (May 7) and Billie Mendiola (May 3), with Liza Chapen (May 22) via Zoom. Also celebrating May birthdays were:



Liza Chapen
May 22



Liz Palm
May 1



Heather (Sloane) Altman
May 4



Debbie Handke
May 20

SITM Update

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Jeanne Naccarato	Jeanne Naccarato
Cynthia Cramer	Deb Handke
Doris Phelps	Dana Nollsch
Lisa George	

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

Co-President
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Lisa Robinson
President-Elect
Holly Nash
Vice President/Program
Mary Ann McCauley
Vice President/
Membership
Billie Mendiola
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Treasurer/General Fund
Pam Robinson
Treasurer/Service Fund
Cynthia Tashiro Cramer
Delegate
Debbie Richards
Director
Jeanne Naccarato
Parliamentarian
Doris Phelps



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



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Did you know . .



Celebrate SNR's 50th Anniversary June 5-7 at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno.

Learn about the history of Soroptimist right up to the 1976 founding of the Sierra Nevada Region. Then learn about the history of our own region by purchasing a copy of THE PAST while you attend conference.

Everything you ever wanted to know about the history of Soroptimist and the Sierra Nevada Region (well, almost).

Get your 50th Anniversary copy of

"THE PAST"

at this year's

Sierra Nevada Region Conference

THE PAST is a synopsis of the beginning of the first Soroptimist Club through the founding of the Sierra Nevada Region to the present.

Only **\$15** for one. **\$20** for two.



Proceeds from sales of THE PAST go to S.W.A.T.'s Past Governor's Dream Fund. THE PAST is an excellent S.O.L.T. reference for your club and great gift to new members.



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Northern Nevada

April 24, 2026

Janata Sudarshan Multiple Campus
c/o Nepal Bank Limited, Kushma Branch
Thulipokhari, Parbat

Dear Janata Sudarshan Campus,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, I am pleased to present this grant, # 38295, paid via EFT in the amount of \$15,000.00 to Janata Sudarshan Campus.

This grant comes to you from the Community Advised Fund Community Advised Fund with \$7,500 being recommended by Soroptimist International Sierra Reno and \$7,500 by Soroptimist International Truckee Meadows. This grant is designated for to fund 32 girls living in the dormitory, housemother cook and a field trip for the girls this Spring.

Please write a thank you letter to the donor advisor(s) who recommended this grant. You may send it in care of the Community Foundation, and we will forward the letter on your behalf. If you publicly acknowledge this grant, please report that it was given by the Community Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada.

Warm regards,

Lyndsey Crossley, CAP® Director of Giving Strategies

cc: Community Advised Fund
Education Fund for Girls in Nepal
Nepal Project Income Fund

By endorsing this check, your organization certifies to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada that it will use the grant for the purpose specified in this letter and that it will not fulfill a pre-existing pledge or that any other individual will not receive any goods, services or other private benefit. Our donors, fund-advisors and related parties may not accept tickets or thank you gifts worth more than \$25 as a result of this grant. Your organization should not provide a tax receipt for this grant, as this gift was made from a donor-advised fund, and we have already provided the donor with a tax receipt for the donation.