

Zonta Club of Grand Rapids
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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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Burka Makes Women Prisoners, says President Sarkozy

June 23, 2009, Charles Bremner in Paris, *Source: Times database*

President Sarkozy threw his weight yesterday behind attempts to bar French Muslim women from covering their faces in public, calling their full-body dress a “debasement of women”. Mr Sarkozy made his attack on a small but growing number of fundamentalist women in a “state of the nation” speech that was the first by a French President to both houses of parliament since 1873. Talking in the ornate chamber of the Château de Versailles Mr Sarkozy also rejected calls to raise taxes and promised to accelerate his project to remake France despite the deep recession. His strong words on the niqab and the burka were part of a confident personal performance review that was decried by the opposition as a self-aggrandising stunt. “In our country we cannot accept that women be prisoners behind a screen, cut off from all social life, deprived of all identity,” Mr Sarkozy said to applause in the parliament’s ceremonial Versailles home. “The burka is not a religious sign. It is a sign of subservience, a sign of debasement,” he added. “It will not be welcome on the territory of the French Republic.” Mr Sarkozy was adding his voice to a strong consensus that has emerged this month against women in France’s five million-strong Muslim community who wear the full or nearly-full cover of their bodies and faces. The latest French controversy over Muslim dress, which follows the 2004 ban on head-cover in state schools, began this month when 60 MPs from both sides of the house demanded action against the burka and the niqab. “A debate has to take place and all views must be expressed,” said Mr Sarkozy. “What better place than parliament for this? I tell you we must not be ashamed of our values, we must not be afraid of defending them.”

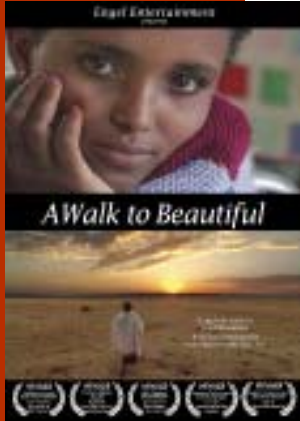
Many on the Left disapprove of what is seen as a small rise in women adopting fundamentalist dress — they are said to number several thousand. But they are unhappy with what they see as Mr Sarkozy’s enthusiasm for action that would further stigmatise a big immigrant population that is excluded from much of mainstream life.

Muslim leaders reacted cautiously to Mr Sarkozy’s words on the niqab and burka. Dalil Boubakeur, rector of the Great Mosque of Paris, called the President’s remarks “in keeping with the republican spirit of secularism”. Moderate Muslims also saw full face-covering as a symbol of submission, said Mr Boubakeur.

Measures against face cover are supported by two of the three women Muslims in the Cabinet but other ministers are questioning the wisdom of legislation that could be impossible to enforce.

It would also risk further criticism of France abroad. This month President Obama attacked the French headscarf rule in a speech in Cairo, saying that the United States did not believe that the Government should dictate people’s dress.

Service Committee



A Walk to Beautiful:

We had 50 in attendance of which 5 were Zontians at our advocacy screening of this film. We obtained 2 prospects. It was discussed at the June meeting to investigate hosting a film festival as a fundraiser/ service/advocacy project to highlight mission focused films including the new film, Amelia, a biography about Amelia Earhart starring Hilary Swank which is expected to be out October, 2009.

Girls Learning Day:

We hosted a full ship and all the girls had lots of fun and said they would do it again. The air portion over dinner went well and we were able to plug Zonta through the Amelia Earhart connection. The Club has decided to do this again next year around the same time as it doesn't conflict with other activities available to the girls in the middle school age group.



Membership Committee

On June 18th Zonta hosted a private party at the War Chest Boutique in Rockford. We heard an engaging presentation on the activities of Women At Risk International over appetizers and drinks and followed it up by a night of shopping. 100% of the profits go to help W.A.R. pro-

grams internationally. What a fun event. It was well attended, including several guests.

PR Intern:

It was decided at the June meeting that we would investigate "hiring" an Intern from a local college to give our marketing materials a face lift. Darcie has made contact with a young woman who recently

transferred to Davenport GR from Lapeer. She has already completed a similar project for the Lapeer Area Club and is interested in helping us when she gets settled in September. I don't know the extent of her capabilities yet but it's conceivable we might need to have a couple of different Interns helping with different aspects of our project.

*"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood...Make big plans, aim high in hope and work."
—Daniel H. Burnham*

Ways & Means Committee

Poker Fundraiser:

Our next poker fundraiser will be September 16-19 at Eastbrook Lanes. More information will follow.

at the District Conference in Lansing in October. More details to follow.

Sparkle Shirt Work Bee:

A September date will be selected to iron on the sparkle decals to shirts we will sell



President's Message



Happy Summer, Zontians! While summer may have been here a little while, the weather is finally cooperating.

Thank you to those of you (and your guests) who showed up for our last ATNOZ event at the WAR Chest Boutique. I was surprised and impressed that a three-year non-profit has accomplished so much. I took advantage of the jewelry sales,

which I did not intend to do. But, how could I (or any woman) resist getting a beautiful piece of jewelry knowing that the money will go directly to programs to help women at risk around the world? For those of you who could not make it, I invite you to check out the boutique on your own. You will feel inspired just seeing jewelry and other products that are made by women saved by WAR's programs. Please look at the calendar. We have another ATNOZ event planned in July - the Picnic Pops. It is a wonderful way to relax and enjoy good food, good music, and

fellowship with other Zontians.

While we will not be meeting during the summer, I encourage you all to keep Zonta in mind. If you have a great idea - a speaker, a fundraising idea - please let me know or at least write it down so you do not forget when we reconvene.

I hope all of you have a wonderful break and return refreshed and ready for another year of improving the status of women and girls worldwide.

—Allison

SUMMER ATNOZ



Friday, July 17, 2009

Cannonsburg Ski Area
6800 Cannonsburg Rd NE
Belmont

Tickets can be purchased upon arrival.

Maggie and Maryellen will get there early

EXPERIENCE A SPOT-ON RE-CREATION OF THE 1959, "WINTER DANCE PARTY" TOUR SHOW-On February 3, 1959 a small plane carrying Buddy Holly, The Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens crashed over Iowa. The nation mourned as the voices of these mega stars were silenced one fateful night. Now, 50 years later, their sound comes alive on the Cannonsburg stage with a tribute to their timeless music

HEAR ALL THE HITS OF THE 50'S ERA-You'll experience over two hours of unbridled, high voltage entertainment featuring all the hit songs from the 50s era: *That'll Be The Day, Peggy Sue, Oh, Boy, Rave on, La Bamba, Chantilly Lace* and many more. Plus, what would a Dance Party be without a dance floor? Boogie on down and share the rhythm with other fans and enjoy these favorites on the dance floor. New this year!

GUEST ARTISTS INCLUDE SON OF THE BIG BOPPER-Buddy Holly ... John Mueller, former star of the U.S. touring version of the Broadway hit musical, "Buddy...the Buddy Holly Story." The Big Bopper ... Jay P. Richardson, Jr., the son of The Big Bopper, fills his legendary father's role, bringing the heritage and feeling that only he can. Ritchie Valens ... Ray Anthony, the renowned star of the "Legends of Rock and Roll" show in Las Vegas.



Zonta Club of Grand Rapids

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Next Business Meeting:

Thursday, September 3, 2009

5:30pm Business Meeting

6:00pm Dinner/Speaker

7:00pm Business Meeting

D.A. Blodgett Conference Room

805 Leonard St. N.E.

~Onsite Child Care provided~

Speaker: TBA-speaker will be selected from candidates submitting quotes for PR/Event planning for our Book Club fundraiser to present their proposal. One quote coming from Lilybrooke Events, she has direct experience from planning Barbara Bush's annual book event, A Celebration of Reading

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

Menu: Italian buffet, salad, rolls and dessert

Catered by: Catered Creations, Inc.

Important Dates

- July and August—summer break, no business meetings
- July 17, 2009, Picnic Pops, 7:30pm
- July 2009, Maggie and Maryellen's Pig Roast, more details to follow
- August 14 & 15, Relay for Life, Hastings, Contact Maggie for more information
- September 2009, Sparkle Shirt Work Bee
- September 16-19, 2009, Poker Fundraiser, Eastbrook Lanes

Dear Zontian,

As Marian de Forest would address her letters:

To the Zontians who will carry on,

The Zonta International Board is honored to invite you to the Open House for the new Zonta International Headquarters at 1211 West 22nd Street, Suite 900 in Oak Brook, Illinois.

The Open House will be from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday June 20th .

Please join us to spend time at Zonta's new Headquarters in Oak Brook, IL. This will be a good opportunity to talk with the Board of Directors, our staff members and fellow Zontians.

We look forward to having you share in this event and the kick off of our 90 years as an organization.

Please have a good week and we hope to see you in June.

Best Regards,
Zonta International Board of Directors

*Opening doors to the Zontians
who will carry on*



— Continued from Page 1

Boosted by victory for his party in the European Parliament elections Mr Sarkozy devoted his speech to promising to continue the reforms that he began implementing after his election in May 2007. He is to stage his first medium-sized Cabinet reshuffle tomorrow to open a second phase of his five-year administration. Among those departing are Rachida Dati, the Justice Minister, and Michael Barnier, the Farm Minister.

The joint parliamentary session at Versailles was attacked by all the opposition parties as an act of selfpromotion by a President with monarchical pretensions. The speech was made possible by a change in the constitution that Mr Sarkozy introduced last year.

Since the late 19th century French presidents had been barred from appearing in parliament under rules intended to reinforce the separation of powers. The Socialist Party boycotted the debate after his speech and MPs from small Green and Communist parties boycotted a session that they depicted as an attempt by Mr Sarkozy to play Louis XIV, the Sun King, who based the Royal Court at Versailles.

DRESS CODE— In **France** a law was passed in 2004 banning pupils from wearing "conspicuous" religious symbols at state schools, a move widely interpreted as aimed at the Muslim headscarf— In **Turkey** where 99 per cent of the population is Muslim, all forms of Muslim headscarf have been banned in universities for decades under the secular government. In June 2008 the country's Constitutional Court overruled government attempts to lift the ban, prompting protests— In **Britain** guidelines say that the full Islamic veil should not be worn in courts, but the final decision is up to judges. Schools may forge their own dress codes and in 2006, courts upheld the suspension of Aishah Azmi, a Muslim teaching assistant who refused to remove her veil in class— **German** states have the option of choosing to ban teachers and other government employees from wearing Muslim headscarves; four have done so—The **Italian** parliament in July 2005 approved anti-terrorist laws that make hiding one's features from the public — including through wearing the burla — an offence— **Tunisia**, a Muslim country, has banned Islamic headscarves in public places since 1981. In 2006 authorities began a campaign against the headscarves and began strictly enforcing the ban— The **Dutch** Government said in 2007 that it was drawing up legislation to ban burkas, but it was defeated in elections in November and the new centrist coalition said it had no plans to implement a ban

Mother's Day has come and gone and Mothers all over the country were given flowers, candy, cards and spa treatments. At the same time, we all had a lot to be excited about for the mothers in our lives. In his first 100 days, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and lifted the Global Gag Rule.



Women Created Memorial Day

Run Date: 05/25/09

*By Joan Wages
WeNews commentator*

The forgotten role that women played in the creation of Memorial Day is just one example of how women's history has been overlooked. Joan Wages says we need a permanent reminder of the experiences of American women.

(WOMENSENEWS)--Much of women's history is missing from our public story. One more example; women were almost entirely responsible for the recognition of Memorial Day. Its origin was the Civil War and until recently, the day focused on the terrible War between the States that, at tremendous human cost, ended legalized racial slavery in the United States.

Just weeks after the Civil War ended in April 1865, Ellen Call Long organized a women's memorial society to reconcile embittered enemies. Usually named some variant of "women's relief society," groups sprang up in both the North and South that not only memorialized the dead, but also cared for the war's disabled and its widows and orphans.



Joan Wages

Turning Gore Into Reflection

On June 22, 1865, women adopted these profound, forgiving and future-oriented resolutions. The document read in part:

"The object of this meeting is to initiate a Memorial Association . . . that shall perpetuate in an honorable manner the memory of the gallant dead . . .

In no invidious spirit do we come; the political storm that shook our country to its foundation, we hope, is passed . . . We are done with the [Confederate] cause . . . and are willing to do all that women can do to stem the tide of bitterness . . . and angry feelings . . . We will practice and teach forbearance and patience, which must finally bring peace and justice . . ."

Our society has forgotten that women cleaned up the mess. They took the gruesome reality of approximately a half-million dead men, and by promoting cemeteries, led the way in turning blood and gore into something that encouraged serenity and reflection.

In our nation's capital filled with museums, there is not one to remind us of the totality of the experience of American women. The National Women's History Museum is urging Congress to pass legislation that will provide a permanent home for women's history in our nation's capital.

Joan Wages is the president of the National Women's History Museum, which was founded in 1996 in