

**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**



**ARMITA B. RUFINO**

Being a president for the second time is a challenge I took to prove to myself that I should be able to serve my club better. It goes without saying that we wish to make Zonta Club of Makati and Environs link up with other clubs in the District, especially in Area 5, and be sensitive to their feelings. However, this can only be achieved if my fellow Makati Zontians will give their full support. As the saying goes "No man is an island." Without that support, the road to be travelled will be bumpy with potholes, and the goal may not be obtained.

My fellow members, you have given me this challenge but please extend your helping hand and let us work together to reach the goal that our club has been working for in the last 40 years of empowering women, for gender equality, and to fight violence against women and children.

It has been proved during the term of President Rosie that with the help and support of members, projects would continue to be implemented because everyone extended their

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# ZCME launches BRAVO 2017

*BRAVO-2017, the club's biennial Awards for Empowered Women, in cooperation with Security Bank Corporation, was launched during the Installation of Officers and Board on July 30, 2016, at the National Museum. The deadline of December 2016 to receive nominations has been extended to March 2017. The Committee headed by PIP Livie Ferry, with Chona Lopez and Beng Puyat, are in the process of searching for nominees in eight categories: Education; Business; Science and Technology; Sports; Arts, Culture and Heritage; Social Services; Culinary Arts; and Media. Judging will be in May, and the awarding will be in the middle of June. The nominee must be Filipino, non- Zontian, and not a Security Bank employee. There is no age limit; the nominee must have an advocacy aside from her profession or occupation, and must not have received any national award.*



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CLUB OF  
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE cont'd from page 1**  
 helping hand. As a result, the club got three International Awards. We have to continue to strengthen the membership and make our future presidents and officers feel confident, so they need not worry because the members are behind them.

We will continue all our sustainable projects through our partnership with Unilever, Spouses of Heads of Mission, Johann Strauss Society, and Security Bank. I refer to our projects on Marillac Hills, Kababaihan, EWSP, HNH, Medical Service, Microlending, among others. We can have projects with other Zonta Clubs, too.

We launched the BRAVO AWARDS for 2017 during the Installation of the Biennium 2016-2018 Club Officers and Board members. The Installation was held at the National Art Gallery, and we enjoyed the performance of the Philippine Opera Company, Violinist Diomedes Saraza

and renowned pianist and President of the Cultural Center of the Phils., Raul Sunico.

Our FilipinaZ 2016 chaired by Maritess Pineda at SMX-Aura gave us a net income of 1.5M. We hope to achieve this target again, if not surpass it.

Zonta Makati and Environs was the lead club in the launching of the 16 days of Activism on Nov. 25, 2016 at Intramuros in partnership with PhilPost, Intramuros Administration and National Commission for Culture and Arts, with the participation of six schools around Intramuros. The launch was jointly headed by the Area 1 Director with Area 5 Director Cora Tan and the District Chairman for Advocacy, Lynn Alentajan.

Zonta- Makati and Environs had its own event last Dec. 9 in a forum

on gender equality and women empowerment with industry speakers: President Donald Dee of ECOP, President George Barcelon of PCCI, and Chairman Marife Zamora of CONVERGYS. Various organizations were in attendance: Soroptomist, Innerwheel, MAP, Rotary. The said industry leaders signed the Statement of Support for gender equality and women empowerment.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to request the committee chairpersons to please submit your reports and budget for the biennium. Also, please get members for your respective committees. May I request every member to be part of a committee?

Thank you for your enthusiasm in being part of the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs, one of the premier clubs of Zonta International.



The ZCME Board, 2016-2018: Directors: Victoria Magadia, Teresa Tan, Maritess M. Pineda; treasurer Vivian Uy, president Mita B. Rufino, and ex-officio director/immediate past president Rosie D. Go, vice-president Rosario "Jeannie" C. Abaya. Not in photo: secretary Jennifer D. Leviste; directors: Alice T. Guerrero, Dr. Lourdes Ann D. Co

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| <h1>ZCME</h1> <h2>Club Officers</h2> <p>and</p> <h2>Board of Directors</h2> <h3>2016 - 2018</h3> | <p>President<br/><b>ARMITA B. RUFINO</b></p>               | <p>Directors<br/><b>DR. LOURDES ANN D. CO</b><br/><b>ALICE T. GUERRERO</b></p>                |
|  | <p>Vice President<br/><b>ROSARIO C. ABAYA</b></p>          | <p><b>VICTORINA I. MAGADIA</b><br/><b>MARITESS M. PINEDA</b><br/><b>MA. TERESA C. TAN</b></p> |
|  | <p>Secretary<br/><b>JENNIFER D. LEVISTE</b></p>            | <p>Ex-Officio<br/><b>ROSIE D. GO</b></p>  |
|  | <p>Assistant Secretary<br/><b>MELISSA S. ROMUALDEZ</b></p> |   |
|  | <p>Treasurer<br/><b>VIVIAN T. UY</b></p>                   |   |

# ZCME Installation of Officers and Board of Directors (2016-2018)

BY CARINA C. LEBRON

The Installation of Officers and Board of Directors of the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs Foundation, Inc. for Biennium 2016-2018 took place on July 30, 2016 at the Reception Hall of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Manila.

The Program of Activities started promptly at 4:00 P.M. with a guided tour that introduced everyone to the impressive improvements and additional art works either donated and/or acquired in the recent past. There are new rooms where collective works of painters and sculptors and other exhibits are hung with great care showing the growth of artists throughout the evolution of their artistic expression and passion.

The Invocation and the National Anthem were led by the Philippine Opera Company.

Joanne Zapanta-Andrada served as Mistress of Ceremonies and delivered the Welcome Address. Maritess M. Pineda, 2004-2006 president and incoming Board member, acknowledged guests and dignitaries.



Makati Zonitans are all dressed up in Filipiniana in support of their new president. L-R, seated: Maritess M. Pineda, PIP Livie Ferry, Linda Villanueva, AD5 Cora Tan, Tessie Tumangan. Standing behind are: Lucy Florendo, Lydia David, past DG Beng Puyat, past pres. Carol Llanillo, DG Baby Perez-Sison, president Mita Rufino, Maribel Calma.



A multi-awarded musician, Dr. Raul Sunico is president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and Dean of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music. He has given solo recitals in over 20 countries, and holds the singular distinction of being the only pianist in the world to perform the four piano concertos of Sergei Rachmaninoff in a single evening.

Past Zonta International President (2006-2008) Olivia A. Ferry delivered an Inspirational Message.

Rosie Dy-Go, Immediate Past President (2014-2016), called on Olga Severino Martel, president of the Johann Strauss Society of the Philippines Foundation, who then presented the JSSP's donation of P100,000 to ZCME for its Marillac Hills project. Rosie presented a Certificate of Appreciation to JSSP, through Olga, for its continuing support of the club's Marillac Hills project.

Finally, Rosie delivered her Valedictory Address, thanking her committee members for their work that contributed to the success of her biennium.

Area 5 Director (2016-2018) Corazon de Jesus-Tan led the installation of the newly elected Board Members: Lourdes Ann Dizon-Co, Patria Anne S. David, Alice Tesoro-Guerrero, Victorina I. Magadia, and Maritess M. Pineda.

District 17 Governor Primitiva Perez-Sison installed the 2016-2018 officers: Armita-Bantug-Rufino, President;



Dedicated Makati Zontians lend their support: Melissa S. Romualdez, past presidents Menchu Esteban & Linda E. Panlilio, Dr. Lourraine D. Co, charter member & past president Linda Villanueva, director Teresa Tan, and past president/past DG Beng Puyat



Immediate past president Rosie D. Go turns over the president's gavel to newly installed president Mita B. Rufino as their respective husbands, George Go and Tony Rufino, and District 17 Governor Baby Perez-Sison look on.

Rosario Carlos Abaya, Vice-President; Ma. Fatima C. Chua, Secretary; Jennifer D. Leviste and Melissa Sawit-Romualdez, Assistant Secretaries; Vivian Tan-Uy, Treasurer; and Maria Teresa Casanova-Tan, Assistant Treasurer.

Outgoing President Rosie then fastened the Club President's Zonta pin on Incoming 2016-2018 President Armita Bantug-Rufino, and transferred the gavel to her.

In her acceptance speech, pres. Mita requested all members to lend her their support as they had done during pres. Rosie's term, toward a successful biennium of empowering women and attaining gender equality. She said that the club's sustainable projects would be continued, with the support of the club's various partners. She then took the occasion to launch the BRAVO Awards for outstanding persons in public service.

The program ended with the Philippine Opera Company performing some delightful numbers, highlighted by piano solos by Dr. Raul Sunico, President of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and violin solos by Deomides Saraza.



Area 5 Director Cora J. Tan installs the new ZCME board composed of (from left to right): Dr. Lourraine D. Co, Alice T. Guerrero, past president Maritess M. Pineda, and Vicky Magadia



District Governor Baby Perez-Sison installs Mita B. Rufino as president of ZCME for 2016-2018 as her husband Tony and club vice-president Jeannie Carlos Abaya look on

# ZCME Spearheads D17's First SUMMIT on Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPS)

BY GEORGITTA P. PUYAT, PAST DISTRICT 17 GOVERNOR & ADVOCACY CHAIR



Past District Governor and Advocacy Chair Beng Puyat briefs the audience on WEPS (Women Empowerment Principles)

As Lead Convenor, the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs (ZCME) spearheaded the 'Summit on Gender Equality in the World Place-Business Sector' as the club's culminating activity for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (Nov 25-Dec 10). This event was held on Friday, December 9, 2016 at the JYD Hall of the Security Bank Building in Makati City. This Summit is the first endeavor in Zonta International District 17 to primarily focus on the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), a set of Principles for business, offering guidance on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community.

The WEPS is a collaboration between the UN WOMEN and the UN Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. Zonta International, with its consultative and participatory status with the United Nations and its agencies, supports and advocates the WEPS as a tool for business to promote gender equality. This is one of the focused Goals on Advocacy for ZI Biennium 2016-2018, encouraging Districts and Clubs to promote, disseminate and initiate with like-minded organizations.

The summit began with Welcome Remarks by ZCME President Armita Rufino, and the recognition of the Resource Speakers, Guests and

Partner Organizations by AD5 Director Corazon Tan and ZCME Advocacy Chair Victoria Magadia.

Past District 17 Governor Georgitta Puyat gave a short background on the WEPS. In her speech, she said "Empowering women to participate fully in economic life in all levels and activities is essential to build strong economies; establish more stable and just societies; improve quality of life for women, their families and communities; and propel business operations and goals. This is why we have the Women's Empowerment Principles."

A brief overview of the seven Women's Empowerment Principles are: 1) Leadership Means Gender Equality; 2) Equal Opportunity, Inclusion and Nondiscrimination; 3) Health, Safety and Freedom from Violence; 4) Education and Training; 5) Enterprise Development, Supply Chain and Marketing Practices; 6) Community Initiatives, Advocacy and Engagement; and 7) Transparency, Measuring and Reporting.

Past International President Olivia Ferry presided as Mistress of Ceremonies and introduced the invited Resource Speakers: Mr. Donald G. Dee, Chairman Emeritus of the Employer's Confederation of the Philippines; Mr. George T. Barcelon, President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Ms. Marife B. Zamora, Chairman of Convergys Philippines Services Corporation. The speakers articulated their support of WEPS and spoke of their practices in their respective organizations.

The highlight of the Summit was the Signing of the Statement of Support for Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPS), the primary way in which companies and organizations can engage through the WEPS, expressing their commitment to advancing equality between women and men in the workplace, market place and community. By signing the Statement of Support, companies

and organizations signal their support for the overall goal of empowering women; that equal treatment of women and men is not just the right thing to do, it is good for business. Part of the commitment is making equality an integral part of their programs by bringing the broadest pool of talent to their endeavors, furthering competitiveness through diversity and meeting corporate responsibility and sustainability.

Participants and Signers of the Statement of Support for WEPS were business leaders and heads of professional and socio-civic institutions in the Philippines, namely the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Philippine Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Management Association of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Convergys Services Corporation, Soroptimist International of the Philippines, Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines, Rotary International District 1830, as well as representatives of different Zonta Clubs.

Despite significant advancements in the last 20 years, Gender Equality has yet to be achieved by any country in the world. We need to address the root causes of Gender Inequality and affirm our commitment to Gender Equality in our places of business to achieve an environment of inclusion and respect.

For more information on the Women's Empowerment Principles, please visit the [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) website.



## FIRST D-17 WEPS SUMMIT



Area 5 Director welcoming the Zontians of various clubs in Area 5



Past ZI President Olivia A. Ferry acted as emcee and introduced the guest speakers



Area 5 Zontians pose for a photo at the end of the WEPs Summit



Photo shows the guest speakers at the presidential table: Mr. Donald G. Dee, Ms. Marife B. Zamora, and Mr. George T. Barcelon



Business leaders and heads of professional & socio-civic organizations of the Philippines pledge their commitment by signing the Statement of Support for WEPs: Donald Dee, Chairman Emeritus, Employers Confederation of the Philippines; Rosario Tumaneng, Governor, Soroptimist International of the Phils; Marife Zamora, Chairman, Convergys Services Corporation. ZCME members witnessed the signing.



Zontians (past DG & past Advocacy chair Beng Puyat, club Advocay chair Vicky Magadia, AD 5 Cora Tan, president Mita Rufino, PIP Livie Ferry, & District Advocacy chair Lynn Alentajan) flank the guest speakers, who are holding up the framed Philpost stamps on commemorative envelopes with the Zonta International logo of "16 days of Activism against Violence against Women."

## Amelia Earhart Day



Dr. Gia B. Sison holds a souvenir ceramic plate with a painting by Anita Magsaysay-Ho, which was presented to her following her talk. With Dr. Sison are AE Committee chair Teresa Tan, Dr. Lourraine D. Co, and VP Jeannie Carlos Abaya, who presided at the meeting.



# Update on Zonta-Makati's Health, Nutrition & Hygiene (HNH) Program

BY VICKY WIENEKE

HNH is a Zonta Club of Makati & Environs project designed to contribute to the improvement of the Health, Nutrition and Hygiene level of the country's population. There is a universal call articulated by the World Food Program to resolve the large number of hunger and malnourished victims in Asia, including the Philippines. WFP reports that 45% of death in children under age five is traced to poor nutrition. The UN's Sustainable Development Goal includes hunger and malnutrition as one of its targeted problems to resolve.

Zonta-Makati has seized the opportunity to resolve this big poverty issue using the women-power of mothers in poor communities. HNH is a multisectoral program with a nationwide coverage. Long-term supplementary feeding programs managed by mothers enroll

malnourished children in marginalized communities in all regions of the country. The program is supported by National Gov't Agencies and Local Government Units and funded by the private sector and corporate partners. Progress is closely monitored and the success rate becomes part of the Philippines' national figures. Yearly collated results show:  
98-100% Substantial weight gain  
85-90% Fully Rehabilitated to Normal  
less than 1% Drop out rate

Zonta provides a centralized facility for warehousing, receiving and distribution of donations and resources. Thus Zonta gains networking and exposure to a wide range of partners and beneficiaries. More importantly, Zonta is able to contribute to nation building and human development while resolving a persistent poverty issue of hunger and malnutrition. Another benefit is

the access to resources for other Zonta projects like Kababaihan, Marillac Hills, its medical projects, and others. HNH is truly a win-win project for Zonta-Makati.



The Health, Nutrition & Hygiene Program under Vicky Wieneke distributed vitamins and milk on different dates last year to the following recipients:

Marcela Agoncillo Elementary School; Laglag, Los Baños; Angono, Rizal; Angel Balawan Elementary School; Javalera Elementary School; and Baa, Camarines Sur

## Marillac Hills Update

BY JOANNE Z. ANDRADA

### PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOP

Zonta Makati and Environs' Psychological Center for Sexually Abused Girls continues to serve more than 200 girls, who are residents of Marillac Hills, by providing regular assessments and therapy. In addition to these mainstay services, auxiliary support has also been given to the Center's clients. Thirty-five children have recently availed themselves of the Center's Performance Arts classes (Vocals and Theater). Going on its 3rd cycle, the lessons began in September 2016, with 18 participants for Vocals.

Through the guidance of facilitators Leo and Joanne Hernandez, the girls learned the dynamics of music and the correct techniques in singing.

Mr. Ram Mercado from Vision Himpossible Ministries Phils. coached the theater class with 16 girls. Here, the kids were provided with an opportunity to think imaginatively by acting out various situations. With the guidance of the facilitators, they learned to come up with their own creative ideas, realizing their potential as imaginative thinkers and improvisers.

Marillac girls show off their talents on December 11, 2016 in a holiday event sponsored by Continuing Catholic Formation

The Performance Arts classes had 10 sessions in total, and ended on November 25, 2016. On December 11, during a holiday event sponsored by Continuing Catholic Formation, the children were able to showcase their talents by holding a show for CCF (Continuing Catholic Formation) guests.



# Project Simula Update

BY CHONA M. LOPEZ, PROJECT CHAIRPERSON

From September to December 2016, the number of registered students at the ZCME Center in Taguig fluctuated between 37 to 44. The goal of Project Simula is to provide an educational enhancement program to students between the ages of 4 to 8 (Grade 1 to Grade 3), who attend regular public grade school. The program focuses on tutorial lessons to improve the students' Math and English skills. For Math, the focus has been on shapes, concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; understanding fractions and problem solving; length and width, and weights. For English skills, reading books and storytelling are meant to boost their comprehension skills. Some students come to class three times a week, while others attend twice a week.

Project Simula also has a feeding component where children are given lunch two or three times a month. Beginning in January, they are given milk two or three times a week. Aside from the above tutorial program, the students are exposed to other extra-curricular activities and programs. To teach the students and their parents the importance of family

relations and bonding, the school celebrated Family Day on October 14, starting with a prayer by one of the parents, Mrs. Azur, followed by opening remarks by teacher Isabelle. The students then rendered a song number, and had fun in games with their parents. Prizes were given to the winners.

On Tuesday, December 13, 2016, the students of Project Simula had their early Christmas celebration at the Zonta Center. The classrooms were decorated with ribbons and balloons to give it a festive ambiance.

The event was made possible through the generosity of Ms. Margaret Sy Tang who sponsored the Jollibee meals, while Mrs. Severina Santos and students of her Summit School donated gift packs and books. Some of the students showed off their talents by reciting a poem or singing a Tagalog love song. After the program it was time for fun and games. The games were on numbers and shapes as well as various party games. Afterwards, the students enjoyed their Jollibee meals with a pack of juice. The highlight of the Christmas party was the surprise appearance of their favorite mascot, Jollibee, who danced,

sang, and played games with them. It was indeed a joyous moment for the students and their parents as shown in their big smiles and gleeful laughter.

The party concluded with the closing remarks of Mrs. Santos and the distribution of gifts packed in bags designed by the students of Summit School.

Still in December, students of Summit School visited the Zonta center on December 15, 2016 to share their blessings with the students of Project Simula. Last December 6 to 9, the Summit School Grade 1 students held an art exhibit called "The Little Artists." It was a fund-raising event where they were able to raise P4,000 from the sale of their artworks to parents. The proceeds were used to purchase 40 books from Tahanan Publishing with titles such as Maya- Maya Jambolaya, The Big Bad Bully Bird, The Fraidy Frog and Tumble Wubble: The Clumsy Little Turtle. The books were donated to the students of Project Simula.

It is through these acts of giving that the young children learn the value of kindness and generosity, and of gratitude for the blessings they receive.



**The first Filipina Miss Int'l reads for Simula children**

The first Filipina Miss International, Gemma Cruz, who was Miss International 1964, came to the Zonta Center for Women Empowerment to read a story written by our national hero, Jose P. Rizal-- "Ang Matsing at ang Pagong" (The Monkey and the Turtle), delighting the Simula kids. Gemma is a descendant of Jose Rizal.

ZCME leaders pose with Gemma together with Mrs. Severina Santos of Summit School, who is responsible for Simula. (L-R): Beng Puyat, Chona M. Lopez, Jenny D. Leviste, and Severina Santos.

# EWSP

BY VICKY WIENEKE



Former EWSP Engineering scholar Michelle Tabirao in Vienna, Austria, spreading her wings

EWSP is a scholarship program for bright young women from marginalized families, enrolled in male-dominated courses. Zonta implements the program that started in 2009 and has grown in stature and number through the years. The multi-sectoral partnership design of EWSP made the program impact very strong from its birth. Unilever, a multinational company, believing in its potential, allocates a yearly substantial financial support. Media exposure has been provided by *Woman Today*, a popular magazine for women, while the Dept. of Social Welfare & Development supports the advocacy, and helps EWSP resolve poverty issues. PUP, a public university of high standards, was chosen as the partner beneficiary. Zonta presidents from 2009 to the present have given EWSP their

full support, while many generous Zontians have given personal contributions to be able to include more deserving scholars. We now have more than a hundred current scholars and graduates. EWSP includes not only financial assistance but also mentoring and exposure to activities and seminars outside academics, which are relevant to character development. All of the EWSP graduates are gainfully employed, first-takers of board exams, and are on their way to making a name for themselves. They are instrumental in leveling up their family circumstances by helping their other siblings get an education.

A very successful, heartwarming example of an outstanding EWSP scholar is Michelle Anne Tabirao, a 2014 Computer Engineering graduate. Michelle is a tall, dusky young woman with a winning smile. She spent her entire growing-up years in an isolated barrio in the island of Catanduanes. Her parents were hardworking, and supported the family by running a rural store. She was bright and ambitious, and was accepted in Polytechnic University of the Philippines. That was the first time she ever left her island home. She was easily accepted as an EWSP scholar, and actively participated in the workshop activities given by Zonta-Makati.

After graduation she joined 8 Layer, Inc., a company designing software. She continued to touch base with me for mentoring. She showed great potential and was given an assignment to expand the reach of the company by organizing events. The first event was "Women for free and Open-

Source Software, attended by more than 1000 students. We advised her on how to organize, and even provided some give-away packages. It was very successful, and her bosses were impressed. This was followed by events in other venues in Luzon and Visayas for audiences ranging from an intensive group of 15 to a large convention of 5000. Michelle introduced me to the top officers of her company, and I observed her growth up close.

On September, 2015, she joined a digital art contest sponsored by the Swiss Embassy called "Create, Innovative Art Contest" in partnership with Swatch. She was one of the winners and her entry is now displayed at the Swiss Embassy.

In 2016 she saw another opportunity and applied for an Erasmus scholarship given by the European Union. There were over a hundred applicants all over the world. She was again a winner and got the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Digital Communication Leadership Scholarship. The package included all expenses paid-- travel, lodging, living allowance and enrollment at University of Salzburg in Austria, where she is now enrolled. Then she goes to Aalborg University in Copenhagen, and Free University of Brussels as part of the scholarship package.

Michelle, our EWSP scholar, has spread her wings, and is flying to great heights. She tells me she will never forget EWSP, which has given her confidence in herself and inspired her to follow her dream.

Go, Michelle, go!



President Mita Rufino hands over to the PUP Librarian a donation of books from Vicky Wieneke's Kabisig ng Kalahi, which had been course through ZCME. The handover is witnessed by Vicky Wieneke, Ada Mabilangan, Jenny Leviste, and Maritess Pineda (at extreme right), along with the club's EWSP scholar-applicants. The club has a total of 17 scholars for the current academic year.

**THE MAKATI ZONTIAN**  
is a publication of the  
Zonta Club of Makati & Environs  
Foundation, Inc.

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# UN Day Celebration

BY OLGA S. MARTEL



Makati Zontians pose for a picture with their District Governor, Baby Perez Sison (seated at center) between PIP Olivia Ferry and past AD5 Director & current D-17 UN Committee Chair Chona M. Lopez. Immediate past Governor Lalivan Karnchanachari is standing in 2nd row between immediate past ZCME President Rosie Go and pres. Mita Rufino.

District UN Committee Vice-chair Olga S. Martel and Chair Chona M. Lopez pose for a picture with the guest of honor and speaker, H.E. Ambassador Marion Derckx of the Netherlands, and District Governor Baby Perez Sison



Area 1 and Area 5 of District 17 teamed up in a joint celebration of United Nations Day on October 24, 2016 at the North Forbes Park Pavilion. Celebrating UN Day is one of the mandates of Zonta International, which has been closely linked with the United Nations since the latter was founded in 1945.

The centerpiece of the celebration was "Women Empowerment & Sustainable Development." Keynote Speaker, H.E. Maria Christina Theresia (Marion) Derckx, Ambassador of the Netherlands, spoke on the role of women in the present critical generation and how they can contribute to the solutions of problems. Ambassador Derckx is herself an outstanding example of an empowered woman who has virtually shattered the proverbial glass ceiling

in the various stages of her career. Present were Zonta dignitaries, PIP Olivia Ferry, District 17 Governor Primitiva Perez Sison, and past District 17 Governor Lalivan Karnchanachari; Spouses of the Heads of Mission (SHOM) represented by its president Mesdames Yuko Ishikawa (Japan), Monthip Upatising (Thailand), and Souccavone Khaykhamhithoune (Laos); as well as the National Coordinator of UN Women, Aida Jean Manipon, who spoke on the UN Women project, "He for She."

The highly successful event was chaired by District 17 UN Ambassador Chona Lopez assisted by Area 1 UN Vice Chair Lolita Sy and Area 5 UN Vice Chair Olga Severino Martel in cooperation with Area 1 Director Lourdes Marasigan and Area 5 Director Corazon Tan. Also in the committee was Ada Mabilangan.

Almost 195 empowered Zontians were present, attired in various international costumes, for which prizes were awarded. ZCME won the prize for the club with the most attendance and ZCME president Mita Rufino received the prize for the most authentic (Igorot) costume.

Soprano Stephanie Aguilar and tenor Nomher Nival provided a most entertaining musical interlude.

It was another meaningful celebration of United Nations Day that called the attention of everyone to the importance of empowering women and their role in the pursuit of the sustainable goals set up by the United Nations, particularly Goal No. 5, which calls for the advancement of the status of women, gender equality and the elimination of violence against women.

# Christmas Fellowship

BY MELISSA S. ROMUALDEZ

What better way to celebrate Christmas than a wonderful get together among friends full of good food, laughter and dancing fun!

On December 15, 2016 we had our Christmas party at the lovely resort-like home of Jeannie Abaya, who generously offered to host this year's Christmas party at her place.

It was a bejewel-themed Christmas party, where members came in jewel-toned colors --ruby red, emerald green, gold, amethyst, purple, sapphire blue-colored outfits.

Committee members Maritoni Rufino Tordesillas and Martina Santos helped in the planning to ensure it would be fun party. We were pleased to see former club members, like past president Olivia "Bubbles" Villafuerte, join us on this happy occasion.

We started with an array of assorted cheeses and charcuterie and other

appetizers, paired with a variety of French and Spanish wines brought by some of our members.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Chona Lopez, we found a delightful caterer in Jorge Hizon and his son, Chef Noel Hizon. Despite the hectic Christmas party season, they graciously accepted to cater at the last minute for our small group of 30 pax, and created a wonderful Filipino-Spanish menu that was a gastronomic feast, and easy on the budget too! We had a salad and appetizer bar, a buffet spread of Paella, Seafood Lasagna, Lengua in truffle mushroom sauce (the truffle oil in the mushroom cream sauce added a special twist to the traditional lengua dish), crisp battered Sole Fillets, and Roast Lamb. Jorge Hizon personally attended to the setup, and came back several times to ensure we were well taken-care of.

For dessert, several cakes were brought by the Zontians -- Mandy de la Rama's

flourless Chocolate Cake (brought by Chona Lopez), Dulce de Leche Cheesecake from Classic Confections, and a rich, delicious Sans Rival.

The Fellowship Committee ladies, Maritoni R. Tordesillas and Martina Santos, held a most novel and interesting exchange gift. This was a Christmas story, narrated by Maritoni, wherein we had to form a circle and follow the instructions on how to move along the Christmas gifts. The exciting part was that no one knew which gift she would receive until the end of the story! Fun, indeed!

And, of course, what would a party be without "la" music? DJ Mike Borbe and his crew provided retro-dancing music from the 60s, 70s, 80s. Those of us who stayed behind after the exchange gifts were sashaying to the retro music, and got a chance to shake our bodies after the feast.

What a fun Christmas party, indeed!



President Mita B. Rufino with charter member & past ZI Vice-president Linda T. Villanueva, and past president Olivia "Bubbles" M. Viullafuerte, who is no longer with the club



Club stalwarts Area 5 Director Cora J. Tan, Treasurer Vivian T. Uy, past Area 5 Director & current District UN Committee chair Chona M. Lopez, ZI Centennial Anniversary Member Linda E. Panlilio, and past club president & club ZIF ambassador Carol Llanillo, pose with Fellowship Committee member Maritoni R. Tordesillas



Past ZI President Olivia "Livie" Ferry is flanked by Fellowship Committee members Martina Santos & Maritoni R. Tordesillas, club sec'y Jenny D. Leviste, and Fellowship Committee Chair Melissa S. Romualdez



Makati Zontians and guest, former Pasig Zontian Norma Javier (center 2nd row) pose for a photo



Fellowship chair Melissa Romualdez, Teresa Tan, Maritoni Tordesillas, Martina Santos

# BIENNIUM 2016-2018 Committee Chairs

## Standing Committees:

| Scholarship Awards Committee | Committee Chair                              |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1) Amelia Earhart            | Teresa Tan                                   |
| 2) Jane Klausman             | Carina Lebron                                |
| 3) YWPA                      | Lydia David                                  |
| Golden Z & Z Club            | Melanie De Leon                              |
| Membership                   | Jennifer Leviste                             |
| Leadership Development       | Ada Mabilangan                               |
| Advocacy                     | Beng Puyat                                   |
| Service                      | Alice Guerrero                               |
| Visibility-PR                | Pamela Rose Banlaoi / Maritess Pineda        |
| United Nations               | Olga Martel                                  |
| ZIF & Club Ambassador        | Rosie Go                                     |
| ZISVAW                       | Victorina Magadia                            |
| By-Laws                      | Carolina Llanillo / Celia Angeles            |
| Finance                      | Vivian Uy , Maria Goolsby & Chona Lopez      |
| ZCME Center                  | Carolina Llanillo                            |
| Project Simula               | Chona Lopez                                  |
| Marillac                     | Joanne Andrada                               |
| EWSP                         | Ada Mabilangan / Vicky Wieneke               |
| Health, Nutrition & Hygiene  | Victoria Wieneke                             |
| FilipinaZ Fair               | Maritess Pineda                              |
| Medical & Dental             | Dr. Lourraine Co                             |
| ZCME Newsletter              | Erlinda Panlilio                             |
| Microlending-Kababaihan      | Jeannie Abaya / Alice Guerrero / Mita Rufino |
| Legacy Fund                  | Maritess Pineda                              |
| Parliamentarian              | Olivia Ferry                                 |
| Archives                     | Erlinda Panlilio                             |
| Medical & Dental             | Dr. Lourraine Co                             |
| Fellowship / Sunshine        | Melissa Romualdez                            |
| BRAVO                        | Olivia Ferry / Chona Lopez                   |
| Information Technology       | Martina Santos                               |



Charter member & past club president Linda T. Villanueva in a photo with new members Maria G. Goolsby and Carina C. Lebron, and past DG & club president Beng Puyat

### Nominating Committee:

Rosie Go, Carol O. Llanillo, Ada L. Mabilangan



# New Members' Orientation 2016

President Mita B. Rufino conducted a New Members' Orientation at the club's Community Center for Women Empowerment in Taguig on August 6, 2016. Also meant to refresh old members' knowledge of Zonta, Teresita Tumangan put the program together as Orientation chair. No less than Past ZI President Olivia "Livie" Ferry spoke on Zonta Basics-- Zonta International, Biennium Goals; Who we are, our Mission & Vision; What we Do, Zonta's organization structure; Zonta Updates. She also spoke on Membership: Why join Zonta; Membership Responsibilities & Benefits.

Past club president Carol Llanillo briefed the attendees on the club's Articles and Bylaws. Past District 17 Governor Beng Puyat spoke on ZI's principal thrust--Advocacy.

Area 5 Director Cora J. Tan presented the District's and her Area's organization structure.

Past president and ZI PR & Communications Committee chair Linda E. Panlilio apprised the attendees on the club's long history, and briefed the new members on the Zonta emblem, and on the importance of Branding.

Melissa S. Romualdez spoke on Computer Access to Zonta International and on Website design.

Past Area 5 Director Chona M. Lopez presented a profile of an outstanding club.

Before the lunch break, VP Jenny D. Leviste led interactions with new members.

In the afternoon, various committee chairs oriented new members on their respective committees' work: **Service** projects, by past president Rosie D. Go; **Women Empowerment** through the Bravo Awards, by pres. Mita B. Rufino; FilipinaZ Fair, the club's annual

fundraising event, by past president Maritess M. Pineda; the **UN Committee** by Olga S. Martel.

On **Violence against Women**: ZISVAW, Delaying Early Marriage, Teenage Pregnancy, etc. Joanne Z. Andrada spoke on the club's Psychological Center for Sexually Abused Girls at Marillac Hills; and Chona Lopez spoke on Human Trafficking.

On **Education**: the club's **EWSP** Scholarships at PUP by Victoria Wieneke; on Grade School Special Projects, by Chona Lopez; on Computer Literacy, by Tessie Tumangan.

On **Healthcare**--Medical and Nutrition: Medical Services at the Zonta Clinic, by Dr. Lourraine Co/Dr Iva Anastacio; Breast Cancer Awareness Program, by past pres. Monica Aveo. Before the long day ended, Vicky Wieneke spoke on her supplemental health program through HNH (Health, Nutrition, Hygiene).

## Membership Committee Report

BY JENNIFER D. LEVISTE  
Chair, Membership Committee

So far, for Biennium 2016-2018, we have five (5) new members. Here are their names and Zonta classifications:

**Maritoni Rufino Tordesillas**  
2491 Ballet Teacher

**Michelle Rufino Bartolome**  
1122 Managing Director

**Victoria San Diego Rufino**  
1112 Business Owner

**Carina Castañeda Lebron**  
1293 School Director

**Maria Gonzales Goolsby**  
2294 Business Consultant

Carina is a past club president, while Maria is likewise an old member like Carina, who has become active again.

Michelle Rufino Bartolome is the daughter of Vicky San Diego Rufino.

She is Managing Director of RSD Holdings Corporation. She is the owner of Carousel Paperie Personalized Printing, based in Makati City.

Carina Castañeda Lebron owns and directs the Casa Montessori on McKinley Road, Forbes Park.

Maritoni Rufino Tordesillas: Director, Danspace Ballet School  
Maritoni was Principal Dancer for the Philippine Ballet Theatre (PBT). With the PBT, she performed in the U.S., Mexico, Japan and Singapore. Maritoni is one of the founders of Yoga Manila, a pioneer yoga school in the Philippines

Maria G. Goolsby is a former Senior Vice President of Union Bank, and also Special Assistant to the Chairman/CEO. These days, she is into Philanthropy & Social Responsibility. She is currently an Independent Director of Solid Group, Inc.

Victoria San Diego Rufino is no longer active in their family business but still sits in the Board as a Director.



Photo op at the end of the Members' Orientation at the ZCME Center for Women Empowerment (seated, left to right): Orientation chair Tessie Tumangan, past pres. Carol O. Llanillo, past pres./AD5 Cora J. Tan, and pres. Mita B. Rufino. Standing behind are: director Vicky Magadia, Charming Baldemor, past AD5 Chona M. Lopez, PIP Livie Ferry, Vicky Wieneke, asst. sec'y Melissa S. Romualdez and director Maritess M. Pineda.



Pres. Mita Rufino (not shown in photo) inducts five new members: Maria G. Goolsby (former member), Vicky S.D. Rufino, Maritoni R. Tordesillas, and Michelle R. Bartolome (Vicky's daughter). Not shown is Carina C. Lebron (past club president)