**Rotary FORUM**12/9/14

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| Event Name | **The Power of Change: Improving the Lives of Women** |
| Objective | To enlighten and engage attendees in programs that improve the lives of women and children, locally and around the world. |
| Event Details | January 22, 2015 (snow date January 29, 2015)  The Fenn School, Ward Hall  516 Monument Street, Concord  7-8 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) |
| Cost | Free admission.  Contributions to participating organizations will be welcome. |
| Format | Panel discussion with lively exchange of ideas by speakers from three organizations.  Each speaker will be recognized with an *Agent of Change* award at the end of the program.  A coffee and dessert reception will follow the program. |
| Speakers | Razia Jan, founder of *Razia’s Ray of Hope Foundation*  <https://raziasrayofhope.org/>  Craig Norberg-Bohm of *Jane Doe Inc.*  [www.janedoe.org](http://www.janedoe.org)  Valentine Callahan, *District Governor of Rotary District 7910*  [www.rotary7910.org](http://www.rotary7910.org) |
| Sponsors | Rotary Clubs of Nashoba Valley and Concord, MA |
| Rationale | The organizers of the event developed its concept inspired by the recent 25th anniversary of Rotary International allowing women to become members. By acknowledging the amazing efforts of organizations that are working selflessly to develop solutions to the many challenges facing women throughout the world, the sponsoring Rotary clubs seek to raise awareness and explore the possibilities for positive change with issues affecting women and families.  These Rotarians strongly believe in educating community members, especially young people, such that we can all become empowered to lead the cultural shifts required for a more peaceful and equitable world, free from violence against women. The intended outcome is to challenge the audience to become “change agents” for reform that will equalize the role of women in society.  It is a further goal of this event to raise funds to support the recognized organizations—contributions will be welcome.  The Rotary clubs will also invite attendees to become members and contribute to organizations and projects such as these. |
| How this event supports the goals of Rotary International | These programs address at least two of the six Rotary International areas of focus:   * Child and maternal health * Peace and conflict resolution |
| Register | [www.rotary7910.org](http://www.rotary7910.org) or (978) 627-4135 (Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley line) |
| Primary Contacts | Nancy McPherson, [Nmcpherson@nancysairfieldcafe.com](mailto:Nmcpherson@nancysairfieldcafe.com) |
| For More Information | [www.nashobarotary.org](http://www.nashobarotary.org), [www.facebook.com/NashobaRotary](http://www.facebook.com/NashobaRotary)  [www.concordmarotary.org](http://www.concordmarotary.org) |

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| More information on Sponsors | **The Rotary Club of Concord** - [www.**concord**ma**rotary**.org](http://www.concordmarotary.org) - consists of over 70 members with two meetings each week; breakfast on Tuesdays from 7:30 until 8:15 AM and lunch on Thursdays from 12:15 until 1:30 PM. Both are held at the Colonial Inn in Concord - [www.**concord**s**colonialinn**.com](http://www.concordscolonialinn.com)  **The Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley –** [**www.nashobarotary.org**](http://www.nashobarotary.org) **-** with its 32 members meets weekly on Thursdays; 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays, meetings are held at Colonial Candies in Bolton - [www.**colonialcandies**.com](http://www.colonialcandies.com) - . 2nd and 4th Thursdays, the group meets at Nancy’s Air Café in Stow - [www.**nancysair**field**cafe**.com](http://www.nancysairfieldcafe.com) |
| More Information on Speakers | **Razia Jan of *Razia’s Ray of Hope*** [www.raziasrayofhope.org](http://www.raziasrayofhope.org) is being honored for her dedication to improving the lives of young women and girls in Afghanistan through community-based education. Founded on the belief that education is key to positive, peaceful change for current and future generations, the Foundation strives to provide opportunities to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment, empowering girls and women so that they may work toward brighter futures.  Razia Jan is an Afghan native, a CNN Top 10 Hero and tireless humanitarian. She is also the Past President of the Rotary Club of Duxbury. In 2011 Razia was honored by the Duxbury Rotary Club with their inaugural Amazing Woman of the Year Award, and she has also won numerous Rotary International Peace Awards. Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England (RAAGNE) has, as an initial project, helped to fund Razia's work.  **Craig Norberg-Bohm of Jane Doe Inc.** is being honored for his work as Co-founder and Coordinator of the Massachusetts White Ribbon Day Campaign: [www.janedoe.org/whiteribbonday](http://www.janedoe.org/whiteribbonday). White Ribbon is the world’s largest movement of men and boys working to end violence against women and girls, promote gender equity, healthy relationships and a new vision of masculinity. Men wear white ribbons as a pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls. Since 1991, the White Ribbon campaign has spread to over 60 countries around the world. Through education and awareness raising, White Ribbon is developing both tools and models that challenge negative, outdated concepts of manhood and inspire men to understand and embrace the incredible potential they have to be part of the positive change.  **Valentine Callahan, District Governor of Rotary District 7910** [www.rotary7910.org](http://www.rotary7910.org)  Mary Valentine "Val" Callahan began her journey with Rotary in 1992 in Washingtonville, NY. She became her club's first female president. Val and her family hosted a Rotary exchange student from France. In 2007, Val joined the Rotary Club of Worcester Massachusetts which is proudly celebrating its 102nd anniversary. As Foundation Chair, Val spearheaded a successful campaign to make her club a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club. In 2010, Val was the GSE Team Leader to Korea. Since then, she has hosted the dynamic incoming teams from Korea, India and Brazil. In 2011, Val hosted a delightful Gift of Life girl from the Dominican Republic, Hilda Reyes. The two year old child had life-saving cardiac surgery at Children's Hospital Boston. In addition, she has hosted an incoming couple from England in a Rotary Friendship Exchange.  Val is a retired school administrator and holds her bachelor's degree from Wheelock College, Boston, as well as her Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at Arlington. She serves on the Board of the Music Guild and at the Mustard Seed Soup Kitchen with the help of her church. She donates blood and platelets regularly.  Rotary is a global network of community volunteers. Rotary club members are business, professional, and community leaders who meet regularly to plan and implement community service activities and network with other professionals. Its motto is "Service above Self.” |

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