



The Albany Zontian

December 2017 Newsletter

Membership Dinner & Business Meeting

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Time: 5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:00 p.m. – Dinner

Normanside Country Club

165 Salisbury Road, Delmar, NY

Directions: 3 blocks past Elsmere Shopping Center going out Delaware Avenue from Albany to Delmar, on right-hand side of road. Berkshire Hathaway sign is on the corner of Salisbury Road. Follow to the end. Salisbury Road is also across Delaware Avenue from Jane Bonavita's State Farm Insurance office.

ADVANCE reservations are REQUIRED!

RSVP By: Friday, December 8

To: Carol Tomlin at

carolatomlin@yahoo.com

Late additions - call her at 518-475-1195

RSVP ONLY if you're attending dinner.

Dinner Cost (including tax and tip)...\$30.00

Entrée Selections:

- **Chicken Florentine**
- **Oven Roasted Salmon**
- **Fettucini Alfredo**

Also included: Soup du Jour, Chocolate Banana Pudding, Coffee or Tea

PLEASE NOTE: Members are responsible for the cost of meals not cancelled at least 48 hours prior to the dinner.

From The President

Dear Zontians,

Random thoughts: Why 16 Days of Activism? Have you looked at <https://zontasaysno.com>? You will find the answer about the dates that mark the beginning and end of these days, as well as World AIDS Day.

What are we as Albany Zontians doing to advocate for an end to domestic violence? There are many programs for women victims in our area and we do help them. Have we ever tried to educate ourselves about domestic violence? Have we ever read *Why Does He Do That?* by Lundy Bancroft or *The Gift of Fear* by Gavin de Becker?

The New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence has a section in the online resource Domestic Violence: Finding Safety and Support entitled "Friends, Family, Co-workers and Bystanders" that provides suggestions on what you could do to help a victim. See: opdv.ny.gov

As we approach the holiday season, I am thankful for all the help and support I have received from each of you. I hope that the season will bring happiness to you and your friends & families.

Patricia

P.S. Just a reminder regarding our December 13 Holiday Meeting — bring the gifts for our holiday projects, bring a friend to share the holiday spirit, & bring an item for our holiday raffle — something new, unused and ready to be re-gifted.

Board Meeting

The December Board Meeting will be electronic. . If there's any issue that needs to be discussed, please let Patricia Polan know.



Birthday Greetings

December 2017	
1	Lois Wilson
4	Charlotte Lebron
10	Louise McColgin
13	Edye Benson
18	Deirdre Dineen
27	Carol Whittaker
30	Patricia Polan
31	Sue Donnini

Best Wishes to our Birthday Zontians!!!

Fund Raising



WREATHS

Wreath decorating takes place Tuesday afternoon, November 28 at the Watervliet Elks. You need to pick up your wreath(s) that day or arrange for someone to pick them up for you. They tend to be ready by mid-afternoon.

Service



CALENDARS

Last call for calendars!!! Please bring any extra calendars to our December dinner meeting. They are very much appreciated at St. Peter's Rehab and Nursing facility (now

part of The Eddy group). I will be delivering them after our meeting.

Judi



HOLIDAY GIFTS PROJECTS

Please bring all holiday gifts for families and The Next Step ladies, as well as gift cards for Price Chopper and Walmart for the homeless to our December 13 dinner meeting. Please be sure that all gifts are marked clearly with the Gift Tag. Delivery will take place around December 15. Children's toys can be unwrapped so that the parent can do it. Please be sure the name tag is on each gift.

Nina



HOLIDAY STOCKING STUFFERS

On Saturday, December 9, we will fill stockings with toiletries and gifts for the women at The Next Step (26) and for the women at Mercy House (21). Carol Tomlin will host this event at 64 Boylston Drive, Delmar 12054. Coffee at 9:30 a.m., work begins at 10:00 a.m. By 11:30 a.m. we are usually finished. Bring along any toiletries you may have. Delivery will take place around December 15.

Nina

SCHUYLER INN

HO, HO, It is the Season for
Volunteers to Bring Cheer to
Schuyler Inn

Are you willing to join other Zontians working to create a memorable Saturday, December 16 afternoon at Schuyler Inn? Each year we talk about material gifts, but sometimes it seems the opportunity to create a

memorable, happy family day is as important as particular material gifts. The party will run from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.; volunteers are requested from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Party organizers, led by Nancy Ost from Westminster Presbyterian Church, assisted by Zonta's Nina Motta, are trying to:

- provide craft activities all family members will enjoy; craft items are very much welcomed
- help Santa provide a good collection of gently-used books for residents of all ages
- promote quality family interaction with Santa
- distribute gift cards so residents can help select their own presents or special holiday food. The goal: try to offer one card for a single adult, two for a small family, three or more for a larger family
- assemble basic uniform gifts -- hats and gloves, plus a basic hygiene kit (towels, wash cloths, dental supplies, bars of soap, and items Grassroot Givers may have collected), and
- help hand out party refreshments provided by Schuyler Inn.

To reduce the confusion on the day of the party, party organizers are discussing the possibility of handing out the hats and gloves (and maybe scarves, if the budget permits) on a weekday night before or after the party.

Many adults are needed for this well-attended party to run smoothly. Please sign up for the following:

- volunteer at the December 16 party from 1:30 to 4:30 pm
- help Nina Motta shop
- serve as a family escort or greeter
- register families as they arrive
- assist on a possible evening week night with distribution of hats and gloves

- organize family gift bags (probably done at Westminster Presbyterian on December 14), or
- volunteer at a January Book Distribution.

Interested volunteers are urged to contact Carol Whittaker before December 8 at cwhittaker@albany.edu.

After December 8, email Lois Wilson at LWilson502@aol.com.

Lois

DISTRIBUTION OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE SUPPLIES IN ALBANY AND AFRICA & MOONCATCHER PROJECT

Throughout the world researchers are finding that girls may stay home from school because they do not have adequate menstrual hygiene supplies.

Action Related to Albany. Thanks to the generosity of Zonta members at the November 8 meeting, there are now three boxes full of pads and tampons, plus a large bag of additional supplies available. Schuyler Inn has limited storage space. A mother and daughter team, associated with Westminster Presbyterian Church, will respond to calls for the supplies whenever Schuyler staff calls for a delivery. The Regional Food Bank does not always have enough supplies for women and girls at Schuyler Inn.

Action Related to Africa. Both Zontians Coretta Killikelly and Lois Wilson belong to organizations working with The MoonCatcher Project to make menstrual hygiene kits to help girls in Africa stay in school. The Mission of the MoonCatcher Project: To optimize girls' lives worldwide by removing barriers related to menstruation. It was founded 8 years ago by Ellie von Wellsheim of Schenectady, NY.

The web site www.mooncatcher.org has information on how to make donations which some Zontians requested after our November 8 meeting.

The web site says, "Education is the most effective means of improving the lives of girls in the world's poorest communities. However, these girls often drop out of school when they reach puberty because they have no access to feminine hygiene products. This is a worrisome trend that leads to early marriage, childbearing at an early age, and a lack of financial independence. The MoonCatcher Project was established to provide free reusable, washable, menstrual pads that can be worn without underwear for girls in the poorest communities worldwide." Some kits, with these reusable pads, have now been used by girls for more than 5 years.

The MoonCatcher Project website offers alternative ways to help:

- Go to a MoonCatcher Sewing Bee (a MoonBee) to make menstrual hygiene kits to help girls in Africa stay in school. Something for everyone to do, skilled or unskilled! Dates and sites for upcoming MoonBees are listed on-line.
- Donate \$5.07 -- the amount needed to deliver to a girl one MoonCatcher kit with washable, reusable pads. The MoonCatcher Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of New York State.
- Contact The MoonCatcher Project, using the on-line contact information, if you have extra sewing supplies, including tyvek envelopes, thread, or fabric, that you'd like to donate. The mailing address is PO Box 9443 Schenectady, NY 12309.

Update on St. Paul Center's Misfortune – excerpt from their newsletter

Counting Our Blessings

We thought we were cancelling our Nov. 28th online sale due to the theft of most of the handbags, jewelry and scarves we planned to use. The proceeds were to go towards the renovation of a building that will be the start of the Center's permanent supportive housing for families. The theft broke our hearts.

Thanks to Facebook messages and local news outlets, many long-time friends - and new friends - came to our aid with donations of items for the sale. **CAP COM FCU donated \$2,300**, the amount of last year's sales. Another anonymous supporter generously gave \$2,000. The outpouring of support has been heart-warming.

Because of the generosity of others, our sale is back on!

November 28th - 2nd Annual Bags & Bling Home Version Facebook Sale

Join us for two hours of fast-paced fun as we sell handbags partnered with scarves and jewelry. The sale is on our Facebook event page, **Tues. Nov 28, 7-9 pm.** Go to **Facebook.com/stpaulscenter** and register on the event page so you may receive updates and participate in the sale.



There's A Little Bit

More on Page 5.....

Almost Last, But Certainly

Not Least.....

Save the Date



This year, our club will hold a "Women Helping Women" dinner on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at the Fort Orange Club. We are excited to announce that our speaker will be Daquetta Jones, the Executive Director of the YWCA of the Greater Capital Region. She read our last newsletter and was quite impressed with our club's commitment and projects. Please support our event that evening by reserving the date in your calendar. The formal invitations will be issued in the future.

Vicki

From the Editor-Zontian Newsletter. The deadline for the January Zonta newsletter is Wednesday, December 20. Please send information to Louise McColgin at lmccolgi@nycap.rr.com or 9 Casey Court, Albany, NY 12205.

Wishing everyone ...

Albany Zonta Club Board

Officers: Patricia Polan, President
Charlotte Lebron, Vice President
Bridget Walsh, Secretary
Karen Jones, Treasurer

Directors: Erin Apostle
Judi Cavanaugh
Ann Gifford
Nina Motta
Ann Wilkening

Zonta Mission

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

2015

