

# ZONTA ZEST

**Zonta Club of St. Louis**

## President's Message to the Club

Dear Zontians,

Another Holiday Season 2023, has quickly passed into our archival history and the Zonta Club of St. Louis has certainly made its impact on our community and the world! I hope that you had a wonderful time with family and friends during the Holidays. Wellness is still big on the list and I hope that you all take extra precautions during this season of cold, flu, RSV, Covid and the consuming of seasonal treats!



We all are saddened to learn that our dear member and friend Rachelle Reeg passed in December. As many of you already know, she introduced us to Merchandise Pickup Service (now Charity Clothing Pick-Up). Their donations help fund the Women's Another Chance program (WAC). After reading the information shared with us by Zontian, Debbie Redmond, we are even more proud of Rachelle's grace, intellect, and for breaking the presidential glass ceiling in the Wiseman's Organization! The celebration of her life and Memorial will be held January 13. More detailed information forthcoming.

Congratulations to our new members Sandra Cornell and Valeda Keys! We encourage you, and all members, to invite your friends to our activities, events and/or monthly meetings.. Let's GROW our club! Our By Laws, Community Grants, Membership, Literacy, Women Another Chance, Archives, Service, Publicity, Trafficking/ Advocacy, STEM committees are to be congratulated for the work they have done in 2023. We are looking to a robust and exciting 2024!

In honor of Zontian, Amelia Earhart's legacy, the STEM Committee has planned a virtual meeting January 18 which promises to be exciting and informative. The specifics are outlined in this Zest issue.

Thank you Zontians for Building a Better World for Women and Girls!

Laura Burton

President



## January Board Meeting Updates:

- Melissa Bowles has applied to become a club member. She will attend the January meeting as a guest.
- There will be a quarterly Finance Meeting preceding the February Board Meeting.
- The Long Range Planning Committee will be meeting Monday, January 8th. They may check out UMSLs archiving area.
- Polly Holten, President of the Cape Girardeau club suggested the possibility of a joint advocacy push to raise the minimum age of marriage from 16 to 18.
- Issues with two-factor identification tied to the club email account were discussed. Can it be turned off?
- The club needs to get a ZOOM account tied to the club credit card.
- The January membership meeting theme Amelia Earhart and STEM will be held via ZOOM on January 18th at 6:30pm. The Guest speaker will be Aneliese Hebenstreit, our International STEM winner!
- February meeting plans are underway. A guest Speaker has been selected. Stacy Donovan and Edith Holmes are working out the details. Mimi's Cafe in Chesterfield Valley is the desired location.



**ON IN TO OUR  
JANUARY MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING!**

**Celebrating Amelia Earhart and STEM  
January 18th on ZOOM**

**6:00 Fellowship**

**6:30 Guest Speaker Aneliese Hebenstreit  
Our own STEM winner that won at the  
District and International level!**

**Join the Zoom Meeting at**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86238250309?pwd=Wm9aeStOcGxBK1RmN1lUeTFRUTdqZz09>

**Former ZI President  
Sharon Langenbeck may  
be in attendance!**

**The District 7 and  
International STEM  
Committee Members  
have been invited!**

# Celebrating Amelia!

## Five Things You May Not Know About Amelia Earhart

### 1. She Also Flew the Autogiro

In 1930, after only 15 minutes of instruction, Earhart became the first woman to fly an autogiro, made by Pitcairn and featuring rotating blades to increase lift and allow short takeoffs and landings. Earhart set the first autogiro altitude record and made two autogiro cross-country tours, which were marked by three public crashes. Though Earhart was the most famous woman pilot, she was not necessarily the most skilled.



Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly an autogiro, which featured rotating blades to increase lift and allow short field landings. (Purdue University Libraries, Karnes Archives and Special Collections)

### 2. First Woman Vice President of the National Aeronautic Association

Earhart became the first woman vice president of the National Aeronautic Association, which authorized official records and races. She persuaded the organization to establish separate female records because women did not have the money or planes — and thus the experience — to fairly compete against men for "world" titles.

### 3. Politically Outspoken

Earhart lobbied Congress for aviation legislation. She also lobbied for birth control rights, supported women in politics and business, and endorsed the draft for men, women, and even the elderly to promote equality and peace.

## 4. Entrepreneur and Fashion Designer

Earhart designed a line of "functional" women's clothing, including dresses, blouses, pants, suits, and hats, initially using her own sewing machine, dress form, and seamstress. She modeled her own designs for promotional spreads.



Amelia Earhart designed lightweight canvas-covered plywood luggage sold by Orenstein Trunk of Newark, New Jersey. (Purdue University Libraries, Karnes Archives and Special Collections)



Amelia Earhart's signature is the basis for the designer label for her clothing line. (Purdue University Libraries, Karnes Archives and Special Collections)

## 5. College Professor

In 1935, Earhart became a visiting professor at Purdue University at the invitation of Purdue president Edward Elliott, an advocate of higher education for women, especially in engineering and science. Earhart, a former premedical student, served as a counselor for women and a lecturer in aeronautics. Elliott was also interested in supporting Earhart's flying career and convinced Purdue benefactors to purchase a twin-engine Lockheed 10-E Electra for her.

Content copied from an article by Cochrane, D., Ramirez, P. (2021, Oct 29) *Five Things You May Not Know About Amelia Earhart*, National Air and Space Museum - Smithsonian



Amelia Earhart served as a counselor for women at Purdue University in 1935. (Purdue University Libraries, Karnes Archives and Special Collections)

[Link to article](#)

# Zonta Club of St. Louis

## Service Projects

Our January service project will be held at an organization called Alleluia Baskets which provides Easter Baskets for underprivileged families in O'Fallon, MO.

The website is [www.alleluiabaskets.org](http://www.alleluiabaskets.org)

We will meet at their headquarters at 1016 Rock Creek Elementary School from 11-1 and assemble baskets which will be distributed at Easter by various non-profit organizations. January 15th is Martin Luther King Day so possibly those that are working might be available to help on this day. (It is also the only week in January that I am in town). The Director has also informed me that there are many restaurants nearby for lunch!! She has requested 8-12 people.

Please contact Peggy Gilbertson if you are interested in participating:)

[gilbertsonpeggy@gmail.com](mailto:gilbertsonpeggy@gmail.com)



## **There will be no Service Project in February but we have a good one for March!**

We have a very unique program for our March event. Those of you who were at the September meeting learned about an organization called [Welcome Neighbor STL | Community Support Group for Refugees](#) They presented that evening. This organization partners with refugee and immigrant families helping them adapt to their new country through English classes, tutoring, organizing supper clubs/catering events lead by immigrants who provide meals for the community as a way to fundraise.

One of the programs they also offer are to provide cooking classes to outside groups. We as a group, by attending a cooking class, can help them raise some funds for the immigrant/refugee families. **The date for this event will be Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We need to have at least 15 participants and the more we have, the more funds we can provide for the immigrant families so please invite any friends that may be interested as well. The Service committee will select either Afghan, Syrian or Moroccan meal. Additional details will be provided at a later date (cost, time, location)**



## Welcome to our new club member, Valeda Keys!

Hint... You may already know Valeda as she founded Valeda's Hope providing recliners to women and more!

She's a Zonta Club of St. Louis Community Partner!

**Valeda Keys** was recognized as one of the 2019 Women of Achievement, which honors outstanding female volunteers and leaders in the St. Louis community. She was recognized for Health Advocacy. A two-time breast cancer survivor, she is the founder and executive director of Valeda's Hope. This organization is dedicated to increasing awareness of breast cancer through education and early detection, providing mammograms, nurturing services, massages, manicures, physical therapy, emotional therapy, genetic services and recliners for those in need.

But this is just the beginning! Read about her accomplishments and the recognition she has received over the years. Visit her website below!



Visit Valeda's Hope  
Website Here



## Rachelle Reeg

July 10, 1933 - December 15, 2023  
(90 years)

It is with great sadness that we are sharing the news of Rachelle Reeg's passing. Rachelle joined the Zonta Club of St. Louis in 1993 and achieved emeritus status several years ago. She was an engaged and productive club member.

Rachelle was born and raised in the "Hill" section of St. Louis and later lived most of her life in Affton, MO. As a young adult, she pursued a career in education. She became a teacher and eventually an administrator in public and Catholic elementary schools. Later she became the House Manager for the historic Hawken House in Webster Groves. This is where she learned about Questers, a national organization focusing on local historic preservation.

In 1978 Rachelle, and her husband, became members of the Carondelet Y Service Club. Through her service there, the YMCA Book Fair came about. The couple took advantage of the wide international umbrella of the YMCA and travelled to gatherings in the United States and abroad. This experience led to Rachelle becoming the first woman to serve as the President of Y's Men International (1990-91).

As a Zontian, Rachelle served locally, as well as on the district and international level. She was an active advocate in the development of the Zonta Club of St. Louis Undergraduate Student - endowed scholarship with the College of Education at UMSL. She was also instrumental in the Women's Another Chance program being selected as a charity supported by Merchandise Pick-up Service (now Charity Clothing Pick-Up).

I think Rachelle summed it up nicely when she shared this in a Member Spotlight some years ago:

*It is hard to tell when a "new member" becomes an "old member" in Zonta. The time from 1993, when I joined, until now is seamless. The joy of friendships and the value of Zonta service to others have replaced my "calendar thinking" with a kind of continuous self-enrichment.*

**A funeral mass will be held Saturday, 13 January 2024, 10:00 AM at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 5130 Wilson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110, preceded by visitation commencing 9:00 AM. Burial will follow at Resurrection Cemetery, 6901 Mackenzie Rd, St. Louis, MO 63123.**

In lieu of flowers, donations to Gateway Region YMCA (<https://gwrymca.org/donate>) or Peace Through Action USA (<https://peacethroughaction.org/giving>), the social purpose organization founded by Rachelle's son, are encouraged.

Additional information at: <https://kutisfuneralhomes.com/reeg-rachelle-r-nee-ranciglio/>.

# Zontians in *ACTION*!

A Message from Zonta USA



This year, our advocates took more than 4,500 actions to contact their legislators through our Zonta USA Advocacy Center. Though there is still much work to be done, we want to thank you for advocating for women and girls and making your voice heard. Thanks to you, the following laws were passed or moved forward that will make a positive difference in the lives of women in the United States.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you in 2024 to pass even more legislation that protects women and girls. [Click here](#) to see what bills you can immediately take action on.

## In the *NEWS*....

### Senate passes IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act

In November, the Senate unanimously passed the bipartisan IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act (S. 670), which will enhance the Department of Homeland Security's ability to combat human trafficking, allowing survivors of human trafficking to receive improved support and providing law enforcement with more resources to combat these crimes. The bill is now under consideration in the House of Representatives. [Click here to take action](#) and ask your representative to support the bill.



## Three states ended child marriage

There are now 10 states that have eliminated all marriages before the age of 18. In 2023, Vermont, Connecticut and Michigan passed laws to end child marriage.

If you live in one of the 40 states that still allow child marriage, [click here](#) to urge your state officials to pass legislation ending child marriage. According to Unchained At Last, bills that would end marriage before the age of 18 in Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, South Carolina, and Washington are currently pending.

### Overview of Missouri Marriage Age Requirement Laws

The "Show-Me" state previously allowed minors younger than 15 to get married "under special circumstances and for good cause." For example, a 14-year-old girl who is pregnant may meet the "special circumstances" requirement, but also must want to get married for "good cause." If the father is supportive and the marriage is in the best interests of the young family, then the court likely would grant a court order for the marriage license.

In July 2018, Missouri's governor signed a bill raising the minimum age of marriage with parental consent to 16. Applicants under the age of 16 must also obtain a circuit court order. Additionally, the bill prevents anyone 21 or older to marry someone under the age of 18. This [bill went into effect in August 2018](#).

## ZONTA USA... *Sign up for text alerts!*

Text ZONTA to 50457 to get our advocacy alerts via text message and be one of the first to find out when there is a new opportunity. Follow the instructions you receive to complete registration.



*Learn More.... How can you make a difference?*



<https://zontausa.org/>

# Zonta International

## AMELIA EARHART MONTH

**1-31 January 2024**

Each January, Zonta International celebrates the spirit and impact of legendary pilot Amelia Earhart, one of our most famous former members.

## AMELIA EARHART DAY

**11 January 2024**

On Amelia Earhart Day, we commemorate the records she broke on this day in 1935 and celebrate her contributions to the aerospace industry and her empowerment of women in science.

## ZONTA SAYS NOW INTERCONTINENTAL THINK TANK

**18 January 2024**

All members are welcome to join the Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action Intercontinental Think Tank. Come share your ideas and gather inspiration on how we can address Gender-Equal Climate Action NOW

6:00 PM UTC



[Register](#)

## NEW MEMBER MEETING

**18 January 2024**

Are you new to Zonta? Join members of the Zonta Headquarters Team as we welcome you! We will provide a history of Zonta, highlights of the programs we support and tips for the resources available to you. This is also an opportunity to meet longtime members who serve on the International Membership Committee and other new members across the Zonta world.

Session 1 | 9:00 AM CST

[Register](#)

Session 2 | 6:00 PM CST

[Register](#)

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

**24 January 2024**

The International Day of Education celebrates education's role in peace and development. Zonta International believes that education is essential, especially for women and girls.



**SPONSOR A STUDENT TODAY**

**WWW.HACHAITI.ORG**

**NEWSLETTER / OCT 2023 / CROIX-DES-BOUQUETS, HAITI**

### A Grateful Message from Executive Director

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits.

On behalf of the Haitian American Caucus - Haiti, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Your dedication to our programs, the people of Haiti, and the cause we champion is both humbling and inspiring.



Today, I wish to share with you a message of resilience and hope. Haiti remains in a challenging position, marked by ongoing gang violence and insecurity. Yet, in the face of adversity, our remarkable staff and students continue to stand strong, undeterred in their pursuit of education and a brighter future.

I'm delighted to inform you that our school's doors are open once again for the new academic year. Currently, we have **138** students enrolled, and every day, more eager learners trickle in. Today alone, six additional students walked through our doors, demonstrating their unyielding appetite for knowledge. While it's true that our current enrollment falls short of the usual 500+ students we typically have at this time, the fact that our doors remain open amidst the chaos is nothing short of a blessing.

At our core, we live by a motto that emphasizes resilience and unwavering determination: **"Giving up is not an option."** With this guiding principle in mind, we persist in our mission to serve not only our students but also the broader community. We provide clean, safe drinking water and essential services that are crucial for the well-being of the people we serve.

In the face of adversity, your support serves as a beacon of hope, allowing us to press forward in our mission to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the Haitian people. Your commitment empowers us to carry on, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we can continue to light the way in these challenging times and provide a better future for the people of Haiti.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
Samuel Darguin

#### THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:

**SOLES & SOULS**  
ALONG WITH OUR PARTNERS

**B**



Google for Education

**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL

**street**  
BUSINESS SCHOOLS

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### January

- 4th Board Meeting
- 11th Amelia Earhart Day
- 18th Membership Meeting via ZOOM  
Amelia Earhart and STEM
- 18th Zonta Says Now International Think Tank
- 18th New Member Meeting with  
Zonta International
- 24th International Day of Education February

### February

- 1st Board Meeting
- 15th? Membership Meeting TBA

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

### January

- 9th Nancy Schmich
- 11th Lisa Lillie
- 16th Judy Jensen
- 30th Gloria Johnson
- 30th Miriam Schuchardt
- 30th Julia Moss

### February

- 27 Sherri Brown

