

# ZONTAGRAM

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

November 2011



## MONTHLY MEETING

November 15<sup>th</sup> 2011

Fogarty's

Members & Guests  
\$35.00  
Cocktails 6:30 pm

## PROGRAM HOLIDAY AUCTION

Unable to Attend

Call Barbara Moyik

914-682-4182

### OFFICERS

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

### COMMITTEES

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

[www.zontawestchesterny.org](http://www.zontawestchesterny.org)  
[www.zontadistrictthree.org](http://www.zontadistrictthree.org)  
[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

Dear Westchester Club Members,

As I reflect on the mission of Zonta and the activities in which our club, specifically, is involved, I can't help but have faith in the humanity of womankind. For every person who is suffering there are people like our members who are looking to help. I am honored to know so many who step up to the challenge of making the lives of those less fortunate better.

The holiday season is quickly approaching. Where does the time go? This month we will be having our Annual Holiday Auction at our November meeting. The monies raised will fund our service projects. Remember to bring items for the auction to either my home or to the meeting itself. We always have such a good time at this fundraiser and I hope you will bring some friends to join us in order to get an early start on holiday gift gathering.

Remember that the December meeting will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in December at my home! At the November meeting we will finalize whether it will be pot luck or have it catered.

I am hoping that all our members survived the October Snow Storm with minimal inconvenience.

Sincerely,  
Alice DE Luise Massa, President  
Zonta Club of Westchester

Thanks to  
all who  
participated  
in the  
Alzheimer's  
Walk!!!

## **Woman's Empowerment Principles**

**Submitted by Nora Gorman**

The Women's Empowerment Principles are a set of principles for business offering guidance on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace, and in the community. They are a result of a collaboration between UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Global Contract. The development of the principles included an international multi-stakeholder consultation process, which began in March 2009 and culminated in their launch on International Women's Day in March 2010.

To date, over 180 companies have signed the CEO Statement of Support.

EQUALITY MEANS BUSINESS, the principles emphasize the business case for corporate action to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and are informed by real-life business practices and input gathered from across a diverse globe. As well as being a useful guide for business, the principles seek to inform other stakeholders, including governments, in their engagement in business.

CEO STATEMENT OF SUPPORT encourages business leaders to use the seven principles as guides. While only chief executives of corporate entities can sign the CEO Statement, civil society leaders, business associations, non-governmental organizations, human rights advocates, women's organizations, and academic institutions are invited to encourage companies and business leaders within their sphere of influence to sign the CEO statement and implement the WEP's.

### **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PRINCIPLES:**

1. Establish high level corporate leadership for gender equality.
2. Treat all women and men fairly at work— respect and support human rights and nondiscrimination
3. Ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all women and men workers.
4. Promote education, training, and professional development for women
5. Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women
6. Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy.
7. Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality.

## *It's time for the Holiday Auction!!!*

Bring any and all items with you to the November meeting, along with your generous spirit (and of course, your check-book!!)

Remember, one woman's unwanted gift may be another woman's treasure, so bring anything from last year's holiday season that you would like to "re-gift!"

Items for the fundraiser can still be taken to Alice Massa's home prior to the meeting; this will allow for an early set-up for the event.

The success of this event depends on each of us; let's make it the best auction ever!!!



## 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	Potluck
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	

## **Labor Trafficking: Products of Labor Abuse**

***An excerpt from the website: [fightslaverynow.org](http://fightslaverynow.org), introduced to Zonta by our October speaker, Sarah Porter***

So many commodities are touched by forced labor and child labor that we cannot examine them here exhaustively. Many products that are tainted by slavery are very labor intensive and/or delicate and not readily amenable to mechanization. Other products are those which are being harvested illegally outside of regular channels or in remote areas where oversight is unlikely. This is true for valuable timbers such as teak and mahogany and well as mined luxuries such as jade, gold and diamonds. Some seafood products, notably shrimp, are harvested by children under the most torturous conditions imaginable. Crops include, in different parts of the world, rubber, cotton, rice, coffee, sugar and chocolate. Here are a few examples:

### ***Shrimp:***

Ninety percent of the shrimp in the United States is now imported. Much of it is harvested under conditions so abusive as to strain belief. Consider looking more carefully into where your seafood is coming from. More and more restaurants and markets are responsive to these concerns as well as to ecological sustainability. By simply asking questions you become part of the solution by creating a demand not just for cheap goods, but for ethically sourced ones.

### ***Coffee:***

The United States consumes one-fifth of the world's coffee, making it the largest consumer in the world. Picking coffee beans is a labor intensive task, and as such is frequently subject to labor abuse, exploitation, and slavery. In a global economy farmers in Guatemala must compete with farmers in Vietnam for market share, and consequently the value of farm labor in Guatemala is discounted against lower labor costs in Vietnam. In every producing country, coffee farm workers remain at the mercy of the international market. Fortunately coffee was one of the first crops to be widely incorporated in the Fair Trade movement.

Although organic or Fair Trade coffees can be found in most regions, often you still need to ask.

## ***Chocolate:***

With its sweet taste and all the connotations of childhood affection, it is sad to note that this is one of the most abusively harvested crops in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) where almost half of the world's chocolate originates as cocoa beans. The U.S. State Department estimates that over 15,000 child-slaves work on plantations in the Ivory Coast. They have been kidnapped or sold by their parents to work from age 8. The beans are bought by middlemen so that the big chocolate companies have a layer of insulation from the abject conditions that prevail. Nestle's, Hershey's and Mars are the largest buyers of this chocolate. In 2001, these companies, along with others, signed an international agreement, the [Harkin-Engel Protocol](#). Commonly referred to as the Cocoa Protocol, it has yet to be implemented!

Support Fair Trade and learn which brands are exploitation free and why organic chocolate or products from Central America are far more likely to be ethical choices.

## ***Manufactured Goods:***

We all love a bargain. It is human nature to seek good value and maximize our resources. But if you were in a position to look inside a sweatshop where you saw that women and children were being grossly abused, mistreated, overworked and beaten... would you still be happy with that six dollar shirt? Would you pride yourself on the bargain you had acquired? Certainly most of us would not. Yet these are conditions we may unwittingly support in our quest for ever cheaper goods. The world of marketing has successfully divorced us from the source of almost everything we consume. Retailers have manipulated us to value low cost disposable goods over quality, craftsmanship and durability.

Today this race to the bottom is driven in large measure by the huge chain stores and discounters who command such a major market share that they are able to virtually dictate terms to producers. In the global market place, enforceable regulation is scant and protections for workers are rare. But it is we, the consumers, who ultimately empower these retailing Goliaths. It is unlikely that we will ever roll back the clock, but there is much value in the adage "Think global, Buy local. So when you are shopping, do a bit of homework on companies before buying their products. Look at labels. Resist the temptation to consider only price rather than actual value. While "Made in the USA" and union labels are not absolute guarantors of ethical sourcing, they can be strong indicators.



## 2011 Theme - From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women

### A GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION

*The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign. The dates November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women, and December 10, International Human Rights Day, symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a human rights violation.*

1. **Bringing together women, peace, and human rights movements to challenge militarism:** For decades, women's, human rights, and peace movements have advocated for the use of peaceful strategies to end conflict and violence and to achieve women's rights. Advocacy in all of these areas is inherently tied to challenging militarism and putting forward a feminist alternative.
2. **Proliferation of small arms and their role in domestic violence:** Domestic violence is a reality in every country of the world. This violence becomes even more dangerous when guns are present in the home, as they can be used to threaten, injure, or kill women and children. Women are three times more likely to die violently if there is a gun in the house. Consequently, this year we will look at the sale, trade, proliferation, and misuse of small arms.
3. **Sexual violence in and after conflict:** Rape is often used as a tactic of war to drive fear and humiliate or punish women, their families, and their communities. While there has been more attention to this crime in recent years, sexual violence remains a major barrier to women's safety
4. **Political violence against women, including Pre/During/Post-election violence:** The use of violence to achieve political goals has specific gendered implications. From electoral violence that targets women with sexual violence to harassment or "sexuality baiting" of female protesters and political candidates, open misogyny in public and political spaces results in violations of women's human rights.
5. **Sexual and gender-based violence committed by state agents, particularly the police or military:** Even in places where there is no recognized conflict, militarized violence against civilians by uniformed personnel takes place. Individuals in positions of authority may believe they can commit crimes with impunity, and this is exemplified by high rates of sexual violence within the military, threats by police to women reporting cases of violence or assault, violations committed by peace-keeping forces, and violence against women living and working around military bases.

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#### How to Stay Connected

- Learn more about the campaign on our website: <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/>
- Check out the pictures on Flickr and email yours to us for inclusion: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/16dayscampaign>
- Receive email updates by joining the 16 Days listserve: [https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/16days\\_discussion](https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/16days_discussion)
- As November approaches, remember to submit your plans to the online International Calendar of Activities. The form will be available beginning in September on our website. View last year's calendar here: <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/campaign-calendar>
- Become a fan on Facebook (Search for "The Official 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign")
- Email us anytime! <mailto:16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu>

***The New Face of Hunger and Homelessness in Westchester:  
One company fights to change the image***

Hunger and Homelessness have a new face in Westchester and it's not the predictable one. That's an assessment being given by the Westchester Coalition for Hunger and Homelessness (WCHH), which has seen a 30-percent increase in the number of people seeking food and shelter during 2011.

The new clients seeking assistance are not the destitute. They are professionals laid off from their jobs, as a result of the economic recession, and whose unemployment benefits have expired or cannot be stretched enough to feed their families. Or, there are some who've been able to find jobs or remain in jobs, but at significantly lower salaries, making their rent payments unaffordable. Consequently, according to Rosa Boone-Morgan, executive director of the Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless, "We have been working with the food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in our network to provide more meals than we ever have before, more than 5.5 million meals, in fact.

The Coalition also informs hungry and homeless people about food programs available to them as well as government aid to which they may be entitled such as food stamps and the federally funded health and nutrition program for women, infants and children (WIC).

The Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless, Inc. is a corporation currently comprising 141 direct service food providers, including 72 food pantries, 38 soup kitchens, 31 shelters and service organizations and individuals involved in alleviating hunger and soup kitchens, shelters, transportation networks and other programs and services homeless.

***If you would like to help out during this holiday season, please take a look at the website***

***[www.foodclothingshelter.org](http://www.foodclothingshelter.org)***



Linda Brown-Nov 7  
Evelyn Garba – Nov 13  
Shelia Sievertsen– Nov 26

**Domestic Violence Conference 2011: Men Speaking to Men to Stop Violence Against Women  
Submitted by Shirley Carter**

On Saturday, October 15, 2011 at Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, NY I was privileged to be present at the second annual conference referred to as "A ground-breaking domestic violence awareness and education forum." This conference was hosted by the African American Men of Westchester, Inc (AAMW) in partnership with Grace Men's Ministry, My Sister's Place, and the Beta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. This was the second conference that the groups have co-hosted.

Numerous men, women, and youth came together to learn more about the impact of domestic violence, and the role that men can play in stopping it. It was noted that 92% of battering is men against women; therefore, I am truly impressed with the idea of men speaking to men to STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN."

Welcome remarks were given by many interesting people, including New York Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson. A mini-movie was then shown which illustrated how technology can be used to terrorize, harass, and abuse. A theatre presentation by "Collective Consciousness" illustrated verbally directive, emotional, and physical violence.

The afternoon was comprised of breakout sessions in the form of workshops. Workshop I was for youth. I was impressed by the large showing of young men from various areas of Westchester. Their presenter was Cornell Caretaker who has partnered with the White Plains Youth Bureau and Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute of Non-Violence promoting hip hop and the power of a healthy lifestyle.

Workshop II was for men. Their presenters were Quentin Walcott, an anti-violence educator, and Marlon Walker, an educator who has covered immigration, manhood, fatherhood, and family violence prevention.

Workshop III was for women. The presenter was Kym McWair, an educator and training coordinator at My Sister's Place. She travels throughout Westchester County training health care providers, law enforcement personnel, college students, and religious communities to recognize and respond to domestic and intimate partner violence. The women's group fostered more awareness of domestic violence and the complications of its demise.