



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

NEWSLETTER

March 2016

Area 2 • District 6

2015-2016 Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Officers

Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, President
Helen Ludwig, President Elect
Victoria Frazier, Vice President
Diane Lindsley, Treasurer
Judith Lehman, Secretary

Club Board

Maria Bellmann
Laureen Ward
Barbara Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Stull
Joann Comodore
Karen Smith

Foundation Board Officers

Missy Creevy, President
Christine Todd, Vice President
Pam Knackert, Treasurer
Lori Peterson, Recording Secretary
Connie Thoma, Corresponding Secretary

Foundation Board

Joni Reese
Lynne Oehlke
Jackie Beaudry
Susan Koepsell

**Send your newsletter submissions
to Krista Betts:
bookmaster04@gmail.com**

**Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org**

Zonta Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Speaker: Elaine Maly, Vice President of Development and Operations, TimeSlips

Elaine Maly is a successful nonprofit leader with extensive experience as an executive director, grant maker, fundraiser, and communicator.

TimeSlips helps families, friends, students and care providers use storytelling to create meaningful moments with and for people with memory loss. The program improves the well-being of elders by infusing creativity into care relationships and systems.

Italian Community Center (I.C.C.)

631 E Chicago, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Social: 5:30 pm; Dinner: 6:00 pm

Speaker and meeting to follow

Menu:

Orange Roughy, Duchess Potatoes and Broccoli
or Veggie Stir Fry
Carrot Cake

Cost: \$30 per person, includes tax and tip

Reservations: Please email Lori Peterson at lorapeterson@wi.rr.com or leave a message at 262-370-9540. Your RSVP MUST be left by 9:00 am, Monday, March 21, 2016.

President's Message



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Greetings, Milwaukee Zontians!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!! The weather is better and so is the daylight...it's certainly because of the luck of the Irish!!

Thanks to Helen, Joni, Jackie, Donna N., Lori, Cheryl and Pam for attending the Madison Club's Zonta Zing fundraiser with me. The theme this year was disco and you should have seen some of the outfits...especially Tammy's!! Some Madison Zontians were unrecognizable!! The food was great, the music was nostalgic, and some of our club members really cleaned up with the drawings and raffles. We had a really good time, as we always do when we get together!

The Nominating Committee is all set to inform us of their slate. Thanks to all who stepped up to new or continued leadership roles. The Area Workshop Committee is buzzing along now that they have the theme of the workshop. They'll give their report at the next club meeting.

We have been invited to the Zonta Club of Chicago Loop's 90th Anniversary Luncheon on April 16 at noon. Tickets are \$50 per person. RSVP by April 9 and see me for further information if you're interested in attending. Also, the Circle of Women luncheon sponsored by the YWCA is on April 27 at Potawatomi Hotel and Casino from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Keep the ticket sales rolling for our annual Fashion Show fundraiser on April 9. The more we sell the more money we can use to meet our Club and ZI goals. Be sure to read the committee sections to see how we are progressing in our service and advocacy efforts.

Please wear something **green** to our next meeting, March 23, to honor our Irish sisters this month. Happy Birthday to our March babies...

Donna KW, Club President

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March 13
Gloria Jones

March 30
Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry

Meeting Minutes *for February 24, 2016*



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Christine Todd gave the blessing.

We welcomed guest **Amrie Debatin**, originally from Germany, now living in Pewaukee, and hope she will become a member of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee.

Our planned speaker was taken ill and unable to present at the meeting, so we were privileged to be part of an insightful, moving opening address about the importance of celebrating Black History Month, given by **Barbara Wyatt Sibley**. We were each asked, "What am I personally going to do to make Race Relations improve in Milwaukee?" This is a difficult and important question. We heard heartfelt answers from various members of the club. Thank you to Barbara and those who shared for helping us to think more broadly, to pursue more personal relationships across race and cultural lines, to increase our understanding of one another, and to improve the broader issue of race relations.

Diane Lindsley presented information on the Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee legislative advocacy subcommittee, which is encouraging support of the Safe Harbor legislation. Postcards to the Wisconsin governor, senator, attorney generals and representatives were available for those who wanted to offer support to passing this Safe Harbor legislation. The legislation will educate the public as well as law enforcement and provide financial support for coordinated services in our communities to help eradicate human trafficking in Wisconsin.

Pam Knackert presided over the installation of Verona Swanigan. We are happy to welcome her to the Zonta Club of Milwaukee. She is our 54th member!

President Donna Kahl-Wilkerson convened the meeting.

Donna Kahl-Wilkerson reminded us that March 8 is Zonta International Rose Day. Members are invited to donate to the Rose Fund in honor of women who have inspired them.

The January minutes were accepted.

Committee Reports:

Correspondence (Judith Lehman): None at this time.

Finance (Diane Lindsley): The books tie out and the process to get the appropriate IRS papers for the proof of address of the Club is underway. The CD will be redeposited at PNC Bank until the IRS documentation is complete.

Service (Donna Neal): The ARTREACH program has three new paintings sketched out and will be working to complete these. Three organizations have already requested to display the student art, and Jody Rhodes is eager to meet with any Zonta member who is interested in getting involved with training or the marketing of this project to further community awareness of human trafficking and how to recognize it and stop it.

Membership (Pam Knackert): We have 54 members.

Meeting Minutes *for Feb. 24, 2016 (cont.)*



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Advocacy (Karen Hunt): No report at this time

PR (Joni Reese): The password for the members-only section of the website has been sent out to members. The new roster will be on the website, so in the future, Pam Knackert will not have to update and send it out separately.

Program (Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Lori Peterson): In March, Elaine Maly will be our speaker. April is the annual meeting, and in May, we are going to visit the Sojourner Truth Family Peace Center. June is still to be determined.

Scholarship (Missy Creevy): We have one application so far for the Women in Public Affairs program. (Applications are due March 15.) Thank you for the donations to "Dress for Success for Less."

Fashion Show (Lynne Oehlke, Maria Bellmann): There are still spots for volunteer help, so kindly step forward. Thank you for the wine already donated for the silent auction; we will be looking for additional bottles at the March meeting. The date has been set for the 2017 Fashion Show: April 1, 2017.

Z Club (Joann Comodore, Victoria Frazier): The names of the high school girls will be sent to Zonta International Headquarters in the upcoming months. The plan is to work with the girls a little longer to solidify their interest and understanding of the Zonta organization, so there will be less movement in and out of the group as the year unfolds.

Foundation (Missy Creevy): There is no news at this time.

Area Workshop (Donna Kahl-Wilkerson): The theme will be "Advocating with Courage." The group will meet soon to arrange the budget, solidify the registration process, and send out the call to registration.

Old Business:

Special Projects: Thank you for the new and gently used water bottles. Donna Neal reported that HeartLove Place is interested in used cookbooks, and el Centro is interested in single bed sheet sets in either white or tan. We will pursue the cookbook mini project during the month of March.

Zonta International Convention 2016: Donna Kahl-Wilkerson asked if any members were attending the Convention in France; the Area Director needs numbers for planning purposes. At least five members said they were attending and hopefully there will be more. The Zonta Club of Milwaukee is allowed two delegates and two alternates at the Convention.

New Business:

Pam Knackert, Joni Reese, and Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry will meet in March to work on the slate of officers to be presented to the Club for vote in April.

Meeting Minutes *for Feb. 24, 2016 (cont.)*



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The Madison Zonta Zing, March 5, still has tickets available at \$30. Folks will meet to talk about carpooling to Madison. There is a Janesville luncheon on March 18, from noon to 1:30 pm; all are welcome. Jackie Beaudry is attending.

The Zonta Club of Charles County, Maryland, is having its fashion show fundraiser on April 29. The theme is "Progress of Women Around the World." They are asking all Zonta Clubs for an in-kind donation and a design that symbolizes their particular club. Connie Thoma will be getting an ornament from the Milwaukee Art Museum to symbolize Milwaukee, and it was suggested that we might send a print of one of the Neu-Life ARTREACH paintings as our design symbolizing our club's work.

Donna Kahl-Wilkerson asked that we wear green next month in honor of our Irish Zonta sisters.

Respectfully submitted: Judith Lehman, Recording Secretary

2016 Club Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee will report the nominated slate of officers and directors at the March dinner meeting. We are very appreciative of the enthusiastic acceptances that we have received during this process. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the March meeting, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Thank you!

Your 2016 Nominating Committee

Pam Knackert

Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry

Joni Reese



Zonta Club Board:

President

Donna Kahl-Wilkerson

DJK Consulting

President Elect

Helen Ludwig

Ludwig Law, LLC

Vice President

Victoria Frazier

Northwest Funeral Chapel

Treasurer

Diane Lindsley

Milwaukee County Parks (ret.)

Secretary

Judy Lehman

Lehman Alternative

Community School (ret.)

Directors:

Maria Bellmann

Assurant Health

Joann Comodore

Neu-Life Community Development

Barbara Fitzgerald

UWM

Karen Smith

Assurant Health

Elizabeth Stull

BonTon Stores

Laureen Ward

Chr Hansen

Zonta Club Dues for Fiscal Year June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017

Another successful year for the Club: Membership has grown from 45 to 54. Advocacy efforts during the *Zonta Says No* campaign included a Walk downtown to City Hall. Neu-Life continued to receive backpacks and Christmas gifts, as well as Zonta member participation at Career Day, Art Fair, Girls on the Run and ARTREACH. Our 2015 fundraiser was another great financial and outreach success. Our dinner meetings have featured outstanding speakers, addressing Zonta's issues. We know you enjoy the Newsletter, Facebook and Twitter communications produced by the PR Committee. The Club awarded three scholarships to exceptional young women. And, we're committed to starting a Z Club at Milwaukee School of the Arts.

We're sure you will want to continue to be part of these efforts to empower women and girls through service and advocacy.

Dues and fees total \$170.00. Make checks payable to the Zonta Club of Milwaukee. PLEASE send me your payment by May 1 so I can submit it before the June 1st deadline for club submission. Paying after June 1st creates a lot more paperwork for me. Zonta International eventually charges a late member reinstatement fee 45 days after June 1st.

Dues are as follows:	Zonta International	\$83
	Zonta District 6	\$27
	Milwaukee Club	\$60
	TOTAL by May 01, 2016	\$170

There are several ways to pay your dues:

1. At the Club meetings (by check) – March 23 and April 27.
2. At the Fashion Show (by check or charge) – April 09.
3. By mail by May 01. Mail your check to:

Diane Lindsley 1340 E. Standish Place Bayside, WI 53217

Please note any changes/additions for name, address, phone, fax, email, or birthday along with your payment.

Zonta membership **dues are not tax-deductible** as a charitable contribution, but may qualify as a business expense. Consult your tax advisor. If we do not receive your check on time, we cannot submit your name on the roster and Zonta International will not recognize you as a club member. If your check arrives 45 days after the June 1st, 2016, deadline, you will be charged a late fee of \$15.

Diane S. Lindsley

Treasurer, Zonta Club of Milwaukee

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

Area 2 Spring Workshop



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Advocating with Courage

Saturday, April 23, 2016 | 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

MRA | N19 W24400 Riverwood Drive | Waukesha, WI 53188

The Zonta Club of Milwaukee is pleased to host this year's Area 2 Spring Workshop, focused on "Advocating with Courage".

- Learn from experienced advocates, including Sister Patricia Rogers, OP, Executive Director of Milwaukee's Dominican Center for Women
- See the results of Zonta International's service programs toward the elimination of obstetric fistula in Liberia and toward an HIV-free generation and effective prevention and response to gender-based violence in Rwanda
- Collaborate with fellow Zontians to define ways to take action for women in our communities

Program Highlights

Telling Your Story

Led by JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, District 6 Advocacy Chair

Decision-makers' understanding of issues is heavily determined by what they hear about them. Zontians need to have their voices heard on issues that matter to us. This interactive experience will prepare you to "Tell Your Story" when you get home – in Zonta and in other parts of your life.

Are We Just Talking, or What?

Collaborate with Zontians across our Area on concrete actions we can take to advance the status of women. Discuss such questions as, "What does it mean to establish an equal playing ground?" "How can we change institutionalized attitudes toward women?" "How can we leverage our professional knowledge to assist women in our communities?" Be ready to brainstorm, and plan to walk away with new personal goals and Club action items.

Fashion Show Update

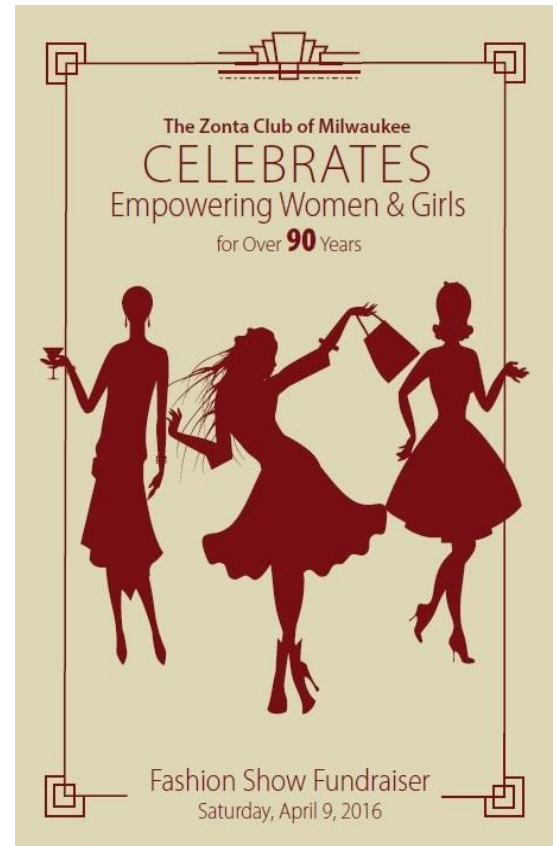


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Our annual fundraiser is on final approach, and we need all Zonta members sharing their talents for a successful 90th celebration event on April 9 at the Marriott Milwaukee West in Pewaukee.

Reminders:

1. Bring raffle and silent auction items to the March 23 meeting and give them to Pam Knackert. If you have a favorite restaurant, bring a certificate to include in the mix.
2. Wine Pull coordinators Deb Koller and Karen Smith can use additional wine bottles, valued at \$10 or more. Also, if you have wine corks you don't need, bring them to the March meeting and give to Deb or Karen.
3. Day-of volunteers are still needed. If you have not yet signed up, see Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry or Karen Smith. They will get you assigned to your favorite duty and fill you in on the details. We need your welcoming smiles to greet our friends, families and guests.
4. Do you have your table of 10 filled, or want to make a monetary donation to our event? March 26 is the deadline for reservations. Send your replies to Helen Ludwig with the names of your guests, luncheon choices, seating preferences, special dietary needs, and your check to ensure your reservation(s). Or, for your convenience, bring them to the March 23 meeting to make the deadline.



You can also renew your membership, with credit card, on the day of our event. We are looking forward to beginning our 91st year with you aboard and enthusiastically included in our Zonta cheering section!

– Christine Todd



Girls on the Run

The spring Girls on the Run 5K run/walk will take place Sunday, June 5 at Bayshore; time and details to be determined. Girls from the Gwen T. Jackson Elementary School will be participating. Anyone interested in being a running buddy should contact Jody Rhodes directly at neulife1@sbcglobal.net.

Construction Update

The elevator has been installed, and a new main entrance (off the parking lot) is under construction and slated to be in use by March 19. Lower level rooms are in various stages of renovation. On the upper floor, the new bathrooms have been operating for several months, the two main rooms have been painted, and new flooring is being installed, first in the large main room with the stage. The entire project should be done by June.

ARTREACH

Three paintings are in progress in the ARTREACH program for high school youth at the main site. Demand is increasing for displaying the eight paintings from prior classes. After being displayed at Milwaukee City Hall during the 16 Days of Advocacy, the art was displayed at the Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee event for Human Trafficking Awareness Month at the end of January, at a Racine Human Trafficking Task Force fundraiser, and at a neighborhood youth program event (the youth themselves presented the program at this event) in February. Upcoming displays/information sharing include:

- **Thursday, March 10:** Jody Rhodes will be giving a presentation on the ARTREACH program to a Concordia University class.
- **Wednesday, March 16:** The paintings will be on display at the MANDI Art Walk. The Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation recognize individuals, organizations, and programs that enrich central city neighborhoods. It is an annual event with an expected 800 attendees.
- **Thursday, March 17:** Jody will present ARTREACH to the United Way of Greater Milwaukee.

We will be convening a task force after spring break to formulate plans about the expansion of the ARTREACH program – both community displays of the paintings/program and expansion of the program beyond Neu-Life.

Mary Staten and **Donna Neal** will join Jody Rhodes, Tracy Hranoja, and Devonte Bonds from Neu-Life in this brainstorming and planning process. We are certainly open to participation from other Zontians, so contact Donna if you'd like to be involved. This is one effort where Service and Advocacy come together for the Zonta Club of Milwaukee.

Service: Neu-Life News



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Neu-Life Art Show

Neu-Life's annual Art Show fundraiser will be held **Saturday, May 14** from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This year's theme will be **Milwaukee the Beautiful**. Collaborative artwork in a variety of media will be for sale, inspired by iconic parts of Milwaukee as well as the Lindsay Heights neighborhood skyline. Works resulting from local artists' collaborations with the students and make-your-own collages from photographs taken by the youth will also be available. ARTREACH paintings will be on display and dialogue with the artists encouraged.

As usual, notecards, journals, posters, and coaster sets will be available for purchase in addition to the original artwork. A rain barrel will be raffled off, and several experiences will be available for bidding in a silent auction. Jazz music, poetry, and a Milwaukee the Beautiful video produced by the youth will provide entertainment. Lunch will be provided courtesy of Jake's Deli, Anodyne Bakery, the Neu-Life cooking club, and other community partners. Tickets are \$25. It's a truly inspiring event and well worth the price of admission.

Meet the artists, talk with the ARTREACH youth, and check out Neu-Life's facelift. Mark your calendars today. **Let's have a large Milwaukee contingent at the Art Show on May 14!**

— Donna Neal



March Mini Service Project

We will be accepting donations of new or gently used cookbooks for HeartLove Place.

HeartLove Place fills a major gap in central Milwaukee by offering the ProStart Culinary Arts Program, which trains and prepares participants to obtain entry-level careers in the food service and hospitality industry. This is a 14-week program founded by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. Since its inception at HeartLove Place in 2002, ProStart has graduated over 500 people from the program and has helped place 46% in industry-related jobs. Other graduates have gone on to open their own companies, advance their education further, and take positions in other industries.

Membership Committee



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Please welcome Verona Swanigan to the Zonta Club of Milwaukee. We installed her at the February meeting. Verona is an attorney owning her own firm, Swanigan Legal Services.

Please feel free to invite any prospective members to the March 23 meeting. We will have a great speaker.

We will be having a **Prospective Member Reception** on **Wednesday, May 4** at Susan Koepsell's condo party room at 1600 W. Green Tree Road. So start inviting those friends, co-workers, neighbors, and relatives who might be interested in joining Zonta. Of course, they hopefully are already invited to the Fashion Show and this will be a great follow-up.

Also, any seasoned member who has not offered to be a mentor for new members, if you are interested please let Pam know.

– Pam Knackert

Club Calendar

Board Meetings

April 12

May 10

June 14

Club Meetings

March 23

April 27

May 25

June 15

Fashion Show

Saturday, April 9

Area 2 Workshop

Saturday, April 23

Hosted by Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Prospective Member Reception

Wednesday, May 4

Meet Our Members



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LESA JORDAN

Lesa Jordan is married to John, and they are the proud grandparents of 9 grandchildren. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Management of Human Resources from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan.

Lesa retired in 2014, after 10 years of employment as a State of Indiana Employment Specialist. In Milwaukee, Lesa was employed at the Tulip Corporation (Jackie Beaudry was her Corporate Human Resource Manager). Lesa's employment history also includes various other human resource manager positions.

Lesa's community service includes:

- United Way (20 years) – board member, campaign coordinator, and solicitor
- Hospice of Muskegon County, Michigan (5 years) – hospice volunteer
- Mc Clue Nature Preserve, Angola, Michigan (18 years) – park sitter
- Muskegon Piston Ring Credit Union (3 years) – supervisory committee member

Lesa joined the Zonta Club of Milwaukee in the early 1990's. She relocated to Indiana, where she joined the Zonta Club of Fort Wayne. During her membership with the Zonta Club of Fort Wayne, she served as President (2 years) and Treasurer (5 years) and was the recipient of Fort Wayne's 2008 Summit Award. She was the Indiana District 6 Representative and served on the YWPA Scholarship Committee (2 years).

Lesa's favorite hobby is collecting Belleek Irish bone china and teddy bears.



Meet Our Members



ELLEN BURGERMEISTER

Ellen Burgermeister enjoys spending time with her husband and children more than anything in the world. She is inspired by God's gifts and especially the diversity of people, nature and music. Trail hiking, stand-up paddle boarding, reading, playing and teaching piano, the ballet, and traveling are among Ellen's favorite fun activities.

Ellen graduated from UW Eau Claire with a bachelor's in Social Work, eager to work for programs intended to provide direction, purpose and support to people seeking independence and the ability to take full responsibility for themselves and their families. Ellen has worked with people learning to manage a wide-range of challenges, including illiteracy, mental illness, developmental disabilities, incarceration, unskilled status, and socio-economic challenges. Finding herself in the position of taking full financial responsibility for her young family, Ellen accepted a commissioned position identifying employees and contractors for businesses locally and nationally. She has managed teams of recruiters for different organizations and a variety of disciplines, specializing in Information Technology.



A couple of personally fulfilling career highlights have included working for Northwestern Mutual where Ellen successfully managed a two-year workforce development project to identify and hire 100-plus interns with the potential for full-time hire upon graduation. Another highlight was when Ellen managed the multi-year NM partnership with UW-Whitewater and their CyberGirlz program, identifying and organizing a group of female high school students interested in exploring a career in Information Technology. Currently Ellen is a Lead Recruiter and Resource Manager of IT consultants for the largest locally owned IT consulting and placement services firm in the State of Wisconsin. This position allows Ellen the flexibility to participate in activities such as mock interviewing at the high school level, coaching college students informally on entering the workforce, and participating with Zonta Club of Milwaukee! The mission of Zonta hits home for Ellen on several fronts and she is excited to learn and grow and contribute with the amazing Zontians she has already met.

Ellen appreciates Joni Reese for introducing her to Zonta.