



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

# NEWSLETTER

August 2017

Area 2 • District 6

**2017-2018**

**Zonta Club of Milwaukee**

## Officers

Helen Ludwig, President  
Maria Bellmann, President Elect  
Joann Comodore, Vice President  
Diane Lindsley, Treasurer  
Karen Smith, Secretary

## Club Board

Krista Betts  
Margaret Holzbog  
Janet Kloser  
Joyce McCrary  
La Toya Sykes  
Regina Young-Ferguson

## Foundation Board Officers

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Victoria Frazier, Vice President  
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Sheryl Dean, Corresponding Secretary

## Foundation Board

Gloria Jones  
Pamela Knackert  
Lynne Oehlke  
Mary Staten

**Send your newsletter  
submissions to Krista Betts.**

**Visit us online at  
[www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)**

## Zonta Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

**Speaker: Gerry Howze, Executive Director,  
PEARLS for Teen Girls**

PEARLS for Teen Girls is one of the agencies we are supporting with a grant this year. PEARLS empowers young women with self-development tools, guidance and support to live out the PEARLS values of Personal Responsibility, Empathy, Awareness, Respect, Leadership and Support.

PEARLS programs provide girls with a safe place, skills development and self-esteem building that lead to better life choices and an opportunity to realize their full potential. In 2016, PEARLS served 1,827 girls. Of active girls, 100% chose not to get pregnant and 96% of seniors graduated high school.

Join us at the August meeting to learn more about this successful program.

**Mo's Irish Pub**, 10842 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa  
(northeast corner of Bluemound and Hwy 100)

5:30 pm – Social

6:00 pm – Dinner with speaker and meeting to follow

**Menu:** Each guest may choose one starter and one main course:

*Starters* – House Salad; Caesar Salad; Tomato Soup; or  
Chicken Dumpling Soup

*Main Course* – Cobb Salad; Chicken Sandwich; Pub Burger;  
or the Jackie Special

Choices will be made when you are at the table. Cost is \$30 per person. Please order any beverages through our servers.

**RSVP:** Please contact Lori Peterson by Sunday, August 20 at 9:00 pm, preferably by email ([lorapeterson@wi.rr.com](mailto:lorapeterson@wi.rr.com)) to make a reservation. Leave a message at 262-370-9540 if you must.

**[www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)**

# President's Message



I hope everyone is enjoying our wonderful summer. As we begin our new Zonta year, I once again want to encourage everyone to be involved in our club activities. I will bring committee sign-up sheets to our August meeting.

Our District 6 Fall Conference is scheduled for Friday, October 13 through Sunday, October 15 in Madison. You should have already received your call to conference. Hopefully many of our members will be able to attend the conference. It is a great opportunity to meet Zontians from our district and learn about their service and advocacy projects as well as Zonta International projects. Our club will be responsible for registration and the Zonta Store. If you are going to the conference, please sign up to help. I will have a sign-up sheet at the August meeting.

Our Zonta International President Elect, Susanne von Bassewitz, will be attending our District Conference. Area 2 members are invited to meet her at a dinner being held on Wednesday, October 11 in Madison. This is a unique opportunity to meet our International President Elect in an informal, small setting. Please let me know if you are able to attend. I should have more specific information regarding times and location in the next few weeks.

Finally, I sent everyone our service hour log form. Please keep track of your time and donations expended on Zonta service projects or those given to like-minded organizations. We will collect this information at the end of the club year and submit a cumulative number to Zonta International.

I am looking forward to working with everyone this year. Thank you for your continued commitment.

– Helen Ludwig



## Great News in Scholarships! ERICA LOFTON HAS WON DISTRICT AND INTERNATIONAL!



Our 2017 Young Women in Public Affairs Award recipient, Erica Lofton, has won the \$1,000 District 6 Award and one of 10 International Awards for \$4,000.

I hope you all had the chance to meet this impressive young woman at our May meeting.

You can check out her charity, Girls in Action, Inc., through which she teaches girls ages 8 to 12 how to become leaders, at <http://girlzinaction.com>.

# Meeting Minutes *for June 28, 2017*



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Helen Ludwig, President, called the meeting to order.

This is primarily a social meeting, with a Forward Committee Report on our direction for the next three to five years.

We had one guest attend our meeting, Renita Switzer.

**ZI International Service Committee for Clubs:** Criteria was passed out to members. The criteria are what we should be using in determining what service projects align with our mission. International would like us to keep track of service hours and donations to other organizations. We are not tracking names; we will report an aggregate of service hours and donations from our club.

**Club Meeting Location:** Many thanks to Lori Peterson for her work to find a new location for our club meetings; she examined a lot of different options. We are trying out Mo's Irish Pub. Please give feedback to Lori. We do have a minimum for the Mo's location, so if you make a reservation and do not attend, you will be requested to pay accordingly. In addition, any members that attend but do not dine are asked to pay \$5 to defer the cost of speaker honorariums and dinners.

**Neu-Life Backpacks:** We have a good start on the 120 backpacks needed. Please hold off on purchasing additional backpacks until we determine for which age group we still have a need. Donna Neal has created a list of what we need by item and the best price we had last year for each item. If you do buy something, tell Donna right away. Backpacks will be distributed on July 27 at the Career Day event. If you want to make a financial donation, please give it to Elizabeth Stull.

**Forward Committee Report:** The Forward Committee was formed one year ago to look at long-term (minimum of three years) service direction for the club. Over the past year, the committee conducted a survey of our membership on current and potential partnership activities, had guest speaker Carmen Pitre speak on issues affecting women and girls, and had at least three facilitated discussions. Thirty-some members completed surveys, for a high participation rate.

We used the same assessment criteria as was used five years ago, with some minor tweaks. Those criteria included: ZI focus, impact on community, gains public interest and attention, gains member interest and attention, helps us be known in the community.

## Club Calendar

### Club Meetings

August 23	September 27
October 25	November 29
December 20	January 24
February 28	March 28
April 25	May 23
June 27	

### Board Meetings

Club Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

### District Conference

October 13-15

Madison, WI

<http://zontadistrict6.org/2017-fall-conference/>

## Meeting Minutes *for June 28, 2017 (cont.)*



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Partnership with Neu-Life was assessed against the criteria to evaluate the fit, as the partnership was executed. Half of the survey respondents had visited Neu-Life four or more times.

Early agreements were that we would continue Backpacks, Career Day, Girls on the Run and ARTREACH. In addition, we would explore additional partners. In the meantime, the club worked on the Z Club formation at the Milwaukee High School of the Arts and ARTREACH 2.0.

We have two ARTREACH committees: One committee (of 11 to 12 people) is trained and ready to take ARTREACH on the road. The second committee (5 to 6 people) is looking for locations to take the show.

When looking at expansion opportunities for our service direction, we had three breakout groups at our March meeting to discuss focused topics. Two facilitated discussions converged on mentoring as an outcome. Social Justice discussion raised some potential topics for a club program or discussion.

The Forward Committee will be turning the work over to a Mentoring Committee: Maria Bellmann, Victoria Frazier, Janet Kloser, Deb Koller, Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry, Joyce McCrary and La Toya Sykes. The Mentoring Committee will be charged with making recommendations on what the service initiative would look like, what the scope would involve (Z Club, Sojourner Peace Center, and/or others), training needs, and the match with the club capacity. Cheryl and La Toya will lead the committee.

*Respectfully Submitted by Karen Smith, Secretary*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August 1  
**Diane Lindsley**

August 2  
**Krista Betts**

August 11  
**Karen Smith**

August 12  
**Sheryl Dean**

August 12  
**Barbara Fitzgerald**

August 15  
**Christine Todd**

August 18  
**Margaret Holzbog**

August 24  
**Maggie Aboagye**

August 26  
**Veronica Rogers**

August 27  
**Cheryl Nowak**



# Advocacy Committee



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## Invite Friends, Family and Colleagues to Join Us in Saying NO to Violence Against Women

The 3rd Annual Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Silent Walk has been scheduled for **Monday, October 2**, 11:55 am to 1:00 pm, in downtown Milwaukee. Our 1-mile walk (see the map at right) will begin and end at Milwaukee City Hall, where we will also hear from several speakers prior to the reading of the names of those who died in 2016 as a result of domestic violence. Those who cannot walk can show their support by joining us for the program at City Hall.



Please invite your friends, neighbors, family, coworkers and like-minded groups to join us on the walk. The Save the Date is below and also attached with the newsletter. We've also put together a [Facebook event](#) for the walk.

### Save the Date

## Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women 3rd Annual Walk

Monday, October 2, 2017

11:55 am – 1:00 pm | Milwaukee City Hall

*Join us in a silent walk around the Milwaukee downtown area, beginning and ending at City Hall, for the purpose of remembering those in Wisconsin who have died this past year as a result of domestic violence.*

***Together, we can inspire community action.***



**Sponsors**



## Learning More About Our Zonta Sisters Around the World – India

A reading suggestion to put you in touch with the culture of India: ***Nectar in a Sieve* by Kamala Markandaya**

*Nectar in a Sieve* is a beautiful and eloquent story which tells of a simple peasant woman in a primitive village in India whose whole life is a gallant and persistent battle to care for those she loves. The Milwaukee Journal named it “A Novel to Retain in Your Heart.” It was named Notable Book of 1955 by the American Library Association.

Kamala Markandaya (1924–2004), a pseudonym used by Kamala Purnaiya Taylor, was an Indian novelist and journalist. She was born in Bangalore, India, and educated at the University of Madras in Chennai, India. She worked briefly for a weekly newspaper before emigrating to England in 1948 where she lived and met her husband. *Nectar in a Sieve* was her first novel. Her other books include *A Handful of Rice*, *Some Inner Fury*, *The Golden Honeycomb*, and *Two Virgins*.

**Zonta International has three clubs in India: Bombay I, Bombay III, and Madras.**

Have you checked the Zonta International website ([zonta.org](http://zonta.org)) for updates on our International Service Projects?

– Marge Holzbog



Last spring, club members brought donations for Lad Lake Centers and its program for sex-trafficked victims. Lad Lake’s mission is guiding at-risk youth, including exploited and abused girls, and families on the path toward independence and achievement.

Among the donations was artwork from the Neu-Life Art Show.



# Service Committee



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## Neu-Life News

An interactive sculpture, “Underground Railroad”, created by Neu-Life youth was unveiled at a June ceremony in Alice’s Garden, 2136 N. 21st St. Stop by and visit sometime to check it out! It’s a fabulous piece of art and tells an important story about the underground railroad in Milwaukee. (Neu-Life has two Farm Fork plots in Alice’s Garden.)



*Neu-Life youth with Alice’s Garden director Venice Williams and their artist coach (left) and with Alderman Russell Stamper who attended the ceremony (right)*

## Career Day and Back-to-School

The Back-to-School celebration on July 27 was a lot of fun – we distributed 120 backpacks filled with school supplies. Montez Ashley even arranged for Smokey the Bear to be in attendance!





# Service Committee



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Thanks to those who shopped – Amrei, Cheryl L-D, Donna C, Donna N, Jackie, Lynne, Montez, and Pam – and to Cheryl N who not only shopped but got Target to make a donation! Thanks also to those who made monetary donations – you know who you are!

Thanks to those who stuffed backpacks – and managed to get to Neu-Life in the middle of one of our summer's heavy rainstorms: Cheryl L-D, Diane, Donna C, Donna N, Gloria (and Reuben), Jackie B, Joann, Joyce, Laurie W (and her granddaughter), Montez, and Pam. Many hands made light work, and it was a good thing because we lost power a little after 6! We finished the last of the stuffing in the dark with the supplies Cheryl L-D brought along. An eventful evening!



Finally, thanks to our Career Day speakers – Joyce, Montez, and Regina – for being such great role models and sharing their work experiences with the Neu-Life youth.

## ARTREACH

An ARTREACH program was conducted this summer with high school students at Milwaukee High School for the Arts. This time, we opened up the art portion to media other than paintings. I haven't yet seen the final projects, but I was present for brainstorming that included music, poetry, and graphic arts. We'll share the final pieces with club members when available.



The Community Placements Committee has gotten underway. We have a working list of possible venues, focused on places where we can reach people who interact with youth, especially at-risk youth. We've developed a letter introducing the program. Now all that remains is to start making some calls and getting some placements so we can put our Road Crew to work.

About 15 Zontians have been trained to be Road Crew for ARTREACH.

– Donna Neal



# Legislation Update

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## Senate Committee Approves Human Trafficking Bills

### *An Update from the Women's Congressional Policy Institute*

On August 2, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee passed, by voice vote, S. 1532, the No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act, and S. 1536, the Combatting Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act, as amended.

**S. 1532:** Sponsored by Sen. John Thune (R-SD), the measure would “disqualify from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life an individual who uses a commercial motor vehicle in committing a felony involving human trafficking.”

**S. 1536:** Sponsored by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), the bill would “designate a human trafficking prevention coordinator and expand the scope of activities authorized under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s outreach and education program to include human trafficking prevention activities.”

## Women, Peace, and Security Act Clears Senate

### *An Update from the Women's Congressional Policy Institute*

On August 3, the Senate approved, by voice vote, **S. 1141**, the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017, sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH). The bill would ensure that the United States promotes the “meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve conflict.”

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the bill on May 25. The House approved its version of the bill (H.R. 2484), sponsored by Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD), on June 20.

# Membership Committee

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In a continual effort to increase club membership, the membership committee is encouraging members to “share the news”! Each member is asked to reach out to neighbors, friends, peers, and coworkers and introduce them to Zonta.

Invite a guest to accompany you to our monthly dinner meeting (at no cost) to meet and see Zontians at work!

# Fashion Show Committee



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## A Plea for Your Assistance

Our ability to gift thousands of dollars to nonprofit agencies serving women and girls each year is 100% dependent on the proceeds of our fashion show.

I know you know this but in the hustle of life's demands it's easy to forget the pride we take in strengthening lives through these grants. So here I am, on behalf of women and girls, asking us all to bring the fashion show front and center long enough to identify a business owner or person we know who could become a sponsor. Their gift underwrites our costs, enabling us to gift larger grants, and it is a tax deduction for them.



*Recipients of Zonta Foundation grants at the 2017 Fashion Show*

We each know someone (friends who value strengthening women, a doctor specializing in women's health, a leader in a company known for valuing the human cause, that buddy who owes you a favor). There is no approach more effective than a personal relationship and a face-to-face request.

If you receive any checks directly, forward them and the sponsor information to Chris Todd, who will follow up with a thank-you. If you've heard of someone or you're not comfortable with the direct ask, forward the contact information to Chris Todd who will approach the individual through a formal letter.

While sponsorship at any amount is appreciated, the committee has identified four levels:

- Supporting Sponsor – \$1,000 and above
- Patron Sponsor – \$500
- Contributing Sponsor – \$250
- Friend of Zonta – \$100

– Lynne Oehlke

The 2018 Fashion Show will be  
April 14.





Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship Recipient (\$1,000)

## ANNA SCHREIBER

The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship is awarded to women undertaking business studies who have demonstrated outstanding potential in the field. This year's recipient is Anna Schreiber, who is studying Information Systems in the Management Department at Marquette University.

As Anna described her field in her application essay, "The program I am enrolled in at Marquette University is critical to the business field, in fact, I would say that any business without IT is not really a business at all. Especially in the world that we live in today, IT is what makes a business run and serves as the platform for people to do their jobs. As IT professionals, we are responsible for helping people use technology in efficient and intelligent ways to solve problems. Over the next few years, technology will only continue to evolve, so the IT field will help businesses learn the right ways to apply it."

Anna has taken a leadership role as co-president of the Information Technology Student Organization at Marquette and co-editor of that organization's publications. She was awarded Most Valuable Team Player in Marquette's IT Innovation competition, InnovalT, and as a business analyst intern at Robert W. Baird her team won the Intern Case Competition—with a program that will most likely be implemented at the company.

In addition to praising Anna's instrumental work on the initiative she was assigned to during her internship, her coach and mentor at Baird commented, "She has...exhibited an ability to quickly build relationships, which was imperative in her role as a liaison between business users and IT.... She is clearly a very self-motivated person and this comes across in how she approaches her professional work as well as her coursework and school obligations such as her leadership of the Marquette IT Student Organization."

Her recommendation from a professor at Marquette also commented on her ability to engage: "Anna is very collaborative and she tends to uplift members of her peer group with her positive attitude and archetypical leadership style. She is accountable to her team and she expects the same level of accountability of her team members."

*Anna will likely be joining us at our August meeting, so we can all offer her our congratulations on her achievements so far, and on her receipt of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's Jane M. Klausman Woman in Business Scholarship.*

## Women in STEM Scholarship Recipient (\$1,000)

# BIANCA RUFFOLO

Women majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) at an accredited college or university who show outstanding potential in their chosen field are eligible to apply for this \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Zonta Club of Milwaukee.

The 2017 recipient, Bianca Ruffolo, is pursuing a degree in Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics at University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Her goal is to ultimately become a molecular pathologist physician/scientist, pursuing both a medical practice and research work.

Through her program at UW-Parkside, Bianca will spend two years working with a microbiologist in the glucose-phosphate stress of *E. coli*. Her program also allows her to do medically relevant research through the RUSCH program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; she is focusing on hematology oncology research. Bianca says, "What's most exciting about this program is that its purpose is to groom students toward helping underserved populations in Wisconsin; I want to focus on women's health research and poor rural communities, since these have been an underserved field for too long."

In addition to maintaining a 4.0 GPA in her academics, Bianca is a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and the Pre-Health Club and president of the Molecular Biology Club and Circle K. Her participation in Phi Eta Sigma and Circle K involves community service projects, including Parkside's GEMS conference. One of Bianca's favorite volunteer opportunities, GEMS (Girls Empowered by Math and Science) is designed to involve more young women in STEM fields. Bianca was also chosen to be a Newman Civic Fellowship Member, and is the Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics representative for the College of Natural and Health Sciences Advisory Board, which discusses issues and possible solutions in the college. For a campus Harry Potter Trivia Challenge that she conceptualized and implemented for the four colleges of the Parkside campus, she has also been recognized for Innovative Program of the Year

Outside of the Parkside campus, she is a Comfort Cart driver for Ascension Hospital in Racine, tutors introductory biology at her old high school, and serves at her church.

*Bianca is expected to join us at our August meeting, where we can all learn more about her achievements and goals and congratulate her on receiving the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's Women in STEM Scholarship.*