



ZONTA CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY BOG NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

Important Dates for your Calendar

January 13 Dinner Meeting



Amelia Earhart tribute

**Guest Speaker—
Grace Gerhardt,**
Aerospace Engineer-
ing graduate

Girls Rocket Award—Honoring young women nominated by their guidance counselors from 6 area high schools because they have overcome adversity and show the tenacious spirit of aviatrix Amelia Earhart.

February 10 Dinner Meeting

Period Project

March 9-20 CSW64, UN—New York

March 9 Dinner Meeting

April 13 Dinner Meeting and Elections

May 4 Silent “no more!” Auction

May 16 Area 2 Spring Retreat

June 8 Dinner Meeting

July 4—8 Zonta Convention—Chicago

September 12 Zonta Golf Tournament

Fundraiser—Cold Spring Country Club

RSVP 5:30 Social and 6:00 Dinner at the Ludlow Country Club, Ludlow MA

Members are expected for dinner (\$18) unless notification made in advance.

Call/Text Trish 413-626-5656 with guest count and any regrets by 1/8.

Collecting for Good Causes:

**Toiletries (Danielle) Magazines (Marge)
Multicultural/lingual adult and children's
books, puzzles and yarn (Debbie)**



Dear Sister Zontians and friends,

My sincere best wishes to all for a very happy and healthy new year. I hope that everyone has enjoyed their holidays with friends and family and are ready to launch into 2020 with a renewed interest and excitement in joining together to support our Zonta mission.

I want to give a special shout out to Debbie and Marge for their amazing efforts in bringing holiday joy to the Soldier On women! Due to inclement weather, we were forced to change the date of our visit at the last minute, but that didn't stop Debbie and Marge from bringing Zonta holiday cheer to our friends. *Many thanks, ladies!!*



2020 looks to be an exciting year, as we continue to celebrate Zonta's centennial. There are many opportunities for us to share our upcoming events with anyone who is interested in making a difference in the lives of women. Let's spread the word!

On January 13th, we will continue our tradition of honoring Amelia Earhart as we welcome our guest speaker, Grace Gerhardt. We will also offer a first time award, "Girls Rocket", to 6 local young women who have demonstrated inner strength in overcoming adversity. Please contact me by January 8th, either by email, text or phone call to 413-626-5656 to confirm your attendance and provide names of guests.

Between now and February 8th, all Zonta clubs in Western MA are participating in our 5th annual Period Project. Feminine products are costly and are not covered by SNAP or WIC. This has a significant impact on many women who do not have the means to purchase these products. Please help us raise awareness by collecting feminine pads, tampons, panty liners, soaps, wipes and underwear. We are also accepting cash donations to be used to purchase items in short supply. Drop off locations are listed at zontaqv.org/period. We will gather at the Ludlow Country Club on Monday, February 10th, along with representatives from shelters, foodbanks and survival centers to assemble the kits.

We will also welcome Suz and Stacy as new members!

The 2020 International Women's Day will focus on the theme, 'An equal world is an enabled world'. #EachforEqual. Our guest speaker will be Donna Haghghat, CEO of The Women's Fund of Western Ma. Donna will share highlights of the 2019 research report on the Status of Women and Girls in Western Ma and open discussion for feedback on the findings.

Our 11th annual Silent no more Auction is slated for May 4th, the FIRST Monday of the month. This fundraiser always proves to be an enjoyable time with great food, wonderful auction items and good fun!! We will raise monies for Zonta International Foundation, the Soldier On Women veterans and one other nonprofit to be determined. Please think about a third auction recipient and plan to garner donations of appropriate auction items. More to come!!

Birthday wishes:

Debra Wood 1/19

Luz Rivera 1/28

JoanneTurner-Chiacchia 1/30



In Zonta friendship, President Trish

Service Projects with the Women of Soldier On

December 2019 Holiday Visit

Perfect night. Ladies, Marge and Debbie had fun on the hayride and after we enjoyed homemade refreshments and gave out blankets and stockings. They sent us home with food and homemade cards to share with our members. Marge gave cookbooks of recipes written by Vets to each of the 5 women moving to their own apartments in Pittsfield for February. Learned that Wayfair and Ikea have provided the furnishings. Next?



"The secret of getting ahead is getting started"
~ Mark Twaine

Start off the year strong by reviewing your 2019 victories and noting key lessons learned. How will you apply what you've learned to reach your goals this year?



Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley District I, Area II, Charter 1317 of Zonta International 2019—2020

President: Patricia Puepk
Vice President: Dana Burton
Treasurer: Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
Secretary: Shanique Spalding
Directors: Andrea Bordenca
 Danielle Petrangelo
 Mary Knight

Website: www.zontaqv.org

Committee Chairs 2019—2020

Finance & Audit Chair: Pam Albertson
Membership Chair: Dana Burton
PR /Communication Chair: Mary Knight
Advocacy/UN Chair: Pamela Albertson
Service Chair: Debra Wood
Scholarships Chair: Dana Burton
Poinsettia Fundraiser Chair: Liz Reeves
Golf Fundraiser Chair: Debra Wood
Auction Fundraiser Chairs:
 Patricia Pupek and Dianne Kidd
Centennial: Marge Cavanaugh, MaryAnn Rubis
Nominating: Pam Albertson, Liz Reeves, Marge Cavanaugh

December 9, 2019 Zonta of Quaboag Valley Dinner Meeting

Business Meeting @ the Ludlow Country Club, Ludlow MA

Present: Andrea Bordenca, Dana Burton, Debbie Wood, Dianne Kidd, Janet Dasilva, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Liz Reeves, Marge Cavanaugh, Mary Ann Rubis, Mary Knight, Nancy Ayers, Pam Albertson, Trish Pupek.

Absent: Danielle Petrangelo, Kris Goold, Luz Rivera, Patti Matthieu, Shanique Spalding.

Guest: Dorinda Fernandez

Meeting Called to Order 7:00

Trish gave kudos to the poinsettia committee and all of the members who made the fundraiser a success!

Treasurers Report: The treasurers report was reviewed and accepted for audit.

January Meeting: Grace Gerhardt will be our program guest speaker. She graduated from WPI with a degree in aerospace engineering and works at Pratt & Whitney. The second part of the program will be the **Girls Rocket Award**. Guidance counselors from six area high schools (Palmer, Pathfinder, Ludlow, Pathfinder, Monson, Ware & Belchertown) have each submitted the name of a young woman who embodies the characteristics of Amelia Earhart: tenacity and courage to follow her dreams even in the face of adversity. Each young woman can bring one guest with her. If the guidance counselors and other guests attend, they will pay for their own dinner. Each young recipient will receive a bracelet, yellow rose and a certificate.

February Period Project: We need to start getting boxes and posters out to locations as soon as possible. Hair dressers, Nail Salons, Libraries are great places put them. We will not put underwear or depends in the assembled packages this year, but will find a home for all that are received.

Membership: Stacy and Suz will be inducted in February. Dana has not received a bio from either one yet but will publish in newsletter when she gets them.

Advocacy: Nothing to report.

Service: Marge's quilting group has made Christmas stockings that will be filled with wish list items for the Soldier On women. Each of the women will receive a blanket and reusable bag as well. Zontians will meet at Soldier On at 5. They will give out the blankets and then head over to Look Park. After the hayride everyone will go back to the facility to continue the festivities.

The Twenty and Four women veterans have also donated all sorts of toiletries for the Soldier On women.

Service Versus Community Outreach: Service is a program where we use funds raised and all members are expected to participate at some level. Examples: Soldier On, Christmas for Kids, Period Project. Community Outreach would be activities such as collecting puzzles for the jail and providing hospitals with gently used magazines. All items should be new or gently used if the Zonta name is to be on them.

YWPA & JMK: Scholarship forms are available to women that are interested. International has changed one of the criteria: the award money must be used for academics.

Silent No More Auction: The auction is on the first Monday in May. There is no time like the present to start getting items to sell at the auction. Again, hair nails ,massage anyone that we buy services from. Facebook Marketplace is a great place to find auction items. Invite friends and family. Consider giving a gift of auction tickets. We need guests! We will continue with the Centennial theme.

Strong Women and Girls Read: All four of the libraries that received money from last year's auction for the purchase of books have agreed to do an event sometime in the month of March for International Women's Day. We may use some of the money from selling luggage tags to give the libraries more money for the purchase of more books. Pam is putting an order in for more tags that are already sold. Mary Ann will be checking with Patti Halberg to see if the girl scouts are interested in collecting Period Project items. Maybe working towards some sort of badge?

Archives: It has been decided that storing photos etc in a facility is too costly so they will be put on thumb drives and one of our members will keep at their home.

January Soldier On Activity: Dianne, Nancy & Liz will do an activity with the women. They will decide on an activity and a date and have a poster created to let people know.

Raffle Winner: Marge Cavanaugh.....of course.

Andrea lead our group in a very soothing mindfulness exercise.

Meeting Adjourned 7:50

Respectfully submitted
Liz Reeves



Our January 13th Meeting will be an Inspiring Start to the New Year ~ Invite a Guest to join you!

In honor of Zonta's 100th Anniversary and our most famous Zontian, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is offering a special award in January, acknowledging six individuals who have overcome adversity and show the tenacious spirit of aviatrix Amelia Earhart. High school guidance counselors from Belchertown, Palmer, Pathfinder, Ludlow, Ware and Monson each nominated a deserving student and these young women (and their guests) will be honored at our January 13th meeting.



Also joining us, as a guest speaker, is **Grace Gerhardt**—another young women who has a tenacious spirit! Grace graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in May 2019 with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and a minor in English. She is part of the Quality Engineering Development Program at Pratt & Whitney, where she will serve three eight-month rotations in different departments of Quality Engineering. Currently, she assists Military and Commercial Assembly Quality for the F135 and PW1100 engines, respectively. Grace chose her field of study based on her love of astronomy and passion for building things and figuring out how things work. Although her current position doesn't perfectly align with her major, her background in aerospace engineering supports her in her every day job. She gets to have intellectual conversations with other coworkers and mechanics. Naturally social and communicative, Grace enjoys her position because she is able to solve problems, improve processes, and help people through creativity and communication. She hopes to graduate from her rotational program and place out in a more technical-oriented position, but is open to other opportunities where she can learn and grow.

Perhaps Grace might consider applying for an Amelia Earhart Fellowship one



Membership News from Dana Burton

We are delighted to welcome two new member at our February 10th meeting. Suz and Stacy first joined us in June 2019 to celebrate McKenna Troy's YWPA award. They have since attended meetings and an orientation to Zonta. They bring lots of talent and enthusiasm to our dynamic club.



Suz Tiranno was born and raised in Buffalo, NY, came to Western Massachusetts for graduate school in 2001, and has lived here every since. She has been the Coordinator of Interlibrary Loan Operations at Ely Library on the campus of Westfield State University for the past 11 years. She greatly enjoys the academic setting and helping students and faculty meet their research

goals.

Aside from the library, Suz also loves being an NCAA women's basketball referee. She believes strongly that there should be more female representation in the world of sports and that it should be common for all young athletes to see women in roles of authority during their games. Suz has been drawn to Zonta and its work since she first attended a meeting last Spring and especially so after learning of Zonta's Buffalo roots. She's looking forward to joining as a full time member!



Stacy Troy grew up in Connecticut and has lived in Belchertown for 18 years. She has worked as a Physical Therapist for Cooley Dickinson Hospital for over 20 years and specializes in orthopedics and lymphedema management with her primary focus on patients who have pelvic floor pain and dysfunction.

She has three active teenagers that she couldn't be more proud of. Her daughter **McKenna Troy** was awarded the 2019 Young Women in Public Affairs honor by the Quaboag Valley Club.

In her down time she enjoys fostering for Dakin, traveling, playing golf with her wife, going to flea markets and catching up on so many great podcasts.



January 2020
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 from the Zonta Clubs of Northampton, Quaboag Valley and Springfield.
 Info: Mary F. Knight, Western MA Director, 413-219-8260, MFKnight@crocker.com

All Women Deserve Supplies ~ PERIOD



Western MA ~ It's extremely hard for women living in poverty to deal with the monthly financial and physical burden of a period. Products are costly and are not covered by SNAP or WIC. The average woman requires over \$6000 disposables in her lifetime. For some women, that time of the month couldn't come at a worse time.

The Zonta Clubs of Northampton area, Quaboag Valley and Springfield are pooling resources for **#The Period Project** to raise awareness and collect items needed during a monthly menstrual cycle.

The public is invited to join Zontians in distributing dignity to women and teens in need.

(1) You can donate items to create monthly menstrual kits for homeless women and to stock supplies at local shelters and service centers. Find addresses/maps for drop-off locations throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties, and a link to an **Amazon wish list at www.zontaqv.org/period**. We are collecting:

- Sealed Boxes of Pads or Tampons
- Panty Liners
- Cleansing Wipes, Hand Sanitizers and/or Soap
- New Pairs of Underwear (Any Size)

or cash to purchase items in short supply. Checks can be made to Zonta, PO Box 1034, Belchertown MA 01007-1034

(2) If you are available, you can help assemble monthly period kits on Monday, February 10th at the Ludlow Country Club, Ludlow. 5:30 Set up/ 6:00 Dinner (\$18 – cash, check or credit card). **RSVP by 2/4 to 413-219-8260 or info@zontaqv.org**

When many of us think about giving donations and goods to local organizations that assist families, the first items that come to mind are things like clothes, shoes and food. Many of us don't think about the other items that people with periods are in need of on a daily basis. It is our hope that you will contribute now and share this message in the new year and beyond.



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