

Zonta Club of Grand Rapids  
PO Box 3185  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-3185  
www.zontagr.org

2009-2010

## BOARD

- **President:**  
Allison Reuter
- **Vice-President:**  
Lisa Sostecke
- **Treasurer:**  
Denise Spaulding
- **Secretary:**  
Kate Holbert
- **Directors:**  
Gini Gordon  
Vicki Vandenberg

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Funding  
Serious  
Change** 1

**Committee  
Reports** 2

**President's  
Message** 3

**2009 AE  
Press Release** 3

**Meeting Info  
& Important  
Dates** 4

**UN Day 2009** 4

**UN Day 2009** 5  
**Continued**

# Zonta NewZ



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

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2009

## My Million Dollar Commitment: Serious Change

By Carol J. Andrae  
WeNews commentator  
Friday, September 25, 2009

I'm going to break a taboo and talk about money, specifically about giving money.

In my family, we grew up with strong messages that you don't talk about money and you certainly don't flaunt it, particularly if you are a woman.

But this year, I decided that, if I wanted to make a difference, I needed to break that taboo. I decided to pledge \$1 million to the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, a cause I believe in deeply, and to make the pledge public in the hope that other women will see themselves in my story and realize they too can make a difference. I have seen what happens when women with considerable financial resources talk openly about the commitments they've made. By speaking out, and coming out in this way, I hope other women will feel freer to do the same.

My story actually begins after my graduation from Smith College in 1967. When looking for a job, I was repeatedly asked, "Can you type, honey?" I knew my male counterparts were not being asked that question. That's when I became aware of women's issues and I've been interested in them ever since.

I believed then, as I believe now, that our world is out of balance; feminine voices have been unheard, undervalued and in some cases, unexpressed. While women have made strides, scanning a nightly TV newscast proves that images of powerful people, whether business or government leaders, are still predominantly male.

## Benefiting the Whole Community

When one part of the whole is suppressed, we all suffer the consequences. My vision is about empowering women so that the whole community benefits. For example, microfinance for women isn't just benefiting them; it's benefiting their families and their communities.

But it would be years before I came into a family inheritance and could fund serious change with serious dollars.

It wasn't difficult to identify the Women's Fund of Central Ohio as my "investment of choice."

In its short five years, the Women's Fund has already made a difference in the way the community thinks about issues affecting women and girls. Our focus is on social change rather than social service, specifically in women's leadership, economic self sufficiency, life skills for girls and creating awareness that everyone can be a philanthropist.

Our grants, which total more than \$500,000 in only four years, are already helping women and girls turn their lives around. This was a natural fit for me. One aspect I particularly value is the idea that we are all coming together to create social change. Not everyone can give at my level, but it is the collective power of all of us, whether giving \$100 or \$1 million that will make the difference.



## Contributions Crept Up

Contributing large amounts crept up on me. I made my first pledge of \$50,000 three years ago. It felt scary to reveal myself even in this way, but also powerful. I also thought about leaving a large bequest in my will.

Then last spring I went to a meeting with a group of donors convened by the San Francisco-based Women's Funding Network, a global organization of funds like the one in Ohio.

Women's funds have proven that solutions to community problems often arise out of the wisdom, knowledge and leadership of women at the front lines of social change. They have played a critical role by working with women affected by Hurricane Katrina, for example, and are formulating high-impact solutions along the Gulf Coast and in other areas, such as Birmingham, Ala., where a job-rich economy quickly absorbed many who were displaced.

At this meeting, I heard a woman say, "I'm having fun with my money. I'm giving now so I can have the pleasure of watching it make a difference." That shifted my thinking dramatically.

I went back to our lawyer saying, "I don't know how much I want to leave in my will because I don't know how much I'll give in my lifetime." He offered a great solution. I can give now toward an amount in my will, with any remaining sum to come from my estate.

## Putting My Name On It

After pledging my donation to the Women's Fund of Central Ohio I allowed them to announce the gift, with my name on it.

According to the Women's Funding Network, 51 percent of assets in the United States are now held in the name of women, resulting in a tremendous reservoir of power to fuel social change out of the banking and brokerage accounts of an unprecedented number of women.

It is imperative that women with wealth begin to take possession of that power to fuel serious change, and to do so in a way that is public. They say that "Anonymous" was a woman. For too long this has been true in philanthropy.

But there seems to be a taboo when it comes to women and money, and more particularly when it comes to women and power.

Part of it, I believe, comes from many women's distaste for seeming to assert themselves over others through money. Many of us, I believe, prefer the feeling of connection rather than dominance over other human beings. The kind of philanthropy I'm advocating is compatible with that attitude. It's not about power over, but power for.

*Carol J. Andrae is a life coach and founding board member of the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, a member of the Women's Funding Network.*

## Service Committee

### **FocuZ on Trafficking Event:**

Work is continuing on planning the event. We have decided to focus on trafficking by having a trio of film, book and panel discussion.

### **Girls Learning Day:**

We have secured the date for the Girls Learning Day for Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 3 pm. We can now work on

getting attendees and a location for the dinner portion of the event. The Grand Haven library has just been renovated and allows non-profit organizations to lease rooms so Darcie will check on the fees and regulations. Anooosheh who helped us last year with the air portion received a second AE Fellowship. We might want to consider having her join us again.

### **Pad and Pillow Projects:**

Maggie and MaryEllen will keep us on track to continue each of these projects.

At the District conference we learned there are now 5 clubs joining us in making pads. Word is spreading!

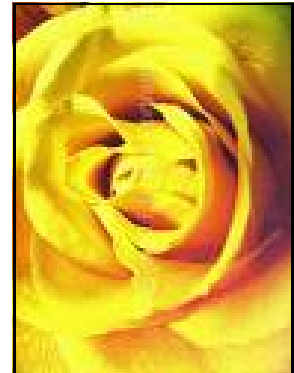
## Membership Committee

### **PR Intern:**

Darcie has made contact with Casey, a young woman who recently graduated from GVSU in marketing and graphic design, to help us with our non-print PR materials. More to follow as information becomes available.

### **Prospects:**

From a recent count, we currently have 8 prospects. If you are sponsoring any of them, please contact them and find out their intentions to join and let Darcie know the outcome.



*“Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others  
—Amelia Earhart*

## Ways & Means Committee

### **Sparkle Sales:**

October sales have been great. We have filled a \$420 order from the Zonta Club of Denver II via our website, sold out of black and about half of white at the conference and took orders for more. We sold a few scarves once we got our marketing techniques

honed. They should fly off the shelves at International! Great job Kate and Vicki!

We also received several requests for our sold out sparkle Z pins. We might want to consider making up some Z sparkle pins using an iron on like we do for the shirts. We could sell them at International

Convention.

### **Book Event:**

Research is ongoing to produce the new book event where we create a mission focused book for sale and host a release party. Ideas should be forwarded to Darcie.

# President's Message



Well, I must say that the Annual District 15 Conference in East Lansing was a success. We sold lots of sparkle shirts; we discussed PR strategies, we learned about the size and mechanics of a horse's

[reproductive system], and learned about "designer vaginas." I know . . . some explanation is necessary here. And one is forthcoming. Your board of directors met after

the conference and discussed ways in which we could share some of the information we learned. There is so much to communicate to the rest of you. Needless to say, we have big plans. At our next meeting on November 5, 2009, we will be having a guest speaker - Chris Belding from the Literacy Center of West Michigan. Then, we hope to have our Area Director, Joanne Lose, join us for our business session. She will be going over the Club Leadership Manual developed by District 15. The board will also be announcing its plans for our holiday event in December. If you have to miss one membership meeting

this year, this is *not* the one to miss. I look forward to seeing everyone on November 5!

—Allison

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **AMELIA is coming to a theater near you this October!**

**Grand Rapids, MI**—Did you know that Amelia Earhart was a member of Zonta International? Did you know that Zonta was her only non-aviation affiliation? She believed in Zonta's mission to improve the status of women, especially by encouraging education in *any* field of interest.

Amelia was lost in 1937 and in 1938 Zonta International set up grants for women in graduate level study in aerospace related subjects in her honor. Since the inception of the program in 1938, there have been 1,262 Fellowships totaling US \$7million given to 880 Fellows from 59 countries.

The Amelia Earhart Fellowships focus on eliminating the gender bias that women face in pursuing doctoral degrees in the sciences. Women are beginning to demonstrate a progression from limited representation in aerospace-related sciences to being leaders in the field. During the first years of the program, the awards committee had trouble finding qualified applicants, and worked as mentors with potential applicants to help them become qualified for the awards.

Today, as evidence of the increasing numbers of women in aerospace-related sciences and engineering, the challenge is choosing the most promising women from among the many qualified applicants. In addition, while professional and academic recommendations in this field were once written exclusively by males, many of today's applicants receive recommendations from respected professors and professionals who are past Fellows themselves.

In 2009 Zonta International provided 35 grants of \$10,000 each to women from 12 countries. Applications and more information are available at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org).

Ms. Anoosheh Niavaranikehr, a doctoral student in the Mechanical Engineering and Fluid Mechanics Program at Michigan State University, has been awarded a 2009 Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship. This is her second award which she will use to continue her research of flow behavior in Micro-fluid devices for aerospace application. She is also committed to encouraging young girls to get interested in science. In 2009 she partnered with the Zonta Club of Grand Rapids to present aerospace science to middle school aged girls thorough hands on experiments. Zonta International and the Zonta Club of Grand Rapids are proud to honor Ms. Niavaranikehr as a modern heiress to the legacy of Amelia Earhart.



# Zonta Club of Grand Rapids

## Member of Zonta International

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

### **Next Business Meeting:**

**Thursday, November 5, 2009**

5:30pm Business Meeting

6:00pm Dinner/Speaker

7:00pm Business Meeting

D.A. Blodgett Conference Room

805 Leonard St. N.E.

PLEASE park in the lot just past the main building off Eastern Place.

~Onsite Child Care provided~

Program: Chris Belding from Literacy Center of West Michigan will be speaking to us on how we might be able to work together on a service project. We have also requested to do a lunch and learn for their members.

Dinner \$15.00, includes beverages

Menu: Roast Beef, Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Rolls and Dessert

Catered by: Catered Creations, Inc.

### **Important Dates**

- November 8, 2009, Zonta Founder's Day
- November 25, 2009, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- November 25-December 10, 2009, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence
- December 10, 2009, Human Rights Day
- March 8, 2010, Zonta Rose Day



### **Remarks by H.E. Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the United Nations General Assembly, at the UN Day Concert, 23 October 2009**

I am honored and delighted in joining all of you tonight to celebrate the UN Day. These celebrations mark our abiding commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, the international organization, which, "We the Peoples", established 64 years ago.

The unique place and the indispensable role of the United Nations in addressing the complex and rapidly evolving challenges of today are well recognized. This is an ideal forum to promote cooperative multilateral efforts in the pursuit of our common objectives of peace and development.

A primary purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security. Peacekeeping has emerged as a major tool in this regard, enabling the UN to help contain conflicts and restore peace and stability around the globe. Success in recent years has led to increase in demand for UN peacekeeping, which in turn is a sign of

enhanced trust and confidence in the United Nations. Today, peacekeeping is one of the core activities of the United Nations. It is therefore befitting that this year's UN Day Concert has as its main theme "A Tribute to Peacekeeping".

Our tribute is reserved, in the first place, for the hundreds of thousands of men and women who have served the cause of peace under the UN flag over the years. We owe our success to their professionalism, courage, dedication and selflessness.

Our utmost respect and homage is due especially to those brave peacekeepers who have made the ultimate sacrifice by laying down their lives while serving the people in need. We should also bear in mind that the blue helmets essentially provide a vital bridge to stability and long-term peace and development. Along with peacekeeping, it is therefore important to pursue efforts for peace-building, as well as for conflict prevention and resolution, in the context of a comprehensive approach.

And since peacekeeping is a collective endeavour, its continued success depends on the political will and support of the Member States. The truly international character of UN peacekeeping is evident in that 115 countries today contribute over 130,000 military, police and civilian personnel to UN peacekeeping Missions. Our highest tributes go to these Member States. We also owe our gratitude to the large number of NGOs and volunteers for their dedicated service for populations in the host countries.

I am also pleased to note that tonight's concert includes performances by renowned artists representing many of the Member States committed to and deeply engaged in UN peacekeeping.

Music and art promote many noble purposes. They unleash innovation and creativity; unite people from different regions and cultures; and provide a common medium to advance dialogue, understanding and reconciliation. A live demonstration of that, we would have in this concert.

I would like to thank all those who have worked hard to bring together tonight's activities, namely DPKO, DPI, and in particular the Culture Project. Quite often, art is a casualty of war. To restore art and culture to peoples' lives and to help rebuild societies through images, words and sound, is a great service indeed.

Let us start this evening's performance by saying a heart-felt "Thank you" to the Member States who contribute to UN Peacekeeping and to all the men and women serving this noble cause with devotion, and particularly remembering those who have given their lives for the safety and security of their fellow human beings.

### Secretary General's Message for UN Day 2009—Ban Ki-moon

On this United Nations Day and every day throughout the year, the United Nations is at work — for the planet, for jobs, for "we the peoples".

We deliver more humanitarian aid than anyone — and to the toughest places. We vaccinate 40 per cent of the world's children. We feed more than 100 million people and are helping more than 30 million refugees, most of them women and children fleeing war and persecution. We are deploying more peacekeepers than ever — more than 115,000. In the last year alone, we provided electoral assistance to almost 50 countries. And the entire UN system has mobilized to face global economic turmoil and the social unrest it threatens.

People look to the United Nations to defeat poverty and hunger, to keep the peace, to expand education and stand up for human rights in every corner of the globe. They look to us to stop the spread of deadly weapons and disease, and to protect people and families hit by disasters. In December, they will look to us to seal a comprehensive, equitable and ambitious deal on climate change that will protect us all and pave the way toward a greener, more sustainable economy.

This is a unique moment in world affairs. Multiple crises — food, fuel, financial, flu — are hitting at once. Climate change looms larger every day. Each illustrates a 21st-century truth: we share one planet, one home. As people, as nations, as a species, we sink or swim together.

The United Nations is doing its utmost to respond — to address the big issues, to look at the big picture. We are forging a new multilateralism that can deliver real results for all people, especially those most in need. But I am also painfully aware of the distance to go and the gap between commitment and action. On this UN Day, let us resolve to redouble our efforts on behalf of the vulnerable, the powerless, the defenceless. Let us stand more united than ever — united in purpose and united in action to make the world a safer, better place.