



Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2009

2009-10 CALENDAR

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence 11/25—12/10/2009

December 1 World Aids Day

December 10 International Human Rights Day

December 14 Holiday Dinner Meeting

Meal: Stuffed Chicken Breast, Cranberry Sauce and Rice Pilaf. Presentation by BJ Bourdon on International projects. Bring 'tradition' to share and children's gifts.

January 11 Dinner Meeting

Amelia Earhart Day

January 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 8 Dinner Meeting

February 15 President's Day

March 8 Dinner Meeting

April 12 Dinner Meeting

April 19 Patriot's Day

May 1 Spring Conference

May 10 Dinner Meeting

Installation of officers

Guests Welcome! We meet at **Johnsens Catering** on Main Street in Palmer. See our **Website zontaqv.org** for directions and info about Zonta's good work. **Dinner \$18.00 ***

Notify Mary Knight at 413 219-8260 or info@zontaqv.org of the number of new and/or returning guests, no later than 12/9.

** Member reservations for the dinner meeting are assumed and payment expected unless we are notified 7 days in advance of the meeting.*

President's Message

Dear Sister Zontians,

We certainly marked the 90th anniversary of ZI with a flourish! Over 30 local women professionals were recognized with a yellow rose and well wishes—much to their surprise and delight! Special thanks to Liz's coordination and Lisa's outstanding effort. Bonny Rathbone was clearly the right choice for our Founders Day award—her acceptance speech was inspirational and her donation of the \$200 to the Palmer Domestic Violence Taskforce was very fitting—a real class act. We've inducted two more members—Carly Cavanaugh and Lisa Sedelow—and they've already begun pitching in on various projects. Pam Albertson has been voted in as well and will be inducted in January and guest Carolyn Braskie submitted an application of interest in membership. Governor Nadine Salley sent us a thank you card noting that our "club has long been a model and example of how a relatively small group of dedicated, caring and professional women can carry out the work of Zonta International so well." Well said.

Poinsettias are ready to be delivered and orders are still coming in. We are getting the word out about the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence with daily emails. Your suggestions are welcome! Our member spotlight this month is on Janet DaSilva—an inspirational, fun and insightful Zontian!

The December dinner meeting will be special for a number of reasons. We celebrate the Holiday season together by sharing a holiday tradition in 6 words or less, by donating unwrapped gifts for local children in need, by supporting District I travel budget by buying chances for a unique book celebrating women, and by hearing BJ Bourdon's presentation on ZIF's International projects—always an adventure.

I'd like to get the pulse of members regarding how we are doing on our goals. **Back to basics – learning year** – become more knowledgeable about each other and about Zonta's mission and resources. **Focus on our purpose** – improving the status of women locally and internationally. **Strengthen our club** – retain and add to members and their commitment. Please share your thoughts—by email, phone or in person. Constructive criticism is needed!

Looking forward to seeing you at the December meeting! Please be sure to get me the final count for guests by **Wednesday 12/9**.

Best,
Mary Knight



Commit ▪ Act ▪ Demand: We CAN End Violence Against Women!

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates, November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against

women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- ☛ raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at all levels
- ☛ strengthening local work around violence against women
- ☛ establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- ☛ providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies
- ☛ demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing against violence against women
- ☛ creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women

Check on the daily emails being sent during these 16 days or follow them at www.zontaqv.org

Zonta Bog
 Newsletter feedback
 and content
 suggestions are
 encouraged.
 Please send to
Info@ZontaQV.org



Club Officers 2009—2010

**Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley
 District I, Area II,
 Charter 1317 of Zonta International**

- President Mary Knight
- Vice President Janet DaSilva
- Treasurer Julie Bowder
- Secretary Carol Bardon
- Directors Marge Cavanaugh
 Ann Cormier
 Joanne Turner-Chiacchia

www.zonta2010.org/

Standing Committee Chairs

- Finance.....Julie Bowder
- Membership.....Janet DaSilva
- PR/Marketing.....Mary Knight
- UN/International.....Liz Reeves
- Status of Women.....
- Scholarships.....Carol Bardon
- ZISVAW..... Mary Knight
- Bylaws.....BJ Bourdon
- Environmental.....Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
- Poinsettia Fundraiser. ...Ann Cormier
- Golf Fundraiser.....Debbie Wood
- Archives.....Marge Cavanaugh
- Nominating.....

Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.—Henry David Thoreau

November 9, 2009 Business Meeting Minutes

Johnsen's Catering Palmer, Massachusetts

Members: BJ Bourdon, Carly Cavanaugh, Marge Cavanaugh, Ann Cormier, Janet DaSilva, Dianne Kidd, Mary Knight, Liz Reeves, Mary Ann Rubis, Lisa Sedelow, Wendy Sergeant, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia and Debbie Wood

Absent: Carol Bardon, Julie Bowder, Catherine Chamberlin, Kris Goold

Guests: Nadine Salley, Bonny Rathbone, Monique Cavanaugh, Trish Pupek, Carolyn Braskie, Janice Marciniac, Alissa Sedelow, Bernie Fontaine, Kaitlin Rathbone, Kristine Rathbone, Ryan Nivia, Bryan Rathbone, Nickey Rathbone, Charlotte Swienton, Barbara Windolowski.

Mary Knight called meeting to order at 6pm. The Zonta Blessing was given before dinner.

6:45 **Nadine Salley**, our District Governor, inducted our two new members, **Lisa Sedelow** and **Carly Cavanaugh**. **Pam Albertson** was unavailable and will be inducted later.



Our Founders Day recipient, Bonny Rathbone, was introduced by Mary Knight and she promptly asked that her check be payable to the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force. She continued by praising their efforts and shared a few stories indicating how important their work is to the area. Several friends and family members were on hand to help

honor Bonny—a most deserving candidate for this award.

Raffle prize was won by Carly!

Business Meeting: 7:30

Minutes: The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurers Report: The report will be tabled until the December meeting.

Thank you Debbie Wood for the excellent delegate report on Fall Conference in the newsletter! Joanne shared a few details of the Sunday morning meeting at conference as Debbie was not there. She mentioned the story a couple had shared with them about starting a school in Afghanistan in honor of their son who had been killed on the second plane that hit the Trade Center. Please visit www.goodrichfoundation.org to learn more about the work being done by the nonprofit they have formed.

Joanne also mentioned that donations to the ZIF over the weekend were very generous and that our basket donation to the silent auction was one of the top three choices for bids. It was beautiful!



Fundraising: The poinsettia letters went out the end of Oct. Ann passed around a list of names that received letters for members to call. Please submit any new names! Deliveries will begin the week of 11/30.

Silent "No More!" Auction: BJ felt it would be a good idea to do the auction at the end of April or May and invite women business owners that donate items or not. There seems to be a lot of enthusiasm from the membership. The first auction was such a fun, positive experience. After the holidays Dianne (chair), BJ, Joanne and Liz will get together to bat around ideas. Anyone else is welcome!



Golf Tournament: The golf tournament is on for next year. Marge will help Debbie (chair) and many of the other members will lend a hand.

Rose Project: It was decided that the delivery days would be 11/16 and 11/19 and the pick-up locations will be R&C Floral, in Ludlow and CHD in Holyoke. Lisa and Liz will coordinate everything.

A motion was made and voted that donations already set aside in this year's budget will be sent to local food pantries in Ware, Palmer and Belchertown.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15

Respectfully Submitted
Substitute Secretary
Liz Reeves

Call to Action

At the Fall Conference we were made very aware of the fact that our district board needs help from membership to be able to do their job properly. It seems the decrease in membership as well as the added expense of travel is making it very hard for the district board to travel to clubs. The consensus of the attendees was clear: it is important to the communications (between the clubs, board and international) for the District Board to be able to visit the clubs in their district on a regular schedule. The Bangor Club made a suggestion that all the representatives go back to their clubs and suggest a fund raiser (amongst membership only) for the sole purpose of travel for board members to visit clubs in their district.

ZQV was able to obtain three copies of a magnificent book pictured below. To do our part in assisting the District travel budget, we propose to raffle off the books for \$5 a chance at the December meeting.

Women: A Celebration of Strength



This book explores some of the most inspirational role models and leaders in our nation's history, and celebrates their incredible achievements. Women are shown at work—from making a home to running the show. Arts and style are on display; freedom from violence is highlighted; trailblazers for change are prominent throughout.

What a tribute to all that we hold dear

about women, especially their strength and endurance when faced with challenges! Written and published by Legal Momentum, the oldest legal advocacy organization in the United States dedicated to advancing women's rights, this book gives people of all ages the chance to learn about these remarkable women, and be inspired by their triumphs. Available at www.legalmomentum.org for \$25, the book's worth the \$50 cost noted on the back cover and advertised at amazon.com. It is in full color throughout, with intricate pop-up figures and replicas of historic documents that can be removed and read in full. What a great gift and keepsake this would make—either for yourself or some other special person.

And what a deal for \$5 a chance!



VOTED INTO MEMBERSHIP

Carly Cavanaugh

109 Farnum Street
West Springfield, MA 01089

Email: ccavanaugh@halperncpa.com

Occupation/Profession: Accountant/Staff
and Graduate Student

Firm: Lester Halpern & Company P.C.

Referral: Marge Cavanaugh, Grandmother

Birthday: 9/25

Birthplace: Springfield, MA

Highlight of your life so far: Going to Ireland
with my Family

Hobbies: Running and Field Hockey

What kind of books/magazines/movies do
you like: Movie-Love Book-Trumpet of the
Swan

What knowledge/skill would you like to de-
velop with the help of a mentor: How to
become more articulate

What is a Zonta-related topic you wished
you knew more about: International Service
Projects and how I can get involved.

What famous person would you like to have
dinner with and why: President Obama-
"He's the Man"

Personal or Professional Goals you are
working on for the next year: Passing the
CPA exam and finishing graduate school.

What do you daydream about? Not studying

What other info would you like to share: "I'm
excited to get involved"

Member Spotlight: Janet Ann DaSilva

Janet DaSilva was born on August 29th in East Boston, MA. She and her “very patient” husband, Dr. Peter DaSilva, have resided in Belcher-town for most of their married lives. They have one grown son. She daydreams about adding a daughter-in-law to the picture—seeing a successful career for them with a happy future, and grandchildren!

Janet believes that colleagues and friends would describe her as “straight to the point, honest, friendly, happy and someone who stands up for the rights of family, friends, and the unfortunate.

Janet toggles two professions. She has substantial experience as a Financial Aid Administrator at many colleges and universities and she remains a go-to-person for her knowledge and skills. She is also a Human Resource Director for a Human Service Agency in Western Massachusetts. In considering her varied background, Janet notes that her “knowledge is seasoned so I’m willing to share. I love to problem solve and I think I have a talent for offering direction in life’s problems.” Skills she would like to hone, with the help of a mentor, are public speaking and writing.

Janet enjoys life and claims that life has been kind to her. She has many friends and lots of diverse interests, including but not limited to, travel, tennis, entertaining good friends (we can attest that she has a reputation as an incredible hostess!!), needlepoint, sewing, brainstorming fun ideas, reading (Real Simple magazine and non-fiction books—especially about politics), trying to be creative with a “sick” mind (I have help from my friends) and laughter. It’s not surprising to Janet’s friends that she likes listening to Loretta LaRoche and the famous person she would most like to dine with is President Obama... so she could pick his brain! Diversity is an understatement!

Before her next significant birthday, Janet intends to expand her traveling, while she has the strength and ability. Her longer term goals are to get to retirement with a strong financial footing and start to slow down professionally. Three things she would change about herself: “I would like to lose some weight, be more patient, not be so black and white when I make a decision.”

Important lessons she’s learned the hard way? “Know thyself and always be truthful with oneself. Be committed to your word with integrity and honesty. Be aware of your own limitations; it is not a sign of weakness.”

Janet joined the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley in January 2003. She is currently serving as the club’s Vice President and Membership Chair. A Zonta-related topic she would like to know more about is service projects elsewhere in the USA. To her sister Zontians, she says, “I thank my Zonta family for the giving, sharing and warmth.”

We thank YOU, Janet, for the professionalism, laughter and keen insights you contribute to our organization.



Janet Ann DaSilva
Zonta of Quaboag Valley
Member since 1/2003

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

PO Box 1034
Belchertown MA 01007

<http://www.zontaqv.org>



ZQV Bylaws.... Testing your knowledge about Membership



#3. A leave of absence, not to exceed _____, may be granted to a member upon approval of the Club Board. Is a member on leave still required to pay ZI, District, and Club dues? _____.

#4. Any member who is absent from Club meetings for _____ consecutive months **without excuse** deemed adequate in the opinion of the Board, shall be notified that membership may be forfeited.

#5. _____ (% or fraction) of the membership shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Club.

Other top 10 lists will be presented at dinner meetings and future newsletters. At the end of the year, we will compile all the lists.

(answers: #3 1 year, yes #4 2 , #5 33%)