

"Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you" - RBG



SPRING 2025

Governor's Message

Dear Fellow Zontians,

As we emerge from the long, dark days of winter, I am filled with gratitude for this opportunity to shine a light on the incredible work we're doing to highlight the Zonta Spirit that unites us all—through our charitable giving, awareness-building, and unwavering commitment to Zonta's mission.

I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable service projects, the vibrant International Women's Day celebrations, and the ongoing initiatives our District 2 clubs are spearheading to raise awareness and advocate for women's rights. I am continually inspired by the posts I see on social media and the heartfelt invitations I receive to join you in Zonta meetings and fun activities.

However, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the challenges we are all facing in understanding how to best move forward as Zontians during these turbulent times.

The news can often be disheartening. Many have lost jobs, financial support for NGOs is being slashed, and vital social services are under threat, with some at risk of closing altogether. These changes affect us all, and no one is untouched.

That is why now, more than ever, Zonta's commitment to supporting women and girls is crucial. We must honor our promise—locally and globally. Fellow Zontians, I urge you to take action and be visible, offering hope and courage to those who need it most.

At the March Commission on the Status of Women, Zonta reaffirmed its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 5, which aims for gender equality for all women and girls. This goal has been at the heart of our service and advocacy efforts since its adoption in 2015, and it continues to guide our work

Our resolve to persist in this mission remains unwavering and is more important now than ever before. As highlighted in a recent statement from Zonta International:

"Zonta calls on the United States and all nations to reaffirm their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the critical pursuit of Gender Equality. The time to act is now. We must not allow decades of hard-won progress to be reversed. Zonta International urges leaders and citizens alike to stand up, speak out, and take decisive action to ensure that gender equality remains at the forefront of global development efforts. Our shared future depends on it, and the moment to make a difference is now."

I have witnessed firsthand the immeasurable impact we are making for women and girls in our communities. As we move forward, I ask that you carry this knowledge with you: We are on the right side of "herstory", and together, we will ensure that progress will not be undone.

Let's continue to forge ahead, knowing that our efforts today will shape a brighter future for women and girls everywhere.

In Zonta Spirit,
Governor Lorraine



District News

District Workshop

May 17, 2025 7:30-3:30

Comfort Inn & Suites
99 Miller Road
Castleton, NY 12033

Agenda: Poverty Simulation, Zonta International's Core Values, Zonta Fountaion, & Demystifying Zonta Advocacy

Check your emails for registration and accommodation information.

District Conference

October 17-19, 2025

Vernon Downs Casino & Hotel
4229 Stuhlman Rd,
Vernon, NY 13476

Details to be release in the District Call to Conference which will be published on August 18, 2025.

D2 Committee Corner

Membership

Lt. Governor Iraina Gerchman

Welcome to our new members who have joined since our last newsletter publication.

District 2 by the numbers (data as of February 2025):

23 Clubs

10 Z and Golden Z Clubs

1 Club in Formation

Members

36 New Active Members

17 Young Professionals

New Members Since January

First Name	Last Name	Club Name
Stacey	Kapuscinski	OSWEGO
Suzanne	Trevellyan	UPPER HUDSON VALLEY
Sarah	Wilson	The ADIRONDACKS
Tina	Barten	The ADIRONDACKS
Kathleen (Kathy)	Speed	BREWERTON, NY - FRIENDS FOR EQUALITY
Jennifer	Westcott	OSWEGO

Feedback from January's District Membership Meeting Stacey Wood, Co- President Zonta Club of Glens Falls

"A number of things stuck with me but the simple question of "how do you celebrate your current members to show them appreciation?", really hit me. Such a simple question that I can't believe I didn't consider sooner on my own. I haven't figured out how to do such on a regular basis, but it was something I wanted to act on sooner rather than later, so for last night's club meeting I handed out Valentines to all members in attendance. Nothing big, but a little something to say thank you for all they contribute."



District News

Add Your Voice with Zonta International

Zonta's voice becomes stronger when we recruit great individuals to work with us to build a better world for women and girls.

The Add Your Voice Membership Campaign has been updated for 2025! There is a new format and an updated toolkit available. Please visit the Add Your Voice webpage for more information.

Our Goals:

1. Increase Zonta membership through club and supporting member recruitment.
2. Members and clubs have streamlined and cohesive language and information to use in recruitment efforts.
3. Reward expanded recruitment efforts through incentives and recognition.

Three Ways to Participate:

1. Activate Your Recruitment Plan
2. Refresh Your Information
3. Submit for a Recruiting Event Grant

FAQs:

- What is the Deadline? Add recruited members in April & May. Submit grant proposals by 31 May.
- Who can participate? All supporting members and clubs.
- How is the club starting size determined? Number from Zonta International Headquarters determines size, which is displayed on Club Dashboard.
- How can we get help for the campaign? Reach out to memberrecords@zonta.org.

New for 2025:

- Three ways to participate as a supporting or club member.
- Recognition and incentives to expand your recruitment efforts.
- Recruitment events and conversation starters: Suggestions on how to reply to typical and general questions about Zonta and our membership.
- Digital graphics and templates for brochure, buttons, stickers, flyers, posters, yard signs, banners, letter templates, email signatures and more!

Timeline

- **March – Campaign materials available.**
- **1 April - 31 May – Campaign cycle: Recruit members.**
- **31 May – Deadline to submit grant proposals.**
New member entry and payment in database.
- **31 July – Top recruiters tallied.**
- **15 August – Grant proposal winners determined.**
- **31 August – Grant winners announced.**
- **30 September – Grants awarded.**



D2 Committee Corner

Nominating Committee

Liz Tesiero,

nominating@zontadistrict2.org

A Call for District 2 Leaders

We are still accepting nominations for Zonta District 2 leadership. Open positions include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Directors for Areas 1-4, and Treasurer.

These roles don't require a significant time commitment, but they do require passion and dedication—dedication to Zonta's mission and the future of District 2.

The success of our district depends on strong, visionary leaders like you.

Don't wait to be asked! Take the initiative and reach out today to express your interest. Together, we can continue building a brighter future for Zonta.

Be a D2 Leader

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
MAKING A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

We are currently looking for persons who are committed to Zonta's mission and who want to lead D2 in fulfilling that mission.

Positions

- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- Treasurer
- Area Directors - 4
- Nominating Committee - 3

If you think that you are interested and willing to serve or know someone who is, check out the information provided here along with the nomination forms.

Nominations are Due
July 1, 2025

More information:
nominating@zontadistrict2.org

D2 Committee Corner

Advocacy Committee

Daniela Puerto

As part of the USA caucus, we had the opportunity to advocate for a more equitable future by endorsing the Paycheck Fairness Act.

As part of the Zonta Says NOW campaign, clubs were asked to submit art by members, friends, clubs, or anyone interested to the Virtual Art Gallery. The Zonta Club of Schenectady used this opportunity to submit an art project using recycled and upcycled materials to showcase the number of products we waste that can end up in a landfill. The debut for the Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery is set to go online April 22nd on Earth Day.

Advocacy in action: Be sure to use your voice and let D2 know of advocacy projects throughout the year. Earth Day is April 22nd, here are some ways you can advocate for mother earth:

-Plant trees

-Composting project

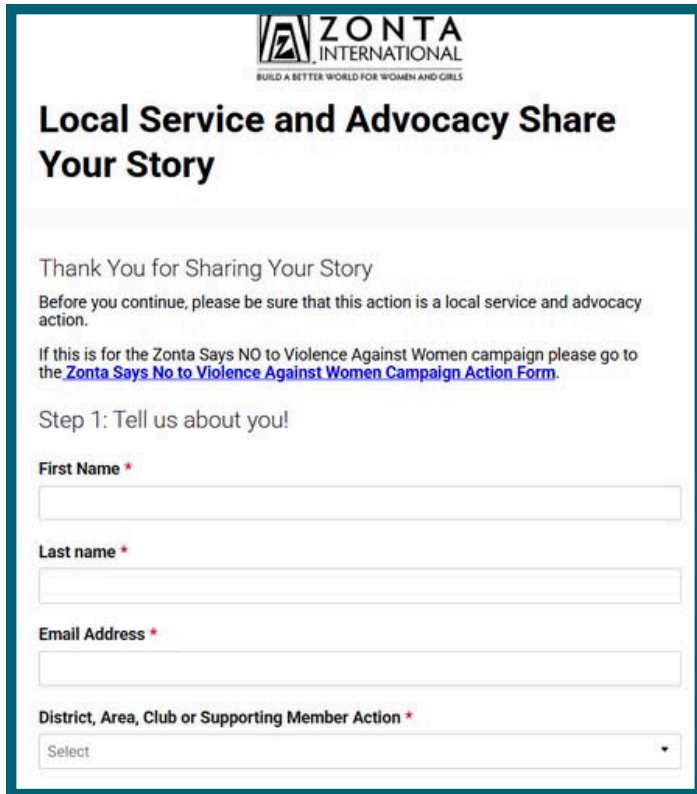
-Community clean-up

-Use your voice to communicate with elected officials on sustainability and gender equal climate policies.

D2 Committee Corner

Service Committee

Iraina Gerchman



The image shows a screenshot of a web form titled "Local Service and Advocacy Share Your Story" from Zonta International. The form includes a thank you message, instructions, and a "Step 1: Tell us about you!" section with fields for First Name, Last name, Email Address, and a dropdown menu for District, Area, Club or Supporting Member Action.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Local Service and Advocacy Share Your Story

Thank You for Sharing Your Story

Before you continue, please be sure that this action is a local service and advocacy action.

If this is for the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign please go to the [Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women Campaign Action Form](#).

Step 1: Tell us about you!

First Name *

Last name *

Email Address *

District, Area, Club or Supporting Member Action *

Highlighting Local Service and Advocacy

Have you visited the Zonta International Local Service and Advocacy website. It is filled with stories of clubs around the world engaging in a wide variety of projects. From very small awareness building events to major life changing initiatives, clubs find creative ways to build a better world for women and girls.

Read their stories, consider partnering with another club, feel free to browse for ideas for your own club.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4x4e369p>

Has your club done something you want to brag about? You can submit your work through Zi's Share Your Story initiative. There are now two ways to Share Your Story. You can Share Local Service and Advocacy and Zonta Says NO actions. It's as easy as filling out a quick form and uploading a photo.

Visit <https://www.zonta.org/shareyourstory>

Women in STEM

Dorothy Bonney

Women in Stem Award

Please reach out to your clubs and local schools to let them know about the Zonta Women in Stem Award. There are changes to the Women in Stem this year.



First, the eligibility has changed. It is no longer targeted to women in at least the second year in college or higher. Eligibility is now women, aged 18-35 years old at the time of application, who demonstrate groundbreaking research, pioneering discoveries and/or exemplary contributions to advancing knowledge and innovation in a science, technology, engineering or mathematic (STEM) field of study or industry.

The second change is that it is not a scholarship. It is an award, which means it doesn't need to be used for tuition.

Applications are due to the district by October 15th, 2025 and should be sent to womeninstem@zontadistrict2.org. Here is the link for the information and application. <https://tinyurl.com/mt5s36hu>

If you are interested in reviewing applications, please contact Dorothy Bonney at womeninstem@zontadistrict2.org.

D2 Committee Corner

Foundation Ambassador

Irene Orton



Happy Spring everyone and thank you for continuing to support women and girls all over the world. The Zonta Foundation for Women has been on the front lines, supporting critical work and programs to promote women's and girls' rights across educational institutions, workplaces, and local communities around the globe. But there is still work to be done.

Over the years I have grown more impassioned to give my time and money to Zonta International because I know that my dollars go to an organization that is credible and that I can trust. By pooling all our member's resources, we can make a larger impact in the lives of many women and girls. While we can not eliminate everything, Zonta strives to focus on issues that I feel are important. This biennium, the voting members in Brisbane have identified these four areas to focus our goals on:

- VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
- CLIMATE JUSTICE
- WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING
- EDUCATION EQUALITY

For this 40th anniversary, ZI is asking us to consider what Zonta means to you and make a special gift in honor of all we have accomplished and all we still need to do.

Our Brisbane Cheese Board (and goodies) will be drawn and given to one of our members (of the 17 members) who signed up to donate to ZI monthly. This contest ended, but the Spring Workshop will be a great time to deliver!

Anyone can still sign up on the ZI website to be a monthly donor. Hassle free and so Easy. See you in May.

D2 Committee Corner

UN Committee

Eileen Gilligan

NGO CSW 69

The NGO CSW Forum this year was a grand success, with kudos to Pam Morgan for leading the organization. I hope many of you had a chance to participate, as I did virtually, and to gain insights into the trials and efforts of women around the world. One speaker that impressed me was Rashna Vaghaiwalla, a Marymount High School girl in California who initiated and led a climate action program in her school – ideas that I passed along to our Z-Club at Manlius Pebble Hill School.

Think Tanks on Gender Equitable Climate Change

Online meetings of the “Gender Equal Climate Action Intercontinental Think Tank” are scheduled on the following dates for the remainder of 2025: May 11, July 13, Sept 14, Nov 9. If you would like to register, go to the Events tab at www.Zonta.org.

UN Environment Program – Reducing Food Waste (from Syracuse Club newsletter)

As we all carefully watch the economic news, I’m sure that most of us are wondering how to improve and secure our household financial situations. One planet-friendly and budget-friendly way right now is to “Waste Less” (per Sir David Attenborough).

Here’s an entertaining UN video of a man in a kitchen cooking, but wasting a lot of food too! (When you click on this link, first X out of the small account question. Be sure to turn on the music. The language sounds Arabic with subtitles, but the message is very clear.) The video can be found at <https://www.instagram.com/p/CYI8NNyhCQe/>. UNEP West Asia | Reduce the waste in your own home and start by educating yourself on how to properly consume organic products with minimum waste along the way.

Ideas from the UN Environment Program (UNEP) website:

- Schedule a weekly ‘Use It Up’ Day or ‘Use It Up’ Meal to make the most of leftover ingredients
- Designate a shelf in your fridge for ‘Eat Me First’ perishable foods.
- Write a shopping list and avoid bulk promotions.
- Measure portion sizes for rice, couscous and pasta.
- Store food optimally and understand date labels.
- Share leftovers with friends and neighbours or donate food, especially before going away and after holidays.
- Grow your own fruits and vegetables to enjoy them at peak freshness. Preserve or donate surplus.
- Help glean in your community, recovering edible landscape like tree fruits and nuts.
- Compost any remaining food waste and inedible parts or ask your local government about food waste collections.

My personal experience: Inventory your canned goods. I found several that I had to use immediately, along with several that expired during COVID!! I must do better!

Finally, we’re still thinking about a District-wide UN-related project. More info to come!

Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

Zonta Club of Glens Falls

Presidents Karen Hartman & Stacey Wood



President, SUNY Adirondack,
Dr. Kristine Duffy,
Zonta D2 Area I Director,
Debra Grobe, Zonta D2 Governor, Lorraine Abess

Dr. Kristine Duffy Addresses Zonta Club of Glens Falls

Dr. Duffy, President at SUNY Adirondack, addressed the Zonta Club of Glens Falls at the February 2025 Dinner Meeting. Her message focused on women in leadership roles, how the college has secured federal grants to scale up support programs to help address students' academic and life needs, and private gifts and grants to improve nursing, science, athletic, and student service-related facilities. She is the 7th President at SUNY Adirondack and will be retiring at the end of this academic year.



Zonta D2 Area I Director, Debra Grobe, Cam
Cardinale, President of Lower Adirondack
Pride, co-President of the Zonta Club of Glens
Falls, Stacey Wood

Cam Cardinale Addresses Zonta Club of Glens Falls

Cam Cardinale, an advocate for human rights and a skilled policy writer who champions legislative advancements that protect and affirm marginalized communities, was the guest speaker at the February 2025 Zonta meeting in Glens Falls. In addition, he is the President of Lower Adirondack Pride, where he leads efforts to support and uplift the LGBTQIA+ individuals across Warren, Washington, and Northern Saratoga Counties. Finally, he was active in helping to pass PROP I in New York State for equal rights for women.

Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

Zonta Club of Glens Falls

Presidents Karen Hartman & Stacey Wood



New Member

Vice President Elizabeth Connolly (far left) introduced Kelly Demeri, as Zonta's new member, along with D2 Area 1 Director Debra Grobe and co-President Stacey Wood

At our February Dinner meeting, we inducted our latest Zontian, Kelly Demeri. Kelly moved here from New Jersey. Before she moved here, she was a second vice president as well as a webmaster for the State Board of NJ Questers, a nonprofit historical preservation organization. She has a son in the navy and was a vice president for the North Jersey Blue Star Mothers of America. She is interested in websites and social media communications and is active in making pottery. We are very happy to have her join us in our mission of making the world a better place for Women and Girls.

International Women's Day

Glens Falls Zontians attended our annual International Women's Day Event on March 8th. The event is planned in collaboration with the Soroptimist of the Adirondacks and the AAUW Adirondack Branch. This year's speaker was Sherry Finkel Murphy and the attendees enjoyed a delicious brunch at SUNY Adirondack. The event was well received with 90 attendees. It was a fabulous way to celebrate women!



Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

Zonta Club of Glens Falls

Presidents Karen Hartman & Stacey Wood



ZONTA
CLUB OF
GLENNS FALLS

**BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

www.zontaclubofglensfalls.org

**ZONTA ARTS, CRAFTS
& CURIOSITIES FAIRE**

MAY 10 & 11, 2025
Mother's Day Weekend
GLENNS FALLS CITY PARK
(10am-4pm each day)

- ★ Arts & Crafts
- ★ Food Vendors
- ★ Music
- ★ Kid's Activities
- ★ Raffles, Zonta Plant Sale

FUN!
Bring the whole family



Glens Falls has partnered with our local library purchasing 3 dispensers and offering free period products to all women in and girls in need.

Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

Zonta Club of Albany

Presidents Edye Benson & Charlotte Lebron

This Spring the Zonta Club of Albany will be participating in two Moonbees with the Mooncatcher Project. The first was in March in partnership with the Macedonia Baptist Church, the second will be in April at the Capital City Rescue Mission's Women's Program.

During both Moonbees volunteers trace and cut patterns, stitch or assemble the beautiful cloth undergarments. These specially designed washable under garments can be used by girls in developing countries for their monthly periods. This ultimately keeps girls in school which is the key to leading more independently lives. For more information, please visit www.mooncatcher.org.



Club Highlights - Area 1

Zonta Club of Montgomery Fulton

President Liz Tesiero

The Zonta Club of Montgomery-Fulton proudly celebrated International Women's Day on March 8 at the Johnstown Library. To honor the occasion, the club shared free International Women's Day items and provided information about Zonta's mission to Build A Better World for Women and Girls.



Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

*Zonta Club of the Upper Hudson Valley
President Celeste Alexander*

Zonta Club of Upper Hudson Valley recent activities

1. JEAN M. COONS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

We will be presenting a \$3,000.00 scholarship on May 13th.

2. ZONTIANS PREP CARE PACKS FOR THE REACH CENTER

3. PAINT AND SIP BIG SUCCESS

We held a fun social event to raise funds and awareness of Zonta!

4. Z CLUB CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH SENIORS See the Press Release here <https://tinyurl.com/5b86zj3m>.

5. ZONTA UHV WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS See the Press Release here <https://tinyurl.com/t3zprs8c>.

6. PAINT AND SIP INVITES COMMUNITY See the Press Release here <https://tinyurl.com/j63bahaf>.

7. Z CLUB AWARD See the Press Release here <https://tinyurl.com/zr4htc36>.



Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director *Debra Grobe Searles*

Zonta Club of Schenectady
President Daniella Puerto



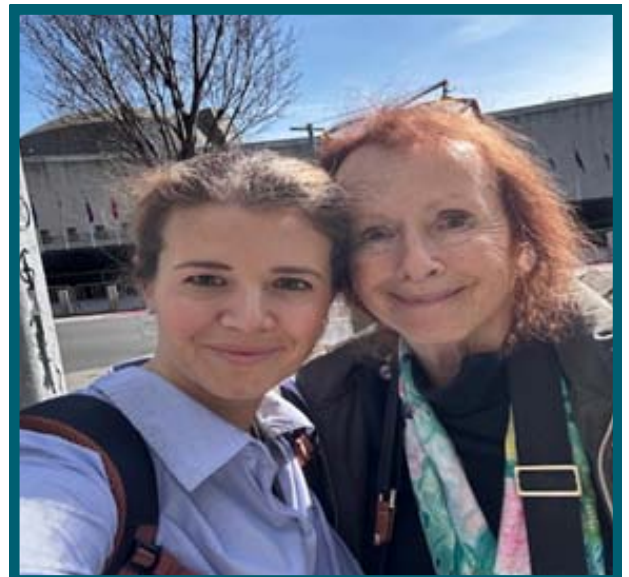
Kristen Pirro-Evans discussing a greener future with panelists

The Zonta Club of Schenectady hosted 2 events in the month of March, including Women in the Movement for a Greener Future, featuring member Kristen Pirro-Evans as the moderator and panelists including Rebekka Henriksen (Farm-to-School Manager, Schenectady City School District), Ellie Irons (Artist & Community Lab Manager, NATURE Lab), and Lydia Lake (Professional Engineer, New Leaf Energy). This event supports our efforts in the Zonta Says NOW to Gender Equal Climate Action. Our second event was planned by our membership committee which was a Game Night which was an interest and networking event to grow our club- which helped us recruit new and potential members. This event was filled women's history month trivia with the theme "Celebrity or Zontian", there was merriment and friendly competition, and something we plan to continue for years to come!



Trivia Night membership event

We had two members of our club travel to NYC for the NGO CSW 60/Beijing +30 parallel events for the day. Learning about global impacts and what is at stake for the future of women and girls was both exciting and eye opening but continues to resonate with the "why" of Zonta.



Daniela Puerto and Melanie Puerto Conte outside of UN HQ

Club Highlights - Area 2

Area 2 Director Cindy Thurston

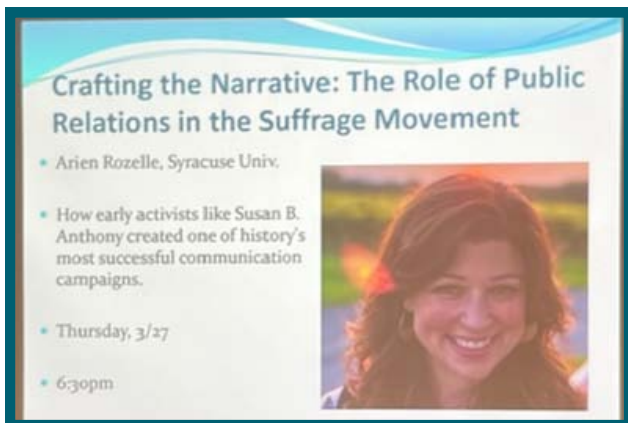
Zonta Club of Utica

President Claudia Jasinski



This year the Zonta Club of Utica has partnered with another local group, The Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, to support their Period Project initiative. The Women's Fund provides feminine hygiene and other personal care products to school nurses in Middle Schools and High Schools throughout the two counties, so they can meet the needs of students who might otherwise go without. The Zonta Club of Utica made a monetary donation in January and then also collected products. Two members of The Women's Fund, Kelli Watson and Doreen Nichols, came to our March meeting to give a presentation about the Period Project and to accept the items we had collected.

At our March meeting the Diamond Z pin was passed from Marianne Reynolds to Lisa Stewart. The Diamond Z Award is given out to a different club member each year who has devoted a significant amount of time and energy to further Zonta's mission.



On March 27th, several members of the Zonta Club of Utica attended the lecture above at Utica University.

On March 28th a group of Zontians from our club, including Dianne DiMeo, a prior year honoree, attended the Annual YWCA Salute to Women Luncheon. Salute serves as YWCA Mohawk Valley's largest annual fundraiser, with all proceeds directly benefit the agency's life-saving free, confidential, and 24-hour domestic and sexual violence crisis services.

Club Highlights - Area 2

Area 2 Director Cindy Thurston

Zonta Club of Oswego
President Kristin LaBarge

"Empowered women empower women!"

We were honored to have Amy Lear, an "accidental" entrepreneur and owner of Man in the Moon Candies, share her inspiring story at our March business meeting. Thank you, Amy, for joining us for our spring speaker series on the women of Oswego County and for the yummy treats! Wishing you continued success.



Zonta Club of Oswego is excited to share that we welcomed our newest Zontian into the sisterhood at our March Business meeting this past Tuesday. Welcome to Zonta, Stacey Kapuscinski! Photo one: Zonta member Mallory Bower (left) welcomes Stacey (right) to Zonta.

Zonta Says NOW!

"Fabricating Change: Converting Textile Waste into Valuable Materials & Understanding the Consequences of Apparel Manufacturing"

April 29 at 5:30 PM in
Shineman 122, SUNY Oswego

Join us for an insightful

lecture and discussion with Dr. Juan

Hinestroza, Rebecca Q Morgan '60 Professor of Fiber Science & Apparel Design and Interim Chair of the Human Centered Design for Cornell University's School of Human Ecology. Dr.

Hinestroza will be discussing the direct impact of textiles and apparel manufacturing as well as the conversion of textile waste into raw materials for other manufacturing processes.

In support of Zonta International's "Zonta Says NOW" commitment to gender-equal climate action, Dr. Hinestroza will also share personal stories and observations of the textile manufacturing field's impact on the environment and people.

For questions or to request accommodations, please contact oswegozontaclub@gmail.com

ZONTA SAYS NOW PRESENTS

Fabricating Change: Converting Textile Waste into Valuable Materials & Understanding the Consequences of Apparel Manufacturing

Dr. Juan Hinestroza

Shineman 122, SUNY Oswego

April 29, 2025 | 5:30 PM

For questions or to request accommodations contact oswegozontaclub@gmail.com

The advertisement features a background image of shelves filled with colorful folded fabrics. A small portrait of Dr. Juan Hinestroza is overlaid on the bottom left of the ad.

Club Highlights - Area 2

Area 2 Director Cindy Thurston

Zonta Club of Oswego
President Kristin LaBarge



Maker Madness

Our annual celebration of
women in STEM



Join us for our Season of the Witch
Summer Solstice Celebration
(formerly known as the Witches Ball)
sponsored by the Zonta Club of
Oswego. Enjoy hearty appetizers, a
DJ, costume contests, raffles and the
welcoming of the summer season.
There will be a cash bar.

Friday, June 13, 2025 6:00-10:00
PM

Elks Lodge, 132 W 5th St, Oswego,
NY 13126

Purchase your tickets in advance.
\$50.00 per person. \$60.00 at the
door.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/mrn7hsn9>
to purchase tickets.

FRIDAY
JUNE 13, 2025
ELKS LODGE
OSWEGO, NY

SEASON OF THE WITCH

FUNDRAISER TO AID
THE WORK OF THE
ZONTA CLUB OF
OSWEGO INCLUDING
SUPPORT OF OCO'S
SERVICES TO AID
FAMILIES

DJ, RAFFLES,
APPETIZERS,
COSTUME
CONTEST, CASH
BAR

ZONTA
CLUB OF
OSWEGO

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Club Highlights - Area 2

Area 2 Director Cindy Thurston

Zonta Club of Oneida
President Fay Eastwood



Status of Women of Achievement Award

The Oneida Club awarded our annual Status of Women Achievement Award to Valerie Thron Pollack. Val is the owner/operator of the very popular Eclectic Chic in Oneida, a vendor mall which allows many local women to run their own business without the expenses involved in a brick and mortar store. Past honorees have included women in education, healthcare and community activities. It's an honor to celebrate some of the amazing women in the Oneida area.

Oneida Area Zonta Club

2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

\$60 PER PERSON

WHERE:
Vernon Downs Hotel
(Rooms available at discounted rate)
4229 Stuhlman Rd, Vernon NY 13476

WHEN:
June 13th 2025
6:00PM-9:00PM

LOCAL MUSIC:
Jim O'Mahoney

CASH BAR AVAILABLE
DOOR PRIZE
BASKET RAFFLES
WINE PULL

Black and White
Attire Encouraged!

RSVP BY JUNE 1st, 2025
TO: ONEIDAZONTA13421@GMAIL.COM



Club Highlights - Area 3

Area 3 Director Rita Loperfido

Zonta Club of Auburn

President Kathy Stennard

The Zonta Club of Auburn started the year off celebrating their 100th birthday on January 19.

Mayor James Giannettino Jr., presented a proclamation during the City of Auburn's weekly council meeting to Club president, Kathy Stennard, and members of the Auburn Club. Kathy remarked that the club's success was a direct result of the amazing group of dedicated members both past and present that have worked together to "build a better world for women and girls."



On March 7, The Zonta Club of Auburn hosted their Second Annual Lady Luck fundraiser. With the generous support of the Katie Socci Memorial Foundation, Nucor, neighbors and friends, the club raised over \$9,000.00. The money raised will help to provide support for those who have faced unimaginable hardships, particularly those who are survivors of domestic violence.

Lady Luck funds will also be used for The Zonta Club of Auburn's Mini Grant program. The inaugural program was launched in 2024 and was created by Karen Macier. Up to three mini grants of \$500.00 to \$750.00 are offered to local women business leaders/entrepreneurs to help them grow and /or expand their business.

Lady Luck supports programs that help Women and girls thrive in our community and globally. From increasing Educational opportunities to programs that advocate to stopping violence against women, The Zonta Club of Auburn is making a difference.

The Zonta Club of Auburn honored member Jean Rhodes for International Women's Day. Jean was presented a yellow rose for her part in making the Lady Luck Fundraiser a success. Jean volunteered to take on more responsibility under the leadership of Chair Bonny Blair.

Each May, the Zonta Club of Auburn participates in its community Lake Ave garage sale. What started as a way to raise a little money from people's unwanted items turned into a fun day full of Zonta Spirit. Terry Mahoney and Mimi White our club's membership chairs organize a seamless event. Members gather and price items, work on sale day, and help distribute unsold items to our local non profit service organization. Last year's event raised \$1,000.

Zonta Club of Auburn supports programs that help Women and girls thrive in our community and globally. From increasing Educational opportunities to programs that advocate to stopping violence against women, The Zonta Club of Auburn is making a difference.

Club Highlights - Area 3

Zonta Club of Watkins Glen
President Carinne Wolford

Congratulations to Watkins Glen



Zonta Club of Cortland
President Liz Arnold

Area 3 Director Rita Loperfido

Watkins Glen-Montour Falls
ZONTA CLUB
100th Anniversary



**JOIN US
in a weekend of
EVENTS to
CELEBRATE**

Friday May 2, 2025 6:00-9:00 at Seneca Lake Event Center

**Dinner with Guest Speaker Amy Dickinson, Author & Columnist
Special Zonta History Presentation**

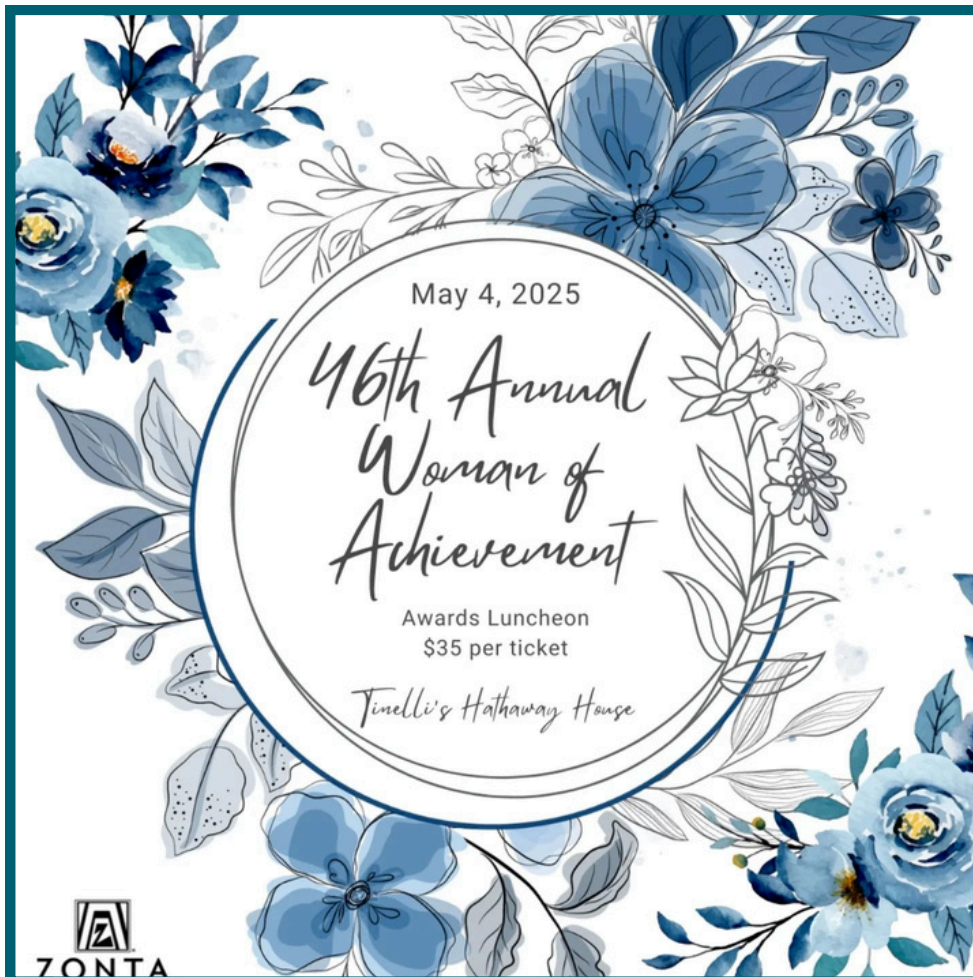
Saturday May 3, 2025 11:00-3:00 at Fiddlesticks Tea Company

**Amelia Earhart Performance by Eleanor Stearns and Luncheon
Special Zonta History Presentation
"Spanning the Generations" Panel Discussion moderated by Theresa Harris**

Sunday May 4, 2025 2:00-5:00 at Seneca Lake Event Center

**Fashion Show "100 Years of Fashion"
Clothing Giveaway
Face Painting and Children's Crafts**

**Tickets Available at Lakeside Veterinary Clinic or Wags to Riches
or contact carinnewolford@gmail.com
Friday \$35.00, Saturday \$25.00 and Sunday no charge**




May 4, 2025

**46th Annual
Woman of
Achievement**

Awards Luncheon
\$35 per ticket

Tinelli's Hathaway House



ZONTA

Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville

President Judith Ainsworth

CSW/NY 69 – 10-21 March 2025, United Nations, New York City

Here is our team for our event *Zonta Says NOW to Climate Solutions from the Heart* on Friday 14 March.

Back row l-r: Joan from Uganda, me, Karin from Berlin, Angela from Kansas, Carole from Perth, Australia; front row l-r: Inika Narayan (Indian) from Sydney, Australia and Alex with MenEngage from Denver. Inika is a Zonta Youth Observer at the UN.

I would be remiss if I didn't add a picture or two with Julie Trone who spearheaded the presentation and topic. Here we are at the Global Women in Music presented by the UN Symphony Orchestra on Thursday evening. The orchestra played music by women composers conducted by twin sisters from Mexico.



Did you know that only 5% of music played by symphony orchestras around the world is composed by women?



We are with another Zonta Youth Observer, Selin Tegethoff, at the symphony. You can listen to Inika and Selin chatting with ZI President Salla and read more about Inika and Selin and how passionate they are about women's rights in the Zonta International news email received on 19 March 2025.

Read Kanata-Stittsville latest newsletter here.

<https://tinyurl.com/mwm953nu>

Club Highlights - Area 4

Area 4 Director Colleen Anderson

Zonta Club of Brewerton, Friends for Equality

President Amanda Monette



February: Heartfelt Stories & Healthy Bites!

Forget the valentines, in February we went straight for the heart! In honor of Women's Heart Health Month, we invited the amazing Caron Grossman – author, nurse, and TEDx rockstar – to our meeting. She shared her powerful personal heart attack story and read from her new book, *Listen to Your Heart Song: Navigating the Unexpected*. Think inspiring words mixed with delicious, heart-happy snacks (because who says healthy can't be tasty?) Oh, and we slipped in a little Zonta membership sparkle, naturally! Turns out, people were super curious and wanted to know more about our club.

April: Zooming with the Director & Digging into Dirt Cake!

April's going to be a whirlwind! We're welcoming our Area Director, Colleen Anderson, via Zoom for a virtual meet-and-greet and to offer a teaser preview of the May 17 district workshop. Then, we're swapping our fancy hats for aprons to whip up a delicious and nutritious dinner for 50 teens at the CanTeen, a cool after-school hangout for students in grades 8-12. And because it's Earth Day, we're serving up "dirt cake" – think cookies, pudding, and gummy worms, all disguised as delicious dirt. Yep, we're going there! Plus, we're hoping to plant the seeds for a Z-Club with those amazing teens. April's also our planning powerhouse month: locking down next year's speakers, brainstorming our big fundraiser, and plotting our annual field trip. Stay tuned for adventure!

With great joy, Zonta Club of Brewerton, NY - Friends for Equality, formally welcomed two new members at their January meeting.

Congratulations, Marnie Annese and Kathy Speed! (L to R: Sponsor Diane Casale, Kathy, Marnie Annese, Theresa Harris, Membership Chair Mary Anderson)

New members received their name badge & yellow rose (symbol of Zonta) in celebration.

March: Digital Roses & Real Impact!

We celebrated International Women's Day with virtual roses, sending a little "you rock!" to the women in our community making waves and positive progress for women and girls, identified by our members. Plus, we showed our love for women worldwide by making our annual donation to the Zonta Foundation for Women during Women's History Month. We're wrapping up our search for teen volunteers (future leaders!) and promoting applications for the Young Women in Leadership award and the prestigious D2 Jean M. Coon Humanitarian award. We've been having a blast with a pen-pal exchange with our "twin" club, Zonta Club of Port Macquarie Inc.! International friendships, anyone?

Club Highlights - Area 4

Area 4 Director Colleen Anderson

Zonta Club of Brewerton, Friends for Equality
President Amanda Monette

Assemblyman Al Stirpe

March 23 at 11:23AM

Yesterday we honored Another Great group of Women of Distinction. Through their many activities, they make the community a better place for all of us!

It was my pleasure to celebrate Katherine Mittiga, for her commitment to education, Theresa Harris, for her volunteerism efforts, Laurel Flanagan, for her service in the community and civic affairs, Deana Bollinger Ingram, for her strides in business, and Tania Lyons, for her remarkable devotion to healthcare.



Club Highlights - Area 4

Area 4 Director Colleen Anderson

Zonta Club of Ogdensburg President Angela LaJoy



Zonta Club of Ogdensburg Rose Day Dinner Celebration was held Tuesday March 18, 2025 at the Gran-View Restaurant in Ogdensburg.

Our Club celebrated Julie Degone (rose presented by Past President Paula Jacques), Susan Jacobs (rose presented by Vice President Kathy Swan) and Sarah Tynon (rose presented by Emily TenEyck) for their outstanding contributions to our community.

Thank you to all three of you for making our community a better place!

Thank you to our Program Committee Co-Chairs Emily TenEyck and Kathy Swan.

Roses were generously donated by the all new flower shop in Ogdensburg, Little Miss Florist. Thank you, Sarah!



Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club is a proud sponsor of Julie's Dance Studio's Annual Dance Recital on Friday April 11th, Saturday April 12th and Sunday April 13th, 2025 in the George Hall Auditorium at Ogdensburg Free Academy on State Street in Ogdensburg.

We cannot wait to see the talented youth on stage this year!

*Zonta Club of Ogdensburg
President Angela LaJoy*



Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club Expo 2025 will be open to the public from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, April 5th 2025 and Sunday, April 6th from Noon-4:30 PM in the Edward A. Newell II Memorial Golden Dome, 1100 State Street in Ogdensburg.

Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club will be there with our popular Wooden Roses, information about our Club, and a Period Pantry Choice Raffle.

Thousands of visitors are expected in Ogdensburg as Ogdensburg Expo returns with family fun and a worthy cause.

The event is one of the city's largest draws and is crucial in supporting the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club. Zonta Club of Ogdensburg is excited to be a part of the fun!

Club Highlights - Area 4

Area 4 Director Colleen Anderson

Zonta Club of Ottawa

President Renuka Gamage

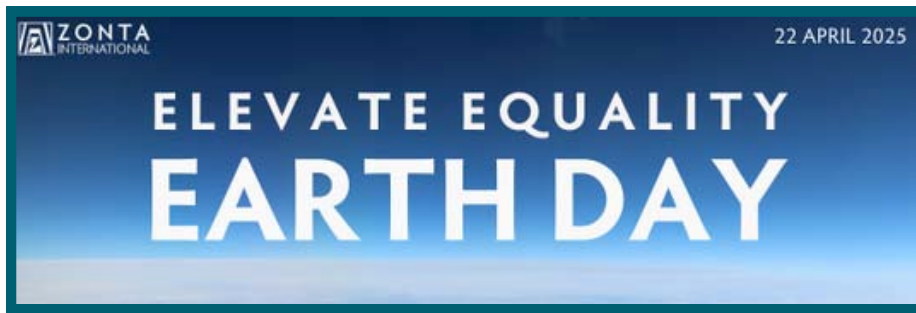
The Zonta Club of Ottawa has been very busy. Highlights include:

- Ninety-Five Years and Going Strong! Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada and the Ottawa Little Theatre partner in support of education awards
- Local optical clinics support Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada in honour of International Women's Day 2025
- Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada celebrates International Women's Day 2025 with two youth leaders on climate justice and business

Read about all of the events here: <https://tinyurl.com/5hce57mw>



International News



NOW is the time we acknowledge the impact environmental changes have on more than half the population of our planet.

Earth Day is a day to recognize the environmental issues of our planet and how all beings play a role in addressing them. It is also a day to promote gender equality, as we, as Zontians, bring greater attention to the unique challenges women and girls face as the result of climate change and emphasize the need for urgent action

As climate-related disasters become more frequent, they aggravate existing inequalities, in turn widening the gender gap and accelerating negative impacts on women and girls' education, employment, legal rights and leadership roles.

This 22 April, Zonta International invites you to Elevate Equality on Earth Day by choosing an action below to address gender equity within your own community.



Learn how you can recognize with local sustainable groups and businesses.

Take action to ensure your community addresses the unique needs of women and girls within their disaster-ready plans.

Lead the conversation on how Earth Day is about gender equality.

Support the Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action campaign.

Visit Zonta International's Earth Day Events Page at https://zonta.org/Web/News_Events/Event/Earth_Day.

International News

Recent Statements from Zonta International

Zonta International recent statements Gender equality is a fundamental right and a catalyst for sustainable development. As global progress faces setbacks, Zonta International urgently calls on the United States and all nations to reaffirm their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this critical time, Zonta International's partnerships and mission are more important than ever. Visit <https://zonta.org/statements> to read the latest statements.

- Zonta International partnerships more important than ever (Statement by Zonta International addressing current status of international service projects for 2024-2026 Biennium, March 2025)
- Zonta International calls for reaffirmed commitment to the SDGs (Statement by Zonta International addressing United States' withdrawal from its commitment to the SDGs and emphasizing gender equality as a fundamental human right and catalyst for sustainable development, March 2025)
- Zonta International remains steadfast in mission to build a better world for women and girls (Statement by Zonta International addressing rollback of women's rights globally, February 2025)

