



ZONTA

CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

2023—2024 Dates—Mark your Calendar

November 25—December 10 Zonta Says No!—because no woman should live in fear of violence! The Advocacy committee will share ideas on how members can increase Zonta's credibility and visibility on women's issues during these **16 days of Activism**

December 11th 6pm @ Keough-Huff home * in Belchertown for a holiday potluck, board games, and music. Collecting holiday items for youth and teens at Girls Inc.

January 15th 6pm Ludlow Country Club *

Note this is the 3rd Monday in January

In honor of Amelia Earhart Day, **Aerospace Engineer Grace Gerhardt will share her experiences in a male-dominated profession.**

February 12 6pm Ludlow Country Club *

Andrea Bordenca, founder and community engagement organizer of Lead Yourself Youth, will facilitate a panel discussion on foster children who are falling through the cracks and why we should care.

Period Project—we will also collect items for foster children and survivors of abuse and homelessness.

March 11 5:30pm Ludlow Country Club *

Women Making a Difference in honor of International Women's Day. Nominations are Open! (page 8)

March 11—22 CSW68—UN Women NYC

April 1—30 May Calendar Raffle Chance Sales

April 18 5:30 PM Ludlow Country Club*

Women's Health program.

Sales of Calendar Raffle chances

May Calendar Raffle

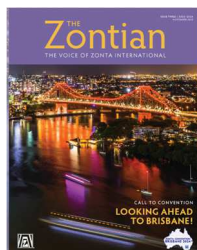
May 13 5:30 PM Ludlow Country Club*

Zonta Foundation For Women and United Nations

June 27—30

**Zonta International Convention
Brisbane, Australia**

* Email info@zontaqv.org to
RSVP—\$28 Buffet



Hello fellow Zontians & Friends,

In the Spirit of Giving at this time of year, we invite all to support Gifts for Kids being collected by Girls, Inc. of the Valley (page 2) or gather items for family in need in your community.

December is also a good time to introduce more Zonta Spirit in our club at the get together at Chris and Karen's. It is an informal opportunity to meet and connect with individual members. (page 2).

Know someone in a STEM field or someone interested in women succeeding in traditionally male-dominated environments? Think about inviting them to our January meeting. We welcome back Grace an inspirational woman in a male dominated field. (page 7)

Best for happy holidays and wishing all a healthy, productive and prosperous new year.

Cyd Melcher,
President

November's meeting was very educational. The report from the Women's Fund was quite eye-

opening. There was definitely a lot of information to digest but I felt it was important to hear. We had some wonderful women and men join us from BHN Valley Human Services as well. It was great to hear from another organization that is working to support and help women and girls to achieve the best life they can..

A link to the Gender Equity Report 2023 Key Findings from the Women's Fund of Western MA is at www.zontaqv.org. Sincere thanks to presenters: **Amihan Matias**, Senior Director of Community Partnerships, **Sarah Monson**, Senior Director of Philanthropy and **Lisa Ranghelli** from the Public Health Institute of Western Mass. Lisa, a lead researcher for the report

Chris Keough-Huff
Co-Vice President

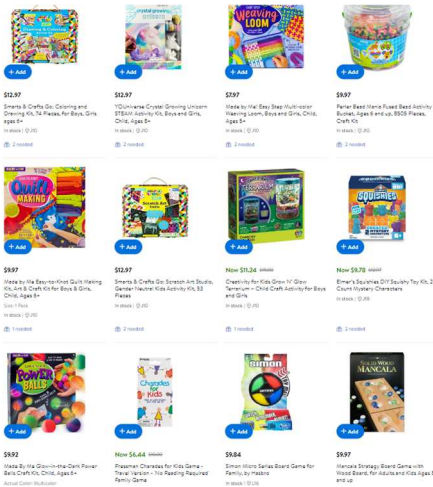
Best wishes to
Chris Keough Huff 12/11
Pamela Albertson 12/22
Heather Oatis 12/24



Fellowship and Zonta Spirit

Join us for a Pot Luck dinner, a little business, a lot of music, board games and laughter.

December 11, 2023 @ 6pm
 Chris and Karen Keough-Huff's
 homestead
 357 Stebbins St., Belchertown
 Bring a dish to share



Gifts for Kids

Thank you for choosing to donate to Girls Inc. of the Valley's toy drive! On or before 12/15, please visit the **wish list registry at Walmart**.—the link is on www.zontaqv.org. Gifts will be shipped to Girls Inc. headquarters to distribute in time for the holidays. If you want to help with the distribution, contact Anna Gerena at agerena@girlsincvalley.org.

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley District I, Area II, Charter 1317 of Zonta International Club Officers 2022—2024

- President:** Cynthia Melcher
- Vice President:** Karen Keough-Huff
Chris Keough-Huff
- Treasurer:** Susan Seaver
Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
- Secretary:** Mary Knight
- Directors:** Kerry Chenausky
Patricia Pupek
Dana Burton

Committee Chairs/ Members 2022—2024

- Finance/Audit: Chair:** Pam Albertson,
- Membership: Chair**
- Visibility: Chair** Mary Knight, Dana
- Advocacy/UN: Pam Albertson, Chris, Karen, Debbie**
- Climate Action: the Keough-Huffs, Mary, Dana**
- Service: Chair** Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Kerry, Chris, Liz, Mary Ann
- Scholarships: Chair** Dana, Pam, Karen, Mary Ann, Kris
- Poinsettia Fundraiser: Chair** Liz Reeves,
- Golf Fundraiser: Chair** Debra Wood,
- Spring Fundraiser: Chair** Joanne, Mary

- Nominating:** Joanne, Trish, Dana

ZQV Business Meeting Minutes — November 13, 2023 @6pm

Ludlow Country Club

Present: Pam Albertson, Debbie Wood, Liz Reeves, Karen Keough-Huff, Chris Keough-Huff, Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard, Trish Pupek, Chris Chartier

Absent: Marge Cavanaugh, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Mary Ann Rubis, Mary Knight, Dana Burton, Kris Goold, Lisa Foster, Gloria Caballero Roca, Kerry Chenausky, Cyd Melcher, Heather Oatis, Sue Seaver

Guests: Amihan Matias, Sarah Monson, Lisa Ranghelli, Regina Hudson, Andrew Howard, Ashley Higgins, Melissa Hutchins, Deb Shepherd, Nina Nedebro (and daughter Maria).

Chris and Karen, Acting Presidents welcomed everyone and acknowledged the recent celebration of Veteran’s Day.

Following the buffet dinner Karen introduced the presenters from the Women’s Fund of Western Mass. They included **Amihan Matias**, Senior Director of Community Partnerships, **Sarah Monson**, Senior Director of Philanthropy and **Lisa Ranghelli** from the Public Health Institute of Western Mass. Lisa, a lead researcher for the report presented slides from the **Gender Equity Report**. The content included demographics, key findings, employment and earnings, poverty and opportunity, health and well being, reproductive justice, violence and safety, leadership and political participation. It was broken down by counties including Hampshire, Franklin, Hampden and Berkshire. The study revealed growth in the transgender population and underreporting from the indigenous women and girls. It also showed a gender wage gap and disparities in poverty and opportunities adversely affecting women. The study showed a decrease in the teen birth rate and an overall decline in the rate of incarceration for women in Massachusetts. **There is a link to the key findings of this report at ZontaQV.org.** Some of the guests included representatives from BHN which offers services to women likely cited in the report. It was mentioned that annually many local organizations are recipients of the financial grants and support offered by the Women’s Fund of Massachusetts. Zonta was acknowledged as an organization whose similar mission is to serve women and girls locally and worldwide.



that annually many local organizations are recipients of the financial grants and support offered by the Women’s Fund of Massachusetts. Zonta was acknowledged as an organization whose similar mission is to serve women and girls locally and worldwide.

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the Oct 9th minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: Pam referred to the recently shared Treasurer’s Report. Pam and Joanne are sharing Treasurer’s responsibilities while Sue is recovering from hip surgery.

District Conference: There were no members who had attended to discuss the event.*

Service: Joanne was not present but a brief mention was made regarding those annual donations we make and a suggestion that we look at the plan for 2022 and consider donating similarly this year.

Girl’s Inc.: They have an upcoming event on Nov. 28th to assemble feminine hygiene kits.

Poinsettia Sales: Liz reported that order forms have been sent to the businesses and those who supported us in the past. Deliveries will be made the week after Thanksgiving.

December 11th meeting: To be held at Karen and Chris’s home in Belchertown. It will include fun and games and a brief business meeting. All are welcome!

January 15th meeting: To be held at Ludlow Country Club with Grace, an aerospace engineer as guest in honor of Amelia Earhart month.

Karen accepted a motion to adjourn at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Wood, Acting Secretary

* Note from Mary Knight.

There is so much to share! The 2023 Fall Conference was one to remember. We have added audio recordings, slides, updates, and pictures to the Conference website for you. We also captured some thoughts from members on Why Zonta? and posted voting results under District Business. Members of the board will be available to meet on Zoom or maybe in person if your meeting dates work. Start by reviewing the 2023fc.ZontaDistrict1.org and send us your questions!

ZQV Board Meeting – November 20, 2023 6:30 PM Zoom

Present: Mary Knight, Karen Keough-Huff, Kerry Chenausky, Chris Keough-Huff, Trish Pupek

Absent: Sue Seavers, Cyd Melcher, Dana Burton, Joanne Turner Chiacchia, Pam Albertson

Checked in and discussed success of November meeting. Karen will send meal invoice to Pam for payment. Thanks to Debby for taking minutes. Karen has guest book with names of attendees. Need to ask members if they want to follow up on findings/opportunities discussed in the presentation.

Minutes: October minutes of the board were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve.

Treasurer: No discussion. But a reminder that we need to revisit ideas for speaker gifts – something memorable (tied in with Zonta) but cost effective. Book, item from Zonta Store, Jewelry special ordered, Coffee mug....

Fall Conference: Mary reminded members and will mention again in the December Bog that pictures, presentation PowerPoints and audios of speakers, and other interesting tidbits are posited on the Conference website: 2023fc.zontadistrict1.org. Overall it was a very good event, especially the in-person connections.

16 Days of Activism and Zonta Says No – The Advocacy Committee has been unable to meet; Pam has suggested doing Facebook posts using prompts from ZI and other clubs/Districts. We also may want to take advantage of material posted from the Fall Conference on Preparedness. Mary will circulate the material to see if we can adapt it to our needs. <https://2023fc.zontadistrict1.org/advocacy-workshop-preparing-for-climate-emergencies/>

Christmas for Kids – We have not heard yet from Girls' Inc. about ideas for holiday gifts. Joanne will continue to follow with them. They would like our support to partner with them on November 28th for Giving Tuesday. This year our teens are going to prepare and distribute menstrual hygiene kits. We can put together the materials you have or if you pre-make them we can distribute them.

December 11 Business Meeting @6pm

We are planning a fun potluck and games night at the Keough-Huff home. Mary will create a flyer and distribute.

IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEMS

Nominations for Women Making a Difference – 3 or more to be celebrated at our March meeting. Women who are often behind the scenes but instrumental to making a difference in the lives of women and girls.

Support for February meeting on Foster Kids – in addition to inviting guests for a panel discussion on the status of these children, we are also collecting personal hygiene products for different ethnic groups to be distributed through participating organizations.

January meeting will be 1/15 (Ludlow CC is not available on 1/8). We are delighted to welcome Grace Gerhardt, an Aerospace Engineer graduate who works as a manager at Pratt & Whitney in a mostly male-dominated department. Like Amelia, Grace has learned to overcome adversity and show a tenacious spirit.

Newsletter – deadline 11/25

Acting Presidents Karen and Chris – please outline a message **ALL** – please share ideas to include

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Knight, Secretary

Poinsettia Fundraiser—Last Call

Liz Reeves and her team are delivering poinsettias for our latest fundraiser. If you know of businesses and individuals who would be interested in ordering our flower-shop quality Poinsettias for the holidays, please send their email to info@ZontaQV.org with Poinsettia in the subject line OR direct them to the website zontaqv.org/poinsettia/ for the order form! The price has increased by \$1, but we all know this is still a good deal for these top-shelf, long-lasting plants.



OneCanHelp.org provides the missing resources at-risk youth, foster children and underserved families involved in the juvenile court and/or child welfare systems urgently need to address concerns, improve difficult lives and build better futures.

For a minimum donation of just \$10.00 per e-card, you can personalize this artist-designed holiday greeting and we will email it to your friends and family, letting them know of the impactful contribution you made in their honor.



Sender's Info

My First Name *

My Last Name *

My Email Address *

Join Our Email List
Receive our monthly newsletter with updates and stories of impact.

Number of cards I would like to send: *

Total Donation: \$10.00

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is shining a light on Foster Care at its February 12th meeting at the Ludlow CC.

You will want to invite guests to this meeting. We will share **opportunities to be part of solution, including:**

Personal involvement- Foster parent, respite support, volunteer advocate

Financial support – WonderfundMA.org, Duffle bags, underwear, sports bras, socks, leggings, sweatshirts. Etc.

Advocacy – Share info, support need for more services in Western MA

The program will be facilitated by **Andrea Bordenca** and include a **Panel Discussion -**

Department of Children and Family services (DCF) – what it takes to be involved in Foster Care system

Friends of Children – Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – how to advocate for children in need

Volunteer Case Review Coordinator – how to participate on panels to review the case of children who have been placed in foster homes or group homes

We will have a **Packet of Resources** for attendees to take away

And we will collect some dignity for this population and for survivors of abuse and homelessness: feminine and hygiene items and products, especially hair products for people of color.

2024

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, 2 OPPORTUNITIES

Quaboag Club
award is
\$1000

37 district 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.

Because Zonta International believes that young women are the key to women's advancement in the field of public service, it offers the **Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award**, which recognizes young women, ages 16-19, for demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes, and encourages them to continue their participation in public and political life.

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley awards \$1000 for the winning applicant and then forwards the application to the Zonta District 1 YWPA Committee for consideration. The winner for the District is presented to Zonta International for a \$5000 award. In addition to the monetary benefit, awardees also get to network with other winners around the world. It is definitely worth the effort.

Please share with young women you admire and have them to download the application at www.zontaqv.org/scholarships
Deadline for submission is 3/8/24, but not too early! Questions can be directed to Dana Burton, Scholarship Chair

ZONTA CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY

Celebrating Amelia Earhart month

LUDLOW COUNTRY CLUB


TENACITY AS A SUPERPOWER

An Aerospace Engineer graduate who works as a manager at Pratt & Whitney in a mostly male-dominated department shares traits of Amelia Earhart when it comes to overcoming adversity.



SPEAKER Grace Gerhardt

 **DATE**
JANUARY 15, 2024

 **DINNER AND PRESENTATION**
6:00 - 8PM



Info & Registration: ZontaQV.org/special-event

Need some inspiration to start you off in 2024?

Meet Grace Gerhardt and learn about a superpower she has developed for moving through adversity in a focused way. Please join us and bring a friend to the Ludlow Country Club in Ludlow MA on Monday, January 15, 2023. 5:30 - 6 Socialize, 6 pm Buffet Dinner, followed by the Program. **Dinner \$28 is payable by cash, check, or credit card the night of the event, but RSVP by 1/8/24 for the Caterers.**

Grace Gerhardt is a Supervisor at Pratt & Whitney who leads a team of over thirty mechanics in quality engine production by combining strong communication skills with integrity and compassion for others. Grace’s presence on the assembly floor has driven a significant reduction in engine build time while the team ramps up production. Grace believes as long as you take care of your people, the product will build itself.

Grace completed her bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in English from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in 2019 and is expected to graduate with her master’s degree in Systems Engineering in May 2024. When she isn’t working on the engine assembly floor or completing homework, Grace can be found playing video games, writing poetry, or enjoying the outdoors via running and hiking.



How much does the world care about ending violence against women and girls? We don't know. What we do know, is that the human cost of violence against women and girls is incalculable. One in three women experience physical or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations. The COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate change have exacerbated the risks for this violence and generated new threats, amplifying the vulnerability of women and girls. Violence against women and girls disrupts peace and stability within families and communities. It triggers myriad costs to societies in healthcare, education, social protection, justice and productivity, preventing economies from achieving their full potential.

The solution lies in robust responses, including investment in prevention. However, alarmingly, data on how much nations are committing to counteract violence against women and girls remains glaringly sparse. Supporting and investing in women's rights organizations is key to ending violence against women and girls. Research shows that the presence of a strong and autonomous feminist movement is the single most critical factor to drive policy change in ending violence against women and girls both in domestic and global policy making.

Women's organizations play a vital role in providing services on a local level, bolstering women's empowerment and reaching those at risk of being left furthest behind. Yet, only 1 percent of gender-focused state aid is directed to these organizations, and funding has not improved despite increased momentum and clear evidence of need. Only one quarter of countries have systems to track budget allocations for gender equality overall. Data on national budgets to address violence against women and girls are hardly available. According to the latest research, 78 per cent of countries have budgetary commitments to implement legislation addressing violence against women. But it is unclear how countries are integrating prevention across different sectors, including education, health, economic development and social protection.

That is why, during this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, we are asking you to show us how much you care. We call on all citizens: Tell us how you are taking action.

Are you using your creativity to promote a message of zero tolerance to violence? Do you use your time to engage with grassroots organizations working for a world where women and men have equal rights? Or are you perhaps questioning gender stereotypes that contribute to a culture of violence against women in online and offline conversations? We also call on governments worldwide: Invest in prevention to eradicate violence against women and girls.

Every effort invested in preventing violence against women is a step towards a safer, more equal and prosperous world. Violence costs us all. Join us in demanding investments and actions to end it.



Women Making A Difference

March 11th at the Ludlow Country Club we celebrate Women Making a Difference in honor of International Women's Day.* The club is seeking nominations of Women leaders in the community and non-profit organizations deserving of recognition.

Look around your community and identify the amazing women who are making a difference in the lives of women and girls. **Nomination are requested no later than January 5th by email to info@ZontaQV.org.**

Name of a Woman Making a Difference:

Contact Info

Please provide the reason why the individual nominated should be considered for this award.

List personal and professional accomplishments /significant contributions to their community through service, professional or philanthropic efforts. You may also attach personal letters of recommendation.