

SPOTLIGHT

Toni Zufelt

Interviewing the many wonderful women in our club constantly reminds me that there are numerous roads that lead to a life of meaning. Through no fault of our own, some of our paths were rugged and potholed, making our present day life all the more cherished and the survivor, strong and self-confident. Such is the case with our member Toni Zufelt, mother of three, wife and businesswoman. It seems the first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are.



Toni was born in the Germantown area of Philadelphia where her grandparents lived all their lives. One of ten children (8 surviving), the family moved to Oregon when she was 4. Messy family drama would shuffle her around in foster care but miraculously, she emerged at 18 as a dance teacher at Fred Astaire back in Philly and has been dancing through life ever since. Along the way, Toni's pursuits have included acting in community theatre when she lived in Clementon, NJ. She has worked as a meeting planner throughout 28 years of her life and has traveled extensively. She's also had a children's book published "*The Border Patrol is Born*" and has written a total of 22 others centered around 5 border collies.

She moved to Florida in 1974 with her 3 children and she met and married "the nicest man she ever met" husband Howard in 1991. Their love affair started at Studebaker's Lounge (quite the rage in the late 80's), he proposed to her at McDonald's and they were married by a sea captain in a grocery store in Baltimore. (You can't make this stuff up!) Romance aside, they remain a devoted couple and renewed their vows after 20 years last year. Howard is the GM of I.R.D., a restaurant distributor.

She's quite proud of her son Louis who lives in San Francisco, Kristopher in Clinton, S.C. with wife and her 2 grandchildren and daughter Amanda who is married and lives in Winter Garden. Toni is the owner/operator of CYA Asset Inventory Services (.com) where she does the job of indexing and cataloging, well... inventory...mostly used by her customers for insurance purposes.

Toni joined the Heathrow Women's Club in 2013 and quickly went to work as a dutiful member. This year she is co-chair of the Ways & Means Committee and will be in the W&M hot seat soon. You will be seeing her adjusting the microphone at the podium a lot next year, but don't let her diminutive size fool you - her kismet has been to "swim to the top", as she puts it. "If we all truly believe we *could* be, we *would* be."

The Heathrow Women's Club embraces Toni as a note in their symphony of women whose lives have meshed in a cause to help others, and welcomes all women who wish to contribute in whatever way they can.

BY CAROLYN TAYLOR