



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

NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Area 2 • District 6

2018–2019

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

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Krista Betts, Vice President
Lori Peterson, Treasurer
Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Secretary

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Foundation Board

Gloria Jones
Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry
Joyce McCrary
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**Send your newsletter
submissions to Krista Betts.**

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

Zonta Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Program will start promptly at 6:00 pm

Speaker: Debbie Buchanan, Executive Director, Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative

Our newest member, Debbie Buchanan, will discuss the organization of which she is the Executive Director, the **Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative**, as well as the **WOVIN Program**, which serves women veterans. She will discuss how they have used the grant they received from the Zonta Club of Milwaukee in April.

See page 6 for more about Debbie's background.

Genesis Restaurant, 3740 S. 108th St. (Northeast corner of Hwy 100 and Beloit Avenue). Lori will send directions later in the month depending on which ramps are open or closed.

5:30 pm – Social

6:00 pm – Program and Dinner

We will be choosing from a limited Sit-Down Dinner menu which includes a crisp green salad, choice of potato, vegetable, fresh bread, coffee or soda and ice cream. Our selection of entrees for this meal is baked ham, roast turkey with stuffing, chicken parmesan, chicken alfredo or homemade lasagna. We can also order something vegetarian as needed.

RSVP: Please contact Lori Peterson by Sunday, September 23 at 9:00 pm, preferably by email (lorapeterson@wi.rr.com) to make a reservation. Leave a message at 262-370-9540 if you must.

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President's Message



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Hello, Zontians,

I hope everyone is winding down their summer activities and preparing for the remainder of 2018.

We have a lot of fall activities that are available for folks to participate in, from the fall conference to the silent walk to the monthly service projects. However, being a Zontian is not about being at every event and donating every month. Your participation can be sharing the Facebook messages posted on our Facebook page and coming to the fundraiser. You are helping bring awareness to the Zontian causes. Would it be awesome to attend every event and service project? Sure, but life happens and no one is here to judge. We are here for each other with a listening ear and a kind word.

I am excited for our fall conference. If you are thinking of going please make a hotel reservation as soon as you can. Please reach out if you need help. I'd be happy to do what I can. It is a 5-hour ride and I am sure carpooling will be available.

I'll see you all soon,

– *Maria Bellmann*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September 15
Kim Brinsko

September 26
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Meeting Minutes *for August 22, 2018*



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Call to order at 6:27pm. Three guests were introduced as well as Sandra Miller who is in town.

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account: \$12,623.44

Waterstone Account (CD): \$5,152.03

Zonta Minute

Kofi Annan, former General Secretary of the United Nations and a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, passed away August 18.

Program/Table Talk Exercise

Krista Betts explained the program for the evening along with the table top discussion to be held over dinner. The program will be "All Boots Are Not Created Equal". The table topic, "How is racism a barrier to the empowerment of women?", was presented along with ground rules for conversation.

Committee Reports (7:40pm)

President Maria Bellmann reviewed the three questions each committee should respond to as a committee report:

- What was done since the last meeting?
- What will be done by the next meeting?
- What do you need from the club?

- **Advocacy** – No Report
- **Fashion Show** – No Report. First fashion show meeting will be in September.
- **Membership** – Pam Knackert installed Debbie Buchanan as the newest member of the club. She is the Executive Director of Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. Her sponsor is Pam Knackert and mentor is Helen Ludwig. She was presented with her pin, rose and handbook.
- **Program** – Discussed change in location, which was the cause for the late meeting start.
- **Public Relations** – Foundation Report page needs updating on the website. Pictures from Sendik's event are posted on Facebook. Website is updated relative to stationery template.
- **Scholarship** – Women in STEM scholarship recipient selected and notified. No applicants for Jane M. Klausman Women in Business scholarship; committee has some agreed actions to encourage applications next year.
- **Service** – No chair for the committee. Joni said she would take responsibility for mini projects.
- **UN** – There was an event at Marge Holzbog's for attendees of the Zonta International Convention in Yokohama to share their experience. Marge asked if members still want to receive suggested international readings from her; there was consensus to continue.
- **Z Club** – No activity yet. Contact has been made with the school.
- **Racial Justice** – Montez Ashley and Donna Neal are co-chairing. The committee has met several times over the summer for discussion and shared multiple readings on the subject.

Meeting Minutes for Aug. 22, 2018 (cont.)



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Zonta Foundation

Thank you to club members who contributed money and in-kind donations for the Neu-Life Back-to-School Backpacks and School Supplies. Much appreciated. Additional funds from the Foundation account were used as well. Pam Knackert suggested that the funds raised through the Sendik's event go toward Service Projects, including the purchase of backpacks for the 2019 year.

New Business

The Sendik's fundraiser was a lot of work. It netted \$329. Chris Todd sent a rose to each volunteer who worked that day.

Discussed adding PayPal as another form of payment for members. More research is needed and Lori Peterson will report back to the club.

There needs to be someone to coordinate the Silent Walk and a Chair for Service. Fashion Show chair is not yet determined. La Toya Sykes agreed to coordinate the Silent Walk.

Delegates are needed for the Fall Conference. Karen Smith and Maria Bellmann will be delegates. Gloria Jones and Donna Kahl-Wilkerson will be the alternates. Seven club members indicated they were planning to attend.

Announcements

- Fall Conference is October 5-7
- Silent Walk is October 1
- Next Club Meeting is September 26

Program

Presentation continued (8:11pm) by the Racial Justice Committee.

Following the program, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Secretary

Club Calendar

Club Meetings

September 26	October 24
November 28	December 19
January 23	February 27
March 27	April 24
May 22	June 26

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Silent Walk

Monday, October 1, 11:55 am to 1:00 pm
Milwaukee City Hall

District Conference

Relevant Membership Through Diversity
October 5-7
Fairview Heights, IL
<http://zontadistrict6.org/>

Fashion Show

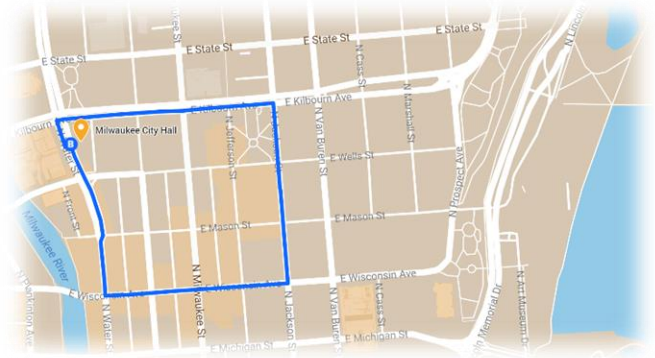
April 13, 2019
Milwaukee Marriott West, Waukesha



Walk with Us and Say NO to Violence Against Women

The 4th Annual Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Silent Walk will be **Monday, October 1**, over the lunch hour. The program will begin at 11:55 am and conclude by 1:00 pm.

Our 1-mile walk (see the map at right) will begin and end at Milwaukee City Hall, where we will also hear from several community leaders prior to the reading of the names of those who died in 2017 as a result of domestic violence. Those who cannot walk can show their support by joining us for the program at City Hall.



Confirmed speakers for the event include:

- Chief Alfonso Morales, Milwaukee Police Department
- Mayor Tom Barrett, City of Milwaukee
- Carmen Pitre, Executive Director, Sojourner Family Peace Center

To help make this event a success, please ask your friends, family, neighbors, colleagues and like-minded groups to join us. A PDF flier is attached separately.

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women 4th Annual Walk

Monday, October 1, 2018

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

Meet Our Members



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OUR NEWEST MEMBER AND OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER:

DEBBIE BUCHANAN

Debbie was born in Arkansas and moved to Milwaukee with her family in 1970. After she graduated from high school she enlisted in the U.S. Army, where she trained and worked as an administrative assistant for the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in Killeen, Texas. After four years of military service, she returned to Wisconsin and accepted a position as a Health Unit Coordinator for Sinai Samaritan Hospital.



During her tenure at Sinai Samaritan, she was exposed to cases of domestic violence and sexual assault against women and children; high rates of unemployment; gaps in the education system; and increasing numbers of incarceration among people of color. After witnessing how these issues negatively impacted the community, she was incited to seek a job where she could make a difference in the lives of others.

In 1994, Debbie accepted a position with the Right Alternative Family Center as an Employment Specialist, where she taught computer technology, basic office skills, and resume writing to single mothers that resided in Milwaukee's low-income housing. Debbie had no idea this would be the beginning of her career (24 years and counting) in the non-profit sector!

Debbie spent the first half of her career in case management and workforce development, where she trained and secured jobs for over 500 women and men. By 2000 Debbie's career elevated to non-profit management roles to include director of a 24-hour crisis facility and associate director. While working full-time, Debbie attended college in the evenings at MATC and Cardinal Stritch University, completing degrees in Supervisory Management and Human Services.

In October 2017, Debbie accepted a position as the Executive Director for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI). She has now come full circle returning to where her journey began as a veteran.

Racial Justice Committee



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The August Club meeting program was put together by the Racial Justice Committee and emceed by committee member Krista Betts. Over dinner, club members discussed “Why is racism a barrier to the empowerment of women?” We set clear ground rules for those conversations, ones we have agreed on and followed in our own committee discussions: talking of our own personal experience, not speaking for any group, listening carefully, not judging, and maintaining privacy. (Ask a committee member for the full ground rules if you would like to have them.)

The program included a video on the GI Bill, institutional racism, and its effects on generations of African-Americans to this day ([LINK](#)); Karen Hunt’s personal story on the effect of that GI Bill on her life; and a follow-up large-group discussion. The discussion was rich, deep, and personal. We are off to a good start!

Although the meeting started 45 minutes late & was a bit chaotic at times, I believe that it was one of the best we’ve ever had. Members freely shared experiences and insights and, even though it was 9:00, they were in no great hurry to leave.

My table’s members shared experiences of growing up in a white family, white neighborhood, white schools, etc., where they saw a fear of other races exhibited by family members. These fears thus limited the empowerment of their mothers. In the case of a black family, their fears for the safety of their children (and rightly so) required a complex set of rules to be followed to avoid being hassled by a white society. This was not just an extra layer of challenges, it was a parallel universe.

– Diane Lindsley, Committee Member

To me it felt like the night went well. More personal talk than any other meeting I have attended.

– Judy Lehman, Committee Member

Following the open discussion, the Racial Justice Committee presented its plan for the 2018-19 club year:

- Two meeting programs, including the August one (based on the August meeting success, we would like to amend that to three)
- Provide a table topic for each club meeting
- Coordinate one or two optional activities (e.g., field trip, film, ethnic restaurant)
- Provide information/links/reading suggestions/upcoming community activities in monthly newsletters
- Produce a packet of materials/links to share at Fall Conference, and a program for Spring Area Workshops

– Donna Neal & Montez Ashley, Racial Justice Committee Co-Chairs

The Racial Justice Committee Mission is to:

- Communicate and spread understanding of how racism is a barrier to the empowerment of women
- Encourage action, because we as women are uniquely positioned to do something about racism and make a difference

We act to support our growth as women and as a Club, and model our journey for Zonta International.

Participating Committee Members

Montez Ashley
Krista Betts
Karen Hunt
Donna Kahl-Wilkerson
Judy Lehman
Diane Lindsley
Donna Neal
Barbara Wyatt-Sibley

Fashion Show



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The Fashion Show Committee will have its first planning meeting on Wednesday, September 26, following the club meeting. The Fashion Show is the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's only fundraiser, and all proceeds go to nonprofit organizations serving women and girls. In 2018, the club voted to give a third of the proceeds, \$8,916, to Zonta International in support of their programs. The balance of \$18,129 from the 2018 show will be awarded to local nonprofit agencies for the support of services that empower women and girls. These awards are made through our foundation and will be presented at the 2019 Fashion Show.

The committee is hoping that the 2019 event will be even more successful. To make that happen, we need every club member's support through contributions of time, talent and treasure. Please consider collaborating to fill a themed basket – events, hotels and food are the most enticing for bid purposes – and of course, please contribute your time. As the committee puts its thinking caps on, we will keep you posted on ways you can help.

In the meantime, think about who among your friends would enjoy supporting the empowerment of women and girls through donations and attendance at the event. What businesses do you frequent that might contribute a gift card, an item for the raffle, a night on the town, free tickets to an event, a rug cleaning, yard maintenance? Who will you invite to share your table? The event will be **April 13, 2019**, at the Marriott West.

– Lynne Oehlke



Saturday October 13th 11am-2pm

Farmfork

Support Neu-Life!

Neu-Life continues the tradition of hosting a four-course lunch and tour of its garden projects to showcase the fall bounty and culinary talent of its teens.

Farmfork teens have been hard at work learning the ins and outs of urban agriculture, how to prepare food from scratch, and getting their feet wet in event catering. Using produce from the gardens, these talented teens will prepare and serve a unique and amazing lunch -- and you're invited!

Seats are limited, so reserve your seat today! Your \$75 ticket includes:

- Tour of Neu-Life's Gardening Projects: Lot of Respect, Garden of Respect, & Alice's Garden
- A four-course meal prepared by Neu-Life youth
- Contribution to Neu-Life's after school programs

To RSVP, contact Tracy at tracy@neu-life.org or 312-371-7612.

September 2018

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At the Convention in Yokohama, Japan, at the Club President's Leadership Training, the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra (Area 1, District 23) presented an initiative to "toast" other clubs around the world at monthly club meetings. Each month a club member is invited to select a club and to research how that club operates and share the gathered insights at a meeting. Contact with the selected club should focus on their location, why the club was chosen, background and history on the club, service and advocacy projects and any other pertinent pieces of information. At the close of comments, glasses will be raised in a "toast" to that club.

Our President has asked that I present this idea to our club and "toast" my selected club with the thought that we could adopt this idea with other members making the selection in coming months. Melbourne has found that it is an excellent way for all of us to expand our knowledge and view of the Zonta world.

I have selected the Zonta Club in Dakhar, Bangladesh. Bangladesh will be one of the 12 countries that will be beneficiaries of our ZISVAW project, along with Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen, and Zambia. Zonta International has pledged \$2,000,000 to UNICEF USA in support of UNICEF/UNFPA's Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage.

Worldwide, almost 650 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday and an estimated 280 million more girls are at risk of becoming brides. If current trends continue, the number of girls and women married as children will reach nearly 1 billion by 2030.

Child marriage is a global violation of human rights that can be found in cultures, religions, ethnicities and countries around the world.

The five main strategies of the program are:

1. Building the skills and knowledge of girls at risk of child marriage.
2. Supporting households in demonstrating positive attitudes towards adolescent girls.
3. Strengthening the systems that deliver services to adolescent girls.
4. Ensuring laws and policies protect and promote adolescent girls' rights.
5. Generating and using robust data to inform programs and policies relating to adolescent girls.

Expected outcomes are:

1. National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and properly resourced.
2. Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons.
3. Relevant regional and local government ministries deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls.
4. Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviors toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls.
5. Adolescent girls at risk of or affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices.

Recommended Reading: "The Storm" by Arif Anwar

A novel that seamlessly interweaves five love stories that together chronicle sixty years of Bangladeshi history. Published May 2018 (available in hardcopy and paperback).