

REMINDER:
Bring food donation for
the Arlington Food Assistance
Center (AFAC)

Zonta Voice

Published by the Zonta Club of Arlington Area, Virginia

January-February 2013

Fellowship, Fun & Great Works

A Business Meeting

The Arlington Area Zonta Club invites you!

Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2013
(4th Wednesday)

Social: 6:30 PM

Meeting: 7:00 PM

Where: Chez Andree Restaurant
10 East Glebe Road, Alexandria 22305

Reservations for the Business Meeting

Betsy Reilly coordinates our reservations. Please call or email Betsy (BX2Reilly@msn.com) the Sunday before the meeting. The cost is \$26.00. If you make a reservation and cannot attend the meeting, please advise Betsy.* Guests are welcome.

*Members who do not call to cancel will still owe \$26.

Board of Directors' meetings are held virtually. If you are interested in being on the distribution list, let Alina know (moandnoodle@me.com).

President's Corner



Greetings my fellow Zontians!

Nothing warms up the frigid winter temperatures better than a good service project! Our Dinner with Friends event on Valentine's Day was no exception. This has to be one of my favorite hands-on projects because we get to see the impact of our work within the community. Dinner with Friends is a monthly dinner where families from Doorways' residential programs and the HomeStart Supportive Housing Program come together for a meal and an educational program. This takes place at the Clarendon United Methodist Auditorium. Of noteworthy mention, our club received special recognition from Doorways because of our willingness to sponsor the dinner for the client families on Valentine's Day. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

Kudos to Janie DiSalvo who led this effort and the many hands & contributions which led to the success of this event. Although the etiquette calls for reserved interaction with the families because of privacy issues, the families were endearing, engaging and the children, who were numerous, were so well behaved. Simply put – the event was high energy and the overt expression of gratitude on behalf of Doorways and the families makes my membership to Zonta worthwhile.

Recently, I have had 2 inquiries about our organization. In order to respond, I have had to reflect on why I joined Zonta in the first place. I find that my response always highlights the diverse opportunities of our projects. Zonta's appeal to me continues to derive from the broad range of charities that we support. One can become a member and choose among the charities to be a supporting agent for that charity. It offers a myriad of opportunities that speak to a variety of passions within the scope of supporting the advancement of women worldwide. It offers our members many choices and many levels of participation. It really makes our organization, an "organization of choice."

Thank you for all that you do.

Alina

Inside this issue

President's Corner	1
February Event	1
National Portrait Gallery	2
Minutes of January Meeting	3
Wine Event Preparations	5
Women's Empowerment	6
CEDAW-Eliminate Discrimination	7-8
Presidential Memo-Gender Equity	8
Dinner with Friends/Thank Yous	8-9
Orlando Convention	10

National Portrait Gallery, January 2013

Gracious thanks to **Dorothy McManus**, Docent with the National Portrait Gallery, for such a meaningful and focused tour! The Gallery, built in the 1830s, and originally the Patent Office, was modeled after the Parthenon. Thomas Jefferson had a hand in building one of four sides of the Gallery that includes a beautiful courtyard shared with musicians, vendors and knitters.

Despite the belief in the early years that “when a woman marries, she must give up a will of her own,” women such as Judith Sargeant Murray and Abigail Adams (“remember the ladies” to husband John) were at the forefront of the women’s movement.



In honor of Zonta’s celebration in January of Amelia Earhart month, the club visited her exhibit. Amelia Earhart, one of the most photographed women in her time, was a featured exhibit including her 1921 first RIDE in an airplane to her flight across the Atlantic in 1928. A

true trend setter, she wrote a letter to her husband to be outlining her expectations including her desire to “separate if we go a year with no happiness.”

A surprising portrait was that of Belva Ann Lockwood, the first female to argue a case in the Supreme Court, also ran for president in 1884 and 1888 - before she even had the right to vote. Living to be 87, she was a true inspiration to many women - though she frightened some!

The big question, is the dress saved by Dolly Madison and protected at the Gallery come from curtains pulled from the White House (along with the silver and George Washington’s portrait) before it burned....you make the call! But Dolly did do quite a bit to establish expectations for then presidents and future first ladies.

A local woman, Mary Church Turrell, was instrumental in the “Struggle for Justice” for her work as a principal and then member of the Board of Education in DC. Her focus, allowing African Americans in public places, likely inspired her interest in helping to found the NAACP.

And we couldn’t end the tour without seeing the none-to-flattering portrait of Betty Friedan, writer of *The Feminine Mystique*.

Following a tour full of information and history, we filled our bellies with delicious italian food from Carmines. Now we know sharing meals is still too much food - but it sure was terrific.

--Karen Albert



Minutes of Zonta Arlington Area Club

January 12, 2013

Carmine's, Washington, D.C.

An informal luncheon meeting was held after the Portrait Gallery visit to briefly cover club business.

If you owe anything on White House Ornaments, please settle with Virginia or Ellie soon so they can wrap this project up!

Re: 501.c.3. - Virginia reported that the IRS indicated that they may need some more information, but we were not denied outright - thanks again Virginia for spearheading this project.

Website - Alina will attempt work with Judy Johnston to set up a Go-to-Meeting to review all of the web pages.

Karen presented a mid year budget status and indicated that we are in good shape financially. Five items approved for the budget were moved (Blanche), seconded (Nancy) and unanimously approved to send checks for the budgeted amount.

Janie and Blanche updated the status of Dinner with Friends and other Doorways volunteer opportunities. The attendees identified volunteers for the Dinner and items they will purchase.

Nancy will follow up to find a speaker for February.

Marty would appreciate receiving articles for the newsletter at least by the second week of the month so that she can get the newsletter out a week or two prior to the next meeting.

Motion (Karen A), seconded (Janie) and unanimously approved to adjourn at 3:10 pm.

Thanks to Karen Albert for the minutes.



9th Wine Seminar--Preparations & Update



Hello All. I hope that you received the sample “save the date” email for you to send to your friends and colleagues to let them know that we will be holding the **9th Annual Wine Seminar on April 6th**. Here’s some other info about how the preparations are going:

The wine-choosing at Schneider’s took place on January 19th. This involves a few well-trained palates and some very generous wine merchants.

After that, we will need to do our annual wine-and-food-pairing event. I think that will be on March 6th, though we are still working with the Wine Seminar Committee on that. This involves one bottle of each of our wines (11-12), about 8-12 people, and assorted foods each Zontian brings that are likely to match with wines. The foods all need to be able to be served at room temperature (or out of a cooler), in individual servings sizes, and preferably not require any utensils. This makes things a bit of a challenge, but each year we have many excellent choices to keep having some interesting pairings, some new, some “old friends.”

After this event, I put together the list of wines and foods, and gather any recipes that are needed. THEN we seek volunteers to provide each of the foods, hopefully for about 120 ticket-buyers. (So it helps if the foods are also not too pricey - no caviar!) We also need volunteers to provide non-food items, so there is plenty of contribution opportunity for all our members.

Normally we get the flyer and tickets out at the February meeting, which is essential this year because we’re having the tasting so early in April. Ellie Karro has been fabulous at providing these items.

We make money at the Wine Seminar by selling tickets, and by selling wines, AND by having a silent auction. This normally means about a dozen gift baskets and such from the members. I think that we can assure donors that we are now a tax-deductible organization - in which case we can solicit a few donations to provide more variety to our offerings. Already we’ve had someone offer a nice watercolor print. This does not all have to be wine-related items (that would be boring!) nor all high-end items. We have a reasonable variety of attendees, many who come every year, so we need to offer some affordable items and always something new or perishable.

Please please please, our club has budgeted earnings of \$8,500 this year - we need everyone’s help to make this a success!! As always, if we can sell over 120 tickets, we can afford free attendance for the members. We did it in 2011, but not last year. Let’s make this year a high-sales year!!!

Looking forward to making this a good year,

Anne McGee (and Mike Lynch)

*Many hands make light work!!
Help make this year's event the best yet.*

Women's Health and Empowerment

Posted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies Staff on Jan 08, 2013 at 04:00 pm

<http://www.smartglobalhealth.org/blog/entry/president-joyce-banda-new-focus-on-womens-health-and-empowerment-in-malawi>

Blog and Video by Janet Fleischman and Julia Nagel



President Joyce Banda: New Focus on Women's Health and Empowerment in Malawi

When Joyce Banda unexpectedly ascended to the presidency of Malawi last April, after the death of President Mutharika, many in her country and around the world wondered what her impact would be as Malawi's first female president. Among the many challenges, her government faces high rates of maternal mortality, high total fertility rates, and high HIV prevalence among women and girls, combined with low levels of women's economic empowerment and widespread violence against women.

CSIS wanted to learn more about how women leaders in Africa are bringing new attention to women's health and empowerment in their own countries, and to bring those voices into the discussion about U.S. policy priorities for women's global health. To do this, we sent a small team to Malawi and Zambia in December 2012.

During an interview with President Banda in Malawi, which we have turned into this short video, we were able to ask her about these issues. Her response underscored the exciting prospects raised by her tenure as well as the daunting challenges ahead: "You know when a woman gets into State House, they notice the little things that would otherwise be ignored by a man," with particular emphasis on family planning, maternal mortality, and malnutrition. President Banda was especially passionate that the economic empowerment of women is an essential step to ensure that there is effective family planning: "it is only when a women is economically empowered that she can negotiate at household level with her husband about the number of children that body of hers can have."

President Banda went on to describe her own compelling personal story of the vital link between education for girls and economic empowerment for women, against a backdrop of violence against women. "I had three children, in an abusive marriage. And then finally I said, no. I have to walk out. For the sake of my children... So for me when I talk about the importance of economic empowerment of women, it's because I tried it."

In Malawi, we saw a woman wearing a t-shirt celebrating the first 100 days of JB's presidency. Banda's supporters expressed hope about the positive changes underway, from public works projects to the re-engagement of key international donors, to a new initiative on maternal mortality. But even her most ardent supporters acknowledge that real change will take time. Their optimism is being sorely tested by Malawi's tough economic and social realities, including a legacy of corruption, autocracy, and mismanagement.

Yet President Banda made clear to us that she will "stay the course:" As she explained: "while I'm trying to bring the country back on track, I'm also very mindful of my mission - to make sure that I continue to empower women... So for me, that is what being a leader is all about."

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW Task force (update from Jan Witt)

On January 6, 2013 USA Today ran an online op-ed on the need to ratify CEDAW now.

Why U.S. needs to ratify women's rights treaty

International pact would curb worldwide gender discrimination.

One of the distinguishing features of American foreign policy is its claim of moral authority in the field of human rights. Our politicians regularly cite America as a beacon of freedom and as a champion of the cause of human dignity across the globe. Yet, in at least one important instance, America lags behind.

The United States remains the only industrialized democracy <http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/cedaw_fact_sheet.pdf> not to have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, a watershed international agreement that protects women and girls from unfair treatment and abuse. In fact, only six other states in the United Nations -- Iran, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and two Pacific Islands <<http://www.cedaw2012.org/index.php/about-cedaw>> -- have failed to approve the treaty.

Last week, a coalition of more than 100 organizations co-signed a letter urging the Senate to ratify the treaty in the 113th Congress. President Obama endorses ratification <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPubL3LORCQ>> n, and has identified the Convention as a multilateral treaty priority. The Senate must seize this moment, and ratify the women's rights convention. It must not play the same shameful partisan politics that it did with the disability rights convention <<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2012/12/04/disability-united-nations-treaty-senate-dole/1745679/>>, which it rejected just one month ago.

The international bill of rights for women, as it's often called, was drafted in 1979 to help curb worldwide gender discrimination. A decade later, the economist Amartya Sen described the problem best when he noted in an article that more than 100 million women were missing from the world <<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/1990/dec/20/more-than-100-million-women-are-missing/?pagination=false>> . Sen concluded that men outnumbered women because of disparate access to education, health care and economic opportunity. There was also mounting evidence at the time that gender equality was correlated positively with economic development and democratic reform -- a principle now espoused by economists worldwide. The treaty

recognizes that women's rights are human rights and, like genocide and racial discrimination before it, merit their own international commitment.

Countries that ratify the treaty agree to take "all appropriate measures" to ensure that women receive equal and fair treatment. They commit to providing periodic reports documenting their efforts to a 23-member committee, which makes recommendations regarding best practices. The committee has no enforcement authority and its recommendations are non-binding. Its power is persuasive and rests on an unwavering belief that self-evaluation and international dialogue leads to positive change for women and girls. Public reports make states accountable to the world, and empower NGO's and citizens, both at home and abroad, to take action.

Success stories from those countries that have already ratified the treaty abound. In 2005, Kenya ended inheritance discrimination against widows and daughters based on guidance from the committee. In the same year, Kuwait gave women the right to vote following the committee's recommendation. By 2009, each of Mexico's 32 states had adopted language from the Convention in legislation to end violence against women. Bangladesh has committed to eliminating gender disparities in secondary education because of the public dialogue emanating from its periodic reports.

Ratification will allow the U.S. to participate in this international dialogue, and stand up for women's rights. U.S. Ambassador for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verveer, testified last year that U.S. ratification "would lend much needed validation" <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/12/01/a-senate-hearing-womens-treaty>> to women seeking greater political and economic expression in the Middle East in the wake of the Arab uprisings. As it stands, major human rights violators cite America's failure to ratify the treaty as evidence that women's rights aren't universal.

Approval of the treaty will also aid our own continued progress. According to the World Economic Forum's 2012 Global Gender Gap Report <http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2012.pdf> , the U.S. ranks 22nd in the world in gender equity. Domestic violence persists, pay discrimination lingers and the U.S. ranks last among all industrialized nations in maternal health. San Francisco has already profited from the Convention's time-tested processes. The city recently reduced gender discrimination in hiring and retention after passing an ordinance implementing the treaty's self-evaluation process on a local level.

(CEDAW) Continued...

Critics have charged that the agreement undermines national sovereignty. Yet, the Convention relies entirely on voluntary cooperation and advisory recommendations. Should the U.S. ratify the treaty, our elected officials would be responsible for determining what measures are appropriate to advance its goals. The women's rights treaty affirms fundamental American values of fairness and opportunity for all.

In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, President Obama declared that "America cannot insist that others follow the rules of the road if we refuse to follow them ourselves."

The time for rhetoric is over. If America seeks to promote the cause of women's rights, the Senate must take action and ratify the international bill of rights for women.

Emily Martin is vice president and general counsel at the National Women's Law Center. Arjun Sethi is an attorney based in Washington, D.C., and a frequent commentator on civil rights and social justice-related issues.

CEDAW UPDATE

Advocates of UN Women's Rights Treaty Renew Ratification Efforts for 113th Congress

Advocates for the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) delivered petitions and a letter signed by more than 100 organizations to each Senate office to build momentum for ratification of the treaty in the 113th Congress. CEDAW is the only international legal instrument that comprehensively addresses women's rights within political, cultural, economic, and social spheres at the local, national, and international levels. The United States has been a signatory to CEDAW for over 30 years, but has yet to ratify the treaty. Ratification requires 67 votes in the Senate.

On January 30, 2012, President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum to strengthen and expand U.S. government capacity and coordination across all agencies to better promote gender equality and empower women and girls. <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/01/30/presidential-memorandum-coordination-policies-and-programs-promote-gende>>

Doorways Dinner with Friends

Dinner with Friends

On February 14th, members prepared a yummy dinner for Doorways. Thanks to everyone who helped out by buying goods or preparing for the dinner.



OFFICERS

President—Alina Doreste-Johnson

meandnoodle@me.com

Vice President—Nancy Ramsay

nramsay2@gmail.com

Secretary—Virginia Nickich

virginiaroseyoga@aol.com

Treasurer—Karen Albert

karenalbertva@verizon.net



Zonta Club of Arlington Area

P.O. Box 6825
Arlington, VA 22206

Zonta Club of Arlington
www.zontaarlingtonarea.org

Zonta District 3
www.zontadistrictthree.org

Zonta International
www.zonta.org

DOORWAYS

for women and families

Creating Pathways Out of Domestic Violence and Homelessness Toward Safe and Stable Lives

October 19, 2012

Ms. Blanche Anderson
Zonta Club of Arlington Area, District III
Chapter No. 329, 2059 Huntington Ave #505
Alexandria, VA 22303

Letters of appreciation from Doorways

Dear Ms. Anderson,

On behalf of the board, staff, and volunteers of Doorways for Women and Families, thank you for your generous donation of \$500. Because of your support, we are able to provide safety, housing and life-changing services to over 2,000 women, men and children experiencing domestic violence and homelessness each year.

While the thought of ending homelessness and domestic violence is daunting, your support makes it possible. More than 90% of Doorways clients leaving emergency shelter transition to safe, positive housing, and over 85% achieve their goals in the areas of employment, savings and reduced debt. We have grown our efforts beyond shelter and today, two thirds of our clients live in homes of their own with support from Doorways. These are homes where our clients hold the key, from which they become stable members of their community.

Together, we offer a safe home for those in crisis and the tools they need to rebuild their lives. Thank you again for your generosity, and for the priceless gift of hope.

Please save this letter as a receipt of your gift. No goods or services were provided for this donation.

With gratitude,

Caroline
Caroline Jones, MSW
Executive Director

Thank you, Blanche and all of our dear friends at Zonta! Over the years, you've helped make so many things possible for so many. Thank you!

DOORWAYS

for women and families

Creating Pathways Out of Domestic Violence and Homelessness Toward Safe and Stable Lives

November 8, 2012

Ms. Blanche Anderson
Zonta Club of Arlington Area, District III
Chapter No. 329, 2059 Huntington Ave #505
Alexandria, VA 22303

Dear Ms. Anderson,

On behalf of the board, staff, and volunteers of Doorways for Women and Families, thank you for your generous donation of \$5,000 for the upgrades to our Safehouse Kennel! Because of your support, we are able to provide safety, housing and life-changing services to over 2,000 women, men and children experiencing domestic violence and homelessness each year.

While the thought of ending homelessness and domestic violence is daunting, your support makes it possible. More than 90% of Doorways clients leaving emergency shelter transition to safe, positive housing, and over 85% achieve their goals in the areas of employment, savings and reduced debt. We have grown our efforts beyond shelter and today, two thirds of our clients live in homes of their own with support from Doorways. These are homes where our clients hold the key, from which they become stable members of their community.

Together, we offer a safe home for those in crisis and the tools they need to rebuild their lives. Thank you again for your generosity, and for the priceless gift of hope.

Please save this letter as a receipt of your gift. No goods or services were provided for this donation.

With gratitude,

Caroline
Caroline Jones, MSW
Executive Director

Wow!! I thank you so very much, Blanche and our very dear friends at Zonta! We are so thrilled to partner with you in this important effort. Thank you!

Convention in Orlando-Plan Ahead

June 27-July 1, 2014



Preparing for the **2014 Convention in Orlando**, hotel registration is now available. Please click on the link provided below, which will take you to the hotel registration form.

The rates for rooms, not including taxes, are:

Single/Double Rooms: US\$169/night

Triple Rooms: US\$189/night

Quad Rooms: US\$209/night

The first screen is an Enrollment Guest information form. Please notice that at the bottom of the form you will need to put in your Zonta member ID number. Should you be enrolling from a country other than the US, you will not be required to identify a state. There is also a tab at the top of this screen, Event Information, which will allow you to access additional hotel information.

Following the completion of that screen, you will be able to follow through with hotel registration. When completing the hotel registration form, please insert your club name in the space for "Organization". Please be sure to clearly identify any special needs and requirements you might have.

Once you complete the hotel registration form and submit, you will receive by e-mail, an event enrollment acknowledgement number. This number will allow you to go back into your hotel reservation form to double check what you have reserved and make necessary changes, as well as make advance restaurant reservations. In addition to the Enrollment Acknowledgement, you should receive a hotel confirmation of your reservation that will reflect the special needs identified.

The World Center Marriott, the site of the 2014 Convention, is the only convention hotel. It is a self-contained resort, with many activities for all ages available for your use.

Please remember that although the hotel is within a 15-minute drive from many area attractions, there is no public transportation or routine shuttle service between the World Center Marriott and other local hotels, therefore we recommend that you stay at World Center Marriott for convenient access to convention activities.

Below is the link to hotel reservations:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/Z2014>

Should encounter any issues please contact:

Jane Adams, Convention Chairman at 2014conventionchairman@gmail.com or

Alice Chick, Convention Treasurer at 2014conventiontreasurer@gmail.com