

Le Bonté Women's Club closes year's activities, announces scholarship recipient

Special to The Clinton Courier

The announcement of Maria Martin as the 2019 Le Bonté Women's Club scholarship recipient closed an active year for members, according to Amy Flournoy, president of the club.

"Maria is a recent graduate of Clinton High School, where she was president of National Art Honor Society and historian of the National Spanish Honor Society," said Serena Calhoun, Le Bonté scholarship chairperson.

Also a member of National Honor Society and the Anchor Club, Martin has volunteered with numerous organizations, including Pinelake Fellowship and the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children, and has served over five hundred hours as a camp counselor. Martin, the daughter of Joanna and Dennis Miller, received the VIP Student Award and the Christian Leader of the Future 2019 and has achieved recognition for her poetry and painting. Her plans include studying at Samford University, focusing on sports medicine and occupational therapy.

In addition to announcing the scholarship recipient, the club held an installation ceremony for next year at the May meeting. Brenda Peacher of Florence, Federated Cen-

tral District president, conducted the ceremony, installing Flournoy, who will serve another year as president; Serena Calhoun, vice president; Paula Wimbish, recording secretary; Melinda Ellis, corresponding secretary; Carol Pate, treasurer; Paula Craft, chaplain; Carole Kelly, newsletter editor; and Ruth Ann Broome, parliamentarian.

Programs throughout the club year have reflected community support themes from a number of sources. The Salvation Army story of faith and aid was delivered by Major Karen Lyle and other active supporters who shared the organization's history and testimonies of how the Salvation Army aids families. The Rev. Scott Fortenberry of Soul City Church in Jackson and wood artist Bob Catlett shared their special callings with members. Marijane Whitfield gave details on Thebes Swamp project in Grenada, an environmental success story initiated by her daughter, artist-conservationist Robin Whitfield.



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Lori Snellgove presented information about Adult and Teen Challenge USA, a faith-based substance abuse recovery program dedicated to helping individuals of all ages. The Clinton Community Christian Corporation (4C's) was the focus as Laurie Lawson, executive director, told about its origin through the efforts of Clint Dona, other MC students, and community leaders to help families with essentials of everyday living. Their dedication resulted in the agency's official charter in November 1974.

Club members worked with St. Thomas Head Start Center in March to observe renowned author Dr. Theodore Geisel's birthday. Dr. Seuss' books were presented to boys and girls.

The club supports the Good Samaritan program, Operation Christmas Child, Friends of the Library annual Christmas Tree Gala, the Clinton Junior High Life Skills class graduation, 4C's, CARA, the Arts Council's Taste of the Arts, and Soul City Church in Jackson. The only federated women's club in Clinton, Le Bonté Women's Club was founded as a federated organization in 1974. The name is a French phrase which means kindness and benevolence.

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OBITUARY

Mary Rita Haselhorst

Mary Rita Haselhorst was called home to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, June 9, 2019. Visitation was held Wednesday, June 12, 2019, from 5 until 7 p.m. at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home in Clinton, Mississippi, and Saturday June 15, 2019, at Holy Savior Catholic Church in Clinton, Mississippi. A visitation was held from 10:30 until noon, followed by a funeral Mass. Graveside followed at Lakewood Memorial Park.

Mary Rita Haselhorst was born on February 3, 1954, in Louisville, Kentucky, to Frank and Rita Mersmann. Mary Rita, also known as Rita to many, devoted much of her time to Holy Savior Catholic Church. She had a passion and love for children's ministry, and thoroughly enjoyed the thirty years she served at the School of Religion. Rita served as the Past President of the Knights of Columbus Women's Auxiliary, where she coordinated the Angel tree program every year. She also served as former Secretary for the Mississippi Corvette Club, where she was an active member with her husband, John.

Rita always had a special place in her heart for children. She always said "the more, the merrier!" Rita spent more than

forty years babysitting children in her home in the various states she lived in, South Carolina, Missouri and Mississippi. She and her husband also hosted six exchange students, who were all from Brazil.

Rita volunteered her time when she wasn't keeping children. She helped with egg hunts, carnivals, delivered meals on wheels, helped at local schools, library, and also helped with charity organizations. She enjoyed attending her grandchildren's programs and sporting events. She loved anything that involved her grandchildren. If ever someone needed help with anything in the community, she was always willing to lend a hand.

She is survived by her parents, Frank and Rita Mersmann of Louisville, Kentucky; her husband of forty-three years, John; three children: Greg (Kristen), Tara Farr (Alan), and Jeremy (Misty); seven grandchildren: Kinsley, Abigail, John Alan, James, Robert, Madolin, and Morgan; sisters: Martina Goldman (Bobby), Esther Paul; and brothers: Steve, Pat (Denise) and Pete. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations are accepted to Poor Hands Maids of Jesus Christ Mexican Missions at P.O. Box 1; 9601 Union Road Donaldson, IN 46513.

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