

SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Hamilton, Montana
Northwestern Region, SIA

Best for Women

Volume 23 Issue No 7 Jan 2021

Calendar

Jan 7 NOON	Business Mtg. BJ's/Zoom
Jan 14 NOON	SOLT/ Speaker BJ's/Zoom
Jan 21 NOON	BOD Mtg. BJ's/Zoom
Jan 28 NOON	ZOOM Social
Feb 4 NOON	Business Mtg. BJ's/Zoom
Feb 11 NOON	SOLT/ Speaker BJ's/Zoom
Feb 18 NOON	BOD Mtg. BJ's/Zoom
Feb 25 NOON	ZOOM Social

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January President's Message

Woo Hoo!!! 2020 is out the door!

One of our members sent a saying to me that went something like this: I am going to stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve. Not so much to welcome the New Year – just to make sure 2020 actually leaves!



I think that is a sentiment shared by all of us. In fact, that sentiment is probably shared by 99.9999% of the world's population.

So, as we gear up for 2021, I would be remiss not to share how proud I am of SI Hamilton! Our club has maneuvered through this difficult year with grace, kindness, good humor, and creativity. Members have gone the extra mile in keeping in touch with other members. We have worked hard to make sure every member can participate at a level that maintains their desired level of safety. Committees have continued their important work with new ideas tailored to the COVID-caused conditions. We made money. We had meetings. We gave Live Your Dream awards. We had our first highly successful on-line auction. We had our first on-line See's Christmas season. We digitized our nearly 50 years of club history. We had wonderful socials. We remained engaged with the community. We have new members. And, we said goodbye to our incredibly special member and good friend Mary Lou Amsden. 2020 was a difficult year on so many levels.

So, 2021 has finally arrived. Although we all contend with the pandemic with on a daily basis, the delivery of vaccines brings us closer to saying goodbye to COVID. That is something we all will celebrate! 2021 is going to be a good year for SI Hamilton. We will continue to build on our strong base. Our mission is more important than ever.

(President's Message continued.)

I can hardly wait to see what the year brings. I know that a couple of great fundraising ideas are floating around – more news to follow.

I will be hosting a Zoom “roundtable” sometime in January to discuss ways to enhance our image. I would like to step up the marketing of our club to the public. We are doing a lot – and I think it would be helpful to look at our combined overall effort and strategize for the future. If you have an interest, would you let me know?

This is also a great time to say thank you. Each of you is a valued member. Thank you for the talents you bring to our club. I am so impressed at how easily SI Hamilton members say yes! I have asked a lot of you this year and you all have said yes. So many of you have provided good and solid counsel. Thank you.

I hope 2021 is ready for SI Hamilton! We are certainly ready for the New Year!

President Teri



SIH Historical Items

January 2021 Links to Drop Box items:

1985 – 1988 Hamilton SIH “SORO SCOOP” Newsletters

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3m712gz2ev9c0rw/AAAAN8y7XvzvzYrcYgF8r2F9a?dl=0>

Committee Member Lists (see Izzy and Teri from early on!)

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ro4r8j2rm5jwajq/AACnEb-LOJajphNMcePonqrf?dl=0>

October 1988 Family Violence Services Hotline begins

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/za5ozjmorfa7m78/AAB9aaPAR8DIZZy857lhdQina?dl=0>

SI 2020 International Scholarship Recipients

Last year we awarded scholarship to two women from the SERES Youth Leadership Organization in Guatemala and El Salvador. Sara Hurtarte, the SERES codirector, sent this end of year report to our club about how they have utilized their award money. Even during times of COVID, they have been very active learning about how to impact the lives of women in their local communities. Their activities and goals are very impressive! Alene Tunny



Att: Alene Tunny

Re: Report, Soroptimist Club

Dear Alene and fellow club members,

On behalf of SERES and our young leaders, I would like to thank you once again for your generous support of a \$500 scholarship for Maria Esperanza Rivas and a \$250 scholarship for Jennifer Guzman, as part of our SERES Youth Leadership Awards.

Grantees

Maria Esperanza Rivas

Due to COVID, Maria Esperanza Rivas had some difficulties in attending the Mexico program. However she enrolled in three online classes in a feminist platform, she undertook the following programs: a) Mental health and gender. b). Eco-feminism c). Decolonial feminisms: bases, proposals, and contributions.

*"This opportunity is strengthening even more my struggle (struggle of many women) to create our space and that of men in a more just and egalitarian place, these courses reaffirm that I am walking on the right path" - **Mary Rivas***

Mary continues to work as an advocate for human rights and with the new tools and skills gathered from her scholarship, she is working with a group in her community of Santa Marta.

With COVID she is participating in community organizing and working closely with a group of children, using theater and arts as a tool for expression.



(Seres letter continued.)

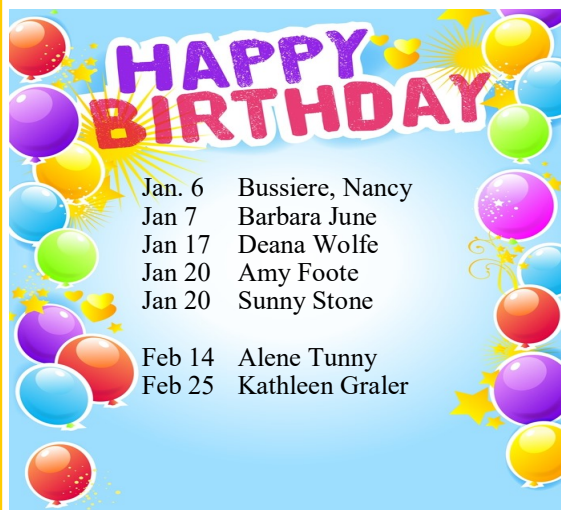
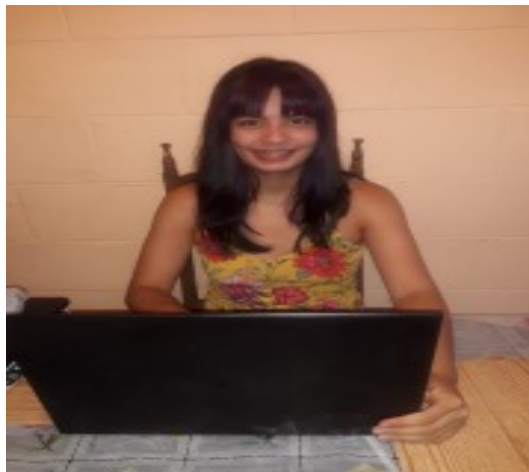
Jennifer Guzman

Jennifer was able to attend the Regional Forum Vulnerable Central America before COVID and she also managed to get a discount to be enrolled in three online courses: a) Eco-feminism, b) Feminist economy, c) Decolonial feminisms: bases, proposals, and contributions. She was able to maximize her scholarship and be involved in training programs during 2020 despite COVID.

Her hope for her community and country is "Social justice, sustainable society, now I live the reality that sugarcane companies have water and there are communities without water, my dream is that from community organizations we can join forces to change various social issues".

She continues to be part of the student union at the national university of El Salvador, in the alliance against water privatization, the salvadoran ecological unit, and also in the citizen movement for the defense of Taculcaso.

"The opportunity I have to train has become a light for my life amid so much darkness" - Jennifer Guzmán



4th GRADE

Our interaction with the kids is really limited, but we are getting a few opportunities. I got to do my "Year in Iraq" presentation with the kids via Zoom. Not nearly as fun, but the kids enjoyed it. Alene and I both sent the kids a small Christmas gift. Alene gave each a goody bag, and I made little Santa stocking ornaments with their names on them. Both of us got a pile of hand-made Christmas cards. A project we started is a round robin story. I started the story (see next page) about Jack and Diane, two American kids... The kids will take turns writing a chapter about the kids, and by the end of the school year we should have a complete story about them.



Saundra



Jack and Diane

Have you ever wanted to be a twin? Maybe you are a twin. Twins always have a best friend, someone to hang out with, talk to, and maybe get into a little more trouble with than you could do on your own. Most of us don't have a twin. Well, Jack and Diane are like that. They don't have a twin. But, they were both born on the same day. June 8th, 2019. And they live next door. So, for them, that makes them twins!

Now, obviously, they aren't identical twins. Jack is a boy, and Diane is a girl. In fact, they aren't twins at all! They have different parents. But that doesn't stop them from creating that close twin bond. They have lived next door to each other for over eleven years, and have been the best of friends from the very beginning of their lives. Both were born in Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital, had bassinets right next to each other in the maternity ward, and their moms had rooms just across the hall from each other. They were both bald as a cue ball at birth, but quickly grew in light brown hair.

In fact, it seems they did everything together. They got their first tooth at five months, started crawling at eight months, walking at thirteen months. They both loved pears and peaches, but didn't like bananas. Everyone remarked how they were so like each other.

As they got older, they became more independent. Finally, when they were about three years old, Jack's dad decided they just needed to put in a gate between the back yards so Jack and Diane could see each other when they wanted to without the parents having to take them to one house or the other.

When they were finally old enough to enroll in first grade, they had the same classroom. Well, guess how that turned out! There is a reason why twins are put in separate classrooms. It didn't take long for Ms. Richards to decide Jack and Diane couldn't sit next to each other. They didn't exactly misbehave, but they certainly were determined to do everything together. Including doing the homework only once, putting both their names on the same sheet. In art class they would do the projects, but only paint one picture and both of them would sign the bottom.

In second grade, they were assigned to separate classrooms. Jack was in Ms Arnold's class and Diane was in Ms Alexander's class. At recess and lunch, though, Jack and Diane would rush to see each other and spend the entire time together. Sometimes it got them into a little trouble as they didn't like to leave to go back to separate classrooms so they were frequently tardy. It took them awhile to get used to the routine, but after about a month, they decided they needed to go back to class on time so they wouldn't have to stay late at school to make up for being tardy to class.

Both Jack and Diane are good students. So now we will pick up their story in fourth grade. Once again they are in the same class. Their teacher, Ms Harber, likes to sit kids alphabetically by last name, so they are separated a bit as Jack's last name is Booth, and Diane's last name is Searle.

This is the story of Jack and Diane's fourth grade year. All the fun, accomplishments, and bit of trouble they get into.

Welcome New Members

Chris Rowles

I am a Mom to an awesome 19-year-old son, and amazing 40-year-old Stepdaughter, and married for 20 years to a wonderful man. I have lived in Hamilton all my life and can't imagine a more beautiful place to live. I love the outdoors or just driving around the mountains taking in the beauty. I paint various animals on Turkey Feathers and love to do crafts when I can. I am also going into my 3rd semester at Bitterroot College hoping to get my associate's degree with a certificate in Cyber Security.

I have always loved anything and everything to do with technology. We have a rescued American Foxhound "lap dog" who is all legs named Tucker. He can run faster than a deer.

And also an 8-month-old Grandpuppy who is a hound/lab mix my cuddle bug. So that's a little about me, and I look forward to meeting you all and joining you in helping others.



Nancy Lewis

Thanks for the warm welcome. I will be so happy to get to know all of you ladies in person. This pandemic has made it hard to know and remember who's who.

My husband and I moved here from the Seattle area recently, just finished building our house and are loving the area. We have 5 children, 20 grandchildren and two dogs. My husband is the Hamilton HS tennis coach and I work for a high quality pet nutrition company. I love reading, biking, hiking, music, the arts, traveling, and being with my family and friends.

I'm a Hallmark movie enthusiast but hardly get the opportunity to watch because there just isn't enough hours in the day.

I'm looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you ladies.



REMEMBERING.....

MARY LOU AMSDEN



We are still so saddened at the loss of Mary Lou Amsden. Mary Lou was the consummate Soroptimist!

She joined our club in 1994 and soon became one of our most active members. She served as President in 2000. Mary Lou was also active at the Northwestern Regional level, serving as District 4 Secretary 2002-2004 and District 4 Director 2004-2006.

Mary Lou was our club's cheerleader. She was quick to laugh and her good humor was infectious. We love this clip of Mary Lou modeling at our Christmas party in 2019 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/zj2Z68sNKsJYuLXX6>. Mary Lou went out of her way to make certain every new member felt welcome to our group. One of the members she brought to our club was her daughter, Sandra, who now serves as District 4 Director. Mary Lou's determination to battle the effects of her strokes was an inspiration to many of us. There was just no stopping Mary Lou. She was a wonderful member and a good friend to many throughout our community. To say she will be missed is a complete understatement!

Sandra Amsden has given the club a **large box of greeting cards** from Mary Lou's collection for any of us to select and use.

The wonderful collection has been organized by category: **Blank, Thinking of You, Sympathy, Get Well, New Baby, Wedding, Anniversary, Male cards, little cards to enclose with gifts, lovely notepaper, postcards, Birthday, Thank you, Friendship, Christmas Cards, Christmas money cards, Christmas notepaper, New Years, and Christmas photocards.**

It is an absolute treasure trove of cards. You are welcome to view the box at Teri's office and take any that you would like.

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Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to:
<mailto:sinewsletter@gmail.com>

If you submit to any of the above locations, you are guaranteed it will reach us!