

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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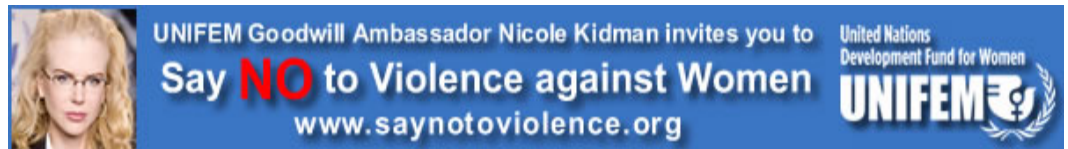
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Close to 250,000 Individuals and 35 Governments Say NO to Violence against Women!



With the International 16 Days of Activision Against Gender Violence approaching quickly (November 25-December 10, 2008), I felt it appropriate to pass on the following information on ways you can join UNIFEM's campaign.

The **Say NO to Violence against Women** campaign continues to gain worldwide support. Help them reach **1 million**

names by 25 November, when all names will be handed to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a broadbased call for governments to take action to end violence against women and girls:

Ask 3 people to visit SayNOtoViolence.org and add their names

Include a link to SayNOtoVio-

ence.org as part of your e-mail signature

Talk about the campaign in your blog and in discussion forums

Let's make our voices heard loud and clear!
www.saynotoviolence.org

F.Y.I. The Worst Places on Earth for Women

While some of the world's 3.3 billion females are running governments and Fortune 500 companies, there are still places where women are systematically repressed and tortured. What are some of the worst? Take a look below. Then visit house.gov/writerep and get them on your congressional representatives' radar. —Jihan Thompson

- HAITI:** Nearly 50 percent of women in the capital's shantytown, Cité Soleil, have been sexually assaulted—not surprising when you consider that rape was criminalized only three years ago.
- SIERRA LEONE:** This is the worst place to be a woman, according to the Human Development Report. Only 24 percent of women are literate, and one in eight die during pregnancy or childbirth. Life expectancy is 43.
- MOLDOVA:** A sex-trafficking superstore. Prostitutes are the former Soviet satellite's biggest export, with nearly 750,000 slaves working around the world.
- NEPAL:** The female literacy rate is at 35 percent; if girls aren't married off in their teens, there's a good chance they'll be sold by their families to sex traffickers.
- NIGER:** Only 4 percent of women have access to contraceptives, and 67 percent of births happen without a health professional on hand.
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO:** In the country's decade-long civil war, gang rape, often involving the creative use of guns and machetes, is a common weapon.
- AFGHANISTAN:** A woman dies during childbirth every half-hour, the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Domestic violence is endemic; 87 percent of Afghan women have been assaulted by a family member.
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** Girls get just five years of formal education before going to work. They are four times more likely than men to contract HIV.
- GUATEMALA:** Since 2002, 2900 Guatemalan women and girls have been murdered, 590 last year alone. And thanks to a corrupt and negligent legal system, the cases are rarely solved.

Running shoes can last 300 to 400 miles before the soles break down. While training, you can eat 4000 to 5000 extra calories a week and not gain weight.

TOP RIGHT: R. SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES; BOTTOM PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: T. BELIZARE/GETTY IMAGES; G. GOSBY/GETTY IMAGES; J. ALPINE/GETTY IMAGE

Service Committee



Sewing Projects:

We sewed 19 scarves at our last sewing service night. Thanks to all those who participated!

PLEASE NOTE: The sewing date of 10/23/08 to prepare for the pad project has been changed to 11/12/08 at 7pm at DA Blodgett. We will be testing pattern and snaps.

The next sewing date will be 11/20/08 at 5:30pm at DA Blodgett. We have area mid-

dle and HS girls who will be attending and helping us with the project (Thanks to Vicki Vandenberg!). If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Lisa Sostecke. No sewing skills required. This is an excellent opportunity to socialize with your sister Zontians and do some hands on service at the same time.

Girls Learning Day:

At the District Conference we were introduced to the cur-

rent AE Fellows in our area. One is attending MSU and was an excellent speaker. Darcie Clapp will be contacting her to see if she would be a good fit for our air presenter for Girls Math and Science Day.



“Remember no one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”
—Eleanor Roosevelt

Membership Committee

New Member Initiation:

Area Director, Joanne Lose, will perform the new member initiation at our November meeting. Please extend a warm welcome to our two newest members: Gini Gordon and Judy Wyman. Both come to us from DA Blodgett and learned about Zonta at our Lunch & Learn back in June. They will both be

great additions to our Club.

Guests:

There will be two guests at our November membership meeting. Bonnie Cowles is a friend of Darcie Clapp who attended the Progressive AE L&L and is interested in possible membership. Lisa Bonney is a woman who works for St. John’s Home and is new to the area and found us through our

website. Please welcome them at the meeting.

Lunch & Learns:

Our goal is to do one L&L per month for the fiscal year. We are working on scheduling one at St. Mary’s and Varnum. We also are going to work on meeting with members of Inform and GRYP. If you have other contacts, please let Darcie Clapp know.

Ways & Means Committee

Poker Fundraiser:

We raised approximately \$800 (after all expenses) at the Poker Tournament Fundraiser. Thanks to all those who volunteered and a special thanks to Allison Reuter for getting all our licenses and setting up the event.

Since we still need to earn a bit more to reach our budget this year, the Board is recommending that we schedule another date to hold a secondary tournament this winter. More details TBA.



President's Message



Our next ATNOZ event will be 12/2/08 at 6:30pm at the Voigt House for their annual holiday

Sugar Plum Tea. This event will include tea and crumpets with a tour of the historic home following.

I have reserved the entire room (20 spaces) for Zonta. We have to have our final count in by 11/6/08. So, please RSVP to me ASAP. Guests and prospects are definitely welcome and encouraged.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Maggie and Maryellen for the beautiful table décor at our last meeting. It was totally unexpected and wonderful.

I need to take member photos at the November meeting. If you haven't seen your bio in the Her-story section of the newsletters over the past year, please come prepared for a photo. I had a computer virus earlier this year and I lost the ones I previously took.

I wish everyone a happy, relaxed and safe holiday season as we head into November.

Happy Halloween!

—Darcie



District Conference NewZ

Allison Reuter and Darcie Clapp attended the District Conference in Frankenmuth, MI this past weekend. The setup was improved in that all workshops were attended by all, instead of having to pick and choose. It was a non-election year but there were two issues brought to the membership: 1) to accept the updated District Policy and Procedure Manual to include committee assignments and s/he instead of he or she or both (passed); and 2) to amend the Zonta Blessing to be inclusive of all faiths instead of skewed toward Christian beliefs (failed, but revised blessing can be used at the discretion of the individual club).

We also learned some new techniques for PR, membership recruitment and retention, leadership and website functions.

Our Zonta Store was well received and once again our sparkle shirts were very popular. We sold out of the new black shirts (20), placed orders for 2 more, sold three of the white shirts, 16 of the iron on decals and SOLD OUT of the Z sparkle pins (no more in inventory!). Our gross receipts were \$640!!! Remember, net proceeds will go toward our convention fund to send delegates to conferences and conventions. We will definitely have to have them available for sale at the 2010 San Antonio Conven-

tion. Surely they will sell like hotcakes there as well!

For there is
Hope in two women
Friendship in three
Determination in four
Confidence in five
And, with six women,
All goals are possible.

Gibbon's Decline & Fall





Zonta Club of Grand Rapids

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Next Business Meeting:

Thursday, November 6, 2008

5:30pm Social

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Business Meeting

D.A. Blogett Conference Room

805 Leonard St. N.E.

~Onsite Child Care provided~

Presenter: Joanne Lose, Area 2 Director.

Joanne will be inducting our new members and giving a short presentation on the current District/Area news.

Dinner \$15.00, includes beverages

Menu: Carved Steamship Round of Beef with au jus, potato, vegetable salad, rolls, and dessert.

Catered by: Catered Creations, Inc.

Important Dates

- Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 7pm @ DAB Pad sewing prep date
- Tuesday, November 18, 2008, 6pm, Big Rapids Holiday Inn Conference Center, Zonta Club of Big Rapids Area 50 Year Celebration
- Thursday, November 20, 2008, 5:30pm @ DAB, Pad sewing date with middle and HS girls help
- November 25-December 10, International 16 Days of Activism
- Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 6:30pm @ Voigt House, Sugar Plum Tea ATNOZ event, guests and prospects welcome; NOTE: NO DEC REG MTG
- Thursday, January 8th will be our January business meeting since the first Thursday falls on a holiday.
- March 8, 2009, International Women's Day/Zonta Rose Day
- May 14, 2009, Zonta GR hosts girls learning day with focus on math and science

HERstory

Allison Reuter has been a Grand Rapids Zontian for two years; however, she was a member of the Detroit I Zonta Club prior to moving to Grand Rapids and joining our local club. Allison enjoys playing Texas Hold'em, spending time with her 5 year old son, Brendan, and being at Darcie's beckon call as Vice President of our Club. She thought she would have been a psychologist when she grew up but she ended up becoming a lawyer. The best day of the past year for Allison was starting her new job at Hope Network as general counsel.

The biggest lesson she has learned from life is to be open to change because life always changes. If Allison could go back in time and spend a day with someone she would spend it with her grandmother to learn about her Polish heritage and how to cook the native dishes. One of Allison's worst habits is arriving late. Better late than never, Allison! A unique item she carries with her in her purse is a Pinocchio tape measure. Yes, Brendan keeps her a kid at heart! If she had a million dollars and 24 hours to spend it she would donate it to the many charitable organiza-

tions she is a part of and anything left over she would use to foster her gambling passion. If she were to choose a new name for herself, it would be Mary Anne. (Picture Gillian's Island!)

Allison is a great asset to Zonta and we are proud to have her as an active member.

A special thanks to Allison for all her help in setting up and seeing us through another successful Poker Fundraiser!



Allison Reuter