



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

NEWSLETTER

October 2019

Area 2 • District 6

2019-2020

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Officers

Maria Bellmann, President
Karen Smith, President Elect
Krista Betts, Vice President
Renita Switzer, Treasurer
Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Secretary

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Jaqueline Beaudry
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Jennifer Murillo
Joni Reese
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Foundation Board Officers

La Toya Sykes, President
Joann Comodore, Vice President
Sandra Goldmann, Recording Secretary
Laurie Ward, Corresponding Secretary
Elizabeth Stull, Treasurer

Foundation Board

Gloria Jones
Janet Kloser
Pam Knackert
Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry

Send your newsletter
submissions to Krista Betts.

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

Zonta Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Speaker: Pam Duane, Area 2 Director

Pam Duane joined Zonta in 1997 and is a member of the Madison Club. She has served as Club President, Secretary and Treasurer, and is currently serving as President of the Zonta Madison Foundation. At the District level, she has served as Area 2 Director and in May she was appointed by the Governor to complete the term of the Area 2 Director who resigned. She is a retired records manager and librarian, and is a member of SlaveFree Madison, an anti-human trafficking organization.

We will meet at Genesis Restaurant, 3740 S. 108th St., Greenfield (Northeast corner of Hwy 100 and Beloit Avenue).

5:30 pm – Arrive and mingle

6:00 pm – Dinner and program begin

Cost: \$30. Meal selection will be made on-site.

RSVP: Please contact Helen Ludwig by Sunday, October 20, by 9:00 pm. You can reach her via email at hludwig@ludwiglaw.org or by phone at 414-322-7783.

Thank you to our September speaker, Allison Heffernan Byrne of Allies for Teens in Foster Care. And thank you to the Zontians who made donations to her organization as part of our mini-service project.



President's Message



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Happy Fall, Zontians!

What a full September with the successful Silent Walk, Fall Conference, and very moving speaker for our dinner meeting.

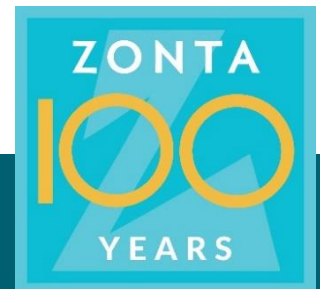
HUGE THANK YOU to all involved with the walk this year! I am thrilled to see all the news coverage we got on the event, and it really is setting us up for a successful event next year. I am extremely grateful for all those who participated by walking or attending the presentation. It was all very moving.

In October, we will have the privilege of having our Area Director, Pam Duane, speak on Zonta information and what's happening in the district. It is also the last month to order your tickets for the Centennial Celebration on November 8.

I unfortunately will not be able to make the meeting this month due to work travel. However, Karen will graciously be stepping in for me.

Have a great October!

Maria Bellmann
Club President



Centennial Celebration

The invitations for our Centennial Celebration reception on November 8 have been mailed. We've also included a copy in the newsletter and can email a pdf copy upon request. Please submit your reservations **by October 25**, via email to me or online at our Eventbrite link:

<https://zonta100mke.eventbrite.com>

If you have items to donate to the silent auction, please let us know. The plan is to have 5 or 6 high value baskets.

We also need volunteers on the date of the event for set-up, greeting, and clean up. If you are able to assist, please let me know.

Hope to see everyone there!

– *Helen Ludwig*

Centennial Celebration



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The Zonta Club of Milwaukee invites you to join our
**Celebration of Zonta International's
100 Years of Empowering Women and Girls**

Friday, November 8, 2019

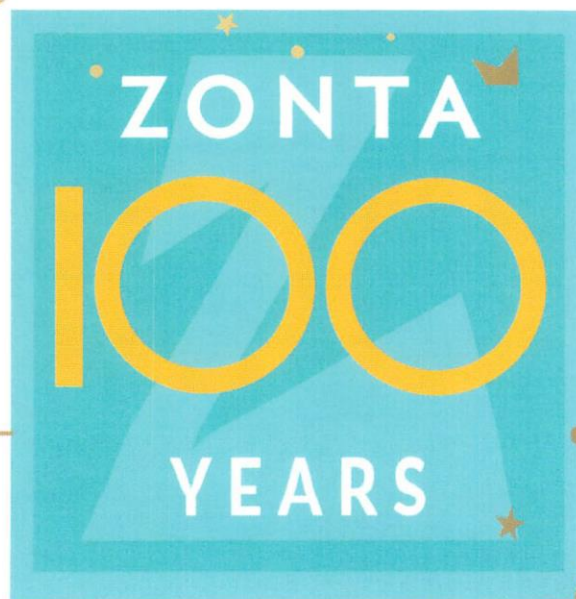
5:30 - 8:00 pm

Short program to commence at 7:00

\$35 per guest
Includes Light Appetizers
Cash Bar

Marriott Milwaukee West
W231N1600 Corporate Dr.
Waukesha, WI 53186

RSVP Requested (See back)



Please RSVP by October 25, 2019

RSVP and Donations accepted as follows:

zonta100mke.eventbrite.com

OR

Check payable to Zonta Foundation, Inc.
c/o Helen Ludwig
S77 W26995 River Ridge Circle
Mukwonago, WI 53149
Please include guest names and email address

Questions?

Email: zfoundation@zontamilwaukee.org

Website: www.zontamilwaukee.org

Meeting Minutes *for September 25, 2019*



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The meeting was called order by President Maria Bellmann at 6:10 pm. Two guests were introduced: Chrystal Carter and, our speaker, Allison Byrne.

The blessing was offered by President Bellmann.

Treasurer's Report – Christine Weber

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$16,033.92 |
| Less Expenses | \$ 1,409.42 |
| Deposits | <u>\$ 613.64</u> |
| Ending Balance | \$15,238.14 |

Committee Reports

Fashion Show – Lynne Oehlke

The event is scheduled for April 25, 2020. There is a meeting tonight to determine leads for each component of the event. Lynn would like to see an increase in the contents of the baskets. She would also like more substantial items like hotel stays, live action items, and certificates to 4- or 5-star restaurants. Members are welcome to join the committee.

Public Relations – Joni Reese

Not a lot to report on the website and Facebook page. The Silent Walk is on September 30; Joni urges walkers to send her pictures, videos, etc., for posting.

Centennial Celebration – Helen Ludwig

October 25 is the deadline for reservations. There will be five raffle items for the evening. Marge Holzbog will be the speaker. Volunteers are needed. If interested, let Helen know.

Helen received a pin from the Foundation for her donation. It was announced at the Fall Conference. Her pin was presented following her report.

Scholarship – No Report

Z Club – Joann Comodore

There is a new advisor at the school. She is looking at having meeting after school. At Fall Conference, it was suggested that we consider organizations that serve girls as a possible Z-Club partner.

Club Calendar

Club Meetings

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| October 23 | March 25 |
| November 20 | April 22 |
| December 18 | May 27 |
| January 22 | June 24 |
| February 26 | |

Centennial Celebration

Friday, November 8
Marriott Milwaukee West

Spring Area Workshop

Saturday, March 28
Milwaukee, WI

Fashion Show

Saturday, April 25
Marriott Milwaukee West



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Meeting Minutes *for Sept. 25, 2019 (cont.)*

Membership – Kim Brinsko

Not much to report. Members are urged to talk up the club and invite potential members.

Maria Bellmann shared that at Fall Conference, years of service were acknowledged: Krista Betts, 5 years; Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry, 15 years; and Barbara Fitzgerald, 20 years. She also presented certificates from 2018: Joann Commodore and Cheryl Novak, 5 years; Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, 15 years; and Donna Conant 20 years.

Program – Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Committee has met. Working on programs for the year and a new meeting location for 2020. We anticipate meeting at Genesis for October and November. December will be a holiday activity; location to be determined.

Service – Donna Conant

Mini service projects will be to support speakers.

Advocacy – Donna Neal

The Silent Walk will be September 30. Congresswoman Gwen Moore has asked to offer remarks. Other speakers will be the Health Commissioner, District Attorney, Sojourner Family Peace Center and the Milwaukee Police Department. The Asha Project will be there too.

There is a Racial Justice meeting next Thursday at the home of Montez Ashley. They will be the program for November. Donna also shared information regarding a play, "Niceties", an exhibit, etc., with a racial justice focus. A racial justice presentation is being included for the Area Workshop this spring, which will be held in Milwaukee.

Program Presenter

Allies for Teens in Foster Care – Allison Byrne, Director

Foundation – Pam Knackert

They met last night. Applications for 2020 will be available in a week on the website. The endowment has a challenge grant of \$10,000. They will match all gifts up to \$10K. Also, at the Centennial Celebration, Sojourner Family Peace Center will receive \$1000 gift from the Foundation.

New Business

Our club will host the spring workshop, which is on Saturday, March 28, 2020.



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Meeting Minutes *for Sept. 25, 2019 (cont.)*

United Nations – Marge Holzbog

October is UN month. The committee will meet Oct 12 at Marge's home. Members are invited to attend the meeting. They are planning a Table Talk.

Announcements

International Chair Sally Bean is seeking volunteers for the Zonta International Convention. Her email was forwarded by Maria to members. The convention is July 4 to 8. All are urged to consider attending. Registration will be available starting in October. If you plan to go, register as soon as possible. Registration is expected to be high and events are limited, such as closing banquet (\$160). So immediate registration is encouraged.

There are scarfs for Zonta International that folks are encouraged to purchase (\$32). They will be worn by volunteers. Money should go to the District 6 Treasurer, Cheryl Trudeau. Her information should be on the website.

Next Club Meeting: Wednesday. October 23

*Respectively Submitted,
Barbara Wyatt Sibley
Secretary*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October 6
Debra Koller

October 15
Donna Conant

Fashion Show



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Fashion Show planning kicked off on September 25 with our first meeting. The theme for our 2020 Fashion Show Fundraiser will be **“Around the World, Empowering Women and Girls”**. (We may add **“for another 100 years”** if the print doesn’t become too much). The event which will be held April 25 at the Marriott Milwaukee West.

We have a sub-team looking at clothing vendor options for the show and would like to highlight some travel wear as we keep our sights on traveling to Chicago for International Convention in July 2020.

This event is the primary fundraiser allowing us to support like-minded organizations and to award scholarships. As we prepare for the event, please consider who you can invite to join you on April 25. Each club member is requested to try and fill a table at the fashion show.

Later in the year, we will ask that our members participate in soliciting and providing items for our silent auction and wine pull. If possible, start working your leads on items now. Pam Knackert will be collecting the silent auction items to assemble into baskets. Our guests love experiences and dining, so if you have connections for a fun experience or restaurant gift card, please check and see if they would be willing to donate towards our event.

Karen Smith and Deb Koller will begin collecting monies for the wine pull at our January meeting. We ask that each member contribute at least \$20 to the wine pull funds.

Many thanks to the committee and our club for making this an amazing event!

– Karen Smith & Lynne Oehlke



2019 Fashion Show Silent Auction



Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women



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We had a very successful **5th Annual Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Silent Walk** on Monday, September 30, conducted in partnership with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin and honoring the victims of domestic violence homicide in Wisconsin in 2018.

Each year, we conduct the march to coincide with the publication of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin's annual report which tells the stories of each death and analyzes statistics from the year and over time.



Speakers participating in our program were City Health Commissioner Jeanette Kowalik, Nick Heitman from DA John Chisholm's office (Chisholm attended but needed to leave before speeches), MPD Captain John Corbett from the Sensitive Crimes Division, U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore, and Carmen Pitre, President and CEO of Sojourner Family Peace Center.

We received tremendous publicity from three local TV stations! Segments included the march itself, the city hall program, and interviews with participants.

Those segments aired:

12:00 pm – TMJ4
12:00 pm – CBS58
4:00 pm – TMJ4
4:00 pm – Fox 6
4:00 pm – CBS58
5:00 pm – CBS58
6:00 pm – TMJ4



About 40 to 45 individuals joined in the walk and program. It would be terrific if we had more marchers next year.

Why do we march? Why is this issue important?

Domestic violence is not “just a woman’s issue”; it is a community issue, a state issue, a national issue, and a public health issue.

There were 48 deaths related to domestic violence in Wisconsin last year, including eight perpetrator suicides. This amounts to almost one death per week.

- 79% of the 2018 perpetrators were male (31 men vs. 8 women), consistent with past years.
- The majority (54%) of victims in 2018 were rural, not urban, a pattern not seen in the past.
- The majority of victims were male (23) – not female (16), also a new pattern.

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women



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- 16 victims were killed by intimate partners. Of those, at least 37% of the victims were killed after the relationship ended or when one person in the relationship was taking steps to end it.
 - Leaving doesn't bring resolution – there must be community support.
- Firearms remain the most common means of perpetrating domestic violence homicides.
 - Since 2005, firearms have killed more people in domestic violence homicides in Wisconsin than all other methods of killing combined.
 - In 2018, firearms were the weapon used in 65% of the domestic violence homicide incidents. In at least 29% of the domestic violence shooting deaths, the gunmen were legally prohibited from possessing firearms.



What is End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin doing?

- Lethality Assessment Program – training program for police who are confronted with domestic violence calls/cases
- Advocating for robust homicide review programs, post homicide

What can you do?

- Advocate for End Abuse Wisconsin programs. Visit their website, endabusewi.org, to learn more about the issue and how to help.
- Support local women's shelters and support networks – including but far from limited to Sojourner Family Peace Center, Milwaukee Women's Center, and Waukesha Women's Center
- When you see something, say something. Wondering if someone you know is in an abusive relationship? Wondering if he or she is at risk? Talk with her/him, or get in touch with a professional. Do it before he or she becomes a victim in End Abuse's annual report.

Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Racism Converge

The article that follows is sourced from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin's 2018 report, page 38.

Human Trafficking-Related Homicide: The Chrystul Kizer Case

On June 5th, 2018, 17-year-old Chrystul Kizer shot and killed 34-year-old Randall Volar III in Kenosha and started his house on fire before stealing his car and fleeing. At the time of his death, Volar had been under investigation for producing child pornography and sexual abuse, with Kizer being one of the girls involved. Kenosha Police had evidence that Volar was producing child pornography and transporting girls

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from Milwaukee to Kenosha for the purposes of sexual abuse. When questioned about the homicide of Volar, Kizer eventually admitted to police that Volar “helped her with money and places to stay,” and that the day of the homicide, she got upset and was tired of Volar touching her, which prompted her to shoot him. Kizer’s boyfriend told police that he had purchased the firearm for Kizer to protect herself from Volar.

On April 3rd, 2019, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin made a public statement showing its support of Chrystul, as did many other social and racial justice organizations across the state and nation.

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin is in solidarity with Chrystul Kizer, the #FreeChrystul Defense Committee, and all those throughout Milwaukee, Kenosha, Wisconsin, and the nation who are calling on the district attorney to drop his charges against Chrystul. Chrystul is a survivor of sex trafficking, who is now facing a life sentence for that survival. As advocates for survivors of gender-based violence, we are compelled to raise our voices against this and all instances of criminalizing Girls and Women of Color for their courageous perseverance.

The failure to protect Girls of Color is stark and shameful. African-American children are arrested for prostitution more often than all other racial groups combined. Their involvement with the criminal justice system because of their victimization further compounds their trauma and barriers to healthy lives. For Girls of Color, the astonishingly high rates of sexual abuse feeds what some have called “The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline.” Girls of Color make up approximately two-thirds of all girls who are incarcerated. The disparities continue into adulthood. African-American women represent 30 percent of all incarcerated women in this country, but they make up only 13 percent of all women in the U.S.

The state is trying to turn Chrystul into another statistic, and we need to speak up to prevent this injustice. Chrystul was a victim of child abuse and child sex trafficking. A minor child cannot be guilty of “prostitution.” Any humane system would be working to give her the resources and support to heal. But like for so many other Girls of Color, racism and state violence are intertwining to cast Chrystul off to a life behind bars. We must not allow this to occur.

Our understanding of the parallels between human trafficking and domestic violence have become more sophisticated in the past several years. Most of us working in the domestic violence field are keyed into the fact that, like domestic violence perpetrators, traffickers also assert their power and control over victims in similar ways and prey on their victims’ vulnerabilities. Kizer continues to face five felony charges in Kenosha County related to the death of Volar including first-degree intentional homicide. We’re hopeful that the clemency recently granted to Cyntoia Brown in Tennessee sets a precedent for how cases involving minor victims of sex trafficking should be handled in the criminal justice system.