

August 19, 2008

TRIBUTE TO DEE CONGRESS THROUGH THE EYES OF ZONTA

She was always there for Zonta. A founding member since the 1980's, the Sugar Bowl Fund was her creative idea. Its purpose was to offer hope, friendship and tangible help with funding for "friends of Zonta", not only members, who found themselves in need. The words "Sugar Bowl" conveyed her perception of what life should be about -- sweetness that brings joy.

Dee was involved in all aspects of our Club. She was the perpetual hostess for our Holiday Party. Until she became too ill to continue, she insisted on preparing the main course which was invariably a wonderful entree, while husband Larry played a masterful piano in a jolly sing-a-long. When we needed a house for our "Peek at the Unique" she was ready to assist. When Zontian hands were required to sort cans for the hungry at Harry Chapin Food Bank, she was there. She donated a lovely piece of jewelry each spring for the PEEK at the Unique raffle. For any project we sponsored to help uplift women's status, she responded with enthusiasm and generosity.

Most of all, she was there with a special warmth and delight for life that sparked a glowing light in the hearts of those in her presence. In the midst of all the turmoil that enmeshed her for the last few years, she wore her colorful baseball caps with an ebullient spirit. We were all blessed to have her as our member, friend and unique resource for cherishing the joys of life. She will be honored in our memory everlastingly.

Esther Saltzman

