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Dear Megan,

Happy new calendar year! And happy International Day of Education!

Each year gives us a fresh start brimming with opportunities to build a better world for women and girls. We start the year celebrating January with our very own Zontian and pioneer, Amelia Earhart. However, to realize a gender-equal world, we must empower the next generation of female pioneers, leaders and innovators in all fields and that begins with quality education opportunities for all women and girls. Therefore, let's highlight the 24th of January as the International Day of Education!

According to UN Women's [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals report](#), although access to education is rising among girls and their completion rates consistently surpass those of boys across the primary, lower-secondary and upper-secondary levels, millions of girls have never entered a classroom or completed their education. Around 110 million girls are estimated to be deprived of completing their education by 2030. Therefore, it is crucial that Zonta continues to support women and girls throughout the world through our international service projects and [education programs](#). Through your support for these projects and programs and through your own local actions, you help ensure that women and girls have access to education and the opportunities it provides.

As you read on, you will discover the inspiring stories of our recipients whose lives have been transformed due to Zonta's education programs and vision of building a world where women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men.

With your tireless support and unwavering dedication, we are poised to achieve great things in 2024. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

Warm regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ute".

Ute Scholz  
President 2022-2024  
Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women

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**[A word from our awardees, scholars and fellows!](#)**

Through fellowships, scholarships, and awards, Zonta has played a significant role in promoting gender equity in education and supported women and girls in breaking through the glass ceiling and achieving their full potential. Below are a few examples from recent awardees of how Zonta changes lives.



*"As a first-generation student, this Fellowship will enable me to pay for tuition, purchase books and computer equipment and attend conferences that will support my research. I am excited to become a member of an international community of women and receive the guidance of talented role models."*

**Provence Barnouin**

France

2021 Amelia Earhart Fellow



*"Being a recipient of this award is incredibly meaningful to me. By awarding me this scholarship, Zonta has greatly lightened my financial burden, and I no longer have to spend as much time funding my education. Therefore, I now have the freedom to pursue other endeavors that will further enrich my education."*

**Khadijah Dhoondia**

USA

2022 Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee



*"For years, I wanted to go back to school to pursue my master's, but always found myself lacking the funds or time to do so. I knew it would require a great sacrifice of my time and my family's financial resources. Despite taking out a student loan, I still needed more money to make my dream happen. If I am being honest, applying for this scholarship was one of the best decisions of my life!"*

**Saeeda Ruffin-Daniels**

USA

2022 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar



*"This scholarship feels like a long-awaited reward for the hardships and struggles that came along my personal journey. Being born in an asylum seeker's home in Germany to parents from Vietnam and brought up by a single mother who cleaned houses for a living, it was always a dream of mine to become someone who people would look up to. Although I am very proud of what I have achieved in life so far, it fills me with so many happy tears to have a confirmation from Zonta."*

**Minh Trinh**

Germany

2021 Women in Technology Scholar

To support the next class of fellows, awardees and scholars like Provence, Khadijah, Saeeda and Minh, donate to the education funds by clicking below.

Donate

## Expand your horizons

Unlock the full potential of your impact by exploring new horizons. Embrace the endless possibilities and broaden your perspective through the following ways:



**LEARN** more about our scholarship programs

- Amelia Earhart Fellowship | [LINK](#)
- Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship | [LINK](#)
- Women in STEM Scholarship | [LINK](#)
- Young Women in Public Affairs Award | [LINK](#)

**HEAR** from our Amelia Earhart (AE) Fellows as we celebrate Amelia Earhart Month

- Lindy Elkins-Tanton, 1999 and 2000 AE Fellow | [LINK](#) | [YouTube](#)
- Michaela Hemming, 2023 AE Fellow | [LINK](#) | [YouTube](#)
- Franziska Hild, 2023 AE Fellow | [LINK](#) | [YouTube](#)
- Past International President Sharon Langenback, Ph.D., 1977 and 1978 AE Fellow | [LINK](#) | Part 1, [YouTube](#) | Part 2, [YouTube](#)
- Kendra Sharp, Ph.D., 1998 AE Fellow | [LINK](#) | [YouTube](#)

**EXPAND** your knowledge

- Attend CSW68 online or in-person | [Mailing list](#) | [Registration form](#)
- Read the latest issue of *The Zontian* magazine | [LINK](#)
- Learn more about the progress on the Sustainable Development Goals | [LINK](#)
- Invite a Zonta awardee to speak at your club meeting to hear directly how Zonta is making an impact in the education of women and girls
- Meet our 2023 Women in STEM Scholars | [Read their bios](#)
- Check out the new Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship materials | [LINK](#)

## Zontians in Action

Zonta members are building a better world for women and girls in their local communities and beyond! Read the stories below highlighting how Zonta clubs are dedicating themselves to securing quality education for women and girls in their own towns and cities.

### [Zonta Club of Taipei II awards scholarships and more](#)

The Zonta Club of Taipei II, Taiwan, held its 7th annual scholarship award ceremony to recognize 16 female university students who have achieved distinguished academic performances and impressive volunteer work despite challenges. Thirteen awardees joined the Golden Z of New Dawn after interacting with current club members following the ceremony.



The club has also set aside an additional education fund to subsidize the special needs of young people in their pursuit of academic, leadership or professional achievement.

## Zonta Club of Ludvika-Smedjebacken inspires young girls to envision a future in tech

The Zonta Club of Ludvika-Smedjebacken, Sweden, organized an inspirational event to encourage local high school girls to continue their studies and envision a future in technology.



The club invited Professor Sonja Berlijn from the Royal Institute of Technology to give a talk about the importance of choosing a career path that aligns with one's interests. She encouraged students to take advantage of opportunities that come their way and to pursue their goals actively. Sonja also emphasized the need for more women in engineering to bring diverse perspectives and innovative solutions to future development.

The club also invited Samira Abbasinejad, a Hitachi Energy-HVDC manager, to speak about her journey. Born in Iran, Samira talked about how she came to Sweden, what it is like to be a women worker at her company and what opportunities Hitachi can offer in the future.

[Share Your Story](#)

Share your story with us by clicking the button above!

## Get ready for Brisbane, Australia

Early Bird registration for the 2024 Zonta International Convention is here!

As we count down to convention, discover the beauty of Brisbane and create unforgettable memories with your fellow Zontians by exploring the tours and activities available. Discover the thrill of adventure and immerse yourself in the wonders of this magnificent city by securing your lodging today. Please be advised that we have updated our accommodation recommendations on the convention website.



*Zonta's 2024 Convention is supported by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland.*

## Bring your ideas to the Intercontinental Think Tank

All members are welcome to join the Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action Intercontinental Think Tank. Come share your ideas and gather inspiration on how we can address climate justice now!



**Sunday, 18 February | 10:00 AM UTC | Find your time: [Meeting Planner](#)**

[Register](#)

## Welcome to our newest club!

Join Zonta International in welcoming our newest

clubs:

**Zonta Club of Brewerton, NY – Friends for Equality**  
District 2, USA

**Zonta Club of Hualien II**  
District 31, Taiwan

**Zonta Club of Madagascar**  
District 18

WELCOME TO OUR  
NEW ZONTA CLUBS



We are thrilled to see how the new clubs will embrace Zonta's mission and values in building a better world for women and girls. Follow us on social media to see more new Zonta clubs.



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**celebrates this month's  
club anniversaries!**

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**Congratulations** to our club anniversaries this month:

**Zonta Club of Glen Falls**  
USA, District 2  
**100th anniversary**

**Zonta Club of Annapolis**  
USA, District 3  
**95th anniversary**

We applaud your efforts in advocating for the women and girls in your community and beyond. To see which other clubs are celebrating a milestone anniversary in January, visit [Zonta News](#).



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