



Zonta's Champagne Brunch

In 1993, the Zonta Club of Utica held its first Champagne Brunch as a fundraiser. The brunch was held at a small restaurant in South Utica and, despite having to help wash dishes, Zonta members and the community felt it was a successful endeavor. Following years, the brunch was moved to other sites, where it has earned the reputation of an event not to miss. Since 1997, the brunch has been held at Hart's Hill in Whitesboro, to be able to accommodate the large crowd. Attendance averages 400 each year.

The main focus of the brunch is to raise money for Zonta Service projects. The Breast Care Center at Mohawk Valley Health system has been the primary recipient of most of the fundraising efforts. Other projects funded by the money raised include scholarships for women returning to school, funding the Zonta-sponsored awards, and special service projects that we identify throughout the year. Over the 25 years, the club has raised over \$350,000.

Highlights of the brunch include:

- Celebrity waitresses (and waiters, added in recent years) who earn "tips" from their assigned tables, to go towards the money raised
- Mimosa's and "Z" Cookies
- 40-50 baskets for attendees to buy tickets for chances to win
- Larger ticket items to be auctioned off The Brunch is held in the spring.

This year, 2017, is the 25th year of our Champagne Brunch, and it will be held April 2.

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