



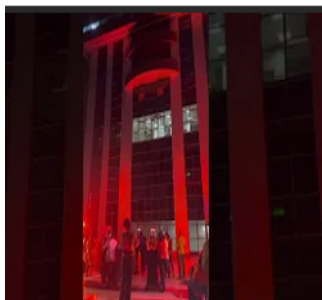
Welcome to the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville Newsletter!

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

- 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence
- November meeting
- Zonta Scholarships and Awards
- NGO CSW68 Forum Advocacy Training
- Robotics at Kanata High School
- Some News Items
- Alliance To End Homelessness Ottawa Simulation
- Upcoming Events

16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

While I was still in Ghana, I joined the five Zonta clubs in Accra as we launched the 16 Days of Activism on 24 November. During the 16 Days, Zontians and like-minded organisations orange the world, or in Canada, orange and purple to respect Orange Shirt Day for National Truth and Reconciliation Day. **Orange represents a future free from violence against women and girls. Purple is associated with ending domestic violence.**



A Ghanaian human rights lawyer spoke on human rights violations. The image is orangng the Silver Tower in Accra. You can watch a short [YouTube](#) video as the tower lights up. You will see me towards the end on the right.

A major bank in Ghana agreed to hang a huge banner from its building.



I also attended the Zonta Club of Accra II Business Meeting on Thursday 7 December 2023.

16 November 2023 Meeting	Zonta District 2 Website
At our November forming meeting, we met and approved a slate of officers. Many thanks to those who attended the meeting!	The Zonta District 2 website has updated the Kanata-Stittsville Club now forming with photos from our second newsletter and a link to the second newsletter. Do check us out!

Zonta Scholarships and Awards

The [Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship application](#) is now available on the ZI website. The 32 District recipients plus the Region South America are each awarded \$5000 USD. Women in second year up to final year of a master's degree in business-related areas are eligible to apply as long as they will still be enrolled when they receive the scholarship.

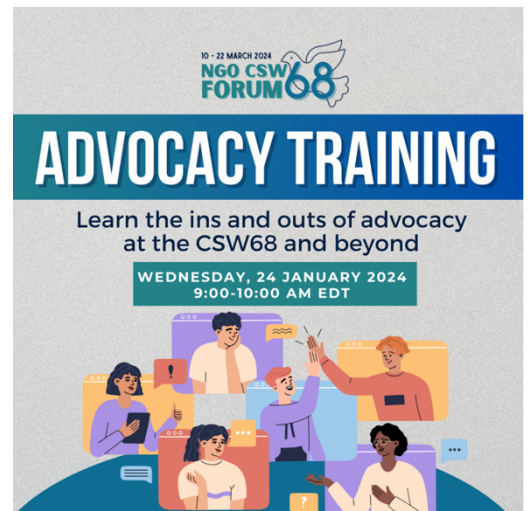
In addition to JMK Scholarships, Zonta offers the [Women in STEM Scholarship](#) for higher education students and the [Young Women in Public Affairs](#) and [Jean M. Coon Humanitarian Awards](#) for secondary school students. When the Kanata-Stittsville Club is chartered, we will be able to contact Algonquin College, Carleton University, University of Ottawa and high schools to inform student services and to encourage qualified candidates to apply.

NGO CSW68 Forum Advocacy Training

NGO CSW68 Forum is the civil society gathering in New York City parallel to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. [Registration is open](#) to attend NGO CSW68 Forum in person in NYC or virtually. Judith will attend in person 10-13 March. If you would like to attend, please contact her.



Judith attended the NGO CSW68 Forum Advocacy Training session. It was an exceptional opportunity to learn the different ways you can advocate for your work or organisation at the [NGO CSW68 Forum](#). The session included an overview of the [Advocacy & Research Group Recommendations](#). The new [Advocacy Toolkit](#) is available and can be used **as a resource for NGOs, civil society representatives and feminists to build their capacity to advocate for their organisation and global gender equality at CSW68.**



Following up after NGO CSW68 Advocacy Training

During the training, Judith took some screenshots of the chat (see next page). Marcia Braundy, member of CFUW and WITT, wrote about a great idea involving the [International Labour Organisation](#) (ILO), the [Canadian Labour Congress](#) and the [Canadian Apprenticeship Forum](#). All have offices in Ottawa. Judith has the ILO's 2022 document on *Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*. She will look at the Decent Work agenda.

Vicky Smallman is based in Ottawa with the Canadian Labour Congress. She is a regular panel presenter at NGO CSW. Judith will find out when she is presenting at NGO CSW68 and try to attend her session and maybe meet her in person. Perhaps we could organise a panel with Marcia, Vicky and someone from the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum.

Marcia Braundy CFUW & Kootenay WITT t...

Good morning all from Vallican, British Columbia, Canada. I am with the Canadian Federation of University Women & Kootenay Women in Trades & Technology. Based on several year of policy recommendation, I recently presented in a webinar for CFUW nationally on Women in the Skilled Trades. My local CFUW club voted unanimously to support the advancement of "Marcia's Big Idea," the short title of which is "Train Women - Rebuild the World" and others are with us to develop a Task Force on this avenue of reducing Poverty for women around the world.

Here is a excerpt of the current Draft of the "Big Idea" Each day in 2023 at the UNCSW67 Conference in New York I learned more about the organizations that are a part of the UN. When I mentioned to a new acquaintance who was an "old hand," that it would be good if UN Women created training programs around the world for women in trades, and those women could work on projects rebuilding war-torn countries where housing had disappeared in a bomb blast and you saw the devastation of war, earthquakes and other disasters. Young and older women could get skills they could then use anywhere in this world of skills shortages everywhere; it would move them out of poverty and rebuild our planet in the meantime. It is a Big Idea.

"UN Women does not have the funds for such a venture," I was told, " but maybe the ILO does." Turns out, the International Labour Organization (based in Geneva, Switzerland, but with offices all over the world) might be just the right organization to spearhead such a project:

"The International Labour Organization (ILO) is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace."

Only tripartite U.N. agency, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers representatives of 187 member States , to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

Today, the ILO's Decent Work agenda helps advance the economic and working conditions that give all workers, employers and governments a stake in lasting peace, prosperity and progress."

Sounds like a great basis for a collaboration. Add in a bit of the Canadian Labour Congress, (they had an excellent panel discussion at the Conference), and I have run this by Vicki Smallman (Human Rights Director at CLC, and we shall see), and perhaps even the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum might get involved (Marcia Braundy received the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from them earlier this year); as well as the BC Centre for Women in The Trades (BCCWITT) and its associate organizations. It could be the exploration of a giant Habitat for Humanity Project! (and the death this week of Rosalyn Carter, who, with her husband former US president Jimmy Carter, founded the Habitat for Humanity movement, and might prove another source of funding...)

Robotics at Earl of March High School in Kanata

Councillor Curry's latest newsletter corresponds to club discussion on getting involved with STEM high school outreach. Below, the robotics student wrote, "we would be keen to engage further with the community through outreach events with local clubs and organisations." An idea for a speaker at one of our meetings? I would love to see a demonstration!



Earl of March Robotics Team

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to visit the Earl of March Robotics team with MPP McCrimmon and MP Sudds. It was amazing to see the robots the students had made working with their teachers after school and on the weekends. The intermediate gym was set up just as it would be at a competition, so we were able to see them practicing and improving their robots for the next competition. Speaking of the competitions, they have to travel to get to them and that gets expensive. In order to keep the club going, they look to local sponsors. If you, or your company, would like to sponsor this group of budding robotics enthusiasts and future engineers, their sponsorship package can be found at [Support Us | Eom Robotics](#).

I asked one of the students to send more information for me to provide here as well. See what she sent me below!

[FIRST Robotics](#) is a global not-for-profit organization that inspires youth to engage in STEM through team-based programs. FIRST looks to give children the skills and drive that they need to become leaders in the future. They hold annual competitions where students are challenged to build a robot to compete with and against other teams. This year, our high school teams will be travelling to the Newmarket and North Bay district competitions with a goal to qualify again for the Provincial championships.

Our program started in 2019 as a singular team, based at Earl of March Secondary School. When the pandemic hit, we had to switch to using online meetings instead. Despite these difficulties, we emerged as the sole school-based team in our area. Since then, our program has grown to include a second high school team and a junior team. This year, our teams have over 100 members. Our teams meet twice per week to learn and prepare, but during the competition season the teams meet on most days of the week, including weekends, to work on building the robot itself, to code it, to practice driving it, and to work on other initiatives in the realm of business and outreach.

Over the years, we have remained committed to supporting our community. In the spirit of Cooperation and Gracious Professionalism, we have invited the other two Kanata-based FIRST robotics teams to our building to use our makeshift practice field and have helped them prepare for their competition seasons. We would be keen to engage further with the community through outreach events with local clubs and organizations!

We owe our success to the support of our sponsors, who contribute in the form of monetary support, mentorship, and in-kind donations. They have been pivotal to allowing local youth to participate despite their financial circumstances. Our hopes for the coming years are to provide opportunities to any student that wishes to join our team, regardless of any barriers that may stand in the way. You can also follow them on Instagram at [@frc_eomlions](#).

News from Kathleen

Kathleen's synchronised skating team *Ice Precise* won the silver medal at the Oakville Synchronised Skating Competition on Saturday 3 February. Her team will be competing at the Skate Ontario competition hosted by the March Kanata Skating Club on Saturday 2 March at the Tony Graham Rec Complex in Kanata. Come out and cheer them on!



News from Montreal

Marking the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 February, McGill featured some of [McGill's talented female researchers](#) who discussed their work, their inspiration and their advice to women pursuing a career in STEM.

Three women of the McGill community were honoured by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor-General of Canada, on 28 December 2023, who announced the [appointment of the following to the Order of Canada](#):

- Dr. Raquel Zegarra del Carpio-O'Donovan, Professor of Radiology, Neurology and Neurosurgery
- Sara Joy Angel, Founder and Executive Director of the Art Canada Institute/Institut de l'art canadien
- Dr. Francine Lemire, represented Canada at the 1984 Winter Paralympics in cross-country skiing; 1988 Winter Paralympics winning two gold medals; doctor in family medicine; Executive Director and CEO of the College of Family Physicians of Canada

The Order of Canada is one of Canada's highest honours. It recognises people across all sectors of society who have made extraordinary and sustained contributions to our nation.



Alliance To End Homelessness Ottawa Simulation

On Saturday 10 February, the [Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa](#) (ATEHO) organised a simulation event for the University of Ottawa's Medical School upperclassmen in the Global Health and Social

Accountability concentration. Elspeth Nickle volunteers with ATEHO and Judith joined the volunteers on Saturday. Volunteers represented various government services designed to help people experiencing job loss, renoeviction, homelessness, etc.



A small group of about 40 medical student participants role-played people who were living in shelters, dealing with abusive partners, living on the street, trying to get help from various provincial, municipal and federal services, and finding that the lack of coordination, the gaps and disconnect when one service ends and another picks up were debilitating. Housing is a human right and the job of government is to protect human rights, but the system is failing.

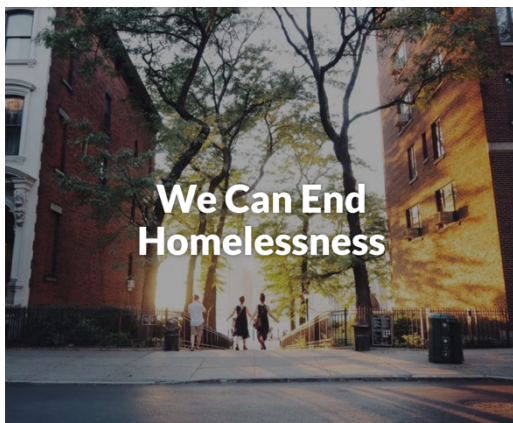
Kaite Burkholder-Harris, ATEHO Executive Director, and Sophia Kelly-Langer, ATEHO Project Coordinator, led the debrief. Here are some of the takeaways from students:

- being poor, being homeless is a full-time job
- frustrating – no viable next-step answers
- feelings – discouraged, overwhelmed, ashamed, lost, powerlessness, non-winnable
- re-traumatisation – telling your story over and over brings the trauma back again
- people may opt out because constant frustrations lead to disengagement
- constantly under surveillance
- forced to consent under intolerable situations is not “informed consent”
- in a system that works, no single incident should lead to chronic homelessness

ATEHO volunteers informed us that risk must be escalated in order to get help – why not better assessment tools to speed up the process to get housing instead of inventing stories?

The ATEHO ran the same event at City Hall and heard nothing but positive responses from participants. Below is a portion of an email received from a City Staffer:

“Before my current position, I worked at a shelter in the City and found this exercise to be spot on for the scenario I was in (Tom). I saw this similar situation payout all the time and it really felt real to me as someone who has seen this firsthand. I hope those involved realized how real these situations are. While speaking to others, it seemed like these scenarios were making people start to recognize that things we take for granted or sometimes consider basic often are huge barriers for individuals when navigating the system. That was just one of the many things I believe participants learned from this exercise.”



The Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa is a member-driven coalition of people and organizations working together to end homelessness through systems planning and coordination, public education and advocacy, and community-wide mobilization.

Upcoming Events

Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada

The 22 February is Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada. Each year the Canada Caucus sends out information, resources and suggested activities for clubs and members.

Definition. Trafficking in persons (also known as human trafficking) is a heinous crime and an abuse of human rights. It is commonly defined as the use of violence, deception or coercion to transport, recruit or harbour people in order to exploit them for purposes such as forced prostitution, forced labour, criminality, marriage or organ removal. ([Zonta International Statement on Trafficking in Persons](#))



Suggested Activities for Zonta Clubs, Individuals and Like-Minded Organizations

1. Start a discussion in your club about human trafficking using [Facts and myths about Human Trafficking - Canada.ca](#)
2. Gather your community data from your local police services, your sexual assault centre or similar agencies in your community. Highlight the data on your social media.
3. Contact your local media to remind them that February 22 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada. Perhaps you can point them to some resources for their use.
4. Request your municipality to issue a proclamation to highlight February 22 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada. See the wording provided to Councillor Curry that appears in her newsletter.
5. Provide a workshop session on the hand signal which victims can use to seek help in escaping. Tanya Tagwerker, a member of the Zonta Canada Caucus presents online workshops on the hand signal. You can contact her at tanyatagwerker@gmail.com to set up a time for her presentation. Invite community members, members of like-minded organisations and local elected officials to join you for the presentation.
6. Become a [Signal for Help Responder](#). Register for a free online presentation by *The Walrus* and the *Canadian Women's Foundation* on February 22. You will learn about different forms of abuse, the hand signal and how to respond in a safe, supportive way to someone facing abuse. To register go to https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1ubUOFioRvmGSV-dHeKCug#/registration
7. Gather as a group to watch *Chelsea's Story* online. *Chelsea's Story* is a play based on actual events. Chelsea is a 15 year-old who is targeted and groomed by a man posing as her boy friend to traffic her for sex. The presentation is by MT Space, a theatre group in Waterloo, the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region (SASC) and the Coalition of Muslim Women. You can find more details and register at no cost at <https://events.humanitix.com/chelsea-s-story-online-virtual-performance-and-talkback>

8. Starting the week before February 22, highlight the issue of human trafficking by posting information about human trafficking on social media:
 - a) Like, share and repost social media that you will find on the Zonta Canada Caucus Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089577531614> and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/zontacanada/>
 - b) Create your own social media posts. Some posts to assist you can be found at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TNuh89Eog1AOy8fr5XiJRWDO3bYO2g7p?usp=drive_link

The Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville

The [Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville](#) reminds us that February 22 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada is a solemn occasion dedicated to shedding light on the pervasive and reprehensible issue of human trafficking within the country. Observed annually on February 22nd, this day serves as a collective effort to raise awareness about the heinous crime of exploiting individuals for forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other forms of modern-day slavery. Canadians unite on this day to educate themselves and others about the signs of human trafficking, its root causes and the importance of prevention. Various events, seminars and initiatives are organised across the nation to engage communities, empower survivors and encourage collaboration among law enforcement agencies, non-profit organisations and government bodies. By recognising Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Canadians reaffirm their commitment to eradicating this grave violation of human rights and fostering a society where every individual is free from exploitation.

Register to watch Chelsea's Story, about a 15-year-old targeted and groomed by a man posing as her boyfriend. You can register for this free presentation at <https://events.humanitix.com/chelsea-s-story-online-virtual-performance-and-talkback>

Register for a free online presentation by The Walrus and the Canadian Women's Foundation on February 22. You will learn about different forms of abuse, the hand signal and how to respond in a safe, supportive way to someone facing abuse. To register go to https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1ubUOFioRvmGSV-dHeKCug#/registration

For more information, contact Judith Ainsworth, zontaclubkanata@gmail.com.



Upcoming events

Send your event info to glen.gower@ottawa.ca

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<https://events.humanitix.com/chelsea-s-story-online-virtual-performance-and-talkback> For information, contact Judith Ainsworth, 438-367-1122, or email zontaclubkanata@gmail.com

Événements à venir

Envoyez vos informations sur les événements à glen.gower@ottawa.ca

22 février : Journée de sensibilisation à la traite de personnes au Canada

La Journée de sensibilisation à la traite de personnes au Canada est une occasion solennelle de faire la lumière sur le problème omniprésent et répréhensible que constitue la traite de personnes au pays. Cette journée constitue un effort collectif de sensibilisation au crime odieux que constitue l'exploitation de personnes à des fins de travail forcé, d'exploitation sexuelle et d'autres formes d'esclavage moderne. Inscrivez-vous pour regarder *Chelsea's Story*, l'histoire d'une adolescente de 15 ans ciblée et abusée par un homme se faisant passer pour son petit ami afin de l'exploiter

sexuellement; <https://events.humanitix.com/chelsea-s-story-online-virtual-performance-and-talkback> Pour en savoir plus, communiquez avec Judith Ainsworth au 438-367-1122 ou envoyez un courrier électronique à zontaclubkanata@gmail.com.

Zonta Says NOW to gender-equal climate action Intercontinental Think Tank

Everyone is welcome to attend 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. The next meeting is Sunday 18 February 5:00-6:30 a.m. Not a very convenient time for EST, but Carole tries to rotate meeting times so that people in different time zones are able to attend. Link to recordings, information and resources from the Intercontinental Think Tank meetings:

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



ZI Advocacy Webinar for Women's History Month Saturday 16 March 12 noon EDT

The panel discussion will take place on March 16 at noon (12:00 p.m. EDT). The webinar will be added to ZI's CSW virtual booth during NGO CSW68 side events. The panelists are:

- [Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian](#), Ph.D., Venezuelan Political Scientist and International Affairs Official
- [Dr. Olatkunbo Ige](#), International Human Rights lawyer (plenary speaker at the D18 Fall Conference in Lomé, Togo)
- [Lisa A. Sales](#), MPA, CMAP, President of Virginia National Organization for Women (NOW); serves on the policy committee for the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance
- [Dr. Amal Tawakuli](#), Computer Science and Communications Research Unit (CSC), University of Luxembourg; 2019 Zonta Women in Technology Scholarship recipient

As you can see, the panel represents a wide diversity of geopolitical regions so should interest a wide array of attendees and be a very informative panel!

This newsletter shows how Zonta clubs and members can make a difference in the lives of women and girls through webinars, scholarships, making connections, informing the public and much more.

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

It doesn't take much to support Zonta actions by attending events online or in person. You can invite speakers to meetings or help plan a webinar. Suggested topics are ending homelessness in Ottawa, outreach to secondary school girls concerning financial literacy training and the STEM fields, gender equal climate action and women in the trades. Together, there is so much we can accomplish to help women and girls locally and globally.

And we can have fun!

Please email me at zontaclubkanata@gmail.com or phone 438-367-1122 to let me know that you will join the club. By joining now, you pay half-year membership dues: \$67 USD + \$15 USD one-time fee to join Zonta. If you are under 35 years of age, the half-year membership for Young Professionals is \$45 USD + \$15 USD one-time fee to join Zonta.

Invite friends, family and colleagues to join as well!

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

**NGO CSW68 Forum
11-22 March, New York City**

**Zonta International Advocacy Webinar
Saturday 16 March 2024, 12 noon EDT**

**Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville March Meeting
Date, time and speaker to be announced**

**Zonta District 2 Spring Workshop 2024
Saturday 4 May, Oswego, New York**

**Zonta International Convention 2024
27-30 June, Brisbane, Australia**

**Zonta North American Inter-District Meeting (NAIDM) 2025
District 15 – Ontario, Canada; Michigan, USA**

**Zonta International Convention 2026
11-14 July, Vancouver, BC, Canada**

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



[Register today!](#)

We can't help everyone. But everyone can help someone.