



# Soroptimist Spotlight

Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment



### Inside this issue

JWOC/ Calendar	1
President's Message	2
JWOC/New Member	3
Members at Play	4
SOLT/ Contact Info	5



## Journeys Within Our Community

At the SUDS meeting August 1, we had a wonderful presentation by the Managing Director of JWOC, Kneath Heard, an articulate, enthusiastic young man from England, who currently resides in Cambodia. He began his talk with a little history about Cambodia and the horrific genocide that occurred in the 1970's under the Communistic Khmer Rouge (KR) Regime. The KR wanted the society to revert back to the dark ages and become a total agrarian society. They disliked anyone with any education or affiliation with the outside world and began killing anyone that fit that description. Over the course of five years, they executed, starved, and tortured 2 million Cambodians, nearly one quarter the population of the country. You were even considered suspect if you wore glasses – that meant you could read and that was severely frowned upon. You didn't need glasses to work in the rice fields.

So, imagine the level of education typical of the Cambodian population. Almost zilch. Even after the KR was kicked out and their leader passed on, many people lived in fear of "appearing" the least bit educated. Sadly, that fear persists today for many.

However, with the aid of non-profits, such as JWOC, education in the country is on the upswing. Women who were once taught that drinking lots of alcohol during their pregnancy would cause their children to be born of fairer skin (and therefore more likely to do well in life and be successful) have since been learning the real dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

JWOC's motto is "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow", and their programs include free classes, community support and mobile education, educational loans, and the University Scholarship Program. It is the latter that SITD supports by providing the funding needed to send two girls to school to complete their university education. The girls' names are Maly and Sreymouv (pronounced shrey mao), both in their early 20's, and their opportunity to become educated is allowing them to get work outside the rice fields where their families work.

Cont. page 3

## Calendar

Evening times shaded BLUE

### SEPTEMBER

- 9/7 --- Noon --- Board Meeting @ TDPUD
- 9/13-16 ----- BUCKS LAKE
- 9/14 --- 11:45 --- Business Meeting @ Zano's
- 9/16 --- 9:30 --- **District V Fall Meeting @**  
The Atlantis, Reno
- 9/21 --- **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

### OCTOBER

- 10/3 ----- **SIA FOUNDER'S DAY**
- 10/5 --- Noon --- Board Meeting @ TDPUD
- 10/7 -- 10:00 -- **Trafficking Posting Day @**  
TTCF
- 10/12 --- 5:30 --- Business Meeting @ Zano's
- 10/19 -- 5:30 --- Teen Closet @ Laura Mohun's



## PRESIDENT SUSAN'S MESSAGE

At our August 10<sup>th</sup> business meeting, I asked the 24 members and guests in attendance to participate in collecting data needed for this presidential message. Each, with eyes closed, was asked to draw the letter 'E' on her forehead. The results showed the letter written in two different ways: one third of us drew the 'E' in a way where it could be seen from our own mind, but backwards to anyone looking at it. Two thirds of us drew the 'E' so that everyone looking at it could read it, but reversed in our own mind's eye.

In my first message as President, I addressed how Soroptimist so adeptly bridges the emphasis of the individual in our culture with the compassion of community. I became curious as how this seeming anomaly correlates to the width and breadth of one's perception. According to a study reported in *Psychological Science*, people tend to become more self-oriented when in positions of power or perceived power. Knowing that our club membership is weighted heavily with those in professions demanding leadership skills, I expected the results to reflect a predominance of backward 'E's' as people in power are three times more likely to position the 'E' in a way that they see it. This group tends to see most issues from their own vantage point. A full two thirds of us did just the opposite, reflecting an openness to listen to others' ideas and thoughts about a given subject.

This study is certainly not an 'end-all' of information on our ability or disability to see perspectives, however, it does give us pause to consider whether or not we actually do. Undoubtedly, knowledge opens the doors of opportunity. As SITD members, may openness to perspective give us greater effectiveness in fulfilling our Soroptimist mission of improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.



A Mike English Design

### BIRTHDAYS



- 9/12 Laurel Holmer
- 9/13 Cathy Leibow
- 9/13 Nancy Wallis
- 9/21 Carla Embertson
- 9/23 Lisa Swartz
- 9/27 Sarah Deardorff

### ANNIVERSARIES



Laurel Holmer 2001



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

September 21

*"Let there be peace on earth"*

(Cont. from page 1) Part of JWOC's program is to have the recipients of scholarships and assistance give back by teaching classes and mentoring others thereby becoming positive role models. The requirement of community service is 7 hours/week.



Maly currently works in hospitality at a hotel. Her monthly earnings exceed her family's income by four times. As a child, she underwent surgery for cleft lip and suffered with low self-esteem having been bullied for so many years. Her education and opportunity to teach others *"has given me new confidence"*.



Sreymouv also works in hotel hospitality and enjoys the ripple effect that happens when she teaches others, that is, those young people then go on to teach even more members of their community. In her words, *"Now I have education I must share it"*. She is currently studying Chinese as well.

Both girls are learning English and they would love to be able to communicate with some of us. They want to learn about our lives, our families, our homes and our community, as well as practice their language skills. Pam English is coordinating the email lists for Pen Pals.

## Take Note



## PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBER, TAMMY KRASNE

Tammy Krasne moved to Truckee in 2015 from San Diego with her husband, Mike, and their two dogs. She is a Registered Dietitian and the Director of the Food and Nutrition Services Department for Tahoe Forest Hospital and Incline Village Community Hospital. Tammy volunteered and assisted in fund raising for the Meals on Wheels program in San Diego County and now serves on the Board of Directors for Sierra Senior Services. Welcome aboard Tammy!







# SITD MEMBERS AT PLAY



Joyce Brady and her husband recently enjoyed a trip to IRELAND

Ireland far exceeded our expectations. We knew that during our three weeks adventure we would be enjoying lush country sides but we did not expect to fall so in love with the Irish people and their fascinating history. The people were incredibly friendly, kind, and humorous and will forever remain in our hearts.

Our travels began on the east coast of Ireland in Dublin, home to Ireland's prized national treasure, the Book of Kells. The world's most famous medieval manuscript is on permanent display at Trinity College Library, Dublin. It is a 9th century richly decorated Latin copy of the four Gospels of the Bible.



From Dublin we took a train to the west coast to Galway and then completed a counter clockwise circle through the entire Republic of Ireland, including an additional loop up to County Cavan, home of the Brady clan. We used every form of transportation, including renting a car and "enjoying" the drive on the left side of the road.



Our first night in Galway while we were enjoying dinner in a pub, fifteen local musicians spontaneously showed up and played a variety of instruments, modern and traditional. Their music was interlaced with poems and stories. This experience will always be one of our favorite memories.

From Galway we ventured out by ferry to Aran Island, where the famous Irish Sweaters are knit. The island also has church ruins from the 7<sup>th</sup> Century.

From Aran Island we explored W. B. Yeats house. Dingle peninsula is beautiful, rugged, and has huts from the 7<sup>th</sup> Century. Several islands off the peninsula are isolated during winter storms.



Beautiful castles abound throughout the country side, as do farms, and stone walls.

Emerald Isle...we will return.

## A LITTLE PINCH OF SOLT

### Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training



## TEEN CLOSET BABY SHOWER

"Mark your calendars for our annual Teen Closet Baby Shower.....Thursday, October 19, 6-8pm at the home of Laura Mohun. Each year we gather to both socialize and to help replenish baby and toddler items for the Teen Closet located at Tahoe Forest Hospital. These baby and toddler gift items are used to support the pregnant and parenting teens at Sierra High and are also available for use by hospital staff when a baby is born at the hospital and parent/s not prepared. We budget \$550 a year for the project with most of the dollars going towards purchase of baby and toddler items to replenish the Teen Closet supply. We generally replenish the supply two times a year-----at the baby shower and later in the year often during the winter months.

This year our annual Teen Closet Baby Shower will be a potluck event and club members are encouraged to bring a baby or toddler gift to add to our club purchased donations. We will also hear an update from the Sierra High Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program Coordinator. A sign-up sheet for the potluck and information on Teen Closet needed items will be shared next month."

-- Contributed by Nancy Wallis

## SITD

### 2017-2018

### Officers & Board



**President:** Susan Horst  
**President Elect:** Pam English  
**Recording Secretary:** Cathy Leibow  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Joan Kreamer  
**Treasurer:** Lauren Schaaque-Hudson  
**Treasurer Elect:** Sue Sage  
**Advisors:** Leslie Dugger, Jayne Hahin  
**Delegates:** Janet Mills, Mary Meier

### SITD Contact Details

Website: [www.sitd.info](http://www.sitd.info)  
 General Questions: [info@sitd.info](mailto:info@sitd.info)  
 SITD PO Box 1423 Truckee, CA 96160  
 Soroptimist International (SI)  
[www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)  
 Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)  
[www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)  
 Soroptimist Sierra Nevada Region (SNR)  
[www.soroptimistsnr.org](http://www.soroptimistsnr.org)

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*If you change the way you look at things,  
 the things you look at change.*

---Wayne Dyer

If you would like to submit an article, photo or information for the "Spotlight", please email [newsletter@SITD.info](mailto:newsletter@SITD.info). Our submission deadline is the 20th of the month for the following month's issue. We reserve the right to edit material for length and content. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this publication. However, SITD cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information and hereby expressly disclaims any responsibility for errors.



2017-2018 Editor  
 Sue Sage  
[skigal55@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skigal55@sbcglobal.net)  
 530.305.2249  
 Comments welcome