



This is the first of four newsletters to be published during the convention. The fifth will only be put on the website: Collect them all!

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE:

- Zonta Rose conquers the world
- Memorial Service
- The Raffle!

The Volendam Singers will sing for us!

Volendam is a small fishing village just 20 km from Amsterdam. This picturesque, 16th century village is world-famous because of its traditional costumes. The town's musical heritage is remarkable: from church choirs and shanty singers (old fishing songs) to music you love to hate – "Paling Pop" ("Eel Pop") as it is known locally. Some of the Netherlands' most famous singers come from this tiny village! Over the years, the choir performed many times together with world-famous soloists from well-known opera houses like Covent Garden, La Scala, Wiener Volksoper, Teatro di Roma and the Metropolitan in New York. And now they will sing for us in Rotterdam!



ZONTA



INTERNATIONAL

Welcome to the 59th Zonta International Convention and to Rotterdam!

I hope that you will be inspired by the program and discussions we will have over these next few days. Be sure to find old friends and meet many new ones. As Zontians from around the globe, there is only one chance in two years that we gather together in one place to take up the business of Zonta and to network with fellow Zontians from the 32 districts. Seize the moment and be actively involved.

My thanks to the Convention Committee – a group of extraordinary Zontians who have contributed much energy, enthusiasm and creativity to make this an exciting and lively experience for all Zontians and their guests. Enjoy your Convention!!

Olivia A. Ferry
Zonta International President,
2006-2008



Ingeborg: Chair and Spindocter

For the past two years, the life of Ingeborg van 't Hoogerhuijs has been dominated by the Zonta convention in Rotterdam. In 2003, she was the initiator for the candidacy of Rotterdam as host city for the Zonta Convention 2008. Since then, she had been masterminding the event! But who is Inge?

She was born in Rotterdam, just before WWII. After her studies in Switzerland, she returned to her native city to be a civil servant for the City of Rotterdam as a communicator for Town Planning. She participated in exciting reconstruction projects and architectural tours de force to rebuild Rotterdam after it had been destroyed during the war. She travelled all over the globe with delegations from the city to study urban planning, traffic and innovative infrastructure. She is straight, authentic, loves sports, and is an active local politician as well ...

During the past two years, she impressed all of us, Zontians, by her boundless energy, her inspiring enthusiasm and that 'je ne sais quoi' in her personality, that keeps us all on our toes!

One wonders how she does it, but she is married to Herman and mother of Sophie and Ferdinand. Obviously, she still has a life after these tropical Zonta years!

Flags Hoisted To Honor ZI Convention

Flags representing the principal players in the Rotterdam Convention were hoisted yesterday at the Boompjes, by the banks of the Maas. Ivo Opstelten, Mayor of Rotterdam, welcomed the Zontians. He said that Rotterdam is a city with an international focus, open to the world. It has 174 different nationalities and is thus perfect for an international meeting.

He applauded Zonta's mission! In response, IP Olivia Ferry remarked that although her country, the Philippines, is around 7,000 miles from the Netherlands, the flags are waving in the wind side by side. She said that the assembly of flags is a symbol of global empowerment and true for the internationality of Rotterdam. To the sound of a trumpet playing the national

anthems of Holland, the flags were hoisted by the Mayor, by Governor Victoria Vergel de Dios for the Philippines, by Dr. Wilhelmina Kelly of Springfield for the USA, the Zonta International flag by IP Ferry, and the Convention flag by Chairman Ingeborg van 't Hoogerhuijs. Mr. Tom Bokhout raised the flag of the Rotterdam Flag Parade.





At the conference, numerous floral arrangements will display the beauty of this lovely new Zonta rose.

Rosa Zonta+ conquers the world

A new Zonta rose will be baptized by the Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, Maria van der Hoeven, on Saturday, during the Opening Ceremony of the convention.

From Rotterdam, the new rose will be introduced all over the world and will be available to the public world-wide under the name of Zonta Rose! Breeder of the new rose is the company LEX+.

BABOR Cosmetics is sponsoring the 59th Zonta Convention in Rotterdam.

The cosmetics company sees the convention as an excellent opportunity for Babor cosmetics to pamper businesswomen from all around the world. Passion for luxury always inspires BABOR and is the foundation for exclusive products and innovative wellness experiences.

All Zontians are welcome at the BABOR Beauty Booth during the Zonta Convention 2008. BABOR is offering its exclusive service before, during and after business sessions. Just make an appointment at the BABOR Information Desk at de Doelen and enjoy 20 à 30 minutes of luxurious well-being.



Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer!

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time: they just have the heart.

For the past two years or so, cart-loads of Zonta e-mail messages have been flying all around the globe, from early morning till late night. Plans have been made, numerous hours have been spent in meetings and brainstorm sessions and in the process, we, Zontians, have worked together and forged new bonds. The hundreds of busy women, involved in organising this convention, never sit

around wondering what to do! Nevertheless, they offer their time, energy and commitment generously to the Zonta cause. Our volunteers put their shoulders to the wheel in order to organise the World Convention for all of us, Zonta members. And why? Because we all believe in our common goal and we are ready to make it a priority in life!

More than 200 volunteers, from the Netherlands and from a variety of other countries are ready to assist and help out if needed or wanted.

Many of them, active behind the scenes, you will never see. Others, adorned with blue or orange banners, will escort their Zonta guests through the Convention Center, through the city of Rotterdam and through a wonderful Zonta week.

You would do all of the volunteers a great favour by having a wonderful time!

*THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS,
FROM ALL OF US!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

Do not miss the 2008 flag parade!

A symbol of the global development of ZONTA

In the same way as almost all ZONTA International Conventions of the past, our 2008 Convention in Rotterdam will open with a most colourful event that always holds the attention of the audience and that you as participants should not miss: the flag parade, during the opening ceremony on Saturday at 5 pm.

It is a demonstration both of the history and development of our organization and of its world-wide presence today. The ZONTA history starts in 1919 in Buffalo, New York – so the flag of the United States will be the first of 67 flags which will be brought to the stage. It is interesting to note that it took 8 years to carry the ZONTA idea into the first country outside the US, namely Canada (1927). Merely 3 more years were needed to reach not only a new country, Austria, but indeed another

continent, Europe.

By today ZONTA has come to all continents and to 67 countries all over the world. Our youngest member of the family, country nr 67, is Niger which was chartered on May 13, only a few weeks ago.

To demonstrate the link between tradition and the youthful life of our organisation International President Olivia has invited a member of the youngest club in each country to carry the flag.

Rotterdam: Green Year '08

The Zonta Convention venue being located close to the building excavations around the Central Station, you might not realize this, but: Rotterdam is a green city.

During the Green Year 2008, Rotterdam's greenery will be highlighted. With new trees, special activities, green surprises and innovative initiatives for a more beautiful, green city. On National Tree Day, children will plant extra trees in the city. Every municipal district will receive a monumental tree as a gift. The people of Rotterdam will also be rolling up their sleeves: a Green 'Opzoomer' Tornado will rage through the city, turning the streets green. The dozens of green, inspiring ideas which the local authority is putting into practice with the help of local residents, such as the Green Thumbs gardening project, are adding extra atmosphere to the city.



Honouring Zonta, the monumental fountain on the city's central square, the Hofplein, will spurt Zonta-yellow coloured water! This is quite an honour as the fountain only squirts coloured water for exceptional events: like orange water when the Dutch football team wins at international tournaments!

Also, Public Works will donate the greenery needed for the decoration of De Doelen, our convention location. Centre piece will be the Zonta emblem in a lovely flower arrangement. **Thanks to the City of Rotterdam!!**

Buy your raffle ticket Support local service projects

One third of the raffle proceeds will be donated to the Foundation, and two-thirds will be distributed among the raffle drawing winners for the benefit of the winning club's local service projects, contingent upon any complications with currency transfers, and legal or tax impediments, in which case the club's amount will be donated to the ZIF fund of their choice in the club's name.

Rotterdam: La City '08

Rotterdam, usually a masculine city, is 'La City '08' for the whole month of June. For once, the accent is on the city's feminine side.

The reason for this is, of course, the Zonta World Convention, which brought more than 2000 women to Rotterdam and that will make a change from the city's pinstripe suits and overalls! Yesterday 'Shop till you drop' was the inspiring theme. There were catwalks showing wonderful designs and special attention was given to women's fashion all over the shopping district.

The programme of La City '08 has been built around 3 themes: Body, mind and soul. La City organises its activities around the following accents: on feminine intellect, emancipation, health, activity of body and mind and relaxation both within and outside of work, inspiration and seduction.

Holland's first lady, the Queen of Holland will make an appearance at one of the events, which will definitely put Rotterdam on the map as a city for women!



Come to the presentation: 'Local Service in Action' Zonta around the World

Following the call for photos representing the local service projects of Zonta clubs around the world, over 1000 pictures have been sent in.

Local Service Coordinator Jackie Beaudry chose the nicest ones! Linda Jacobsen (PR&C Cttee) then produced a most attractive PowerPoint Presentation with an overwhelming variety of photos.

You will have the opportunity to see "Local Service in Action" in "Zonta Around the World", a presentation with pictures from a variety of Zonta activities, including advocacy and fundraising.

- Sun. 29 June 8:30 am; right after the Memorial Service.
- Sun. 29 June 1:30 p.m.; prior to the business session
- Mon. 30 June; in the morning during Coffee Break
- Tue. 1 July; in the afternoon
- Wed. 2 July 9:15 a.m.; prior to the final session.

Come and see these most intriguing and attractive pictures. They uniquely show the enormous and effective work that all Zontians together have accomplished over the years. Do not miss to learn about the efforts achieved - the local service projects are the backbone of Zonta advocacy and fundraising!



"Professional Afghan Women at Work at the Chak-e-Wardak Hospital", which provides medical treatment, education and employment as well as shelter for women in Afghanistan" - a nine year continuous thus substantial project of ZC Fünf-Seen-Land Germany.

Workshops

On Saturday afternoon, you have a wide choice of interesting subjects to be discussed in the workshops. It will be difficult to make a choice as all the subjects are of great interest to all Zontians. Here they are:

Advocacy in Action: Trafficking and Education

Speakers: Romaike Zuidema, Bonded



Labour in the Netherlands, Humanitas/Oxfam Novib and Maria

Jose Landeira Ostergard, ZI Director and member ZC of Copenhagen, Denmark

Membership Satisfaction: Where Do We Go From Here?



Speaker: Glene Harding, ZI Chairman, Organization,

Membership & Classification and member ZC of Silicon Valley, CA USA
Reactor: Kerry Dixon Fox, ZI Director and member ZC of Mankato, MN USA

Integrating Education and Micro-Finance to Empower Women and Reduce Poverty



Speakers: Moumita Sensarma, ABN AMRO Bank, Mumbai, India

and Femke Bos, Triodos Investment Management B.V.
Reactor: Baiba Rivza, ZC of Jelgava, Latvia

Servant Leadership: How to Motivate, Lead and Manage Volunteers Successfully



Speaker: Jean Ann French, Social Response Network and member ZC Everett, Washington USA

Reactor: Marie-Helene Mallet, Past Governor, District 30 and member ZC Nimes-Romaines, France

Women's Empowerment Through Health Education

Speaker: Nancy Durrell McKenna, SafeHands for Mothers and member ZC London

Reactor: Jackie Shapiro, ZI Chairman, United Nations and member ZC of New York

Visit the Zonta International Foundation booth!

A fixture at Zonta International conventions is the Foundation booth, where Zontians are invited to support the Foundation and the Zonta International programs with a donation to the Rose Fund.

Contributions of 25 Euro (or US\$38) are recognized with an 'I Gave' button and a rose sticker is added to your district. One may follow the progress by looking

at the boards filled with rose symbols. Each morning of Convention, the top five Districts will be posted. Although there is no prize as most generous district, it is an honor to be so.

Members of the Foundation Board, the Foundation Development Committee and the District Foundation Ambassadors and other Foundation volunteers will welcome Zontians visiting the booth in the main hall. All contributions will be acknowledged following Convention.

Zonta Rotterdam 2008 Convention Shawls.



Specially woven Léa Silk-shawls are on sale in the lobby.

These shawls, with a tulip design, are made by women in Thailand for us, guests of the 2008 Convention.

Léa Silk is produced by weavers in Ban Reng Khai, a village in north eastern of Thailand. The soil is excellent for growing mulberry trees of which the leaves produce strong threads, essential to the durability of Léa Silk. The production is an entirely natural process. No toxic chemicals or indu-



ustrial machines are used. Léa Silk is an exclusive hand woven fabric widely acclaimed for its superior quality and lustrous colours.

Mrs. Léa Laarakker is a Dutch Zontian. She is an artist and textile specialist, who has given her name to the silk. She is the Founder and Vice-chair of the Ban Reng Khai Foundation in



Thailand, an independent organization focused entirely on supporting village self-sufficiency in integrated farming, sericulture and silk weaving, micro-enterprise, healthcare and education. Proceeds from the sales of Léa Silk are directed to this Foundation. In recognition of this effort, Mrs. Léa Laarakker was knighted in the Order of Oranje Nassau by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in 1995.

Léa's Silk and design have been awarded the UNESCO AHPADA (Asean Handicraft Promotion and Development Association) Seal of Excellence thirteen times.

Price of the shawl will be € 35,00

Excursions!!

During the Convention days, you will be able to join the excursions that will bring you to the most magnificent and interesting places of Holland.

To Amsterdam, the capital of our country, with its fabulous canals, the famous Rijksmuseum and the painting 'The Nightwatch' by Rembrandt . Purchase some lovely Delft blue porcelain at the factory in Delft, the oldest city of Holland. And of course we will visit the port of Rotterdam, the largest of Europe!

You could also get some of the world-famous Gouda cheese in the lovely historic city of Gouda and also visit nearby Schoonhoven, famous since many centuries for its silver jewelry. The Royal City of The Hague houses imposing government buildings which we can admire and you also can visit Madurodam, our miniature city.

Most of Holland lies under the sea level and has to be kept dry by windmills. You can visit the old windmills of Kinderdijk or see how we keep our feet dry at the Delta Waterworks.

Unfortunately, pre- and post convention tours have been cancelled, as it seems you are all waiting to tour around with us at the height of the convention!

All of these tours and programs have been put together by the oldest Dutch Zonta club, The Hague I. Please enquire after these excursions at our desk at the convention venue!

The Raffle!

Lucky Draw for Zonta Treasures & for Clubs' Photo Submissions

For the first time in a Zonta Convention, Governors are donating a raffle prize from their district, which will be raffled off to those who have purchased tickets at 5 euros each. Select donors from Zonta's leadership are also donating special prizes.

Sample prizes are:

- a silver brooch-cum pendant plated with yellow gold and set with semi-precious stones (peridot, blue topaz, garnet, tsavorites) donated by Past D17 Governor Subhaporn Peters;

- a top-quality jade pendant donated by past ZIF Board member Amy Lai of Taipei;



- a set of milky white South-sea pearls donated by District 17;



- a three-strand Bangladeshi pink pearl necklace donated by Int. Director Dilruba Ahmed of District 25;

- an 18-carat white gold pendant with 4 blue topaz stones weighing 8.176 carats embedded 48 diamond brilliants weighing .32 carats suspended on a fine white-gold chain-donated by the children of the late Mila Dayrit of the Zonta Club of Makati;

- a necklace of 20 natural Turkish stone beads (.7 to 1.5 cm size) in a



10-carat gold chain, a gift to Dr. Young Lim Lee of Dist.32 from the Iranian royal family.

District 29 Governor Nicole Herb is in charge of the raffle for the District Treasures, to be held from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, 1 July at the Hospitality Room.

A separate lucky draw to benefit clubs that submitted photos for the Local Service in Action PowerPoint will be conducted on Wednesday, July 2 before the Installation Ceremony.

Proceeds from ticket sales will go partly to ZIF and partly to the club that submitted photos for the PowerPoint, to include those received beyond the March 1 deadline.

Proceeds from ticket sales will go partly to ZIF and partly to the club that submitted photos for the PowerPoint, to include those received beyond the March 1 deadline, although the prize money for the late submissions may be less.

Where to buy tickets?

You will be offered tickets by District 29 Zontians wherever you are at de Doelen. Or you can come to the Hospitality room where tickets are always available for €5 each.

How to order official convention photographs

Starting Monday morning (30 June), a selection of photographs taken the previous day will be on display in the hall of De Doelen.

You can order them, pay a price of 5 Euro each and collect them the following day. Photographs will be made during the whole convention.

On the last day, a CD will be made comprising a selection of the best photographs of the last events.

You can order this CD for € 10 + postage costs. They will be sent to you shortly after the convention.

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