



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

Area 2 • District 6

2021–2022

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Officers

Karen Smith, President
Joann Comodore, President Elect
Carol Mangold, Vice President
Maria Bellmann, Treasurer
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Janet Kloser, Corresponding Secretary
Elizabeth Stull, Treasurer

Foundation Board

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Margaret Holzbog
Debra Koller
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Send your newsletter submissions
to Joni Reese @
tnjreese@wi.rr.com

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Zonta Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, November 17th at 6:00pm

Topic: Prospective Member Event
(Instead of our regular meeting)

Invite any of your friends, relatives, co-workers, fashion show guests that might be interested in joining Zonta or finding out more about Zonta. Some guests who indicated on their fashion show surveys are being invited (list was sent), so encourage them to participate.

We'll start with introductions (members will provide when they joined, why they joined and what capacity they serve in the club) and then guests will introduce themselves

Other topics members will be covering are:

Zonta International
Zonta District & Area
Zonta Club of Milwaukee
Service & Advocacy
Our Club Foundation
Time, role, responsibilities of joining

Please find the invite on the following page

www.zontamilwaukee.org



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You are invited to the

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Prospective Member Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
6:00 p.m. introductions

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. program

RSVP to Pam Knackert at pmknackert@gmail.com and she will send you the link to the virtual meeting.

Learn more about Zonta International and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, an organization whose mission is to empower women & girls locally and worldwide through service & advocacy. There will be time for questions and answers.

For more information about Zonta & the Zonta Club of Milwaukee visit www.zonta.org and www.zontamilwaukee.org

President's Message



ZONTA
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Hello everyone!

What a couple of fantastic months we have had as a club. I am still in awe as I think about the great coverage we had of our Domestic Violence walk (Zonta Says No) in October. What a great opportunity to get the message out to the community about domestic violence and raise awareness of resources for those who are in dangerous domestic relationships. Again, thank you to those who organized, attended, and spoke for Zonta at the event.

In addition, October was the month of our annual fashion show fundraiser. Again, this event was fantastic! It was well attended with about 190 attendees and the level of engagement for Zonta's mission and projects was very high this year. This level of engagement was also demonstrated in participation in silent auction, raffle, and through donations. Thank you to Pam and Lynne for leading our fundraising effort, to those that attended and brought guests, and to those who supported the event financially. With your support our Foundation will be able to substantially award funds to organizations who do work that is in line with Zonta's goals.

As we move into the cooler months, we will be hosting a prospective member event at our November club meeting, and I hope all club members make an effort to attend. We will plan for a very short business meeting following the prospective member event. In January and February, Heidi Moore will again facilitate our meeting in relation to Racial Justice efforts.

Thank you to our club members for all you do to support Zonta's mission!

Karen
Zonta Club of Milwaukee President



Upcoming Club Dates:

November Club Meeting: Nov 17th

December Club Meeting: TBD: Dec 15th or 22nd

Fashion Show Fundraiser

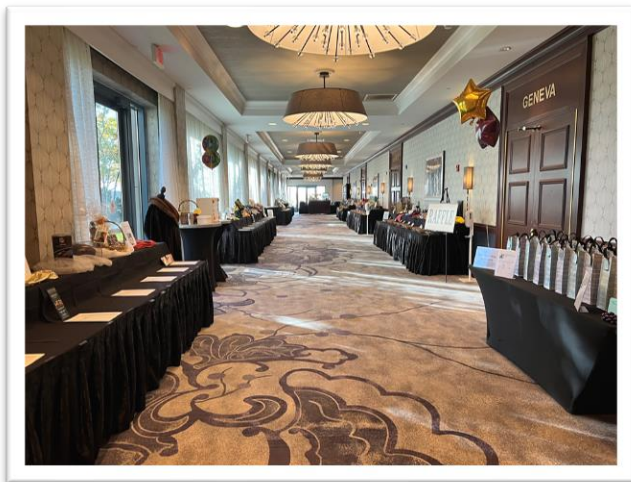


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Fashion Show Fundraiser 2021

Thank you for your support in making our Zonta 2021 “Empowering Women and Girls Here and Around the World” fashion show fundraiser a success. Thanks especially to our committee (and their spouses, children, grandchildren & friends) for all the planning, prep work, and day of work to pull off the event. Thanks to all the members who helped the day before and day of to accomplish the additional tasks needed (including modeling). And to all the members & friends who donated dollars (and not too late if you still want to send your donation to Elizabeth), items, gift cards, attended and invited guests, we are very thankful.

We had approximately 190 in attendance at the Milwaukee Marriott West and netted over \$23,000 and still counting. Chico’s was our vendor.



Two-thirds of this money will be distributed to Milwaukee area non-profits who empower women and girls next year. The other third will go to Zonta International designated to the funds as our club wishes.

The Milwaukee area programs we gave to this year and awarded at the fashion show were Alverno College's Girls' Academy of Science & Mathematics, Exploit No More's Freedom House Long-Term Care Facility, Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative's Women Veterans Initiative, Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition's Our Peaceful Home Youth Leadership Program and Sojourner's Hope and Healing program.



Advocacy



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16 Days of Activism

ZI's Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women campaign, launched in 2012, once again supports the 16 Days of Activism, beginning on **November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and ending on December 10, Human Rights Day.**

The Zonta Club of Milwaukee will again support the 16 Days of Activism campaign via Facebook posts prepared by the Racial Justice Committee. Our sub-theme this year will likely be

Violence Against Women: The Other Pandemic

We will re-post edited versions of selected posts from last year on child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and health. We will also provide links to ZI programs and positions on reproductive rights, climate change, and child marriage; and we will create a couple of new posts on local violence prevention and COVID topics.

Look for our posts and share them with your Facebook friends!

ZI Summit and Giving Tuesday

We are also encouraging members to participate in the **Zonta International Summit (virtual) on November 30, Giving Tuesday. Watch for emails from ZI -- registration opens Wed, Nov 10!**

Donna Neal, Advocacy Chair

Joann Comodore, Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, Judy Lehman, Diane Lindsley, Carol Mangold, Racial Justice Committee Members

[From Sojourner's Domestic Violence Awareness Month Recap Email](#)



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Sojourner Receives Zonta Grant

On Saturday, October 23rd, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee presented the "Empowering Women and Girls, Here and Around the World," fundraiser. The event included brunch, a fashion show and presentation of grants. Carmen Pitre, President and CEO, accepted a generous \$5,000 donation on behalf of Sojourner. We are grateful to Zonta for their continued support of Sojourner.



TO SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

YOU MAY BE SCARRED, BUT YOU ARE NOT ALONE

In October we remember domestic violence, the lives it has touched, and the lives it has taken. The stereotypical image of domestic violence is a woman with a black eye. Truth is, victims of domestic violence are not just women and girls.

I know someone who was threatened with jagged glass and pushed down stairs. I know someone else who was choked. Strangulation is a Class H felony in Wisconsin, punishable by up to six years in prison. Repeated strangulation offenses come with a 10-year prison sentence.

Although injuries from physical abuse are easier to discern, another truth is that domestic violence rarely comes with visible wounds. There are other forms of domestic violence that leave different marks due to the mental and emotional costs of living amid relentless threats and psychological manipulation.

I know a case of someone who had to contend with two lesser-known forms of domestic violence: privilege and economic abuse. The perpetrator abused power with a uniform. When the person

Your Turn

Bethany Lerch
Guest columnist



GETTY IMAGES

See **SURVIVORS**. Page 3D

Survivors

Continued from Page 1D

ended the relationship, the then-partner disagreed and used a title to try to prevent the person from completing a graduate degree. The student was not aware until university administration called to say a police officer had expressed concerns. The person confronted the ex-partner and made clear the relationship was over, and there would be no more communication.

Another person began a relationship with a man she admired without fully knowing him, or the extent of his power. Five months after meeting, he informed her she would move in with him. It was not a choice. Those living arrangements, in a dangerous place, lasted nine months. She could never go outside alone. It felt like a cage. This is isolation.

The girl was blinded, in a relationship she had mistaken as mutual and loving. The man told her she was "a waste of time" and "a lost cause." Later, he called her a bitch and told her she would die if she was on her own because she was too stupid to find her own way. This is emotional abuse.

Another time, he threw her jewelry box across the room. When she locked herself in the bathroom, he screamed obscenities through the door. She had nowhere to go, no one to help. It was consistently her fault, he said. This is blaming.

The girl packed her things at least eight times. More than once she arranged flights out and called a driver to take her to the airport. On one occasion, he blocked the door and sent the bell boy away. In a second country, he chased her through the lobby and explained she might be followed if she left. In a third place, she walked across a strange city twice — once to a hotel, another time to the office of a Catholic church. Both times he came for her. He never verbalized threats, but he always showed up. All of this is intimidation.

Sometimes people will use children to make their partner feel guilty. Visitation or unsupervised drop-offs can lead to harassment. Some people threaten their



Lynn Oehike marches with the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, a group that bring attention to domestic violence. The group started at Milwaukee City Hall and then did a one mile walk through the downtown area. ANGELA PETERSON / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

partners with taking children away; still others maim or kill family pets to send a message. Abusing animals is an early sign of Antisocial Personality Disorder. More alarming is the relationship between domestic violence and mass murders: Almost all who are convicted of killing multiple people on a large scale have a history of first hurting their loved ones.

In all its forms, domestic violence is meant to exercise power and control over another person.

Domestic violence is common. Domestic violence charges are not. There remains a stigma around reporting discord in homes and families and between intimate partners. Fear is another facet: Leaving is the most dangerous time for someone in a domestically violent relationship.

The person who pushed another down the stairs was never identified or charged. The person who choked my friend was never convicted. There were no consequences for the police officer, either; the student declined an offer by university personnel to contact the local police chief to report abuse of power.

And the last? He, too, went unreported. For a time, my coping was unhealthy. I avoided, isolated, and pushed others away. Then I took responsibility for my present and future — I got a therapist, processed what I had lived, and learned to release what I had only ever pushed aside. I learned about healthy relationships, assertive communication, and protecting myself.

My present is hard won after years of trying to cultivate the ability and willing-

ness to reframe my own pain. Words from Khalil Gibran, a Lebanese poet, made the difference: "Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars."

To survivors of domestic violence: While we are seared with scars, we are strong. You are not alone.

If you or someone you know is the victim of domestic violence, encourage them to ask for support. The National Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at 1.800.799.SAFE (7233). If you or someone you know is in crisis or their safety is actively threatened, call 911 immediately.

Bethary Lerch is from Oshkosh. She is a psychotherapist for children and adult survivors of domestic violence.



Zonta Club UN Report – November 2021



Andrea Ghez (USA)

2020 Nobel Prize winner, professor of physics and astronomy at UCLA and 1987 Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellow is named honorary member of Zonta International



News and Events

2022 Convention Hamburg, Germany



**ZONTA CONVENTION 2022
HAMBURG**

We cannot wait to welcome you to Zonta International's 65th Convention in the captivating Hamburg, Germany, from 25-28 June 2022. This will be a special convention, as it is the first one of our second century of empowering women through service and advocacy. We are eager to reconnect with Zonta friends and to meet new friends. Explore the pages below to discover what awaits you in Hamburg.



HAMBURG

- Learn about Hamburg
- Info about the venue
- "22 Things to do" in 2022
- COVID-19 procedures



PROGRAM

- Schedule-at-a-Glance
- Plan your Convention Experience
- Our Speakers
- Our Main Events



CONVENTION BUSINESS

- Club Mailing
- Credentials and Delegates
- Voting
- Mobile Event App



REGISTRATION

- Registration Rates
- Registration Attendee Experience
- Cancellation Terms
- Hotel Accommodations



GOLDEN Z

- Golden Z Opportunities
- Golden Z Registration Rates
- Golden Z Attendee Experience
- Golden Z Program

Connect via our Convention Event App
Coming in March 2022!

Club Meeting Minutes



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Zonta Club of Milwaukee Meeting Minutes Minutes Wednesday October 27, 2021

Zoom Meeting was called to order by Karen Smith at 6:04.

President's Message:

- Introduction of guests – Diana Barnett & Rochelle Melander
- Blessing

Program: Rochelle Melander – Teaching Artist, Professional Certified Coach and Author.

Treasurer's Report: Maria Bellmann presented the Treasurer's Report:

- Balance as of September 1, 2021: \$14,434.54
Expenses: \$ 0.00
Income: \$ 0.00
- Balance as of August 31, 2021 \$14,434.54
- CD Balance: \$ 5,330.20

Fall Conference Recap: The members who attended Fall Conference provided a brief recap. Approximately 90 members participated. It was a voting conference. The election results should be out shortly. Cheryl Trudeau will be the Governor-Elect. Karen will be our Area Director. Jackie Beaudry will receive a Meritorious Service Award from ZI at International Conference.

International Convention:

- June 25 – 28, 2022 in Hamburg, Germany
- Registration will be opening next month
- Delegates will need to be submitted in April, 2022. Karen will table the election of delegates until January.
- There will be virtual component. Information is on the ZI website

Committee List: Karen emailed the current committee membership to all members. She requested that all members look at the current list and send corrections to her.

Committee Reports:

Service and Advocacy:

- **Service:**
 - Cathedral Center blanket drive – Easiest way is to purchase on Amazon and have the blanket/sheets sent directly there. Maureen will also create some collection sites for those members who want to shop in person. This project dovetails with District 6 blanket service project. All purchases should be reported to Maureen so that the numbers can be provided to the district.

Club Meeting Minutes



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- Neu Life Holiday has approximately 100 youth to receive gifts in \$20-\$25 range. Joni will report a club commitment to Jody of 50 gifts. Joni will send an email to club regarding purchasing the gifts from Target.
- Donating books to youth organization. Donna Conant proposed that we donate books to the youth organizations. Judy and Marge agreed to lead the project.
- Janet is going through the grant applications to put together a list of additional service projects that can be provided to the applicants.
- **Advocacy:**
 - Silent Walk – discussion was had relating to expanding the scope of the walk and starting planning earlier.
 - Posts on Facebook will occur during the 16 days of Advocacy

Public Relations:

- Newsletter articles need to be to Joni by November 5th since the Club meeting is one week earlier.
- Facebook was updated with links to the news articles/broadcasts for the Silent Walk.
- Facebook was updated with pictures from the fashion show. Joni sent links to the photo albums to all members

Fashion Show Fundraiser:

- Fashion show - October 23, 2021
- Approximately 190 attendees.
- Total funds raised are still be calculated but at least \$23,000 was raised.
- Over 20 people indicated they are interested in membership. If there is no planned program for November, Pam proposed that we use that time for a prospective member meeting. Club members will lead an informational program about Zonta for the prospective members. Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry agreed to ask Maureen if she already has a program arranged and she will report back to Pam within tomorrow. Pam will send the list of prospective members out to all current members along with an invitation that either Pam or the contact member can send out to the prospect.
- Wrap-up meeting is scheduled for November 15 at 7:00.

Scholarship: No report was given.

Membership: See above.

Program:

- November club meeting on November 17, one week earlier due to Thanksgiving.
- If no meeting has already been planned, it will be the prospective membership drive. See above.

Foundation:

- Grants were given out at the fashion show.
- Foundation intends to meet with Baird in the next few months to review our investment strategy.

UN: ZI website has an update regarding the UN project in Peru.

Fall Conference 2022:

- October 7-9, 2022
- Contract with the hotel has been reviewed and once finalized will need to be signed by the district.
- Subcommittee leadership has been assigned.
- Next meeting November 29 @ 6:30.

Announcements:

- Next Club Meeting – November 17, 2021 (1 week earlier)
- International Convention – June 25 – 28, 2022 in Hamburg Germany

Meeting adjourned at 7:51.



Active and upcoming service projects planned for the Club. Participation is voluntary.

Neu Life Community Development Center Holiday Gifts

Thank you to all who committed to purchasing holiday gifts for the children of Neu Life Community Development Center at the last monthly Club meeting.

With the response of 35-39 gifts for all those who attended, we estimated that the Club could probably fulfill

approximately 50 gifts. Neu Life greatly appreciates the support and has sent on the Target registry link which is active now. You can order online again this year and have the gifts delivered directly to Neu Life. **Their deadline is Dec 16 so please order at your earliest convenience, to avoid toys being out-of-stock.**

Holidays are synonymous with toys, but for some struggling families it can be a time of stress and anxiety. Your donation is sure to brighten a Neu-Life kid's day! Thank you for your support.

Shipping address: 2014 W. North Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53205

The Target Gift Registry is active and ready! The link was sent in an email to the Club.

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/neulifeholiday>

Thank you to all who choose to participate in making the holidays brighter for these kids and families!



thank you for your order!

Cathedral Center Sheet and Blanket Donations



When women and families sheltered at the Cathedral Center leave the shelter, they take a set of sheets and a blanket with them. As a Club, we would like to participate in this service project again this year to provide needed sheets and blankets.

This project also complements with the District 6 blanket service project. **All purchases should be reported to Maureen so that our Club donation numbers can be provided to the district.**

Service



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The easiest way is to purchase is on Amazon and have the blanket/sheets sent directly there. <https://cathedral-center.org/donate/>

Maureen will also create some collection sites for those members who want to shop in person. **Twin XL is the size of sheets and blankets needed.**

More to come on the logistics and final timing for this service project, however we are thinking that we will collect through the end of the year.

Thank you!

View our Amazon Wish List [HERE](#)



Don't forget to make your Amazon account into an AmazonSmile account! Amazon donates .5% of purchases to a charity of your choice. For more information click [HERE](#)

Proposed Future Zonta Club of Milwaukee Project

Background - Christmas 2020

My sister, Judy, and I (Marge H.) chose to make our 2020 Christmas Gift to Neu Life in the form of books. We selected 10 books (5 each) suitable for both young and middle school readers all by African American writers. Judy delivered the books to Neu Life, and it would seem they were well received.

Then, it got us to thinking...the result being the attached proposal.

Proposed 2022 Project

Possible Partner - Neu Life

Since in the past, one of our Neu Life projects has been to develop an Art Room, it would seem an ongoing service project for the Milwaukee Club with Neu Life could be to develop a Reading Room, books, bookshelves, and a few chairs. Since Neu Life's stated mission is "to empower youth with skills and strategies to make better life choices," further development of reading skills and exposure to broad ideas and discussions through books would seem most appropriate to their mission.

Possible Partner - Our Next Generation

Our Next Generation is a nonprofit, community-based organization that provides academic support and enrichment programs for students, kindergarten through high school, in central Milwaukee. Their stated mission is:

"Students and volunteer mentors put their heads together over homework assignments and literary enrichment activities. This daily, one-on-one academic support improves student's educational outcomes while simultaneously fostering a meaningful, personal relationships with caring adults that are vital to our children's academic growth and personal well-being."

November 2021

www.zontamilwaukee.org

Given the above stated mission, this proposed project could be helpful.

Project Requirements Locally:

- Our Partner(s) would provide an appropriate space, possibly similar to the Art Room or at a minimum space for bookshelves.
- Of course, the Zonta Club would provide books. Suggestions for books from our partners and Zonta members would be part of the plan. Selected books would be appropriate to Zonta's mission to promote education, fairness, equity values, and women's opportunities and understanding.
- In the future, the project could be extended to include after school reading groups and perhaps small drama productions and poetry readings.

Discussions with our partners would be required to determine their interest and their best path – space availability, age-appropriate book selections, on site usage and/or whether checkout privileges would be appropriate, etc.

Milwaukee Club Project Activity

Zonta Club of Milwaukee could become known for this as a signature project and provide opportunity to liaison with other District Clubs and the Milwaukee Community.

The Milwaukee Club could create small working groups (2 or 3 – team selected by a number draw) which would have the responsibility of creating a list of appropriate books on a given subject or topic for a designated age group as identified/and or suggested by our partners.

Perhaps monthly, (depending on partners involved and number of expected participants) each member could select one book from their group list and donate it as a project contribution. (All the books that Judy and I donated were paper backs, all certainly in the price range of our more recent service project contributions.)

This signature project could also possibly establish Reading Rooms/Space with shelving, small tables and chairs to invite children to spend time with books. There could be student designed book plates; there could be after school reading sessions for those interested in a hands-on component. To encourage writing, perhaps book reports could be submitted to the Zonta Newsletter, or presentations given at meetings from time to time.

A Possible Future Extension of the Club Project to International Service

We could tie the local project to International's mission statement: Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Education appears an important focus of our Zonta International service projects. This this could provide an opportunity to extend our local project to Zonta's international community, connecting our local world of needs with the broader world needs.

Service



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When visiting our international project in Burkina Faso, it was learned that the UN is involved with several schools that have American faculty teaching English. Perhaps it would be possible to extend the program to an internet Zoom kid- to kid-connection.

Connecting our Milwaukee Club scholarship recipients to our local project with international ties also seems like an exciting concept. They could make suggestions of books in their area of expertise to be enjoyed by young learners. This could facilitate a stronger, longer-term connection of the winners to our club.

