

Salty Soroptimist News

October, 2021

Volume 1, Issue 2



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

*Celebrating the past ~ Creating the future
Where women and girls thrive, and dreams really do come true*

President's Message

Wow! Just WoW! What an incredible weekend we had hosting the District I & II Meeting and celebrating Soroptimist's 100th anniversary. Thank you to the twelve members who were able to attend in person and for the phenomenal job the committee did to make this such a memorable event. Cathy Stevens, Carma Ingram, Loretta Peterson and I worked to bring all the moving parts together and we were able to make everything look seamless.

We have built up a lot of momentum in the last two months and we are off to a great start. October, November, and December are always busy months. We will have membership meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Watch your email for more details. November 15 is the deadline for *Live Your Dream: Education and Training Award for Women®* applications and we will be sponsoring a modified version of Breakfast with Santa again this year.

In my incoming president speech in June, I stated the following, "This year I want to take every ounce of energy each member has and every bit of creativity and imagination you have in your soul to thrust our club and our mission forward. I want us to act with intention. Not just go with the flow. I want us to make conscious choices, to attend meetings, work on committees. To do what Soroptimists do."

This statement reminds me of the last part of our Soroptimist pledge which you and I repeat each time we are together. "...I will put forth my greatest effort..." That is what I am trying to do, and I hope you will too.

Carolyn Roberts, President, SI of Salt Lake

*Soroptimist International of Salt Lake City
Chartered November 12, 1931*

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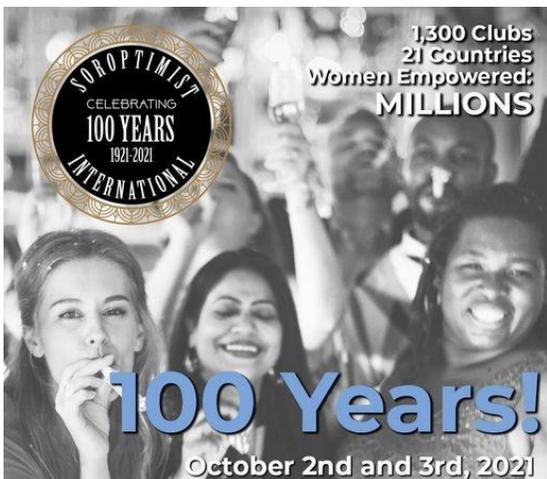
Celebrating Soroptimist International's First 100 Years

Rocky Mountain Region Soroptimists from Districts I and II joined our Salt Lake Club at the Crystal Inn to celebrate the successes of our local clubs and to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Soroptimist International! Several of our members attended. Here are some of their thoughts on this amazing milestone:



Soroptimist E3 (Enablement, Education & Empowerment)

By Angela Yarborough, Delegate



The Soroptimist International district meeting of the Rocky Mountain Region (October 2-3 at the Crystal Inn in Salt Lake City, UT) opened my eyes to what it means to be a Soroptimist.

“Soroptimist” isn’t just a group of ladies gathering for tea and cookies, it is a global collective woman united in the goal to better the lives of women and girls around the world – it is 72,000 women located in 121 countries territories that support both community-based and global projects with the objective to enable, educate and to empower.

After an admonishment from the fearless president of the SI of Salt Lake City, Carolyn Roberts, to be present and engaged, my Soroptimist district meeting experience began. The Roll Call of the

Clubs for the Rocky Mountain Region was one of the many times that I would be amazed. I heard the names of clubs from states like Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Nebraska? Who knew that there were so many different clubs in the Rocky Mountain Region? After the Roll Call of Clubs, the group went through the various reports and updates. One aspect of this portion of the agenda that stood out to me was the Nomination Committee topic presented by Rita Offrett. Apparently, the merger of the Rocky Mountain Region with the North Central Region required additional positions. Rita gave us the opportunity to provide nominations on a form which was passed out. Additionally, Governor Teresa Eicher provided context on the impending merger and the need to draft new temporary bylaws and the selection of a new name for the combined district. An email was sent out with the three possible name choices. (I don’t believe I received the email – even checked my spam folder.)

Then the real fun began- the video presentation of the 100th Anniversary celebration! Congratulatory remarks were given to the Soroptimist club from dignitaries and Soroptimists from all over the world. I hadn’t realized

the global impact the Soroptimist organization – I just didn't know that the Soroptimist organization was an NGO, nongovernmental agency, with a consultative status with the Economic and Social Council at the **United Nations** with advocacy for human rights and gender equality – that is a mouth full!

Video presentations of many amazing Soroptimist global outreach projects were shared like the Days for Girls project – reusable sanitary pads, the all-women designed Housing project in Vancouver Canada for women, the Juniper Cafe, which provided opportunities to the fistula patients in Addis Ababa, anxiety free safe rooms at police stations, the removal of “period huts” in Nepal and the partnership with Global Media Campaign to End FGM, Female genital mutilation.

An opportunity to assist closer to home was presented. The Clermont Care Center out of Clearfield, requested assistance with the shipping of much needed supplies for the orphanage in Haiti. During the District meeting, \$600 dollars was raised to assist with this effort. Member clubs were asked to communicate the need and to raise additional funds to meet an SI match. *[see article page 4]*



Angela, far right, among the District Meeting First Timers



Lighting the Way Forward Candle Ceremony

After the viewing the celebration videos, we had a live celebration of our own. We had a SI Lighting the Way Forward Candle Ceremony and Cake cutting which was beautiful and touching in so many ways.

Although we celebrated, it wasn't all cake and fun, we did do some work and then we had some more fun. SI of Salt Lake City had more food, fun and celebration that night.

During the two-day event, I enjoyed not only learning about Soroptimist globally, but I also learned more about the members of the SI of Salt Lake City club – we are unique and special with the same Soroptimist goals, to enable, to empower and to educate women and girls while making lifelong friendships. When united we are strong enough to move mountains.





It was such a pleasure to join my fellow Soroptimists at the District Meeting this past weekend. The event was well planned and well executed. The venue was beautifully decorated to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Soroptimist and the cake was beautiful and tasty! It was a joy to meet in person with ladies from our district and the presentation from SI with history and new information on the impact of our membership was insightful and inspiring.

Margy Russotto

Attending the District Meeting this past weekend was a great way to reconnect with Soroptimists in Utah and Idaho and on the Region Board. We celebrated the Clubs in our Districts and their projects even during Covid. The SI 100th Anniversary Program was great both days! We were inspired by all the projects over the last 10-15 years SI has started and all of them are continuing. It was great to hear the success stories and learnings internationally. It really solidified how we are a global organization. It inspired me to see we can do more for Women and Girls equality in this world.

I want to also thank President Carolyn for going to all the effort to share SI Salt Lake County on the international celebration! No one else knew but there we were as a Club on the Big Screen for the World to see!!

Rita Offrett

I loved the District Meeting this year. It was a pleasure to be the host club and have the opportunity

to participate in a bigger way for the Region. I really enjoyed the 100th Year Anniversary Celebration for SI that was streamed live to our meeting. The many clubs and people that presented were inspiring. There are many clubs all over the world doing amazing work. I am proud of being a Soroptimist and the things that we do in the larger context and in our own community.

Carma Ingram

The last two days were just THE BEST! I was totally overwhelmed by the 100th anniversary celebration. It was amazing to see the clubs from around the world- so much diversity and so much ambition and good being done. It made me incredibly proud to be a Soroptimist! And to be a part of our club- my heart was just about to burst. Love the work we do and the friendship with each one of you. YOU all greatly enrich my life.

Carolyn and the committee did a fantastic job! Thank you for your magnificent efforts. Carolyn is rocking it as club president and I am so happy that I introduced her to Soroptimist!!! With that thought in mind, and the enthusiasm we feel from our meeting, please think about friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and extend an invitation to someone to become part of our club and the worldwide sisterhood of Soroptimist. Think of the projects we could do as a club - homeless women and women in prison come to mind. What projects could we do to help them?

I look forward to going to Dublin in 2023- wouldn't that be a blast if we could all go? Start saving now!

Jan Crane

To see all the women from all over the world participate in the celebration at the same time was awesome. It was exciting to see our very own President Carolyn's celebration video included in the presentation. Thank you and your team for putting everything together. The balloons, the table decorations and the cake just made the day so special. To spend time with each other and with other Soroptimist sisters always inspires me and renews my passion for our Mission. I am saving for Dublin 2023.

Diane McCarty

District Meeting Recap

By Laura Chamberlain, Delegate



Thirty-five women gathered together at the Crystal Inn in downtown Salt Lake City to celebrate 100 years of Soroptimists at the International level.

Representatives from District I and District II met in the Diamond Room to share information with each other and review relevant business items.

On Saturday, October 2nd, the

General Session began at 8:30am, with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a Roll Call of Clubs. At 9am, reports were given for the Region.

Soroptimist International presented a 100th Anniversary Celebration that was broadcast live from 9:50am to 1pm. The broadcast included a film about the history of SI:

- 1921 "Save the Redwoods"
- 1948 "UNESCO-Human Rights Consultants"
- 1952 "Copenhagen, first President elected"
- 1975 "UN Conference on Women in Mexico City"
- 1995 "4th World Conference on Women in Beijing China"

The live broadcast was hosted by the current President; Sharon Fisher; President Elect; Stephanie Smith; and Special Advisor; Sue Riney.

"Women working for Women and Girls All Over the World!" Light a candle or raise a glass.



Stephanie, Sharon, and Sue onscreen

Soroptimists from different countries saluted the organization and told us a little about their lives and their local clubs. Salt Lake Club President, Carolyn Roberts reports "We have 90 years in our club!"

HERE'S TO THE NEXT 100! Each club was encouraged to celebrate their own history. "Education and Training are the most important strategies to help women and girls."

Sharon Fisher identified six issues that contributed to women being left behind:

1. Immigration
2. Female Genital Mutilation
3. Trafficking
4. Child-Enforced Marriage
5. Domestic Violence
6. Older Women Becoming Vulnerable

Sharon values stories of women finding their equality. We can change laws and influence international policy.

Sharon reports Covid played a role in Clubs'

SI promotes female health, bodily equity, autonomy, gender equality, and human rights.

Development when we used webinars which called for discussion and brought members together. Also, the podcasts on relevant topics were useful.

Some of the international projects which were spotlighted in the broadcast included:

- Willing Hearts Foundation-250 girls in Kenya finding their voices and ending child marriage.
- Female Genital Mutilation-The Soroptimist 6 use media to take the tabu out of the subject.
- Soroptimists UN-protect rights of women in a treaty between countries has a legal impact.
- CEDAW-a legally binding instrument. The first comprehensive Women's Bill of Rights. Ratified by 189 countries (the US only signed it, did not ratify it).
- Project Sierra-very remote areas

- Children of Peace-hire teachers for shelter girls in Vietnam. Built a library which became a classroom for girls. First female orphan MD in Saigon.
- Birthing in the Pacific-New Guinea-train and educate midwives
- Pink Rooms-women who experience violence are hosted in a safe, homey environment.
- If Project-change path for young women headed to prison through prevention and intervention.
- Project Independence-one woman at a time recovering from war.

The first day ended on a positive, upbeat note. Many of the attendees went to Market Street Grill for dinner.

Sunday morning after a nice breakfast, the women reassembled in the Diamond room for Leadership Training. Carmel Clermont presented on her project to ship supplies to a battered and beleaguered Haiti. Rocky Mountain Board will match up to \$1500 donations for all clubs in the RMR.

Carolyn Roberts ordered a beautiful cake for the birthday celebration. The cake cutting, candle ceremony was touching. Each person was asked to "Make 4 Wishes."

Terry Willis presented on Membership - "kill them with kindness or enthusiasm"

Rita Offrett presented on Public Awareness - "Keep it professional!"

Chris Blazey presented on Live Your Dream - participants don't have to be head of household to apply

Judy Weaver and Barb Lewis shared a video for DIBI-Handout "Access to DIBI Resources"

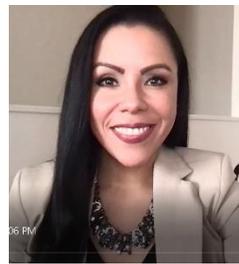


The International Broadcast started at 9:50am and ended the conference at 1pm.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Greetings from Governor Cox's Office

We opened our meeting by showing a welcome video from the office of the governor. Nubia Pena, senior



advisor of Equity and opportunity to Governor Spencer Cox and the Director of the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs shared a brief message. She has a decade of experience assisting survivors of domestic abuse, sexual

assault, human trafficking, and violent crimes as a Law Enforcement Victim Advocate. Ms. Pena congratulated Soroptimist on our 100th anniversary. She highlighted the Utah initiatives that will open doors of opportunity for girls and women in Utah and noted how it aligns with Soroptimist's mission.

"We are grateful that each of you as committed women, as committed leaders, are interested in getting involved and you are willing to do your part to leave our communities better than we found them."

"Thank you for doing your part in helping girls and women thrive and thank you for your commitment to leaving a legacy of healing, hope and change. We are lucky to have you."

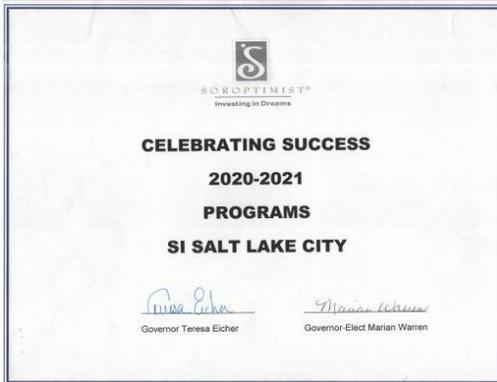
A GLOBAL VOICE FOR WOMEN

100

FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS

SI SLC Receives Celebrating Success Award

SI of Salt Lake received a **Celebrating Success Award for Programs** and a **Collective Impact Certificate** at the District Meeting! We submitted our Live Your Dream Program for the award. Here's what we said:



“Soroptimist International of Salt Lake set a goal for 2020-2021 to expand our impact of the Live Your Dream program in three areas: increase total financial investment, increase the number of awards, and add a mentoring program. To reach our financial goal, we reduced our investment in non-Dream programs which allowed us to increase our total investment from \$6,000 to \$8,000. In the past, we have granted 2 to 3 Live Your Dream Awards. In 2020-2021, we increased our impact to include four women in the amount of \$2,500, (2) \$2,000, \$1,500. Our 1st place winner also received the Rocky Mountain Region 3rd place award in the amount of \$2,500. In addition, we have a special award sponsored by the family of our member, Jan Crane, in

recognition of her mother, Jeanne, a former Soroptimist. The award is known as Jeanne’s Happy Heart. The winner is selected from the Live Your Dream applications with the same criteria. We were honored to award (2) Jeanne Happy Heart awards in the amount of \$1,000 each, total \$2,000.

The combination of Live Your Dream and Jeanne’s Happy Heart impacted (6) women and their families. Total financial awards \$10,000.” What a contribution to the Soroptimist Global Impact!



Help Ship Medical Supplies for Haiti



Carmel Clermont, a Soroptimist from SI Ogden, reported that she has 20 pallets of medical supplies that have been donated for her NGO in Haiti. Clermont is a native of Haiti, so she and her husband help empower non-adopted young adults (14 years and up) who have outgrown the orphanage or have escaped trauma from being trafficked to learn life skills, self-reliance, and vocational skills. She needs to ship these pallets to Haiti to help these young adults and others due to the disasters that continue to plague Haiti. Clermont Care Center is a 501(c)3. The web site is clermontcarecenter.org

Our Rocky Mountain Board has agreed to pay up to \$1500 in match to other Soroptimists donations to help ship the medical supplies. A total of \$7000 is needed to ship the medical supplies. If you are interested in helping, you can donate through Venmo @clermontcarecenter (note that it is a Soroptimist Rocky Mountain Region donation) or pay any amount to our Club Treasurer, Loretta Peterson, and she will forward the payment.



Single Moms' Breakfast with Santa



Once again, the pandemic has reared its ugly crowned head. A full, in-person Breakfast with Santa won't be happening this year.

The Breakfast with Santa committee met on October 4 and decided that we would adopt last year's model of delivering to the families rather than having them come to a large event. Single moms in an education program will receive first priority to participate.

Last year, each family received new clothing for the children, at least 2 toys for each child, breakfast foods, and gifts for the mothers. Teresa Just polled last year's attendees and found that the order of importance of these items – to them – was:

1. New clothing for the children
2. Toys
3. Mom's gifts
4. Food

The committee decided we would focus on clothing and toys first. The application to participate will ask for specific toy requests in addition to specific clothing requests. The club will create an Amazon Wish List and will ask toy drives to use an "Angel Tree" format to request specific toy donations.

How can Members Help?

- Solicit toy donations (monetary donations are also helpful)
- Volunteer as a shopper
- Help with sorting/staging gifts to families
- Volunteer to deliver to one of more families



How can Volunteers Help?

- Do a toy drive or Angel Tree
- Prepare candy bags
- Volunteer as a shopper
- Help with sorting/staging gifts to families
- Volunteer to deliver to one of more families

Even with no breakfast and no Santa, the spirit of the program continues. We will help as many single moms as budget allows with a modest Christmas for

their children, allowing them to continue to focus on their work toward economic empowerment and self-reliance through education. Please participate in any way you can.



In Memory of Marilyn Tang

1936 - 2021

From the obituary prepared by her loving family



Marilyn Millet W. Tang, our "Nana Tang," entered eternal life peacefully at home, September 7, 2021, at the age of 84. Her spirit is carried on her son, Curtis Ward, her many adored grandchildren, surviving siblings, Leon, Shirley, Chuck, Rena, and Chris, and an immeasurable number of Salt Lake City community members. Her loving husband of 51 years, Gary Tang, passed away on September 21, 2021.

Born October 28, 1936, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Orson and Norma Millet, Marilyn was the middle child of seven, raised in Ogden, Utah, where she graduated from Ogden High School. In 1954, at the age of seventeen, she married a then 'rebel' by the name of Larry Ward, resulting in the birth of her adored son, Curtis.

In 1965, Marilyn, her late sister Jeanne, and her then-boyfriend, Gary Tang, took a leap of faith by opening one of the first women-owned businesses in Utah, Certified Handling Systems. Marilyn was initially denied a business loan without a male co-signer, but as we know, she didn't let that stop her. Marilyn acknowledged the rhetoric and resistance she faced but chose to use it as inspiration for how she

would live out the rest of her life.

Marilyn and Gary Tang fell in love and were married in 1970. Gary supported Marilyn's boundless business and philanthropic aspirations with love and encouragement for all 51 years of marriage. Together they traveled the world, intending to see, meet, and make life-long friends everywhere they went.

Marilyn attended LDS Business College and the University of Utah to continue her education. She actively utilized her adversaries to advocate for various philanthropic causes throughout her life and even ran for a state legislative seat, losing to the incumbent by only 3% of the vote. Marilyn was dedicated to the work behind equal rights for minorities, women's equality and representation, sponsorships for domestic abuse survivors, and combating child hunger.

By combining her charisma and unwavering resistance to the word 'no,' Marilyn approached all obstacles with ferocity and is recognized as one of the most influential female business owners in this state's history. By adopting the Giraffe as her mascot, she trademarked the catchphrase, 'Stick your neck out!' to remind those around her to 'Get up, speak up, and get out there!'

Marilyn was elected and successfully served as the President of the Salt Lake Council of Women, President of Soroptimist of Salt Lake and Governor of the Soroptimist Rocky Mountain

Region. She was awarded the 2003 YWCA Outstanding Achievement Award and the 2006 Athena Award for her accomplishments in community service, mentorship, and professional leadership.

You're great! You're wonderful! They're gonna love you!
Marilyn

She led her life with laughter and fun, relishing the time with family and friendships made around the world. Her role as 'Nana' to her five 'darling' grandchildren, Sean, Jessica, Danielle, Tommy, and Demi, was especially dear to her. Nearly 55 years later, many work at Certified Handling Systems, continuing her legacy in the family business.

Whether you once shook her hand in a formal meeting, spent a few long nights wrapping toy donations on her living room floor, or were successfully persuaded into modeling for charitable fashion shows, these memories of her dedication are a gift.

We are all witnesses to greatness. "You're great! You're wonderful! They're gonna love you!" and the difference one woman decided to make in the world.

Upcoming Events

Oct 3	• FOUNDER'S DAY!
Oct 6	• Board Meeting 5:30 pm
Oct 13	• Service Project – sorting clothing at the Women's Shelter
Oct 20	• Member Social – time and place TBA
Nov 3	• Board Meeting 5:30 pm
Nov 12	• SI Salt Lake 90 th Anniversary!!!
Nov 15	• Deadline for Live Your Dream Award Applications
Nov 17	• Member Meeting – time and place TBA

Dream It – Be It Postponed



Our board has postponed the Dream It – Be It program until January, 2022 due to Covid restrictions.

Happy Birthday



LORETTA PETERSON – OCTOBER 1
 LAURA CHAMBERLAIN – OCTOBER 11
 TERESA JUST – OCTOBER 13
 ZULIE GAMEZ – OCTOBER 26

AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN HEAVEN TO
 MARILYN TANG – OCTOBER 28

