

ZONTA

CLUB OF
QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

Mark your Calendar

**March 11 5:30pm
Ludlow CC***
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. www.ngocsw.org/

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

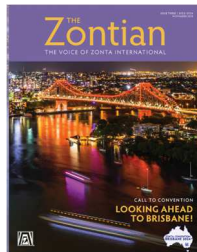
May 13 5:30 PM Ludlow Country Club*
Zonta Foundation For Women and the United Nations

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



CHECK OUT THE NEW DISTRICT WEBSITE! TEMPORARY URL: NEW.ZONTADISTRICT1.ORG
Feedback welcome! Launch planned for April 1st.

Hello fellow Zontians & Friends,

Happy March! This month is very special in the Zonta World! We celebrate International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day—both acknowledging inspiring women in our lives, and we participate in the annual Commission on the Status of Women in NYC—getting updates and identifying next steps in the quest to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide.



The March 11th dinner meeting will be especially meaningful as we honor 5 local women from varied professions—each inspiring inclusion and equity in their work and volunteer efforts. Read about these role models at zontaqv.org/women and invite like-minded friends and family to join us in the celebration. RSVP by 3/7 please to info@zontaqv.org.

February's Foster Care Program was very informative—special thanks to the Andrea Bordenca for facilitating and to the many incredible women on the panel and in attendance for their first hand stories of accomplishments and needs. There is something for everyone to do to help ease the lives of these youth.

The Period Project assembly was a great event with at least 24 people joining to assemble, drop off or pick up supplies. We ran out of bags when we hit 600 kits! Thank you to all the businesses that helped us collect thousands of dollars worth of feminine products and to CHD, Alianza DV, \Girls Inc of the Valley, Amherst Survival Center, the Care Center and other food banks and volunteers who helped get the finished kits to women and girls who need them most. Special thanks to Andrea Bordenca and Robert Allingham for the space and hospitality at Venture Way Collaborative..

We are in the middle of setting up the May Calendar Raffle fundraiser and already have 27 days covered with donations from 7 generous members. Hopefully the remaining members can donate something so this is a true team effort. - and we can even double up on some days!!

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

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 ([Bios at zontaqv.org/women](https://zontaqv.org/women)):

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

Business Meeting—February 12, 2024—Ludlow Country Club

Present: Dana Burton, 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, Pam Albertson, Kerry Chenausky, Kris Goold

Guests: Andrea Bordenca, Judith Luddy, Al Boudin, Kathy Picard, Marnie Henneman, Kimberly Bess, Deborah Levy, Abigail Sweeney, Daisy Acosta, Lashanda Stone, Ginger Elliott, Cassandra Hildreth, Sandy Scribner, Anne Landry, Shannon Grieve, Jennifer Conroy, Gloria Williams, Elizabeth Garcia, Sarah Heinonen (The Reminder)

At 6pm, Chris Keough-Huff welcomed everyone and gave the floor to tonight’s **Moderator Andrea Bordenca** who invited tonight’s panelists to **Daisy Acosta, Lashanda Stone and Ginger Elliot (for Stefany Schaefer)** to stand and introduce themselves. We did a lightning round of introductions for all remaining guests and members, recited the Dinner blessing together and then began the buffet. During dinner, all were invited to share personnel connections to the foster care system and develop questions for the panel.

PROGRAM – Foster Care in Western MA: Hard Truths, Multiple Opportunities

Andrea was a pro in gathering questions in advance and setting the stage for tonight’s Panel discussion on the topic of youth who experience significant barriers as it relates to their physical, mental and emotional well-being – all of which dramatically impact their ability to achieve adult self-sufficiency. After each panelist gave an overview from their perspective of the foster care system, Andrea then posed audience questions to each, making sure key topics of interest were covered during the timeframe available. She then asked for each panelist to wrap up with their key message and ideal outcome of tonight’s event. Thank you, Andrea, for your professionalism!

Key takeaways included:

Due to a lack of volunteers, more than half of youth in foster care do not get all the support they need during a traumatic time in their lives.

Opportunities range from sharing the needs and advocating for change, working behind the scenes to donate money and collect items needed by foster youth, volunteering time and talent to be a resource in the system, getting trained to be a foster care provider and mentoring youth who age out of the foster care system,

We are grateful to the many individuals who joined us tonight from organizations working with Foster youth. Their dedication and passion showed through. Be sure to review www.zontagv.org/foster and decide what you can do to support youth in need.

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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.



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Business Meeting

Chris called the meeting to order at 8:10pm

Minutes from January 2023 posted in the Bog newsletter. **A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as is.**

Treasurers Report for January 2023 emailed by Pam. **A motion was made to file the report for audit, seconded and voted.**

Dana realized tonight that we need an updated credit card reader. She was able to find the needed item online for about \$50.

A motion was made, seconded and voted for Dana to purchase a new Credit Card Reader on behalf of the club.

Two other notes:

1) **Chris Keough-Huff** needs our support for getting an accurate count for the caterer by the Wednesday before meeting. All members are asked to RSVP Yes or No and provide names of guests; Mary will share names of those who register online.

2) **Debbie Wood** has offered to be the 'Sunshine chair' until the end of the year and send cards to members who are ill, have birthdays, deaths in the family or are celebrating special occasions. Thank you, Debbie!!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 24th 10am we will hold a Period Project assembly at Andrea Bordenca's Venture Way Collaborative – see zontaqv.org/period. Between now and then we need to get the word out to collect feminine products, soaps, wipes, etc.

Because we have fewer members involved in this effort to help collect items, a motion was made and seconded to purchase \$500 worth of products to supplement what we anticipate gathering. The vote in favor was unanimous

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 women have been selected to receive this year's award: Lisa Bakowski, Andrea Bordenca, Charlotte Chartier Cote, and Roxanna Harper RN, MSN. **A motion was made and seconded to award each \$500 to be donated in their name to the nonprofit of their choice. The vote in favor was unanimous.** We would also like to give each individual a small memento as a remembrance of the occasion – preferably something engraved. Ideas needed. In addition, we have invited Dr. Christina Royal – last year's Woman of the Year - to join us as a keynote speaker for the evening. **A motion was made and seconded to award her an Honorary Membership to our club. The vote in favor was unanimous.** Mary will order a pin and badge, and prepare the application for her.

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. You can start sending information on what is donated (Name, description, value) to Mary for the prize spreadsheet. As in the past, please hold on the item and be responsible for sending it to the gift's winner when selected in May.

Advocacy:

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

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

Service::

Liz is meeting with a representative of Girl's Inc. to see if we can identify hands on opportunities for our members.

A new request from Wreaths with a Reason <https://wreathswithareason.com/> - dedicated to ending human trafficking – was received. Mary Ann Rubis will circulate to the Service Committee for review and consideration.

TABLED: 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?

Adjourn

Chris accepted a motion to adjourn at about 8:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Knight, Secretary

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.			