



Welcome to Issue 2 of the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville newsletter!

This newsletter provides some updates on events that members attended/supported over the last three months, as well as some news from members.

Ottawa Council of Women “Picnic” Luncheon – 9 August 2023

I attended the Ottawa Council of Women “Picnic” Luncheon in August. It was a gathering of friends and other organisations like Zonta that are affiliated with the Ottawa Council. Cathy Currie, City Councillor for Ward 4 (Kanata North), was our guest speaker. She encouraged community groups to provide feedback to the City of Ottawa on what we feel is important for women, their families and their communities. It was good to chat with friends and see some new faces, too.



News from Judith

On 1 September, I flew to Accra, Ghana where I am now living. Some of you may already know that I have been teaching virtually at Ashesi University since January 2021. This is my third year. I finally decided that I wanted to join my students in the classroom and teach in person. The opportunity presented itself this fall and here I am. I hope to stay until next May. In September, I walked the Kakum National Park Canopy walkway. Don't look down!

Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville meeting – 11 October 2023

Thanks very much to those of you who attended the meeting with Theresa Harris, Zonta International Membership Chair. We heard about international and local Zonta projects as well as the many scholarships and awards that Zonta offers at the local, District and International level. We talked about a new “art” initiative to use art and passion to promote gender-equal climate action. More information can be found at https://zonta.org/Web/Causes/ZontaSaysNOW/Virtual_Art_Gallery.aspx

We talked about the **Ending Violence Against Women** campaign, known as the **16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence**, that takes place from 25 November to 10 December. In Canada, we use the colours orange and purple for our campaign materials. And we heard that women's security is an important local issue.

Zonta District 2 Fall Conference – 13-15 October 2023

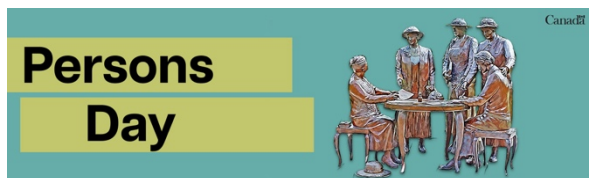
The District 2 Fall Conference was simply fabulous! It was great getting together with Zontians from clubs south of the border. District clubs gave recorded presentations of their club's activities this past year. The presentations will be posted on the ZD2 website.

Pictured to the right is International Director and Board Liaison to District 2, Teresa Lin from Hong Kong, who spoke about Zonta International's Strategic Plan and goals for the future.



The Zonta Store allowed attendees to purchase items to raise money for the Zonta Foundation for Women. It was fun chatting with many club members who staffed the tables. I was happy to connect with others during a breakout session when we talked about our many club activities.

Governor Liz Teseiro had pins made for everyone to celebrate **Persons Day in Canada on 18 October**. A great talking point for Canadian attendees because the Americans were curious to know what "Persons Day" was all about! It marks the day in 1929 when the



historic decision to include women in the legal definition of "persons" was handed down by Canada's highest court of appeal. This gave some women the right to be appointed to the Senate of Canada and paved the way for women's increased participation in public and

political life. Though this decision did not include all women, such as Indigenous women and women of Asian heritage and descent, it did mark critical progress in the advancement of gender equality in Canada. Club members will receive a pin in their "Welcome to Zonta" package at the club chartering ceremony.



I am pictured here with my great Zonta pal, Valerie Hume, who lives in Ottawa, and Theresa Harris (middle). Val was thrilled that the Zonta Club of Ottawa won the District International Award, mostly due to Val organising a club webinar with Carole Theobald who chairs the Zonta Says NOW to gender-equal climate action Think Tank.

After the conference ended on Sunday, the President of the Zonta Club of Albany drove me back to Albany to catch the train as I headed west for my next conference in Denver, Colorado. We went for lunch at a Chinese restaurant. At the end of the meal, we each opened a fortune cookie. I thought my fortune was quite appropriate: *We can't help everyone. But everyone can help someone.*

Zonta Says NOW to gender-equal climate action Intercontinental Think Tank – 15 October 2023

I attended the monthly Think Tank meeting organised by Carole Theobald, member of the Zonta Club of Perth, Australia and ZI Chair, Zonta Says NOW Working Group. Unfortunately, I was late due to the time difference and falling on the last day of the ZD2 Fall Conference. You can find recordings, information and resources from the Intercontinental Think Tank meetings at this link:

<https://zontasaysnow.org.au/intercontinental-think-tank/>



News from Zonta International Canada Caucus

A growing number of municipalities have declared Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) an epidemic. Last March, City Councillor Ariel Troster proposed a motion (17.1) that the City of Ottawa declare IPV an epidemic and that the mayor write to the Premier in support of Lanark County Council's motion and to create provincial legislation requesting that IPV be formally declared an epidemic in Ontario. The motion was passed unanimously. Here is a link to the list of municipalities that have declared IPV an epidemic although it needs to be updated:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XCwrdzM883rKr8Q4He36CRffWds0RCZm/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117621076359166225217&rtopf=true&sd=true>

Now if only the province of Ontario would support the municipal declarations!

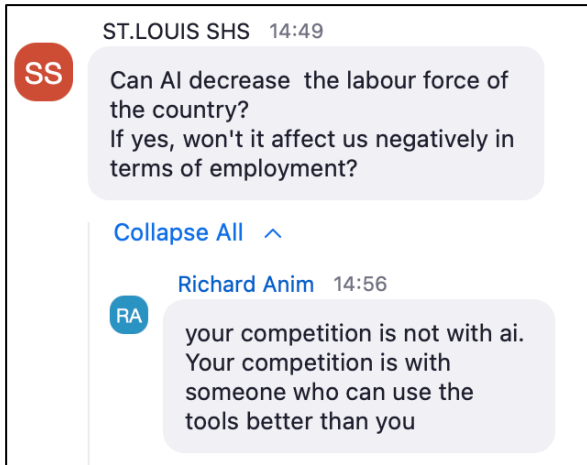


Kathleen Kardasz runs the Hamilton Marathon Road2Hope – 5 November 2023

Kathleen was proud to finish this marathon and live to tell us about it! The marathon raises money for charities in the Hamilton area. Charity partners include Liberty for Youth, CityKidz, several hospitals and YWCA Encore, an after breast cancer exercise program.

News from District 18 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Madagascar now forming)

On **Wednesday 8 November**, the **Zonta Club of Accra Metropolitan** in collaboration with the Zonta clubs in Ghana, organised a webinar to celebrate **Zonta Day**: *Preparing the Youth to Adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the digital transformation era*. Almost 2000 high school girls from seven high schools attended the webinar. The largest contingent was 1723 girls from Holy Child Secondary High School. I wish I could share a few screen shots of these lovely young girls, but unfortunately, I would need their permission.



The speakers were knowledgeable and provided good insights into this current topic that seems to be taking over our lives at the moment. The questions the girls posed in the chat during Q&A were quite astute. Here is an example. The answer was a wake-up call.

The webinar was well attended by others, too. One woman asked in the chat how she could join Zonta. The Zonta Club of Accra Metropolitan president will follow up.

On **Thursday 9 November**, the five Zonta Clubs of Accra coordinated a mission to help women and children flood victims in Ada. We got pictures of the flood victims' houses from the Social Welfare Officer in Ada. The buildings are in a precarious state and too dangerous to go back into. Although the flood waters have receded, the water is polluted and prohibits fishing which is a staple food for the community.



They have a group WhatsApp for club presidents and vice presidents and my contact, Lydia, at the Zonta Club of Accra II kindly added me to the group. I am now considered "affiliated" with Accra II. Originally, I was going to accompany them, but the date was changed to my teaching day. I think there have been over 100 posts in the last week as they prepared:



- collecting clothing, diapers, mini biscuits for children, menstrual products and more
- sorting and packing supplies
- booking a coaster bus driver and a pick-up driver
- contacting the Ghanaian TV for media coverage
- scheduling to pick up a reporter and cameraman
- scheduling pick-up points, lunch and other logistics
- deciding when, where, how to disseminate the Zonta message to empower and build a better world for women



So much to organise, but 17 people hit the road! On the bus in the front seat is Sam Hollingworth from the Zonta Club of Brisbane, an affiliated member of the Zonta Club of Accra II. We are getting together for a “cuppa”.



Upon arriving home, one of our sister Zontians wrote:

Oh what liberation!
 Oh what fulfillment!
 There’s no other healing to the soul than the one that the giver receives.
 If you are like me this was so humbling but invigorating as well.
 May this Spirit of Zonta never wane.
 Blessings and light to us all.

GTV news ran the Ada story at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. GMT on Saturday 11 November.

Zonta Club of Accra II – Jane M. Klausman Women in Business International Scholarship

Last week, Lydia informed me that the candidate from the Zonta Club of Accra II received an international JMK Scholarship worth \$5000 USD! I am absolutely thrilled!

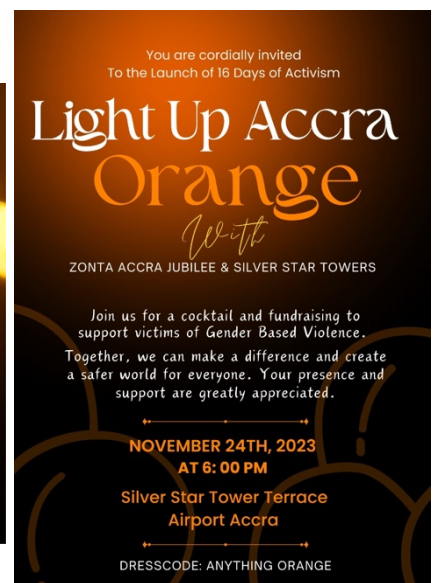
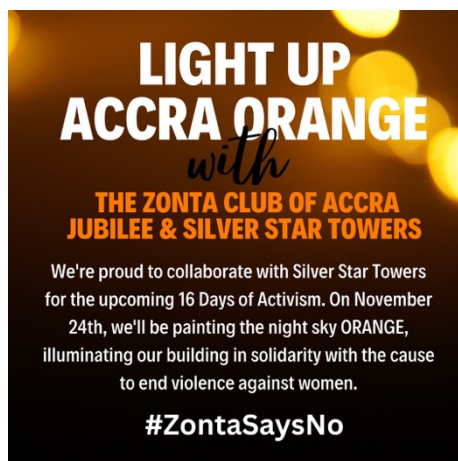
Last February, I emailed the Accra II club to ask if they might consider offering the JMK and STEM scholarships and I would promote them at Ashesi University. That is how I first met Lydia. The club members and Board agreed and Lydia sent me the application forms to distribute to the appropriate people at Ashesi.

As I looked down the list of recipients, I was so excited when I saw the District 18 name: Cynthia Anaba! I remember Cynthia quite well as she was in both my spring and fall courses at Ashesi last year. Since I have been on campus, she has made a point of talking to me in person. At the end of the course last fall, she asked how she could join Zonta. Accra II will invite her to the December meeting where the club will present her with a cheque and ask her to say a few words.

I know that some women also applied for the STEM scholarship. Maybe next year!

Launching 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence – Friday 24 November

The Zonta Club of Accra Jubilee will have a building near the Accra airport lit in orange for the 16 Days of Activism. I will attend the launch with our sister Zontians from the five clubs in Accra.



This newsletter has shown how Zonta clubs and members can make a difference in the lives of women and children through scholarships, outreach to disaster victims, webinars and much more.

Wouldn't you like to make a difference in the lives of women and children?

It doesn't take much time to support Zonta actions by attending events online or in person. You can invite speakers to meetings or help plan a webinar on financial literacy, climate change or other topics. Together, there is so much we can accomplish to help women and girls locally and globally.

And we can have fun!

Please fill out the new member form and return it to me by Friday 17 November. Joining on 1st December, you will pay half-year membership dues: \$57 USD + \$15 USD one-time fee to join Zonta. Invite friends and colleagues to join as well.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and let's plan to attend:

- Zonta International Convention, Brisbane, Australia, 27-30 June 2024
 - Zonta District 2 Spring Workshop (information to come)
 - Zonta North American Inter-District Meeting, 2025
- Zonta International Convention, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 11-14 July 2026

These are wonderful events to connect, reconnect and be inspired to build a better world for women and girls!