NOVEMBER 2026

ZONTA ZEST

Zonta Club of St. Louis

President's Message to the Club

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect and be grateful in all that we have been able to accomplish. Over the last 12 months, we celebrated an incredible milestone: our club's 100th year! We marked our Zonta Centennial Celebration with a wonderful gathering at RUNG where we honored others in the community for their work empowering women.

Our June picnic honoring the Women's Another Chance (WAC) students and other Zonta Award winners was truly touching—moments like these are the exact reason we keep our club going.

We also extended our reach through our community grants program, benefiting several like-minded organizations including the YMCA/STEM initiative, IHELP, Hope Ignites, and Archway Refugee Connections.

For those who love "hands-on" experiences, our service committee organized a fantastic lineup of activities. Together, we:

- Participated in the Valeda's Hope Walk/Run
- Volunteered to help at the Gateway Alliance Against Human Trafficking Annual Dinner
- Rang bells for the Salvation Army
- Assisted The Women's Safe House by organizing their shop and carting away excess inventory
- Crafted Easter baskets with Alleluia Baskets
- Weeded the gardens at RUNG
- Sorted diapers at the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank

We proudly supported Zonta International by actively participating in the convention this year. Our club's votes were cast to back vital programs that we believe will most effectively uplift and empower women worldwide.

We have so much to be thankful for as we look back over the last 12 months. I am profoundly grateful for our active and dedicated club members. Through several outstanding meetings over the past year, we have proudly celebrated Zonta's enduring impact both here at home and across the globe.

Lets Celebrate!

Stacy Donovan
President

November Board Meeting Updates:

- The November Membership Meeting will be a Potluck style luncheon celebrating friendship and Founder's Day!
- We currently have 4 WAC students and are adding one more for the Spring semester.
- We completed an annual audit and rest assured, we are keeping good financial records. The tax return is in process.
- Three Zonta applicants were approved for membership.
- Statem!nt St. Louis would like to partner with us in a March "pop-up" activity. State!mt St. Louis sponsors Pop-Up consignment shops. Sometimes vendors want to donate the leftovers… Women's Another Chance will benefit!
- Jill will set up a Salvation Bell Ringing activity - watch for more information coming!
- The Zonta SLU endowment fund is about out of $. Slu reached out to see if we would like to reinvest or get involved in any other way. The sentiment going forward is to advertise our ZI scholarship opportunities that students may apply to.
- The "new" scholarship central application process is going live. They changed over to a new program which will be user friendly and can utilize ZI applications to apply.
- Community grants reports that 5 organizations have applied for funds this funding session. The committee will be reviewing all the applications later this month.

ZONTA®
CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

Friendsgiving Potluck & Founders Day Celebration

Let's Celebrate Friendship, Gratitude & the Power of Women!

with **Zonta Zingo!**
Bingo with a Musical Twist!

*A fun way to celebrate Zonta, our **107-year legacy**, and the women who paved the way!*

Saturday, November 14, 2026
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Fellowship of Praise
13169 Tesson Ferry Road
St. Louis, MO 63128

Friendsgiving Potluck

Bring a favorite dish to share!

Christmas Service Project: WAC Children's Christmas Baskets

Bring gifts to the November gathering or arrange pickup on December 4. See the November ZEST for gift suggestions.

Finding the Fellowship Hall

IMPORTANT: We are meeting in the fellowship hall behind the church.

- Turn at the traffic signal in front of Fellowship of Praise.
- Take an immediate left.
- Follow the road up the hill to an open gate.
- Turn right. The large fellowship hall building will be ahead.

RSVP Today!

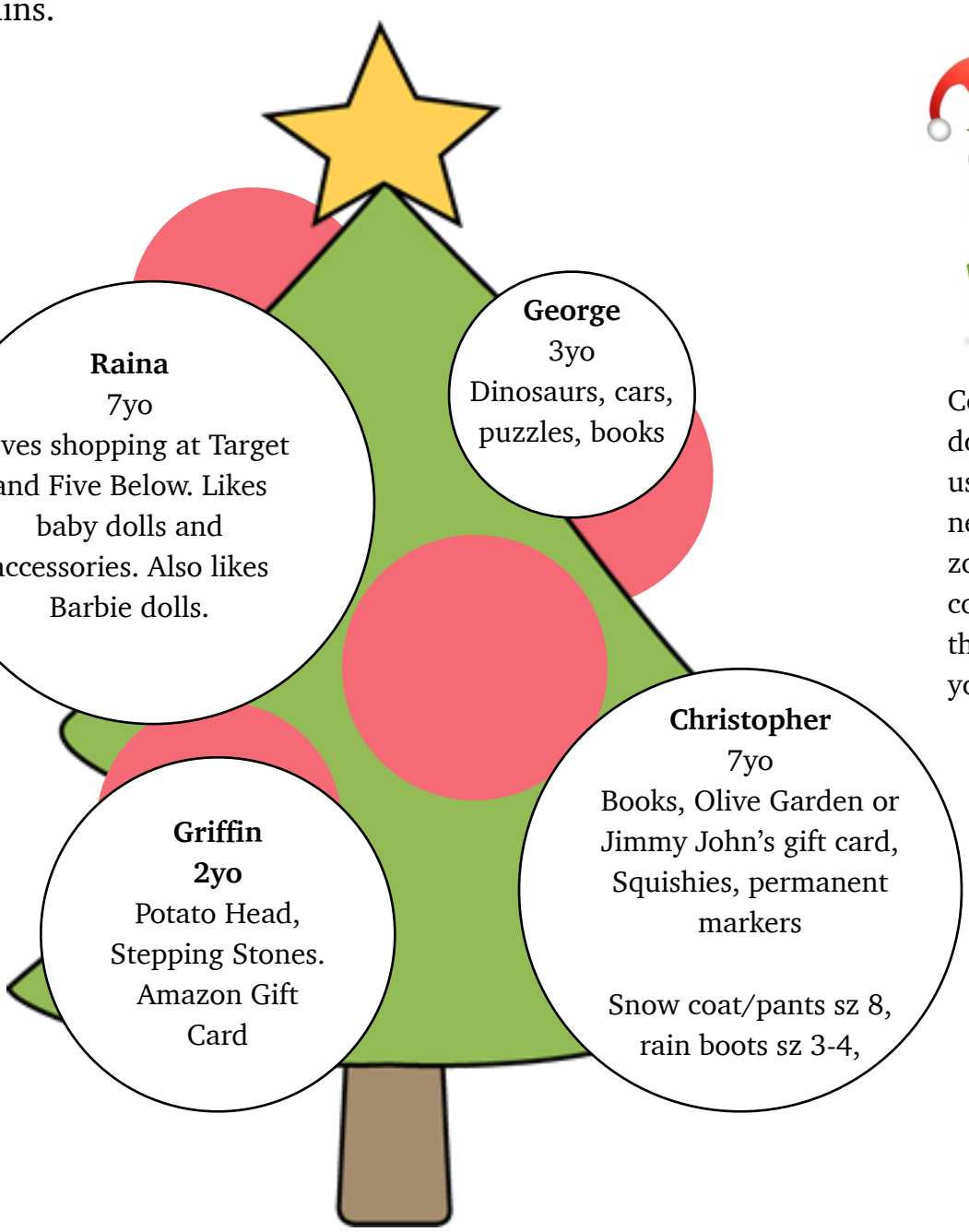
*Please **RSVP using the link and include your guests** and the dish you plan to bring.*

Need a ride? Let Ellen Embry know if you'd like to carpool! | Text or call 202.697.1704.

Zontians in *ACTION*

Christmas Service Project: WAC Children's Christmas Baskets

Help us spread some holiday cheer! We are collecting Christmas gifts for the children of our WAC students. **You are welcome to bring your gifts to our November gathering,** or we can arrange to pick them up from your home on December 4th. Gift donations should be unwrapped or marked so that we know what the package contains.



Consider a cash donation that can use to purchase needed items - a zontian gift concierge can do the shopping for you!

December Membership Meeting

Holiday Party

Save the Date!

Saturday, December 12th

Watch for additional information coming soon!

Learn More Here!
Register to Attend!!

Hello,

As the new Executive Director for Gateway Alliance Against Human Trafficking, I am so excited to continue the tradition of our biggest fundraiser, the Annual Dinner, with this year's theme being **Shades of Hope**.

Thank you so much for joining us at last year's event. Your support meant so much to us, and we're thrilled to invite you back for another special evening!

Registration is officially open for our 2026 Annual Dinner, **Shades of Hope**, happening on **November 20th, from 5:30–9:30 PM**, at a beautiful new venue: **The Reverie** in Chesterfield, located right next to The Factory in The District. The evening will include a seated dinner, awards, guest speakers, and a silent auction, all in support of GAHT's mission to prevent human trafficking and protect our community.

You can register here: **givebutter.com/gahtdinner26**

We loved having you with us last year, and we'd be honored to have you join us again as we continue this important work together. Seats tend to fill up quickly, so we encourage you to register early!

If you have any questions or would like to explore sponsorship opportunities as well, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We hope to see you there!

Katie Dalton, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director
Gateway Alliance Against Human Trafficking
kd@gahtmo.org | (636) 515-6919

Volunteer Opportunity!

Join our club by supporting this great cause. They will definitely need volunteers to help set up, run the event, and take down.

If you can help with this event, please let me know and mark your calendars.

Contact: Sue Swinger-Ellbogen
ssellbogen@gmail.com

Zonta International

VOTE TO AMEND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION Q&A

9 November 2026

An upcoming vote to amend the Zonta International Articles of Incorporation will take place online 14-17 December 2026. President Fernanda and Executive Director Megan will hold two Q&A sessions to answer any questions members have about this vote. Click below to register.

Register

8:00 AM

Register

3:00 PM

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

19 November 2026

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 from around the world.

Register

9:00 AM

Register

6:00 PM

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

25 November 2026

Zonta International observes International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is dedicated to raising awareness and taking action against gender-based violence.

ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN/ 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

25 November - 10 December 2026

The Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign is a platform throughout the year for Zontians to speak up to promote the human rights of women and girls and end gender-based violence.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE

27 November 2026

Zonta International observes the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage, which is dedicated to raising global awareness and accelerating efforts to end the practice of child marriage.

Join us in a one-hour virtual convening bringing together government, civil society and international advocates to discuss the global state of child marriage and the action needed to end it.

The event will highlight Zonta International's longstanding commitment to ending child marriage, including its current partnership with UNFPA and UNICEF through the Global Programme to End Child Marriage. The conversation will also feature country leadership in advancing the new International Day and its experience strengthening legal and community action to protect girls.

Register

10:00 AM

The world is making inroads against **child marriage**, with an acceleration of progress in the past 10 years. By 2030, the world's target is to eliminate the practice, but reaching this goal will require coordinated action and additional investment. To end child marriage by 2030, progress must be 17 times faster than the progress of the last decade.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

10 December 2026

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.

ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VIRTUAL SUMMIT

10 December 2026

Join Zonta International for three thought-provoking and engaging sessions examining the experiences of women in conflict and the critical role of women peacebuilders in shaping pathways toward peace.

The Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women 2026 Summit will explore how conflict, war and political instability affect women and girls in distinct and often disproportionate ways. At the same time, the Summit will move beyond narratives of victimhood to recognize women as agents of change—leaders, advocates and peacebuilders working to transform their communities and contribute to more sustainable and inclusive peace.

Across three sessions, participants will hear directly from women and experts with experiences from conflict-affected contexts, including Ukraine, Afghanistan and other regions around the world. The program will feature:

- A keynote address offering a deeply personal perspective on navigating conflict and its consequences, presented in an intimate, TED Talk-style format.
- A global panel discussion bringing together diverse voices to examine the gendered dimensions of conflict, the realities facing women in affected communities and the contributions of women peacebuilders.
- An artistic interactive session creating an opportunity for participants to engage with the themes of the Summit through reflection, creativity and shared expression.

Together, these sessions will examine the complex relationship between conflict, gender-based violence and peacebuilding while creating space for dialogue about the role of women's leadership in building more peaceful and equitable societies.

Participants will be invited not only to listen, but to reflect on how advocacy, solidarity and collective action can contribute to advancing women's rights and strengthening efforts to prevent and address violence against women and girls.

Register

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

November

5th Board Meeting
14th Saturday Membership Meeting
"Friendsgiving"
Founder's Day Celebration
Zonta Zingo
20th Gateway Alliance Against Human Trafficking Annual Fundraiser Dinner "Shades of Hope"

December

3rd Zonta Board Meeting
12th Zonta Holiday Party

RECENT AND UPCOMING CLUB BIRTHDAYS

November

7th Jessica Rivas-Middleton
9th Sharon Hales
12th Mary D'Angelo
16th Aslihan Vuruskan
17th Betty Davidson
18th Cynthia Kirkpatrick
24th Peggy Gilbertson
25th Malaika Horne
27th Laura Burton
28th Ellen Embry

December

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