

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ZONTA CLUB OF GRAND ISLAND, NY**

The Zonta Club of Grand Island was established in 1958. The first president was Kay LaBrake. Members since its inception have included a School Superintendent, school principals and supervisors, Town Clerks, a Town Judge, bankers, a union leader, University professors, a photographer, health providers, insurance agents, managers of small companies, office supervisors, a lawyer, social workers, a Town Historian, a reporter and many more.

For over 30 years the Zonta Club of Grand Island was known for its Spring Antique Show. Community members and antique buffs looked forward to the many offerings at the Show. The age of e-bay, Craig's List and easy-to-find antiques brought the end of the Antique Show in the late 90's but not the end of raising funds to advance the status of women.

The Zonta Club of Grand Island has raised more than \$105,000 to date for scholarships for women. The scholarships have been awarded to High School seniors, to young women between the ages of 18 and 25 and to those women reentering the work force or improving their work skills.

In addition to scholarships, the Zonta Club of Grand Island has helped women by working with and/or financially assisting women's shelters, Habitat for Humanity, the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation, Relay for Life, Child and Family Services, the local nursing home and many more organizations. We have taken part in District fund raisers such as golf tournaments, Diva by Diva and assembling and financing birthing kits for Third World countries.

In addition to being active and involved in the Zonta Club of Grand Island, members have participated in International Conventions and District workshops. Some members have served on the District Board and one member served as District Governor.