

Dear Zontians,

We hope early 2009 finds you well and in good spirits! The new year offers a time for reflection and renewed commitment, a time to recount your successes and to plan future endeavors. In particular, we look forward to boosting Zonta's global visibility; and our internal communications initiatives. To bolster those communications efforts we have added a very talented Communications Manger, Emily Yeager, to our staff.

As you know, Zonta International has many programs in place to advance the status of women worldwide. What you may not be as aware of are the personal stories of Zontians around the globe, and their triumphs in enhancing the quality of life for women everywhere.

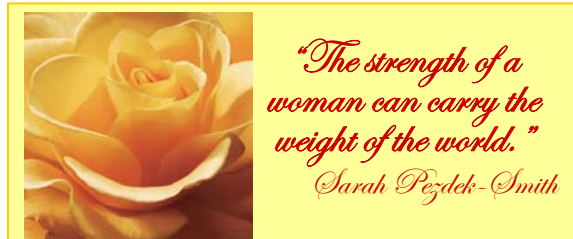
We hope to utilize this newsletter to bring you information on women's rights advocacy and to highlight the ways in which you can, and have, made a difference. This will be just one of many tools that we are designing to enhance the Zonta community and increase opportunities for communication.

Zonta pride starts with you. If your club has done something tremendous in your community, or if you would like to nominate someone for a feature story in the next newsletter, please e-mail your suggestions to us at pr@zonta.org. **Together we can tell the Zonta story.**

We look forward to working with Zonta in 2009.

Best wishes,

Judy Johnston
Acting Executive Director
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL



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CEDAW Opportunity

US PRESIDENT SUPPORTS CEDAW

Although former president Jimmy Carter signed the **Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW)** in 1980, it was never ratified by the US Senate - an action that is required to bind the US to treaty obligations.

President Obama has promised to push for Senate ratification, where a 2/3 majority vote is necessary.



Celebrate International Women's Day & Zonta Rose Day

REMEMBER MARCH 8th IS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY & ZONTA ROSE DAY

Do you know the history behind International Women's Day (IWD)? It has been a long journey to declare March 8th the day to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women. By some accounts, the movement started in 1909 in New York City during a protest against poor working conditions. Others say it began with the proposal of German Socialist Clara Zetkin at the Second International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen. Still others contest that the day adopted in large part because Alexandra Kollontai, a Bolshevik feminist, convinced Lenin to consider making IWD a holiday – it took many years, but the Soviet Union in pronounced IWD an official holiday in 1965.

In any case, the United Nations officially sanctioned and began sponsoring IWD in 1975. In addition to sponsoring the IWD, the United Nations also selects a theme for each year. In 2009, the appointed theme is **Women and men united to end violence against women and girls.**

Today IWD is recognized as an official holiday by Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

We at Zonta headquarters hope that you are celebrating International Women's Day with some of your favorite women. We would love to hear your plans, and we encourage those of you without a plan to join with Zontians near you to celebrate. You may wish to share the details of any IWD events you are hosting on www.internationalwomensday.com; the website maintains a listing of IWD events by country and it is also a good resource for those who are looking for IWD networking opportunities.

UN Secretary General Addresses Violence Against Women

UN SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON DELIVERS SPEECH ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8th Speech from Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon: One year ago, I launched a campaign calling on people and governments the world over to unite to end violence against women and girls. The campaign will run through 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The link with the Goals is clear. We must stop the habitual and socially ingrained violence that mars lives, destroys health, perpetuates poverty and prevents us from achieving women's equality and empowerment.

Violence against women is also linked to the spread of HIV/AIDS. In some countries, as many as one in three women will be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Women and girls are also systematically and deliberately subject to rape and sexual violence in war.

Violence against women stands in direct contradiction to the promise of the United Nations Charter to "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom." The consequences go beyond the visible and immediate. Death, injury, medical costs and lost employment are but the tip of an iceberg. The impact on women and girls, their families, their communities and their societies in terms of shattered lives and livelihoods is beyond calculation. Far too often, crimes go unpunished, and perpetrators walk free. No country, no culture, no woman, young or old, is immune.

Increasingly, men, too, are speaking out against this stain on our society. Global examples include the White Ribbon Campaign and the V-Day Campaign's "V-Men" counterpart. And at community workshops, men are teaching other men that there is another way and that "real men don't hit women".

Changing mindsets and the habits of generations is not easy. It must involve all of us – individuals, organizations and governments. We must work together to state loud and clear, at the highest level, that violence against women will not be tolerated, in any form, in any context, in any circumstance.

We need economic and social policies that support women's empowerment. We need programmes and budgets that promote non-violence. We need a positive image of women in the media. We need laws that say violence is a crime, that hold perpetrators accountable and are enforced.

The "Unite to End Violence against Women" campaign encourages men and women to join hands to oppose violence against women. Only by acting together can we create more equal and peaceful societies. Let us all, on this International Women's Day, resolve to make a difference.

Zonta Club of Woodstock Paints the Town Yellow

CANADIAN ZONTA CLUB MOTIVATES LOCAL COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE IWD

The Zonta Club of Woodstock has encouraged Woodstock merchants to decorate their shops in yellow to bring attention to International Women's Day on March 8th. We applaud this fun and creative idea – what a great way to introduce the community to a Zonta's mission, and to remind them of women's rights!



Woodstock Mayor Michael Harding presents yellow roses to Zonta members, from left, Lynda Reeves, Donna Willoughby and Brenda Currah.

Zontians Help African Girls Stay in School

NEW JERSEY CLUB HELPS TO INCREASE ZAMBIAN GIRLS' SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



The Zonta Club of Northern Valley, New Jersey was recognized in an article on America.gov for their donations to the *Once A Month Campaign*. This program provides sanitary napkins to adolescent girls in Zambia who would otherwise be forced to miss school during the week of their menstrual cycle. [Read the entire article here.](#)

LEFT: Zonta Club of Northern Valley New Jersey Club President Karen Nicodemus with her daughter Amy.

Clubs Assist Flood Victims in the Philippines

CAGAYAN DE ORO ZONTA CLUBS EXTEND RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD VICTIMS

Both Zonta Clubs in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines, stepped in to distribute food, water, blankets and clothing at evacuation centers in El Salvador City, Philippines after floods ravaged the area. Thanks to the group effort of Zonta Clubs in the Philippines, volunteers were able to extend relief assistance to more remote areas of the cities. We are proud of the dedication put forth by these two clubs in the face of natural disasters!

A Big Move!

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL | 1211 W 22nd STREET, SUITE 900 | OAK BROOK, IL | 60523 | Tel 630.928.1400 | Fax 630.928.1559

As you know, Zonta International has moved our headquarters office to **Oak Brook, Illinois**. This has been an exciting time for the staff and Board alike as we settle into our new and modern surroundings on the ninth floor at 1211 West 22nd Street.

We are especially proud of this new office building, where we are situated in one of the two towers of the Oak Brook Executive Plaza. We share our building with many reputable companies such as Minuteman Press, Charles Schwab, Fidelity Life Association, and the Farm Foundation.

In addition to a larger and more modern layout, the new offices also boast a tremendous amount of natural sunlight; while majority of the staff windows face north, the Board Room looks east with a view of Chicago's unmistakable skyline. We are also happy to have such a nice space to display the many Zontian artifacts that members and clubs have graciously donated.

Zonta joins a host of other global headquarters based in Oak Brook including fast-food giant McDonalds, Fortune 500 hardware cooperative Ace Hardware and fellow association Lion's Club International. Oak Brook is centrally located between O'Hare and Midway airports and is easily accessible from a number of Illinois freeways.

Oak Brook boasts more than 2,000 businesses with a daytime population of over 100,000 people – who take advantage of its many shopping centers, restaurants and hotels. Although the village itself stretches only a few blocks off of a stretch of US Tollway 88, it is one of the most technologically connected areas in the United States – equipped subway fiber optics loops that make Oak Brook business technology function quite efficiently.

While Oak Brook is predominately known a business center, the village is also recognized for its golf, equestrian and sports facilities, as well as the 600 acres (2.4 square kilometers) that have been reserved for forest preserve. And though Oak Brook was incorporated as recently as 1958, one of the most historical sites in Oak Brook is Grave Mill: the only operating waterwheel gristmill in Illinois, and one of just three authenticated underground railway stations in the state (a resting point and safe house for escaped slaves fleeing the Confederacy on their way north during the US Civil War).

As we settle in, we look forward to providing you with a full tour of the office space and the surrounding community. In June, we will be inviting all Zontians as well as members of the press and local business community to tour our offices during our first open house in the new space. The open house will coincide with the next board meeting and further details will be released as they are finalized.

In the meantime, here is a photo of our new home:



Zonta's New Address

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
1211 West 22nd Street, Suite 900
Oak Brook, IL 60523
USA

Telephone 630.928.1400
Facsimile 630.928.1559

Zonta's Web Address

2009 ZONTA.ORG REDESIGN

Perhaps you have heard the rumors? *Zonta.org is receiving a facelift.* Due to the complicated nature of our website, and our technological goals, it will take some time to plan and make the changes necessary to improve the current format. Please know that we are hard at work to make this happen, and we ask for your patience in making the transition as smooth as possible.

Be on the lookout for Membership Dues & Fees Forms

2009-2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES & FEES RENEWAL FORMS WILL BE MAILED IN LATE MARCH

ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS! Please look for the arrival of the dues billing renewal forms that Zonta headquarters will send out at the end of March. It is imperative that you utilize the new 2009 forms in order to maintain your "in good standing" status.

Kindly note:

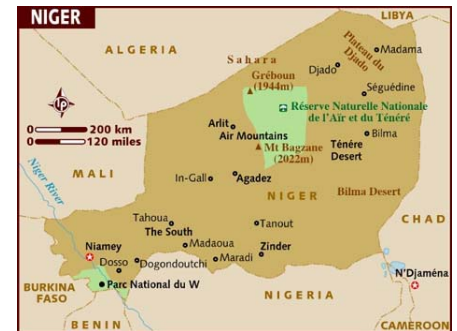
- All membership dues are must be received **1 June 2009**.
- Zonta International's **bank name and bank account numbers have changed**, please use the new forms to avoid confusion.
- Forms will be available on zonta.org by **1 April 2009**. (You must be logged-in to access).
- Club Officers Report forms are included in the mailing, but have an earlier due date of **1 May 2009**.

Welcome, Niger!

ZONTA PROUDLY WELCOMES A NEW COUNTRY

We are proud to welcome the new Zonta Club of Niamey Premier! With their Charter's acceptance on 11 April 2009, Niamey Premier will become the first Zonta club in the nation of Niger. As is typical with any Zonta club, Niamey Premier's 24 charter members cover a broad range of professions including civil aviation management, sociologist, dental surgeon and more!

Niamey is the capitol of Niger, the second poorest nation in the world. It is located in the southwest region along banks of the Niger River. The predominant language of Niger is French, so to our new members we say, "Bienvenue!" Let's also offer special congratulations to District 18 for their new addition!



A Sad Goodbye

FORMER FOUNDATION PRESIDENT JANE ROBERTS GARVEY PASSES



Message from President Beryl Sten: I am saddened to report that Past Foundation President and long-time Zontian Jane Roberts Garvey passed away Sunday, February 8, at her home in Houston.

Jane was born in New York City, the daughter of George and Helen Roberts, and a sixth generation Manhattanite. In 1938, she received a BA degree at the College of New Rochelle and in 1941 received her law degree from Columbia University, one of the first women to do so. She was admitted to the New York State bar in 1941, the US Supreme Court bar in 1958, the Board of Immigration and Naturalization bar in 1958 and the US Treasury bar in 1959.

Jane joined Zonta in 1966 and was a member of the Zonta Club of Suffolk County Area, and served as Governor of District 3. She became part of the Foundation Board in 1985 and served as President of the Foundation from 1997 to 1999. Jane worked tirelessly for many charitable organizations in addition to Zonta, including the American Heart Association, The United Nations, Multiple Sclerosis, United Way, and Catholic League for the Deaf among others.

Jane met, and later married the love of her life, Francis Bernard Garvey in 1946. Together they raised three children Ellen, Jane and Frank, Jr. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, and daughter Ellen, who was her caregiver up until last year. She is survived by son Frank, Jr., daughter Jane Reilly, and grandchildren Jessica Buck and Michael Reilly. The family received guests for a visitation on Tuesday, February 10, in Houston. Funeral services will take place at a later date in West Islip, New York.

Jane's family will be notified of any contributions to the Zonta International Foundation made in her memory.

Keep Zonta Great

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION IN HONOR OF ROSE DAY

In honor of Rose Day, please consider making a contribution to the Zonta International Foundation. When you give to the foundation, you are promoting Zonta's mission and the advancement of women around the globe.

Give the gift of giving! Contribute to Zonta International Foundation in honor of your friends, to help them celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special event.

Zonta.org makes it easy to contribute online, please visit today to help women tomorrow.

Newsletter Feedback

WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS & OPINIONS

We want to hear from you! Please send story ideas or feedback to pr@zonta.org.