ZONTAGRAPH

ZONTA CLUB OF TORONTO, Volume 78, #1, Spring 2006

ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT ISSUE, 2005/2006

It was an interesting year, it was a challenging year, it was a year to be proud of …

Report of the Board 2005/2006

At this time a year ago, we were decrying the fact that no one had come forth to lead us as President, and some were frankly fearing the worst as we headed into a new Zonta year with a 5-member Board and questions about our health and viability as a Club.

It became, in fact, a year of achievements and of effective communal effort. The Board members were heartened to find that so often when a job had to be done, the member who was approached to do it, quickly and cheerfully took it in hand and ran with it. Most Committee Chairs and members went after their goals and achieved them.

Doreen Ostrowski has worked wonders as Ways and Means chair. She led us through a successful new venture, "Australia Night" this year and was tireless in her efforts on behalf of the Doris Tucker/Zonta Club of Toronto Scholarship Fund. She and the Committee are convinced that there are more "ways and means" out there by which our Club can raise funds – and they are not about to let them slip away. Margaretha Cloke once more headed up and helped underwrite the major fund-raiser, our now traditional Car Rally. The result was a very respectable $10,000.00. What a nice surprise that was for "Opportunity for Advancement" which only expected $7,000.00. And after Australia Night, they were the happy recipients of another $3,000.00, raising their total this year to $13,000.00. The Ways and Means Committee enabled us to raise $21,000 for Zonta-related giving, bringing the total of funds donated by our Club, to $28,780. And, as we followed the Committee's lead and worked with them in money-raising, we hopefully grew more connected as members and co-workers.

Kathie Waters showed her diversity and willingness in 3 rather disparate ways: she developed an effective and high-quality Privacy Code for our Club; she raised over $2,000.00 in sponsorship for the Zonta Golf Classic; and, as Program Chair, she brought back member profiles and offered a range of programs that appealed to the various ages and stages found within our club and in prospective members.

Holly Anderson and her Membership Committee worked with Kathie to ensure that newcomer visits dove-tailed with specific programs. To have visitors get to know our Club a little better through listening to Margaret Reid and Gloria Tellis talk about their lives and their connection to Zonta, was both inspiring and a treat.

Gloria cheerfully joined the Fellowship committee this year when Marlene Simmonds was unable to participate. Helen Hood made sure we all sat randomly at meetings, ensuring new connections and better communication; and the Committee introduced a Policy on Greetings to Members – a step that allows us to more fully demonstrate our fellowship.

Lisa Lumley succeeded in leading us through out first-ever Strategic Plan, making goal-setting and review a straightforward, faster, more business-like procedure. This process will be easier in the future, and will guide our activities. Lisa also up-dated the Club's By-Laws in line with the most recent ZI ones. With Beth Kirkwood, she ensured that our web-site is back on track, and she saw to it that we have a new letterhead and a procedure for using it.

This year we officially adopted "Hands Off" as our advocacy project. We look forward to a comprehensive set of "next steps" from the Status of Women Committee so that we may take action in this area.

Margaret Walker has set the wheels in motion for another Klausman competition and we hope this June will find us with a winner. This past January, the work of Carolyn Rymell, and the other Status of Women Committee Members was rewarded with the Chartering of the Frank Oke Secondary School Z Club, a first for our Club, and an endeavor that is well on its way.

Elizabeth Winsor took on the Special Donation project and Lisa Lumley worked with her. We directed them to find a way we could help in combating violence against women. As a result we voted this spring to present $6,000.00 to the Sunnybrook and Women's Health Sciences Centre's Sexual Assault Program. It will be well used, in very practical ways.

And the year has other memories for us:

- We enjoyed Daria and Hank's hospitality at last summer's BBQ to raise money for the Delegate's Fund.
- We got our money ready when Missy appeared at meetings with a prize and draw tickets. We knew she would get us!
- We tried buffets to see if we could save time and we think we have – but we are still working on the buffets themselves!
- We continued to marvel at how Marg Cloke turns out very professional Zontagraphs, accurate rosters, great car rallies and Weekender fund raisers, while dealing with all the other aspects of her life.
- We lived some intimate and powerful moments with Robert Alexander as he talked about his family's experience with domestic abuse.
- We shared Sandy's sorrow at the loss of her Bill.
- We remembered what a kind and gentle soul Marlene was.
- We were delighted to get to know Nita, Hollis and Cassie – and even more pleased that they are joining us.

And finally, we wanted you to know that we felt very lucky and blessed as a Board. We were a microcosm of the Club really, representing the working and the retired, the young and the "more experienced." We exchanged ideas, shared the work-load and tried to ensure that the Club was not the poorer for lack of a President. We were strongly united in our goal and it helped us in our task.

So we feel we have ended the year as a stronger Club with lots of potential, a continuing need for commitment and involvement by all, and a promising future. We wish the new Board well, and with you, we look forward to the new Zonta year.

Respectfully yours,

Lisa Lumley, *Vice President*; **Shannon Hogan**, *Secretary;* **Elizabeth Clemence**, *Treasurer*; **Angela Stirpe-Pierdon**, *Director;* **Kathleen Waters,** *Director*

OUR FIRST Z-CLUB!

January 30th, a pleasant winter day, was the backdrop to the chartering of the Zonta Club of Toronto's first Z-Club, at Frank Oke Secondary School, in the former City of York. The school library, site for this festive occasion reflected the yellow and maroon Zonta colours. Balloons, yellow roses, crepe paper, and Frank Oke's new club banner donated by Brampton-Caledon's Shirley Ellison certainly made a visible Zonta statement.

Z-Club inductees, teachers, fellow students, Zontians and special guests all witnessed our pledge to support these young women and their successors. The Z-clubbers also pledged to serve their school and community while upholding the ideals of Zonta.

After the Z-Club Charter President, welcomed everyone to this special event, Governor Sandra Conk presided over the chartering ceremony and presented the club with its charter and gavel.

Kathleen Waters and Marjorie Hiley presented the young women and the Z-Club with yellow roses, supplies, and token gifts to start them on their road to success.

It was an honour to have Councillor Francis Nunziata, and School Trustee Elizabeth Hill participate in this event. Their presence along with that of the District Governor, Area Director Kathleen, and District Z-Club Representative Shirley brought a special air to the feeling that Z-Clubs are a valuable and excellent tool to mentor young women.

After the cake cutting ceremony everyone was then free to network and partake of a light lunch prior to resuming their classrooms and offices.

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN GUIDES CLUB ACTIVITIES

In October 2004 the Club began to draft its Strategic Plan to guide the activities for the 2004 – 2006 Biennium. The Club agreed the Strategic Plan would be useful to help focus the resources of the Club on priority activities and would be a tool by which the Club could measure its success and progress toward meeting critical goals.

"The strength of the Strategic Plan is that it is *future oriented*," explained Lisa Lumley, the Club's Vice-President who undertook to coordinate the development of the Plan within the Club. "Although it includes one-year goals, it contextualizes these goals within a multi-year plan. It is a very useful planning document for all Club members, especially Committee Chairs. It allows the Club to plan for the future and take action toward those goals."

Zonta International's goals, as well as District and Area goals and activities are the basis of the Club's Strategic Plan. The Plan for the 2004-2006 Biennium focuses on three priority areas and details the actions the Club will take to realize these goals during this Biennium. The three priority areas the Club will focus on during 2004-2006 include: Membership; Service and Advocacy; and, Fundraising. For each priority area objectives are clearly defined in terms of measurable outcomes and detailed action plans, complete with timelines, are outlined.

"When we first undertook to develop a Strategic Plan for the Club, we recognized it would take some work," Lisa explained. "However, we determined from the outset that an "iterative" approach would be taken in order that all members could have the opportunity to shape the Plan."

Lisa continued, "It's now nearing time to evaluate our progress, adjust our initial Strategic Plan as necessary going into the 2006 – 2008 Biennium, and continue to utilize this "living" document to shape the Club's activities."

Club Adopts New Bylaws

In January 2006 the Club voted to adopt a new set of Club Bylaws. These Bylaws are the culmination of the efforts of an ad hoc committee, members Sandy Lomaszewycz and Lisa Lumley, formed last year to review and rewrite (as required) the Club's existing Bylaws. "It was an excellent learning experience," explained Lisa. "It provided me the opportunity to better understand the rationale behind the processes and procedures of the Club." The new Club Bylaws are available on the Club's website:

www.zontacluboftoronto.com

SUMMER BBQ RAISES $450 FOR OUR DELEGATES FUND

Many thanks to Daria Danko and husband Hank Mueller for the fabulous food and fun event! And thanks to Holly Anderson, who has graciously agreed to be our Delegate at the 2006 International Convention in Australia.

Late breaking News ... You were there in spirit if not in body! Margaretha Cloke's Weekenders for Zonta event, held virtually May 7, raised an additional $95 for the Delegate's Fund. Thanks to everyone who participated.

ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
24-29 JUNE 2006 MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

THE BIG PICTURE: ZONTA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECTS

Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than $6 million (US) to projects benefiting over 2 million women in 25 countries. Through contributions to Zonta International, all Clubs assist women in other parts of the world overcome barriers to equal education, health care, legal rights, and economic credit and employment. At the 2004 Convention in New York City, delegates from Zonta Clubs all over the world voted to support the following three international projects for the 2004 – 2006 Biennium:

1) CARE International Mata Masu Dubara (Women on the Move): Microcredit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS Affected Women, Niger

Issue:

HIV/AIDS is a disease that affects the health, social, and economic status of women. Women now account for almost half of all cases of HIV/AIDS. Research shows that limited access to information and low income levels dramatically increase the risk of HIV infection, particularly among women. According to UN Human Development indicators, the West African nation of Niger is the second poorest country in the world. More than 50 percent of the population lives in absolute poverty, on less than 40 cents per day. In the Bouza District in southern Niger, the impact of HIV/AIDS is so devastating that the area is known as the "valley of the widows" because of the high number of young married men who have died in recent years.

Solution:

Recognizing that HIV/AIDS and poverty are inextricably linked, CARE International is working to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS while providing care and support for those affected, and to find lasting solutions to wider social and economic problems that exacerbate the AIDS crisis.

Through financial support from Zonta, the CARE project in Niger will focus on reducing the risk of HIV/AIDS and its physical, social, and economic consequences for at least 3,600 women and their families in the Bouza District of Niger by 2006. Specifically, the project will provide HIV/AIDS education, self-esteem, negotiation skills training, and support networks of female peers, centred on the establishment of all-female savings groups.

2) STAR Network of World Learning: Anti-Trafficking Community Mobilization Project, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Issue:

Trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation is a lucrative global industry involving millions of dollars and thousands of damaged lives. Trafficked women and girls report repeated violent rapes, unplanned pregnancies, beatings, torture and other sexual abuse by clients and traffickers as well as serious reproductive health illnesses. In Bosnia alone it is estimated that more than 10,000 victims of trafficking are in the country at any one time.

Solution:

This project began in the 2002-2004 Biennium, and made significant progress in advocating for change, supporting local efforts, and conducting community education to address the issue of trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, Zonta recognizes that the process of change can take considerable time and voted to build on the 2002-2004 efforts through the 2004-2006 Biennium by focusing efforts in the following areas:

- capacity building of women's organizations to increase the effectiveness of national and local NGOs working on trafficking issues;
- communications and public relations to increase the media and public's awareness of trafficking and reduction and prevention strategies;
- collaboration and coalition building in support of enforceable public policies to stop trafficking, support prevention activity and provide appropriate response to victims.

3) Afghanistan Institute of Learning & UNICEF: Improving the Lives of Women, Afghanistan

Issue:

Traditionally, Afghan society has been male dominated. But women were making inroads. Before 1996, Afghan women formed 50 percent of government workers, 70 percent of all teachers and 40 percent of medical personnel. For almost six years under the Taliban, Afghan women were completely removed from social, economic, and political life, and virtually all of their human rights were violated. Girls had no right to education, and women were not allowed to work outside their homes. Today, the Afghan women know what it means to be displaced, to have one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates, one of the lowest rates of access

to education and health care, and exclusion from public life and decision making.

Solution:

This project began in the 2002-2004 Biennium, and despite numerous barriers, the Afghanistan Institute of Learning (AIL) was able to begin and rapidly expand education and health services in the rural area of Mir Bacha Kot (approx 45 miles north of Kabul) during the last Biennium. By building trust with the community and providing services in a culturally acceptable way, AIL was able to reach and girls who had essentially no access to health or education services. For the 2004-2006 Biennium, AIL will continue an expand its work to improve women's health by providing training to traditional birth attendants to upgrade their skills, open its newly constructed clinic, establish at least one additional Women's Learning Centre, continue to provide teacher training and begin to offer human rights classes to women.

In addition, tackling maternal mortality has become a top priority for UNICEF through its global campaign to Eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT). In February 2003, the UNICEF MNT campaign was launched in Afghanistan. During 2004-2006, UNICEF will: deliver the tetanus toxoid vaccine in a manner most effective for protecting all women and newborns against MNT; provide clean delivery services to all pregnant women including the provision of clean birthing kits and education of health staff and the public on safe birthing techniques; and conduct effective surveillance aimed at detecting and reacting to every case of MNT.

For a more detailed description of the 2004-2006 Zonta International projects, please visit the Zonta International website at:

www.zonta.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

On behalf of the Ways & Means Committee, I would like to thank you all for your support of our first annual fund-raising dinner event - Australia ***Night*** - held Saturday February 18. The results are in and we made a total of **$6,000.00** on the event.

We were pleased to see many of our Club members there, accompanied by all the family and friends they could muster. In addition, our out of town visitors included Sandra Cronk, Vivian Cody, Susan Moffat, Shirley Ellison and Barbara Fera.

Not only was our success due to your great ticket sales abilities, but also to all the Silent Auction items that were donated and then purchased that night. Bidding was brisk and a total of 48 items were sold. Sales of advertising space in our Program contributed significantly and, of course, the support of TitlePLUS was truly appreciated. And for those who supported us further at the bar, we also thank you!

Sincerely,
Doreen Ostrowski

REMEMBERING MARLENE

June 1937 – April 2006

My friend Marlene was a quiet, gracious, gentle Zontian who preferred to withhold her vote from a controversial issue rather than speaking out against it in the public forum. Perhaps she thought that I ranted enough for both of us. However, she was a very efficient, energetic Zontian -Treasurer of the Toronto Club and Chair of the Fellowship Committee for more than one biennium. Her contribution as a member of the Organising Committee for the 80th Anniversary Event was measurable and much appreciated by the other members.

Marlene came to Zonta in 1974, introduced by Jean Dodds, a Senior Nursing Administrator at the Toronto Western Hospital, where Marlene was Assistant Director of Pharmacy Service.

An only child, Marlene was exceptionally close to her Mothers family in Niagara on the Lake. The Simmonds and Cranstons spent many weekends and ALL significant holidays together, and Marlene was particularly close to her cousin Lois Cranston. Lois was Marlene's preferred travel companion for their annual spring journeys to Florida and their fall vacations in the Finger Lakes.

Although she hated four letter words like cook, bake, dust and wash, Marlene knew the joy of sharing in the lives of children from cradle to adulthood. She was devoted to her three godchildren courtesy of Penny and Don, her friends from pharmacy student days. They spoke at length weekly and Marlene was at their London home for every family occasion (unless it snowed!!).

After her retirement from hospital service and the sale of the longtime family home at Meadowvale Road, Marlene moved into a condominium residence in the same neighbourhood. But she never called it "home". She took on new interests; lawn bowling in the summer at the Boulevard Club (at the instigation of Mary Duncan), indoor bowling in the winter with another group; she joined an early morning "mall-walking" group, attended lectures of interest for Seniors and discovered live entertainment at the Mirvish Theatres plus popular music at Roy Thompson Hall. She tried her luck at the Casinos in Las Vegas and there was even a minor flirtation with a No Name computer.

When Marlene received the diagnosis of her condition in September 2005, it was totally unexpected. Because of her professional knowledge of pathophysiology, she was fully aware of the prognosis and with amazing resignation and fortitude she accepted that nothing could be done for her except radiation treatment. To save friends, past colleagues, and neighbours from considerable concern, she did not discuss her increasing weakness and fatigue with most of her visitors, as her hospital stay went from weeks to months. I was privileged that she shared them with me as a colleague and friend.

After a brief attack of pneumonia in the last week of March, Marlene died peacefully in the early hours of Tuesday morning April 4. Her two much-loved goddaughters from London maintained a 24-hour bedside vigil, providing care from Friday March 31, until she died. Their father Don spoke the Eulogy at Marlene's funeral on Saturday April 8, which was attended by many colleagues and friends. As she wished, Marlene will be buried beside her mother and uncle (George Cranston) at Niagara on the Lake Cemetery in a private ceremony this spring.

Our hearts go out to Marlene's surrogate sister Lois Cranston at this sad and difficult time. We shall all miss our quiet sister Zontian of the Toronto Club, and I have lost a valued friend.

Margaret Walker

THE MICHENER AWARDS

In the 93/94 biennium, Toronto Zontians found ourselves in the pleasant position of holding substantial funds in our Service Account. These funds had accumulated over the years from excess operating funds, high interest rates and the generous bequests of several members. We struck a special committee to recommend recipients for the funds, with the criteria that our monies should: *Benefit women's health, particularly breast cancer; Benefit young women; Be of a long-term nature, rather than a one-time donation.* Toronto's Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences fit all our criteria and in 1995 we established two annual awards, to be paid from the interest earned in our endowment fund, now approximately $1,000 each.

The Zonta Club of Toronto Mammography Award is given to a student entering her 3rd year of the Radiography programme, taking the 3-month mammography elective.

The Zonta Club of Toronto Cytotechnology Award is given to a student entering her 2nd year of studies (Cytotechnology interprets cellular samples and assists in early detection of diseases such as cancer).

In 1998, our Club received another large legacy from a former member, along with the news that the Government of Ontario's Student Opportunity Trust Fund would match new donations dollar for dollar. These funds enabled us to increase our annual Awards to approximately $1,500 each!

To date, seventeen very caring young women have benefited from the Zonta Club of Toronto Michener Awards, including our 2005/06 recipient.

16th ANNUAL CAR RALLY RAISES $10,050 FOR OFA!

Another terrific day and another successful Rally! With 13 cars participating plus a few 'dinner only' guests, we enjoyed the beautiful scenery north of the city, were challenged by a 'photo' scavenger hunt and ended the day with a classic Italian feast at Ristorante Romano's. Thanks to Zontians, family and friends, we more than met our commitment to OFA – Opportunity for Advancement.

A big ***Thank You*** to everyone who supported this, our major annual fundraiser.

1st

Shannon & Bob Hogan, Liz Clemence and Marjorie Hollands – proud winners of the totally awesome Zonta Club of Toronto Car Rally Trophy!

2nd

Jim & Phyllis Muir and Helen Hood receive a hand-made commemoration of their second place win.

3rd

Daria Danko and Hank Mueller settle (this year) for third place.

ABOUT OFA – OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVANCEMENT

Opportunity for Advancement works with women in disadvantaged life situations. While poverty is always an issue, other factors create additional barriers to equal participation in society. These include being a sole-support parent, an immigrant or woman of colour, a lesbian, being disabled or chronically ill, or having experienced violence. OFA's goal is to support women in achieving greater economic sufficiency, increased personal well-being and enhanced participation in their communities.

A Brief History

Opportunity for Advancement began in 1973 as a course at Humber College. It was designed to meet the special needs of mothers on social assistance who were considering a return to school or employment. The program proved extremely successful, and funding was obtained from Health and Welfare Canada for a three-year demonstration project in the community.

By 1977, OFA had become an incorporated agency with a Board of Directors composed of community members and former participants. The agency continues to provide a group program, Preparing for Change, based on the original model in four low-income neighbourhoods in Toronto. In 1982, the core programs were expanded to include two Women Under Stress groups. This program provides an alternative model to women who have been involved with the traditional mental health system or who live in stressful life situations. Over the years OFA has sponsored a variety of innovative projects in the areas of health promotion, women in conflict with the law and pre-employment training for older women.

OFA is committed to eliminating individual as well as systemic racism and other forms of oppression in society while affecting individual change towards life goals for the women we serve.

The Basic Office Practice Program

This program focuses on increasing the skills of women living in poverty through education leading to sustained employment. Our target group are women who:

- Are in receipt of Ontario Works, or lack any financial support
- Experience serious barriers such as long-term poverty, language difficulties and minimal skill levels that prevent them from achieving long term work
- Are marginally employed with numerous job loss and high recidivism to Ontario Works
- Are unable to participate fully in their community due to lack of hard skills and workplace knowledge.

The program consists of 12 weeks instruction on basic workplace requirements. Participants learn all aspects of employment in an office environment including working in a computerized environment, managing multi-line telephone systems, front desk reception, administrative support and Internet research. More important, participants learn workplace expectations, managing a workplace setting and navigating and resolving workplace issues. The program has already served 63 women in its one-year pilot stage, with significant success:

- 65% of participants went on to targeted training
- 30% of participants obtained employment
- 5% entered academic upgrading

The Zonta Club of Toronto's donation will assist specifically in organizing and formalizing the Mentoring portion of this program.

For more information, visit:

www.ofacan.com

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

Our 2006/07 Board will consist of:

President:	Lisa Lumley
Vice President:	Holly Anderson
Treasurer:	Margaretha Cloke
Secretary:	Gloria Tellis
Director (I year):	Kathleen Waters
Director (2 years):	Elizabeth Winsor

A big welcome to our three new members, Hollis Bent, Cassie Chu and Nita McCown.

We regret the resignation of Helen Hood, a long-serving (37 years) and highly valued member of our Club. Helen promises to remain connected and to support our activities whenever possible.

A Garage Sale to help fund the Doris Tucker/Zonta Scholarship Fund will be held on May 27. Contact Doreen Ostrowski if you have items to donate.

Congratulations to Missy Yano, Ontario recipient of The Royal LePage Shelter Award for outstanding contribution to the community. The Shelter Foundation helps women's shelters across Canada and sponsors violence prevention programmes.