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WOMEN LEADERS



Chile President Michelle Bachelet



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Political Equality Hard to Achieve

The New York Times published reporter Ernesto Londoño's article July 24, in which he observed leadership in South America. Titled, "[President Bachelet of Chile Is the Last Woman Standing in the Americas](#)," it caught my attention because I remember being inspired by Chile's President Michelle Bachelet's remarks at our 2012 Zonta International Convention in Torino. She spoke there from her position leading UN Women, between her

presidential terms. Her address seems even more profound as I have since learned more about what she endured to get elected, and while she held office.

For a few years, Bachelet was one of three female leaders in South America, with Dilma Rousseff in Brazil and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner in Argentina. Together, they led countries representing more than half of the continent's population. And yet.

And yet, the reporter notes through interviews with these women and other women in senior leadership positions, although it looked like a great step forward for women worldwide, there is little progress in increasing the representation of women in government.

And yet, people observing these presidencies noted that the critics of these women leaders were especially virulent. President Rousseff said she had been called a cow "about 600,000 times." She was labelled tough and harsh, or too emotional and fragile, or too obsessed with work, in situations where a man would have been called firm and strong, or sensitive or hardworking.

When her predecessor choked up in public, Ms. Bachelet said, he was hailed as a sensitive man. "If... my eyes welled up, I was seen as a woman who is unable to control her emotions," she said.

And the attacks (see the [whole article](#)) were far cruder.

Oklahoma State University professor Farida Jalalzai, who published a book last year about Latin American female presidents, noted that women aren't allowed to complain about the double standards in politics. If they do, they are often accused of playing the "gender card." "It's not even subtle — it's overt," she said. "It's a backlash to try to keep them in their place."

And yet it continues. The conservative front-runner in the race to succeed Ms. Bachelet came under fire in June after the release of a video in which he joked about rape as he sought to fire up a crowd at a rally. Ms. Bachelet fumed. "To joke about that is to belittle all of us and that is unacceptable," she wrote on Twitter.

Is it any wonder that many smart, moral, selfless people, especially women, avoid campaigning for higher office? Who would want to live in that fishbowl and swim in the sludge that is the current level of political discourse?

And yet. Women must campaign and win to usher in the changes we all want to see. "I always make a soccer analogy," Ms. Bachelet said. "If, of the 11 players, we only had half in the field, we would never win a game. The country, in order to develop, needs the skills of men and women."

~ Wendy Moraskie



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hope you are enjoying the summer! Only one more month of summertime fun. For those of you who made it to the mini-golf gathering at Kennedy Golf course thanks for coming! Sorry not everyone got to enjoy battling the course to try to get holes-in-one! Dinner at the clubhouse afterwards was a great treat.

This coming month we will celebrate our 90th anniversary as a Zonta club! Hope to see you all there. As I am writing this, the board is preparing to meet this morning for a retreat to plan and vision for the year ahead. We will look at how we can improve and make our club meetings and gatherings a worthwhile and productive time as well as ways to serve in our community to help others.

One of the important things that is coming up soon is our biennial District 12 Conference that this year will be held in Greeley at a 'brand spanking new' Doubletree in Greeley, Colorado! We will be the second group ever to hold meetings there! The Fort Collins and Greeley Zonta Clubs will be proud to host this District meeting with the theme of "Raising Our Voices to Empower Women." We will be learning to break the silence around issues that impact women worldwide. I hope you received the call to Conference that was sent out to members of our club on July 22nd. If you did not receive the two emailed messages please contact Judy McNerny who will be glad to get all the info to you!

For newer members, if you have never gone to a District conference you are in for a treat! Meeting new friends, networking with other Zontians and learning all about the wider world of Zonta is exhilarating. If you haven't gone to a conference before, our Zonta Club pays for a portion of the registration of 'first-timers' to go. We want to encourage all our members to participate and if you can it is wise to stay at the hotel and not try to travel back and forth since the comradery continues late into the evenings with impromptu meetings and gatherings of Zontians from around the District.

On another note, we are getting ready to start our new year with meetings in September and we hope all will embrace the joy of being in our great club as we move into the new FY17-18 and look ahead to the future! See you soon!

~ Julie

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Dear Denver Club Zontians,

As the Foundation Ambassador for District 12 I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in your donations to the Zonta International Foundation. The money donated will make a great impact on the women that are served by the international projects.

Your donations are appreciated. I know some of you donate monthly by having funds taken from your checking account or debited from your credit card. Your dedication is inspiring. Remember every time you purchase a ticket to the Day of Film a portion of those dollars goes to the international projects, so keep up the good work.

As we forge ahead toward a century of service to our community and the world I realize how honored I am to belong to such an awesome club and organization.



Mary Benoit

Zonta International Foundation

Ambassador, District 12

Empowering Women through Service and Advocacy

Denver, Colorado US

H:303-419-8420

<http://foundation.zonta.org>

CLUB TREASURER

WANTED: Someone who likes numbers.

Our wonderful treasurer, Gwen Fornia, has been accepted into the Peace Corps and is leaving in February. That means we need someone to replace her. One doesn't have to be a CPA to do this job. But it would be helpful if you like numbers. We have a bookkeeper for the reporting and Elaine Gilley will continue to do our taxes. Our treasurer will write checks and make sure the reports from our bookkeeper are correct.

If you are the least bit interested, please contact Nikki at nheadlee@solucian.com for more information. Thanks so much for considering.

Your nominating committee,

Nancy McWhirter

Katie Wienecke

Nikki Headlee

AUGUST MEETING AND 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

Meeting Details

Date: Thursday,
Time: 6:00 TO 8:00 p.m.
Location: 14 Beacon Hill Lane, Greenwood Village, CO 80111
Price: \$30, payable in advance
Program: Happy 90th Anniversary to Zonta Club of Denver

Reservations are required by August 3. Mail your check, payable to Zonta Club of Denver, **no later than August 1** to 14 Beacon Hill Lane, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

COMMITTEE REPORTS



ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Advocacy Committee and I are in planning stages for the new year, and there are still slots available for those willing to write a *Smoke Signal* advocacy article. Go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e49aba92aa2ff2-zonta> to sign up. This is an opportunity to learn about a topic related to the Objects of Zonta International (see page 49 of your directory) and share what you learn with the rest of us!

~Carol

July 31 marks Black Women's Equal Pay Day — the symbolic day when black women's average earnings finally catch up to white men's from last year.



FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee will have its first meeting at 5:30 pm on August 21 at Gwen Forna's home.

~ Mary Lou



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcome to the dog days of summer! As the photos below show, several club members and their friends, spouses, kids and grandkids had a great time putt-putting around at Kennedy's mini-golf course in mid-July, followed by a group dinner at the clubhouse restaurant. It was a beautiful night full of laughs and friendship.

Looking ahead, the club's past Presidents have been hard at work planning what will be a fabulous 90th Birthday party for Zonta Club of Denver on August 10! So far we have RSVPs for 20 people, including a few past club members and District 12 Board members, and at least one prospective new member, in addition to current club members and a few spouses. Everyone should have received an email with a link to the invitation on SignUp Genius. **If you have not yet RSVP'd, please do so as soon as possible and no later than Noon on Thursday August 3,** at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e49aba92aa2ff2-zcd90th>. **It is imperative that Gwen Fornia receives everyone's \$30.00 fee for the event no later than August 3, NO EXCEPTIONS!** See the invitation for payment details.

We have really exciting news about one of our members: **Gwen Fornia** has been accepted into the Peace Corps and will be serving in Tanzania! She expects to depart in February 2018 and will return in May 2020. Congratulations Gwen! We are so proud of you and know that you will represent Denver, Colorado, the U.S., and Zonta International through exemplary and passionate service to the people of Tanzania! We will miss you!

The Membership Committee will have its next meeting on Wednesday August 16 at 5:30 pm at a **new location**: **Yanni's** at The Landmark, 5425 Landmark Place, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. Anyone is welcome to join us! We will be talking about updating our recruiting, membership, and retention materials and presentations available through Zonta International's website, to better reflect our club's and ZI's current advocacy and service efforts, among other things.

~ Liz





PR COMMITTEE

The PR committee will meet at 6 pm August 17 at Wendy's house. We will be planning PR for the year in broad strokes, including quick, easy ways that all members can help get the word out about our timely and relevant mission, great club, dedicated members, fun activities and thrilling events.

~ Wendy



SERVICE COMMITTEE

The service committee will be holding their first meeting on Monday August 7th at 5:30 at Tony's Market. I would like to invite anyone that might have an interest in the upcoming year of service. I would also encourage all of you to pass the word about our service grants on to any one that you think would qualify and benefit. Please go to the club website to view the grant application and educate yourself about our grants and the process.

I had the pleasure of visiting with a representative from one of our past grant recipients, Hands of the Carpenter. One thing that we discussed was the donation of cars. Along with assisting single women, single moms and widows with their car maintenance they also accept donations of cars. In the recent past they joined with Good Neighbor Garage which helped them with the acquisition of cars. They now have a license to sell cars. In 2015 they sold 69 cars and in 2016 they sold 271 cars. All of the proceeds go back into the organization to continue helping with their transportation needs. If they receive a car that is not worth fixing and is a true junker they part the car out and make money. If they receive a high end car that is very expensive to insure and maintain, they sell the car and again the money goes into their funds. Of course the cars that are practical for single women they fix up and sell back to the women at 35% of the cost. When selling these cars to the women or maintaining their cars the women are required to have a valid driver's license and insurance on their car or be able to get insurance. Hands of the Carpenter is a responsible charity that helps women that are helping themselves. If you or someone you know has a car they aren't sure what to do with, please consider Hands of the Carpenter.

~ Mary Benoit



Support Single Moms and Elderly Widows

Hands of the Carpenter is a faith-based, non-profit organization passionate about serving single mothers and widows in need through the overlooked issue of transportation.

YOU can help us in this effort:

Donate your vehicle in 3 simple steps.

1. **Call 303.526.4488 or visit www.ehands.org**
2. **Gather the title and keys for the vehicle**
3. **Hands will provide the necessary receipts and pick up vehicle if necessary!**

Your used vehicle - running or not - could be an extraordinary blessing to a single mother or widow in need. **Hands offers HOPE to women who demonstrate the desire to provide for their family.** Vehicle donations are used for women who need a vehicle for parts, or to provide resources to repair their existing vehicle. Together we will impact more than 200 women's lives this year.

To learn more, please visit
www.ehands.org
or call 303.526.4488.

Hands of The Carpenter

1455 Ammons St. #201, Lakewood, CO 80214 | 303.526.4488 | dan@eHands.org | eHands.org



MINUTES

July was a fun meeting - no minutes!

CALENDAR

- August 7 Service Committee meeting
5:30 pm
Tony's Market, 950 Broadway
- August 10 90th anniversary of Zonta Club of Denver chartering
6:00 to 8:00 pm
14 Beacon Hill Lane, Greenwood Village
\$30.00 PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 3
- August 16 Membership Committee meeting
5:30 pm
Yanni's at the Landmark, 5425 Landmark Place, Greenwood Village
(NEW LOCATION)
- August 17 PR Committee meeting
6:00 pm
1475 Milwaukee Street
- August 21 Fundraising Committee meeting
5:30 pm
14 Beacon Hill Lane, Greenwood Village
- September 14 Club meeting
5 pm
Fresh Fish Company, 7800 East Hampden
Program: The Gathering Place
(2017 Grant Award recipient)
- September 22 District 12 Conference
-24 Double Tree by Hilton Greeley
If you haven't received the Call to Conference let Judy Mc know
Register now!
- October 12 Club meeting
5 pm
Fresh Fish Company, 7800 East Hampden
Program: Fatou Doumbia, Agile International
*(non-profit empowering women farmers in West Africa
through sustainable agriculture education and training)*
- November 9 Club meeting
5 pm
Fresh Fish Company, 7800 East Hampden

Program: Women Veterans of Colorado
(2017 Grant Award recipient)

December 7 Club holiday party
(details TBD)

June 29 - 64th Zonta International Convention
July 2, 2018 Yokohama, Japan
Start saving money now!



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P.O. Box 2665, Denver, Colorado 80201

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