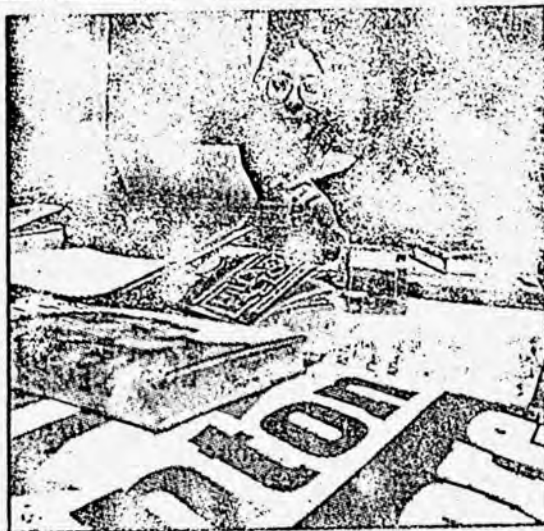




AP PHOTO

Lina Accurso works in her home office/kitchen.

Fan club formed for first lady is 4,000 strong

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington — Better think twice before making that next joke about Hillary Rodham Clinton. The person you're talking to could be a member of the Hillary Rodham Clinton Fan Club.

The club has 4,000 members, and its numbers are growing. Quite a few don't care for all the snide remarks about their hero, the first lady.

"I give her all the credit in the world, and I get very angry when somebody tries to make her into some sort of stereotype Amazon woman with a whip," said Lina Accurso, 41, coordinator of the Port Chester, N.Y., chapter. "She is just a woman who's going ahead and trying to make it easier for the rest of us."

Accurso and other members are mystified by the ridicule, scorn and wisecracks — particularly the mocking speculation about the Clinton marriage and about which Clinton really is running the White House.

"These fans ask: What kind of people would disparage a woman who's revolutionized the role of first lady and achieved so much as a mother and a career woman?"

"They're jealous," said Rubye Jo Henson, 82, coordinator of the McCloud, Okla., chapter. "The men are jealous because they don't want a woman to be as smart as they are. And the women are almost the same way. They envy her."

"I just think it's really unnecessary to give her a hard time, really," said Suellen Fast, 40, San Diego coordinator. "But you know, she stands up under it really well."

But don't think club members are against having fun. Fun was one reason Ruth and Eugene Love of Silver Spring, Md., formed the club in September 1992, well before the Clintons moved into the White House.

"We just think Hillary is a very, very special lady, and we wanted to show how we felt and give some support to her ideas and the things she was working on," said Ruth Love, 70, a retired schoolteacher.

The first lady is pleased by the favorable attention, said Neel Lattimore, a spokesman for Clinton.

"To have a fan club is a very flattering thing," he said. "Mrs. Clinton is a fan of many, many people, and I'm sure she's delighted that maybe she has some fans out there going through the effort of forming a group or a club."

After getting an OK from the Clinton campaign, the Loves announced their idea at a meeting of Montgomery County's Democratic club. They soon sold \$400 worth of red-and-white "Hillary Clinton Fan Club" buttons.

The several hundred dollars raised from \$1 membership contributions was donated to the Clinton-Gore campaign and the Democratic Party, said Eugene Love, 80.

"We don't keep anything for ourselves. It all goes in contributions to Democratic candidates or causes," he said.

Membership went nationwide after the Loves submitted an article about the club to the Hillary Clinton Quarterly, a magazine published by Frank Marafiotte in Concord, N.H.

The club now has nine chapters, as far away as Osaka, Japan, and Graz, Austria. Membership has increased to \$3.

Fans across the country said they have a number of activities planned.

Janet Pokrinchak, 51, coordinator of the 15-member Sarasota, Fla., chapter, plans a Hillary Clinton look-alike contest at a local mall.

To reach the club, write to the Hillary Rodham Clinton Fan Club, c/o Ruth and Eugene Love, 15115 Interlachen Dr., Apt 314, Silver Spring, Md. 20906.

First lady fan club

forms

2-14-94
Miami News Record

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First lady, it seems, is tops wi

By Lane Kelley

Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. — Ruth Love loves the first lady, at least as a fan.

Love, 70, who lives in Deerfield Beach in winter and in Silver Spring, Md., for the rest of the year, started the Hillary Rodham Clinton Fan Club during the 1992 presidential campaign.

She got the idea for the club when two Republican candidates — Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson — began to attack the lawyer from Arkansas as an enemy of family values.

"I thought she was really being bashed a lot when she didn't deserve it," Love said.

Others apparently agreed. The fan club now has 4,000 members, she said. For

Mail pours in after Hillary-bashing led

their one-time fee of \$3, members get a turquoise-and-white button, plus whatever good feelings they get from lending moral support to the first lady.

There is even a chapter of the Hillary fan club in Osaka, Japan.

"She's doing better in Japan than the president is," said Eugene Love, 80, who helps his wife with the club's mail.

Word about the club has been spread by network news broadcasts and articles by various wire services.

"It's got us swamped," Eugene said. "This Mom-and-Pop operation is about to break down."

The Loves, who are retired, collected \$5,000 from memberships in 1992 and do-

nated the money to the Clinton campaign. Money collected since has covered the cost of mailings and buttons, they said.

"The only person who gets paid is the guy who makes the buttons," Eugene said. "We're not in this for the money."

When the Loves come to Florida for the winter, they take a break from many of their club duties.

But when they return to their home in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, they pick up their club responsibilities and ride the subway into Washington once a week to help answer the Clintons' fan mail in the old Executive Office building.

"They're very good about it," said

Brown vot.

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next
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th many worldwide

an, 70, to start club

riel Alper, a staff assistant to the first lady.

Both Loves are lifelong Democrats, though they admired Barbara Bush and Betty Ford.

Eugene got his first government job during Herbert Hoover's administration and, during the New Deal years, became a strong fan of Franklin Roosevelt's wife.

"I thought that Eleanor Roosevelt was Mrs. God," he said.

Hillary Clinton seems to be attracting a similar following, among both her American and non-American fans.

Bonnie Brunet of Camden, Maine, joined the Hillary club, writing to tell the Loves that she expects the country to get

two terms with Bill Clinton "and an additional eight years with Hillary. A total of 16 years could possibly undo the misery that the last 12 have managed to do."

Etsuko Sasai, head of the Hillary club in Japan, wrote to say, "Former first ladies seemed to be two steps behind the president. Hillary is, to me, one step ahead of President Clinton."

Maybe in spirit, but not in mail volume.

The president gets about 50,000 letters a week, and the first lady, 7,000 a week, Alper said.

For more information on the Hillary Rodham Clinton Fan Club, write to Ruth and Eugene Love, Century Village East, Lyndhurst Building, Building J, Apt. 3041, Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33442; or call (305) 421-8813.

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Ads targeted women; more girls smoked

Percentage of non-smoking 16-year-old girls who began smoking each year

Virginia Slims, Silva Thins and Eve cigarettes introduced around 1967; sales peaked in 1976



SOURCE: University of California, San Diego Cancer Center study, reported in Journal of American Medical Association