



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

# NEWSLETTER

February 2020

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

## Club Board

Jaqueline Beaudry  
Donna Conant  
Jennifer Murillo  
Joni Reese  
Maureen Siwula

## 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](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)

## Zonta Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

### Speaker: Carmen Pitre, CEO, Sojourner Family Peace Center

Carmen Pitre leads the largest nonprofit provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving over 9,500 clients each year. Sojourner provides an array of support aimed at helping families affected by domestic violence achieve safety, justice and well-being. Learn more at <https://familypeacecenter.org/about/our-mission/>.

**Where:** Saz's State Room, 5539 W. State Street, Milwaukee

**When:** 5:30 gather meet and greet

6:00 dinner buffet – Featuring Saz's Ribs and Fish Fry with salad, rolls, mac and cheese and a vegetable

**Cost:** \$30.00

**RSVP:** To Maureen Siwula at 262-844-4609 or [mortsiwula@outlook.com](mailto:mortsiwula@outlook.com) by February 19

*Please note: If you reserve your dinner (including standing reservations) and do not show, you will be charged the \$30.*

Please wear your name tag to the meeting.  
It helps new members get to know us all!

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

# President's Message

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Hello, Fellow Zontians,

I hope you all enjoyed learning about all the fabulous programs Neu-Life has developed and grown into over the years. I am looking forward to hearing the outcome of the exercise from our two committees. This month, we will be blessed to have Carmen Pitre, CEO of Sojourner Family Peace Center, for our program. I am really looking forward to learning about all that Sojourner has to offer.

We are heading into our annual club meeting and all committees will need to get their reports into Barbara Wyatt Sibley by **March 17**. I'll be sending out a note to each committee chair as well.

Also, the early bird pricing is over for the Zonta International Convention; however, the convention tickets are still on sale. Please consider attending as the convention this year; it's right in our backyard.

I appreciate you all for the many contributions of time and effort you have all made to our local and international organization.

With Deep Appreciation,  
*Maria Bellmann,*  
*Club President*

## Nominating Committee

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The nominating committee has begun its work to propose new officers and directors for the Club and the Foundation. Club directors and officers commit to serve for two years and Foundation directors for three years. If you are interested in taking an active leadership position or would like more information regarding the duties, please contact Donna Neal, Debbie Buchanan or me. If we reach out to you, please say "YES" enthusiastically.

Thank you,  
*Helen Ludwig,*  
*Nominating Committee Chair*

# Meeting Minutes *for January 29, 2020*



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The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Maria Bellmann.

There were four guests from Neu-Life Community Development: Tracy Hrajnoha, Jody Rhodes, Delores Moore and Tanisha Roberson.

The Blessing was offered by the President and dinner was served.

## **Treasurer's Report as of 1/7/2020 – Renita Switzer**

Balance	\$14,805.84
Expenses	\$ 528.98
Ending Bal	\$14,504.86

CD Balance \$5,340.20. This will be reported on an annual basis.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **United Nations – Marge Holzbog**

There is a report on the International website regarding early childhood marriage. There are 12 countries participating in the program. More will be presented at the International Convention.

### **Fashion Show – Karen Smith**

Invitations were distributed to members at the meeting. Printing was donated. We are still in need of corporate sponsors. Donation letters and forms are available. Restaurant and action activities are popular. Those who would like to make a \$20 donation to the wine basket or donate a bottle would be appreciated. Checks are to be made out to the Zonta Foundation. There will be a different menu this year.

### **Public Relations – Joni Reese**

Fashion show needs volunteers to model. That includes relatives, friends and members. There is a save the date as well as a donation button on the site for the fashion show.

### **Scholarships – Krista Betts**

The Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) scholarship has been updated and is open for candidates 16-19 years old, in active leadership roles.

### **Z Club – Joann Comodore**

We will no longer have a relationship with Milwaukee High School for the Arts. The committee is seeking a new partner.

**Membership** – No Report

## **Club Calendar**

### **Club Meetings**

February 26  
March 25  
April 22  
May 27  
June 24

### **Spring Area Workshop**

Saturday, March 28  
Milwaukee, WI

### **Fashion Show**

Saturday, April 25  
Marriott Milwaukee West

### **Zonta International Convention**

July 4-8, 2020  
Chicago, IL

# Meeting Minutes *for Jan. 29, 2020 (cont.)*

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## **Program – Maureen Siwula**

This is our first meeting at Saz's. Maureen will be looking for feedback from members. We will be meeting here for the balance of the year. The February Program will be Carmen Pitre, Sojourner Family Peace Center. She will be giving an update on the center as well as what is going on in human trafficking. March is Women's History Month and the committee will focus on that. Christin Lidbury, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Women's Council is a potential speaker or Alverno College. More to come.

## **Service/Advocacy/Spring Workshop – Donna Conant, Donna Neal**

Service and Advocacy are working together currently. They are working with the Area Director Pam Duane in preparation for the Spring Workshop, which the club is hosting. The goal is to have a segment on racial justice. MRA is the workshop location. We still need volunteers to be greeters and with registration. If interested, please let one of them know.

Thanks to Maria for donating points at the Marriott for folks who may need assistance.

## **NEU-LIFE PRESENTATION – Jody Rhodes**

A presentation was made; there were small group discussions and report outs. The committee will be taking the information and presenting to the club at a later date.

## **Foundation – Laureen Ward**

There were twelve candidates for grants. Six were selected and will be presented at the luncheon. There was discussion regarding conflicts of interest. It has been suggested that going forward we need to avoid a conflict of interest with members who receive grants or have a relationship with the grantees. It was agreed and will be taken back to the foundation. Letters to recipients will be mailed this week or next week.

## **Nominating Committee**

A committee needs to be in place to handle nominations. Officers and two directors need to be replaced. It was moved by Joni and seconded by Janet that Debbie Buchanan, Helen Ludwig and Donna Neal be the nominating committee. Helen will be the chair.

We need to elect a President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two directors. It was thought that Christine Weber would become treasurer. The committee will need to address her interest. Debbie Buchanan expressed an interest in being the Secretary.

## **Convention Delegates**

We need two delegates and two alternates for international. It was agreed that the incoming President be one of the delegates. Joann Commodore agreed to be the second delegate. Maria Bellmann and Deb Koller will be the alternates.

## **International Convention**

Early bird registration ends in February (the 12<sup>th</sup>). All members are being asked to attend International Convention. Not all can attend all days. It was recommended that members register for the days they are able to attend. Maria said she will scan the program and send so folks so they can determine what day they would

# Meeting Minutes *for Jan. 29, 2020 (cont.)*

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like to attend. Sally Bean is the chairperson for the convention. Her email is [ssbean@comcast.net](mailto:ssbean@comcast.net). If you are willing to volunteer, she is the one you need to be in contact with.

## **Miscellaneous**

There was discussion about not all members receiving information. Not sure that the roster is current which Judith Lehman has been coordinating. A new list should be sent out to members. Judith requested that members send her their email to make sure she has the correct one. Also, if there are any other changes, please include those.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectively submitted,  
*Barbara Wyatt Sibley,*  
*Secretary*

## Mini Service Project

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### Benefitting Sojourner Family Peace Center

Since Carmen Pitre is our guest speaker this month, we are coordinating a collection of needed items for the women that Sojourner serves. All items should be new.

Greatest needs currently are:

- Pajamas – for children and adults, all sizes
- Women's underwear, all sizes
- Bath towels and face towels
- Full-size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and lotion
- Ethnic hair care products
- 2020 planners
- Reusable water bottles
- Bus tickets – to help clients with critical transportation needs
- Gift certificates – to give clients the freedom to shop for themselves

Please bring donated items to the February meeting. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Your participation is voluntary.

Thank you,  
*Donna Conant and Joni Reese*



# Equal Rights Amendment Update



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The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972; however, it has never been fully ratified. Its ratification would provide a constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law and that these rights cannot be easily abridged. **Without the ERA, women do not have equal rights under the law.**

The Equal Rights Amendment will make it clear that sex discrimination in employment, education or any other space is a violation of women's constitutional rights as Americans. It will also provide a clearer and stricter judicial standard for deciding cases of sex discrimination.

The Zonta USA Caucus has been working tirelessly over the last two years to urge senators and representatives to support legislation to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Two joint resolutions have been introduced to remove the deadline – S.J. Res 6 and H.J. Res 38 – but now we need your support to secure additional co-sponsors.”

Please contact your Representative in the House to support the H.J. Resolution that would remove the deadline date for ratification of the ERA.

**Ensure women have equal rights under the law.**

**Take Action Here: <https://www.zonta.org/USA-Advocacy>**

*(From Zonta International)*

Thanks to Neu-Life Community Development for sharing an update on their current and future projects at our January meeting.

And thank you to Maureen Siwula for finding our new host location, Saz's!



# 2020 Fashion Show – April 25



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## “Around the World, Empowering Women and Girls for Another 100 Years”

Hi, everyone! Another month closer to our annual Fashion Show fundraiser! By now you have received your invitations and are hopefully actively inviting your friends, family and co-workers to the event. Just a gentle reminder that we request each club member to attempt to fill a table of 10. Of course, you are welcome to more than one table!

This year, we will be offering two hot lunch options: Chicken Chutney Plated Lunch and Vegan Vegetable Ravioli. Each will include a salad and a parfait for dessert. Lunch will also include coffee or tea service.

Corporate sponsorship solicitations are underway and due to Elizabeth Stull this month (Feb 15). Of course, we will accept sponsorships beyond that date. The later it gets, however, we will not be able to guarantee they will make the program printing. If you have a corporate contact that you think might be willing to sponsor the event please pass this information along to Chris Todd as soon as possible or send out the sponsorship letter directly to them.

Please continue to reach out to your contacts for raffle and silent auction donations. Consumable items seem to bring the most interest. Please contact restaurants, hotels and the like for gift certificates. We can put things together in baskets so you do not have to provide all items for the basket. When you have your raffle items, please give them to Pam Knackert.

We will be continuing to collect monies for the wine pull at our February and March meetings. We request that each club member consider at least a \$20 donation to this event as we target to have 75 bottles of wine for the wine pull. You will find a donation box at the club meeting check-in table.

Sign-up sheets to volunteer at the event will be routed at upcoming club meetings. Please be sure to volunteer your time as this is the primary fundraiser for our club and allows us to provide scholarships as well as funding for agencies that directly deliver on our mission to “Empower Women and Girls.”

– Lynne Oehlke & Karen Smith

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February 1  
**Nola Hitchcock-Cross**

February 7  
**Christine Weber**

February 18  
**Janet Kloser**

February 19  
**Helen Ludwig**

February 23  
**Elizabeth Stull**

# Young Women in Public Affairs Award



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**2020**



**YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD**

Recognizing young women for their commitment to volunteerism, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide



**1 APPLICATION, 3 OPPORTUNITIES**

<b>1 Zonta Club of Milwaukee award</b> US\$1,000	<b>32 district awards</b> US\$1,500 each	<b>10 international awards</b> US\$4,000 each
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Applications must be received by the Zonta Club of Milwaukee by March 15, 2020. To download an application, please visit: [www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)

<b>CLUB DEADLINE:</b>  <b>March 15, 2020</b>	<b>SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:</b>  <a href="mailto:zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org">zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org</a>
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The Young Women in Public Affairs Award is a Zonta International program funded by contributions to the Zonta International Foundation. Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

The Young Women in Public Affairs Award application is now available online at [www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org).

Aimed at young women ages 16 to 19, the goal of the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award Program is to encourage young women to pursue careers or seek leadership positions in public policy making, government, and volunteer organizations and further their education with these aims in view.

Applicants must show their commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

The Zonta Club of Milwaukee gives a \$1,000 award and forwards the winner's application to Zonta District 6 for consideration for an additional \$1,500 award. The district winner's application is sent on to Zonta International for consideration for one of the ten \$4,000 international awards.

Completed applications are due on or before March 15, 2020. Share the word with local schools!

## UN Committee

### Ending 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 is found in cultures, religions, ethnicities and countries around the world. Recognizing that only a long-term strategy will ensure the desired outcomes, UNICEF and UNFPA have joined forces and formally launched a multi-country initiative to protect the rights of millions of the

*Continued on next page*





world's most vulnerable girls. The [Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#) brings together governments, civil society, families and young people in a collective effort to prevent girls from marrying too young and to support those already married as girls.

To date, more than 1 million girls have been reached through life skills and school attendance support and 1.67 million individuals have been engaged in community-based behavior change.

## How Zonta Helps

Zonta International has committed US\$2,000,000 to UNICEF USA to support the UNICEF/UNFPA Global Programme to End Child Marriage in 12 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

The program is turning commitment into tangible action to effect meaningful and lasting change in girls' lives by focusing on five main strategies:

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

Under the umbrella of these five main strategies, each country will have specific strategies that respond to the context and factors that lead girls into early marriage.

## “Voices of Change” – Stories and Updates

In August 2019, the program released “Voices of Change,” a compilation of stories of the impact of the program and how people around the world take a stance and commit to fight the harmful practice of child marriage. We meet Shama, who, thanks to a cash transfer scheme in India, can now study an information technology course in engineering. We meet Janaki in Nepal, who used a school-based reporting mechanism to report her upcoming marriage, allowing her schoolteacher and a social worker to intervene with her parents before the wedding could take place.

**To access “Voices of Change” go to:** (1) ZI website (2) Foundation (3) Child Marriage (4) Stories Update (5) “Voices of Change”

Source: Zonta International Foundation Website, <https://foundation.zonta.org/EndingChildMarriage>

