

THE SPARKS

September 2008

Volume 8 Issue 1



Mark your Calendar

- Oct 2nd - Board Mtg.
- Oct 9th - Business Mtg.
- Oct 11th - Making Strides Walk
- Oct 17-19 - District Conf.
- Oct 23rd Program Mtg.
- Oct 30th Program Mtg.

REMEMBER!!

Call Marlene before 10 AM on Wednesday if you will not be able to attend the Thursday meeting. PLEASE note that if your absence is not excused ahead of time, you will be charged for the lunch at the next meeting.

A Message From the President

Welcome back everyone from a very short (or it seemed) summer. We are getting some terrific weather now and fall is by far my favorite time of year. Crisp mornings and warm afternoons. That having been said we must start our new year off fresh and crisp. I was rather disappointed that our first meeting of the year was not attended by all. I realize our schedules are busy but let's all try to attend more and make a difference.

The fall conference will be held in Frankenmuth so hopefully we can get more attendance. If you have not been to one they are very enlightening and FUN!! We will be selling our checkbook covers at the conference for a fundraiser. If you'd like to see some of them, get with Chris as they are beautiful.

I will get everyone a copy of the committees you are on so hopefully we can get some good ideas out of each of our committees this year. Last year we were so energized, let us try to continue on into this year. Thanks again for all your help in all you do, you have made my presidency easier by far.

Karen

**Remember District Conference - Oct 17-19
in Frankenmuth, MI**

Recognition

Yeah Rhetta!!

The Recognition Committee of the Zonta Club of Flint I proudly nominated Rhetta Hunyady for the "Libby Award" presented by the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. This award represents:

- Philanthropic activity on behalf of women and girls.
- Inspirational leadership by influencing and inspiring diverse groups of women and girls.
- Exemplary role model in activities specific to women and girls. And...
- Empowerment of women and/or provided assistance on their behalf.

The award ceremony is part of the Community Foundation's 3rd annual "Flint Women and Girls Day" scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 7:30am at the Sarvis Center.

The Flint Women and Girls Day

celebrates women in philanthropy and the impact local philanthropists are making to improve the lives of women and girls in Genesee County.

The program begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Sarvis Center located in the Flint Cultural Center. Cost is \$10 and includes a full breakfast. Register online at www.cfgf.org by Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Established in 1996, the Flint Women and Girls Fund (FWGF) has awarded 38 grants totaling \$170,400 to local nonprofit organizations for programs that improve the quality of life for women and girls in the greater Flint community.

Mums the Word

Shhhh..... the Secret Pals are listening. It is time to set up our new Secret Pal list for the new year. If you **DO NOT** wish to participate in the Secret Pal program, please let Chris Benson know, otherwise it will be assumed that you wish to participate and you will be assigned a secret pal. Remember, this is a good way to connect with other Zontians, albeit covertly, but definitely a fun way to make someone's day. And who knows, maybe someone will make your day, too, when you least expect it.

Elleen Roth Nominated for 2008

Athena Awards

The Recognition Committee of the Zonta Club of Flint I has nominated Elleen Roth for the 2008 Athena Award presented by the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce Women's Business Council. The award represents:

- ♦ Women who assist women in reaching their full leadership potential
- ♦ Demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession
- ♦ Provide valuable service to improve the quality of life for others in their community
- ♦ Must reside or work in Genesee County

The award dinner will be held Thursday, November 6, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

What are the ATHENA AWARDS?

Back in the early 80's, ATHENA International's founder, Martha Mertz was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the Lansing Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce. After finding herself to be the only business woman serving on the Board and discovering that her Chamber had only once honored a woman, Martha quickly recognized that the Chamber's boardroom did not reflect the reality of the community. Martha worked with her Chamber to recognize the leadership of outstanding professional and business women in the community and advocated to provide opportunities for them to move into leadership positions. The first ATHENA Award was presented in 1982. The Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce was one of the first chambers in the United States to present the award which is now known throughout the world.

The ATHENA Award is presented yearly to an individual who has attained and personifies professional excellence in her business or profession; contributes time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community; and generously assists other women in realizing their full leadership potential.

District 15 2008 Fall Convention

This year's Fall Conference is hosted by the Zonta Club of Saginaw and will be held at the Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center in Frankenmuth, Michigan. It will begin Friday, October 17th and go through Sunday, October 19th. Pierette Domenica Simpson, author of *ALIVE on the Andrea Doria! The Greatest Sea Rescue in History* will be the speaker at the Status of Women Luncheon on Saturday, October 18th beginning at 11:45. You won't want to miss out on this truly inspirational author and speaker.

The conference registration deadline is October 3, 2008. See the complete registration form on the district website at www.zontadistrict15.org - Registration is \$80.00 if received before October 3 (\$90.00 for registrations received after October 3). Late registrations will be accepted as space permits.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or who are dating.

People in abusive relationships may not even realize the negative effects they are experiencing. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological and involves threats of actions that influence another person.

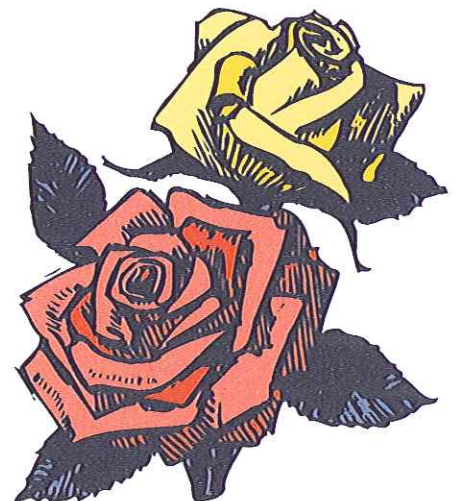
- National research indicates that one in four women has been physically assaulted or raped by an intimate partner as compared to one in 14 men.
- Some research shows that as many as half of the men who batter partners also abuse their children.
- Six in ten adults report that they personally know someone who has experienced domestic violence.
- One in three teenagers report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, choked or physically hurt by their partner.
- Of all respondents with disabilities, 28 percent reported being pushed, slapped, choked or hit by a partner or spouse, compared to 18 percent of those without disabilities.
- Of all LGBT respondents, 27 percent report being pushed, slapped, choked or hit by a partner or spouse.

Taken from the National Domestic Violence Hotline website

www.ndvh.org

*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~



Service Project News

On Saturday, September 27th the Zonta Club of Flint will once again be working together to help eliminate hunger in the state of Michigan. We will be gathering at the **Food Bank of Eastern Michigan** to volunteer from 9:00am to 12:00pm. We will be participating in the **Free Food Credit** program that the Food Bank has implemented where they will credit the Zonta House (or whatever charity we establish) account with FIVE pounds of food credit for every volunteer hour that we provide to them. If we work together we can certainly provide the Zonta House with much needed food for our girls. "What will we be doing?" you ask. We will be sorting, assembling food boxes, or whatever the need is for that day. Whatever we do we are guaranteed a feeling of community and satisfaction that we helped the fight against hunger.

If you are free that morning and are able to help, please contact Pam Costabile and let her know of your interest to participate. The work is extremely rewarding and you will enjoy working with other members of the community toward a common goal - the elimination of hunger in our community. Please join us if you can. You will not be disappointed.

Our club will plan to work in the Food Bank on several Saturdays this year and the dates will be announced at the Thursday meetings as they are established. Be watching for those dates.



REMEMBER

Globally, gender-based violence is the most pervasive and least recognized human rights violation. It affects every race, class, culture, ethnicity, age and country. Women are potential victims of violence at every stage of their lives.

Every woman has a right to live free of gender-based violence.

Zonta International recognizes that the human rights of women and girls are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.

Zonta International recognizes the need to promote and protect the human rights of all women

and girls.

from www.zonta.org

A Little About The Food Bank

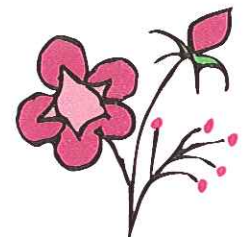
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

Serving 22 counties, the Food Bank provides food to those in need through nearly 400 non-profit, Partner Agencies. Supported by a tremendous network of local and national community partners, we are dedicated to helping others and making a difference. Please reach out to a neighbor in need and join us in fighting hunger.

Once food arrives at the Food Bank, it is sorted, inspected and made available for charities to take and distribute to those in need. In 2007, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan distributed over 17.8 million pounds of food through a network of more than 400 partner agencies in 22 counties. All Food Bank partner agencies are required to distribute food without charges or fees, to needy clients. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan began in 1981 as a small grassroots community organization serving agencies in Genesee County, Michigan. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is one of six food banks in the state who also make up the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

Due to the ever increasing need for our services, the Food Bank has grown to serve more than 400 agencies in eastern Michigan.

For more information on the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan visit: <http://www.fbem.org>



District 15 Conference
October 17-19, 2008
in Frankenmuth, MI

Save the Date

Zonta Club of Flint 1
P. O. Box 608
Flint, MI 48501