

ZONTA ZEST

Zonta Club of St. Louis

President's Message to the Club

Dear Zonta Sisters,

As the year draws to a close and the festive spirit fills the air, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we have shared together. December is not only a time for celebration and gratitude—it is also an opportunity to recognize the power of our collective action, which has truly been the heartbeat of the Zonta Club of St. Louis this year.

Our Centennial Event was a shining example of what happens when we come together with passion and purpose. The energy, ideas, and dedication that each of you brought—whether you were planning behind the scenes, lending your voice at meetings, or welcoming our guests—made this milestone not just a celebration of our past, but a strong step forward into our next century of service.

I am especially inspired by the way our new members — Mezzy Alexander, Staycee Dixson, Bee Girresch, and Jessica Rivas-Middleton — have jumped right in with fresh enthusiasm, and how our longstanding members have guided and encouraged them along the way. The blend of experience and new perspectives has been truly powerful. This collaboration is the essence of what makes our club so unique and effective.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the 100 Year Anniversary Committee, whose dedication and vision made our centennial celebration truly unforgettable. Their months of planning, creativity, and hard work ensured that every detail honored our rich history and brought our community together in meaningful ways. Members of the committee include Ellen Embry, Debbie Richmond, Barb Meyer, Kay Moss, Norma Nisbet, Sharon Hales, Peggy Gilbertson, Kathleen Braun, Laura Burton, Judy Jensen, Staycee Dixson, and Jill Cooper.

As we look ahead to the new year, let's carry forward this spirit of unity and action. Be on the lookout for ways you can contribute to further centennial events and projects. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and for making the Zonta Club of St. Louis a community where every member can make a lasting impact.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a bright New Year!

With Zonta spirit,

Stacy Donovan

President, Zonta Club of St. Louis





December Board Meeting Updates:

- Total Fundraising income from the club birthday celebration at RUNG was \$24,530.56. Expenses were \$4,021.32.
- Several attendees at the event asked to be included in our club mailing list.
- A “wrap up” meeting focused on the event is to be scheduled in the near future.
- The Holiday Party is coming up Thursday, December 11th. Stacy is creating a RSVP link to help organize attendance and identify who is bringing what.
- Discussion on improving the club website ensued with the possibility of someone taking over the website and social media work and creating a repository for pictures and information on a GOOGLE Drive.
- The STEM Committee has selected 2 awardees for the Women in STEM Award. Watch for more information in January's ZEST.
- The Community Grants Committee awarded \$5,000 to Girls in the Know



Zonta Club Holiday Party

Zonta Sisters,

It's that special time of year to come together and celebrate at the annual **Zonta holiday party, Thursday, December 11**. This year, Judy Jensen is hosting the event at her home. Even more special is that we will be inducting our newest member, Staycee Dixson!

Judy is providing Chicken Tetrazzini and Caesar Salad.

Feel free to contribute appetizers or desserts in celebration - just add what you are bringing next to your name when you RSVP, so that others can see the dishes. RSVP link is below.

❄️ Bring Winter Hats and Gloves to be Donated to Charity ❄️

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

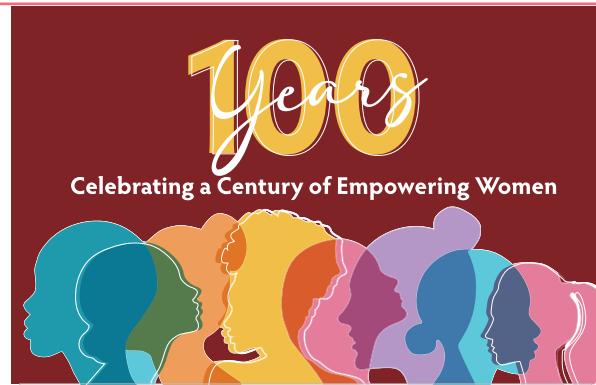
Location: [8 Big Country Circle Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368 - Bing Maps](#)

RSVP by: Wednesday, December 10th using this link: <https://www.easy-rsvp.com/DyuAE7-december-zonta-holiday-meeting>

Event Contact: Judy Jensen thequiltinggolfer@outlook.com or 636-734-1987

If you need a ride, please let me know!

Stacy



**LOOKING BACK AND TO THE FUTURE
Celebrating a Century of Empowering Women**



Our Club's Birthday Celebration in November was a huge success. We had over 100 attendees and created relationships that will carry over into the future. Several attendees asked to be included in our mailing list!

A BIG Thank You to all of our Partners and Sponsors and Club Members that donated their time and energy to make this a successful event!

Thank You

to our Partners & Sponsors



MONETA Renaissance Financial



Jason & Stacy Donovan
Norm & Laura Eaker
Sam Zelch & Ken Jenkins, Jr.

Laura Eaker
Sherri Brown
Laura Burton
Peggy Gilbertson

Audrey Branson Photography
Brett Belpulsi
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Julie Quevreaux



Thank You

to our Partners & Sponsors

Jill Cooper
Debbie Redmond
Cheryl Bielema
Linda White
Judy Jensen
Polly Holten
Ruthi Sturdevant
Christine Frederick
Kathleen Quinn
Sharon Hales



Zontians in ACTION!



Several club members braved the cold to “ring bells” collecting for the Salvation Army.

Our club donates \$1,000 annually to the campaign.

Did you know...

- Club contributions in the late 1940s included donations to the Salvation Army Building Fund.
- In 1974 the Salvation Army’s Rehabilitation Program for Alcoholic Women became a major club service project.
- The Salvation Army’s Women’s Treatment Unit at Harbor House was the main focus of the 1980s club.



FUN “Bell Ringing” FACTS:

The Zonta Club of St. Louis has been ringing bells for the Salvation Army since 1952. We only missed one year during Covid - the Salvation Army severely cut back on bell ringing that year.

The Zonta Club of St. Louis was the 1st women’s organization to win the Tree of Lights campaign Grand Championship Award.

They also won the Reserve Grand Champion Award for having collected the most money in the women’s division in 1974.

Zontians in ACTION!



**2025
ANNUAL
DINNER**



Zontians in ACTION!



Stacy's home was "donation bombed" AGAIN! The Women's Safe House is partnering with the ZONTA Club of St. Louis to support the Women's Another Chance program. They donate their excess to us! This is the second time Stacy's home has been the donation collection site for pickup. ***Thank you Ellen, Sue and Stacy for your efforts in picking up the latest donation and getting it ready for pickup!***

The Women's Safe House mission is to empower women and families to rebuild their lives free of domestic and sexual abuse through emergency services, education and advocacy.



St. Louis, MO
<https://twsh.org>



Malaika Horne

- Served as a volunteer researcher alongside her sister, Gwen Moore, to help curate the exhibit at the Missouri History Museum called *Mill Creek: Black Metropolis*. The exhibit is open now through July 12, 2026. I know several of our members have recently attended and know it's getting great reviews (NY Times - I requested this and will share for anyone interested).

More information about the exhibit can be found here: [Mill Creek: Black Metropolis | Missouri History Museum](https://www.mohistory.org/exhibits/mill-creek-black-metropolis)

Debbie Redmond

- Wrote and published an article in the Gateway Magazine on the history of the YMCA called *Somewhere to Belong*.
- Visit the History Museum to request a copy of Gateway Magazine at the Museum Gift Shop.
- If club members are interested, we can request a tour provided we have 10 or more in a group. Contact [Stacy Donovan](mailto:Stacy.Donovan@zonta.org).

January is Amelia Earhart Celebration Month!

Celebrate by joining the Amelia Earhart Book Club sponsored by the STEM Committee!



Hidden Figures

by Margot Lee Shetterly.

We will have our next Book Club Meeting:

January 19th

6:00pm

Linda White hosting
6518 Colleen Avenue
Affton, MO 63123

RSVP with Linda at

lindawhite.stl@gmail.com

Reading the book is highly encouraged but not a requirement to attend:)



JULY 11th - 14th

Registration is OPEN!

- * Early Bird Registration ends March 15th**
- * Discount Code Available on Air Canada Flights**
- * Register for Fun Side Trips and Activities**

**Learn more about Convention
2026**

See what awaits you in Vancouver!

Check Out the tours and activities
that are available!

www.zontaconvention.com



KEYNOTE SPEAKER at CONVENTION

SALLY ARMSTRONG

Sally Armstrong is a renowned journalist, humanitarian and author who has covered conflicts worldwide, from Bosnia to Somalia, Congo to Afghanistan, Iraq to Guatemala.

Armstrong claims a new world is dawning for every mother's daughter worldwide. In February 2024, the new book called **OUTSPOKEN** by Dr Sima Samar, with Sally Armstrong, tells the story of what happened in Afghanistan and to Afghan women – the betrayals, the backroom deals, the shenanigans. Dr. Samar's life as an Afghan woman proves that women are the way forward.



Sally's speeches on the complexities of conflict provide her audiences with valuable insights and the part each of us plays in seeking peace. Sally Armstrong, renowned as the global war correspondent focused on women's issues, delivers riveting firsthand accounts from conflict zones worldwide. Sally Armstrong's compelling storytelling emerges from close interactions with people facing severe adversity in crisis. Her firsthand reports captivate audiences, evoking strong emotional responses that range from shock and tears to laughter and inspiration.

Sally Armstrong is a four-time Amnesty International Canada Media Award winner and a former member of the International Women's Commission at the UN. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada and has received 11 honorary doctorate degrees and one honorary diploma. She is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Women of Influence.

She was named the Massey Lecturer in 2019; the five lectures broadcast across Canada were based on her book *Power Shift: The Longest Revolution*. She also delivered the Judy LaMarsh Lecture at Victoria College/ University of Toronto. She holds a Bachelor of Education degree from McGill University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Toronto.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER at CONVENTION

MELINA LABOUCAN-MASSIMO

Melina Laboucan-Massimo is Lubicon Cree and was born in her community of Little Buffalo, Northern Alberta. Melina has worked on social, environmental and climate justice issues for the past 20 years.

She is the founder of Sacred Earth, co-founder of Indigenous Climate Action, and the inaugural Indigenous Research Fellow at the David Suzuki Foundation, where her research focused on climate change, Indigenous knowledge, and renewable energy.



Melina holds a master's degree in Indigenous Governance with a focus on energy transition from the University of Victoria and has been involved in Indigenous media making since 2004. She hosts the TV series, *Power to the People*, which profiles sustainable climate solutions from renewable energy and food security to eco-housing in Indigenous communities across Canada, currently airing in Canada on The Weather Network, the Knowledge Network, the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, SBS Australia and FNX in the United States.

She has written for a variety of publications and produced numerous short films on climate change, environmental justice, just transition, water issues, energy sovereignty, MMIWG2S and Indigenous cultural revitalization. Melina's most recent publication of her research and work is *The Just Transition Guide - Indigenous-led Pathways Toward Equitable Climate Solutions and Resiliency in the Climate Crisis*.

Melina has studied, campaigned and worked in Brazil, Australia, Mexico, Canada and across Europe, focusing on environmental justice, resource extraction, climate change impacts, media literacy and Indigenous rights and responsibilities. Melina has campaigned to build sustainable futures alongside icons such as Jane Fonda, Mark Ruffalo, Naomi Klein, David Suzuki and Bill McKibben. She has been invited to speak before hundreds of audiences over the years, including the U.S. Congress, the Harvard Law Forum, British Parliament, CTV's *The Social*, National Geographic, Sustainable Production Forum and numerous universities and international organizations like Friends of the Earth and Amnesty International, while campaigning globally for environmental and climate justice.

Melina has also worked on the issue of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women since 2013, after the suspicious death of her sister Bella, whose case remains unsolved in Toronto.

Melina has served as a board director with NDN Collective, the David Suzuki Foundation, 350.org and the national steering committee of Indigenous Clean Energy, as well as on advisory panels with the Canadian Climate Institute, the Indigenous Leadership Fund and Environmental Climate Change Canada.

In 2021, Melina was named one of the 26 Climate Champions in Canada by the Canada Climate Law Initiative. She received the Canadian Eco-Hero Award in 2019 from Planet in Focus and has been profiled and recognized for her work over the years in Elle magazine, CNN, Global Citizen, Chatelaine, Flare, CBC, Earth.org, 350.org and Refinery29.

Zonta International



ZONTA SAYS NO
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
ONLINE SUMMIT

10 DEC 2025

REGISTER TODAY

www.zontasaysno.com/online-summit/

ZONTA SAYS NO VIRTUAL SUMMIT

10 December 2025

On Wednesday, 10 December, join Zonta International for three engaging and inspiring sessions throughout the day. The Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women 2025 Summit's focus is on the critical role of male allies in preventing and addressing gender-based violence (GBV). The Summit will highlight how men can leverage their influence to challenge harmful social norms, advocate for cultural change, and create safer communities, and how women can engage men as allies in their efforts to end violence against women and girls. Across three sessions, participants will hear from global experts, showcasing innovative approaches to allyship, including partnerships with local organizations, creative storytelling, and youth engagement.

Three-tiered pricing: US\$25 for general admission; US\$20 for members; US\$10 for students.



GET YOUR TICKETS
NOW!

Recordings of all sessions will
be available for everyone who
purchases a ticket.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

10 December 2025

Zonta International commemorates Human Rights Day, which marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. Zonta International uses this day to reaffirm its commitment to human rights, particularly the rights of women and girls, and to advocate for gender equality and the end of violence against women.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

December

- 4th Board Meeting
- 11th Christmas Party at Judy Jensen's

January

- 8th Board Meeting
- 15th Membership Meeting
- 19th STEM Committee
- Amelia Earhart Book Club MTG
- Linda White's House

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

December

- 24th Genevieve Gibson-Newman
- 26th Uma Eachempati
- 27th Jill Cooper

January

- 9th Nancy Schmich
- 16th Judy Jensen
- 30th Gloria Johnson
- 30th Miriam Schuchardt

