



ZONTA NEWS & VIEWS

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR AUG - OCT 2009

ZONTA



INTERNATIONAL

Club #513

Chartered:
September 10, 1963

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Judy Barnes

VICE PRESIDENT

Merlodie Hunnicutt

TREASURER

Dottie Munsch

SECRETARY

Deborah Cornelison

FUNDRAISING

Barbara Scott

SERVICES

MJ Hassell

MEMBERSHIP AND

TWO-YEAR BOARD

MEMBER

Nancy Whiteside

PUBLIC RELATIONS

AND ONE-YEAR

BOARD MEMBER

Runette Louthian

President's Letter

Dear Zontians:

I love new adventures and experiences. I may be a little anxious or hesitant but usually the experience turns out to be great! That is how I felt about the District II Conference held in Fort Lauderdale, September 25-26, 2009. Traveling with veterans such as Dottie, Ellie and Ina eased the anxiety. We arrived on Wednesday and these women do know how to shop! We toured the intercoastal waterway on Thursday and saw the homes and yachts of the very, very rich and famous. Thursday evening was the fellowship gathering of the participants and first timers (that would be me). Everyone was so nice and it was fun trying to find the person who matches the name given on your name tag – mine was Sylvester and Tweety Pie (has anyone seen a Puddy Cat?). I found her, Susan from Birmingham, AL and talked about activities her club was involved in, and then out to dinner with fellow Zontians from the Charleston and Hilton Head Clubs. Friday morning opened the meeting and I was impressed with the protocol and so proud of the Zonta Club of Columbia. Dottie carried the SC flag, the last person walking in the Parade of Flags was Ina carrying the International flag and then Ellie sang the National Anthem (beautiful voice). These three women are much respected in the Zonta community. The Mayor of Fort Lauderdale welcomed us to the city and then Judge Ilona M. Holmes, Administrative Judge, Broward County, Circuit Criminal Division spoke on "You've Come a Long Way".

During the role call of the Delegates, we reported our Club's pledge to International by Area and then by Club within each Area. I was so excited because we pledged more than one-third of our fundraising budget. But alas three other clubs contributed more so we were fourth out of 39! Not bad for a small club. Afternoon seminars were very informative and interesting and Friday evening consisted of a delicious dinner buffet and Las Vegas style entertainment with Mark and Clark, dueling pianists. Saturday morning's guest speaker, Deborah Persico Tostanoski, talked about forgiveness of others as well as our self and her very talented daughter sang acappella. Saturday afternoon was free time and we visited the Bonnet House and gardens. Saturday evening was the banquet and each club was recognized for their activities. Sanibel Captiva won the Governor's Cup. But I won the "first timers" award and Melodie was elected Vice Area 2 Director.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself, learned so much about Zonta and was proud of the involvement of so many women trying to make a difference in the lives of other women worldwide. I have been Zontified! I strongly encourage all members to attend a District Meeting. We have three meetings next year and two are very close to Columbia and I hope we can make a concerted effort to attend en masse!

Judy

*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world.
Anne Frank*

District 11 Officer

GOVERNOR
Lynn Salvatore

AREA 2 DIRECTOR
Mary Cabaniss

International President
Beryl Sten, Sweden

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Jane Adams

**FOUNDATION
AMBASSADOR**
Doris Larson

International President Elect
Diane Curtis

TREASURER
Alice Chick

SECRETARY
Mary Frisbee

Visit www.zonta.org or
www.zonta-district11.org
For more information

TEENS BECOME PREY IN CHARLOTTE SEX TRADE

(From The Charlotte Observer)

Jorge Flores Rojas lived less than a mile from Windsor Park Elementary. He had created a religious shrine to a mystical figure known as the patron of saint death, who is said to protect pimps and other criminals.

Each day, Flores prayed to Santa Muerte, or “Saint Death” joined by the teenage girls whom he forced to have sex with as many as 20 men a day.

Flores, 45, was a notorious operator in a city that has become a center for sex trafficking along the East Coast.

Local and federal authorities are not sure how extensive the Charlotte sex rings have become. They say Flores’ ring brought in hundreds of young women each year to work as prostitutes.

Flores was convicted of trafficking in April. But authorities say other pimps in Charlotte continue to prey on young girls from poor countries.

Across the Carolinas, immigrant sex rings have been broken up in Monroe, Durham and Columbia.

The FBI estimates that some 18,000 people are trafficked into the United States for sex or forced labor. About a fourth end up in the Southeast; thousands come to the Carolinas. Most victims of the sex rings are from Latin America, others from Asia and Eastern Europe.

ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) in Charlotte is bringing in more agents and another supervisor to work on its new trafficking team. Victims will not be targeted for arrest or deportation, Special Agent Richburg said. Instead they will be offered special visas in exchange for their help prosecuting traffickers.

Warning signs:

- (while all trafficking situations are different, there are some common signs that may help identify trafficking:
- Large groups of men coming to and leaving a building at odd hours.
 - Women escorted to and from a building.
 - Women not in control of their own identification documents.
 - Bars on the windows of a home, factory or business.
 - Bodyguards around a home, factory or business.

If you suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking, contact ICE at 866-347-2423 or the Department of Justice at 888-4287581.

(To read the entire article go to fordonez@charlotteobserver.com)



8TH ANNUAL BOWLING FOR ZONTA
Saturday, September 12, 1009

While we didn't get rich (but who is these days), we had an absolute ball at the Bowl A Thon. We had tremendous response from bowlers and everyone enjoyed themselves. Almost every member of our club came out, participated, pitched in and had a great Saturday morning. I thank everyone who helped out. It is a big project and it takes all of us working together to make it a success. Barbara Scott.



Speaker Prentiss Hallman, Social Worker
The Women's Shelter
October 12, 2009 Membership Meeting

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 21 **Regular luncheon**
Clarion Hotel
Please call Nancy Whiteside at
749-1636 if you can attend so that she can
reserve a table.
- November 2 **Board Meeting**
12 Noon / 1116 Blanding Street
- November 10 **Membership Luncheon**
12 Noon / Palmetto Club
RSVP (regrets only) to Alisa Mosley
by 11/5 at amosley@scleoa.org
- TBA **Amelia Earhart movie**
- November 12 **Killingsworth Gala**

The 17th Annual Killingsworth Holiday Gala will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at Seawell's in Columbia. The Star of Bethlehem inspires our theme this year which is "Starry Night." We will honor all the Stars in our lives including our Star residents and all of the individual and corporate Stars who support Killingsworth.

Dick Goodwin, a Star in his own right, will once again bring his fabulous quartet to provide our music. After a delicious dinner, Belk Department Store will present gorgeous seasonal fashions showcased by many of our own well-known United Methodist Stars. During the early part of our evening guest will be star-struck by an exciting silent auction filled with glittering, twinkling items for your reviews.

We invite you to come ready to place bids on beautiful vacation homes, magnificent artwork and jewelry, handmade cakes, shawls, pottery, woodwork and holiday decorations. You may get Star-crossed in your bids for a particular item, but remember "keep bidding" because it is all for the resident Stars of Killingsworth! The funds raised are a vital part of continuing the important ministry of Killingsworth, and YOU can be a Star in that effort. Credit/debit cards are accepted. Tickets go on sale at Killingsworth Tuesday, September 8, 2009 and will sell out quickly.

You can help with this galaxy of giving in a number of ways: attend the Gala yourself, sponsor a Star resident to attend the Gala, be a luminary and sponsor the music, or the lighting, or the dessert! Contact Killingsworth on how to shine as a corporate sponsor. You may also donate an item, a service, or a vacation home for the Silent Auction. We would love to have your help.

See you on November 12th!



2009 – 2010 COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS PROJECT

On September 2nd five members of Zonta met with Shelly Francis, former member of Zonta of Columbia, at the home of Coretta Bedsole. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how we could help her with the Path Finders for 7th Grade Girls at C.L.Wright Middle School. A team of 5 interested members was formed from those attending: Coretta Bedsole, Dena Feagin, M.J. Hassell, Ann Maletic, and Libba Patterson. Our goal is to present programs that would encourage these girls to increase their social skills. The group decided on the following topics:

- 9/15 – DMH Poster Contest – led by Ann Maletic, with an ice breaker exercise led by Libba Patterson
- 10/20 – Learning to Take Care of Things by Growing Herbs – led by Dena Feagin with an ice breaker by M.J. Hassell
- 11/10 – Proper Etiquette – led by Libba Patterson with an ice breaker by Dena Feagin
- 12/08 – Celebratory Afternoon Tea – led by Coretta Bedsole with an ice breaker by Ann Maletic

On September 15th Ann, Dena, M.J. and Libba met with Shelly and the 8 girls who have enrolled in the program. After a little encouragement the girls began to open up some. They worked in groups on posters and one was selected to be entered in the Department of Mental Health poster contest.

Happy Birthday!

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|-------------------|---------------------------|
| October 11 | Doris Clevenger |
| October 12 | Runette Louthian |
| October 14 | Ina Edens |
| October 27 | Deborah Cornelison |
| October 29 | Katherine Matthews |

ZONTA Club of Columbia

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Runette Louthian, Editor
