



ZONTA

CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

Mark your Calendar

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 VWC 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. Invite friends and family! (page 2)



March 11—22 CSW68—UN Women NYC

Free hybrid event held in NYC with organizations from around the world reporting on and planning for building a better world for women and girls.

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

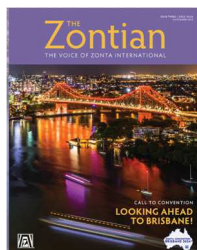
June 10 Zonta Field Trip!

June 27—30

Zonta International Convention Brisbane, Australia
Registration is open for this biannual hybrid event where attendees participate in the business of ZI and get inspired by fellow Zontians and supporters as celebrate accomplishments and plan for the future.

* 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,

Happy February!

In addition to reading all the news in this publication, be sure to check out the District 1 Winter Newsletter—www.zontadistrict1.org

[Winter Newsletter 2024](#)

Zontians are making a difference, locally and globally.

- ZI Convention 2024 Early Bird Registration
- CSW68: March 11-22 Advocacy Toolkit
- Foundation Ambassador Update
- Banner Year for Membership
- Education Awards - Investing in Our Future
- Advocacy Resources for Clubs
- Club updates - from Nova Scotia to Rhode Island

Please invite your network to register now for the February special event on the state of Foster Youth in Western MA.

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



Zonta friends are kindred spirits who inspire and challenge you to become the best version of yourself, while also working with you and thousands of others to build a better world for women and girls.

Birthday wishes to
Cyd Melcher 2/3
Susan Seaver 2/5
Patricia Pupek 2/13
Kristin Goold 2/14



March 11th at the Ludlow Country Club we celebrate **Women Making a Difference** in honor of International Women's Day.

The theme of this year's celebration is **Inspire Inclusion**. When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. IWD 2024 #InspireInclusion The club has chosen four Women leaders in the community deserving of recognition this year, and each inspires inclusion in their day to day work and volunteer efforts.



Please join us to celebrate

Andrea Bordenca—Working with organizations committed to equity, engagement and positive mental health.

Roxanna Harper RN, MSN— Empowering staff and families to provide exceptional home health, hospice and palliative care.

Charlotte Chartier Cote—Creating positive change in dentistry practices and helping cancer patients get needed dental care.

Lisa Bakowski—Raising the bar for self-advocacy, self-awareness and self empowerment of women and children.

Ludlow Country Club in Ludlow MA on Monday, **March 11, 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.

**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

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 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** and other organizations that provide services to foster children and families.

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* 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.



Quaboag Club Business Meeting Notes ~ 1/15/24 Ludlow Country Club

Present: Pam Albertson, Dana Burton, Kerry Chenausky, Kris Goold, Karen Keough-Huff, Chris Keough-Huff, Mary Knight, Mary Ann Rubis, Chris Chartier, Lisa Foster, Liz Reeves, Trish Pupek, Debbie Wood

Absent: Cyd Melcher, Marge Cavanaugh, Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard, Heather Oatis, Susan Seaver, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia,

Speaker: Grace Gerhardt **Guests:** Verna Frasca (Northampton Zontian) & Partner, Jenn Patrie, Elaine Sai, Judy Luddy (Northampton Zontian), Sarah Gerhardt (Grace's wife), Pam Doucette (Karen's sister), Christine Gerhardt (Grace's Mom), John Gerhardt (Karen's nephew - Videographer). Pam Doucette (John's girlfriend)

At 6pm, Karen Keough-Huff welcomed everyone and asked guests to introduce themselves. After reviewing the agenda and saying the Zonta blessing, we enjoyed the buffet.

Karen then introduced our speaker for tonight. **Note: Thank you John Gerhardt for videotaping the talk—see website.**

Grace Gerhardt first joined us in January 2020 as a recent Aerospace Engineer WPI graduate beginning a career at Pratt & Whitney. Today she leads a team of over thirty mechanics in quality engine production. Grace began her presentation with highlights of Ameila Earhart's challenges, tenacity, disappointments, and spurts of success that kept her focused on the end goal. Grace's career start was not a straight line either but it was a filled with learning opportunities, like: learning how to stay calm when out of your depth, humbly stating so when you do not know the answer AND showing dedication by promptly finding the proper response so you earn the reputation of being a reliable resource. The promotion to manager of a department of 30+ mostly experienced older men was another big leap. She had to walk the fine line between acknowledging that she was less knowledgeable about the work and making it clear that she was the boss. She listened, learned, and earned their respect as a manager who worked hard to get them what they needed to get the job done.

Chris Keough-Huff began the business portion of the meeting at 7:15pm

Minutes – A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the November 13th minutes. There were no minutes in December.

Treasurers – Pam sent the December Treasurer report by email. A motion was made to file the report for audit, seconded and voted.

Upcoming Events – Help needed

Monday, February 12th, at the Ludlow Country Club, 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.** Members are asked to invite 2 or more guests.

Saturday, February 24th 10am 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. Members are asked to invite others to be involved - Girl Scouts, students, community in collecting and assembly and set up boxes and posters at strategic locations (let Mary know where so they can be added to zontaqv.org/period). Mary will invite shelters, food banks, etc. to be on hand to accept the packets.

Monday, March 11th, at the Ludlow Country Club we are planning a Women Making a Difference celebration in honor of International Women's Day. Four nominations were made from the floor. The following volunteers will meet separately to finalize candidates and plan the March event: Trish Pupek, Chris Chartier, Liz Reeves and Mary. Chris and Karen are adhoc members.

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. Please reach out to local restaurants, businesses, etc. and ask their support as a marketing opportunity.

Trish asked if others would join her and take a week for picking winners in May. Dana Burton and Mary Knight volunteered so far.

Advocacy:

Climate action - plan for using Emergency preparedness document. <https://zontaqv.org/climate-action-news/>

Commission on the Status of Women – Free Hybrid event in NYC 3/10-22 <https://nqocsw.org/>

Service:: Volunteers need to liaison with Girls' Inc. Liz will be the point person.

Feedback for District 1 – Suggestions for upcoming workshops – i.e., membership, fundraising, service, advocacy, promotion, self-care, embracing different perspectives, etc. - what would our members attend; what could our members teach?

Chris accepted a motion to adjourn at about 7:50.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Knight, Secretary

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.

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

Time to approach businesses and individuals for the Calendar Fundraiser. We collect items in March, then sell chances in April.

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

Empowering women through service and advocacy

DRAFT

Calendar Fundraiser \$25 Dotion

May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Total value of the gifts donated for this fundraiser: \$2200 +. Sale of chances ends 4/30 at 10pm.						
1 \$50 Gift Card Amazon	2 \$50 Gift Card Stop & Shop	3 \$50 Gift Card Barnes & Noble	4 \$75 Gift Card Big Y Stores	5 \$50 Gift Card Randall's Farm	6 \$50 Gift Card Staples	7 \$100 Gift Card Johnny's Bar & Grille
8 <u>Mother's Day*</u> \$300+ Basket of special treats	9 \$50 Gift Card Home Depot	10 \$50 Gift Card Amazon	11 \$75 Gift Card Big Y Stores	12 \$50 Gift Card Amazon	13 \$50 Gift Card Pride	14 \$100 Gift Card Tractor Supply
15 \$180 Tickets for 2 Red Sox Game 6/15 @ 7:10pm	16 \$50 Gift Card Walmart	17 \$50 Gift Card Dunkin	18 \$75 Gift Card Big Y Stores	19 \$50 Basket Texas Roadhouse	20 \$50 Gift Card Dick's Sporting	21 ---\$100 Gift Card Center Square Grill
22 \$100 Gift Card Salem Cross Inn	23 \$50 Gift Card Target	24 \$25 Gift Cards for Cracker Bar- rell & Target	25 \$75 Gift Card Big Y Stores	26 \$50 Gift Card VISA	27 \$50 Gift Card Big Y Stores	28 \$50 Gift Card L.L. Bean
29 \$50 Gift Card Starbucks	30 \$50 Gift Card Bass Pro Shop	31 \$50 Gift Card Atkins	Rules: Starting May 1st, an announcement of the winner for that day will be posted at 6pm on www.facebook.com/ZontaQuaboagValley. The winner will be notified by phone or email, with arrangements for delivery. Then, that name will go back into the pot for the next drawing.			