

# ZONTA NEWS

December 2017



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
GENEVA, NY

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER -**



Dear Zontians,

The holiday season is upon us. For some, this brings on some of the most enjoyable times of the year. It can also bring a different type of stress that goes along with it, as families come together and there is the hum of activity, in various events and traveling. But, this time of year it is most important to be appreciative and give thanks for what we have, and in the month of December we look back on events which caused a ripple effect for the freedoms we have today.

It was December 1, 1955 that Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery for refusing to sit at the back of the bus. The event sparked the American Civil Rights movement, and although the movement was primarily about race, we cannot ignore the women who stepped up and supported the cause for which they so fervently believed. That day on the bus, Parks sat in the segregated section for 'blacks only' until the 'whites only' section had filled and a few white passengers were standing. The bus driver stopped and went to the back of the bus, and demanded that four blacks give up their seats so the white people could sit. Three men obliged, but Parks refused. Interestingly enough, Parks was not the first person who had refused to give up her seat or sit at the back of the bus. Women such as Irene Morgan in 1946, Lillie Mae Bradford in 1951, and Sarah Louise Keys in 1952 were all pioneers championing their cause, and like Parks, stood their ground to defend what they believed was right.

In her autobiography, Parks eloquently explained her position on the circumstances that took place that day:

"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

## **December Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 13**

**Program: Holiday Party**



Location: The Rose Petal Inn  
41 North Main Street, Geneva  
Time: 5:30 pm Cost: \$12 for dinner

**Reservations: Contact Emilie Sisson at**  
[emilie.sisson@rochesterregional.org](mailto:emilie.sisson@rochesterregional.org) by  
**Friday, December 8.**

The connection between strong women is one that I believe will never be abandoned. Reading Parks above remark is something to which we can all relate. May the women and families which Martha discussed at our last meeting also learn how to stand up for themselves. May each of us take the lessons we have learned over time and pass them along to other women. Because it takes a village, and we all must do our part.

I hope that you all have a lovely holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday, December 13 at Rossana's. Until then, be well, and thank you so much for all that you do. I know that your plates are full, and I cannot tell you enough how grateful I am for all that you do. See you soon!

*Kelly*

**Geneva: [www.zontclubgeneva.org](http://www.zontclubgeneva.org)  
District 4: [www.zontadistrict4.org](http://www.zontadistrict4.org)  
International: [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)**

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



## HOLIDAY STOCKINGS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Members of the Zonta Club of Geneva brought holiday stockings filled with goodies to the November 15 meeting. The stockings will be given to victims of domestic violence served by the Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes. VRC is a private, non-profit agency that provides domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence and child abuse services. It has the only DV shelters in the four county (Wayne, Ontario, Seneca and Yates) Finger Lakes area.

### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10



The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign spanning from 25 November through 10 December, is taking place this year against the backdrop of an unprecedented global outcry. Millions have rallied behind the hashtag #MeToo and other campaigns, exposing the sheer magnitude of sexual harassment and other forms of violence that women everywhere suffer, every day.

At the heart of this year's theme, "Leave No One Behind – End Violence against Women", for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) and the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign's observance of 16 Days, is the imperative to support those who are particularly vulnerable.

*From UN Women*

*"What #MeToo has shown clearly is that everyone has a part to play in changing our society for the better. We must speak out against harassment and violence in our homes, workplaces, in our institutions, social settings and through our media. #MeToo has also shown us that no one is immune. All institutions need to be aware of the potential for violence to occur among their staff. With that knowledge, we must take steps to prevent it, and at the same time be well prepared to respond appropriately.*

*In this broad effort to end violence against women and girls, we see men as playing a vital role in bringing change. Challenging sexism, male dominance and male privilege as society's norm starts with modeling positive masculinities. Parents can instill principles of equality, rights and respect as they raise their sons; and men can call out their peers for the behaviours that are now being understood as the unacceptable tip of the harassment iceberg."*

*Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director*

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**Zonta Club of Geneva Loans**  
**Available balance: \$0 as of 11/30/17**



Our most recent loan of \$25 was to **Fatmeh** from Lebanon. Fatmeh is a 41-year-old widow who lives in an undeveloped area with her only child. After the death of her husband, she became the sole income provider in the family. She took on all of her husband's responsibilities, and works hard to pay the life expenses. She started her business in selling clothes. She can't rent a small shop in her town, so she visits her clients in their homes to sell her merchandise. Today, she is requesting a loan from Kiva's field partner Vitas s.a.l. to register her daughter in school and pay the first installment. She said that by contributing to this loan you will surely help this hardworking woman to enhance her way of living.



**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**Sustainable Development  
Goals**

In September 2015, the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Zonta International supports Goal No. 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.