



MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

# Zonta Club *Milwaukee*

## *Sept. 2015*

2015/2016

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For more information on Zonta Milwaukee, visit  
[www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2015

## **Zonta Dinner Meeting**

Girl Scouts – Wisconsin South East (GSWISE)

Tracy Wayson, Chief Development Officer of GSWISE, will share information about their programs and how they serve girls. GSWISE also partnered with Alverno College to produce the 2014 Report on the Status of Girls in Wisconsin. Tracy will highlight this effort. If you would like to preview the report, check out this site:  
[www.alverno.edu/research/statusofgirls/](http://www.alverno.edu/research/statusofgirls/)

Meal Choices:

Regular Meal – Chicken Scaloppini and Salad  
Vegetarian Meal – Stir Fry with Rice and Salad

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

RESERVATIONS: Please email Lori Peterson at [lorapeterson@wi.rr.com](mailto:lorapeterson@wi.rr.com) or leave a message at 262-370-9540. Messages or emails MUST be left by 9 AM on Monday September 21, 2015.

# *President's Message...*

Greetings Milwaukee Zontians;

There's so much that has happened over the summer that I hardly know where to begin!! I'll start where we left off...after our June meeting there is a little bad news. One of our newer members, Karen LeSage, made her transition unexpectedly. Karen was an enthusiastic member, who jumped right into our Zonta club's service flow. She attended our last conference, hosted by District 4, where she joined the Area 2 Advocacy Committee and she worked with our Club's Membership Committee. She was recently elected to be on the Club Board. Karen will be sorely missed.

Because of the relocation of President-Elect Carol Cline, the Board has appointed Helen Ludwig to finish the term of President-Elect and she has graciously accepted. We currently have an opening for a director. The Club Board will address the issue at their first Board meeting in September.

The Annual Neu-Life "Career Camp" was held in August. Once again our Foundation supplied book bags and school supplies. Individual members also contributed to this worthwhile service project...over 100 book bags were distributed at the end of camp. In addition, several of our members volunteered to conduct career-centered presentations to the young people of Neu-Life's summer program.

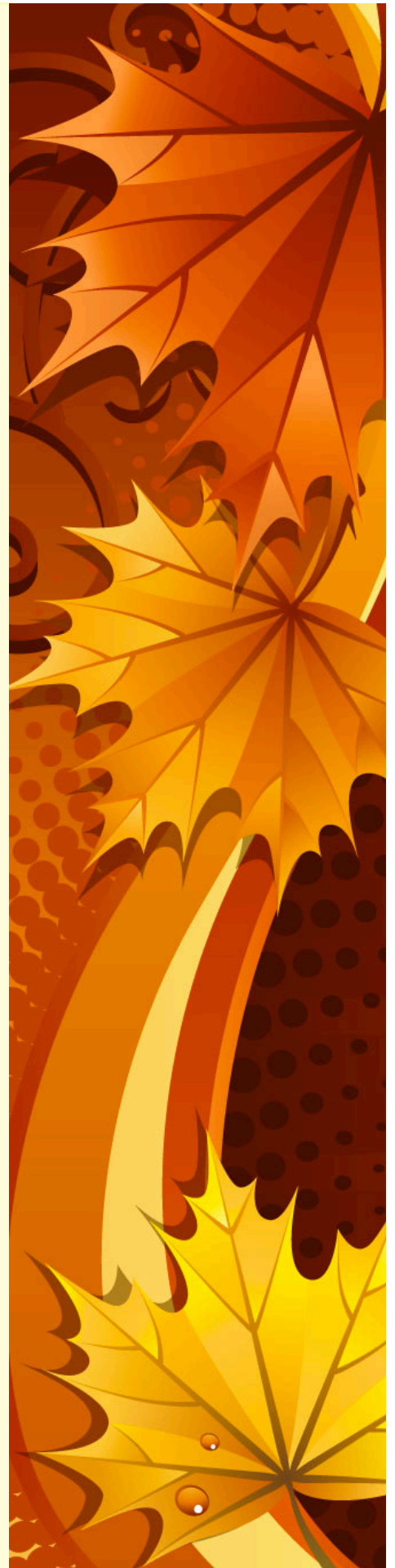
Several committees opted to meet during our meeting hiatus this summer. We will our first DV media opt on Sept.28, 2015. Fall conference will be in Normal-Bloomington, IL from Oct. 9-11, 2015. There is still time to register...the deadline is Sept. 10, 2015. The Madison club will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary with a Celebration Tea on Sept. 13, 2015. There are some members who are attending, if you want to go please call me (414-353-7754) by Saturday (9/12/15).

The date for our Annual Fashion Luncheon has been tentatively selected for April 9, 2016. Start developing your guest list now!

Kudos to: Membership committee...we are up to 48 members! Scholarship Committee -awarded the YWPA scholarship to Ananya Mureli and the JMK scholarship to Kosovka Spereco. Both young women have made it to the District level and will be in attendance at the Fall Conference. Missy Creevy and I will be delegates. Pamela Knackert (1985) and Margaret Holzbog (1980) will be recognized as ZI members with Meritorious Service. We will honor Nell Kendrick and Karen Sage during the conference's Memorial Service.

Next Club Meeting: September 23rd, 2015 at the Italian Community Center.  
Happy Birthday to all members who celebrated their "day" during June, July, August and September!!

- Donna Kahl-Wilkerson



# *Advocacy*

## **Zonta Says No Walk**

Monday, September 28, 2015 is the date of our 1st annual Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women Walk sponsored by Zonta Club of Milwaukee in partnership with End Abuse Wisconsin. This annual event will draw the attention of people in the Milwaukee/Waukesha County area to the ever present and growing issue of domestic violence.

The Zonta Says No Walk will be a silent vigil/walk around the Milwaukee downtown area, beginning and ending at City Hall, for the purpose of remembering those Wisconsinites who have died this past year as a result of domestic violence.

Following the walk several community leaders including Carmen Pitre, Executive Director of Sojourner Family Peace Center, and a number of elected officials will briefly comment of the issue of domestic violence, after which we will read aloud the names of all who have perished this past year. We hope it will be a very powerful event with media presence.

We sincerely hope that all Zonta Club members who are able will join in this walk. Feel free to invite friends or colleagues.

We will assemble at City Hall by 11:55AM. We anticipate the walk to take 30 minutes or so after which we hear comments and read names. The event will be completed by 1:00 PM.

If you haven't already, let Pam or Donna N know if you will be walking with us. And look for a group of marchers in orange Zonta Says No shirts on the news on Monday, September 28!

**ZONTA SAYS NO**  
**TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**



# *Service Corner*

## **Neu-Life Back-to-School Celebration Backpack Drive**

In August, we provided fully stocked backpacks for 90 Neu-Life youth K3 to High School, our 4th annual Back-to-School celebration drive. Some of the supplies came from other friends of Neu-Life such as Hope House and Zilber Foundation, but most were supplied by the Zonta Club of Milwaukee. We also provided about 15 extra backpacks and some supplies that Neu-Life will use throughout the school year, as either new youth join the program or as students run out and need refills.

We had great participation from Zonta members – **thank you all who participated!** Nine members donated items, and ten members donated cash. Chris Todd helped Pam Knackert with the shopping, and Cheryl Nowak persuaded Target to donate some supplies. Jackie, Joann, Diane, Joyce, Donna K-W and Pam along with Jody and Neu-Life students/staff stuffed the backpacks on Monday, August 10th. The stuffing took only an hour with so many helping hands.

Given all the donations, we spent less than we expected from the Foundation (\$850), so our Foundation Service budget still has \$1200 available for projects in the next year.

## **Career Fair**

As part of the Back-to-School Celebration, Neu-Life conducted its second annual Career Fair. It commenced with a session on job preparation (resume, interviewing, etc) from 11-noon led by Donna K-W. Then there were six consecutive 15-minute sessions that the youth could attend. Eleven (11) professions were represented in all. Pam talked on Fund-raising and Joni, Kala, Maria and Karen Smith talked on IT.

After the career fair the backpacks were handed out.

## **Upcoming Events**

Expect details on this year's **Holiday Gift Program** at the September meeting. We will have youth profiles available at the October meeting.

**Any volunteers to lead this year's drive? If I don't hear from someone, I trust you will enthusiastically accept if asked!**

## **Service Committee -- Opportunity**

We are looking to form a Service Committee to examine our projects and suggest changes and/or additions. In the past couple years, we have had separate committees or individuals lead our separate service projects, coordinated by me as the Neu-Life relationship leader. We can likely expand our service footprint in the community and need a group to identify some options for the Club to consider. Let me know if you are interested so I can set up a meeting.



# Fall 2015 Career Day



## *Future Meeting Dates*

<u>Board</u>	<u>Club</u>
9/15	9/23
10/13/15	10/28
11/10	11/18
12/8/15	12/16/15
1/12/16	1/27/16
2/9	2/24
3/8	3/23
4/12	4/27
5/10	5/25
6/14	6/15

## *2016 Fashion Show*

Our committee is excited to be planning the 2016 Fashion Show highlighting our Club's 90 years of service to the community.

The theme chosen is "Empowering Women & Girls for 90 Years". Our venue is again the Marriott Milwaukee West, Pewaukee. The date of the event is Saturday, April 9, 2016. Talbots is our vendor choice but we are waiting for confirmation and approval from their district management.

Thank you to the Club members who have volunteered to join in our celebration and planning. We urge all of you to become involved in some way. A list of remaining activities will be provided at the September 23rd meeting as we move forward to provide job description and train members to use their special talents for a successful event. Future meetings will be held after our Club meetings. All members are invited to join our meetings.

*Kim Brinsko*  
*September 15th*



*Barbara Wyatt Sibley*  
*September 26th*

## *Membership Corner*

Again, I'd like to welcome those new members whom we installed at our June meeting and a few we will be installing at our September 23rd meeting.

In June we installed Kala Ravula, Veronica Rogers, Karen Smith, Janet Kloser and Regina Young Ferguson. In September we will be installing Martha De La Rosa and Mary Staten who were not able to attend in June and hopefully two additional new members LaVerne Morgan and Sandy Goldmann.

Please feel free to invite any prospective members to the September 23rd meeting. It will be a great time for them to meet other members and start our meeting year off.

Joann Comodore and Joyce McCrary (who has recently volunteered) will be asking for pictures and bios for new members in the upcoming months and continue to get our other members that we haven't gotten yet for publication in the newsletters.

Gloria Jones, another newer member, has agreed to be our "Membership Corner" person. If you have any bits of news about yourself and want to keep us up to date on what's happening with you let Gloria know and she'll have a little update in the newsletter each month. Who knows she may even ask you.

Also would like to express again our sympathy in memory of our member Karen LeSage who passed away on July 18 and on Demy Anfang's husband who passed away in July.

-Pam Knackert

## *Women in STEM Scholarship Recipient*

The Zonta Club of Milwaukee presents the Women in STEM Scholarship to women majoring in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) who show outstanding potential in their chosen field. **Pakou Lee**, who is entering her fourth year of a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, has demonstrated that potential through high academic achievement as well as student leadership and community involvement. Pakou's area of focus – Diagnostic Medical Sonography, the use of high frequency sound waves to produce images of and examine the body – is based on the diagnosis of her own childhood health condition by a sonographer.



At UW–Milwaukee, Pakou has taken a leadership role as secretary of the Diagnostic Imaging Student Association; is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society, open to only the top 15% of the class; and is a member of the Emerging Leaders Organization. She volunteers as a tutor for Our Next Generation; works with older adults facing Alzheimer's and dementia as a volunteer with Timeslips at Saint John's on the Lake; and is a tutor with the Burmese Immersion Project, introducing Burmese and Kirin people to American culture while helping teenagers with reading, writing and homework. As she shares in her application, "These volunteer opportunities allowed me to develop communication and active listening skills that I will utilize within my program and field."

For her fourth and fifth year of study, Pakou has been accepted to the competitive UW Hospital and Clinics School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography in Madison, a hospital-based clinical training program offered in affiliation with UW–Milwaukee. The Zonta Club of Milwaukee's \$1,000 Women in STEM Scholarship will help pay for the additional clinical lab fees and textbook fees that come with that program. According to Pakou's academic advisor, Gricelda Estrada, M.Ed., Pakou "surpasses her peers in maturity, professionalism, analytical thinking and intellectual independence....She will be a wonderful asset to her profession."

Pakou was celebrated at a lunch with Scholarship Committee Chair Missy Creevy and committee members Krista Betts and Deb Koller in August before she left to begin her program in Madison. The committee was impressed by Pakou's commitment to succeed as a sonographer and help others, and enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about her history and family.

Pakou was selected for the Women in STEM Scholarship from a pool of six highly qualified applicants.



## *Meet Our Member Karen Smith*



Karen is married to her husband, David, and has two adult children, Emily and Tony. She is an IT Vice-President at Assurant Health, where she worked in various positions for 24 years.

Karen is a board member of The Parenting Network; a Milwaukee based non-profit that works to prevent family violence, with special emphasis on child abuse.

She enjoys travel, outdoor activities like kayaking and hiking, reading, and spending social time with family and friends.

Joni Reese, whom she has work with for a number of years, recruited her to Zonta.

## *Meet Our Member Veronica B. Rogers*



Veronica is married with three children and one grandson. She is a Sierra Leonean national, relocated to Milwaukee in November 2001 as a result of the civil conflict in Sierra Leone.

She is educated, dedicated and hardworking. She has a Ph.D in Educational Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service (Cardinal Stritch University), Master of Social Work (UW-Milwaukee), MA Gender and Development, Institute of Development Studies (University of Sussex), BA-Education, Njala University College (University of Sierra Leone).

Veronica has a very diverse and extensive employment background, which includes, but is not limited too:

Education Program Coordinator for the Dominican Center for Women, Social Worker/ Family Advocate (Urban Day School), Teacher (V.E. Carter School of Excellence), Research Specialist (Helen Bader School of Social Work, Academic Support Tutor (MATC), various positions with the UN system in Sierra Leone, Swaziland & New York, various positions with the Catholic Mission, Government of Sierra Leone and Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO).

## *Meet Our Member Kala Ravula*



Kala is a wife and mother. She and husband Jay moved to the United States 12 years ago. Her son Tejas (the apple of their eyes) is in the 3rd grade, and keeps his parents very busy.

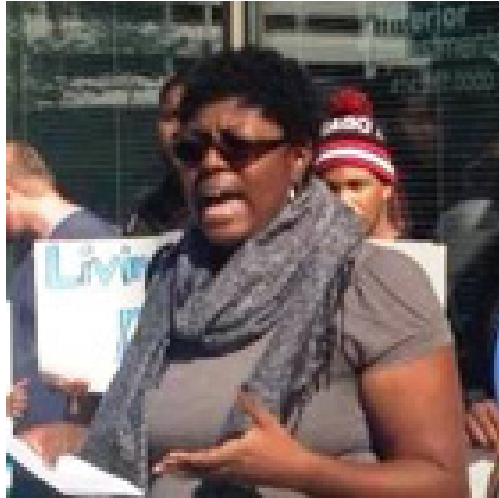
Kala was born and raised in a beautiful remote village on the banks of a river in South India.

Kala has a bachelor's and Master's degree in Computer Science. She has spent her entire professional career in Information Technology (Software Quality Assurance). Her 1st job was with American Family as an QA/BA Analyst, from there she moved to Assurant Health, where she is currently working as a Test Manager, responsible for delivering virus free software to the end users.

Kala is aware of and agrees with the mission of Zonta. She has been modeling in the annual Zonta Fashion Show for the past four years. She is now a Zontian, and a member of Zonta's fashion show committee.

Kala loves vacationing with her family and friends; she loves nature and enjoys walking nature trails.

## *Meet Our Member Martha De La Rosa*



Martha De La Rosa is a proud and long-time resident of the City of Milwaukee. After graduating from George Washington High School, she attended Cardinal Stritch University and received her Bachelor of Science in Management.

Martha leads all chapter organizing, issue campaign and membership-building activities for 9to5 Wisconsin. Martha has experience in developing the next generation of progressive future candidates, political leaders, organizers, and community activists across the state. In 2013, Martha helped lead the Raise Up MKE fast-food workers campaign and worked with a coalition of organizations to introduce a living wage ordinance for low wage workers at the county level.

Martha is passionate about advocacy. She has served on several local boards such as: International Association of Administrative Professionals – Downtown Milwaukee Chapter; Friedens Community Ministries; Milwaukee Urban League for Young Professionals, Milwaukee County Human Trafficking Task Force; NAACP Milwaukee Branch; Fair Wisconsin; Forward Community Investments; City of Milwaukee – Ethics Board; Women's International League of Peace & Freedom; and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Martha resides in Milwaukee with her two sons: Sean Jr. and Seth.



# *Madison Club's 75th Anniversary Celebration*

On Sunday, September 13 five Zonta Club of Milwaukee members attended the Madison Club's 75th anniversary celebration -- a lovely afternoon tea.

Received from Tammy Hagen:

"I want to thank you for coming to the Zonta Club of Madison's 75 Anniversary Tea. Your Club helped to charter us 75 years ago and continues to support us with our activities over the years. Loved the hats!"

