

Happy New Year!!

A new year leads me to believe it's a "fresh start". 2024 is over. It's time to do our fair share of making 2025 a good year. In Zonta, that means continuing to support and advocate for a better world (including right here in good old Madison) for women and girls. If each of us can't commit to doing something that makes a difference for women and girls here locally, what right do we have to expect someone else to do it for us?

Most of our program-related committees are in active mode. Programs Committee – you already did your great work and we all have the luxury of a full year of wonderful planned programs for our monthly meetings. Congratulations and THANK YOU – Nancy, Judy, Laura, Jane, Pam, Ellen, Karen and Sandy! AND – thank you committee for pulling together a GREAT holiday party on December 11.

The Advocacy/Service Committee has a number of plans underway. A) An increasingly important Advocacy Into Action program on March 4 focusing on Equal Rights Amendments. You probably are aware that most of our hopes to have the national ERA finalized are likely extinguished. This makes a WI ERA even more important which is also a challenge to achieve. Commit to helping encourage community-wide participation in AIA. B) Plans are underway to support the Way Forward Resources Food Pantry as they are serving a greater number of people and families. It will be critical that we have a successful food drive this winter. Remember that you can invite friends and neighbors to make donations through you. This results in more food and helps raise community-wide awareness of the needs food pantries have year around. C) It seems that we have, as a club, selected a community partner for longer-term, on-going service. See the article in this newsletter and get involved. D) Lastly, before we know it, one of our favorite annual April service projects Little Libraries will place in Little Libraries around town books for young readers that age-appropriately address protection from sexual violence.

The Membership Committee is launching several projects in January. See the article in this newsletter on the upcoming January Empowered Exchange. Also, committee members will be inviting small groups of Zonta Madison members to get together casually to discuss what going right in Zonta Madison, what can be improved and what could be added or removed. Accept the invitation and be part of making Zonta Madison as good as it can be. The committee will also be stepping up more membership recruitment activities. Stay tuned and help us make them productive. We have so many good ideas for things to do in Zonta but we could use a few more members to help share the load in achieving them. Help this effort when you are asked!

*President's message continued:*

The Operations and Fundraising Committee is immersed in the process of determining films for our Film Fest Fund Raiser and Community Education event in the Fall. Commit to help by recruiting sponsors and selling tickets when the time comes. The movies will address issues impacting women and girls. More information on this will start coming out regularly.

The Zonta Foundation will be moving forward on a number of scholarships and financial awards to support women pursue further education. Anytime is a good time to make a donation to our Foundation to help support these scholarships and parts of club advocacy and service projects.

Now is the time to start making 2025 a good year for women and girls. Let's` do it together. We'll get so much more done that way.

JoAnn Gruber-Hagen  
President  
Zonta Club of Madison

Advocacy/Service Committee –  
Pam Duane

**Advocacy:**

Overture Center Event – A big thank you to club members Nancy, Tammy, Ellen, Linda, Karen, Laura and JoAnn for volunteering to pass out orange ribbons at the Overture

Center events. We distributed 1,200 ribbons over the two days!



*Madison Municipal building in orange for 16 Days ERA Event – The ERA event will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 in the community room at Pinney Branch Library. Details will be available at our January meeting.*



**Service:**

*DAIS* - Another thank you goes out to those who wrapped holiday gifts at DAIS. We were scheduled to work two days, but the first groups were so efficient (and due to bad weather) that the second group was canceled.

*Food Drive* – A food drive for the Way Forward Food Pantry is drawing near. Jane will have a list of the most wanted items at the January meeting that will help you shop. Our goal is to donate 500 pounds of food and break our record from last year.

Upcoming Discussion - We will be discussing the direction of our service activities at the

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January meeting. JoAnn compiled the results of our recent poll and partnering with Felicia's Closet got the most votes. Look for more in January.

*More great holiday service projects!*

Feminism on Tap - Wisconsin Women's Network (WWN) networking event which included making Holiday Cards. The cards are donated to domestic violence shelters and food pantries in our area. Thanks Judy, Ellen and Tammy for making the holiday brighter for others!



Zonta Club of Madison has partnered with WWN for a variety of events, such as the Policy Institute. For more information about WWN:

<https://wiwomensnetwork.org/events/>

*Angel Card Project:*

The Angel Card Project is an internet wide charity event that allows people the opportunity to give a little something back to the world daily as well as during the holidays.



Twelve individuals from Wisconsin were identified from a national master list. Working from home, we each sent a card of encouragement and support to these recipients. This is the third year our club has participated. Thanks to Barb, Pam and Tammy for making the holidays a little brighter for those folks!

January Meeting & Program –  
Sandy Peterson & Tammy Hagen



- Date:** Wed., January 15, 2025
- Location:** Vintage Brewery  
674 S. Whitney Way  
Madison, Wisconsin
- Time:** 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Social/Sign-in  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner,  
Program, Business Meeting
- RSVP:** **To Tammy by noon, Friday,  
Jan. 10, 2025**  
[thcormd@aol.com](mailto:thcormd@aol.com)



**Program:**

Celebrating Amelia Earhart Month  
Author Gwen Hutchens  
*Critical Air: A Flight Nurse's  
Adventures From Alaska to Nepal*

**Speaker:**



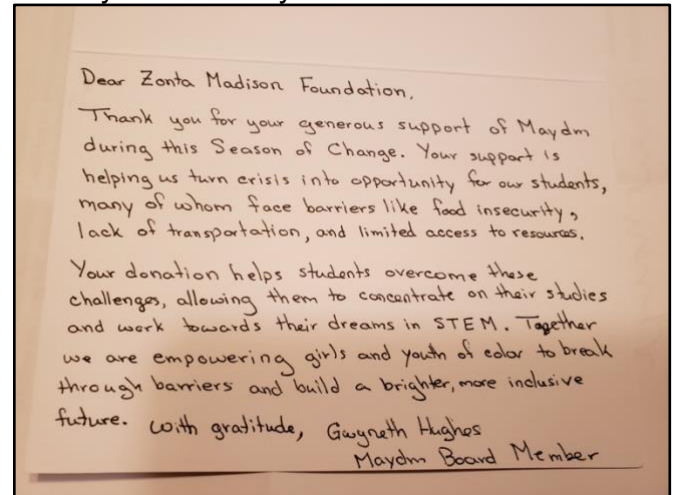
**Gwen Hutchins** is a registered nurse who worked for 25 years in various areas of critical care before taking on emergency flight nursing in remote areas of Alaska and beyond. She changed the lives of so many. Her book takes you to what it is like to reach and treat people in remote areas such as Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, Cebu City, Philippines and China often under brutal conditions.

Zonta Madison Foundation –  
Jane Hartman

The Community Grant award for this year was given to Madym, whose mission is to provide girls and youth of color in grades 6 -12 with the skills, experiences, and connections to pursue careers in and change the face of STEM.

[Maydm](#)

As you know, the grants are funded by our fund-raising efforts and the award this year was \$3200.00. We received the following thank you from Maydm:



**Scholarships:**

We have received information about the recipient of our Francis Schultz Memorial Nursing Scholarship for 2024. Her name is Annie Naczek, and she is a BSN at Home student from Appleton. Here is a brief summary from her thank you letter:

*"I chose to study nursing because as a child I looked up to a special aunt who is a RN. While in high school I started working as a nursing assistant and this opened the opportunity for me to see how nurses care for others. I then went onto become a LPN, then and AD in nursing. Now being a mother of two amazing children, I value education and opportunity more than before. Being selected as the recipient of the Zonta Madison Nursing scholarship will help me achieve my goal. I am inspired by your generosity and I hope to*

*be able to follow your lead and support other students in the future.”*

Hopefully we can meet Annie in the future at a club meeting.

Food Drive for Way Forward Resources  
Jane Hartman

This year we decided to hold our food drive *after* the holidays, as donations do ‘drop off’ a bit afterwards. (The need is always there however!) Our drive will run from **January 15 – February 19** (our club meeting dates). I will bring the list of the most needed items to the club meeting, as well as list them here:

**Top 10 List for Way Forward Food Drive:**

- Hearty soups
- Paper and reusable grocery bags
- Canned chicken or tuna
- Basmati, jasmine or white rice
- Masa
- Noodles (any kind)
- Canned tomatoes (any kind)
- Canned beans (all varieties)
- Canned fruit (all varieties)
- Condiments (any kind)

In addition, Way Forward will accept these items as well:

- Baked goods in the original sealed package, commercially prepared and unexpired
- Cat and dog food (may be open)
- Laundry detergent (not opened)
- Personal care items
- Baby wipes

- Diapers (open packages are accepted)
- Adult disposable underwear (open packages are accepted)
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Household cleaners
- Light bulbs



Donations can be dropped off/delivered 3 ways:

1. East side – Pam’s house (318 Merryturn Rd)
2. West side – Jane’s house (3146 Dorchester way, #5)
3. Bring to club meeting

Remember, **our goal this year is 500 pounds!!** The need is great, as our pantries in Madison are serving 3X the number of families than 2 years ago.



Zonta Club Food drive 2023

For more information on how you can help (or VOLUNTEER!), ask Jane and here is the link: <https://www.wayforwardresources.org/support-us/donate-food-clothing/>

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Membership Committee –  
JoAnn Gruber-Hagen

Bringing back the Empowered Exchange

Empowered Exchanges are designed to focus on an issue affecting us and bring our knowledge, opinions and questions to bear upon that issue.

Our first Empowered Exchange of this year will be **January 28, 6:30-8:00 pm** at my home, 7210 Timberwood Drive, Madison (SW side). We have often included a potluck dinner before our Empowered Exchanges but I've heard comments that potlucks get to be a lot of work. We'll try this one without a meal. Bring your beverage of choice. I'll have glasses and ice, as needed

Membership Committee members were feeling the pain of property tax bills and wondered why they seem so high and what can be done to influence property tax rates. The short answer to that is they seem high because they are, particularly in Madison, Verona and Fitchburg.

So ... the Membership Committee thinks this is worth better understanding how it works and how residents can have input. What determines a property tax bill? Who decides? What influence can you have and how can you exert it?

If needed, we can set aside a little time at the beginning for whining (and wine-ing) but we'll move into trying to be more proactive in understanding the process and how to

influence it. Do a little prior research as time permits but **DO TAKE THE TIME** to jot down concerns for which you would like to hear other peoples' opinions and knowledge. If next steps are needed, we will discuss those.



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CLUB OF  
MADISON

Build a Better World for Women and Girls



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Newsletter January 2025

**Zonta Club, District & International  
Calendar of Events  
Submitted by Gail Zalewski**

**UPCOMING ZONTA DATES**

- January 2025 - Amelia Earhart Month
- January 11, 2025 - Amelia Earhart Day
- January 15, 2025 - Madison membership Club Meeting
- January 15 - February 19 – FOOD DRIVE Collection for Way Forward Resources
- March 4, 2025 – Advocacy in Action event
- March 8, 2025 - International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day
- May 17, 2025 - Area 2 Spring Workshop – New Berlin Public Library
- June 20-22, 2025 - North American Inter-District Meeting - Novi, Michigan
- October 10-12, 2025 - District 6 Fall Conference - Bloomington, Illinois
- July 11-14, 2026 - Zonta International 67th Convention - Vancouver, Canada

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February Birthday:

- Tammy H Feb. 18

*We hope you have a fun day filled with  
yummy food, family and good friends  
(and kittys)!*

Zonta Club of Madison  
Newsletter Submission Guidelines

The monthly submission deadline for 2024-25 will be the **24<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

***Please send your submissions to:***  
[zontamadisonnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:zontamadisonnewsletter@gmail.com).

All submissions should be in a simple Word document format. Arial font is desired, (however I can easily change font).

Do you want your committee or board meeting dates published! We can do that! Send your dates/times to the email address above and it will be on the calendar of events.

Corrections & suggestions for improvement are welcome and should be sent to the newsletter Gmail for publication in future editions as appropriate. Thank you!

Jane Hartman  
Newsletter Editor