

ZONTA

CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

Mark your Calendar



January 15th 6pm Ludlow Country Club * (3rd Monday in January)

Amelia Earhart's tenacity and determination are celebrated with this evening's speaker.

Aerospace Engineer Grace Gerhardt will share her experiences in a male-dominated profession.

**February 12 6pm Ludlow Country Club *
Foster Youth in Western MA**

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. We will also collect items for foster children and survivors of abuse and homelessness.

**February 24 10am VVC 200 Venture Way, Hadley MA
Period Project assembly ~ Thanks Andrea!!**

**March 11 5:30pm Ludlow Country Club *
Women Making a Difference** in honor of International Women's Day. Nominations are Open! (page 2)

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.**

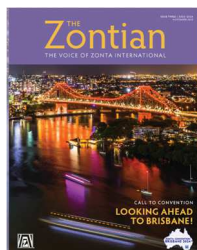
May Calendar Raffle FB #ZontaQuaboagValley

**May 13 5:30 PM Ludlow Country Club*
Zonta Foundation For Women and the United Nations**

**June 27—30
Zonta International Convention
Brisbane, Australia**

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

Stay in the Know about all things Zonta
Zonta.org and click on News & Events
Visit ZontaDistrict1.org for local news.



Hello fellow Zontians & Friends,

Hoping you had a joyous holiday in December and best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2024. We wrapped up the year with donations to four food pantries from our Service Funds and gifts requested by children affiliated with CHD and Girls Inc of the Valley from generous members.

After a short breath, the Board will meet on 1/8 to finalize plans for some compelling programs and activities that are expected to attract attention from community members—so please share!

- On January 15th we are excited to welcome Grace Gerhardt as our Amelia Earhart celebration speaker. Like Amelia, Grace took an unconventional path and has displayed a tenacious spirit. She will share her strategy for addressing challenges on the job. Be prepared to be inspired. (Page 3)
- On February 12th, we will have a program on the status of Foster Youth in Western MA. There are a lot of children who are experiencing trauma and anxiety that can be lessened with help from caring adults who can spare 2 or more hours a month. The stakes are high. (Page 4)
- On February 24th we will hold a Period Project assembly at Andrea Bordenca's Venture Way Collaborative. Between now and then we need to get the word out to collect feminine products, soaps, wipes, etc. We are also collecting toiletries and products for African-American hair types—these items will be shared with foster children as well. (Page 5)
- On March 11th we are planning a Women Making a Difference celebration in honor of International Women's Day. Nominations are needed for 1/15. (Page 2).
- During March, we are collecting 31 items for the May Calendar Raffle. Most appreciated are gift cards to businesses in multiple locations—\$25 and up.

Thanks for all you do to make a difference!
Your Club Board

**Warm welcome to Joelle aka Jo
who arrived 12/14/23.
Bethany is a proud
grandmother!**

**Birthday wishes to
Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard 1/13
Karen KeoughHuff 1/18
Debra Wood 1/19
JoanneTurner-Chiacchia 1/30**





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. Please think about women you've met or in the news and chat with family, friends and colleagues to find someone you want to lift up.

Please bring the information below—in writing—to the January 15th meeting, listing personal and professional accomplishments of the woman you would like to nominate.

Nominee Information:

Name

Address

Phone (Home and/or Mobile)

Email

Why the individual nominated should be considered for this award.

Significant contributions to their family and community through service, professional or philanthropic efforts to benefit women or girls.

**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 Puppek
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

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, 2024**. 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.

Foster Care in Western MA: *Hard Truths, Multiple Opportunities*

Western MA ~ Children who are removed from their birth family due to neglect or abuse can be in multiple foster situations for a long time before being reunited or adopted by another family. Due to a severe shortage of foster homes and volunteer advocates, many of these youth are placed in any home with the space, whether or not it is the best match. While the experiences of foster children vary widely, some common themes emerge during this critical, formative stage of their lives: trauma, instability and uncertainty, emotional and psychological challenges, and educational disruptions.

We can't protect foster children, or any child, from challenges in life, but we can equip them with resilience and prepare them for those hardships. Children need structure, responsibility, and opportunities to see that they can do and learn new things. There is something every one of us can do to help. **Details and Resources:** zontaqv.org/foster

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley will hold a panel discussion and dinner on Monday, February 12th at the Ludlow Country Club for anyone interested in learning more about the realities and opportunities in the Foster Care system in Western MA. The program will be facilitated by **Andrea Bordenca, founder of Lead Yourself Youth** and will include representatives from **Family Justice Advocates, Department of Children and Family (DCF) Volunteer Case Review Program and Family Resources, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** and other organizations that provide services to foster children and families.

Ludlow Country Club in Ludlow MA on Monday, **February 12, 2024**. 5:30 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 to info@zontaqv.org by 2/7 for the caterers.**
* Contact info@zontaqv.org for information on sliding scale fee.

The club is also collecting some dignity for this population and for survivors of abuse and homelessness: feminine and hygiene items and products for African-American hair types. **Details:** zontaqv.org/period/

Visit www.ZontaQv.org/foster to learn about the challenges and joys of fostering children.

Foster Care in WM: Multiple Opportunities to Make a Difference.



Zonta District 1 Period Project

Distributing dignity to women living with homelessness or poverty

ALL WOMEN DESERVE SUPPLIES

PERIOD



The average woman requires over \$6,000 worth of disposables in her lifetime. For some women, that time of the month couldn't come at a worse time.

#TheHomelessPeriod

Tampons | Pads | Panty liners | Wipes | Soap | Underwear

**Please join us in collecting feminine products for women and girls living in shelters and in poverty.
Details at ZontaQV.org/Period**



Together, we can make a period just a little easier.

Members—please ask libraries, hairdressers, fitness places, high school service organizations, and other businesses that would be open to help us collect products (and assemble if available). We can provide them with posters and boxes.

Period Project Assembly will be on Saturday, February 24, 2024 @10am at Venture Way Collaborative, 200 Venture Way, Hadley MA. All supporters are invited to join us and help distribute the finished packets.

Zonta Service Grants Available for 2024



In keeping with Zonta's more-than-100-year tradition of improving the lives of women and girls, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is currently soliciting proposals from local non-profit organizations for projects that benefit women and/or youth. Since its inception in 1991, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has contributed over \$150 thousand in cash and in-kind donations to local non-profits.

The Zonta Service Grant Form application can be downloaded at www.zontaqv.org/service-grant/ or requested by contacting info@zontaqv.org.

2024 Grants ranging from \$100 to \$2000 will be awarded biannually, in May (4/1 deadline) and November (10/1 deadline). Proposals must include specific details of the project including the need that will be addressed with the funds. In reviewing completed applications the committee will give preference for a hands-on component that can involve Zontians (and supporters, if appropriate).

The Quaboag club raised funds for these grants with a Calendar Raffle, Golf Tournament and Poinsettia sales. Two-thirds of all profits are used to fund local initiatives; one-third goes to the Zonta Foundation for Women to fund global projects with partners including UNFPA, UNICEF USA, Girls Not Brides, Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally and Women's Empowerment Principles.

2022-23 grant recipients included:

- Girl's Inc of the Valley** received a grant to help build new programs at their new Holyoke location.
- YWCA of Western MA** received a grant to purchase gift cards for individuals in their network to purchase essentials.
- Safe Passage of Northampton** to offset printing of a program booklet for Say Something - 8-hour skills-focused training program grounded in effective strategies of bystander intervention and empowerment self-defense.
- Food Share in Palmer** in support of stocking personal hygiene products and other items in short supply for women and girls.
- Second Time's a Charm** in Palmer received a grant toward the purchase of different-sized gowns in short supply for teens in need.
- Alianza DV Services, Inc.** (formerly Womanshelter/Companieros) in support of a fall showing of the Clothesline Project - a visual display of violence statistics that often go ignored. Each shirt is made by a survivor of violence or by someone who has lost a loved one to violence.

Do you want to make the world a better place by working toward gender equality? Zonta International and our members work at the international, national and local levels to realize our vision of a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential, where women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men, and where no woman lives in fear of violence.

We need your voice! Join us in building a better world for women and girls.

Visit 2023fc.zontadistrict1.org/why-zonta/ to read and hear testimonials from members near and far.



Attn: Service Chairman
PO Box 1034
Belchertown, MA 01007-1034
413-219-8260
info@zontaqv.org

Request for Service Grant Funds

An object of this club and of Zonta International is to improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy. The Service Committee takes action by offering financial support for local service projects that are aligned with the Zonta International goals. Requests for funding by organizations located in the Quaboag Valley area and surrounding communities will be reviewed by the Service Committee and - if they meet the criteria for our support - brought before the full membership for approval in April (for May awards) and October (for November awards).

Requirements for Grant Applications (check off):

- The money will be used for direct services only and not administration
- The proposed project provides services to individuals in the greater Quaboag Valley
- The project includes a hands-on component that Zontians (and supporters, if appropriate) can take part in
- We are a tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3)
- We have a non-discrimination policy or an organizational philosophy of non-discrimination
- We have defined goals and objectives

Service Grant Funds Application

Attach up to three items that would help support your request, (i.e. brochure, press release, etc)

Name of Organization: _____ Date: _____

Address: Street/Highway _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name/Title of contact for this application: _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail: _____

Circle Grant Amount Category you are requesting: A \$100 - 500 | B \$500 - \$1000 | C \$1000 - \$1500 | D \$1500 - \$2000

Description of the organization: _____

Project summary - the need, how funds will be used, who will benefit, the hands-on component, the timing (use attachment survey cover)

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 don't wait to the last minute!

Questions can be directed to Dana Burton, Scholarship Chair