

Zonta recognizes leading women

By HILLARY GAVAN Senior staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 4:00 pm

SOUTH BELOIT — “Whether we consider our community Beloit, the Greater Beloit Area, our state, our nation or the world women are making a difference each and every day. We do, indeed have the world in our hands.”

That’s what Zonta Club of Beloit membership chair Marcy Reedy said at the club’s 39th Annual Tribute to Women banquet held Tuesday evening at the Garden Hotel and Conference Center in South Beloit.

The event recognized outstanding women and featured an enchanted evening with music by cellist Hannah Filipiak, raffle items, dinner, recognition of past award winners and more.

Mistress of Ceremonies Monica Krysztopa kicked off the occasion with some inspiring quotes, including Oprah Winfrey’s words that “The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams.”

Zonta, whose mission is to empower women, chooses several women each year to be honored at its fundraising awards dinner. The nominees are selected based on one of three attributes: personal achievement, volunteerism and leadership.

Honorees who received the tribute to women award were Mary Porter, Becky Rogers, the Rev. Neddy Astudillo, Linda Williams, Dolores Ward, Tirzah Casper, Sherrie Swanson and Shirley Chamberlain. Valerie Carter received the award on behalf of Dorothy Harrell.

Caroline Sheila Locke won the Mary Leindorf Scholarship, and Joselyn Cheyenne Juhl won the Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship, although Juhl was unable to attend.

The Beloit Daily News won the Community Contributor Award which was accepted by senior writer Hillary Gavan. Reedy praised the newspaper for serving as a microscope, a monitor and a



Honoring women

(From left, back): Neddy Astudillo, Becky Rogers, Dolores Ward, Hillary Gavan on behalf of the Beloit Daily News, Tirzah Casper, scholarship recipient Caroline Sheila Locke, (from left, front) Valerie Carter on behalf of Dorothy Harrell, Shirley Chamberlain, Sherrie Swanson, Mary Porter and Linda Williams were all honored during the Zonta Club of Beloit's 39th Annual Tribute to Women event on Tuesday evening. Scholarship recipient Joselyn Cheyenne Juhl is not shown in the photo.

microphone for women's issues.

“For more than a century and a half, the Daily News has been the community newspaper for Beloit and the Stateline Area, shining a spotlight on women's issues including the challenges of domestic violence, healthcare, nutritional insecurity, financial and educational inequity, as well as the accomplishments and successes of women in the political, business, educational and community arenas,” Reedy said.

The fundraising dinner helps raise money for two scholarships each year and donations for several other community projects.

Zonta is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women through local service and advocacy. For more information about the local club, contact Marcy Reedy at 608-362-3518 or email marcyreedy@gmail.com.

The sponsors for 2015 Zonta Tribute to Women event are: Beloit Health System, First National Bank & Trust Co., Garden Hotel and Conference Center, Aero Leone, Beloit Regional Hospice, Blackhawk Bank, Daley, Murphy, Wisch and Associates Funeral Home, McDonald's of Beloit, McGilva Electric, TRICOR Insurance Agency and Walnut Creek Hardwood, Inc.