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JANUARY, 2016



Women's Rights Are Human Rights

How Does the U.S. Compare?

Some of you may have seen an article earlier this week referencing the evaluation by the United Nations (UN) "Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice" of the status of women's rights in the United States (US). There were the usual inflammatory headlines, but as I read the brief article the line that surprised me most was that the women in the US could not believe that we were behind other countries in this area. Therefore I looked up the actual assessment and this is some of what I found.

The UN evaluators were legal experts Eleonora Zielinska of Poland, Alda Facio from Costa Rica, and Frances Raday, an Israeli who grew up in the United Kingdom. They visited Texas, Alabama and Oregon. The summary report which was submitted December 11, 2015 will be followed by a more comprehensive report to the Human Rights Council in June 2016. The areas in which they specified that the US fell behind international

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Think about It

You may be disappointed if you fail,
but you are doomed if
you don't try.

~Beverly Sills

standards included "Public and Political Representation", "Economic and Social Rights" and "Health and Safety Protections". It was stated that "...in the global context, US women do not take their rightful place as citizens of the world's leading economy, which has one of the highest rates of per capita income." Additionally, the US has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All of Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and is therefore one of only seven countries that has not done so, including Iran, Somalia and Sudan.

In the area of Public and Political Life women hold 19.4% of Congressional seats and average 24.9% of state legislatures, which are the highest percentages ever in the US. Yet the US ranks only 72nd globally in elected representation by women. Economically, it was noted that women make up nearly half of the work force, with a participation rate of 57%, and that working mothers bring in two-thirds of household earnings. However, they were "shocked at the lack of mandatory standards" as required by international human rights law, particularly as pertains to pregnant and post-natal mothers and persons with care responsibilities. "The US is one of only two countries in the world without a mandatory paid maternity leave for all women workers." The international minimum time for such a leave is 14 weeks. Under the heading, Reproductive Health and Rights they cited the 136% increase in maternal mortality rates in the US between 1990 and 2013. This increase is magnified isolated by income and ethnicity. In addition was the concern regarding easy and affordable access to reproductive rights which is often hindered by an employer's insurance coverage, inconsistent state requirements for health clinics and lack of universal healthcare. The report also notes the 21% gender pay gap, which affects women's income throughout their lives and increases women's pension poverty.

While this is an extremely brief outline of a nine page report, I became aware that I am one of the women who assumed that, although we certainly have a long way to go in achieving equality in the United States, we would be one of the top countries in achieving women's rights. I did not realize how far behind we are in many areas when compared to some other parts of the world. It has certainly made me feel more inclined to strive for what has already been established in some other countries, as well as the ideal.

Business Cards

Do you have your Zonta business cards yet? If not, contact Julie Bradley to let her know what information you want on them. She will mail them to you or bring them to a meeting.

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Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is Everywhere

There has been a lot of talk about human trafficking lately. Did you know that the young person at your front door selling magazines, candy or some other innocuous item could be a victim of human trafficking? They are kept prisoners and forced to go out and sell, preying on people's sympathies. Please be aware and if you have any doubt call the authorities. As a word of caution, do not invite them into your home. I know it is cold and these young folks are quite pitiful. Don't let the victim make you a victim. Part of their training is that if someone lets them inside they are taught to check out your house, look for ways in, check for valuables even possibly disabling a lock so they can come back later. Have compassion but use caution.

Remember human trafficking is a crime against the soul.

Mary B

Ed. note: See an article about the magazine sales industry in The Atlantic at <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/04/trapped-into-selling-magazines-door-to-door/388601/>

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United Nations

UNA Denver Film Festival

Happy New Year! Now it's time to start planning for what you're going to do in January --don't miss the United Nations Association Film Festival on January 31--get your tickets early at the SIE FilmCenter. We're thrilled to be able to bring some of these great films to Denver in association with the Denver Film Society. Taking place at the SIE FilmCenter on Sunday, January 31, 2016, this will be a day long festival with four screenings and associated expert panelists discussing each film's subject matter. More information on the films and sponsorship at <http://www.unadenver.org>.

~ Alexis

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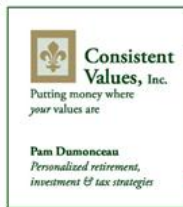
January Meeting

Meeting Details

Date: Thursday, January 14
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: 3635 South Roslyn Way
Denver, CO 80237
Advocacy Moment: Carin Paupore

Please contact Marian Lee as soon as possible but no later than noon on Monday, January 11 at MLee@bhfs.com so we have an idea how many will attend.

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HACIENDA COLORADO



Committee Reports

Service Committee

The month of December ended on a high note for the service committee. The Christmas dinner and party at The Haven was a smashing success! The food was delicious and the decorations were festive. Most of us in attendance were touched by the singing and conversation as we interacted with The Haven women. Thank you, Mary Lou, for planning and organizing the party. It could not have gone better! Thanks also to all our members who provided decorations, food, drinks, paper products, and gifts for the women. What a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit! The party was enjoyed by all!



For the December Delores dinner, we served the ever-popular fried chicken with all the "fixins". Thank you, Sheila, Judy Mc, Mary, Marian, Gwen, Julie, CJ, and Penny for providing all the food. I'd also like to give an extra-special thank you to Olette for being the Delores dinner coordinator. In addition to her creative menus and organization,

Olette's warmth and enthusiasm encourage all of us who serve at the Delores house.

We will not be collecting an Item of the Month for January. In lieu of an item donation, we would like you to give a little more when you make your donation to Zonta International this month.

The next Service meeting is Monday, January 4 at 6:00 p.m. at Perkins.

~ Nancy

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Marian Lee
Bank of Denver
Cockriel Agency

Fund Raising Committee

Ready, set, almost go! We have a new venue at Metro that will give us ample room and comfort for watching the film and eating! Parking will be free. We have our movie, *The Hunting Ground*. This movie is officially short-listed for best full-length documentary for the Oscars. This year we are coming back to the US for our film. *The Hunting Ground* tells the story of rape crimes on campuses in the US. It depicts institutional cover-ups and the brutal social toll on victims and their families including first person testimonies of the victims as they pursue their education while fighting for justice. That in spite of harsh retaliation and pushback at every level. After the film we will have a discussion with a Metro faculty member. Thanks go to Kathy Hyzer for finding the film and also to Metro for allowing us to screen it. The Day of Film is March 5. We are not yet ready to purchase tickets but will be very soon. In the meantime, you could send out a "Save the Date" to your friends. Our next meetings will be held Wednesday, January 6, January 27, and February 17 all at Gwen Fornia's home and starting at 5:30.



~ Nikki

Bones

The body of almost every organization has four kinds of bones. Which kind are you?
The wishbones who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work.
The jawbones who do all the talking but little else.
The knucklebones who knock everything that everyone tries to do.
The backbones who get under THE LOAD AND DO THE WORK.

Please thank and patronize our 2015 Day of Film Sponsors!

**Judith Allen
and
Richard Starlin**



Advocacy Committee

Over the holiday season, members of the Advocacy Committee have been working on the details of the Zonta Wings project. As you may remember, Zonta Wings will provide funding for emergency transportation of victims of human trafficking to a safe place. Mary or Alexis must approve any expenditure and we are requesting basic information about each draw on the funds, such as the type of trafficking the victim suffered, the mode of transportation, and where the victim will be going. The committee believes the club deserves to know how these funds are being used and plans to make periodic reports about the project, as well as having people at CoNEHT speak directly to the club at a meeting this spring.



Please check out the information on the United Nations Association of Denver website about the UNA film festival on January 31 (see Alexis' article above). All of the films sound interesting, but two stand out for Zonta members.

The first is *Driving with Selvi* is about Indian women who, "forced to marry at a young age, finds herself in a violent and abusive marriage. In deep despair, she chooses to escape, going to a highway with the intention of throwing herself under the wheels of a bus. Instead she gets on the bus, choosing to live, and goes on to become South India's first female taxi driver." This will be shown at 3:45 pm.

Also intriguing are a short film, *Good Muslim Girls*, in which a female filmmaker tells about two young Iraqi women whose refusal to wear the hijab is, for them, a matter of human rights, is paired with an hour-long feature, *Manislam: Islam and Masculinity*, in which the female director wishes to undress Muslim men from their patriarchal heritage. This screening begins at 1:45 pm.

How about a ZCD January outing to the movies? Let me know if you would be interested in seeing either of the films described; perhaps we can get a group together for brunch and a film or a film and dinner! Tickets for non-Denver Film Society members are only \$8 for each movie or you can see all of the day's films for \$25! If you are a DFS member, prices are \$6/film and \$20 for the day.

Please also note on your calendars the dates for the 2016 Colorado Women's Legislative Breakfast--February 23--and for the Human Trafficking Advocacy and Awareness Day at the Capitol--February 25. Both are important events and it would be great to have a good turnout of club members at both.

~ Judy Mc

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SHARKEY, HOWES & JAVER
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PR Committee

The Public Relations Committee will be ramping up to support our Fundraising committee for the Day of Film in March. Shortly you will see a "Save the Date" email go out to all past supporters of the Day of Film, to invite them to mark their calendars and get ready to purchase tickets. We will also be involved in getting all materials for promoting the film--posters, cards, invitations and flyers--out to the club as well.



Another prime part of our committee is to promote the film via various public communication devices, web, newspapers, radio and TV and we will be sending out media releases, etc. We will be sending every member an 'invitation email' that can be modified by you to personally invite friends to come as well.

This is a crazy and fun time of year - our Fundraising Committee has great plans for the Day of Film and another possible Oscar winner as well!

~ Julie

Please thank and patronize our 2015 Day of Film Sponsors!



Membership Committee

The Membership Committee hosted its first informal happy hour on November 18th at The Fresh Fish company. Eight club members attended, and all had a great time. The committee did not meet in December.



The next Club meeting will be on January 14th at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Sheila Davis. For the potluck dinner, please bring the type of item designated below (based on the first letter of your last name):

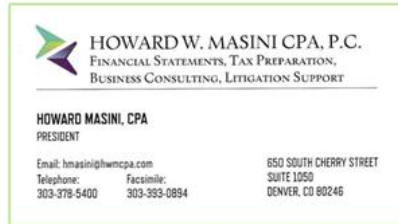
A-F Bottle of Wine
G-H Dessert

J-M Main Dish
N-Z Side Dish/Salad

Following this guide should ensure that we have enough of each course for the meal. See you there!

~ Marian

Please thank and patronize our 2015 Day of Film Sponsors!



Minutes

No business meeting in December.

Please thank and patronize our 2015 Day of Film Sponsors!



President's Message

January is when the club has our "Dine In" event. This informs us about the Zonta Foundation and the projects we are supporting this biennium. Many of us have given in the months past, others who would like to donate may do so at this event and this will count towards the club reaching the goal of 100% giving for the biennium. Membership will be informing us on what to bring to eat. We always have an assortment of goodies. The talk flows and the information is great. Katie has given a sneak preview that she has a very interesting presentation planned. She always has a way of keeping things lively. Two members who can tell me the name of the country we gave water wells to will get to pick a prize. Do this before the meeting.



Area 3 clubs will honor Amelia Earhart this month at a meeting January 23, 2015. The Zonta Club of Douglas County will be the hostess for this meeting. AE fellowships are the longest service project that ZI has. The project was recommended by the New York City club which AE belonged to and was the only non-aeronautical club she was a member of. We have been honored to have had many winners from this Area over the years. If you are a club member who has not attended an Area meeting in the past the club will pay for your registration. Attending these meetings will give you an opportunity to meet members from the other five clubs in the area to share ideas and learn how their clubs interact with ZI and the community.

Tell me the year AE fellows were established.

Happy New Year,
Judy Allen, President

Please thank and patronize our 2015 Day of Film Sponsors!



Upcoming Events



“Soaring to New Heights”

**Area 3 Meeting & Amelia Earhart Fellows Event
hosted by the Zonta Club of Douglas County**

Saturday, January 23, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

9:00-12:30 Area 3 Meeting

12:45-2:00 Amelia Earhart Luncheon

Hilton Garden Inn – Denver Tech Center

7675 East Union Avenue, Denver CO 80237

Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location	Details
Jan 4	Service Committee meeting	6 pm	Perkins	
Jan 6	Fundraising Committee meeting	5:30 pm	Gwen's	
Jan 14	Club meeting	5:30 pm	Sheila's	Potluck ZI giving opportunity Learn about ZI service projects
Jan 23	Area 3 Meeting	9 am to 2 pm	Hilton Garden Inn - Denver Tech Center 7675 East Union Ave Denver CO 80237	See flyer above
Jan 27	Membership Committee meeting	5:30 pm	Citron Bistro	
Jan 27	Fundraising Committee meeting	5:30 pm	Gwen's	
Jan 31	UNA Denver Film Festival	11:30 am to 8:30 pm	SIE FilmCenter	More information at www.unadenver.org
Feb 17	Fundraising Committee meeting	5:30 pm	Gwen's	
Feb 23	Colorado Women's Legislative Breakfast	7 am	Scottish Rite Masonic Center 1370 Grant St	TBA Tickets at www.cwlb.org
Feb 25	Human Trafficking Advocacy Day	TBA	Civic Center Park and State Capitol	TBA
March 5	Day of Film	TBA	Metropolitan State University of Denver	<i>The Hunting Ground</i>

Please thank and patronize our 2015 Day of Film Sponsors!



**Zonta Club of Denver
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