



Zonta Club of Akron, Barberton & Cuyahoga Falls

Member of Zonta International

P.O. Box 13871 Fairlawn, Ohio 44334

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www.zonta.org
Zonta International Website

www.acorn.net/zonta
Zonta ABC Club Website

Feature Story...

THE PERSPECTIVES OF THREE SPEAKERS AT ZI'S BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Three very prominent women spoke at the 2008 ZI biennial convention in Rotterdam on three diverse topics but all related to ZI's convention theme: "Global Empowerment through Local Action."

Ms. Akua Kuenyehia

Ms. Kuenyehia, First Vice-President International Criminal Court, The Hague and a Zontian, gave the keynote address at the opening ceremony on June 28, 2008.

Early in her address, she noted that "Women's empowerment is central to human development [which], as a process of enlarging people's choices, cannot occur when the choices of half of humanity are restricted." She credited the globalization of the empowerment of women with the various UN World Conferences on Women starting in 1980 and culminating in 1995 with the Beijing Conference where the Platform for Action was adopted as the blueprint for local action.

The International Criminal Court was established by the Rome statutes which builds on the work of ad hoc tribunals set up by the UN in 1993 and 1994 to deal with genocidal wars in the former Republics of Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Because sexual violence was used in these wars to bring about "ethnic cleansing" and to spread fear, the Rome Statute includes rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, and other grave forms of sexual violence as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Ms. Kuenyehia reminded Zontians that as a global organization, we must assist countries to translate the commitments to empower women and to reduce poverty into practical realities. "Empowerment, like peace, is effective only when it is locally owned."

In agreement with this, she quoted a statement from the Beijing Platform for Action that says,

Women's equal partition in decision-making is not only a demand for simple justice or democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interest to be taken into account. Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved.

In her concluding remarks, she reminded us that as women we have "to rise to the challenge and strive for substantive gender equality at the local level, particularly in the decision-making process, if we are to truly contribute to the empowerment of women everywhere and thus to the progress and development of nations."

Ms. Neelie Kroes

The second eminent speaker, Ms. Kroes, the Commissioner for Competition for the European Union, talked about the European Union's 27 member states' goal to be socially just and "the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world." She described her job as one to create a level playing field for business and thereby, helping to create a more dynamic, competitive and faster-growing Europe.

She said that the labor market isn't working properly but that a level playing field in the labor market delivers benefits for businesses and for customers just like any other market because a business with a more diverse workforce can take the best of a bigger mix of personalities. It has a bigger pool of talents from which to choose.

Furthermore, the evidence says that companies with the highest proportion of women in leadership roles perform better financially. She also tells businesses that declining birth rates and the ageing population across most of Europe make hiring women no longer an "optional extra."

Ms. Kroes identified three problems preventing the labor market from working properly. One reason women aren't in top jobs, even in the west is---because the "old boys' network" in action is "really a cartel!" Men recruit other men from the same school with similar backgrounds. It's safe. A second reason is that there are unnecessary barriers which prevent women from being successful at top positions and raising a family. The last reason she discussed was the imperfect information or lack of skills and information that women have to start a business. Women are more risk-averse and have a greater fear of failure.

She proposed several solutions. One solution was policy and enforcement to break the male cartel, such as the Norwegian law requiring public companies to have at least 40% women on their boards. Similarly, Scandinavia, Sweden and Norway have introduced maternity leave policies to reduce the barriers that prevent women from making a full contribution to the labor market.

She also suggested solutions at the individual level. First, she encouraged changes to our approach to recruiting by rejecting the "old boys' network" and biased selection procedures and looking for the best qualities—not just experience. Second, women need to be team players. Quoting Madeleine Albright, she reminded Zontians to help other women: "I think there is a special place in hell for women who don't help other women." Third, be an entrepreneur. Fourth, be aware that you are a role model. Finally, if every Zontian mentored two women and those two women mentored two more women, very soon 132,000 successful women would have benefited from such mentoring. The snowball effect of such continued mentoring would be tremendous. She ended by challenging everyone to act to follow up on her suggestions to break the male cartel.

Ms. Monica Auweter-Kurtz

Ms. Auweter, President of the University of Hamburg, talked about improving career paths toward leading positions for women in science and technology in Germany in her keynote address. First, she pointed out that science itself is fragmentary and incomplete when only the male perspective on a particular subject is taken into account without considering equally that of women's contributions. Second, she sees the scientific community as a paradigm or role model for society as a whole. In some areas in Germany, the academic community molds the outside society. She cautioned that Germany and Europe must explore the scientific potential of women to remain competitive within process of globalization as a business and scientific location. Like Ms. Kroes, she pointed to a report that found a direct link between equal opportunity and the economic prosperity and innovative ability of a country. The female half of the team is necessary for the innovative ability of a country.

She proposed five ideas to improve the number of women choosing careers in science and technology in Germany. One, we have to better recruit skilled and qualified women in our universities and other scientific institutions. Two, we have to use available promotional programs. Three, there have to be awards for the advancement of women in scientific careers. Four, gender equality has to begin in the minds of people. Five, we have to create new models for balancing family and work by raising awareness that child-rearing and family management are not just women's work. In



Listen up....

Zonta Angel
Patti Noussias
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President Alanna S. Arnold

conclusion, she observed that these ideas were intended to stimulate more ideas for finding ways to encourage women to choose hard science as their career paths.

-**Alanna Arnold**

Committee News:

Membership Committee

No report

Archives

Please bring in items to each meeting to be used in our on-going history scrapbook.

Dues Information

ZI increased our dues \$15 for 2008 but payment is voluntary. The increase will become mandatory in 2009.

Please send checks to **Pam Brewer** 3383 Pendleton St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Service Committee

Haven of Rest Project

- We have raised \$700 from the Tea and other donations thus far, which are designated specifically for the Zonta room. Since Haven of Rest's Harvest Home has budgeted about \$3000 per room for renovation, \$2,300 remains to be raised to complete the renovation for the room.
- Harvest Home prefers to contract out the work for ALL the Harvest Home rooms rather than try to have volunteers come in and do parts of the work to save money. That would be easier on the residents and allow more consistency in the upgrade and decor of the rooms.
- Harvest Home will be raising funds for the project during the 2008-2009 fiscal years, from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. So, in light of this, I suggest that we focus on some fund-raising efforts to try to reach our financial goal for the renovation instead of attempting to coordinate volunteer work.

-**Betty Seeley**, Special Committee Chair for Haven of Rest Project

Style Show Committee

2007 Style Show: \$13,406 brought in and our profit was \$9,391.84. Great Job!

Zonta ABC Angel:

Patti Noussias is our Zonta Angel — sending cards, flowers and memorials on behalf of the club. If you know of any Zontians with illness or deaths in their families, or who are hospitalized, or celebrating a new baby, marriage, or major award or recognition, please contact Patti so she can share our club's sympathy or congratulations with our fellow Zontians!

From the President:

Little did I believe that two years ago when I agreed to be Vice President that the day would come so soon when I would actually be the President of Zonta ABC. I know that I can't fill Immediate Past President **Linda Marx's** very elegant and noble shoes as President and I can't follow in her graceful footsteps. We each have to follow our own path as Zontians. My path is louder and more active. I am an advocate. It's who I am as an attorney and a person. I'm usually reserved, sometimes even shy, and soft-spoken (hard to believe, I know)—until I see an injustice—then look out!

Fortunately, after learning of my mother's death while I was in Rotterdam at the ZI biennial convention, that deep sense of anger at injustice kicked in and overwhelmed my grief. With my 85-year old mother's frequent complaints about "those old people" ringing in my ears, I joined one other person at the pro microphone to support a bylaw change against a long line at the con microphone to oppose the bylaw change to permit a candidate who is actively engaged in or has experience in a recognized business or profession in a decision-making capacity to be invited to become a member of a Zonta Club. The issue of whether to allow retirees to join has been hotly debated for many years and has come up at every convention for the past

five or six biennia at least, I've been told. (A bylaw change requires a two-thirds vote.) Although allotted two minutes to speak, I only had one comment to make. It didn't take long to say that Zonta would be setting a fine example to fight world gender inequality by using ageism. The many con microphone people had their say. The vote was 71% in favor! The Australian delegate sitting next to me and I exchanged high-fives and clapped a hand to our mouths in disbelief. We never imagined it would pass. As I was leaving, a delegate from a club in Argentina touched my arm and told me that what I said changed the atmosphere in the entire room. (I was surprised anyone was listening or understood that one little sentence.) All evening women thanked me for saying what I did. A woman asked my husband how he lived with my accomplishments! (Now THAT was a first and a bit shocking to me because I don't see myself in that light, but Jack merely smiled and replied that he doesn't try to—as if people say that all the time!) I didn't even do it. My mother did. She learned to dance the Macarana at the age of 80 at my youngest daughter's wedding. I'm sure she's teaching my dad to dance it now. You're never too old to be needed or to learn. We can learn so much from our elderly and this bylaw lets us recruit not only older retirees but young retirees, mothers who are temporarily out of the workforce, people between jobs, etc. It's a brave new world of opportunity. Let's use it to grow our own membership!

Thank you for all of your emails, sympathy cards, the silk flowers with an electric candle that burns nightly in my foyer in my mother's memory, and visits. I couldn't ask for a more supportive group of worldwide Sisters, including the two Australian Zontians who "mothered" me after I learned of my mother's death in Rotterdam. So, to be really sappy one last time (I'm in a maudlin mood anyway), meet me in Louisville, KY. (isn't that an old movie?) on October 17-19, 2008, for some more Zonta bonding and some fun! (**Linda Marx, Patti Noussias, Marcia Adair, Pam Brewer, and Marielle Hoffman** are also going.)
Sincerely Yours in Zonta,

Alanna S. Arnold, President, Zonta ABC 2008-2010

Here's the
Scoop...



Spread the News
and Mark your
Calendars!

Member News:

Special Recognition:

Summit County MetroParks recognized Alan & **Debbie Casanova** on July 24th at their annual Volunteer Social for achieving 1000 volunteer hours! A tree will be planted in each of their names and were awarded their 1000 hour pins. They have been on the MetroParks Bike Patrol since 1999 as well as participated in their Astronomy programs.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

Change for Change:

Remember to bring your loose change to the Board and Business meetings to put in the jar for the "change for change" campaign.

Zonta ABC Programs & Events for 2008 - 2009:

Tuesday, September 16, 4-6 p.m., Theodore Roosevelt High School, 1400 N Mantua St, Kent, OH. Meet in the school cafeteria

Her Shoes: Taking Steps to End Violence - A Community Awareness Project

The Kent Roosevelt Women's Studies and Art students will take the lead as we gather to decorate 177 pairs of shoes in honor of the 177,000 who have been victims of Domestic Violence in Summit, Portage, Medina, Wayne, Stark and surrounding counties (385,000 for all of Northeast Ohio). Shoes will be part of a Northeast Ohio exhibit on October 18 at the Galleria. <http://inershoes.eventbrite.com> Questions contact Deb Lemire at womencentral@mindspring.com \$10 suggested donation for local shelters accepted (not required to participate)

September 17, 2008 – Dinner Meeting

Denise Snyder-Markovich, Stress, Change, and Grief

Denise Snyder-Markovich, M.Ed.,P.C.C., is a licensed professional clinical counselor in private practice. Denise works with a variety of psychological and energetic methods,

Zonta ABC Dinner Meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from Sept to June

When: 6:00 p.m.

Where:

Akron Woman's City Club, 732 W. Exchange St., Akron, OH, Unless Otherwise Noted

Cost:

Member Cost is \$17, Guest/Non-member Cost is \$20 (All no-shows must be billed)



Zonta Contacts:

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but weaves them all into a humanistic, holistic philosophy. What does that mean? It means that she sees her clients as people rather than a set of symptoms. Though she specializes in stress management, Denise defines herself as a general practitioner in the field of behavioral health. As such, she believes in preventative health care for the body, mind and spirit. Mindfulness and living one's life as fully awake to each moment as possible is a personal and professional goal, a goal for herself and for her clients. She helps people develop the skills and strengths needed so that they may follow their own path to wellness and a sense of sacred wholeness. Denise believes that helping people grow into this life of wonder and joy, is a challenge, a mission, and a privilege. Bio for Connie Collins, Media Arts Group

September 19, 2008

Early Reservations Due for District 5 Zonta Conference

October 15, 2008 – Dinner Meeting

Connie Collins, Media Arts Group, Remember Nhu Mini Film Documentary

Connie and her partner, Todd Biss, own Media Arts Group, a company that produces commercial photography and stills. Five years ago, she began to cross-train as a writer/director for film. She wrote and directed a short film, A Trampoline, which screened at the Cleveland International Film Festival and the Istanbul Children's International Film Festival. These opportunities encouraged and compelled her to continue writing and directing.

Her desire is to make the world a better place, and she is beginning to taste the fruits of her labor. Last year, they produced and donated a mini documentary, Remember Nhu, that is educating the public about young girls sold into the sex slave trade in Southeast Asia.

October 17-19, 2008

Zonta International District 5 Fall Conference

Galt House Hotel & Suites – Louisville, KY – Hosted by Zonta Club of Louisville

November 19, 2008 – Dinner Meeting

Kristie Allen, Ambassador, The Emancipation Network, Human Trafficking

"I am currently a Realtor by profession but spiritually, God has broken my heart for women who are caught in the sex industry and for victims of sex trafficking. I am a member of the Vineyard Church of Columbus and help lead a ministry called "New Name Ministry." This ministry focuses on reaching out to dancers at strip clubs and raising awareness about sex trafficking. In addition, I have partnered with several non-profit organizations such as Global Gallery, The Emancipation Network (T.E.N), Rescue and Restore Coalition in Columbus, Salvation Army, Asia's Hope, Rehabs Hideaway Ministry and Gracehaven. I just recently went on a mission trip to Cambodia and Thailand to visit orphanages and to possibly partner with non-profit organizations overseas to address the issue of trafficking over there. In addition, another fair trade organization, called Trade Justice Mission, introduced a jewelry making co-op to some of the orphanages in Cambodia and Thailand to train the girls on how to make jewelry so that they will not be susceptible to trafficking predators. Currently, I am in the process of getting my Master's Degree in Public Policy. My desire is to be able to be involved on a full time basis to help women who come out of the sex industry and trafficking situations by housing them and pointing them to Jesus for healing and restoration."

December 17, 2008

Holiday Social at Harvest Home, 24 North Prospect Street, Akron

January 21, 2009 – Dinner Meeting

Summit County Red Cross, Red Cross in Action

February 18, 2009 – Dinner Meeting

Carol Laney, Virtual Fitness Consultant, How to Fit Fitness into Your Day

March 18, 2009 – Dinner Meeting

Reception for Prospective Members with Angela B. Wilkes, Area 3 Director, Zonta International

April 15, 2009 – Dinner Meeting (no program scheduled)

Silent Auction & Style Show Planning Meeting

April 25, 2009

Tentative date for Style Show

Zonta Board Meetings:

6:00 p.m.

Tres Potrillos, Montrose Rd. ("Restaurant Hill"), Fairlawn

Zonta Newsletter:

www.acorn.net/zonta

click on "Members Only Area" and use password "z2000"

Zonta Mission Statement

"Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy."

May 20, 2009 – Dinner Meeting

Presentation of Checks, Haven of Rest Mission, 175 East Market Street, Akron

June 17, 2009 – Dinner Meeting (no program scheduled)

Planning Meeting for 2009/2010

2010 Zonta International Convention - San Antonio

Zonta ABC Board Meetings for 2008 - 2009:

September 30, 2008

November 11, 2008

December 9, 2008

January 13, 2009

February 10, 2009

March 10, 2009

April 14, 2009 (tentative)

May 12, 2009

June 9, 2009

Anyone may attend any board meeting at any time to express any idea or concern.

Zonta ABC Newsletter Deadlines for 2008 - 2009:

September 5, 2008

January 4, 2009

April 5, 2009

July 5, 2009

Fundraisers and Service Projects:

Cash for Cartridges: Bring in your empty ink cartridges each month to **Jenny Markovich** and the Zonta ABC Foundation will earn money.

Warm Up America: Participants are asked to knit or crochet 7"x 9" rectangles in any pattern or color. They can be made at home and brought to the meetings. Volunteers will then assemble the rectangles into colorful, warm afghans to be donated to Harvest Home.

Current: Zonta ABC Foundation will earn 50% of the Zonta purchases from www.CurrentFun.com.

www.GoodSearch.com: Use the GoodSearch website as your search engine. Search or shop to earn money for Zonta ABC. We're listed as "Zonta ABC Foundation".

Harvest Home: Redecorating the Zonta ABC Sponsored Room, Our Goal: \$3,000. Still need to raise: \$2,400

Zonta International

A worldwide service organization of executives in business and the professions, working to improve the legal, political, economic, and professional status of women.

Founded in 1919, Zonta International is now celebrating its 89th Anniversary. Delegates from the first Zonta clubs met in Buffalo, New York, USA on November 8, 1919 to found the Confederation of Zonta Clubs. Today, we are known as Zonta International, a culturally, linguistically, and professionally diverse service organization with more than 33,000 members in 1,200 clubs in 67 countries and geographic areas. Since 1985, the Zonta International Foundation has supported the charitable and educational programs of Zonta International through effective fund raising, investment of funds and the distribution of proceeds.