



Zonta Club of St. Paul

Member of Zonta International

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

# Zonta Paul

Volume 83, Issue 4 - September 2010

<http://www.zontastpaul.org>

Greetings!

Thanks to all our members and friends who made our President's dinner last month a success. The weather even cooperated giving us a very nice day, not too hot or humid. We enjoyed getting to know Gayle and learn a little about the mid-east. She will be our guest speaker at our October meeting and will be sharing with us her experiences in the middle-east, the women of that region and her role in their education system. You will definitely want to be sure to come to this event. It will be at Eagle Crest and hosted by Pat. Cost is yet to be determined, but we are anticipating it will remain at our \$20 monthly dinner cost.

I am passing along this information about the situation in Iran, and how we should be responding as members and clubs. As you know, several women have been stoned or are about to be stoned because of allegedly violating Islamic law. This was received via e-mail, but in case you did not get the e-mail, or do not have e-mail, I thought it was important to pass it along. The following is a statement by Zonta International regarding stoning of women and violence against women in Iran.

## Statement by Zonta International

*Zonta International expresses its grave concern in relation to reports of actions against women in Iran who are prosecuted according to Sharia law. In the case of Sakineh Ashtiani and other women who are facing legal actions, we would urge the Iranian government to comply with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights (CCPR), especially as it has recently attained a seat on the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW), which body is bound to ensure the implementation of all Articles in the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This Convention is to ensure, inter*

*alia, the legal equality of men and women. Clearly, in prosecuting these women, the legal equality of women in Iran comes into question.*

*Although Iran has not yet signed CEDAW, it has signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the CCPR as mentioned above.*

*The way forward for Iran to improve its laws and processes with respect to the treatment of women and the girl child was outlined in the 2005 report of the Mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran ( Ref. E/CN. 4/2006/61/Add.3). The manifestations of violence against women and the institutional bases of such violence in Iran were identified and some conclusions were:*

*“If the Iranian regime is sincere about restoring women’s dignity then it must embark on a re-interpretation of its fundamental norms, including Islamic principles in line with the current needs and societal contributions of women as well as with universal human rights standards”(p.18).*

*“...ensuring the protection of women’s rights, including protection against violence, will require a comprehensive review of discriminatory laws and procedures as well as a reorientation in the manner in which religious laws are interpreted” (p.19).*

*Recommendations included the ratification of key Conventions such as CEDAW and the bringing of national laws into conformity with the Convention; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; full implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; and to implement the provisions of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders in order to ensure that women human rights defenders are able to carry out their work with full*



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*autonomy and without being subjected to retaliation by the State or other actors(p.20).*

*The measure of a country's status on UN bodies such as CSW is seen not in what it 'appears' to be doing as part of such a vital monitoring body but, rather, in what it does with respect to preserving the rights and status of its own citizens- especially women and the girl child.*

*Zonta International would strongly urge the government of Iran to lead by example, thus 'legitimizing' its place to sit on the Commission of the Status of Women from 2011.*

*Zonta International, as an international NGO, will continue to stand with those organizations and countries around the world which seek to improve the status of women and who speak out about human rights abuses. Violence, in all its forms, and the denial of human rights has to stop.*

*Please note that Districts, Clubs and members should take no action in Zonta's name on this matter due to the adverse effect this will have on those already being persecuted by the Iranian regime. Our Advocacy Policy and Advocacy Protocol is that "members must refer matters of concern in a country other than their own to the International UN Chairman." She will then consult with the International LAA Chairman and International President and a statement, if deemed desirable, will be prepared and signed by the International President. These policies govern all Zonta Districts, Clubs and members.*

*It is most troubling that some members/districts have taken action contrary to our policies; therefore I would request that ALL members become familiar with the guidelines before taking action. If in doubt, you can contact the LAA Chairman. That is the best course of action so that the entire Zonta world is in accord.*

*Also keep in mind that Zontians, whether members, Clubs or Districts, should not sign any petitions put forward by other organizations in Zonta's name. That applies to this matter as well as any other advocacy issue that should arise.*

*We are well aware of the feelings of Zontians on this matter, but we also realize that "mass mailings" may do more harm than good for the people we are trying to help. We feel the above is the best course of action at this time.*

*Diane K. Curtis, Zonta International President*

## September 18, 2010 Meeting (Saturday) with Altrusa:

We have been asked to join with Altrusa in making "Rub-a-Dub-Dub – Safe in the Tub" Baby Bath kits on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. As part of the MVNA home visits to young families, these donated bath kits are use to demonstrate safe and proper infant bathing. The kits will include a baby bath towel, baby wash cloth, baby wash/shampoo, baby wipes, 2 size 1 diapers, desiten ointment (or similar product), a onesie size 3-6 months and a safe small development bath toy. Please let Peggy know by September 16<sup>th</sup> if you plan on joining in this project. It will be held at MVNA offices.

## September 28, 2010 Meeting (our regular monthly meeting):

We will be making our Zonta soup mix project at Romelle's at our regular meeting date and time. We have asked Linda Nelson to come and tell us about Zonta International Convention.

Please call Dorothy at by September 24<sup>th</sup> to let her know if you can or cannot attend the meeting.



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## Happy Birthday to Carole on September 1<sup>st</sup>!

### District Fall Leadership Seminar:

The district seminar will be held in Austin, Minnesota with the theme "Come Fly with Us" on October 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The registration fee is \$135 if received by September 20<sup>th</sup>, and \$155 thereafter. This includes all meals, breaks on Saturday and Breakfast on Sunday. Lodging is available for \$86.99 plus tax (king or 2 double) and a block of rooms at this rate is being held until September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Business casual is recommended throughout the entire event. Saturday will have a two hour free time slot, and there are several tours to choose from.

There will be break out sessions in the morning, an international update and lunch and keynote speaker Bev Thompson (Nepal Social Services). Those of us who went to the Area meeting at Austin have heard Bev Thompson speak about her work in Nepal. It was very interesting and well worth hearing.

The afternoon session will be a presentation on parliamentary procedures and the Saturday dinner is a murder mystery theme. I am assuming the murder mystery theater theme is included in the registration fee. The Sunday events include a breakfast buffet and a UN presentation, awards and wrap up, with the seminar ending around 10 a.m.

### Dates to Remember:

September 21st – International Day of Peace  
**October 16-18 – Stand Up Against Poverty**  
October 24<sup>th</sup> – United Nations Day

November 25th – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women  
November 25th – December 19th – 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence  
December 1st – World Aids Day  
December 10th – International Human Rights Day

### Stand Up Against Poverty – - What is it?? October 16-18

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York September 20-22 to accelerate progress towards the "MDG's".

### About the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

The MDGs offer us a roadmap to end poverty and its root causes. 189 world leaders adopted the MDGs as part of the Millennium Declaration, agreed to at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000.

The MDG's set an unprecedented global framework for development that is a crucial step towards ending poverty and inequality by 2015.

The eight MDG goals include:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
  2. Achieve universal primary education
  3. Promote gender equality and empower women
  4. Reduce child mortality
  5. Improve maternal health
  6. Combat HIV/AIDs, malaria, and other diseases
  7. Ensure environmental sustainability
  8. Develop a global partnership for development
- Our soup mix project is one that would qualify for the Stand Up Against Poverty campaign.



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## **October 16, 2010 – Altrusa invite:**

We have been invited to join the Altrusa members on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> to hear Marybeth talk about her trip to Kenya, i.e., the Grandmother's Circle. For those of you who met Lois Mineau at a past President's dinner, you may recall her talking about the grandmother's in Kenya and how important it was to help them find ways to support their families, especially since many are now taking care of grandchildren because their own children have either died or are no longer able to care for them. We had discussed asking Marybeth come to one of our meetings to tell us about this project but are recommending members attend the Altrusa event. More information about time and location will be coming.

## **October 26, 2010 – Program meeting at Pat's (Eagle Crest):**

Meeting and social time 5:30 to 6:00 with dinner in one of the meeting rooms at Eagle Crest. We anticipate the cost will be \$20.00. We will hear Gayle Anderson talk about her middle-east experiences. More information is coming.

## **November 17, 2010 – Service Project meeting:**

Our November meeting will be hosted by Phyllis and Erma in their party room. We will be making fleece blankets. Cost will be \$20. Also, bring any goodies, etc. for the holiday bags to this meeting. Goodies include cookies, snacks, stocking stuffer items, notepads, etc. Please try not to bring anything with peanuts. We will be scheduling a day to put the bags together and take them to MVNA in early December.

## **Poinsettia sales – it is not too early to start thinking about this fund-raising project!**

We will be getting information for the sale in October and will be coordinating the event. Since this is our only fund-raising event, it is important that we all do what we can to participate. Last year we made about \$900 for our service projects.

## **Upcoming Area Events:**

### **History Theater – October 2-24, Dudley: Rigged for Laughter**

– a hilarious new play about the life of legendary comedy impresario Dudley Riggs, founder of the Brave New Workshop. For info, call 651.292.4323.

### **Lakeshore Players, Sept. 10-October 3 – Don't Drink the Water**

, a 1966 Woody Allen play, the blundering Hollander family's European vacation goes awry when they are mistaken for spies. Tickets and info call 651.429.5674.

### **Victorian Ghost Stories**

#### **James J. Hill House, St. Paul MN**

Dates: Oct. 17, 2010, Oct. 24, 2010, Oct. 31, 2010  
Time: 6 and 7:30 p.m. Fee: \$10, \$8 for MHS members (all ages). Reservations: recommended, call 651-297-2555.

Costumed actors Craig Johnson, Laura Salvesson and Ann Daly present dramatic readings of 19th-century ghost stories in the dimly light parlor of the James J. Hill House. The one-hour program includes works by Edgar Allan Poe, Edith Wharton and the Brothers Grimm, as well as lesser-known authors of the period, plus some "true" ghost stories. This program is not recommended for children under age 8. Reservations are recommended for this popular annual event. The presentation will be followed by a tour of the Hill House (included in admission) and hot cider will be served.



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### **Chocolate Sampler Night: Fete Mondial**

Minnesota History Center, St. Paul MN

Dates: Oct. 21, 2010

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Fee: \$25; \$20 for MHS members.

Reservations: required, call 651-259-3015 or register online

Fête Mondial loosely translated from the French means "world celebration." During this evening event explore the delicious ways chocolate can bring flavors and traditions from across the globe to Minnesota. Sample European and Caribbean chocolate and cocktail pairings. Create a "livre de recette du chocolat" or chocolate cookbook to take home. Imagine yourself sipping cocoa in Paris as Dan Newton of Café Accordion sings, shop for chocolate goodies in the museum store and travel the globe in the History Center's new "Chocolate" exhibition. Put errands on hold, take a night off and enjoy eating, crafting, shopping and exploring the museum with friends.

### **The Beatles!: A One-Night Stand in the Heartland**

Minnesota History Center, St. Paul MN

Closing: September 12, 2010

Hours: Museum and Stores: Tuesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (free admission 5 to 8 p.m.); Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m.; Closed Mondays except Monday holidays year round.

Fee: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and college students, \$5 children ages 6-17; free for children age 5 and under and MHS members.

In August 1965, 17-year-old photographer Bill Carlson documented the Beatles' only appearance in Minnesota. His images are the focus of *The Beatles: A One-Night Stand in the Heartland*. Carlson took pictures of the band's arrival at Wold Chamberlain Field, the mobs of girls waiting to greet them, their

press conference and performance. This is the first major exhibit of the images, some of which have never been published.

### **Minnesota Jewish Theatre**

**My Name is Asher Lev** – October 16 – November 7<sup>th</sup>; call 651.647.4315; individual tickets go on sale September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Asher Lev is a 12-year old boy from a strictly observant Jewish community in Brooklyn whose love of art is awakened when his mother takes him to a museum. This trip begins an exploration of a world that inexplicably resonates with his young soul. To the horror of his parents, he begins to draw Jesus and crucifixes, leading to a struggle with his parents over religion, morality, and art. As he matures through his teen years and into adulthood, his unyielding passion leads him on a journey through the crossroads of heritage, culture, diversity, and identity.

### **Park Square Theater**

**The Last Seder** – September 10 – October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Call 651.291.7005 for tickets and info.

Four daughters home for Passover: an aimless wanderer, a pregnant lesbian, a fiancée, and a single gal with a random guy from Penn Station. Mom's taken up swearing and dad's forgotten to wear his pants again, so this dinner will be unlike any other.

Why go? To be reminded by this family's saucy wit and passionate emotion that love comes along at every age. Who should you bring? The person who helps you recover from family holidays.



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## Science Museum of Minnesota

**Dead Sea Scrolls** - Explore the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century—the Dead Sea Scrolls, which include the earliest known texts of the Bible. These 2,000-year-old, authentic text fragments are steeped in scientific, religious, and cultural significance.

The exhibit closes October 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Arabia

Now through November 4, 2010

*Arabia* reveals a unique culture, a history full of adventure, an environment of extreme challenges, a people of strong faith, and a chance for a film to bridge cultures and reduce misunderstanding between peoples. Visit the lost city of Madain Saleh and explore its ancient tombs; travel back in time to the Islamic Golden Age where Arabian science and scholarship flourished; and experience the *hajj*—the largest single human gathering on Earth.

## Twin City Model Railroad Museum

Admission is \$6 and children under 5 is free; Through October 1, admission special is \$4. The museum is located at 1031 Bandana Boulevard East, Suite 222, St. Paul, MN. Call 651.647.9628 for more info. Great place for kids of all ages who love model trains! The museum has a night trains program from November 27<sup>th</sup> to February 26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday nights, at 6 – 9 p.m.

## St. Paul Farmers Market

Lots of fresh produce can be found at the St. Paul Farmers' market. The Farmers' markets can be found in downtown St. Paul on Saturdays and Sunday mornings and in various suburbs during the week. The markets are not open on Monday.

You can find jumbo tomatoes, cucumbers, squash galore, jumbo eggplant and sweet succulent melons, crisp apples, just to list a few. I saw an article in the Minneapolis paper about a new book which promotes canning your own fruits and vegetables and touts the idea that if you do your own preserving, you know how much salt your food has and know that the produce was fresh when it was put up. If you buy in season, the prices are reasonable and it tastes every so delicious on those cool fall days or cold winter nights!

There is evidence to show that fresh local produce and meats give us the opportunity to prepare meals in which we control the amount of sodium and preservatives we ingest. And, besides, it tastes better!

**Murial Sahlin Arboretum Plant Sale** will be held September 17, 2010 starting at 12 noon and ending September 18 at 12 noon. It is located at 2525 Dale Street North, Roseville. Call 651.792.7006 for more information.

Hope you can make all of these upcoming events. See you there!

*Peggy*