

A to Z Resale Shop Turns Two

By Gail Park

The Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop celebrated its second birthday with a 'Soup & Bread Party' on February 24th.

Attendees chose from a variety of soups served with breads and homemade desserts.



More than 50 guests attended the party including *College Hunks Hauling Junk* and the shop's appraiser.

This party helped to celebrate two successful years and provided an opportunity to recognize the many people and businesses that support our efforts at the shop and in the community.

Scholarship recipient publishes first novel

By Tonya Binns

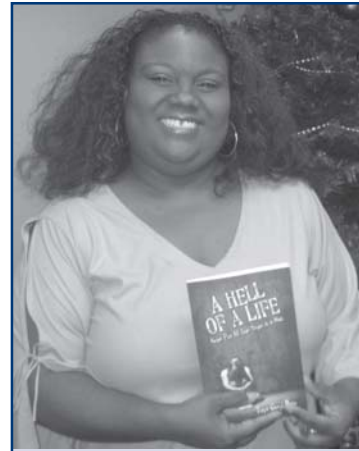
My name is Tonya Binns and I am the proud recipient of a 2008 Assistance League Triangle Area scholarship. This scholarship helped me to graduate in the summer of 2008 from Wake Technical Community College.

I am very happy to say that I now have two associates degrees in Business Administration and Human Resource Management. I also received three certificates in Entrepreneurship, Customer Service, and Human Resource Development.

I am a single mother of three born and raised in Raleigh. I became a teen mother at the age of 15. Education has always been important to me, but it was difficult to go to school and raise a child. I put education on the back burner for a long time and continued to work dead end jobs, often working two jobs to pay my bills.

After having two more children and a failed marriage, I knew that I could not keep living life like this. I wanted more for myself and for my children.

In the summer of 2006, I decided to take a leap of faith and go back to



Tonya Binns, scholarship recipient and author of *A Hell of a Life*.

school. With the help of grants and scholarships, I was able to work just one job while going to school. I was focused on doing well and was able to make the Dean's list every semester and make the President's list four out six semesters.

After graduating, I still wanted more so currently I am attending Strayer University at the North Raleigh campus. My plan

is to graduate by this fall with a Bachelors degree in Human Resource Management and next pursue a Masters degree in Public Administration. I am glad to be a role model to my children and show them that it is never too late to follow your dreams and reach your goals.

Another dream that I reached last year was that of becoming a published author. I wrote a book about five years ago and never did anything with it because I couldn't see the big picture.

Last summer Publish America signed me to a book deal and my book was released in December of 2008. The book is called "A Hell of a Life," under the name Tonya Cheryl Binns.

Copies can be purchased by going to www.tonyabinns.webs.com.

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The President's Message



I think we can all agree this has and continues to be a challenging year. While the challenges continue for all of us, I am pleased to say that countless needy women and children still experience the impact of our chapter's efforts each day in the Triangle.

In February, close to 50 homeless women were served a delicious lunch and Valentine birthday cake at the downtown Women's Center. I can tell you that for a couple of hours these women felt like human beings again.

We continue to receive notes of thanks for Operation School Bell® from teachers, administrators, parents and children. And at the same time, members of this committee do their best to meet the ongoing special needs of schools.

If you have a chance to visit Kid's Place at WakeMed Pediatric Emergency Room, you will see new books, toys and a replenished Treasure Chest of goodies. Nurses may tell you about the "bears" we helped provide which help calm and reassure patients being treated at the facility..

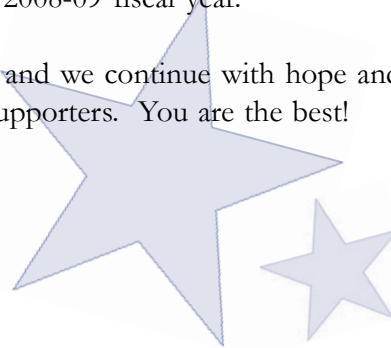
Finally, applications for scholarships are arriving each day. Soon members will meet to evaluate and determine who this year's winners will be. We look forward to distributing these awards at our final luncheon in May.

In spite of the economy, our Resale Shop shows higher sales relative to each month for last year due to the countless hours contributed by members as well as the generosity of our supporters. The chapter's fundraising efforts, which include our annual Open Your Heart campaign, are two-thirds of the way toward meeting our goals for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

We have much to be thankful for and we continue with hope and dedication. Thank you to our members and supporters. You are the best!

Sincerely

Shelley Stirling



Established in 1997, **Assistance League® Triangle Area** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer organization serving the triangle area of North Carolina (Raleigh, Durham and Orange Counties) and is also a chapter of National Assistance League®. With nearly 90 members volunteering over 15,000 hours and no paid staff, the Chapter is dedicated to meeting the needs of the triangle community through service, resources and financial support. To learn more about Assistance League® Triangle Area and its volunteer efforts, visit us online at www.altriangle.org

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL 2008

REPORTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Operation School Bell® (OSB) received an in-kind grant this year from the NVIDIA Corporation and its employees in North Carolina. The NVIDIA Corporation is a world leader in visual computing technology and has a regional office in Durham, NC. Many of its employees live throughout the greater Triangle Area.

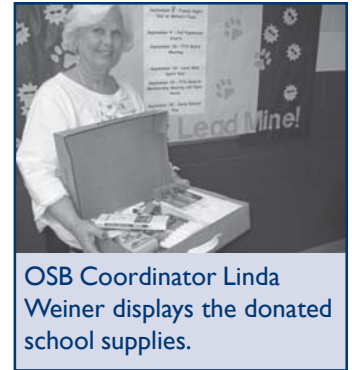
Each year, employees are invited to purchase backpacks and school supplies from the web site “KitsforKidz.org.” The company then matches employee donations up to 200 backpacks.

NVIDIA asked the Assistance League® Triangle Area to distribute the donated school backpacks for elementary-age students through our OSB program.

We received 275 backpacks filled with supplies valued at over \$4,675 for 2008.

The OSB project coordinators distributed 30 or more backpacks to each of our nine supported schools in both Durham and Wake counties. Each school chooses the students that most need help to receive the backpacks.

We hope to continue this successful partnership with NVIDIA Corporation and its generous employees in the future.



OSB Coordinator Linda Weiner displays the donated school supplies.



Chapter members Linda Weiner (left) and Barbara Townsen (right) share the donated backpacks and supplies from the NVIDIA Corporation with Jan Taylor, Operation School Bell school program coordinator at Leadmine Elementary school in North Raleigh.

OSB Clothing Price per child

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Underwear (6 pair) | \$ 6.12 |
| T Shirts (2) | \$ 5.70 |
| Sweatshirt (1) | \$ 3.00 |
| Sweatpants (1) | \$ 3.00 |
| Jeans (1) | \$ 7.70 |
| Socks (6 pair) | \$ 3.08 |
| Shoes (1 pair) | \$ 20.00 |
| Incidentals | \$ 2.25 |
| Hand-knitted scarf | donation |
| Total: | \$ 50.85 |

Schools and Students served

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Bethesda | 72 |
| Carver | 85 |
| Glenn | 106 |
| Leadmine | 93 |
| Pearson | 96 |
| Poe | 103 |
| Spaulding | 132 |
| Reedy Creek | 26 |
| Washington | 73 |
| Total: | 786 |

Every Child

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Toothbrush | \$.23 |
| + Toothpaste | \$.52 |
| = \$.75 | |

Grades PreK – 2nd

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Crayolas | \$ 1.08 a box |
| + 1 Coloring Book | \$ 2.00 |
| = \$3.08 | |

Grades 3rd – 5th

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Deodorant | \$ 1.04 |
| + 2 Pens and 2 Pencils | \$.33 |
| + Spiral Notebook | \$.05 |
| = \$ 1.42 | |

If you would like to donate to this program or learn more about how to become involved, visit <http://www.altriangle.org>.

Strategic Planning

By Janice Carlton

As our chapter's Long Range Plan 2006-09 comes to a conclusion, the Strategic Planning committee has begun the process of drafting the Long Range Plan 2010-13.

The first step in such planning is to obtain input from the membership. In November 2009, focus groups comprised of the membership were held during the monthly meeting. In January, a questionnaire was completed by chapter members to obtain concerns and suggestions.

The responses from these two activities were very informative and positive, thus giving the committee an opportunity to incorporate



Member notes and outlines from the fall strategic planning session.

suggestions and update the plan. Our goal is to have the Long Range Plan 2010-13 completed, approved by the Board and membership, and ready for implementation summer 2009.

The members of the strategic planning committee, chaired by Janice Carlton, are Becky Aldrich, Janet Kennedy, Lula Harris, Kristin Plyler, Barbara Townson, Shelley Stirling and Callie Underwood.

WOW and 'Good Egg' Member Awards

By Sharron Grant

The Wonderful Outstanding Woman (WOW) awards were started very near the beginning of this chapter. They were created to recognize one woman who was doing outstanding work towards the Assistance League's programs for a period of time. Originally awarded 5 -6 times per year, it became difficult to truly

recognize consistent effort for a length of time. These awards were to be an internal praise, from the membership, towards women who showed, by example, the purposes of the organization. Today we award this recognition quarterly.

Members Ellen Lehman and Krista Park Berry received WOW awards in April 2008. Ellen Lehman was honored for being a "silent contributor," doing more than her share for the organization quietly and without fanfare, but with pride and a real goal for helping make anything the chapter does a success.

Krista Park Berry was recognized for her graphic design work and assistance with a coloring book project for KidsPlace at WakeMed Children's Hospital.

Karen Schindler and Martha Funsten received WOW awards in

October 2008. Karen Schindler received this award for her time and efforts with the many outreach programs as Education Chair.



Sharron Grant awards Sue Kosinski with the "Good Egg" at the February 2009 member meeting.

Martha Funsten was recognized for her service as treasurer while being a first-year member of the organization.

The Good Egg award was also created at the beginning of the

chapter's formation- ha, which came first? It is a light-hearted award for outstanding service over a short period of time.

Sue Kosinski received the 'Good Egg' award for her work with the 2008 Operation School Bell program and her role in organizing chapter socials.



Members Cathy Faust (right) and Shirl Garvey (left) received the WOW awards at the February 2009 member meeting recognizing the many ways they support and provide service to chapter programs.

'Shop Talk' at the A to Z

Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop ~ 1689-A North Market Drive, Raleigh, NC ~ (919) 875-8901

By Margaret Pasquale

Resale Shop Volunteers of the Month



Left to right: Nona Wright (January), Margaret Pasquale (July), Pat Gipson (October), Ellen Czinege (November), Janice Carlton (December) and Linda McSwiney (July).

Not pictured: Johann Hoke (August) and Judy Thompson (September).

As we move into the New Year, sales have been steadily increasing and it has been a very exciting time for all the Assistance League® volunteer members. This fundraiser has continued to be a success and has given all members an opportunity to become engaged with each other and their community.

Special Events

Our September event was a "Baubles and Bags Sale" and what a success it was. Thanks to all the members that donated special items for that exciting sale. It was our biggest sales month for the year. I am sure we will plan to have the jewelery and handbag sale again in the future.

Thank you

We are still making improvements to the thrift shop and our sales have been steadily increasing. Profits are up and success at the shop has relied strictly on donations from our members and community. Donations from the community have almost doubled in the past six months. Instead of two scheduled pick ups per month we have an average of four scheduled pick ups per month with multiple stops.

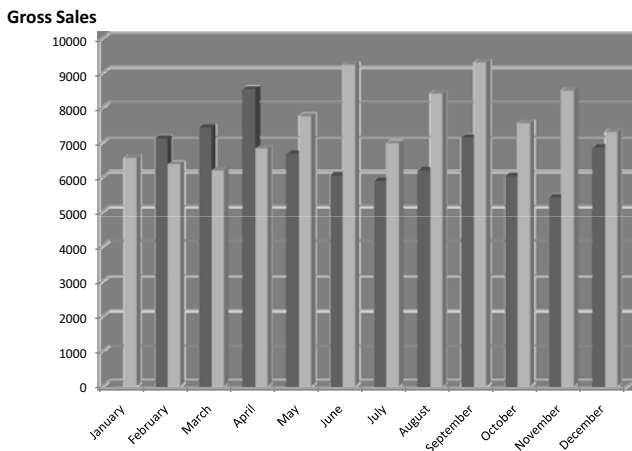
Spotlight on Volunteers

These dedicated individuals go above and beyond. They are always there when needed and called upon. Their dedication and added responsibilities have made this fundraiser a success. Many thanks for your dedicated volunteer hours behind the scenes and in the shop.

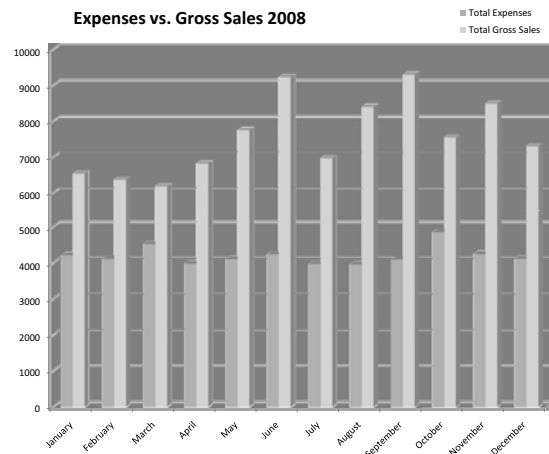
Our special thanks to Adriane Thomasian and the pick up committee volunteers. These individuals go out in the pouring rain, blizzard cold, or the hottest of summer days to pick up a load of furniture and deliver it to the shop.

Donations can be dropped off at the resale shop Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00pm. Please look for Antiques to Zippers online ads on Craigslist at <http://raleigh.craigslist.org>

Antiques to Zippers Resale 2007 vs. 2008



Expenses vs. Gross Sales 2008



Highlights and Happenings



College Hunks Hauling Junk has been volunteering their staff power and trucks for item pick-ups and drop-offs for the chapter's resale shop. For more information about their services, call 1-800-JUNK USA.

Thank You from A to Z

Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop has two organizations that are working with us. They are "College Hunks Hauling Junk" recommended by Linda McSwiney and "Organizing Solutions", Cyndy Radcliff, Professional Organizer, recommended by Margaret Cohen. The two companies have contributed furniture, tables, sofas, chairs, etc. to the store. We greatly appreciate each of their contributions and look forward to continuing our work together.

Thank you to each of our active members of the donation pick-up committee. They are always ready and willing to respond to a pickup in all kinds of weather and some have even changed their schedule to accommodate the date for a particular pick up.



Open Your Heart Campaign for 2008-2009

Invitation letters are sent annually in November to ask members and friends for donations to help finance our philanthropic programs. As of March 2009, Assistance League Triangle Area has received \$9,390 in donations from 55 donors.



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