

[View this email in your browser](#)



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
DENVER

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## Smoke Signal - February 2018

### **2017-2018 Zonta Club of Denver**

#### **Officers**

Julie Bradley, President  
Marian Lee, President-elect  
Mary Lou Edwards, Vice President  
Penny Burke, Secretary  
Barb Pellegren, Treasurer

#### **Directors**

Liz Savage  
Mary Benoit  
Carol Mangold  
Wendy Moraskie

#### **Foundation Officers**

Julie Bradley  
Mary Lou Edwards  
Marian Lee  
Barb Pellegren

#### **Foundation Trustees**

Evie Ashmore  
Judy McNerny  
Liz Cameron  
Pam Dumonceau

Please send your newsletter submissions



### **February Meeting**

Date: Thursday, February 8th

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Rendezvous Restaurant  
2888 S Heather Gardens Way  
Aurora

This is our Grant Awards dinner. The deadline to RSVP by delivering a check to Liz Savage is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2**. See Membership Committee report for details.

to Judy McNerny, Marian Lee, and Wendy Moraskie.

visit us online at [www.zonta-denver.org](http://www.zonta-denver.org)



Julie Bradley, left, presents Wendy Moraskie  
with Zontian of the Year plaque



Bev Myers, center, at her induction into the Zonta  
Club of Denver on January 11,  
with her sponsor, Veronica Hoegler, left,  
and Membership Chair Liz Savage.

---

## Minutes of January Meeting

Go [here](#) to read the minutes of the January 11,  
2018, club meeting.

## LAST CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

It's not too late to throw your hat into  
the ring. The nominating committee is  
still looking for a Director for a two-year  
term. Thanks to all of you who have  
said "yes"!

Nikki



---

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time is flying by.... here we are almost to February and two months from the Day of Film!

The February meeting will allow us to become acquainted with the organizations we have granted money to due to our efforts for last year's Day of Film! We will be able to visit with them at our tables and discuss their worthwhile efforts to help woman and girls in need in our community. I always look forward to hearing a little bit about where our money is going and how we can help

with hands-on service as well!

Our February meeting will be at Rendezvous Restaurant in Aurora at the Heather Gardens complex. The location is great in that it has free parking and a beautiful room where we can enjoy the company of our Zonta sisters and friends alike. A buffet and cash bar will add to our comfort. Hope to see you all there as we celebrate our Grant attendees and their programs.

I thank all those who were able to join us at CU Boulder for the fantastic gathering of women from Area 3 to celebrate Amelia Earhart Day and also join in the sharing of all the things going on with the Foundation and Zonta International!

Time is fast approaching for the Day of Film. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> annual event and the Fundraising Committee is hard at work getting ready for the festivities. Tickets are now available and we have a link on our website to take your orders for tickets. It is very simple to do – go to the web site and click on the link to buy tickets. We accept all major credit cards and you can purchase tickets, make a donation – or BOTH! We currently have two confirmed Gold Sponsorships with several other sponsorships in the works. The film is our major fundraiser for the year and our grant distributions NEXT year are determined by how much we raise this year. Please make sure you buy your tickets; if you want to write a check you can bring it with you to the meeting in February. We will be using all of the space including the 'balcony' this year, have a great caterer, and the director, who is a fabulous speaker, will be there to make our event special. We already have a commitment for champagne to toast each other. Let's make it extra special!

Thank you all for EVERYTHING you do. Let's make our February meeting special for all concerned and we would love 100% participation in one form or another of all members in the Tenth Annual Day of Film!

~Julie Bradley

**Cautiously Optimistic:  
Iranian Protests, Democracy, and Women  
by Dawn Bali**



*On a Facebook group, [My Stealthy Freedom](#), more than 820,000 followers, like this woman, silently protest Iran's hijab law.*

---

In the past month, tens of thousands of Iranians took to the streets in protest, admonishing their government for failing economic policies and social injustices. The Iranian regime, led by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei'i, has insisted Iranian citizens abide by resistance economic strategies that unduly affect the middle and lower classes. Unemployment, increased inflation, and subsequent increased cost for basic food stuffs drove people to the streets late this December. [Read the article and see additional photos [here](#).]

---

## **Committee Reports**

# MEMBERSHIP



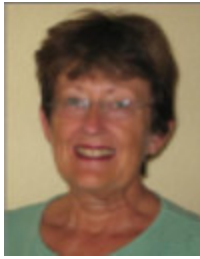
The February 8, 2018 Grant Awards Dinner at the Rendezvous Restaurant in Aurora is fast approaching and will be a fantastic event. I hope everyone will make an effort to be there to learn about, celebrate and congratulate this year's recipients of our club's service grants: Friends of the Haven, Hope House of Colorado, Domestic Violence Initiative, and the Global Heath Foundation. **If you plan to attend, please mail or hand deliver a check or cash to Liz Savage ASAP - the deadline to pay is Friday, February 2, 2018.** The cost per person is \$30.00. Please make checks payable to Zonta Club of Denver. If you are bringing a guest, please make arrangements to either cover his or her cost in your check and get reimbursed, or have him or her mail the check to me (see club directory for my mailing address). If you would like to drop off your check at my house, please call or text first ([720-209-0475](tel:720-209-0475)). We will distribute information about the location address and a map before February 8.

Due to the growing size of our club, we have almost outgrown the Fresh Fish Company's private room, and so the Membership Committee is in the process of selecting a new location for our monthly club meetings. In the next week or so, you will receive an email with a link to Survey Monkey with a listing of the finalists for a new meeting location. This will be your one and only chance to participate in selecting the new location, so please make your voice heard and vote! With as diverse a membership as we have, which is a wonderful thing, finding a location that every individual member likes is virtually impossible. The Membership Committee will do its best to please as many members with the final selection as possible, but please understand that the final selection will likely not be everyone's first choice.

The Membership Committee will meet next on Wednesday, February 21, at 4:30 p.m. at Yanni's Greek Restaurant at The Landmark in Greenwood Village. We encourage anyone and everyone to join us!

Thanks all, and see you at the February meeting!

~ Liz Savage



## FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee is finalizing its search for a caterer for our film event. Our last tasting was on Friday, January 26. We will make a choice and announce it soon.

We are already realizing income from the sponsor letters that were previously sent out (\$2,000 so far) and several tickets have been purchased through Event Brite on our website. Members should have received a flyer via email from Judy McNerny which can be paired with a personal note and sent to every contact (friends, relatives, businesses) who might possibly be interested in our film event.

***This next month is our critical period for selling tickets and all members are responsible for helping with that as this is our major fundraiser for the year. Not every contact will buy a ticket, so the more we send out, the greater the response will be.***

The committee will meet at Cynthia's home at 4 pm on Monday, January 29, Monday, February 12, and Monday, March 12.

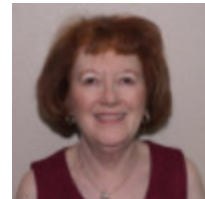
~Mary Lou Edwards

## SERVICE

The most exciting day for the Service Committee is almost here. This is the day that your hard earned dollars are awarded to our four local grant recipients. Those grantees are Friends of the Haven, Hope House of Colorado, Global Health Foundation, and Domestic Violence Initiative (DVI). In the past we have funded The Haven and DVI; Hope House and Global Health are new.

Please make sure this event is on your calendar: February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Come and meet the leaders of these organizations. Help us welcome them. One person from each organization will have an opportunity to speak about what they do and the impact of your dollars. It will be a lovely evening. I hope to see you there.

~Mary Benoit







## ADVOCACY

Don't miss Dawn Bali's article in this issue about Iranian women. She includes a lot of great photos as well.

There are still opportunities to write an advocacy article for the April, May and June *Smoke Signals*. Please let me know if you can do one of them.

~Carol Mangold

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

The PR Committee is working on the Day of Film promotional materials, including a sample email invitation for you to send to friends and family, and a news release. You will be hearing from us soon!



~ Wendy Henry-Moraskie

---

## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Dear Denver Club Zontians,

As some of you know I was not able to attend our annual Dining In Event on January 11<sup>th</sup>. A shout out to Marian for making the presentation about our Zonta International Foundation, service projects and educational projects. Thank you, Marian.

I am so grateful for your generosity. Our club raised \$760.00 for the Foundation. Every dollar gets the Foundation closer to the goal for the biennium. The biennium will be over the end of May. New projects will be introduced at the ZI Convention in Yokohama in June. The process will start over.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like to donate please let me know and I will send you a donation form. Email me at [mary@mathiaslockandkey.com](mailto:mary@mathiaslockandkey.com). Also you can go to the Zonta International website where it is very easy to donate. As I said before, the biennium will be over soon. ZI Foundation still has not met the goal so every dollar does make a difference.

~ Mary Benoit

---

## Club Calendar

## Special Events

### Club Meetings

#### **February 8, 2018**

5:00 p.m.

Rendezvous Restaurant  
2888 S Heather Gardens Way  
Aurora, CO 80014

#### **March 8, 2018**

5:00 p.m.

Fresh Fish Co.

### Committee Meetings

#### **January 29, 2018**

Fundraising Committee

4:00 p.m.

Cynthia Herndon's home

#### **February 12, 2018**

Fundraising Committee

4:00 p.m.

Cynthia Herndon's home

#### **February 21, 2018**

Membership Committee

4:30 p.m.

Yanni's Greek Restaurant  
at The Landmark  
Greenwood Village

#### **March 12, 2018**

Fundraising Committee

4:00 p.m.

Cynthia Herndon's home

### Board Meetings

#### **February 22, 2018**

5:00 p.m.

Mathias Lock & Key  
1123 Delaware

---

### **2018 Day of Film**

**March 31, 2018**

Tivoli Center, Auraria Campus

### **Zonta International Convention**

**June 29-July 3, 2018**

Yokohama, Japan

### **District 12 Governor's Seminar**

**October 5-6, 2018**

Lamar, Colorado



# THANKS

## SISTER ZONTIANS,

Many thanks to all of you for all the loving thoughts, get well cards, emails and kind wishes. My surgery went well and I am recovering. Back to normal soon, whatever that might mean for me. It is truly heart-warming to have such wonderful friends.

Yours in Zonta,  
Mary

---

Thank you to the numerous friends, old and new, who sent cards and emails of support during my mother-in-law's last weeks of life and of sympathy after her death. Ken and I very much appreciate the kind thoughts.

Judy Mc

---



---

**29 JUNE – 3 JULY 2018**

Registration for the 2018 Zonta International Convention in Yokohama, Japan is now open! Go to the convention [website](#) to register, and for details on the conference schedule, programs, tours, and travel arrangements.

---

---

*Copyright © 2018 by Zonta Club of Denver. All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

## Minutes of Zonta Club of Denver Meeting

1-11-2018

Dine-In at Barbara Pellegren's home

The meeting was called to order at Barbara Pellegren's beautiful home by President Julie Bradley at 6:00 pm. Members were invited to eat the potluck dinner.

After dinner, Carol Mangold delivered the Advocacy Moment. She told us about:

1. The Colorado Women's Legislative Breakfast on February 27 to be held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge, 1370 Grant St., Denver. Breakfast is \$20, from 7-9 am and the 2018 theme is Disrupting Power Dynamics.
2. March 15 is the Women's Foundation of Colorado Lobbying Day. They tell us how to lobby for legislation. WFCO.org = equitable opportunities for women.
3. A YouTube video produced by Jackson Katz who is a cultural theorist. The video is called "Violence Against Women: It's a Men's Issue." You can also catch it on Ted Talk.
4. On February 5, the theater on E. Colfax will show a film (6:15 – 8:30) on how to socialize younger boys. Produced by Jennifer Newsome, it is called "The Mask You Live In" and it was in the Sundance Festival in 2015. You can purchase tickets on Event Brite.

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Mary Benoit is recovering from surgery, but her Service team reported that Mary has been in touch with our grant recipients and all are informed about the Grant Awards Dinner on Febr. 8 and about our Film Event on March 31.

Get Well cards were signed for Mary Benoit, Penny Burke, who broke her arm, and Sara Ball who has had a hip replacement.

Membership: Liz Savage reported that the Grant Awards Dinner will be at the Rendezvous Restaurant in Aurora, in the Heather Gardens complex. They are working on a menu and she will send directions before the meeting. Members were encouraged to pay the \$30 fee for that meeting at this meeting. Members should RSVP by February 1. There will be free parking.

Liz initiated new member, Bev Meyers, with Bev's sponsor, Veronica Hoegler assisting.

Fundraising: Mary Lou told members of the progress the committee has made in planning for the upcoming film event on March 31. 26 sponsor request letters have been sent out and flyers produced (and were available for members to take at this meeting). Julie and Mary Lou worked out the ticket payment method with Event Brite during the previous weekend. Event Brite gives us several options for reporting and choices. Judy McNerny will make some changes to the flyer and send it to every member's email soon. Members were encouraged to send flyers to friends and encourage them to buy tickets, and also to send names & addresses of prospective sponsors to Mary Lou so she can send a letter to them.

PR: Wendy brought our new club banner to the meeting and it is beautiful. It rolls up which makes it easy to transport to meetings. She said that promotion for the film event will begin in February with social media, etc.

Wendy Henry-Moraskie was presented with her Zontian of the Year certificate and a bouquet of yellow roses.

Marian Lee then introduced our program, explaining that our club does a dine-in every year to encourage all members to donate to the Zonta International Foundation. She gave us a snapshot handout of all the current ZIF programs which includes International Service, ZISVAW and Educational (Scholarships). If our club has 100% participation, we will be recognized at the ZI Convention in Yokohama next June. Marian handed out forms to accompany donations.

Julie reminded members that January 11 is the official Amelia Earhart Day, and asked that we check out the Dates to Remember. She announced that the Zonta Board Meeting will be at Hacienda Colorado (off Colorado Blvd. & I-25) on January 25 at 5:00 pm.

Gwen Fornia asked that all pictures of ZCD events be forwarded to Judy McNerny, and that she has joined the Peace Corps and will be leaving soon for Tanzania, Africa for 3 years.

There being no further business, President Julie closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Edwards

Acting Secretary for Penny Burke

## **Cautiously Optimistic: Iranian Protests, Democracy, and Women**

In the past month, tens of thousands of Iranians took to the streets in protest, admonishing their government for failing economic policies and social injustices. The Iranian regime, led by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei'i, has insisted Iranian citizens abide by resistance economic strategies that unduly affect the middle and lower classes. Unemployment, increased inflation, and subsequent increased cost for basic food stuffs drove people to the streets late this December. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani had just released his budget proposal for the next Iranian year (beginning in March) further fueling the enmity of the people. Iranians for the first time saw how much the regime-instigated skirmishes in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen were costing them. The regime for years had bought popular support by subsidizing food and fuels costs, pacifying their generally lower-class supporters. The new budget curtails those pay offs and diverts more money to the widely viewed corrupt Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and other regime-affiliated organizations.

While the religious Shi'a faction of the government has ultimate control, many aspects of governance resemble democratic practices of the West, including participation of women. Iranian women take an active role by voting, holding office, and even organizing movements to advance their position in society.<sup>i</sup> Compared to other neighboring countries, Iranian women have more rights. They can drive, hold office, and become professionals; however, under the guise of religion, patriarchy still stunts their progress. Iranian women are active participants in their society and raising their voices for change.

The most recent economic strains disproportionately affect women and children. It is little wonder that women have come to symbolize both the 2009 Green Movement and those that took place recently. Neda Agha-Soltan was shot and killed during the 2009 protests. Pictures of a woman waiving her white hijab and another Iranian woman raising her fist have gone viral on social media. The woman waving her hijab is missing and likely arrested.

The Human Rights Watch and other sources report the majority of college graduates in Iran are women, yet their participation in the labor force is only 17%.<sup>ii</sup> The government created discriminatory laws and regulations that favor men, with the intent to spur declining birth and marriage rates and likely reduce competition for jobs. More women were graduating with hard science majors than men and then, in 2012, women were forbidden to participate in 77 fields of study, citing lack of "lack of employer demand".<sup>iii</sup>

Gender discrimination is preventing these women from becoming an economic powerhouse, further diminishing Iran's capacity to move toward its 21<sup>st</sup> century ambitions. The regime's Islamic theocratic ideology is bankrupt, with corruption and patriarchy reigning supreme. Iranian women will play a critical role in improving their country.

*How can we help? What can be done?*

This is a tricky proposition. Any overt foreign support of dissension is delegitimized by the regime as foreign meddling in their sovereignty. Quieter support in the form of social media "likes" can bolster fragile campaigns, empowering more and more women to get involved. Additionally, we can support policies that take advantage of American soft power. Over 60% of the Iranian students applying to

American universities are women. Aging Iranian mullahs are faced with pacifying a youthful majority that wants increased civil liberties, economic opportunities, and the Western goods and services they see on social media or obtain through the black market.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2015 that traded sanctions relief for Iranian cooperation to suspend their nuclear program has had seemingly unintended consequences. The West hoped the funds would go to rebuilding the Iranian economy; rather, the regime used the new wealth to funnel more weaponized support for the Syrian Assad regime, Yemeni Houthis, and the Iraqi Shi'a government. Of course, in the short term this is a negative, especially as it jeopardizes American military lives. Taking a play out of the Iranian playbook and looking at the long game, the regime has tipped their hand to their base, the poor of Iran.

This is what is momentous about these recent demonstrations. The protests did not originate in the capital, Tehran. The first emerged in Mashhad, the Supreme Leader's hometown and a religious stronghold. The frustration spread throughout the country, igniting numerous smaller cities and motivating the previously loyal poor to speak out. The government clamped down, made arrests, and quelled the citizens with double talk.

Ultimately it has to be up to Iranians to make effective, lasting change. Those that had led previous reform movements were markedly quiet and uninvolved in this round, while the recent protestors were not organized. Should these elements find a way to bridge their differences and come together, they could be successful.

Persians have a different concept of time than the West. Waiting someone out is a proven strategy. The mullahs wait while the frustrations die down, allowing a new normal, and the citizenry waits for the second-longest serving Iranian leader, Khamenei'i, who is 78 and rumored to be in poor health, to join the other martyrs in heaven. Then Persian life will become really interesting.

---

<sup>i</sup> [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/cynthia-boaz/women-and-the-struggle-fo\\_b\\_347867.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/cynthia-boaz/women-and-the-struggle-fo_b_347867.html)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/05/25/its-mens-club/discrimination-against-women-irans-job-market>

<sup>iii</sup> *Staff writer* (22 August 2012). *"Iran bans women from 77 university majors, including engineering, physics"*. *Hurriyet Daily News*. Istanbul. Retrieved 22 August 2012.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-42553158> photo: epa



The demonstrations are the biggest t in the country since 2009



The image of a young Iranian woman protesting against the compulsory hijab quickly went viral on social media.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-woman-compulsory-veiling-protest-amnesty/28997687.html>