

SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Hamilton, Montana
Northwestern Region, SIA

Best for Women

Volume 23 Issue No 8 Feb 2021

Calendar

All meetings noon via Zoom

Feb 4	Business Mtg
Feb 11	SOLT/Speaker
Feb 18	BOD Mtg
Feb 25	Social
Mar 4	Business Mtg
Mar 11	SOLT/Speaker
Mar 18	BOD Mtg
Mar 25	Social

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February President's Message

I chose Rosie and "We've Got This" for my theme this year thinking it would serve as a great encouragement to get us through some trying times. One thing I've learned this year as your President is that SI Hamilton didn't need any added encouragement!

You are an amazing group of women. You have adapted to the time of pandemic with kindness, grace, imagination and a willingness to keep true to our mission. *You all have encouraged me! We've Got This!!*



Another thing I learned is that no matter what is happening in our world, time marches on – and, it marches on at a rapid pace. The 20-21 SI Hamilton Year is more than half over! In fact, our policies state that the nominating committee be in place by the first of March.

Following is the section of our polices and procedures dealing with nominations and elections:

ARTICLE V

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee shall:

- a) Be formed before the (last) first meeting in March of each year.
- b) Consist of three members: The President shall appoint the Chair; the board shall select a member and the club shall elect a member.
- c) Ask the membership to suggest names for board positions.
- d) Nominate one or more candidates for each of the offices except President, and 1-year Director.
- e) Obtain consent from each candidate before their name is placed for election.
- f) Read a report of the nominees to the membership the first meeting in April and nominations from the floor will be accepted at this meeting.
- g) Hold the election on the second meeting in April and nominations from the floor will be accepted and consent of the nominee must be obtained before the name is placed for election.
- h) Election shall be by ballot for any office with more than one nominee.



President's message continued.....

I want each of you to give some thought to serving in a leadership position for SI Hamilton. One of my goals this year was to make our club more efficient. I truly believe this is necessary – we want it to be easier to serve. While being your President has been rewarding and a time of personal growth, it just could not be my full-time job because I already have one of those! I have been constantly amazed at how willing our members are to help. I do hope you will consider a leadership position. Our club has a great history of helping the women and girls in our community. Through the years, SI Hamilton has contributed to making our Valley a better place to live. Won't you give some thought to being an SI Hamilton leader? It is a most enjoyable job!

One last thought. Looking for something to make a COVID Valentine's Day a little more special? Why not try Charcuterie and Champagne? Our club is selling charcuterie boxes created by Seppi's European Market and Deli paired with a highly rated Champagne Split of Raffino Prosecco. Go to the website to order. Hurry! Quantity is limited to 50!

Thanks so much for allowing me to serve as your President!

See's Report

Our Valentine Yumraising profit was \$676.05. It wasn't as sweet as it could have been, but a little sweet is better than nothing. We plan to sell on line for Easter and hope by Christmas we are able to sell from the trailer.

Thank you to the committee and all who supported our sale.

Marcia Babowicz

The **SENIOR WOMEN COMMITTEE**, club members and friends (29 in all) continue to write to women aged 90 and above to keep connected and help lighten the loneliness that COVID-19 has thrust upon all of us. Several of our volunteers are receiving cards or a letter in response, which is certainly a day-brightener for us. We are currently writing to 91 ladies. **ALL MEMBERS** are reminded of the greeting cards donated by Mary Lou Amsden, which can be found in a large box at Teri Polumski's office.

Explore the History of Soroptimists of Hamilton!

Click on these links to view historical items in our Dropbox:

1988 Chocolate Valentine Fundraiser:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cqv75sge21ed4fp/AACEHF33T-Y-O9IWyVgZAPnLa?dl=0>

1988-1989 Scrapbook:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2jhcwvtqxwxs1yc/AAArkefO7I1kqpnRs4IkzSfOa?dl=0>

Live Your Dream Awards

Although it isn't possible to have our annual awards banquet this year, the awards committee still wanted to find a meaningful way to present the Live Your Dream awards. They decided to surprise the three LYD recipients with the awards at their workplace or residence right before Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 19th. The committee alerted a few family members and co-workers of their plan so they could be in on the surprise, too. Michelle McConnaha from the Ravalli Republic covered the first presentation. https://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_9c663b33-8b55-5ad5-86e5-e8860c6e7406.html. Check out the cool "Live Your Dream" masks made by Sandra Amsden. In addition to the committee members, each recipient was given a mask.



First presentation took place at Chapter 1 where Tamsen Mitchell (second from right) works part time. Tamsen received a \$2,000 Live Your Dream award. Tamsen is a 3rd year teacher at Hamilton High School. She is teaching outside her content area. Tamsen is getting certification in her new area of teaching. In addition to teaching, she currently has two part time jobs to help with expenses! Once she has completed her certification, it will help her move up the pay ladder, enabling her to just focus on teaching.



Next, the committee knocked on Elizabeth Taylor's (in the middle) door. She was totally surprised when she opened her card telling her that she was a LYD award recipient. This was followed by presenting her with a check for \$2,000. Elizabeth is working towards professional certification in computer coding which will make her more marketable as a designer and web developer. She wants to start her own business and eventually hire female web developers.



Final stop was to surprise Theresia Temukum (standing next to Teri) with our Ravalli County Live Your Dream Award and a check for \$3,000. Theresia & her family fled persecution and war in Cameroon. She left her country as an RN, but couldn't get her license transferred to the states. Theresia started over, spending 4 years in school, completing a degree in Healthcare Administration in October. She is now preparing for her NCLEX. Her desire is to serve as a leader in the nursing field.

Scholarships & Awards Deadline is February 28th

All applications are on our website as fillable PDF's. The deadline for the following awards is February 28th:

Fellowship: Woman established in her career, already with a Bachelor's or Master's degree, with a worthwhile plan to return for an advanced degree or advanced certification. One award of \$3000.

Edwards Charitable Foundation Scholarship: Woman who is 50 years or older who is working to better her life through additional schooling and skills training. Currently enrolled or has been accepted to a vocational or undergraduate program. She is her primary financial support. One award of \$2,500.

Options: Woman who is 50 years or older who is working to better her life through additional schooling and skills training. Currently enrolled or has been accepted to a vocational or undergraduate program. She is her primary financial support. One award of \$2,000.

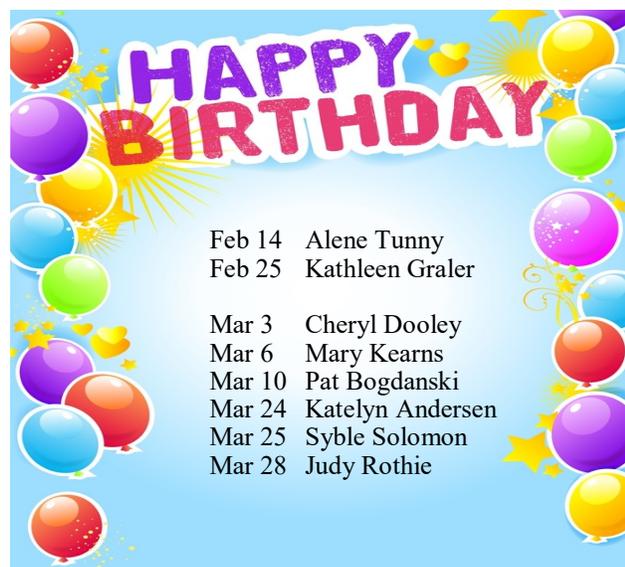
Patti Furniss: Woman who is currently attending or accepted to attend classes at the Bitterroot College, and demonstrates financial need. Two awards of \$750 each.

Trina Petersen Pro-Tech: Woman who is currently attending or accepted in a vocational, technical, or training program (trade, medical, computers/IT) who demonstrates financial need. Two awards of \$1000 each.

Woman Veteran Scholarship: Woman who is an active duty service member or veteran or the spouse of an active duty service member/veteran; includes reservists. Currently attending or accepted into an educational or training program. One award of \$750.

Ruby: Recognition of service award that acknowledges women who are working to improve the lives of women and girls through their personal or professional activities. SIH donates \$250 to charity of choice.

Violet Richardson: A recognition program for young women ages 13-18 whose volunteer activities make the community and world a better place. Two awards of \$250 each. Recipients pick a charity of their choice and SIH donates \$100 to that charity.



New Fundraiser Valentine's Day Charcuterie & Champagne



Talk about a great fundraiser with minimal effort on our part!!!

Seppi's creates the delicious charcuterie box, complete with a split of champagne from Hamilton Wine and Liquor. A few club members show up at Seppi's from 4-6 on Feb. 12th & 13th to hand out the prepared Charcuterie and Champagne. Package for 2 is \$40. A perfect start to your 2021 Valentine's celebration!

[Click here to order](#)

International Scholarship Recipients for 2021

In last month's newsletter we featured the year-end reports from our International Scholarship Award winners for 2020. A few weeks ago, the International Service Committee selected the current winners for 2021. This year the club had budgeted \$500 for the award, however when the committee read the applications from the two candidates, we found it impossible to choose only one winner. As a group we decided to contribute the other \$500 as a part of the memorial fund for Mary Lou Amsden.

I want to thank our committee members, Marcia Babowicz, Vikki Bell, Sonya Bitterman, Nancy Bussiere, and Brenda VonBrach for their generous contributions.

We will feature one winner in this newsletter and the other next month. I invite you to meet Lucia.

Alene Tunny, Chair
International Service Committee

Lucia Yamileth Medina, El Salvador

Lucia is 24 years old, from San Francisco Menendez, El Salvador. She joined SERES in February 2020 and is starting her leadership journey. One of her first actions was to paint an artistic mural in her community with a larger group of peers. They invited children, teachers and members of the community to participate. "The reason why we painted the mural is to leave a message in the community so that each and every one becomes more aware of how important it is to take care of and protect our mangrove."

Despite the limitations of COVID, she stayed active educating people around hygiene and climate monitoring. She complemented this with more activities during October and November, which included workshops about social and climate change. One focused on different topics such as personal and collective vision, Environmental Education, Ecology, and the Participation of Women in Environmental Education. The second and third workshop were focused around Human Rights, Environmental Rights, What is Politics and Micropolitics, and Environmental Policies. She has benefited 95 people from two communities with her actions, and indirectly over 200 people.

Lucia wants to use her scholarship towards a nursing course provided by ITDEN, this has been her dream to help people and study to become a nurse, but she hasn't had the opportunity before. She needs \$500 for her nursing course.

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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!