



February 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
from the Zonta Clubs of Northampton, Quaboag Valley and Springfield.
Mary F. Knight, Communications Chair, 413-219-8260, MFKnight@crocker.com

History At Play™ Event~ “I Now Pronounce You: Lucy Stone”

The Zonta Clubs of Northampton area, Quaboag Valley and Springfield – in honor of International Women’s Day - proudly present a Living History Performance of 19th century women’s rights activist **Lucy Stone**, who defied societal rules about gender and became an outspoken leader for suffrage – a woman’s right to vote.



Monday, March 12, 2018 ~ 5:30 Social / 5:45 Buffet Dinner followed by Meeting / Program
Ludlow Country Club, Ludlow MA

Program: Actress Judith Kalaora in her one-woman play as suffragist Lucy Stone

If Lucy Stone were alive today she would likely be a Zontian – she was a passionate advocate for gender equality and women’s empowerment when it came to education, employment, and political participation. To understand what a radical idea that was in her lifetime, you must travel

back in time to experience societal norms when she came of age in 1838.*

We invite you to do just that! Please join us for this timely, educational event performed by Judith Kalaora – Founder & Artistic Director of History At Play™ and professional actress and educator

RSVP by 3/6/18 – seating limited.

Prepaid admission \$20 – pay online at zontaqv.org/lucystone or by check payable to ZONTA, PO Box 1034, Belchertown MA 01007-1034. Include notation with names of all attendees.

Admission at the door \$25 (cash, check or credit card) – reserve seat by emailing info@zontaqv.org with names of all attendees.

Donations accepted to provide free tickets to this timely educational experience for students and others without means. We are keeping a waiting list.

Born in West Brookfield, Massachusetts in 1818, Lucy Stone dedicated her life to improving the rights of American women. She supported the Women’s National Loyal League, which was founded by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony (though Stone and the two would later be at odds), and in 1866 helped found the American Equal Rights Association. She also organized and was elected president of the State Woman’s Suffrage Association of New Jersey, and spent her life serving the cause. Stone died 30 years before women were finally permitted to vote (August 1920), on October 18, 1893, in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Read more about Lucy at: <https://www.biography.com/people/lucy-stone-9495976>

* When Lucy Stone was a young adult,

- Married women were legally dead in the eyes of the law
- Women were not allowed to vote
- Women had to submit to laws when they had no voice in their formation
- Married women had no property rights
- Husbands had legal power over and responsibility for their wives to the extent that they could imprison or beat them with impunity
- Divorce and child custody laws favored men, giving no rights to women
- Women had to pay property taxes although they had no representation in the levying of these taxes
- Most occupations were closed to women and when women did work they were paid only a fraction of what men earned
- Women were not allowed to enter professions such as medicine or law
- Women had no means to gain an education since no college or university would accept women students
- With only a few exceptions, women were not allowed to participate in the affairs of the church
- Women were robbed of their self-confidence and self-respect, and were made totally dependent on men

Part of the “Declaration of Sentiments” enumerating areas of life where women were treated unjustly, drafted at the world’s first Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls on July 19 and 20, 1848.

*The Zonta Clubs of Northampton area, Quaboag Valley and Springfield are part of Zonta District 01 – one of 32 districts throughout the world that forms Zonta International. It is comprised of 14 clubs located in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, USA and Nova Scotia, Canada. Learn more about the clubs of District 1 and their local impact: www.zontadistrict1.org. We welcome like-minded individuals who share our vision of a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights, every woman is able to achieve her full potential, and no woman lives in fear of violence. There has never been a more important time to keep motivated and **#PressforProgress**.*

Founded in Buffalo, New York in 1919, Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy. With more than 29,000 members in 66 countries, Zontians all over the world volunteer their time, talent and support to local and international service projects and educational programs directed to improving the lives of women and girls. Zonta has General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), participatory status with the Council of Europe, and special relationships with United Nations entities promoting women's rights. To learn more, visit www.zonta.org