



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG  
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

## 2025 Dates—Mark your Calendar

**Monday, March 10th Women Making A Difference – Ludlow Country Club 5:30 Reception, 6:00 Dinner and program.** In honor of International Women's Day we will celebrate these amazing women:

**Elizabeth Dineen**, ED of YWCA W.Mass

**Tanisha Areana**, ED of Arise for Social Justice

**Grace Makari-Judson**, Oncologist / Rays of Hope

**Elizabeth Wills O'Gilvie**, Director Springfield Food Policy Council and interim ED for Gardening the Community

**March 10—21 CSW69/ Beijing + 30 in New York City** and online. Learn more about the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at [www.zonta.org/csw](http://www.zonta.org/csw)

**Monday, April 14th – Emergency Preparedness – Planning for the Unknown – Ludlow Country Club 5:30 Reception, 6:00 Dinner and program.** In honor of Earth Day we will shine a light on impacts a changing climate has on our communities. Guest speaker, Melissa Marshall, will speak on the need for emergency evacuation plans specific to people with disabilities.

**In April we sell chances for the May Calendar Raffle!** Start making a plan for sharing the news by email, on social media and in person!

**Monday, May 12th – Zonta and the Foundation for Women – Ludlow Country Club 5:30 Reception, 6:00 Dinner and program.** This is a membership meeting – anyone interested in joining Zonta as a member or supporter is invited to join us at no cost. Learn about the international aspects of Zonta and how clubs in 64 countries work together to make the world a better place for women and girls.

**Monday June 9th— Member-Guest Potluck and Social at @ KeoughHuff home at 6pm**

**June 20-22, 2025—North American InterDistrict Meeting (NAIDM) –Detroit - [www.zontanaidm.org/](http://www.zontanaidm.org/)**

\*\*\*\*\*Guests are always welcomed!!! \*\*\*\*\*

Email [info@zontaqv.org](mailto:info@zontaqv.org) to RSVP

Dinner cost \$35pp cash or check; \$30 for table of 8

Pay online at [www.zontaqv.square.site](http://www.zontaqv.square.site)

Dear Zontians and Friends,

One of the best times of our Zonta year is our March meeting when we recognize Women Who Make a Difference in celebration of International Women's Day. It is such a pleasure to elevate those who have devoted their lives to improving conditions for members of our community, especially women and girls. This year, we are celebrating **Grace Makari-**



**Judson**, Oncologist / Rays of Hope, **Tanisha Arena** (Arise), **Liz Wills -O'Gilvie** (Gardening the Community), and **Liz Dineen** (YWCA of Western MA). Our keynote speaker for the evening is **Vanessa Pabón-Hernandez** (Women's Fund of Western MA). The four honorees will receive \$500 for a cause of their choice. Vanessa will be sworn in as an honorary Zontian along with our two newest members (see page 2).

Details and bios are available at [www.ZontaQV.org/women](http://www.ZontaQV.org/women). You can read more about the event elsewhere in this newsletter and I hope you'll make every effort to attend. **RSVP is required. Email [info@zontaqv.org](mailto:info@zontaqv.org) by Wednesday.**

Thank you to everyone who participated in making our 2025 Period Project a success. We collected hundreds of dollars worth of menstrual products and were able to put together nearly 500 packets, which were distributed to a number of organizations in Western and Central Massachusetts.

In April our meeting will feature Melissa Marshall, JD, who is the Director of Operations for The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies. Melissa has over 30 years' experience managing disability rights programs, projects, and organizations. She will speak about how disasters impact people with disabilities, especially women.

We are interested in putting emergency Go Bags together for an education Climate action in recognition of Earth Day—let me know if you are interested in being part of an ad-hoc committee

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you for all you do,

Cyd Melcher, President

P.S. Please submit items for the Calendar raffle to Mary by March 25th so we can get the calendar ready for sale in April.

# Welcome to our Newest Members!!

**Colleen M Moynihan M.Ed.**  
moynihacolleen@yahoo.com



Raised and educated in Massachusetts, Colleen Moynihan was a senior executive in the financial services industry for twenty years for two Fortune 100 companies. A change of career to Executive Director of an international human rights nonprofit provided work with the United Nations. The Eldering Consortium, her business consulting firm, has worked with small businesses and nonprofits to make their work more impactful since 1991. A recent client developed a program to assist individuals with a disability to start their own business. The program's success came to the attention of the Social Security program's Disability Income Department. Their interest pushed the program to be replicated nationally. Campus Neighbors of Springfield Inc, a grass roots, social justice nonprofit, created by Ms. Moynihan, was successful in resolving several neighborhood challenges eroding property values and quality of life. Colleen has served on multiple boards locally, regionally and nationally and has been recognized for her professional and community service. In today's world, being with family and playing piano duets with friends is the best. Cyd Melcher introduced Colleen to Zonta of Quaboag Valley

**Connie Mahoney**  
conniesarian@aol.com



Connie is community-oriented and responsive, motivated by women's and children's advocacy. She retired from public school administration after thirty-nine years. During this time Ms. Mahoney served on the Mayor's Violence Prevention Task Force and the local Board of the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention, both in Springfield. Connie has presented information on bullying prevention on various platforms for audiences of over 500 participants nationwide.

Ms. Mahoney is from Philadelphia. She relocated to Massachusetts in 1990. Currently Connie resides in Somers, CT with her husband. Two unique and beautiful women call her "Mom," while two little angels call her "GiGi". Trish Pupek introduced Connie to Zonta of Quaboag Valley

## Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley District I, Area II, Charter 1317 of Zonta International Club Officers 2025—2026

- President:** Cynthia Melcher
- Vice President:** Karen Keough-Huff  
Chris Keough-Huff
- Treasurer:** Joanne Turner-Chiacchia  
Pam Albertson
- Secretary:** Mary Knight
- Directors:** Patricia Pupek  
Andreea Rotaru

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

## Committee Chairs/ Members 2025—2026

- Finance/Audit:** Pam Albertson,
- Membership:** Mary Knight, Cherie Braun
- Visibility:** Mary Knight, Andreea Rotaru
- Advocacy—Zonta Says No, Climate Action:** Karen Keough-Huff
- Service—Hands-on projects, Grants:** Mary Ann Rubis, Liz Reeves
- Scholarships:** Patricia Pupek
- Poinsettia Fundraiser:** Liz Reeves,
- Golf Fundraiser:** Chris Keough-Huff, Debra Wood,
- Spring Fundraiser:** TBD
- Nominating:** Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Patricia Pupek, Dana Burton

## Business Meeting—February 22, 2025 12pm at Venture Way Collaborative, Hadley

**Present:** Karen Keough-Huff, Chris Keough-Huff, Mary Knight, Liz Reeves, Pam Albertson, Cherie Braun, Mary Ann Rubis, Lisa Foster, Trish Pupek, Kris Goold (project only), Debbie Wood

**Absent:** Cyd Melcher, Chris Chartier, Andreea Rotaru, Marge Cavanaugh, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Dana Burton.

**Guests for Period Project:** Donna Sroka (Past District Governor, current president of the Northampton Area Zonta club) Jenn Patrie, Marissa Quintero, Gena Rotas, Barbara J. Decker, Carol Staiti, Connie Mahoney (soon to be member!)

**10am – Noon:** A very busy crew put together nearly 500 packets of feminine products which were picked up by our nonprofit partners to be distributed to women and girls in need.

Note to future: Assign someone to take pictures!! And monitor the number of packets each organization takes.

**12:00 Business meeting of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley called to order by VP Karen Keough-Huff.**

**January Minutes** – There being no questions on minutes published in the February Bog, the minutes were accepted as is.

**Treasurer Report** – There being no questions on report distributed by email, the treasurer’s report was filed for audit.

### Upcoming Events:

**March 9** – The Zonta Club of Northampton Area turns 90 and will celebrate from 2-5pm at the Collaborative for Educational Services on Hawley Street, Northampton. Details at [www.Northampton.ZontaDistrict1.org](http://www.Northampton.ZontaDistrict1.org). RSVP to [northampton@ZontaDistrict1.org](mailto:northampton@ZontaDistrict1.org). The Quaboag club is an underwriter of this event and all are encouraged to attend to learn about the rich history of our sister club.

**March 10 – Women Making a Difference and anticipated Induction of 2 new members (email vote goes out this week).** Lots of moving pieces and all are asked to RSVP your attendance, bring a guest or two and pitch in!

Chris will take care of buffet, numbering the tables and ensuring the caterer’s know this is a special night.

Lisa will bring 7 yellow roses individually wrapped with baby’s breath.

Pam will handle registration and bring four \$500 checks for honorees and five mugs.

Dana – can you help with registration?

Mary will work with honorees to get guest list and names of organizations for donations; seating charts, certificates, etc.

Trish will organize greeters, seaters

Andreea will set up backdrop and do short videotaped interviews at the event.

Kris and Cherie – can you help with Membership table and raffle gift for guests and gifts for two new members?

Mary Ann – please have info on Foundation available

**March 10 - 21 – Commission on the Status of Women** – opportunity to gather virtually (or in person) with organizations around the world working on issues impacting women and girls. Good overview of the event is at [www.zonta.org/csw](http://www.zonta.org/csw). Registration for the event is at [www.ngocsw.org](http://www.ngocsw.org). Expect to see hundreds of workshops, speakers. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations members in 2015, created 17 world Sustainable Development Goals.

[www.sdg.un.org/goals](http://www.sdg.un.org/goals)

**April 14 – Dinner meeting at Ludlow Country Club—Climate Change / Emergency Preparedness focused on women and people with disabilities**



February 22, 2025 meeting minutes continued

**May Calendar Fundraiser** – final fundraiser of the Zonta year. We are looking for 31 gift cards to businesses and restaurants valued at \$25 and up. Please email Mary with details as cards are collected. Deadline is 3/25. We will sell tickets for the fundraiser during the month of April. **Contact Mary for an invitation to use when you solicit gift cards from sponsors.**

**May 12 – Dinner meeting at Ludlow Country Club Zonta Foundation of Women – status on projects around the world**

**June 9 – Member-Guest potluck dinner at the Keough-Huff home. Meet winner of Zonta Young Women in Leadership award**

**June 20-22 – North American InterDistrict Meeting (NAIDM) – Detroit – [www.zontanaidm.org](http://www.zontanaidm.org) – ALL are invited to network with and learn from other clubs in the US and Canada.**

**Other Business:**

**Top-Floor Learning fundraiser** – Debbie will handle putting together a Golf basket for this fundraiser. Let her know if you have any items to include or can assist in assembly. The budget includes \$300 to be used toward this event.

**Venture Way Collaborative, Hadley MA, was made available today by owner and past Zontian Andrea Bordenca. We are very grateful for her generosity!! Andrea will be honored as a 2025 Business West Difference Maker on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Log Cabin. Contact Trish Pupek if you can join us for a table of Zontians to celebrate Andrea. Tickets are \$95 and available at <https://businesswest.com/eventcalendar/difference-makers-tickets/>**

Finally, Chris Keough-Huff will be stepping back from her position as VP due to new job responsibilities and other priorities. She will continue as the liaison for the caterer's at the Ludlow Country Club through the end of May.

Respectfully submitted  
Mary Knight, Secretary

*Empowering Women through service and advocacy*

### Lottery Calendar Fundraiser \$25 Donation

May 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Total value of gifts in this fundraiser total \$ 1300+ Sale of chances ends on 4/30 at 10pm.			1 \$50 Big Y Gift Card	2 \$25 Target Gift Card	3 \$25 Shell Gift Card	4 \$50 Center Grill Gift Card
5 \$50 Olive Garden Gift Card	6 \$25 Starbucks Gift Card	7 \$25 Randall's Gift Card	8 \$50 Big Y Gift Card	9 \$25 Dunkin Gift Card	10 \$25 Soul Shine Consignment	11 \$50 Talbot's Gift Card
12 Mother's Day Gift Basket *	13 \$25 Dunkin Gift Card	14 \$25 Panera Bread Gift Card	15 \$50 Big Y Gift Card	16 \$30 CVS Gift Card	17 \$25 Dunkin Gift Card	18 \$25 Pride Gift Card
19 \$50 Penzys Spices Gift Card	20 \$25 Starbucks Gift Card	21 \$25 Randall's Gift Card	22 \$50 Big Y Gift Card	23 \$25 Randall's Gift Card	24 \$25 Dick's Sports Card	25 \$50 Talbot's Gift Card
26 \$50 Amazon Gift Card	27 \$40 Antonio's Gift Card	28 \$25 Dunkin Gift Card	29 \$50 Big Y Gift Card	30 \$50 Regal Cinema Gift Card	31 \$50 Penzys Spices Card	Thank you for your support!
* Mother's Day Basket value is \$ 250+ Includes Barnes & Noble Gift Card, LL Bean Gift Card, chocolate, gourmet items from Italy, and pampering items that will surprise and delight the winner.				Special thanks to sponsors Kathy Picard, Soul Shine and all members of the Ouseboog Valley club. Your generosity is critical to our success in empowering women and girls.		

## The Service Committee is accepting Service Grant Applications

Mary Ann Rubis and Liz Reeves report that the Service Committee is starting to receive Grant applications.

The first to be approved by club members is the **Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force Library Book Project Proposal**. The \$1905 award will be used to purchase books on consent and boundaries for ages 0-8 yrs. The Task Force has developed a list of 12 recommended books (see attached). We plan to work with public libraries, school libraries, pre-schools, after-school programs, family centers, pediatrician offices and faith groups to make books available and develop activities that go along with the books. We have already met with Ware Public Library and Ware Public Schools, and they are interested in the project and in developing activities to accompany the books, including reading hours and activities that involve practicing asking consent and setting boundaries with puppets. Zontians can participate in reading hours and other activities along with Task Force members. If you are interested in learning more about getting involved, email [info@zontaqv.org](mailto:info@zontaqv.org).



The Service Grant application is available at [ZontaQV.org/service-grant](http://ZontaQV.org/service-grant)

# 2025



## ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

### DESCRIPTION

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



The program operates at the Zonta club, district and international levels. Zonta International offers 37 international awards of US\$5,000. Each district may submit one applicant for consideration for an international award. The five largest districts may submit a second applicant for a total of two applicants.

# 2025

## ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

### APPLICATION FORM

SEND APPLICATION AND DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO:

Application Deadline: <small>(Deadline set by club applicant is applying to.)</small>	March 1, 2025
Zonta Club/e-Club of: District/Area:	Quabaug Valley
To find a club click:	<a href="#">Club Locator</a>
Attention:	Patricia Pupek
Address:	
City/State:	
Province/Country:	
Telephone:	(413) 626-5656
Email address:	PatPupek@comcast.net



Do you know a high school student deserving of this award? The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley deadline is March 1, 2025 for the Club award of \$1,000. The winner will then be eligible for a \$5000 award from Zonta International.

The Application is at [www.zontaqv.org/scholarships](http://www.zontaqv.org/scholarships).

More information on this award can be found at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)—click on Our Programs, then select Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award.

Patricia Pupek, Scholarship Chair

The public is invited to join us in celebrating our Women Making a Difference honorees on March 10th.  
 RSVP by March 4, 2025 at [info@ZontaQV.org](mailto:info@ZontaQV.org).  
 5:30 Reception, 6:00 Dinner followed by the Program.  
 Pay at the door for the buffet (\$30 for table of 8; \$35 individual) or pay online.

Details at [www.zontaqv.org/women](http://www.zontaqv.org/women)  
 and Quaboag Valley FaceBook event.



**Keynote:** Vanessa Pabón-Hernandez – CEO of the Women’s Fund of Western MA. She will be awarded the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley’s Honorary Member status for 2025-2026.

On March 10th at the Ludlow Country Club we celebrated Women Making a Difference in honor of International Women’s Day.

Each year in March, the global community celebrates International Women’s Day (IWD), recognizing women for their achievements regardless of national, ethnic, linguistic, economic or political divisions. The Zonta International community also celebrates Zonta Rose Day, a time to reflect and give tribute to the women who have empowered us.

In this spirit, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley proudly announces its **Women Making a Difference** Award dinner on **March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ludlow Country Club**. As the theme of this year’s International Women’s celebration is [#AccelerateAction](#), the club has chosen a keynote speaker who heads an organization fueling progress toward gender equity by funding the most promising solutions, collaborating with results-oriented partners, and by elevating the collective power of local women to take charge, and to lead with purpose; and four women leaders in the community deserving of recognition for exemplifying the ideals of Zonta and inspiring inclusion in their day-to-day work and volunteer efforts.

**Honorees:**



**Tanisha Arena** is a black woman in community leadership as the Executive Director of ARISE for Social Justice – occupying the world’s messiest intersection, the space where race, gender, culture, identity, politics, and the law all collide.



**Attorney Elizabeth Dineen** serves as Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA of Western Massachusetts. Throughout her career, she has been a strong advocate for women and children.



**Dr. Grace Makari-Judson**, a breast cancer specialist and top-rated oncologist, is Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School-Baystate.



**Elizabeth Wills-O’Gilvie**, board member and interim director of Gardening the Community (GTC), is a food policy activist and produce farmer and has made it her mission to address hunger and a shortage of fresh foods in western Massachusetts