

# ZONTAGRAM

ZONTA CLUB OF WESTCHESTER  
CONSTITUENT OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT 3 AREA 1 ORGANIZED 1931

December 2011



## OFFICERS

President  
*Alice Massa*  
Vice President  
*Sheila Sievertsen*  
Treasurer  
*Georgia LaBlanc*  
Recording Secretary  
*Constance Crump*  
Directors  
*Karen Carroll*  
*Vivienne Bartley*  
*Mayra Rodriguez*  
*Stella Reiss*

## COMMITTEES

Finance  
*Jamie Hubert*  
Organization, Membership &  
Classification *Theresa Sigauke*  
Public Relations & Communication  
*Vivienne Bartley*  
Service  
*Shirley Carter*  
United Nations  
*Pat Latona*  
Archives  
*Georgia LaBlanc*  
Programs  
*TBA*  
Legislative Awareness &  
Advocacy *Sheila Sievertsen &*  
*Nora Gorman*  
Parliamentarian  
*Minna Elgart*  
Nominating  
*S. Carter, P. Wines, P. Latona*  
Newsletter  
A. Crew S. Reiss  
Website  
*Mayra Rodriguez*

Dear Members:

I am hoping that all of the Westchester Zonta members are having a healthy and happy holiday season. It will be nice to see you all at my home on Tuesday December 13th for our monthly meeting. We will be sharing our accomplishments so far this year and our plans for the upcoming winter and spring.

The board met and we have begun to strategize for our Annual Spring Fashion Show and Fundraiser, April 14, 2011. I am confident that I can count on each and every member to assist in the planning and carrying out of this event. Sign up lists will be at the December meeting.

As usual, we have been focusing on activities to improve the quality of life of those less fortunate in our community during this holiday season. At our meeting, information regarding the family we are sponsoring for the holiday will be shared. Gift cards will be collected to be distributed by Hope's Door to women in need.

Again, I am proud to be associated with women like you, who give of themselves to make life better and strive to empower women in our world.

Best wishes for a Joyous Holiay,

Alice De Luise Massa, President  
Zonta Club of Westchester

December  
Meeting

Tues, December  
13<sup>th</sup>

At the home of  
Alice Massa

21 Dewey  
Avenue  
New Rochelle

This will be a  
catered event,  
so please bring  
\$20 to help  
cover the cost  
of the meal!

## Human Rights Day 2011



Human Rights Day on December 10, 2011 recognizes the work of human rights defenders worldwide who act to end discrimination. Acting alone or in groups within their communities, every day human rights defenders work to end discrimination by campaigning for equitable and effective laws, reporting and investigating human rights violations and supporting victims.

While some human rights defenders are internationally renowned, many remain anonymous and undertake their work often at great personal risk to themselves and their families. Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on December 10th. It commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

When the General Assembly adopted the Declaration, with 48 states in favor and eight abstentions, it was proclaimed as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", towards which individuals and societies should "strive by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance".

Although the Declaration, with its broad range of political, civil, social, cultural and economic rights, is not a binding document, it inspired more than 60 human rights instruments which together constitute an international standard of human rights.

Today, the general consent of all United Nations Member States on the basic Human Rights laid down in the Declaration makes it even stronger and emphasizes the relevance of Human Rights in our daily lives. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the main United Nations rights official, and her office play a major role in coordinating efforts for the yearly observation of Human Rights Day.



*Let there be peace on  
earth,  
And let it begin with  
me.*

*Let there be peace on  
earth*

*The peace that was  
meant to be.*

*With God as our father  
We are family.*

*Let us walk with each  
other*

*In perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment  
now.*

*With every step I take  
Let this be my solemn  
vow.*

*To take each moment  
And live each moment  
With peace eternally.*

*Let there be peace on  
earth,*

*And let it begin with  
me.*

## CALENDAR

DATE	MEETING	LOCATION	PROGRAM
November 8, 2011	Board—6:30pm	Alice's home	Planning Meeting
November 15, 2011	General--6:30pm	Fogarty's	Holiday Auction
December 13, 2011	General—6:30pm	Alice's home	Thandiew Sigauke
January 10, 2012	Board—6:30pm	Alice's home	Planning Meeting
January 17, 2012	General—6:30om	Fogarty's	Swing with a Zing
February 14, 2012	Board—6:30pm	Alice's home	Planning Meeting
February 21, 2012	General—6:30pm	Fogarty's	Speaker—Prison Chaplain
March 13, 2012	Board—6:30pm	Alice's home	Planning Meeting
March 20, 2012	General—6:30pm	Fogarty's	Health Panel
April 14, 2012	Davenport Club 11am		FUNDRAISER!!!!
April 17, 2012	General—6:30pm	Fogarty's	Committee Reports
May 15, 2012	General 6:30	Fogarty's	Installation of New Officers/Bd Members, YWPA Award
May 19, 2012	Amelia Earhart Event with Queens Westchester County Airplane		
June 23, 2012	General	*Member's home	





The Rape Aggression Defense System is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. The R.A.D. System is a comprehensive, women-only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. R.A.D. is not a Martial Arts program. Our courses are taught by nationally certified R.A.D. Instructors and provide each student with a workbook/reference manual. This manual outlines the entire Physical Defense Program for reference and continuous personal growth.

*Stay tuned for more info on the Zonta Club of Westchester's R.A.D. Program*

*Please bring Gift Cards to the meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>.*

*These cards will be donated to women and children in need this holiday season*

### **Give a Gift to a Child in Need**

Wanting to make sure that every child can feel the joy of opening a special package this holiday season, Westchester County's Department of Social Services (DSS) is once again organizing a gift drive for local youngsters living in a foster home or residential center.

New and unwrapped gifts are being sought for more than 800 children, infants to age 21, who don't have parents to present them with packages for the holidays. Collection boxes open to the public will be placed in county offices from Nov. 15 through Dec. 15.

Unwrapped gifts can be brought to seven locations throughout the county. Donors can also "sponsor" a child by getting a wish list through DSS and filling a specific request. Anyone wanting to sponsor a specific child or make a cash or bulk donation should contact Barbara Sabater, program administrator with the Department of Social Services, at (914) 995-5545 or e-mail her at [bms7@westchestergov.com](mailto:bms7@westchestergov.com)

A holiday collection bin is located on the first floor of the County Office Building at 148 Martine Avenue in White Plains. There are also collection bins at the following locations:

112 East Post Road, White Plains, 5th Floor

85 Court Street, White Plains

131 Warburton Ave., Yonkers

750 Washington Avenue, Peekskill

100 East 1st Avenue, Mount Vernon

One Stop Employment Center- 120 Bloomingdale Rd., White Plains

WFAS radio, 365 Secor Rd., Hartsdale

## **December 1, 2011—World AIDS Day**

1 December 2011 – As the world heads into the fourth decade of AIDS, it is finally in a position to end the epidemic, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today, leading a chorus of United Nations officials in calling for the political will, investments and determination to reach this goal. “Momentum is on our side. Let us use it to end AIDS – once and for all,” Mr. Ban said in his message for World AIDS Day, observed on 1 December each year. “The progress we have made so far is proof that we can realize our vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths,” he added.

The number of new HIV infections has fallen by more than 20 per cent since 1997, Mr. Ban noted. New infections are continuing to decline in most parts of the world. In addition, treatment has averted 2.5 million AIDS-related deaths since 1985, saving 700,000 lives last year alone. “But, to end AIDS, we need to deliver even greater results,” stressed the Secretary-General. “We must build on the political commitments, investments, energy, activism and determination that have brought us to this turning point.”

Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), noted it has been a year of achievements, of collective action, of resilience and of courage. Despite the economic downturn that has stretched the AIDS response to its limits, millions of lives have been saved, as HIV treatment and prevention efforts continue to show results, he said.

The theme of this year’s World AIDS Day is “Getting to Zero,” which reflects both optimism and the need to do much more, the President of the General Assembly said in his message, noting that the challenges ahead are “sobering.” While more than 6.5 million people now receive life-saving treatment, 7.6 million still have no access to it, said Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser. In 2010 alone, 1.8 million people died of AIDS-related illnesses, and there were 2.7 million new HIV infections.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) marked the Day by emphasizing the importance of providing food and nutrition support to people living with HIV and their families. “Poor nutritional status and HIV can reinforce each other in a vicious circle,” said Martin Bloem, WFP’s chief of nutrition and HIV/AIDS policy. “WFP works with communities and health centers around the world to ensure that people affected by HIV and AIDS receive comprehensive support that nourishes and strengthens their bodies.” In 2010, WFP supported 2.5 million people in 44 countries through its HIV and tuberculosis programs, providing food and nutrition support to some 1.3 million people living with HIV as part of their antiretroviral treatment (ART) or TB treatment and another 1.2 million people affected by these diseases. It aims to reach about the same number of people this year.

A UN Development Programme study released today says that households in Asia that include people living with HIV exhaust their savings and liquidate assets at a disproportionately high rate, often plunging into “irreversible poverty.” Catastrophic health care costs, stigma, unemployment, and bad credit also mean these households – which start out with fewer assets – consume less food of lower quality and keep fewer children in school, said the report, which calls for urgent mitigation measures, including HIV-sensitive social protection to help tens of thousands of households in the region.

## *Donate to Zonta Internationall!*

With the generous support of Zonta clubs, Zontians and friends of Zonta around the world, Zonta International is making a difference in the lives of women worldwide every day through our international service and educational award programs. With additional resources, however, many more women could benefit from our support.

This holiday season, please help Zonta improve the lives of women in need with a donation to the Zonta International Foundation.

Every dollar you give to the Zonta International Foundation:

Helps women overcome gender barriers to educational and professional advancement,

Ensures that women and children have access to affordable, life-saving health care,

Provides opportunities for women to earn higher wages and achieve economic independence, and

Strives to end violence against women while helping survivors of violence rebuild their lives.

Looking for a unique gift idea? Tribute gifts are a wonderful way to honor or remember a colleague, friend or loved one who has made a difference in your life. When you make a tribute gift to the Zonta International Foundation, your honoree will receive a personalized letter notifying them of your generous donation in their name.

Make a donation today and make a lasting difference in another woman's life. Donate online now or download a donation form to submit via mail.

## **CARE and Great Lakes Activists Demand Zero Tolerance For Sexual Violence**

*Civil Society Leaders from Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, DRC, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia Join with CARE to Urge Governments to Act to Stop Sexual Violence Against Women*

**GENEVA (November 25, 2011)** - On November 25, which marks the beginning of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, CARE and a coalition of civil society organizations in Africa's Great Lakes region, call on governments to be at the front line of the fight against sexual- and gender-based violence. Sexual and gender-based violence has long been identified as one of the major problems threatening security and stability in the Great Lakes. Governments in the region signed a protocol on tackling sexual and gender-based violence under the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in 2006, but efforts to end impunity and protect women and girls remain inadequate. On December 15, 2011, heads of state from the Great Lakes will meet in Kampala, Uganda. The meeting will include a special session to discuss sexual and gender-based violence. Civil society activists from the Great Lakes Region are urging the leaders at the meeting to agree to specific and time-bound actions to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence, and to translate the rhetoric of the 2006 protocol into action. The group of organizations urges heads of state to adopt the following recommendations:

- Declare Zero Tolerance Now on sexual and gender-based violence crimes and impunity;
- Allocate specific and adequate funding for sexual and gender-based violence prevention programs within a Gender Responsive Budgeting Framework;
- Institutionalize community policing in the prevention, early warning and response to sexual and gender-based violence, in collaboration with the security service sector;
- Establish an independent Regional Impunity Monitoring Unit by the next summit of the heads of state to thereafter report on progress annually;
- Establish national reparation funds for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence by the next International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Ordinary Summit of Heads of State;
- Adopt a comprehensive sexual and gender-based violence performance framework (in the form of an index or barometer with clear standards and targets), with opportunity for civil society to present shadow or parallel reports.

"In countries emerging from war, sexual violence haunts the communities we work with long after peace agreements are signed and the conflict is formally declared over," says Lillian Mpabulungi Ssenooba, CARE in Uganda advocacy manager. "Support to the survivors of sexual violence, their families and community should be seen as a core part of efforts to consolidate peace and reconcile societies torn apart by years of brutal fighting and impunity."