



ZONTA CLUB OF FLINT I

THE SPARKS

OCTOBER 2009 EDITION

A message from the President

We got off to a rather odd start, September sneaked up on us, but we are now up and running, anticipating a great Zonta year.

Interesting items being discussed are new recruiting ideas and fund raising, necessary for our club to continue.

We are not alone in this as all the clubs face the same challenge. At the conference this last weekend we were told to think outside the box, so any wild and crazy ideas, please share.

Speaking of conference it was very interesting and informative. I will share with you some recruiting and fund raising suggestions from there.

Closer to home, Secret Pals will be given out again. Join in the fun, how neat it is to go to the mailbox and have a card from someone just saying thinking of you, maybe just the day you need to hear it.

I have tickets for the inter-service club luncheon, November 20, noon at Sarvis. The program is a little different this year. Please plan to attend if at all possible, let's show that Zonta cares and get some recognition for our efforts.

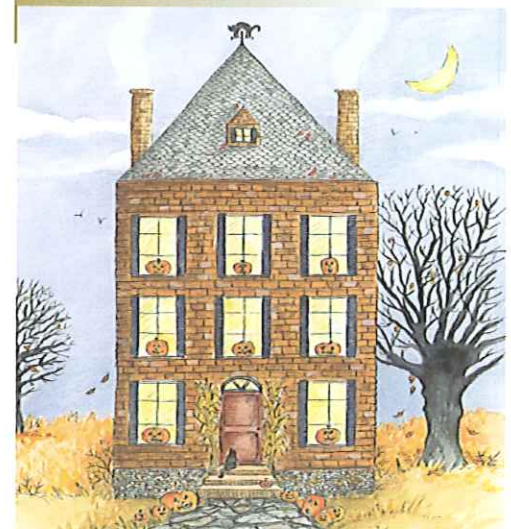
Cheers,
Marlene

**InterService Club
Luncheon
is 11/20/09
For Tickets See
Marlene Morris**



Mark your Calendar

- Oct. 29th - Program Mtg.
- Nov. 5th - Board Mtg.
- Nov. 10th - Circle of Women Luncheon
- Nov. 12th - Business Mtg.
- Nov. 20th - Inter-Service Club Luncheon



Hands - On

Remember to contact Pam Costabile to choose from a variety of "hands-on" projects. The membership has devoted the third week of the month as "hands-on service" week instead of having our Thursday luncheon. Please choose from a variety of very worthy projects to support with your time and talent each month.

Possible "hands-on" service projects are helping out at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and visiting the girls at Zonta House. Please contact Pam Costabile to get a full list of possible service projects.

It's Time To Ring the Bell!!

Zonta Club of Flint I will be ringing the Salvation Army bells at Genesee Valley Mall on December 12, 2009. Please be on the lookout for the sign up sheet - we will be working at 3 locations in the mall and need everyone's participation.

See you at the mall!

FYI From Zonta International

New Appointments at Zonta International Headquarters

On 7 May 2009 the Zonta International Board of Directors decided to appoint Maureen Powers as Executive Director of Zonta International and Jason Friske as Deputy Executive Director, effective 11 May 2009.

Maureen Powers joined the staff in May 2001 as the Director of Programs and Foundation Administration and was promoted to Deputy Executive Director in November 2008. She has managed the program, advocacy, communications and development operations at headquarters. She has also served as the headquarters liaison to several international committees and the Zonta International Foundation Board of Directors.

Jason Friske joined the staff in January 2007 as Director of Member Records. He has managed annual dues billings, the membership database and credentials registration for the 2008 Rotterdam Convention. He has also ensured the coordination of the member, donor and Website databases. As Deputy Executive Director, Jason Friske will also manage the donor database, contribution processing, donor acknowledgement and recognition processes.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, 2009

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Domestic violence touches the lives of Americans of all ages, leaving a devastating impact on women, men, and children of every background and circumstance. A family's home becomes a place of fear, hopelessness, and desperation when a woman is battered by her partner, a child witnesses the abuse of a loved one, or a senior is victimized by family members. Since the 1994 passage of the landmark Violence Against Women Act, championed by then Senator Joe Biden, our Nation has strengthened its response to this crime and increased services for victims. Still, far too many women and families in this country and around the world are affected by domestic violence. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves to ending violence within our homes, our communities, and our country.

To effectively respond to domestic violence, we must provide assistance and support that meets the immediate needs of victims. Facing social isolation, victims can find it difficult to protect themselves and their children. They require safe shelter and housing, medical care, access to justice, culturally specific services, and economic opportunity. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act supports emergency shelters, crisis intervention programs, and community education about domestic violence.

In the best of economic times, victims worry about finding a job and housing, and providing for their children; these problems only intensify during periods of financial stress. That is why the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$325 million for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). This funding will supplement the Federal VAWA and VOCA dollars that flow to communities every year, and enable States, local governments, tribes, and victim service providers to retain and hire personnel that can serve victims and hold offenders accountable. These funds will also bring relief to victims seeking a safe place to live for themselves and their children.

Victims of violence often suffer in silence, not knowing where to turn, with little or no guidance and support. Sadly, this tragedy does not just affect adults. Even when children are not directly injured by violence, exposure to violence in the home can contribute to behavioral, social, and emotional problems. High school students who report having experienced physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide, and may carry patterns of abuse into future relationships. Our efforts to address domestic violence must include these young victims.

During this month, we rededicate ourselves to breaking the cycle of violence. By providing young people with education about healthy relationships, and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that domestic violence can be prevented. We must build the capacity of our Nation's victim service providers to reach and serve those in need. We urge community leaders to raise awareness and bring attention to this quiet crisis. And across America, we encourage victims and their families to call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. Together, we must ensure that, in America, no victim of domestic violence ever struggles alone.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2009, as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I ask all Americans to do their part to end domestic violence in this country by supporting their communities' efforts to assist victims in finding the help and healing they need.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

~BARACK OBAMA~

A LOOK AT INTERNATIONAL

Current International Service Project

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Rwanda

THE NEED:

In April and May of 1994 nearly 1 million Rwandans, a full 10% of the population, were killed in the Rwandan genocide. One third of those killed were children. The genocide, combined with the brutal civil war that continued after, led to the displacement of 3.7 million people and created hundreds of thousands of orphaned children. Throughout this terrifying time women across the country were repeatedly raped as a weapon of war.

The effects of the war, and of the pervasive use of rape as a weapon, still deeply affect this African Nation. In addition to the terrible trauma inflicted on the victims of rape many contracted sexually transmitted diseases, and half became HIV positive. The wave of HIV/AIDS that swept the nation following the initial massacre has led to a country where 30% of children are orphans, and 190,000 Rwandans, including 27,000 children, are HIV positive. Women in Rwanda are 1.5 times more likely to be HIV positive than men, and young women are 5 times more likely to contract HIV than young men.

Half of all healthcare workers were killed or displaced during the war, and those who remain must make do with little equipment, not enough medicine and under-funded facilities, many of which don't even have electricity. Ninety percent (90%) of children living with HIV contracted the virus during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding; almost all of these cases could have been prevented if the mother had access to proper medical treatment.

RESPONSE:

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCTC) projects can virtually eliminate the passage of HIV from mother to child. By providing free, confidential HIV testing and counseling more women will become aware of their status as HIV positive. Women who are found to be HIV positive will be given access to prenatal and obstetrical care, including antiretroviral medications during pregnancy and delivery that prevent transmission of the virus to the child. Following birth, new mothers will receive counseling options to prevent transmission during breastfeeding and, where feasible, will be given access to baby formula to be used in place of breast milk.

Far more than just preventing transmission, these efforts will also address the medical, nutritional, psychological and economic needs of HIV positive women and their families through what is known as the Family Package. Women will have access to psychosocial counseling to help them learn how best to live with their HIV status. Education, combined with the mobilization of community and religious leaders, will help reduce the stigma of being HIV positive and prevent discrimination. Income-generating schemes will help HIV positive mothers to care for themselves and their families.

With projects like this, HIV positive women will stay healthier longer and live better more productive lives.

Fundraising News

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Chris Benson and the Fundraising Committee are already busy planning The Zonta Club of Flint One's Annual Holiday Luncheon and Fundraiser. It is to be held December 10, 2009. The luncheon will be at 12:00 noon at the Sarvis Center in Flint.

Please mark your calendars and come ready for lots of fun and good food.

Look for more information in next month's *Sparks*.

Remember goodsearch.com

Use www.goodsearch.com as your main search engine and select Zonta Club of Flint 1 as the charity of your choice and Good Search will donate approximately \$.01 **per search** to our club. If we all use this search engine we could earn a little extra cash in our Charitable Budget. We all search the internet for "stuff", and this is an easy way for the club to earn a little extra cash.

Now the Good Search people have added www.goodshop.com for people who not only search but also SHOP. You can check it out for yourself at www.goodsearch.com.

Inspiring Thoughts

In this life I am a woman. In my next life, I would like to come back as a bear. When you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. *I could deal with that!*

Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. *I could deal with that, too!*

When you're a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of a walnut) while your sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. *I could definitely deal with that!*

If you're mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them, too. *I could deal with that!*

If you're a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling. He EXPECTS that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat.

Yup, gonna be a bear!

