

SOROPTIMIST SPOTLIGHT

ISSUE 45, VOLUME 10

APRIL 2016



Inside This Issue

- President’s Message 2 & 4
- Celebrating the Best for Women:
- ◆ Ruby Award 1, 3 & 4
- ◆ Live your Dream Award 3
- ◆ Violet Richardson Award 3



**Meet Ruby Award
Recipient**

DEBBI SPOHR

Our Woman of Distinction

*Contributed by
Courtney Simson*

CALENDAR

NOTE: EVENING AND MORNING TIMES ARE SHADED IN ORANGE

APRIL 2016

- 4/3 Senior Pancake Feed
- 4/7 Noon Board Meeting @ TDPUD
Conference Room, Brown Bag
- 4/14 5:30 PM Business Meeting @ Zano’s,
\$15dinner/\$2 no dinner
- 4/21 Noon Youth Appreciation Luncheon (YAL)
@ Zano’s, \$15 lunch/\$2 no lunch
- 4/29- Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) Conference
- 5/1 @ Atlantis Resort Casino, Reno, NV

**ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
SINGLE SESSIONS, A DAY, OR ALL EVENTS.**

MAY 2016

- 5/5 Noon Board Meeting @ TDPUD
Conference Room, Brown Bag
- 5/12 Noon Business Meeting @ Zano’s,
\$15 lunch/\$2 no lunch
- 5/19 5:30 PM Program Meeting: Committee
Workshops @ Zano’s, \$15 dinner/\$2 no dinner

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to this year’s Ruby Award winner, Debbi Spohr. In late February, I had a wonderful chat with Debbi at her office at Sierra High School and am pleased to share some interesting life experiences I learned about Debbi.

Debbi originally hails from Huntington Beach, California. Her parents were both educators. She had a relative who suffered from mental illness, and as a teenager, was very impressed with the therapists who worked diligently to ease this person’s pain and helped him recover. Debbi felt this might be her calling in life, and set a goal for herself to become a licensed psychiatric technician upon graduation from high school.

Debbi did indeed follow this path, working in a psychiatric hospital in Laguna Beach for four years. She then felt she might like to broaden her career aspirations and enrolled at Cal State Fullerton, eventually earning a bachelor’s degree in Human Resources. Along the way, Debbi discovered that her true passion was outpatient care. This led to a stint at the Long Beach Free Clinic, a job consulting for Orange County Mental Health, and eventually, a move to Mammoth Lakes, where she manned the phones for a crisis hotline.

In 1985, Debbi moved to the Tahoe area, and by 1988 had found her home in Truckee working with the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse as a nationally certified addiction counselor.

(Continued on page three)

2015-2016 Officers & Board

President: Francine Tone
President Elect: Leslie Dugger
Recording Secretary: Sue Sage
Correspondence Secretary: Pam English
Treasurer: Nancy Davis
Treasurer-Elect: Constance Ledna
Directors: Linnis Jellinek, Lauren Schaake-Hudson
Delegates: Susan Horst, Cathy Leibow
Parliamentarian: Pati Johnson

SI Truckee Donner Contact Details

Website: www.sitruckeedonner.org
For general questions, please email
info@sitruckeedonner.org
President Francine Tone
sitdfrantone@gmail.com
For newsletter questions and/or
feedback, or to subscribe or unsubscribe,
please e-mail
85ski@suddenlink.net

Soroptimist International

SI is a worldwide organization for women in management and professions, working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women.

Soroptimist International (SI)
www.soroptimistinternational.org
Soroptimist Internat'l of the Americas (SIA) www.soroptimist.org
Soroptimist Sierra Nevada Region (SNR)
www.soroptimistsnr.org

April Birthday

- 4/1 Lorna Leyton
- 4/12 Pat Greenlaw
- 4/14 Francine Tone
- 4/15 Laura Mohun
- 4/30 Lauren Schaake-Hudson

Anniversaries

- 2009 Mary Ellen Clifford
- 2009 Patti Conk

President Francine's Message of the Month

It's time to SHAKE THE SOLT SHAKER ... A LOT!

April seems like an appropriate time to think of spring rain, fresh flowers, rebirth and newness. Precisely what came to mind was that our membership has grown to 60 which means we have a lot of brand new members as well as members who have been in the club only a short time (3 or less years). And being a new member in this organization can be overwhelming because Soroptimist is a large organization. Soroptimist International (SI), our international presence, is divided into four federations, representing nearly 80,000 members from 132 countries and territories. In our Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA), we have nearly 1300 clubs in 20 countries/territories from the Philippines~Japan~Alaska~Boston~ Catarina Brazil ~ Santiago Chili. In our region, SI Sierra Nevada Region (SNR), we have almost 2000 members representing 57 clubs. **SOLT** (Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training) helps bind us all together, creating the beautiful complex flavors that make up our community and global presence. Without adequate SOLT, individual members can become easily lost.

A member being lost or uncertain is not acceptable in my book. What can WE do to assure that no one is lost, left behind, or confused? First and foremost, Soroptimists *lead to educate* and *educate to lead*. In that phrase, the two most important components of being a Soroptimist are included: EDUCATION and LEADERSHIP. The KEY to getting education and developing leadership is COMMUNICATION and throwing a WIDE NET.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

EDUCATION: There is a lot to learn, a lot to know. Visit the various websites to SIA and SI to learn more about the organization. Contact your **SPONSOR** and have lunch or coffee and ask questions. **COME TO BUSINESS MEETINGS** and learn a little at a time. Join a **COMMITTEE** and go to meetings to learn more details. After some education, you'll be ready to take leadership roles.

LEADERSHIP: Be a member, then a coordinator-in-training, then a coordinator. Step up to a board position. What you learn as a member will translate to other realms in your life.



Artwork by Linda Carmel ©
www.lindacarmel.com

Soroptimist International of Truckee Donner 2015-2016

(Continued on page four)

CELEBRATING THE BEST FOR WOMEN AWARDS RECEPTION



April Ryan, Yulisa Mendez and Tehya Cannon

The second annual Celebrating the Best the Women Awards Reception was held March 17, 2016 in the Community Arts Center in Truckee. The event honored our Violet Richardson Award recipient, Olivia Yale; Live Your Dream awardees, Yulisa Mendez, April Ryan, and Tehya Cannon; and Ruby Award recipient, our Woman of Distinction, Debbi Spohr. The event also showcased SITD's continuity of commitment to empowering women and

girls, by first giving the tools for success with the Violet Richardson Award, by giving economic empowerment with the Live Your Dream Awards, and lastly, by honoring a women in our community who defines the essence of our Soroptimist mission. The event was artfully coordinated by Susan Horst with special thanks going to Violet Richardson Coordinator, Erika Murphy, Live Your Dream Coordinator, Laura Mohun and Sue Sage, Ruby Award Coordinator.



Erika Murphy and Olivia Yale

(Meet Debbi Spohr continued from page one)

In addition, Debbi worked at our local hospital, and it was during this period that her life took a new and exciting direction. Recently separated from her husband and trying to raise her four-year-old son alone, Debbi sought a new career in marriage and family counseling, enrolling at UNR to pursue a master's degree in the field. But there were no openings in the marriage and family counseling program. So, as a temporary measure, she signed up for the school counseling program. She fell in love with the important work school counselors do, and the huge way they can impact young people in a positive direction. Debbi felt she had found her true path and has been on it ever since!

Everything clicked for Debbi at UNR. Her years working in mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, plus everything new she was learning in class, all came together in this one career. As she began to go into classrooms and talk with students, she found herself falling in love with alternative education.

Debbi went to grad school for five years, taking more time because of her devotion to being a good mom for her son. Helping her every step of the way were some organizations structured to help women trying to achieve important goals in their lives: Soroptimist International, the American Association of University Women, and PEO International. Debbi told me that groups like this made the difference between having a dream and having the means to achieve it. ***She particularly raved about the work Soroptimist does in our local communities, commenting that this organization sees the whole woman or girl, even those who have made poor choices in the past, and helps them down a new path that will lead to a fulfilling life.*** And for women like herself, Soroptimist International reaches out with financial support, helping a single mother earn a master's degree, which in her case, led to the career of her dreams. *(Continued on page four)*



Courtney Simson is SITD's last year's Ruby Award recipient. She is founding director of the Truckee Community Theater.

(Meet Debbi Spohr continued from page three)

Currently, Debbi helps many students at Sierra High and Truckee High School through her counseling program. She also works part time for Placer County as a crisis worker and helps at the Sierra Nevada Children's Center. At Sierra Continuation High School, where we met, Debbi is actively involved with the 'S' Club, a Soroptimist sponsored student organization whose mission is to conduct volunteer projects which provide the 'S' club members opportunities to do important community service.

I am honored to present the 2015 Soroptimist International of Truckee Donner Woman of Distinction, Debbi Spohr.

Contributed by Courtney Simson

(President Francine's Message continued from page two)

ADVISORS: Please reach out to your Coordinators – help them, answer questions, share some SOLT. Advisor is a leadership position – be sure to stick around and be a mentor.

COORDINATORS: Including your Coordinators-in-Training (CIT's) in what you are doing IS SOLT. The only way for your CIT's to learn and know what she will need to do is to learn by tagging along. Reach out to Committee members and include them too! As a coordinator you should NOT be a silo or island. Instead, you are a LEADER! You have at minimum a committee of three: Advisor, YOU, CIT. Communicate, meet, collaborate, then do – and be a leader. Learn as you go and share what you know!

CIT's: If you have not heard from the Coordinator, call her! The lack of communication is not to exclude you – life just happens sometimes. Start developing leadership skills by reaching out first if necessary.

MEMBERS: Call the CIT, Coordinator or Advisor – get involved. If you haven't heard from anyone, it's OK to call one of them! Sometimes people think they have to do it all and when someone offers to help, it can be a relief.

A Soroptimist Club works through committees. Each committee offers a forum to learn and develop leadership skills. Our Club is healthy because we have members who have passion and believe in the mission. Our Club will remain healthy so long as we continue to use the committee structure to teach, learn and develop.

Let's shake the SOLT shaker this month. New members: call your sponsor or a seasoned member. Seasoned members: reach out to a newer member. By May 5, 2016, send me an email of how many contacts you have made within the Club, what SOLT you have shared with each person. For the member with the most SOLTing (measured by number of contacts made), there will be a little surprise for you at the May business meeting.

If you would like to submit an article, photo or information for the "Spotlight", please email 85ski@suddenlink.net. Our submission deadline is the 20th of the month for the following month's issue. We reserve the right to edit material for length and content. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this publication. However, SITD cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information and hereby expressly disclaims any responsibility for errors.



**SIERRA
NEVADA
REGION
CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 29-
MAY 1**

**ATLANTIS
CASINO RESORT**

RENO, NEVADA



Susan Horst
Editor-in-Chief
85ski@suddenlink.net