

## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL GUEST AT SAN-CAP MEETING

8/19/07

Local Zontians were treated to a visit and presentation from Zonta International guest Dunstanette Macauley. Hailing from the Zonta Club of Lome, Togo in W. Africa, Dunstanette has been a Zonta member since 1988. San-Cap Zontians originally met Dunstanette in Australia during her candidacy for Zonta International office where we discussed the common theme of preventing trafficking of women and girls. Local officers Vice PreZ Kris Ritts and Immediate Past PreZ Nola Theiss renewed our connection at a recent North America conference and invited her to visit the Sanibel-Captiva club.

The visit included a club potluck at the welcoming home of Jan Alden, followed by a leadership presentation at the club's Wednesday program meeting. Dunstanette reminded us that as professionals, all Zontians should aspire to Zonta leadership. She proved her leadership by covering basic leadership skills, the need for Zonta-specific knowledge, problem solving, and effective planning, all in less than 30 minutes! After the leadership training, we spent time discussing the importance of supporting Zonta International programs.

Starting by encouraging us to name Zonta in our wills, Dunstanette transitioned to the results of one woman's bequest: the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business scholarship program for college women. Additional scholarships include the Amelia Earhart fellowship for aerospace-related program graduate study and the Young Women in Public Affairs Award for high school girls. Of most interest to local Zontians was the discussion on Zonta International programs, including ZISVAW: Zonta International Strategies for the prevention of Violence Against Women. Dunstanette gave several compelling examples of how these programs have "truly changed the lives of women". Programs are based primarily in developing countries where needs are more intense and funds go much farther and are administered by local or international experienced programs operating locally.

Dunstanette reviewed past programs the club has supported through its donations to Zonta International, highlighting them with her intimate knowledge on results. The "Reinventing India: Action for Empowerment" program included multi-tiered strategies to eliminate violence against women. Dunstanette further revealed the program's success in educating the community and families on the dangers of taking actions to prevent the delivery of unborn baby girls. She also detailed the "Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination in Nepal" program which spared an estimated 700,000 women and their children from this deadly disease. "Female Genital Circumcision Projects in Burkina Faso" generated significant success by educating males on the risks of the practice and then providing female practitioners with micro-credit loans and career retraining. After initial Zonta International successes, UNICEF agreed to expand the program to additional countries throughout Africa to reach the 2 million girls at risk annually.

Current programs include "Mata Masu Dubara (Women on the Move) Micro Credit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS-Affected Women in Niger". The objectives of this program, located in the 'Valley of the Widows' include:

- Improving the economic security of approximately 5,100 widows and women affected by HIV/AIDS – 3,600 Phase I; 1,500/Phase II –Improving the health security of approximately 5,100 women infected or affected and their dependent

children and up to 3,600 orphaned or otherwise vulnerable children in partnership with other organizations

- Fostering the development of positive attitudes and behavioral changes related to STI/HIV/AIDS in all Phase I and II villages.

Currently the San-Cap club is helping fund the ongoing “STAR Network of World Learning Regional Anti-trafficking Mobilization for Prevention of Cross-border Regional Trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro”. This project is designed to strengthen regional community-level linkages focused on trafficking prevention, specifically along these busy cross-border routes, through which victims regularly pass. Cross-border alliances will be established among NGOs and relevant governmental entities to mount effective action to prevent trafficking in persons, an extreme form of violence against women and children. Five action projects will be funded from a small grants fund; a regional meeting will be convened; and a best practices manual published.

Although there were more programs to discuss, we ended the program with Club PreZ Sue Denham presenting gifts to our honored guest, including a club donation to the Zonta International Rose Fund in Dunstanette’s name. As Dunstanette reconfirmed, this is an unrestricted fund that can be used as needed at our Zonta International leaders’ discretion. It seemed a very fitting end to a fascinating visit and presentation.

The Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva is a service organization of professionals working together to provide hands-on assistance, advocacy, and funds to strengthen women's lives on the islands, in Lee County, and around the world through Zonta International. Additional information about Zonta is available at [www.zontasancap.com](http://www.zontasancap.com)