

Zonta Club of Grand Rapids  
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2008-2009

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# Zonta NewZ



Helping improve the legal, political, economic, health, education and professional status of women and girls locally and internationally.

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## 25 Fast Facts About Women Around the World

by Kelly on February 21, 2008 in [Life. People. News.](#), [Parenting.](#), [Relationships.](#), [Women.](#), [Beauty.](#), [Feminism](#)

I love trivia and learning new things, so I tend to read far and wide. The following is a list of **25 Fast Facts About Women Around the World**. Some are quirky, some serious, and others are just downright depressing. I tried to offer a balance of each, and hope that there's something to make you smile, as well as something to make you think. Here's the 25 that got my attention and made the list.

1. 80% of the 50 million people around the world who are affected by violent conflicts, civil wars, disasters, and displacement are women and children
2. In 2004, 48.8% of the seats held in parliament in Rwanda were held by women. Contrast that to Cuba where 36% of the seats were held by women, and the USA, where 14.3% of the seats were held by women. Saudi Arabia and the Solomon Islands are just two countries where there are no women in parliament (*UNDP, Human Development Report 2004*)
3. In 76 countries, less than half the eligible girls are enrolled in secondary school
4. Women own only 1% of the world's land
5. Approximately three million women in the USA sport tattoos
6. A Saudi Arabian woman can get a divorce if her husband doesn't give her coffee
7. 43% of Australian marriages end in divorce. of those who remarry, 65% of them will divorce again. By the time you try for marriage number 3, your chance of getting divorced is about 75%
8. The women of the Tiwi tribe in the South Pacific are married at birth
9. It is illegal to be a prostitute in Siena, Italy, if your name is Mary
10. In parts of Malaya, the women keep harems of men
11. The two highest IQ's ever recorded (on a standard test) both belong to women
12. In Kenya where 38% of the farms are run by women, those women manage to harvest the same amount per hectare (2.47 acres) as men, despite men having greater access to loans, advice, fertilizers, hybrid seeds, insecticides. And when women were given the same level of help, they were found to be more efficient than men, and produced bigger harvests
13. Over half a million women die in childbirth every year in Africa and Asia
14. Nearly 1/2 of all Indonesian women have had their first child by the time they are 17
15. In the USA, unintended pregnancies account for almost half of all pregnancies
16. According to *The World Health Org.*, 40 per cent of girls aged 17 or under in South Africa are reported to have been the victim of rape or attempted rape
17. In Sweden, 76% of mothers work, the highest percentage in the developed world
18. Australia, New Zealand and the US are among a handful of governments that do not require women to be paid some form of maternity leave. In countries as diverse as Russia, Colombia, Laos and Morocco, the government foots the entire bill for three to six months of maternity leave
19. By age 55, 95% of all U.S. women have married
20. In 2007 the world's richest self-made woman was Ms Zhang Yin, a Chinese paper recycling entrepreneur
21. Only 5% of Hollywood feature films are directed by women
22. Today, Japan leads the world in condom use. Like cosmetics, they're sold door to door, by women
23. Seventy percent of women would rather have chocolate than sex (*Poll taken in a 1995 women's magazine*)
24. Australian women have sex on the first date more than women the same age in the USA and Canada
25. China is considered the next big marketing opportunity for the tobacco industry because only 3.8% of Chinese women smoke, compared with 63% of adult males

When you research the state of women around the world, I am sad to say that finding inspiring facts and figures is difficult. There is much that I left off this list, simply because I didn't want to send everyone into a black mood for the day! We may look around at progress in developed countries and feel women are better off than they've ever been, but we are such a minority. The story is completely different for much of the world's women, who are suffering from the same persecution, and deplorable health and living conditions that they've endured for centuries. I'll try to remember that the next time I'm complaining about my life. If you have access to a computer, shelter, breakfast in your tummy and are able to read this, then you already have so much to be grateful for.

# Service Committee



**Sewing Projects:**

The next sewing date will be in February. Details will be decided at the February meeting.

Our last sewing date was held on 1/15/09 and fun was had by all. It is such a great opportunity to do service with the help of the local school girls!

**Girls Learning Day:**

Darcie Clapp is investigating using the Church of the Dunes as the location for our dinner and air speaker part of the event.

Details will be made available upon receipt.



**DA Blodgett Cleaning:**

It was discussed at the last Board meeting that we schedule a cleaning day at DA Blodgett as "payment" and thanks for letting us use their beautiful facilities for all our meetings and sewing events. Details will follow at a meeting.

*"Find Something you're passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it."*

*—Julia Child*

# Membership Committee

**Guests:**

Lisa Bonney from St. John's Home will attend our February business meeting as a guest. Bonnie Cowles from GVSU Water Research Center attended the November meeting and the pad sewing night as Darcie's guest and has accepted an invitation to join at the February business meeting. Colleen Cox who was one of

the two non-Zontians at the Voigt House who expressed membership interest has been invited to the February meeting. Maggie Benjamin's two guests from the Voigt House have been invited to attend as well. The two interested employees from the Miller Johnson Lunch & Learn have been invited to attend the February meeting. Please welcome all in

attendance.

# Ways & Means Committee

**Poker Fundraiser:**

Our January 2009 poker fundraiser netted us approximately \$1600. Two additional weekends have been scheduled for the months of May and September. Details will be announced at the February meeting.



# President's Message



IT'S A BOY!

Ian Sheldon Clapp

Born: 1/23/09

Weighing: 8 lbs, 8 ozs

Mom is recovering from her surgery and baby Ian is getting stronger every day. He hasn't been able to come home yet. He has been in the NICU since birth due to some breathing, excreting and feeding issues but as of today he is much improved and he should be able to come home some time next week.



I am very proud to announce that we have a new arrival!

## ATNOZ Newz

Maggie is acting in the next ATNOZ event. We have selected the date of Saturday, February 21st to attend as a group. If you, any significant others or guests are interested in attending, please call the number listed on the flyer here. Be sure to let them know that you are with Maggie's Zonta Group so they will seat us together. Seats sell out quickly so get your reservations in now. Hope to see a fabulous turn out for this fun-filled event!

### Join The Village Players of Middleville

for their 14th Annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

February 20, 21, 27, 28, 2009

(doors open at 6:00 - dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m.)

To be held at The MiddleVilla Inn in Middleville



Call the Villa at 269-795-3640 or 616-891-1287, for reservations enjoy rollback prices of \$25.00 per person for dinner and the show

written by Pat Cook - Published by the Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois



# Zonta Club of Grand Rapids

## Member of Zonta International

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

### **Next Business Meeting:**

**Thursday, February 5, 2009**

5:30pm Social

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Business Meeting

D.A. Blodgett Conference Room

805 Leonard St. N.E.

~Onsite Child Care provided~

Presenter: Allison Reuter will perform the  
New Member Induction Ceremony for  
Bonnie Cowles

### **Important Dates**

- February 21, 2009 ATNOZ, Dinner Theater,  
Guests welcome
- March 8, 2009, International Women's Day/Zonta  
Rose Day
- May 2009, Poker Fundraiser, Details TBA
- May 14, 2009, Zonta GR hosts girls learning day  
with focus on math and science
- September 2009, Poker Fundraiser, Details TBA

Dinner \$15.00, includes beverages—Please  
sign sheet by drinks so we can track for  
purchase and reimbursement. Thanks!

Menu: Cornmeal crumb chicken, bacon  
coleslaw, potato salad, cornbread & dessert

Catered by: Catered Creations, Inc.