

# ZONTA ZEST

## Zonta Club of St. Louis

### President's Message to the Club

Greetings Zontians,

I hope you are well and enjoying respite from the extreme cold. Although the weather has improved, we still have snow mounds and pot holes everywhere. Next month we will celebrate Spring, but in the interim, President's Day, Valentine, and Black History Month are celebrated during the month of February.



In 2024 the Morgan Library & Museum presented a major exhibition devoted to the life and career of its inaugural director, Belle da Costa Greene (1879-1950). Ms. Greene (1883-1950) was one of the most prominent librarians in American history. She was born Belle Marion Greener to African American parents Richard Theodore Greener and Genevieve Ida Fleet Greener in Washington. As a trailblazer Librarian, she developed the collection of J. P. Morgan – now called the Morgan Library & Museum.

The Zonta Club in Jefferson City has asked the St. Louis club to select the winners of their annual Yellow Rose Women of Achievement Award scheduled this spring. Thank you Sharon, Ellen and Norma for assisting in this selection process. In addition, our club has been asked to host the next Area Meeting....details to follow.

Thank you for Building a Better World for Women and Girls, especially in these times of uncertainty.

Your President and sister in Zonta,

Laura Burton



## Board Meeting Updates:

- Ruthi Sturdevant, Area 2 Director, spoke with the board about the upcoming District 7, Area 2 & 4 meeting to be held in St. Louis April 25-26. The theme will be “Taking Care of Ourselves”. They are still working on a venue (Barb Meyer will help). They also need a speaker to address “financial health”.
- Jill has completed the club’s tax return and will be submitting it to the board members for review.
- Finance Committee: the market value of our trust fund was \$1,093,106 as of 1/23/25. Moneta will be rebalancing our funds to meet our strategic investment goals. \$14,000 will be moved from stocks and into fixed income (bonds).
- Service Committee: Reminder about upcoming Alleluia Basket Project.
- Bylaws Committee: Collecting feedback on position descriptions previously sent out to membership. Membership will vote to approve the new descriptions at the February Membership Meeting.
- Yellow Rose Event hosted by the Jefferson City Zonta Club will be in May.
- Membership: Rebecca Girresch was approved to join our club! She attended the service project event at the St. Louis Diaper Bank last month.
- The February Membership Meeting will be held at Moneta - Hybrid Meeting - Cynthia Kirkpatrick will be the guest speaker.

# Membership Meeting

## February 20th



Meet up with fellow Zontian, and club member, **Cynthia Kirkpatrick!** She has been working on a project empowering women. Hear how she explores the stories, struggles and survival tips of successful professional women. Her podcasts are available on many podcast networks and on YouTube.

Join us February 20th  
6:00pm - Fellowship  
Bring Your Own Box Dinner  
6:30pm - Presentation - Cynthia Kirkpatrick  
**SHE LIFT PROJECT**

Moneta Group  
100 S. Brentwood Blvd. Suite 500  
St. Louis, MO 63105

\*There is parking for 20 in the back - Carpool if you can!

Can't drive in? Then ZOOM in!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86413031723?pwd=Koae1C9t6QVZOjUolFk6IP6Jj7UXy.1>

or... Dial In: 646-568-7788

Meeting ID: 864 1303 1723

Passcode: 918451

# Zontians in Action...

## JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT



On **Saturday, January 18th from 12:30-2:30** eleven Zontians sorted period kits to get them ready for their community sponsors at their warehouse. Those in attendance were Jill Cooper, Laura Burton, Edith Holmes, Stacy Donovan, Bea Girresch, Ellen Embry, Sherry Brooks, Mary D'Angelo, Sue Elbogen, Judy Jensen, and Peggy Gilbertson. Time went by fast as we were having fun catching up with each other while sorting.



# Zontians in Action...

## FEBRUARY SERVICE PROJECT

The Alleluia Baskets organization provides Easter Baskets for underprivileged families.

We volunteered for them last year!

Their website is [www.alleluiabaskets.org](http://www.alleluiabaskets.org) to learn more about the organization.

**Monday**

**February 17th**

**10:00 am**

**1016 Rock Creek Elementary Dr.**

**O'Fallon, MO 63366**

**(Lower Level, First Brick Building on the Right)**

We will be assembling baskets which will be distributed at Easter by various non-profit organizations. We can have up to 12 volunteers. There are many good places to lunch locally afterwards for those interested in doing so.

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

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



**alleluia baskets**  
providing joy



## **Married Young: The Fight Over Child Marriage in America**

FRONTLINE, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 by [Anjali Tsui](#)

(This article was written before Missouri put age limits on marriage in 2018 but has relevant information as to issues and the story of a child bride.)

### **Missouri State Lawmakers Are Working Again to Ban Child Marriage In Missouri**

A Senate committee on Jan. 29, 2025, heard legislation to completely ban child marriage in Missouri. A similar bill (SB767) passed the Senate 31-1 last year but died for lack of action in the House of Representatives after leaders didn't bring it up for a final vote during the closing hours of the 2024 legislative session.

[Senate Bill 66](#) would set the minimum age for obtaining a marriage license at 18, up from the current minimum of 16 (which requires parental approval). Until 2018, Missouri law allowed children as young as 15 to marry if they had parental permission, with even younger kids able to marry with judicial approval.

Before lawmakers raised the marriage age in 2018, Missouri's permissive law gave the state an unwelcome reputation as a haven for child marriage. Supporters of SB 66 say it would close the remaining loophole in the law to finally end child marriage in the state. The Senate Families, Seniors and Health Committee took no immediate action on the bill, which is again expected to enjoy widespread bipartisan support.

**Show your support by contacting your State Legislators**

**[Legislator Lookup](#)**



**Zonta International District 7**

**Area 2 and Area 4 Meeting**

**April 25-26**

**St. Louis, MO**

**More information coming soon!!**



**Yellow Rose Luncheon**

Sponsored by the Zonta  
Club of Jefferson City

Coming up soon - its  
usually in May

More information coming  
soon!

## Area Women with Grit: Barbara Gross Mertz

As the Canton Area Heritage Center began researching Notable Women of the Canton Area, we turned to our library for help in identifying **writers**, as the 2023 theme was “**Honoring Those Who Tell Our Stories.**”

**Barbara Gross Mertz** was the writer we chose. Barbara Gross was born in Canton, IL, on September 29, 1927. Her father was a typesetter and her mother, an elementary school teacher. The family left the area when her father was hired in Springfield, IL, and later, Oak Park. Barbara graduated from Oak Park Township High School and attended the University of Chicago. After completing her BA in 1947 at the age of 20, she went on to earn a PhD in Egyptology from the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago in 1952 at the age of 25.

Dr. Mertz researched and published a non-fiction book, *“Temples, Tombs & Hieroglyphs: A Popular History of Ancient Egypt,”* in 1964. She turned next to writing mystery novels; the first book in the series of 20 books was *“Crocodile on the Sandbank.”* Mertz separated her academic work from fiction-writing by assuming the pseudonym of Elizabeth Peters. The fictional series is instructive, depicting Ancient Egyptian mythologies and archeological best practices, while engaging readers in solving mysteries.

Mertz was an Egyptologist who wasn’t hired in the career she loved, but she leaned on her knowledge of Egypt to write fictional stories. Mertz also used the pen name of Barbara Michaels, authoring over 70 books and a number of short stories at the time of her death.

She was a long-time member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *KMT: A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt*. Hood College, in Frederick, MD, where Dr. Mertz lived while raising two children, still awards the Elizabeth Peters-Barbara Michaels Scholarship to students with excellence in writing, which she established in 1990.

Barbara Mertz. Born September 29, 1927, Canton, IL. Died, August 13, 2013 (aged 85), Frederick, MD.

Cheryl Bielema  
Programs Committee Chair





# NORTH AMERICAN INTER DISTRICT MEETING NAIDM, INC.



*Ignite Your Passion*

**June 20-22, 2025**

**Novi, Mi**

**Hosted by Zonta District 15**

Zonta District 15 invites you to the 2025 North American Inter-District Meeting in Novi, Michigan June 20-22. There are many reasons you should attend, starting with the great educational opportunities here for you. You can choose from four workshop tracks that feature four workshops each, so you have 16 to choose from! We will also have two keynote speakers that will move and inspire you along with lots of time to network with Zontians from around North America and the world. The Zonta International board will be in attendance and will share updates on the board activities, international projects and more. On Friday we will also have two longer sessions on programs to end Human Trafficking and Climate Justice, a hands-on service project and fun summer camp activities that you won't want to miss!

OK – so you're inspired to come to NAIDM, now, why should you add a day or three to explore Michigan? First, it's a beautiful state with over 11,000 inland lakes and four out of the five Great Lakes! Second, there's a lot to do and see! From the Motown Museum to the Rouge Truck Factory to the famed Detroit Institute of Art there's a tour that's sure to interest you. Looking to go a little further away from Novi, take a day trip to Frankenmuth for a trip to Bavaria and stop at Bronner's everything Christmas all year round or take a few days and drive up to Mackinaw Island, its classic Michigan.

We look forward to seeing you in June!

Gail Johnson

Zonta District 15 Governor

Cindy Vickery

Zonta District 15 Lt. Governor and NAIDM Host Chair

**Registration**



A LEADERSHIP SERIES BY  
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

# REMARKABLE WOMEN POWERFUL STORIES

## JOANNA MARANHÃO



**Brazilian Olympian**

**Network Coordinator at the  
Sport and Rights Alliance**



### REMARKABLE OLYMPIAN AND SURVIVOR SHARES HER POWERFUL STORY

Posted on 1/30/2025

Olympian Joanna Maranhão leads the Athletes Network for Safer Sports and championed the Joanna Maranhão Law, which extends Brazil's statute of limitations for child sexual abuse survivors. Read her powerful story today.



## Commission on the Status of Women 69th annual meeting

2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women, and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action. To commemorate this important year, the Zonta International UN Committee is hosting a series of 12 weekly Conversation Circles from November to February, each covering one of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action.

Join us in the lead up to the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting which will take place March 10-21, 2025

*Are you interested in learning more? Visit the [CSW website](#) to access resources, materials and recordings. Grounds pass applications are also available now. See how you can become a participant in CSW69!*

# CONVERSATION CIRCLES

Feb. 12th Women and the Environment

Feb. 19th The Girl Child

Sign up for a Conversation Circle leading up to CSW69 on the ZI website in the Events section:

[Link to ZI Events](#)

# Zonta International

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

**11 February 2025**

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science was established in 2015 to help achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls, and further achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

## WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

**20 February 2025**

The World Day of Social Justice recognizes the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, gender inequality, human rights and more.

## ADVOCACY WEBINAR SERIES - A CLOSER LOOK AT ZONTA SAYS NOW

**25 February 2025**

Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action is a movement to focus on climate justice at international, national and local levels. Have you wondered about this campaign and how it aligns with Zonta International's Strategic Plan and biennial goals? Would you like an inside look at the campaign with the global working group? Join us for a panel discussion with the Zonta Says NOW Working Group about how the campaign strengthens Zonta International's efforts to build a better world for women and girls.

**12:00 AM CST**

**Register**



Future Zontians making blankets used for incubator covers in the Special Care Nursery at St. Luke's Hospital!

Thank you again for your generosity in meeting this need and giving students a chance to complete community volunteer credits. It's a win-win!!





KENDRA SCOTT

## Remember our Kendra Scott event in December?

Well.... Our efforts are paying off!

We will receive a donation from Kendra Scott in the amount of \$455.42!

This will go into our trust to help fund the Women's Another Chance program.



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
CAPE GIRARDEAU

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## For the Love of Zonta FUNdraiser

Get your tickets now! Join us Saturday, February 22, at Deerfield Lodge in Cape Girardeau for "For the Love of Zonta"! This special fundraiser is the perfect evening for our members and their friends to gather and celebrate while supporting a great cause.

Enjoy:

- Wine & bourbon tastings
- Delectable hors d'oeuvres and desserts
- Live music
- Exciting raffles

Don't miss this incredible night! Contact Dr. Jan at 573-270-4408 for additional information and to get your tickets today.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### February

20th Hybrid Membership Meeting at Moneta  
and on ZOOM  
Hosted by the PR Committee

### March

6th Board Meeting - ZOOM  
20th Membership Meeting  
Hosted by the Membership Committee  
Location TBA

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

### February

27th Sherri Brown

### March

3rd Gerda Thalheimer

4th Sandra Cornell

6th Linda White

28th Kathleen Braun

