



SOROPTIMIST®

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Hamilton, Montana
Northwestern Region, SIA

Investing in Dreams

Volume 23 Issue No 11 May 2021

Calendar May

**6 – Hybrid Mtg ZOOM/
BJ’s noon**

**13– Hybrid Mtg ZOOM/
BJ’s noon**

**20—Hybrid Board Mtg
ZOOM/BJ’s**

27—5:30 ZOOM social

June

**5—Spring into Summer
First Interstate Bldg**

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May President's Message

Woo hoo! Spring is in the air. Don’t you just love this time of year? It will not be long before we see that bright, beautiful Bitterroot green!!



My favorite thing about the spring of 2021 is that we can all look ahead without the fear and uncertainty we were experiencing at this time last year. That is definitely something to celebrate! While we are not back to 100%, we are undeniably moving toward the light at the end of the tunnel. I would like to once again thank each of you for your grace and kindness during the past year. And, for your consideration of others. It has been a tough year as we all have had to work in keeping ourselves and our families safe. SI Hamilton did a phenomenal job of maneuvering the challenges of the past year.

Now, we are on our way to the next year. Our club is as busy as ever, planning our budget, hosting committee signups, having hybrid meetings, working on fundraisers, and continuing our service projects. We have a great slate of officers, under the leadership of Patti Martin, who will be installed in June. Our membership has grown – even in the year of COVID. We were able to award over \$20,000.00 in scholarships. That was possible because of our super successful virtual event. One of our Live Your Dream Award winners also won an award from Northwestern Region. And, while we had to trim our service budget, we still were able to make our commitments. We have had our club history digitized and made accessible on the website. Members reached out to our senior women, many of whom had no other contact with the world outside their room during the pandemic. We have worked to make the club administration easier and more seamless. Members are working to update our marketing. We want it to be easy to serve in leadership!

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We partnered with local businesses for fundraisers. We started on-line sales for Sees candy. We are going to have a table at the “Spring Into Summer” non-profit event. And, we have had FUN socials! Laughter is always the best medicine. This is the season when we welcome home our snowbird members. It is so good to have them back! I know that it has been great to have the ability for them to join us via Zoom during the winter. We also had to work through losing two especially important members and friends – Mary Lou Amsden and Pat Sanders. Both had served as SI Hamilton Presidents. Mary Lou was a familiar face to so many – not only members, but throughout our community. Pat, a former Hamilton City Judge, is remembered by many although she was no longer a member since moving to Arizona.

I am going to renew my commitment to our mission this year. I hope you all will, too. As we move into a better year, let us really make it our best year yet!

Spring into Summer Event First Interstate Building June 5th

This event gives non-profit organizations an opportunity to tell the public what great things we do. The public is invited with no entry fee to music and entertainment, a children’s play area and a large raffle (again free) to win some nice prizes like a snowblower, big screen TV, VVQ grill and more. Current CDC guidelines will be in force. For participants to get a raffle ticket they must go to a booth and do something to get a ticket. At our booth they will give us their email address so we can inform them of our fundraisers. We cannot sell anything or give any food or drink away. We can have a donation jar on the table. We will also have a small raffle at our booth (again free) so we are looking for a few donations from our members to fill the basket and a basket to use. Mary Lyn has created a new club brochure that attracts new members and women looking for scholarships. She is also making a postcard to promote our fundraisers. Please come to the event. It should be fun.

We will have 3 shifts at the booth of 2 or 2 ½ hours long and we do need a few volunteers. Masks are required for workers. Please contact Barbara June 363-6500 if you want to work a shift or help set up or take down.

Save the Date!!!



Together in Motion
47th SOROPTIMIST
Biennial Convention
Seoul, South Korea • July 20-23, 2022

District 4 Meeting

Location: Grouse Mountain
Lodge in Whitefish, Montana

Date: Friday, October 1, 2021 to
Sunday, October 3, 2021

2021 Award Recipients

Due to COVID-19, we weren't able to celebrate our recipients at an Awards Banquet. The committee was able to surprise (masked & at a distance) the LYD recipients in person right before Christmas. We created a "celebration in a tube" for the rest of our recipients! Their award letters, certificates, notes from members and their checks were rolled up in festive mailing tube. This was followed by several personal notes of congratulations written by club members. ***Due to the success of Evening Wrapped in Chocolate and the Edwards Charitable Foundation award, this year's recipients received a total of \$21,350.***

Ravalli County Live Your Dream Award

Theresia Temukum \$3,000

Fellowship Award

Anna Green \$3,000

Erin Rosenkrance \$1,500

Options

Kristen Pound \$2,000

Trina Peterson Pro Tech

Baili Lubke \$1,000

Abbie Dunn \$1,000

Sophia Arnold \$600

***Violet Richardson**

Maizie Mendenall \$ 250

*Received matching \$250 from Ravalli Foundation

Live Your Dream Award

Elizabeth Taylor \$2,000

Tamsen Mitchell \$2,000

Edwards Charitable Foundation

Connie Hickey \$2,500

Veteran's Award

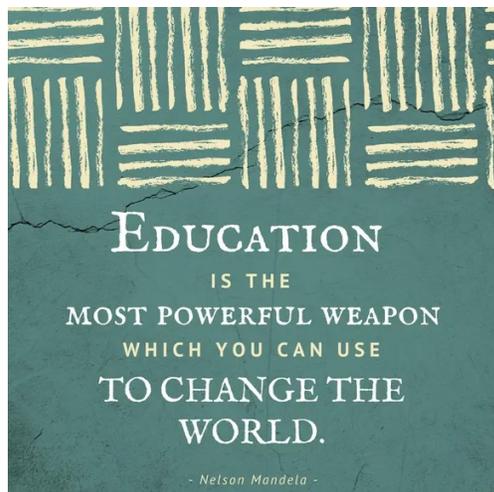
Josie Baggett \$1,000

Patti Furniss

Emily Creedon \$ 750

Shannon Hochhalter \$ 750

Our 1st place Live Your Dream Award recipient, Elizabeth Taylor, received an NWR level LYD award of \$1,500.



Evening Wrapped in Chocolate

Mark your calendars for September 16th! The committee for "An Evening Wrapped in Chocolate" has met and set a date for an in person and online event. We felt that by September people will want to be out and about and other organizations are doing the same. We will have an online presence for people who want to stay home so they can take part and we will have a screen at the Bitterroot River Inn so people who come can see the bidding and bid. We have some great live auction items to auction off and we felt that they would bring in more money at a live event. We will have our wine pull, a bowl of money to raffle off, a speaker and Dominic will be our auctioneer again this year. We will also have heavy appetizers, wine, and beer. As in the past we have asked our members to donate \$20 for our wine pull, this keeps our expenses down. So, if you can manage that please come to a meeting or drop the money off at Teri's office, By Owner. We are back open now for in person meetings but will still have zoom for awhile so please join us either way.

The Senior Women Committee shares this news:

Lori Matz was treated to a special phone call from one of her Senior Ladies, Patsy. Lori writes:

Patsy is a delightful lady. She had contacted some friends that lived down the West Fork to find my phone number. Patsy used to work at the ski area for many years. She originally lived in CA but when her children graduated from high school, she and her husband moved down by the Rocky Knob restaurant. He died 2 years ago so her children thought she should move to Hamilton. We would have talked longer but her other phone rang. We did say we would plan on talking again soon. Patsy told me that **the cards/postcards I send have meant so much to her, especially during the pandemic.** That meant as much to me as it did for her! I just sent her a postcard of the Bleu Horses from our Three Forks road trip. Patsy said they had traveled a lot of Montana but they had never been there.

Betty, age 92, sent a strikingly beautiful card to Nancy Bussiere with this message: "Happy Easter to you and your family. Sorry I have been neglectful but I was in the hospital for a week, home and lots of appointments in between. I have been diagnosed with abdominal cancer so have lots of doctors. Your hospital in Hamilton is a very caring one. My two daughters are here with me now."

NWR Conference

The 102 NWR Conference took place on ZOOM April 23rd and 24th. This virtual conference was well executed.

The keynote speaker was Blythe Hill, the CEO and Founder of the Dressember Foundation, an anti-trafficking nonprofit organization. Be sure and check out Dressember at <https://www.dressember.org/>. She was followed by Sara Blond, Special Agent FBI, Seattle Field Office. Sara specialize is violent crimes against children and human trafficking investigations.

The Live Your Dream Awards presentation on Friday night was very moving. Over 300 attendees were online to hear some of the recipients speak.

Heidi Gordon was elected District 4 Representative for the NWR Nominating Committee. Congratulations Heidi!!!

Attendees made contributions online during the conference to the NWR Dream Jar. This helps fund the additional NRW LYD 10 awards of \$1,500 each. Our LYD winner, Elizabeth Taylor, was one of this year's recipients. You can donate securely online <https://www.soroptimistnwr.org/donate/>

Nancy shared these notes received from Award recipients

“I am so happy to read from the Soroptimist club the kind words and wishes, which all really encouraged me
Again, I want to appreciate the \$ award to me. It was so timely and it went a long way to reduced the heavy student loan hanging on me.

After picking up a job with one the Ravalli Services Group Homes, I worked for 6 months and was promoted as the manager. Since then I have been so busy with work.

Please join my family and I in praying that we make right decisions regarding my goals. We are praying and considering two options;

1. For me to continue with schooling and do a master in Healthcare Administration or
2. Do a B.S in Nursing, focusing on nursing leadership

My husband and I have talked about the possibilities of me joining the club but my work schedule is too demanding.

Please extend my gratitude to the club members.”

-Theresia Temukum

“Thank you very much for your encouraging words and kindness. You've all really made my day!

I cannot express how grateful I am to have so many people encouraging me to become all that I can be and succeed. I have a gift to give and am here for a reason. My life feels like a movie. I am continually blessed and astonished.

It had been feeling like a when it rains it pours moment when the front passenger wheel came off my car while I was driving it a few days ago. This is my only means of transportation to and from school, or anywhere for that matter. The lower ball joint sheared off, and the tow driver stated it could've happened anywhere. The silver lining was that I was driving 35, instead of the usual 70 mph I would've been traveling if I had not decided to take the scenic route back to destress as well as having a network of friends to pick me up off the side of the road. That could've been a far worse wreck. I'm happy to still be here.

This scholarship, like where the accident occurred, is a blessing to me. Thank you all for everything once again.

I look forward to applying again this upcoming year.”

-Emily Creedan

Small things can make a big difference

Saundra Amsden shared how being able to do something simple for someone really matters. Recently Liz, the Corvallis 4th grade teacher really needed some crickets, but was unable to go get them, so Saundra stepped in and bought the much needed crickets!

“Aim to make a difference in someone’s life every single day, including your own”

- Dow Zantamata

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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!