

SOROPTIMIST®

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Hamilton, Montana
Northwestern Region, SIA

Investing in Dreams

Volume 24 Issue No. 7 Jan 2022

Calendar

All meetings BJ's noon

Jan

- 6 Business Mtg BJ's/ZOOM
- 13 Mtg BJ's/ZOOM
- 20 Board Meeting BJ's
- 27 Social—to be determined

Feb

- 3 Business Mtg BJ's/ZOOM
- 10 Mtg BJ's/ZOOM
- 17 Board Meeting BJ's
- 24 Social—to be determined

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January President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Santa was good to you. We had our kids here and that is all we needed. We are absolutely going to throw out 2021 and may 2022 be a great year for Soroptimist. We have some wonderful new members to get to know and hopefully put to work on some projects. I am asking you all to see if we can find some fundraising projects for us to do this year as we are low in our general fund. Let us have fun and make some money as we do it. I know Covid has risen its awful head again and we will have zoom meetings, but please come if you can. It is so much more fun, and we never know if WIFI will work the whole meeting. So, we will see you on the 6th!



Patti Martin
President



Lets get together!

Awards and Scholarships

We had 4 outstanding applications this year for our Live Your Dream Award! We will be awarding a total of \$7,000 to the top three recipients. \$3,000 for 1st place, \$2,000 each for 2nd and 3rd place. The fourth candidate is going into the NWR pool of clubs that did not receive any applications. Hopefully, she will receive one of these awards.

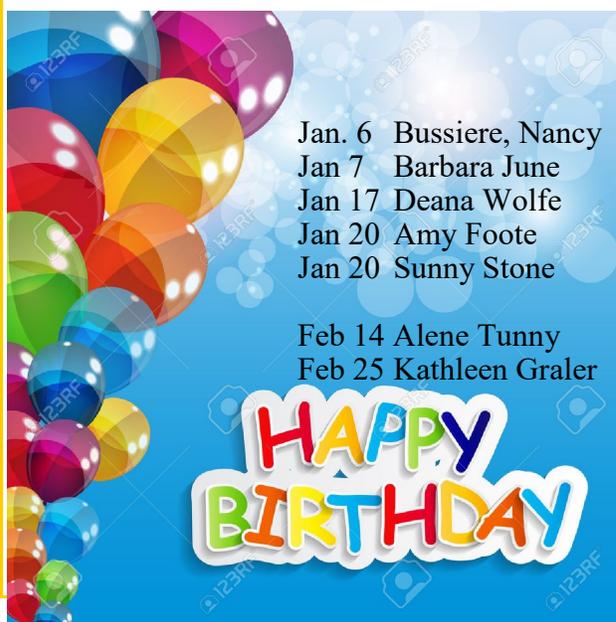
In addition to an Evening Wrapped in Chocolate raising a net of approximately \$24,000; Sandra donated over \$2,000 in Mary Lou's memory for scholarships; the Edwards Charitable Foundation is donating \$4,500 for two scholarship for women 40+; and Susan Johnson and her bother are donating \$3,000 for a Pat Sanders fellowship award!

It's really exciting to be in a position to give a large number of Ravalli County Women awards that will not only make a difference in their ability to further their education, but let them know that we, as a club, believe in them.

Please spread the word to anyone and everyone that you know that might be interested in furthering their education or know a woman that could benefit from one of these awards. Most of our previous recipients found out about our awards because someone personally told them, or spoke about it to a community organization, church, etc.

Fillable PDF applications are available on our website,
<https://www.sihamilton.org/scholarships>

The deadline is **February 28, 2022**. To answer any questions, contact the awards committee at sihamiltonawards@gmail.com.



47th Soroptimist Biennial Convention is going virtual

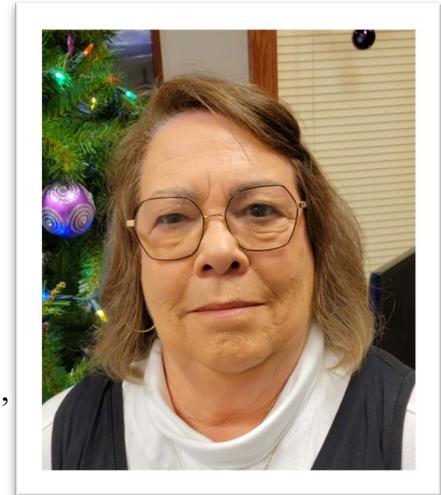
Due to ongoing COVID-19 global concerns, the convention that was to take place in Seoul, Korea will be a virtual event. It will take place on Friday, July 22nd and Saturday, July 23rd. The 2026 convention will be held in Seoul, Korea.

Save the Date! Registration will open in February.

Early registration rate (through April 30, 2022) is \$149 for members in good standing.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

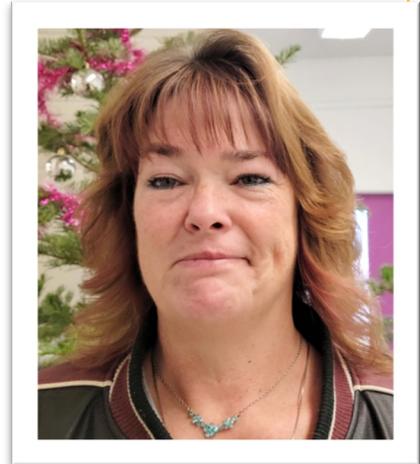
The melodious sounds of the deep south made interviewing new member Linda Pierce an extra delight. Linda and husband, Danny, came to Hamilton in July 2019, moving into the brand-new apartments by the high school. Linda has lived post-college in the city of Hattiesburg, Mississippi and is a dedicated 'Ole Miss Rebels' football fan. To her delight, Ole Miss will be playing in the Sugar Bowl on January 1. Linda's parents were employed as administrators at the Parchman Penitentiary in Mississippi, and she grew up inside the grounds of the prison. In the 60s, the prison grounds housed a group of employees and their children, with prisoners growing their own food, butchering animals for meat, sold in the on-the-grounds grocery store. As Linda said, "it was a different time." Active in track and basketball alongside her class of 66 teens, Linda went to high school with Archie Manning, father of Peyton and Eli Manning.



Linda was lured to Hamilton as her son, Trey, lives in Missoula. He is employed at Ogren Park at Allegiance Field in Missoula as the grounds keeper for the Pioneer League baseball team "The Paddleheads", which keeps him busy during baseball season and up to ski season where he is employed by Snowbowl as a lift operator. Linda's daughter, Misty, lives in Baker City, Oregon along with Linda's four grandsons and newborn great-grandson, Silas. In Hattiesburg, Linda worked just 2 months shy of 40 years as an administrative assistant for a CPA firm, and was delighted when the same position opened up at JCCS CPA firm here in town. Danny is retired and enjoys spending time with their cat Cinnamon, now aged 12, who has been a beloved pet since 4 weeks of age. Meant to be Linda's cat, Cinnamon believes only Danny exists. Linda learned of SIH when Carmela and Nancy B. came to JCCS to inquire about a sponsorship for our scholarship event, and has signed up for the Senior Women committee. She is particularly interested in volunteering for or supporting S.A.F.E. as well. Linda doesn't go anywhere without her kindle, on which she enjoys reading mystery series. She has watched (now records) 'Days of Our Lives' since its inception, and catches up on the story line each weekend, along with Saturdays filled with football during the season. Danny and Linda have toured some of Montana with Trey, and she particularly enjoyed seeing Snowbowl, where Trey works during the winter. Having been on her bucket list for years (she LOVES the cold), Linda is absolutely in love with Montana and Hamilton.

Member Chris Rowles

I met up with Chris Rowles in December at Bitterroot College, where she is carrying 11 credits this semester – on track to graduate in the spring with an Associate of Arts degree. Chris is a valley native: born in Missoula and moved to Hamilton at age 5. Other than 6 years in Irvine, California, Chris has always lived in Hamilton and is married to Tim. Her favorite job was selling home and auto insurance for AllState Insurance. Chris has always been attracted to art and graduated from the Art Institute of Minnesota. Her medium currently is turkey feathers! She uses acrylics to paint designs and wildlife on turkey feathers, wood and metal, turning the feathers into earrings. ***Look for offerings of her earrings in our next auction!***



Chris has a 21-year-old son, Nick. It was when she was practicing baseball with Nick 15 years ago that Chris had her first symptoms of Guillain-Barre' syndrome, a rare, autoimmune disorder in which a person's own immune system damages the nerves. Within one week, her feet were asleep and her fingers numb, and a week later, she was numb from the waist down. Community Hospital diagnosed this syndrome and currently Chris has minimal symptoms. Chris enjoyed many years as a member of the Hamilton Babe Ruth Baseball board.

Chris first learned of SIH when she applied for and received the \$2000 Options Award in 2020. For Writing 101 at Bitterroot College, Chris wrote a paper about Soroptimist Intl. of Hamilton, interviewing Teri Polumsky. She learned what an important role SIH plays in the community, and used Instagram and Facebook to poll her friends as to whether they were aware of SIH. She learned very few knew of us, but those that did recognized SIH because of our See's 'red truck' or knew one of our members. Chris has joined the Newsletter Committee and creates our newsletter for ¼ of the year. She is a valued member of the Awards Committee and shared how much it meant to hand out the December 2020 award money to our Live Your Dream winners. "The look on their faces when we handed them the check, I just KNEW what they were feeling," Chris shared. Chris is an avid reader of mysteries and thrillers and a huge Griz fan. She never leaves home without a 1.5-inch small, retractable knife which she uses to test the hardness of rocks she encounters, comparing her findings to the Mohs Scale. One can clearly see that Chris fully enjoyed her college Geology class! We are so glad you are a member, Chris.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF HAMILTON'S HISTORY

Part 1

Barbara June's excellent summation of our club's history encouraged a deeper dive into our club's history year by year as found in our documents and photographs. I wanted to know more about what SIH has worked on and accomplished over the years.

1984-1985

- SIH sponsored their first play, "Cole Porter's Anything Goes" at the Bedford Building in summer 1983. Having purchased the rights to the play and hired the director, Soroptimist also sold advertisements in the play programs and sold refreshments at the play itself.
- The high school "S CLUB" enjoyed a pizza party with costumes at Halloween.
- Teri Polumsky was named a Top Outstanding Young Woman of Montana."
- An "SOS" (Soup or Salad) Party was held.
- See's Candies were sold!
- "SORO Socials" were held.
- Members worked as Door Guards at high school basketball games.
- SIH created and distributed through the entire valley a booklet of "Day Care and Preschool Information."
- Member Molly Hackett originated "Friends Afar," a program to generate international understanding among women, with Soroptimists as a catalyst as women in developing countries improve their own lives. Micro grants would be given to women in 3rd world countries. Peace Corps workers, missionaries, teachers and others would act as SIH's translators on site. The only condition was that both the club and the grant recipient needed to communicate with each other. SIH processed applications from the women and from the Soroptimist clubs and provided the connection. SIH received 2nd prize in the annual Soroptimist Celebrating Success competition for this program.
- SIH offered a Women's Health Care seminar.
- The club held a 'Classy Junque' sale.
- 85 women attended the club's Retired Ladies Tea, which included a fashion show featuring styles from 1900-1960
- Awards of money were presented, some with matching regional funds: TAP (Training Award Program), Youth Citizenship Award, \$300 and \$100, Vo-Tech \$300 and \$200, and Women Helping Women.
- The club sponsored the play "Annie Get Your Gun" in summer 1984.

(continued on page 6)



*To all of the kind women from Soroptimists-
thank you for making our Christmas memorable!*

*“Christmas will always be
as long as we stand heart to heart
and hand in hand.” —*

Dr. Seuss

**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!