

“...it has made a great difference...”



From left: Yvonne Johnson-Mullin, President London I, Katie Blackmor, Ana Pilar Garcia-Sagrado, Regina Smit, Governor District 29

These words were spoken separately by both of the young women recipients of the Amelia Earhart Award at the London I Annual Dinner held at the RAF Club Piccadilly on Thursday 23 March 2006.

Ana Pilar Garcia-Sagrado received her second award and told us how much she valued it and how it had changed her life. Her research requires the storing of large quantities of data and the money had helped her buy the expensive computer equipment she needed to do this, in addition to books and other materials. It had taken the pressure off,

making her everyday expenses more bearable, and allowing her to concentrate on her research.

Katie Blackmor received her first award and echoed much of the same sentiments as Ana. Her work is concentrated on trying to reduce noise pollution. The monetary element again playing a very important role in creating a better quality of life which allows her efforts to be devoted to her work rather than on how to meet her living expenses.

Both women enjoyed meeting Zontians and having an opportunity to express their thanks in person. It was also pleasing to note that they each were lucky enough to win a prize in London I's fantastic raffle.

Letter from the President

Catherine McEwan

President London II

Fellow Zontians,

Our next meeting is the all important AGM. A time to reflect on the past year and



prepare our budget for the year ahead.

We have a major decision to make with regard to the New Cavendish Club.

Those of you who attended the last meeting will already know something about it. Your input is very important and I would urge you to arrange your diaries to allow you to attend.

Ruth and I have been working hard to prepare some information that will be circulated shortly. This should help you to understand why we need to consider raising Club Dues for next year. Please make the time to read and ask any questions as soon as you receive it – don't wait until the meeting. This will allow us to concentrate on making a decision rather than on providing explanations.

The same applies to our Annual Accounts. Ruth will circulate these too prior to the meeting. Again, ask questions now so that this will only take a short vote during the actual meeting.

Your vote is vital – be there and be counted!

Important – please bring your cheque book with you if at all possible. We will be agreeing on the amount for next year at the meeting. International Dues need to be sent to Chicago in time to meet the deadline.

I would appreciate it if all Committee Chairs could submit their written report to me by Friday 7

April. If you require time during the meeting to discuss any aspect then please indicate how long you need.

We will also be discussing our charities and it has been proposed that in future we support organizations for longer than two years at a time.

Our Club usually donates a sum of money each year to the ZISVAW Programme. The ZI Boards reviewed the programme during 2004, which would indicate that it is time for us to reconsider our own strategy in line with their findings.

We have as yet to decide on a fundraising event for this year and in light of this we need to consider how to raise funds to support our chosen charities.

On another issue, I am pleased to give you advance warning that we have some exciting news to reveal at the meeting.

Morag Stalker, Vice Area Director, will be joining us, and Susan Tanner is making a special journey to the UK to be with us too.

You may remember that Susan Campos attended the February meeting. Susan C has decided to transfer to a Zonta Club closer to her home in The United States. It is with sadness that we let her move on and wish her good luck in her new club – our loss is ZC Concord's gain.



Susan C has retained some links with the UK and I am sure we shall be welcoming her as a guest to one of our meetings in the not too distant future.

Tricia Santogrossi who joined us as a temporary member for much of last year has returned to Texas. She was so pleased with the welcome she received from us that she has made a donation to the ZI Foundation in honour of our hospitality. Tricia has a valuable fund of knowledge about Zonta that she very kindly shared with us during her stay. She also accompanied us to the District 29 Conference in Meaux. We probably gained as much from her as she did from us and we sincerely thank her for her generosity.



Yvonne left, with Isabel Huszar

Our first Area 03 Conference is to be held in Dublin during the weekend of 7/8 October 2006. ZC Dublin are expending a great deal of effort into making it an unforgettable event. This is happening as a result of a proposal you asked me to put forward at the

last Presidents' meeting. Therefore it is only right that we give our full support to the weekend by sending as many people as possible.

I presume that members who usually attend Conventions will make the journey but it would also be an opportunity for anyone who has never been to a multi-club event to participate. I can assure you that it is well worth the effort and expense. Flights are very reasonable to Dublin if booked in advance. Further details will be coming your way soon.

London I's Annual Amelia Earhart Dinner was very well attended. Regina Smit, District Governor, who had recently visited the Amelia Earhart Museum, entertained us with anecdotes about Amelia's life.

Majken Ståhl, Governor of District 21, plus four other Swedish Zontians, Ruth, Monica, Agnetha and Eva (sorry I didn't get their last names).

Ruth told me about her Club's celebration of Zonta Rose Day, which was a splendid affair and a great PR event for Zonta. In reply to my question "Can we steal it for next year?", she responded

immediately with "...but of course!". I can't wait to tell you about it at the next meeting.

There was entertainment too – a wonderful performance by Isabel Huszar, Sweden's answer to Teresa May. Isabel's playing was a splendid end to the meal.

We have many opportunities ahead and I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone on 12th April.

With warmest regards

Catherine

Zonta Rose Day

Jo Swinson MP, Lib-Dem Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland



A sea of yellow roses met Jo Swinson MP as she entered the Portman Room of the New Cavendish Club on International Women's Day 8th March 2006.

Jo is one of the youngest MPs, if not the youngest, in Parliament and on that special day she was newly appointed as Lib-Dem Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland. Her previous role as Shadow Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport led her in two ways that closely link with Zonta's own aims – campaigning to get more women, and ethnic minorities, into Parliament; and, calling for a unified approach by the agencies dealing with domestic violence in the UK.

The lack of years was made up for by passion and dedication to achieve her goals. Earlier that day she had: attended meetings at refuges in her constituency – East Dunbartonshire, Scotland; attended a lunch celebrating International Women's day; and, joined us to answer a barrage of questions on issues ranging from “What legislation do you have in mind to change behaviour in regard to domestic violence?”, to “How should men from other cultures be treated when residing in the UK if they subject women to abuse that is accepted in their own culture?” to “Do you think the media has become stronger than politicians?”.

Not only did Jo respond adeptly to the questions thrown at her but she also recounted a new ‘abuse’ that she had discovered at one of the refuges only that day. Refuges provide individual accommodation for women and their children within the confines of the one building - around 12 bedrooms, depending on the property.



The TV licencing authority has been pursuing women for non-payment of Licence Fees for each of their bedrooms. There have been incidents where officers have forced their way in after the staff have gone home for the evening, intimidating the women and threatening them with legal action.

These are women who are at the most vulnerable stage in their lives. This is a critical time for them when they are at their lowest ebb.

Jo told us that hotels and care homes pay one licence fee for up to 50 bedrooms, but Refuges are not entitled to the same concessions. There has been a campaign to have them included in the same category but officers continue to press room occupants for payment.



Since the meeting, Jo has secured commitment from Meg Munn, Women and Equality Minister, that she will ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to look at putting this concession in place.



Well done Jo – and now we wait for a victory for common sense, and a positive outcome.

Hamburg Celebrates

Weekend 12-14 May 2006

We invite you to join us
75 Years Zonta Club Hamburg
75 Years Zonta in Germany



Highlights include:

Friday

Reception at Hamburg's City Hall
Sunset Cruise on Alster Lake (€70)

Saturday

Choice of 4 excursions (€16)
Banquet at the Festive Hall of
the Hotel Lindtner (€98)

Sunday

Guided tour "Quarter of Stairs" (€10)

Contact the Editor for further information

Zonta Club Praha Bohemia



On the occasion of its 15th Anniversary we would like to invite you to the Czech Republic to:

Holiday Week 23 – 30 September 2006

highlighting UNESCO heritage.

Come with your family and friends to the heart of Europe, get to know some of the country with the greatest number of cultural treasures in the smallest area.

Jana Blavska, President

Highlights include:

Gala dinner, sightseeing tour of Prague, Prague Castle Hradcany, trip to Litomysl and Zelena Hora, all day trip to Kutna Hora, Vltava river cruise.

All this for only CZK 10,000 (Approx. €350 at current rate of exchange) which includes six meals, guided tours, entrance fees, a concert/opera ticket, two all day trips and a gala dinner. Excludes accommodation.

Closing Date: 20 May 2006

Contact the Editor for further information



Invitation

Join us in Melbourne,
Australia for the 2006
Zonta International
Convention
June 23rd – 29th

Naomi Arnold – Convention Chairman

EVERYONE WELCOME

All readers of this Newsletter are cordially invited to attend London II Club meetings and events.

Membership is by invitation only - if you receive a copy then you have been personally selected as someone who may be eligible to be invited to join the membership of the Club.

For further information contact:
zontalondonII@hotmail.com

Make Time for Zonta

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| DATE | LONDON II PROGRAMME | DISTRICT, INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER EVENTS |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| YEAR 2006 | | |
| 12 April | AGM <i>Annual Dues Deadline to Treasurer</i> | |
| 10 May | Poetry Evening <i>Bring a poem to read out</i> | |
| 12-14 May | | Zonta Club Hamburg <i>75th Anniversary Weekend</i> |
| 14 Jun | My Biography <i>Catherine McEwan</i> | |
| 23-29 June | | ZI Convention <i>Melbourne, Australia</i> |
| 12 July | Marion Seneschal <i>Three Rivers Manager, CAB</i> | |
| August | Summer Party <i>TBC</i> | |
| 13 September | TBA | |
| 23-30 September | | Zonta Club Praha Bohemia <i>15th Anniversary Holiday Week</i> |
| 7-8 October | | Area 03 Conference <i>Dublin</i> |
| 11 October | TBA | |
| 8 November | TBA | |
| 25 November – 10 December | | Zonta Action 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence |
| December | Christmas Party <i>TBC</i> | |

London II Venue: All meetings, except where shown, are held in the New Cavendish Club, 44 Great Cumberland Place, London, W1H 7BS, 020 7723 0391, starting 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm, dinner is served at 7.45 pm. Cost £23.

A point to remember: if you say you are coming to the meeting and you have to cancel you have to pay for your dinner. We are obligated to the New Cavendish to pay after we finalise numbers on Monday.

Visit our Website at: www.zontadistrict29.org

Editor: Catherine McEwan
zontalondonII@hotmail.com