



## Welcome to the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville Newsletter!

This newsletter provides a few updates on events that members attended/supported over the last three months:

- NGO CSW68 (Committee on the Status of Women) in New York City
- Panel Discussion: Working Women in the Post-Covid Era
- International Women’s Day Events
- ZD2 Spring Workshop
- Red Dress Day 5 May
- Save the Date! Pieces for Peace Demonstration: 21 September



### Parliamentarians Against Poverty

From 10-13 March, I attended in person the NGO Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York City. Zonta held many great sessions on women’s issues and poverty which is the CSW theme this year. Unfortunately, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) event was full, but I have since followed up with CFUW Executive members.

Instead, I attended virtually the Canadian Women Parliamentarians event on Women Parliamentarians against Poverty. Later that evening, I exchanged a few words with Senator, the Honourable Marilou McPhehdran, who moderated the panel. She supports Zonta and is a possible speaker at a future Zonta event. Very exciting!



## International Women's Day

### 1. Celebrating International Women's Day with the Zonta Club of Wellington, NZ

Helen Bowie, my Zonta colleague on the Zonta Says NOW to gender-equal climate action Think Tank, invited me to celebrate International Women's Day 2024 with the Zonta Club of Wellington at a special breakfast at Parliament hosted by New Zealand's Acting Minister for Women, Louise Upston. The current Minister for Women is on parental leave.

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**INSPIRE INCLUSION.**  
8 March 2024. International Womens Day.  
in-person breakfast & (live/on-demand) livestream

HON LOUISE UPSTON  
DAME MIRANDA HARCOURT  
DAME FARAH PALMER  
CHLOE & FLORENCE VAN DYKE

ZONTA

As New Zealand is one of the first countries in the world to see the light of the new day, this was a chance to start early with my IWD celebrations. The speakers represented government, the arts, sport and business. School children were invited as well. They sat outside the main room and watched the event livestream. It was truly a celebration of women and girls!

A full recorded video of the event is available with unrestricted access on this website: <https://www.zontawellington.org.nz>

### 2. UNICEF Virtual Experience. Investing in Women and Girls to Shape the Future



To mark International Women's Day, I joined a virtual event on 7 March that explored how investing in girls and women creates progress for all. We visited some of UNICEF's inspiring programmes that are shaping the future for girls and women around the world and heard from partners working to make this change sustainable.

- Imagine if the current generation of girls could become the largest cohort of leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs the world has ever seen. When we invest in girls and women, they in turn invest in their families and communities, shaping the future for everyone.

- Despite major hurdles that still deny them equal rights, girls refuse to limit their ambitions. Girl-led movements are stopping child marriage, and trail-blazing in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- Gender discrimination begins before birth and affects the rights of girls throughout childhood and adolescence and beyond. Investments in empowering girls and women, therefore, are integral to lifelong, positive outcomes for children, their families and their communities.

## Working Women in the Post-COVID Era

On 20 March, I attended a panel **Working Women in the Post-COVID Era** at McGill University's Laidley Centre for Business Ethics. Public, private and non-profit sectors featured health, politics, business and research. Only one missing was sports!

### Moderator

- Lindsay Holmgren, Associate Professor, Strategy & Organization and Director, Laidley Centre for Business Ethics and Equity

### Panelists:

- Saloua Benkhouya, Vice-President, Private Equity and Impact Investments, Fonds de solidarité FTQ
- Félicia Cá, Research and Projects Coordinator, Relais-femmes
- Christina Smith, Mayor, City of Westmount
- Dr. Jana Taylor, Associate Professor and Director, Radiology Program, McGill University; Chair of the Board of Directors, Canadian Association of Radiologists



Panelists spoke about what they learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in the interest of finding a better path forward for women in the workplace. While there were early hopes that the pandemic would contribute to equitable treatment for women in professional settings, this is not necessarily what has transpired. They shared their experiences and insights from the pandemic and expressed ideas for improving the position of women in these various sectors.

## District 2 Spring Workshop 3-4 May

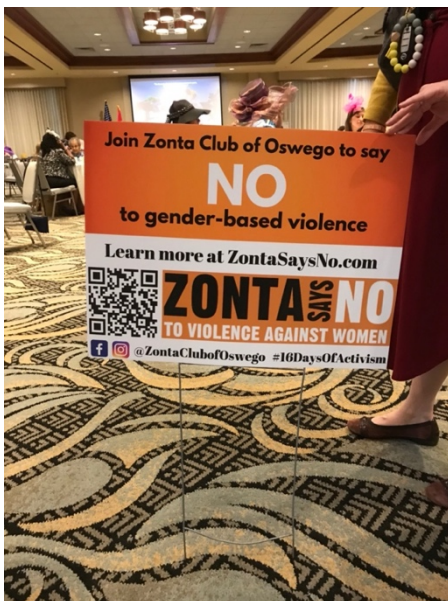
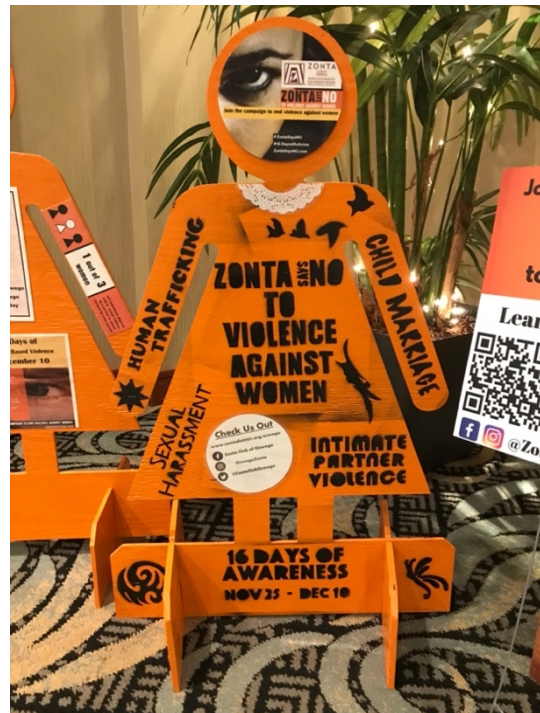
An Ottawa Zontian and I drove to Oswego, NY to attend the District Spring Workshop. It started with social time on Friday evening. Saturday consisted of speakers from the Zonta clubs, a derby horse race (ask me more about this), retaining members, the District Jean M. Coon Humanitarian Award recipient and raffle tables. The picture is the Zonta



Club of Kanata-Stittsville table with two raffle baskets, wine for sale and one of the poster boards I use to promote our club. I chose to go with the Star Wars theme: May the Fourth be with You! We now have some fundraising funds for future projects.



For many years, the Oswego Club has used “orange ladies” for the 16 Days of Activism campaign 25 November – 10 December. They brought a couple of their ladies to the workshop so I could see how they looked. You can see them in the pictures. An Oswego club member gave me the template so we can create our own ladies if we wish. She also told me that the club had high school shop and wordworking students make the ladies. This might be something to pursue in August to see if this could be a shop project.



In addition, the club had lawn signs made, similar to signs on people’s lawns during an election. With permission from the municipality, they put these signs up and down main street to disseminate the message that Zonta Says NO to Violence Againsts Women.

Finally, last but not least, a prize was given for the best darby hat. The winning hat, pictured here, was by Collen Anderson from the Ogdensburg Club.

A fabulous time meeting, catching up and learning!



**Kathleen writes about National Red Dress Day on 5 May**

I thought this was interesting! We have an Employee Resource Group (ERG) at Pepsi called "Rise" which relates to Indigenous people and culture. In one of our corporate communications, they talked about Red Dress Day, so I thought that was great!

I included a little snapshot of it below from the email itself, and the attachment. When you click on "Click Here for more Red Dress Day Resources," that's when it sent me the attachment.




**May 5<sup>th</sup> is Red Dress Day in Canada. It is a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.**

**Wear Red on May 5<sup>th</sup> to Remember and Support**

PepsiCo's RISE ERG continues to support and raise awareness for Indigenous People and Employees and their Families and Communities.

May 5<sup>th</sup> is the Birthday of Lisa Marie Young. In this life she would have been 43 years old. Taken and Never Found...

Mother Earth Claimed Lisa Marie's Body and her Spirit travelled westward across the prairie grass, over a river and above the mountains, into the clouds guided by a bright light to loved ones to her Creator to her place of origin.



Lisa Marie's Spirit Will Live Forever

**Today we observe empty Red Dresses...**

<p><b>Lisa Marie Young</b></p>  <p>May 5 is <b>Red Dress Day</b> A National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Learn more at <a href="https://guides.wpl.winnipeg.ca/mmiwgtwospirit">guides.wpl.winnipeg.ca/mmiwgtwospirit</a></p> <p>Scan the QR code to visit the Indigenous Relations Division site to learn more about MMIWG2S+.</p> <p><a href="https://guides.wpl.winnipeg.ca/mmiwgtwospirit">https://guides.wpl.winnipeg.ca/mmiwgtwospirit</a></p>	<p><b>Cambria Harris</b></p> <p>101 red dresses were placed at the Brady Road landfill in Winnipeg on January 14, 2023. Cambria Harris, whose mother, Morgan Harris, was one of four women believed killed by the same man (Trial began April 29, 2024) said hanging the dresses is to memorialize MMIWG and request again to search the landfills... With public outcry, multiple protests, including Cambria's... 40MM has now been allocated to start the search this year.</p> <p><a href="https://www.aptnnews.ca/tag/cambria-harris/">https://www.aptnnews.ca/tag/cambria-harris/</a></p>	<p><b>Lil' Red Dress Project</b></p>  <p><a href="https://lilreddressproject.ca/about-us/">https://lilreddressproject.ca/about-us/</a></p> 
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**Pray, Hope, Cry and Remember...Come Home My Girl**



## Canadian Federation for University Women “Pieces for Peace” Demonstration

# Pieces for Peace is Gaining Momentum!

Members from across Canada are making panels in preparation for our CFUW Peace Demonstration on Parliament Hill September 21st, 2024.



Panels made by members

**September 21st is the UN International Day of Peace.** CFUW invites their members and members from like-minded organisations to participate in Pieces for Peace.

- Our PEACE demonstration will start at 12:00pm on September 21st at Parliament Hill in Ottawa.
- Panels containing peace messages will accompany the demonstration. How they will be displayed will be determined by the weather & by the number of participants on site.
- **VERY IMPORTANT: the messages, symbols & colours MUST BE NEUTRAL, not associated with any particular conflict or war going on presently. We are petitioning for PEACE worldwide.**
- There are no size or medium requirements but if members wish to mail their panels, an 18” x 18” fabric panel can be folded in half, then folded again to fit into a business size envelope.
- Several clubs have organized panel making gatherings. GREAT! Thank you!

Whether attending a demonstration in person or not, members and clubs can produce an unlimited number of panels to be displayed at the demonstration.

**The more panels, the stronger the message!**

This newsletter shows how Zonta clubs and members can make a difference in the lives of women and girls through webinars, scholarships, making connections, informing the public and much more.

***Wouldn't you like to make a difference in the lives of women and children?***

It doesn't take much to support Zonta actions by attending events online or in person. You can invite speakers to meetings or help plan a webinar. Suggested topics are ending homelessness in Ottawa, outreach to secondary school girls concerning financial literacy training and the STEM fields, gender equal climate action and women in the trades. Together, there is so much we can accomplish to help women and girls locally and globally.

***And we can have fun!***

Please email me at [zontaclubkanata@gmail.com](mailto:zontaclubkanata@gmail.com) or phone 438-367-1122 to let me know that you will join the club. By joining now, you pay half-year membership dues: \$67 USD + \$15 USD one-time fee to join Zonta. If you are under 35 years of age, the half-year membership for Young Professionals is \$45 USD + \$15 USD one-time fee to join Zonta.

***Invite friends, family and colleagues to join as well!***

**Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and let's plan to attend!**

**Zonta International Convention 2024  
27-30 June, Brisbane, Australia  
Virtual and in-person options**

**Zonta North American Inter-District Meeting (NAIDM) 2025  
District 15 – Midland, Michigan, USA**

**Zonta International Convention 2026  
11-14 July, Vancouver, BC, Canada**

***These are fabulous events to learn, be inspired, connect and reconnect to build a better world for women and girls!***

*We can't help everyone. But everyone can help someone.*