

Zonta Club of Geneva Club History

The Zonta Club of Geneva NY was organized on May 25 1929 at the Hotel Seneca, Exchange and Seneca Streets, Geneva, NY. Sponsored by the Zonta Club of Rochester, the new club had twelve charter members-Marion Bradley, Anne Kernan Convoy, Elizabeth Daykin, Catherine Desmond, Edith Engquist, Jane Gilmore, Mildred Jennings, Elizabeth Lyndon, Ethyl Lynch, Mae Rogers and Janet Tremaine and Mildred Wheat Patch was elected the first president. The Geneva Club was the 66th in the Confederation of Zonta clubs. June 1929 four members attended the 9th Annual convention in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Through the 85 years the Geneva Club has initiated and supported various community service projects-Fresh Air Program (1939) and continued for 45 years; Isolettes for Geneva General Hospital (1940's); Foster Parent Plan-sponsoring needy children in foreign countries; American Field Service Student Exchange program (1962) which lead to the formation of an AFS Chapter in the Geneva area; and supporting - Geneva General Hospital Auxiliary Guild; America Red Cross, Child Care Centers; Girl Scouts; Salvation Army; Literacy Volunteers; Special Olympics; Happiness House; Ontario Hospice; Boys and Girls Club; Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes Domestic Violence Program; mini service project for the Ontario County Correctional Facility and many others.

Many hours of community service have been given each year by individual Geneva Zontians in volunteering at Geneva General Hospital, Community Lunch Program, Center of Concern, Boys and Girls Club, Wild Women Bowling, Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, to mention a few.

For 27 years the Scholarship Committee has awarded young women in the community a scholarship for college expense. To date approximately \$27,000 has been awarded to High School Seniors pursuing two or four year degrees at colleges and universities.

The Geneva Club also contributes to International projects including those sponsored by the Zonta International. Recently the club is contributing to the KIVA project.

The Zonta Club of Geneva has initiated various fund raising activities from concession stands at the Memorial Day Trout Derby and Rose Hill Antique Show; ice cream social; garage sales; plant and bulb sales; sale of T-shirts at Celebrate '98 in Seneca Falls; Valentines' Day flower arrangements; Christmas Auction; Christmas Cookies Trays; pot luck dinners; and recently Valentines' Day box of hand crafted chocolates.

For several years the club organized the Status of Women event. A luncheon with a featured guest speaker included a congresswomen, anchorwoman, breast cancer doctor and Department of Labor Director.

September 24-26, 19?? The Geneva Club sponsored the District IV conference at the Ramada Inn. Over the years the club has been fortunate to have a delegate attend most of

the ZI conference held each biennium. Club president Isabelle Doran Jensen will be attending the upcoming conference in Orlando Florida.

Two Zing events had taken place on September 12, 2012 and

Club members have assembled 200 Birthing Kit in 2013 and 2014.

2013 the club sponsored the a screening of the international film “Miss-Representation” a documentary on how the media’s misrepresentation of women have led to the underrepresentation of women in position of power and influence. Future plans to continue collaborating with other organizations to show a film as an annual event is planned for the fall.

Club member Bonnie Deier has edited a monthly newsletter. The newsletter keeps club members up to date and informed about club activities and ZI. Members currently meet monthly at a designated location with social time, dinner, speaker and business meeting. A web site and FaceBook page keeps the club in the public eye.

2013-2014 club roster – Sandra Ansley, Rossana Burgess, Mary Brainard, Cynthia Cannon, Karen Cardillo, Bonnie Deier, Kelly Demay, Michelle DiRenzo, Beth Donohue, Mignon Enecilla, Alaine Espenscheid, Rebecca FitGerald, Teresa Gable, Harleen Gilbert, Leslie Hebb, Isabelle Doran Jensen, Jana Lamboy, Suzanne Marino, Lisa Mulkin, Dora Pita-Acevedo, Emilie Sission, Carol VanHorn and Friend of Zonta Helen Phillips.

Submitted by Isabelle Doran Jensen, President 2012-2014
April 30, 2014