



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
QUABOAG VALLEY

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## ZONTA CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY BOG NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER 2021

#### 2021-22 Dates for your Calendar

##### November 25—December 10

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

##### December 13 ZOOM

**Speakers: Stephanie Lora Bearce and Julie Vasbinder**  
Business Meeting

##### 2022 Dates for Meetings /Speakers

January 10	February 14
March 14	April 11
May 9	June 13

**Commission on the Status of Women CSW66** March 14—25 Virtual only  
[unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022](http://unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022)

##### Zonta International Convention 2022 Hamburg, Germany

June 25—28 Early registration is open  
Virtual and on-site rates!!

[Zonta.org/convention](http://Zonta.org/convention)



#### In this issue:

1. Message from President Dana
2. Postcard event for Advocacy
3. November Business Meeting minutes
4. Meet **Stephanie Lora Bearce**
5. Meet **Julie Vasbinder**
6. Ending Child Marriage
7. Poinsettia Fundraiser
8. YWPA Application—Please share

Hello fellow Zontians and friends,

Happy holidays! I hope everybody is staying safe, warm and healthy.

It was sad to not celebrate Founder's Day again this November but it was great to see so many faces on Zoom. Thank you Mary Ann for inducting our new member Kerry Chenausky. Congrats Kerry! Also thank you Mary Ann for the update on the 2022 International Convention and the Every Member Every November Campaign. I hope you all were able to make even a small contribution this past month.



Thank you Mary for putting together a wonderful spreadsheet about the ways we can donate to the community this holiday season. I'm sure everyone is busy buying gifts and gift cards. Thank you all so much for your generosity!

The Poinsettia Fundraiser is at the delivery stage. Please thank any family, friends, and businesses that purchased from us. And thank you all, especially Liz Reeves for another successful fundraiser!

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence finishes up on December 10th. Pam Albertson and the Advocacy committee are working on a postcard campaign to raise awareness about child marriage. Please let her know if you'd like to contribute.

At December's meeting we have a couple of wonderful speakers. Mindset and empowerment coach, Stephanie Bearce is going to speak to us about managing stress and anxiety. We are also going to hear from Julie Vasbinder about her new project Ankaa and how we may be able to help her bring her vision to life.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 13th at 6p on Zoom. Please remember that guests are more than welcome at any meetings.

In Zonta Friendship,  
President Dana Burton



#### Birthday wishes:

Chris Keough Huff	12/11
Pamela Albertson	f12/22

## November 25th—December 10 ~ 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

Child Marriage Postcard Action Event  
 Pam Albertson, Advocacy Chair

We are ready to go with postcards and stamps but as of this writing I haven't heard back from Unchained at Last, which was to provide a template for the message. I've mailed or delivered packets of blank cards and stamps to those of you who have requested them.

**If you want to get started...** to the right are legislator names from [malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator](http://malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator) - all have the same address: State House, 24 Beacon St., Boston MA 02133. Included below is a sample message. You are encouraged to edit and add your own words. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help in this effort to eliminate child marriage in Massachusetts!

Town	Senator	Representative
		Susannah M. Whipps
Belchertown	Eric P. Lesser	Whipps
Chicopee	Adam Gomez	Joseph F. Wagner
Holyoke	John C. Velis	Patricia Duffy
Ludlow	Eric P. Lesser	Jacob R. Oliveira
Monson	Anne M Gobi	Brian M. Ashe
Palmer	Anne M Gobi	Todd M. Smola
Springfield	Adam Gomez	Carlos Gonzalez
Westfield	John C. Velis	Kelly W. Pease
Wilbraham	Eric P. Lesser	Angelo J. Puppola

Sample message: As a member of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, I stand for the rights of all children to live a life free from violence and exploitation. As such, I support the passage of SD292 and HD718 to make 18 years old the minimum age of marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with no exceptions. For the sake of protecting children from abuse and protecting their futures, I believe that every single U.S. state – especially Massachusetts – must take legislative steps to ban child marriage.

**Sign with full name, full address**



### Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley District I, Area II, Charter 1317 of Zonta International Club Officers 2021—2022

- President:** Dana Burton
- Vice President:**
- Treasurer:** Andrea Bordenca
- Secretary:** Mary Knight
- Directors:** Patti Matthieu  
 Patricia Pupek  
 Susan Seaver  
 Chris Keough-Huff

**Website:** [www.zontaqv.org](http://www.zontaqv.org)

### Committee Chairs/ Members 2021—2022

- Finance/Audit:** Chair Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Pam, Sue
- Membership:** Chair Mary Knight, Mike, Andrea
- PR /Communication:** Chair Mary Knight, Dana
- Advocacy/UN:** Chair Pam Albertson, Mary Ann, Chris, Debbie
- Service:** Chair Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Patti, Chris, Maria
- Scholarships:** Chair Kris Goold, Maria, Marge, Dana
- Program:** Chair Cyd Melcher, Karen, Dana
- Poinsettia Fundraiser:** Chair Liz Reeves, Patti, Danielle, Mary
- Golf Fundraiser:** Chair Debra Wood, Suzanne, Stacy, Marge, Karen, Chris, Dana
- Spring Fundraiser:** Chair Patricia Pupek, Joanne, Janet, Sue
- Nominating:**  
 Trish Pupek, Kristin Goold, Janet DaSilva

# Zonta of Quaboag Valley— November 8, 2021 Business Meeting

## Business Meeting – Zoom

**Present:** Dana Burton, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Kris Goold, Karen Keough-Huff, Chris Keough-Huff, Mary Knight, Cyd Melcher, Liz Reeves, Mary Ann Rubis, Susan Seaver, Mike Wallace, Debbie Wood, Pam Albertson, Trish Pupek, Suz Tiranno, Stacy Troy

**Absent:** Andrea Bordenca, Marge Cavanaugh, Janet DaSilva, Maria Maloney, Patti Matthieu, Danielle Petrangelo, Gloria Caballero Roca

**Guests:** prospective member Kerry Chenausky

President Dana Burton welcomed everyone and the meeting was called to order at 6:10.

**October Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes published in the Bog. The vote was in favor.

**Treasurers Report: No report available.** As Andrea is not available, Joanne will be taking a more active role as Treasurer until further notice. Andrea will continue to make deposits and sign checks; Joann will do all the bookkeeping and monthly reports that we can vote on to file for audit.

**Speaker – Mary Ann Rubis – 2022 Zonta Convention in Hamburg Germany and Every Member Every November campaign**  
**Convention** – Zonta International's 65th Convention is in the beautiful waterfront city of Hamburg, Germany, from June 25-28, 2022. This will be a special convention, as it is the first one of our second century of empowering women through service and advocacy, and the first to offer both an in-person and virtual option. Attending an international convention is an amazing experience with opportunities to participate in the business workings of Zonta; to hear guest speakers of international renown; attend workshops inspiring intelligent impact; interact with Zontians and guests from around the globe; and to immerse yourself in another country's culture. The convention venue will be the newly opened Congress Center Hamburg. Zonta President Sharon Langenbeck and President-elect Ute Scholz (who we met at Fall Conference) have toured the site and are very pleased with the host club's plans. Practical tips for visiting Germany and 22 suggested things to do in Hamburg are published on the Zonta website at News/Events/Convention. Also available at that site are the Convention Program and information on an event app for your phone; early Registration options and rates, and hotel accommodations. The club will receive an emailed packet of information in early April with information for Credentials and Delegates, Voting, and proposed Bylaw changes for members to review.

**Every Member Every November** - November is the time our global community comes together to celebrate Zonta International, our anniversary and our long history of working for women's rights and gender equality. Over the last 102 years, Zonta International has improved the lives of countless women and girls through our service and advocacy and the generous support of our Zonta clubs and members. On November 8 and through the month, we are invited to join fellow Zonta members around the world and make a commitment to the Zonta Foundation for Women's International Service Fund. Through your generous donations, we are making a measurable impact on women and girls in 16 countries. Go to Zonta.org and click on Donate. Any amount counts!



## Induction of Kerry Chenausky

Mary Ann Rubis did the honors – personally targeted and professionally done as always. We are delighted to have Kerry join the Quaboag Club. She has already jumped in to deliver poinsettias for our annual fundraiser! \$50 will be donated in her name to the Zonta Foundation for Women.

## Committee Reports

**Service** – After discussing various options at the November business meeting, it was decided to offer three options for holiday giving in 2021. Pick 1, 2 or all 3.

1. Purchase a gift from a wish list of children in the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) — Suanne and Stacy will coordinate. If this is your personal choice, donations/purchases need to be made AND in their hand before 12/11.
2. Donate a gift card for the Palmer Domestic Violence Taskforce's Christmas for Survivors project. Dana will coordinate. If this is your personal choice, donation/purchases need to be made and delivered to Dana before 12/11 for delivery to our contact.
3. A proposal was made – but not voted yet – to use Service Funds to purchase \$25 gift cards for single mom/grandmother families and individuals in the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for food and necessities.

*Continued on page 4*

Just in time for the stressful holidays!!



**Stephanie Lora Bearce** will join us on December 13 at 6pm as our guest speaker.

Stephanie is a Mindset & Empowerment Coach and Speaker, and Intuitive Energy Healer for entrepreneurs looking to make a big impact on the world. Having finally broken out of the cage of the "good girl", she's made it her life's mission to help other women find their freedom, too. Stephanie helps women everywhere discover their inner truth, heal deeply and profoundly, and live a powerful life OUT LOUD as their most unapologetic and authentic selves in order to build the joy-filled life and business they dream of!

Check out her website [uplevelingunapologetically.com](http://uplevelingunapologetically.com) for all the ways she can help you take better care of yourself!

*November Business Meeting minutes continued*

**After the meeting,** Joanne and her committee sent the following email vote that was approved by all members voting: "A proposal was made to use Service Funds to purchase \$25 gift cards totaling \$500 to be used for food and necessities supporting children served by DCF who are living with bio family members." **The Service Committee thanks you!**

REMINDER: The service committee is actively looking for opportunities for hands on projects and other worthy causes needing funding. Service request form is online at [zontaqv.org/resources](http://zontaqv.org/resources).

**Membership – Gloria Caballero Roca** was unavailable tonight but will sworn in at the next meeting.

REMINDER: Individuals interested in learning more about Zonta and existing members who would like a refresher are invited to attend an upcoming Zonta Orientation meeting on Zoom that will provide an overview of Zonta – modeled on competency guidelines provided by ZI. Contact Mary Knight for an invitation link.

**Nominations – Step Up!** You will be mentored and supported. Please contact Dana, Trish, Kris or Janet. NEEDED:

Volunteer to step up and join the Board as Vice President NOW, with the hope of serving as President for the next biennium.

And a second person to serve as Vice President for the next biennium.

A third volunteer needed to serve as Treasurer for the next biennium

**Advocacy – 16 Days of Advocacy /Zonta Says No campaign** will run from 11/25 – 12/10. The committee is open to ideas.

**After the meeting,** Pam sent out an invitation to a postcard party - with the purpose of letting our representatives in Massachusetts know that we would like them to vote for ending child marriage. *Unchained at Last* has everything we need to know - a printable postcard template, a list of legislators to send them to - everything but the stamp (which Pam offered to buy)!

Learn more about this organization at <https://www.unchainedatlast.org/>, Click on Events to view recorded talks on this issue.

**Poinsettia Fundraiser** – Liz has sent letters out to past buyers and members are encouraged to invite friends, neighbors, colleagues, local merchants, etc. to purchase the beautiful plants for themselves or to give as gifts. Forms are online at [zontaqv.org/poinsettia](http://zontaqv.org/poinsettia). Delivery will be the week after Thanksgiving.

**Scholarships** – Kris has volunteered to head this committee. Learn more about the four education awards offered by Zonta International at <https://www.zonta.org/web/Programs/Education>

**Next meeting: December 13 @ 6pm**– ZOOM Business meeting.

Dana thanked everyone for attending and we adjourned at 7:05

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Knight, Secretary



## Ankaa: Empowerment Through Knowledge and Action

**Julie Vasbinder**, a prior schoolmate of President Dana Burton, is involved in an exciting start up at the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana, Africa. She will be visiting us at the December meeting to share her venture of creating a safari lodge unlike any other, one which will combine an opportunity to empower and uplift women within the community while also providing the prospect for travelers to experience the wildlife and landscape of Africa.

Botswana, while rich in natural resources and solid minerals, has limited social resources available for the women and children. Inadequate educational opportunities coupled with low employment prospects, has led many women to leave their dependent children to find work in the remote safari camps across Botswana's rich lands. For long periods of time, children are left without consistent parenting, proper guidance, and an advocate for their educational and social development. It is commonplace for these children – some as young as nine years old – to be sexual assaulted or raped while away at their respective public boarding schools.

The recent global Covid-19 pandemic has only further exacerbated the conditions for these women and children. According to the 2020 US Aid ARISA Report, tourism sectors in Botswana were deeply impacted by the pandemic lockdowns resulting in significant decrease of demand for cultural handcrafts previously supplied by local women to tourists. It was this direct impact on a family's financial resources coupled with men being mandated to be at home during the lockdowns, which increased tension within the home, leading to higher rates of Gender Based Violence including domestic abuse and rape ([www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)).

While current practice in the safari tourism industry does not provide women with many opportunities for leadership roles such as lodge managers, safari guides, head chef, etc. – the **Ankaa Lodge** will. Many women possess the knowledge and skills to perform the tasks of these positions, however they lack the resources to acquire the degrees and correct licensing required to perform such professional tasks as guiding, poling, cooking etc.

**Ankaa**—which translates to *‘The Phoenix’* in Arabic and globally symbolizes rebirth, hope and renewal—will be a mission-based lodge: its foundation will be based on empowering these women through education, employment, and support/mentoring. The lodge will provide employment in previously male-dominant positions, hands-on education, and access to proper licensing, as well as the opportunity to gain knowledge of transferable skills which would allow the women to advance within the industry – thus reaching further than just this individual lodge. Additionally, funding community initiatives to build local schools closer to African savannah settlements, will help to reduce the number of children sent to unsupervised boarding schools, providing them with a nurturing environment; one that will effectively lower their chance of sexual abuse and rape within their adolescent years.



It is Julie's hope that through accessible education, obtainable employment, and the backing of community initiatives, the project can assist the Okavango Delta region build more than just a woman-owned, operated, and managed safari lodge; it will also provide long-overdue support for abused African women to rise from their ashes and indisputably soar.

At the December meeting, Julie will fill us in on how she got involved in this venture and update us on progress of her dream. In the meantime, check out her GoFundMe page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/ankaa-women-empowerment-via-knowledge-action>

*If you educate a man, you educate an individual. If you educate a woman, you educate a nation.*  
- African Proverb



# Advocacy Report – Ending Child Marriage

Recap of 11/10/21 UNICEF Webinar on Ending Child Marriage

Debbie Wood, Committee Member

**Mathilde Simas**, a filmmaker from Capture Humanity presented a video "Forced to Marry" depicting a child bride from Uganda. Because the father had left the family her mother sold her at the age of 16 when she left school. The young girl had an arranged marriage without her consent at the age of 16.

Another presenter was **TyTurner** from Advocacy in the USA/ UNICEF. In regards to the Global Program to End Child Marriage he cited some 300 million young girls are victims. He indicated the Global Program managed to prevent 25 million young girls in the last decade, mostly from South Asia. He

indicated 57,000 young girls who participated in Sierra Leone, 5,000 in Ethiopia, 1.3 million in India were reached by the global program. To end child marriage by 2030 the process must be 17 times faster than programs in the last decade. He indicated that Covid 19 saw an increase in child marriage worldwide. He recounted that the consequences of child marriage include derailing a girl's education, increasing the likelihood that a girl will be the victim of domestic abuse and higher rates of maternal mortality.

**Fraidy Reiss**, creator of Unchained at Last which is NY based, is a survivor of child marriage in the U.S. She calls it forced marriage. If a girl under 14 attempts to leave she is considered a runaway and not welcome in domestic violence shelters so is usually returned home. Minors also have difficulty obtaining legal representation and cannot divorce, resulting in many committing suicide. Child marriage is considered a human rights abuse which interferes with the health, safety and education of young girls. 60,000 in the U.S. yearly are married to older men and it should be considered rape of a minor but is rarely prosecuted. Five states and 2 territories now make child marriage illegal for any girls under 18. They include, N.J., Penn, Minnesota, Rhode Is. and N.Y. In VT and CT legislation is pending.

Mass legislation to end child marriage has been presented for the 3rd time. Mass State **Rep. Kay Khan** indicated that 1,231 children as young as 14 were married between 2000 and 2016. 84% were wed to adult men, 14 marriages took place during the pandemic in Mass. An Act to End Child Marriage was filed during a 3rd session by Rep Khan and a colleague. 100 legislators signed this bill so far. Members of Unchained at Last who have appeared at the state capital and other locations with girls/women in bridal gowns with their mouths taped and in chains have been effective in helping with bipartisan support. The Act has passed unanimously in the Senate and it is hoped pending bills will pass in the House before July 3, 2022. Zonta and other organizations including UNICEF have been working to pass legislation.

**Story of a Survivor** was presented depicting Jenn who was born in the South. Both of her parents were alcoholic and abusive. When she was living with her father a friend age 42 groomed her for sex. She got pregnant at age 16 and her mother insisted she had to marry. She tried to go to high school but was forced to quit once she got married. She got pregnant 5 more times and has 2 living children. It was discovered that the man had molested other kids. Jenn attempted to kill herself and ran away but with no place to go the police returned her since she was legally married. She managed to pass some Navy recruitment tests and entered the Navy, eventually getting her two boys back.

## Call to Action

Take part in the postcard writing event detailed on page 2 of this newsletter

Educate yourself and others:

<https://www.unicef.org/stories/child-marriage-around-world>

<https://zontausa.org/end-child-marriage-in-the-usa/end-child-marriage-action/>

[https://www.zonta.org/Web/Programs/ISP/Ending\\_Child\\_Marriage](https://www.zonta.org/Web/Programs/ISP/Ending_Child_Marriage)

[https://www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Tools/Advocacy\\_Tools/Ending\\_Child\\_Marriage\\_Tools.aspx](https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Tools/Advocacy_Tools/Ending_Child_Marriage_Tools.aspx)



# Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser

## Liz Reeves, Chair

The order forms have been mailed out and are also available on our website for members to share with family, friends, colleagues, hairdressers, dentists and the list goes on. The medium plants are \$21.00 and the large are \$28.00. Deliveries and pickups will start the week after Thanksgiving. Contact me with any questions.



### The ZONTA Club of Quaboag Valley Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser

We invite you to participate in our annual poinsettia fundraiser. These plants brighten up the office and home during the holiday season, and make wonderful gifts for friends, colleagues and clients. These florist-quality Poinsettias in foil-covered pots are available in two sizes and four colors. Deliveries will be made between late November and early December.

**To order: Complete the order form and (1) mail OR fax to the Committee Chairs (contact info below) or (2) provide to the Zonta Club member who will call you in the next two weeks. Payment is due at delivery. Make checks payable to "Zonta of Quaboag Valley".**

**Business/Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Size / Cost		Color Selection		Subtotal Multiply quantity times cost
	Medium (5-7 blooms) \$21	Large (10-14 blooms) \$28	Red White	Pink Pink & White*	
<i>Example:</i> 2	<i>Large</i>		<i>Red</i>		\$56

*\* limited quantities of pink & white, so please note 2<sup>nd</sup> choice on same line.*

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zonta of Quaboag Valley – Poinsettia Fundraiser Committee Members**  
Committee: Liz Reeves, Patti Matthieu, Mary Knight, Susan Seaver

Phone: (413) 583-4283 Fax: (413) 547-0024 E-mail: Info@ZontaQV.org  
Mailing Address: Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, PO Box 1034 Belchertown, MA 01007-1034

*Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. The Quaboag Valley Club uses profits from this fundraiser to support local community projects such as raising awareness on issues of child marriage, domestic violence, homeless women veterans, trafficking of women, and more. Visit us at zontaqv.org for more information. Thank you!!*



2022



## YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD

Recognizing young women for their commitment to volunteerism, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide



### 1 APPLICATION, 3 OPPORTUNITIES

Club award  
Varies by club

32 district awards  
US\$1,500 each

10 international awards  
US\$5,000 each

Applications must be received by the applicant's local Zonta club's deadline. To locate a club near you and download an application, please visit: [zonta.org/YWPAAward](http://zonta.org/YWPAAward).

#### CLUB DEADLINE:

MARCH 8, 2022  
Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley  
[www.zontaqv.org](http://www.zontaqv.org)

#### SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:

Kristin Goold  
82 Catalpa Ter, Springfield, 01119  
413 783-4376  
[kmgoold@aol.com](mailto:kmgoold@aol.com)

The Young Women in Public Affairs Award is a Zonta International program funded by contributions to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.