Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley
Member of Zonta International
Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009

2009 CALENDAR

February 9 Dinner Meeting
Guest speaker **MaryAnn Mohamoud** will talk about Cultural Awareness and Clinical Considerations of FGM.
Drawing for Valentine's Day Raffle! Bring those ticket stubs and raffle monies.

March 8 International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day
March 9 Dinner Meeting

April 13 Dinner Meeting

May 11 Dinner Meeting
May 16 District Workshop—Wells, ME

June 8 Dinner Meeting
June 13 Golf Tournament—Monson
June 26 Relay for Life—Belchertown

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 586 4900 x106 or mknight@collaborative.org of the number of new and/or returning guests, no later than January 7th. Member reservations for the dinner meeting are assumed and payment expected unless we are notified 7 days in advance of the meeting.

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UN / International Committee
Challenge: Win a "foreign treasure" for correctly answering this question:

"What is the project of Obstetric Fiscula designed to establish and deliver and how will they ensure progress in the implementation, monitoring and reporting?"

President's Message

Dear Sister Zontians:

February—short but sweet. Valentine's day, the first annual Valentine's day fundraising raffle, longer periods of daylight, school vacation or winter get-away for some, long President's day weekend for most, Oscar Night, Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)...

At our meeting Monday, February 9th, we will meet **Mary Ann Mohamoud,** Outreach and Education Director for 'Breaking the Silence' - a local nonprofit with a mission is to provide a "Safe Haven" in which women and girls can talk about their experiences with female genital mutilation without facing any pressure or judgment. Breaking The Silence is open to all women who have had this procedure and their allies. They do not criticize any religion or culture. The purpose is solely to help women and girls to feel better about themselves and find the medical resources they need.

The club is seeking applications for the 2009 Young Women in Public Affairs Award. The **YWPA award** recognizes young women for their commitment to the volunteer sector, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to the advancement of the status of women. Winners of the $500 local award become eligible for larger awards at the District and International level. Pre-university or pre-college women students (age 16-20) who reside in the greater Quaboag Valley area are encouraged to obtain an application from their Guidance Counselor or on-line at www.zontaqv.org. Questions can be directed to Carol Bardon at cbardon@charter.net. The deadline for applications is March 25, 2009.

Looking forward to greeting members and guests at our February meeting!

Mary F. Knight

P.S. check out the UN /International Committee challenge question to the left!

Breaking the Silence—advocating opportunity

FGM is often done in unsanitary conditions and without anesthetic.

At the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley's February dinner meeting, guest speaker MaryAnn Mohamoud will talk about Cultural Awareness and Clinical Considerations of FGM.

There are hundreds of immigrant women in western Massachusetts who are survivors of female genital mutilation (FGM) - a common practice in many African, Middle Eastern, and Asian countries in both Muslim and Christian areas. "To foster a more trusting relationship with these women," says MaryAnn Mohamoud, Outreach and Education Director for 'Breaking the Silence', "health care providers, counselors, and advocates must have an accurate understanding of the cultural background surrounding this practice, a working knowledge of different types of procedures that may be encountered, and an awareness of acute and long-term complications."

Where female genital mutilation is widely practiced, it is supported by both men and women, usually without question, and anyone departing from the norm may face condemnation, harassment, and ostracism. As such, female genital mutilation is a social convention governed by rewards and punishments which are a powerful force for continuing the practice. In view of this conventional nature of female genital mutilation, it is difficult for families to abandon the practice without support from the wider community. In fact, it is often practiced even when it is known to inflict harm upon girls because the perceived social benefits of the practice are deemed higher than its disadvantages (UNICEF, 2005a).

What can we do? We can educate health care providers, counselors and advocates throughout our area about the issues and support that these local women need, and make them aware of how they can help. See www.zontaqv.org for more information.

Zonta Bog Newsletter feedback and content suggestions are encouraged. Please send to MFKnight@Crocker.com

Club Officers 2008—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	Chris Gerl
	Louise Larocque
	Joanne Turner-Chiacchia

Committee Chairs

Finance…….Julie Bowder
Membership……Janet DaSilva
PR/Marketing……...Louise Larocque
UN/International…….Liz Reeves
Status of Women……Deb Allen
Scholarships……Carol Bardon

ZISVAW……. Mary Knight
Bylaws……...BJ Bourdon
Environmental……..Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
Poinsettia Fundraiser. …Ann Cormier
Founders Day……Chris Gerl
Holiday Party……..MaryAnn Rubis
Golf Fundraiser……...Debbie Wood
Archives……...Marge Cavanaugh

Nominating……..Dianne Kidd

January 12, 2009 Business Meeting Minutes

Johnsen's Catering
Palmer, Massachusetts

Members Present:
Julie Bowder, Marge Cavanaugh, Ann Cormier, Janet DaSilva, Chris Gerl, Kris Goold, Dot LaFratta, Mary Knight, Liz Reeves, Mary Ann Rubis, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, and Deb Wood.
Absent: Deb Allen, BJ Bourdon, Louise Larocque, Dianne Kidd, Carol Bardon
Guest: Andrea Chasen
Dinner started at 6:00 with the Zonta blessing. Mary introduced Andrea Chasen to the membership.

Various member shared something new that they learned about Amelia Earhart, honoring her in the month of January.

Meeting was called to order at 6:45.
All members introduced themselves.

Mary mentioned that we should also being thinking how we can promote Johnsen's (showers etc.) so their location in Palmer is successful. The experience is such a pleasure we don't want to lose it.

Janet honored BJ as Zontian of the month.

Deb Allen has resigned from Zonta. Mary has not received her formal letter yet.

Marge announced that Kathy Hood's husband passed away a couple of weeks ago.
Minutes: Kris Goold mentioned that her name was spelled wrong. A change was made and accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Julie presented her report and a motion was made to accept for audit. She also mentioned that we received a thank you note from Ware Christmas for Kids. The board has decided that our club will not give the 1/3 contribution to International until later this year. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the Rose Fund or fund of your choice please do so in BJ's name.

Committee Reports

Poinsettia: The final profit earned was $1282.50. There is a question about a service charge that was on the bill from R&C Floral. Liz will check into it.
Golf: Debbie reported on the progress of the June 13th Golf Tournament. She mentioned that it is a pleasure working with Quaboag Valley Golf Club.

Valentine's Raffle: The drawing for the raffle will be at our Feb. business meeting. Kris brought along more tickets. Sell, sell, sell! Then bring the money and tickets to the Feb meeting.

Environmental: The week before Memorial Day, Palmer is having a town clean-up of parks etc. There will be a picnic after the clean-up. How many members are interested in attending? Also, are there any suggestions for a "green " project ?
Service: Discussion about whether we are interested as a club in pursuing putting together a resource brochure for domestic violence victims. It sounds like something that we would be interested in as long as we don't duplicate something else that is already available. It was mentioned that Baystate Hospital has many resources that we could possibly use. Dot will review and provide a suggested approach to the project.

ZISVAW: Mass Mutual is donating the room from our Fall conference but we will pay for the food. BJ has the proceeds received—we will need to wrap this up soon.

Sweatsuits for Domestic Violence Victims: Chris has made Zonta cards to be included with the sweatsuits . Chris and Liz will deliver them to Wing. This is an ongoing project. Footies are great to go along with the sweatsuits too.

Joanne answered the UN Challenge question. Congratulations!~

Program: Mary Ann Mohamaud will join us in February to let us know how they are raising awareness about FGM.
In April we will be joined by Susan Jaye-Kaplan from Link to Libraries—a charitable organization that distributes new books to qualifying schools and centers.

Our program started at 7:25

Our program speaker this evening was Andrea Chasen on Conflict Resolution. She highly recommends the book, Difficult Conversations".

Raffle: Dot Lafratta is the winner!
Meeting Adjourned 8:25
Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Reeves, Acting Secretary

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

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Belchertown MA 01007

http://www.zontaqv.org

An Open letter to Zontians:

For almost twenty years I was paid less than my male co-workers. My case went all the way to the Supreme Court — I was shot down. But today, President Obama signed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and told the Supreme Court that they got it wrong. I always hoped this day would come and this is the best news I have heard in a long time. I was there with the President when he signed the bill.

I can't say thank you enough to the thousands of you who've worked with us in this fight. Your e-mails to Congress, your phone calls, and your letters of support have meant so much to me and to the movement for pay equity for all women. We knew we could count on you — and we couldn't have done it without you.

In the months and years to come, the fight for fair pay will go on. We're still fighting to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, and there will be other fronts in battle to close the wage gap once and for all. But we've taken an enormous step forward today. Thanks for taking that step with me.

Sincerely,

Lilly Ledbetter

Lilly
Ledbetter