

Zonta Club of Harrisburg-Hershey

January 2022 Newsletter



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hope you all had a blessed holiday season and are ready for the New Year!!

Our Club has some great things planned for this upcoming year. There are great speakers who will be educating us on the environment, health, Amelia Earhart, and more. The IFP Luncheon is scheduled in March!! In May we will be presenting grants to three recipients!

As a reminder, January is Amelia Earhart month, with AE Day being January 11th. ZI celebrates Amelia Earhart’s trailblazing spirit and legacy each January. Watch for information on the ZI Website during the month of January on our most famous Zontian, Amelia Earhart.

On another note, January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. You can visit www.stoppingtraffic.org/facts for some great human trafficking facts, statistics, and more.

Wishing you and your families health, happiness, and blessings for the 2022 New Year!

Cheers,
Amy



Meetings and Events – Upcoming plans

New or changed items.

	<i>Zoom meetings unless otherwise noted</i>
January 2022	
Thursday, 6 th , 7:30pm	Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 13 th 5:45pm Social, 6pm Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting - Amelia Earhart and Zonta; Joanne Gallos and Climate Change as a Gender Equality Issue; new member installations
Saturday, 22 nd , 9:00am	Member Orientation; contact Alice or Kathy for Zoom details if you didn’t get it in an email
February 2022	
Thursday, 3 rd , 7:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 10 th 5:45pm Social, 6pm Meeting	Monthly Membership Meeting – Dr. Lorraine Beck, Immediate Past President of PA State Nurse Practitioners
March 2022	
Tuesday 8 th , 11am – 2pm	International Fellows Program – Carlisle War College

January 2022 Membership Meeting Speaker



Joanne Gallos is no stranger to the Zonta Club of Harrisburg-Hershey. She has participated in many of our club's activities: Golden Z Club induction, club anniversaries, Amelia Earhart tributes, fund raising events, and many service and advocacy projects. Annually Joanne has attended our Pennsylvania State Capitol Zonta Says No Campaign, giving brief talks when requested, including one on climate in 2015 which encompassed our Say No Actions under a climate umbrella. Joanne joined Zonta in 2003, as a member of the Washington DC club while working in DC, and later transferred to her hometown club, Annapolis. She was the District 3 Governor (2018-2020), Lt. Governor (2016-2018), and Area Director (2014-2016). She is currently the chairman in charge of Climate for the District, and advocacy co-chair for Annapolis. Joanne retired as a Vice President of Computer Training and Software for Geotronics Corporation, and along with her passion for Zonta, loves being with friends and family, reading, singing, and traveling.

The impact of climate change is a human rights issue that disproportionately affects women and girls. Zonta International is not an environmental or disaster relief organization; however, as an organization pledged to promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and especially women's and girls' rights as human rights, is adding its voice to affirm that climate change requires swift and decisive actions and the time for such actions is now. Joanne will help us understand the issue and Zonta's focus on it.



Membership and Social Media Corner

We would like to welcome Zozan Kucukaydin to our membership this month. We will conduct a short induction ceremony during the January meeting. Please join me in welcoming Zozan to our Zonta Club family.



We now have 31 members. Please see the updated membership list sent to us on 12/17/21 from Deb Crum.

The new member Orientation will be held on Saturday, January 22nd from 9:00 am to Noon. Alice Kirchner will conduct the training via Zoom. Please mark your calendars to attend. Everyone is welcome. It is a good refresher for all members. Please contact me if interested at kgates808@comcast.net.



Congratulations was extended to Zonta Club President, Amy Peffley at the December Zoom meeting for her dedicated service, most recently with the work she did creating the signs held by the participants at the Zonta Says NO Rally.

Remember we are in the midst of a Membership Drive. Please reach out to your colleagues and business associates who have expressed an interest in empowering women and invite them to attend our January Zoom meeting. Let's all take part in this important event for the sustainability of our club.

It was great to see everyone on the Zoom meeting on December 9th; 22 members and five guests joined us.

In the December newsletter, did you **Guess Who** said.... “I have stood on the top of the Golden Gate Bridge.... twice”.



It was Shannon Hackman. She said her Aunt, now retired, worked for the Golden Gate Bridge and employees got passes to stand on the top of the bridge. She had taken Shannon up twice. You enter a small elevator, only big enough for 2 people, that is inside one of the beams. After the elevator ride, you have to climb up a crawl space ladder to get out on the very top. You can look down and see the traffic 500 feet below you or the shark infested water 700 feet below.



Guess Who? For January! You might be surprised to learn that “I love to zip-line! I’ve had the opportunity to zip line in the Smokie Mountains and Belize”.

We hope that you are enjoying these bits of information from our members. If you have not yet submitted something for this column, please contact Kathy Gates at kgates808@comcast.net.

Social Media

Did you know that for those of you who are not using Facebook, the last two Zonta Club Harrisburg-Hershey Facebook posts appear on the front page of the Zonta Club website?



Lastly, check out the home page and Scholarship tab on the website for information about Zonta Club winner Ngozi Udeh who also won the JMK Women in Business Award in District 3 and at the international level.

Zonta Club Harrisburg-Hershey Club Member Milestones for January

Deborah Hughes January 8
Shannon Hackman, January 12
Diana Laughner, January 26

Carol Staz, January 1, 2016 (re-instated)
Rhonda Brunner, January 11, 2021
Lori Griffin, January 14, 2021 (re-instated)
Elizabeth Miller, January 30, 2020

Kathy Gates, Membership and Social Media Chair



SERVICE Committee Update

It truly was a cold, drizzly and foggy morning when we gathered together at the Radisson/Penn Harris/Perkins parking lot in Camp Hill to receive those fabulous holiday gift-giving presents from our amazing Zonta sisters. Of course, it was great seeing one another "in person" and we had such fun catching up and chit-chatting. Thanks to you all, Amy and Marie's car were filled to the top brim from all the gifts that

you purchased for the Shalom House family. And, I know many of you were so happy to contribute those books to their library which you have been keeping for 2 years!

The entire Service Committee (Karen, Claudia, Alice, Jemry, Grace, Nancy, Heather and me) wishes to send out a huge "thank you" to all of you who so graciously donated to our holiday gift-giving project for Shalom House. It was, truly, heart-warming to see the car-filled presents; you all are so awesome!! Please enjoy the pictures!



So now, since this is the beginning of the calendar year and we have so many new members, I've decided to re-introduce you to who and what Shalom House is and how they help women and children in the community. In the next few short paragraphs are an explanation from their new Executive Assistant, Catelynne; she writes as follows:

"In regards to the Shalom House we are excited to share that we officially started renovations at the Church, so things have been extremely busy. Our first phase which is the office space and drop-in center site will be ready to start furnishing the first week in Jan. It's my hope to have staff situated in the space by late January. Once everything is complete, I will send pictures for you to share with the group. The concrete slab was poured out back of the shelter and the new fence was ordered and will be installed sometime this month. So, things are moving full speed ahead!"

A non-denominational 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Shalom House provides a temporary 21-bed shelter for women and children who have nowhere else to go. The shelter is located in the City of Harrisburg. As an emergency shelter, Shalom House provides for their basic needs: a bed, assistance with food resources, clothing, health and hygiene supplies, and a temporary address and telephone number. Shalom House's extended case management services help women move toward self-sufficiency, to never become homeless again. Experienced caregivers know when to listen, when to hug, and when to give advice. Shalom House services include case management, referral services, life skills training, computer facilities to expand current skills and prepare a resume.

Empowering women, transforming lives. Our vision is to create a pathway to lasting independence for women and children through collaboration and community. Shalom House is a non-denominational 501(c)3 providing shelter for women and children at several locations in the City of Harrisburg. Programs include emergency shelter, permanent housing for women to include female veterans. As part of these programs, Shalom House provides:

- Basic health and wellness needs
- Access to a robust network of community resources
- Group mentoring sessions
- Individualized life coaching and education

Our future has no limit. It is inspired by those who believe in us; it is fueled by the passion of all who share our vision. **Together** we provide solutions and embrace the future. Shalom House provides support, case management, and guidance to two, main populations of homeless women, 1) Emergency Sheltering for homeless women and children for up to four weeks, 2) Permanent housing for disabled chronically homeless women in our SHARP program.

To contact us:

info@shalomhouse.net

Shalom House
9 South 15th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104
(717) 232-3482

Service Committee - Amy, Alice, Claudia, Grace, Heather, Jemry, Karen, Nancy, and Suzanne (Chair)



Advocacy Committee Update

Marsy's Law Supreme Court Decision – background and reactions

For background on Marsy's Law, read the following article published in 2019: [Marsy's Law explained | WITF](#)

Statements following the December 21, 2021 Supreme Court decision:

PA Office of Victim Advocate:

“Members of the victims’ rights community received another disappointing outcome this week when the [Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that Marsy’s Law, as presented, failed to comply](#) with the “separate vote” requirement of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

The [Pennsylvania Office of Victim Advocate](#) (OVA) is the state agency with the duty and authority to advocate for the individual and collective rights of crime victims. [Read their full response to the decision here.](#)”

League of Voters-PA:

"Last night, the PA Supreme Court ruled that the 2019 ballot question, known as [#MarsysLaw](#), is unconstitutional. The court found that the ballot question amended too many sections of the state constitution in a single question, which is prohibited.

This lawsuit has always been about voting rights and how the state constitution is amended. The legislature attempted to do too much at once, which is prohibited to keep voters from being overwhelmed or misled. We are pleased that the court ruled the right way on this important case."

Potential next steps in light of the Supreme Court ruling:

[Victim advocates in Pa. looking for ways to revive Marsy's Law after court decision | 90.5 WESA](#)

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2021

From: UN Women Email NEWS

From where I stand: “Our territories are our futures.”

Celia Umenza Velasco is a leader of the largest Indigenous group in Colombia, the Nasa People, from the northern Cauca region of Colombia, one of the zones most affected by the armed conflict. Umenza Velasco briefed the United Nations Security Council at the recent Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security.



Celia Umenza Velasco, Legal Coordinator for the Indigenous Reservation of Tacueyó and Member of Association of Indigenous Cabildos of the North of Cauca (ACIN), addresses briefs the Security Council meeting on women and peace and security. Photo: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

I have been a defender of human rights and the environment since I can remember, since I was young. As Indigenous people, we face a variety of problems relating to the environment and the land. The main ones are state policy, drug trafficking, paramilitarism, and armed actors. Indigenous peoples have experienced historical persecution, including displacements, massacres, and assassinations. There are mining concessions within our territories [1].

We have fought to survive and fought for our culture not to come to an end. I believe that our territories are our future.

Insecurity is the biggest barrier that we face as women and as an organization in Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and *campesino* territories. Because of my activism, I have experienced retaliation. I have been blocked from doing my work, I've been shot at. The first time that I received threats for my activism was in 2005, and the most recent time was in January 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected us because it restricted all movement within the territory and outside of it. Despite the fact that we were locked within the territories, the violence against us did not stop. Women lost children and partners. Today, they are carrying the whole family's burden. Women experienced gender-based violence during the pandemic. The armed actors were strengthened during the pandemic and women experienced displacement and assassinations. Indigenous women, Afro-descendant women, and *campesinas* have big roles in their cultures and families. We say that women are the symbol of the land because we are life, and the land is life.

To end violence against women and girls, we must give space to “territorial women” [2] so that they can implement peace. To protect and defend land and environmental resources in Colombia, we rely on the cultural aspect of our worldview. It is a fundamental pillar for the protection of the territory and for the protection of human rights defenders. The Indigenous Guard [3] is also very important to defend our land and resources. Indigenous women and Indigenous boys and girls are represented by the Indigenous Guard.

Our culture must be strengthened, and the Indigenous Guard must be strengthened as a body for peace and as defenders of human rights, land rights, and the environment.

For us, a peaceful Colombia is when we live in peace, in tranquility, and with the harmony that we have always hoped for.”



Celia Umenza Velasco, 53, is the Legal Coordinator for the Indigenous Reservation of Tacueyó and member of the Association of Indigenous Councils of North Cauca (ACIN). She is a member of Cxhab Wala Kiwe, which means “Great People’s Territory” in the Nasa Yuwe language.

Notes

[1] An Indigenous territory refers to land reserved for use of the Indigenous peoples of Colombia. The Colombian Constitution of 1991 grants Indigenous communities inalienable and inviolable control of reserve lands in perpetuity.

[2] Meaning, women from Indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and *campesino* territories.

[3] The Indigenous Guard of Cauca is a community protection network made up of women, men, and children who defend their territories without weapons. In 2020, the Indigenous Guard of Cauca won the Front Line Defenders Regional Award of the Americas for human rights defenders at risk.

Zonta International’s Vision

Zonta International envisions a world in which women’s rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men.

In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.