



ROSE PETALS

NEWSLETTER



ZONTA
CLUB OF
COOS BAY AREA
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

December 2024

From the Chef's Table - President Shirley MacAdam



Happy Holidays Fellow Zontians!!

I would like to start my message thanking Greg Dalton and the Advocacy Committee for their work on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign. Truly good work resulting in real visibility for our Zonta Club!

I have let the holiday madness get out of control like I can easily do in a hot minute. I don't want to miss out on anything and thus I end up doing too much. I am counting on the feeling that I am not alone and many of you may be in a similar place of holiday chaos. I hope you are more successful than I am at slowing down the pattern and only doing the things that are most important to you to do!

I am grateful for my life in so many ways and I am happy to have an excuse to say so out loud in this brief Zonta message. I am grateful for Genelle who is so patient with me every month as I put off sending my President's message until the very last day it is due - LOL. Yesterday I rang the bell at Fred Meyer and the ZClubbers made my day with pulling me into singing Christmas Carols with them! SOOOO FUN! I have not been a bell ringer in years and forgot how fun it is.



My message today is a simple one: if you do nothing else with Zonta all year (which I hope is NOT the case), please find a way to come to the holiday party this Friday, December 20th, noon at Dave's Pizza. You have an email to preorder your lunch! This is the same time as our regular Zonta Program meeting, but it is going to be ALL PARTY! If you work and can't usually make it, I hope there is a way to take a couple hours of PTO, or a long lunch or request a favor from you boss! I know this is not likely, but it never hurts to ask! I would love to see you all!!! This will be a casual gathering with lots of time to visit and enjoy each other. This is an agenda that allows us all to stop, breathe, laugh and share. That's it! There may never be another Zonta meeting like it! LOL. Please come see me!

Happy Hollidays to you and your loved ones.

Shirley MacAdam
President



RSVP by 12/18 via SurveyMonkey sent in email Z Flash



Zonta International News

Laaha: 2024-2026 International Service Project, a Safe Virtual Space for Women and Girls
Laaha is a joint international service project between Zonta International and UNICEF USA. This is UNICEF’s first-ever digital web-based platform for women and girls from crisis-affected regions and is contributing US \$750,000.

Laaha facilitates access to information and services in a way that is safe, culturally appropriate, and accessible to adolescent girls and women, particularly those who face higher levels of marginalization, such as girls with disabilities and married girls. Through Laaha, women and girls are able to ask for information on a wide variety of topics (menstrual health and hygiene, healthy relationships, how to stay safe and know one’s rights, financial literacy, female anatomy, and available services for women and girls facing violence or abuse). Participating women and girls can receive the information through articles, podcasts and videos and be informed of their rights as women and girls and where to find the help they need. The platform is currently available in seven languages, with the goal to expand to more than 25 languages, including Indigenous and tribal languages. Laaha supports anonymity, not collecting any personally identifying information like names, phone numbers or demographic information.

To learn more at: www.zonta.org/laaha



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I believe if there was a website like Laaha growing up, I would have had a better experience starting from within myself and the protection I needed from the outside world.
19-year-old participant from Iraq

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign November 25 - December 10, 2024

Was a Success!!!

Another 16 Days of Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women has passed! This year, our advocacy team presented at our program meeting November 15, the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Wednesday Business Connection lunch on December 3, set up our Child Marriage Shoe Display at Pony Village Mall, had Zonta Says No signs shared in business windows across the community, did some community photo ops for Facebook and Instagram, and held a rally/vigil at the Coos Bay Visitor's Center with guest speakers from CB Police and Coos County Community Corrections on December 6. Our rally speakers included CB Police Captains Tom Lindahl and Mike Shaffer as well as Mike Paturzo Parole and Probation Officer and supervisor of the domestic violence caseload. Tom Lindahl and Michael Paturzo are board members for the SAFE Project. Thank you to the CB Visitor Center leadership and staff for giving us space, setting their building lights to orange, and putting our rally info on the LED reader board. Thank you to Erin Kauffman for use of the Salvation Army's sound system for the rally, Thank you to the advocacy committee and community partners for helping to plan and pull off these activities and for showing up! A special thanks goes out to Genelle Hanken for ongoing leadership and support. **In just the few years I've been helping on the advocacy committee I've seen this work open eyes and minds and plant seeds of change in our community. This together with the work others are doing to help end oppression and violence will sponsor positive change for women, children, and all humans. Our Zonta team is effective, strong, and dedicated to making change! I'm proud to be part of this team!**

Greg Dalton Advocacy Committee Chair





Coos Bay Police Captain Mike Shaffer's speech Against Gender Violence given at the Zonta Community Rally/Vigil December 6, 2024

Today, we speak about a crisis that affects millions around the world—a crisis that transcends borders, cultures, and communities. I am talking about gender violence. Whether it manifests as domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or the abuse of power over another person, gender violence is a violation of human rights. It is a scourge that we must address with urgency and unwavering determination.

Every day, countless individuals—primarily women and girls—suffer from the physical, emotional, and psychological trauma caused by gender-based violence. These are not just statistics. These are mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends—real people with dreams, ambitions, and potential that are being stifled by violence.

We need to raise awareness and challenge these harmful ideologies. No longer should we allow silence to protect the perpetrators of violence. No longer should we accept any form of violence as “normal” or “acceptable.” We must educate ourselves, our children, and our communities about the importance of respect, equality, and consent.

Also, we must ensure that survivors have the resources, support, and protection they need. We cannot expect individuals to break free from violence if they lack the necessary tools to escape, heal, and rebuild their lives. Shelters, hotlines, mental health services, and legal protections are not luxuries—they are essential lifelines that must be made accessible to every survivor, regardless of their background, age, or status.

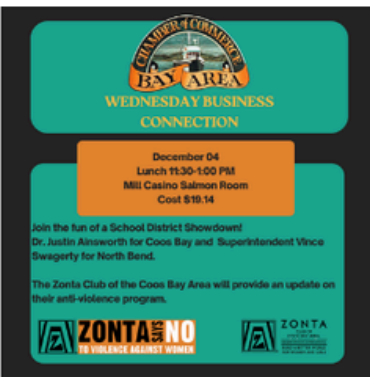
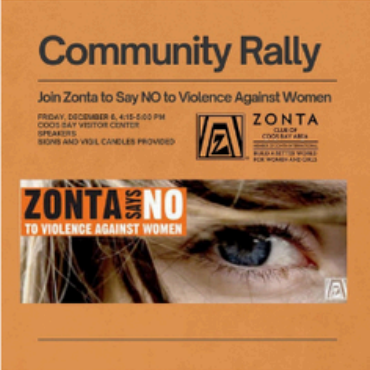
Moreover, we must hold perpetrators accountable. Gender violence thrives in a culture of impunity, where too often, those who commit such acts face little to no consequences. This must change. We must push for stronger legal frameworks, comprehensive enforcement, and international cooperation to eradicate gender violence in all its forms.

But perhaps most importantly, we must embrace the power of solidarity. This fight is not just for those who are directly impacted by gender violence, it is for all of us. Men, women, and people of all genders must unite and stand against violence. When we come together as one, we can change societal attitudes, dismantle toxic power structures, and create a world where everyone can live free from fear and violence.

In closing, I urge you all to reflect on what it means to live in a world of equality and respect. A world where no one is subjected to violence because of their gender. Let us commit ourselves to making this vision a reality—today, tomorrow, and every day thereafter.

Together, we can break the cycle of violence. Together, we can create a world of peace, equality, and justice for all.

Some of our clubs 16 Days of Activism posts on Facebook and Instagram



A video about our Community Rally is posted on our club public Facebook and Instagram pages

Z and Golden Z Club News

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The Golden Z Club at Southwestern Oregon Community College has regenerated with the following officers: Makenzie Thompson, President; Domnik Simmons, Vice President, and Brenda Jackson, Advisor. While momentum is still gathering in terms of membership, the Golden Z Club won Third place in the Turkey Basket raffle sponsored by the American Association of Women in Community Colleges, thanks to food donations from Lindi, Brenda, Coos Head Food Coop, as well as club sponsorship by Jen Shaefer. All food donations went to The Spot, a resource distribution center for students in need.

The Golden Z Club also had a display as part of the 16 Days of Activism and gave away orange whistles (thanks to Anastasia) to support safety awareness before December break.

In addition, Makenzie and Brenda visited the Marshfield High School Z Club in December to network and to hear about the campaign to raise funds for awareness around child abuse.

Thanks to everyone who helped jumpstart this club!

Brenda Jackson



North Bend Z Club (below with Advisor Charlotte Hutt) & Marshfield Z Clubs helped with Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Full Bell Ringing report in the January Rose Petals.

Marshfield Z Club was approved for the fourth year to receive a Community 101 grant of \$5000 from the Oregon Community Foundation. Students determine the greatest need in their community (each year), research 501c3s that address the need, invite the programs to submit grant applications to the club, and then choose recipient(s) of the funds. The first year of the program (2021-22) they chose mental health, the second year drugs and alcohol, and last year protecting the environment. This year they chose CHILD ABUSE. Kick off was a presentation by the director of the Kid's Hope Center.

Of course that's not all the Z Club does! Another career guest speaker recently was our former Zonta member AUDREY DUKE – many of the students had indicated an interest in the medical profession. Zclubbers have been volunteering at the monthly "free for families" movie at the Egyptian on Saturdays, participated at the MHS "charity event" trunk or treat, helped Greg with the CASA balloon animals "booth" at "Malloween," and joined Zonta for bellringing for the Salvation Army.



Encore Member Profile: Mike Claassen



I was born in Portland during WW11, we moved to Selma California, outside of Fresno, where I started school. I was second oldest of nine kids, the first five were boys. I grew up working with my father in his small-town men's and boy's clothing store, from age five thru high school. I went to Fresno State and by the time I graduated I was married with two daughters. I divorced when my daughters were in high school and remarried 6 years later to my second wife who I met thru mutual friends. We were a good match and both our lives thrived.

I worked in men's clothing stores and opened my own in Cupertino, California. My daughters worked in my store after school when they were in high school. After ten years I sold it to Patrick James, a Fresno based company that had 22 stores that I had worked for previously for 7 years and where I had been fired 5 times.

I ran Patrick James 22 stores for six years and left to start a financial services company with my wife where we outsourced employee stock option plans. We sold to Smith Barney after 5 years. My wife and I built our house here Bandon in 2002, moved in January of 2003 and my wife died of a brain tumor in 2004.

My daughters are both married to good guys and have given me seven grandkids. My lawyer daughter Jennifer lives in Houston, TX, Santa Cruz and Tahoe and my nurse daughter Michelle in Frederick, Maryland. One of my granddaughter's is now studying at SWOCC and living with me. I play bridge twice a week.

Joining Zonta has been a great thing for me. I get to know and work with an amazing group of women and mutually work to make the world a better place just by following Zonta's mission and goals.



**BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Our Best Non -Profit of the South Coast Plaque is now hanging in VP Debbie Kirby's business office lobby, the Coastal Center!! A stark improvement over our storage unit.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Birthdays

December 2 - Frances Smith

December 25- Kimberly Hendricks

'December 27 - Melinda Johnson

January 6 - Kimberly Mandel

January 9- Sherrill Lorenzo & Charlene Moore

January 16 - Muriel Richardson

January 21 - Jen Shaffer

January 23 - Greg dalton

January 27 Joanne Griffeath & Lori Schmidt

January 28 - Theresa Collins

January 31 - Erin Kauffman

Club Calendar

- Dec 20 Holiday Gathering at Dave's Pizza RSVP by 12/18
- Dec 31 Deadline to submit names for Outstanding Woman in Our Community
- January 3 Club Business Meeting
- January 17 Club Program Meeting
- March 8 Scholarship Fundraiser Wildflour Public House