

SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Hamilton, Montana
Northwestern Region, SIA

Best for Women

Volume 23 Issue No.1 July 2020

Calendar

All meetings noon BJ's

July

- 2 – Installation and meeting, noon BJ's or Zoom
- 9– Meeting, Speaker
- 16 - Board
- 20– Connie Baer, 5:30 Edge
- 30– Social TBA

August

- 5– Meeting
- 12– Meeting
- 19– Board
- 20– Chocolate event

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July President's Message

We've Got This!!

I truly am excited about having the opportunity to serve as your President for the 20-21 year! If someone had told me a few years ago I would be doing this, I might not have believed them. But life leads you down interesting paths.



And my path now is to have the privilege of working with this fabulous group of women as we continue our mission of empowering women and girls. There is no other job I'd rather have! SI Hamilton has been an important part of my life for quite a few years and this year will be no exception. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly created challenges for all of us but, **WE'VE GOT THIS!!**

I am constantly amazed at how giving the women of SI Hamilton are. I have asked a lot during the past couple of months and my heart has truly been touched by the creativity, spontaneity, humor and willingness to help of our members. This is especially true in a year that has been filled with uncertainty. So, from the bottom of my heart, thanks to all of you.

I have to start the year by thanking both Dixie Dies and Anne Brown for a job well done. This year has brought tremendous challenges for both of them in their professional lives and I appreciate that their hearts have remained with SI Hamilton even if they couldn't be there in person.

We have a lot going on! Our almost 50 years of history is being digitized so that it will be available to anyone, anytime.

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Member Izzy Moerkerke has given us a great rate on a storage unit for many years and it was wonderful to have that available. This year, however, we are really having to watch our expenses. So, things we need to keep have been moved to Mary Lyn's warehouse where they will be stored free of charge! And, all of the things we kept just because we had the space are gone.

The Evening Wrapped in Chocolate committee under the leadership of Chair Patti Martin had to cancel the April event. They have re-directed their efforts and will be hosting a virtual silent and live auction event in August.

A brand new committee has been formed to present an antique appraisal clinic and sale in October. We've been hosting hybrid meetings and socials so that all members can participate in a manner that is most comfortable for them. Saundra Amsden was elected District Director. And, we have 45 members to start our year!!

There is no question that the year will be challenging – but, there also is no question that SI Hamilton is up for the job. I'm sending heartfelt thanks so each and every one of you. The year is going to be fantastic. We need your help, so please remember to attend meetings either in person or via Zoom and don't forget to go to the website to sign up for committees.

WE'VE GOT THIS!!

Teri

Membership update

Thanks to all our members for renewing your dues. A special thanks to those who donated extra for the operating budget. Treasurer Sue Smith said your response was very generous.

We have 45 members including our newest member Pat Bogdanski.

Members dropping are Katy Bosio, Cory Keith, Sue McMeeken, Alida Merritt, Laura Mertins, Judy Rothie, and Judy Rummel.

Judy Rummel made a generous donation to the scholarship fund.





Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is now in Ravalli County! It's an amazingly simple program that can make such a difference in the lives of children. Each month, all children who live in our county and are between the ages of birth to five can receive a beautiful, age-appropriate book mailed directly to their homes—at no cost to the family! Seriously, parents are never asked to contribute! We have approximately 2100 eligible children and 450 are already registered!

If you have children, grandchildren or friends with young kids living in Ravalli County, we encourage you to go or send parents to our [website](#) and sign them up. And if supporting a book project for all young kids excites you, we would love you to [donate](#) to this wonderful program! For only \$25, one child will receive 12 books over the next year. For \$125, a newborn will receive 60 books before starting school!

The joys and benefits of being read to as a very young child are lasting! A parent and child snuggling together to read a story and share the experience of learning about new things is priceless itself. But that's not all! Books introduce kids to new words and by the age of three, children's vocabulary can predict their success in 3rd grade! Books also introduce kids to new concepts and cultures. Many of the books have suggested questions and activities related to that story so parents can make the experience even more interactive and fun. Those activities are especially appreciated now as parents are challenged to keep their little ones entertained and busy at home.

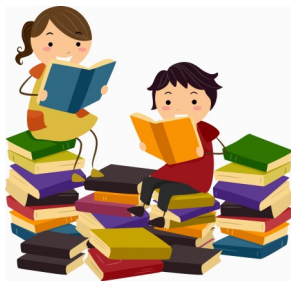
Sapphire Community Health is our partner and First Security Bank is our primary sponsor. The Jane S. Heman Foundation, Elks Lodge #1651, Bitterroot Law and many individual donors have contributed to make this program available to every child in Ravalli County.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact your Soroptimist friends

Soroptimists:

Syble Solomon (coordinator)

or volunteers Vikki Bell
and Sunny Stone.



Jul 8	Vikki Bell
Jul 8	Patti Martin
Jul 17	Sonya Bitterman
Aug 13	Dixie Dies
Aug 13	Izzy Moerkerke
Aug 23	Anne Brown
Aug 27	Marie Taylor "Blue"



Good bye, good bye to all my Soroptimist friends and colleagues! It's been so wonderful to get to know you all and be a part of such a kick-ass organization. I regret not being able to see very many of you on my return trip to sell & pack the house but it's strange times we live in. The chapter of my life I call "Montana" is over. It was the best ever and I'm so happy that you all were part of it. Now it's time for me to start a new adventure. It's what keeps me charged.

Our club — it's been about friendships, getting to know almost all of you. A diverse slice of women from across the valley, all with an interesting story to tell. I will remember you all and some of you I will dearly miss.

It has been about supporting the community and feeling proud to do so. It's the best feeling ever to know that I've helped make the world a better place. It's hard to leave those connections behind.

It's been about pushing my own envelope to grow as a person. And there are those of you who helped me do that. Thank you. I still can't believe that I negotiated those 4th graders for a whole year! Plus Soroptimist President and my volunteer work with SAFE. Wow! It was fantastic.

I know I will be back. Too many friends to just let go of. So I'll see you sometime in the future... Chou

Connie Baer

Past SIA official, past Northwestern Region Governor, past Montana resident, current Florida resident, good friend
Connie Baer is coming to Hamilton for a brief visit. Please plan to meet with Connie on Monday, July 20th at 5:30 pm at the Edge. She is eager to see or meet you.

Barbara June



AN EVENING WRAPPED IN CHOCOLATE

Remember that our event will be on line August 20th. Please help us get the word out to your friends, family, clients, etc. Anyone can join in the fun. The silent auction items will be up for bid a few days before the actual night of the event, then we will have the paddle call, wine pull, bowl of money, and the live auction on the 20th. We will be sending you a link so that you can see out event before the night of the event. The evening will be different but if we all work together, we could have a successful event.

So "An Evening Wrapped in Chocolate" will be different but we will still make money for our scholarships. Mary Lynn has spent numerous hours looking for the best online auction site, so we owe her a debt of gratitude to come up with this for us.
Patti Martin,
Chairman

Soroptimist Antique Appraisal and Sale Event

For the appraising, Gini Rogers who gained years of experience appraising antiques in her business will be appraising antiques. Harry June will be appraising guns. Both are donating their fees to the club in this event. We are looking for other appraisers to help in the event also.

For the sale, this year we will only accept items from club members to sell. Be thinking of anything you would like to donate to the sale. If sold, you will receive a receipt for the donation for your taxes.

There will be an admission fee to the event and we will charge a fee for each item appraised.

We on the calendar of the Bedford Building for Saturday October 10th **BUT** at this time they are not renting the Bedford building due to Covid so we shall wait to see if we will be able to hold it there in October.

Committee consists of Chair Gini Rogers, Patty Martin, Vikki Bell, Virginia Chaffin, Barbara June, Pat Bogdanski, Sue Smith, and Teri Polumski.

Stay tuned.



Daly Days at the Mansion

Our Trailer will be parked at the Mansion during Daly Days. (Thanks Gini) We want to help make it a celebration of community. We can plug Soroptimist working for a better community for nearly 50 years, advertise our events, and sell concessions if we like. At the Antique committee we also discussed parking our trailer near the Farmers market at Bell & Bell to promote our club. (Thanks Vikki)

**Soroptimist of Hamilton
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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!