

# KWN Community

A Monthly Newsletter for members of Kenosha Women's Network

February 2024

Kenosha  
Women's  
Network



## Growing Together, Rooted in the Community

### *A Note from our President*

Hello, KWN,

Thanks to each and every member of Kenosha Women's Network for being a member! We retained over 75% of our membership from 2023 to 2024, which is a GREAT rate! And we've already added five more new members, bringing our numbers to just over 83% of last year's. Lou Molitor, formerly the CEO of the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce, regularly pointed out that members get out of the organization what they put in. That is, to benefit from membership – in any organization – people have to participate in the events OF the organization.

What that means for KWN is that people need to show up: come to lunch! Join our special events! Plan your own outing, and invite KWN membership! Whatever it is, there are responsibilities to membership, and you get out of it what you put into it. Make it good, and get your money's worth!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the February lunch...it's one of my favorite meetings because it is such a fun throwback to grade school with the exchange of Valentines. I love to see if I can outdo myself from last year...or the nose sharpener from the year before! 🤫 Spoiler alert: It's unlikely that this year's Valentines will be better than those!

See you at lunch!

### *Guida*



### *Our Mission:*

*To promote and encourage the professional and personal growth of our members in a supportive environment, where women's efforts are recognized and encouraged.*

### February meeting

KWN's February meeting will be at [Casa Capri](#).  
The meeting date is February 9th, from 11:30am to 1:00pm.  
The price to attend is \$18 per person and includes a delicious buffet lunch.  
Please RSVP by end of day February 6th, 2024  
Click on one of the links below or see the website to buy your ticket.

### **February 9th Lunch Meeting**

For the first time ever, we think, the January meeting had to be canceled due to weather, so those who signed up for January and are attending in February need to use this registration form: "If you paid in January...KWN Monthly Lunch Meeting 2/09/2024" <https://form.jotform.com/240156154040140>

But, if we're lucky enough that you'll be joining us in February but hadn't registered for the January meeting, use this link, please! "KWN Monthly Lunch Meeting" for February 9. <https://form.jotform.com/240113887516154>

We hope you're able to join the fun in February! First, our speakers are our own Amanda Blommel and Wendy Gauss. They'll be talking about the Susan B. Anthony - Women of Influence Awards Dinner, which takes place on Friday, March 22, and Kenosha Women's Network's relationship to the event. If you haven't attended in the past, you'll want to after you learn just a bit more!

And, it's that time of the year! Get your Valentines ready because we'll be handing them out at this February luncheon at Casa Capri. Networking starts at 11:30 a.m., and that's when the exchange takes place! It's not mandatory, but it certainly is fun!

When the reminder email goes out, we will tell you how many people are attending, but it's usually a popular lunch, so plan for 35 or so if you plan to exchange Valentines.



**Save the Date for the 33rd Susan B Anthony-Women of Influence Awards Dinner** to be held on Friday, March 22nd, 2024, at the Alfred & Bernice De Simone Arena, at UW Parkside. This year's winners are:



**Lifetime Achievement:** Rebecca Matoska-Mentink

**Arts/Education:** Rebecca Stevens

**Business/Government/Nonprofit:** Nakeisha "Nikki" Payne

**Woman to Watch under 40:** Jenna Zeihen

[Click here](#) to buy a ticket to the event! Early Bird pricing runs through February 23rd.

## Board Members and Committee Chairs

### President:

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### Immediate Past President

Roseann Shales

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## February's Wise Women Read Meeting

On Tuesday, February 20, we'll be back at Blue House Books, 5915 6th Ave A, at 6:30 p.m., discussing *Neon Gods* by Katee Robert. Just in time for Valentine's Day, *Entertainment Weekly* calls this book "a modern retelling of Hades and Persephone – 'Unspeakably hot!'"

This is book one in the World of Dark Olympus series, and it's described as "A scorchingly hot modern retelling of Hades and Persephone that's as sinful as it is sweet."

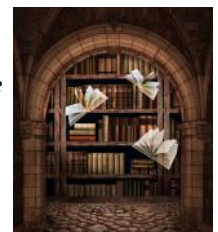
From Blue House Books' website: "Society darling Persephone Dimitriou plans to flee the ultra-modern city of Olympus and start over far from the backstabbing politics of the Thirteen Houses. But all that's ripped away when her mother ambushes her with an engagement to Zeus, the dangerous power behind their glittering city's dark facade.

"With no options left, Persephone flees to the forbidden undercity and makes a devil's bargain with a man she once believed a myth...a man who awakens her to a world she never knew existed.

"Hades has spent his life in the shadows, and he has no intention of stepping into the light. But when he finds that Persephone can offer a little slice of the revenge he's spent years craving, it's all the excuse he needs to help her—for a price. Yet every breathless night spent tangled together has given Hades a taste for Persephone, and he'll go to war with Olympus itself to keep her close..."

Join us on February 20 to discuss this "unspeakably hot" story!

We chose an Irish-themed story for St. Patrick's Day, when we're back to our regularly-scheduled date, the second Tuesday, which is March 12. The book we'll be discussing is *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods, and it's described as "The Keeper of Stories meets The Lost Apothecary in this evocative and charming novel full of mystery and secrets. 'The thing about books,' she said 'is that they help you to imagine a life bigger and better than you could ever dream of.'"



## Help Wanted!

Your Events committee is looking to coordinate several "Community Service" projects in 2024. We would like some of your ideas of things you might like to participate in as we develop this. Think about your interests, opportunities to do things that you have an interest in or something you have seen advertised and think it would be fun to help out with.

- Events -can be something another group is planning and we would piggy back on. (Networking opportunity!)
- can be evening or weekends. Weekday is not a priority.
- can be done at home or out in the community.
- are action oriented. We do not want to donate time and then arrive and be told that there is nothing to do or there is not enough useful work to fill the time slot.
- can be a one time event or something we do on a regularly scheduled basis.

We do have some ideas but would really like your input. See one of us at a meeting or feel free to email Ellen Kupfer at [kupfer11e@aol.com](mailto:kupfer11e@aol.com) if you can't attend luncheons.



Six more weeks of Winter?



Or an early Spring?



THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND BUSINESSES WHO DONATED TO THE FABULOUS HOLIDAY GRAND RAFFLE!

YOU ALL HELPED TO MAKE IT A GREAT SUCCESS!

Make a donation (valued at \$10 or more) to our regular monthly raffle and get your name and business mentioned in our monthly newsletter!



**Dr. Diane Gerlach** is a pediatrician with Aurora Healthcare. Her mission is to help children thrive and, to this end, she is very involved in a number of groups, on both the state and local level: **Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin** provides support and education for healthcare providers in asthma, developmental screening, safety, etc. **Act Early State Team** supports early detection of developmental and social emotional delays. **Smart Beginnings** works to ensure all children are ready for to learn on the first day of kindergarten. **Help Me Grow** provides support for parents of young children navigating resources.

**Maria Diaz-Steponitis**, Team Lead at Team Diaz - eXp Realty, is passionate about real estate and assisting clients in buying or selling homes. A dedicated member of KWN for the past 2 years, Maria values the organization's vision and purpose. KWN provides an excellent platform for business growth and networking with inspiring women in the Kenosha Racine area.

KWN members: We want to put you in the spotlight! Share with us, in 50-60 words, something about your business or your experience as a member of KWN. Look for the sign up sheet at the next meeting to get your name on the list!

## Looking Ahead to March

**MAYORAL / JUDGE CANDIDATE FORUM**


Hosted by the AAUW - Kenosha, Kenosha Women's Network, and GFWC Woman's Club of Kenosha

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024  
6:00 PM  
WOMAN'S CLUB KENOSHA  
6028 8TH AVE

Register here: 

or here: <https://shorturl.at/gqJNQ>  
or by calling: 262-654-7570

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

  
**SUSAN B. ANTHONY AWARDS DINNER: GOURMET DELIGHTS**

For the past few years at the Susan B. Anthony Awards banquet (this year on Friday, March 22, 2024), we have used Gourmet Delights as a fundraiser in our silent auction. Members of the three collaborating organizations-- Kenosha Women's Network, AAUW-Kenosha Branch, and Tempo Kenosha-- bring grandma's (or grandpa's) favorite treats to the event. From pies, cakes, cookies, fudge and other candies to dilly beans and homemade bread or chutney; all will appeal to the people who attend, especially if they are decoratively presented. Every year, we raise about \$1,000 from the silent auction alone, helping to fund our scholarships and grants.

In order to plan ahead, we need you to sign up in advance for what you will be bringing. The event begins as early as 5:00pm, for the cash bar, so any time after 3:30 on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we'll be happy to receive your contribution at the Arena at the Sports and Activity Center at UW Parkside. Please include the following information:

- your name
- your email address and/or phone number
- name of the item and any "history" you'd like to share
- the value of the item(s)

Fill it out and give it to your representative or send it to Fran Kavenik at [kavenik@uwp.edu](mailto:kavenik@uwp.edu), or you can phone Fran at home at 262-654-7570.

Thanks for participating!!!