



# S O R O P T I M I S T

Soroptimist International of Hamilton  
Hamilton, Montana  
Northwestern Region, SIA

**Best for Women**

**Volume 25 Issue No. 5 DEC 2021**

## Calendar

BJ's and/or zoom

**Dec. 2 business meeting  
and new member  
induction**

**Dec. 9 SIH Holiday  
party via zoom/BJ's  
12:00—1:00**

## Table of Contents

Events pg. 2

Senior Women committee  
report pg. 3

SI History pg 4

Birthdays/ new members pg  
5

## December President's Message



SOROPTIMIST NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER

**Happy Thanksgiving!** As Soroptimist we have so much to be **Thankful** for we have had a wonderful year even with Covid. Our club stood together and made things work as a group. We made money with partnering with Seppi's and I think we have helped them as well since they were new to Hamilton. We added money to our General Fund so that we can do our Club Giving that helps other organizations. "An Evening Wrapped in Chocolate" was once again a success with everyone pitching in to do what they could. This year we can once again give out all our Scholarships with added funds. I am so **Thankful** for our wonderful group of women who are always there to lift a hand when we need help. I am also **Thankful** that we have new members to welcome into our club. I am looking forward to a new year. I hope you had a wonderful **Thanksgiving**, and we will see you in December. I love this time of year and finally families can be together and celebrate. So now have a Merry Christmas!

Patti Martin,  
President



An orientation session was held on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> for our new members. Brenda Von Brach presented information on our meetings, parliamentary basics, member benefits and responsibilities, website access, our newsletters, committees, history and scholarships. Members Sunny Stone, Lori Matz and Nancy Bussiere shared helpful comments. Our new members are Andrea Zimmerman, Linda Pierce, Lois Ryngelson, Jean Israel and Cathy Kulonis. They will be inducted at our Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> business meeting. Please attend and join us in a warm welcome!



Zoom and BJ's 12:00—1:00  
Will include Annual Fun Gift exchange



**SUPPORT S.A.F.E !**

Buy your Christmas/Holiday Cards at the  
SAFE Thrift Store for **only .25 each.**

There are HUNDREDS and HUNDREDS of beautiful cards,  
sorted into Not-Religious, Religious, by Name (i.e. Grandson),  
and Gift Card cards! Each has a matching envelope.

You'll save MONEY and will be helping S.A.F.E. at the same time. Spread the word.



**Christmas SEE'S is online now**

to help us fundraise for the women and girls in our valley  
Link found on our Website

Due to national transportation issues, See's Christmas Candies will need to be ordered  
by **December 3rd.**



## **SENIOR WOMEN COMMITTEE REPORT**



**Our card writing campaign continues and we are enjoying receiving letters and cards back from our ladies aged 90 and above. Here are some we received this month:**



**" Thank you for your latest card. My freezers are so very noisy. Sometimes I pull out my hearing aids - they drive me nuts. What a beautiful day Saturday morning was. I hope we have lots of them this winter. It's nice you get books to read from the library. I have trouble seeing if I read much. I have a great-great-grandson down in Arizona. He is a pilot. I am going to write a Christmas letter. I will have my 100th birthday on July 16th, but that's a ways off! Take care, from your Angel"**

**"It's been a lazy day today. I took my shower last night and put on my robe, and I put it on again this noon and never got dressed! Lazy??! I think we fall back with our clocks today. I haven't changed mine yet. It was nice to have you stop by. Thank you for bringing me the Christmas Cards. Please take the enclosed \$15 to S.A.F.E as a donation - as they do a lot of good. Hugs, Laura"**

**"Have been meaning to write to you but something always seems to get in the way! I have so enjoyed your cards. I have kept them all. Got most of my Christmas orders done this morning. Did most on the computer, making it easy this year: No shopping trips. Have always enjoyed them heretofore but it's a hassle now. Your tomato bisque soup sounds good. I like a grilled cheese sandwich with tomato soup. I just put a corn casserole in the oven. I've enjoyed the beautiful days we've been having. Will probably wish for some of them later in the winter. Sincerely, Mary"**



## SI Hamilton History 2<sup>nd</sup> half

### **Our Service Projects include**

**COMMUNITY:** Programs and seminars presenting employment opportunities for women. Sponsoring a family with gifts and dinner on Christmas, our club is known in our community for our scholarships and awards. We also continue to contribute to Genesis house, Linda Massa Youth home, Women's hygiene, and childcare resources,

**RETIRED LADIES' TEA:** We had a tea for retired women – that has morphed to the senior women's tea honoring women over 90-years-old women by serving tea and goodies. The pandemic version was writing cards to these women weekly or biweekly to bring in some cheer to those isolated 90-year-olds.

### **Programs we started in the community**

**Mammogram fundraiser.** Soroptimist clubs in Montana including us were participating in the Race for the cure race in Helena. WE decided to do a fund raising for our local hospital instead and started the Mammogram fund. The hospital took over the project after a few years.

**Hamilton Playhouse.** Our club started having local plays in the summer. We bought the rights to the plays and hired a director. We sold tickets and served refreshments. After a time, the Hamilton Players took over for us.

**Our best was starting a family violence center- SAFE.** Our club members started by answering a domestic violence phone line of women calling for help. We then raised the money with help from the SAFE committee and built a shelter and temporary housing for these victims in our community. Some of our members still work on the SAFE Board and we still support them financially.

**An International Service Project,** A member who was an educator and worked around the world. We identify and contacts potential international organizations that need funding for the education of women and girls. We reviews resumes and select recipient(s) to receive funding.

**Awards and scholarships.** This year (2021) we gave \$22,000 in awards to women and girls in our community nest year (2022) we will give \$26,000. Money that we raised from our recent awesome online auction called an Evening wrapped in Chocolate.

**We continue to** have a monthly club newsletter and monthly club socials and our meetings are the first 2 Thursdays of the month at noon.

One thing we have always enjoyed about so many of our projects is that we are almost the "incubator". We start, nurture, and develop our ideas, and celebrate when the project is able to stand alone – good examples, SAFE, mammogram program, the summer theatre, Friends Afar.

# WELCOME New Members

Cathy Kulonis [catherinesuekulonis@yahoo.com](mailto:catherinesuekulonis@yahoo.com)



<b>Nancy Hutcheson</b>	<b>December 22</b>
<b>Gloria Janskovitch</b>	<b>December 8</b>
<b>Laura Reichart</b>	<b>December 31</b>
<b>Sue Smith</b>	<b>December 20</b>
<b>Lois Vallance</b>	<b>December 25</b>



Reminder: Please sign up for the committees that most interest you [and that need members]. Everyone is expected to sign up for at least one committee. Many serve on 4, 5, 6 or more committees. This is the quickest way to become involved in the club and make friends. Thank you!

**Soroptimist of Hamilton**  
**PO Box 1012**  
**Hamilton, MT 59840**

Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to:  
<mailto:sinewsletter@gmail.com>  
<https://www.sihamilton.org/>  
If you submit to any of the above locations, you are guaranteed it will reach us!