



Zonta Club of Concord March 2020 Newsletter

Ending Child Marriage

As you know, our club is one of the members of NH Coalition to End Child Marriage. Representative Cassie Levesque has introduced a bill to raise the marriage age in NH to 18, and we will participate in a "Chain-In" on March 10, along with Unchained at Last. According to Emily Steinert, the Policy and Advocacy Associate at Unchained At Last, "a Chain-In is a half-protest, half-press conference where we urge legislators to support legislation to end child marriage. We dress in bridal gowns, veils, chains and place tape over our mouths to symbolize how marriage traps children. We invite speakers to speak about the importance of ending child marriage, chant, sing the song "We are Girls Not Brides" and have a moment of silence for child marriage survivors."

Unchained At Last provides the gowns and/or veils if we sign up in advance.

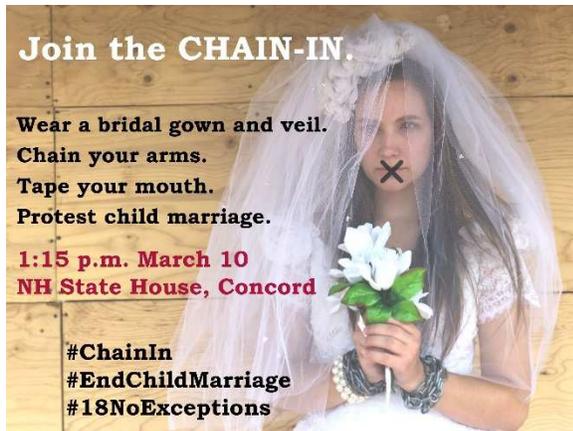
Zonta clubs across the country have had a large presence in the states that have been able to raise their minimum marriage ages.

Just as part of Zonta International, we have worked in third-world countries to end child marriages, now we are working in our own country to do the same. This is a Zonta Pride moment, indeed.

District Governor Liz has informed other Zonta Clubs in our District of this event on the 10th in case they want to join us. I've asked them to identify themselves to us if they do attend so that we can all stand together as Zontians (and then go out to lunch together or something?)

Hear the Song "Girls Not Brides"

<https://youtu.be/aUehNPRin5o>



March 4 Business Meeting

When you receive an email from Carolyn reminding you of the meeting, don't forget that it requires a reply to her to tell her whether you will or you will not be able to attend. Also, remember at the same time that the restaurant now requires us to tell them in advance how many of each meal to prepare. Carolyn's email will list the three choices; please let her know which one she should tell the Blazer to prepare for you.

I will not be at this meeting. Joe and I are doing a cruise that includes Columbia, Costa Rica, Panama, Curacao and Aruba, and on the evening of the meeting we will be at sea, about 10 hours away from Costa Rica, and at 7:30 sitting down to dinner. It might be better than what you are eating. I will be thinking of you and missing a good meeting, I know, because President-Elect Janice will be

facilitating. She is also a recycled president, and many of us remember her as one of the best we have ever had. And we've had some incredible presidents. Janice puts a lot of thought into whatever she does.

Speaking of Effective Leadership

Zonta International provides frequent webinars that are almost always illuminating. They are rarely over an hour and always have useful information. There was one last week. The presenter was Dr. Carmen Valdes, President of Assumption College in the Phillipines. She talked about how a wounded heart makes a stronger leader. She asks women to ask themselves, "Where is the light in our pain or suffering". She talks about how one day when she was promoting a book she had written, she felt emboldened by the #Me, Too movement to reveal that she had been raped, the first time at age 6. She has since discovered that her vulnerability has opened the possibility of turning towards the pain of others in a different way and that that has made her a better leader. She says that she realizes that no one wants pity, that people appreciate empathy and compassion, which a wounded heart is able to give.

All of us lead in different ways. Some of us will be club presidents, some of us will be committee chairs, some of us will take on projects, some of us will come up with great ideas for projects. But because we are a group of women whose purpose is to empower other women, all of us have a feminine foothold.

So ask yourself, what is the light in your pain or suffering? How can it help you to lead and to empower other women?



\$200 Donation to Period Project

I am excited to report that we have been given a \$200 donation to our Period Project from the Sisterhood of Temple Beth Jacob. We have new member Susan Friedberg to thank for bringing this to their attention and for advocating for us.

By my calculations, with just this donation, if we bought the economy-

sized boxes of Tampons, that would buy enough product for a year for 12 women! If you are a woman over the age of thirteen, you can imagine how disempowering it would be to have no feminine hygiene products. So you can also know how empowering it would be to know that you are not FHP insecure. You can apply for jobs, you can go to work, you do anything. Twelve women for a year.

Thank you to Temple Beth Jacob for recognizing the power of your gift. Women are amazing.

Books, Books, Books

The Ways and Means Committee has decided that we will sell books at Market Days again this year. That means that you should be saving the books you no longer want (except the text books, you can keep those) to donate for such a good cause. It also means you should be putting the dates of June 25, 26 and 27 in your calendar so you can take at least one shift. It's a fun job. People like our booth, we get to see old friends and meet new ones, and for the past few years, we've gotten a new member each time (they are book lovers, too)

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