



May 2026

Area 2 • District 6

2025–2026

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Officers

Carol Mangold, President
Helen Ludwig, President Elect
Karen Smith, Vice President
Laureen Ward, Treasurer
Shari Januszewski, Secretary

Club Board

Pam Knackert
Diane Lindsley
Christine Todd
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Foundation Board Officers

Cheryl Nowak, President
Joni Reese, Vice President
Donna Neal, Treasurer
Donna Conant, Recording Secretary/
Corresponding Secretary

Foundation Board

Diana Barnett
Joann Harris-Comodore
Debra Koller
Judith Lehman
Dawn Zehren

Send your newsletter submissions
to jonizonta@gmail.com

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

May 27th Club Meeting

Social Time 5:30 PM, Meeting 6:00-8:00 PM

Location:

New Berlin Library, 15105 West Library Ln, New Berlin

Speaker: Shawntell Taylor, Founding Board Member and Current Executive Director of Chayil, Inc.

Chayil Incorporated is a nonprofit that focuses on empowering underserved communities through life coaching, financial literacy, business strategy and entrepreneurial training.

Chayil was one of the organizations who received an award from Zonta Foundation Inc last year. Shawntell will also be joining the Zonta Club of Milwaukee!

Presenting with Shawntell will be Myronica Survillion Jones, Current Board Chairwoman of Chayil, Inc. and Crystal Tucker, Vice President of Chayil, Inc.

In addition, we will be installing our new club board officers and foundation officers at the meeting.

Please watch for a RSVP email from Ruth and respond to her at ZontaRuth@gmail.com.

Please make every effort to attend. Our meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 PM.

If you can arrive at 5:30 to help with setting up, please do so. It is also an opportunity to spend some time socializing with other club members.

President's Message



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

As this biennium comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your president over the past two years. A special appreciation goes to the leadership team, officers, directors and the committee chairs who kept the ideas flowing and the wheels turning. Last, but not least, I'm grateful for each and every member of the club who put in the long hours and commitment to make our fund-raising and service projects a success. Without your dedication and participation, the club could not succeed in its mission.

At the May meeting, the gavel will be handed over to your new President, Helen Ludwig. She will be joined by Karen Smith, Treasurer, and Ruth Robertson, Secretary, as well as the club board consisting of: Pam Knackert, Diane Lindsley, Janan Atta-Najeeb, Kate Gay, Lauren Ward, and Marge Holzbog.

I'm certain that you will join me in wishing Helen and the rest of the club board continued success over the next biennium.

*Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mangold
President Zonta Club of Milwaukee*

A graphic with a sunset background over a body of water. The text 'Upcoming Dates' is written in a large, orange, stylized font. Below it, the following dates and events are listed in white text:

May 27th: Club Meeting / Installation of officers & board members
June 24th: Social Gathering at Karen Smith's house
July 11-14th: Zonta Intl Convention - Vancouver
August 26th: Club Meeting

Club Updates



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Centennial Committee Updates

Strong Foundation – Stronger Future

All Centennial Committee subcommittees are making tremendous progress as we continue planning for our spectacular Centennial Celebration on November 7, 2026, at Harley-Davidson Museum in The Garage venue.

Centennial Fundraising Committee

We have successfully achieved our second \$10,000 Challenge Match! Thank you to each and every one of you who has contributed, pledged, and encouraged your family and friends to donate in support of our Centennial project. Your enthusiasm and generosity are making a tremendous difference.



If you have not yet contributed or submitted your pledge, please contact Barbara Wyatt Sibley regarding your plans and submit your donation by May 31.

And more exciting news — we now have a third anonymous donor who has pledged another \$10,000 Challenge Match! That means the next \$10,000 in donations will also be matched dollar for dollar.

Please continue spreading the word to family, friends, and supporters — especially those who may not be attending the event — and let them know their donation can have double the impact. Donations can be made easily at [Zonta Club of Milwaukee Centennial Donation Page](#).

We also encourage everyone to continue approaching potential sponsors. The Centennial Sponsorship Packet is available on our website and can be used when reaching out to companies and businesses you know or work with, such as financial advisors, brokers, accountants, and other professional contacts, for sponsorships or financial contributions.

In addition, we will soon begin soliciting items for our silent auction. Individual donations may be combined into larger packages and experiences. If you have connections to high-value items, services, vacation stays, tickets, or unique experiences, please let us know. A formal solicitation letter and donation form will be available soon.

Any other ideas or suggestions, please let Pam, Jackie, Donna C. or Barbara know. **To donate now, use this link to our webpage zontamilwaukee.org/centennial/ and click the “Make a Donation” button.**

Club Updates



Or mail a check payable to:

Zonta Foundation Inc

Mailed to: **Donna Neal**

2624 E Bellevue Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Centennial Fundraising Committee - Jackie Beaudry, Donna Conant, Pam Knackert, Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Centennial Venue Committee

We are excited to share that the menu for the evening has been finalized and promises to be exceptional.

During cocktail hour, guests will enjoy a selection of passed hors d'oeuvres, including:

- Teriyaki Chicken Skewers
- Steakhouse Skewers
- Caprese Skewers

Dinner entrée selections will include:

- Braised Boneless Beef Short Ribs
- Pumpkin & Butternut Squash Ravioli

And to conclude the evening on a sweet note, dessert will feature a decadent Flourless Chocolate Cake.

In addition, the Harley-Davidson Museum is generously providing each guest with a museum admission pass. For out-of-town guests wishing to visit the museum prior to the event, guest names will be shared with Harley-Davidson in advance.

Centennial Logistics Committee

A centennial event web page is available with event information and can be used to share messaging on the event with your prospective guests and donors. <https://zontamilwaukee.org/centennial/>.

Invitations are being worked on and will be distributed in late summer.

Program & Entertainment Committee

The evening's entertainment is also coming together beautifully.

We are thrilled to welcome Chae's Band — a talented five-piece band featuring Chanda Harris, daughter of our member Joann — who will provide music throughout the early evening. Chanda will also close out the celebration with several special vocal performances.

Serving as our emcee and auctioneer for the evening will be Geoffrey Sandler of Celebrations Entertainment, helping guide the program and energize our fundraising efforts through select live auction items and a paddle raise.



Club Updates



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We are also honored that Andi Elliott from Community Advocates will speak about Project Wellspring and the impact of this important initiative.

We are hopeful that one or more local dignitaries will also join us to offer remarks as part of this milestone celebration.

The Centennial Celebration will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., with a more detailed timeline and program schedule to be shared soon.

Now is the perfect time to begin thinking about friends, family, colleagues, community leaders, and supporters you would like to invite to help us celebrate 100 years of service, advocacy, and empowerment for women and girls.

Save the Date!
November 7th, 2026

100 Years
Empowering Women & Girls

The Zonta Club of Milwaukee
invites you to our
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
The Evening of
November 7th, 2026
The Garage at the
Harley-Davidson
Museum

www.ZontaMilwaukee.org



Centennial History Committee

Silk for Life – A Truly International Project, 1993-96

Raise Cocoons, not Cocaine

In the early 90's, The Club learned of an organization called Silk for Life, based in Milwaukee, that worked for economic independence and against the drug trade in Colombia. They worked with local women farmers to raise silkworms instead of coca, and to create businesses that sold the silk cocoons as well as woven products, scarves in particular. Silk was also shipped to Milwaukee, creating additional weaving and embroidery jobs for Hmong women who produced silk and silk/wool scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, socks and the like.

Patricia Conway, the visionary founder of Silk for Life, spoke at a Zonta meeting (and joined Zonta!) and an amazing project resulted. A project that hit on all cylinders – empowered women locally and globally, provided meaningful local service and club engagement on multiple levels, and made a difference fighting climate change.

What did Zontians do? We sold the silk-based products at shopping malls, Zonta Conferences, and booths at fairs. We developed some special items and requested additional colors to increase sales. A big seller was a silk scarf embroidered with a Zonta Z. I still have mine.

In two years, we accumulated enough funds to buy 20 solar ovens, 20 cooking pots, and 20 oven thermometers (\$2400) from Burns-Milwaukee, and ship them to a sister club in Lome, Togo, for distribution in rural Africa. Solar ovens help preserve trees that would otherwise be used as fuel, and save the effort involved in gathering wood that typically falls to women.

The most challenging part of the project was shipping. It cost over half as much (\$1300) to ship the ovens as it did to buy them. We didn't make our target delivery date (pre-District Conference in Togo) as the port of Lome closed for some weeks while our shipment was in transit. Logistics were challenging to say the least – one thing after another, as they say.

The project ended due to several factors: SFL asked for changes in our relationship, in particular, no more consignment sales/returns. SFL had no cash



Club Updates

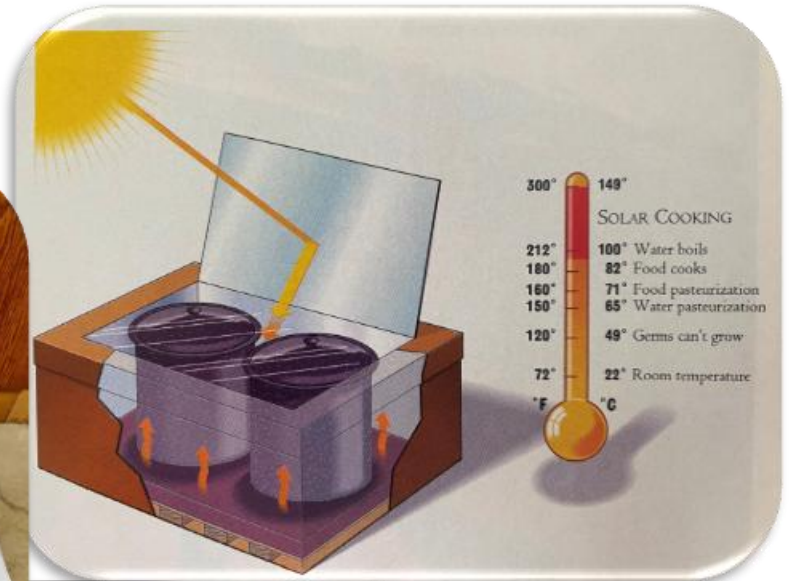


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reserves, closed its own retail shop, and had space for far less inventory. Then Pat moved to somewhere in the middle of Wisconsin and contact/logistics proved too difficult.

At the following ZI Convention, Zontians from other clubs in Africa were aware of our accomplishment and wanted to know if we could send more ovens.

A fabulous effort while it lasted!



Date: November 5, 1993
F.O.B.: Pick-Up
Ship to:

Qty	Description	Price	Total
30	Colombian Silk Scarfs w/Zonta Z	22.50	675.00
Consignment:			
20	Milwaukee Silk Scarfs w/Butterflies	22.50	450.00
6	Colombian Silk Scarfs w/Pink Butterflies	22.50	135.00
Total Colombian Z Scarfs			675.00
Consignment Total			585.00
Total Due 11/5/93			675.00



Club Relationships, Service, and Promotion...

Did You Know?
Florence Eiseman was a member of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee!

Celebrating 100 years of service and advocacy in Milwaukee—support our centennial project and help continue the legacy!



ZONTA CLUB OF MILWAUKEE

Founded in 1926, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee reflects the vision and commitment of women in diverse businesses and professions. For 100 years, our members have worked to assure that women, whether in their communities or around the globe, have the support needed to thrive through education, mentoring, financial assistance, and a safe environment free of violence. We live out our mission through hands-on service, advocacy, and fund-raising.

VISION & MISSION

Zonta International is a leading global organization of individuals working together to build a better world for women and girls. There are now 25,000 members in 64 countries around the world.

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.

Some Highlights Zonta Club of Milwaukee

- On January 8, 1926, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee was the 39th club of Zonta International.
- After World War II the Milwaukee Zonta Club joined other women's organizations to spearhead the Memorial Center.
- In the 50's & 60's Zonta members provided affordable housing for seniors and a \$1.3 million passive solar apartment building later sold but Cambridge Apartments.
- In the 1970's a bequest from a Club member funded the Spanish Speaking Center on Nator.
- In the 1980's a major project was run through Volunteer Services for the Homeless.
- In the 1990's we partnered with Sil project to create sustainable silk-bamboo in Colombia, steady income for Milwaukee weavers, and to send household-silk to Togo, Africa.
- For the last 25+ years, Zonta has provided financial support of over 80 non-profit forums and Silent Walks, supported survivors, and partnered with Neuhart to launch and implement a human trafficking education program for urban youth, STEPP.

THANK YOU

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO YOU AND THE OTHER LADIES FROM ZONTA FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP WITH OUR WAREHOUSE SALE! YOUR TIME, EFFORTS, AND WILLINGNESS TO "JUMP RIGHT IN" ARE MUCH, MUCH APPRECIATED. WE HOPE THAT THERE IS A LOT OF INCREASED AWARENESS AND BENEFIT FROM THE FLYER DISTRIBUTION AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP!

WARMLY,
EMILY BREMMER



Membership

Thank you to all who attended and participated in the Prospective Member Reception on Tues. April 28th. **We had 5 prospective members attend** with 10 of our members. We have already received applications from Shawn Taylor, Paula Fink and Pat Knoebel and hope to have more. Please invite anyone who you think might make a good member to our May 27th meeting. This is the perfect time for someone to join and the beginning of our member year.

****New Officers & Directors: Please attend the May meeting where we will install all new officers and directors.**

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our new Club Officers and Directors for 2026-2028 who will be installed at our May meeting and terms starting June 1st

President: Helen Ludwig
Treasurer: Karen Smith
Secretary: Ruth Robertson
Directors:
Janan Atta-Najeeb
Kate Gay
Lauren Ward
Marge Holzbog

Congratulations to our new Foundation Board Members 2026-2029 who will be installed at our May meeting and whose term starts June 1st

Barbara Wyatt Sibley
Carol Mangold
Donna Conant (to be voted on at May meeting)

And thank you to all the officers and board members who are completing their terms.



Advocacy

Postpartum Medicaid Extension: March 19 2026

Gov. Evers signed a bill that extended postpartum Medicaid coverage for thousands of low-income women in Wisconsin from 60 days to a full year. Enacting this policy was an uphill battle over the last seven years despite its widespread bipartisan support.

“It was messy getting here, but God am I glad we’re here, because no mom and no baby should have to go without health care after a mother has just given birth. A mom should be at her best to care for her child,” said Rep. Lisa Subeck, D-Madison, who has been a cosponsor since the bill was first introduced, ahead of the Assembly vote last month.

For months after giving birth, women are still at risk for a range of life-threatening, post-pregnancy complications, including heart conditions, clotting disorders, postpartum depression and more. State health officials have noted the policy can help reduce pregnancy-related deaths and lower infant mortality rates by increasing access to preventive care, mental health services and substance abuse treatment.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 3/19/2026

Lest We Forget.....A Reminder from the Wisconsin Women’s Council

On May 5th, the Wisconsin State Capitol was the venue for the 5th Annual Missing and Murdered Women and Girls Day of Awareness.

This year’s event is hosted in partnership by the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center, Maeqtetuahkihkiw Metaemohsak – Woodland Women, HIR Wellness Institute, Wisconsin MMIWR Task Force, and the Wisconsin Women’s Council. This event centers the voices of families and survivors, creating space for healing, truth-telling, and collective action.

Violence against Native women and girls remains significantly underreported in Wisconsin and across the United States. Cases are often misclassified, and jurisdictional complexities between tribal, state, and federal systems can hinder effective response and accountability. Strengthening data collection, improving reporting systems, and supporting coordinated responses across jurisdictions are critical to addressing this crisis.

Funding to educate students about human trafficking

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reporter Ashley Luthern reported on a 5-year federal grant for four MPS School Districts to train staff about warning signs of labor and sex trafficking and educate students about healthy relationships.

This is the third year of the grant that funded the “Not a Number” curriculum. Thus far, it has taught more than 5,400 8th grade students. At the end of the 5th year, all MPS 8th graders will have participated in these class discussions that include before and after testing of student understanding. There is a commitment to continue using this program after the grant runs out..



Awards

The timing of Zonta International's Women in Business Leadership Award and Women in STEM Award is under review and will be up for discussion at the International Convention in July. Our Club looks forward to sharing our future timing of awards once decisions have been made.

Public Relations / Communications

Sharing a fun and practical networking idea and offer with all Club members!

I recently created personalized business cards for myself, that will come in handy when meeting fellow Zontians at conferences, conventions, and whenever you are sharing the mission and impact of Zonta with others. They provide an easy and professional way to exchange contact information and promote our organization.

The design was created in Canva, and I would be happy to customize the card with your name, email, and phone number if you are interested in ordering your own set. Cards can be ordered directly through Canva, and delivery only took a few days.

Pricing varies depending on paper quality, finish options, rounded or square corners, and current promotions, but generally ranges from approximately \$19–\$37 for 100 cards, with additional savings often available for larger quantities such as 150 or 200 cards.

If you would like more information or are interested in having a customized card created, please contact Joni at jonizonta@gmail.com.



Club Updates



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The **2026 Club Annual Report** and the **2025 Foundation Annual Report** (calendar year) were both moved into the member-only section of the newsletter for future reference.





**Zonta Club of Milwaukee
Club Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026
New Berlin Library**

President Carol Mangold called the meeting to order at 6:21 pm CST.

Guest: Jeremy Roche from Principal Financial Planning, member of the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce, a financial advisor for retirees and eager to serve non-profits in his community

Treasurer's Report - Carol Mangold for Laureen Ward

For March, Club balance started at \$6331.62, with expenses at \$655.23, and income at \$614.10. Current balance is \$6290.49. Club CD value \$6162.77.

Club vote - Approve \$2000 Travel Expenses each for ZI Convention Delegate and Alternate (Helen Ludwig and Karen Smith)

- Motion to approve, Donna Conant
- Second, Christine Todd
- Voice Vote to Approve Travel Expenses

Reminder: Annual Club Dues Deadline May 8, 2026

Reminder: Prospective Member Event -Tuesday, April 28th. Sign up for food is online.

Candidates Zonta International Officers/Leadership Team:

Club discusses and makes selections for delegate votes taking place next week and selections were agreed upon.

Club Annual Report Approval—Carol Mangold and Committee Chairs opened the floor to questions on the report shared with members.

Vote on Nominating Committee Roster of Candidates for Club Board

CLUB BOARD

Continuing Officers: NONE

President – Helen Ludwig (new 2026-2028)

President-elect – _____

Vice President – _____

Treasurer – Karen Smith (New 2026-2028)

Secretary – Ruth Robertson (New 2026-2028)

Continuing Directors Club Board:

Pam Knackert - 2nd year of two-year term 2025-2027

Diane Lindsley - 2nd year of two-year term 2025-2026

Four Open Positions, filled:

Janan Atta-Najeeb (2 yr term - 2026-2028)

Kate Gay (2-year term - 2026-2028)

Laureen Ward (2-year term - 2026-2028)

Marge Holzbog (2-year term - 2026-2028)



- Motion to elect slate as nominated, Donna Conant
- Second, Diane Lindsley
- Voice Vote approval to elect slate

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Club Annual Report, Karen Smith

- Second, Cheryl Nowak
- Voice Vote to Approve Annual Report

Note: Budget approval deferred until May Club Meeting

Open Foundation Meeting, 7:09 pm, by Cheryl Nowak

2025 Foundation Annual Report Review & Approval, previously shared with members.

Foundation Annual Financial Report Highlights from Donna Neal:

Current balance is \$280,075.18 in combined investments and checking accounts with an approximate \$26,000 gain over prior year. For 2025, revenue was \$52,583 with expenses at \$54,587.

- Move to approve report, Donna Conant
- Second, Pam Knackert

Election of Foundation Board

Continuing Directors:

Joann Harris-Comodore - 3rd year of 3-year term 2024-2027

Cheryl Nowak - 3rd year of 3-year term 2024-2027 (current President)

Joni Reese - 3rd year of 3-year term 2024-2027

Diana Barnett - 2nd year of 3-year term 2025-2028

Judith Lehman - 2nd year of 3-year term 2025-2028

Dawn Zehren - 2nd year of 3-year term 2025-2028

Three Open Positions, 2 filled:

Barbara Wyatt Sibley (3-year term 2026-2029)

Carol Mangold (3-year term 2026-2029)

OPEN _____

- Move to elect Foundation Board, Pam Knackert
- Second, Christine Todd
- Voice Vote to elect Foundation Board

Note: Installation of new officers at May meeting.

Foundation Meeting adjourned by Cheryl Nowak at 7:17 pm

Club Updates



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Club Meeting resumed at 7:18 pm

Committee Reports As Needed

Membership: Pam Knackert

Prospective Member Meeting Update: We have 10 positive RSVPs from interested prospective new members; all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Centennial Celebration: Donna Neal and Pam Knackert

Update: We are now working on meeting matching grant for a second \$10,000 from an anonymous donor with over \$25,000 already in hand.

Please invite friends and family to donate between now until end of May to double their contribution.

We are still looking for corporate sponsors. While cold calling is a challenge, some members are seeing the most success from their accountants and financial advisors. Again, all generic letters and materials to use are available from Pam.

Service:

Florence Eiseman Event volunteer slots filled.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Prospective Member Event - April 28, 2026 - 6:00 PM New Berlin Library

Next Board Meeting - May 12, 2026 - 6:00 PM ZOOM

Next General Club Meeting - May 27, 2026 - 6:00 PM New Berlin Library

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.
