



District 10 Newsletter



Governor Maggie Warren

Dear Zontians,
Much has happened in District 10 since our conference in Shreveport and, much more will be happening before the end of this biennium.

The Area Directors have been diligently working to prepare excellent and informative Area

Meetings for us and I encourage each of you to attend. They are not just for Officers – indeed, all members should attend to become more informed about Zonta. Zonta International Treasurer Secretary Dar Kurtz will advise us on the changes to be voted on at International Convention in Melbourne and any updates from Zonta International. Also included will be updates from ZI Foundation and District 10 along with the most recent information on our Hurricane Relief Efforts. Governor-Elect Sharron Miles will present an updated President’s Handbook along with information on Membership. This is the time to empower your membership, develop leadership skills and enjoy a weekend of fellowship.

Area 1’s Meeting **Heard it Through the Grapevine**, will be held **March 25-26** at the DFW Lakes Hilton, 1800 Hwy. 26 East in Grapevine, Texas and will be co-hosted by the Zonta Clubs of Dallas and DFW. A special feature of this meeting will be the assembly of personal care bags, a hands-on Service Project – members are urged to bring personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, etc.) for inclusion in the bags. The Saturday evening event will be a Wine Tasting at Austin Ranch.

Area 2’s Meeting, **Bloom & Grow**, will be a Retreat held **April 22-23** at the Emerald Hills Golf Resort in Florien, Louisiana (near Natchitoches) and will feature team building exercises as well as officer training. This retreat is presented by the District 10 Board.

Area 3’s Meeting, **Down by the Seashore**, will be held **March 17-19** at the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach, 1102 South Shoreline Blvd. in Corpus Christi and will be hosted by the Zonta Club of Corpus Christi. Members are urged to wear green in honor of St. Paddy’s Day and on Saturday evening we will dine at Landry’s on the Bayfront Marina.

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Zonta International District 10

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Newsletters will be published Aug, Nov, Feb, and May.
Email all articles to Pris by the 15th of the preceding month.

March 1 was the deadline to submit applications for our first **District 10 Rose Scholarship**. I hope that several were received. That application can be found on the D10 website, www.zontadistrict10.org.

International Women’s Day – March 8– What are your plans to celebrate this all important day? Please visit www.zonta.org for suggestions.

Club Nominating Committees – are you ready? Elections should be held no later than April and new officers installed in May. Please remember that succession planning is very important and the temptation to recycle officers should be avoided. Please involve your new members in the process, either as board members or charring committees and you will end up with a club full of empowered members.

Club Treasurers: It’s better to be safe than sorry: please remit your dues to ZI by **May 1st** to ensure your voting rights at Convention in Melbourne. The regular due date is **June 1**.

Convention 2006 Delegate Credentials/Proxy Forms are due to Headquarters on **May 1, 2006**. Make sure that your club is represented at Convention either by Delegate or by Proxy. If you must send a Proxy, please be advised that this form is also due by May 1. The forms are available on the ZI website.

Also regarding **Convention 2006**, the last day for the ‘early bird’ fee of AUD450 is March 31, after which the fee will increase to AUD 550; on June 1, the fee increases to AUD650.

ZI Publicity Chairman **Dawn Newman** has graciously extended the deadline for the **Eyes on**

Club Successes photographic exhibit entries. Entries must be submitted to the Governor to allow for mailing to arrive no later than **March 24** in Melbourne. If you have not already done so, please submit a photo of your efforts – information can be found on the ZI website.

Footprint of Service – Please complete the form posted on the Zonta International website (www.zonta.org/footprint) and return it to ZI along with a copy to me.

Did you know that it is your responsibility to invite your **Area Director** to a club business meeting? If you have not already done so, please do so before the end of this biennium. Invite your new Area Director at the start of the new biennium so that they can meet your club members and learn all about you.

District 10 Committee Chairmen are quite knowledgeable and are happy to share their expertise with you. Invite them to speak at one of your meetings so that they can give you an update about their committees and how they can work in your own club. Be sure to offer to cover their expenses and provide them with a place to sleep.

Please let me know about your special events. I have not had the pleasure of visiting with some of you and would love to do so.

Bless you all for efforts and work to advance and improve the status of women.

Yours in Zonta Service,

Maggie

Dates to Remember:

2006

March	1	UN Commission on the Status of Women meets in New York
	8	Zonta Rose Day and International Women’s Day
	17-19	Area 3 Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX
	25-26	Area 1 Meeting in Grapevine, TX
	31	Deadline for receipt of 2006 Convention registration
April	1	Deadline for contributions to Zonta International Foundation
	1	YWPA candidates due to District
	22-23	Area 2 Meeting/Retreat in Florian, LA
May	1	Club 2006-2007 Officers Report due to ZI
	1	Convention Delegate Credentials/Proxy Forms due to ZI
	28	International Day for Action on Women’s Health
	31	Klausman Women in Business Scholarship club candidates due to District
June	1	2006-2007 Club Dues Payments to ZI
	24-29	2006 Convention in Melbourne, Australia
October	5-7	District 10 Conference in San Antonio, TX

Disaster Relief—Special Report

Maggie Warren

I continue to be humbled by the generosity of so many. We have received nearly \$40,000 in donations. The Special Committee, comprised of Lynn Altemeyer, Jo Carson and Aimee Bercier researched, met and submitted their report and recommendations to the District Board for review and voting on March 24th. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

It appears that there are many opportunities for us to help financially. While IRS Regulations prohibit remittance to individual Zontians, we can assist the affected club(s) with donations to their club foundations so that they can honor their commitments.

These efforts became the largest hands-on service project ever tackled by the Zonta Club of Lafayette. We have now completed the distribution of over 8 tons of clothing and supplies to the affected areas. All donations were made personally to individuals in need.

Packages arrived at our warehouse in large quantities on a daily basis, each bearing "Zonta District 10 Disaster Relief" or "Zonta Club of Lafayette Hurricane Relief" in the address line. Donors hailed from Alaska to Nova Scotia, Michigan to Florida to California. New clothing, lingerie, shoes, bed linens, blankets, pots, luggage, sweatshirts, sweaters and coats arrived, along with non-perishable food items, and even musical instruments.

In addition to the 1,500 pounds of bras, we also received cartons of new toys in time for Christmas as well as handmade Christmas stocking stuffed with an assortment of wrapped gifts.

An amazing thing happened with our relief efforts – Zonta's name became known far and wide across the United States. **A retailer in Pleasanton, California was honored as an industry Rising Star at a luncheon and gala in New York City for the work she did with and for the Zonta Club of Lafayette!** Ms. DiSalvi has been invited to join Zonta.

The following is the text of an article from Women's Wear Daily printed on January 11, 2006. And, although I had several telephone interviews and emails with the reporter from WWD, she still got the "governor of" and "chapter" business wrong. But it's still good PR for all of Zonta.

Text of Women's Wear Daily Article – January 11, 2006

**WWD HONORS CHARITABLE RETAILERS
LILYANN'S: LINGERIE FOR THE NEEDY**

Often the best things start small.

What began as a two-person e-mail campaign operating out of a little lingerie shop on the West Coast snowballed into a massive national network of apparel companies donating their goods to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Stunned by news footage of the devastation, only days after having visited New Orleans, Carol DiSalvi, owner of LilyAnn's Lingerie in Pleasanton, California, pulled out her market book from a recent industry show. DiSalvi and her staff contacted hundreds of peers and organized donations of lingerie, sleepwear and undergarments to be sent to Zonta International, an 87 year old service organization.

Had DiSalvi not "started the ball rolling", an important need would not have been met, said Maggie Warren, governor of the Lafayette, LA chapter of Zonta International. Warren said DiSalvi's email generated shipments from stores and manufacturers including Knickers, Lucy B Lingerie, Alla Prima, Treesha and G Boutique, among others.

In three months, the Zonta group received nearly eight tons of donated goods, and shipments continue to flow into Zonta's warehouse from around the country.

One of the relief effort's unique challenges is furnishing special sizes for larger women who lost all their possessions, including undergarments. Among the apparel Zonta accepted were brassieres whose sizes run halfway through the alphabet. "Eilia sent a shipment of 1,453 pounds – 53 cartons – of Goddess bras," Warren said. These were in sizes of 40E to 56M, some of which were actual sizes that had been requested by the evacuees."

DiSalvi, whose own lingerie shop specializes in large sizes, knew that displaced plus-sized women would have a tough time replacing their undergarments.

"I know WalMart doesn't have bras like that. They can't just go to the local Penneys and pick up a bra," DiSalvi said. "They are getting handed used garments. I don't care how clean they are. Nobody wants to put on a used bra. I don't care how poor they are. They don't deserve that." DiSalvi's own shop, LilyAnn's Lingerie, sent Zonta a shipment of new panties, camisoles, robes, nightgown and bras in various sizes up to 52I – valued at nearly \$11,000.

Continued on next page

Warren said that she and other volunteers distributing the donated apparel were often moved to tears by the dire need, and profound appreciation, of hurricane victims. "I would imagine that many, if not most, of the affected women would never have spent money on expensive lingerie, hurricane or not," she said. "Many of the women giggled when thongs were offered, but most of the younger women gleefully accepted them."



This photo appearing in the article in Women's Wear Daily features "Zonta volunteers, Dr. Karolynn Echols, left, and a medical resident as they sort donated bras and lingerie for distribution to patients at University Medical Center in Lafayette, LA."

Foundation Ambassadors

Dear District 10 Zontians:

Just a brief note to tell everyone that District 10 remains loyal to the mission and I am so proud of all we do! In the overall district ranking we are in the top 10 givers, which shows great perseverance on our part and, by the way, tickles me to death! Another great thing about District 10: we have recorded 519 individual gifts this biennium. No other district is close to us for this fact.

Pre-Area Meeting totals: club and individual gifts:

Area 1: \$31,131

Area 2: \$27,244

Area 3: \$28,805

Just The Facts:

As of January 31, 2006 foundation contributions for the regular funds are at 77% of the goal. Endowment contributions are not as significant and are at 35% of the goal.

The deadline for gift recognition at the 2006 convention is April 1.

To be counted towards this biennium's total, contributions must be received in the Foundation's

Barbara Yoder and Judy Kautz

bank account by the end of the fiscal year, May 31 2006.

Please mail any contributions to:

ZIF, ATTN: Development

4837 Paysphere Circle

Chicago, IL 60674

So, here is an additional thought for all our District 10 clubs: 100% individual gifts to ZIF. There is a special acknowledgement for clubs that do this and wouldn't that be a HOOT! If you have not made an individual gift to the ZIF and that is still on your "to do" list please consider gifts to the AE and Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship. Give as your heart directs but consider that contributions for these funds are at 60% and 31% respectively. There is a lot of information on the ZI web site about the marvelous women we are helping with our donation. **Be Inspired!**

I look forward to see everyone at Area meetings!

Respectfully,

Barbara Yoder

District 10 Ambassador



Organization, Membership, and Classification

Sharron Miles

Retaining our Zontians

Governor Maggie Warren set a membership goal of 1006 members in 2006. Recruitment of new members is critical, but we cannot have a gain if we do not retain our current Zonta members. Statistics show that clubs lose about 10% of their members each year. Retention is a problem for every one. How do we solve this problem? **By creating member loyalty.**

Members today have so many choices. We must show that Zonta has value for our members and create loyalty. Every member should be treated in such a way that when the interaction is complete, the member tells someone else how great it was. Member loyalty comes from stronger member relations. The quality of club meetings is important; the quality of the projects also attracts members but it is the relationship that really ties members to the club.

Loyalty is built one member at a time. Each member is different and unique. Human nature is not changing, everything else is. People do things to feel good or to not feel bad. Members see solutions. They want good meetings and social interaction.

A loyal member attends meetings—today and tomorrow. A loyal member stays involved. A loyal member gets involved in many committees (if you invite them and make it easy). A loyal member multiplies. A loyal member tells six others about their experiences creating positive Word of Mouth

Advertising. A loyal member refers friends and mother to become Zontians. A loyal member comes back again and again. A loyal member volunteers more money, time, and expertise.

Build learning relationships with your members that add value for them. Learn and remember who they are, and everything about them. Build a member profile database, accessible by all Zonta members, including personal data: name, address, contact information, and birthday. Remember to add the Zontians education, degrees earned; and don't forget her family: including spouse, anniversary date, children and family interests. Member profile must include the member's business data and contact information.

Each member is different. Recognize this. They have different needs and wants. We are not all the same! Members are individuals. They each add value to your club.

Interact with members frequently. Customize or personalize your club and projects to the needs of your members. Build loyalty by adding newsletters with pictures and stories; email notifications of club programs and events; remember to make thank you calls and notes; celebrate a member at every meeting.

The membership goal of 1006 is very simple. If we want to reach our goal we need to recruit. But, keeping **ALL** our current members will be a great start on attaining our goal.



Edie Parker presents a history of Zonta at the 2005 ZING in San Antonio



Lisa Bailey talks to perspective members at the San Antonio ZING

Zonta Club of DFW

Active is the theme for the district's newest club. In November the club service project was to provide and serve meals to residents at the Samaritan House, an HIV/AIDS residential service facility. This service helps to defray the expenditures of the Samaritan House and in turn they receive support from other sources based on the volunteer hours and the financial contributions. In December their club holiday party included collecting donated



Lucy and Chantal prepare to shop

unwrapped gifts for the Women's Support Project, the Santa's Helpers Service Project – members helped moms shop for their children for the holidays and they also delivered Happy Holidays for 2 senior women, 2 single working moms, 1 single out of work mom, 1 single out of work dad and 8 children, and donated several boxes of items to the Samaritan House and the Battered Women's Shelter. In January the club partnered with Zonta Club of Fort Worth to provide the evening meal for residents at the Samaritan House.

unwrapped gifts for the Women's Support Project, the Santa's Helpers Service Project – members helped moms shop for their children for the holidays and they also delivered Happy Holidays for 2



Ready to serve!

Zonta Club of Fort Smith



Kathleen King and Kathy Coleman

members' names, Zonta's mission statement, local

Fort Smith Zontians achieve forty-three days of great PR by sponsoring a tree in the annual "Festival of Christmas Trees" at the local mall. One of fifty trees on display, the Zontian tree stands out with its yellow roses and mahogany bows. Prominently displayed on the tree are also "ornaments" with

Z projects, International tri-folds, and annual fundraiser information. Member **Kim Vann** conceived the idea and encouraged her mother, Vice-President **Sheryl Flanagin** to present the idea to the board. With the board's eager approval, Kim, Sheryl, President **Kathy Coleman**, and director **Kathleen King** decorated the tree. The tree is on display from November 16 through December 29.

A favorite service project of Zonta Club of Fort Smith is the monthly visit to the local Girls Shelter.

Each month groups of Zontians visit the girls in the shelter introducing them to a variety of experiences. During this year, the girls were treated to a literal "dog and pony show" when Zontians **Deborah Avillion** brought her horse and **Sherry Traylor** brought her dog. One month Zontians **Julie Smith** and **Kathy Coleman** pampered the girls with manicures and pedicures. **Kathleen King, Mitzi Jones**, and **Carol Bellew** helped the girls make jewelry. At Christmas Zontians **Kim Vann, Linda Teague, Marilyn Barr, Kathy Coleman**, and **Sheryl Flanagin** presented the girls with full stockings and made ornaments with them. In January Norma Frederiksen shared her mission experiences in West Africa.

Each year long-time member **Pat Crump**, with help from another Zontian, shares one of her many travel experiences. One year she talked about her trip to Africa. After the girls showed great interest, Pat bought the Girls Shelter a DVD player and the movie *Out of Africa*. Since then Pat has continued to provide the girls with a DVD that parallels one of her numerous adventures.

No matter what the content of the evening, the girls always seem to enjoy and appreciate the attention. Fort Smith Zontians hope not only to bring a little fun into the lives of these girls but also to serve as role models for them. Obviously, mixed in with the fun are good opportunities to talk with these girls about their lives, their plans, and the possibilities that await them.

Zonta Club of Mineral Wells

The Zonta Club of Mineral Wells has been working throughout the year to complete 50 hours in service and fellowship to celebrate our 50 years as a club. One service project that we do weekly is to deliver Meals on Wheels in our community. Every

Wednesday members of our Zonta Club deliver meals on a particular route. By delivering these meals, we become friends with the individuals on our route, and this has led to additional service opportunities such as providing them with gift certificates to local grocery stores during the holiday season. Our local women's shelter is building a new facility, and we showered the shelter with new bath linens. Throughout the designated month, we brought towels and washcloths to donate to the shelter. We had a sewing night when we made pillows to give to those in our local hospital. One of our members has a water bottling company, and we bottled water to send to Louisiana when Katrina hit. Some of our upcoming projects include collecting household items for a retirement community, collecting baby items for a community outreach program, participating in the Relay for Life, and organizing a women's retreat for our community. This retreat will address a wide range of topics from health issues to job hunting strategies. Our members are well on their way to reaching 50 hours of service and fellowship within this year of Zonta.

Zonta Club of Weatherford

Members had several opportunities for service in December. We started the month by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Zontians could be seen all day at the entrances of Wal-Mart. Donations for the Grace House included diapers, toys, and disposable cameras and film development. The City of Weatherford Police Department received a large donation of stuffed Teddy Bears which are given to children in crisis situations. The Weatherford Senior Center also received donations of canned goods. The club is steadily growing and gaining visibility in the community. Plans are underway for the club's annual fundraiser – CASINO NIGHT – March 10th. The club continues to provide scholarship support in the amount of \$2000 annually for young women attending Weatherford College, another scholarship of \$1000 recently went to a young mother trying to improve her education and regain custody of her children, and the club also distributed \$500 each to two Parker County young women who are college freshmen who received scholarships at their high school graduation last May.

Area 2 News

Zonta Club Of Longview

The 32nd annual Zonta Antique Show will be over by the time the newsletter is out, but the club has been working since November to put on another great event. The antique show is March 3-6, 2006. **Sharon Graves** and **Renee Hawkins** are chairing the show, and their theme is Old South – lots of magnolias, park benches, beautiful plants – and 60 of the best antique dealers in the United States. There are many new dealers this year with beautiful items.

March 30 is the date for Women in Longview Day at Maude Cobb Activity Center. The keynote speaker will be Suzie Humphreys – our speaker at the Fredericksburg conference. WILD is a half-day event featuring many exhibitors, seminars with local women as speakers, continental breakfast and luncheon. All of you are invited and would be treated royally if you come!

Our speaker for our Amelia Earhart luncheon in January was **Leslie Weitz**, our AE Fellow from

Danita Utsman, Director

Texas A & M. She presented her power point presentation and the members were certainly impressed with her intelligence, her appreciation for the AE fellowships she has been awarded, and her commitment to her career.

Area 2 retreat is scheduled for the weekend of April 22 – 23rd at Emerald Hills Resort in Louisiana. Check out their website, www.emeraldhillsresort.com. It will be a packed and brief meeting all about growing as Zontians, as women, and as clubs. Details should also be posted on the website, and all club presidents will receive a packet. The meeting will be very inexpensive, and for most in Area 2, the trip could be made on Saturday morning.

Zonta Club of Lafayette Area

Our Woman of Achievement for this year is Linda Boudreaux. Linda is Executive Director of The Extra Mile, Region IV, Inc., a private, non-profit corporation with a twelve year history of providing community based services to individuals and

families throughout the region who are clients of state agencies. The mission statement of The Extra Mile, Region IV, Inc., is: "To enhance and enrich the quality of life for all persons served by the State of Louisiana by mobilizing people and resources in the community." In fulfilling its mission, TEM takes a proactive approach toward initiating programs that respond to the needs of individuals and families as identified by the communities in which they live.



Libby Angelle, Linda Boudreaux (2005 Woman of Achievement), Kim Hitt, and Paulette Yandle

Ms. Boudreaux will be honored along with our scholarships recipients at the Zonta Club of Lafayette's

Woman of Achievement and Awards

Banquet to be held March 30, 2006, at the Best Western Hotel Acadiana, 1801 W. Pinhook Rd., Lafayette, LA. Cash bar and silent auction at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 per person payable to the Zonta Club of Lafayette – mail to 152 Inez Lane, Lafayette, LA, 70506. Proceeds are used for our scholarships and local service projects.

Zonta Club of New Orleans

We would like to send a big thank you to the district and to other Zontians for all their support and for the donations that will help ensure our club's continued survival! Most of our plans were washed away, but we will try to get together the great speakers and programs we had planned at some point. Right now, the audience we had hoped for is slowly returning to New Orleans. We want to make as big an impact as possible in advertising our local scholarships and publicizing our presentation to the recipients. Donations to the Metropolitan Battered

Women's Shelter/Crescent House should also be good publicity for the club.

Most of us are still in recovery mode, even after this long. Things are just starting to stabilize, and we hear that this year is supposed to be another active hurricane season.

I think the bakery will have to wait a while. Jay and I finally have almost everything out of New Orleans. Now, we have been working on clearing the wind-damaged trees from the yard and planting new ones. We also have two sailboats to rebuild. The furniture we ordered should arrive pretty soon, I hope. It still feels like we are camping out.

Zonta Club of Shreveport

We did not have an Amelia Earhart Banquet this year, but we will attend the 99's Annual Fish Fry in April to keep in touch with them, so we can hopefully have a real good banquet next year. The 99's are the women in aviation club that we invite to our banquet each year, since they also celebrate Amelia Earhart's birthday.

We are keeping up with our service projects of the Grace Home, Dress for Success, Rescue Mission, and birthday cards for the Meals on Wheels program. **Julie Stackhaus** and **Angelor Johnson** are jointly overseeing the Z-Clubs.



We are sad to report that **Jo Carol Martin** has moved away. She was such an asset to our club. She retired and moved to Savannah to be with her daughter. We combined her "going away" party with our

Christmas Party, so she was surprised. Everyone spoke individually about Jo Carol and what she means to each of us, and it ended up being very emotional. We all miss her.

Area 3 News

Sandy Welch, Director

Zonta Club of Brownsville

We are busy preparing for one of our busiest months. During the month of March, we will be hosting the Woman of the Year banquet. Every year our club honors a woman chosen from the community who exemplifies what Zonta is all about. Nominations are submitted by our members to the Status of Women committee who reviews the nominations and selects the honoree. A banquet will be held on March 13 at the Sheraton Four Points hotel. **Annabell Alegria** is the Chairman of the committee. She and her committee have been busy preparing for the event. **LeeAnn Greer, Rosalie Gutierrez, Adrienne Zermeno, Ruth Hunter,** and **Laura Gilmore** are working with her on this event.

On March 25, our club is also hosting our 5th Annual Golf Tournament. **Kathy Jennings** is our Chairman for this event. She and her committee have been busy working on this project. Her assistant, **Marlys Zapata** has also been hard at work. The tournament will be held at the Valley Inn & Country Club. Our members will be assigned to work the different areas, such as registration, door prizes, etc.

We continue to do our "hands on" monthly service project of preparing and feeding the homeless at a community center here in Brownsville. This past month we served over 100 homeless individuals. Our Z-Club is also involved in this project.



Maude Lette (pictured here) celebrated her 93rd Birthday at Area 3 Meeting in Corpus Christi. Maude started a brand new business, successful of course, when she was 91....what a Zontian.....

Zonta Club of Corpus Christi

The Zonta Club of Corpus Christi is most busy this month preparing for Area 3 Meeting, **Down By The**

Seashore, on March 17-19th. We have lots of good speakers, a wonderful beach, great speakers, and last but not least super door prizes—we also are hosting a St. Patrick's Day party on Friday night at the home of **Lois Huff**. **Sara Winston** is in charge of hotel arrangements. **Margie Lopez** will lead the caravans to Friday night event and Saturday Evening Dinner and Musical entertainment. Many of you have successfully tried the electronic registration a first for our Club.

We also are having our second Book Review – Wine and Cheese Evening on March 3rd. Dr. Charles Clark is reviewing his new book **Return To Dos Encinos**, about the women's movement and suffragettes around San Antonio. President **Roberta Dohse** expects this to be a fun evening.

A new service project is starting in April, providing food boxes for students at the Alternative Education high school program for pregnant students.

Zonta Club of Harlingen



On February 25, 2006, we held our annual game day. Pictured here is Melissa Davis, big winner of the day, accepting her prize from **Betty McCune**.

On March 22, 2006 we will honor our Women of

Achievement.

We have five members attending our Area Three Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas March 17-19, 2006.

Fifteen of our members will be walking all night for Cure of Cancer on April 7-8, 2006.

Zonta Club of San Antonio



L-R: Lisa Bailey, Wiede Cutshall, and Marilynn Franke

In January we welcomed 12 members of the local chapter of the 99s to our Amelia Earhart Meeting. Our speaker, **Wiede Cutshall**, an aerospace engineer, talked about

our aging airplanes, both military and commercial. Our 47th Zonta Antique Sale and Show was beautiful! We will be presenting checks to the directors of our designated service projects, The

Woman at the Well House Ministries and Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives at our March meeting. **Three** new members will be installed at the March meeting as well.

Greetings from Qatar

Judy Kautz

Marhaba (Hello) Zonta Sisters!

I am almost two months into my six-month tour here in Qatar, and have enjoyed the assignment so far. Qatar is a land of contrasts, from the beauty of the coast and water of the Arabian Gulf to the bleak, stark, desert interior. My job requires that I interface with the Qataris on a regular basis, and I find them to be a warm, charming people. They are wonderful hosts and value the American military presence here.

Getting close to the Qatari women has been difficult, because there are no women in the military circles I deal with, and the men don't really want to share information about their wives (although they love talking about their children!) I have learned that the wearing of the abaya and shayla depend on the tribe of the woman, and on her husband's preferences. Some women wear the outer garment (abaya) and a head covering (shayla) but don't cover their faces. Some wear the face covering but leave their eyes uncovered, and some cover their entire faces. When I looked closely at these garments, I saw wonderful embellishments on backs, sleeves, collars, etc. Sequins, embroidery, and beads of all colors adorn the



abayas, and it is all I can do to keep myself from touching the fine work. I'm told that the women I see here who do not wear abayas are generally women from another country.

I witnessed an interesting

phenomenon on several occasions while I was shopping, most at the jewelry shops and counters. Qatari women apparently love jewelry, and I have seen them haggle

with shop owners over prices and quality of items. They display an aggression which seems contrary to what we would expect in their demeanor, given the secondary role they play in the family hierarchy. They also love handbags and



shoes, I suspect because these are items that are not controlled by their dressing traditions. I have seen some of the most interesting purses and shoes along with those abayas!

Many of you have been receiving my updates, and I appreciate the correspondence I've received from you. I will continue to relay my adventures here, and I hope that one day, we can establish Zonta in Qatar. In the meantime, I remain proud of and committed to the great work we do, and I challenge each of you to continue to spread the word about Zonta to recruit new members, so we can continue that work.

God bless you...and sleep well tonight. The defense of our country is in capable hands!

In Zonta love,

Judy

Judy.Kautz@qatar.army.mil

Mark your calendars today!

Zonta International District 10



59th Annual Conference

El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel

San Antonio, TX

October 5-8, 2006

Zonta International is a worldwide service organization of executives in business and the professions, working together to advance the status of women.

Hosted by

 **Zonta Club
of San Antonio**
Member of Zonta International