



# S O R O P T I M I S T<sup>®</sup>

Soroptimist International of Hamilton  
Hamilton, Montana  
Northwestern Region, SIA

## Investing in Dreams

Volume 23 Issue No 9 Mar 2021

### Calendar

#### March

**4 – Mtg ZOOM noon**

8—International Women’s Day

9—Last day to order “Kiss me I’m Irish” St. Patrick’s Day fundraiser

**11 – Mtg ZOOM— noon**

14—Last day to order HeadFrame pasty dinner St. Patrick’s Day fundraiser

**18—Board Mtg ZOOM**

19—Last day to order See’s Easter Candy

**25—5:30 ZOOM social**

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### March President's Message

Wow! The year is sailing by. It is so good to hear lots of conversations about members receiving their COVID vaccinations. It is great to be see that light at the end of the tunnel peeking through! Zoom calls are a great alternative, but it is going to be so good to see all of you in person.



And that leads me to my next thought. I cannot tell you how wonderful and humbling it has been to serve as your President. This has been a most unusual year – not only for our club but for every one of you. Despite that, you have stepped up to the plate to keep our club not only relevant, but also vibrant and growing. True to our nearly 50-year history, we have a lot going on. Let me give you a brief re-cap:

- Our awards committee has already presented the Live Your Dream awards to three very deserving young women. Now they are diligently working to get the word out about our remaining scholarships. SI Hamilton is empowering women!!
- The Nominating Committee, chaired by Vikki Bell, is working to provide our club the continuation of leadership. Serving as an officer, director or delegate is a great opportunity for personal growth, wonderful networking and it is also a lot of fun! I hope you will consider serving. Why don’t you give Vikki a call or send her a text?
- Evening Wrapped In Chocolate is off and running! It is planned for September and the committee is already meeting and soliciting sponsorships. If you know of a business that might consider a sponsorship, just let Chairman Patti Martin know.
- See’s Easter sales are happening NOW! This year we are having a virtual store, so we really need all of you to spread the word! Tell your friends and family to go onto our website, click on the link and buy some delicious See’s candy for Easter. The See’s committee chaired by Marcia Babowicz will be creating a year-round virtual store!

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- The Charcuterie & Champagne fundraiser was a great success. SI Hamilton partnered with Seppie's and we have had rave reviews. We are partnering with the Mineshaft for a fundraiser this month. It will feature a special St Patrick's Day dinner. The price is \$40, and it is dinner for two. Again, we are going to need your help to get the word out. People can order by going to our website.
- Our virtual events have made us acutely aware of how much we are marketing to the public. With that in mind, an Image Roundtable was held to take a 30,000 foot look at our marketing efforts – both to our members and the public. That group is working hard to make things accessible and easy.

I would like to ask each of you to do something for me. Would you give yourself a big pat on the back? Our club, like any organization, is only as strong as the members who belong. Our members are strong women! In addition to what we all do in our personal lives, I have been so touched by the efforts expended to take care of our members by reaching out with conversations, visits, food deliveries – in short, we take care of each other! I have been a member of the club a long time and this year has certainly been a test of our commitment to SI, to the community and to each other. You know what, we passed the test with flying colors. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your president.

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*For all the  
cards, texts, and  
emails I received while  
I've gone through my crazy  
hip saga-----*

*Thank You so very much,  
Joan*

## SI ADOPT A CLASSROOM COMMITTEE

### COVID FUN

I know, I know, that is an oxymoron! Who can have fun during these Covid days? Well, as Sandra Amsden knows, working with Liz Jameson's fourth grade class in Corvallis can warm your heart.

I have done 11 PowerPoint Zoom presentations on various countries that I have visited or lived in and each time it is delightful. The kids are so responsive. They all made valentine cards for me expressing their appreciation. There was such a variety. The one pictured to the right was by a student who took the time to research and draw the flags from some of the countries that I had featured. He worried that he had forgotten a couple of them and had actually added one or two.

No problem! I was thrilled.

Alene Tunny



### Women's History Month

The 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, was ratified in 1920. Last year women's suffrage centennial celebrations were planned across the country. Because these were curtailed due to COVID, the National Women's Alliance is extending the annual theme for 2021 to "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced".

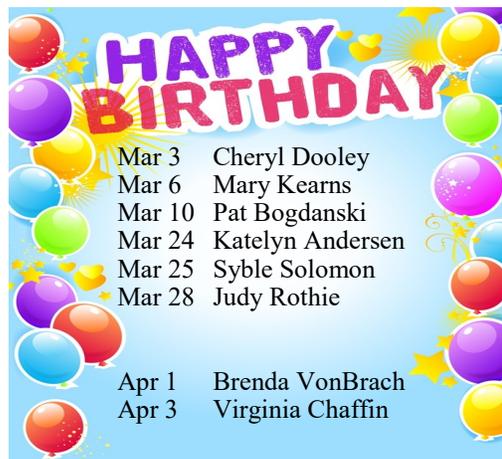
The following stats detailing the number of women serving in Congress show that we are making progress!

Year	House of Representatives	Senate
75-77	0	19
85-87	2	23
95-97	9	48
2005-07	14	68
2015-17	20	85
2017-19	23	87
2019-21	25	101
2021-22	24	119



*"Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."*

-G.D. Anderson



*Ladies, we're getting there ... slowly, but surely!*

## International Scholarship Recipients for 2021

Our February newsletter featured this year's International Scholarship Award winner from El Salvador. This month we are featuring the other outstanding award recipient. The stories from these two young leaders are incredibly inspiring.

Meet Maria from Guatemala.

Alene Tunny, Chair  
International Service Committee

### **Maria Aracely Lux Vasquez, Guatemala**

Aracely is 20 years old, from San Miguel Uspantán, Guatemala. She has been part of the SERES youth network since 2016, a teacher for young children, and ambassador in her region. She is part of the management team of a reading camp, offering educational workshops to schools. She has also been involved in community initiatives like reforestation, a project developed by the municipality and ITEMAYA institute, a reading camp, organizing youth to create awareness against teenage pregnancies, and involving children in sports. She was selected as part of the first cohort of female leaders for "She Leads Guatemala", with her project "no plastic bags please". She has also used her teaching skills in all of her projects, mainly by implementing classes of communication, language, math, and environmental awareness at a vacation school for children. During COVID, she has provided – "bolsas de amor" (bags of love) which are bags of supplies for elders and children most affected by the pandemic. She plans to use her scholarship for three activities:

- a) Government School course for women, run by the association Alas de Mariposas;
- b) An English course, to be able to connect with female leaders in other countries to exchange ideas and projects globally;
- c) Workshop from Project SANIK by Ixlem Chen. "I want to know more in depth to have a similar one in Uspantán since it is one of the projects of a peer of Quetzaltenango and through social networks, I have seen the changes it has achieved".

She needs \$250 for her English course and additional costs for internet data, and fees to be able to connect virtually and participate in the course work and workshop.

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## International Women's Day

March 8th is International Women's Day. For our club it has a particular significance. For the past several years we have held our Awards Banquet on or around IWD. This year, because of COVID, we are unable to celebrate the achievements of our recipients at an "in person" gathering. Of course, we will find another wonderful way to do this in the next few weeks. We are hoping to have an "after the fact" in person celebration later in the summer.

"Women are building a future that's sustainable, peaceful, inclusive and equitable. Celebrate the women and girls shaping the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic." - unwomen.org

The International Women's Day theme this year is 'Choose to Challenge' Check out <http://internationalwomensday.com> to discover ways in which we, can #Choose to Challenge.



The **SENIOR WOMEN COMMITTEE** card writing campaign continues in 2021 as COVID-19 vaccines are making their way into the arms of our ladies age 90 and above. While many of us do not receive any mailed response from our assigned ladies, others have seen cards come to their own mailbox.

Robin Clute's penpal, Marylynn, wrote: "***Thank you for your letter of introduction and the pretty Valentine card. Long ago (60 years, I think or thereabouts) I was invited to join Soroptomists in Redding, CA. I didn't, but nonetheless, I've always admired your organization. I appreciate your outreach for Seniors.***"

Nancy Bussiere's penpal, Laura, who lives independently, writes her a letter in response to each letter she receives, helping pass the time until her daughter visits her: "***I'm still all played out with all the family's Christmas. I'm not complaining, just tired. Wanda got back. I was beginning to be used to being alone, but I love having her with me. You are lucky to have a Zoom - too new fangled for me. I hope you had a nice Birthday. Did you ski to Minnesota to be with your sister - HA HA. I did a lot of baking in my younger days. I baked bread and made extra large ones for my husband to take to work. He worked for the railroad. Yes, we knew Willard, the previous farmer owner of your property, quite well. He owned all that land. He said he picked up lots of golf balls. Maybe his cows would have swolled up. Well, I hope that you won't always be a ghost, or maybe I should say fairy or angel but can see you in person. We can wear our masks. Have a healthy happy New Year!***"

Betty wrote after Christmas: "***Dar Nancy, What a pleasant surprise you have been. You let me make that new stew recipe right along with you. We lived in the Eastern part of Montana and had a lot of deer - so lots of stew. Thank your friend, Saundra, and yourself for the Christmas ornament. My family from Delaware and local were here for my 92nd birthday. Lots of food and laughs. Thanks for being my friend. Betty***"

And another from the daughter of Hattie: "***Dear Nancy, I'm writing to let you know that my mother passed away. It's very kind of you to have sent these cards to her, someone you don't even know. Thank you.***"

Lily's daughter wrote "***I want to thank you for your sweet notes to Mom. She loves getting them, but may never write back. Mom wonders why you are writing to her and I explain each time of your thoughtfulness in reaching out to an elderly, single lady. I remind her of the tea she went to but she really doesn't remember the event....If the Lord still has work for Mom ...she will turn 101 on September 25th. Thank you again for reaching out. Rondi***"

These fundraisers put the “fun” back in fundraising!

# St. Patrick's Day Pasties & Leprechaun Cake



SOROPTIMIST®  
Investing in Dreams

MineShaft Pasty Co.

The MineShaft Pasty Co. has generously partnered with us for this St. Patrick's Day fundraiser. This fundraiser is a win-win. Raise funds for our club while supporting a downtown business AND have a delicious prepared dinner for St. Patrick's Day.

*Click on the above photo for complete details and to place your order or [sihamilton.org](http://sihamilton.org).*

## See's Easter Candy



See's virtual candy store is open through March 19th. Go to [sihamilton.org](http://sihamilton.org) or click on the above photo to order!

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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!