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Zonta presents Winter Elegance

Suzy Godefroy - Zonta Club of Oakville

Published on Nov 15, 2007

The Zonta Club of Oakville is pleased to host the first annual "Winter Elegance Fundraiser" brunch on Sunday November 18, 2007 from 11 am to 4 pm at the Burlington Convention Centre (doors open at 10:30 am). The event will raise much needed money to assist women victims of domestic violence and their children as they break away from their unsafe environments.

Enjoy an afternoon feature of décor with Style at Home's decorating designer Kimberley Seldon who will set the stage with a two-hour decorating presentation for the holiday season. Sheldon of Cityline fame will enlighten and inspire everyone with the latest in holiday home décor. Winter Elegance will also feature our local good-guys in great fashions; our very own Oakville Firefighters who will strut their stuff in apparel from Jonathan Quinn Menswear.

There will also be a panel of local home décor experts to give tips on such things as lighting, flooring, decluttering, home remodeling, interior design, window treatments, etc. The experts will also be available to answer your individual questions.

Of course, no day out is complete without an opportunity to shop. There will be fantastic silent auction items to choose from such as a framed painting from Brian Ateyeo Landscape Painting valued at approximately \$5,000, two one week accommodation packages at a five star oceanfront resort in Cabo San Lucas Mexico and so much more. The Christmas Wreath is a special welcoming piece during the holiday season, and Zonta is delighted to showcase the Christmas Wreath Competition, compliments of Oakville's Floral Houses. The wreath (evergreen circle) historically represents the circle of life and is a perfect complement for the purpose of Zonta's Winter Elegance.

Zonta believes that violence perpetrated by anyone, be it man, woman or child cannot and should not be tolerated. For the purpose of this project, Zonta has partnered with three Halton agencies; Assaulted Women's Hotline, Halton Women's Place, and Home Suite Hope. All these associations aid in helping women who are hurting to successfully move on from abusive relationships to begin a better future. The need is great, there are more than 700 women annually who use the Halton Women's Place shelter alone and countless others who use or need other crisis services in Halton region. This project will include all aspects of attaining a safe and self-sufficient life; from the initial crisis call for help, to a plan of action for short-term and long-term accommodations, and on-going guidance, counselling and family services.

Many women do not understand the veracity of abuse. Abuse can be physical, emotional and/or sexual and sadly has left many scars and sometimes loss of life. Any woman, who is in an abusive relationship, will contemplate leaving countless times before actually leaving. It is especially important to note, that leaving a violent relationship is probably the most dangerous time for a woman.

Abusers come from all walks of life and all socio-economic levels, often women in high income households are held prisoner by their spouse and they feel trapped because their spouse holds all the purse strings. These women need to be aware that a safe life is a better life. Women can call the Assaulted Women's helpline by dialing #SAFE on any mobile phone.

Tickets for Winter Elegance are \$125 and can be purchased by contacting Claire Wallace at claire.wallace@sympatico.ca or 905-339-2460. You may also visit www.zontaOakville.com.



Zonta presents "Winter Elegance" with Kimberley Seldon



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