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# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
DENVER

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## Smoke Signal - November 2017



### Day of Film

People often lament that they can't make a difference as individuals. That assertion is thoroughly refuted in ***Little Stones***.

***Little Stones*** weaves together the personal narratives of a graffiti artist speaking out against domestic violence in Brazil's poorest neighborhoods, a dancer rehabilitating sex-trafficking survivors in India, a Senegalese rap-singer working to combat genital mutilation, and an American fashion designer whose company employs impoverished Kenyan women.

### 2017-2018 Zonta Club of Denver

#### Officers

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

#### Directors

Liz Savage  
Mary Benoit  
Carol Mangold  
Wendy Moraskie

#### Foundation Officers

Julie Bradley  
Mary Lou Edwards  
Gwen Forna  
Marian Lee

#### Foundation Trustees

Evie Ashmore  
Judy McNerny  
Liz Cameron

Our ZCD Day of Film will screen this documentary on March 31, 2018 in our new Day of Film home, the Tivoli Student Union Turnhalle.

See the [trailer](#). [Read](#) about the documentary. Tell all your friends and acquaintances. Everyone who sees this will walk out feeling they CAN make a difference.

## November Meeting

Don't miss our November meeting on **November 9, 2017** at 5:00 p.m. at Fresh Fish Company. Our speaker will be Theresa Blumberg, Co-Founder and President of Women Veterans of Colorado.

Please RSVP to Liz Savage at [esavage2017@gmail.com](mailto:esavage2017@gmail.com) by noon on Monday, November 6th.



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can you believe it! The holiday season is upon us. This month we see the start of snow and cold, bustling around town, meeting with friends and family that we may not have seen for a while and generally we are busy little beavers getting ready for the multitude of holidays in this next couple of months.

This month coming up we will be

Pam Dumonceau

Please send your newsletter submissions to Judy McNerny, Marian Lee, and Wendy Moraskie.

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

### MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12 MEETING

To read the minutes of our meeting on October 12, 2017, click [here](#).

## Zonta's Mission Matters

Keep up the good work! As we see and hear every day in the news, we still need people who care to speak out.

Human Trafficking. Yes, it happens in Colorado. A recent [Denver Post article](#) reported on an FBI operation in which a 3-month-old girl and her 5-year-old sister were rescued in Colorado last week from a child predator, who was offering to sell the children for sex. A [9News piece](#) found that young people are being recruited and groomed for more than [90 known cases](#) every year and Colorado Human Services just received a \$1 million grant to help fight the crime locally.

The Wage Gap. Apparently even new companies, started by supposed visionaries, are still having problems understanding that you pay for the work, not who's doing it. Both [Uber](#), and [Oracle](#) are among tech firms facing recent suits for allegedly paying women less than their male counterparts. [TechInsider](#) reports that Google's parent company, Alphabet,

celebrating at our November meeting with a program about women veterans. What a great way to celebrate Veteran's day. While I was in Washington DC this summer at the North American Interdistrict I was privileged to go to the women's memorial at Arlington Cemetery and was in awe of all the things that I saw there to commemorate the sacrifice and service that women have been participating in multiple levels since the turn of the century even before WWII. This meeting is one of my favorites of the year.

We have a full agenda coming up in the next couple of months. At our meeting in November we will be voting on the service grants that the service committee have been vetting from the 14 grant applications we received from various organizations in Colorado. The board of trustees will be voting on the foundation monies being distributed and the club on the service money. I think you will be excited to see the wonderful organizations new and old that we have had apply for grant money.

Coming up in December we will be holding two holiday parties - - one for our members and one with a grantee organization. Watch your email and the Smoke Signal for details. It should be lots of fun!

One of the most rewarding meetings that we have every year is coming up in January so make sure you save the date for that most important event. This is a combination Ameila Earhart luncheon and Area 3 meeting. We will be having it at CU Boulder right in the same location we had it last year. Two Amelia Earhart

is under fire for refusing to release gender pay equity information. The [Washington Post article](#) on pay equity finds that "most economists agree that after adjusting for age, education, experience and other variables, there's still an unexplained [pay] gap."

And for heart-filling inspiration, check out the list of extraordinary women proposed for the [Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, 2018](#). One is Susan Helms, the first U. S. military woman in space. She is a retired Air Force Lieutenant General (LTG) and astronaut who was a crewmember on four space shuttle missions, holds the world record for the longest space walk (8 hours and 56 minutes), and was the first woman to serve on the International Space Station (ISS). She was a member of the first class at the Air Force Academy to include women. Read the rest of the article about all these women and get goosebumps!

~ Wendy Moraskie

## **The Santa Claus Shop**

Where are you on the Santa Claus continuum? For a while we believe in Santa, for a while (hopefully very briefly) we don't believe in Santa, and then we become Santa.

If you're in the third phase, the place to act out your inner Santa is the Santa Claus Shop. Member Linda Rhea's grandmother and some friends created the Shop in 1930, and it has served under-privileged

winners studying at CU will attend the luncheon – one from here in the United States and one from Barcelona, Spain! It will prove to be a powerful meeting of the minds planned by the area 3 presidents on Saturday January 20th starting in the morning at 10 or 11. Be sure to mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information in the December Smoke Signal.

Make sure you have the Day of Film on your calendar – I can't stress it enough that this is our major fund-raiser of the year which we always hope will fund at least one grant organization, if not more, and is an event that is an 'every member' event. We want to make sure that whether you buy tickets, invite friends, help find sponsors or take tickets at the door you are involved in helping raise money for women in need of our help. That event is March 31st (a Saturday) at the Tivoli on Metro State University Campus and is ALWAYS a fantastic event.

So sorry for the delay in getting Amazon Smile up for Zonta but I hope to have it up by the time you read this article! An easy way to raise money for the foundation and a rewarding way for you to contribute while you shop in the coming months for the holiday season!

Thank you all for EVERYTHING you do. We were unable to present the Zontian of the Year award last month so that will also be happening at our meeting in November. See you soon!

~Julie

children every year since. In each of the last several years, the Shop has served about 15,000 children.

The Shop is gearing up for the holiday season and NOW is the time to sign up as a volunteer. Santa Claus Shop, at the old K-Mart at the southeast corner of Evans and Monaco, will be open December 8, 9, 11 and 12, and shifts are 9:30 to 1 and 12:30 to 3:30. Please let Linda Rhea know which shifts you would like to work. Email her at [ThriveEveryDay@gmail.com](mailto:ThriveEveryDay@gmail.com).

Linda says, "Thank you for helping put smiles on the faces of children in Denver."

### **GIVE TO OUR CLUB BY SHOPPING ONLINE!**

Help us raise money via **iGive**, an online system that lets you know when a retailer's website will give a percentage of your purchase payment to a selected charity. For instructions on how to designate the Zonta Club of Denver as your charity of choice, click [here](#).

You can also donate to ZCD when you shop on **Amazon.com**. Visit AmazonSmile and select Zonta Club of Denver as your charity of choice to receive donations from your eligible purchases. After you make the selection, every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. To get started, visit [here](#).

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## Committee Reports

### MEMBERSHIP

Our committee will be sending out an invitation via email soon for the 2017 Holiday Party, which will be on Thursday December 14 (our regular club meeting date) at Gwen Fornia's home. As we did last year, members are welcome to bring spouses, significant others, family members, and friends to the party - the more the merrier! The e-vite will include a sign-up for members to bring food and beverages. Based on last year's experience, not every member will need to bring something because there was more food than we needed. Keep an eye out for the e-vite in your email inbox in the next few weeks!



We will also be coordinating with the Service Committee on a holiday party to be held at The Friends of The Haven. Once there is a firm date, more details will follow.

~ Liz Savage



### FUNDRAISING

The October meeting was cancelled due to my daughter's illness. I thank everyone for their supportive comments. My daughter is recovering and working with physicians to find the cause of her health crisis.

Fundraising will meet again on November 20 at Gwen's home.

~Mary Lou Edwards

## SERVICE

The Service Committee has been working hard on the grant recommendations that will be presented to the club at the November meeting. You'll hear the details then!



We hope to put on a holiday party at The Haven, as we have done several times in prior years, and will get the details to you when they have been finalized.

~ Mary Benoit

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## ADVOCACY

### ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EDUCATION

by Mary Lou Edwards

Saturday, November 25, 2017 is the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women – and it marks the first of 16 days of activism to end violence against women. During this 16 day period there are many “International Days” - Women’s Human Rights Defenders Day (Nov. 29), World AIDS Day (Dec. 1), Abolition of Slavery (Dec. 2), Disabled Persons (Dec. 3), Social & Economic Development (Dec. 5), Civil Aviation Day (Dec. 7), Anti-Corruption Day (Dec. 9), and Human Rights Day (Dec. 10). This year we are asked to specifically focus on GBV in Education. [READ MORE.](#)

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## Club Calendar

### Club Meetings

**November 9, 2017**

5:00 p.m., Fresh Fish Company

**December 14, 2017**

(Holiday Party)

5:00 p.m., Gwen Fornia's home

**January 11, 2018**

5:00 p.m., Sheila Davis's home

**February 8, 2018**

## Special Events

### Amelia Earhart Luncheon/ Area 3 Meeting

**January 20, 2018**

University of Colorado Campus  
Boulder, Colorado

### 2018 Day of Film

**March 31, 2018**

Auraria Campus, Tivoli Center

5:00 p.m., location TBD

## **Board Meetings**

**November 30, 2017**

5:00 p.m., via Skype or Zoom

**January 25, 2018**

5:00 p.m., Tony's Market

## **Committee Meetings**

### **Membership Committee**

November 1, 2017

(rescheduled from October 25)

4:30 p.m., Yanni's at The Landmark  
Greenwood Village

### **Fundraising Committee**

November 20, 2017

5:30 p.m., Gwen Fornia's home

### **Membership Committee**

November 29, 2017

4:30 p.m., Yanni's at The Landmark  
Greenwood Village

## **News from Zonta International**

(Reprinted from the October 18 *Update* email from ZI, highlighting added)



### **Thank you to our new recurring gift donors**

**The Foundation** would like to thank everyone who has made a donation at their district conference and **would like to recognize District 12 Foundation Ambassador Mary Benoit in securing 22 new recurring donors to Zonta International Foundation.**

The Foundation's recurring giving program is an easy way to provide steady support for the ongoing work of Zonta International.

- To enroll in the Direct Debit\* Recurring Gift option, **complete the Direct Debit Form** and attach a voided check from a checking account or a deposit slip from a savings account.
- To enroll in the Credit Card\*\* Recurring Gift Option, **sign up online**.

*\*This service is currently only available to banks in the U.S. and Canada. Please consult your bank for more information.*

*\*\*Visa or MasterCard only*



**Mark your calendar!** The 64th Zonta International Convention will be held from June 29 through July 2, 2018 in Yokohama, Japan. Registration has not yet opened. Check [here](#) for details on the conference as they become available.

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## Upcoming Educational and Volunteer Events



## THE DELORES PROJECT

Things are happening at The Delores Project! For information on volunteer opportunities and coming events, click [here](#).

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## ZONTA CLUB OF DENVER

October 12, 2017

Fresh Fish Company

**Call to Order:** Mary Lou Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:01.

### **Advocacy Moment:**

Mary Lou Edwards provided an advocacy moment regarding the recent natural and manmade disasters and the impact these events have on women and the larger community. Mary Lou highlighted that as Zontians it is our duty to always do our best and give back in ways that are personally meaningful.

### **Program: Agile International and Fatou Daoumbia**

Liz Savage introduced Fatou Daoumbia who runs Agile International (<https://agile-international.org/>). Fatou provided a very interesting overview about how Agile came into existence and her role in creating opportunity for her community in Mali. Agile International's mission is to empower rural women while returning Mali and West Africa to food security. Agile International has purchased an initial 35 acres of land and made it available to women in Mali to farm it. This model allows women to use their skills to produce farm goods and other materials to sell and generate income.

Currently, the organization is supporting farming on only 12 acres of the 35-acre plot, because so much labor must go toward gathering water during the workday. The most important next step is to develop a drip irrigation system that involves drilling a 263-foot deep hole and installing a water pump and irrigation lines throughout the field. This ambitious project is estimated to cost approximately \$35,000. Agile is currently fundraising for the drip irrigation project, which is critical to our mission to advance food security and to empower local women farmers. The drip irrigation project and other ongoing farm expenses need a source of income that does not depend solely on donations. That is why we expanded Agile has expanded projects to include designing, producing, and selling unique African purses and funding a microloan program. Items were available for purchase at the meeting.

### **Introduction of guests**

Kim Dillard

Beth Meyers

**Approval of Sept Minutes:** Minutes stood approved as published.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership Committee Update – Liz Savage**

- Liz Savage reported there was a successful new member orientation on Saturday, October 7, 2017. Four of the six new members attended.
- Liz Savage and the membership committee are beginning planning efforts for the holiday party at Gwen Fornia's house, as well as, the holiday celebration with one of the service organizations that Zonta works with. More details to come.

### **Service Committee Update**

- There was no report but there was a reminder that donated items that evening would be going to the Delores House.

### **Advocacy Committee**

- There was no formal report; however, Mary Lou Edwards encouraged members to read Tricia McNerny's article in the Smoke Signal.

### **Fundraising Committee**

- Mary Lou Edwards announced the day of film and encouraged everyone to review the Save the Dates at the table. The film, Little Stones, is an award winning documentary that unites the personal narratives of four women around the world using art to create positive change in their communities.
- Mary Lou Edwards also reminded members that the Zonta pouches that can be used for nametags and business cards are available for purchase.

### **New Business**

- Mary Lou Edwards informed members that we needed to formally motion and approve Barb Pellegren in as our new treasurer with Gwen Fornia joining the Peace Corps.
  - Lori Disaia motioned for approval of Barb Pellegren as the new Zonta Club of Denver Treasurer. Nikki Headlee seconded.
  - Barb Pellegren was approved unanimously.

### **Birthday Recognitions:**

- Liz Savage had a birthday on October 20 and was recognized for two years of service

Gwen Fornia won the drawing and \$28.00 was donated to the Zonta Club of Denver.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Burke

## ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EDUCATION

by Mary Lou Edwards

Saturday, November 25, 2017 is the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women – and it marks the first of 16 days of activism to end violence against women. During this 16 day period there are many “International Days” - Women’s Human Rights Defenders Day (Nov. 29), World AIDS Day (Dec. 1), Abolition of Slavery (Dec. 2), Disabled Persons (Dec. 3), Social & Economic Development (Dec. 5), Civil Aviation Day (Dec. 7), Anti-Corruption Day (Dec. 9), and Human Rights Day (Dec. 10).

Rutger’s University, Center for Women’s Global Leadership spearheads the 16 day campaign each year. The theme for this year is “Together We Can End GBV in Education.” The goal is to build awareness of, and advocate for, an end to all forms of gender-based violence in education once and for all. The Center provides an action kit ([cwgl@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:cwgl@rci.rutgers.edu)) to facilitate awareness-raising activities. It provides suggestions for advocacy focused on institutional, legal and policy change (i.e. for effective laws, policies and institutions that effectively prevent and address GBV in education).

### EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT – Some Facts:

- Giving women of child-bearing age in developing countries an education resulted in saving the lives of more than 4.2 million children worldwide. Researchers found that, for every extra year of education women had, the death rate for children under age 5 dropped by almost 20 percent.
  - o Strong, independent women raise sons who respect women.
  - o Empowering women disenfranchises terrorists.
- Countries with greater gender equality have economies that are more competitive and grow faster.
  - o 30% participation by women in any endeavor is the critical mass needed to advance a gender equality agenda.
- Microfinance and education work together. In developing countries parents must pay for their children to attend school and girls are always educated last. As women are able to earn their own money, they are able to send their daughters to school.

Many female activists around the world are working hard every day to help women. And still they are only a drop in the bucket of need that exists. But, if you happen to be the “drop in the bucket” that was helped by someone’s activism it can mean your ability to go to school, drink clean water, avoid being raped and/or trafficked, have a healthy baby and survive childbirth yourself. It can even mean the difference between life and death for you and your children.

### FIND YOUR PASSION:

You have joined an organization whose mission is to improve the lives of women and children in the world. Currently Zonta International projects are focused on education,

ending female genital mutilation, gender equality, trafficking and domestic violence. ZI works with the existing channels within the United Nations to get help to where it is needed most. As ZCD members we help fund that effort when we send 1/3 of the money we raise each year to the Zonta International Foundation.

At the local level, Zonta Club of Denver's current projects include helping homeless women veterans (VOA), empowering women prisoners with dance (Dance 2 B Free), helping young women through exercise and quitting dependence on tobacco (Friends of the Haven), and overcoming the fallout from domestic violence at The Gathering Place, Delores House and Family Tree.

Your Service Committee will soon be announcing the new projects for next year. You are asked to participate in as many of these service projects as your time permits.

#### THE HAWAIIAN STARFISH PARABLE:

A woman goes out on the beach and sees that it is covered with starfish that have washed up in the tide. A little girl is walking along, picking them up and throwing them back into the water. "What are you doing little girl?" the woman asks. "You see how many starfish there are? You'll never make a difference." The girl paused thoughtfully then picked up another starfish and threw it into the ocean. "It sure made a difference to that one," she said.

Pick a starfish to save – if we all save just one, it will make a big difference.