



ZONTA

CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

Area 2 • District 6

2023–2024

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

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Send your newsletter submissions
jonizonta@gmail.com

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Monthly Zonta Meeting

Holiday Social Gathering

Wednesday, December 20th

6:00 - 9:00 pm

**ZONTA HOLIDAY
PJ AND NIGHTGOWN
SOCIAL**

December 20th
6pm-9pm
8723 West Cheyenne
Milwaukee

****Wear your Christmas PJs or nightgown...
Decorate it for 1st or 2nd prize!***

***If you want, please bring a \$10 gift to exchange.
If you, do, please put your name on it.***

~ BYOB wine if you want ~

*****RSVP by December 17th
by phone 414/353-7754
or email djkahl722@yahoo.com***

***Menu is below...when you RSVP, please
indicate what dish you're bringing.***

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Club News and Updates



ZONTA
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Hi Zontian Sisters,

As the final weeks of 2023 approach and we prepare for the New Year, the air is filled with excitement and anticipation.

Our excitement is derived from members' engagement and support. In November, donations and gift cards were collected on behalf of **Allies For Teens in Foster Care**. This month, we are collecting blankets, sheet sets, and various other supplies for Freedom House, an **Exploit No More** shelter facility for women.

A Prospective Member Reception was hosted in November at MRA (The Management Association) by Pam Knackert and Maureen Siwula. The event was well attended with much information shared, resulting in the submission and approval of 2 new member applications (Dawn Zehren & Viola Rembert).

This year has been filled with growth and change. Goals were set to maximize our productivity with innovation & creativity encouraged. The upcoming year is no different. We want to expand our service and advocacy outreach and Zonta message. But to do this, your continued commitment, support, and advocacy is needed. Together, we can make 2024 our best yet.

As we close this year and start the next, please take a moment to consider how you can continue to help change the lives for the better for women and girls locally and abroad.

On a special note, Donna Kahl-Wilkerson is hosting our December social gathering at her home. Looking forward to seeing and fellowshipping with you there!

From my family to yours, may the New Year bring you happiness, peace and joy.

Joann Harris-Comodore

President – Zonta Milwaukee





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MENU

****When you RSVP, please
indicate a dish you would
like to sign up for and bring***

Swedish meatballs (Donna KW)
Shrimp with cocktail sauce
Chicken niblets or chicken wings
Ham pinwheels (Donna KW)
Taco salad and chips
Fruit salad (Donna KW)
Deviled eggs (3-4 dozen)
Soda
Also need plates, napkins, hot cups

"CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD"



***"Bring a dessert that your
family traditionally serves
during the holiday season or
that represents your ethnicity
... be prepared to give a short
word or two about it!"***



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Service Update

December: Freedom House - Exploit No More Holiday Collection

Tis the season of giving – Women at Freedom House need our help to keep them safe and warm.

The Zonta Club of Milwaukee is collecting the following Items for the Freedom House

- Twin Size Flannel Sheets
- Heavy warm blankets or comforters for winter - Twin Size
- Pillows
- Bath Towels, hand towels and washcloths
- Laundry Soap pods or Liquid

We will collect items at the Holiday Party on December 20th at Donna Kahl Wilkerson's Home. Joni and Pam will take the items from the party. I am not able to attend.

You can also drop items at my Home 21111 W. Windsor Drive New Berlin WI 53146 Cell 262 844 4609. Leave on covered front porch if I am not home.

I am also willing to meet halfway if needed. Just call me.

We will try to get the donations to Freedom House by December 22 or shortly after the new year.

Thanks so much for your generosity and a Warm Wish to you and your families for the Holidays.

Maureen Siwula



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Thank you to all who contributed to the November collection for the holidays for
Allies For Teens in Foster Care.

We collected 25 blankets, 11 gift cards, several hats, mittens and gloves, slippers, hair care products, hand creams, and \$125. So appreciated!!!



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Advocacy

Thank you to the Advocacy Committee for creating daily posts for the 16 Days of Activism. These posts were shared on Facebook & Instagram. Here is a snapshot collection of several posts from the committee...not possible to read in this format 😊.



"Human trafficking is a \$150 billion a year global industry and can't be fully addressed without businesses taking active and effective measures to reduce the potential for exploitation within their own systems." Polaris, US-based national anti-trafficking nonprofit organization: <https://polarisproject.org/>

Zonta International calls on its membership to:

- Increase awareness of trafficking in persons and raise awareness locally.
- Include trafficking in persons advocacy actions in their advocacy plans.
- Advocate for national policies, local policies and local legislation that take steps to prevent trafficking in persons, protect victims and punish perpetrators. Include anti-trafficking efforts through service to local communities.
- Develop partnerships/collaborations with other organizations which are active in working to eliminate trafficking in persons.

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- "Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential."
- "In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence."

Zonta International

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- Wisconsin broke the record for domestic violence deaths again in 2022 with 96 lives lost, according to the annual statewide homicide report released recently by End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin. This is the highest total since the advocacy organization began releasing the data in 2000 and a 20% increase from 2021's total of 80 people.
- Homicides occurred in 25 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Ages ranged from 20 months to 92 years, with an average age of 37. About 48% of the victims were white, while about 45% were Black.
- Childhood trauma, and systemic inequities, such as homelessness, economic stress, financial challenges and food insecurity, are among the triggers for domestic violence.
- What needs to change in order to make a dent in eliminating violence against women and girls? There must be a true focus on prevention and breaking the cycle of violence and abuse.
- A crucial need is funding for shelters and services. End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin and others like-minded partners are calling on State lawmakers to take up critical legislation to fund programs statewide and to bridge the increased gap in federal funding.



Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women
Join us and say NO to violence against women and girls worldwide

During the Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women: 16 Days of Activism which begins on November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and runs through December 10, Human Rights Day, we are posting critical issues affecting women and girls along with resources and contacts that are breaking the cycle of violence.

- 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner; 94% of the victims of these murder-suicides are female.
- The presence of a gun in the household increases the risk of homicide by 400%.
- Victims of intimate partner violence lose 8 million days of paid work per year, the equivalent of 32,000 jobs. It costs the economy between \$6-13MM.
- Recent studies conclude that domestic violence is a major factor in mass shootings, and that mass shootings involving perpetrators with a domestic violence history are more lethal.

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ZONTA INTERNATIONAL SAYS
NOW TO CLIMATE ACTION

The climate crisis is a human rights crisis – and a planetary rights crisis, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, at COP26, 2022

How are the climate crisis and gender equality linked? As greenhouse gas emissions increase, they warm the atmosphere and trigger extreme weather events such as heatwaves, droughts, flooding, ice loss, sea level rise, fires, and storms. These events cause social disruption and magnify existing inequalities—people lose their homes and jobs, the poor get poorer, those in more stress and violence—and gender inequality accelerates. We can break this chain of events by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and closing the gender gaps in education, economic opportunity and decision making.

Zonta encourages us all to:

- Learn about the climate crisis to understand how increased greenhouse gas emissions ultimately lead to increased gender inequality.
 - Advocate for the rights of women and girls in a future where gender equality is threatened by extreme weather events, sea level rise, changes in agricultural patterns and global security.
 - Take on leadership positions in our communities, workplaces and parliaments so that women are equally represented around decarbonization tables.
- As Zonta stays NON-competitive, we will actively reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and stand up for the rights of women and girls in this decisive decade for humanity.

Please Join Us.

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Child marriage is happening right now in the U.S., and that's not okay. Here's what you need to know to help right the human rights violation: act.usdoj.gov/childmarriage

- According to Zonta's coalition partner **Unchained At Last**, some 297,000 children, some as young as 12, were married in the U.S. between 2000 and 2018.
- Some 66% of the children wed were minor girls, on average marrying a man four years older. Some children were wed at all ages, or with a spousal age difference, that constitutes statutory rape under their state's laws.
- Child marriage impacts all communities in the U.S., not just children who live in rural or socioeconomically disadvantaged areas.
- We are awaiting legislation to be introduced in the next Wisconsin legislative session.

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Another crucial need is culturally appropriate support services and counseling. If you or someone you know needs domestic violence assistance, please contact one of the following organizations:

- Sojourner Family Peace Center: 619 W. Walnut Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212; 24-hour hotline & crisis shelter: (414) 933-2722
- The ASHA Project: Helping Black/African American Culture; 3719 West Center Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210; (414) 252-0075
- Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center: Serving the Native American Community; 930 West Historic Mitchell Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204; (414) 383-9526
- HIR Wellness Institute: Helping Native American Communities 3136 W Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53208; (414) 763-5815
- Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition: 5235 S 27th Street, Greenfield, WI 53221; (414) 727-4900
- Room To Be Safe: Helping LGBTQ Culture; 2439 N Holton Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212; (414)-856-LGBT (5428)
- The Hmong American Women's Association: Helping Hmong American Culture; 3727 W National Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215; (414) 930-8352
- UMOS: Helping Latin American Culture; 2701 S Chase Avenue, Suite D, Milwaukee, WI 53207; (414) 389-6500

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- "Since 1919, Zonta has been working to create a more equitable future for women and girls."
- We believe that fostering a diverse and inclusive global community is a powerful platform to bring about the social change needed to make our vision for gender equality a reality.
- As a global organization, Zonta International values the contributions of members of all backgrounds, regardless of age, ethnicity, race, color, ability, religion, socio-economic status, culture, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- We believe that a diverse community of members is essential to our ability to achieve our mission to create a more equitable future."
- We are committed to the values of diversity and inclusion across all Zonta International activities and initiatives.

Zonta International

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Membership

Thank you again to our members who participated in the Zonta Prospective Member event Wed. Nov. 15th at MRA. Thanks to all who attended, to those who were on the program and all who brought something to eat and/or drink. And to MRA for hosting (to Cheryl for getting the room and Maureen for her help that evening to set up and clean up)



It was successful. We had 5 guests attend and two (Viola Rembert and Dawn Zehren) have completed their applications and have been approved by the board. I believe Kavita Vasavada will also join based on follow-up discussions. Tatiana Kretlow is considering it and Donna Rongholt-Migan will contemplate next year when her child goes off to college.

Upcoming Dates

December 20th: Club Social Evening

January 24th: Club Meeting - Virtual via Zoom

February 28th: Club Meeting - Virtual via Zoom

March 27th: Club Meeting - In Person

April 13th: Area 2 Spring Conference - Madison

April 24th: Annual Business Meeting - Virtual

May 22nd: Club Meeting - In Person

June ??: Social or Service



Keep thinking of people who might be interested in joining and invite them to our holiday get together and/or an upcoming meeting and/or let me know. I will talk and/or meet with them.
~Pam~



Thinking you might be contemplating attending the Zonta INTERNATIONAL Convention in Brisbane in 2024 or have a need for a Christmas Present –

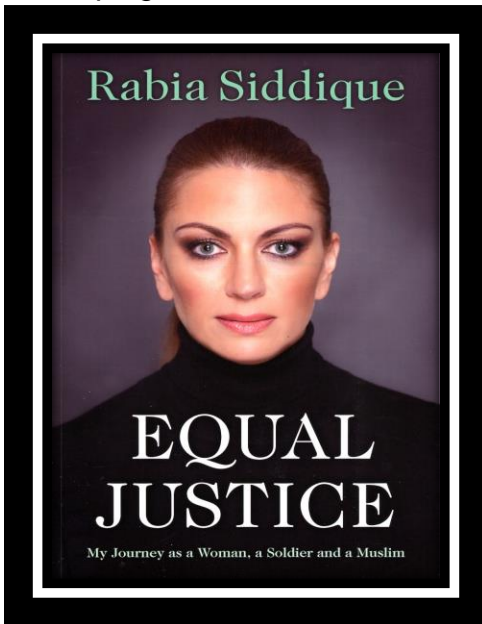
Rabia Siddique will be the Zonta International Convention Keynote speaker in Brisbane, Australia in 2024. Her book is available on Amazon.

As the daughter of an Indian Muslim father and a white Australian mother, growing up in this conservative environment of 1970s Perth, Rabia Siddique was always going to be marked as different. Escaping her traumatic childhood, Rabia moved to London after graduating from law school to pursue

her passionate commitment to social justice. She joined the British Army as a military lawyer just days after 9/11, finally finding herself stationed in Southern Iraq, where she pushed herself to make a difference in one of the most dangerous and testing environments on earth.

On September 19, 2005, Rabia and another soldier were taken hostage by Islamic insurgents as they tried to negotiate the release of two kidnapped British SAS operatives. She battled for hours to save their lives, using her legal expertise, knowledge of Islamic and Arabic to negotiate with their captors as a violent mob tried to storm the compound where she was being held.

After their release, her colleague received a Military Cross, while Rabia received nothing. Her subsequent sex and race discrimination case against the British Army made headlines around the world.



Her memoir is a story of grit, courage and conviction born out of a unique perspective.

