



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
NORTHAMPTON AREA

## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Zonta Club of Northampton Area  
1934-2024**



**Women Making a Difference – Then and Now**

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 2-5pm

@ Collaborative for Educational Services

97 Hawley Street, Northampton, MA



ZONTA

CLUB OF  
QUABOAG VALLEY

Empower. Advocate. Connect.

*We congratulate our sister club,  
Zonta Club of Northampton Area,  
for 90 years of service and advocacy  
to build a better world for women  
and girls in their community and  
beyond.*

At Zonta Club Quaboag Valley, we also  
strive to make a meaningful difference:

- We empower through scholarships and leadership training.
- We advocate for equality and women's rights.
- We connect with professionals in a global network dedicated to change.
- *We invite you to join us in this mission.*

LEARN MORE >>

[zontaqv.org](http://zontaqv.org)



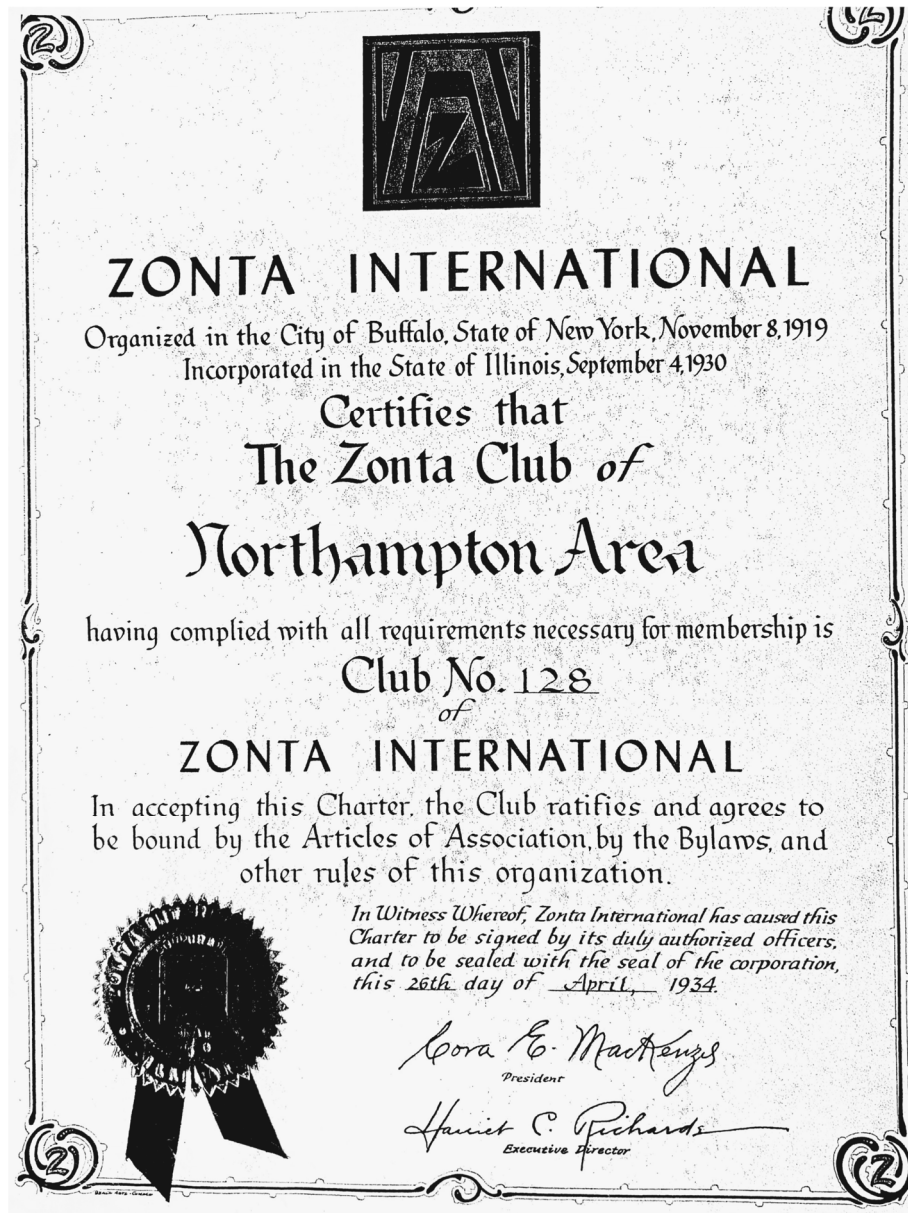
# Welcome to the Zonta Club of Northampton Area's 90th Anniversary

On **8 November 1919**, at the Hotel Statler in Buffalo, Zonta was founded as a service organization of executive women working to improve the status of women worldwide. Initially, all clubs were located in the United States, but by 1927, Zonta had expanded across the border to Canada. The Confederation of Zonta Clubs became Zonta International three years later, following the establishment of the first club in Europe. The Zonta Club Northampton Area was chartered in 1934 as the 128th Zonta club.

This program has three sections:

- A timeline for the last nine decades, along with historical notes on local and international service and advocacy we have witnessed. More detail on issues Zonta worked on can be found at [www.northampton.zontadistrict1.org/90th](http://www.northampton.zontadistrict1.org/90th).
- Highlights of nine members being recognized at the 90th anniversary celebration. The honorees were chosen from historical Zonta records, local agencies with which the club has collaborated over the years, and recent club members. The long list was culled to nine to be representative of the ideals of Zonta—an organization that works tirelessly to advocate for equality, education, and an end to gender-based violence and child marriage. Zonta's mission is to create a world where women have access to resources, are represented in decision-making, and are free from violence.
- Ads from our members, supporters and sponsors who enabled us to celebrate this milestone in style. Please join us in thanking them for their generosity.

**Members of the Zonta Club of Northampton Area**



Current members of the Northampton Club are very pleased that early members had the foresight to archive their minutes, programs, pictures and newsletters at Smith College for future generations.

**90th Anniversary Program  
of the Zonta Club of Northampton Area**

**2:00 Sign in and Networking**

**Please visit our membership and scholarship  
tables, enjoy refreshments and entertainment**

**2:30 Welcome by Caroline Gear, Emcee**

**Our Honorees—Past and Present:**

**Alice Scott Ross—ZIF**

**Verda Dale—ZIF**

**Lynn R. Goodhue—Girls Inc.**

**Linda Knox Gibbon—ZIF**

**Audrey Millgate—Membership**

**Lisa Lapierre—Young Family Program**

**Alexis (Lexi) Johnson—ILI**

**Ava Blum-Carr—WM Asylum Support**

**Maedeh Ghasemzadeh—ILI**

**3:30 Zonta Overview**

**Service, Advocacy, Education, Membership**

**4:15 Closing Remarks**

**Toast to Past and Future**

**Raffle Winners, Announcements**

### **1930—1939 Historical Context**

The 1930s were a decade of global economic and political crisis that led to the start of World War II. The decade was marked by the Great Depression, the rise of Nazi Germany, and the New Deal programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

### **From the Archives**

**The Zonta Club of Northampton Area's archives** housed at the Smith College Neilson Library's Special Collections Room contain minutes and activities from meetings going back to 1934. These reflect what the women of this area were doing to provide service and advocacy for women. We've included a few samples in this program.

#### **April 19, 1934**

Zonta Club of Northampton Area, Club No. 128 received its Charter on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Zonta International.

**June 5, 1939:** The club procured the use of the summer home known as Clear Comfort, owned by the Davenport Estate, for the fifth year, in order to carry on the service work of the club. The Zonta Lodge opens on July 1 to provide vacations for mothers and children to get fresh air and a change from the city environments. *Note: The project closed in 1942 due to transportation problems.*



**Amelia Earhart (1897-1937)** was a member of the Zonta Club of Boston and New York from 1928 until her disappearance.

The spirit of Amelia lives on through the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Award program, founded in 1938 to support women pursuing graduate degrees in aerospace-related sciences and engineering.

### **1940-1949—Historical Context**

The 1940s were defined by World War II, the Holocaust, atomic bombs, and the beginning of the Cold War. Women were needed in the workforce to replace men who went to war, and wartime production pulled the U.S. out of the Great Depression. 1942—Planned Parenthood Federation of America began. Zonta clubs were focused on military families, equal rights, and discrimination in compensation.

### **From the Archives**

**ZONTA LODGE – 1940:** “A single women was promised peace and quiet, and was upset by noisy children. She was Greek but she had a good sense of humor so she got along.” **1941** – Purchased new equipment. **1942** – Transportation problems cause the discontinuation of the lodge program

**ADVOCACY – 1940:** opposition to a State bill barring married women from holding public office. **1945:** Petitioned for Equal Rights Amendment, for the appointment of a woman to city Boards of Education, for women appointed to civic committees equal to the number of men. **1947:** bill to appoint women to juries.

**SERVICE – 1944:** sent food packs and money to European friends and to orphans




## Timeline from the Archives continued

### 1950-1959—Historical Context

The 1950s were a time of many historical events, including the Korean War, the Space Race, and the discovery of DNA.

### From the Archives

**SERVICE – 1953:** organized Mother’s Birthing Classes with Zonta members Jean MacDonald, VNA Director and Edith Behr, Cooley Dickinson Hospital Director of Nurses. **1959:** Alice Davis served on the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Scholarship Committee.

	<p>In the 1950s, the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of</p>
<p>Women (CSW) focused on women's political rights and discrimination in marriage. The CSW was the UN's first policy-making body dedicated to gender equality and women's advancement. The CSW's mandate today is monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities. As an NGO with General Consultative Status, Zonta International is invited to participate in the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.</p>	



### 1960-1969—Historical Context

The 1960s were a tumultuous time in world history, marked by the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and the counterculture. 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VII barred discrimination on the basis of race and sex. 1960 FDA approves birth control pills. 1961 President John Kennedy establishes Commission on the Status of Women with Eleanor Roosevelt as chair. 1963 Congress passes the Equal Pay Act. 1968 The EEOC rules that sex segregated help wanted ads in newspapers are illegal. 1972 Title IX of the Education Amendment bans sex discrimination in schools.

### From the Archives

**SCHOLARSHIPS – 1960-61:** Small Fry Campership, Peoples Institute. **1960-65:** Florence Day Scholarship for MA degree in Social Work at Smith College.

**FUNDRAISING –** Hospitality Parties at Smith College Reunions. Club members and friends served Cocktails, fun and profitable, \$1 per drink and the class paid for the liquor. This was an annual event through the '70's along with an Annual Rummage Sales at People's Institute.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Griswold v. Connecticut Supreme Court ruling of 1965 both secured rights for some feminists and encouraged them to continue to advocate for women's equality.



## Timeline from the Archives continued

### 1970-1979—Historical Context

The 1970s were a period of political upheaval, economic instability, and social change in the United States and around the world.

### From the Archives

**FUNDRAISING – 1970-73:** Smith College Hospitality Parties continued. Annual Rummage Sales at People's Institute.

**ZONTA INTERNATIONAL PROJECT – 1979:** the Ramallah School for Girls was shut down due to events in the Middle East, Jordan closed the border.

### **Zonta International History:**

**1970** - Zonta celebrates 40th anniversary of its first club in Europe.

**1972** - Zonta receives consultative status with the UN International Children's Fund (UNICEF) to promote close relations between the UN and Zonta clubs.

**1973** - The Boston convention is the first with simultaneous translation in 3 languages. Gloria Steinem gives the keynote address.

**1975** - President Eleanor Jammal and Harriet Yeckel serve as Zonta's delegates to the UN International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City.

**1976** - Zonta's first convention is held off the North American continent in Germany

**1979** - Zonta has 750 clubs in forty-six countries on six continents.

### **1980-1989—Historical Context**

The 1980s were marked by many significant events, including the fall of the Soviet Union, the AIDS epidemic, and the rise of conservative politics.

### **From the Archives**

**October 13, 1980:** Annual Fellowship was awarded to Judy L. Freedman, Worcester for her work at the Clarke School for the Deaf, and study at Smith College, Education Department.

**August 29, 1982:** Mrs. Jots (Alice Scott Ross) retired after 39 years of writing her column “our Readers’ Exchange”, of swapped advice and recipes. She recorded there not only her own life and loves but that of her beloved country as well. Her multitude of fans became her “Family of Friends” to whom she gave of herself with love.

More than 28 reports of Zonta Club of Northampton service and advocacy events in the Daily Hampshire Gazette in the 1980’s. All meetings were regularly reported as well.

In the 1980s, Zonta International focused on equal access to education, ending human trafficking, and supporting the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Zonta also supported UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Zonta engages in joint advocacy at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).



## Timeline from the Archives continued

### 1990 –2000—Historical Context

The 1990s were a decade of significant change in the world, including the end of the Cold War and the rise of the internet.

### From the Archives



**FUNDRAISER – 1996:** Comic Capers, Words and Pictures Museum featuring BATMAN, just in time for the release of the movie. Proceeds were shared with the museum and the YMCA.

**ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – 1994:** In Detroit, Michigan, five members attended: Audrey Millgate, Alexis Johnson, Marie Lisewski and Marilyn Schmidt, President. Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW), youth services and new educational programs were unveiled.

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB – 1994:** Valparaiso, Chile. A shared community experience.

**SERVICE – 1995:** First Annual Women & Power Conference, Beth Brown, Chairing. **1996W&P** Honoree D.A. Elizabeth Scheibel **1999 W&P** Honoree, Yoko Kato, Women's Advocate.

### **2000-2009—Historical Context**

Amid the military conflicts, a global financial crisis began in 2007, causing the Great Recession. The decade also saw a number of devastating natural disasters, including the Indian Ocean tsunami (2004), Hurricane Katrina (2005), and the Sichuan (China) earthquake (2008).

### **From the Archives**

**SERVICE – 2008:** Golden Z Club at Smith College was chartered with Heather Stone, President.

**2009:** The Golden Z Club held a Human Rights Coffee House "Access to Education for Girls in Afghanistan" and helped promote the passage of the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009.

**2010:** The Z Club held a fundraiser "Voice for Haiti" at the Academy of Music in response to the earthquake in Haiti featuring Pulitzer Prize winning author, Tracy Kidder.



International Strategies to end Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) was created to improve education about, and increase awareness of, violence against women and children. It was adopted as an ongoing program of Zonta.



## Timeline from the Archives continued

### 2010-2019—Historical Context

The 2010s was marked by a global financial crisis, natural disasters, social media-fueled protests, and the international troubles of terrorism and the mideast.

### From the Archives

**2010:** Bought 2 Goats for Haitian families through the Haitian Health Foundation.



**2018:** Showing of Little Stones Documentary using art to fight Domestic Violence, and YWPA Award presentation.

**ZONTA SAYS NO**  
**TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign, launched in 2012, has raised awareness of the global pandemic of women's rights violations and has united Zonta clubs worldwide in conducting impactful advocacy actions to fight violence against women and gender inequality.

### **2020-2024 Historical Context**

The period from 2020 to present was marked by significant global challenges and transformations including the COVID-19 Pandemic; social and political unrest; geopolitical tensions with the rise of nationalism, trade wars, and the ongoing war in Ukraine; climate change impacts; and rapid technological advancements, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and renewable energy.

### **From the Archives**

**Service – 2020:** Period Project, collecting and distributing sanitary supplies to agencies and food banks. **2025:** MLK Food Drive with Massachusetts State Rep. Mindy Domb almost 2 tons of food was collected for Amherst Survival Center. A collection was taken up at our Holiday dinner at the Delaney House and delivered on MLK Day.

**Fundraising – 2023: Zonta Palooza**, musical, performed by local musicians, raised over \$6000 for STEM scholarships. We also have poinsettia plants for sale annually to local businesses and supporters.



**Zonta International Convention, Brisbane Australia – 2024:** Attended by members District 1 Governor Donna Sroka and Audrey Millgate accompanied by Audrey’s daughter Chris Isles, designer of club t-shirts.

**Zonta Says NOW** campaign was launched to raise awareness and to advocate for gender equality and climate justice.



## Honorees

### **Alice Scott Ross—1901-1986**



Known as 'Mrs. Jots' to her Zontian sisters and many Springfield Morning Union and Sunday Republican friends. She received an honorary doctorate from Our Lady of the Elms College. In 1943 she began a column for the Springfield paper "for housewives by a housewife"; because of its popularity it expanded from one a week to one and, sometimes, two a day. August 29, 1982: Mrs. Jots (Alice Scott Ross) retired after 39 years of writing her column "our Readers' Exchange", of swapped advice, household items and recipes. She recorded there, not only her own life and loves, but that of her beloved country as well. Her multitude of fans became her "Family of Friends" to whom she gave of herself with love.

### **Lynn R. Goodhue—1948-2022**



Lynn was passionate about the advancement of women and the protection of human rights worldwide. She demonstrated this through her many years of service for Zonta International. She was very active in the Northampton chapter and was elected District 1 Governor, serving all New England and Nova Scotia for two years and then served as Director on the International Board of Zonta. Through Zonta she traveled the world and met people who would become dear friends. In 2006 Lynn traveled to Melbourne, Australia to attend one of many Zonta International Conventions and seized the opportunity to independently circumnavigate the globe, visiting people and places that were special to her. Lynn also attended the Commission on the Status of Women meetings at the United Nations every March and brought others along to learn and get inspired by the needed work to be done.



## **Verda Dale—1917-2018**

Verda Dale grew up on a cattle ranch in rural Kansas with limited resources but immense perseverance. As a child she excelled academically, graduating valedictorian of her high school class. With only a \$150 loan from the District Federated Woman's Club, Verda worked her way through college with significant academic success. She entered the Women's Army Corps of the U.S. Army where she rose to the rank of captain, commanding a 600-woman company in Georgia. After her military service and graduate school, Dale became an associate professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst where she served as state specialist in home management and directed a Peace Corps training program.



She was well known for her work in kitchen design for homemakers with disabilities. Her most rewarding role came after earning a doctorate from Michigan State University; from there she became chair of the home economics department at the University of Hawaii. She expanded career opportunities for students and provided mentoring, encouraging students to look more clearly at their challenges, envision better outcomes for themselves and to put their own best ideas into practice. In retirement, Verda became an Ikebana teacher a role she had worked toward for many years in Hawaii. The art of Japanese flower arrangement, Ikebana, is characterized by discipline and minimalism. At age 95, Dale remained active after 52 years of membership in the Zonta Club of Northampton Area, working in international collaborations to advance the status of women worldwide. The following year the club gave her an Honorary membership for life. "Verda is the woman we all want to be."

## Honorees continued

### **Lisa Lapierre— Director of CAPV Youth WFD Programs**



Lisa started her career with a focus on Early Childhood Education, providing care and education to children while their parents were attending GED and parenting classes.

When given the opportunity to begin working with the parents, she realized the transformative promise of 2 generation work.

For the next 20 years she worked for Corporation for Public Management (CPM) moving from a direct service role for a welfare to work program, to program manager, to divisional leadership overseeing workforce development programs in 9 counties. In 2013, Lisa launched CPM's Secure Jobs Connect program, funded through the Paul and Phyllis Fireman Foundation, focused on reducing family homelessness through innovative workforce development programming. The program quickly gained national attention, resulting in invitations to present at a National Jobs Summit and the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

After three years at the Franklin Hampshire Career Center, overseeing public workforce development programs, Lisa joined Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV) as the Director of Youth and Workforce Development Programs in 2019. During her time with CAPV, has expanded Youth and Workforce Development Programs funding, services and staffing levels. She has led a passionate team with a dual focus on job readiness and workforce development as well as leadership development programming and has touched the lives of hundreds of young people, including young parents, LBGTQIA+ and housing insecure youth and young adults, youth involved in the justice system, and re-entering citizens.

## Alexis (Lexi) Johnson



Alexis Johnson co-founded ILI in 1984 and was Executive Director until December 31, 2015. With an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and a Masters in Teaching ESOL and Spanish from the School for International Training (SIT), Alexis has taught languages for over 40 years, including nine years in Barcelona, Spain. In addition to Spanish, Alexis speaks varying degrees of French, Italian, Esperanto and Catalan and has studied Arabic and Chinese. Her first book “Playing with a Full Deck” is 52 short essays about life’s lessons learned – a mostly humorous look at her life. She is currently working on two books. The first is about caring for her mother, who had dementia – working title “I Was Going to Write a Book but I Forgot What I Wanted to Say”. The second is “Dancing with Words” – informative and humorous essays on language.

During Lexi’s years as a member of the Northampton Club one of her many accomplishments was chairing ‘Women & Power’, an all-day Saturday program held annually for women and girls in the community. Speakers and workshops covered many topics of importance in women’s lives.

## Honorees continued



### **Linda Knox Gibbon**

In 1980 the Zonta Club of Northampton Area was concentrating on increasing membership by contacting local businesses about their employees who were interested in

advocating for women's issues. One of the new members who joined at that time was Linda Knox Gibbon, an employee of the Hampshire Gazette. Linda worked her way through local and district Zonta offices and was elected Governor of Zonta District 1 for the 1996-1998 biennium.

In her work Linda traveled throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut and met with many business executives. Some of these women from Berkshire County, Massachusetts seemed to her to be wonderful candidates for Zonta membership. They struck up a friendship and worked together to charter the Zonta Club of Berkshire County in October 1994.

Also through her employment and Zonta affiliations, Linda made contact with the Haitian Health Foundation. She signed up as a volunteer working in a clinic in a rural area in Haiti, met a family for whom she provided financial support until the oldest child was old enough to support the family. The club bought a goat or 2 through the HHF for Haitian families, with Linda's encouragement.

Linda attended many Zonta International Conventions, in Helsinki, Paris, Japan, and District 1 Fall Conferences, in Malden, Wells, Halifax, Northampton and others. She made friends for life with women from all over the United States and many from the other Zonta countries.



## **Audrey Millgate**

Audrey Millgate came to Massachusetts in 1970 from Niagara Falls, Ontario by way of Cornell University where she got a Masters Degree in Consumer Economics and Rural Sociology. A two-year appointment at the University of Massachusetts under the leader-

ship of Dr. Verda Dale led to the assignment as founding Executive Director of the Hampshire County Homemaker Home Health Aide Service. This was an innovative concept in Home Care for mothers in need of assistance and for the elderly in need of physical care as well as housework, thus preventing institutional care.

In order to promote this new service, Audrey did a series of public speaking engagements. One of these invitations to speak was from Zonta Club of Northampton Area, resulting in an invitation to become a member in December, 1972. It was an honor to join this group of local business and professional women with service, education and advocacy of women as their reason for being.

Audrey attended all of the Zonta International Conventions held in the United States during her membership. Boston, Detroit and New York City, culminating in her only international held convention, in Australia, in 2024 at age 85. She attended every District 1 Fall Conference possible, She was active in United Nations Commission on the Status of Women from the early days, when Zonta attendees were invited to lunch at the delegates' dining room. Now that Audrey is a resident of NYC, members are always welcome to stay with her and her daughter, Chris Isles, during the 2 weeks of UN/CSW in March. That is, as long as they are ready to get up at 7:00 AM to practice yoga.

## Honorees continued



### **Ava Blum-Carr**

Ava is a 25 year old farmer and artist based in Hadley, MA. She uses no-till, organic practices to grow healthy food and soil alongside her family at Preservation Orchard & Farm. Ava feels called to farming because of food's central role in creating community and culture. A changing climate is creating more challenges for farmers every

year, and it is important to her to be part of maintaining a resilient local food system in our Valley.

After severe flooding hurt farmers in July 2023, Ava spearheaded a Quilt Project. It was raffled off last spring, raising over \$1500. The proceeds were divided three ways and donated to Grow Food Northampton, Gardening the Community, and CISA!



### **Maedeh Ghasemzadeh**

Maedeh came to the US in 2018 as a recent university graduate searching for freedom from insecurity and oppression in her native Iran. Very uncertain of her chances for an active and useful life here, Maedeh hoped that she could master enough English to at least find a job to do. She found a warm welcome at the International Language Institute, where she has become a fluent English speaker; she found a fellow Iranian to marry, with whom she now has a home and two young children; and she is about to open her own child care business!

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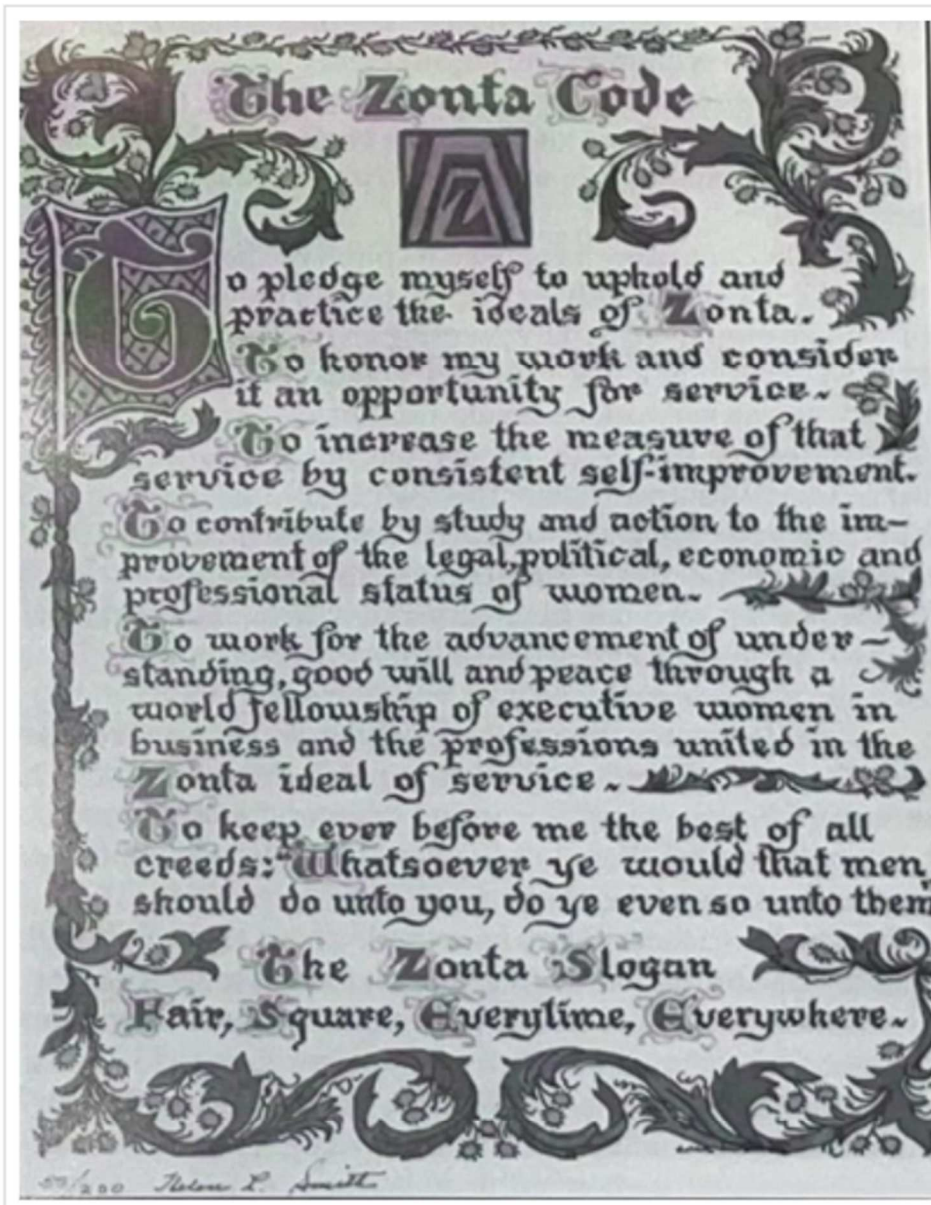
**Caroline Gear,  
Emcee for the Program**

Caroline has been with the International Language Institute of Massachusetts (ILI) since 1986. She started as a Spanish teacher and then as an ESOL instructor, teacher trainer and director of programs before being appointed by the ILI board as executive director in January 2016. For the

past nine years, she has led the organization in creating a long-term strategic guide and action plan, strengthening the school's fee-based programs and free English classes for immigrants and refugees, overhauling fiscal and operating procedures, securing ILI's first-ever foundation grants and extending outreach efforts on many fronts.

Caroline has authored articles on educational assessments and evaluations and presented on the operations of successful language schools. She is also a Trainer of Trainers for the School for International Training's TESOL Certificate Course. Caroline has lived and worked in Peru, Mexico and Spain and has a Masters in Spanish Literature from Michigan State University.

She is currently serving as President-elect for EnglishUSA, as a board member for the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce, and the Youth Exchange Officer for the Northampton International Rotary Club. Caroline enjoys live music, traveling with her family (husband Jim and twins, Matthew and Amelia), gardening, and bike riding through the countryside of western Massachusetts.



Zonta Code of Conduct, Illustrated by Helen L. Smith, 1921.



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